

THE ARMENIAN Mirror-Spectator

Volume LXXXVI, NO. 23, Issue 4417

\$ 2.00

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

NEWS IN BRIEF

United Nations Genocide Day

First observance of International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of This Crime

NEW YORK – On December 9, the Permanent Mission of Armenia to the United Nations, in partnership with the president of the UN General Assembly and the UN Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect, co-hosted the first annual observance of the International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of This Crime at the Trusteeship Council Chamber of the United Nations Headquarters.

Attended by a large number of representatives of UN member states and observers, international organizations, think-tanks, civil society organizations and media, as well as members of Armenian-American community and school students, the meeting in observance of the International Day began with a minute of silence in remembrance of the victims of genocide. Opening remarks were delivered by the President of



Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Armenia to the UN Zohrab Mnatsakanian

the 70th Session of the UN General Assembly Mogens Lykkesøft, the Deputy Secretary-General of the UN Jan Eliasson and the Ambassador of Armenia to the UN Zohrab Mnatsakanian. The panel featured the UN Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide Adama Dieng, the Special

Azerbaijani Tanks Shell Positions In Nagorno-Karabagh

STEPANAKERT (RFE/RL and ArmeniaNow) – Azerbaijani tanks shelled positions in the Nagorno-Karabagh region for the first time in 21 years, the Defense Ministry of the republic said on December 9.

“For the first time since the cease-fire [in 1994], Azerbaijan has used tanks on the Karabagh front line,” killing one soldier identified as Garik Avanesian, the ministry said. “Some 1,500 shots were fired from tanks and grenade-launchers,” the statement added.

Azerbaijan said Armenia had acted first, firing mortar rounds at settlements in Azerbaijan.

“The regime in Armenia bears responsibility for all of this,” Azerbaijan’s Defense Ministry said.

Azerbaijan’s ministry warned it would launch retaliatory strikes on “enemy” army positions in Nagorno-Karabagh.

The US State Department condemned the violence and urged all sides to adhere to the cease-fire.

Book in Time Capsule Is Now Seen as a Call to Remember

By Peter Schworm

BOSTON (*Boston Globe*) – When the Old State House’s century-old time capsule was opened last fall, the red hard-back book found inside, a routine government report, was dismissed as a mere space-filler.

Now it appears that the book’s curious inclusion was anything but an afterthought. With a corner carefully folded on a page that describes an attack against Armenians by Ottoman Turks, the volume is seen as delivering a message, a call to remember from the distant past.

It was an Armenian copper-smith, Moses Gulesian, who was commissioned in 1900 to replace the wood figures of a lion and unicorn on the east facade of the building. When his work was completed, he placed the time capsule – a copper box filled with letters, photographs, and newspaper articles from the time – inside the lion’s head.

see CAPSULE, page 9



The red book hidden inside the time capsule

Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence Mr. Pablo de Greiff, President of the International Center for Transitional Justice David Tolbert and First Vice President of the International Association of Genocide Scholars, Assistant Professor of Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Stockton University Prof. Elisa von-Joeden-Forgey. Statements on behalf of the UN member states were delivered by Chairpersons of regional groups.

In his remarks, Ambassador Zohrab Mnatsakanian noted that the International see UN, page 2

Project Save Celebrates 40th Anniversary

By Aram Arkun
Mirror-Spectator Staff

LEXINGTON, Mass. – Project Save Armenian Photograph Archives celebrated its 40th anniversary with an evening program at the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum and Library on November 21. It was an enjoyable event, commencing with a cocktail reception at which guests, many of them distinguished leaders or activists in the Armenian community, socialized. The formal program was led by two masters of ceremonies, who are master photographers and on various boards of Project Save – Scout Tufankjian and Nubar Alexanian. Photojournalist Tom Vartabedian and see ANNIVERSARY, page 12



Ruth Thomasian with Tom Vartabedian and his Community Commitment Award. (Winslow Martin photo)

Mirror Winter Break At End of 2015

WATERTOWN – The *Armenian Mirror-Spectator* will take a one-week break after the last issue of the year, which will come out on December 26.

That issue will have our annual Christmas Greetings.

The next issue of the *Mirror-Spectator* after that will be published on January 9. Therefore, we will not publish an issue on January 2.

We wish all our readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Lattakia-Kessab Highway under Full Control of Syrian Army

TEHRAN (FNA) – The Syrian Army and its allies are now in a good supplying position in the coastal province of Lattakia after they brought the strategic Lattakia-Kessab highway under their control, military sources said Saturday.

The sources said that after three years of closure the Syrian government forces reopened the Lattakia-Kessab highway.

“The recapture of Turkmen Mountain (Jabal al-Turkmen) by the Syrian forces played a significant role in reopening the highway,” the military source further added.

Earlier reports said that the militant groups withdrew from one of the tops of al-Koz mountain and Height 713 in the Northern side of al-Khdra village after the Russian fighter jets bombed their positions and the government forces broke through their defense lines.

The militant groups left behind scores of dead and wounded members and fled the battlefields.

Singing Great Mariah Carey Set to Perform in Yerevan Next Year

YEREVAN (PanARMENIAN.Net) – American singer, songwriter, music producer, actress and philanthropist Mariah Carey will perform in Yerevan next year, Forpostart Production and Show Star CEO Zara Mkheyan told Novosti Armenia.

“At present, negotiations with the singer are underway. The Yerevan concert is scheduled as part of her world tour, with the date of the performance to further be disclosed,” Mkheyan said.

Throughout her career, Carey has sold more than 200 million records worldwide, making her one of the best-selling music artists of all time. According to the Recording Industry Association of America, she is the third-best-selling female artist in the United States, with 63.5 million certified albums.

INSIDE

Parson Award

Page 5

INDEX

Arts and Living	10
Armenia	2
Community News	4
Editorial	14
International	3



News From Armenia

Armenian-Iranian Agree to Medical Cooperation

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – The delegation headed by Minister of Health of the Republic of Armenia Armen Muradyan left for Iran upon the invitation of Iran's Health Minister Dr. Hassan Qazizadeh-Hashemi.

As the Armenian Ministry of Health reported, the meeting of the two health ministers was held on December 13. The discussion focused on public health programs. Reference was made to the production of medicine, export and import, reciprocal visits of specialists, as well as other health issues. The Ministers stressed the importance of bilateral cooperation opportunities. During the visit, a memorandum of understanding titled "Islamic Republic of Iran's Ministry of Health and Medical Education and Ministry of Health of the Republic of Armenia on Cooperation in the Field of Healthcare and Medicine" will be signed. The document is intended to increase the efficiency of cooperation between Armenia and the Iranian Ministry of Health and improve general health conditions.

Armenia-Luxembourg Discuss Closer Ties

LUXEMBOURG (Public Radio of Armenia) – Armenian Ambassador Tatul Margaryan had a meeting with the Parliament Speaker of Luxembourg, Mars di Bartolomeo, on December 14.

Margaryan noted that by adopting a resolution on recognition of the Armenian Genocide on May 6, the Parliament of Luxembourg made a precious contribution to the international recognition of the Armenian Genocide and international efforts aimed at preventing genocides.

The Armenian ambassador referred to Armenia-EU relations and urgent regional issues. He briefed Mars di Bartolomeo on the latest developments in the process of settlement of the Karabagh conflict.

During the meeting the parties exchanged views on the current state and development of Armenia-Luxembourg relations, including commerce and in the field of information technologies and telecommunication.

Armenian Wrestler Tops 2015 United World Wrestling Rankings

YEREVAN (PanARMENIAN.Net) – Armenian Greco-Roman wrestler, two-time world champion, three-time European Champion and an Olympic bronze medalist Artur Aleksanyan (98 kg) tops for a second year in a row the 2015 United World Wrestling Rankings for Greco-Roman, UWW website reports.

Defending champ Aleksanyan, 24, defeated London 2012 Olympic Games gold medalist Ghasem Rezaei (IRI) in the 98kg final at the world championships in Las Vegas for his eighth straight tournament title over the last two years.

Oman Amoyan (59 kg) ranks 14th, Mihran Harutyunyan (66kg) comes in 5th, while Varsham Boranyan is the 16th in the rankings.

Yerevan to Host Second Forum on Genocide

YEREVAN (PanARMENIAN.Net) – Major efforts are underway to organize the Second Global Forum, commemorating the Armenian Genocide on April 23, 2016, secretary of the Armenian Genocide Centennial Committee, Chief of Staff of the Armenian President's office said, according to Artsakhpress.

"The Yerevan-hosted forum will focus on the crime of genocide and the refugee crisis," Vigen Sargsyan said, adding that the subject is rather topical and of great international interest.

According to the official, the international struggle against the crime of genocide was a key factor in view of events commemorating the Armenian Genocide centennial.

As he reminded, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution, co-authored by 90 states on Armenia's initiative.

Archaeological Site and Village in Armenia Among Europe's 'Most Endangered'

THE HAGUE (Public Radio of Armenia) – Europa Nostra, the leading European heritage organization, and the European Investment Bank Institute (EIBI) announced the 14 monuments and sites that were shortlisted for 'The 7 Most Endangered' Programme 2016 by an international panel of experts in various fields. Among these endangered landmarks from 14 European countries are: Archaeological site of Ererouyk and village of Ani Pemza in Armenia.

Sitting on a rocky plateau close to the Turkish Armenian border, Ererouyk was once one of the most important centers of worship in the region. Despite some restoration works undertaken in the last two decades, the sixth-century basilica remains highly endangered. The surrounding archaeological area is at risk of being lost before it can be comprehensively studied.

The Centre of Studies and Documentation of Armenian Culture in Italy (CSDCA), which made the nomination for The 7 Most Endangered 2016, proposes a multidisciplinary project in order to study and rehabilitate the site and the establishment of a transnational archaeological park along the Akhurian River. The village of Ani Pemza, built in 1926 and located a few hundred meters away, could serve as a cultural tourism center, thus contributing to the socioeconomic revitalization of the area.

Others on the list include the Palace of Justice in Brussels, Belgium; Patarei Sea Fortress in Tallinn, Estonia; Helsinki-Malmi Airport, Finland; Colbert Swing Bridge in Dieppe, France; Castle in Divitz, Germany; Kampos of Chios, Greece; Venice Lagoon, Italy; Castle Rijswijk, the Netherlands; Y-block in

Oslo, Norway; Valflores Palace and Estate, near Lisbon, Portugal; Convent of St. Anthony of Padua, Extremadura, Spain; Ancient city of Hasankeyf and its surroundings, Turkey; and Mavisbank House, near Edinburgh, the United Kingdom. Some of these sites are in danger due to neglect or inadequate planning and development, and others due to lack of resources or expertise. The final list of 7 most endangered heritage sites in Europe will be unveiled at a public event in Venice on March 16, 2016.

The 14 shortlisted monuments and sites were selected taking into account their outstanding heritage and cultural value as well as the grave danger that they are facing. The commitment of various public and private stakeholders and the engagement of the local communities to rescuing those sites were also considered essential. Another important criterion was the potential of these sites to serve as a resource and a driver of sustainable development for the wider region in which they are located.

Nominations for 'The 7 Most Endangered' Programme 2016 were submitted by civil society or public bodies which form part of Europa Nostra's vast network of member and associate organizations from all over Europe. Fourteen sites were shortlisted by a panel of experts in history, archaeology, architecture, conservation, project analysis and finance. The final list of 7 most endangered heritage sites in Europe will be selected by the Board of Europa Nostra.

"The 7 Most Endangered" Programme was launched in January 2013 by Europa Nostra with the European Investment Bank Institute as founding partner and the Council

of Europe Development Bank as associated partner. It was inspired by a successful similar project run by the US National Trust for Historic Preservation. 'The 7 Most Endangered' is not a funding program. Its aim is to serve as a catalyst for action and to promote "the power of example." The 7 Most Endangered has the support of the Creative Europe Programme of the European Union, as part of Europa Nostra's three-year Network Project Mainstreaming Heritage.

"Europa Nostra welcomes the growing recognition by EU Institutions, including the European Investment Bank, that Cultural Heritage indeed counts for Europe: it is a driver for sustainable development and a cohesive force for our multicultural societies. Our advocacy Programme 'The 7 Most Endangered' has a great significance, but its goals can only be achieved with widespread support from EU Institutions and with joint action by different public and private partners. We therefore count on them to assist Europa Nostra and our members to rescue and give a new life to our shared heritage," stated Denis de Kergorlay, executive president of Europa Nostra.

"Experts from the EIB Institute will visit and analyze the selected most endangered heritage sites in Europe and will contribute to the formulation of realistic action plans. The case in favor of those sites will thus become more visible and more credible. Experience over the last few years shows moreover that the local and national ownership and involvement is particularly crucial when it comes to mobilizing support to save the selected endangered sites," added Guy Clause, Dean of the European Investment Bank Institute.

United Nations Genocide Day

UN, from page 1

Day, established pursuant to the UNGA Resolution 69/323 of September 11, calls for a manifestation of a collective sense of a duty before all victims of the crime of genocide. He reconfirmed Armenia's commitment to promote and support international efforts to underpin the significance of the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and to consistently and resolutely construct rigid foundations for prevention. In this regard, the Ambassador of Armenia recalled the unanimous adoption of the respective resolutions initiated by Armenia and adopted by the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council earlier this year, expressing appreciation to all the partners for their unwavering support. He recalled that in April 2015 Armenia hosted a Global Forum Against the Crime of Genocide.

Referring to the remarks by the President of the General Assembly and the Deputy Secretary General, who said, earlier, that, by honoring the memory of the victims of the Genocide, the international community reaffirmed its commitment to prevent this horrendous crime, Mnatsakanian noted that the International Day would render dignity to the victims of past inaction and would help reclaim justice. He added that December 9 would not merely mark the adoption of a landmark international legal instrument, but also send a powerful mes-

sage to ignite political, legal and moral responsibility "for defying and ultimately halting the repetitive nature of this crime," as a "moral and political imperative" to consistently elaborate a rigid system of prevention.

"Those who do not learn from history are condemned to repeat it," stressed the Ambassador of Armenia, suggesting that, to eliminate genocidal tendencies, it will be imperative to analyze the causation of past cases, and that "every pattern of discrimination, every violation of rights affecting vulnerable groups, every exclusionary ideology, climate of impunity, denial of genocide and hate speech, as well as incitement to violence" are exactly compelling early signs, which beg early action.

The panelists elaborated on the nature, causes, and consequences of genocide, empirical analysis of genocidal patterns, and their relationship to long-term prevention, the importance of memorialization and dignity of genocide victims, their right to remedies and reparations, guarantees of non-recurrence and accountability, the links between genocide and other human rights violations, and prevention and punishment of genocide.

The UN Secretary-General issued a message on the first observance of this International Day, calling upon the international community "to recognize the need to work more concertedly to protect individuals from gross human rights violations and uphold our com-

mon humanity".

The event, which also featured musical performance by the UN Symphony Orchestra, was widely publicized in the UN, as well as in local and international media. The UN Department of Public Information launched a social media campaign "#GenocideVictimsDay" and "#PreventGenocide," a special slogan ("Remember the Victims Prevent Genocide") and logo for the International Day.

The event was webcast and the archived video is available online. For more information on the International Day please visit <http://www.un.org/en/events/genocidepreventionday/index.shtml>

Upon the initiative of Armenia, in September 2015, the UN General Assembly unanimously adopted resolution A/RES/69/323 proclaiming this International Day, which encourages all Member and Observer States, all organizations of the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations and individuals to observe the International Day in order to raise awareness of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and its role in combating and preventing the crime of genocide, as well as to commemorate and honor its victims.

It acknowledges that victims of this crime call for a form of memorialization, which plays an important role in the prevention of genocide.

December 9 also marks the day of the adoption of the Convention in 1948.



INTERNATIONAL

Haigazian University Rolls out the Red Carpet in LA to Celebrate 60 years of Excellence

LOS ANGELES – The air was electric as more than 300 guests, including celebrities and dignitaries, were greeted on the red carpet by charming young volunteers, each wearing a blue ribbon emblazoned with the word “EXCELLENCE,” at Dorothy Chandler Pavilion on October 3, when Haigazian University of Beirut celebrated its 60th anniversary.

Photos were taken in front of the

President Erdogan’s Son Denies Russian Allegations of ISIL Trade

ISTANBUL (*Today’s Zaman*) – The son of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has denied Russian allegations that he and his family were profiting from the illegal smuggling of oil from Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL)-held territory in Syria and Iraq.

Russia’s Defense Ministry said last week it had proof that the Erdogan family was benefiting from this trade. Turkey has already dismissed the accusations and the president’s son Bilal added his voice to the many denials.

“We build offices in Istanbul ... We do not do business in the Mediterranean, in Syria or Iraq,” he was quoted as saying in *Corriere della Sera* newspaper, talking about his own corporate concerns, which have been called into question by Russian media.

“ISIL is an enemy of my country. ISIL is a disgrace. It puts my religion in a bad light. They don’t represent Islam and I do not consider them to be Muslims,” he said.

One of the four children of President Erdogan, Bilal has shipping and maritime assets and controls several oil tankers through his company and partnerships in other firms.

However, he denied he had any operational shipping activities, saying his company had a contract to build “river tankers” for a Russian client, but that it did not operate the ships itself. He also denied that his brother Burak might have transported oil from lands controlled by ISIL. “He has a cargo ship, but it cannot be used as a tanker,” he said.

Instead, he said that Syrian President Bashar al-Assad was profiting from the sale of ISIL oil. “If you follow ISIL oil, you will find Assad.”

Damascus has previously accused the Turkish government, which is hostile to Assad, of allowing ISIL militants to smuggle contraband out of northern Syria.

Relations between Turkey and Russia have chilled sharply after Turkey last month shot down a Russian warplane that it said had crossed into its air space from Syria.

“What happened concerning the Russian jet was unpleasant, but we have to concentrate on the real problems: ISIL and the future of Syria,” Bilal Erdogan said.

Russian media reports suggested that Bilal was directly involved in oil trade with ISIL and that Turkey downed the Russian jet to protect this oil smuggling business.

Bilal came to Italy earlier this year with his wife and family to finish his doctorate studies in the city of Bologna. Critics accused him of fleeing Turkey in the wake of previous graft scandals. He denied any wrongdoing and said he was in Italy to concentrate on his studies.

bespoke Haigazian backdrop, champagne and hors d’oeuvres were enjoyed while friends greeted each other on the picture perfect California evening.

A private entrance to the theater allowed the young hosts to escort guests to their seats in preparation for the extraordinary program they were about to experience. Plácido Domingo, as never before, sang and conducted in one extraordinary performance. First singing the title role of Woody Allen’s comic production of “Gianni Schicchi,” then taking to the podium to conduct the spectacular “Pagliacci.” Domingo’s portrayal of the conniving “Gianni Schicchi” immediately captured the attention of the audience and had them laughing all the way to the private intermission reception in the Grand Hall. Guests were next enchanted by the vibrant sets of Pagliacci. The animated circus scene was almost stolen by the live donkey that casually traipsed across the stage!

Domingo’s conducting was evocative and brought the audience to tears as Pagliacci’s beautiful wife came to her



The Maestro eloquently addresses Haigazian guests.

demise in the final act of Leoncavallo’s opera.

Haigazian supporters were once again escorted by the lovely hosts to the Pagliacci themed Gala Supper, organized by Dinner Chairs, Alice Chakrian and Eileen Keusseyan.

Authentic circus music set the tone, as cleverly costumed mimes entertained throughout the room. Floral arrangements were spectacular, incorporating masks, jester and clown hats.

Co-chairs Harry Nadjarian and Tina Segel welcomed everyone before former Haigazian President Rev. Dr. John Khanjian said a beautiful prayer to bless the meal.

There was quite a stir when Domingo came into the room, joining the guests for dinner.

Haigazian President Paul Haidostian,



Dr. Rev. Paul Haidostian shares his dreams for Haigazian’s future

who flew in from Beirut Lebanon with his wife Maral, spoke of Haigazian’s dreams for the future and how the University is helping the Syrian refugee students.

Honorary committee member Joyce Philibosian Stein reminisced about the fireside conversation at their Philadelphia home when her father Stephen Philibosian and Steven Mehagian passionately spoke of starting an Armenian University in Beirut Lebanon. It was an honor to have the family of Steven Mehagian in attendance at the event.

Everyone was spellbound as Domingo spoke at length of his mother’s Armenian voice coach and how he respected the Armenians and the music they have composed and the myriad of talented artists that

have come from this community. Domingo’s remarks were the perfect ending to the perfect evening.

The event committee met its objectives – to raise funds, engage the community, foster awareness and celebrate Haigazian’s success.

The day after the event, Dr. Paul Haidostian met with Wallis Annenberg who pledged a \$100,000 donation in honor of Leslie Danelian, daughter of Louise Danelian and granddaughter of Stephen Philibosian.

To date, the event has raised over \$1.8 million for Haigazian University’s endowment expansion campaign.

Haigazian is the only Armenian university in the diaspora, but it remains in the hearts and minds of its thousands of alumni and thousands of supporters and friends worldwide.



Rev. Dr. Paul and Maral Haidostian, Drs. Nazareth and Ani Darakjian, Co-Chairs Tina Segel and Harry Nadjarian, Liliana and Levon Filian

International News

Piano Great Kissin Says No to Turkey until Genocide Recognition

MOSCOW (Public Radio of Armenia) – World-renowned pianist Evgeny Kissin said in an interview with the *New York Times* that he would not perform in Turkey until its government acknowledges that the mass murder of Armenians in 1915 was a genocide.

“I personally believe that if people in such countries learn that some musicians refuse to play there because they are dismayed by what their rulers do, that will make intelligent-thinking people more aware,” he said.

He hastened to add that he does “not judge or condemn colleagues who perform in totalitarian countries; “it’s a personal choice,” he said.

Kissin was scheduled to perform a concert devoted to Jewish composers on Wednesday, December 16 at Carnegie Hall in New York.

Russia Tests New Stealth Drones at Armenian Military Base

MOSCOW (Public Radio of Armenia) – The Russian military base in Armenia has received new Orlan-10 reconnaissance unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and started testing Navodchik-2 drones invisible from the ground, a Southern Military District spokesman told TASS on Tuesday.

The drones are being tested at the high mountainous Kamkhud training range in Armenia by the servicemen who have undergone special retraining at the training facility in the Moscow Region, the spokesman said.

According to the spokesman, “reconnaissance units will use Orlan-10 UAVs for the first time to track extended and point targets in high mountainous areas. The UAVs will be also involved in combat training of the military base’s units.” “The military base’s servicemen will also learn to deploy the Navodchik-2 reconnaissance system, prepare it for launching, use the catapult for aircraft takeoff and landing, the spokesman said.

The modern Navodchik-2 and Orlan-10 systems “will boost the volume of tasks accomplished in high mountainous areas in Armenia in the interests of reconnaissance and special units by five times,” the Southern Military District’s spokesman said.

26 Turkish Police Officers Face Trial

ISTANBUL (PanARMENIAN.Net) – A total of 26 former Turkish police officers may face trial as the indictment in the nine-year-long investigation into negligence by public officials in the assassination of prominent Armenian-Turkish journalist Hrant Dink has been approved by an Istanbul prosecutor’s office, *Hurriyet Daily News* reports.

The Istanbul Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office on December 9 approved the indictment prepared against the former officers, into “negligence on public duty” in the death of Dink, the editor-in-chief of weekly *Agos*, who was shot dead outside his office in Istanbul’s Sisli district on January 19, 2007.

The indictment prepared by prosecutor Gökalp Kökçü was presented to the Istanbul 14th Court for Serious Crimes after it had been rejected by deputy chief prosecutor Orhan Kapici twice.

The 26 former police officers could be tried on charges of “negligence of public duty” if the court recognizes the indictment. The court is expected to announce its decision within 15 days.

Individuals facing prison sentences on charges of “forming and heading a terrorist organization” were among the 26 suspects.

The Istanbul Chief Prosecutor’s Office returned the indictment to Kökçü in early November, arguing that “evidence of voluntary manslaughter concerning some of the suspects was not revealed.”

However, Hakan Bakircioglu, a Dink family lawyer, said on November 4 that not opening a case against former police chiefs Ahmet Ilhan Güler, Celalettin Cerrah, Re at Altay, Engin Dinç and other suspects, would eliminate their integral responsibility in Dink’s murder.

Community News

Group Behind Landmark Book For Women Struggles to Survive

By Bella English

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (*Boston Globe*) – Joan Moynagh remembers getting her orientation packet as a freshman at Vassar College in 1977, and being both thrilled and amazed that it included *Our Bodies, Ourselves*. The book explored all sorts of previously off-limits women's health topics, from abortion to domestic violence.

"The book was a revelation – open, honest, accepting, instructive," said Moynagh, who still has the book on a shelf in her Milton home.

But the Cambridge women's health collective that wrote the groundbreaking book, which has sold more than 4 million copies in the United States since its first publication in 1971, is now at risk of closing – the victim of consumers' shift to the Internet, dwindling grants, and the lack of a long-term financial plan.

This summer, the group, now known as "Our Bodies Ourselves" (OBOS) reached out to Gloria Steinem and Lena Dunham, who wrote a crowdfunding letter that begins: "The two of us are from different generations, yet we were both helped by *Our Bodies, Ourselves*, the book that rocked the world by putting women's health and sexuality in a radically new political and social context."

Even as the battle over abortion and other women's sexual health issues continues, particularly in the wake of the Planned Parenthood shootings in Colorado Springs, an organization that was key to starting the conversation is reaching out to its readers and supporters to stay afloat. The crowdfunding effort met its initial goal of \$100,000 this week, and the organization hopes to raise nearly \$200,000 more in the coming months.

"We only have enough funds on hand to survive six months," said Joan Rachlin, who got involved with the group as a law student in 1975.

Describing the declining financial condition of the group, she added, "By last spring, it was clear that it wasn't the writing on the wall anymore. It was neon lights flashing wildly that this was a crisis."

Subtitled *A Book by and for Women, Our Bodies, Ourselves* is an oversized tome that has been translated into 30 languages and was named by the Library of Congress as one of 88 books that shaped America. The last of nine editions was published in 2011.

Though the entire book is not online, much of its information is available on OBOS's website and continually updated digitally. The group's Global Initiative works with women's organizations around the world to adapt and translate the book; in Iran, local women recently adapted and translated a chapter on body image into Farsi.

In the United States, the information is more relevant than ever, said Judy Norsigian, a founding member of the collective who became its executive director. "As the Internet has grown, so has the misinformation, some of it deliberate," she said. "Some of it is ideologically driven, like saying that abortion is directly related to breast cancer."

It was a lack of information that led to the book in the first place. In 1969, the 12 original members of The Boston Women's Health Book Collective decided to research women's health and write a book themselves. They included chapters on what were then often-taboo topics such as birth control, sexual orientation, see WOMEN, page 7



William S. Parsons

Armenian Government Presents Morgenthau Medal To William Parsons

WASHINGTON – Earlier this year, the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia's Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute awarded William S. Parsons with the Ambassador Henry Morgenthau Medal on behalf of the government of Armenia.

In a formal ceremony at the Embassy of the Republic of Armenia on the evening of December 10, Armenian Ambassador to the US Tigran Sargsyan presented the award to Parsons for his exceptional service to humankind through education on the Armenian Genocide and the defense of human rights.

William S. Parsons worked at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) for 25 years where he served as chief of staff and director of education.

Prior to joining USHMM, he co-founded Facing History and Ourselves, an organization that specializes in training teachers in human rights education in order to help students confront the lessons of genocide and the Holocaust, and learn the value of tolerance. Facing History and Ourselves developed the first national curriculum on the Armenian Genocide in the US, which serves as the template for all educators today.

see AWARD, page 5



(L-R): Leo Sahakian, Ambassador Sargsyan, Assembly Board Member Annie Totah, Nagorno Karabakh Foreign Minister Karen Mirzoyan, Archbishop Vicken Aykazian, and Assembly Executive Director Bryan Ardouny.

St. Nersess Gala Creates New Enthusiasm And Support

ARMONK, N.Y. – On November 22, more than 300 guests filled the grand pavilion of the Rockleigh Country Club in New Jersey to celebrate St. Nersess Armenian Seminary's accomplishments with an eye on its future.

Also honored were its grand benefactors Haig and Elza Didizian of London, England. A convivial atmosphere emanated as clergy, alumni, faculty, students, summer conference participants, board of directors, donors and guests of the seminary mingled and reminisced about their connection to St. Nersess.

Haig Ariyan, a member of the board of directors and a summer conference alumnus, served as the emcee who, with his wife Nadine, underwrote the banquet. Before Haig welcomed everyone, Archbishop Yeghishe Gizirian gave the invocation, after which the guests were thanked for attending the banquet and dinner was served. While everyone dined, the St. Nersess seminarians sang a few hymns under the direction of Khoren Mekanejian. Michael Haratunian, representing the St. Nersess Board of Directors, then spoke to the crowd and recognized the Didizian family who traveled from abroad and thanked all the donors who have made the new campus a reality. He also recognized the support of the Armenian General Benevolent Union as well as Louise Manoogian Simone, through whose effort the bulk of the seminary's endow-



Abp. Khajag Barsamian giving the closing message.

ment fund was created.

Rev. Mardiros Chevian, dean, took the podium and recalled some of the Armenian religious leaders who have left their mark on their church and community through the centuries. "What separates them from today's clergy?" he asked. "Only time and place, nothing more," he replied. He then turned to the seminarians and told them soon it will be their turn to join the legacy of Armenian religious leaders and how we will pray for them as they travel along the path to their chosen vocation. Following Fr. Mardiros, a moving and well-documented video entitled "Vision of Grace: The Legacy and Future of St. Nersess Armenian Seminary" was shown. It details the history of St. Nersess and its progress in raising leaders of the Armenian Church and community. The video can be viewed at stnersess.edu.

Before inviting the Dizidians to speak, Haig Ariyan recognized the major Armonk project donors who were present: Mr. and Mrs. Haig Didizian \$3 million; Virginia Hekimian \$500,000; Dadourian Foundation \$350,000; Mr. and Mrs. Toros Mangassarian \$300,000; Mr. and Mrs. see GALA, page 5



COMMUNITY NEWS

St. Nersess Gala Creates New Enthusiasm And Support

GALA, from page 4

Mrs. Harry Keleshian \$120,000; and Dr. Lucy Rorke-Adams who has bequeathed \$2 million to St. Nersess in her will and is the founder of the St. Nersess Planned Giving Society. All donors, at all levels, were thanked as well.

Then Hagop Didizian, the son of Haig

Karekin I, for whom the new St. Nersess theological center is named, and how he touched his life as a teenager. His son Haig Didizian, Jr., followed by giving a brief tribute to his grandparents, stating how they both find pure happiness in supporting the Armenian Church.

Ambassador Zohrab Mnatsakanyan,

Armenia's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, addressed the audience, remarking that many times in our long Armenian history we have lost parts of our ancestral land but have never lost our church. He commented how he is thankful to St. Nersess Seminary for sustaining the Armenian Church by producing priests here in America and how he is personally thankful to be in the

local Armenian community. Following, Haig Ariyan introduced the guest of honor Haig Didizian who began his speech by remembering those lost in the Armenian Genocide and how it



The St. Nersess Seminarians singing hymns for the guests.



Haig and Elza Didizian with their sons and grandson.

Didizian, spoke, thanking Haig and Nadine Ariyan for their generosity and the banquet committee, co-chaired by Lucie Bandazian, for planning such a joyous event. He recalled special memories of Catholicos of All Armenians

has forced us to build new lives around the world. He further commented how Karekin I wanted Armenian clergy in America to continue their higher education with qualified professors and to work in harmony with the Mother See of Holy Echmiadzin and the Patriarchate of Jerusalem. "St. Nersess continues to fulfill this vision," stated Didizian as he thanked Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Archbishop Yeghishe Gizirian, the Board of Directors, the Banquet Committee and all those who have worked hard to make the new Armonk campus

a reality and the evening a grand success. He ended with a quote from Karekin I, "I was not born in Armenia, Armenia was born in me."

The evening concluded with the seminarians singing *Amen Hayee*, the Ode to the Catholicos. Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Eastern Diocese and President of the St. Nersess Board of Directors, offered the closing message and the benediction. "It was Tiran Srpazan's vision that the Armenian-American community could contribute to the mission of the Armenian Church in the world...this is the vision for St. Nersess that we have been trying to realize," commented Archbishop Barsamian. "Equally important to the future of the seminary is its relationship with the source of our faith, the Mother See of Holy Echmiadzin and the blessing of His Holiness Karekin II. We thank Haig and Elza Didizian who have shown an extraordinary commitment of love, and for their contribution to the new St. Nersess campus."

Armenian Government Presents Morgenthau Medal to William Parsons

AWARD, from page 4

"It was my great honor to participate in the awarding of a longtime friend of the Armenian people," stated Armenian National Institute (ANI) Director Dr. Rouben Adalian. "Perhaps no other person in the United States has done more and achieved more as a human rights educator than William Parsons," added Adalian.

Parsons has reached thousands of teachers across the United States and around the globe. He co-authored the teachers' resource book *Facing History and Ourselves: The Holocaust and Human Behavior*. He also co-edited, along with other significant educators, *Centuries of Genocide: Essays and Eyewitness Accounts*, which has gone into its fourth edition and sold tens of thousands of copies, making it the most popular college textbook on human rights and genocide.

The Secretary of the Republic of Armenia State Commission for the Centennial sent a letter accompanying the award.

"I am very pleased that William Parsons has received this significant award and recognition from the Armenian government for his pioneering efforts in Armenian Genocide and Holocaust education," stated Armenian Assembly of America Board of Trustees Vice Chairman and Counselor Aram Kaloosdian. "I had the pleasure of serving with him on the ANI Academic Council and will always remember his dedication and perseverance in the fight against denial of the Armenian Genocide," Kaloosdian said.

At the Armenian Embassy reception, Sargsyan also honored Maryland entrepreneur Boris Ghazaryan with the Prime Minister's Medal.

In addition to the award ceremony, Sargsyan welcomed the Nagorno Karabagh Republic (NKR) Foreign Minister Karen Mirzoyan to the United States. Mirzoyan was visiting Washington as part of a three-day working trip where he spoke at the annual Nagorno Karabakh/Artsakh independence celebration on Capitol Hill and met with U.S. government officials, Members of Congress, and the Armenian Assembly of America.



Sponsor A Teacher

In Armenia and Karabagh

15th Anniversary

Since its inception in 2001, TCA's Sponsor a Teacher program has raised over \$520,000 and reached out to 5,256 teachers and school workers in Armenia & Karabagh.

Yes, I want to sponsor teachers in Armenia and Karabagh to continue helping them to educate the children, our future leaders. I would like to have the teacher's name and address.

\$160 \$320 \$480 other \$_____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Tel: _____

Make check payable to: Tekeyan Cultural Association - Memo: Sponsor a Teacher
Mail your check with this form to:

TCA Sponsor a Teacher
5326 Valverde, Houston, TX 77056

Your donation is Tax Deductible.





COMMUNITY NEWS

A Tribute: Helene Pilibosian Sarkissian

JUNE 26, 1933 – DECEMBER 5, 2015

By Hagop Vartivarian

WATERTOWN – Helene was born on June 26, 1933 in Boston to the tradition-respecting household of Khachador and Yeghsa Pilibosian of Kharpert. Her parents, survivors of the Armenian Genocide, remained strongly attached to their roots. She attended Watertown High School and the Katharine Gibbs School, and went on to Harvard University, graduating with a degree in the humanities in 1960. She married Beirut-born Hagop Sarkissian, whose father, well-known Armenian Democratic Liberal Party (ADLP) member, Hovhannes Hovsep Sarkissian, contributed to the daily newspaper *Zartok* for many years.

Hagop Sarkissian worked at the Baikar Association. Helene's amiable father Khachador (1903-1989) was one of the founding members of the Tekeyan Cultural Association in the United States. After the latter retired, he gladly helped at the Baikar Association, particularly in administrative matters.

In 1964, Helene was appointed editor of the Boston ADLP newspaper, the *Armenian Mirror-Spectator*, thus becoming the first female editor of the ADLP press. Her assistant was Noubar Agishian of Beirut, who was also the assistant editor of the Armenian-language daily newspaper *Baikar*. Noubar was preparing his doctoral degree in physics. Helene's husband, Hagop, who himself was an ADLP member, also worked at an American publishing house. As he was quite familiar with the world of journalism, he was able to be helpful in Helene's work. Helene's salary in those days, 40 dollars a week, was in itself an indication of her spirit of sacrifice. She succeeded two editors who were very well known in the Armenian community – Bob Vahan and Varoujan Samuelian (distinguished by the nickname "Juicy").

Helene Pilibosian joined the Bay State ADLP Zovickian (Dzovigian) Youth Chapter. Her political party godfather was the then-editor of the newspaper *Baikar*, Dr. Nubar Berberian. In this fashion, the Pilibosian-Sarkissian family continued the fine legacy of its parents through the ADLP.

Every week, Helene transmitted to the American-Armenian readers of the newspaper information from various Armenian communities of the United States, as well as from Armenians in other countries abroad and in the homeland. The news media in those days adopt-



ed a different type of behavior, especially considering that the ADLP newspaper was being edited during some of the most intense days of the Cold War. She maintained the traditional direction of the political party despite the pressures of American foreign policy against the Soviet Union.

As she pursued ever more profoundly her literary and journalistic interests, she turned more towards philosophical and psychological themes and began to write editorials from this perspective on the preservation of the Armenian language in the new generation in America and on the scope of the contemporary Armenian Question and claiming justice. She wrote about the Armenian Genocide, premeditated and planned by the Turks. This was important, for the newspaper which she edited had for decades been the English-language voice for wide circles of the ADLP in America.

Helene wrote against injustices in the American social order such as the American participation in the Vietnam War. She wrote about the relationship of two opposing Armenian political parties in the United States, the ADLP and the Armenian Revolutionary Federation, beginning with the assassination of Archbishop Ghevont Tourian, and continuing with the ADLP's position in defense of Soviet Armenia as a result of the Cold War.

In the October 17, 1964 issue of the *Mirror*, she stated what was expected from the newly opened Armenian schools in the US and spoke

about the reevaluation of Armenian identity there, adding: "Armenian voices are also heard from many of the countries, including America, as some have attained fame in their countries of adoption by bringing what is distinctly Armenian into their work and being referred to as Armenians. For example, Arshile Gorky is recognized as one of the original and most important of American artists, for he brought his Armenian identity into his work."

The 50th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide opened up broad horizons for the new generation as claimants. From the crying and lamenting of scattered surviving remnants, the Armenian nation now moved to a collective position of forcefulness. New Nemesis operations began in the spirit of Gourgen Yanikian and the martial actions of the Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia (ASALA).

The columns of the *Armenian Mirror-Spectator* seemed too narrow to contain the many hundreds of pages printed in remembrance of the Armenian Genocide. They seemed too small to present the themes of the struggle for liberation, the movement of the Armenian Legionnaires, the Cilician Dream, the challenges of national preservation, the maintenance of Armenian culture, the importance of

the Armenian language and the importance of the role of the main Armenian communities of the Middle East. Yet a new voice began to be heard everywhere on various national Armenian issues, and the newspaper reflected this. Relations of the diaspora with Armenia took on a new nature, as the Soviet Union no longer was taboo for Armenians abroad. Helene was already editor during these days. She wrote about all these matters in her editorials, giving her personal analysis and the interpretation of the political party to which she belonged.

She dedicated an entire issue on its 50th anniversary, on the exact date of April 24, to the Armenian Genocide, and sent one copy to each American Congressman, President Lyndon Johnson and Vice President Hubert Humphrey. It included an article, "Mourning Is Not Enough," written by Leon Zaven Surmelian. Surmelian was the author in 1945 of a bestselling memoir on his childhood experiences of the Armenian Genocide, called *I Ask You, Ladies and Gentlemen*. Pilibosian's own editorial, "Out of Smoldering Ashes," was later reprinted in the Congressional Record in Washington DC.

In 1966, she left the position of editor. The newspaper changed its nature by 1970 and became more politicized thanks to the immigration to Boston of new political party members from various Armenian centers of the Middle East. They understood the mission of the *Mirror-Spectator* differently than their predecessors.

When Barbara Merguerian took on the role of editor, Helene returned to work as assistant editor from 1975 to 1981. Helene wrote articles about the great English poet Lord Byron studying the Armenian language in the Mkhitarist monastery in Venice, the Armenian-language collection in the Watertown public library, and bilingual education programs in the Watertown public schools. She reviewed many books of
see TRIBUTE, page 7

OBITUARY

George D. Hagopian

WALTHAM, Mass. – George D. Hagopian of Waltham died on December 4, 2015.

He was the son of the late Harry and Mary (Aroian) Hagopian. He was the brother of Edward D. Hagopian and his wife Frances of Woburn and Carol Gardner and her husband Bernard of Arlington. He was the longtime companion of Barbara Johnson of Arlington; uncle of Michael and Mark Hagopian and Bernard and Andrew Gardner; nephew of Ashod D. Hagopian of Winchester and the late Armine D. Hagopian, Aram D. Hagopian and Mary Albertassi. He also leaves several cousins.

Services were held at Holy Trinity Armenian Church, 145 Brattle St., Cambridge on Thursday, December 10. Interment was in Mt. Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge.

He was a lifelong, dedicated and devoted member of Holy Trinity Church who was an integral part of the fabric of parish life. He was a founding member and Treasurer of the Board of Trustees of the Holy Trinity Trust Fund serving on the Board for over 30 years (1976-2007). He served as a Diocesan Delegate for 23 years, was a member of the Parish Council for eight years, served as Church Auditor for many years and as Treasurer for the Trinity Christmas Bazaar for several decades.

In October 2000, he was honored as "Parishioner of the Year" and in April 2002 was presented with the Pontifical Encyclical and St. Nersess Shnorhali Medal.

For more than 45 years he was director of membership services at the American Automobile Association (AAA). He was a member of Charity Lodge A.F. & A. M. of Cambridge and Knights of Vartan Ararat Lodge # 1.

Memorial contributions may be made to Holy Trinity Armenian Church.

Arrangements were made by the Giragosian Funeral Home, Watertown.



DENNIS M. DEVENEY & SONS

Cemetery Monuments

Specializing in
Armenian Designs and Lettering

701 Moody St. Waltham, MA 02543
(781) 891-9876 www.NEMonuments.com

Telephone (617) 924-7400

Aram Bedrosian Funeral Home, Inc.

Continuous Service By The Bedrosian Family Since 1945

558 MOUNT AUBURN STREET
WATERTOWN, MA 02472

MARION BEDROSIAN
PAUL BEDROSIAN
LARRY BEDROSIAN

Giragosian

FUNERAL HOME

James "Jack" Giragosian, CPC
Mark J. Giragosian
Funeral Counselors

576 Mt. Auburn Street, Watertown, MA 02472, TEL: 617-924-0606
www.giragosianfuneralhome.com

Edward D. Jamakordzian, Jr. d/b/a

EDWARD D. JAMIE, JR.
FUNERAL DIRECTOR

Serving the Entire Armenian Community
Any Hour - Any Distance - Any Location

Edward D. Jamie, Jr., Manager

Call (718) 224-2390 or (888) 224-6088

Bus. Reg. 189-06 Liberty Ave., Hollis, NY 11412





COMMUNITY NEWS

Group Behind Landmark Book for Women Struggles to Survive

WOMEN, from page 4

abortion, pregnancy and childbirth, postpartum depression, violence and abuse, and menopause, with numerous first-person stories from women.

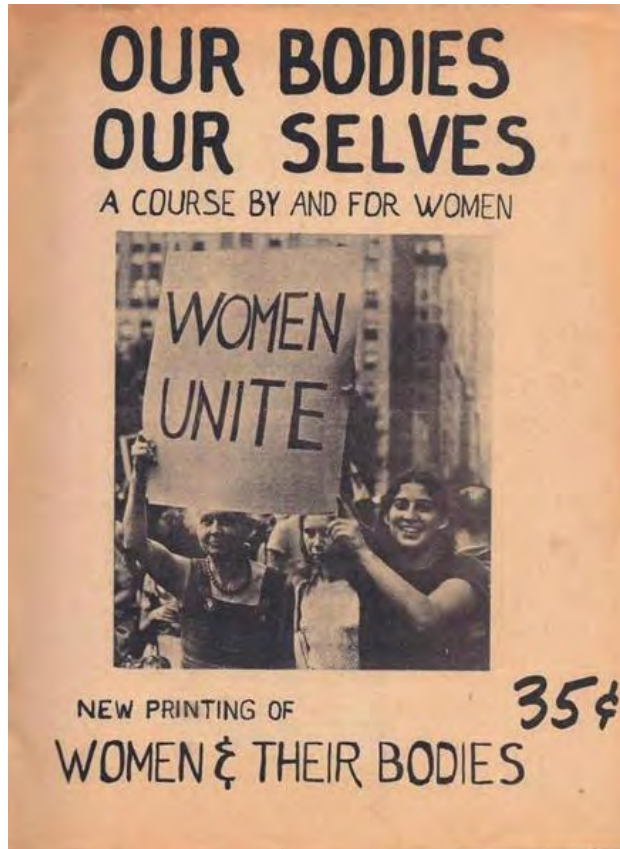
"I think you have to go back and remember how sexist and paternalistic and condescending the medical system was," Norsigian said.

In 1970, they stapled together a booklet, "Women and Their Bodies," which they sold for 35 cents. The project became a book under its present name in 1971, published by the now-defunct New England Free Press.

In 1973, when Simon & Schuster republished the book, it took off. But the women insisted on maintaining editorial control and a steep discount for books sold to nonprofit health clinics.

For many women, it was eye-opening. Rachlin, an attorney who wrote the section on patients' rights, recalls learning about menstruation from a camp counselor. "No one talked about our bodies," she said. "For most of us, it was considered unspeakable. All of that changed with 'Our Bodies, Ourselves.'"

It was not without controversy. Banned by some high schools and libraries, the book was labeled "obscene trash" by Jerry Falwell of the



The cover of the 1971 original edition of *Our Bodies Ourselves*

Moral Majority.

But as seminal and successful as the book became, the organization remained a lean one.

In a recent blog post, the founders wrote: "Early on, we decided to donate royalty income after expenses to grass-roots women's health projects."

Now, though, royalty income has dried up. According to the group, royalties from Simon & Schuster, which also published OBOS's *Our Bodies, Ourselves: Menopause* in 2006 and *Our Bodies, Ourselves: Pregnancy and Birth* in 2008, amounted to just under \$34,000 for the past two years. For the first half of this year, royalties were just \$3,618.

"We never did fund-raising in any professional way," Rachlin said. "It was the founders with their tin cups, their Rolodexes, and outreach to friends and family. . . . They operated much more like a family than a business."

The group has received grants from institutions including the Ford Foundation, MacArthur Foundation, and World Bank over the years, but they have expired. The board has looked in vain for a merger or affilia-

tion with other institutions.

A year ago, OBOS moved out of its Cambridge office. Norsigian, 23 when she helped organize the group, stepped down as director in January at age 67, but she remains a volunteer. The group currently has four part-time staffers who work from home and a budget of about \$300,000.

Without new funding, OBOS will exist only as "a legacy website" that will no longer be updated, members say. The site gets 400,000 hits a month.

The information there is valuable worldwide, said Sally Whelan, the program director for the OBOS Global Initiative. "We have content available on our website in Albanian, Arabic, Armenian, Bengali, French, Hebrew, Nepali, Polish, and Russian, and in 2015, we added resources in Kiswahili and Vietnamese," she said.

Ayesha Chatterjee is program manager for the Global Initiative, and at age 37 represents the younger generation of OBOS women. Some of their global outreach is to men. "We need to talk to the men to reach the women in their lives," she said. "Men are a big piece of this puzzle."

The OBOS veterans, some of them grandmothers now, are committed to finding resources for women like Chatterjee to carry on the work. "If we're going to go on, we need to move it to the next generation, so young women can step in and take it into the future," Whelan said.

Paros Foundation Reaches 100 Goals

BERKELEY, Calif. — The Paros Foundation has successfully reached its goal of implementing 100 special projects in Armenia through its 100 for 100 Projects for Prosperity initiative with the launch of the Debi Arach Children's Center in Armenia's second largest city, Gumri. The 100 for 100 effort was launched in the fall of 2011 to commemorate the centennial of the Armenian Genocide by implementing 100 educational, development, humanitarian and cultural projects in Armenia and Artsakh.

"Helping address the many needs Armenia has through our project based model of philanthropy both made sense and offered sponsors around the world an opportunity to mark the centennial by making Armenia a better place," said Peter Abajian, executive director of the Paros Foundation. "I am so proud that our Debi Arach Children's Center marks the 100th project and culmination of our 100 for 100 initiative."

Children who live in extreme poverty in Gumri, often without proper guidance and supervision, are at risk of becoming so called "social orphans." They literally spend time in



Students at the Debi Arach Children's Center attending classes aimed at helping them succeed in school.

and out of Gumri's orphanages. The Debi Arach Children's Center (Debi Arach means "moving forward" in Armenian) helps these socially vulnerable children. Using a holistic approach, the Center provides the necessary academic, psychological, social and humanitarian support to 130 students weekly, giving them an opportunity for a bright future by breaking the cycle of poverty for this community.

The center, which operates after school, provides counseling and group therapy with a psychologist on staff, homework help and tutoring for many of the subjects the children learn in school including English, Armenian, Math and Art/Design. In addition computer classes, educational excursions and guest presenters provide exciting extracurricular

learning opportunities for these children, free of charge, in a safe, warm and comfortable environment.

These children often suffer from malnutrition and related illnesses due to a lack of well-balanced meals. The center provides each child with a nutritious meal everyday, helping them receive the calories and/or nutrients they need. The center also addresses a very important hygienic need by providing the children in attendance with supervised bathing facilities.

The goal is to help hundreds of children

develop a vision for a successful future, and to give them the skills they need to reach these goals. This project is impacting the lives of hundreds of socially vulnerable children by helping them gain the guidance and support they need in order to create greater future opportunities, and become successful individuals and good citizens.

"Now that we reached our goal, I am excited for our model of project based philanthropy to continue into the future through our Projects for Prosperity initiative," said Abajian.

The Paros Foundation would like to recognize the following donors whose generous support underwrote major components of the center: Ani Vartanian Boladian & Rasmig Boladian, the Dadourian Foundation, Developmental Services for Armenia, Knights of Vartan, Ardaz Lodge. Please visit <http://parosfoundation.org/projects/debi-arach-cc/index.html> for a full list of Debi Arach Children Center contributors and an interesting video about the Center.

Proceeding into the future, the Debi Arach Children's Center aims to add a preschool program targeting children ages three to five. In addition, it hopes to expand its services by adding a vocational training center for children who do not intend on pursuing a college career. Funding is needed for both of these future possibilities.

The Paros Foundation underwrote all administrative expenses so that 100 percent contributions were allocated to this project.

A Tribute: Helene Pilibosian Sarkissian

TRIBUTE, from page 6

American-Armenian writers, and also had pieces in the literary quarterly *Ararat* published by the Armenian General Benevolent Union.

During all the years of the Lebanese civil war, beginning in 1975, she encouraged American-Armenians to extend a fraternal hand to help the members of this central Armenian diasporan community in their myriad of social, economic and educational needs. Helene always believed that the American-Armenian community would be renewed and completed through the new generation born and prepared abroad. Meanwhile, she visited the Armenian communities of Europe and, twice, Lebanon.

She founded Ohan Press in 1983, when she published her first collection of poetry, *Carvings from an Heirloom: Oral History Poems*. After this, she published *At Quarter Past Reality: New and Selected Poems*, which won first prize from *Writer's Digest*, and

History's Twists: The Armenians. Many of her early poems have been cited in the *Greenwood Encyclopedia of Multiethnic American Literature* and have won various prizes.

She wrote *They Call Me Mustafa: The Memoir of an Immigrant* together with her father Khachador, and then published it in 1992 (with a second edition in 1999). It was honored at a Massachusetts State House commemoration and included in an electronic database by Alexander Street Press. In 2010, she published *My Literary Profile: A Memoir*, which won honorable mention in the New England Book Festival in 2012.

Ohan Press has published 10 titles, of which many are penned by Helene. The latest of her volumes of poetry is *A New Orchid Myth*, a science fiction story from CreateSpace in 2014.

Helene passed away on December 5 at Boston's Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital after a short illness. Her funeral service took place on December 14 at the Armenian Memorial Church and she was interred in Ridgeland Cemetery, both in Watertown.

(Translated from the Armenian)

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE Students of Armenian Descent

Having Completed One Year of College by June, 2016

Applications and other information may be obtained from

**ARMENIAN STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION
Scholarship Committee
333 Atlantic Avenue • Warwick, RI 02888
Tel. 401 461-6114 • Fax 401 461-6112**

e-mail: headasa@aol.com

Deadline for returning completed Applications: March 15, 2016



COMMUNITY NEWS

House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Royce Calls for Change in US Policy on Nagorno Karabagh

WASHINGTON – US House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ed Royce (R-CA) called on the US, Russian, and French mediators to press Azerbaijan to accept major safeguards against intensifying ceasefire violations in the Nagorno Karabagh Republic (NKR) conflict zone while speaking at the 24th anniversary of NKR independence celebration on Capitol Hill this week.

Royce also said on Wednesday that the US administration must not shy away from blaming Azerbaijan for deadly fighting along “the line of contact” around Karabagh.

“Why are the snipers not pulled back from the border?” Royce asked. “Why have we not deployed those [gunfire] direction finders, that special equipment? They can tell where an incoming shell is coming from and identify that and thus be able to catalogue violations of the peace?”

“Why haven’t those in the Minsk Group moved forward to endorse this?” Royce added, referring to the mediating body co-headed by diplomats from the United States, Russia and France. He said he and several other members of the US House of Representatives hope to discuss the matter with US Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Co-Chair Ambassador James Warlick early next week.

Warlick attended the annual Capitol Hill event co-hosted by the US Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues, Armenian Assembly of America, Armenian National Committee of America, US Office of the Nagorno Karabagh Republic (NKR), and the Embassy of Armenia in the US Armenia’s Ambassador to the US Tigran Sargsyan, NKR Representative to the US Robert Avetisyan, former US Ambassador to Armenia John Evans, and many others attended the Capitol Hill reception as well.

Hours before the Capitol Hill reception, Azerbaijan’s military again attacked Nagorno Karabagh, this time using heavy tank fire for the first time since the ceasefire was signed in 1994. US State Department spokesman John Kirby called the attacks and Azerbaijan’s use of heavy weapons “unacceptable.”

During the “Freedom and Democracy of the Nagorno Karabagh Republic” event on Capitol Hill, House Intelligence Committee Ranking Member Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA) expressed his concern with Azerbaijan’s aggressive and dangerous military provocations, as well as current US policy.

“I also raised my dismay that the response from the United States has been to draw a false equivalence between Azeri and Armenian behavior,” Rep. Schiff said. “As we pursue a peaceful settlement, we cannot ignore the bellicose rhetoric and provocative military actions by Azerbaijan. Our silence only emboldens them.”

Earlier this year, Royce initiated a joint letter signed by 85 US lawmakers to Warlick, listing three concrete measures which they believe would minimize truce violations in the conflict zone. Those suggestions include sniper withdrawal, deployment of more field observers from the OSCE, and installation of gunfire-locator systems on the Karabagh frontline. Warlick reportedly backs the proposed safeguards.

The letter campaign began after mortar fire from Azerbaijan on September 24 killed three Armenian women. Azerbaijan military actions over the following days resulted in several deaths in Armenia and along the line of contact between Nagorno Karabagh and Azerbaijan. Within 24 hours of the letter’s issuance, OSCE monitors came under gunfire ascribed to Azerbaijan. “During our Line of Contact crossing, repeated gunfire forced OSCE monitors to take cover. This is unacceptable,” Warlick tweeted on October 27.

The Minsk Group co-chairs have long been urging the parties to the conflict to withdraw snipers and agree to a mechanism for international investigations of armed incidents. These measures are backed by Armenia and Karabagh but rejected by Azerbaijan.

Royce insisted on Wednesday that the “common sense steps” advocated by him and his colleagues would not only prevent more bloodshed but also “reinvigorate negotiations” on a Karabagh settlement. “And then the leaders of the Minsk Group can press Azerbaijan to fully pull back those snipers from the Line of Contact,” he went on. “And they can accurately identify who violates the ceasefire with artillery fire.”

“Once we accurately identified who violated the ceasefire agreement, it is important that the international community has the courage to call out those responsible and hold them accountable,” he said. “And that means we must end our current US policy of equivocation. We have to speak the truth regarding the perpetrator of each and every attack.”

Royce’s appeal followed a fresh escalation of fighting around Karabagh, which has left several Armenian and Azerbaijani soldiers dead over the past 10 days. Royce said that the truce violations pose a serious threat to the safety of Karabagh’s population. “This isn’t a theoretical threat,” he said. “Those of us who remember 1988 remember the [anti-Armenian] pogroms in Baku. We remember what happened in Sumgait.”

Royce has accused Azerbaijan of violating the ceasefire in the past. In an August 2014 statement, he also urged the Obama administration to help set a date for an internationally recognized referendum in Karabagh that would determine the territory’s final status.



Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ed Royce (R-CA)

Armenian Assembly Celebrates 24th Anniversary of Artsakh’s Independence

WASHINGTON – The Armenian Assembly of America this week joined the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues in co-hosting the annual Nagorno Karabagh/Artsakh independence celebration on Capitol Hill, alongside the US Office of the Nagorno Karabagh Republic (NKR), the Embassy of Armenia in the US, and the Armenian National Committee of America. Tonight’s event was in celebration of “Freedom and Democracy of the Nagorno Karabagh Republic,” marking the 24th anniversary of independence.

Armenian Caucus Co-Chair Rep. Robert Dold (R-IL) opened the program. He was joined by fellow Armenian Caucus Co-Chair Rep. Frank Pallone, Jr.

Mirzoyan met with US government officials, Members of Congress, and Armenian American community leaders. Prior to the Capitol Hill event, Mirzoyan visited the Assembly headquarters to meet with Executive Director Bryan Ardouny. Mirzoyan and Ardouny discussed ways to strengthen the US–Nagorno Karabagh bilateral relationship, critical US assistance to Karabagh, updates on the increased Azerbaijan attacks along the line of contact, as well as regional and global challenges. Mirzoyan thanked the Assembly for its steadfast commitment to the people of Artsakh and for the Assembly’s work in Karabagh and Armenia.

On the 24th anniversary of NKR on September 2, 2015, Co-Chairs of the Congressional Armenian Caucus Representatives Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ) and Robert J. Dold (R-IL) wrote a letter congratulating NKR President Bako Sahakyan and the people of Artsakh on their independence. The co-chairs noted that “the formation of the [Artsakh] republic in 1991 opened a path towards freedom and democracy, and your people continue to demonstrate their dedication to these universal values.” In the letter, Pallone and Dold also expressed support to Artsakh’s “efforts toward international recognition, and look forward to the day when it assumes its deserved place in the community of nations.”

As Members of Congress were set to gather on Capitol Hill to mark the freedom movement of Karabagh Armenians, Azerbaijan’s military again launched attacks on Nagorno Karabagh, this time using heavy tank fire for the first time since the ceasefire was signed in 1994. US Ambassador

Warlick personally witnessed Azerbaijan’s ceasefire violations on the frontline as the OSCE Minsk Group delegation came under fire when visiting the region in October.

The annual Capitol Hill celebration is an opportunity for the US and Nagorno Karabagh to reinforce their bilateral partnership. According to State Department coordinator for US assistance to the former Soviet Union Alina Romanowski the US will continue to finance humanitarian projects in Nagorno Karabagh as part of the annual economic assistance package appropriated by the US Congress.

At least \$44.5 million in direct aid to Karabagh has been approved by Congress since 1998. The majority of the aid goes toward humanitarian efforts, demining operations, and the reconstruction of the NKR’s water distribution network. The Assembly has also worked towards demining initiatives in Karabagh in cooperation with HALO Trust and the Marshal Legacy Institute.



Rep. Adam Schiff speaking at the program

(D-NJ) who gave remarks, and introduced keynote speaker NKR Foreign Minister Karen Mirzoyan. Also in attendance at the celebratory event was House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Rep. Ed Royce (R-CA), House Intelligence Committee Ranking Member Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA), as well as Reps. Judy Chu (D-CA), Katherine Clark (D-MA), Jim Costa (D-CA) and Dina Titus (D-NV).

Armenia’s Ambassador to the US Tigran Sargsyan, NKR Representative to the US Robert Avetisyan, US OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chair Ambassador James Warlick, former US Ambassador to Armenia John Evans, Westbrook (Maine) City Councilor Anna Astvatsaturian Turcotte, and many others attended the Capitol Hill celebration.

Diocesan Legate of the Armenian Church of America Archbishop Vicken Aykazian and St. Mary Armenian Church of Washington Rev. Hovsep Karapetian performed the invocation and benediction.

During his three-day trip to Washington,



From left, NKR Representative to the US Robert Avetisyan, Armenian Assembly Communications Director Taniel Koushakjian, NKR Foreign Minister Karen Mirzoyan, Armenian Assembly Public Affairs Associate Danielle Saroyan, Armenian Ambassador to the US Tigran Sargsyan, and Armenian Caucus Co-Chair Rep. Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ)



COMMUNITY NEWS

Linda Shahinian, a Native Angeleno, Contributes Her Talents to AUA's Acopian Center for the Environment

YEREVAN, Armenia — Linda Shahinian, along with her husband, Herb Schiff, was on a visit to Armenia in May 2014 when the long-retired couple met AUA Acopian Center for the Environment's (ACE) Alen Amirkhanian at a dinner party. Amirkhanian invited Shahinian and Schiff to visit AUA and the Center, which promotes the protection and restoration of the natural environment through research, education, and community outreach.

ACE was founded in 1992 by Sarkis Acopian as a center overseeing research and academic programs. From the very beginning, it was the Center's aim to protect Armenia's biodiversity and natural resources through research, education, and public involvement.

"The Center is such a valuable asset for Armenia. I love the idea that there is a center such as ACE at AUA that studies Armenia's environment, and how to protect it and keep it healthy. This is so important for ecotourism too," the energetic Shahinian continued, alluding to a project that she was involved in at the Center.

"That's when we were impressed. Alen is a very bright — very bright — guy," Shahinian recounted during an interview that her husband also took part in. "Alen is very impressive," Schiff chimed in. The center's activities, based on its interests in environmental policy, in sustainable natural resource management, on built environment and the natural environment, and on information technology and the natural environment, appealed to Shahinian and Schiff. That year, they decided to donate towards the Center's work.

The Center's appeal was such that Shahinian decided to join Amirkhanian's team as a volunteer. She returned with her husband to Armenia in September 2015 to spend six weeks at AUA's ACE.

But Shahinian did not jump into this opportunity right away. There were some important details to attend to, such as what Schiff would be doing while Shahinian volunteered at ACE. The equally energetic Schiff wanted to keep busy as well. "I had to find something to do in order to stay out of trouble," he added mischievously. Being a man of many interests, among them archeology, with the assistance of the Armenian Volunteer Corps, he was able to join an archeological dig at Karmir Blur, where an Urartian burial site was recently discovered and is being actively excavated and studied.

The couple's initial trip to Armenia in 2014 that led to a world of new possibilities and experiences was Schiff's first. But it was Shahinian's second to her homeland. She had visited in 1970 during the Soviet period.

"The country didn't feel so Armenian back then," Shahinian said, but she warmed to the idea of visiting Armenia again when she started hearing encouraging stories once Armenian independence came in 1991. An



Linda Shahinian and her husband, Herb Schiff, center, front row, with the AUA's Acopian Center for the Environment staff, including Alen Amirkhanian, third from left

increasing flow of Diasporans visiting Armenia returned and shared stories of positive experiences. The stories reached Los Angeles, Shahinian's hometown, and reignited her interest in traveling to Armenia. But this time, Schiff, a self-described "ABC" (Armenian by Choice) whom she married in 1982, would accompany her.

"Yerevan is lively now. There's nightlife and flowers along the streets. We really liked it and decided that we'd come back as volunteers," Shahinian said.

Both Shahinian and Schiff have a long history of doing eclectic work, as they retired early thanks to their successful advertising and marketing company that represented magazines in the film, broadcast and recording industries. In addition to her past advertising career, Shahinian is currently active teaching a course through UCLA and has also been involved in city government in the Los Angeles suburb of Culver City. Schiff, on the other hand, has been a volunteer at La Brea Tar Pits and the Museum of Natural History in Los Angeles, as well as the Los Angeles Zoo, among other activities.

Volunteer work in Armenia seems to complement the couple's life perfectly. While Schiff, who credits his wife for giving him a "really good Armenian education," traveled daily to Karmir Blur, Shahinian's work at ACE consisted of programming a one-day network-

ing conference on ecotourism in Armenia. The objective of the conference, provisionally scheduled for winter 2016, is to serve as a clearinghouse for various stakeholders, to encourage them to share their ideas, resources, and experiences, enhancing the collective outcome of the individual efforts. "This is a major project," Shahinian said.

In addition, Shahinian, who holds a degree in English and did her graduate program in social work, was asked to help improve the English writing skills of the Center's staff. As she was experienced in editing and teaching literacy, Shahinian enjoyed this task as well. She also proofread a textbook, a formidable 407-pages long, on green architecture.

But, most of all, Shahinian seems to have fallen in love with the people of Armenia. "The kindnesses of the people here, in some ways, the surprising kindness..." she began and interrupted herself as she tried to contextualize her story. "Smiling is just not something people do here, until you engage them. It's an old Soviet hand-me-down perhaps. But once you engage someone, they'll literally go blocks out of their way. If you ask, 'vorteghe?' if you're looking for something, they'll take you, they'll just take you, and then go about their business," Shahinian said with a tinge of premature nostalgia.

"It's just that very human connection. There's this warmth. It's a small community. A

lot of people we know are Diasporans. But to meet 'Yerevantsis' or 'Gyumretsis'...Initially, there is this coolness. But there's eventually just this wonderful kindness and warmth. Gyumretsis are incredibly proud of their town. There's real depth and I think the fact that you do engage people, it's almost like you're saying, 'It's okay to smile. It's okay to be friendly.'"

Shahinian made sure to visit Gumri as well. Her father was born there but, as a child, moved to Los Angeles his family in 1923. Her mother, though born in Fresno, California, came from an Armenian family whose roots are in Kharper, present-day Turkey.

Shahinian, who grew up in "a pretty Armenian family," attending Armenian church and activities, is intent on coming back to Armenia next year and is looking for new adventures in the Armenian landscape.

Schiff's human experiences in Armenia were similarly heart-warming. Their locus, however, was Yerevan's public transportation system, which he used daily to go to Karmir Blur in a nearby suburb of Yerevan. Herb developed a touching relationship with a little girl and several of her family's matriarchs who would ride the *marshrutka*, the public van that Herb used every morning.

Following polite greetings and pleasantries in English, Schiff and the girl would quickly settle into a more practical routine. Schiff would gently ask, "Will you help me with my Armenian today?" The little girl, who knew English from school, would eagerly agree to the amusement of all the passengers. The *marshrutka* riders would eavesdrop as the little girl taught Schiff words such as *gaang* (skull) and *voskor* (bone), words of little practical use to anyone but Herb, who was on his way to yet another archeological adventure.

"Children in Armenia are something wonderfully special for me. I loved the bones, and the archeology is fantastic. But, from a human standpoint, that experience with the little girl was really nice," Schiff, whose own family is of Polish Jewish ancestry from a region that currently lies in Belarus, said.

Before returning to Armenia next year, Schiff has decided that he would improve his Armenian, which would be critical to fully experience the social dimensions of living in Yerevan. He is exploring connections with the Yerevan Zoo, which is currently undergoing a major overhaul. Schiff may help with a docent program there, as he has extensive experience as a volunteer with the docent program at the Los Angeles Zoo.

A smiling Shahinian is not sure what adventures to pursue next year, but she knows one thing for certain, "It's been a great experience. The highlight of my trip was working with the people at ACE. It was remarkable to me how bright and dedicated they are."

Book in Time Capsule Is Now Seen as a Call to Remember

CAPSULE, from page 1

"One of the last things he did was to seal a copper box," reported a *Boston Daily Globe* article from 1901.

But not before he placed the thick tome inside, nestled snugly atop the other objects as if it had been cut to size. When the capsule was opened, the book, which contained a summary of US foreign relations from 1896, was the first item seen.

Yet, the reason for such a prominent placement remained unclear. Officials at the Bostonian Society, which operates the Old

State House Museum, were eager for answers, but the book's broad scope defied them.

"It was a mystery," said Elizabeth Roscio, the society's archivist.

When Don and Barbara Tellalian, a couple from Newton who had researched Gulesian's life, heard about the book, they quickly made the connection.

Gulesian was a leading figure in the Friends of Armenia, a Boston group that raised awareness about the Armenian massacres. And the book provided a historical record of attacks against Christian minorities that began in 1895.

"From his point of view, it made perfect sense to include," said Barbara Tellalian. "It just seemed to fit."

Don Tellalian, a retired architect who had worked on the restoration of the Old State House, set up a meeting with Roscio in October to examine the book. As he thumbed through the section about the Ottoman Empire, they came across the folded page, a cleanly pressed triangle marking page 887. The section

describes an attack by Turkish forces on an American mission in an Armenian province.

"There can be no doubt I think, judging from the penetrating force of the bullets, that they were fired from rifles such as are used by the Turkish troops," a diplomatic letter read.

In a revelatory moment, the Tellalians concluded that the book was Gulesian's way of preserving a piece of history, to mark a moment in time for future generations. What had first seemed to be a dull, bureaucratic selection was instead a deeply personal choice to document the atrocities against his homeland, they decided.

"We knew then," Barbara Tellalian said. "This was a passion for him."

Gulesian was 17 when he came to the United States, arriving in New York City in 1883. He slept on a park bench before a fellow countryman put him to work at his carpet shop.

In 1890, he built a copperworks factory in Boston, and in the coming years took in scores of Armenian refugees.

He is best remembered for rallying support

to save the USS Constitution from being scrapped by offering to pay the Navy \$10,000 for the vessel.

For the Tellalians, who are both of Armenian descent, the discovery has strong contemporary resonance. At a time when refugees from the Middle East are viewed with suspicion, Gulesian provides a classic American success story, a man who built a fortune from nothing.

"You begin to realize that there are some things that haven't changed so much," Don Tellalian said, shaking his head in regret.

There is no proof, of course, that the book in the time capsule had any significance at all. The initial reaction — that it was chosen as much for its dimensions as its content — might have been correct, and Gulesian may not have been involved. But the evidence, from the book's prominent placement to the crisply folded-down page, is tantalizing.

"There are no hard facts in history," said Brian LeMay, the Bostonian Society's director. "This passes the test."

Arts & Living

ADAA Announces Opening Of Saroyan/Paul Human Rights Playwriting Prize

LOS ANGELES – The Armenian Dramatic Arts Alliance (ADAA) announced recently that its biennial \$10,000 prize for playwriting is now named the Saroyan/Paul Playwriting Prize for Human Rights/Social Justice, and will begin accepting submissions in January 2016.

The inaugural sponsor and longtime supporter of the prize, the William Saroyan Foundation, has been joined by the Lillian and Varnum Paul Fund, longtime supporter of ADAA's Paul Screenwriting Award, to complete the funding of the biennial playwriting prize, which has become known as one of the world's most reputable playwriting awards.

ADAA's board decided to merge the competitions and focus solely on playwriting, which was ADAA's original programming focus and which has given ADAA writers their most far-reaching success and opportunities at theaters and arts institutions around the world.

In the prize's last cycle in 2014, ADAA launched a Human Rights/Social Justice focus, opening the competition to plays which engage an audience with social and political issues and/or promotes peace, social justice and human rights, not only Armenian themes. This has enhanced the outreach of the prize even further around the world.

In continuing with the work of previous years to support Armenian stories and artists, a special \$2,500 prize, the Kondazian Playwriting Award for Armenian Stories, will be awarded to an outstanding play on an Armenian theme. Karen Kondazian, actress, ADAA Board Member and daughter of Lillian and Varnum Paul, is sponsor of this prize within the competition: "I am extremely happy to have my parents' The Paul Award, join hands with the extraordinary Saroyan Foundation – to inspire and encourage human justice and dignity through the eyes of the playwright with the Saroyan/Paul Playwriting Prize," says Kondazian. "It is also my honor to present the Kondazian Playwriting Award for Armenian Stories (through my parents' fund) to encourage playwrights of any nationality, to explore the Armenian heart."

The Saroyan/Paul Prize for Playwriting in Human Rights/Social Justice and the Kondazian Playwriting Award for Armenian Stories will be awarded in December 2016, in honor of Human Rights Day, at ADAA's annual awards event in Los Angeles.

The contest administrator will be ADAA President Bianca Bagatourian and the contest manager will be Elizabeth Malone, MFA actor, comedian and teaching artist.

Scripts can tackle topics as diverse as homelessness, genocide, human exploitation, whether the conflicts are international, among groups and individuals, or through political participation. Scripts can also seek to create understanding of how conflicts can be resolved nonviolently. Other themes can include minority issues that focus on racial, ethnic and gender discrimination both in the United States and abroad. ADAA hopes this widened scope will help shed new light on spiritual, political and cultural differences and issues and build respect for cultural expression and identity.

Between January 1, 2016 and February 1, 2016, playwrights must submit a half-page synopsis of their play for the committee's consideration – and to confirm that it is a play dealing with human rights/social justice, whether Armenian or non-Armenian themed. By March 1, 2016, writers will then be invited to submit their full-length script and \$20 entry fee for consideration. Full scripts must be submitted by April 24, 2016 (See www.armeniandrama.org for details).

The Saroyan/Paul Playwriting Prize for Human Rights/Social Justice is supported with grants from the William Saroyan Foundation, the Lillian and Varnum Paul Fund, Gagosian Galleries, and the Los Angeles County Arts Commission.

For submission guidelines, visit <http://www.armeniandrama.org>.



The proposed exterior view

Armenian American Museum Design Unveiled

GLENDALE – The Armenian American Museum unveiled its conceptual design at the Glendale City Council meeting on Tuesday, December 8. The Project Development Committee presented the developments of the first phase of the master planning process and shared the concept design for the new museum.

"The concept for the museum is rooted in creating a place of inspiration and hope for the community" stated the Museum Project Development Committee Chairman Berdj Karapetian. "We have submitted all of the requirements to the City of Glendale in our exclusive negotiating agreement and are now ready to proceed to securing the ground lease agreement, further developing our master plan, and organizing fundraising initiatives that will enable us to bring this project into fruition."

The Armenian American Museum concept, designed by Alajajian Marcoosi Architects, will include exhibitions space, resource center, a performing arts theater and classrooms. The museum building will be surrounded by an outdoor plaza and peace garden on the City owned property next to the Glendale Civic Auditorium. The 1.7 acre property on the corner of Verdugo Road and Mountain Street will also serve as the location for a memorial to the victims of the Armenian Genocide.

The Museum's vision is a cultural campus that enriches the community, educates the public on the Armenian American story, and empowers individuals to embrace cultural diversity while speaking out against prejudice.

Glendale City Mayor Ara Najarian applauded the work of the museum team following the design presentation by stating, "Just one year ago this was a dream for our community and I feel very excited to see things come to this level. I know there will be some milestones ahead but have no doubt that you will work diligently to create a wonderful design plan that will put Glendale on the map nationwide."

Councilwoman Paula Devine relayed her support by highlighting the cross-cultural and educational component of the museum and invited selected architects Aram Alajajian and Sako Marcoosi to share their inspiration for the design.

"The inspiration lays within the museum itself to serve the larger Glendale community and create a place for visitors to learn about Armenian culture while also hosting diverse traveling exhibits" commented Alajajian.

Councilmen Vartan Gharpetian and Zareh Sinanyan further noted the multi-functionality of the museum by echoing the educational opportunities it will bring to the community and the significance of building it adjacent to the Glendale Community College campus.

The overarching support of the Glendale City Council was emphasized by Councilwoman Laura Freidman in stating, "You have a very supportive Council and see MUSEUM, page 10



The proposed garden view

NAASR Announces First Winners of Dr. Sona Aronian Armenian Studies Book Prizes

BELMONT, Mass. – The National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) is pleased to announce the winners of the first Dr. Sona Aronian Book Prizes for Excellence in Armenian Studies. Dr. Aronian, who passed away on November 17, 2015, established the prizes last year, to be awarded annually to an outstanding scholarly monograph in the English-language in the field of Armenian Studies and, in alternating years, to a translation from Armenian into English of a work of literature or of an academic book within the field of Armenian Studies.

The award for an academic monograph was awarded to Dr. Bedross Der Matossian for his book *Shattered Dreams of Revolution: From Liberty to Violence in the Late Ottoman Empire*, published by Stanford University Press. The prize for translation of a work of literature from Armenian to English was awarded to Jennifer Manoukian for her translation of *The Gardens of Silihdar* by Zabel Yessayan, published by the Armenian International Women's Association Press. Both prizes come with a monetary award.

The announcement of the prizes was made by Marc Mamigonian on Friday, December 4, at the Boston-area event in honor of NAASR's Leadership Circle, of which Dr. Aronian was a member. Her husband, Prof. Geoffrey Gibbs, was present for the announcement.

Though not in attendance, prizewinners Der Matossian and Manoukian provided statements. Der Matossian wrote: "It is a great honor to be the first recipient of the Dr. Sona Aronian Book Prize for Excellence in Armenian Studies given by NAASR. I would like to thank NAASR for recognizing my contribution to the field of modern Armenian history. For sixty years NAASR has been in the forefront of promoting Armenian Studies with its multifaceted dimensions. Hence, this is a great privilege. I hope to be able to continue my contribution to the field of Armenian Studies by introducing new perspectives and new methodological approaches for understanding modern Armenian history. Thank you."

Manoukian expressed that "There is always a gnawing concern in a translator's mind – or in a writer's mind, for that matter – that her work will be just another book spine in, if she's lucky, the stacks of a university library. And in time, that is what *The Gardens of Silihdar* will become. But when the gloom of this idea starts to descend, I like to imagine a student in that library stumbling on Yessayan in translation 100 years from now and learning, through her work, not only about late-nineteenth-century Ottoman history, Armenian history, and women's histories – without allusion to the persecution that tends to overshadow contemporary understandings of what Western Armenian literature is – but also about the complexity of the ideas and human – not intrinsically Armenian – emotions that can be expressed in Western Armenian. I like to imagine – definitely paradoxically and maybe naively – that a translation like this one could galvanize this student, push her to study the language and start her own translations, because, like me, she would feel giddy and restless at the thought of all the wisdom waiting to be uncovered in the neglected works of Western Armenian writers."

Following the announcement, NAASR Academic Director Mamigonian stated that "NAASR is very pleased and honored to carry forward this legacy of Dr. Sona Aronian's in years to come, and to provide encouragement to other deserving scholars and translators. We applaud her for endowing these prizes, which are the first of their kind in the US. Congratulations to Dr. Bedross Der Matossian and Jennifer Manoukian on their outstanding contributions and well-deserved awards."



ARTS & LIVING

Author Chris Bohjalian to Present New Book at Fresno State

FRESNO — Best-selling author Chris Bohjalian will speak about his new book, *The Guest Room*, at 7 p.m. on Friday, January 8, 2016, in the Leon S. and Pete P. Peters Educational Center Auditorium (west end of the Save Mart Center) on the Fresno State campus.

The lecture is co-sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program of Fresno State and the Hamazkayin Armenian Educational and Cultural Society.

Bohjalian's *The Guest Room* is a spellbinding

tale of a party gone horribly wrong: two men lie dead in a suburban living room, two women are on the run from police and a marriage is ripping apart at the seams. Bohjalian brilliantly — and chillingly — shows how life can change in an instant.

"*The Guest Room* pulses quick as a page-turner, but its concerns run deep into the moral consequences following an eruption of violence in ordinary lives," says Charles Frazier, National Book Award-winning author of *Cold Mountain*.

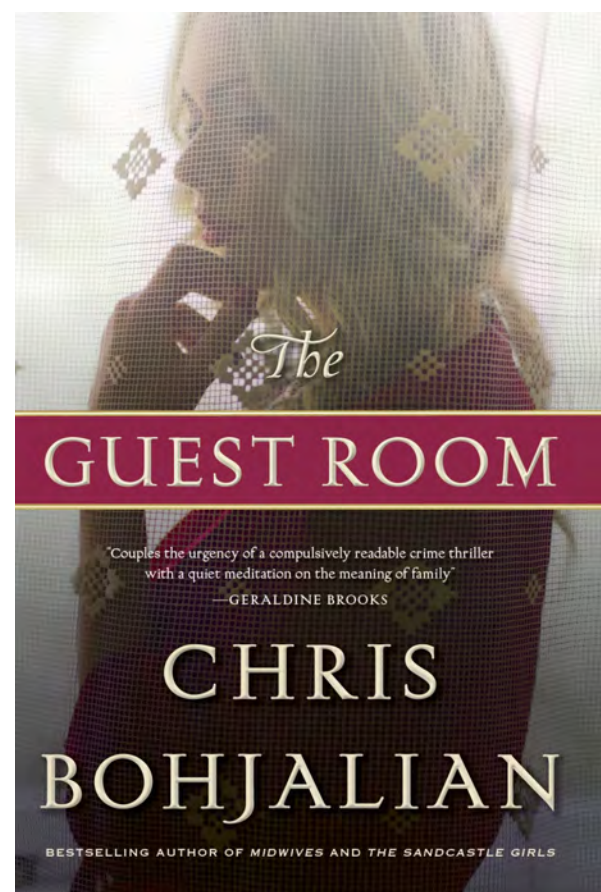
Bohjalian is the author of 15 novels, includ-

ing the bestsellers *Midwives* and *The Sandcastle Girls*. *Sandcastle Girls* (2012) is about the Armenian Genocide and its century-long denial by Turkey. The novel includes two stories in one: the story of Elizabeth Endicott and Armen Petrosian, lovers who meet in Syria during the Genocide; and the story of Laura Petrosian, their granddaughter, who after a century tries to understand why they were so silent about their youth, while her suburban existence is quite different from the violent setting in which her grandparents fell in love.

Bohjalian has authored 10 *New York Times* bestsellers and his work has been translated into roughly 30 languages and three times have become movies.

The lecture is free and open to the public. Parking will be available in lots adjacent to the Save Mart Center. Enter at Shaw and Woodrow Avenues.

For more information on the lecture please contact the Armenian Studies Program at 278-2669 or visit its website at fresnostate.edu/armenianstudies.



Armenian American Museum Design Unveiled

MUSEUM, from page 10

a great sense of passion from the community to make this happen. I am happy to learn that you have hired a local entity to bring this bold vision to Glendale."

The next stage for the Museum project will be to secure a Ground Lease Agreement with the City of Glendale and commission a master plan that will provide operation direction on programming, business strategy, facility development, and governance.

The museum will launch a wide-range of outreach programs in the coming months with City of Glendale government, businesses, homeowner associations, and community members to ensure collaboration, feedback, and community-driven opportunities to raise awareness about Armenian American Museum.

The mission of the Armenian American Museum is to promote understanding and appreciation of America's ethnic and cultural diversity by sharing the Armenian American experiences.

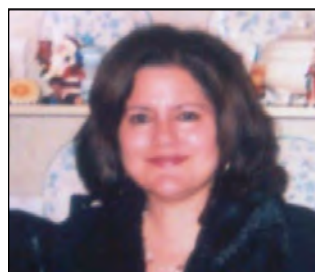
The Armenian American Museum is a developing project in Glendale, CA, with a mission to promote understanding and appreciation of America's ethnic and cultural diversity by sharing the Armenian American experience. When completed, it will serve as a cultural campus that enriches the community, educates the public on the Armenian American story, and empowers individuals to embrace cultural diversity and speak out against prejudice.

The governing board of the Armenian American Museum consists of representatives from the following nine regional Armenian American institutions and organizations: Armenian Catholic Eparchy, Armenian Cultural Foundation, Armenian Evangelical Union of North America, Armenian General Benevolent Union - Western District, Armenian Relief Society - Western USA, Nor Or Charitable Foundation, Nor Serount Cultural Association, Western Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America, and Western Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church.



The story of Komitas Vartabed's development, musical successes, emotional reactions to the psychological trauma of the Genocide & psychiatric institutionalizations. This unique perspective is written by a psychologist, a relation to Komitas Vartabed.

Paperback (English) \$24.99 & Kindle edition, available at http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_sb_noss_1?url=search-alias%3Daps&field-keywords=karakashian&rh=i%3Aaps%2Ck%3Akarakashian



Recipe Corner

by Christine Vartanian Datian

Crab Enchiladas

Serve these rich, tasty crab enchiladas with a sliced tomato and red onion salad.
Recipe Time:

INGREDIENTS

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 onion (8 oz.), peeled and chopped
- 4 cloves garlic, peeled and minced
- 2 fresh jalapeño chilies (about 2 oz. total), rinsed, stemmed, seeded, and minced
- 8 ounces shelled cooked crab or 3 cans (6 oz. each) lump crabmeat, drained
- 1 box (10 oz.) frozen chopped spinach, thawed and squeezed dry
- 3 cups shredded jack cheese (about 12 oz.)
- 1/2 cup chopped black olives
- 1/2 cup chopped Italian parsley
- 1/4 cup mayonnaise
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire
- 1 teaspoon each chili powder and cumin
- 1/2 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- Sea salt and pepper
- 2 cups tomato salsa or red enchilada sauce
- 10 white or whole-wheat flour tortillas (7 to 8 in.)

PREPARATION:

1. Pour oil into a 10- to 12-inch frying pan over medium-high heat. When hot, add onion, garlic, and jalapeños. Stir frequently until onion is limp, 5 to 8 minutes.
2. In a large bowl, combine the crab, spinach, 2 cups cheese, olives, parsley, mayonnaise, Worcestershire, chili powder, cayenne, and onion mixture. Add salt and pepper to taste.
3. Spread about 1 cup salsa level in a 9- by 13-inch glass baking dish. Spoon about 1/4 cup of the crab mixture along the center of a tortilla. Roll tortilla around filling. Repeat to fill remaining tortillas, arranging filled tortillas in a single layer over the sauce. Top evenly with remaining 1 cup salsa and remaining 1 cup cheese.
4. Bake in a 350° oven until cheese is browned and bubbling, about 30 minutes. Let cool in pan about 5 minutes, then serve from pan with a wide spatula.

Serves 4-6.

Go to: <http://www.myrecipes.com/recipe/spinach-crab-enchiladas>

To see more of Christine's recipes, go to: <http://www.myrecipes.com/search/site/Datian> or <http://www.thearmeniankitchen.com/>

Christine Vartanian Datian is a native of Fresno, California and now lives in Las Vegas. She is a graduate of California State University, Fresno (CSUF), and holds a Master of Arts Degree (MA) in Mass Communications. She has been published in *Sunset* and *Cooking Light* magazines for over a decade.

Project Save Celebrates 40th Anniversary

ANNIVERSARY, from page 1

Ararat-Eskijian Museum director Maggie Mangassarian-Goschin were given community commitment awards, while Project SAVE founder and director Ruth Thomasian addressed the audience.

Before the formal talks, a short documentary film depicting the work and history of Project SAVE prepared by Alexanian, who is a filmmaker as well as a photographer, was screened. The film gives a glimpse into Thomasian's decades of selfless labor which led to the creation of an unparalleled collection of images and the stories which accompany the images. Some examples of photographs and the stories and information that they convey were presented. With much information about Armenian families and heritage destroyed or scattered around the globe thanks to the Armenian

since 1972, never went to (Western) Armenia until October 2011 with his daughter. They went to Kharpert (Harput, Turkey) and buried the wedding photograph of Alexanian's paternal grandmother in the soil of the family's ancestral property, perhaps inspired by Project Save. They created a movie called "Scars of Silence," which will come out in 2016. Alexanian screened an excerpt from this documentary.

The masters of ceremonies extolled Ruth Thomasian's patience and dedication to her work, and then invited her onto the stage. Thomasian talked about how Project SAVE (the initials stand for Salute Armenians' Valiant Existence) was primarily about Armenian social history. She felt each generation has its own approach and understanding of the past. She said that the archived photographs represent

WINSLOW MARTIN PHOTO



Event Chair, Nicole Babikian Hajjar and event committee members, seated left to right: Vartus Varadian, Rita Bejakian; standing, left to right: Lorky Libaridian, Lalig Musserian, Hajjar, Ruth Thomasian, and Tsoleen Sarian.

Genocide, her work of reassembling information is all the more important for both families and scholars who wish to study the past.

With quick and easy banter, the two masters of ceremonies first introduced one another and spoke about the value of Project Save. Tufankjian said, "The power of photography is not just that you can fold an image into your hand, the power of photography is that you can hold a family history in your hand." Alexanian added that "in the collecting of these images, Project Save says no to the erasure [of our history caused by the Genocide] every day."

the changes in all of our lives. A selection every year is made for the Project SAVE calendars to show a different theme to the public, and each picture tells "a little story." There is enough variety concerning Armenian life across the decades to form an inexhaustible reservoir for future calendars.

She spoke about how moving Project SAVE from New York back to the Boston area years ago opened up greater opportunities of funding and connection with the public. She does programs in schools with children and events for senior citizens, but photographs are a way to easily make connections with people. Photographs from Project SAVE have been used in exhibits, plays, museums, books and other fora. While speaking, Thomasian showed some photographs from the archives to the audience, and made a plea for donation or sharing of original photographs.

Thomasian concluded by introducing Tsoleen Sarian, the new associate director of Project Save, as the next generation of leadership of Project SAVE. Sarian's grandparents donated their photos to the archives. Sarian said she feels it is important to continue the

work that they valued – the preservation and continuation of the stories, customs and values of the Armenian community through Project SAVE, which shares this collective memory with the world. Sarian explained that the digitalization of the entire archives, which allows the Armenian heritage to be more accessible, needs the support of the entire community.

Sarian then introduced Suzanne Adams, the archivist of Project Save. Adams said that having original photographs helps tell the most accurate stories. In their original form, photographs are artifacts created in a particular



Maggie Mangassarian-Goschin, Vice Chair and Director of the Ararat-Eskijian Museum speaks after receiving Project SAVE's Community Commitment Award.

Tufankjian showed some projections of her own photographs from her recent book documenting the global Armenian community, titled *There Is Only the Earth: Images from the Armenian Diaspora Project*, which took her to some 20 Armenian communities worldwide to commemorate the Armenian Genocide centennial. She revealed the commonalities between the various remote communities. She stressed that the Armenians are still one people, and still strong, with Project Save insuring the survival of their shared heritage in the US.

Alexanian, a documentary photographer



40 Years and Beyond program MCs, Scout Tufankjian and Nubar Alexanian.

context, time and place, and their analysis can determine, for example, approximate dates when these are otherwise unavailable. She said 5,000 out of 45,000 photographs have been digitized. The next step would be to put the collection online, which would require a great commitment of resources, as Sarian pointed out.

Tufankjian and Alexanian invited Tom Vartabedian, a longtime supporter of Project SAVE as a journalist and photographer, a financial donor and a board member, to the stage to be honored with an award. He congratulated Thomasian for her 40-year commitment. He introduced his family members, including wife Nancy, daughter Sonya with husband Pat, and son Ara with his own daughter Maya. He declared, "I list five qualities that embellish my life: My family, God and my church, my health, my Armenian ethnicity, and, last but not least, my career as a journalist and photographer."

Vartabedian called upon Nicole Babikian Hajjar, chair of the 40th anniversary committee, and Sarian, to join him in a presentation of a gift to Thomasian. The organizing committee presented her a photograph of Haghartsin Monastery on a cloudy, misty day. There was however a ray of sunshine, which, Vartabedian said, represents Ruth Thomasian.

Thomasian then introduced the next speaker and honoree, Mangassarian-Goschin, visiting from Los Angeles with her daughter, as "the queen of Armenian culture in LA." She has helped many organizations and individuals involved in Armenian cultural endeavors, and is a connector of people, Thomasian said. Mangassarian-Goschin felt the Ararat-Eskijian Museum was a treasure-trove, and once stepping foot there she could not leave. She thanked Thomasian for her tireless efforts with the photography archives, "a visual reminder of who we were and are." She related the story of how she found the miniature version of the Armenian orphan rug at the US White House in the home of Elibet Kunzler, daughter of Swiss missionary Jacob "Papa" Kunzler, in 2014, and placed it on display in the Ararat-Eskijian Museum.

On behalf of Dr. Hayk Demoyan and the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute, Mangassarian-Goschin presented Thomasian with a gold Aurora Mardigian medal. Mardigian, who underwent many torments during the Armenian Genocide, became a film icon of Armenian suffering in the US, helping raise money for Near East Relief, but died in poverty and isolation.

Thomasian then recognized the volunteer work of Vartus Varadian, a designer and art director who served Project Save for many years and also was a member of its 40th anniversary event committee, with a gift.

Finally, the head of the event organizing committee, Hajjar, told a brief anecdote. She said that while with a group of close friends last year, one asked the question, what would you take with you if you had to leave your home quickly in an emergency. Most answered that it would be their family photographs. Hajjar encouraged audience members not to wait for such an emergency to ensure the safety of their



From generation to generation: Tsoleen Sarian, Associate Director with Ruth Thomasian, Founder and CEO

photos, but instead to share them with the Project Save archives. There they would be carefully documented and preserved, and bear witness to Armenian identity, culture and heritage.

Hajjar thanked the members of her organizing committee, including Rita Bejakian, Ari Bekian, Nairi Havan, Nancy Kalajian, Lorky Libaridian, Lalig Musserian, Varadian, and Vartabedian (along with Thomasian and Sarian). She encouraged guests to participate in the wine pull contest—a type of raffle to raise funds, and to buy a signed copy of Tufankjian's book, *There Is Only the Earth*. A portion of the book sale proceeds went to Project SAVE.

Finally, Thomasian thanked Hajjar for all her help, and the guests enjoyed a dessert reception.

Door prizes, photographs and books, including some by the two masters of ceremonies, were given away in a unique manner throughout the formal program. Photographs were taken of all guests entering, and periodically they were randomly scrolled through on screen until a winner was chosen and called upon to receive his prize.

For more information on how to contribute to Project SAVE's work, see projectsave.org.



ARTS & LIVING

CALENDAR

MASSACHUSETTS

DECEMBER 20 — Sunday, Candlelit Labyrinth Peace Walk, Coming Together on Common Ground In Peace & Harmony, 5-7 p.m. Armenian Heritage Park on the Greenway. Sponsored by the Labyrinth Guild of New England, the Candlelit Peace Walk is an initiative of the Friends of Armenian Heritage Park in collaboration with the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway Conservancy and Faneuil Hall Marketplace. ArmenianHeritagePark.org

DECEMBER 31 — St. James 2016 New Year's Eve Celebration. Entertainment by Arthur Apkarian and Band from Montreal. Save the date, details to follow. St. James Armenian Church, 465 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown.

JANUARY 6, 2016 — Armenian Christmas celebration followed by Avak luncheon, St. Gregory Church, 158 Main St., North Andover; speakers, Yeretskin Alice Baljian and Elizabeth Blumin, "Healing Oils of the Bible."

NEW JERSEY

DECEMBER 31 — St. Thomas Armenian Church sponsors a New Year's Celebration, 8 p.m. Donation is \$70 for adults, includes Full-Course Dinner, Mezze, Viennese Table and soft drinks! DJ Alan, Hats and Noisemakers and Champagne at midnight. BYOB. Also: Santa and Entertainment for children in chaperoned room. Children ages 7-12 \$25, Children under 6 are FREE. For reservations contact any of the following: Church Office 201-567-5446 e-mail: stthomasarmenianchurch@yahoo.com; Ani: 201-767-3846 e-mail: ani@lacapan.com; Talar: 201-240-8541 e-mail: talar@sarafian1.com; Maral: 845-729-1888 e-mail: mkalishian@hotmail.com. Church address is: 174 Essex drive, Tenafly, NJ 07670.

JANUARY 6, 2016 — 1 PM, Armenian Christmas Dinner is sponsored by the Kirikian Armenian School of St. Thomas will take place following church services. The donation is \$25 for adults and children under 12 are \$10. Children under 3 are Free. For reservations please contact: Talar: 201-240-8541 e-mail: talar@sarafian1.com; Tanya: 201-941-6764 e-mail: tanyaeren@hotmail.com. Church address is: 174 Essex drive, Tenafly, NJ 07670.



BOSTON — On Sunday, December 20, there will be a candlelit Labyrinth Peace Walk and Coming Together on Common Ground in Peace and Harmony at the Armenian Heritage Park, 5 to 7 p.m. The program is sponsored by the Labyrinth Guild of New England. The Peace Walk is an initiative of the Friends of Armenian Heritage Park in collaboration with the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway Conservancy and Faneuil Hall Marketplace.

NAASR Hires Sarah Ignatius as First Executive Director

BELMONT — After 60 years of leadership in Armenian Studies, the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) has hired its first executive director, Sarah B. Ignatius, who will start the first of the year at its headquarters.

Ignatius, a lawyer, has served on NAASR's Board of Directors since 2014 and as a member of its Executive Committee as treasurer. "This is a major change in the history of NAASR to appoint an executive director," said Raffi P. Yeghiayan, chairman of NAASR's Board of Directors. "We are taking this step due to NAASR's significant growth and expanded activities over the last several years, both locally and nationally. We have full confidence that NAASR will continue its growth with the vision of a professionally qualified executive director."

The executive director functions have long been shared among NAASR's Executive Committee, Board of Directors and Director of Academic Affairs Marc A. Mamigonian. Ignatius will work with them to fulfill NAASR's mission of fostering Armenian Studies and building community worldwide to preserve Armenian culture, history and identity for future generations.

"After a several-month search, Sarah emerged as our choice to take us into the next era," said Nancy R. Kolligian, who chaired NAASR's Search Committee. "We've had the pleasure of working with her as a NAASR Board member, and have witnessed first-hand her enthusiasm, dedication to Armenian Studies, and depth of experience in non-profit management."

"I am honored to serve NAASR in this role

and can't imagine a more meaningful opportunity," said Ignatius. "My hope is to expand NAASR's membership, strengthen its financial standing, and keep NAASR vital in a diversifying world."

Founded in 1955, NAASR is the only nationwide organization dedicated to the advancement of Armenian Studies through America's foremost institutions of higher education and through a multifaceted program in support of research, scholarship, public programs, and publications.

Ignatius has worked for more than 25 years as a lawyer and executive director, most of that time at the Political Asylum Immigration Representation Project in Boston, defending the rights of people fleeing from persecution throughout the world. Previously, she also worked as an associate at a law firm in Seattle and a public defender.

Her interest in Armenian Studies deepened dramatically after she accompanied her father and brother on the 2006 NAASR tour to Armenia and Historic Armenia. "It was like opening a door in my house and finding all these beautiful rooms I never knew existed."

Her interest deepened to the point of writing a young adult novel, *The Devil's Kaleidoscope*, set in the town where her grandfather was born, about a 14-year-old Armenian boy, Arakel, caught up in the Genocide. As a 2015 Somerville Arts Council Literature Artist Fellow, she is putting the finishing touches on her manuscript, which has already received recognition: 2015 New England Society of Children's Books Writers & Illustrators' Ruth

Landers Glass Scholarship for Novel Excerpt; and Honorable Mention from the 2014 National League of American Pen Women, Soul-Making Keats Awards. Her short story "Burning Embers" received Honorable Mention from Glimmer Train's 2013 Short Story Award for New Writers, and her recent posting "The Very Delayed First Call Home" appeared in the *Washington Post* "On Parenting" Blog.

Ignatius earned her BA from Stanford University with Distinction and Honors in Anthropology; and her law degree, cum laude, from Georgetown University Law Center, where she was Articles Editor for the *Journal of Law and Policy in International Business*.

She taught immigration and asylum law at Boston College Law School for 10 years as an adjunct, and has written extensively on immigration and asylum law. She is the co-author of the comprehensive immigration law reference book *Immigration Law and the Family* (Thomson Reuters); and authored a 200-page, detailed report for the National Asylum Study Project of Harvard Law School. Her legal

articles have appeared in numerous journals and publications.

She is the daughter of Paul Ignatius, former Secretary of the Navy, and Nancy Ignatius, a New Englander who traces roots back to the



Sarah B. Ignatius with Marc A. Mamigonian

Mayflower. Sarah is married to Dan Kesselbrenner, executive director of the National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild, and their son Joel attends Wesleyan University. Her siblings are Adi Ignatius, Editor-in-Chief of the *Harvard Business Review*; Amy Ignatius, New Hampshire Superior Court Judge; and David Ignatius, a foreign affairs columnist for the *Washington Post* and author of several best-selling spy novels.



COMMENTARY

Mirror Spectator



Established 1932
An ADL Publication

EDITOR

Alin K. Gregorian

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Aram Arkun

ART DIRECTOR

Marc Mgrditchian

SENIOR EDITORIAL COLUMNIST:
Edmond Azadian

CONTRIBUTORS:

Florence Avakian, Dr. Haroutium Arzoumanian, Taleen Babayan, Diana Der Hovanesian, Philip Ketchian, Kevork Keushkerian, Harut Sassounian, Hagop Vartivarian, Naomi Zeytoonian

CORRESPONDENTS:

Armenia - Hagop Avedikian
Boston - Nancy Kalajian
Philadelphia - Lisa Manookian
Berlin - Muriel Mirak-Weissbach

Contributing Photographers:

Jacob Demirdjian and Jirair Hovsepian

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

Baikar Association, Inc.

755 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown, MA 02472-1509

Telephone: 617-924-4420

FAX: 617-924-2887

www.mirrorspectator.com

E-Mail: editor@mirrorspectator.com

For advertising: mirrorads@aol.com

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

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

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

ISSN 0004-234X

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

Other than the editorial, views and opinions expressed in this newspaper do not necessarily reflect the policies of the publisher.

Copying for other than personal use or internal reference is prohibited without express permission of the copyright owner. Address requests for reprints or back issues to:

Baikar Association, Inc.

755 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown, MA 02472-1509

COMMENTARY

The Forgotten Earthquake

By Edmond Y. Azadian

If a talented writer had been commissioned to write a screenplay about a perfect disaster, perhaps he could not come up with a better scenario than the fate that befell Armenia in 1988. That year, a perfect trifecta struck – a crumbling Soviet Union and a raging war with Azerbaijan compounded by the earthquake measuring 7 on the Richter Scale in the dead of winter.

More than 300,000 Armenian refugees who had only recently escaped pogroms in Baku and Sumgait had to face yet another tragedy in Armenia following the earthquake.

For the last 100 years, Armenians have lamented about the forgotten genocide and for the last quarter century we added more to our miseries – the trauma of a forgotten earthquake. In the aftermath of the Genocide, Gumri, which was known as Alexandropol at the time – accepted hundreds and thousands of Armenian orphans, who later in 1926 had to experience a similar earthquake.

On December 7, 1988, the earthquake rocked the entire province of Shirak for 41 seconds, with the epicenter in the town of Spitak, leveling 80 percent of buildings and killing 25,000 people according to the official count, while other sources cited a higher number of casualties— 150,000 people dead or injured and more than 514,000 left homeless.

The earthquake also destroyed 40 percent of Armenia's industrial infrastructure, from which the country has not fully recovered to this day.

A population of 300,000 in the region had been reduced to 120,000, many having left the misery behind in hopes of a better life in Russia.

The poverty level among the remaining population is at 46 percent, greater than any other region in Armenia.

One may ask why these people continue living there, under such difficult circumstances. Are they so patriotic and attached to the land that moving out is out of the question or is it a matter of not being able to afford the move? The first probability could be more rewarding, but the truth points to the latter.

The Soviet deputy chief of staff of civil defense, Maj. Gen. Nikolai Tarakanov, who two years prior to 1988 had been assigned to direct relief efforts in Chernobyl after that region's devastating nuclear disaster, and was in Armenia to oversee the recovery efforts, stated, "Spitak proved to be much more terrible than Chernobyl."

At one point, the tragedy captured the headlines of the global news media. One hundred and thirteen counties rushed humanitarian aid and rescue equipment, personnel and medical supplies. USSR leader Mikhail Gorbachev allocated 5 billion rubles (about \$8 billion) for reconstruction, which was supposed to be completed in two years. Yet, after 27 years, the misery continues and the collapse of the Soviet Empire is not the only reason for that delay.

The timing of the quake was such that it was clear at that point that the Soviet Union, if not unraveling, was undergoing a major shift. It was still a closed world and with this disaster, some nations, including the US, were able to provide help while using the situation for a public relations gain.

Diaspora Armenians, shocked perhaps that their tiny nation was in the spotlight for the worst possible reason, contributed wholeheartedly and significantly, even after witnessing cynical abuse and profiteering by some government officials.

Since the earthquake in Armenia, many other earthquakes and natural disasters have taken place, grabbing headlines in their turn – Mexico, Japan, Nepal, Iran just to name a few – and the continuing misery in the disaster region of Armenia was forgotten. Also, it seems that people affected by those other calamities,

similarly devastating, have been able to get back on their feet much more quickly.

Every time I visit Armenia and express a desire to see Gumri, people look quizzically at my face, as if asking, "what's to see in Gumri?" My answer is if nothing, I wish to empathize with the people, to share their pain and their aspirations and find out if there is any light at the end of the tunnel.

Misery in Armenia has different mathematics, depending on whom you ask. According to government statistics, there are 965 families who need housing in the provinces of Shirak and Lori and it is believed that the government will meet their needs during 2015-16.

Since 2008, the government has allocated more than \$200 million for housing reconstruction. But in reality, there are still 4,500 homeless families living in subhuman conditions in the domiks (temporary metal shacks). Of the total homeless families, 433 are on the government waiting list and 3,500 are not on that list for a variety of reasons – whether they have left for work in Russia temporarily and they are back or the families have outgrown their current housing. Indeed, after 27 years, children are grown, have formed their own families, and are still using the old existing facilities. Although this natural growth contributes to the number of dwindling population of Armenia, the government does not assume responsibility for their plight, because they are not direct victims of the earthquake. Yet they remain the casualty of the situation. If their names are not recorded on paper, their bodies are still sheltered in substandard abodes.

The former prime minister, Tigran Sargsyan, had pledged in 2008 that by 2013, the housing problem would be resolved. Three years after that deadline, the problem continues to fester. One has to ask if there is the will or the ability to get ahead of the situation once and for all.

There have been admirable changes in Gumri, including the inflow of artists to the city, which is much cheaper than the capital. Still, it is not enough as housing is not adequate.

Last October, the mayor of Gumri, Samvel Balasanyan, vowed to forgo his salary as long as there was a single resident living in makeshift housing.

Of course, we do not need to shed tears for Mr. Balasanyan's livelihood, knowing full well that no government official in Armenia survives only on their salary. However, it is a symbolic gesture to boost the morale of the destitute citizens.

The scope of devastation was beyond Armenia's capacity to cope. Even countries with more developed economies would have been hard pressed to deal with the situation.

There are some organizations trying to improve the situation, such as Shant TV Channel, which is engaged in fundraising in Armenia and Russia to contribute its share to the reconstruction and revival of northern Armenia. On the other hand, there is an indifferent and insensitive majority who is consumed by its own plight and Gumri does not even exist in its mental geography.

I know some oligarchs who have built opulent residences worth upwards of \$20 to \$30 million and they have not contributed a penny to Gumri nor do they intend to contribute to the needs there. It takes a special mindset and psychological firewall to be able to live comfortably in that kind of gaudy opulence, when 100 miles away people are freezing in the winter cold.

Every Armenian who cares about the country's future has to visit Gumri. If touristic sites, churches, plush restaurants, and nightclubs are part of our homeland, then Gumri is part of our homeland too. If the visitors cannot contribute in any material way to the amelioration of the disaster area, if they cannot warm the bodies of the homeless, at least they can warm their souls, by showing that their brothers and sisters have not been forgotten and abandoned, even if the rest of the world has turned its back on them.

The European Congresses and the Armenian Genocide

By Christopher J. Walker

Who were Prince Metternich and Viscount Castlereagh, and what part, if any, did they play in shaping the Armenian Genocide?

They were the two men – one an Austrian prince-diplomat, and the other an Anglo-Irish aristocrat – who grabbed Europe by the scruff of its neck as Napoleon was losing in 1814-15, and formed the system of big-power control of nations and movements of European nations, to try to ensure that everything would in future stay unalterably the same, and that no radical upstarts would disturb their vision of static orderliness. The system they created was known as the "Congress System" and it culminated in the Congress of Berlin (1878), which arguably fixed the fate of Armenians both for

Sultan Abdul-Hamid's murderous outbreaks of 1894-6 and for the desolating Genocide of 1915-16. Those two very reactionary gentlemen did all they could to make sure that power resided with a small elite, that matters of state would never be devolved to the people, and that popular voices would not be heard.

But there were problems. Castlereagh (pronounced 'castle-ray') committed suicide in 1822, and his English successor, George Canning, though also politically on the right, responded vigorously to the movement for the liberation of Greece from the grip of the Ottoman Turks, and permitted the British fleet under Admiral Codrington to destroy the Turkish navy at Navarino in 1827. This looked like letting power slip out of the empires and into the people. Metternich thought Canning had been converted to liberalism. And after Canning's death, the Duke of Wellington

(another Anglo-Irish landowner, quite out of sympathy with democracy) called the Navarino engagement an "untoward event." According to Wellington, the Ottoman Empire should have been left exactly as it was. Greece should never have been set free, but left to the iron control of the Turkish Ottomans.

Even earlier, Britain had walked out of the Congress of Verona of 1822, called to justify the entry of French troops into Spain to quell a revolt. Although this might have seemed like the end of the Congress system, the notion that "big powers" could, with their high-handed decisions and secret agreements, order the future of Europe, persisted. Once the "big diplomats" had tasted the sweets and delicacies of control, they were reluctant to give them up.

In the aftermath of the Greek rebellion, see CONGRESSES, page 15



COMMENTARY



My Turn

By Harut Sassounian

Azerbaijan's Guns Must be Silenced: Can't Negotiate under Fire

For more than two decades, the international community, led by OSCE Minsk Group mediators representing the United States, France and Russia, has been trying to negotiate a peaceful resolution to the Artsakh (Karabagh) conflict.

The main obstacle is Azerbaijan's persistence in shooting while negotiating, and intensifying its attacks on the eve of every crucial meeting for settlement of the conflict. Such unconstructive behavior is totally unacceptable for everyone involved in the peace process. Azerbaijan intentionally escalates the violence on such occasions in order to pressure the international community to force Armenia into making unfair concessions on Artsakh.

To make matters worse, every time Azerbaijani forces launch attacks on Artsakh or Armenia, the Minsk Group mediators issue a routine statement urging both sides to stop firing, thereby equating the violator with the victim. In addition, the mediators cover up their irresponsible statement by claiming that they are not certain which side initiated the shooting.

In October, House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ed Royce (R-CA) and Ranking Democrat Eliot Engel of New York, initiated a letter signed by 85 House members, to US co-chair, Ambassador James Warlick, urging him to take all necessary steps to withdraw snipers from the border, deploy

gunfire locator systems along the Line of Contact, and increase the number of field monitors. These measures were accepted by Armenia, Artsakh, the US Congress, and the Minsk Group co-chairs, but rejected by Azerbaijan because of its intent to conceal and continue its warmongering initiatives. Under these untenable circumstances, the three mediators may consider placing gunfire locators on the Artsakh side of the border to record the source of incoming fire. If the mediators are unwilling to take such action, Armenia should go ahead and purchase gunfire locators from US manufacturer Raytheon and recruit independent NGOs to monitor and report the results to the international community.

Once the source of the shooting is identified, the mediators would then be obligated to condemn the perpetrator; otherwise, they would be encouraging Azerbaijan to escalate the attacks on Armenia and Artsakh.

Meanwhile, the mediators must warn Azerbaijan's autocratic President Ilham Aliyev that should he not cease and desist from making threats and shelling Armenia and Artsakh, they will be forced to submit Azerbaijan's violations to the United Nations Security Council, to mandate economic sanctions against his country.

The mediators could also temporarily suspend their peace-making activities by announcing that they are prevented from seeking a negotiated settlement to the conflict, while Azerbaijan keeps on shooting. Surely, it is not possible to fight and talk at the same time!

Since Azerbaijan is not ready to go to war – if it were, it would have started it already instead of merely threatening – it has no choice but to heed the call of the mediators to cease firing and start negotiating in earnest. Freezing the negotiations would be a serious setback for Azerbaijan because that is the only way it can hope to reach some accommodation with Armenia and Artsakh. Armenians, on the other hand, have already accomplished their objective of liberating Artsakh from Azeri occupation and have nothing to gain from further negotiations.

Should the mediators decide not to freeze the peace talks, the Armenian government may decide to suspend its partici-

pation in these unproductive negotiations, thus sending a clear message to Baku that shelling Armenia and Artsakh undermines Azerbaijan's own interests.

If the negotiations are not suspended and Azerbaijan continues its attacks, the Armenian government may eventually respond with a "massive and asymmetrical retaliation," as it has repeatedly warned. While some may be concerned that such an action would further escalate the violence, in fact it would diminish, if not halt the endless border skirmishes, once Azeri leaders realize that they have more to lose by fighting than talking. It is unfortunate that Pres. Aliyev is exploiting the deaths of young Azeri soldiers on the frontlines to distract his people's attention away from massive violations of civil rights, corruption at the highest echelons of his government, and abysmal economic conditions due to diminishing oil revenues.

I had the opportunity to discuss some of these issues last week with various officials in Washington, D.C., while Artsakh's Foreign Minister Garen Mirzoyan was in town to meet with members of Congress and US mediator Ambassador Warlick. Two receptions were held to honor the visiting Foreign Minister at the Armenian Embassy and on Capitol Hill, the latter co-hosted by the US Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues, Armenian National Committee of America, Armenian Assembly of America, and the US Office of the Nagorno Karabagh Republic. Several House members, Ambassador Warlick, and other dignitaries attended the congressional reception to the chagrin of Azerbaijan's Embassy which had dispatched a small group of Azeris to protest the event. Chairman Royce announced during the reception that he had asked Ambassador Warlick to come to the House of Representatives this week for a briefing on the Artsakh conflict.

A large number of ANCA activists from throughout the US, including this writer, joined Foreign Minister Mirzoyan in Washington last week, to share a message of peace and democracy for Artsakh with dozens of House and Senate members, urging them to recognize its independence from Azerbaijan.

The European Congresses and the Armenian Genocide

CONGRESSES, from page 14

relations grew so bad between Russia and Turkey that war broke out between 1828. The war affected the Balkans rather than the Caucasus, but we remember it for Russia's first capture of Kars, under General Paskievich. At the conclusion of the war, when Russian troops were threatening to march on the Turkish capital, peace was concluded between Russia and Turkey at Adrianople (in September 1829). What is important for us is that no international "Congress" was set up to make any changes to that peace.

Ideological problems also beset the "concert of Europe." Right at the outset, the northern powers of Russia, Prussia and Austria established a "holy alliance" based on a kind of mystical Christian fundamentalism. Castlereagh, a man who never understood the idea of religious notions entering politics, to his credit dismissed it as "a piece of sublime mysticism and nonsense." But the Holy Alliance had purchase, and its forbidding, far-right posture was seen in action over the next 20 years, especially in Hungary when it dared to revolt.

A big challenge to the super-reactionary forces occurred in 1848, the "year of revolutions" in Europe. The aspirations of ordinary people simply could not be constrained by the creaky croaks of political leaders who wanted everything to stay the same. The people hated the absolute monarchies imposed throughout Europe by reactionary powers, and detested the solutions devised for them by distant bureaucratic empires. They wanted constituent assemblies and some form of representation, they yearned for localism, their local languages and traditions. A wave of popular revolt spread across Europe, against the iron control of the empires, the political sterility, and the Stasi-like surveillance of anything that could be construed as political activity. The revolutions of 1848 were uncoordinated (though inspired by the example of France), and often chaotic; they were largely simple expressions of local discontent, and the heavily armed empires had no difficulty in mobilizing their brutal well-trained troops to crush the popular uprisings.

A few years later the members of the alliance found themselves fighting among themselves – most memorably, Britain and France against Russia in the Crimea in 1853-6. But still the model of the Congress remained, to impose its political will if necessary. The war was concluded by the Congress of Paris, 1856, when Russian aspirations were knocked down by Britain and France, and Russia (for the second time) was forced to evacuate Kars. The Black Sea was neutralized, a position which held until 1870, when Russia decided to dispense with the regulation, and construct a Black Sea fleet. "Congress" remained too valuable a notion to dump, even when the "great powers" were fighting amongst themselves.

And then we had the Congress of Berlin, designed to do little more than curb Russia and increase the diplomatic purchase of Great Britain. Everyone who knows Armenian history of this period will know how Article 16 of the San Stefano

treaty, concluded in early 1878 between Ottoman Turkey and Russia, was changed into article 61 of the Berlin Treaty, a change which meant that the administration of Western (Turkish) Armenia was left unreformed, that is, dependent on the non-existent good will of Turkey – whereas if it had been left as it was under the provisions of San Stefano, the reform might have succeeded, since it would have been dependent on the presence of Russian troops. But no significant changes or reforms occurred in Western Armenia, and the misery and discontent grew among the people, culminating in the paranoid outbreaks of killing of Armenians coordinated by the Sultan Abdul Hamid and the armed militia he had created, backed by the military.

If we look at the diplomatic structure of what actually happened, we see the malign influence of the Metternich-Castlereagh pattern. For the San Stefano treaty was perfectly all right on its own terms. It was a natural, local peace treaty, designed to bring to an end hostilities between two empires. But then the rightist, self-important pattern of 1815 heaved into sight. The two powers, Russia and Turkey, were seen as not be trusted to achieve peace between themselves. They were just naughty children, who needed daddy-diplomats to guide them. "We know best" was the tone of the Berlin Congress.

Did they know best? When we look at the hundreds of thousand of Armenians killed in Abdul Hamid's murderous outbreaks it is hard to say so. These dead were the fruit of international diplomacy by "big powers," scoffing at the pretensions of local needs, as they determined to impose their power and influence (and financial muscle) across the globe.

The Congress of Berlin was the last of the post 1815 congresses. But the spirit of murderous distrust had been sown among Turks as far as Armenians were concerned, and after 1896 the Turks had seen how they could absolutely and entirely get away with murder without any of their people being convicted in a court of law for mass-killings. So when new ideologies arose after the Young Turk revolution of 1908, seeking a unity of all Turks from Anatolia eastwards, the Turks realized that no one would impede their death-dealing actions towards Armenians. So the events of 1915 unrolled, which we have been commemorating in the centenary year.

Does all this matter now? In a way it does, since, in the new biography of Dr. Henry Kissinger, written by Harvard professor Dr. Niall Ferguson, praise is extended by both the subject and the biographer toward the 'Congress System' as an agent of peace. Was the Congress System an agent of peace, or the main diplomatic structure which brought about the Armenian Genocide?

(Christopher J. Walker is a British historian and author. He is the author of several volumes on Armenian history, including *The Armenians*, with David Marshall Lang, *Armenia: The Survival of a Nation*, and *Armenia and Karabakh*.)

MY HEART IS ARMENIAN

A Centennial Tribute to Miss Büll of Aleppo

The group gathered in the patient's room of the old-age home in the German city of Heidelberg, was attempting to make the over ninety years old Estonian lady talk, somehow.

By Vrej Saroukhanian

Even if she has no last will, at least a few nice words she would say to those left behind. They

asked questions in a few different languages, but the woman kept looking at them bewildered, disoriented, not knowing how to respond to the physician's half smiles.

She knows seven languages: Estonian, Russian, French, English, German, Turkish and Armenian hastened to inform the caretaker, it has been a few hours now, she has forgotten all of it, can't talk, she does not understand us either.

In her bed, very near to her end, after her mute monologue the woman suddenly began to talk. Everyone was visibly shocked. She was talking to those present in an unknown language. Suddenly, the caretaker responded to the near death patient with a smile. Everyone's attention was upon her now, and the dying woman with a faint smile called her closer and addressing everyone in the room she said: "My heart is Armenian!"

The Armenian caretaker translated. The German Doctor was confused for a moment. He said:

"In such instances the dying person speaks specially in the language of her childhood, isn't a fact that in that moment of dying, at the end of reviewing of her life the childhood days come to the fore, the mother tongue, the parents, and those who are most dear to her. Why this lonely Estonian lady in Germany should speak specially Armenian? Are the Armenians most dear to her?"

In his practice as a doctor he had not experienced such an event but visibly startled, started to dig into his memory. The Armenian refugee understood the doctor and handed over an old diary which was faded through much readings and handling. On the cover was written:

"Anna Hedwig Büll, Estonian Missionary." The doctor asked for the diary for a short time, otherwise he thought, his specialized experience will crack.

"Anna Hedwig Büll, I was born in 1887 on Jan. 23 in the city of Habsalou, Estonia to Lutheran Family. I was the sixth of the eight children. Up to age 15, I attended the public school of Estonia, then I studied at the pedagogical Institute of St. Petersburg, and then received training at the missionary school in Germany and have mastered seven languages.

"I learned in 1909 about the horrific massacres of

see ALEPPO, page 16



A Centennial Tribute to Miss Büll of Aleppo

ALEPPO, from page 15

Armenians in Adana (Turkey.) I decided to go this far off country of which I was completely unaware of, to participate in the rescue mission of Christian children who were orphaned. Naturally, for my parents, especially for my father who was the mayor and owned health spas and an aristocratic environment, it was not easy to reconcile with the decision of a 24 year old girl a candidate for marriage and all the sacrifices that entailed. But I insisted stubbornly.

The carriage that took us to Cilicia passed through a gorge through a narrow winding road, when like a highway robbers suddenly a few Turks weilding and cocking their big guns confronted us. I managed to hide among the bales of clothing and boxes of school supplies. I did not have a chance to realize what was happening, they tied the arms of the carriage driver while one of the ruffians with no scruples tore down my missionary's dress and with lustful shining eyes said: "Glory be to ALLAH, who sent this one!"

"Hyena! Don't you dare to touch me!" I screamed with all the languages I knew!

"Ahmet, you don't have anything to do with her, you will bring headache upon us all, it is better not to loose time and carry the loot to its place. To avoid unnecessary headache, stay away! With all they controlled, the wild ones and departed with the loot!"

That was my first acquaintance with a Turk!

"In 1911, I arrived at Cilicia and started to work at the Bethel orphanage founded by the German Evangelical preachers for the parentless children. As a teacher with the women physicians I set out to gather the orphans. It looked like as if I was in hell! In the village of Sareeyar I found a nine year old girl whom the officer had attempted to rape, but not being successful he had torn her belly with his gun's bayonet! The blood had curdled and there were maggots in the wound- "Don't get any closer!" I was warned by the orphanage's doctor. "It is possible that she had contagious disease and may pass it onto the rest of the orphans."

"When teachers were gone a short distance, I wrapped her with a bed sheet and brought her to the orphanage and had her lay down in my bed. With great difficulty I made her to stand on her feet. That girl later became a missionary and carried out such a great work in the Near East efforts to gather the orphans and I wrote her biography in Armenian. I worked there until 1915 when the Young Turks opened up the incurable wounds of hellish massacres upon the conscience of and the morality of the entire humanity. I have seen how the soldiers were betting on tearing the Armenian women's pregnant wombs with a sword to see if the fetus was a boy or a girl. The justice was being slaughtered but the world's conscience was pretending to be deaf and blind!"

"For the summer vacations I had taken the children to the Red Monastery where *St. Nersess the Graceful and St. Krikor Bahlavouni studied and attained the title of "Wisdom Lover." Just then and there I received an urgent telegram from my sisters: "The mother is near her death and she is not capable to surrender her soul to God without you being present; if you are capable, please come!"

"After a lengthy absence finally I entered my paternal home, my sisters, already wearing black, rebuked me very coldly:

"You could have come earlier... you tortured mother. When she died, we took out your photo she kept in her bosom, and to spare her continuous heartache in the other world, we buried it with her."

Our father had passed away long ago!! I understood that I was a stranger in our family. Time had pulverized many things. I entered the bedroom at least to let go off of my tears freely. I saw on the table a periodical of French Protestants:

"Our brothers and sisters in the East are again being martyred for their faith. Our correspondent from Marash is reporting that fanatic Turkish mob, have gathered four thousand Armenians in the Mother church of Holy Mother of God, have firmly closed the doors and have set to fire."

"My stay there was impossible. Same night without bidding farewell to my sisters I arrived at the train station in the dark corridor of the wagon my tears were only thing that were consoling me. 'I will not see my fatherland again.'"

The physician was confounded beyond description. He was pressing his eyes with his fingers rubbing his forehead. "Is it possible to be dedicated to a total stranger? Is the sympathy does not recognize any boundaries?"

"1916-1919 I worked with the same missionary organization at the Haroniye Village in the German orphanage. There, I forgot even the most natural feelings of first love and the love of being a mother! The sunset was bringing all the Turkish atrocities and filling them, stuffing them into the nightmares of the orphans.

"And the mornings were bringing most dreadful emotional upheaval with the appearance of the Turkish Asgyar (Soldier). As I remember, I am trembling, shaking with my whole body when in 1918 a Turkish group came to the orphanage and ...announced that. 'We must, the entire orphanage must relocate the orphans to a more secure "safer" location in Syria!'

"I understood, immediately that the 'safe location' was the product of "Turkish diplomacy" and the place was the desert of Der-el-Zor, I was shaken with fear but I maintained stubbornly that this is against the international laws....

.... They laughed at me with utter cynicism. I insisted that I would appeal the German, English, French and other consulates of other countries, the international missions. They, with the same cynicism answered that those countries were the perpetual friends of Turkey. I picked up paper and in their presence I started my letter.

The soldiers became more cautious from unnecessary noise and decided postpone the orphans' relocation a few days. I did not sleep all night. I was walking through the beds of the orphans, rubbed their feet and hands and prayed so that God may give me strength enough to save at least these orphans from the desert of Der-el-Zor."

"Every day, in different languages I was preparing letters and sending them to the consular offices of the European countries, to the missions and different Humanitarian Organizations. A few days later, three Turks surrounded me in the courtyard of the orphanage, they cursed and threatened me that they would along with their friends and German assistants' cooperation they would relocate me to Der-el-Zor, if I persisted in the same manner. I revolted, 'I have already sent letters where necessary. If something happens to me, you will give an account to the international organizations' cursing in Turkish finally they left."

"In 1919 the political status changed in Cilicia. According to the Treaty of Sévre Cilicia was to be transferred to the French Protectorate, but, France, in a secret agreement had the intention to surrender it to Turkey. During the war, the Armenian Legion fighting under the French flag was disbanded quickly and the Armenians of Cilicia were left defenseless. I was obliged to return to Estonia! "

The Physician nervously made uncomfortable gestures and opened the window, the evening breeze made him more alert. The children were playing in the courtyard. The doctor did not listen to the melodies of Beethoven according to his prior pride, his disturbed soul spoiled it.

"Is my nation equally culpable with the Turks, how can I explain that to my university graduate son, who very soon will defend his dissertation on the German History?" As if talking to the diary as he leafed through it with his still strange disturbance. He continued his reading:

"In 1922 I registered as a member to the 'Christian Mission in the East' the evangelical humanitarian organization founded in Strasburg, and left for Aleppo. At that time there were 160 thousand Armenian refugees in Syria, primarily they were living in the section known as Souleymanieh and Ramadanieh suburbs where they had built the huts ("Armenian Camps") they lived in utter poverty and misery. Hundreds of Armenians were dying every day from the epidemics. That was part of the Turkish plans to annihilate the Armenians. The epidemics was reaping like a

"YATAGHAN"= -Scimitar."

"I understood that at the risk of my life, I would participate in the work of saving of the ill. With superhuman efforts, by asking and pleading I was able to open a hospital, where some of the Armenian doctors of Syria were working. To save the starving, labor was necessary. With my acquaintances from Marash we created weaving and needle point handcrafted laces workshops. The handwork of five hundred women and girls' rugs and laces were being sold in the European countries and the proceeds as compensation were given to the women. My hard work finally gave results. For over 250 Armenian students who were enrolled in various schools in Aleppo started receiving scholarships."

"There were too many orphans! I developed a unique form of adoption through which European benefactor families would adopt a child in a refugee family, established in Aleppo and send a gold piece to the family of the adopted child."

"For some time now the orphans and refugee Armenians called me "Mother B ll", even though I did not marry and had no children, but the Armenian orphans calling me Mother-Mayrig - the word was a consolation and thus I lived the joy of motherhood. Never did regret it, that I dedicated my life to the Armenian orphans."

"O Lord God! What was the sin of that people that all of Europe closed its eyes over the Armenian hell!" The doctor unwillingly spoke out loud and turning over and over in his bed.

"Are you talking with the patients again? You have not rested even at night!" Complained the wife, suggesting to her husband to take medication to sleep.

- "No, no I am not talking with the patients. I was talking with the conscience of my people, something does not let me sleep for quite sometime now", the doctor tried to explain to his wife!

"That is a daytime job. The wife cut it short," having lost all hope for the caresses of love and half disturbed turned over to sleep.

Till morning light, the doctor was in struggle with his people's conscience, made peace, fought again and made peace again! In the morning he put the diary in his briefcase to continue in his office.

"In 1947, All Armenians were dispersed all over, were given the possibility to repatriate to Soviet Armenia. Many Armenians from Syria arrived Armenia with tears in their eyes. I had decided to go to Armenia. I even saw in my dreams a few times how I was arriving to Hayasdan, I was watching Ararat from Yerevan. I sent in my application to the Committee of repatriation. When I received rejection, I was lamenting a few days and was feeling an orphan myself."

"Is Armenia rejecting me as her child? I learned later that many of the repatriates were exiled to Siberia right off the boat as unreliable and as spies for foreign countries. Probably, they would have considered me as a spy for seven countries! I decided to go back to my own country but received no entry visa. Estonia was within the Soviet System. In 1951 departed from Aleppo, I had nothing! I settled in Europe. Every day I was writing letters to al Armenians that I knew, spread all over the world. I was already 64 years old and very late to form a family. I had forgotten about those 40 years ago!"

"In Europe I was missing my Armenians!"

"In 1965 I went to Syria and Lebanon to participate in the 50th Anniversary of the Genocide programs in Aleppo and Beirut. O-My God!! They had not forgotten me, for hours on end they embraced me in their bosom, those orphans, orphans of mine, by

whose beds, for entire nights I used to whisper prayers. My heart was calmed! I returned to Germany but my heart stayed in the empty rooms of the Armenian orphanage."

"My beloved Armenians, do you hear me? I have not regretted what I have dedicated my entire life to you all!... My Heart is Armenian!"

Late night ring of the telephone raised the alarm.

"Deegin Anahid, I have a very big request, you have to teach me a little Armenian to speak, and that in a few weeks." The doctor said hastily, forgetting even to say "Parev." ..

He did not know how to justify such an unusual request.

"Dear Doctor, I am glad to be helpful to you, immediately, in the morning I will come to your office," with warmth responded Anahid, without being able to guess the German's mysterious intent of the request.

The days of Miss Büll were numbered and the doctor was attempting to learn what he wanted to say in that short period of time. During daytime Anahid was teaching and in the evening the Doctor had the Armenian Language text book in his hand.

On a regular morning, the Doctor without as much hiding his proud smile, he entered the patient's room without his white uniform. The nurse gave the signal to bring him in. The Doctor smiled mysteriously and said,

"At this moment I am not a physician."

As he approached Miss Büll's bed, he sat down, took her tired hands in his palm, looked into her flickering eyes and unexpectedly, he began in Armenian.

"Greetings, my dear Armenian Anna Hadwig Büll, I am talking to you through one of the seven languages that you know, the one that for you is your mother tongue, in Armenian!"

The half closed and fading eyes shined for a moment she did not understand what was happening with her she made a motion to have her seated.

"Dear beloved mother Büll, I see that even you cannot believe to your eyes, but I am speaking Armenian, with your mother tongue ... I awe it all to you only! I learned from your diary that my people also were an accomplice to the crime....

The Germans even openly have assisted the Turks, have instructed and defended even have encouraged them. O, Lord, I am ashamed of it all. Of course same German intellectuals have criticized the government, but they were muted as the light of a candle against the raging storm. I got to know and loved the Armenians. In my heart also a little bit of an Armenian awakened. Do you know why I learned Armenian? Now I want to ask your pardon for the sins of my people!"

"The Armenians are big-hearted, they forgive fast. From the wide open eyelids, in amazement, two drops of tears rolled slowly with pride over the shriveled cheeks and through the wrinkles to her lips. Miss Büll took the hands of the Doctor in her palms and having gathered her last energy and in Armenian whispered one word at a time!

"I am proud that my heart is Armenian, and I am dying as an Armenian.... Dear Doctor, you are your nation's conscious and honor. I forgive and those like you on behalf of my Armenians. I am going to my slaughtered, and from famine and plague deceased Armenian orphans of mine...."

Miss Büll's weakened hands dropped slowly.. and through her lips her last breath came in Armenian"

"My Heart...."

Tr. by Rev. Fr. Vertanes Kalayjian, Archpriest,
Pastor Emeritus of Washington, D.C.
(*Two of the prominent Catholicos Cilicia)

Azerbaijani Tanks Shell Positions In Nagorno-Karabagh

ATTACK, from page 1

Cooperation in Europe's (OSCE) headquarters in Vienna, said that Turkey's position runs counter to international efforts to broker a Karabagh settlement. "Such a position is not supported in the OSCE," said Lukashevich, reminding that Russia, along with the United States and France, carries the main burden of the mediatory mission as a Minsk Group co-chair country. He said that while Turkey is also a member of the Minsk Group, "the leading role [in the Karabagh peace process] is reserved for the three co-chairs."

"Therefore, attempts to defend one of the parties to the conflict in Nagorno-Karabagh are absolutely destructive and cannot have any continuation," Lukashevich emphasized.

The senior Russian diplomat's remarks come amid continuing tensions in the relations between Moscow and Ankara that followed the November 24 downing by a Turkish fighter jet of a Russian warplane near the Syrian-Turkish border.

Late last month Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu and Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu paid separate visits to Baku reassuring Azerbaijan's leadership of Ankara's support in the Karabagh conflict resolution. Cavusoglu, in particular, also criticized the American, Russian and French mediators for failing to achieve a Karabagh settlement acceptable to Azerbaijan. The statements were taken by some analysts and politicians in Moscow as Turkey's intention to "open a second front" against Russia in the Nagorno-Karabagh conflict zone.

Russia is Armenia's key political and military ally and has a military base in Armenian soil. Armenia is also a member of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, a defense pact of six former Soviet nations led by Russia.