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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Deranian Publishes Story of First Armenian-American Millionaire, Hagop Bogigian

By **Aram Arkun**  
Mirror-Spectator Staff

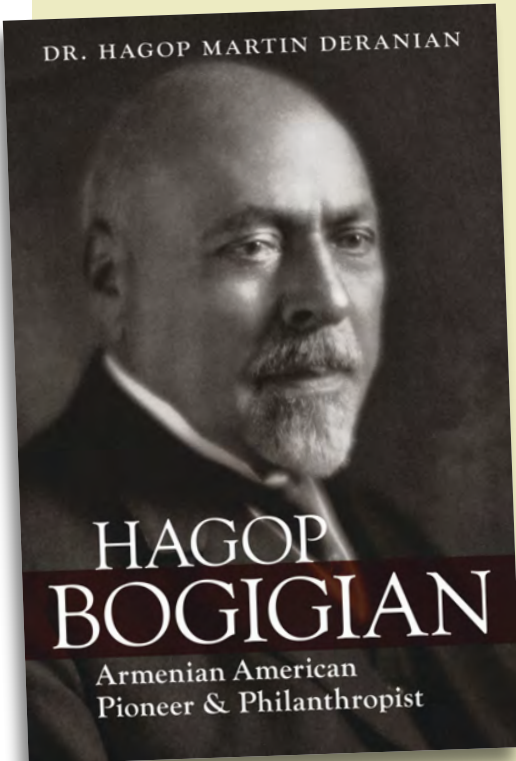
Dr. Hagop Martin Deranian, Bogigian's great-nephew, has written a short biography of his relative titled *Hagop Bogigian: Armenian American Pioneer and Philanthropist*, published by the Armenian Cultural Foundation of Arlington, this year. This 115-page volume is richly illustrated. The author has used personal family papers and reminiscences, Bogigian's own published 1925 autobiography (*In Quest of the Soul of Civilization*), and articles in various newspapers and periodicals to present the arc of Bogigian's life, stretching from the town of Hussenig in the Ottoman Empire to Boston.

During his long life, Bogigian interacted with many notable individuals. The first customer of his rug store was the poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, and through him he came to know many New England intellectuals. Longfellow sent Harvard professor Charles

Worcester — Hagop Bogigian (1856-1931) was one of the early emigrants from Ottoman Armenia to the United States. Though penniless upon arrival in 1876, he succeeded beyond his own expectations in the oriental rug business in Boston, and became a millionaire. As a philanthropist, he supported Armenian and non-Armenian causes.

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see BOGIGIAN, page 20



### Bundestag Resolution On Armenian 'Genocide' Is Imminent

BERLIN (Deutsche Welle) — When German Chancellor Angela Merkel met Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Monday, May 23, she presumably had to deal with his anger at plans by a broad Bundestag coalition to describe the crimes of the Ottoman Empire against ethnic Armenians as "genocide." For the first time, the conservative Christian Democratic Union (CDU) and Christian Social Union (CSU) parties and center-left Social Democrats and Greens look set to make the nomenclature official.

There have been debates on the subject for years, and those ratcheted up in the context of last year's centenary of the events that left more than a million Armenians dead or deported from the land that would become Turkey. Bundestag President Norbert Lammert and German President Joachim Gauck have already used the term "genocide," which provoked protests from Ankara. However, several attempts to reach consensus on how to officially refer to the tragedy have been put off.

German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier remains skeptical as to whether the Bundestag's likely position will be see BUNDESTAG, page 20

### Armenian Genocide Exhibit in Riga Museum

RIGA, Latvia (Public Radio of Armenia) — On May 18, a permanent exhibition on the Armenian Genocide opened at the Riga Ghetto and Latvian Holocaust Museum.

This exhibition is a joint effort of the Riga Ghetto, Baltic International Tolerance Center and the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute (AGMI). The AGMI design group prepared the design and the AGMI has donated original exhibits.

The work was assisted by a representative of the Armenian community of Latvia, Mkhitar Mkhitarjan. AGMI Director Hayk Demoyan, the leader of the Shamir congregation, Rabbi Menahem Barkahan, and representatives of the Armenian community of Latvia were present at the opening of the exhibition.

The event featured the ambassador of Israel to Latvia and the Patriarch of the Lutheran Church. Demoyan awarded the Franz Werfel medal to the Riga Ghetto Museum and the Fridtjof Nansen gold medal to Mkhitar Mkhitarjan.

### Aznavour Family to Receive Tribute from Israel

NEW YORK (Public Radio of Armenia) — In a recent meeting with the International Raul Wallenberg Foundation (IRWF) representatives Mordecai Paldiel and Zvika Kichel, Charles Aznavour confirmed the riveting story of courage in which his late parents, Knar and Mischa, as well as his sister Aida and himself, had played a key role during the dark days of the Nazi occupation in France.

Aznavour related how his parents gave shelter at their own home to Jews, Armenians and others who were persecuted by the Nazis.

The IRWF has resolved to set-up a special research team to further investigate the feats of the Aznavour family and at the same time, all the Board Members of the NGO have unanimously decided to pay tribute to the Aznavours.

In a letter signed by IRWF Chairman Eduardo Eurnekian, and by its founder, Baruch Tenenbaum, Aznavour was greeted on his 92th birthday and told that there would be a commemorative stamp issued by the Israel Postal Authority with the pictures of Mischa and Knar Aznavour. The second one is to award the Raoul Wallenberg Medal to Aida and Charles Aznavour.

Eurnekian said, "The Aznavour family is an example of decent people who did not stand idly by when faced with evil. His mother, Knar was a survivor of the Armenian Genocide and she understood the plight of the Jewish people and all those who were brutally persecuted by Nazism. It is our duty to recognize the heroism of the Aznavour family and instill their spirit of civic courage in the hearts and minds of young generations."

### Turkish Parliament Approves Stripping Lawmakers of Their Immunity

ISTANBUL (New York Times) — Lawmakers from President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's governing party pushed through an amendment to the Turkish Constitution on Friday, May 20, that would strip members of Parliament of their immunity from prosecution, a move that is likely to lead to the ouster of Kurdish deputies.

After months of fierce debate — including a brawl in Parliament that left one deputy with a dislocated shoulder — 376 of the 550 deputies voted in a secret ballot to approve the constitutional amendment, allowing it to pass without a public referendum. Erdogan is certain to approve the change.

The contentious amendment was proposed after Erdogan called for members of the Kurdish People's Democratic Party, or HDP, to face prosecution for alleged ties with Kurdish militants who have carried out a three-decade-long insurgency against Turkey.

"This is a historic vote," Erdogan said on Friday, speaking in his hometown, Rize, on the Black Sea coast. "My people do not want to see guilty lawmakers in this Parliament, especially the supporters of the separatist terrorist organization."

The HDP is the third-largest party in Parliament with 59 seats; 50 of those lawmakers face prosecution. Under the new amendment, they can be prosecuted for a number of charges, including see IMMUNITY, page 4

### Chile Condemns Aggression of Azerbaijan toward Nagorno-Karabagh

SANTIAGO, Chile (Agencia Prensa Armenia) — The Chamber of Deputies of Chile issued a historic resolution which passed unanimously that condemns the "armed attack of Azerbaijan on the Nagorno Karabagh Republic," on Wednesday, May 18. The resolution, introduced by Deputies Gustavo Hasbun Selume, Issa Kort Garriga, Denise Pascal

strict observance of the truce signed by both countries in 1994" and "requests the Government of Chile to urge the parties to circumscribe the conflict settlement within the framework of the negotiations held in the Minsk Group, and thus avoiding a regional explosion with unpredictable consequences."

"What Azerbaijan is doing undoubtedly marks a break not only of bilateral and international relations, but a permanent violation to the world peace and has to be condemned by the world, the citizenship and especially the countries like ours, that feel some degree of brotherhood with Armenia," said Deputy Gustavo Hasbun Selume, President of the Armenian-Chilean Group of Friendship and the one who presented the project, said in an interview. "This will allow Chile to take a more active role in defending the sovereignty of individual countries."

The deputy admitted that they received pressures from Naciye Gökçen Kaya, Ambassador of Turkey in Chile, so that this resolution could not be approved, like the one approved last year, in which the Chamber of Deputies of Chile sympathized "with the Armenian nation condemning the genocide of its people that began in 1915."

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Chilean Deputy Gustavo Hasbun Selume

Allende, Aldo Cornejo Gonzalez and Jorge Sabag Villalobos, sets a crucial precedent, since it is the first in South America that condemns the attacks of Azerbaijan and also call Nagorno-Karabagh a republic.

The Chilean Chamber of Deputies "reaffirms its commitment to peace and urges the Republic of Azerbaijan for the immediate cessation of all acts of war against the Republic of Nagorno-Karabagh and the

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## News From Armenia

### Silk Road Offers Expanded Market Opportunities

YEREVAN (ArmeniaNow) –The Silk Road project undertaken within the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) could be a good opportunity for Armenia to cooperate with China and for access to an inexhaustible market of that country, economist Tatul Manaseryan told media Monday.

On May 20, during the meeting of the Eurasian Intergovernmental Council in Yerevan the heads of EEU-member states discussed issues connected with furtherance of cooperation with EEU.

During the meeting Prime Minister Hovik Abrahamyan highlighted efforts aimed at promoting the Eurasian project and creating the Silk Road economic zone, which will connect trade routes in Europe and Asia through the Eurasian Economic Union, including Armenia, as well as via India and Iran.

Manaseryan said this is a good opportunity for Armenia to enter the international market, after many years of isolation.

“Armenia’s participation in the Silk Road project may introduce a turning point in the program of neighboring countries in the region who have not wanted to see Armenia in an active economic policy,” he said, adding that in this regard, Armenia should conduct a seriously proactive policy with China.

Economist Vardan Bostanjyan said that Armenians had a great advantage in terms of being a link in the Silk Road.

### Bundestag Vice President Visits Tsitsernakaberd

YEREVAN (ArmRadio) – Bundestag Vice President Edelgard Bulmahn visited the Tsitsernakaberd Memorial on May 24 accompanied by Vice-President of the Armenian National Assembly Edward Sharmazanov to pay tribute to the memory of the innocent victims of the Armenian Genocide. Bulmahn visited the Armenian Genocide Museum Institute and left a note in the guestbook.

“I’m impressed by my visit to the Museum and feel sorry for all the sufferings the Armenian nation went through during those years,” she told reporters.

“As a representative of the Bundestag I have to speak about German responsibility. Our Parliament is trying to express its official attitude on the events and thus prevent the reoccurrence of similar crimes in the future,” Bulmahn said.

### French Foreign Minister To Visit Baku For Talks On Nagorno-Karabagh

PARIS (RFE/RL) – France’s Foreign Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault, the co-chairman of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk group on Nagorno-Karabagh, has accepted an invitation from Azerbaijan to visit Baku in the near future.

Neither Paris nor Baku have specified a date for the visit.

The invitation came during a meeting in Paris on May 19 between Ayrault and Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov.

According to Azerbaijan’s Foreign Ministry, Ayrault and Mammadyarov discussed the results of a Vienna meeting on May 16 between Azerbaijan’s President Ilham Aliyev and Armenia’s President Serzh Sargsyan.

The two presidents confirmed the importance of maintaining a cease-fire between Azerbaijani troops and separatist ethnic Armenian forces in Azerbaijan’s breakaway region of Nagorno-Karabagh.

Aliyev and Sargsyan also said they would work to restore negotiations toward a political settlement over the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, which in early April saw its worst outbreak of fighting since a 1994 cease-fire deal.

Mammadyarov on May 19 praised France for working to organize another meeting between the presidents of Azerbaijan and Armenia as soon as possible.

## Armenia, China Vow to Deepen Security, Anti-Terror Cooperation

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) – A member of the Chinese Communist Party’s decision-making Politburo reportedly expressed China’s readiness to forge “even closer” links with Armenia when he met with President Serzh Sargsyan in Yerevan on Saturday.

Meng Jianzhu, who is also the secretary of the ruling party’s powerful Central Committee on Political and Legal Affairs, arrived in Armenia at the head of a large delegation comprising other senior Chinese officials. Sargsyan’s office also referred to him as a “special representative” of Chinese President Xi Jinping.

“The high-level representative of the People’s Republic of China noted that the visit of his delegation is aimed at deepening and invigorating the Armenian-Chinese cooperation in the legal field, which he believes will considerably stimulate bilateral political relations,” the office said in a statement. “According to him, all this is also important in the context of changes taking place in the world and in the region, which require friendly Armenia and China to establish even closer cooperation,” it said. “Meng Jianzhu assured that his country will spare no effort to promote stability and security in the region.”

Sargsyan was cited as saying that Chinese-Armenian relations have already expanded significantly since the early 1990s. “The People’s Republic of China is an important partner for Armenia, and we salute your successes and are happy for the achievements and progress which friendly China – an important player at the international arena – registers in every area,” he told Meng.

The Armenian leader recalled in that regard his March 2015 official visit to China that involved talks with

President Xi and Premier Li Keqiang.

In a 5-page joint declaration released after their talks in Beijing, Xi and Sargsyan noted “mutual understanding on issues relating to pivotal interests and concerns of the two countries.” They also presided over the signing of a dozen Chinese-Armenian agreements to deepen bilateral cooperation in a wide range of areas, including law-enforcement, tourism, education and energy.

Under one of those agreements,

military ties between their nations. Their joint statement referred to “mutual visits by military delegations, training of military personnel and provision of military aid.”

China has trained Armenian army officers and supplied multiple-launch rocket systems to Yerevan since the late 1990s. In 2011, the Armenian military reportedly purchased sophisticated Chinese rockets with a firing range of more than 100 kilometers.

Armenia has reciprocated the



Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan (R) meets with Meng Jianzhu, head of the Commission for Political and Legal Affairs of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and special envoy of Chinese President Xi Jinping, in Yerevan, Armenia, May 21, 2016. (Xinhua/Li Ming)

China and Armenia exchanged \$160 million worth of each others’ national currency in an effort to boost bilateral trade. According to official Armenian statistics, it totaled over \$480 million in 2015, making China Armenia’s second largest trading partner.

Xi and Sargsyan also called for closer

Chinese support with unequivocal endorsements of Chinese sovereignty over Taiwan. The 2015 declaration made clear that Yerevan will continue to oppose Taiwan’s independence, avoid any “official contact” with the island and back “all Chinese government efforts to unite the country.”

## Armenian Assembly of America Meets with NKR National Assembly President Ashot Ghoullyan

STEPANAKERT, NKR – This week, the Armenian Assembly of America Board of Trustees Co-Chair Van Krikorian and Regional Director Arpi Vartanian met with the Nagorno Karabagh Republic National Assembly President Ashot Ghoullyan.

Ghoullyan praised the Assembly’s activities of advocacy and their work strengthening ties between Armenia, Artsakh, and the diaspora community.

During the meeting, Krikorian spoke about the Assembly’s efforts carried out

in recent years supporting Karabagh, including US political and public awareness of the scope of the humanitarian problems caused by Azerbaijan. In just the past couple of months, the Assembly has been active in voicing their concern over Azerbaijan’s acts of aggression in the region.

On April 5, the Assembly Co-Chairs sent a letter to Secretary of State John Kerry about the conditions in Nagorno Karabagh, calling for Section 907 of the Freedom Support Act to be fully

enforced. The Assembly also encouraged Armenian Americans to contact their Representatives, urging them to publicly condemn Azerbaijan’s acts of aggression, support Karabagh’s self-determination and self-defense, and call for the placement of empowered monitors along the Line of Contact.

During the meeting, both sides discussed the conflict, the possibility for a peaceful settlement, the regional issues, and the possibility of international recognition of Artsakh.



Ashot Ghoullyan, right, meets with the Assembly delegation at left, including Van Krikorian, middle and Arpi Vartanian, third from left



## ARMENIA



Presenting the late Hamazasp Babajanian's chess board to the president

## Marshal Babajanian Statue Unveiled

YEREVAN (Public Radio of Armenia) – President Serzh Sargsyan on May 23 attended the ceremony unveiling the statue of the Hero of the USSR, Chief Marshal of the USSR armored troops Hamazasp Babajanian.

The memorial is in the public square adjacent to Babajanian Street in Avan administrative district of Yerevan. The memorial was created by the sculptor Hamlet Matinian and architect Michael Missakian.

Present at the ceremony were also Minister of Defense Seyran Ohanyan, Yerevan Mayor Taron Margarian, veterans of World War II, the Commanding General United States Army Europe Lieutenant General Frederick Benjamin Hodges, the Adjutant General of Kansas, the military commander of the Kansas National Guard Major General Lee E. Tafanelli, military attachés of foreign states, natives of Chardakhlu residing in Yerevan (Khachisarians) and other guests.

Sargsyan laid flowers on the monument and paid tribute to the memory of the great warrior. After the march of the ceremonial guard, the Honorary Citizen of Yerevan, Rafael Vahanian and the Vice Chair of the Armenian Chess Federation Hovik Khalikian handed to President Sargsyan a symbolic gift – chess board which belonged to Babajanian which had been presented by the descendants of the Marshal.

Babajanian, born in 1906, was a Soviet military commander.

In July 1943, Babajanian was sent north to take part in the Battle of Kursk. He was given command of the 20th Tank Brigade, which at the time was part of the Soviet Guards 8th Mechanized Corps. His brigade was tasked with blocking the Germans' northern and southern advances toward Kursk by taking up position at an intersection near Obayan. The brigade sustained heavy losses from German armor assaults, and Babajanian himself was wounded during the course of the attacks. He rapidly recovered from his injuries and returned to active duty. His unit was incorporated into the 1st Ukrainian Front and sent once more to take part in the struggle to evict the Axis



President Serzh Sargsyan with widows of veterans

out of Ukraine. Over the course of the winter of 1943-44 Babajanian's brigade participated in the liberation of the towns and villages of Vinnytsia, Zhmerynka, and Ternopil. The tanks under Babajanian's command distinguished themselves in particular in the battle of Koziatyn, which resulted in the annihilation of the German 70th Motorized Rifle Division and its two regiments.

In March 1944, Babajanian led his brigade across the Dniester in a drive to retake the town of Stanislav. After eleven days of heavy fighting his forces took and occupied the right bank of the river. For its efforts, the commanders of the 8th Mechanized Corps on April 2 conferred upon Babajanian the title of Hero of the Soviet Union.

He died in 1977.

## Cafesjian Center For the Arts Announces Unveiling of 'Sasuntsi Davit' Relief

YEREVAN (Public Radio of Armenia) – The Cafesjian Center for the Arts (CCA) announces the opening of the relief "Sasuntsi Davit" [David of Sasun] by sculptor Artashes Hovsepyan, which is an integral part of the architectural heritage of the Cascade complex.

In the 1980s, when the Cascade was being constructed, architect Jim Torosyan (1926-2014) invited the sculptor Artashes Hovsepyan to design one of the galleries in the future complex and the artist worked for four years in the hall which is now called the Sasuntsi Davit Gallery. The multi-figure composition, depicting more than thirty episodes from the Armenian epos, is the sculptural version of the famous graphic work ("Sasuntsi Davit," 1922) by renowned Armenian artist Hakob Kojoyan (1883-1959). Following the destructive earthquake of 1988 and the collapse of the Soviet Union, this tufa relief remains unfinished, yet it conveys in stone a monumental resonance inherent in Kojoyan's original work as interpreted by the sculptor Hovsepyan.

The CCA, in keeping with its mission, works not only to present the best of Armenian and international fine art, but also to preserve and celebrate the artistic and architectural heritage of the Cascade complex.

"By presenting the "Sasuntsi Davit" relief the Center celebrates a major work in the extraordinary career of Artashes Hovsepyan while noting the 85th birthday anniversary of the maestro. This important work, related to Armenia's story as a nation, will remain available for public viewing without an admission charge. This year of 2016 is marked by the 25th anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Armenia and the character of Sasuntsi Davit has always been and remains a source of inspiration and strength for the Armenian people. In this context the presentation of the 'Sasuntsi Davit' relief reminds us of Armenia's endurance as a civilization," stated Vahagn Marabyan, the Acting Executive Director of the CCA.

The private preview of the relief Sasuntsi Davit took place on May 18. The public opening of the relief took place on May 21 as part of the Museum Night annual event.

## OSCE Representative Calls for Peaceful Resolution to NKR Impasse

YEREVAN (Public Radio of Armenia) – The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Parliamentary Assembly's Special Representative on the South Caucasus, Kristian Vigenin (MP, Bulgaria), this week concluded a two-day visit to Armenia and called for increased parliamentary support for efforts for a peaceful solution to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

In Yerevan, Vigenin met with Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan, Vice-President of the Parliament Eduard Sharmazanov, and with senior members of parliament including from the OSCE PA delegation, the Standing Committee on Foreign Relations and leaders of several parliamentary parties. He also visited the OSCE Office in Yerevan, and met with representatives of civil society.

"Following the important meeting last week in Vienna of the Presidents of Armenia

and Azerbaijan, it is crucial that we follow up these efforts with support at the parliamentary level. The agreements of the presidents to finalize an OSCE investigative mechanism and to expand the OSCE presence in the conflict zone are important steps that can help reduce the risk of violence," he said.

"I hope that these agreements will be built upon in another high-level meeting in the near future. While negotiations continue within the Minsk Group process on a comprehensive settlement, I believe that dialogue at the parliamentary level can help produce a climate that is conducive to peace," he added.

On May 16, meeting with the Foreign Ministers of the Minsk Group Co-Chair countries, the Presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan agreed to finalize in the shortest possible time an OSCE investigative mechanism and agreed to the expansion of the exist-

ing Office of the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office.

"Work at the parliamentary level can help encourage political will from the sides in the region to engage in serious efforts to negotiate a comprehensive settlement within the framework of the Minsk Group," said Vigenin, who expressed his support for the work of the Minsk Group and its Co-Chairs to facilitate a peaceful solution to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

"On the basis of my talks both here and later this week in Baku, I will propose some concrete ideas for further dialogue and engagement at the parliamentary level, and look forward to discussing these during the OSCE PA Annual Session in Tbilisi in early July," he said.

Vigenin reiterated the strong support of the Parliamentary Assembly for the work of

the OSCE Office in Yerevan, and expressed his appreciation for the good co-operation that the Office enjoys with the government and civil society.

The Special Representative continues his travels this week with visits to Georgia and to Azerbaijan where high-level meetings are expected.

Vigenin was appointed Special Representative by OSCE PA President Ilkka Kanerva in February 2016. In his mandate, he is tasked with promoting dialogue in all segments of society, in particular at the parliamentary level, in order to encourage reconciliation and rehabilitation with regard to the protracted conflicts in the region.

This week's visit is his first to the region as Special Representative. Vigenin is a former Foreign Minister of Bulgaria and currently serves as Deputy Head of the OSCE PA's Bulgarian Delegation.



## INTERNATIONAL

## International News

## Official Decries Azeri Aggression, Misinformation

ISTANBUL (Public Radio of Armenia) – On May 23-24, the delegation of Armenia headed by the Deputy Foreign Minister Ashot Hovakimian participated in the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) in Istanbul. The United-Nations organized summit, aimed to set a forward-looking agenda for humanitarian action to address current humanitarian challenges, was the first of its kind.

Hovakimian in his speech said: “The abhorrent barbarity committed recently by the armed forces of Azerbaijan, including intentional and indiscriminate targeting of the peaceful population, especially children, women, and the elderly, as well as civilian objects, including schools and kindergartens, killings, beheadings, torture and mutilation of bodies is incompatible with the elementary norms of a civilized world. It is a product of a longstanding policy of racism, intolerance and incitement of hatred against Armenians, condoned and directly executed by the authorities of Azerbaijan.”

Touching upon the remarks of the president of Azerbaijan made during the summit the day before, Hovakimyan emphasized that “Azerbaijani president, who bears personal responsibility in initiating the aggression and glorifying the terrorists and ISIL-style brutalities’ perpetrators, yesterday used this august body to disseminate fabricated allegations against Armenians. None of those lies have any connection with reality. Armenia certainly has no plans of creating a nuclear bomb, and Armenian forces have never used chemical weapons.”

## Russian Envoy Says Georgia Joining NATO Poses Threat to Europe

MOSCOW (Armenpress) – Russian Envoy to NATO Alexander Grushko said this week that Georgia’s joining NATO would be a blow to European security and create “colossal risks,” Sputnik reports.

“I think that common sense still prevails in NATO because the acceptance of Georgia into NATO would be a blow to European security and would carry colossal risks for peace and security in Europe,” Grushko said during a live video uplink with Brussels.

Earlier Latvian Foreign Minister Edgar Rinkevics said in an interview with the news portal Delphi that Georgia and Ukraine do not have prospects of NATO membership in the nearest future.

“NATO has always made statements about the ‘open door’ principle. But now, we cannot talk about integration of Georgia or Ukraine with NATO in the near future,” Rinkevics stated adding that NATO has “no common position on this issue.”

## Foreign Minister of Armenia meets French Parliamentarians

PARIS (Armenpress) – Armenian Minister of Foreign Affairs Eduard Nalbandian met with the Chair of the Committee on European Affairs Jean Bizet during a visit to France.

The two sides discussed the efforts aimed at overcoming the consequences of Azerbaijan’s large-scale military operations and the possibilities of restarting the negotiation process.

In this regard, Nalbandian emphasized the importance of Bizet’s statement on April 7, the assessment to the situation and the steps towards the settlement of the conflict.

Issues related to Armenia-EU relations, the negotiation process over the new legal framework and the launch of the visa liberalization regime were discussed during the meeting.

The same day Nalbandian met with members of the Armenian Parliament’s friendship group in the Senate and the National Assembly during which several issues of the development of Armenian-French relations, the mutual cooperation between legislative bodies of the two states and the cooperation in the Parliamentary Assemblies were discussed.

# Sharmazanov Speaks in Athens on Pontic, Armenian Genocides

ATHENS (Public Radio of Armenia) – Prominent Greeks of Armenian and Pontic descent were honored during a special ceremony held at the Temple of Olympian Zeus in Athens on Saturday, May 21, which culminated in a series of events organized by the Ministry of Defense to mark the anniversary of the Pontic Greek and Armenian genocide in the early 20th century, according to Greek Reporter.

“The genocide of Pontic Greeks and Armenians remains in collective memory as one of the most horrific crimes of the last century, but also as a crime for which, after so many years, justice has not been served,” Defense Minister Panos Kammenos in his speech.

He also urged all parties involved to continue fight for international recognition of the event.

Addressing the event, the Vice-President of the Armenian National Assembly, Edward Sharmazanov said: “The Genocide of Christian minorities in the Ottoman Empire and Kemalist Turkey is considered to be one of the greatest disasters of the previous century, that has taken lives of innocent Greeks. It is a great honor for me to be here and address you as a descendent of both nations who survived the Greek and Armenian Genocide.

“A century ago hundreds of thousands of Pontic Greeks were massacred by the Turkish Government, thousands of Christian monuments were destroyed. This was not a mere crime against the Greeks, Armenians and Assyrians: this was a crime against humanity.

“Since then only a few have raised the importance of condemning the actions of the Ottoman Empire against its Christian population. Amongst them is the Republic of Armenia and I am deeply grateful for your appreciation of my humble contribution to our mutual mission. I would like to inform you that two days ago the Nagorno-Karabagh Republic

became the fifth country in the world which recognized and condemned the Genocide of Pontic Greeks in the Ottoman Empire and Kemalist Turkey.

“Unfortunately, Turkey continues its policy of denial. Moreover, not only it denies its former crimes but also commits new ones by keeping occupied 38 percent of the Cyprus territory and supporting both the Islamic State in the Middle East and Azerbaijani aggression against the peaceful people of the Nagorno-Karabagh Republic.

“We should realize that the atrocities committed in the Ottoman Empire a century ago, the beheadings in the Middle East as well as the inhumane actions of Azerbaijan in the Nagorno-Karabagh Republic today are of the same nature.”

He then went on to decry terrorism and fascism.

“I call on people of all ethnic and religious backgrounds to recognize and condemn the Genocide of the Christian population in the Ottoman Empire, and particularly the Genocide of Greeks, as well as to condemn the Turkish denial policy.”



Defense Minister Panos Kammenos, left, with Vice-President of the Armenian National Assembly, Edward Sharmazanov

## Turkish Parliament Approves Stripping Lawmakers of Their Immunity

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some for terrorism, and will effectively be removed from Parliament. Mr. Erdogan’s governing Justice and Development Party could then call early elections that would help him establish an executive presidency and consolidate more power.

“We view this motion as a political coup attempt to completely destroy the separation of powers by subordinating the legislative to the executive and leaving the former to the mercy of a thoroughly politicized and biased judiciary,” the HDP Chairmen Selahattin Demirtas and Figen Yuksekdag wrote in a letter to members of the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France.

“This coup would be a most crucial step for Erdogan to replace Turkey’s parliamentary democracy, which he has twice declared ‘de facto over,’ with an absolutist presidential system in which the legislative, executive and judiciary powers are virtually monopolized by the president himself,” they added.

The constitutional change could complicate Turkey’s relationship with the European Union, and jeopardize a deal agreed in March that renewed talks for Turkey to join the bloc and allowed Turkish citizens to travel in Europe without visas in exchange for Turkey’s help in stemming the flow of asylum seekers to the Continent.

Kurdish politicians warned that their exclusion from Parliament could exacerbate tensions in Turkey’s predominantly Kurdish southeast, where the Turkish state has been fighting a counterinsurgency campaign against the militant Kurdistan Workers’ Party, or PKK, since the group ended a cease-fire last July.

“Taking Kurds out of politics and shutting down the political channels to resolve this conflict will only disenfranchise Kurdish youth further and push them toward a radical path in the fight toward great autonomy,” said Kubra

Demir, a Kurdish activist in the southeastern city of Sirmak.

Analysts who have watched the debate over immunity in Parliament in recent weeks have likened it to a period in 1994 when Kurdish deputies from the Democracy Party, or DEP, were imprisoned on terrorism charges, which led to one of the most violent periods in the conflict between Turkey and the Kurds.

“It took Turkey almost two decades to recover from that,” said Asli Aydintasbas, a fellow at the European Council on Foreign Relations. “To repeat the same mistake would set back Turkish democracy for quite some time.”

She added: “This will neither solve the Kurdish situation or help Turkey’s territorial integrity in the long run. I worry that Erdogan’s zeal and constant

targeting of HDP for this is paving the path for actual division of the country further down the road.”

The change to the Constitution will not just apply to members from the Kurdish party; as many as 138 Turkish lawmakers from all parties now find themselves vulnerable to prosecution.

Several members of the opposition Republican People’s Party face charges for insulting Erdogan, including the party’s leader who called the president a “political and sexual pervert.”

In a statement earlier this week, the HDP said that none of the investigations into its parliamentary deputies were about concerns over corruption, bribery or theft. “They are all about freedom of expression,” the party said in a statement posted on Twitter.

## Two Former Rwandan Mayors Go on Trial

PARIS (PanARMENIAN.Net) – Two former Rwandan mayors went on trial Tuesday, May 10 in Paris for allegedly inciting and taking a leading part in the mass killing of ethnic Tutsis during the first days of the 1994 Rwandan genocide, the Associated Press reports.

Tite Barahirwa, 64, and Octavien Ngenzi, 58, are both accused of genocide and crimes against humanity over the massacre of some 2,000 Tutsis who had sought refuge in a church in the eastern town of Kabarondo.

The men, who deny any involvement in the murders, face up to life in prison if convicted.

More than 100 victims, relatives and witnesses, some of whom traveled from Rwanda, are expected to testify during the eight-week Paris trial. Unusually, it is being recorded for historical purposes.

This trial is the second held in France for suspected perpetrators of the Rwandan genocide, under a special U.N.-approved law allowing France universal jurisdiction for related crimes. The law came after years of efforts for justice by activist groups who say France – close to the Hutu leadership of Rwanda at the time – turned a blind eye to the slaughter and allowed perpetrators to live in France unpunished, AP says.

Barahirwa and Ngenzi were arrested separately on French territory a few years ago and have been held in custody since then.



# Embattled Baku Weighs Benefits, Risks Of Setting Ismayilova Free

BAKU (RFE/RL) — Khadija Ismayilova, the RFE/RL investigative journalist, is challenging her 7 1/2-year sentence for tax evasion before the Azerbaijani Supreme Court on May 25, just three days before the country celebrates its annual Republic Day with a mass amnesty, proposed by the country's first lady, that anticipates the release of some 3,500 prisoners convicted of minor crimes. Although Ismayilova's criminal conviction makes her ineligible for the pardon, there is speculation that she may benefit from the confluence of events.

Ismayilova's appeal also follows a snap presidential pardon in March of 14 political prisoners, including human rights activist Rasul Jafarov and members of the N!DA pro-democracy youth movement. A 15th prisoner, human rights lawyer Intigam Aliyev, was released less than two weeks later.

Add to that a mounting pressure campaign by Western governments and international press-freedom groups and the looming threat that Ismayilova, if denied her appeal, will go next to the European Court of Human Rights with high-profile lawyer Amal Clooney as her likely representative.

Even so, it's far from certain that President Ilham Aliyev will be swayed by either condemnation or largesse when Ismayilova appears before the court this week.

Sources with close knowledge of the Azerbaijani state say that in the case of jailed government critics like Ismayilova and opposition leader Ilgar Mammadov — who remains in jail despite a ruling by the Strasbourg court that his arrest was politically motivated — the prospect of release is seen as a personal threat to the survival of the ruling elite.

"The authorities are trying to keep both Ilgar and Khadija behind bars at whatever cost," says Arif Mammadov, Azerbaijan's former ambassador to the EU, who has since gone into exile and turned into one of the regime's most outspoken critics. "They're seen as a threat to the regime and the regime is aware of this. They're also aware that as soon as Ilgar and Khadija are out of jail, they'll continue their fight. Both have considerable international influence and are well known. It's not surprising that their release has been delayed."

Beyond political insecurities, the economy has become a persistently nagging factor as the government mulls its options on Ismayilova.

Ismayilova, who investigated nepotism and corruption in the Aliyev family for RFE/RL's Azerbaijani Service, Radio Azadliq, first took aim at the ruling clan in the early 2010s. At the time, the regime's petro-fueled trajectory — built on tens of billions of dollars in energy sales, crystallized in the Aliyevs' personal profiting from the \$134 million concert hall built for Baku's 2012 Eurovision — seemed unstoppable.

But by the time of Ismayilova's arrest, on December 5, 2014, oil production had peaked, foreign investment was dwindling, and the Aliyevs could no longer depend on the promise of fortune to mollify the country's increasingly restive political hierarchy.

In the 30 months since, the economy has gone into free fall, with oil prices plunging below \$40 a barrel, the country burning through \$10 billion of its foreign-currency reserves, and the local manat currency losing half its value against the dollar in 2015.

Some observers say the prospect of financial chaos may go a long way toward explaining the government's recent wave of pardons.

Aliyev's March pardons, for example, were officially timed to commemorate Norouz, the Persian new year. But they also came as the Azerbaijani leader was looking to secure an invitation from US President Barack Obama to attend a Washington nuclear summit, and lobby the World Bank for a loan in the process.

Mehman Aliyev, who heads Azerbaijan's privately-owned Turan news agency, says the Azerbaijani president, after years of bypassing international opinion, is desperately looking to shore up Western financial support. In this, he may see Ismayilova as a useful bargaining chip but only one of dozens of factors on the table

— particularly given last month's outbreak of fresh hostilities with Armenia over Nagorno-Karabagh.

"I think there are some intensive negotiations going on, and the government is taking steps accordingly," says Aliyev, adding that the issue of Ismayilova's release "is part of something much bigger: resolution of the economic crisis, Karabagh, regional security, and so on. The Azerbaijani government wants to see some reassuring moves from the West — for example, loans. There have been no clear solutions to this."

Among the levers the United States has at its disposal is the Azerbaijani Democracy Act, proposed legislation that would deny members of Azerbaijan's senior leadership and their families the right to enter the United States.

The bill, proposed in December and tied directly to Ismayilova's case, has stalled amid the creeping thaw in Washington-Baku talks. Former Ambassador Mammadov, who now lives in exile in Europe, describes authorities in Azerbaijan as effectively "alarmed" by the prospect of sanctions and ready to negotiate to keep them at bay.

Within Azerbaijan, officials mulling the Ismayilova and Mammadov cases may also be looking to strike a pre-pardon deal aimed at limiting both prisoners' public activities once they are freed. Ismayilova has repeatedly vowed she will not seek exile if released and will resist a pardon if it means leaving the country without right of return, in order to continue her work.

Arastun Orujlu, a political scientist who runs Baku's East-West research center, says officials are unlikely to grant clemency to either prisoner without a clear plan for what happens next.

"I think the government is trying to neutralize both Ilgar and Khadija, and only then does it intend to release them," he says. "Maybe the government wants them to leave the country as soon as they're out of jail. Or maybe they're trying to get both Khadija and Ilgar to stop their work once they're released. It's hard to say exactly what [the government] has up its sleeve."

In the meantime, public pressure continues to mount. At a time when press freedoms are seen as on the decline worldwide, Ismayilova has become one of the most recognizable faces of journalism under attack.

On the occasion of World Press Freedom Day, May 3, Ismayilova was granted the 2016 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano award, accepted on her behalf by her mother during a ceremony in Helsinki. In March, Ismayilova published a commentary in The Washington Post calling on the global community to be wary of Aliyev's glib use of prisoner pardons.

"I am happy — very happy — that some political prisoners have been released," she wrote. "[But] I am not a toy to be exchanged for diplomatic gain by Baku or Washington so that officials can continue to pretend that it is business as usual. We are hostages of the regime, whether we are inside or outside of prison."

A subsequent op-ed by The New York Times editorial board called for the UN cultural agency, UNESCO, to reconsider the Azerbaijani first lady, Mehriban Aliyeva, as a goodwill ambassador.

The watchdog group Sport For Rights, founded by former prisoner Jafarov to leverage Baku's penchant for hosting big-budget sporting events, has called on Formula One officials to demand the release of political prisoners before the Grand Prix race next month. More immediately, Sport For Rightshas helped organize a series of 40 worldwide protests in support of Ismayilova on May 27 — the journalist's 40th birthday.

Samad Sayidov, an Azerbaijani lawmaker who chairs the parliamentary committee on international relations, is among the Baku authorities who remain officially unmoved, saying judicial systems in all democratic countries should be free to function independently without outside meddling.

"None of this external pressure is actually productive," Sayidov says. "And I'm being totally honest when I say that it's not right to interfere in the business of an independent state. Because the more pressure there is, the less power the state will have."

## Turkey's Erdogan Approves New Government

ANKARA (Public Radio of Armenia) — Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on May 24 approved a new government formed by one of his most trusted allies, who immediately asserted his intention to institute constitutional reforms that would expand the powers of the presidency, the Associated Press reports.

Binali Yildirim, 60, formerly minister of transport and communications, replaces Ahmet Davutoglu, who stepped down on May 22 amid a range of differences with the president, including Davutoglu's apparently less-than-enthusiastic stance toward an overhaul of the constitution to give the largely ceremonial presidency executive powers.

"We will immediately start work to achieve a new constitution, including a presidential system," Yildirim told lawmakers of his Justice and Development Party, or AKP, in his first speech after taking office.

"Our priority is to make the constitution in harmony with the de-facto situation regarding our president's ties to the people," Yildirim said.

The new government — which Yildirim is widely believed to have formed in consultation with Erdogan — includes nine new names, although most ministers from Davutoglu's previous Cabinet retained key portfolios.

They include Mevlut Cavusoglu, who remains foreign minister, and Mehmet Simsek, the deputy minister who heads economic affairs.

Volkan Bozkir, the minister in charge of relations with the European Union, was replaced by Omer Celik, a founding member of the AKP who is known to be close to the president. Erdogan's son-in-law, Berat Albayrak, kept his position as energy minister.

## Syria Blames Turkey, Qatar, Saudi Arabia for Deadly Bombing

DAMASCUS (PanARMENIAN.Net) — The Syrian government has accused Turkey, Qatar and Saudi Arabia of being behind a wave of bombings in the coastal cities of Tartous and Jableh, BBC News reports.

The state-run news agency Sana said the attacks constituted a "serious escalation" and were aimed at derailing peace efforts.

State media said at least 78 people were killed, while a monitoring group put the death toll at more than 145.

The so-called Islamic State (IS) has said it was behind the attacks.

The cities, on Syria's Mediterranean coast, are part of the heartland of President Bashar al-Assad and have, until now, escaped the worst of the civil war.

Sana said letters condemning the bombings had been sent from the foreign ministry to the UN.

"The ministry asserted that these terrorist bombings constitute a serious escalation by the extremist and malicious regimes of Riyadh, Ankara, and Doha," the report said.

"They also seek to derail the Geneva [peace] talks and the cessation of hostilities and truce arrangements, as well as turning attention away from the Syrian Arab Army's achievements in the war against terrorism."

Turkey, Qatar and Saudi Arabia support various rebel forces in Syria but are part of an international coalition battling IS.

Seven coordinated bombings happened within minutes of each other in the port of Tartous and in Jableh, further north.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a UK-based monitoring group which relies on a network of sources on the ground, reported that 97 people died in Jableh and 48 in Tartous.

Russia — a key backer of Assad — has a naval base in Tartous and an air base near Jableh, from where it has conducted air strikes on IS targets across Syria.

## Chile Condemns Aggression of Azerbaijan toward Nagorno-Karabagh

CHILE, from page 1

"The Chamber of Deputies is autonomous and will not allow pressures from any country to come and say how we as parliamentarians have to act in defense of justice, peace, human rights and in defense of people being oppressed," added Hasbun Selume.

"We welcome the courageous position of Chilean Deputies, who unanimously broke with the prevailing hypocrisy of not naming the aggressor in the conflict. We hope that this statement, in line with the Secretary General of the Organization of American

States (OEA), Luis Almagro, on last April 3, will mark a path for the countries of the region," said Alfonso Tabakian, director of the Armenian National Committee of South America.

The grounds for the decision say that "on the night of 1 to 2 of last April, ground forces and air of the Republic of Azerbaijan conducted a large-scale attack on the border with the Republic of Nagorno-Karabagh, with heavy artillery and last generation missiles" and that aggression represented "the most flagrant violation of the Ceasefire Agreement

signed by both countries in May 1994 and a breach of UN rules on Pacific Settlement of Disputes."

"Faced with this new escalation of violence that has already claimed numerous civilian and military casualties victims, Chile condemns the aggression, calls for the cessation of military operations and the continuation of the peace negotiations within the framework of the Minsk Group, whose co-presidents are the United States, Russia and France, sponsored by the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)."

# Community News

## FAR and EASA Create Innovative Internship Program with Armenia

By Florence Avakian

NEW YORK – Venture Armenia, initiated and organized by the Armenian Engineers and Scientists of America (AESA) and the Fund for Armenian Relief (FAR), will take place from July 16 to 27, and will provide a professional experience limited for a group of eight to 12 young Armenian-Americans.

The focus of this project will be networking and forging professional connections in Armenia, for the betterment and further development of the motherland. In addition to professional advancement, interns will visit some of Armenia's most important cultural and historic places, thus experiencing Armenia in a unique manner.

"The collaboration between AESA and FAR is a very specific function together, involving the objectives, and purpose," said Aram Setian, President Emeritus of AESA, New York/New Jersey chapter. The functions include looking at mentoring in the fields of engineering, science, medicine, business, law, education, and other specialty fields.

A number of applicants are currently being interviewed who will be of benefit to themselves, to Armenia, and to the program itself, Setian said, adding that eligible applicants range from the high school level to graduate students.

The specific function of FAR will be finding the right contacts in Armenia. Each selected intern will receive the exclusive personal one-to-one attention of the chosen mentor. All arrangements in Armenia will be undertaken by FAR.

AESA will be responsible for finding and selecting the applicants, explained Setian who is currently on the AESA Board of Directors, and proudly related that "AESA's strength is mentoring and education. We would like to select applicants who will make the most impact. Once the network is established, it will be a great benefit for themselves, for Armenia and for the future," he stated again with emphasis.

There are a number of ways that the results of this unique program can be implemented. This extraordinary professional relationship may result in a job connection in Armenia for six or seven months, with the opening of a business, or in the U.S. Selected interns may choose to find work in Armenia for six or seven months, and even open a business there, or work in their related fields in the US.

"This initiative has a broader and possibly more ambitious goal than simply providing networking and business opportunities for young professionals, stated FAR Executive Director Garnik Nanagoulian. "We hope and will strive to open up unique possibilities to all young Diasporan Armenians who are looking to develop sustainable links with their peers in Armenia, and with the homeland itself."

Venture Armenia, he stressed, "is for those who would like to discover much more possibilities for themselves in the homeland as professionals, as individuals, and as Armenian Americans."

All interest individuals can contact [www.venturearmenia.com](http://www.venturearmenia.com).



FAR volunteers in Armenia



John Prendergast speaks with Arpi Kouzouian and other parishioners.

## Human Rights Activist Prendergast Brings Genocide Prevention Vision to Cambridge

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – Human rights activist and best-selling author John Prendergast was the featured speaker at Holy Trinity Armenian Church on May 12. The talk was part of the Dr. Michael and Joyce Kolligian Distinguished Speakers Series.

By Olya Yordanyan

Special to the Mirror-Spectator

Prendergast, who is the founding president of the Enough Project, an initiative aiming to end genocides, and board member of Not On Our Watch – a charity started by actors George Clooney, Brad Pitt, Matt Damon and Don Cheadle – contributed to the launch of Aurora Prize for Awakening Humanity. He is currently strategic consultant to the Aurora Prize.

The Aurora Prize, part of the 100 Lives organization, this past month gave out its inaugural prize to Marguerite Barankitse from Burundi.

Prendergast has also co-founded the Sentry, a new partnership between the Enough Project and Not On Our Watch, which brings together financial investigators to follow "the money that fund" perpetrators of mass atrocities."

Fr. Vasken A. Kouzouian, pastor of the Holy Trinity Church, and Valerie Kolligian Thayer, daughter of Dr. Michael and Joyce Kolligian, welcomed the audience.

Prendergast delivered a forward-looking talk titled "Genocide and Crimes Against Humanities: Lessons learned and Hope for the Future," focusing on countering and ending genocides.

"Genocides continue, but do not look the same," Prendergast told the audience, noting that they are transforming over time.

He criticized the "ineffectiveness" of global responses – peacekeeping operations, peace talks and humanitarian aid – in preventing genocides and mass atrocities.

"The main tools of international response have for the most part been inadequate in the face of a genocidal intent," he said.

According to Prendergast, large peacekeeping operations "rarely protect people see PRENDERGAST, page 7



From left, Rev. Vasken Kouzouian, John Prendergast and Yn. Arpi Kouzouian

## Holy Cross Armenian Church Of Union City Celebrates 110th Anniversary

By Elizabeth Akian

CLIFFSIDE PARK, N.J. – On May 15, nearly 300 guests gathered at the Villa Amalfi Restaurant in Cliffside Park to celebrate the 110th Anniversary of the Holy Cross Armenian Church of Union City.

The celebration had commenced earlier in the day with a special Divine Liturgy presided by Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern). The Divine Liturgy was sung by members of the Gomidas Choir, led by Kris Kalfayan.

The service marked a significant milestone for Matthew Bagdat, currently attending Seton Hall University, who was ordained to the Holy Order of the Sub-Diaconate.

In addition, the right side altar was dedicated in memory of Nubar Dorian, with a special plaque blessed by the archbishop. The late Dorian, whose family members were in attendance for this ceremony, was a dedicated servant on numerous levels to the Armenian community at large, as well as a beloved member of the parish.

Following Badarak, guests traveled to the Villa Amalfi Restaurant for the celebratory banquet. Hirant Gulian served as master of ceremonies and welcomed the attendees and introduced the honored guests seated at the dais – Archbishop Barsamian, Armenia's Ambassador to the United Nations Zohrab Mnatsakanyan, US Sen. Robert Menendez (D-NJ), Mayor



Alice Yigitkurt, Diana Burggraf and Alice Bozoyan

Thomas Calabrese of Cliffside Park NJ, Dr. Vartan Abdo, Very Rev. Vazken Karayan, Alice Bozoyan and Lori Zoklu.

The Invocation was led by the Very Fr. Daniel Findikyan.

Gulian then introduced a special Kurdish delegation visiting the United States from Dikranagerd (Diyarbakir, Turkey) that presented the Holy Cross Parish with a mosaic artwork for this momentous occasion.

Greetings and reflections were then provided by Menendez, Zoklu (Banquet chair), Bozoyan (Parish Council chair), as well as Very Rev. Vazken Karayan (pastor).

The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Vartan Abdo, founder and director of the Armenian Radio Hour of New Jersey (ARHNJ).

Mnatsakanyan extended his congratulations to the Holy Cross Parish on the milestone anniversary, and stressed the vital importance of church life within the Armenian community.

The program then moved to a variety of Armenian musical selections performed by Solange Merdinyan, mezzo-soprano, and Hayk Arsenyan, pianist.

This occasion was highlighted by honoring three prominent women for their outstanding see ANNIVERSARY, page 11



## COMMUNITY NEWS

## Human Rights Activist Prendergast Brings Genocide Prevention Vision to Cambridge

PRENDERGAST, from page 6 from being targeted for annihilation,” and peace processes often give perpetrators time to carry out their plans.

Prendergast said that preventing or countering genocides is an important way of commemorating past genocides.

He detailed his vision of actions that would bring a change in the current practices of genocide prevention across the world. He in particular pointed out five concepts that raise hope for genocide prevention: a global anti-genocide movement, norms of accountability, new policy tools, youth movements and remembrance.

“There will be no response to genocide without constituency of conscience. There will be no action, if there is no cost political and financially,” Prendergast said.

According to him, “people’s movements are the most reliable” sources for fighting injustices. The US Civil Rights Movement, the Anti-Apartheid Movement in South Africa, Save Darfur movement and others are powerful examples of successful action.



Dr. Noubar Afeyan

“This is about generating the political will to act,” he said.

Prendergast highlighted the need to hold people who try to commit a genocide, financially accountable, noting they should pay “serious financial cost.”

“The idea is not just to respond, but also to identify places and networks that [fund people, who] are intending to commit crimes against humanity, and go after their assets and create a calculation sheet so that, in fact, they think twice whether they should do that or not, because there will be some kind of cost to their action,” Prendergast said.

The talk was followed by a question-and-answer session and closing remarks by Dr. Noubar Afeyan, who talked about the idea behind the Aurora prize and praised Prendergast’s vision, calling him “the mastermind behind movements.”

The Dr. Michael and Joyce Kolligian Distinguished Speakers Series, held once in three years, was launched in 2000 to provide “high-quality, educational and cultural programs to enhance knowledge” of the Holy Trinity Church members as well as the greater Armenian community. Journalists Dr. Bob Arnot and Peter Bergen; Rwandan genocide survivor and author Immaculée Ilibagiza, and well-known actress and activist Mia Farrow have spoken in this series.



Valerie Kolligian Thayer



## OPENING FOR PRIVATE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL - QUEENS, NEW YORK

Celebrating nearly 50 years as a pillar of the New York Armenian American community, Holy Martyrs Armenian Day School (HMADS) of Bayside, Queens, has earned a well-deserved reputation for academic excellence and for inspiring a love of Armenian heritage in her students. Combining the best elements of American education with an added emphasis on Armenian Studies, the small classroom settings and focus on individual abilities has allowed the dedicated staff of this private elementary school to provide a nourishing learning environment for students in grades N-6.

### HMADS seeks experienced administrator for position commencing August 2016.

Qualified candidate should possess:

- Exceptional leadership qualities and effective interpersonal and communication skills
- Knowledge of current best practices and the ability to implement and support staff professional development
- Interest in supporting the school’s mission to provide an exceptional academic education for a diverse student body, while promoting knowledge of the Armenian language, history and culture
- Ability to work collaboratively with parents, School Board, auxiliary bodies and the greater community to foster student success
- Degree in Education, Educational Leadership and/or Administration, School Counseling or related field
- Valid New York State administrative certification or equivalent
- Fluency in English with knowledge of written and spoken Armenian strongly preferred

Qualified candidates are invited to send a letter of interest, résumé, and copy of administrative certificate to mailbox@hmad.org by June 1, 2016.

## NAASR Holds Annual Assembly, Elects New Board

BELMONT, Mass. — The National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) held its 62nd Assembly of Members on Saturday, May 14, and welcomed five new members to its 27-member Board of Directors. The newly elected Board members are: philanthropist Edward Avedisian of Lexington, Mass.; author and activist Nancy Kricorian of New York City; co-organizer of the first Armenian Genealogy conference George Aghjayan of Westminster, Mass.; engineer and community activist Jirair Balayan of Auburn, Mass.; and distinguished scholar Dr. Bedross Der Matossian of Lincoln, Neb.

“We are honored to welcome Board members of this caliber as we set our course for the next 60 years,” said the new Chairman of the Board Yervant Chekijian, of Watertown. Chekijian replaces Raffi Yeghiayan, who is stepping down after six years of leadership as Chairman. Yeghiayan will remain active as an advisor on NAASR’s Executive Committee.

### Engaging Talk by Amb. Rouben Shougarian

Preceding the Board elections were remarks from former Ambassador Rouben Shougarian of Tufts University’s Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Armenia’s first Ambassador to the United States (1993-99). Shougarian acknowledged the fruitful cooperation he has enjoyed with NAASR as he began his talk titled, “Building a New Generation of Armenian Leaders through the Tavitian Scholarship Program at the Fletcher School.”

All 15 of the current Tavitian scholars from Armenia, as well as alumna Olya Yordanyan, were present as NAASR’s guests, and introduced themselves. This is the 17th group of Tavitian scholars, who now number over 250, most in key leadership positions in Armenia, as Shougarian pointed out. While detailing several major crises Armenia has faced recently, he found cause for hope in Armenia’s strong response and in the talent of the first generation of scholars born in independent Armenia.

Reports were also presented at the Assembly concerning NAASR’s ongoing efforts to further Armenian studies, research, and publication. The outgoing Board members were thanked for their dedication and commitment: Dr. Geri Lyn Ajemian, of Watertown, director of curriculum, Littleton Public Schools; Adi Ignatius, of Brooklyn, NY, and Cambridge, Mass., editor-in-chief, Harvard Business Review; Bertha Mugurdichian, of Providence, RI, retired nurse educator and NAASR member since 1958; and Dr. James Russell, of Cambridge, longtime Mashtots Professor of Armenian Studies, Harvard University.

### Distinguished New Board Members

The newly elected NAASR Board members are each highly distinguished in their fields. Avedisian is a musician, academic, investor and philanthropist, retired after 30 years as clarinetist with the Boston Pops and 43 seasons with the Boston Ballet Orchestra. He is a 2016 recipient of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor and a member of the NAASR Leadership Circle. He is active with the American University of Armenia, and the Armenian Missionary Association of America, and is the key benefactor of numerous schools and education centers in Armenia, including the Khoren and Shooshanig Avedisian K-12 School and the Community Center in Malatia-Sepastia. He was twice awarded the Movses Khorentasi Medal by Armenia’s President Sargsyan for Contributions to Education, Culture, Literature and the Arts.

Kricorian is a novelist, poet, activist and long-time member of the NAASR Leadership Circle. Her novels include *Zabelle, Dreams of Bread and Fire*, and *All The Light There Was*, set in the Armenian community of Paris during World War II. She has taught at Yale, Columbia and Barnard Colleges, among others, and received numerous awards and fellowships for her writing. She is also on the Executive Committee of the Armenia Tree Project.

Aghjayan retired in 2014 after a career in insurance and structured finance. He is an active member of NAASR and was one of the organizers of the recently concluded Armenian Genealogy Conference. He is currently chairman of the Board of Trustees of Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church of Worcester, and has done extensive research on Armenian demographics in the Ottoman Empire, which has led to several articles in English and Turkish.

Balayan is a senior nuclear engineer at Engineering Planning and Management. Born and raised in Cairo, Egypt, he received his early education at the Nubarian Armenian School. He has been an active NAASR member for several years, and has been a volunteer Armenian School teacher for the last 10 years at the Armenian Church of the Holy Translators in Framingham, Mass.

Der Matossian is an associate professor of history at the University of Nebraska/Lincoln. Born in Jerusalem, he graduated from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and completed his PhD in Middle East History at Columbia University. He is the author of *Shattered Dreams of Revolution: From Liberty to Violence in the Late Ottoman Empire* (Stanford University Press 2014), which received NAASR’s Dr. Sona Aronian Book Prize for Excellence in Armenian Studies. His articles have appeared in numerous academic journals.



Members of the NAASR Board of Directors and staff. Left to right, front row: Judith Saryan, Sarah Ignatius, Bertha Mugurdichian, Van Aroian, Jirair Balayan, Shushan Teager, Dr. Suzanne Moranian; Second row: Yervant Chekijian, Jack Medzorian, Edward Avedisian, Raffi Yeghiayan, Nancy Kolligian, Gregory Aftandilian; Top row: Marc Mamigonian, Stepan Piligian

## OBITUARY

## Rev. Arten Ashjian

NEW YORK – Rev. Arten Ashjian, who passed away on May 17, in New York. He was 96.

He was one of the pillars of the Diocese. As a priest and pastor, scholar and ecumenist, patriot and community leader, he was greatly admired by his peers, and inspired countless young souls to more deeply embrace their church.

He was a member of the historic "Class of 1948": a group of seminarians from the Jerusalem Patriarchate, who were hand-picked by the late Primate of the Eastern Diocese, Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan, and brought to America for further education and ordination, under the sponsorship of benefactors Alex and Marie Manoogian.

The five seminarians were ordained by

Archbishop Nersoyan in 1948, and a brotherly spirit prevailed among them throughout their lives. Alongside Fr. Arten were Fr. Vartan Megherian, Fr. Arnak Kasparian, Fr. Shahe Altounian, and Fr. Garen Gdanian. This historic and beloved group of priests proved indispensable to the progress of the Armenian Church in America – and Der Arten was chief among them, serving the church and community with every fiber of his being, through every moment of his life.

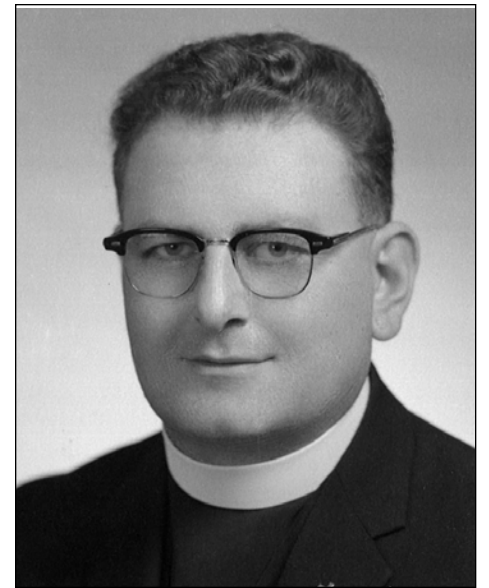
Rev. Ashjian was born in Aleppo, Syria, on November 21, 1919, and christened Antranik in the Armenian Cathedral of Aleppo.

His father Avedis, and his mother Mariam, were survivors of the 1915 Genocide, displaced from Ourfa.

Antranik received his primary education from 1924 to 1934 at Armenian and American schools in Aleppo. From 1934 until the completion of his theological and philosophical studies, he was a seminarian at the Armenian Patriarchate in Jerusalem. His first dean and foremost among his teachers was Fr. Tiran Nersoyan. In 1938, Antranik was ordained a full deacon by Patriarch Torkom Koushagian.

In 1941, he returned from Jerusalem to his hometown and for the next five years taught various subjects in the Zavarian Armenian School.

Responding to an invitation offered to him and other former seminarians in 1945 by Bishop (later Archbishop) Tiran Nersoyan, the newly installed Primate of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, Antranik arrived in New York City in March 1947, having see ASHJIAN, page 9



## Dorothy Margaret Kishibay

TRUMBULL, Conn. – Dorothy Margaret Kishibay, an artist, lecturer, demonstrator, art juror, wife, mother and creative spirit, died on Sunday, May 15.

She was predeceased by her husband, Charles O. Kishibay, Professor Emeritus of Engineering Education at the University of Bridgeport.

Born in 1924 in Bridgeport, Conn. to George and Veronica DeMirjian, she graduated from Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY, where she received her degree in industrial design from the Art School and met her future husband. They married on August 8, 1948.

She was dedicated to enhancing the use of art in education. She taught art classes to both children and adults. She served as the art acquisition chairperson of the Bridgeport Hospital Auxiliary bringing selections of art to the hospital and its patrons with one goal in mind, "to touch the lives of others that come through this often difficult passage."

In the early 1970s, she launched the Nichols Improvement Association art show and chaired this event for seven years. This art show drew artisans from Florida to Maine and is now part of the Trumbull Arts Commission. Her logo and art work, "Next to Real Roses," has been exhibited and sold throughout New England and was featured on the front cover of the National Pen Women Magazine in June 2003.

In 1987, she donated icons to the Saints Joachim and Anne Armenian Apostolic Church of Palos Heights, Ill. The paintings, "The Resurrection," and "The Ascension," are sub-altar paintings at the church. Kishibay explained, "Icons are a representation or pictures of a sacred Christian personage. The language of icons is expressed through shapes, color, special signs and religious symbols.



Religious paintings date back to the first century of Christianity and they carry on the spiritual heritage of their forefathers by the symbols used and its authenticity. Art is a living entity. It has something to say! Our sub altars of the Armenian churches should give the experience of dealing with our history of art and cultural heritage. It is the language of seeing and recording our past."

In 1985, she donated two similar paintings to St. Mark's Church in Springfield, Mass. of Saints Sahag and Mesrob Mashtotz.

She supported Salem Lutheran Church, Bridgeport, for well over 30 years through teaching Sunday School, arts/crafts programs for children, developing a logo design featuring the church's etched windows, and designing the Crown of Thorns banner used throughout the Easter season.

She was a member of the National League of American Pen Women, Inc. of Fairfield County, Connecticut, an organization dedicated to excellence and achievements in the Arts.

## Suzanne Schell Pearce

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – Suzanne "Suzy" Schell Pearce, 77, a longtime peace activist, died on April 14. The cause of death was cancer.

A resident of Cambridge, she worked in many worldwide, national, and local initiatives to promote global peace and justice.

Born in New York City in 1938, she graduated from The Putney School in Vermont, Radcliffe College in 1960 and Columbia Teachers' College in 1966.



After living and working in France for several years, she married psychiatrist John K. Pearce and settled permanently in Cambridge.

Her early career included working for *Realites* magazine in Paris and teaching at the Judge Baker School, the Brookline Public Schools and Mass Bay Community College.

In the mid-1980s she formed a lifelong commitment to the anti-nuclear movement, working tirelessly through leadership in various projects such as the Council for a Nuclear Weapons Freeze, The Lawyers Alliance for Nuclear Arms Control and The Middle Powers Initiative.

She helped to found, and later served as president, of the Cambridge-Yerevan Sister City Association, which focused on educational and cultural exchanges. She was active with the Coalition for a Strong UN, the American Friends Service Committee, and most recently, Cambridge Peace Action and the Foundation for Democratic World Federation.

A lifelong and talented poet and cellist, she brought her love for art, music and culture to everything she did.

She is survived by her brother Orville Schell of Berkeley, Calif.; her daughters Sarah Pearce of Bloomington, Ind. and Miranda Pearce of Cambridge; and four grandchildren. A public memorial service was held on Saturday, May 21 at the First Parish in Cambridge.

In 1986, she received a Certificate of Appreciation (one of 20 nominated) from the State of Connecticut as part of the 350th Anniversary of Trumbull, honoring her as a "Town Hero of Trumbull," for her contributions of volunteer time in art, to make the quality of life a little better for people of her community. She received numerous recognitions for her ability to design and enhance art in many lives.

She was a member of the Daughters of Vartan and served as Dirouhie of the Nairi Otyag for several years.

She is survived by her four children: Dr. John S. Kishibay and daughter-in-law Dr. Donna J. Eteson Kishibay of Los Angeles; daughter Dora Verne Garabedian and son-in-law Thomas J. Garabedian of Hopkinton, Mass.; daughter Karen Y. Kishibay of Fairfield, Conn.; and

daughter Darby M. Hobbs and son-in-law James W. Hobbs of Chatham, Mass.; grandsons Deran Thomas and wife Katy, Berj Jeffrey and wife Laura, Gregory Charles and wife Daniella Garabedian, Sean Patrick and Connor Ohannes Sullivan, and Brian Walker and wife Sara Hobbs; granddaughters Stephanie Marielle, Ashley Janelle and Emily Adora Kishibay, and Grace Weston Hobbs; great-grandchildren Thomas Arthur and William Andrew Garabedian, Zabel Arya Garabedian and George Walker, Ella Sophia and Maxwell Connor Hobbs.

The family has expressed that in lieu of flowers donations be made in her memory to the Nichols United Methodist Church Memorial Fund, 35 Shelton Road, Trumbull, CT 06611 or the Armenia Tree Project, 65 Main Street, Watertown, MA 02472.

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## COMMUNITY NEWS

## Christian Churches Together Meets at Diocesan Center

NEW YORK – On Friday, May 13, the Eastern Diocese hosted a meeting of the ecumenical organization Christian Churches Together (CCT) with New York-area church leaders. The meeting was organized and led by the Rev. Carlos L. Malavé, executive director of Christian Churches Together; Bishop Michael Rozanski, CCT moderator, and Archbishop Vicken Aykazian, Legate and Ecumenical Director of the Eastern Diocese and a member of CCT.

Participating in the meeting were Archbishop Khajag Barsamian (Armenian Apostolic Church), Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, Canon Chuck Robertson, Rev. Margaret Rose (Episcopal Church), Metropolitan Tikhon, Fr. Leonid Kishovsky (Orthodox Church in America), and Bishop Demetrios of Mokissos (Greek Orthodox Church).

Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Diocesan Primate, welcomed the guests to the Diocesan Complex. The goal of the meeting was to engage area church leaders in the work of CCT. Each of the church leaders shared their own involvement in ecumenism and news from their churches on both the national and international levels.

Participants heard about the history and mission of Christian Churches Together, which will soon celebrate its 10th anniversary. CCT strives to include a broad base of Christian churches and focuses on social issues, such as mass incarceration, racial justice, quality of life issues, immigration, hunger, poverty, and sex trafficking.

While CCT mainly deals with issues of importance in the United States, participants also felt that CCT should include a focus on the persecution of Christians in various parts of the world. It was decided to plan a meeting of church leaders with the U.S. State Department to discuss the Christian community in the Holy Land.

## Rev. Arten Ashjian Dies

ASHJIAN, from page 8

been accepted as a special graduate student at the Episcopal General Theological Seminary. Five former seminarians and graduate student Hagop Nersoyan were enrolled in four American theological schools for a three-year program, all sponsored by benefactors Alex and Marie Manoogian. While continuing his studies, Antranik became one of five new priests of the Eastern Diocese whom Bishop Nersoyan ordained in 1948. (The others were the Reverends Vartan Megherian, Arnak Kasparian, Shahe Altounian and Garen Gdanian.)

Ashjian was renamed Fr. Arten on the day of his ordination, March 14, 1948.

He earned a Master of Sacred Theology degree in 1950 from General Theological Seminary and a Master of Theology from Harvard Divinity School in 1961.

Until the end of 1988 when he retired, Fr. Arten served in half a dozen states as parish priest.

In July 1950, Fr. Arten Ashjian and Mary A. Harootian were married at the Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Fresno.

Halfway into his 15-year pastorate at St. James Armenian Church of Watertown, he began a campaign for the construction of a

youth center for the parish. With his encouragement and leadership, the spacious three-level Cultural and Youth Center was completed and dedicated in 1967.

He was elected to serve on the Diocesan Councils of both the Eastern and Western Dioceses, and held the position of Recording Secretary of the Diocesan Council and the Diocesan Assembly.

He was director of ecumenical relations of the Eastern Diocese, from 1978 to 1988, during the primacy of Archbishop Torkom Manoogian. He returned to this post briefly in 1991 at the invitation of Archbishop Khajag Barsamian.

Ashjian also served as Canon Sacrist of St. Vartan Cathedral in New York from 1981 to 1988.

Over a period of two decades, until 1992, he was an instructor of Armenian Church history and other subjects at St. Nersess Armenian Seminary, where he also served a six-month term as chaplain. His involvement in the St. Nersess Seminary includes membership for several terms on the Board of Directors, where he served as secretary.

Ashjian contributed articles to the official publications of the Eastern Diocese, as well as to other publications. From 1947 to 1948 he was editor of *Hayastanyaitz Yegeghetzi*, and in the mid-1950s he served on the editorial board of *The Armenian Guardian*, the official organ of the ACYOA. In 1949 he compiled a history of the Diocese of America and its parishes. This Armenian-language book was published by order of Nersoyan on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America.

In 1992, his *Easter Pilgrimage to Armenian Jerusalem* was published in Armenian, and *A Century of Contacts Between the Armenian and Episcopal Churches in the USA* was published by the Diocese in 1991. Catholicos Vasken I bestowed the pectoral cross on him in 1961 and the title of archpriest (Avak Kahana) in 1965.

In 1995 he was one of the 24 elected representatives of the Diocese to the National Ecclesiastical Assembly at Holy Echmiadzin, for the election of the Catholicos of All Armenians.

Ashjian was considered the historian of the Armenian Church in the United States, and of the Eastern Diocese in particular. His life-long research on those subjects – including his archival investigations, interviews with principal figures, and his own personal recollections as an active participant in the major events of the Armenian Church in the 20th century – served as the basis for an historical volume on the Armenian Church of America, *The Torch Was Passed*, published in 1998 to coincide with the Diocesan centennial.

One of his final books, *An Armenian Monk's Ministry on Two Continents: The Story of Archbishop Hovsep Sarajian* (2006), revisited the earliest period of the Armenian Church in the New World, through the life of its most influential figure.

Despite his retirement, Ashjian remained very active as a priest and pastor, up until recent years. In December 2012, he celebrated his last *badarak* at New York's historic Holy Cross Church of Armenia, which had become his "home parish" during his retirement in Yonkers. A note in the Diocese's weekly newsletter, under the title "His Last Bow," noted the milestone in this remarkable priest's ministry, with these words: "For nearly 70 years he has served as a priest of the Armenian Church. And on almost every Sunday during that vast period, you could be sure to find Fr. Arten Ashjian on the altar of God, celebrating the Divine Liturgy. A quick calculation will reveal that this amounts to well over 3,000 *badaraks* – an astonishing testament to one man's spiritual, as well as physical,

Fr. Arten is survived by Yeretzhin Mary, his beloved wife of more than 60 years, and their children Zovinar and Arra.

The Divine Liturgy and Final Anointing was held on Monday, May 23, at St. Gregory the Enlightener Church.

Parishes in the Eastern Diocese will observe the 40th-day *karasoonk* service on Sunday, June 26.



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## COMMUNITY NEWS

# Chefs' Party Celebrates Armenian Heritage Park

By **Aram Arkun**

Mirror-Spectator Staff

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — The Armenian Heritage Park in Boston has been successful on many grounds up until now. It is a focal point for immigrants and tourists with its abstract sculpture and labyrinth, and a memorial to the Armenian Genocide and all genocides that have followed. Aside from attracting much attention from non-Armenians, it has brought together diverse elements of the Armenian community in its support. The Chefs' Party for Our Park benefit on May 18 at the Royal Sonesta Hotel in Cambridge was a prime example of this.

Nearly 300 guests sampled great food and drinks provided by over a dozen chefs and a number of comestible and beverage



Chef Seta Dakesian of Seta's Café serving guests (Photo Andrew Janjigian)



Chef Owner Alex Crabb of Asta with co-owner Shish Parsigian preparing for the guests (Photo Andrew Janjigian)

companies while the John Baboian Trio played jazz and Armenian melodies for the crowd. The guests were financially supporting the Armenian Heritage Park Foundation, which in turn maintains the park and its various public programs. More than \$200,000 was raised for the park's endowment fund. At the same time, the guests were creating stronger bonds between one another.

During the brief formal program, James Kalustian, president of the Armenian Heritage Park Foundation, thanked the guests and the

chefs for their support. He said: "One of the greatest accomplishments of the park and the process of putting the park together was the fellowship that we created in our community. And tonight is a wonderful example of the fellowship that has built across our entire community to unify in support of a cause that is dear to all of us."

The Sheriff of Middlesex County Peter Koutoujian, an honorary chair of the foundation's board of directors, said: "This Armenian Heritage Park brought us all together. Tonight we have the great blessing of having many Armenian friends and many non-Armenian friends getting together to help us celebrate this park, to contribute to this park, and to share their love and food."

Koutoujian pointed out former state Rep. Rachel Kaprielian, the other honorary chair of the board, in the audience, as well as Massachusetts state Sen. William N. Brownsberger (D-Belmont), a longtime supporter of Armenians.

Koutoujian thanked Kalustian as well as Donald and Barbara Tellalian for their leadership on the park and the foundation. Donald Tellalian is the designer and architect of the park. Barbara Tellalian served as the benefit chair. She, in collaboration with Chef Vicki Lee Boyajian of Vicki Lee's and Mark E. Mooradian, founder of MEM Tea and Karnak Farms, worked together to invite the chef participants.

These chefs were extraordinarily generous. They underwrote all their expenses and volunteered their time and



Chef Ed Robinson of Nubar at work (Aram Arkun Photo)



From left, Pastry Chef Nathan Kibarian, Bastille Kitchen; Chef Owner Brian Poe, Poe's Kitchen at The Rattlesnake, Tip Tap Room and Bukowski's Tavern and Chef Owner Jeffrey P. Fournier, 51 Lincoln (Andrew Kibarian photo)



From left, Alex Crabb, Astra; Steve DiFillippo, Davio's; Jeffrey P. Fournier, 51 Lincoln; Brian Poe, Poe's Kitchen at the Rattlesnake, Tip Tap Room, Bukowski Tavern; Ed Robinson, Nubar; Leo Romero, Casa Romero; Vicki Lee Boyajian, Vicki Lee's; Seta Dakessian, Seta's Cafe; Nathan Kibarian, Bastille Kitchen; Brian Dandro, ArtBar, Royal Sonesta, Mike Amiralian, 80 Thoreau; with Alvin Tsang, Cafenation (Photo: Andrew Janjigian)



A scene from the Chefs Party (Aram Arkun Photo)



## COMMUNITY NEWS



Chef Jeffrey P. Fournier of 51 Lincoln preparing some tasty food (Photo Aram Arkun)

labor. Each presented a “signature dish inspired by a parent, grandparent or mentor.” As Koutoujian announced their names, the chefs stepped forward and were given awards along with a great round of applause.

The Royal Sonesta Hotel, which hosted the event, itself was impressively generous in supporting the function.

Visitors left with gift bags full of donated nuts from Fastachi (Susan and Souren Etyemezian) and jelly from Harvest Song Artisanal Preserves (James Tufenkian).

Guests appeared most appreciative of the event. Dr. Jack Keverian, professor emeritus of Drexel University in Philadelphia, declared: “It is a wonderful event, not just because of the food but the people and the interactions with those who have a strong connection with the Heritage Park. We are all so delighted to be here.”

Kaspar Torosian, president of Hi Energy Oil Company and member of the Massachusetts Armenian Genocide Commemorative Committee, said: “I was here for the first chef’s night. I am here for this one, and I will be here for the next. These events are very enjoyable and successful. The Armenian Heritage Park is the most important thing that we have done in New England, if not in the whole country. We have a park right in the middle of Boston that tourists from all over get to see. They take pictures home and educate their friends and family.”



The John Baboian Trio (Baboian on guitar, Daniel Ian Smith on sax and Bruce Gertz on bass) (Photo Aram Arkun)



Cynthia Kazanjian with Ida and John Kolligian chatting near Armenian Heritage Park posters prior to the food presentation (Photo Andrew Janjigian)



Sub-Diaconate ordination of Matthew Bagdat by Archbishop Khajag Barsamian

## Holy Cross Church Of Union City Celebrates 110th Anniversary

ANNIVERSARY, from page 6

service to the Holy Cross community over the years – Diana Burggraf (Women’s Guild Chairlady), Alice Bozoyan and Alice Yigitkurt (Parish Council vice chair). The honorees were individually presented with a Pontifical Encyclical (Gontag) from Barsamian on behalf of the Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II, as well as a jeweled pendant pin with Armenian initials designed and donated by Gulian.

In their remarks, each of these human pillars gave thanks to their families, as well as to their Armenian heritage. They reviewed their experiences and impressions from the beginning of their affiliations with the Parish, through their respective commitments (Women’s Guild, Parish Council, Armenian School, Sunday School, ACYOA, Parish events, etc.) up to the present, and their hopes for the future of Holy Cross.

The program came to a close with congratulatory remarks and a benediction by Barsamian.

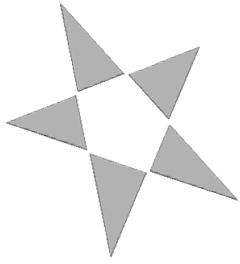
Members of the Anniversary Committee: Very Rev. Fr. Vazken Karayan (President), Lori Zoklu (Chairlady), Sercan Zoklu (Co-Chairman), Sylvia Bozoyan (Booklet/Reservations), Hirant Gulian, Berch Manukian, Ann Dadaian, Elizabeth Akian, Sonya Bekarian, Ruby Gulian, Arsham Bekarian and Nayad Manukian.



Guests at the Banquet



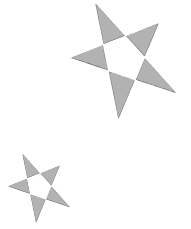
Banquet Executive Committee (Left to right) - Sercan Zoklu (Co-Chair), Hirant Gulian (Master of Ceremonies), Lori Zoklu (Chairlady), Very Rev Fr Vazken Karayan (Pastor), Sylvia Bozoyan (Booklet/Reservations).

**COMMUNITY NEWS**

# Chefs Party for Our Park!

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**Chef Owner Jeffrey P. Fournier**  
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**Chef Owner Leo Romero**  
Casa Romero

**Chef Mike Amiralian**  
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**Chef Owner Seta Dakessian**  
Seta's Café

**Chef Owner Steve DiFillippo**  
Davio's

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Vicki Lee's

**Pastry Chef Nathan Kibarian**  
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# Arts & Living

## AMAA Board Member Edward Avedisian Receives Ellis Island Medal Of Honor

NEW YORK – The Ellis Island Medal of Honor has been awarded each year since 1986. It recognizes individuals who have made it their mission to share with those less fortunate their wealth of knowledge, indomitable courage, boundless compassion, unique talents and selfless generosity; all the while maintaining the traditions of their ethnic heritage as they embody the American Dream.

This year, Edward Avedisian was not only one of the distinguished recipients of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, but was one of a very select few invited to give his personal remarks at the ceremony. The ceremony was held on Ellis Island on Saturday, May 7.

The professional career of Avedisian spans four disciplines: a performing symphonic musician, teaching at the university level, arts administration, as well as investing and philanthropy. He retired after 30 years of service as clarinetist with the Boston Pops and 43 seasons with the Boston Ballet Orchestra. Outside of the United States, he has appeared as soloist with the Armenian State Philharmonic, the Armenian Radio and TV Orchestra and the National Chamber Orchestra of Armenia, and was visiting artist to Boston's sister city of Hangzhou, China, in 1998.

His success as a private investor led him to establish endowments and award grants to a number of nonprofit organizations. At the American University of Armenia (AUA) he fully funded the Center for Health Studies and Research and the Center for Business Research & Development. He was principal benefactor



Edward Avedisian

and chair of the construction committee (2005-2009) of the new 100,000 sq. ft. Paramaz Avedisian Building and was appointed to the Presidential Search Committee for AUA by Dr. C. Judson King, former Provost of the University of California and Chair of the AUA Board of Trustees.

Others of note include the founder and principal benefactor of both the Khoren and Shooshanig Avedisian K-12 School and Community Center in Malatia-Sepastia, Armenia (a seven-building complex), and sole benefactor and chair of the AUA Oversight Committee for the Nork Marash Medical Center (bringing the Hospital up to U.S. standards in 2004-2005). Avedisian also serves as Trustee for the American University of Armenia, and as Board member of the Armenian Missionary Association of America. As a founder and sole supporter of the Friends of the American University of Armenia, his contributions include a complete renovation of the High School in Haghtanag Village (2008-2009)

see MEDAL, page 16



Students in the Sts. Tarkmanchatz Secondary School computer lab donated by Save the ArQ

## Save the ArQ Provides a New Computer Lab to Jerusalem School

CHICAGO – As part of its mission to revitalize the Armenian Quarter of Jerusalem, the non-profit organization, Save the ArQ, based in Chicago made a contribution to the Sts. Tarkmanchatz secondary school in Jerusalem to strengthen its educational mission. Earlier this year, Save the ArQ donated 20 desktop computers and one projector as part of Save the ArQ's dedication to improve the educational standard of the Armenian community of Jerusalem.

This is not the first time that Save the ArQ has contributed to the educational objectives of the school. In 2014, the organization donated laboratory equipment in order to strengthen the scientific curriculum of the school. In the past year, Save the ArQ has been active in raising funds for the school. The Chair, Mary Hoogasian said: "Save the ArQ has been fortunate to work with many talented Armenians both within Jerusalem's Armenian community and here, in the US, to raise much-needed funds which have recently benefited the children at Sts. Tarkmanchatz School – they are the future of a vital Armenian community within Jerusalem. It is also critical that we support and rebuild our shrinking community within the Old City of Jerusalem. We cannot take this for granted."

One of the major problems facing the school is its inability to enroll more students due to its physically small classrooms. Save the ArQ is currently in discussions with the school administration regarding its pending plans to enlarge classrooms to be able to enroll more students. Earlier this year, Prof. Bedross Der Matossian, co-chair of Save the ArQ and alumnus of the school, visited Jerusalem and met with the Dean of Sts. Tarkmanchatz secondary school, Fr. Norayr Kazazian and was briefed about the latest developments in the school and the ways in which the organization can contribute to the further development of the school. Fr. Kazazian said: "We are deeply touched by the interest and appreciativeness that Save the ArQ showed in the work of our school. We owe much of our achievements to kind hearted donors, whose help and encouraging attitude towards our school inspires us with a great sense of security and solidarity." Der Matossian also met with the Real Estate Director of the Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem, Very Rev. Baret Yeritzian and discussed the Patriarchate's plans to expand classroom space in order to increase student enrollment. Der Matossian said: "In the past decade and under the tenure of Fr. Norayr Kazazian, the dean of Sts. Tarkmanchatz, the school has experienced major transformations in terms of staff, curriculum, and renovation of the school grounds. These improvements will make Sts. Tarkmanchatz one of the best private schools in Jerusalem. Currently, one of the outstanding issues is the expansion of the kindergarten and the secondary school classrooms. Save the ArQ is eager to be a part of this exciting project. We are committed to strengthening the school as part of our larger commitment to revitalize the Armenian community of Jerusalem."

In the past few years and with the support of hundreds of donors, Save the ArQ has been able to raise funds in order to implement these projects. As part of its development efforts, Save the ArQ has organized lectures, symposia as well as fundraisers highlighting the works of Armenian artists from the Armenian Quarter of Jerusalem. It is noteworthy to mention that contributions have been made by the Save the ArQ's Honorable Board members which include international artisan Michael Aram, James Beard Award Winner Chef Carrie Nahabedian and Michael Nahabedian—owners of the prestigious Michelin star Naha and Brindille Restaurants both in Chicago. Hoogasian said: "Save the ArQ's Board and Honorary Board hold deep admiration and pride for Jerusalem's Armenian Quarter – as do our incredible supporters. As Armenians, it is our duty to sustain and maintain this incredible piece of Armenian history."

Save the ArQ is the only non-profit specifically dedicated to Jerusalem's Armenian Quarter. It was established to help revitalize the vastly dwindling community and to promote Armenian life and culture that has existed in this area for nearly two millennia. For more information or to make a donation, visit [www.savethearq.org](http://www.savethearq.org).

## A Century of Violence

### Revisiting the Armenian Genocide

By Walter Kalaidjian

For a century, the Armenian Genocide has remained an indelible black mark on the ledger of modernity. The systematic murder of over one million Armenians perpetrated by Ottoman Turkish authorities during World War I bequeathed a legacy of trauma whose delayed recognition has unfolded only gradually. In the classic formula of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), the shock of an initiating event inaugurates but fails to contain or resolve all of its repercussions. The trauma of genocide stretches out over time to possess victims, bystanders, and perpetrators through a pattern of latency and repetition.

In the Armenian case, however, the symptoms of historical trauma are particularly acute and persist owing to Turkey's longstanding campaign of state-sponsored genocide denial. For Jean Baudrillard, the post-trauma of Armenian genocide denial became a defining instance of the postmodern condition generally, marked as it is by the erosion of historical certainty: "We are like the Armenians," he wryly noted in his 1990 essay "Necrospective," "who wear themselves out trying to prove that they were massacred [...] a proof that is unattainable, useless, yet in some sense vital." More recently, on the occasion of the genocide's centenary of 1915, Pope Francis cited the Armenian case as "the first genocide of the 20th century." Moreover, he added, in a pointed allusion to Turkey's ongoing genocide denial, that "concealing or denying evil is like allowing a wound to keep bleeding without bandaging it."

At the centenary of the event last year, four books – two histories and two memoirs – revisit the scene of the Armenian genocide, bearing witness to its aftermath as it troubles our own moment. The journalist and historian Vicken Cheterian's *Open Wounds: Armenians, Turks, and a Century of Genocide* adopts a rhetorical figure similar to the Pope's as the title for its rigorous, historical study of genocide denial. Cheterian examines genocide's aftereffects as they have befallen millions of Armenians both in diasporic communities around the globe and in the homelands of Turkey, Armenia, and Nagorno-Karabakh. Similarly, Meline Toumani's memoir *There Was and There Was Not* plays on the well-known formula that begins Armenian folk tales (*Gar u chgar*) to suggest the ways in which memory denied and deferred unsettles historical certainty. In contrast to Cheterian, Toumani offers an intimate, autobiographical witnessing to the pathology of genocide denial as it upends archival records, thwarts recognition and restitution, and thereby frustrates the process of communal healing in the public sphere.

Reading Cheterian's historical study against Toumani's personal memoir makes for a provocative case study of the vicissitudes in narrating the Armenian genocide and its aftermath. Not surprisingly, both Cheterian and Toumani recount many of the same characters, events, and scenes that have, for many Armenians and scholars of Turkish genocide denial, become the well-worn Stations of the Cross. For example, both Cheterian and Toumani discuss Turkey's erasure of Armenian cultural sites, place names, and property rights with particular attention to the UNESCO protected status of Akhtamar's Cathedral of the Holy Cross and the compromised plot to restore it as a secular museum in 2007. Notably, among several other similarities, both revisit the

see VIOLENCE, page 14



# A Century of Violence: Revisiting the Armenian Genocide

VIOLENCE, from page 13

controversy surrounding Sabiha Gokcen, the iconic Turkish aviator and namesake of the Istanbul's Sabiha Gokcen International Airport, who in 2007 was revealed to be the adopted Armenian daughter of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, founder of the modern Turkish republic. Finally, both Cheterian and Toumani examine Hillary Clinton's failed 2009 diplomatic efforts to help Turkey and Armenia reach a bilateral accord.

Putting the two works into conversation, however, reveals telling differences in approach, political emphasis, and personal encounter. Unlike Cheterian, who offers a fairly straightforward historical account, Toumani filters her personal narrative through a decidedly subjective lens. She begins with her childhood anxieties of attending summers at Camp Haiastan, founded by the Armenian Youth Federation and Armenian Revolutionary Federation (ARF) that together make up the Hay Heghapokhagan Dashnaktsutyun (the Dashnak Party). There, she is exposed to an obsessive regimen of Armenian nationalism, genocide commemoration, and restitution demands. This strong agenda would lead her, paradoxically enough, to eschew the diasporic politics of genocide recognition. "To me," she writes, recognition "came to mean that I could no longer stand to attend any Armenian gathering, because it seemed that whether it was a poetry reading, a concert, or even a sporting match, it was always, ultimately, about the genocide." In a 2014 article in *The Nation* she argued that Armenians' "obsession with 1915 was destroying us. Emotional logic seemed feeble; I thought I needed geopolitics to make the case. But the case, at its heart, was emotional." In a subsequent *New York Times* piece on Gomidas, the Armenian musician and traumatized survivor of the events of 1915, the word "genocide" does not appear. "In truth," she writes, "the choice was mine [...] Genocide sounds clinical, like the textbook name for a chemical compound or a disease. [...] Genocide sounds like lobbying and politics."

Uneasy with the terminology of genocide herself, Toumani nevertheless derides the geopolitics of refusing to name the events of 1915 genocide as, for example, when Barack Obama disingenuously substitutes the euphemism *Meds Yeghern* or "great catastrophe" to avoid a Turkish state backlash. In the end, however, Toumani's own ambivalence errs on the side of a somewhat narcissistic agenda of self-discovery and independent individualism: one that comes to defend, symptomatically perhaps, against the traumatizing force of 1915. "I went to Turkey and I wrote this book," she concludes, "because I was trying to understand how history, identity, my clan, and my feeling of obligation to it, had defined me, and I wanted to understand who I was outside of that obligation — who, if anyone."

While Toumani's memoir waffles on the geopolitics and psychic legacy of genocide denial, she nevertheless offers granular insights into the vicissitudes of revisiting contemporary Turkey from her subject position as an Armenian American. To her credit, she offers telling examples of the micro-aggressions visited on Armenians in everyday life where even mentioning one's Armenian heritage brings on the routine comment of "Olsun," or "so be it." "Over and over," as Toumani explains, "when I told people I was Armenian, they said simply, 'Olsun.' Olsun, we'll manage. Olsun, it's not your fault. Olsun, so you were born into a traitorous and unpleasant people, what can you do?" Likewise, she offers an insider's perspective on the cultural contradictions shaping the Armenian narrative in Turkey, such as the comments on Hrant Dink's assassination made on the TV show Popstar Alaturka by transsexual LGBT icon Bulent Ersoy ("I absolutely don't accept that 'We are all Armenian' slogan. If it were only 'We are all Hrant' that would express our unity. But I am not Christian, so even if you tied me up I could never say that I am Armenian ... I'm a Muslim girl and I will die a Muslim"), or the tensions that exploded between the Glendale diasporic and Istanbul Armenian basketball teams as they clashed on the court of the Vazgen

Sargsyan Republican Stadium in Yerevan during the Pan-Armenian games of 2007. In such moments Toumani's personal narrative offers fascinating insights into the everyday lives of Turks and Armenians in Turkey. But however illuminating and entertaining, her memoir is uneven, finally, on the diasporic politics of genocide recognition.

Equally troubling, she tends to mute the political turmoil and commitment of figures such as Hrant Dink and Taner Akçam. Compared with Cheterian's painstaking historicism, Toumani backgrounds their political struggles inside Turkey in favor of narrating her own one-on-one exchanges with them. Dink, a longtime political activist and editor of the widely read bilingual Turkish-Armenian newspaper *Agos* who was assassinated in 2007, is recollected as a family man who, she writes, "had read and appreciated the essay I had written in the Nation." Not insignificantly, Toumani limits the details of Dink's biography to growing up in an orphanage run by the Armenian Protestant church, meeting his future wife Rakel at a summer camp, and "decades later," she writes, "pious Christians both, they helped rebuild the camp with their own hands. They had four children and a second grandchild was on the way."

In *Open Wounds*, Cheterian goes beyond Toumani's admiring account of Dink the family man to offer a detailed account of his commitments to the Tuzla church camp. He devotes considerable space to historicizing Turkish repressions of the camp's leader Pastor Guzelian, including his 1979 arrest and torture. Equally important, Cheterian links Dink's stance on the camp to his "other formative influence," namely his political association with fellow students at the Tbrebank boarding school, which Cheterian describes as "a hotbed of socialist ideas and secret Communist societies." Although Dink came to distance himself from such Maoist revolutionary-inspired organizations as the Workers' and Peasants' Liberation Army of Turkey, he was nevertheless imprisoned after the September 1980 military coup and subjected to torture over a 45-day internment. Similarly, whereas Toumani mainly narrates the devastating effect Dink's assassination had on her, Cheterian provides a well-documented account of the events and politics leading up to the assassination as well as the controversy surrounding the involvement of so-called Deep State's actors such as Kemal Kerincisiz and Veli Kuçuk in the murder, otherwise attributed to a rogue band of ultra-nationalists. For her part, Toumani focuses on the arrest of Ogun Samast and somewhat vaguely alludes to "a network of people — including some with ties to Turkish intelligence and security forces — who were behind the assassination."

Likewise, Toumani presents a rather casual account of Turkish scholar Taner Akçam who, in her words, "had fled Turkey in the 1970s after getting in trouble as a political activist." Once again, Toumani's point of identification seems rather self-centered, regarding Akçam's alienation from fellow Turks as a mirror image of her own fraught relation to the diasporic Armenian community: "This was a kind of alienation I was testing out in my own life, not exactly by design," she writes. Cheterian, however, provides us with a compelling biography of Akçam's radical credentials reaching back to his early admiration of Deniz Gezmiş, founder of the People's Liberation Army of Turkey, Akçam's editorship of the journal *Devrimci Gençlik* (Revolutionary Youth), his arrest and detainment in the Ankara central prison, his sentencing to 750 years in jail (later reduced under pressure from Amnesty International to an eight-year sentence), his eventual escape from Ankara prison by excavating a tunnel, leading to his eventual emigration via Aintab to Aleppo and finally Munich, where he was again arrested as an illegal immigrant and later achieved political asylum. Moreover, Cheterian details Akçam's return to Syria, following the 1980 military crackdown on leftist activists. There, he organized the United Resistance Front Against Fascism with ties to Abdullah Öcalan, the founder of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK). Finally, Cheterian considers how

Akçam's research into the Armenian Genocide led him to focus less on revolutionary Marxism and more on the campaign for human rights within Turkey.

Cheterian's nuanced historical research on the Armenian Genocide, however, is not immune from the trauma of the event as such. Indeed, he opens his book with a telling admission:

I never thought I would write a book on the Armenian Genocide. Simply reading about that history was unbearably painful. As a kid, while growing up in a country in war, I did not want to be associated with survivors of massacres. As an adult, even if I worked in conflict zones reporting and analysing wars and revolutions, I tried as much as possible to avoid reading and writing about the Genocide.

Unlike Toumani, however, Cheterian devotes himself not so much to his personal stake in the Armenian case, as to a communal commitment to assessing "the price we have collectively paid, and the consequences for providing impunity in a crime of such magnitude."

Thus *Open Wounds* offers a readable summary of events leading up to 1915: the failure of Ottoman Empire reform efforts beginning with the Tanzimat declaration of 1839, the Imperial Reform Edict of 1856, the constitution of 1876, leading to the Hamidian massacres of 1894–'96, the Adana massacre of 1909, and the final solution of mass ethnic cleansing planned and executed by the Committee of Union and Progress (CUP). Similarly, he traces Armenia's place within the Ottoman Empire reaching back to the early modern period, through the formation of the Social Democrat Hunchakian Party in 1887 and the nationalist Dashnaktsutyun, Armenian Revolutionary Federation of 1890, as well as the close ties initially between the Armenian intelligentsia and the leadership of the CUP who would later resolve to exterminate them. Cheterian pays sustained attention to the official Turkish narrative of the events of 1915, the Turkish Republic's retrospective accounts of the massacres in the decades following, the state's modern efforts to repress what was a widely reported story of the massacres in the early 20th century. In addition, he documents the persistence of Turkey's "negation industry" aimed at denying and discrediting historical accounts of the genocide, and he recounts the perennial politics of genocide recognition and denial played out in the United States Congress and internationally. He also provides insightful glimpses into the "re-awakening" of memory work on the part of so-called "Crypto-Armenians," descendants of genocide survivors within Turkey whose family legacies were erased as the price of their assimilation into the modern Turkish state.

Cheterian does not shy away from a more disturbing aspect of the genocide's legacy where the quest for justice denied over generations spills over into the violence of reprisals, revenge, and terrorism on the part of such organizations as the Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia (ASALA) and Justice Commandos of the Armenian Genocide (JCAG). Both of these groups can trace their roots to the long-secreted post-World War I plot to assassinate the CUP leadership. Christened "Operation Nemesis" after the classical goddess of retributive justice, this plot also provides the basis for playwright and performer Eric Bogosian's book *Operation Nemesis: The Assassination Plot that Avenged the Armenian Genocide*. Bogosian recalls listening, as a child, to the stories of his grandfather who escaped the genocide by hiding in a wheat field with his mother while Turks burned their village to the ground. "My grandfather," Bogosian recalls, "would instruct me, 'If you ever meet a Turk, kill him.'"

Delivered part in jest and part in earnest, his grandfather's desire for vengeance nevertheless left a childhood impression whose latency would stretch into Bogosian's coming of age. Like other Armenian Americans of his generation such as Peter Balakian, Bogosian grew up in an ambivalent relation to his grandparents' trauma of genocide survival. "I understood from a young age," he writes,

"that I was an 'Armenian,' and this meant

that my family, like countless other Armenian families, had lost loved ones at the hands of the Turks. [...] Horrible things had happened back in "the old country," but there was a disconnect between that carnage and my sweet existence as a suburban teenager [...] As I began my career as an author and actor, I refrained from emphasizing my roots. I didn't want to be pigeonholed as an exotic "ethnic" actor, and if I was going to write about the human condition, I would represent the world I knew, the leafy suburbs of New England and, later, the streets of New York City, not the harsh plains of Anatolia, of which I had no direct experience. The Armenian history that I had come to know through my grandfather's stories was not my history.

The disavowed legacy of genocide comes to claim Bogosian nevertheless, some four decades later, when he reads about Talaat Pasha's 1921 assassination by Soghomon Tehlirian. As Bogosian begins to sense a secret backstory to the official account of Tehlirian as a lone gunman, he begins to research the case for a screenplay tailor-made for a major Hollywood blockbuster. "I had finally found an Armenian subject," he reflects, "that would challenge me as a writer and memorialize my beloved grandfather."

Bogosian's book is part history, part action narrative. It opens with a thumbnail sketch of "The Rise of Empire" that covers the major battles and religious tensions between the ancient Armenian homelands and the burgeoning Ottoman Empire from the first century AD through the 19th century; in chapter two, Bogosian turns to the rule of Abdul Hamid II and his resistance to the Tanzimat constitutional reform movement promulgated by the "Young Ottomans," the precursors to the Young Turks, revisiting the tensions between Hamidiye Kurdish forces and the Turkish army leading up to the Massacres of Armenians in 1894, 1895, and 1896. However, in recounting the Dashnak Armenian Revolutionary Federation's occupation of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, Bogosian the screenwriter comes to the fore, as his rhetoric nods toward the discursive conventions of the action genre. Narrating the subsequent impasse among the ARF occupiers, Sultan Abdul Hamid's troops, and the British military — charged with securing the bank's European assets — Bogosian notes that "Abdul Hamid blinked and stood down his guns. It was a three-way stand-off." In this way, Eastern Turkey, he writes, was "not unlike America's 'wild West,' rife with famine, disease, and lawlessness." In these badlands, Bogosian admires the emerging Dashnak party as "a truly dangerous terrorist organization," citing it in Part II's opening chapter entitled "Tehlirian Goes to War" as a key precursor for the vendetta plotted by Operation Nemesis after 1915.

From here on out, Bogosian offers up a narrative of intrigue and vengeance worthy of a Mission: Impossible script. Along the way, Bogosian compares Tehlirian's personal project of saving Armenian war orphans from forced conversion to Islam to Fethiye Cetin's *My Grandmother*, also featured in the sections on Crypto-Armenian descendants in Cheterian and Toumani's accounts of present-day Turkey. Following the 1918 Armistice of Mudros, Tehlirian becomes somewhat of an orphan himself, but one bent on payback: "If he could not find his mother or his family, Tehlirian would find revenge." Arriving in Constantinople, "Tehlirian," in Bogosian's hyperbolic words, "was twenty-two years old and only weeks away from his first kill." Bogosian refers here to Tehlirian's "stalking" and shooting of Harutiun Megerdichian, a Turkish collaborator in the 1915 rounding up and murder of Armenian intellectuals. Bogosian's cinematic narrative style crosscuts between Tehlirian's "stalking" of Megerdichian on the mean streets of Constantinople and the broader history of the ARF's international agenda to "clear the debt" of the CUP's war crimes. Thus, under the auspices of the 1919 "Special Mission" (Hadug Kordz), conceived at Yerevan's Ninth General Congress of the ARF, and "Operation Nemesis," launched by the ARF's affiliate group in Boston a year later, a "Special Fund"



## ARTS &amp; LIVING

(Hadug Kumar) would be established to recruit, equip, and enable a “Special Corps” (Hadug Marmin) of killer elites to execute the planned assassinations of the CUP’s leaders, along with a host of other Turkish governors, police chiefs, and military commanders.

Weaving a tale worthy of Ian Fleming or John le Carré, Bogosian traces Tehlirian’s passage to Paris, where he is summoned secretly by letter to book passage to New York and then Boston where he is vetted and admitted into an international “world of spies.” Tehlirian is presented with the photographs and recent itineraries of targets such as Talat, Enver, and Djemal, given the code name of “Simon Tavitian,” and dispatched back to Europe through Le Havre. Returning to Paris with a new passport and forged student identity papers, Tehlirian would arrive in Geneva to be briefed on a mission that would take him to Berlin in December 1920 “hunting for Talat.” “Like an eagle on a high perch,” Bogosian observes in Chapter 6: The Hunt, “Tehlirian searched for any sign of his prey,” eventually murdering his “quarry” months later in March 1921 in broad daylight on the Hardenbergstrasse. The historic parallels and ethical ironies linking the killings of the “Armenian hunters” and those of their Ottoman “victims” are not entirely lost on Bogosian. “Both the ARF and the CUP,” he writes

“were underground organizations with no compunctions about deploying violence in order to achieve their goals. They were neither democratic nor entirely legal, dependent on secrecy and hierarchy for smooth operations. As a result, each recognized in the opposing party a shared code of violence and clandestine methodology. Raymond Kévorkian, the venerable historian of the Armenian Genocide, put it this way when he spoke with me in Paris: “You must understand. The Tashnags [Dashnaks] and the Ittihad, they were like lovers who now hated one another.”

One difference between the CUP and the ARF, of course, is that the former sought to hide its premeditated genocide from public view, while the latter staged its terrorism so as to focus world attention on Tehlirian’s trial. The ARF’s aim was to publicize the assassin as “an agent of retribution” for the CUP’s crimes against an entire people.

Bogosian employs the trial transcripts and prior scholarship of figures such as Tessa Hofmann in the manner of a courtroom thriller. He offers a gripping account of the judicial “tightrope” both Tehlirian and the German prosecution walked in negotiating, on the one hand, the immediate facts of the case and, on the other, the spectacle of genocide recognition that the trial put on view for an international audience. In the end, the ARF had it both ways, managing both to keep Operation Nemesis a secret while also placing in the public record detailed eyewitness testimony to the Armenian massacres by “star witnesses” such as Dr. Johannes Lepsius, General Otto Liman von

Sanders, and Grigoris Balakian. Ultimately the judge and jury, influenced by the medical consensus view that Tehlirian was suffering from an unprecedented historical trauma and persuaded that his vengeance was just, acquitted Tehlirian of the killing.

In the final third of his book, Bogosian toggles back and forth between offering a reliable history of other Operation Nemesis assassins such as Arshavir Shiragian, Haroutiun Haroutiunian, Yervant Fundukian, Misak Torlakian, and Arshag Yezdanian and a sensationalist potboiler that invokes, by his own account, “the imagery of an action movie.”

In relating subsequent assassinations, the verbal character of Bogosian’s narrative becomes nearly obsessive as, for example, when he repeats the phrase “gunned down” three times in four pages, and characterizes killers such as Shiragian as “a born fighter,” “robust,” and “cocksure”: one who “relished the conflict” with “a more elegant killing technique.” Such charged rhetoric renders Bogosian’s attempts to otherwise gain historical distance on the violence of Armenian terrorism problematic. Bogosian stops short of condoning terrorist acts such as Gourgen Yanikian’s 1973 murder of two Turkish diplomats whom he lured to the Santa Barbara Biltmore Hotel under the pretense of returning a painting stolen from the Sultan’s palace a century earlier. But he also describes Yanikian’s followers, who formed the Gourgen Yanikian Group and later the Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia (ASALA) in somewhat sympathetic and decidedly volatile terms: “Young men in southern California and Lebanon, furious that the tragedy of their murdered grandparents had been forgotten, found one another as their collective anger compressed into a powder keg of pent-up fury.” Bogosian documents the mayhem of the ASALA and its counterpart the Armenian Revolutionary Army, or Justice Commandos, in part planned and in part bungled as in the accidental Orly Airport bombing of 1983. He also notes the ASALA’s ties to the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and heinous figures such as Abu Nidal, inspiration for the ultraviolent Fatah – The Revolutionary Council, better known as the Abu Nidal Organization. He admits that “murdering those who had had no direct hand in the tragedy [of genocide] was sickening” and politically, the ASALA’s terrorism had the political effect on Turkish diplomats of “stiffening a resolve never to admit to the ‘so-called genocide.’” Yet his study clearly traces the precedent for these more recent crimes back precisely to the violence of Operation Nemesis, whose assassins are lionized in heroic terms: “As holy warriors, they believed their domain to be spiritual, not political. Their job was to exact some fraction of justice.”

Parsing out the motives and rationales of such revenge killings, Bogosian ends up on somewhat dubious ethical grounds: “We live in a world,” he concludes,

“where we attempt to achieve consistency in rule of law. The concept of “law” demands it. Yet the men and women of Operation Nemesis did what governments could not. They were appealing to a higher, final justice. One that exists somewhere between heaven and earth.”

To his credit, Bogosian offers up a readable report on Operation Nemesis and its legacy: one that is compelling and full of action-packed intrigue. Yet, especially now in our moment, we recognize such troubling idealizations of blood violence – somehow on the way toward “heaven” – as the common coin of the realm that would prop up terrorist states and their cells around the globe.

Bogosian’s fantasies of heroic retribution aside, the most arresting and authentic access we have to the events of 1915 remain the eyewitness accounts provided by the actual survivors of the Armenian genocide. These firsthand narratives are preserved in video testimony archives compiled by organizations such as the Zoryan Institute for Contemporary Armenian Research and Documentation, or in the correspondence documents aggregated by, say, Viscount Bryce in his classic *The Treatment of Armenians in the Ottoman Empire, 1915-16*, or in the memoirs of figures such as Grigoris Balakian, Armen Anush, Shahen Derderian, American Ambassador Henry Morgenthau, and many more. An indispensable addition to this archive is Karnig Panian’s *Goodbye, Antoura: A Memoir of the Armenian Genocide*. Published at the centenary by Stanford University Press, Simon Beugekian’s new translation into English of Panian’s 1992 memoir, composed originally in Western Armenian, is framed by a historically precise introduction and afterword by Keith David Watenpaugh, co-director of the University of California Human Rights Collaboration.

Panian’s account of his entire extended family’s extermination – through deportation to the Syrian Desert region of Deir-al-Zor and the death camp outside Hama, followed by his sole survival and submission to forced Turkification at the notorious orphanage at Antoura – gains striking pertinence when read against similar legacies of child abduction and trafficking that define so many family narratives of the so-called Crypto-Armenians recounted by Cheterian and Toumani. As Watenpaugh astutely points out, Panian’s journey describes a less discussed, but nonetheless key criterion set out in Article 2, section E of the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, namely: “Genocide means any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such: [...] Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.” In this vein, the Antoura orphanage was originally planned by Djemal Pasha as part of the CUP’s nationalist regime that would erase the family histories of Christian Armenians and acculturate them to

the language and identity of Ottoman Turks. As a modernist institution, Antoura became a misguided experiment in civic reform-minded pedagogy led by the American-educated Halide Edip Adivar. In Panian’s experience, however, the daily regimen exacted by the schoolmasters at Antoura were a far cry from the Montessori-based training Edip ostensibly espoused. More medieval than modern, discipline at Antoura was as vicious as it was brutal: boys who spoke Armenian or crossed themselves at prayer (including Panian himself) were beaten unconscious by tens and literally hundreds of bastinado lashings to the soles of their feet. Although not as severe as the death camps of Deir-al-Zor, starvation and disease were the other specters that presided over everyday life at Antoura. “In those days at Antoura,” Panian recalls, “it was so easy to die, and so hard to survive.”

In horrific details that rival those of Holocaust survivors like Tadeusz Borowski, Panian testifies to the inhuman terms of survival in Antoura. Scavenging, theft, and ultimately necro-cannibalism all take their toll on the souls of Antoura’s inmates:

The boys who stole vegetables from the fields sometimes brought back the bones of other dead orphans, which the jackals dug up from the shallow graves. The boys ground them into a powder and drank it with water. Our hunger made us desperate, and it dehumanized us [...] We often didn’t know what kinds of bones we were taking back to the others, nor did we bother to figure it out. We had sunk that low.

Such grim scenes present Panian’s survival as a desperate and ironic fate having escaped Hama’s “apocalyptic vision” of thirst, starvation, and death that overtook in relentless succession his mother, sister, brother, grandparents, and friends. These and other innumerable losses and blows to Panian’s childhood humanity, lead him in retrospect to err understandably on the side of reparative narration – framing the imprint of trauma with, on the one hand, serene memories that idealize the remembered, Armenian community before the genocide and, on the other, heroic expectations for the careers of survivor peers going forward. Before 1915, life in the family’s cherry orchards of the Ottoman Empire are recollected as a “garden of Eden,” where Panian’s grandfather spent Sundays in church extolling “the glory of God.” Likewise, Panian remembers his mother as “the personification of love and joy.”

After the genocide, Panian is charged with the responsibility of living out by proxy the achievements otherwise denied to his classmates who did not survive. “We had to grow into respectable men,” he affirms, “and restore our nation’s honor [...] Now, we had to work as hard as possible to rebuild our shattered lives.” Following the liberation of Antoura and his rescue by the Near East Relief, Karnig Panian spent the rest of his life striving to compensate for the ravages of Antoura. As vice principal and longtime educator at Djemaran, the Armenian Lyceum in Beirut, Panian became finally one of the “respectable men” whose careers were otherwise denied to thousands of orphans who did not outlast the genocide.

Published at the centenary, each of these four works makes an indispensable contribution to the archive of the Armenian Genocide. But revisiting that archive, however necessary, does not lead finally to a reparative cure for the ills of the traumatic past, a past that remains, in Pope Francis’s figure, an open wound. Writing against the violence of distortion, disavowal, and genocide denial, Cheterian, Toumani, Bogosian, and Panian would discern truths that are authentic, definitive, and historically unassailable. Yet they also wrestle with the enigma, in Toumani’s formula, of “what was and was not”: what can be known and what remains radically unknowable in trauma’s aftermath. Possessed by revenants of vengeance or specters of unspeakable loss, each gives testimony to the returns of traumatic memory where history and memoir come together, but not as one.

(Walter Kalaidjian is professor and chair of the English Department at Emory University. This essay originally appeared in the *Los Angeles Review of Books*.)

# Mirror Spectator Seeks Summer Intern

The Armenian Mirror-Spectator is seeking an intern for a six-week program this summer (mid-July through August). The intern will receive a \$150 weekly stipend provided through the Armenian Students’ Association of America’s Internship Program.

The intern should be in college or graduate school. If interested, please contact Aram Arkun at [tcadirector.com](http://tcadirector.com) or call 617 924-4420.

# Ardzagang TV Celebrates 20th Anniversary with Gala

LODI, N.J. — On May 14, Ardzagang Armenian TV of East Coast celebrated its 20th anniversary.

Nearly 300 guests partook in the celebration at the Elan in Lodi.

Among the guests during the evening were Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America and Bishop Anoushavan Tanielian, Vicar General of the Eastern Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church, Zohrab Mnatsakanyan, Armenia's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Rep. Scott Garret, Very Rev. Mamigon Kiledjian, Rev. Hovnan Bozoian, businessman Hratch Kaprielian, as well as many more welcomed distinguished friends and guests.

After opening prayer by Tanielian, the American and Armenian national anthems were presented by singer Jenny Sarian.

Garrett gave a speech greeting all guests, and congratulating Ardzagang's Ara Manoukian, president, Marina Madosyan, director, and the planning committee members on the 20th anniversary of Ardzagang TV.

While mentioning the importance of American-Armenian friendship, he promised to support in strengthening the bonds between Armenians in the diaspora and Congress.

Then a proclamation by Sen. Charles E. Schumer was presented by Maggie

Kouyoumdjian, a proclamation by Sen. Robert Menendez was presented by Elvin Arzuman, and a proclamation by Rep. Frank Pallone was presented by Dr. Herand Markarian.

Under the auspices of Archbishop Oshagan Choloyan, Bishop Tanielian, presented the congratulatory decree (kondak) from Aram I, Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia addressed to Ara Manoukian from Ardzagang Armenian TV.

Mnatsakanyan greeted the Armenian Community and congratulated Ardzagang, and presented the Gold Medal from the Ministry of Diaspora of the Republic of Armenia to Manoukian for loyal and dedicated service to the Armenian Community in the US and for support in strengthening bonds between Armenian and American people.

Barsamian congratulated Ardzagang TV on this meaningful occasion and wished Ardzagang many years of service and success. The

Surb Sahak-Surb Mesrop Gold medals and encyclical from Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians were presented to Ara Manoukian and Marina Madosyan. The congratulatory Decree (Kondak) from Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians was presented to Manoukian by Very Rev. Mamigon Kiledjian.

Ardzagang recognized Hratch Kaprielian as



From left, Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Marina Madosyan and Ara Manoukian



From left, Marina Madosyan, Ara Manoukian, Hratch Kaprielian, Bishop Anoushavan Tanielian, Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Ambassador Zohrab Mnatsakanyan, and Rep. Scott Garret



Ambassador Zohrab Mnatsakanyan and Ara Manoukian



From left, Marina Madosyan, Archbishop Khajag Barsamian and Ara Manoukian

## AMAA Board Member Edward Avedisian Receives Ellis Island Medal of Honor

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and the installation of a cluster of lights and trees at the Didzernaghapt Armenian Genocide Memorial. He has twice been awarded the Movses Khorentasi Medal by Armenia's President Sargsyan for Contributions to Education, Culture, Literature and the Arts in 2008 and 2014. In the United States, key endeavors are: established the Paramaz Avedisian Pharmacy Scholarship at the University of Rhode Island, Boston University

Medical School (Chobanian Professorship) and BU Tanglewood Scholarship, and an endowed chair for the Boston Ballet Orchestra.

Avedisian was born in 1937 in Pawtucket, RI, where he attended public school and was president of his graduating class. He furthered his education on a scholarship to Boston University where he earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in music.

He is married to Pamela Wood and they currently reside in Lexington, Mass.

"2016 Man of the year" for his support and dedication to the Armenian Nation and Artsakh.

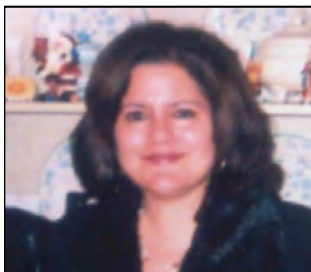
Special plaques were awarded to Garbis Kazanjian, Vartkes Nigdelian, Elvin Arzuman, Ovsanna Koroglyan, Suzy and Jack Dostourian, Apo and Nina Boghossian, Svetlana Amirkhanian, and Dr. and Mrs. Vahan and Maggie Kouyoumdjian.

Certificates of appreciation were awarded to

Maral Kaprielian and Marina Baghdasarova.

The committee also presented a plaque to Manoukian and Madosyan for their years of service.

Ardzagang's 20th Anniversary Celebration Gala Committee was led by its chairman, Dr. Vahan Kouyoumdjian, who shared the opening remarks. Master of ceremonies was Dr. Herand Markarian.



## Recipe Corner

by Christine Vartanian Datian

### Lemon Mint Hummus

Place the following ingredients in a blender, cover, and process until the mixture is smooth; place in a bowl, drizzle with olive oil and garnish. Top with roasted pine nuts, if desired.

#### INGREDIENTS

- 1 16-oz. can garbanzo beans, drained except for about 1/4 cup of the liquid (use this liquid)
- 1 1/2 cups plain white or Greek yoghurt
- Juice of one large lemon (to taste)
- 2 medium cloves garlic, mashed
- 3 tablespoons olive oil (to taste)
- 2-3 tablespoons tahini
- 1 tablespoon fresh mint, chopped
- 1/2 teaspoon lemon zest, minced
- 1/2 teaspoon Kosher or sea salt

Garnish with choice of olive oil, chopped mint, parsley, Aleppo pepper, paprika, and top with roasted pine nuts. Serve with assorted fresh vegetables, Armenian cracker bread, pita bread, flat bread, and pita chips.

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

\*For Christine's recipes that have been published in Sunset and Cooking Light Magazines, go to: <http://www.myrecipes.com/search/site/Datian>





## ARTS &amp; LIVING

## CALENDAR

## MASSACHUSETTS

**JUNE 20 — The Gregory Hintlian Memorial Golf Tournament** sponsored by Holy Trinity Armenian Church at the Marlborough Country Club, Marlborough; 9:30 a.m., registration; 11 a.m., "Shot Gun." Join us for a day of golf - player's fee: \$175 (includes hospitality, lunch, dinner, green & cart fees, prizes and gifts) - or just dinner and a social evening (\$50 per person). Limited to 128 players. Tournament and tee sponsorships available. RSVP deadline, June 13. To register or for further information, log onto <http://www.htaac.org/calendar/event/203/>, contact the Holy Trinity Church Office, 617.354.0632, or email [office@htaac.org](mailto:office@htaac.org).

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

**SEPTEMBER 18 — Sunday Afternoon at the Park.** For families and friends. Armenian Heritage Park on the Greenway. Boston. 2-4 p.m. All are invited.

**SEPTEMBER 30 — OCTOBER 2 — 25th Anniversary Celebration.** Armenian International Women's Association. Charles Hotel, Cambridge.

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

**NOVEMBER 15 — Thank You Reception for All**

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

**NOVEMBER 19 — Armenian Women's Welfare Association will hold its 40th annual luncheon/auction.** Oakley Country Club, 410 Belmont St., Watertown. Details to follow.

**DECEMBER 18 — Candlelit Labyrinth Peace Walk,** Armenian Heritage Park on the Greenway, Boston. 5-6:30 p.m. All are invited.

## NEW YORK

**MAY 30- JUNE 1 — Left Forum at City University of New York (CUNY),** Department of Sociology, 365 Fifth Ave., NYC. Various times and panels. Saturday panel, 5:20 p.m., to feature Professor Levon Chorbajian who will discuss how Turkey rewrote history after the 1915 Armenian Genocide in which the Assyrians, and Pontic Greeks were killed, and the rest sent into exile. Professor Henry Theriault will discuss "Reparations as Radical Transformation." A narrow capitalistic, individual, legalistic approach does not address all the harms done to victims. Anoush Ter Taulian will discuss the intergenerational trauma that led her to become a lifetime Armenian activist and Artsakh (the part of Armenia liberated from Azeri conquerors) veteran.

**JUNE 4-5 — Tekeyan Cultural Association's Mher Megerdchian Theatrical Group presents the AGBU Satamian Theater Group from LA, in "Funny Money,"** (in Western Armenian). Written by Ray Cooney. Translated and Directed by Krikor Satamian. Saturday, June 4th, at 8pm and Sunday, June 5th at 4pm at Oradell Elementary School, 350 Propect Avenue Oradell, NJ 07649. Tickets: \$35 & \$50. For tickets please call: Marie Zokian (201) 745-8850, Talar Sesetyan Sarafian 201-240-8541, or Missak Boghosian 212-819-0097.

## PENNSYLVANIA

**JULY 6 — On the occasion of the 2016 Grand Convocation and Centennial Celebration of the Knights and Daughters of Vartan will sponsor the 25th anniversary showing of William Saroyan: The Man, The Writer,** a one-hour documentary on the late writer, written and director by Paul Kalinian and produced by Dr. Susie Kalinian. Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., Hilton Philadelphia at Penn's Landing, 201 S. Christopher Columbus Boulevard, Philadelphia. The filmmakers will be present for a question-and-answer session.

**JULY 8 — Kef Night in Philadelphia Net proceeds will be donated to Artsakh Relief Fund,** Sponsored by the Knights & Daughters of Vartan Featuring World Famous Richard Hagopian Band & DJ Robbie Barone. Hilton Philly @ Penn's Landing 201 S. Columbus Blvd, Philadelphia. Friday, July at 9 p.m. Tickets: \$25 purchased before July 1 or \$30 @ door (cash bar) Dessert & Coffee. For tickets or more info call/text: Vick Bazarbashian 610-389-4633 [vbazar01@gmail.com](mailto:vbazar01@gmail.com) or Gabrielle Meranshian 856-725-2260 [gabriellemeranshian@gmail.com](mailto:gabriellemeranshian@gmail.com)

## IWMF Names Adriane Ohanesian Winner of the Second Annual Anja Niedringhaus Courage in Photojournalism

WASHINGTON — The International Women's Media Foundation (IWMF) announced last week that Adriane Ohanesian was the winner of the 2016 Anja Niedringhaus Courage in Photojournalism Award. The award recognizes the exemplary work of women photojournalists who overcome extraordinary challenges to bring us images of pressing global issues.

Now in its second year, the award was created through a generous grant from the Howard G. Buffett Foundation to pay tribute to the strength and dedication of Pulitzer Prize-winning Associated Press photographer Anja Niedringhaus, who was tragically killed while reporting in Afghanistan in 2014. Niedringhaus received the IWMF Courage in Journalism Award in 2005.

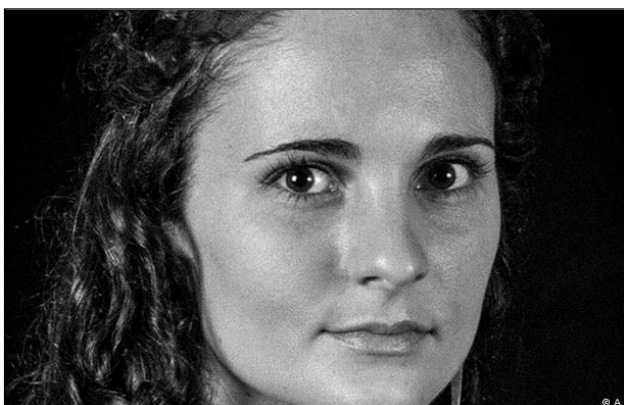
Lynsey Addario and Paula Bronstein received honorable mentions for the 2016 award. All three women will be recognized at a reception in Washington, DC on Thursday, June 9, 2016.

"We are proud to recognize this year's Award honorees, who are a credit to their profession and to Anja's legacy," said IWMF Executive Director Elisa Lees Muñoz. "These remarkable and brave women are revealing difficult truths around the world through their pictures, and the Niedringhaus Award celebrates that service."

Ohanesian is a freelance photojournalist based in Nairobi, Kenya. She has been reporting primarily in Africa since 2010 and has documented the civil war in South Sudan, the border demarcation between Sudan and South Sudan, the fighting in the Nuba



Obock, Djibouti - January 12, 2016: A young Ethiopian girl walks towards a meeting with other migrants and their smugglers in the hope of making it onto one of the illegal boats that will bring her to Yemen and then on to Saudi Arabia. (Adriane Ohanesian photo)



Adriane Ohanesian

Mountains of South Kordofan, and most recently the conflict in Darfur. Her photographs have been published by Al Jazeera, the *Wall Street Journal*, *National Geographic*, and *TIME*.

"At the end of the day it's not about me; it's about the lives of the people in the pictures," Ohanesian said. "My photographs document what I've seen in isolated areas of the world. I hope the people I photograph feel that these photos communicate their circumstances to the outside world. It takes a massive amount of trust on the part of my subjects to know that I'm accurately representing them and their story."

The award jury, composed of leading photo editors from the Associated Press, the *New York Times*, and *VII Photo*, gave Ohanesian the top prize for her "evocative images and tenacious dedication to documenting the effects of conflict on citizens in perilous regions." They continued, "her perceptive, compassionate eye offers an extraordinarily personal glimpse into places the global community may not otherwise see." The Anja Niedringhaus Award winner receives a \$20,000 prize to support her ongoing work thanks to the support of the Howard G. Buffett Foundation.

## COMMENTARY

## Angela Merkel's Boomerang

By Edmond Y. Azadian

Germany is the economic powerhouse of Europe, thus anointing Chancellor Angela Merkel as the de facto leader of the European Union. For a long time, the EU leadership was shared in tandem with France. But France's economic decline and its awkward grappling with the issue of terrorism have relegated the country to the level of an ordinary member of the EU.

France's 10-percent unemployment rate and its struggle to maintain its generous entitlements regime have almost sealed President Francois Hollande's fate as a one-term president.

Germany's Iron Lady has been leading EU single-handedly. Germany's stature has empowered her to behave like an emperor, especially in her deals with Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, which had thus far been accepted uniformly throughout the EU. Her agreement with President Erdogan to staunch the flow of Middle Eastern refugees was hailed as a success story, because the alternative would have been the destruction of visa-free Europe (Schengen).

In her quest for political expediency, she made too many concessions to Turkey, beginning with the reversal of her position on the latter's admission as an EU member, along with six billion euros as compensation to Ankara to care for the refugees. She even compromised Germany's right to free speech, giving the green light to Erdogan to sue a German comedian making fun of him, dusting off an antiquated law.

Chancellor Merkel's deals with Turkey were based on false premises; she, like many European leaders, shies away from the root causes of the refugee problem, choosing to put a Band-Aid on the wound rather than treat it.

The flow of refugees is triggered by the war in Syria, whose main culprit is Turkey. Instead of holding Ankara accountable, Europe is rewarding it with compensation, encouraging Turkish leaders in their mischievous role in creating more refugees.

It looks like tolerance to Merkel's unilateral decisions has hit its limits in Germany as well as in Europe.

In these complex relationships between Berlin and Ankara,

played a decisive role. It is also ironic that the Genocide resolution is spearheaded by an ethnic Turkish legislator, Cem Ozdemir, the leader of the opposition Green Party, in the German Parliament.

Reuters' story continues, "Merkel's domestic antagonists are now clearly looking to upset the applecart after their chancellor has repeatedly failed to stand up to an increasingly colicky Erdogan."

The resolution was extensively debated during the Genocide centennial in the Bundestag, but because sensitive negotiations over the refugee problem were underway, it was decided to postpone the resolution until June 2016. Even opposition leader Ozdemir supported the move of the chancellor to bring the deal to fruition. At that time, there was a handshake between Ozdemir and Volker Kauder from Merkel's party that in 2016 a draft would be finalized to be presented to the parliament. The vote is scheduled for June 2; the Christian Democratic Union and Christian Socialist Union (CDU-CSU) and Social Democratic Party (SPD) plus the Green Party have all agreed on a unified text, whose title will be "Remembering and Commemorating the Genocide against the Armenians and Other Christian Minorities in the Ottoman Empire 101 Years Ago."

Although the resolution is of a commemorative nature and does not carry any legal weight, it certainly will provoke a temporary crisis between the two countries. We can probably guess the scenario between Ankara and countries recognizing the Armenian Genocide will follow other instances such as Switzerland, when Ankara will resume business as usual after recalling its ambassador back for "consultations."

Ozdemir has warned that the Bundestag will not bow down to pressure from the "despot Erdogan." Manfred Weber, a member of the European Parliament from Bavaria with the Christian Social Union, added, "If President Erdogan continues to threaten us and bombard us with insults, then we will find ourselves at a dead end. Europe is not dependent on Turkey."

Erdogan himself has exacerbated the situation by not coming through with his end of the bargain. Turkish-German relations soured when Erdogan found out that visa-free travel for Turkish citizens would not be implemented by June as it was

agreed in the Turkey-EU refugee deal, to which the chancellor had tied her political survival.

European Parliament President Martin Schultz outspokenly declared that unless Turkey met the 72 criteria for fulfillment of visa-free travel, the EU would not place the issue on its agenda. Turkey has met 65 of the 72 criteria, but the remaining seven are thorny for Ankara, particularly the anti-terror law, which is used to stifle dissent domestically. The Turkish Parliament added another measure recently by lifting the immunity of the Kurdish members of the legislature.

Will the resolution on the Armenian Genocide be ratified on June 2 in the Bundestag? It is anyone's guess. The chancellor and her foreign minister, Frank-Walter Steinmeier, are opposed to it. Recently, Prof. Gerair Kocharian,

from the Free University in Germany, expressed doubt during a visit to Yerevan.

However, many German legislators, including Ozdemir, are hopeful. They are even looking beyond the passage of the bill to tie in also German culpability.

Ozdemir announced in the Bundestag: "I made a deal with the Christian Democrats that we put it as a joint motion to the floor. And on June 2, after 101 years of neglecting the Armenian Genocide, the German Bundestag will make the decision that it was genocide, that Germany had a responsibility because we were an ally of the Ottoman Empire."

CDU-CSU foreign policy spokesman Franz-Josef Jung and Bernd Fabritius, who represents the CSU in the human rights committee, both noted that Germany had a historical responsibility in the matter. The German Reich did not intervene; as well, it guaranteed post-war asylum for the responsible parties after they had been stripped of their power.

Adding the element of German complicity on the resolution will prove to be the icing on the cake, but the bill as it stands will still mark a victory for the cause of the Armenian Genocide if it survives on June 2.

Chancellor Merkel played her diplomatic game too boldly. Her playmate has been equally arrogant and reckless. Her kowtowing to Erdogan has proved to be a boomerang which may hound her until the end of her political career.



as well as in interparty domestic relations within Germany, the issue of the Armenian Genocide has sprung up. We have to be mindful that the Genocide will never feature on any political agenda on its own merit, or because of the good-heartedness of politicians. Instead, it is used to serve some party's interests whenever it is resurrected and defended. That being the nature of politics, we have to accept it and play by its cynical rules.

"After shepherding through a deal with Turkey over migrants and selling it to her constituents as Germany's best bet for stemming the tide of refugees flowing into the country, German Chancellor Angela Merkel has suffered setback after setback. The latest one? Allies and enemies alike are banding together to force through a symbolic vote explicitly naming Turkey's massacre of as many as 1.5 millions as Genocide," reports Reuters.

It is indeed an unbelievable prospect that such a resolution will be passed in the German Bundestag, given the fact that almost four million Turks call Germany home, versus several thousand Armenians scattered throughout the country. The ratio of respective minorities rules out the possibility that German-Armenian community could have influenced the measure.

It is plausible that the division among Turkish immigrants and the powerful movement of Kurdish groups may have

## Mirror Spectator



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## COMMENTARY



My Turn

By Harut Sassounian

## Erdogan vs. Gulen in Texas Courts: Battle of Two Turkish Powerhouses

A decade ago, two Turkish Islamist leaders – Recep Erdogan (now President) and prominent Sunni cleric Fethullah Gulen – were the best of friends. Their common enemy was the Turkish military. But as Erdogan solidified his dictatorial rule by castrating the generals, he turned against his old ally, Gulen, to monopolize his grip on power. Erdogan purged and jailed hundreds of Gulen followers: journalists, judges, police, and state officials.

To expand its global investigation into the activities of Gulen-led organizations, the Turkish government hired, for \$50,000 a month, the London-based law firm of Amsterdam and Partners. The law firm will also provide legal advice on the Erdogan regime's request for Gulen's extradition from his self-imposed exile in Pennsylvania.

"We have been retained by the Republic of Turkey to expose allegedly unlawful conduct by the Gulen network worldwide," stated Robert Amsterdam, founding partner of Amsterdam & Partners LLP, during a recent press conference in Washington DC. "The activities of the Gulen network, including its penetration of the Turkish judiciary and

police, as well as its political lobbying abroad, should concern everyone who cares about the future of democracy in Turkey."

The high-powered lawyer's insincere lament regarding "the future of democracy in Turkey," is preposterous, as Erdogan himself has single-handedly demolished all vestiges of democracy in Turkey!

In a recent press release, Amsterdam claimed that "The Gulen network, which operates more than 100 charter schools in the U.S., has become the subject of federal and local law enforcement and regulatory investigation in the United States. According to separate cases filed against Gulen-affiliated schools, the group has allegedly engaged in systemic abuse of the American visa system." The lawyer representing Turkey also asserted: "Globally, the Gulen network operates thousands of schools and has an agreement with the African Union to open 1,000 new schools in the region."

Erdogan's long arm has now reached all the way into Texas, going after Harmony Public Schools, the largest charter school system based in Houston, which has 30,000 students and operates under various Gulen-affiliated non-profit organizations.

Last November, Amsterdam and Partners filed a 90-item public information request that would cost Harmony \$4.5 million to complete. Even after the lengthy list was shortened, it would still cost Harmony \$690,000 to compile and provide that information. The Texas Attorney General will now have to decide the appropriateness of the Turkish request.

This week, Amsterdam and Partners is expected to file a 30-page complaint with the Texas Education Agency (TEA) against Harmony schools. Jim Arnold, an Austin-based lobbyist, also hired by Turkey, sent an e-mail to the Texas Governor's office stating that the complaint "will outline a series of allegations concerning Harmony's financial opera-

tions as well as their alleged misconduct, and request a comprehensive investigation by TEA."

In response, Soner Tarim, chief executive officer and co-founder of Harmony Public Schools, told the Houston Chronicle that the targeting of his schools by the Turkish government is "mind-boggling and politically motivated."

Meanwhile, Amsterdam and Partners has filed similar complaints against the Gulen-affiliated Magnolia Charter Schools in California, "urging the California Department of Education to conduct a full investigation of the charter network's financial practices," according to the Houston Chronicle.

In a strongly-worded letter, Cong. Brad Sherman complained about the Turkish government's attacks on Magnolia Charter Schools: "President Erdogan is a repudiation of everything that good American schools stand for. He has personally done tremendous damage to democracy in the Republic of Turkey." Cong. Sherman also wrote in his April 26 letter that "Amsterdam & Partners was being paid \$600,000 a year to disparage Magnolia Public Schools" and that "at various times, President Erdogan's government has assisted ISIS. Accordingly, I cannot think of a worse source of information about American education than President Erdogan and his paid agents," the *Houston Chronicle* reported.

Tarim told the Houston newspaper that regretfully "The Turkish government is spending hundreds of thousands of dollars and countless time attacking these American schools, forcing Harmony to match the effort. The money and energy would be better spent on students."

Armenian-Americans can sit back and watch with great interest this costly and scandalous court battle between the Turkish government and Gulen's organization. Let them waste their money and energy by fighting each other rather than wining and dining US officials on all-expense paid extravagant junkets to Turkey and lobbying members of Congress against Armenian issues!

## The ADL and the Armenian Genocide: 'It Ain't Over till It's Over'

In mid-May, on the Anti-Defamation League's "blog," CEO Jonathan Greenblatt said that the ADL now "unequivocally" acknowledges the Armenian Genocide committed by Turkey. Curiously, he doesn't mention Turkey. The ADL, he added, "would support U.S. acknowledgment of the Armenian Genocide."

It's surprising that such a serious subject would only be "blogged." But let that go.

For decades the ADL has been colluding with Turkey to defeat Armenian Genocide resolutions in the US Congress

By David Boyajian

and to avoid acknowledging that genocide. For an organization that loudly espouses human rights and insists on Holocaust recognition and legislation, the hypocrisy has been breathtaking.

Just imagine the ADL's reaction had some Armenian American organization questioned the Holocaust and lobbied against Holocaust-related legislation.

Jewish and Israeli media have long candidly conceded that Turkey, Israel, the ADL, and groups such as the American Jewish Committee, B'nai B'rith, AIPAC, and others had mutually agreed to help Turkey stop U.S. acknowledgment of the Armenian Genocide. See NoPlaceForDenial.com, "Press Kit."

Consider Yola Habib Johnston, a director at JINSA (Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs). In 2006 she explained that for over 15 years "the Jewish lobby has quite actively supported Turkey in their efforts to prevent the so-called Armenian genocide resolution from passing."

The general public became aware of the ADL's hypocrisy in the summer of 2007. As a result, over a dozen Massachusetts cities – including Arlington, Belmont, Medford, Newburyport, Newton, Northampton, Peabody, Somerville and Watertown – cut ties with ADL "anti-bias" programs such as "No Place for Hate." So did the Massachusetts Municipal Association, which represents every city and town.

Human rights advocates and many principled Jewish Americans and Israelis blasted the ADL. They also rejected ADL National Director Abraham Foxman's ambiguous statement that what happened to Armenians was merely "tantamount" to genocide. Hundreds of editorials and articles nationwide and around the world exposed the ADL.

But New England Regional Director Andrew Tarsy soon recognized the Armenian Genocide. Foxman immediately fired him. Tarsy was rehired, but later resigned. He has since criticized the ADL. Greenblatt's recent statement, says

Tarsy, should have gone further: "Assets, land, money, family heirlooms ... everything that Holocaust reparations has represented ... should be on the table" for Armenians too.

In 2007 Foxman arrogantly declared that the Armenian genocide doesn't belong "in the U.S. Congress or the parliament of any other country." Yet Canada, France, Switzerland, Uruguay, the Vatican, a UN sub-commission, the World Council of Churches, the European Union Parliament, and many more have all acknowledged the Armenian Genocide. What brought about the ADL's seeming reversal?

Newton, Massachusetts School Superintendent David Fleishman recently began sending students to an ADL "social justice" program. Hired in 2010, perhaps he was unaware that Newton had ceased its affiliation with the ADL three years earlier.

After reading about this in March, I contacted Armenian American organizations and individuals. Newton Mayor Setti Warren and many of the city's citizens and officials were made aware that Newton was breaking its 2007 promise.

Only under renewed pressure and unwanted scrutiny did the ADL and Greenblatt issue their May "blog" post. Greenblatt's statement that "We would support U.S. recognition of the Armenian Genocide" is a bit suspicious, however, given the ADL's past word games. Why not "do support" or "will support" rather than "would support"?

Moreover, the official Armenian American website NoPlaceForDenial.com has long contained this demand: "The ADL must support U.S. affirmation of the Armenian Genocide, as it does with the Holocaust."

In partial atonement, will the ADL lobby as hard for the Armenian Genocide resolution as it has for Holocaust legislation? Highly doubtful. Sadly, two American organizations – the Armenian Assembly of America and the Armenian National Committee of America – have taken the ADL's bait. But many Armenian Americans have not. They're protesting the obvious sellout.

While the ADL claims to be concerned with human rights and genocide, it has for decades consciously and grievously hurt not only the Christian Armenian people but also the cause of genocide recognition and prevention.

The ADL, therefore, also owes an explicit public apology to Armenians and human rights and genocide prevention organizations. In 2007, Abraham Foxman did apologize, but not to Armenians. He apologized to Turkey because the publicity surrounding the ADL – Turkey collusion had embarrassed that country.

The ADL must also make public the agreements and documents that created and sustained the genocide denial pact among itself, Turkey, and Israel.

Other organizations, including B'nai B'rith and the American Jewish Committee (which has since apparently accepted the factuality of the Armenian genocide and claimed it would support a Congressional resolution on it) should do the same. They owe it to the American people and their consciences.

As Yogi Berra, the late, great New York Yankees catcher, famously noted, "It Ain't Over till It's Over."

(The author is an Armenian American freelance journal-

## SOAR and the Facilitation of Family Reunification

Within the past year, deinstitutionalization of Armenia's boarding schools and orphanages has gained momentum as one significant step toward family reunification. The Armenian gov-

By George Yacoubian

ernment, the Society for Orphaned Armenian Relief (SOAR), and other domestic and international non-government organizations (NGOs) recognize that, all conditions being equal, children usually enjoy better long-term outcomes when raised by their biological families. That said, the desire to reunify should not be incorporated into Armenia's social policy as an absolute maxim. SOAR cannot, and we hope other NGOs will not, reflexively demand reunification (quickly or at all) simply because a home environment is assumed to be "better" than institutional life. It is irresponsible and potentially physically and emotionally harmful to insist that children be reunified with their families "immediately and under all circumstances." Such efforts may accomplish the basic task of "reunifying," but may also expose the child to the same (or worse) conditions that necessitated the original institutionalization.

Whether the underlying social issue is poverty, domestic violence, malnutrition, poor hygiene, sexual abuse, the risk of trafficking, parental alcoholism, or a combination, children will unquestionably suffer more harm when the system fails to address these issues prior to reunification. As an organization whose mission is to provide humanitarian assistance to Armenia's orphanages, SOAR knows firsthand that Armenia's boarding schools and orphanages, while not without areas of improvement, absolutely provide food, clean clothing, hot water, access to education, and emotional support to the children under their care. The assumption that they do not is misguided.

SOAR is considerably more than an organization that provides financial support to orphaned Armenian children. A premier example of SOAR's work in child protection is its Child Reunification and Family Training (CRAFT) Program. Through a variety of initiatives, the CRAFT Program facilitates family empowerment, deinstitutionalization, and reunification. As stated above, who could ever suggest that, all things being equal, children shouldn't be raised by their biological families? The problem, of course, is that all things are not equal. For what are often complicated, multiple, and interconnected reasons, the children in Armenia's boarding schools and orphanages required institutionalization at some point. Decisions to institutionalize are made in every country and should always be done "in the best interests of the child." This maxim, the cornerstone of international human rights law governing the rights of children, does not assume home life is better under all circumstances. Rather, it suggests that a careful assessment must be done to assure that reunification provides the best opportunity for children to enjoy emotional support, to be free from physical harm, to be

see SOAR, page 20



# Bundestag Resolution on Armenian 'Genocide' Is Imminent

BUNDESTAG, from page 1

helpful in regards to coming to terms with the past. A resolution that the Greens had wanted to put forward back in February was postponed in order not to sabotage negotiations as the European Union sought a controversial deportation deal with Turkey when refugees continued to arrive in large numbers. In return, Volker Kauder, the parliamentary leader of the CDU-CSU bloc, shook hands with Greens co-chair Cem Özdemir and promised that a joint resolution would move forward in the first half of 2016. Though critics said Germany was caving on the issue once again, Kauder appears to have kept his word.

"I'm going by the Bundestag's published timetable," Raffi Kantian, the chairman of the Hanover-based German-Armenian Society said.

And, indeed, the Bundestag website indicates that an hour has been set aside on June 2 for agenda item No. 5: "Remembrance and

Commemoration of the Genocide of Armenians and Other Christian Minorities 101 Years Ago." A CDU-CSU parliamentary spokeswoman confirmed that the session would go ahead. After all, she said, the text of the resolution is ready, having been prepared by no less than three parliamentary working groups. However, there will not be a roll-call vote on the declaration on June 2. This means that members of parliament will not be obliged to attend. The resolution will be voted on by a show of hands.

The majority of foreign policy specialists from the relevant parties have given a clear signal that they will support the resolution. "There may well be trouble with Ankara," Özdemir told the Sunday edition of the mass-circulation broadsheet Bild. "But the Bundestag does not allow itself to be blackmailed by a despot like Mr. Erdogan." CDU-CSU foreign policy spokesman Franz-Josef Jung and Bernd Fabritius, who represents the CSU in the human rights committee, both noted that Germany had

historical responsibility in the matter.

In 1915, the German Reich, a predecessor to the modern state, was military protecting the Ottoman Empire in accordance with a strategic wartime alliance. The German side received numerous indications of atrocities and ethnic cleansing by the Young Turk government of the day. According to scholarly estimates, as many as 1.5 million Armenians in the Ottoman Empire were deported and killed. The German Reich did not intervene; furthermore, it guaranteed postwar asylum for the responsible parties after they had been stripped of their power.

Germany now intends officially to apologize for this. Kantian, of the German-Armenian Society, hopes that this apology will be part of the final text to be approved on June 2. That much isn't certain yet, but the Left party and the Greens have both demanded not only that the term "genocide" be used but that Germany apologize.

The Greens even put as much in writing back in

February: "The German Bundestag regrets the inglorious role of the German Reich, which, despite unequivocal information, including from German diplomats and missionaries, about the organized expulsion and extermination of the Armenians, did not attempt to stop these crimes against humanity."

## SOAR and the Facilitation Of Family Reunification

SOAR, from page 19

loved, to be given the opportunity to flourish, and, most importantly, to be safe.

SOAR was founded in 2005 as a nonprofit dedicated to providing humanitarian relief to orphaned children in Armenia. Today, SOAR provides assistance to approximately 2,000 Armenians across 37 institutions in Armenia, Artsakh, Istanbul, Javakhk, Lebanon and Syria. SOAR has more than 500 volunteers in 114 chapters.

SOAR provides much more than financial support. Many of SOAR's chapters, in lieu of local fundraising, have developed or contribute to a variety of programs that are implemented directly with and for the orphaned children in Armenia: Disability Early Warning System (DEWS), Financial Planning, Human Rights Monitoring, Language Tutoring, Life Skills Coaching, Mentoring, Sleep, and Pen Pal. More programs are forthcoming.

Some children housed in Armenia's orphanages have biological families. SOAR will continue to work toward and to accomplish family reunification, whenever possible. Because these "social orphans" have been exposed to emotional and physical hardships that often equal or exceed those of children with no biological families ("natural orphans"), the approach must be deliberate. Under any reasonable strategy, SOAR cannot, and we hope other organizations will not, reflexively reunify without considering the ancillary effects of that reunification.

SOAR is committed to child protection. To that end, SOAR welcomes the opportunity to discuss these issues in an open forum. To learn more, visit [http://soar-us.org/soar\\_in\\_action.html](http://soar-us.org/soar_in_action.html). To discuss scheduling an open forum on child protection in Armenia, contact George S. Yacoubian, Jr., SOAR's Founder and Executive Board Chairman at [gyacoubian@soar-us.org](mailto:gyacoubian@soar-us.org).

## Deranian Publishes Story of First Armenian-American Millionaire, Hagop Bogigian

BOGIGIAN, from page 1

Elliot Norton to see Bogigian, and later introduced John Greenleaf Whittier, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Louisa May Alcott and Oliver Wendell Holmes to Bogigian.

Bogigian came to know the Marquess of Salisbury in London, who served as prime minister of Great Britain thrice, and William E. Gladstone, a four-time prime minister, as well as Armenophile James Bryce, in connection to a project to get British teachers to help the Catholicate of Cilicia prepare clergymen. Unfortunately the project fell through due to political problems.

During the Hamidian massacres, Bogigian was active in raising funds for Armenian relief and convinced Clara Barton to get the American National Red Cross involved in a mission to help Armenian victims. He personally gave bonds to allow some 92 Armenians who were to be deported back to Turkey to stay in the US. Moses Gulesian, another successful Boston Armenian businessman, then quartered these Armenians in his factory building on Waltham Street in Boston.

Bogigian was also outspoken in the US press in favor of the Armenians during the Armenian Genocide and attempted to organize relief.

Despite his financial and diplomatic assistance to Armenians, Armenian revolutionary parties threatened Bogigian in order to extort money to support their causes. He refused, and some think a fire in 1903 in his mansion was their revenge. His life was also threatened a number of times.


Bogigian was also involved in strictly American philanthropy and conservation work. He helped save some historical buildings such as the Park Street Congregational Church in Boston from being sold. He tried to correct what he saw as injustices in American business practices.


He became a benefactor of Mount Holyoke College, his wife's alma mater, Wilson College in Chambersburg, Penn., and Pomona College in Claremont, Calif. He established a fund which would provide assistance for needy or worthy women to study at Pomona. In his will, he established scholarships for women at Mount Holyoke, with preference to be given to those of Armenian origin. The Hagop Bogigian

Scholarship Fund there in 2013 reached a market value of more than \$1 million.


The bulk of Bogigian's estate was left to Wilson College, as he had no children. The Hagop Bogigian Fund there was to provide low interest loans to young women, again with preference to be given to students of Armenian origin. In 2009, Wilson College also established two full-tuition scholarships for students who were Armenian citizens. Wilson's art gallery is named the Bogigian Gallery, and the College holds biannual Bogigian Convocations to educate its community about Armenian history and culture.

Deranian, a dentist by profession, has published a number of works pertaining to Armenian history and American Armenians. He translated his father's memoir on his native town, *Hussenig: The Origin, History and Destruction of an Armenian Town* (1996), and authored *Worcester Is America: The Story of Worcester's Armenians* (1995), *Miracle Man of the Western Front: Dr. Varaztad H. Kazanjian, Pioneer Plastic Surgeon* (2007), and *President Calvin Coolidge and the Armenian Orphan Rug* (2013, 2014).


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