

# THE ARMENIAN Mirror-Spectator

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## Community Leaders Meet Pres. of Armenia in New York

By Hagop Vartivarian

NEW YORK - Numerous representatives of Armenian organizations in the United States were invited by Zohrab Mnatsakanyan, ambassador of Armenia to the United Nations, to be present officially to hear the speech of the president of the

### President Serge Sargisian Delivers Address at UN

NEW YORK - On September 29, President Serge Sargisian partook in the 70th session of the UN General Assembly in New York, where he made an address.

The text of his speech, edited slightly for space, appears below:

I congratulate all of us upon the 70th anniversary of the United Nations. The establishment of this organization had been one of the greatest achievements of the humankind that consolidated nations around shared aspirations and principles. The past 70 years have been characterized by the most important positive developments - an end was put to colonialism, racial discrimination and apartheid. Many people around the world exercised their right to self-determination, got in charge of their own fate by establishing and building independent states of their own, thus increasing the number of the UN member States from 51 to 193.

Amid all these achievements, we shall recognize that currently the world faces new challenges such as terrorism, extremism, intolerance, economic crises, climate change, human and organ trafficking, as well as drugs and arms, migration crisis etc. The list enumerating these challenges is long.

see SPEECH, page ?

Republic of Armenia, Serge Sargisian, at the 70th session of the UN General Assembly. This gathering took place on ceremony of the blessing of the muron, or holy anointing oil. The Prelate of the Cilician Prelacy, Archbishop Oshagan



Community leaders with President Serge Sargisian

September 29 at the UN's New York headquarters.

The Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern) was represented by Fr. Mamigon Kiledjian, standing in for Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, the Primate, who was in Echmiadzin for the

Choloyan, Zaven Khanjian, executive director of the Armenian Missionary Association of America, A. Nurhan Becidyian for the Armenian Catholic community, Aram Hovagimian for the Armenian Revolutionary Federation's Eastern US see SARGISIAN, page ?

### Former Ambassador Henry Morgenthau, Sr. Receives Tribute at US Congress

WASHINGTON - On September 30, Armenian President Serge Sargisian took



President Serge Sargisian presents the Wallenberg Medal to Robert Morgenthau.

part in a reception held by the International Raoul Wallenberg Foundation at the United States' Congress.

The reception was attended by several Members of Congress. Among others, Sen. Edward Markey and Representatives Ed Royce, Adam Schiff, Brad Sherman, Jackie Speier, Robert Dold, Jim Costa, Dave Trott, David Valadao, Judy Chu, Grace Napolitano, Katherine Clark and David Cicilline. Professor Taner Akcam (Clark University); John Evans, former US Ambassador to Armenia; Robert P. Morgenthau and Sarah Morgenthau, son and niece of Robert Morgenthau, respectively, also attended the ceremony. see MORGENTHAU, page ?

## Azeri Ceasefire Violations Continue, Armenia Responds

STEPANAKERT (Panorama.am) - The number of ceasefire violations by the Azerbaijani side declined over the weekend, the press service of Defense Ministry of the Nagorno Karabagh Republic (NKR) said.

During that period, Azerbaijan fired more than 150 times on the line of contact between the armed forces of Karabagh and Azerbaijan. More than 1,500 shots were fired by Azerbaijani frontline units at Armenian positions from small arms of various calibers, 60-mm (19 shells), 82-mm (1 shell) and 120-mm (1 shell) mortars and AGS-17 grenade launcher (17 shells).

According to the statement of defense ministry, frontline units of NKR Defense Army are in control of the operational-tactical situation and continue performing confidently their military tasks.

Between September 27 and October 3,

according to the NKR defense army, 900 ceasefire violations by Azerbaijani armed forces were registered, with around 9,000 shots fired from various caliber weapons, including 60-, 82- and 120-mm mortars, RPG-7, AGS-17 grenade launchers, as well as Turkish TP-107 rocket launcher.

The NKR defense army units continue controlling the situation, taking retaliatory measures in case of necessity.

Overall, in September, 4,000 ceasefire violations were registered by Azerbaijani armed forces, with over 60,000 shots fired from various caliber weapons, including 60-, 82- and 120-mm mortars, RPG-7, AGS-17 grenade launchers, as well as Turkish TP-107 rocket launcher.

Besides, 122-mm howitzer D-30 was also implemented for the first time since the ceasefire agreement was signed in 1994.

Azerbaijan took to uploading videos fea-

turing mortars and rocket launchers.

Armenia has threatened to make "retaliatory" artillery and rocket strikes against Azerbaijani forces after Armenian soldiers and civilians were killed in late September.

President Serge Sargisian told a government commission on September 26 that Azerbaijan had committed a "blatant violation of the cease-fire" signed in 1994 to end a bloody conflict over the disputed Azerbaijani territory of Nagorno-Karabagh.

He added that Armenia is "afraid of war but it is not afraid of fighting."

Sargisian's comments came hours after Armenia says a rocket attack by Azerbaijani forces killed four soldiers at a military base in northeastern Armenia.

Armenia says three civilians were also killed on September 24 by Azerbaijani artillery fire in Armenia's Tavush region.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Serge Sargisian and Barack Obama Discuss Nagorno Karabagh Conflict

WASHINGTON (Armenpress) - The president of Armenia, Serge Sargisian last week discussed Armenian-American relations, the Nagorno Karabagh conflict and other issues of mutual interest with President Barack Obama during the former's visit to New York.

Armenia National Assembly Vice President Edward Sharmazanov told journalists that the two discussed Armenian-American relations and the Nagorno Karabagh conflict.

### Turkish Journalist Who Spoke up for Armenian Genocide Recognition Assaulted

ISTANBUL (Armenpress) - The prominent Turkish columnist for Hurriyet newspaper, Ahmet Hakan, who recognized Armenian Genocide, was attacked by four persons near his house on September 1. Hakan's nose was operated on October 2. Being attacked by four persons Hakan was hospitalized with broken bones in his nose and ribs. After a period of convalescence, doctors recommended that an operation be performed on his nose to repair broken bones in his nose.

Police arrested the four attackers. Hakan conveyed a message later, which reads "We will continue walking on the path that we know is right."

### Pro-Kurdish HDP Party Pledges Support for Genocide Recognition

ISTANBUL (Public Radio of Armenia) - The pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) has pledged to recognize the Armenian Genocide if elected, Turkish Yeni Safak newspaper reports.

The party presented its election platform this week.

HDP Co-Chair Figen Yükkedag stressed the need to apologize on a state level for genocides and massacres committed against different peoples over the course of Turkish history.

The party also promised that the national minorities will be granted the right to organize education in their native languages.

The HDP also vowed to open the Armenian-Turkish border without any preconditions, lift the economic blockade of Armenia and help reach a fair solution to the Nagorno Karabagh conflict.

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### Mad for Penguins

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## ARMENIA

## News From Armenia

## Vatican Cardinal Meets with Armenian President

YEREVAN (Catholic World News) – Cardinal Leonardo Sandri, the prefect of the Congregation for the Eastern Churches, traveled to Armenia from September 25 to 28 and met with the nation's civil and religious leaders.

President Serge Sargisian emphasized his gratitude to Pope Francis for the Mass in St. Peter's Basilica for the centenary of the beginning of the Armenian genocide.

"In these parts, groups of various sizes have found welcome, groups of persons fleeing the long and bloody conflicts in the Middle East and especially in Syria," said Cardinal Sandri. "May these acts of caring for people in need portend a new era of conciliation and dialogue, for which the Holy See would like to express all its sympathy and support."

Khachaturian 10-10  
Arm

## SYOA and State Jazz Band of Armenia to Give Khachaturian's Works Jazz Twist

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – The Aram Khachaturian 3rd International Festival, organized by the State Youth Orchestra (SYOA), began at the Aram Khachaturian Concert Hall on October 3. This year is under the auspices of the president of the Republic of Armenia.

At the opening, the SYOA played works by Aram Khachaturian, led by its artistic director and principal conductor Sergey Smbatyan. Together with the State Jazz Band of Armenia, SYOA performed reinterpretations of works by Khachaturian in a jazz orchestration.

Other Armenian and international debut also have taken place.

## Russian Owner Sells Armenian Electric Utility

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) – Ending months of speculation, Russia's state-controlled energy conglomerate Inter RAO announced on Wednesday the widely anticipated sale of Armenia's debt-ridden power distribution network to another Russian group owned by an Armenian-born billionaire.

In a joint statement, Inter RAO and Samvel Karapetian's Tashir Group said they have signed a corresponding deal and are awaiting its approval by the Armenian authorities.

"The deal has already been approved by the Armenian government and will be completed after a decision by [Armenia's] Public Services Regulatory Commission (PSRC)," read the statement. It did not reveal how much Tashir will pay for the Electric Networks of Armenia (ENA) utility.

The announcement came two weeks after Inter RAO asked the government to allow the ENA's sale to a Cyprus-registered shell company controlled by Marcuard Heritage, a Swiss asset management group. The government responded by instructing four Armenian ministries as well as the PSRC to scrutinize the deal.

It was not immediately clear whether Marcuard is somehow involved in Inter RAO's deal with Karapetian. The Zurich-headquartered firm's chief executive and co-owner, Sinan Bodmer, sits on the governing board of a Russian bank which is part of Tashir.

Russian and Armenian newspapers repeatedly reported earlier this year that Tashir is close to buying the Armenian power grids from the Russian energy giant. The deal appears to have been delayed by this summer's two-week street protests in Yerevan that were sparked by a further rise in electricity prices in Armenia announced by the PSRC.

The protests forced President Serge Sargisian to promise that his government will subsidize the energy tariffs for consumers pending a special international audit of the ENA. He said it will determine whether the price hike is economically justified or is the result of corruption and mismanagement.

# President Serge Sargisian Delivers Address at UN

SPEECH, from page 1

### Armenian Genocide

Last year, on the eve of the Armenian Genocide Centennial, from this podium I expressed our gratitude to the nations that recognized the Armenian Genocide and named them all individually. I called upon the international community to bolster the struggle against the recurrence of the crime of genocide through recognition and condemnation.

Today, from this very podium, I thank Pope Francis, and acknowledge the historical Mass he celebrated; the European Parliament, and recall the Resolution it adopted; the German President, and, believe me, his well-known statement will thenceforth take part in the pages of our nation's history textbooks. I thank the legislative bodies of Austria, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Luxembourg and the Netherlands, numerous provincial and city councils, as well as dozens and hundreds political and non-governmental organizations.

I thank the Presidents of Russia, France, Cyprus, and Serbia, as well as delegations of numerous other countries that on April 24 paid tribute to the victims of the Armenian Genocide in Yerevan.

Our determination to keep the prevention of the crime of genocide on the international agenda is testified by the Resolutions we periodically table at the Human Rights Council, and the latest one to that effect was adopted this year. Building further upon it, just a few days ago this Assembly passed a resolution establishing December 9 as "the International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime."

### Nagorno Karabagh

The peaceful resolution of the Nagorno Karabagh problem remains one of the most salient issues in our region. I shall note that aggressive policy pursued by Azerbaijan resulted in the absence of any meaningful progress of negotiations for the conflict settlement, and the situation drifts toward increasing tension. The dictatorial regime of the country made disgraceful repression an instrument to strangle the people's wrath as the oil-based economy obviously falters, and even that, nevertheless, it considers being inefficient. Now it needs images from the Line-of-Contact in order to divert the attention of its own public. I would like to draw the attention of this Assembly to the fact that Azerbaijan, besides various provocative actions, has now started to apply large-caliber artillery firing at the peaceful settlements of the bordering

districts of both the Republic of Armenia and Nagorno Karabagh Republic.

Just a few days ago in the bordering area of Armenia three women fell victim to Azerbaijani bombardment. The question that comes up to one's mind is whether there is any reasonable person that can demonstrate any clear logic regarding that cruelty. It is obvious for us that the Azerbaijani leadership has irreversibly lost both the sense of reality and of norms of human conduct.

Azerbaijan completely disdains 5 joint Statement issued by the Presidents of the U.S., Russia and France, and the efforts of the OSCE Minsk Group. Shall it continue its such an aggressive policy, it will not leave Armenia any other choice but to take necessary legal and political-military steps to provide the Republic of Armenia and Nagorno Karabagh Republic with the opportunity to develop in security and peace.

Although it is obvious to everybody as to which party instigates the ceasefire violations, I still would recall some facts.

It is strange – isn't it? – that now it has already been for years that Azerbaijan stubbornly refused to withdraw snipers and establish incident investigation mechanism, which were proposed by the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs. The question that comes up to one's mind is what Azerbaijan is afraid of?

It is strange – isn't it? – that during the European Games hosted by Azerbaijan, when they needed image of stability, there had been almost no shooting fired at the border, while immediately subsequent those Games shootings extensively renewed. I do not expect you to buy assertions of any of the parties, but still anticipate you to exercise your innate intelligence.

It is strange – isn't it? – that in the 21st century our neighbor day in, and day out, relentlessly and indefatigably takes pride in excessive accumulation of arms and manifold expansion of the military budget; it stubbornly continues making bellicose threats to renew the military hostilities, and does it at the highest level of the head of state.

I think now it is obvious to everyone why Armenia had consistently been urging the international community to make statements that were not generic, but were unambiguous as to whom it was addressed to while discussing the ceasefire violations. We shall understand that muffling of the early warning signals of threats to the peace and security may materialize in catastrophic repercussions.

Today we witness unspeakable cruelty taking place in the Middle East. The religious intolerance resulted in the irre-

versible aftermath. We have been most directly affected by the atrocities unfolding there, since they result in the destruction of the Armenian spiritual and cultural heritage artifacts, murder and expulsion of the numerous Armenians residing in Iraq and Syria. The Armenian community of Syria, whose history is centuries-long, shares and experiences all hardships that the Syrian people are undergoing in these difficult times. We are trying to aid the refugees to the best of our abilities: until this day, Armenia received more than 16 thousand refugees from Syria. By this sheer figure, Armenia is one of the first among recipient European countries.

Armenians know well the fate of the refugees, of the exiled and expelled. The Armenian Genocide should have claimed many more lives, and the survivors should have gone through much more hardship unless a number of nations, our friends had given us their shoulder in those difficult times. Today it is Germany, Sweden, and some other countries that deserve their due praise for humanism they displayed. They provided hundreds of thousands of refugees with safe haven, and thus reiterated that the assistance was necessary both from the legal and humanist perspectives.

This year we all witnessed how the joint and adequate actions paved the way to smoothing out a difficult international issue. An historical agreement was made on the nuclear program of the Islamic Republic of Iran, an immediate neighbor of ours. That critical deal is undoubtedly going to contribute to the global settlement of the conflict situations and consolidation of the mutual trust, and it was made possible by the extended and consistent political and diplomatic efforts.

All these come to prove that when there is a political will to bridge disagreements and emphasize the spirit of cooperation, it is indeed possible to find solutions for the most complicated issues. From this podium I would like to once again stress the importance of taking diplomatic efforts, especially with the aim to eliminate the closed borders. Armenia has been subjected to the illegal blockade by its neighbors, and we deem unacceptable such an improvident policy that in the 21st century establishes artificial obstacles disrupting intercultural, personal and trade contacts. In this context, we highly value the periodic review carried out under the framework of the UN Conferences on Landlocked Developing Countries. We stand ready to invest further efforts in this endeavor, also by hosting intermediate workshops on this topic in our country.

## Consecrated Khachkars Replicate Aparan Design

YEREVAN (Public Radio of Armenia) – On September 28, Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, consecrated two Khachkars (Cross-stones) that are replications of originals from the Monastery of St. Davit of Derjan in Aparan Western, Armenia. They were installed on the grounds of the Mother See of Holy Echmiadzin several days prior to the consecration.

The two khachkars have been installed through the initiative and blessings of His Holiness and by the generous sponsorship of Hagop and Donna Didzyan.

Before the consecration service, Bishop Mushegh Babayan, Director of Operations of the Mother See of Holy Echmiadzin, addressed the crowd. He stated in part, that it is a remarkable and extraordinary day. Reflecting on the cherished year of 2015 for the

Armenian people, Babayan stressed that this year was discerned with the canonization of the Armenian Khachkars on the Grounds of the Mother See dedicated to the victims of the Armenian Genocide, was an opportunity to extend our prayers to Heaven for the intercession of the saints who tasted the sweet yoke of martyrdom.

The bishop also added that it was a great joy to see all the guests gathered at the consecration of the Khachkars as a divine and sacred reality. In His remarks His Grace stated that it was an important achievement of the Catholicos of All Armenians to consecrate the two glorious Khachkars, which are also immeasurable in their spiritual meaning, using the newly blessed "Victory" Holy Muron for the first time. "These two Khachkars have been installed to represent the thousands which no longer exist and the

Armenians who have kneeled at them and extended their prayers to Almighty God" he noted in his remarks.

In his brief comments, Hagop Didzyan recalled the long journey, which the two stones had taken. He also expressed his gratitude to the sculptors and architects who endeavored over 9 months and carved the sanctities. He also expressed confidence, that the newly erected Khachkars will reveal to the coming generations the glorious culture of the Armenian people, as well as the eternal memory of the Holy Martyrs of the Armenian Genocide, exemplifying the current rebirth of the Armenian people.

Following the service a special reception was held during which Karekin II granted the Didzyans the Order of "St. Gregory the Illuminator" for their beneficial and church-devoted endeavors.





## INTERNATIONAL

# NATO Rejects Russia's Explanation On Turkish Air Space

BRUSSELS/BEIRUT (Reuters) – The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) on October 6 rejected Moscow's explanation that its warplanes had violated alliance member Turkey's air space by mistake and said Russia was sending more ground troops to Syria and building up its naval presence.

With Russia extending its air strikes to include the ancient Syrian city of Palmyra, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said he was losing patience with Russian violations of his country's air space.

"An attack on Turkey means an

attack on NATO," Erdogan warned at a Brussels news conference.

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said the alliance had reports of a substantial Russian military build-up in Syria, including ground troops and ships in the eastern Mediterranean.

"I will not speculate on the motives ... but this does not look like an accident and we have seen two of them," Stoltenberg said of the air incursions over Turkey's border with Syria during the first weekend of October. He noted that they "lasted for a long time."

The incidents, which NATO has described as "extremely dangerous" and "unacceptable," underscore the risks of a further escalation of the Syrian civil war, as Russian and US warplanes fly combat missions over the same country for the first time since World War II.

The Russian Defense Ministry had said that an SU-30 warplane had entered Turkish air space along the border with Syria "for a few seconds" on October 3, a mistake caused by bad weather. NATO says a plane also entered Turkish air space on October 4, an incident Russia says it is looking into.

A US official told Reuters the incursions had lasted more than a few seconds and described Moscow's assertion that they were an accident as "far-fetched."

The Turkish military said a further incident took place on October 5 when a MIG-29 fighter and Syria-based missile systems "interfered" with eight Turkish F-16 jets patrolling along the Syrian border.

The MIG-29 locked its radar onto the Turkish patrol for 4 minutes 30 seconds, and a Syria-based missile system locked onto them for 4 minutes 15 seconds, the Turkish military said. Russia flies MIG-29s, as does Syria's own air force.

Stoltenberg said the US-led alliance had not received "any real explanation" from Russia about the incursions.

Disagreement over the air space violations comes as Russia and the west dispute the aims of Moscow's air campaign. Moscow says it is attacking Islamic State, but most of its air strikes have hit territory held by other rebel groups fighting against its Syrian ally, President Bashar al-Assad.

Western countries, Arab states and Turkey, who are waging their own bombing campaign against Islamic State but also want Assad to leave power, say Moscow is using Islamic State as a pretext to target Assad's other foes. Russia says the Assad government should be the centerpiece of international efforts to combat extremism.

With Russian and NATO planes now flying combat missions in the same air space, a danger is that the Cold War enemies could fire on each other.

The skies in the area have seen incidents in the past. A Turkish jet was shot down by the Syrian air force in 2012 over the Mediterranean and earlier this year Turkey shot down a Syrian helicopter that Ankara said violated its airspace.

Russia's NATO envoy said the alliance was using the accidental incursion into Turkish air space for propaganda.

"The impression is that the incident in Turkish air space was used to plug NATO as an organization into the

information campaign waged by the West to distort the aims of the operations carried out by the Russian air force in Syria," Alexander Grushko was quoted by Itar-Tass news agency as saying in Brussels.

Russia's defense ministry said it agreed in principle with US proposals on coordinating military flights in Syria. The ministry said it was ready to hold talks with Turkey to avoid "misunderstandings" and invited foreign military officers to Moscow for talks on how best to fight Islamic State.

President Vladimir Putin has said he will not put Russian ground forces in Syria, where the civil war has killed 250,000 people. However, Stoltenberg said there was a growing presence of Russian forces in Syria.

"I can confirm that we have seen a substantial build-up of Russian forces in Syria - air forces, air defenses, but also ground troops in connection with the air base they have, and we also see an increased naval presence," Stoltenberg said.

Several senior officials in the Middle East told Reuters the Russian air campaign was part of plan that will also involve a ground offensive by Iranian troops, Lebanese Hezbollah guerrillas and Syrian government forces against Assad's foes.

The ground campaign is being led by Qassem Soleimani, commander of Iran's Quds Force, the elite extra-territorial special forces arm of the Revolutionary Guards who reports directly to Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the officials said.

They said Soleimani traveled to Moscow in July to help plan the joint action after senior Russian officials met Khamenei and senior Iranians met Putin to agree to it.

US officials have previously said Russia has sent seven T-90 tanks, some artillery and about 200 marines. It has also deployed temporary housing units, a portable air traffic control station and components for an air defense system.

Russian defense ministry sources have been quoted in Russian media as saying about 1,500 Russian servicemen are involved in supporting the air strikes and advising Syria's army.

The Russian Defense Ministry says it has more than 50 warplanes and helicopters in Syria. Russia's Tartous naval facility there is a logistics base and has been overhauled in recent years. It is being used to unload equipment, some of which is also being flown in.

In the latest strikes, Russian jets hit Islamic State targets in Palmyra and struck the northern province of Aleppo, Syrian state television said.

Islamic State forces captured Palmyra in May, an advance that brought them closer to the core of government-held territory in western Syria. It also put the city's Roman-era ruins under the militants' control.

Russia denied hitting civilian targets inside Palmyra or conducting strikes that might harm the ruins.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based group tracking Syria's civil war, said the Palmyra strikes killed 15 Islamic State fighters.

"It was the heaviest Russian attack on Palmyra," Observatory director Rami Abdulrahman said. Across Syria, Russian jets carried out at least 34 air strikes in the last 24 hours, the Observatory said.

## International News

## Nine More Arrested in Dink Murder

ISTANBUL (Public Radio of Armenia) – Prosecutors in Istanbul on Tuesday, October 6, ordered the arrests of nine people suspected in the murder of Turkish-Armenian journalist Hrant Dink, Daily Sabah reports.

Dink was one of the founders of the bilingual Turkish-Armenian Agos newspaper and was killed outside his office in Istanbul on Jan. 19, 2007.

Ogun Samast, who was aged 17 years at the time of the killing, was jailed for 23 years in 2011. He claimed he killed Dink for "insulting Turkishness".

An earlier investigation showed that the prosecutors who worked on the case ignored serious allegations into the involvement of top police officers in the murder.

## Unidentified Men Try to Disrupt Armenian Exhibit in Beijing

BEIJING (ArtWorld) – Three men in suits, posing as authorities, reportedly attempted to disrupt the Armenian pavilion at the sixth Beijing International Art Biennale and to destroy artwork on view, according to Armenian sources, which allege that the men are Azeri.

After the incident, organizers closed the

Meanwhile, an Azeri site reports that the men were in fact Azeri delegates who were merely attempting to inform visitors that the photographs depict "Azerbaijani lands occupied by Armenia."

The pavilion features work by a total of eight artists from Armenia and the Armenian diaspora, including Allen Sayegh, Hrair Sarkissian and Mikayel Ohanjanyan.

## Djorkaeff Participates in Charity Soccer Game

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – Football World and European champion Youri Djorkaeff participate last week in a charity game pitting Armenian journalists against a team from Acha-Credit-Agricole. The game was held in the Pyunik football club stadium.

Djorkaeff was in the Acha-Credit Agricole team, while former chief coach of the Armenian national football team, Pyunik FC Executive Director Vardan Minasyan played in the journalists' team.

"The concept to stage a charity game is very good. Djorkaeff, he is a renowned footballer, and I am not personally acquainted with him, so this is a chance to get acquainted with him at the same time", said Minasyan.

All profits from the match will be allocated to purchasing sports outfits for the school of Khachik border village and Gavar orphanage.

The game finished with a 1-1 tie.

## Argentinean Anti- Discrimination Body Celebrated its 20 Years

BUENOS AIRES (Prensa) – The National Institute Against Discrimination, Xenophobia and Racism (INADI) of Argentina celebrated its 20th anniversary on Tuesday September 29.

The anti-discrimination institute is led by Pedro Mouratian, an important leader of the Argentine-Armenian community, and the event was attended by a large number of national officials.

"The fight against discrimination was not only the flag that carried out the INADI as the leading institution in the field. It was the challenge of a political project that understood that the fight against discrimination was only possible with inclusion, equalization, recognition of the rights and, most importantly, with equal opportunities for all," stated Mouratian in his speech.

"The reality of what has been INADI is on the street. It's in every one of the people who have found a response from many of its policies."

Mouratian played a major role in the approval of the Armenian Genocide recognition law (Law 26,199) that declared every April 24 as "Day of Action for tolerance and respect between peoples."

## Azerbaijan 'Crucial Player' in Energy Projects, Foreign Minister Tells UN Assembly

NEW YORK – Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov of Azerbaijan addressed the United Nations General Assembly on September 30.

In his address, he highlighted a number of contributions his country has made to the global community, especially in terms of energy, and responded to a statement by Armenia's President at the same forum regarding tensions over the Nagorno-Karabakh region.

"Azerbaijan is making concrete contributions to the activities of the United Nations," stated Mammadyarov, highlighting Azerbaijan's participation in UN-mandated peacekeeping operations in Kosovo, Iraq and Afghanistan for more than 15 years.

"Azerbaijan has managed to become one of [the] crucial players of the global market in energy infrastructure projects such as Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline through the construction of Trans-Anatolian and Trans-Adriatic natural gas pipeline and the Southern Gas Corridor which will connect energy pipeline networks of Azerbaijan, Georgia, Turkey, Greece, Albania and Italy," he announced.

He further highlighted that his country has initiated strategic transport infrastructure networks, such as the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway project which will connect railroads systems of Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey, as well as the new Baku International Sea Trade Port allowing short and efficient connection between East and West.

Regarding Karabagh, he said that "it is well known" that Armenia initiated war and occupied Azeri territory.

"Azerbaijan is the most interested party in the soonest negotiated settlement of the conflict," warning however that "if the negotiations fail to bring as an outcome the complete and unconditional withdrawal of the armed forces of Armenia from our occupied lands, Azerbaijan will be compelled to use its inherent right of self-defense guaranteed under Article 51 of the UN Charter to ensure the restoration of its sovereignty and territorial integrity within the internationally recognized borders."





# Community News

## Bone Marrow Registry and Children of Armenia Fund Join Forces to Mark World Bone Marrow Day

LOS ANGELES – The Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry (ABMDR) and the Children of Armenia Fund (COAF) participated in the world's first-ever World Marrow Donor Day by jointly organizing donor-recruitment drives in Armenia. The recruitment events took place on September 17 and 19, in the Armavir Region and Yerevan. The drives were sponsored by COAF, the Cafesjian Center for the Arts and the Gourmet Dourme company of Armenia.

"We are absolutely delighted to collaborate with the Children of Armenia Fund toward our shared vision of improving and helping save Armenian lives," said Dr. Sevak Avagyan, executive director of ABMDR. "The fact that today we are actively taking part in international efforts to increase the number of registered bone marrow donors is a testament to the status of Armenia as a dynamic member of the global health community. We're extremely proud to be participating in the inaugural World Marrow Donor Day, and as proud of the Armenian public, healthcare leaders, activists, and our generous sponsors for lending their support to this endeavor."

The theme of the inaugural World Marrow Donor Day in Armenia was "Millions of Thanks," referring to the fact that a record 25 million people worldwide are currently listed as potential blood stem cell and marrow donors in the hope of saving the lives of those battling life-threatening blood cancers and diseases. Twenty-seven thousand of those 25 million donors are Armenians in Armenia and the diaspora, all of whom have been recruited by ABMDR in the past few years.

The World Marrow Donor Day was established by Bone Marrow Donors Worldwide, the World Marrow Donor Association, and the European society for Blood and Marrow Transplantation.

On September 17, ABMDR and COAF kicked off their recruitment drives with an event at the



ABMDR executive director Dr. Sevak Avagyan and COAF executive director Anoush Yedigaryan.

Myasnikyan Health Center, in the Armavir town of Myasnikyan.

Opening remarks were delivered by COAF executive director Anoush Yedigaryan and Armavir governor Ashot Ghahramanyan. Also addressing the large gathering was ABMDR medical director Dr. Mihran Nazaretyan, who made a presentation about the simple process of becoming a potential bone marrow donor. Subsequently a team of ABMDR volunteers, led by Nazaretyan and Dr. Sevak Avagyan, registered new recruits, who included COAF staff members and residents from the communities of Myasnikyan, Karakert, Dalarik, and Shenik.

Following the conclusion of the event, see BONE MARROW, page ?



Dr. Rouben Adalian, Director of the Armenian National Institute, presents President Serge Sargisian with new Armenian Genocide exhibits.

## Armenian Assembly Meets with President Sargisian and US Officials

WASHINGTON – During the last week of September and the start of October, the Armenian Assembly of America (Assembly) met with Armenia's President Serge Sargisian during his trip to Washington, D. C., US Co-Chair to the OSCE Minsk Group Ambassador James Warlick, and a senior White House official. Sargisian was in Washington for a series of meetings, including a special luncheon in his honor at the US Capitol.

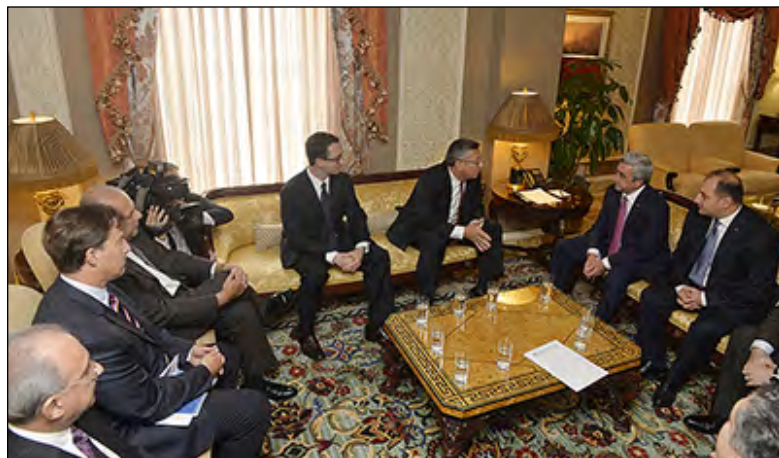
Sargisian's visit came on the heels of his speech at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York City earlier this week (see Vartivarian article, page XX), where he condemned Azerbaijan's deadly attacks on peaceful civilians in Armenia and Nagorno Karabagh, and drew a parallel between the importance of assistance to Syrian refugees and survivors of the Armenian Genocide. To date, Armenia has received over 16,000 refugees from Syria, the third highest in Europe.

Sargisian traveled to Washington, D.C. from New York on September 30, where he along with Foreign Minister Eduard Nalbandian, Armenia's Ambassador to the US Tigran Sargisian, and Presidential Chief of Staff Vigen Sargisian met with the Assembly's leadership.

They discussed a broad range of issues, such as Azerbaijan's latest and deadly cease-fire violations, the plight of Armenians and other religious minorities in the Middle East including the 16,000 Syrian refugees in Armenia, constitutional reforms, as well as the centennial commemorations of the Armenian Genocide and next steps.

The Assembly delegation also met with Warlick and went on to a meeting at the White House with a senior advisor.

"President Sargisian's trips to the United Nations and Washington were extremely fruitful in terms of strengthening the growing US-Armenia relationship, but the truth is that there is a lot of room to build a closer relationship," stated Assembly Board Co-Chairmen Anthony Barsamian and Van Krikorian. "While US reaffirmation of the Armenian Genocide is still a major outstanding issue, all of us are deeply concerned by the dangerous pattern emerging where warning signs, such as Azerbaijan's keeping missiles in range of the Armenian nuclear facility and its murder of innocent people, used to gain negotiating leverage are not appropriately addressed, while at the same time Azerbaijan refuses to engage with the democratically elected government of the Nagorno Karabagh Republic. When we see Turkish President Erdogan's actions and the new war he is waging on the Kurds instead of the Islamic State, Americans' causes for deep concern only grows. This week's meetings really put personal faces on how far we have to go to avoid catastrophes on multiple fronts. Here the OSCE Karabagh mediating countries especially can do a lot more to let some sunshine illuminate the true nature of what the authoritarian Aliyev regime has done and plans to do. Leaving those matters in the dark now is only going to mean a worse outcome in the future," Barsamian and Krikorian said.



Armenian Assembly of America meeting with President Serge Sargisian.

## Anniversary Banquet of Holy Trinity Armenian Church to Honor Deacon James M. Kalustian

By Seta. A. Buchter

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – The Pastor and Parish Council of Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston announce that Deacon James M. Kalustian, a longtime member of the Holy Trinity parish, will be honored as "Parishioner of the Year" at the Church's 54th anniversary banquet to be held on Sunday, October 18, following church services, in the Charles and Nevert Talanian Cultural Hall of the church complex at 145 Brattle St.

Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate, Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern), will preside over the Divine Liturgy, beginning at 10 a.m., and the afternoon's program. Also in attendance will be Archbishop Vicken Aykazian, Diocesan Legate and Ecumenical Officer, as well as area clergy from New England. During the Divine Liturgy, special prayers will be offered for the departed souls of the faithful who worked and built Holy Trinity Armenian Church at its present site in Cambridge. Following church services, the Annual Banquet will celebrate the 54th anniversary of the consecration of Holy Trinity Church in Cambridge.

"On this 100th Anniversary year of the Armenian Genocide, it is befitting that we honor a grandchild of a survivor," stated Fr.

Vasken A. Kouzouian. "Like so many Armenian Churches in America, Holy Trinity was built on the backs of early immigrant Armenians seeking to start life over in a land founded on the principle of hope for a better future. Jim Kalustian, a grandson of survivors from Kharper, Izmir and Arapgir is a wonderful fulfillment of that hope. The Jim Kalustian I have known over the years has always appreciated and honored his Armenian roots, all the while advancing himself through the best of America. In this 100th anniversary year, Deacon Jim Kalustian, a servant and leader of the Armenian Church, is our 'Parishioner of the Year.'"

During the banquet, recognition will be given to outgoing Parish Council members, Ara Hollisian and Thomas H. Stephanian, and Diocesan Delegates, Gerald Ajemian and David DerVartanian, for their services.

Kalustian is well-known in the Armenian community for his years of service to the Armenian Church and community, and his steadfast devotion to his faith and heritage.

On most Sunday mornings, you will find him serving as a deacon on Holy Trinity's altar despite his incredibly busy schedule and range of commitments to a variety of organizations. He has been serving on the altar for more than 40 years, from the time he was a child, in the third or fourth grade, as part of the Sunday School program. His parents, Martin and Mary (Mimi) Kalustian of Arlington, took him to church and Saturday and Sunday School every week.

He was ordained an acolyte in 1977, a sub-deacon in May 1981, by the late Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Patriarch of Jerusalem, and a Deacon in April 1991, by Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate, Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern).

He served on the Parish Council from 1985 to 1988, and again from 1999 to 2004, the last six years as chairman. He has been a Diocesan see KALUSTIAN, page ?



James M. Kalustian





## COMMUNITY NEWS

## Artsakh Fund Holds Fundraising Event for New Village Expansion Project

LEXINGTON, Mass. — On Sunday, September 13, 90 supporters gathered here to support a new village expansion project sponsored by the Armenian Cultural Association of America Artsakh Fund. The reception and presentation took place at the Lexington home of Harry and Katrina Glorikian, and the results did not disappoint: More than \$25,000 was raised in support of the Arajamugh Village, found in the liberated territories of southern Artsakh.

Following a cocktail hour, the hosts invited their guests to present brief presentations about the recent history and geopolitics of Artsakh with special focus on resettling the strategic borderlands liberated during the 1988-94 war. The master of ceremonies was

Antranig Kasbarian, who laid out the broader context of the matter at hand: “The Artsakh struggle was a defining moment in modern Armenian history, shifting our narratives away from loss and toward victory, away from dispossession and toward reclaiming that which is rightly ours,” he noted. “Our task now is to create facts on the ground — resettlement, economic development — that will consolidate our hard-won victories on the battlefield.” One such effort is the Arajamugh Village, built in liberated Artsakh in 2004-07 by the Tufenkian Foundation, which is now undergoing expansion via Artsakh Fund’s efforts.

Kasbarian then introduced special guest speaker Dr. Carolann Najarian, calling her an



The assembled guests listen to the presentation by Antranig Kasbarian.



Dr. Carolann Najarian with Alex Sarafian

inspiration for her accomplishments in myriad fields, including Artsakh, where she provided on-site medical assistance from the war’s earliest days. Najarian then presented her own journey through Artsakh, via words and pictures, depicting people, places and events that inspired her during the war’s darkest days. She placed special emphasis on Artsakh’s border regions of Kashatagh, Kelbajar and Shahumian, which serve literally as a lifeline connecting Artsakh to Armenia. “We must never forget that much blood was shed in liberating these lands. Who can talk of giving these lands back, when such a price has been paid?” she asserted.

Najarian was followed by Artsakh Fund Chairman Alex Sarafian, who presented the fund’s mission and current activities. He pro-

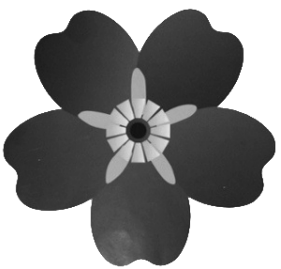
vided background on the Arajamugh Village, found in the Hadrut region of Artsakh, and currently featuring 19 households and 88 inhabitants. The goal, he said, is to bring the village up to 50 households along with associated infrastructure, facilities, and livelihood opportunities, thereby turning it into a model village for resettlement purposes.

The speakers then took questions and comments from an enthusiastic audience.

In coming months, additional events will be held throughout the Eastern US. In the meantime, donors and supporters are encouraged to contact Artsakh Fund via email at [artsakhfund@acaainc.org](mailto:artsakhfund@acaainc.org).

Artsakh Fund is a project of the non-profit Armenian Cultural Association of America, Inc. All contributions to it are fully tax-deductible.

### 2015 NAJARIAN LECTURE ON HUMAN RIGHTS AT FANEUIL HALL IN COMMEMORATION OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE CENTENNIAL



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The Najarian Lecture on Human Rights at Faneuil Hall has been endowed by K. George and Carolann S. Najarian, M.D. in honor of Dr. Najarian’s father, Mr. Avedis Abrahamian. The annual lecture is an endowed public program of Armenian Heritage Park on the Greenway. For further information, please visit [ArmenianHeritagePark.org](http://ArmenianHeritagePark.org)

A RECEPTION FOLLOWS AT THE MILLENNIUM BOSTONIAN HOTEL

## Bone Marrow Registry and Children of Armenia Fund Join Forces to Mark World Bone Marrow Day

BONE MARROW, from page ?

recruitments were also held in the communities of Sardarapat and Lernagog, both in the Armavir Region. A total of 216 people joined the ranks of ABMDR.

The September 19 recruitment was held at the Cafesjian Sculpture Garden in Yerevan. Sergey Khachatryan, deputy Health minister of Armenia; Dr. Vahe Ter-Minasyan, a leading oncologist and host of the Armenian television program “Mi Vnasir” (“Do no Harm”); and Dr. Sevak Avagyan delivered remarks.

Remarks were also delivered by COAF founder and Board chair Garo Armen, who spoke of the far-reaching community-development programs implemented by the foundation he leads, and the immense significance of partnerships and collaboration between COAF and nonprofit organizations such as ABMDR.

Afterwards Armenian celebrities and activists including Alla Levonyan, Sofi

Mkheyan, Tigran Hamasyan, Gor Sujyan, chess champion Tigran Petrosyan, Arminka, Artur Ispiryan, Madeleine Minasyan-Ispiryan, and DJ Vakcina as well as Dr. Vahe Ter-Minasyan created great enthusiasm by encouraging attendees to register as potential bone marrow donors. The event also featured dance performances by a group of children who are beneficiaries of COAF programs, and an athletic performance by a team from Street Workout Armenia.

During the course of the event, 92 supporters joined the ranks of ABMDR. The new recruits included Petrosyan, Levonyan, Arminka, Mkheyan, and DJ Vakcina.

ABMDR also held a recruitment drive during the Pan-Armenian Games at Tehran’s Ararat Sports Complex, between September 10 and 17. One hundred four supporters joined ABMDR, bringing the total of new recruits in September to 412.



From left: ABMDR executive director Dr. Sevak Avagyan, COAF founder and Board chair Garo Armen, and deputy Health minister of Armenia Sergey Khachatryan at the Cafesjian Center recruitment.





## COMMUNITY NEWS

## OBITUARY

## Dr. Alan K. DerKazarian

BELMONT, Mass. — Dr. Alan K. DerKazarian of Belmont and East Falmouth passed away on October 1 after a long battle with cancer. He was 82.

He was a notable periodontist and prominent community leader whose civic roles included president of Oakley Country Club in Watertown and longtime president of Belmont Youth Baseball.



Hayastan Garoyan

Born in Boston and raised in Watertown, DerKazarian graduated from the Tufts University School of Dental Medicine Class of

1957 and, after two years as a dentist in the Air Force, completed his periodontics study at Boston University's Goldman School of Dental Medicine. He taught in the Department of Periodontics at the BU School of Dentistry for over 20 years and established a practice limited to periodontics in Cambridge in 1963. DerKazarian was a partner at Cambridge Periodontics with his son, Mark, and worked there regularly until very recently.

DerKazarian served as president of Massachusetts Dental Society from 2004-2005. In 2009, he received the prestigious Etherington Award for his tireless contribution to dentistry in New England. He also had been chairperson of the Massachusetts Dental Society Foundation

and president and treasurer of the Armenian-American Dental Association.

After coaching his son Alan Jr.'s youth baseball team in 1978, DerKazarian went on to be president of Belmont Youth Baseball for more than three decades, sharing the game he adored with thousands of local youths. A lifelong Red Sox fan, he told WickedLocal.com: "I love the game of baseball and I wanted to make sure that the baseball program in Belmont was the best that it could be. And I think we succeeded."

DerKazarian served on the Board of Overseers for Mount Auburn Hospital and the Board of Directors at U.S. Trust Bank and UST Corporation.

A first-generation Armenian-American, DerKazarian was a generous benefactor to Armenian and other causes, including the Brendan Grant Foundation.

DerKazarian was passionate about Armenian history and culture, fine art, gardening and golf, among many other things.

He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Isabelle, his sons Alan and his wife Kathleen of Belmont, and Mark and his wife Jennifer of Carlisle, and his daughter Susan and her husband Michael Malone of New York, and grandchildren Claire, Gavin, Charlie, Kaitlyn and Charlotte, as well as his brothers, Gregory and Edward.

Funeral services were held at St. James Armenian Church in Watertown on October 7. Interment was in Mt. Auburn Cemetery.

Arrangements were made by the Giragosian Funeral Home.

## Hayastan Garoyan

NEW BRITAIN, Conn. — Born in Madison, Maine on October 15, 1921 to Ohannes and Satenig (Krikorian) Garabedian, Hayastan Garoyan died peacefully on Monday, August 24 with her son John and goddaughter Audrey by



Hayastan Garoyan

A lover of music, she had a trained voice and was frequently called upon to sing at cultural events sponsored by Armenian community organizations.

For many years she served as a member of the St. George Armenian Church choir and youth group (ACYOA). An avid reader, she was a devoted and lifelong subscriber to several magazines and newspapers. Two of her favorite magazine publications were the National Geographic and the Smithsonian. Her favorite newspaper was the Mirror Spectator.

She derived much pleasure from her extensive travels throughout the world including Armenia, Jerusalem, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Canada, England, France, Germany, Scotland and Denmark.

She was employed by Chandler Evans for more than 40 years as executive assistant to numerous vice presidents.

She leaves her son John Garoyan, her brother Haige John Garabedian, and brother-in-law Clement Ashkian. She is also survived by her nieces and nephews (Tom Garabedian, Andrea Karanian, Audrey Garabedian; Eli Boyajian, Sara Mushegian, Caryn LaPointe, Stephen Ashkian), great-nieces and great-nephews and cousins.

She was pre-deceased by her husband John and sisters Elizabeth Boyajian and Julia Ashkian.

Donations in her memory may be made to St. George Armenian Apostolic Church.

Funeral services were held Saturday, August 29, at St. George Armenian Church. Interment took place at Fairview Cemetery, New Britain.

her side.

An outstanding student, she was inducted into the National Honor Society while a senior at New Britain High School. She matriculated in 1940 and was Valedictorian of her class.

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## Noah's Ark Lands in Detroit

SOUTHFIELD, Mich. — St. John Armenian Church here held the "Land of Noah's Ark Festival" Friday, September 25 through Sunday, September 27. Several Tekeyan Cultural Association (TCA) members from the area, as well as Armenian Democratic Liberal Party (ADL) members participated.

Members of TCA, ADL and friends have supported this program for more than a decade. The festival was a great success with approximately 2,000 people in attendance. Above, volunteers can be seen cooking, selling pastries and manning tables.



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## COMMUNITY NEWS

# (Flightless) Birds of a Flock Gather in Antarctica

By Tom Vartabedian

ANTARCTICA – Imagine living near an ice-covered lake named in your honor where the temperature hits 70 below Fahrenheit (not taking into consideration the wind chill) and the nearest and dearest creatures are the penguins.

For Dr. Deneb Karentz, it's just another day on the job.

The 63-year-old has been traveling to this continent as a researcher and educator for three decades now. When the University of San Francisco biology professor returns there each December, she visits Lake Karentz, a 1.3-mile, permanently-frozen body of water dedicated to her by the United States Board on Geographic Names.

"It was something I never expected," she said. "I thought it was a joke when I first heard about it. I'm obviously quite thrilled and honored."

Her research focuses on the ultraviolet photobiology of marine organisms, identifying strategies for protection from UV exposure.

About 75 percent of the people there are support staff, not scientists. There are social spaces to congregate for games. Some people do crafting. Others have musical instruments at the station. Outdoor activities such as cross country skiing and hiking are popular.

Karentz is quick to note her proud Armenian-American lineage. She is named for the star Deneb – a very bright star in the Summer Triangle.

"That was my father's idea," she notes. "He was interested in celestial navigation in the Navy when I was born. Deneb is part of the constellation Cygnus/Northern Cross."

Karentz became involved in Antarctic research in 1986 through a chance meeting with fellow University of Rhode Island graduate Richard Rivkin. A program had developed researching the physiology of phytoplankton in Antarctica and a field team was being pieced together.

"That year we went down was the first time the United States sent a team of atmospheric scientists to look at ozone depletion," Karentz recalled. "The National Science Foundation decided to fund biological research the following year so I was in the right place at the right time to initiate a new project."

While still doing research, back she goes year after year as an educator, bringing polar scientists to Antarctica.

It's no easy task getting there. To reach her destination at McMurdo Station, Karentz flies to New Zealand. Then, she boards a military cargo plane for eight hours. Getting to the Antarctic Peninsula requires yet another flight to Tierra del Fuego, the Southern-most tip of South America, followed by a five-day trip aboard an icebreaker ship to an almost otherworldly spot.

"It's just a beautiful place to be with fantastic landscapes," she describes. "There's nowhere else like it on earth. It's incredible."

While most people would dread such a mission, Karentz said she feels privileged to be there, experiencing life in such a remote place, far removed from ordinary civilization.

She grew up in Jamestown, RI, daughter of Rose and Varoujan Karentz, turning to athletics in high school as a two-sport captain to complement a proud academic standing.

She has been a Californian since 1983, serving on the School Board for Krouzian-Zekarian-Vasbouragan (KZV) Armenian School. She's also active on the Bay Area Support Committee for Armenia's Cosmic Ray Division, a local group that raises funds for research on cosmic rays at the Alikhanian Physics Institute in Armenia.

She recalls her early years as a lifeguard at Camp Hayastan and active in her church and AYF, coming from a family deeply entrenched in Armenian affairs, including the formation of the Armenian National Committee for Homeless Armenians (ANCHA).

Karentz teaches biology and environmental science at the University of San Francisco and received her doctorate from the University of



Dr. Deneb Karentz is bundled up in Antarctica with penguins frolicking behind her at a lake named after her.

Rhode Island. She also teaches a graduate course in climate change, along with undergraduate courses in oceanography and evolution. One aspect of her work is to mentor early career scientists.

A two-year sabbatical was spent in Washington, DC, as assistant program director of Arctic programs. Her Antarctica projects are funded by the Division of Polar Programs at the National Science Foundation.

Over the past 30 years, she has made the trip to Antarctica no fewer than 20 times.

"The key to survival is dressing properly to work outside," she says. "Safety is key, where you go to avoid dangers of thin ice, crevasses and survival if stranded in the field. As to the penguins, you wouldn't call them gentle. They are entertaining and fun to watch, extremely cute, but can be very aggressive, loud and smelly. Every trip I make turns into an adventure."

## Anniversary Banquet of Holy Trinity Armenian Church to Honor Deacon James M. Kalustian

KALUSTIAN, from page ?

Delegate for the past 23 years, and in 2001, he was elected to the Diocesan Council of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern), serving as Treasurer from 2005 to 2011, and currently as Chairman, a position he has held since 2013.

In 2005, he was appointed by Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, to serve on the Supreme Spiritual Council in Holy Echmiadzin, Armenia, the highest global governing body of the Armenian Apostolic Church.

Kalustian is involved in numerous philanthropic, religious and educational organizations. He is president of the Armenian Heritage Foundation, on the Rose Kennedy Greenway in Boston. He served on the Board of the National Association of Armenian Studies and Research from 1997 to 2007, is an active member of the Armenian Assembly of America and the Armenian National Committee.

In 2014, former governor of Massachusetts, Deval Patrick, appointed Kalustian to serve on the Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy Board. He also sits on the Visiting Committee of the Department of Radiation Oncology at Massachusetts General Hospital, is a member of the Leadership Giving Team of the Harvard College Fund, and is a Corporation member of the Belmont Hill School.

Kalustian has received recognition on the highest level for his services and contributions to the Armenian Church, community and homeland. On June 30, 2007, Karekin II bestowed upon him the highest award of the Armenian Church, the Order of Saint Gregory the Illuminator, and presented him with the medal of St. Gregory, in Holy Echmiadzin.

In 2009, he was a recipient of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor granted to outstanding Americans who have distinguished themselves as U.S. citizens and in business, while maintaining their ethnic heritage and identity and integrating into American life.

In 2012, Kalustian received the Movses Khorenatsi Medal, awarded by the President of the Republic of Armenia Serge Sargsian. This is the highest government award recognizing contributions of individuals in cultural, artistic and humanitarian fields.

On May 9, 2015, during the Divine Liturgy celebrated at the National Shrine of the

Immaculate Conception, in Washington DC, as part of the events commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, he was given the honor of presenting the chalice to Karekin II.

Over the decades, Kalustian has strongly believed in giving back not only his time and talents, but also his treasures and has done so in numerous ways.

In honor of his parents, Kalustian sponsored the comprehensive reconstruction of the three-story Guest House of the Mother See of Holy Echmiadzin, also known as the "Vanatun." This building has been used for the past 38 years to house Armenian clergymen and ecumenical delegations during their visits to the Mother See. The opening ceremonies of the newly renovated Guest House were held on June 30, 2007. Kalustian and his parents, Fr. Vasken Kouzouian, and Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, traveled to Armenia to be present for the opening.

In 2012, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the consecration of Holy Trinity Church on Brattle Street in Cambridge, he donated a gold chalice, handcrafted in Holy Echmiadzin, which was used as the vessel to consecrate the Holy Communion throughout Holy Trinity's Anniversary year.

Professionally, Kalustian has spent the past 25 years founding and helping to scale entrepreneurial healthcare services and technology businesses. Most recently, he served as the Chief Operating Officer of RxAnte, a provider of science-based information technology solutions for improving quality and lowering the cost of health care. He serves on the Board of Ambassadors Group, Inc.

He holds an A.B. from Harvard University and an M.B.A. from the J.L. Kellogg Graduate School of Management at Northwestern University.

The Pastor and Parish Council of Holy Trinity Armenian Church cordially invite the Greater Boston community to join them on October 18 as we honor a faithful son and servant of the Armenian Church. Donation for the dinner is \$35.00 per person; seating is by advance paid reservation only with a RSVP deadline of October 13.

Tickets may be purchased by contacting the Holy Trinity Church office or emailing office@htaac.org.

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## COMMUNITY NEWS

# Genocide Centennial Volunteers Applauded in Nation's Capital

By Florence Avakian

WASHINGTON – It was both an appreciative occasion and one filled with reflection for the more than 2,500 Armenians and non-Armenians from all parts of America who selflessly brought their efforts to the three-day monumental activities of the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide in Washington D.C. last May.

The Dinner of Appreciation, dedicated to the volunteers of Greater Washington and organized by the Genocide Centennial Steering Committee, took place on September 3 at Maggiano's Restaurant in Chevy Chase, Md. Many members of the Steering Committee were present, including Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Eastern Diocese, Archbishop Oshagan Choloyan, Prelate of the Eastern Prelacy, Archbishop Moushegh Mardirossian, Prelate of the Western Prelacy, Dr. Noubar Afeyan (chairman) and Jean-Jacques Hajjar (operating leader, Boston). Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Primate of the Western Diocese (CA) and Archbishop Vicken Aykazian, were absent due to health reasons.

Also attending and instrumental in the Centennial preparations were the First Secretary of the Embassy of Armenia Karen Israyelian, the Armenian National Committee Executive Director Aram Hamparian, and the



Chairpersons of all the committees and Steering Committee members

and nationwide Armenian clergy participating, the unforgettable concert of survival and triumph, the banquet, the gratitude awardees, and the sea of survivor descendants, and through it all the thousands of Armenians congregating in the Marriott Hotel lobby for three days.

"What a year this has been," he gushed, "with the Pope commemorating the Genocide in an inspiring Mass at the Vatican, the

### Special Role for Church

The energy "we all felt in Washington," Afeyan continued, "should be harnessed as we go forward in order to achieve our collective goals as Armenian-Americans. The Armenian Church has a special role to play as a unifying force for our community, and a motivator of the diaspora to stay engaged in advancing Armenian identity and advancement throughout the world."

Following a short video presentation of the three day Centennial events, Afeyan presented Centennial Award trophies designed by artist Michael Aram to the chairpersons of all the committees, including the Badarak, the Liturgical, and Banquet organizers, the National Cathedral, the Strathmore Concert organizers, Logistics and Security, Displays and

Soghomonian, Alissa Tabirian, Program Manager Dr. Susan Pattie, Events Coordinator and Graphic Designer Eileen Trayan, and Advisor Kevork Marashlian.

Archbishop Moushegh Mardirossian congratulated all the volunteers, calling them "heroes" and again emphasized the unity of all the community factions, who have formed a united committee after the May events, with its appropriate title of the Armenian Community Events Planners of Greater Washington (ACEP).

Armenian Embassy official Karen Israyelian offered the congratulations of Ambassador Tigran Sargsyan for a "job well done" and stressed the importance of both the presence and participation of the Armenian president in the Washington events. Appreciation to both the Steering Committee members and the vol-



From left Archbishop Oshagan Choloyan, Jean-Jacques Hajjar, Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Dr. Noubar Afeyan and Archbishop Moushegh Mardirossian. Photos by Neshan H. Naltchayan

Armenian Assembly Executive Director Bryan Ardouny.

"This is a testament to your dedication and to your drive for making this event a memorable one. You rose up to the challenge to make this event unique," said Master of Ceremonies J.J. Hajjar, in his welcoming remarks. "Your hardship has been rewarded by a world class event that was enjoyed and relished by thousands of participants." A volunteer himself from Boston, Hajjar revealed that he had been motivated by his family's wise teachings, and a slogan from the Peace Corps: "This is the toughest job you will ever love." He then voiced the hopes of many asking, "Can it be done again next year?"

For almost two years, these dedicated volunteers who were all members of Washington's Soorp Khatch Armenian Church (Prelacy), and the St. Mary Armenian Church (Diocese), had worked together to bring this unique event to its successful fruition.

In his remarks, Steering Committee Chairman Noubar Afeyan related that two years ago when different organizations were thinking of how to commemorate the Centennial, he had received a call from Barsamian to lead a non-partisan group of East and West coast committee members to plan the event in the nation's capital.

There were so many special occurrences during those momentous three days in Washington, Afeyan noted, including "energy, hope, and pride, the presence of Armenian President Serge Sargsian, US Vice President Joe Biden and UN Ambassador Samantha Power attending the Cathedral Ecumenical Service, the unity Badarak at the National Shrine with both catholicoses, all archbishops

Genocide event in Armenia, the many nations that have acknowledged the Genocide, and finally the Washington, DC, event. This all symbolizes a new spirit of revival. The canonization of our martyrs raises an important challenge to us, the descendants of the survivors."

He concluded, "We need to ask what we are doing with the second chance we have been given. How can we contribute to Genocide recognition, prevention and also recovery from this great tragedy, not just for Armenians, but more broadly for all who have suffered a like-wise fate."



Newly formed Unity Committee of Greater Washington



Dr. Noubar Afeyan addressing the participants

Cultural Activities, Finance, Outreach, and Public Relations Committees, Fr. Sarkis Aktavoukian, Fr. Hovsep Garabedian, Dr. Teny Abrahamian, Edvik Alexandrian, Louisa Baghdasarian, Levon Barsoumian, Bagrat Bayburtian, Jake Bournazian, Jack Guiragossian, Avak Kahvejian, Karine Sahagian, Onnig Sivaslian, Dr. Zareh

unteers was expressed by Aktavoukian and Karapetyan, parish priests of Soorp Khatch Armenian Church and the St. Mary Armenian Church.

### Miracles Are Possible

Archbishop Khajag Barsamian who had opened the dinner with a special prayer, noted in comments following the event, that there was an overriding fear that because of Centennial activities in other cities, people would not come to the Washington function. "But a month before, all the three-day events were sold out," he stated with pride. "When we are together and united, we can perform miracles. A united church is great testimony as to how important it is to resolve issues of the past, and start with a fresh approach."

Archbishop Oshagan Choloyan, who offered the dinner's closing prayer, complimented the "extraordinary organization" of the commemoration. He added, "Cooperation from the bottom to the top, and between different sides is a positive sign. It is an affirmation that cooperation works. Working together is now becoming normal. After all, we are the same nation, the same faith, with the same goals."





COMMUNITY NEWS

# Senator Dole Honored as Hero of Responsibility and Principle by Centennial Group

WASHINGTON – The National Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide Centennial (NCAGC) honored Senator Bob Dole earlier this month with the organization’s Survivor’s Gratitude Award in the category of Hero of Responsibility and Principle for his tireless efforts in raising attention to the Armenian Genocide and its victims.

Dole has long been recognized as a friend to the Armenian community. In 1990, during the 75th anniversary of the Genocide, he issued a strong rebuke to the United States Senate for its refusal to declare a day of remembrance for the victims of the massacre. He remains highly respected among Armenians to this day.

“I am both honored and humbled to receive this award from the NCAGC,” said Dole. “But we must not forget that there is still much to be done to globally recognize what occurred a century ago. Only by acknowledging and accepting the past for what it is – however painful – can the world truly begin to work to heal and ensure a future free from genocide.”

Dole’s award will be transported to the Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics where it will reside.

Dole’s recognition comes on the heels of a series of commemorative events which were



From left, Kevork Marashlian, Sen. Bob Dole and Dr. Noubar Afeyan

hosted by the NCAGC in May of this year to honor the Genocide centennial. During a banquet ceremony in front of a crowd of nearly 2,000 Armenians from around the world and

Armenian-Americans, 29 Survivor’s Gratitude Awards were presented as tokens of appreciation to individuals and organizations whose selfless and heroic actions have enabled the

Armenian community to survive and thrive today.

“I would like to publicly express deep appreciation to Senator Dole on behalf of the Armenian community for his long-standing dedication to recognizing the Genocide of our people,” said Noubar Afeyan, chairman of the NCAGC Steering Committee. “If not for his actions, along with the actions of other brave men, women and organizations, the Armenian community would not exist as it does today.”

On the one hundredth anniversary of the Genocide, the NCAGC continues its work to strengthen the ties that bind the Armenian community so that it may prosper for the next one hundred years and more.

The NCAGC began with the united efforts of the Diocese and Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Churches of America, East and West coasts. The NCAGC provides a unique opportunity to bring Armenians together from across the country and Diaspora to join in remembering and honoring those lost in the Genocide 100 years ago. Showing a unity of spirit and purpose, the events also serve to raise awareness of the Genocide and thank the institutions and individuals who have helped Armenians to survive and thrive



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## Packs on Backs Brings Backpacks & School Supplies to Children in Armenia

SAN FRANCISCO – The Paros Foundation and The Heros Humanitarian Foundation joined forces to help children in Armenia. A total of 480 children in need from both Gumri and Vanadzor received new backpacks and age appropriate school supplies through the Packs on Backs Armenia project.

“We share a common belief that no child should be deprived of the essential necessities needed for their education regardless of their socioeconomic status,” Sara Sousani, the Heros Humanitarian Foundation President. “By working together we were able to help address that need for almost 500 children.”

Both organizations worked together to fundraise, purchase, pack and ship backpacks and school supplies from Los Angeles to Yerevan. Several supporters including the SERVICE Armenia 2015 group, and friends from the St. James Armenian Church in Watertown, also volunteered their time to help fill backpacks with supplies and distribute them to the children.

“Distributing these backpacks prior to the start of school helped solve a big problem for this community of children,” said Aida Khachatryan, Debi Arach Children’s Centers Coordinator.

Packs on Backs Armenia first launched in Gumri, whose devastating history has left more than 100,000 residents homeless and plagued with unemployment and rampant poverty. These families often struggle to provide their children with life’s basic necessities. Distributions were made to the children attending the Debi Arach Children’s Center and other children living in domik neighborhoods in Gumri. Additional distributions were then made to children attending the Orran Center in Vanadzor.

The Heros Humanitarian Foundation has worked with children in need and their families in Los Angeles and Armenia for the last seven years. Their mission is to provide backpacks and school supplies to children living in poverty and from low socioeconomic households around the world. Through their Packs on Backs initiative, Heros hopes to motivate children, help them stay and excel in school, and have successful futures.



# Arts & Living

## Sahan Arzruni to Perform in Concert on "Komitas: A Portrait of the Musician as a Young Priest"

FRESNO — Acclaimed pianist Sahan Arzruni will perform a Concert dedicated to "Komitas: A Portrait of the Musician as a Young Priest," at 3 p.m. on Sunday, October 25. The concert is a Special Event in the Lorenz Keyboard Concert Series and will take place at the Fresno State Concert Hall located in the University's Music Building.

The event is co-sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State and supported by the Thomas A. Kooyumjian Family Foundation.

Komitas, the wellspring of contemporary Armenian music, was born in 1869 in Kütahya in western Anatolia. Orphaned at an early age, his beautiful singing voice brought him to the notice of a church emissary, who took him to Etchmiadzin, the Holy See of the Armenian Church, to study. There he was eventually ordained a celibate priest. While still a student at the seminary, Komitas wandered from village to village, collecting the folk music of the Armenian peasant. He notated thousands of songs. In arranging Armenian folk music for concert performance, Komitas made a determined effort to retain the idiosyncratic qualities of traditional song — eschewing western compositional techniques, while fashioning instead the use of drone notes and unconventional textures.

The great majority of Komitas's works are vocal — both solo and choral. Only a small part of his oeuvre is written for the piano; but they are pieces of unusual beauty and striking originality.

Sahan Arzruni has achieved recognition as a composer, ethnomusicologist, teacher, lec-



Sahan Arzruni

turer, writer, recording artist, broadcasting personality, producer and impresario. He has toured in these capacities throughout North and South America, Europe, the Middle East, the Far East, and Australia. He has been featured in a number of PBS specials—"Around the World in '82," "Gala of Stars," and "A Place of Dreams: Carnegie Hall at 100" — and has recorded for European radio networks, including the BBC. Arzruni has given command performances at the White House, as well as the British, Danish, Swedish, and Icelandic courts.

Motivated by ethnic awareness in the United States, Arzruni continuously researches the musical roots of his Armenian heritage. He recorded a three-record anthology of Armenian piano music, and co-produced an eight-disc set of instrumental and vocal Armenian music.

General admission is \$25, \$18 for seniors, and \$5 for students. For tickets go to [www.keyboardconcerts.com/special-events.aspx](http://www.keyboardconcerts.com/special-events.aspx).



Claudia Morgan

## Holy Angels Armenian Club Commemorates Genocide Centennial

DEMAREST, N.J. — The inaugural community event for the Holy Angel's Armenian Club coincided with the centennial observance of the Armenian Genocide. On the early spring evening of April 20, the Holy Angels Armenian Club hosted a symposium which included a chronological pictorial exhibition of the Armenian Genocide. The student learning commons at Holy Angels was transformed for the evening, appropriately conveying the solemnity of the commemoration.

By Jonathan Shirley

The evening's formal program commenced with an eloquent speech by Claudia Morgan, the founder and president of the Holy Angels Armenian Club. The timing of the event was especially auspicious as it came on the heels of proclamations by Pope Francis. Morgan explained that during a requiem mass for the 1.5 million Armenians who perished in the Genocide, the pope recognized not only that the Armenian Genocide was the first genocide of the 20th century, but also lauded Armenians as the first nation to adopt Christianity.

Morgan also reflected on her own family connection to the Genocide by recounting the rags-to-riches story of her maternal grandfather, Sarkis Arslanian. She poignantly described that, despite being a century ago, the genocide felt much closer when she considered her grandfather's youth. A youth filled with the hardship of living as a refugee in an adoptive country, his family was forced to flee the killing fields of Armenia. Morgan observed, "When I consider these personal facts, 100 years feels awfully close."

The evening's program was headlined by Alex Webb, screen writer, director and producer. Webb showcased his short film, "Hove," which translates to "the wind." Webb's film singularly portrayed the complex nature of the Armenian Genocide, which after a century, finds itself at generational crossroads. Hove was supported by moving performances by Olympia Dukakis and Shirleyann Kaladjian. The screening of the short film was followed by a discussion with Webb. The discussion encompassed the numerous themes and symbols embedded in Hove, as well as a larger discussion on the Armenian Genocide. The dialogue was interesting, informative, as well as entertaining. Many of the attendees provided opinions which emphasized the recklessness of the Turkish Republic's continued official denial of the Armenian Genocide, as well as disappointment that the United States government has not joined numerous other nations in formally recognizing the atrocities perpetrated 100 years ago as indisputably genocidal.

The Academy of the Holy Angels high school was established by the School Sisters of Notre Dame in 1879.

## Aram, Aram' to Be Shown in Boston Area

ARLINGTON, Mass. — On Sunday, November 1, at 5 p.m., the film "Aram, Aram" will be shown at a special screening at the Regent Theatre, 7 Medford St., at 5 p.m.

The film is the first American independent film featuring an all-Armenian lead cast filmed by a non-Armenian director.

The movie is in Armenian and English; the characters speak whichever language is realistic in every scene to make the film feel more authentic. It has English subtitles, as well.

Starring legendary Armenian Actor, Levon Sharafyan and newcomers John Roohinian and Sevak Hakoyan, "Aram, Aram" first debuted to a sold-out theater at the Los Angeles Film Festival, where it was

the first Armenian-themed film ever accepted to the Festival in its entire 20-year history.

Since then, "Aram, Aram" has been invited to The Golden Apricot Film Festival in Armenia and The Montreal Film Festival in Canada.

It opened October 2 in Fresno, and opens in two theaters in Los Angeles starting October 16, showing five times daily in Glendale at the Americana and in Encino at the Laemmle Theatre.

There will be a question-and-answer session with writer/director of the film, Christopher Chambers. Tickets may be had by calling (617) 935 - 3997.

## Armenian Authors Coming to University of Michigan-Dearborn

DEARBORN, Mich. (Press & Guide) — In Turkey, a 100-year-old Armenian woman, named Asiya, still resides in her family's hometown of Chunkush. Not far away, a new school was erected in 2014. The connection between this new school and Asiya brings the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide into sharp focus. New York Times bestselling author Chris Bohjalian met Asiya when he visited Turkey in 2013. In two Washington Post op-ed pieces, he wrote about Asiya's story and the anger he felt when he saw the school for the first time.

In 1915, Turkish and Kurdish killing squads rounded up the 10,000 Armenians living in Chunkush. They took them to the very spot where the new school now stands, at the edge of a ravine about two hours from Chunkush. At the pit of the ravine is the Dudan Crevasse.

Asiya's mother was among the Armenians taken. She stood at the edge of the ravine holding her infant daughter. What did she see? Her neighbors and family pushed or stabbed into the crevasse? Did she look around at the frightened faces next to her? Perhaps she closed her eyes. What sounds did she hear? Screams, shouting, gunshots, the thud of bodies thrown onto other bodies? Was Asiya crying in her arms? What did she feel? Fear, rage? Would it be possible to feel peace?

One thing is certain, at the edge of the ravine, she waited for the force, whether bullet, bayonet, or boot, that would thrust her into the Dudan Crevasse below. She held her daughter and waited. She did this in the same space that, 100 years later, would be the home of a new, gleaming elementary school.

But death did not come. One of the Kurds found her attractive, so he pulled her from the line. He married her and raised Asiya as his own daughter. Asiya and her mother were saved from death, but they also had to hide their Armenian heritage for the remainder of their days. Even in 2013, when Bohjalian first met Asiya, she would not speak of her Armenian heritage with him, he said.

Bohjalian suggests the new school was built to cover up the mass grave and the larger history of Turkey's orchestrated slaughter of 1.5 million Armenians.

"I do not know the thinking behind the placement of the Yenikoy elementary school. But I have my suspicions. I would not be surprised if next year when I visit, the crevasse has been filled in: the evidence of a crime of seismic magnitude forever buried," he wrote in 2014.

Whether the school has been erected out of genuine need or as a means of covering up the evil that took place at the Dudan Ravine, its existence is ironic. A school now marks the unmarked mass grave of 10,000 Armenians. An institution of knowledge serves as the symbol of a space where heinous acts of ignorance were perpetrated.

"The irony, however, is this: It will no longer take complex directions or GPS coordinates to find the 10,000 dead at Dudan. All you will need to tell someone is to visit the Yenikoy elementary school. Go stand by the playground. The dead are right there," wrote Bohjalian.

Though, as of yet, he has not made Asiya's story into a novel, Bohjalian has written 18 books, including one that focuses on the Armenian Genocide, *The Sandcastle Girls*. He and eight other Armenian authors will present at the Book and Author Festival at the University of Michigan-Dearborn on Saturday, October 10.

The festival is one of several events organized this year by the Armenian Genocide Centennial Committee of Greater Detroit to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the start of the Armenian Genocide. For Dearborn, the festival is at least the third commemorative event this year. In April, the committee hosted a remembrance at Edsel Ford High School

see AUTHORS, page ?





ARTS & LIVING

REVIEW:

# Old and New, Homeland and New World in The Ash Tree

The ash Tree. A novel by Daniel Melnick. West of West Books, 2015. 302 pgs. \$25.

By Paula Bloch

Commemorations are a fixture in our public lives. We mark dates to call to mind a particular event or to teach a new generation the importance of a momentous occurrence. Much was made in the general media in late April of the Armenian Genocide of 1915; however, the public remembrances were fleeting – a quick story in the nightly television or radio broadcast or a newspaper story. Adding to the fragility of the stories is that this is a centenary remembrance; most, if not all, of the eyewitnesses are gone. Who will re-tell the facts and explore the ramifications of early twentieth century tragedies? Both historians and fiction writers offer different approaches and perspectives.

One such narrative is Daniel Melnick's *The Ash Tree*, which strikes a delicate balance between history and fiction. Permeating the book are references to actual events and places. And to sensory memories of "plump oil-cured olives in Constantinople...anchovies, the brine washed off [having] the savor of a kiss...and oranges [tasting] of sunlight and the tree." The sense of place is strong, whether Turkey, Armenia, or California and Fresno.

A basic timeline of the book takes one family from 1915 to 1972. The prologue, however, opens in 1972 California with a death in the family of Armen and Artemis Ararat. This violent death ruptures their world. It will take the rest of the story to explore why this death occurred and to understand the characters who inhabit this world.

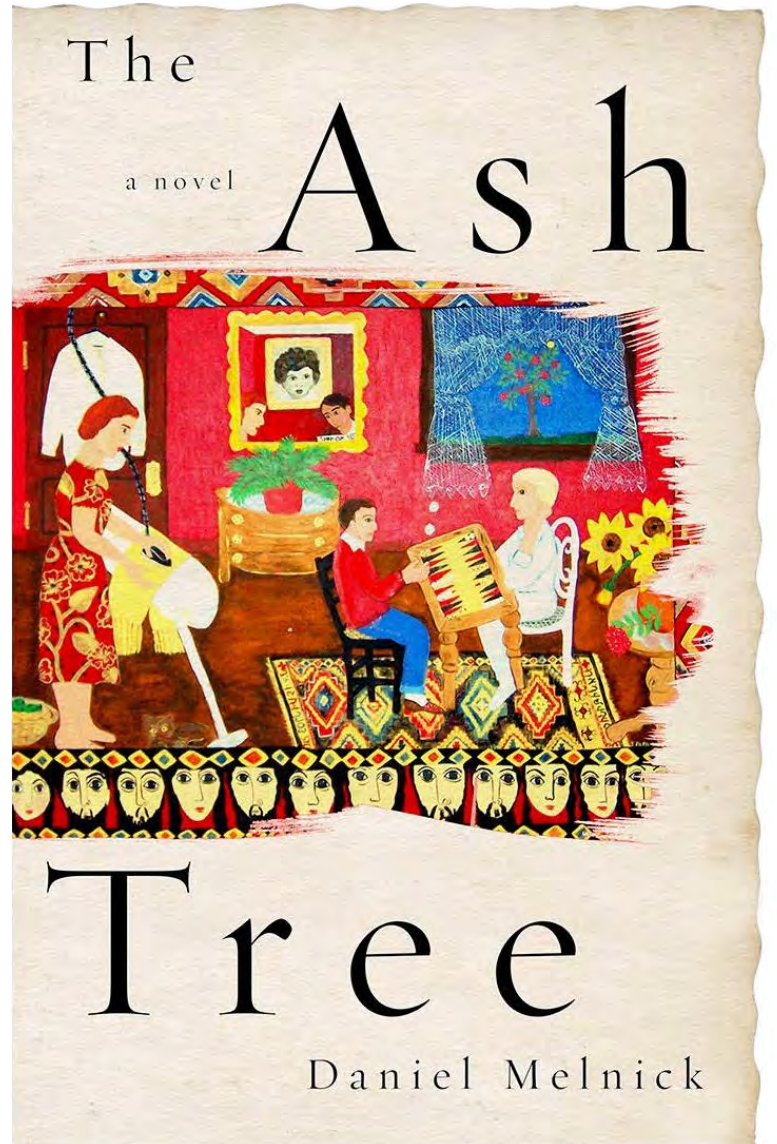
Although both from Armenian families, Armen Ararat and Artemis Haroutian are of different temperaments and outlooks. When we first meet Armen, he witnesses neighbors and teachers being killed in Turkey. Some 10 years later as a student at Berkeley, he remembers his European past and honors his relationship to it. He feels that all the immigrants had been permanently scarred by what they carried with them from Turkey. In contrast, Connecticut-born Artemis Haroutian did not want to marry a man born in the old country and "had always wanted a suitor who was free of the agony of 1915...not weighted down by foreignness and histo-

ry." These two positions haunt the characters and the novel. Melnick gives voice to the ambivalence of any group in a diaspora – to hold sacred the memory of the past and to forge a new, more hopeful life.

The strength of the novel is its careful summoning of a particular world that is the Armenian community centered in Fresno and the universality of the human inter-actions that makes this applicable to all. Early on in the novel, Armen's landlady says that what is important is that the family survives. Armen and Artemis build a life together for their children, Tigran, Garo and Juliet. They give up their early dreams of lives centered on poetry and art and focus on the difficult reality of raising a family. Although he is a recognized poet, Armen is known more for his business dealings. He struggles with the thought that his mastery of Armenian has no place in American life. Language eludes them both. We see this through Melnick's lens, which does use language with sensitivity and clarity.



As the Ararat children grow, they become part of the wider world, forging relationships outside the Armenian community. Marriage and business dealings extend their boundaries. The novel takes on a more intimate and emotional layer as Juliet marries Sammy Weisberg, a young Jewish man. It is here that history and narrative fiction most strongly overlap. Juliet and Sammy mirror the author and his wife, Jeanette Arax Melnick whose painting is the cover art of *The Ash Tree*. The Ararat family is based on the Arax family; yet, there is so much more of the interior lives of these characters inhabiting these pages.

As the novel comes full circle from 1972 back to 1915, we can see that one death can stand for all losses and bereavements. Geography cannot change the fragility of life, but memory helps to offer solace. Daniel Melnick honors both those who know Armenian loss and those who wish to understand such



losses in our lives generally.





[Paula Bloch is a retired advisor, administrator, and teacher at Cleveland State University.]





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# Armenian Assembly Hosts Fall Fete in New York

NEW YORK — On Thursday, September 24, the Armenian Assembly of America hosted a Fall Fete at the Hotel Hugo rooftop in downtown New York City. As the sun set over an enchanting view of the city, guests engaged in lively conversation as they networked and shared memories of their years of activism with the Armenian Assembly.

Assembly board members Alex Karapetian and Bianka Kadian-Dodov, who organized the Fall Fete, welcomed over fifty new Assembly members, many of whom are alumni of the Armenian Assembly Summer Internship Program and Birthright Armenia.

“We were delighted by the positive response from the local Armenian American community and we are looking forward to growing the Armenian Assembly in the years ahead,” stated Karapetian and Kadian-Dodov, who are both Assembly intern alumni. The Assembly’s 2015

Fall Fete-NYC is one of a series of events aimed at broadening membership.

Current and former board members were also on hand to show their support and dedication to the incoming members. Board co-chairman Anthony Barsamian discussed the ongoing work done by the Armenian Assembly in Washington, D.C. with Congress and the White House. In addition, board vice president Edele Hovnanian addressed the gathering, drawing from her years of experience with Birthright Armenia, as she looked to inspire the next generation in community activism in and for Armenia.

The Armenian Assembly of America thanks the following sponsors of the Fall Fete: Anthony Barsamian, Michael Haroutunian, Carolyn Mugar, Toros Sahakian, Joyce Stein, Lu Ann Ohanian, Oscar Tatosian, Annie Totah, and Peter Vosbikian.



(L-R): Assembly Board Vice President Edele Hovnanian, Assembly Executive Director Bryan Ardouny, Board Member Alex Karapetian, Board Treasurer Bianka Kadian-Dodov, Board Co-Chairman Van Krikorian, Board Assistant Secretary Lisa Kalustian, Board Secretary Oscar Tatosian, Board President Carolyn Mugar, Board Co-Chairman Anthony Barsamian, and Board Member Toros Sahakian.



## Recipe Corner

by Christine Vartanian Datian

### Lentil, Pasta, and Apricot Salad with Brown Sugar Nuts

#### INGREDIENTS

1 15-ounce can lentils, rinsed, or 1 cup cooked brown, green or red lentils, drained  
 2 cups penne or bow-tie pasta, boiled and drained  
 1 cup fresh apricots, diced  
 1 cup Golden Delicious or Granny Smith apples, seeded and diced  
 1 cup red seedless grapes  
 1 medium zucchini, peeled and diced  
 1 shallot, thinly sliced  
 1/2 cup golden raisins, diced  
 1/4 cup green onions or scallions, finely chopped  
 1/4 cup each fresh parsley and mint, finely chopped  
 Kosher or sea salt, black pepper, Hungarian sweet paprika (to taste)  
 1 teaspoon fresh lemon zest  
 Olive oil  
 Juice of two lemons or choice of red, balsamic or raspberry wine vinegar  
 8-10 cups mixed greens (or a combination of romaine, Bibb lettuce, watercress, arugula, frisee, red leaf, and spinach, chopped)

#### Brown Sugar Nuts

2-3 tablespoons unsalted butter  
 1/2 cup light or dark brown sugar  
 2 tablespoons maple syrup (or honey)  
 1 tablespoon water  
 1/4 cup each almonds, walnuts, macadamia nuts or pecans  
 Dash of sea salt  
 1/4 teaspoon vanilla  
 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon

In a medium pan, melt the butter, add the brown sugar, and mix together for a few minutes on low heat; add the maple syrup (or honey) and water, and cook all ingredients until bubbly; add the nuts, salt, vanilla and cinnamon, and toss until the nuts are well coated. Toss for a few minutes longer, remove from heat, and spoon nuts onto a plate or sheet of wax paper to dry completely.

#### PREPARATION:

In a large bowl, combine the lentils, pasta, apricots, apples, grapes, zucchini, shallot, and raisins; add the green onions, parsley and mint, and toss.

Season with salt, pepper, paprika and lemon zest. Drizzle with olive oil and lemon juice or vinegar to taste and toss.

Serve salad at room temperature or chill for 2-3 hours before serving.

Divide the mixed greens on four serving plates. Spoon the salad on top of the mixed greens and garnish with Brown Sugar Nuts.

\*Diced ham or shredded cooked chicken, turkey or pork may be added to this salad for lunch or dinner.

Serves 4.

To see more of Christine’s recipes, go to:  
<http://search.myrecipes.com/search.html?Ntt=datian>  
 or <http://www.thearmeniankitchen.com/>

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



Guests of the Assembly’s 2015 Fall Fete-NYC.

### Armenian Authors Coming to U. of Michigan-Dearborn

AUTHORS, from page ?

featuring actor and author Eric Bogosian and journalist Robert Fisk. In May, the Catholicos Aram I, one of two pontiffs who rules the Armenian Apostolic Church, visited St. Sarkis.

The Book and Author Festival is the result of a partnership between the committee and the university’s Armenian Research Center. According to the university’s website, it is the only Armenian research facility associated with an American university.

The festival will take place from 9:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. at the university’s Kochoff Hall. The morning session, which runs until 12:30 p.m., will feature Michelle Andonian, Christopher Atamian, Robert George Koolakian, Marian Mesrobian MacCurdy, and Scout

Tufankjian. The afternoon session begins at 1:30 p.m. and features Bohjalian, Matthew Karanian, Nancy Krikorian and Aline Ohanesian. Each session will include the authors’ presentations, as well as a question and answer period and opportunity for book signings. Admission to the festival is free, but lunch must be ordered and purchased in advance.

That same evening, the authors will gather for the Authors’ Banquet at Pine Lake Country Club in West Bloomfield. Tickets for this event are limited and cost \$60 per person. For information on the banquet, contact Gloria Korkoian at 313-730-6698 or Tamar Kadian at 248-723-5520. Fliers for both events are posted at the Armenian Genocide Centennial Committee of Greater Detroit Facebook page.

### Popular Armenian Songs at Armenian Museum

WATERTOWN — The Armenian Museum of America, the Composer’s Union of Armenia, and the Amaras Art Alliance present: “Popular Songs by Armenian Composers Performed by the Bostonians” on Sunday, November 1, from 2 to 4 p.m. The concert will be held on the 3rd floor of the Armenian Museum in the Adele & Haig Der Manuehian Galleries.

The concert will feature the voices of Nouné Karapetian, Roselin Osser, Michael Calmés, and Philip Lima accompanied by William Merrill on the piano. They will be performing a range of popular songs from Armenian composers.

Light refreshments will be served at a reception following the concert. Both the concert and the reception are free and open to the public. This concert is made possible by a donation from the Dadourian Foundation.



Nouné Karapetian, Roselin Osse, Philip Lima





## ARTS &amp; LIVING

## CALENDAR

## CALIFORNIA

**NOVEMBER 7 — Saturday, "100 Years and Flourishing," St. Peter Church Ladies Society** 57th Annual Fashion Show and Luncheon, at Four Seasons, Westlake Village, CA. Details to come.

## FLORIDA

**JANUARY 9-17, 2016 Fort Lauderdale, Armenian Heritage Cruise XIX 2016**, 8-night Caribbean Cruise aboard Royal Caribbean's Navigator Of The Seas. Travelling to: Labadee-Private beach Island/Puerto Rico/St. Kitts/St. Maarten. Cabin Rates from \$819 based on Double Occupancy, including Port Charges and ACAA registration fee. Government taxes of \$107.40 are additional. Call 1-561-447-0750 or 1-866-447-0750 Ext. 108. Ask for Gail.

## MASSACHUSETTS

**OCTOBER 16-17 — St. James 68th Annual Bazaar, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.**, food served 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Delicious Armenian Food and Pastries. Silent Auction, Attic Treasures, Booths and Vendors. Apple Raffle (including an iWatch), \$100 Raffle and Children's Activities. St. James Armenian Church, 465 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown. Sponsorship opportunities available. For more information contact 617.923.8860 or visit [www.stjameswatertown.org](http://www.stjameswatertown.org).

**OCTOBER 17 — St. Gregory Armenian Church of Merrimack Valley annual fall fair**, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Jaffarian Hall, 158 Main St., North Andover; shish, losh & chicken kebab dinners; lentil kheyima, regular kheyima, vegetarian plates; pastries, games, raffles; further details, (978) 685-5038 or Ann Apovian (978) 521-2245 or Sossy Jeknavorian (978) 256-2538.

**OCTOBER 18 —** The documentary "Garod" will be shown on Sunday, 1 to 3:15 p.m., MIT Building 4, Room 163, Cambridge. The film will be in English and Armenian, with Turkish subtitles. "Garod" is about the lives and the musical stories of two Armenian musicians: A father and his son, Onnik Dinkjian and Ara Dinkjian. Onnik Dinkjian is one of the most influential Armenian singers with his unique style of singing, evoking the Anatolian Armenian sound in America. Onnik Dinkjian's family was from Diyarbakir/Dikranagert and they had to leave the country after 1915. Onnik Dinkjian was born in France and never saw his homeland until he was seventy-five. Yet he grew up in a neighborhood of Dikranagert Armenians listening to the stories and songs of his 'home.' For more information, see [www.garoddocumentary.com](http://www.garoddocumentary.com)

**OCTOBER 18 — Holy Trinity Armenian Church's Annual Banquet** honoring Deacon James M. Kalustian, as Parishioner of the Year, following church services, Charles and Nevart Talanian Cultural Hall, 145 Brattle St. Cambridge. Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate, Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern) presiding. During the Banquet, recognition will also be given to outgoing Parish Council members Ara Hollisian and Thomas H. Stephanian, and Diocesan Delegates, Gerald Ajemian and David DerVartanian. Dinner donation is \$35. Seating by advance paid reservation only with a RSVP deadline of October 13. For further information, call the church office, 617.354.0632, or log onto <http://www.htaac.org/calendar/event/110/>.

**OCTOBER 18 — Resilient Voices: 1915 - 2015**, a concert commemorating the centennial of the Armenian Genocide, 3 p.m. at Jordan Hall of the New England Conservatory of Music, Boston. Presented by the Boston Modern Orchestra Project and the Friends of Armenian Culture Society and featuring the Boston premiere of Tigran Mansurian's Requiem. Also music by Komitas, Hovhanness and Shostakovich. Nareh Arghamanyan, piano; Gil Rose, conductor. For tickets and information, send e-mail to [info@facsboston.org](mailto:info@facsboston.org) or visit [www.FACSBoston.org](http://www.FACSBoston.org).

**OCTOBER 22 — 2015 Najarian Lecture on Human Rights at Faneuil Hall, Boston.** 7:30 p.m. In Commemoration Of The Armenian Genocide Centennial - Honoring America's Call To Action: Then & Now - Peter Balakian, Donald M. and Constance H. Rebar Professor, Colgate University; author, *The Burning Tigris: The Armenian Genocide and America's Response*; a short play by Joyce Van Dyke commissioned for this lecture and Sarah Leah Whitson, Executive Director, Middle East &

North Africa Division, Human Rights Watch. A reception follows at the Millennium Bostonian Hotel. The annual lecture is supported by Armenian Heritage Park's K. George and Carolann S. Najarian Endowed Fund. For details, please email [info@ArmenianHeritagePark.org](mailto:info@ArmenianHeritagePark.org)

**OCTOBER 24 —** Armenian Friends of America presents "Hye Kef 5," dinner-dance, 7 p.m.-midnight, DiBurro's Function Hall, 887 Boston Road, Ward Hill (Haverhill). Dinner served promptly at 7:30. Music by Mal Barsamian/Johnny Berberian Ensemble. Tickets \$50 by reservation only. Call either John Arzigian (603) 560-3826; Lucy Sirmaian (978) 683-9121; Sandy Boroyan (978) 251-8687, or Peter Guzelian (978) 375-1616. Proceeds to benefit area Armenian churches.

**OCTOBER 24 — Fall Harvest Bazaar**, Saturday, 12 noon to 8pm, First Armenian Church, 380 Concord Ave., Belmont. Handmade choreg, manti, Armenian pastries and more. Grilled kebab all day. Marketplace treasures. All are welcome, rain or shine. MBTA and handicapped accessible. Information: 617-489-4779.

**OCTOBER 25 — 2nd Annual Holy Trinity Tailgate**, 12 p.m.-4:30 p.m., Charles and Nevart Talanian Cultural Hall, Holy Trinity Armenian Church, 145 Brattle Street, Cambridge. All are welcome to a tailgate party to watch the New England Patriots vs. New York Jets game, which begins at 1 p.m., on the 12-foot screen. Lots of food, beverages and snacks. Sponsored by the "Trinity Men's Union." For further information, contact the Church office, 617.354.0632, or email [office@htaac.org](mailto:office@htaac.org).

**OCTOBER 25 — Armenian Genocide 100th Anniversary Memorial Concert**, 4 p.m., Mechanics Hall, 321 Main Street. Worcester. Sunday, Co-Sponsored by Master Singers Of Worcester and Armenian Church Of Our Saviour with performances by the combined choruses of the Master Singers and the Greater Worcester Armenian Singers plus a children's chorus and a children's dance group. Tickets: \$25.00 adults, \$20.00 seniors and students. For information call 508-756-2931.

**OCTOBER 29-NOVEMBER 7 — "Daybreak,"** Joyce Van Dyke's play about two women who were best friends and survivors of the Armenian Genocide, will be produced at Tufts University in the Balch Arena Theater, directed by Barbara W. Grossman. (The play was previously produced under the title, "Deported / a dream play"). Performances are October 29-30 at 8 p.m., October 31 at 2 p.m., November 5-7 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for general public, \$10 for seniors, and \$1 on November 5. For tickets call the box office, 617.627.3493, M-F, 9 am-5 pm.

**NOVEMBER 6 and 7 — Annual Autumnfest Bazaar sponsored by the Armenian Church at Hye Pointe**, 110 Main St, Haverhill, Friday 12 – 8 pm and Saturday 12 – 7 pm. Lamb, Losh, Chicken Kebab and Kheyima. Dinner served all day. Pastry table, Armenian cuisine, gift baskets, raffles for cash and prizes. For more info, visit [www.hyepointearmenianchurch.org](http://www.hyepointearmenianchurch.org) or call (978) 372-9227.

**NOVEMBER 6-7 — St. Stephen's Armenian Apostolic Church 59th Annual Bazaar.** Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Armenian Cultural and Educational Center, 47 Nichols Ave., Watertown. Meals served from 11:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Takeout is available. Delicious meals. Armenian pastries. Gourmet Gift Shoppe. Raffles. Attic Treasures. Live auction at 7 p.m. For more information, call the church at (617) 924-7562.

**NOVEMBER 5 —** Avak luncheon, noon, St. Gregory Armenian Church, 158 Main St., North Andover. Speaker, Ruth Thomasian, executive director, Project SAVE Photographic Archives, "Forty Years of Preserving Armenian History Through Photographs." **NOVEMBER 10 — Nowhere, A Story of Exile, book presentation by author Anna Astvatsaturian Turcotte** recounting her family's escape from Baku in 1989 to Armenia and then to America. Armenian Cultural Foundation, Arlington. Reception 7 p.m., program 8 p.m. Open to the public free of charge. Armenian International Women's Association New England Affiliate Resilient Women Series. Info: [aiwanewengland@aol.com](mailto:aiwanewengland@aol.com).

**NOVEMBER 14 — Holiday Arts & Crafts Fair, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**, at Jaffarian Hall, St. Gregory Armenian Church, 158 Main St., North Andover; handcrafted items by local crafters & artisans; light lunch served; further details, Dorothy (978) 686-7769 or Rose (978) 256-0594.

**NOVEMBER 21 — An evening with Project SAVE Armenian Photograph Archives, Inc., Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library** (previously National Heritage Museum), 33 Marrett Road, Lexington, cele-

brating 40 years and beyond. Reservations and information, call (617) 923-4542 or [www.ProjectSAVE.org](http://www.ProjectSAVE.org).

**NOVEMBER 21 —** Presentation of a new book and book signing of Muron Scented Whispers by Monsignor Andon Atamian, new of the Holy Cross Armenian Catholic Church. Presentation by Avik Derentz Deirmenjian, 7 p.m., Holy Cross Armenian Catholic Church, Atinizian Hall, 200 Lexington St., Belmont. Reception to follow.

**DECEMBER 4, and DECEMBER 5 — Trinity Christmas Bazaar, Friday, 12-9 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.**, Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston, 145 Brattle St., Cambridge. Mark your calendars; details to follow. For further information, contact the church office at 617-354-0632 or email [office@htaac.org](mailto:office@htaac.org).

**DECEMBER 13 — Christmas Holiday Concert — Erevan Choral Society** and Orchestra, 7 p.m., Church Sanctuary, Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston, 145 Brattle St., Cambridge, MA. Save the date; details to follow.

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

## MICHIGAN

**NOVEMBER 1 —** Tekeyan Cultural Association and the Cultural Society of Armenians from Istanbul will host a tribute to community leader and architect Osep Sarafian. Sarafian and his wife, Nadya, the retired principal of the AGBU school, have been active in the community since 1980. He has visited Armenia more than 40 times to raise money for specific projects through the World Bank. The program will be at South John Armenian Church Cultural Hall, 22001 Northwestern, Southfield, starting at 6 pm., dinner at 7 pm. Musical interlude with opera singer Solange Merdinian. \$50 per person donation. To RSVP call Karine Koundakjian (248) 761-9744, Diana Alexanian (248) 334-3636 or Sylva Sagherian (248) 592-0825.

## NEW YORK

**OCTOBER 14 —** The Cathedral of St. John the Divine kicks off the 2015-2016 Great Music in a Great Space concert series with Great Choir: Four Quarters of Jerusalem, a concert celebrating the vibrant cultures that make up the Holy Land, on Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. at the cathedral, 1047 Amsterdam Avenue (at 112th Street), Manhattan. Under the leadership of Director of Cathedral Music Kent Tritle, the Cathedral Choir is joined by world music ensemble Rose of the Compass for a revised reprise of their 2013 collaboration celebrating the diverse musical traditions stemming from and inspired by the Holy City of Jerusalem. The performance will be an inspiring mix of Coptic chant, Armenian psalms, Sufi melodies, and Jewish, Muslim, Armenian and Christian prayers, featuring Middle Eastern instruments such as the oud, the kanun, the dap and the chalumeau. This concert also celebrates the release of a CD of this repertoire on the Pro Organo label. 7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

## RHODE ISLAND

**OCTOBER 18 — Sts. Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church - Name Day Banquet** to be held following church services in the Egavian Cultural Center. Honoring Parishioners of the Year: William Aznavourian, Hagop Boghosian, Jasper Der Ananian, Agnes Killabian, Bertha Mugurdichian and Lucy Muradian. Tickets: Adults \$20, Children (under 15) \$10. For tickets contact Ann Ayrassian (401-272-4743) [istanbul27@verizon.net](mailto:istanbul27@verizon.net) or Church Office (401-272-7712) office [@stsahmes.org](mailto:@stsahmes.org) Deadline for ticket sales: October 13. no tickets sold at the door.





## COMMENTARY

# Mirror Spectator



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## COMMENTARY

## Is War Imminent in the Caucasus?

By Edmond Y. Azadian

When a cease-fire agreement was reached in May 1994 between Armenia and Azerbaijan through Russia's mediation, no one had the illusion that the specter of war had dissipated from South Caucasus. The bone of contention between the two adversaries, namely Nagorno Karabagh, became one of the "frozen conflicts" emerging in the wake of the collapse of the Soviet Union.

But the recent escalation of tensions across the border of the two countries is testing many assumptions and some alliances.

Speeches delivered at the United Nations' General Assembly marking the 70th anniversary of that world body by Armenia's President Serge Sargsian's and Azerbaijan's Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov did not give any indication that peace was at hand; on the contrary, both speeches concluded with veiled threats of war.

The fact that Nagorno Karabagh has never been an integral part of Azerbaijan's territory has not received traction in any international forum. Even during the Soviet period, the region had the status of an autonomous oblast under Baku's jurisdiction, rather than Azeri territory. Notwithstanding Nariman Narimanov's statement, after Azerbaijan's Sovietization, Karabagh, Zangezur and Nakhijevan are part of Armenia's territory proper for perpetuity. Narimanov was the Azeri leader in the immediate post-Soviet era Azerbaijan. Only in 1920, the British government convinced Karabagh's Consultative Council to accept Azerbaijani tutelage, until its final status could be determined by the Treaty of Sevres (August 10, 1920). Ever since, Armenians in Karabagh have been waiting for the legal status of their ancestral land.

Armenia's strategic ally, Russia, has not endorsed the principle that Karabagh broke away from Azerbaijan and the Soviet Union through the same legal vehicle (the Soviet constitution) which Baku implemented in dissolving its ties with the Union, thus rendering the Helsinki final act into a rectangular wheel which supposedly will resolve the self-determination of Karabagh people without compromising Azerbaijan's territorial integrity.

Even four UN resolutions on the issue have assumed Karabagh was an integral part of Azerbaijan's territory, making Armenia's challenge an uphill legal battle. These resolutions were passed through Turkey's political manipulations and with the votes of the members of the Islamic Conference, in which Ankara and Baku are members.

The politics around the conflict are based on the above legal parameters.

Since the signing of the ceasefire, the resolution of the conflict has been consigned to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group, with the co-chairmanship of Russia, the US and France.

For the last two decades, the Minsk Group has been engaged in shuttle diplomacy, spinning its wheels to no avail. One aspect of the group which has been consistent was that thus far they have spoken with one voice. This is no longer true.

Several meetings between the presidents of the two countries, in locales as varied as Key West, Astana, Madrid and Moscow – through OSCE – have not been able to achieve a breakthrough.

During the recent cross-border skirmishes, however, new and dangerous weapons systems have been introduced from Turkey. The violation of the ceasefire has been accompanied by louder rhetoric of bellicose statements and not only by third-class government officials. President Ilham Aliyev of Azerbaijan himself has been claiming not only the Karabagh territory, but also the sovereign territory of Armenia. Backing his words with action, Aliyev's army has been attacking the civilization population in the Tavush region of Armenia and violating the ceasefire on the Armenia-Nakhijevan border.

An editorial in [Iragir.am](http://Iragir.am) on October 1 suggests, "Of course Aliyev could be constrained by the OSCE Minsk Group, but obviously the group has not consensus on this. It is clear that the Russian policy is encouraging Azerbaijan to seek new violations."

That there is discord within the Minsk Group is apparent from the fact that the American co-chair James Warlick has been issuing individual comments, apparently with no coordi-

nation with his colleagues. One such persistent statements has pushed forth the argument that Armenian side has to cede the seven regions around Karabagh, which had been occupied as a strategic buffer to guarantee the security of the Karabagh people and their armed forces.

That mantra had begun earlier by Turkey's then-Foreign Minister Mehmet Davutoglu, after the collapse of the Turkish-Armenian protocols in Zurich in 2009 that in order to demonstrate its flexibility, the Armenian side has at least to evacuate one region. In both cases, there has been no suggestion of a reciprocal move by the Azeri side. Compromise means two consenting parties making reciprocal concessions to reach a common goal. Concession by one party does not lead to a solution.

Thus far, the retaliation from the Armenian side has been swift and punishing. But Azerbaijan needs the war rhetoric, if not the war. The dictatorial regime has been severely criticized by the European Union and the US for human rights violations.

Despite the obscenely opulent lifestyle of the ruling Aliyev clan, more than 700,000 Azeris are domestic refugees kept in abject poverty in order to divert the world's attention to their "foreign enemy."

Recent war games on Armenia's borders with the participation of Turkish, Azeri and Georgian armed forces intend to demonstrate that Armenia is an isolated country, which is not far from the truth. That situation is exacerbated by Armenia's rapid depopulation, which has pleased Aliyev tremendously. He has indicated many times that Azerbaijan can wait until Armenia becomes an easy prey through its depopulation.

Recent comments by Turkey have inflamed the already volatile situation. Indeed, the chief of the General Staff of the Turkish Armed Forces, Hulusi Akar, has stated: "Turkey will support Azerbaijan in the Settlement of the Nagorno-Karabagh conflict."

Adding insult to injury is the Russian equivocation when Armenia's security is in question. Armenia is a partner with

Russia in the Customs Union. Also, it is a strategic ally in the CSTO. The other members of the CSTO, namely Kazakhstan and Belarus, continue their relations with Azerbaijan and they issue generic statements in view of the ceasefire violations. The Russian military base in Gumri is supposed to protect Armenia in case of an attack. Baku has diverted its fire from Karabagh to Armenia proper, yet we still have to hear a comment from our Russian ally.

### RECENT WAR GAMES ON ARMENIA'S BORDERS WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF TURKISH, AZERI AND GEORGIAN ARMED FORCES INTEND TO DEMONSTRATE THAT ARMENIA IS AN ISOLATED COUNTRY, WHICH IS NOT FAR FROM THE TRUTH.

The previously mentioned editorial in [Iragir](http://Iragir) further comments on Armenian-Russian relations: "And when a de jure ally and friend is de facto arming the enemy, turning on a green light for the aggression of the enemy, especially that de facto alliance with the United States is becoming more than important."

Azerbaijan also buys its armaments from Turkey and especially drones from Israel. One Israeli expert, Dr. Alexander Tsinker, has revealed: "We supply hardware to Azerbaijan, but it is only business. I have talked to Armenian colleagues and told them if Armenia wants, it also can purchase necessary hardware from Israel, but Armenia's answer was confused, saying that it is a CSTO member" and armaments are not compatible with CSTO systems.

What Davutoglu and Warlick have been suggesting has also found its echo with President Putin. During the last one-on-one meeting President Putin told Armenian President Serge Sargsian that in order to ease tensions, Armenia has to relinquish control of seven regions around Karabagh unilaterally, without any guarantees on the future status of Karabagh. This is the real test of Armenian-Russian military treaty. Moscow has long been trying to introduce Russian peacekeeping forces in Karabagh to consolidate its military position in the Caucasus. The Armenian side has been resisting that policy, with the argument that its armed forces can guarantee the security of the two Armenian republics an indeed, despite Armenia's alarming depopulation, today's wars are won through technology and strategy. Military analysts believe that Armenia still possesses the strategic edge. However, no one can tell for how long.

Russia has its hands full in Ukraine and Syria, but more often than not, second fronts of war are triggered in this kind of confusing situations.

The last thing Armenia needs is a new war. Even if Armenia wins, it will be costly and bloody.





## COMMENTARY



My Turn

By Harut Sassounian

## Pan-Armenian Council to Supersede Armenian Genocide Centennial Committee

The Armenian Genocide Centennial State Committee unanimously adopted a resolution on September 26 in Yerevan to form a Pan-Armenian Council. Also present were representatives of Armenian Genocide Centennial Committees (AGCC) from 40 countries, with the exception of the AGCC's of the Eastern and Western United States.

An Organizing Committee was formed composed of 12 individuals: Gagik Harutyunyan, President of the Constitutional Court of Armenia; Vigen Sargsyan, Armenian President's Chief of Staff; Hranoush Hakobyan, Armenia's Diaspora Minister; and representatives of the Holy See of Etchmiadzin, Holy See of the Great House of Cilicia, Armenian Catholic Church; Armenian Evangelical Church, Armenian Revolutionary Federation, Armenian Democratic League, Social Democratic Hunchakian Party, Union of Russian Armenians, and Armenian General Benevolent Union.

Possibly due to oversight, the Organizing Committee did not include a representative of the Republic of Artsakh (Nagorno Karabagh). However, the adopted resolution clear-

ly stated that the Pan-Armenian Council would include representatives of the Republic of Armenia, Republic of Artsakh, major Diasporan organizations, key Armenian state agencies, religious institutions, civil society, and political parties.

The resolution directed that:

– The Pan-Armenian Council be of advisory nature, have geographic and thematic committees, and meet annually in Yerevan;

– The Council include on its permanent agenda the following items: a) review of a comprehensive annual report on conditions of Armenians around the world, b) discussion on the recognition, condemnation and elimination of the consequences of the Armenian Genocide, and c) coordination of pan-Armenian activities;

– The Council hold its inaugural session in Yerevan on September 20, 2016;

– The Organizing Committee prepare and send to members of the State Committee and regional AGCC's by April 15, 2016, a preliminary outline of the structure and composition of the Pan-Armenian Council; hold consultations on the direction, format and activities of the Council; plan the inaugural session of the Council; and by July 15, 2016 inform State Committee members of its date and place;

– The Diaspora Minister prepare the first report of "Conditions of Armenians Around the World," in consultation with the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Culture, Education and Science, state agencies, and Diasporan organizations, including the State Committee and regional AGCC's; present by May 1, 2016, a preliminary report to the State Committee and regional AGCC's seeking their proposals; hold consultations with regional AGCC's to prepare proposals regarding their relationship with the Pan-Armenian Council; and finalize the report by the Sept. 20th session of the Council.

During the discussion, Hrant Markarian, Chairman of the Bureau of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation, suggested that, in addition to the Pan-Armenian Council, regional councils be formed in various parts of the Diaspora to help organize in 2016, the 25th anniversary of the independence of the Armenian Republic, and in 2018, the 100th anniversary of the founding of the first Republic of Armenia.

I took the floor next asking why the Pan-Armenian Council did not include representatives of the public-at-large, to ensure that the majority of Armenians, who are not members of any Armenian organization, are represented in the Council. The President of Armenia, Serzh Sargsyan, responded that his staff had explored such a possibility, but had given up due to the difficulty of selecting representatives from the Armenian Diaspora. I mentioned that there are mechanisms for selecting representatives from the various Armenian communities. The President welcomed the suggestion and referred it to the Organizing Committee. President of the Constitutional Court Gagik Harutyunyan and former Prime Minister Vazken Manoukian also commented on the possible inclusion of representatives from the general public in the Pan-Armenian Council.

As I have explained in previous columns, the Pan-Armenian Council would eliminate the need to form separate committees on the occasion of each Armenian crisis or issue. In my view, it would be preferable that Diasporan members of the Council be selected through democratic elections held in various Armenian communities around the world – a very difficult, yet rewarding task, if implemented successfully!

Finally, there was no discussion at the September 26 meeting on the role of the Diaspora Ministry after the Pan-Armenian Council is formed. This would be an important issue for the Organizing Committee to consider in its upcoming deliberations.

# The Practicality of Peace

By Nicolas Atayan Nave

Peace is ever-evolving measure of overall human conflict, and has eluded us since the dawn of time. Since the beginning of human history, we have stolen, killed, conquered, argued, and warred. Peace has always been regarded as an obviously preferable but unrealistic state of existence and relegated to the world of cliches, along with "true love" and "karma." But there is good news, and you may not have known about it until now – statistics show 2015 is the most peaceful time on Earth in recorded history. This isn't some fluke either – we are only getting more peaceful with time, this is a trend that has been persisting for a while now. It may be surprising to some, given that terrorist attacks and school shootings seem to happen on a weekly basis. However, on the whole, there has never been a safer time to be alive.

The question, "How can we achieve world peace?" is a question that has no immediate practical answer. The truth is that we will never live in a completely peaceful utopia and there will always be someone stealing, murdering, or committing some sort of crime. What we should be aspiring towards as a species is to be as peaceful as practically possible, and this is something that can only be achieved through increased modernization of the world. The overall trend of increased peacefulness correlates with the concurrent trend of increased technological and cultural modernization. One example of how cultural modernization influenced world peace is the Civil Rights Movement – people in the United States became educated and collectively realized the barbarity of racial discrimination, resulting in a more peaceful world today.

It can be seen that the least peaceful places on Earth at the moment are also some of the least developed, and vice versa. To achieve a higher sense of world peace, countries which lag behind the most developed ones must modernize on all fronts. But how can this be done? Simply by virtue of patience. It may seem disingenuous, but it's entirely serious – the world will only continue to become more modern, resources will only continue to become more available, and technology will only continue to become more advanced as time goes on. No countries are going backwards in terms of technological or cultural development. As these things happen, world peace will also come hand in hand.

We shouldn't be worrying too much about peace; we are living in some of the most peaceful times ever and the statistics are not in favor of that changing any time soon. No, we don't live in a fairy tale perfect world, but that's okay because we are doing our best

to approximate it – and we are getting infinitesimally closer as we speak.

The question "How do we achieve world peace?" is inherently pessimistic and misguided. It implies that world peace is some fixed state that we can one day arrive at, and it implies that world peace is something we are far from at the present. It is true that we will never achieve this contrived, fabled state, but we can get as close as we possibly can to it, and we are. Right now we are as close to it as we have ever been, and this is something to be realized and celebrated.

Compared to any other time on Earth, today ranks as more peaceful, and tomorrow will rank as even more peaceful than today. All we have to do is sit back and watch. This is not to say that we do not have to put effort into this – clearly we do. But humanity has been making the effort this entire time without even realizing it (The establishment of governments and the advent of technologies have all inadvertently contributed to the furthering of world peace), and we will continue to do so as the drive to advance as a species is biologically ingrained in us.

We live in the real world, not a utopia. In the real world, we have to deal with the unfortunate existence of things like disease, war, and scarcity. Sure, we can talk about hypothetical utopias where these plagues don't exist, but really we know that those worlds are not potential realities. What we should be discussing are worlds where we have as little suffering as possible. And these worlds are coming, and in some sense they are already here. What we must continue to do is continue the trend of liberalization, modernization, and education that has ushered in this era of peacefulness. Look at the most violent areas on Earth – none of them have first world amenities to the same degree that we in the developed world have. These trailing countries must develop to match us, and we must also continue to develop, for development is the root of peace. And as long as we as a species continue to develop as we have, we should reap the rewards of a more peaceful world.

(Nicolas is a 17 year old Armenian-American student currently going into his senior year at La Jolla High School in California. During his junior year, he enrolled in an after school volunteer program where he has dedicated many hours editing and rewriting business documents. Upon completion of his work, he was asked to write an essay about peace for this year's California International Music and Arts Festival (The Voice of Peace) taking place at the United Nations on August 11, 2015. This was the 10th Annual event organized by SACC, Sino-American Cultural Council, Help You Learn, LLC, and Azeneration. He was invited to the UN by the event organizers to deliver it as a speech.)

## Turgut Er: Heydar Aliyev Regime Humiliated and Fleeced Turkish Investors in Azerbaijan

Heydar Aliyev laughed with the Russians, while to the Turkish visitors, he was cold and sometimes even threatening, keeping his distance, writes the Turkish diplomat Turgut Er, who served press attaché for the Turkish embassy in Azerbaijan during Heydar Aliyev's rule, in his book "From Freedom to Tyranny."

Heydar Aliyev's regime of tyranny targeted the "poor Turkish entrepreneurs" who worked in Azerbaijan. They were not able to stand the Aliyev regime's humiliations, bribery and groundless checks, according to Er.

The Turkish entrepreneurs, who employed over 40 thousand Azerbaijanis, were not allowed to invest more than 3 billion dollars. Since 1997, the factories started to be taken away from the owners.

According to Er, Heydar Aliyev revived the Soviet system and its traditions. Under the guise of "checks," accusations were brought against the entrepreneurs, in accord with the laws of the communist system. They were forced to sell their business for five gapiks (1/100 of Azerbaijani manat), or else, "rot" in the basements of KGB. "The people abandoned their fortune and returned to Turkey to get back on their feet," this is how the author describes the state of affairs in Azerbaijan in those times.

Remarkably, even the Turkish Embassy was not able to do something about it, because Heydar Aliyev stood in front of the embassy staff backed by Suleyman Demirel. "The relations between the two countries were not intergovernmental but rather interpersonal," the former diplomat writes.

According to Er, the only person before whom the executive power was accountable, was Aliyev. Once a year they gathered in the Lenin Palace or in the building of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union to "render an account" in meetings, which foreigners called "comedy." The reports had the following content: electricity, water and fuel needs satisfied; abundance of grain, meat, bread, vegetables, fruit, butter and cheese; employees' salaries paid in time; roads constructed, municipal services provided, companies operated. They wanted Heydar Aliyev to speak at those meetings and make fake "signals" to confirm what they said, which would serve a proof for them that the aforementioned executive power provided the services for the people and the country.

"The people talked about how many million dollars' bribe one was to pay to those in power in order to get a position," Er writes. He highlights that the rumors and talks applied to the police chiefs, investigators, judges, chief physicians, university rectors, department heads, factory directors and ministers.

Referring to the collapse of the communist system, Er writes that Azerbaijan faced plenty of social, economic and political problems, the people were indifferent to everything, and the relations between them and the government was based on fear, bribery and lawlessness. "The road to Heydar bey's residence was closed for three or four hours. In summer and winter, soldiers of the Internal Troops and police officers stood on both sides of the road. This sight made me boil up from the inside," Er recalls.

When Heydar Aliyev went to his dacha in Zagulba – 23-30 km from Baku – police officers and soldiers stood on all his way long. Both in the winter cold and in hot summers, those people stood for four or five hours waiting for Heydar Aliyev's motorcade to pass – a deplorable sight for the author and other foreign observers. Once the author asked his driver, "Why are these people being tormented all day long? They have good

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## Former Ambassador Morgenthau, Sr. Receives Tribute at US Congress

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Sargisian delivered an address at the end of which Eduardo Eurnekian handed over the Raoul Wallenberg Foundation Medal dedicated to Henry Morgenthau, Sr., former US Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire. The medal was received by his grandson, Robert Morgenthau. From 1975 until his retirement in 2009, Morgenthau was the District Attorney for New York County, the borough of Manhattan. He is the second longest-serving district attorney in United States history.

The Raoul Wallenberg Foundation is an educational, global-reach NGO chaired by Eurnekian and created by Baruch Tenenbaum. Jorge Bergoglio, now Pope Francis, is one of its founding members.

"If there is agony and genocide in this world, there also exist Wallenbergs and Morgenthaus, who stand for all humanitarians of this world, whether Christian or Muslim, female or male, kin or alien, jeopard-



From left, Baruch Tenenbaum, Robert M. Morgenthau, Taner Akcam and Eduardo Eurnekian

dizing their existence, saving Armenians and Assyrians, Greeks and Jews, Darfurians and others from the claws of death. Henry Morgenthau, Raoul Wallenberg, and those who carry their torch today, can help life triumph over death," Sargisian stated.

In his acceptance speech, Robert

Morgenthau said: "The legacy of Raoul Wallenberg holds a very personal significance for my family. I can assure you that my grandfather would be especially pleased to know that one day his grandson would share the podium with the President of an independent and free Armenia."

## Community Leaders Meet Pres. of Armenia in New York

SARGISIAN, from page 1

Central Committee, and Hagop Vartivarian for the Armenian Democratic Liberal Party's District Committee of the US and Canada were present.

In addition, Nazareth A. Festekjian represented the Armenian General Benevolent Union's Central Board of Directors. Van Krikorian, co-chairman of the Armenian Assembly of America, Hrant Gulian of the Knights of Vartan, Lisa Stepanian, executive director of Armenia Fund, USA, Randy Sapah-Gulian, chairman of the Board of Directors of the Fund for Armenian Relief, Aso Tavitian, president of the Tavitian Foundation, and Dr. Raffi Hovanessian of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern) also attended.

In a speech lasting approximately 25 minutes, President Sargisian presented the fundamental issues and challenges facing the Republic of Armenia. He noted in detail the successes achieved in connection with the centennial of the Armenian Genocide with the Vatican and various European and South American countries. He spoke of the importance of the peaceful settlement of the Karabagh issue, and the circumstances surrounding Azerbaijan's military aggressions, as well as the issue of regional stability and the peaceful development and security of the republics of Armenia and Mountainous Karabagh. He commented on the inhuman brutalities occurring in the Middle East, especially Syria, and the historical significance of the agreement with the Islamic Republic of Iran concerning the latter's nuclear programs. (See the full text of the speech of President Sargisian starting on page 1.)

Sargisian was accompanied by Armenian Foreign Minister Eduard Nalbandian, Ambassador to the US Tigran Sargisian, Mnatsakanyan, and Vigen Sargisian, presidential chief of staff.

After the president's speech, he had the opportunity to meet with representatives of the American-Armenian community at the UN. He answered questions on questions such as on the number of deaths caused by the recent Azerbaijani attacks, the strength of Russian army units in Armenia, and the importance of faith of those who participated at the recent blessing of the miuron ceremony in Echmiadzin. He pointed out the need to help Armenian soldiers, and called for Armenian-American philanthropic organizations and individuals to consider playing such a role.

Sargisian and his retinue departed in the evening to the US capital, Washington DC.

(Translated from the Armenian)

## A Special Tekeyan "Soccer" Movie Night

featuring...

### Christiano Ronaldo & Henrikh Mkhitarian



Christiano Ronaldo

Join us at Michigan's premier indoor soccer arena, Ultimate Soccer, to enjoy and be inspired by the stories of two great athletes; Henrikh Mkhitarian and Christiano Renaldo.

First, enjoy a short film on highlights from the career of professional Armenian footballer **Henrikh Mkhitarian**—Armenia's all time top goal scorer since his debut in January 2007. He has been chosen "Armenian Footballer of the Year" five times.

Then we will screen a documentary "The World at his Feet" on soccer player **Christiano Ronaldo** who made his international debut for Portugal in August 2003, at the age of 18. He has since been capped over 100 times and has participated in 6 major tournaments: three UEFA European Championships (2004, 2008 and 2012) and three FIFA World Cups (2006, 2010 and 2014). Ronaldo is the first Portuguese player to reach 50 international goals, making him Portugal's top goal-scorer of all time as well as the country's top scorer in the European Championship with 6 goals. He scored his first international goal in the opening game of Euro 2004 against Greece, and helped Portugal reach the final. He took over captaincy in July 2008, and he led Portugal to the semi-finals at Euro 2012, finishing the competition as joint-top scorer in the process. In November 2014, Ronaldo became the all-time top scorer in the UEFA European Championship (including qualifying) with 23 goals.

We would like to extend special thanks to George Derderian, Jr., for the use of Ultimate Soccer Arenas



Henrikh Mkhitarian



Refreshments are available and can be purchased in the first floor Arena Grill & Café and can be brought into our meeting room.

Wine and Spirits also available on second level.

**Open to the public—\$5/person**  
**Friday, November 13—doors open 7 pm**  
**Movie begins at 7:30 pm sharp**  
**at the Ultimate Soccer Arenas**

867 South Boulevard., Pontiac MI 48341

(248) 648-7000

follow the signs at main entrance to conference room  
for more information call Hagop at (248) 302-7576

Funds raised from these events support the Tekeyan "Sponsor a Teacher" program supporting schools in Armenia and Karabagh

## Turgut Er: Heydar Aliyev Regime Humiliated and Fleeced Turkish Investors in Azerbaijan

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helicopters they can use. This would save their time and those people would not suffer so much." The driver laughed at that and said, "Sir, the old system was just the same – from the one hand, Heydar Aliyev loudly heartened the people, and created an atmosphere of fear from the other. The people know – Aliyev is the same Aliyev and the regime is the same regime."

After the publication of the book "From Freedom to Tyranny: As if Stalin and Beria revived," the authorities in Azerbaijan accused Er of libel and anti-Azerbaijani activities as he unmasks Heydar Aliyev's two-faced government and proves that Aliyev's actions were often conditioned by personal interests rather than the benefit of the state and people. In response, Turgut Er said that everything he wrote in the book is based on well-known and published documents, and the accusations of libel are yet another proof of the Azerbaijani authorities' stupidity and meanness.

(This piece originally appeared on the panorama.am website.)