

# THE ARMENIAN Mirror-Spectator

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## Attorneys Pleased with European Court Ruling

STRASBOURG (Public Radio of Armenia) – Human rights lawyers Geoffrey Robertson QC and Amal Clooney issued a

statement on the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) decision on October 14 in the case of Perinçek v Switzerland. The two represented the government of Armenia.



From left, Amal Clooney, Geoffrey Robertson and at right, Prof. Payam Akhavan

Another attorney, Prof. Payam Akhavan of McGill University in Canada, represented the NGO Coalition (Turkish Human Rights Association, Truth Justice Memory Centre and International Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies).

The case pitted Doğu Perinçek, a center-left politician from Turkey, against the government of Switzerland. At stake was that he objected to the muzzling of what he called was his free speech by the Swiss government, which bans the denial

of the Armenian Genocide. The judges pronounced that Perinçek was within his rights to deny the Armenian Genocide,



however, they upheld the truth of the Genocide.

In a divided opinion, the majority of 10 judges held that the Swiss judgment against Perinçek's denial and minimization of these events violated his freedom of speech under the European Convention on Human Rights. However, seven judges,

including the President of the Court, held that "the massacres and deportations suffered by the Armenian people constituted genocide are self-evident. The Armenian genocide is a clearly established historical fact. To deny it is to deny the obvious."

The majority of ten judges also confirmed "the massacres and mass deportations suffered by the Armenian people at the hands of the Ottoman Empire from 1915 onwards" and only differed in its view that it "has not authority to make legally binding pronouncements" on whether these events "can be characterized as genocide within the meaning of that term under international law".

Said Akhavan in his statement, the court "clearly, unanimously, and emphatically confirmed the historical truth" of the 1915 Armenian Genocide.

see RULING, page 2

## Former House Speaker Dennis Hastert to Plead Guilty in Sexual Abuse Hush-Money Case

CHICAGO (Reuters) – Former US House Speaker Dennis Hastert is expected to plead guilty in a hush-money case stemming from allegations of sexual misconduct in a deal with prosecutors that could still force him to serve time in prison.

The tentative plea agreement, disclosed during a brief hearing in federal court in Chicago on Thursday, October 15, would mark a dramatic downfall for someone who once ranked among the most powerful men in the country.

Hastert, 73, was charged in May with trying to hide large cash transactions as part of a payoff scheme and lying about it to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Prosecutors and defense attorneys did not say what charge he would plead guilty to or whether his sentence might include incarceration.

Federal prosecutors have accused him of agreeing to pay \$3.5 million to an unidentified person from his hometown of Yorkville, Ill., to conceal past misconduct. He was a teacher at Yorkville High School in the 1960s and 1970s.

see HASTERT, page 7

NEW YORK TIMES PHOTO



Former Speaker Dennis Hastert

## Recognition, Realpolitik and the Ravages of War

BERLIN – No one engaged in efforts to have the Armenian Genocide officially recognized – at whatever level and in whatever venue – can suffer under the illusion that it is simply a matter of acknowledging historical facts as truth. It has been, and remains a political football, which is tossed, carried or kicked according to the game plans drafted by the coaches of the opposing teams. Or, as in the case of Germany, it is punted. Instead of following through on the courageous initiatives taken by President Joachim Gauck and the Bundestag (Parliament) last April, to finally formulate and pass a unified resolution acknowledging the Genocide, the political leadership has preferred to put the entire issue on hold.

**By Muriel Mirak-Weissbach**  
Special to the Mirror-Spectator

But there is more at stake than the Armenian issue, narrowly defined. The reversal on this resolution occurs in the context of the most severe refugee crisis since World War II, a crisis generated by the continuing war in Syria and Iraq, in which the barbaric ISIS hordes threaten to wipe out an entire civilization. The German decision made on the genocide question, being tactical, can be corrected with time. But compromises made in assessing the dynamic behind the ISIS onslaught, especially regarding the roles played by Turkey and Saudi Arabia, carry strategic implications.

This in itself is highly regrettable and will raise cries of protest throughout the Diaspora.

see REALPOLITIK, page 3

## Tekeyan Cultural Association's 34th Annual Convention in Montreal

**By Aram Arkun**  
Mirror-Spectator Staff

MONTREAL – The Tekeyan Cultural Association of the US and Canada (TCA) held its 34th convention October 9 to 11. It was attended by some 30 delegates from seven chapters. *Story on pages 8-9.*

KEVORK TOROSIAN PHOTO



From left, current Abaka editor Avedis Bakkalian, Amb. Armen Yeganian, Edmond Y. Azadian, Dr. Arshavir Gundjian and longtime Abaka editor Arsen Noubar Mamourian cut the Abaka 40th anniversary cake. Standing immediately to the back is Hovig Gebenlian.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Aleppo Rocket Attacks Leave Two Armenians Dead and One Injured

ALEPPO (Armenpress) – Armenians were killed as a result of rocket attacks by armed terrorist groups in Aleppo's Nor Keghi district. There is also one injured.

The editor of the Aleppo-based Kantsasar weekly, Zarmig Boghigian, identified the dead – Vera Giragosian Kentimian and her son Haroutiun Kentimian. Tavid Der-Nersisian is injured. The bodies were taken and the funeral was to take place on October 17 at St. Mary Church in Aleppo.

### Syrian Armed Forces Gain Control of Aleppo's Naama Heights

ALEPPO (Armenpress) – The Syrian Armed Forces took control of Naama Heights near Aleppo. Terrorists of the Islamic State organization suffered huge human and equipment losses. According to Ria-Novosti, Syrian Armed Forces representative General Ali Mayhub announced that as part of a Syrian state military operation in the southern regions of Aleppo, a number of villages and communities have been liberated, with heavy losses inflicted on opponents.

### CIS Leaders Sign Military Pact

BURABAY, Kazakhstan (RFE/RL) – The leaders of the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) have signed 17 agreements, including a statement on combating international terrorism and an agreement on military cooperation through 2020.

The agreements were signed at a summit of CIS leaders – representing Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan – on October 16 in the Kazakh village of Burabay.

Representatives of Moldova, Turkmenistan, and Ukraine participated as observers.

At a press conference, Russian President Vladimir Putin said closer military cooperation is necessary because "the situation [in Afghanistan] is close to becoming critical." He added that one of the goals of Islamist terrorists in Afghanistan is "to penetrate the Central Asian region."

The agreement on military cooperation, he said, will furnish a "coordinated response" to that threat. Putin also praised the CIS as a mechanism for members to address problems caused by "negative external actors," such as "uncertainty in the global economy and rising political tensions."

CIS leaders agreed that the next CIS summit will be held in Kyrgyzstan on September 16, 2016.

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## ARMENIA

## News From Armenia

## Second Festival of Armenian Contemporary Music Dedicated to Genocide Anniversary

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – The Second Festival of Armenian Contemporary Music will be dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide this year. At the initiative of the Union of Composers of Armenia, with the support of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Armenia, the festival, given the title “Khachaturian and Our Times” will be held from October 20 to 27.

According to the Union of Composers of Armenia, during the festival one symphonic and two chamber concerts will be presented, as well as works of 18 composers. The festival's opening concert (October 20) was held in the Aram Khachaturian Concert Hall with music by Khachaturian. The State Youth Orchestra of Armenia under the direction of chief conductor and artistic director Sergey Smbatyan will perform.

The other two concerts are being held at the Komitas Chamber Music Hall on October 22 and 27.

This year the festival is distinguished by the fact that during three days of concerts many of the works being premiered are dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

## Bilateral US-Armenian Trade 2014 Totals \$153 Million

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – US Ambassador to Armenia Richard M. Mills, Jr. answered, at the request of Armenpress, questions referring to the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) and the terms of the United States-Armenia Council on Trade and Investment created by means of TIFA.

TIFA was signed between the USA and Armenia in Washington on May 8 by Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian and US Trade Representative Den Mulani during Armenian President Serge Sargsian's visit to Washington. The Council's highly placed members will discuss bilateral trade and investment and related issues and attempt to strengthen the economic ties between the two countries.

The ambassador declared that American investors are already interested in many opportunities in Armenia. Total bilateral trade (exports plus imports) between the United States and Armenia totaled \$153 million in 2014. US goods exports to Armenia in 2014 totaled \$56 million and included poultry, machinery, vehicles, and optic and medical equipment. Total US foreign direct investment in Armenia was \$1 million in 2013. US goods imported from Armenia in 2014 totaled \$96 million in 2014 and included aluminum, woven apparel, brandy, diamonds, and processed fruit and vegetables.

Total Armenian foreign direct investment in the United States was \$1 million in 2013.

The ambassador stated that the US remains one of Armenia's most vital and important trade partners. That is a testament to the two countries' close historical ties – economically, politically, and culturally.

As far as when the US-Armenia Council on Trade and Investment will begin work, the ambassador revealed that he was hopeful that it would meet in mid-November in Yerevan.

## President Sargsian to Pay Working Visit to Spain

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – President of the Republic of Armenia Serge Sargsian paid a working visit to the Kingdom of Spain on October 21 to participate in the annual conference of European People's Party (EPP) and the extended summit of EPP. The Department of Information and Mass Media of the Republic of Armenia President's Staff stated that the president of the Armenian Republic will meet with the president of EPP Joseph Daul within the framework of the visit.

# AGBU Yerevan Hosts Conference On E-Governance in Armenia

YEREVAN – On September 29, AGBU Yerevan hosted a conference on electronic governance (e-governance) organized by the Delegation of the European Union to Armenia, the Embassy of the Republic of Estonia in Armenia and the Tumo Center for Creative Technologies. The conference was attended by government officials, representatives of international organizations, IT experts and representatives of diasporan organizations, among many others.

The main goal of the conference was to raise public awareness about e-governance, discuss the next steps in making information and services as user-friendly and accessible as possible by harmonizing different systems as well as finding ways for more active and effective involvement of the diaspora in the electronic governance system of Armenia.

“...Electronic governance makes life easier for people and it makes it a lot easier to govern the country. It also delivers a positive message to the whole world that Armenia is getting better. It's modernizing. Armenia has built up a lot of digital resources and now [it] should start using them. This is not only the Armenian government's stance; this is also my personal conviction as an independent expert,” said Ivar Tallo, Founder of e-Governance Academy, Estonia.



The conference focused on the results of the e-governance initiatives implemented in Armenia and the key steps for the future development of the field including the creation of an atmosphere of trust.

Opening remarks were delivered by Vache Gabrielyan, the Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia and the Minister of International Economic Integration and Reforms; Vasken Yacoubian, AGBU Central Board member; Prit Turk, ambassador of Estonia to Armenia and Piotr Switalski, head of the EU Delegation to Armenia.

The conference focused on the results of the e-governance initiatives implemented in Armenia and the key steps for future development of the field, including the creation of an atmosphere of trust. Emphasizing the importance of the conference in raising public awareness about e-governance, Yacoubian spoke about the diaspora's involvement in the

system: “The capabilities of this platform are huge and we should think about how we can use these capabilities, how we can consolidate and coordinate our resources both in Armenia and the diaspora, to strengthen the nation, as well as how we can make this platform accessible to those in the diaspora, involve the diaspora in e-Governance and thus help Armenia,” said Yacoubian.

Among the panelists of the conference were Karen Gharslyan, president of HAIK-AGBU Germany; David Harutyunyan, chief-of-staff of the Republic of Armenia; Raffi Kassarian, chairman of Repat Armenia; Vahe Keushguerian, chairman of the Impact Hub Board of Trustees; Artak Melkonian, senior advisor at UNDP Armenia; Aram Orbelyan, senior partner at Concern Dialog; Pegor Papazian, board member of Tumo Center for Creative Technologies; Stepan Petrosyan, advisor to the Minister of Diaspora of the Republic of Armenia; Kristi Raidma, program manager at European Union Delegation to Armenia; and Sergey Tantushian, deputy CEO at IDEa Foundation. Hoa-Binh Adjemian, head of cooperation at European Union Delegation to Armenia, was the host of the conference.



Opening remarks at the conference were delivered by Piotr Switalski, head of the European Union Delegation to Armenia.

## Attorneys Pleased with European Court Ruling

RULING, from page 1

Clooney and Robertson said in their statement, “We are pleased that the European Court of Human Rights today endorsed our argument on behalf of the Government of Armenia, which intervened in the case between Dogu Perinçek and Switzerland. The decision is a victory for Armenia. Today the European Court ruled that the applicant's freedom of speech should not have been restrained because it was not likely to incite violence or racial hatred. Thus Perinçek should not have been prosecuted by the Swiss authority because his rant, in the Turkish language, would have had no impact at all on social harmony and race relations in Switzerland.”

They added that the government of Armenia intervened to correct the lower court's ruling that had cast doubt on the Armenian Genocide.

“As counsel we sought to correct this grave error, and the Grand Chamber has done so. Today's judgment did not dispute the fact of the Armenian genocide: ten judges said the question should not have been addressed at all

whilst seven stated that “the Armenian genocide is a clearly established historic fact,” they said.

Perinçek himself did not deny that these atrocities did in fact take place, but simply denied their characterization as “genocide” and blamed the 1.5 Armenian victims for their own fate by portraying them as “traitors” and “aggressors”. The majority found that his statements should not have been penalized by the Swiss courts, because they did not pose a threat to Armenians in Switzerland.

Akhavan noted that in doing so, “the majority did not give sufficient weight to the convincing evidence submitted by the NGO Coalition, demonstrating Perinçek's racist motives by reference to his previous conduct in Turkey, and its impact on the vulnerable Armenian minority that has been subjected to a campaign of hate speech and violence.” He emphasized that “this aspect of the decision is unfortunate at a time when there is an alarming increase in ultra-nationalist hate speech and violence in Turkey. The fact that Mr. Perinçek leads the Talaat Pasha Committee

(named after the “Ottoman Hitler”) that the European Parliament has characterized as a ‘xenophobic and racist’ organization is itself the most obvious evidence of his discriminatory motives.” Professor Akhavan regretted moreover, that the majority disregarded the Istanbul Penal Court's finding in the Ergenekon trial that Mr. Perinçek had incited hatred and violence against Armenians, on the grounds that instead of relevant excerpts, the NGO Coalition should have produced the full 17,000 page judgment!

According to Akhavan, “the divided opinion of the Grand Chamber, and the alarming increase in extremist violence in Turkey, is the clearest indication that the question of racist hate speech against Armenians is far from resolved, and that it will require constant vigilance. What is clearly established by the Judgment however, is unanimity among all seventeen judges, that the Armenians did in fact suffer massacres and mass deportations at the hands of the Ottoman Empire from 1915 onwards, irrespective of its legal characterization one way or another.”



## INTERNATIONAL

# Recognition, Realpolitik and the Ravages of War

REALPOLITIK, from page 1

## Genocide Resolution Sacrificed on the Altar of Realpolitik

*Der Spiegel*, a flagship weekly known for its scoops and scandals, issued a release on October 16, titled “The Bundestag delays Armenian resolution,” which read: “The controversial Bundestag resolution on the Armenian genocide will be put on hold until further notice.” It reported that the governing coalition parties had “quietly agreed to delay the second and third readings of the resolution, which designates the massacres by the Young Turk government 100 years ago as genocide, for as long as possible.” Though the foreign policy spokesmen of the ruling Christian Democrats (CDU) and Social Democrats (SPD) “do not want to issue statements on it,” *Spiegel* writes that according to its information, “what lies behind this is the consideration that one does not want to provoke Ankara unnecessarily at the moment if at the same time one expects help in the solution of the refugee crisis.” It recalls that back in April, when the issue arose, Foreign Minister Frank Walter Steinmeier had declined to speak of genocide, “out of consideration for Ankara.”

No one, especially in the US, should be surprised at such a development, in light of the tradition of presidential dancing around the “g” word every April 24. But what lies behind it needs explication. *Spiegel* mooted that it was part of a German-Turkish deal on the refugee crisis, and this was confirmed just days later by Chancellor Angela Merkel who flew to Ankara for talks with Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu and President Tayyip Erdogan. The upshot of the talks was the following agreement: Turkey will act to stem the flow of refugees into Europe, by expanding camps on its territory, repatriating those refugees who are sent back after having failed to gain asylum, and reinforcing controls on its sea borders with Greece. In return Germany and the EU will provide funds for the camps (3 billion Euro), restart accession talks for Turkey to join the EU (by opening a new “chapter” in the process, on economic policy) and relax visa requirements for Turks entering the EU. Ankara would like to eliminate the visa requirements completely, and Davutoglu reportedly demanded Turkey be allowed to participate in EU summits.

Discussion also focused on removing the causes of the refugee crisis, i.e. dealing with the Syrian war. Here Erdogan said he had discussed the need to “fight terrorism,” by which he meant in particular the PKK. Though there was precious little detail reported on this crucial theme, it is the crux of the matter, as we shall see below.

Opposition to the deal came from German as well as Turkish politicians. One complaint was that, by visiting Ankara two weeks prior to the Turkish elections, Merkel was lending precious political support to Erdogan and the AKP. Nazmi Gür, of the Kurdish-backed opposition HDP party, accused Merkel of having made a “dirty deal” with Erdogan — “Don’t send us any more refugees ... and you get 3 billion Euro for it” — which he called “shameful.”

Human rights activists also objected that, since the Turkish government tramples on the human rights of its own citizens, it cannot be expected to respect those of Syrian refugees. As reports carried in the *New York Times* and elsewhere have detailed, Syrians are confined to the camps, in minimal living standards, and are denied integration, whether through jobs or having children attend school. In fact one reason the refugee flow has increased is

that many prefer to leave the camps in hopes of reaching Germany, where they can seek employment and find adequate housing.

Criticism from Germany focused on the timing of her visit. Cem Özdemir, head of the Green Party, had earlier called on the chancellor to freeze all contacts with Turkey until after the elections, to avoid the appearance of an endorsement, a stance shared by spokesmen of other parties.

## The Roots of the Crisis: War in Syria

No matter how justified such criticism may be, it misses the main point, which is the need to end the war in Syria. Ironically it was a German intellectual of Iranian descent who actually addressed this, and he did so in a manner that was to deliver a healthy shock to the political class, and not only in Germany. The same day that Merkel was meeting the Turkish leaders, Navid Kermani, a prominent Orientalist and writer, received the Frankfurt book trade peace prize. In his acceptance speech, he raised the call for action to end the conflict.

His address was extraordinary on many accounts. He devoted the first part to the story of Father Jacques Mourad, a Catholic priest leading the Syrian parish in Qaryatein whom ISIS terrorists kidnapped in the Mar Elian cloister in May. Pater Jacques, whom Kermani knew, had succeeded in maintaining peaceful relations among Christians and Muslims in his community, sheltering hundreds or thousands of war refugees, mostly Muslims, and keeping the armed militias at bay. In an email just days prior to his abduction, he had written, “The threat posed by the ISIS, this sect of terrorists which presents a horrible image of Islam, has arrived in our area.” He then wrote of the quandary, whether to stay or flee, and lamented the fact that “the Christian world” had abandoned them, perhaps in hopes of avoiding danger. “We don’t mean anything to them,” he wrote.

Kermani developed these two points at length: first he depicted the conflict in terms of an internal conflict in Islam, whereby ISIS strove to destroy the high culture of Islam, illustrated in its philosophy, poetry and art, and to replace it with a “religious fascism.” Then he addressed the “disinterest of our public opinion in the end-times-like catastrophe” now threatening the region.

He presented the degeneration of Islamic culture as a process over centuries, whereby “absolutely nothing exists within the religious culture of modern Islam” that is anywhere near the brilliance of that Islamic culture from the medieval times on, which he had studied with passion.

## Role of Saudi Arabia

Most significant is Kermani’s explicit identification of the role of Saudi Arabia in this degeneration process. Saudi Arabia is the “main sponsor of jihadism,” he said, and Wahabism is the ideology of ISIS, which has recruited youth in the West under the banner of Salafism.

Regarding the second point, the apparent disinterest of the West in the impending catastrophe, Kermani lambasted the lack of serious political discussion of the causes of the refugee crisis. “We don’t ask ourselves,” he said, “why it happens to be Saudi Arabia who is our closest partner in the Middle East.” And “we have accommodated ourselves to the existence of a new religious fascism, whose land area is as vast as Great Britain and stretches from Iran’s borders almost to the Mediterranean.” Estimating the strength of ISIS at 30,000 armed fight-

ers, Kermani thinks this should not constitute an invincible foe for the international community. What is his conclusion? War? Denying that he, as a peace prize winner is a warmonger, he stated: “I am not calling for war. I am simply saying that there is a war — and that we, as the closest neighbors, have to react, possibly militarily, yes, but above all much more determined with diplomatic and civil society means.” He argued: “For this war can no longer be ended in Syria or Iraq alone. It can only be ended by those powers that are behind the adversary armies and militias, Iran, Turkey, the Gulf states, Russia and also the West.”

Kermani’s high profile intervention has exerted an impact on the political discourse in Germany. Some may perhaps accuse him, an Iranian, of targeting the Saudis out of a regional, geopolitical perspective, but that would be misplaced. Whatever other considerations he may nurture, the fact is that he struck a very sensitive political nerve.

Were powers in the West serious about ending the war, they would exert pressure to halt the support for the ISIS terrorists that continues to flow from precisely those leading allies, Saudi Arabia, the Arab Gulf states and Turkey. If they are to become part of the solution to the problem, as the foreign chancelleries in Europe continue to repeat, these regional governments must be identified first as part of the problem.

It is no secret that Saudi Arabia, the Gulf states and Turkey provide logistical, military, political and ideological support to ISIS and Al Nusra, categorized as the “extremist” terrorists; nor is it a secret that the so-called “moderate” terrorists (or “rebels”) still enjoy the backing of the US, among other Western partners. (Indeed, to understand the origins of the barbarism ravaging the entire region means revisiting the policy of the West beginning with the first Iraq war in 1991.)

## ISIS and AKP

If the Saudis’ Wahabism is recognizable as the official ideology of ISIS, the compatibility of the AKP’s brand of Islamism with fantasies of a restored Caliphate is not difficult to perceive. Until and unless these open secrets are acknowledged as political facts on the public record there is little hope that the war dynamic can be halted.

Foreign Minister Steinmeier, in fact, came away empty handed from talks he conducted in Tehran and Riyadh, parallel to Merkel’s Turkey visit.

From this perspective, the issue of Germany’s shelving the genocide resolution may be more accurately assessed. Recognition per se is not the issue. Postponement here was symptomatic of the Berlin government’s unwillingness to confront the Turkish leadership on its duplicitous behavior in the conflict. The question remains: why should Germany, the leading economic and political force in Europe, acquiesce to the demands of Turkey? Is this merely a manifestation of Realpolitik? Or do the Turkish authorities have an ace in the hole that they can threaten to play, as a sort of blackmail? For example, it is known that there are certain sensitive documents from the First World War, reports by German military to the War Ministry in Berlin regarding the genocide, which were destroyed during the Second World War bombings of Potsdam, but copies of which are kept in the Turkish military archives. Could it be that the German foreign ministry’s reluctance to acknowledge the genocide, to the present day, stems from fears that this material from the Turkish archives could be made public?

## International News

### Nine 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.

The prosecutors are accused of having ties with the Gülen Movement, a group whose widespread infiltration of the judiciary and police enabled them to influence cases or fabricate them for their own interests.

### Greek President Reiterates Support for Armenian Cause

ATHENS (Public Radio of Armenia) — On a visit to Athens, Aram I, Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia, had a meeting with Greek President Prokopios Pavlopoulos.

The catholicos praised the organization of the conference on “Peaceful religious and cultural co-existence in the Middle East.” He stressed the important role of Greece as a bridge between the East and the West.

Aram I hailed the Greek President’s support for the Armenian Cause since the start of his political career, which continues during his presidency.

President Pavlopoulos, in turn, expressed his respect for the Armenian people and reiterated his support for the Armenian Cause.

The president also praised the Armenian community of Greece, which makes an important contribution to the prosperity and development of the country.

### Jivan Gasparyan to Perform in Moscow

MOSCOW (Armenpress) — Duduk master Jivan Gasparyan will perform at Moscow Crocus City Hall on November 5. The website calls it Gasparyan’s farewell concert.

Gasparyan was born on October 12, 1928 in the village of Solak. He started to play duduk from the age of 6. In 1948 he became a soloist of the Armenian Song and Dance Popular Ensemble and the Yerevan Philharmonic Orchestra.

He has won four medals at UNESCO worldwide competitions (1959, 1962, 1973, and 1980). In 1973 Gasparyan was awarded with the honorary title People’s Artist of Armenia and in 2002 he received the WOMEX (World Music Expo) Lifetime Achievement Award.

A professor at the Yerevan State Musical Conservatory, he has instructed and nurtured many performers to professional levels of performance in duduk. He has toured the world several times with a small ensemble playing Armenian folk music.

He has also performed with an international array of stars.

### Italian Town of Ivrea Recognizes Armenian Genocide

ROME (Armenpress) — Ivrea City Council of Italy’s Piedmont Province unanimously recognized the Armenian Genocide during its October 12 session.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia issued a statement that by recognizing historical truth, the City Council expresses solidarity with the Armenian people and its efforts aimed at defending its unalienable rights.

The City Council members said they hoped that the European Parliament will take measures to force Turkey, as a candidate for European Union membership, to officially recognize and condemn the Armenian Genocide.

# Community News

## Attorney Mark Geragos Heads Suit Against LA School Department for 'Teacher Jails'

By Mike Szymanski

LOS ANGELES (LA School Report) – Following up on a months-long threat, high-profile attorney Mark Geragos today slapped LA Unified with a class-action lawsuit, calling for an end to the practice of “teacher jails” and asking for more than \$1 billion in damages.

The suit was filed in state superior court on behalf of Rafe Esquith, a well-known teacher who was dismissed in April, as well as thousands of other unnamed teachers who have been placed in “jail” by the district in recent years. Calling LAUSD “a criminal cartel,” the



Mark Geragos

suit charges the district with violations of due process, age discrimination, whistleblower retaliation and wrongful discharge – all in a scheme to remove older teachers whose salaries and benefits make them more expensive to retain.

Among the defendants named are Superintendent Ramon Cortines and his yet-to-

be-chosen successor. Cortines intends to step down in December.

At his downtown office only a few blocks from LAUSD headquarters, Geragos accused the district of engaging in “a pattern and practice of the LA Unified school district basically divesting teachers of their benefits once they reach a certain age. The method by which they do this is they gin up false charges, they make false accusations.”

“I’m calling for the complete shutdown of LAUSD,” Geragos added. “I think LAUSD is a completely corrupt organization. They have consigliere lawyers.”

A spokeswoman said the district “has not reviewed the lawsuit and therefore has no comment at this time.”

This legal action comes a day after the Los Angeles Times disclosed that the school board, in a closed session this week, voted unanimously to start termination proceedings against Esquith over allegations that went well beyond the original charge for removing him from his classroom – quoting a passage from Mark Twain that referred to “naked” bodies. The school district said it would not comment on the accuracy of the story, describing it as a private personnel matter. Esquith’s attorneys say they have not been told of the teacher’s imminent dismissal.

“This is another pattern of the school board,” Geragos said. “They meet in secret, they have secret documents. They have a secret investigation.”

The district’s initial investigation grew to examine other incidents in Esquith’s past.

Lawyers for LA Unified have said the investigation into his background found evidence of “highly inappropriate conduct involving touching of minors” during his time as a district teacher as well as “inappropriate photographs and videos of a sexual nature” on his school computer. Geragos said no such evidence has ever been presented to him since the teacher was removed from his classroom.

“They have an investigative hit squad that goes out and basically intimidates and tries to extract statements from students that they then see GERAGOS, page 6



Very Rev. Dajad Yardemian presents the medal to Armen Mantagunian and his wife, Araksi.

## Jubilee Celebration And Concert

LOS ANGELES – Under the auspices of the Armenian General Benevolent Union’s Western District Committee, Krikor Satamian Theater Group organized a Jubilee Celebration and Concert dedicated to composer Armen Mantagunian’s 60 years of creative career.

Armen Mantagunian was born in 1934, in Yerevan, Armenia. In 1942, he was admitted to the Choreography Dance School in Yerevan and in 1949, he was admitted to the renowned Romanos Melikian Music College in Yerevan.

In 1959, he married Araksi and in 1960, they had a son named Armen Jr. In 1961, he was invited to join the Folk Art Society of the Republic of Soviet Armenia. In 1974, he immigrated to the United States and settled in Glendale, where he continues to compose and create.

Armen Mantagunian has composed two symphonies, a Ballet in 3 acts (Maneh and Aysheh), a sonata for piano, as well as an array of musical albums, arrangements, and orchestrations from 1971-2011.

This unique celebration took place on Saturday, September 19, at the Paznaz Auditorium in Pasadena. The masters of ceremony were the professional duo: Nune Avedisian and Haroutune Foudoulian.

It started with the opening remarks of Dr. Krikor Simonian, chairman of Satamian Theater Group, who warmly welcomed everybody. He said that the 80-year-old Maestro still charms everyone with his well-known songs and melodies. He concluded his remarks by wishing him a healthy life ahead and continued success in the service of Armenian cultural preservation.

The first order of business was the awarding of St. Sahag-St. Mesrob medal, bestowed upon him by Karekin II, Catholicos of all Armenians. The Encyclical was read by Very Rev. Dajad Yardemian, representing Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Primate of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America.

Many well-known artists participated in the concert, singing a variety of see CONCERT, page 7



Co-hosts Nune Avedisian and Haroutune Foudoulian with honorees and other performers.

## System of a Down to Receive Honor for Raising Genocide Awareness

LOS ANGELES – Rockers System Of A Down received a special award for raising awareness of the Armenian Genocide, Contact Music reports.

The Armenian-American musicians are the recipients of the 2015 Parajanov-Vartanov Institute Award, a prize named after groundbreaking filmmakers Sergei Parajanov and Mikhail Vartanov, who fought persecution for their work in the Soviet Union.

Serj Tankian’s band launched the Wake Up The Souls Tour earlier this year to mark 100 years since the Armenian Genocide, in which up to 1.5 million citizens were systematically murdered by the nation’s government.

The tour culminated with the group’s first ever show in the country on the anniversary of



System of a Down

the start of the atrocity on April 24.

“(The) 2015 Parajanov-Vartanov Institute Award will honor the Grammy-winning rock band System Of A Down for their virtuous commitment to justice exemplified by their historic 2015 Wake Up the Souls tour,” a statement from the Parajanov-Vartanov Institute reads.

The prize was handed to the band at a ceremony in Los Angeles on October 21.

Previous recipients of the award include Hollywood director Martin Scorsese, who accepted the honor in 2014 for his work with The Film Foundation’s World Cinema Project on the restoration of Parajanov’s 1969 film “The Color of Pomegranates.”

## Armenian Cultural Assoc. of Maine Hosts Fall Dance

PORTLAND, Maine – The Armenian Cultural Association of Maine is sponsoring a Fall Dance on Saturday, November 7, from 7:30 to 11 p.m. The purpose of the dance is to Celebrate Armenian Heritage by bringing together the Armenian communities of Southern Maine and sharing Armenian culture with non-Armenians. Hence, the organization encourages everyone to attend and all ages are welcome.

Dancing, food and drinks will be available throughout the evening. Food will consist of Armenian hors d’oeuvres, known as meze. A cash bar will also be available. The dance features live Armenian music provided by some of New England’s best musicians: Mal Barsamian on oud, Leon Janikian on clarinet, Kenny Kalajian on guitar, John Arzigian on vocals, and Jason Naroian on dumbeg and vocals. The dance will take place at the beautiful Avant Dance and Events Center located at 865 Spring Street in Westbrook, Maine. Tickets for the event are \$40 in advance until October 25 and \$45 after October 25. Tickets for Children 12 and under are \$20.

Table reservations are available when purchasing eight tickets. Tickets can be purchased online through Brown Paper Tickets (<http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2378118>). The link can also be found by visiting the organization’s website at [www.armemian-sofmaine.com](http://www.armemian-sofmaine.com). To purchase tickets by email contact the organization at [acame@armemian-sofmaine.com](mailto:acame@armemian-sofmaine.com).

For more information, contact Raffi Der Simonian ([rdersimonian@gmail.com](mailto:rdersimonian@gmail.com)).



## COMMUNITY

# NV/Old Tappan Players Honor Armenian Kin

OLD TAPPAN, N.J. (*NorthJersey.com*) — Martha Avedian lost her husband and brother at the hands of Ottoman Turk soldiers.

Then she and two of her daughters were rounded up for a march into the Syrian desert.

They were just one Armenian family among thousands irrevocably scarred by what history has recorded as the Armenian Genocide. In all, hundreds of thousands were killed in a series of massacres and other atrocities. Few survived.

But before Avedian was taken away, she asked a Kurdish friend to take care of her other daughter, 12-year-old Parantzem, who was off at school.

Parantzem was the great-grandmother of NV/Old Tappan sophomore tennis player Jacqueline Fales. Parantzem's incredible story had just begun at that point. A century later, it still lives on through her great-granddaughter.

"I've heard the story a lot," Fales said. "My grandmother and my mother have been telling it since I was little. They tell it at family gatherings because it's a huge part of our history.

"They want to make sure we don't forget."

That history is strong with the NV/Old Tappan tennis team (9-4), which counts four Armenian-Americans as members this year: Fales (third singles), Ema Bandazian (second doubles) and sisters Gaby Bedrosian (second singles) and Kristina Bedrosian (team manager).

Fales was promoted to third singles earlier this season from second doubles and has lost only once for the Golden Knights, who are ranked ninth in The Record girls tennis Top 20.

Each family has its story.

The girls carry their ancestors' legacy with them, especially with this year marking the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. It began on April 24, 1915, a day remembered each year as Armenian Martyrs Day.

Golden Knights coach Brook Zelcer said there's always been a "strong Armenian presence" in the program.

"I'm not sure why we've had so many Armenians, but I think it's really cool," said Zelcer, whose own father is an Auschwitz survivor. "All the girls are very aware and proud of their heritage."



Ema Bandazian, left, Jacqueline Fales and Gaby and Kristina Bedrosian tell of ancestors killed in the Armenian Genocide.

Stories like Parantzem's are common among Armenian families. They range from horrific to uplifting, from hopeless to courageous. There are countless tales of death and many of survival.

In 1915, Armenians living on their ancestral lands in what is modern day Turkey — then part of the Ottoman Empire — were systematically killed by the Turks. Estimates range from 800,000 to 1.5 million deaths during World War I, the latter figure accounting for roughly 75 percent of the ethnic Armenian population.

Men were executed or died in forced labor camps. Women died mostly on death marches into the desert due to exhaustion, exposure, starvation and beatings.

After the genocide, Armenians spread throughout the world.

And girls like Fales, Bandazian and the Bedrosian sisters make sure their family's stories continue to be told.

For Fales' great-grandmother, Parantzem, avoiding the death march was just the beginning.

After Parantzem discovered her family was gone, she was

kidnapped by a Turkish man, who kept her captive for almost two years and used her as a slave.

Parantzem was alone and did not know that her mother had survived the death march.

Avedian had witnessed her two other daughters being beaten and starved before they ultimately died. But she miraculously made it through the desert and reached Aleppo, Syria.

After an extended hospital stay, Avedian found a job cooking for a wealthy Syrian family. Then she learned that Parantzem was alive and held captive. According to the family, Avedian asked a Kurdish friend in Arabkir to rescue Parantzem.

The Kurdish man was able to get a note to Parantzem, telling her to meet him outside one night. So Parantzem climbed out her window and escaped on the back of the man's horse. She hid with him for a day or two before he brought her to Syria and reunited her with her mother.

During Parantzem's subsequent five years in Syria, pictures of Armenian survivors were sent to others survivors in the United States. A complete stranger by the name of Arsen Chilengarian saw Parantzem's picture and fell in love. He sent money for Parantzem to come to America, along with a marriage proposal.

Five months later, Parantzem arrived by steamship in Massachusetts and accepted his offer. She lived there until 1998, when she died at the age of 86.

The Chilengarians had three children, one of whom was Fales' grandmother.

"The whole thing is amazing," Fales said. "Thinking your parents and siblings have all died and having the courage to keep going. It's just crazy."

This summer, Fales and eight of her family members took a 10-day trip to Armenia. During the trip, Fales was able to visit the Armenian Genocide Memorial in Armenia's capital city of Yerevan.

Fales said that Armenians around the world have two mottos: "1915, Never Again" and "Never Forget." She plans to help make sure these words are carried out.

"All of us are definitely going to tell those stories our own kids," Fales said. "So they'll always be remembered ... never forgotten."

## A Special Tekeyan "Soccer" Movie Night

featuring...

### Christiano Ronaldo & Henrik 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; Henrik Mkhitarian and Christiano Ronaldo.

First, enjoy a short film on highlights from the career of professional Armenian footballer **Henrik 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



Henrik 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**  
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follow the signs at main entrance to conference room  
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Funds raised from these events support the Tekeyan "Sponsor a Teacher" program supporting schools in Armenia and Karabagh

## Peter Palandjian to Discuss Real Estate at Men's Club Meeting

WATERTOWN — On Monday, November 2, Peter Palandjian CEO of Intercontinental Real Estate Corporation, will be the speaker at the St. James Men's Club and the topic will be real estate.

Palandjian oversees the affiliated Intercontinental operating companies, with primary responsibility for strategic planning and direction of all company activities. Palandjian is a member of Intercontinental's Investment and Executive Committees.

Prior to joining Intercontinental in 1993, Palandjian worked as the assistant to the CEO of Staples, Inc. and as an associate consultant with Bain & Company.

Palandjian is a member of the Pension Real Estate Association (PREA) and the National Association of Real Estate Investment Managers (NAREIM). He has also been active on a number of corporate and not-for-profit boards. He has served as a board member of several institutions including: co-chair of the Board of Overseers of the Boston Symphony Orchestra; Board of Overseers for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston; Dana Farber Cancer Institute; the International Tennis Hall of Fame; American Friends of the Yitzhak Rabin Center; the New England Chapter of the National Association of Industrial and Office Properties (NAIOP); O'Neill and Associates; Leader Bank; Town of Belmont (MA) Board of Retirement; and the Taubman Center at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government.

Palandjian works on behalf of Harvard University as a volunteer undergraduate admissions interviewer. He was a two-time Harvard Captain and a world-ranked tennis player on the ATP tour. Palandjian earned his BA from Harvard University and his MBA

from the Harvard Business School.

The social hour starts with mezza, at 6:15 p.m. followed by a complete kheyman and los kebab dinner at 7 p.m. The dinner meeting will be at the St. James Armenian Church,



Peter Palandjian

Charles Mosesian Cultural and Youth Center, Keljik Hall.

The program is open to the public and women are welcome.



## COMMUNITY NEWS

# DC Global Leadership Conference Urges Public Diplomacy

WASHINGTON — On Wednesday, October 14, Armenian Assembly Public Affairs Associate Danielle Saroyan attended the Global Leadership in Public Diplomacy summit hosted by the University of Southern California Center on Public Diplomacy at the US Institute of Peace in Washington, DC.

Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs Richard Stengel was the keynote speaker. He discussed the importance of using public diplomacy today and implementing “soft power” in hard places. The summit continued with conversations on the topics of advancing international advocacy in the digital age, the future of cultural diplomacy, public diplomacy in congress, bridging the study-practice gap, and the next frontiers of public diplomacy incorporating technology and talent.



Former U.S. Representative Howard Berman (D-CA, 1983-2013) and Armenian Assembly Public Affairs Associate Danielle Saroyan



Keynote Speaker Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy & Public Affairs Richard Stengel

## Politically Homeless: Five-Year Odyssey Across Three Continents

LOS ANGELES — Award-winning author, Mary Terzian's second book, *Politically Homeless - a Five-Year Odyssey Across Three Continents*, was published by Author House in July. It is the story of every child born outside his/her homeland. Whether they are called anchor or passport babies, or birthright citizens, they belong to a phantom populace growing up with a split identity, due to their allegiance to immigrant parents and to their actual country of residence. Even if granted citizenship, they remain unsure of their genuine nationality. “Where do I really belong?” leads to an unwarranted guilt feeling.

Born in Cairo to immigrant parents who were escapees from the Armenian genocide, Terzian grew up in her ethnic community. Her quest for independence and her need for a sense of belonging led her to an uncommon global search to find a venue where she could feel at home and fulfill her aspirations as a writer. Terzian's future in Egypt was clouded when Arabic became the official language of the country to be taught in all schools. A graduate of an English high school, she was barely conversant in Arabic. Armenia was a phantom land behind the iron curtain. Traveling abroad from Egypt was restrained to business

and medical trips only. Her affiliation with the United Nations and language proficiency paved the way for re-assignment in Leopoldville, Congo, where civil war was rampant. According to *Kirkus* reviews, “...Terzian's exploration of her expatriate status in Africa raises questions about what it means to have a home country - or even a home.”

After a five-year itinerant and tumultuous life, including a flight back to Leopoldville aboard a plane loaded with mercenaries, Terzian's limited options led her to legal immigration to the United States, far beyond her expectations.

*Kirkus* reviews has classified *Politically Homeless...* as “An often charming memoir that intertwines personal and political histories.” Her books are available on Amazon.com and similar digital stores in e-book format and paperback. They are also sold in regular book-stores.

Terzian has lived in California for the last 45 years. She classifies herself as an “imported American.” She is a member of Writers' Club of Whittier and blogs at <https://whittierwriters.wordpress.com/author/maryterzian>. Her articles on line can be located with search word Mary Terzian.



Former Mexican Ambassador to the U.S. Arturo Sarukhan (2007-2013) and Armenian Assembly Public Affairs Associate Danielle Saroyan

Among the panelists were former US Rep. Howard Berman (D-CA, 1983-2013) and former Mexican Ambassador to the US Arturo Sarukhan (2007-2013). Berman served as House Foreign Affairs Committee chairman in 2010 and was instrumental in the Armenian Genocide Resolution bill's adoption. Saroyan thanked Berman for his efforts on behalf of the Armenian American community. She also spoke with Sarukhan who, like her, is a descendant of an Armenian Genocide survivor. Sarukhan's grandmother fled to Thessaloniki, Greece during the Armenian Genocide, then moved to Venice, where she met and later married Artur Sarukhanian, his grandfather. Together, they left Italy for Mexico, where the ambassador's parents met.

## Sts. Vartanantz Bazaar to Feature Music, Dancing and Backgammon Tournament

CHELMSFORD, Mass. — Saints Vartanantz Armenian Church of Chelmsford will host its Annual Bazaar and Foods Festival on Friday, November 20 and Saturday, November 21, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Lunch and Dinner are served all day from noon until 7 p.m. Traditional Armenian meals will be served as well as Armenian desserts, pickled goods and savory pastries. In addition to the food fair items, the bazaar will feature a wide range of arts and craft, jewelry, and white elephant booths as

well as raffles, silent auctions and games for the kids.

Special highlights of this year's bazaar will a backgammon tournament, Saturday, 2-4 p.m., with a cash prize for the winner, and live Armenian music and dancing featuring the Jason Naroian Ensemble, 4:30-7:30 p.m.

The bazaar will take place at Sts. Vartanantz Church, Kazanjian Memorial Pavilion, 180 Old Westford Road. For more information, email Lori at [lori.Kayajanian@gmail.com](mailto:lori.Kayajanian@gmail.com).

## Geragos Heads Suit Against LA School Department

GERAGOS, from page 6

use for kangaroo court-style proceedings in order to get people to resign so they don't vest in their retirement benefits,” Geragos said.

Esquith, 61, has said he would like to return to teaching and has faced health issues due to stress over his being assigned to “teacher jail” where he had to sit during the school day rather than be in his classroom.

“We get 20, 30, some days as many as 50 teachers who have complained about this, and it's the same pattern over and over again,” Geragos said.

Geragos reviewed a litany of accusations against LA Unified, including rehiring “a lawyer who said it's OK for an eighth grader to consent to sex” and hiring a law firm that cov-

ered up evidence in the Miramonte school scandal. He referred to the superintendent as “crotch-grabbing Cortines,” a reference to allegations made against Cortines in a sexual harassment lawsuit.

Geragos said to expect several other lawsuits soon from “people intimidated, coerced and frightened by the investigative hit squad.”

He called the off-site location of where teachers are housed, “Something that looks like an old Soviet gulag where teachers have to go each day, and taxpayers should see this as some kind of an affront to put teachers somewhere that looks like a place where Costco stores sausages. You can't warehouse people like this.”

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## COMMUNITY NEWS

## Former House Speaker Hastert to Plead Guilty in Sexual Abuse Hush-Money Case

HASTERT, from page 1

That person has not surfaced publicly, but anonymous law enforcement sources have told several media outlets that Hastert was trying to cover up sexual abuse of a male student when he worked as a high school teacher and wrestling coach.

Hastert's agreement, to change his plea to guilty from not guilty in the case, was expected to be submitted to US District Judge Thomas Durkin on Monday, October 19, attorneys for Hastert said.

Hastert has not spoken publicly since his indictment, but Durkin set October 28 as the date for him to change his plea.

Hastert was the longest-serving Republican speaker, leading the House for eight years before leaving Congress in 2007 and becoming a lobbyist.

After his indictment, Hastert resigned from the Dickstein Shapiro lobbying firm in Washington, D.C., and from the boards of exchange operator CME Group Inc and REX American Resources Corp. Hastert's foreign government client, Turkey, paid Dickstein \$241,000 between August 2014 and December 2014, through the firm of former Rep. Richard A. Gephardt, D-Mo., according to the documents filed with the Justice Department under the Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA). The Gephardt Group did not return a request

seeking comment about whether the firm would hire a new shop to work on the Turkey account, according to Roll Call.

His alma mater, Wheaton College, a private Christian liberal arts school in suburban Chicago, removed his name from a policy center.

As Speaker of the US House, in October of 2000, Dennis Hastert killed the Armenian Genocide Resolution moments before its adoption.

Hastert had announced he would support the Armenian Genocide resolution. The resolution, vehemently opposed by Turkey, had passed the Human Rights Subcommittee of the House and the International Relations Committee but Hastert, although first supporting it, withdrew the resolution on the eve of the full House vote. He explained this by saying that he had received a letter from president Bill Clinton asking him to withdraw it, because it would harm U.S. interests.

A September 2005 article in *Vanity Fair* revealed that during her work, former FBI translator Sibel Edmonds had heard Turkish wiretap targets boast of covert relations with Hastert.

Lawyers for both sides said in September they were negotiating a plea deal to keep the case from going to trial. Durkin had asked both sides to bring him an agreement this week, or

he would set a trial date.

Defense attorney Amy Richardson, who is not involved in Hastert's case but often handles financial fraud matters, said it is unlikely Hastert will avoid jail time if he pleads guilty to a charge of "structuring" cash withdrawals to avoid detection by banking officials.

Such a plea could, however, avoid the public release of potentially embarrassing information about the case.

"One of the best side effects of taking the plea is that material regarding reported sexual abuse will not come out," said Richardson, of the firm Harris, Wiltshire & Grannis.

Richardson said Hastert also may decide to waive a sentencing hearing, which otherwise would allow people to talk about his past behavior, both good and bad.

According to the indictment, Hastert withdrew \$1.7 million in cash from his bank accounts from 2010 to 2014. He is charged with structuring \$952,000 of the withdrawals, taking the funds out in increments of under \$10,000 to evade a requirement that banks report large cash transactions.

Hastert then told the FBI that he was keeping the cash for himself, which the indictment said was a false statement.

Each of the charges carries a possible maximum sentence of five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

## ASA 5th Annual Journalist Internship Program Set for 2016

WARWICK, RI: At its annual convention in June 2015, the Board of Trustees of the Armenian Students' Association of America, Inc. (ASA Inc) announced it is again sponsoring two journalism internships in partnership with the *Armenian Weekly* and the *Armenian Mirror-Spectator*.

In making the announcement, Brian Assadourian, Chairman of the ASA Inc. Board of Trustees remarked that "The ASA is proud to once again make these internships available and to continue our mission begun 105 years ago of providing financial assistance and professional mentoring to qualified students of Armenian heritage."

Participants in the six week internship program will receive a weekly stipend of \$150. Interns will work either under the supervision of Nanore Barsoumian, editor of the *Armenian Weekly* or Alin K. Gregorian, editor of the *Armenian Mirror-Spectator*. The offices of both newspapers are located in Watertown, Massachusetts.

"The Internship provides a valuable opportunity for students of Armenian heritage to have hands-on experience as a member of the editorial staff," noted Dr. Michael G. Mensoian, a member of the ASA Inc Board of Trustees who oversees the program.

"The *Armenian Weekly* and the *Armenian Mirror-Spectator* are two of the leading English language newspapers in the United States and Canada keeping our community informed of developments locally as well as in Armenia and the Diaspora through their print and online editions."

Applications for the ASA Inc Journalism Internship are now available and may be downloaded at <http://www.asainc.org>. Applications must be submitted no later than Friday May 20, 2016. Candidates must have completed at least their sophomore year of college by May 2016. Currently enrolled graduate students are also eligible.

Since its establishment 105 years ago the Armenian Students' Association of America, Inc. has encouraged the educational pursuits of Armenians in the United States by providing financial assistance in the form of scholarship grants, professional opportunities through internships, and fellowship through social and educational activities.

## Jubilee Celebration And Concert

CONCERT, from page 1

Mantagunian's famous songs and playing his sweet melodies. Pianist Armen Aharonian and violinist Merujan Markarian mesmerized the audience with their breathtaking performances. Some of the songs were accompanied by recitations, while others were augmented by dances performed by the Zvartnots Dance Ensemble. Thus, the evening proved to be an excellent musical extravaganza, well-orchestrated by a truly professional group of performing artists.

Throughout the ceremony, several medals were presented to the honoree by the government of Armenia. The Krikor Naregatsi Medal was awarded by the Ministry of Culture, the Komitas Medal was awarded by the Ministry of the Diaspora, and a letter of appreciation was sent by Aram Satian, the president of the Union of Composers of Armenia.

Furthermore, a commendation from the City of Glendale was presented by Mayor Ara Najarian. The Armenian General Benevolent Union also presented a medal, while its troupe of resident actors, the Satamian Theater Group, presented a plaque.

Touched by all these honors bestowed upon him, Mantagunian took to the podium at the end of the concert and warmly thanked everyone involved in the organization of this once in a lifetime celebration, the memory of which will long linger in the hearts and souls of the audience.



## Sponsor A Teacher

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



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## COMMUNITY NEWS

# Tekeyan Cultural Association's 34th Annual Support for Leadership and Insightful Projects Ahead

MONTREAL – The weekend began with a *mantî* dinner at the Tekeyan Armenian Cultural Center in the Montreal suburb of Ville Saint-Laurent. On October 10, the delegates met in the Tekeyan Center to begin their formal work. After words of greeting from the head of the local TCA host chapter, Arto Berdge Manoukian, the delegates were registered, and a secretary was selected. Nominating committee and resolutions committees were formed.

TCA Central Board chairman Dr. Haroutiun Arzoumanian presented a concise report on the developments in the most important issue of the year following the last convention (July 2014 to

KEVORK TOROSIAN PHOTO



Dr. Arshavir Gundjian at the podium

September 2015), the crisis which led to the closing of the TCA Arshag Dickranian School of Los Angeles at the end of last June. Declining enrollment combined with financial difficulties led to frequent, often weekly, CB meetings. In the end, the school property had to be sold in order to pay off the school's debts and to plan alternative educational projects.

Michael S. Norehad, a founding partner of Game Plan Financial Advisors, and manager of TCA's investment funds,



Delegates meeting at the TCA 34th Convention

attended the convention from Cleveland, Ohio, in order to report on the present status of TCA investments, as well as to provide recommendations for the future. TCA Central Board Treasurer Maro Bedrosian introduced Norehad, and explained that he had managed the TCA portfolio since 2004, providing good financial returns and maintaining fluid communications with the organization. Norehad answered questions from the delegates after his presentation.

The TCA Central Board and individual chapters presented reports on their activities over the last year. In addition, the activities of the two TCA theater groups, Hay Pem in Montreal and Mher Megerdchian in New Jersey, and the weekly newspaper *Abaka* were discussed.

The Sponsor A Teacher Project's importance and the need to promote it actively were stressed. More than \$42,000 US was dis-



Delegates to the Tekeyan Cultural Association's 34th Convention

tributed in 2014 to teachers and workers in schools bearing the Tekeyan name in Armenia and Artsakh. All money raised for this project is distributed, with administrative expenses being borne by the TCA or raised through events of TCA chapters. The funds distributed have a positive psychological effect on the teachers, and in particular, support of the school located in Berdzor, in the Lachin corridor, is strategically important for Armenia's future.

George Mandossian and Panig Keshishian presented reports on the closing of the Dickranian School in detail in the afternoon session. In addition to this, the possible initiation of various educational projects or institutions in areas of Los Angeles with fairly dense Armenian populations was discussed by the delegates. The TCA Central Board established a committee to study the feasibility of such endeavors.

The use and needs of the TCA centers in various cities, including Altadena, California's Beshgeturian Center, and those in Montreal, New Jersey, and Toronto, were discussed. Information was provided on two buildings connected with TCA in Yerevan. TCA financial reports were discussed, as well as the issues connected with the sale of the Dickranian School.

The convention decided to reanimate the TCA Board of Administrators in order to continue the Sponsor A Teacher project, coordinate more inter-chapter cultural activities and strengthen local chapters. The three Central Board members

electd at last year's convention to one-year terms, namely, Panig Keshishian, Kevork Keushkerian and Arto Manoukian, were reelected this year to their positions. It was decided that the Central Board would create a social media task force.

The Dicran Simsarian Trophy for the most active TCA branch this year was awarded to Los Angeles. The formal meeting concluded with the decision to hold the next convention in Los Angeles. The TCA Central Board held its own meeting in the afternoon after the delegates concluded their session.

### Celebration of 40th Anniversary of *Abaka*

During the evening of October 10, several hundred guests, including the TCA delegates, participated in a banquet at the TCA Center celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Canadian-Armenian trilingual weekly newspaper *Abaka*, and the establishment of its new website, *abakanews.org*. *Abaka* began publication on September 13, 1975, founded by the efforts of Dr. Arshavir Gundjian, Edmond Y. Azadian, Arsen Noubar Mamourian, Dr. Haroutiun Arzoumanian, Dr. Vahe Ketli and Vartouhi Balian. At first only published in Armenian, after three years it also included English and French sections.

The banquet was held under the aegis of the Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of Canada Bishop Abgar Hovakimyan, and Ambassador of Armenia to Canada Armen Yeghayan. Silva Amadouni-Tokatlian was the master of ceremonies. She introduced Gundjian, who spoke on behalf of the founders of *Abaka*. He explained how the paper supported the Armenian Church and the establishment of the Canadian-

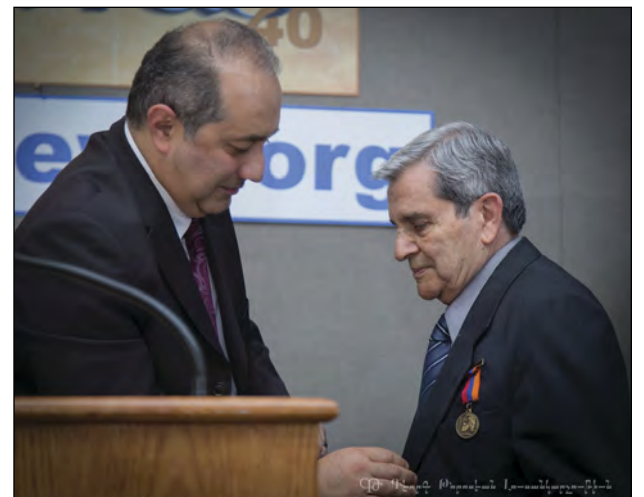
Armenian diocese, the establishment and development of the Armenian General Benevolent Union's Montreal school, and the channeling of aid to Armenia after the 1988 earthquake and independence. It helps today in organizing the community's position on issues like the Armenian Genocide centennial.

Gundjian announced the birth of *abakanews.org*, the only trilingual Armenian website providing immediate access to news on Armenia and Armenians throughout the world. He recalled past supporters of *Abaka*, including Alex Manoogian, Vahe Ketli, Yervant Papazian, Onnig Balian, Mgrdich Ghazarian and Vahan Kochunian, as well as numerous present supporters.

Gundjian gave special recognition to Arzoumanian for his all his contributions to *Abaka* over the decades. He was appointed honorary editor for life of *Abaka*.

Yeghayan stated that publishing an Armenian paper like *Abaka* in the diaspora is an act of double heroism. He also spoke about the 2,797th anniversary of Yerevan, which is one of the oldest surviving cities in the world. He concluded by giving Arzoumanian the Mayreni Tesban ("Homeland Ambassador") medal in the name of Hranoush Hakobyan, the head of the

KEVORK TOROSIAN PHOTO



Amb. Yeghayan, left, bestows Dr. Haroutiun Arzoumanian with the Mayreni Tesban Medal from the Ministry of Diaspora of the Republic of Armenia

KEVORK TOROSIAN PHOTO



Antoine Bazarbashian receiving award for years of service to TCA from Dr. Arshavir Gundjian at the podium





## COMMUNITY NEWS

# Convention in Montreal

Ministry of the Diaspora of the Republic of Armenia.

As the Canadian Primate was traveling, his speech of blessings was read by Fr. Vazken Boyadjian, pastor of St. Gregory the Illuminator Cathedral in Montreal. The Primate wrote that Abaka has always been a healthy means of communication in the community, and a bridge to Armenia and other diaspora communities. Always faithful to Armenia and the Mother See of Holy Echmiadzin, it created a future. In turn, Archbishop Hovakimyan wished it a long and fruitful life.

Hagop Vartivarian then congratulated the newspaper as head of the Armenian Democratic Liberal (ADL) Press Committee, and pointed out that in its early years it regularly provided information on the activities and achievements of Soviet Armenia and the Mother See of Echmiadzin as well as on the Armenian General Benevolent Union, and, naturally, its publishers, the ADL Party and the TCA. He said that it now enters a new stage in its life, in keeping with the demands of modern technology and society, and will serve as an example to other ADL newspapers throughout the world.

Arzoumanian presented the Simsarian Trophy formally to the Los Angeles TCA branch. Gundjian then honored a veteran TCA member,

Antoine Bazarbashian, for his decades of service to the organization. He said, "I consider him to be my brother," as he was the first person Gundjian met when he came to the US, and the doors of his home were always open to him. A special plaque was given to Bazarbashian as founder of the Philadelphia TCA chapter.

A PowerPoint presentation on the history of Abaka followed, after which a special anniversary cake was cut and distributed to the guests.

The evening ended with the entertaining

show provided by magician and hypnotist Spidey (Bedo Akkelian). Spidey switched back and forth from English to fluent Armenian during his act, and even incorporated issues of Abaka physically in one trick.

## Tekeyan Publications Feted

The convention concluded with a special Canadian Thanksgiving luncheon at the TCA Center, followed by presentations on books recently published by TCA. Berj Kokorian served as master of ceremonies. Arzoumanian lauded Vartivarian's new 396-page book, *Travelers on the Road of the Great Dream*, which is the first volume in an Armenian-language series, and contains many illustrations. It primarily focuses on the Armenagan political party and its struggles, providing biographies of many of its leaders. It also has a section on the Armenian People's Party.

Vartivarian recalled that his teacher Vahe Vahian had predicted, while Vartivarian was his student, that Armenian-language writers would disappear in a few decades, and indeed this seems to be what is happening in the diaspora now. Yet, Vartivarian



Edmond Y. Azadian speaking at the October 11 book presentation event.



Spidey (Bedros Akkelian) performing



Hagop Vartivarian speaking

said, he felt one should never give up hope. After all, a new generation of Armenian writers sprung up even after the destruction of the Armenian Genocide.

Vartivarian intended his *Travelers* series to pay tribute to the ADL activists and leaders of the past who established the first revolutionary Armenian political party, based on democratic and liberal principles. A comprehensive history of the ADLP has been lacking for many years. Vartivarian intended to collect the documentation on the history of the party, scattered because of the lack of a comprehensive central archive. The projected six-volume series will be a resource for historians in the Republic of Armenia, and a guide for new members, especially youth who will join the party in the future. Vartivarian thanked veteran party members who provided him with important sources, his editor, Dr. Vatche Ghazarian, and Baydzig Kalaydjian for making necessary corrections.

Aram Arkun spoke in English on the significance of a new translation of Vahan Tekeyan's poems, accompanied by several essays on the latter's life and works. The bilingual volume, *Vahan Tekeyan: Selected Poems* (translated by Gerald Papisian and John Papisian) and edited by Edmond Y. Azadian and Gerald Papisian (see Arkun's August 2, 2014 review in the *Mirror-Spectator*), bears important personal direct testimony concerning Tekeyan from Nora Ipekian Azadian (additionally including a portrait of Tekeyan by her on the front cover), and is another step toward making this important poet better known



Nora Ipekian Azadian reciting Tekeyan's poetry



Berj Kokorian serving as master of ceremonies on October 11

in the English-speaking world.

Edmond Y. Azadian, who wrote several chapters in the bilingual volume, took the stage to speak about this and two other books. First, he mentioned his own book, *Perspectives arméniennes: Context géopolitiques, 2003-2013*, published by Editions Sigest in France as pertinent to the *Abaka* anniversary. It contains 100 articles, all translated into French for *Abaka* over the years. Azadian paid tribute to the translator, Nicole Papazian, who is a third-generation contributor to the ADL press, following the examples of her grandfather Hagop Papazian and father Yervant Papazian, a former editor of *Abaka*. *Abaka* is the only place Azadian's articles are published in French.

Secondly, Azadian dwelled on Tekeyan's poetry, and its meaning. The two books he helped publish recently have two different audiences and goals. The Armenian-language *Vahan Tekeyan: Panasdeghdzut'iunneru hadendir* (Yerevan, 2012) in the Armenian language, is directed at readers and intellectuals in Armenia because Tekeyan is not very well known there yet deserves to be recognized as a national poet. The second work, as mentioned above, is bilingual. Azadian's introduction therein is directed to non-Armenian speakers in order to bring Tekeyan to the attention of literary circles.

Archbishop Nareg Alemezian, Prelate of Cyprus, made a surprise appearance, and offered impromptu remarks praising the work of the Tekeyan Cultural Association. Alemezian is a graduate of the Tekeyan School in Beirut, Lebanon.

The highlight of the literary program was Nora Azadian's recitations. She has specialized in reciting Tekeyan's poems, having been trained by the poet himself. Her recitation of three of his poems was greeted with a standing ovation by the audience.

An exhibit of books recently published by TCA was available for guests to peruse after the formal talks concluded. The proceeds from the sales of books were donated by the authors to the TCA Montreal chapter.

Additionally, on October 11, a special requiem service was held in the St. Gregory the Illuminator Cathedral in Outremont to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the death of Vahan Tekeyan, as well as deceased TCA members.



Simsarian Trophy presented by Arto Manoogian to Panos Keshishian, representing the Los Angeles TCA chapter

# Arts & Living

## Lark Musical Society To Bestow St. Nerses Shnorhali Medal to Joe and Joyce Stein

GLENDALE — The Lark Musical Society will honor philanthropists Joe and Joyce Stein at the Society's annual fundraiser for their generous contributions to the Society throughout the years. The event will again be hosted by Lark's Honorary Chairman and LA's dean of public relations Carl Terzian. The fundraiser will be held at the Jonathan Club in downtown Los Angeles, on November 1.

"We are delighted to honor Joe and Joyce Stein," said Lark Chairman of the Board Andy Torosyan. "They are true humanitarians, having raised millions of dollars for scholarships for Armenian students and for supporting the arts and music."

Joyce Philibosian Stein is an ex-officio member of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) Board of Directors, trustee of the Stephen Philibosian Foundation, and Life Trustee and ex-officio member of the Board of Trustees for Haigazian University. Joe Stein represents AMAA in the United Armenian Fund and is involved in numerous other Armenian organizations and projects. The couple reside in Indian Wells and continue to actively support and volunteer for their beloved Armenian causes and organizations.

The fundraiser will raise money to fulfill Lark's mission of converting one of its 4,000-square-foot buildings into the Lark Community Museum where Armenian culture, rich history, heritage and the arts will be celebrated. The museum will also exhibit original Armenian historical documents, treasures and themed lectures that go back hundreds of years.

Lark Musical Society is a nonprofit organization based in Glendale and has actively served the community since 1994 by delivering education in classical music to thousands of children, bringing to life hundreds of world class performances, and commissioning dozens of world premiere musical works based on Armenian themes. Lark is one of the most active organizations in the Diaspora working to preserve



Joe and Joyce Stein

and enrich the Armenian culture.

To commemorate the centennial of the Armenian Genocide, Lark embarked on a journey to bring 100 events to the community, demonstrating the rebirth of a nation that survived Genocide. Events included Ian Krouse's *Armenian Requiem*, Serj Tankian's *100 Years' Symphony*, Tigran Mansourian's *Requiem* and four nights of "Anoush" opera.

Lark's goal is to make Glendale a destination for all lovers of Armenian culture by bringing to life a cultural museum in the heart of the Armenian Diaspora in Glendale. It will also be a place for non-Armenian neighbors to learn more about Armenian culture, traditions and the arts.



Tatev Yeghiazaryan and Soundsketch

## Fusing the Visual and Audio Worlds through Armenian Folk

NEW YORK — As an ethnic people with roots in the Caucasus, Armenians continuously seek to maintain a connection to their rich history and cultural identity. While language, church, and food play strong roles in the perpetuation of the Armenian identity, the most powerful link to the world around us arguably lies in the musical harmonies and ethnographic euphonies that have transcended generations. At times haunting and at other times inspiring, the sounds of Armenian folk music resonate in a way that deeply connects the listener to the past and to the

**By Rachel Onanian  
Nadjarian**

unrelenting truth that comforts us with its endurance. As we have evolved as a people and music has evolved as an entity, traditional Armenian folk and liturgical pieces have become the foundation and backdrop upon which numerous artists experiment in redefining the audience's connection to what they are experiencing.

And so it is with the unique and intricate sounds of the New York City band, Soundsketch. Formed in 2012 by Yerevan-born jazz singer and composer, Tatev Yeghiazaryan, Soundsketch is a musical ensemble that embraces and celebrates the powerful and unique union of Armenian, jazz and classical sounds. Presented both as the backdrop to films and as pure musical compositions, the intricate details of Soundsketch pieces provide innumerable variations for the listener, resulting in a versatile and eclectic aural experience that is simultaneously deep and inspiring. The six-piece ensemble includes piano/vocals, bass cello, trumpet, saxophone and percussions at live performances with the addition of flute, harp and vibraphone for film and animation scores.

Perhaps most unique about Yeghiazaryan's compositions and arrangements is the way she combines the sound of jazz woodwind and brass instruments with strings and voice to play folk melodies that are typically only played on Armenian traditional instruments.

Take, for example, Yeghiazaryan's original composition, *Heritage*, which Soundsketch recently debuted at Le Poisson Rouge music hall in New York City. After returning from a visit to Armenia in 2014, Tatev felt inspired by the epic mountains she was amidst and wrote the music and lyrics of *Heritage* to include strings, horns as well as strong *doumbek* and *daf* sections — representing the cliffs and rocks that are so prevalent. A traditional Armenian folk song played by the

see SOUNDSKETCH, page 11

## Demoyan to Speak On Armenian Athletes in Ottoman Empire

ARLINGTON, Mass. — From the highest positions in the government to various professions, as well as the arts and architecture, Armenians made major contributions to the growth and development of the Ottoman Empire. Among the least known and overlooked aspects are sports and physical education prior to the Armenian Genocide.

The latter two will be the topic of discussion on Tuesday, November 3, at 7:30 p.m. by Dr. Hayk Demoyan, director of the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute (AGMI), in a lecture titled "Armenian Sports and Physical Education in the Ottoman Empire: Between Patriotism and



Hayk Demoyan

Competitive Nationalism" at the Armenian Cultural Foundation.

The presentation is based on Demoyan's extensive research and most recent publication on the subject, titled *Haykakan sporde Osmanean Kaysrut'yunum* [Armenian Sport in Ottoman Empire], a revised second edition of the 2009 publication which includes newly discovered materials. This important publication, rich in historical documents, contains about 600 original photographs as well as the images of medals and decorations bestowed upon Armenian athletes, posters, communiqués and press coverage.

Born in Gumri (former Leninakan), Armenia, Demoyan is a graduate of Yerevan State University. He received his PhD from the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Armenian National Academy of Sciences. Demoyan is the author of several books on the Armenian Genocide, Turkish foreign policy and Turkey's involvement in the Nagorno-Karabagh conflict of 1991-1994.

He has been the director of the AGMI since 2006. In conjunction with this position, he has also served over the past two years as the secretary of the state commission tasked with planning and implementation of the worldwide commemorations of the centenary of the Armenian Genocide. In addition, Demoyan regularly lectures on the AGMI's activities and related topics in Armenian and other countries, including the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Slovenia, Russia, Iran and Cyprus.

In addition to the work on sports, he has just published major bilingual (Armenian and English) work titled *Hayots' Ts'eghaspanut'ean lusabanume hamashkharhayin mamuli arajin egerin* [The Armenian Genocide: Frontpage Coverage in the World Press]. This 266 page-long book contains about 500 images, photographs and texts, in color and black-white, of selections from English, French, Italian American, German, Austrian, Russian, Polish and Norwegian publications from 1856 to 1926. The launching of this major project including an exhibit of the posters which took place in October 2014 at AGMI received rave reviews.

Demoyan's presentation will take place in John Mirak Hall of the Armenian Cultural Foundation, 441 Mystic St. In addition to the presentation of the above topic, Demoyan will share his thoughts on the Armenian Genocide centenary events worldwide.

Autographed copies of both titles will also be available for sale.



## ARTS &amp; LIVING

# Karén Hakobyan *Rebirth Adagio* to Premiere at Tekeyan Program Commemorating Genocide Centennial

NEW YORK – Tekeyan Cultural Association presents the world premiere of *Rebirth - Adagio for String Orchestra and Timpani, Opus 18*, on Saturday, November 21 at New York's Merkin Concert Hall, 129 West 67th St., at 7:30 p.m.

The work is a complex musical composition centered around two distinct parts each with several interconnected sections. The first part consists of three sections, which bring out the somber and tense character of the music. The melody first heard in the lower strings is surrounded by constant trembling. It carries over into a brief second section *Andante* which intensifies and suddenly bursts into the third

section - *Molto Animato, energico*. This fast section introduces an intense new theme which can be heard as a canon in various voices surrounded by constant motion. As the movement dies out leaving the lone double bass holding a low note it creates a bleak feeling in the air followed by silence.

The second part continues on from the silence developing the first, somber melody in the lower strings until a ray of light as a solo violin enters in the upper register. The violin peacefully plays the melody from Komitas Vardapet's *Tsirani Tsar* (Apricot Tree). As the two melodies (past and future) collide, the bottom layer eventually dominates the beautiful melody of Komitas. After climax is reached, Komitas's melody re-emerges as a dance leading into the triumphant *Coda*. The *Coda* synthesizes all the melodies introduced throughout the piece. As it builds towards the final climax, it brings a peaceful resolution symboliz-



Hasmik Papian



Karen Hakobyan



Arkady Leytush

ing a brighter future.

*Rebirth - Adagio* was specifically composed for the Commemoration of the Centennial of the Armenian Genocide and reflect the composer's deepest thoughts and feelings on one of the biggest tragedies of the 20th century.

Participating in the program will be Hakobyan, cellist Alexander Chaushian, soprano Hasmik Papian and conductor Arkady Leytush.

The program will feature works by Bach, Komitas, Babadjanian, Sharafyan, Mirzoyan and others, in addition to Hakobyan.



Alexander Chaushian

## AIWA-SF Partners with *Hearts of Armenia*

SAN FRANCISCO – The Armenian International Women's Association San Francisco Affiliate (AIWA-SF) is announcing its partnership with Meghedi Melody Nazarian in collaboration with her latest project, *Hearts of Armenia*, a photo book inspired by hearts she captured all over Armenia during her 6-month stay from April through October 2015.

After photographing more than 150 hearts throughout Armenia, Nazarian knew she had to do something about it.

"Everywhere I turned, I began to notice the love swirling around me: friends linking arms, relatives hugging, lovers embracing. Whether romantic, platoon, or familial, the warmth and hospitality that's exchanged in Armenia is palpable. So it's fitting that as soon as I arrived, I started seeing hearts everywhere I looked: in the shape of leaves, rocks, and flowers; as graffiti and art, and in so many other forms. Finding heart after heart started to become a symbolism for all the love I felt in my Motherland."

AIWA-SF President Christine Soussa said, "The captivating book truly captures the spirit of Armenia, despite the hardships; love and beauty

surround Armenia as the center of its deepest emotion. We are delighted to partner with 'Hearts of Armenia' and thank Meghedi for donating 1/2 the proceeds to a critical AIWA-SF initiative."

Women's empowerment being near to her heart, Meghedi decided to team up with AIWA SF and align the *Hearts of Armenia* project to a specific AIWA-SF initiative.

Half of all proceeds of the book – which will be released just before the holidays – will directly support the Women's Support Center of Armenia, an AIWA initiative, which focuses on helping abused women in Armenia gain the voice they deserve. AIWA-SF Vice President Sophia Moradian says, "Contributions like Meghedi's are essential for ensuring the success of our initiatives in Armenia. AIWA SF is grateful for Meghedi's generous support and we are proud to be in partnership with her and *Hearts of Armenia*."

AIWA-SF is also accepting pre-sale orders.

The book will be sold online and at various events and bookstores. For more information, contact [aiwasanfrancisco@gmail.com](mailto:aiwasanfrancisco@gmail.com) or visit [www.aiwasanfrancisco.com](http://www.aiwasanfrancisco.com)

## Fusing the Visual and Audio Worlds

SOUND SKETCH, from page 10 band is *Spasoum* (Waiting). This piece is an instrumental piece and is played with a traditional Armenian orchestra that includes *dhol*, *cannons* and *shvis*. Yeghiazaryan's rendering takes into account the dynamism and mood changes of the original piece with carefully balanced union of vocals and instruments of varied origins without overpowering the other.

Sound sketch band members began calling the rendering of the song *Spasm* as a result of its movement and intricacy. Another unique arrangement is the folk tune *Es Aroon* (This Stream). Having sung the piece at the age of 10, Yeghiazaryan was always fond of the water-like flow of the accompanying piano, and thus felt inspired to arrange the piece for strings with a jazz influence and the infusion of harmonica.

Most of her compositions are written to ornate and strengthen the visual experience of motion pictures. Much of Yeghiazaryan's inspiration comes from her childhood and continued

fascination with haunting and magical fairy tales of different nations, cartoons and animations. She has scored for two short films, three animations and has had numerous performances individually as well as with SoundSketch. (To see more about Yeghiazaryan and SoundSketch, visit [www.tatevsound.com](http://www.tatevsound.com).)

Tatev was born in Armenia to artists Mels Yeghiazaryan and Karine Arsharkyan. She quickly showed a great interest for music and began formal classical lessons in both voice and piano at the age of 6. She had her first classical vocal concert when she was only 9. At the age of 11, she and her sister won the Do Re Mi National Music Competition in Armenia and were invited to tour in Los Angeles for four concerts. She moved to the United States in 2003 and went on to graduate from NJPAC's Jazz for Teens program in 2006 and from William Paterson University in 2009 with a full scholarship in jazz studies and performance.



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presents



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## Fragments from a Lost Homeland

By Hagop Vartivarian

NEW YORK – A presentation of Prof. Armen Marsoobian's book was organized on Thursday, October 15, at the headquarters of AGBU's Central Offices, sponsored by AGBU Ararat Magazine, and Tekeyan and Hamazkayin Cultural Associations.

The author is a professor of Philosophy at the Southern Connecticut State University, whose President is Dr. Mary Papazian.

Marsoobian has published an impressive volume titled *Fragments from the Lost Homeland - Remembering Armenia* using photographs and expansive ethnographic accounts from his family.

His maternal relatives, the Dildilians had saved more than a thousand photographs, carrying them through their exile route to Greece and then to the United States.

For four generations they were photographers. Their photographs depict family events as much as national and Ottoman scenes, captured at various occasions. A magnificent trove of high quality visual materials that has been salvaged today and forms a part of the reality of our past life. His maternal family is from Merzifon and the paternal from Palou (Kharput).

Using his collection of photographs Marsoobian has presented exhibitions and lectures in Istanbul, Merzifon and Diyarbakir, to large and receptive Turkish and Kurdish audiences. He has contacts in Turkish intellectual circles who facilitate the dissemination of his work in the various regions of the Turkish Republic. He will soon be going to Ankara, for the same project. This time the exhibition will be held at an official state venue, unlike the three previous ones, the latest of which took place at the quarters of St. Giragos Church of Diyarbakir (Dikranagerd).

The Dildilians stayed in Merzifon during the



Prof. Armen Marsoobian

1915 deportations until 1920, having been able to do so thanks to their professional career as photographers also managing to hold back and save many of their relatives. Eventually they have moved to Constantinople where they have equally photographed Turk and Greek freedom fighters fighting each other. They have later moved to Hartford in the United States, which during the early period of deportations had become a thriving Armenian community due to the abundance of factories there. The Dildilians have continued to work as professional photographers until late in the 1980s. They have been Armenian Evangelical by denomination.

At the centenary of the Genocide, this publication of Marsoobian is, without doubt, a praiseworthy initiative, dedicated to the maternal side of his family, the Dildilians.

## Leading Scholars and Authors to Revive 'Lost Voices' of Armenian Writers

WATERTOWN – A program titled "Hearing the Lost Voices: Armenian Writers and the Legacy of the Genocide" will take on Sunday, November 8, at 2 p.m., at the Armenian Museum of America, Adele and Haig Der Manuelian Galleries (3rd floor), 65 Main St. The event is co-sponsored by the Armenian Museum of America, the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) and PEN New England.

Armenian writers and intellectuals were among the first victims of the Armenian Genocide in 1915, with such prominent figures as Krikor Zohrab, Daniel Varoujan, Rupen Sevag and Siamanto arrested on April 24, 1915, and later murdered as part of the Ottoman Empire's effort to annihilate the Armenians and their culture.

The participants in the program will include Eric Bogosian reading Siamanto; Dr. Gerard J. Libaridian reading Daniel Varoujan; Dr. Marian Mesrobian MacCurdy reading Zabel Yessayan; Dr. Herand Markarian reading Roupén Sevag; Dr. James R. Russell reading Misak Medzarents; and Danila Terpanjian and Judy Saryan reading Zabel Yessayan.

For more information about this program contact NAASR at [hq@naasr.org](mailto:hq@naasr.org) or AMA at [info@armenianmuseum.org](mailto:info@armenianmuseum.org).



Gerard Libaridian



Eric Bogosian



## Recipe Corner

by Christine Vartanian Datian

### Chickpea and Green Bean Salad with Lemon Lebni, Parsley and Green Onions

A hearty salad that is big on flavor and full of healthy ingredients can be fast and delicious.

#### INGREDIENTS

4 cups cooked chickpeas (garbanzo beans)  
1 cup cooked fresh green beans, diced into medium pieces  
1 cup flat-leaf parsley, finely chopped  
1/2 cup fresh mint, finely chopped  
1/2 red or green bell pepper, seeded and diced  
1 medium red onion, chopped  
2 stalks celery and tops, finely chopped  
1 medium tomato, seeded and chopped  
2-3 cloves garlic, mashed or grated  
1 tablespoon Dijon mustard  
1 teaspoon fresh minced dill  
1/2 teaspoon ground cumin  
Juice of 2 large lemons and zest from 1 lemon  
1/4 cup olive oil  
Sea or Kosher salt, dried mint, and cayenne and black pepper  
Chopped Kalamata olives and thinly sliced green onions as garnish  
Mixed greens, spinach, watercress, and kale (enough for 4 people)

#### PREPARATION:

1. Combine all salad ingredients (except the mixed greens) in a bowl and toss with lemon juice, zest, olive oil, and spices. Add more lemon juice or olive oil, if desired, and garnish with olives and green onions.  
2. Arrange mixed greens on four serving plates. Spoon salad on top of the greens and add a dollop of Lemon Lebni on each plate as an accompaniment. Serve with pita chips, toasted pita bread, garlic bread, or flat bread.  
\*Chopped fresh salmon or diced cooked turkey or chicken may be added to this salad. Salad may be made up to two days ahead of serving and chilled.  
Serves 4.

#### Lemon Lebni

1 1/2 cups lebni (strained yogurt found in Middle Eastern markets)  
Juice of 1 large lemon and zest from 1 lemon  
2 cloves garlic, mashed  
4 Persian cucumbers, shredded  
Sea salt and black pepper  
Olive oil  
Paprika or Aleppo pepper as garnish

Place the lebni in a medium bowl, add the remaining ingredients, and mix until all ingredients are combined. Drizzle with olive oil, paprika or Aleppo pepper, and serve.  
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.



Armenian intellectuals arrested on April 24, 1915



## 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

**NOVEMBER 7 — Arts at St. Johns is hosting a concert that commemorates the 100th anniversary** of the Armenian Genocide with authentic Armenian music and dance. Performers include Joe Zeytoonian and Myriam Eli from Harmonic Motion, plus Alique Mazmanian and Reza Filsoofi. Additionally, writer Douglas Kalajian will narrate and provide commentary based on the experience of his own family and from his book, *Stories My Father Never Finished Telling Me*. 7 p.m. VIP Admission is \$30, General Admission is \$20, and Seniors and Students get in at \$15. VIP Admission comes with drinks and hors d'oeuvres beginning at 6. For more information, check out <https://www.facebook.com/events/541255592690535/> or [http://artsatstjohns.com/th\\_event/hye-doun/](http://artsatstjohns.com/th_event/hye-doun/) Miami Beach.

## MASSACHUSETTS

**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.

**OCTOBER 29 — Annual Fall Dinner and Drawing sponsored by the Friends of Holy Trinity 1000 Club,** 6:30 p.m., Charles and Nevart Talanian Cultural Hall, Holy Trinity Armenian Church, 145 Brattle St., Cambridge. Open to all - join us for a delicious losh kebab and pilaf dinner, \$7.99 per person; tickets on sale at the door. Regular monthly raffle drawing at 8 p.m. plus 5 additional cash prizes. "One-time" numbers will be sold on the night of dinner; special offer: purchase five "one-time" numbers for \$20, save \$5. For further info, contact the Holy Trinity Church office, 617.354.0632.

**NOVEMBER 6 — Knights of Vartan Ararat Lodge of Boston 2015 Awards Gala, Vartan Mamigonian Man of the Year** Honoring James Kalustian, Shushanik

Mamigonian Woman of the Year Joyce Van Dyke, Mamigonian Family Community Leader Joseph Ashjian (Posthumously) & Mrs. Alice Ashjian, Apo & Arlette Ashjian & Family, Hagop & Arpie Ashjian & Family, Vahan Mamigonian Young Leaders Award Sona Ashjian, Zareh Zurabyan, Michael Demirchian, Armine Afeyan, Karina Demurchyan; Ghevont Yeretz Faithful Knight George Haroutunian. Oakley Country Club, Watertown, Reception at 7 o'clock, Dinner at 8 o'clock - Surf and Turf. Tickets - \$100 per person. Black Tie Optional. For Reservations Email: [araratgala@knightsofvartan.org](mailto:araratgala@knightsofvartan.org).

**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 Kheyma. 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 9 — Trinity Men's Union Dinner and Meeting, 6pm,** Social Hour, 7 p.m., Dinner; Johnson Hall, Holy Trinity Armenian Church, 145 Brattle St., Cambridge. Guest Speaker: Mark Kolligian, "The State of the Nation's Healthcare System." Open to all. Donation for losh kebab and kheyma dinner is \$15. RSVP by November 8 to [tmuhtaac@gmail.com](mailto:tmuhtaac@gmail.com) or the Holy Trinity Church office, 617.354.0632.

**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:Info:aiwanewengland@aol.com).

**NOVEMBER 13 — St. James Hye Café Join us for delicious food and fellowship!** Kebab, Falafel, Imam Bayeldi, and more. Doors open at 6:15pm. Reservations accepted for parties of 6 or more by calling the church office no later than 5pm on Thursday, November 12 (617)923-8860. For more information visit [www.stjameswatertown.org](http://www.stjameswatertown.org). St. James Armenian Church, 465 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown.

**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 15 — Razmik Mansourian — Live in Concert with Albert Bulbulyan and Hovhannes Meghrilyan,** 5 p.m., Charles and Nevart Talanian Cultural Hall, Holy Trinity Armenian Church, 145 Brattle St., Cambridge. Tickets are \$35 and \$40; advance purchase recommended. For tickets or further information, call 617.842.6552,781.241.2118, or 617.458.0903, or log onto Holy Trinity's website, [www.htaac.org/calendar/event/148/](http://www.htaac.org/calendar/event/148/). Proceeds to benefit the Holy Trinity Armenian School.

**NOVEMBER 20-21 — Sts Vartanantz Armenian Church of Chelmsford Annual Bazaar and Food Festival.** Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Lunch and dinner featuring lamb shish kebab, chicken kebab and losh kebab. Served from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Takeout available. Homemade Armenian pastries. Booths include Armenian country store with wide variety of dry goods, jewelry, white elephant tables, arts and crafts, silent auctions and cash and prize raffles. On Saturday, November 21: Backgammon (Tavloo) Tournament, 2 to 4 p.m., and live Armenian music and dancing featuring Jason Naroian Ensemble, 4:30 - 7:30 p.m. Sts. Vartanantz Church is located at 180 Old Westford Road, Chelmsford.

**NOVEMBER 21 — An evening with Project SAVE Armenian Photograph Archives, Inc., Scottish Rite**

**Masonic Museum & Library** (previously National Heritage Museum), 33 Marrett Road, Lexington, celebrating 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 — St. James 84th Anniversary Name Day Celebration & Banquet** Honoring Raffi & Carol Yeghiayan, Parishioners of the Year. Save the Date, details to follow. St. James Armenian Church, 465 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown.

**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 JERSEY

**OCTOBER 31 — Annual Bazaar and Food Festival, Holy Cross Armenian Church Center,** Union City. 6 to 10 p.m. Featuring Luleh Kebab, Khavourma, Keshkeg Soup, Kufteh Delicious Appetizers & Desserts! Take Out Available. Children's Halloween Party @ 5:00 PM. In-House Raffle Prizes. SUPER 50/50 Raffle (tickets @ \$100 each). International Music by DJ Berj. Special Performance by Antranig Dance Ensemble. Free Admission. Limited parking available @ Church of Latter-Day Saints. Enter lot from 25th Street (btwn New York & Bergenline Aves). For more info, contact the church office at 201-864-2480 or email [holycrossucnj@gmail.com](mailto:holycrossucnj@gmail.com)

## NEW YORK

**NOVEMBER 7 — Tatev and the Soundsketch, 9 p.m.** Musical performance fusing Armenian folk, jazz, and classical sounds. Tickets \$10 in advance and \$15 at door. DROM, 85 Avenue A, New York, NY. For more info and tickets visit [www.tatevsound.com](http://www.tatevsound.com)

## RHODE ISLAND

**NOVEMBER 7 and 8 — Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church holds its 85th annual food fair and bazaar,** 70 Jefferson St., Providence. Saturday, 11:30 a.m.- 10p.m.-Sunday, Noon - 6 p.m. Daily Raffle, Kids Games, Kids Movies,Arts & Crafts, Balloon man. Shish Kebab, Losh Kebab, Kuftha,Kheyma, Yalanchi, Armenian Pastries, Lahmajoon & many other delicious food available. Hrametzek! All are welcome. Handicapped accesible. For further information, call church office at 401-272-



## COMMENTARY

# Mirror Spectator



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## COMMENTARY

## The Face of Democratic Debate

By Edmond Y. Azadian

It seems to be the era of populism in American politics. Voters are tired of conventional politicians and are looking for people who label themselves as outsiders, who can breathe fresh air into the political system. This mood is apparent in the meteoric success of Donald Trump in the Republican camp and Sen. Bernie Sanders in the Democratic camp. Both candidates infuse raw and elemental energy into the political narrative.

The Republican debate anointed Donald Trump as the front-runner of his party and the Democratic debate enhanced Sanders' image, almost undermining frontrunner Hillary Clinton's foothold.

The Democratic debate mostly focused on Clinton and Sanders, leaving the rest of the contenders in the shadows – Lincoln Chafee, Martin O'Malley and Jim Webb. (Webb just announced this week that he is quitting the primary, though he is leaving open the possibility of running as an independent.) Another candidate, Harvard law professor Lawrence Lessig, is trying to get enough momentum to participate in the debates.

The Republican debate on October 13 was more crowded and at times tense, although the moderator, Jake Tapper, was highly professional and courteous. During the Democratic debate, moderator Anderson Cooper allowed himself some abrasive questions, but all in all, there was an element of camaraderie among the candidates.

Bernie Sanders raised his profile significantly by continually harping on the nation's income distribution disparity. He was after the top 1 percent of the population, who do not incur their fair share of the tax burden. That line of thinking has won tremendous popularity and boosted his campaign financing, which does not depend on a few donors with deep pockets; rather he attracts many donors who make small donations.

By definition, Bernie Sanders is a socialist, not even a member of the Democratic Party. He plans to emulate the Scandinavian countries – especially Denmark. "I love Denmark," quipped Clinton, before adding, "but Denmark is a small country with a scant population." A system which works for Denmark does not necessarily work for the US. In fact, socialism succeeds in countries of abundance. The Soviets tried to apply equality in poverty and the system collapsed. What the Chinese are trying to do is to raise the living standards of 1.5 billion people with a goal of applying socialism in a country of plenty.

However, the concept of socialism is so tarnished in the American political lexicon, that people even don't have to study the principals of the concept. No matter how popular Sanders' candidacy may be, he is on a doomed mission.

The two top Democratic candidates had run-ins and more friendly moments. Their views on reining in Wall Street were in contrast, with Sanders aiming to revive Glass-Steagall Act of 1933, which separated deposit-taking banks from riskier wheeling and dealing institutions. Mrs. Clinton came out with a more practical alternative, however, both candidates are not favorites of Wall Street, as Paul Krugman wrote in the *New York Times*: "If Wall Street's attitude and its political surviving are any indication, financiers themselves believe that any Democrat, Mrs. Clinton very much included, would be serious about policing their industry's excesses. And that's why they are doing all they can to elect a Republican."

Another issue of contrast between them was gun control, in which Sanders turned out to be less consistent than Mrs. Clinton, who claimed that the National Rifle Association (NRA) was after her.

All five candidates swear by the Second Amendment, but have different views on gun control. No one dares to say that the emperor is naked. In all civilized countries, where gun ownership is prohibited or limited, the homicide rate is dramatically lower. It does not take a legal scholar to figure that out. It is only common sense. But ironically, when there is a mass murder, sales of guns skyrocket, because people are duped into the NRA paradigm that "a good person with a gun is the only deterrent against a bad person with a gun," whereas the abolition of all guns would make everyone safe. In the US, we may send probes to Mars, but we are still living with frontier mentality.

In one instance, Bernie Sanders bailed out Clinton when he said that Americans are sick and tired of "hearing about your

damned emails."

That was one of the most exciting highlights of the evening, when Mrs. Clinton gratefully extended her hand to Sanders.

It is true that the news media has been using and abusing the email issue ad nauseum. It is also true, as the failed candidate for the Speaker of the House Kevin McCarthy and House Majority Leader, admitted on Fox News that the investigative committee was out to undermine Mrs. Clinton's credibility and lower her rating. However, there is a real national security issue when a secretary of state avoids using the official channels of communication and opts for her personal channel.

Mrs. Clinton performed her best at the debate, which helped her with her sagging poll numbers. She was perfectly dressed, fine-tuned through rehearsing and even adept in her use of body language. Her studied smile was always shining through, although sometimes she was caught off guard on camera and her "monster" personality, as described by Samantha Power, would emerge.

Her credibility and trustworthiness are always in question, although she claimed that President Obama had confidence in her judgment and that is why he offered her the position of secretary of state.

When questioned about why she changed her mind in regard to the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement, she immediately refuted being a flip-flopper on the issue and said that she always absorbs new information and based on the new information, she changes her mind if need be.

Clinton has more than one skeleton in her closet. The Benghazi tragedy, which cost the lives of Ambassador Christopher Stevens and other personnel, will haunt her to the very end, and also she shrugs off responsibility by stating, "That was left to the security professionals .... In the State Department, who had to make some tough decisions."

Her "yes" vote on the Iraq war is another skeleton, which she cannot hide nor get rid of. Like many other flip-flopping politicians, she claims that she voted yes on that misguided war based on the information available at the time, when she believed that Iraq possessed WMDs, where as revelation after revelation was available at the time that a lie was being manufactured to justify that ruinous war. Any observer of the news could see plainly that a web of lies was being spun around to railroad legislators and the public. Actually, she voted yes based on her record as a politician beholden to the military industrial complex, and she may not vote any other way, if the same circumstance arises again.

Mrs. Clinton has also bought the argument of the proponents of regime change in Libya, which has led to that country's destruction. During the debate, she was repeating the "regime change" mantra, which is applied to all the leaders of the Third World countries who have been targeted, accusing them of "slaughtering their own people." Col. Muammar Qaddafi ruled Libya from 1969 to 2011 and built an egalitarian society, distributing the oil wealth to the population. He was an eccentric ruler but in no way would he fit Mrs. Clinton's description.

During this election campaign, Clinton's adversaries will bring out all the skeletons. She is a smooth talker and only the future will tell how effectively she can talk her way to the top office.

Armenians are always interested in how the candidate will treat issues that are of vital significance for them. However, the lessons have been learned; candidates will promise them the sky to get the contributions and the votes, only to renege on their pledges after the election. President Obama came closest to uttering the "g" word, but still, he demurred.

Clinton must be well versed on Armenian issues; after all, she was the architect of the protocols, signed between Armenia and Turkey. She even flew to Switzerland to witness the signing ceremony which would have been a crown jewel in her foreign policy career, but she failed to break Turkey's intransigence.

Her trip to Armenia is another reflection of her perception of the Genocide issue. In Yerevan, she went to the Genocide memorial, claiming that she was making a personal visit to the monument, mind you, not as a secretary of state, thus patting the ego of the Armenians and signaling on the other hand to President Erdogan of Turkey across the border that she is not trespassing the red line set by that country.

As Armenians and as US citizens, we need to study the total image and substance of a candidate, because educated voters will always opt for the right candidate.

## Thank You to Two Local Volunteers!

The Armenian Mirror-Spectator and the Tekeyan Cultural Association wish to express their thanks to Aram Belorian of Belmont and Norayr Ayanian of Woburn, for donating their time and talent to conduct various roof repairs to the Baikar Building on Mt. Auburn Street in Watertown.

Both are members of the Knights of Vartan.



## COMMENTARY



My Turn

By Harut Sassounian

## To Ban Genocide Denial, Court Incites Armenians to Commit Violence

In the case of Dogu Perinçek vs. Switzerland, the Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) sustained in a 10-7 vote the Turkish politician's right to free expression, finding that Swiss courts had wrongly convicted him for denying the Armenian Genocide.

More importantly for Armenians, the Grand Chamber contradicted the Lower Chamber's unwarranted opinion of December 17, 2013, which had questioned the validity of the Armenian Genocide. On October 15, 2015, ECHR's Grand Chamber rectified that jurisdictional issue, ruling that the Court was "not required to determine whether the massacres and mass deportations suffered by the Armenian people at the hands of the Ottoman Empire from 1915 onwards can be characterized as genocide within the meaning of that term under international law, but has no authority to make legally binding pronouncements, one way or another, on this point." This was the judgment of the majority of 10 judges who ruled in favor of Perinçek.

The remaining seven judges, not only disagreed with the majority's ruling in support of Perinçek, but went on to set the record straight on the Armenian Genocide: "That the massacres and deportations suffered by the Armenian people constituted genocide is self-evident....

The Armenian genocide is a clearly established historical fact. To deny it is to deny the obvious. But that is not the question here. The case is not about the historical truth, or the legal characterization of the events of 1915. The real issue at stake here is whether it is possible for a State, without overstepping its margin of appreciation [limited room to maneuver], to make it a criminal offence to insult the memory of a people that has suffered genocide. In our view, this is indeed possible," the seven judges wrote in their dissenting opinion.

Nevertheless, the Grand Chamber still reached some unwarranted conclusions that defy logic and common sense. The majority of the judges advanced the meaningless argument that since 90 years had passed between Perinçek's statements and "the tragic events" of 1915, there was no need for Switzerland to regulate his speech. Supposedly, the passage of time had made his denial less traumatic on Armenians. As the dissenting seven judges pointed out, the majority's position violates "the principle that statutory limitations are not applicable to war crimes and crimes against humanity."

The majority of the judges also put forward a questionable argument to justify why denying the Holocaust was a crime, and not a violation of freedom of expression. They considered Holocaust denial an "antidemocratic ideology" and "anti-Semitism," whereas they claimed that Perinçek's denial of the Armenian Genocide did not result "in serious friction between Armenians and Turks" in Switzerland. Furthermore, while asserting that there was a direct link between Holocaust denial and many of the European "States which had experienced the Nazi horrors," they found no such link between Switzerland and the Armenian Genocide.

There are several problems in the Judges preceding arguments:

- There should not be a double standard in dealing with denial of any genocide. If denial of the Holocaust is a crime, so should the denial of other genocides. The preferential treatment of victims of certain genocides, but not others, is

shameful and disgraceful. As editor of a newspaper in the United States, I naturally support the highly protective American notion of freedom of expression rather than the European model of a more restrictive freedom of speech. However, regardless of which legal system one adheres to, discrimination among genocide victims is not acceptable.

- The majority of the judges repeatedly claimed that since Perinçek's denial did not result in causing public disorder by the Armenian community, Swiss courts should not have convicted him. Ironically, by making such a dangerous assertion, the Grand Chamber is actually inciting Armenians to resort to violence to satisfy the Court's requirement that genocide denial could only be criminalized if it is followed by some sort of violent reaction. Since Swiss-Armenians acted in a civilized manner by calling the police and filing a lawsuit instead of bashing Perinçek's head, they are now being told that their legal claim is invalid because they did not cause a public disturbance!

- It is historically wrong to state that there was no link between Switzerland and the Armenian Genocide. Over 400,000 Swiss citizens signed a petition in 1890s to protest the Hamidian massacres. Swiss missionaries saved countless orphans during the Genocide and helped provide new homes for them in Switzerland.

Fortunately, the Grand Chamber did not require Switzerland to amend its laws on genocide denial, implying that the law was simply misapplied in Perinçek's case. Therefore, Greece, Cyprus, and Slovakia also do not need to change their laws on criminalizing denial of the Armenian Genocide.

Thankfully, the Court rejected Perinçek's claim that he is entitled to 135,000 euros (\$142,000) in damages and court costs.

International lawyers Geoffrey Robertson and Amal Clooney, and Armenia's Prosecutor General Gevorg Kostanyan should be commended for their exceptional efforts in representing Armenia in Court and defending the truth of the Armenian Genocide.

# Turkey Is the Next Failed State in the Middle East

By David P. Goldman

ANKARA (Asia Times Online) — We do not know just who detonated the two bombs that killed 95 Kurdish and allied activists in Ankara on October 10, but the least likely conjecture is that President Erdogan's government is guiltless in the matter. As Turkish member of parliament Lutfu Turkkan tweeted after the bombing, the attack "was either a failure by the intelligence service, or it was done by the intelligence service."

Betrayed by both the United States and Russia, and faced with the emergence of a Kurdish state on its borders and the rise of Kurdish parties in the parliamentary opposition, Erdogan is cornered. At risk in the short-term is the ability of his AKP party to govern after the upcoming November elections. At risk in the medium term is the cohesion of the Turkish state itself.

In public, Western leaders have hailed Turkey as "a great Islamic democracy," as President Obama characterized it in a 2010 interview. That was the view of the George W. Bush administration before Obama, which invited Erdogan to the White House before his selection as prime minister in 2003.

Erdogan's ability to govern, and cohesion of the Turkish state itself, is at risk.

A minority of military and intelligence analysts, though, has warned that Turkey may not be viable within its present borders in the medium term. The trouble is that its Kurdish minority, now at 20 percent of the overall population, has twice as many children as ethnic Turks, so many that half of Turkey's military-age population will speak Kurdish as a first language in fewer than twenty years.

An existential crisis for Turkey has been in the making for years, as I reported in my 2011 book, *How Civilizations Die (and Why Islam is Dying, Too)*. During the past week, a perfect storm has overtaken Turkish policy, and threatens to provoke deep political instability. Turkey may become the region's next failed state.

Erdogan has suffered public humiliation by both Washington and Moscow.

There has to be a fall guy in the Middle East's film noir, and that unenviable role has fallen to Turkey. Prior to the bombings, the worst terrorist incident in modern Turkish history, Erdogan suffered public humiliation by

Washington as well as Moscow. As Laura Rozen reported October 9 in *Al-Monitor*, Washington announced a 180-degree turn in its Syrian intervention, abandoning the Sunni opposition in favor of Syrian Kurds.

"The United States will supply arms, equipment and air support to Syrian Arab and Kurdish groups already fighting the so-called Islamic State (IS) on the ground in Syria, the White House and Pentagon announced October 9.

The decision to refocus the beleaguered, \$500 million Pentagon program from training and equipping a new force to fight IS in Syria to "equip and enable" rebel groups already fighting on the ground came after an interagency review of the train and equip program, US officials said.

'A key part of our strategy is to try to work with capable, indigenous forces on the ground ... to provide them with equipment to make them more effective, in combination with our air strikes,' Undersecretary of Defense for Policy Christine Wormuth told journalists on a call on the new strategy October 9."

Until October 9, America and Turkey both supported the Sunni opposition to the Assad government with a view to eliminating Assad and installing a Sunni regime. That policy has been in shambles for months, but it allowed the Turks leeway to provide covert support to ISIS, the one Sunni force that shows effectiveness in the field. Russian intervention exposed the fecklessness of America's attempts to find a "moderate" Syrian opposition to back. As the veteran strategist Edward Luttwak wrote in the first week of October in *Tablet* magazine:

"Putin must certainly be innocent of the accusation that his air force has bombed the U.S.-trained "pro-democracy" freedom fighters, because the trainers themselves have admitted that the first lot on which one-tenth of the budget has been spent, i.e., \$50 million, are exactly five in number, the rest having deserted after receiving their big family-support signing bonus and first paycheck, or after they were first issued with weapons (which they sold), or after first entering Syria in groups, when they promptly joined the anti-American Jabhat an-Nusra, whose Sunni Islam they understand, unlike talk of democracy."

The Russians forced Washington to find something credible on the ground to support, and Washington turned to the Kurds, the only effective fighting force not linked to ISIS or al-Qaeda. That was precisely the result Turkey had wanted

to avoid; the Kurdish military zone in northern Syria links up with Kurdish-controlled territory in northern Iraq, and the two zones form the core of a prospective Kurdish state.

Russia humiliated Turkey, meanwhile, by challenging Turkish fighters inside Turkish airspace, leaving NATO to protest loudly. Nonetheless the US and Germany have deactivated Patriot missile batteries — the only weapon system that represents a threat to Russian fighters — despite urgent Turkish requests to leave them in place. Russian fighters over Syria prevent the Turks from providing air cover for ISIS and other Islamist groups in Syria, as I noted October 6 in our *Chatham House Rules* blog. M. K. Bhadrakumar observed in *Asia Times* on October 9, "Turkey's scope for maneuvering vis-à-vis Russia is actually very limited and it has no option but to reach an understanding with Russia over Syria.

Less obvious but no less ominous is the deterioration of Sino-Turkish relations due to Ankara's covert support for the East Turkestan Independence Movement, a terrorist organization active among the Uighurs of Western China. Despite official assurances, Turkey continues to provide safe passage to Turkey to thousands of Chinese Uighurs via Southeast Asia, some of whom are fighting with ISIS in Syria. Thailand claims that Uyghur militants carried out the August 17 bombing at Bangkok's Erawan shrine after Thailand sent 109 Chinese Uighurs back to China.

Erdogan has suffered not merely a collapse of his foreign policy, but a public humiliation by countries that backed his regime in the interests of regional stability—and this just before November's parliamentary elections. After the Kurdish-backed HDP party took 13 percent of the national vote in last June's elections and removed Erdogan's majority in parliament, Erdogan called new elections rather than accept a coalition government. Erdogan also revived military operations against Turkish Kurds in order to elicit support from Turkish nationalists, a transparent maneuver widely reported in the major media.

As the *New York Times* reported August 5, "Having already delayed the formation of a coalition government, analysts say, Mr. Erdogan is now buttressing his party's chances of winning new elections by appealing to Turkish nationalists opposed to self-determination for the Kurdish minority. Parallel to the military operations against the Kurds has been an effort to under-

mine the political side of the Kurdish movement by associating it with the violence of the P.K.K., which has also seemed eager to return to fighting."

Instead of responding to Erdogan's provocation, the Kurds have shelved military operations in order to concentrate on winning votes in the November elections. After the Saturday bomb attacks, Thomas Seibert noted in the *Daily Beast*:

"Observers agreed that the Ankara blast was probably linked to a decision by the PKK rebels to suspend hostilities with Ankara. The PKK had hinted in recent days that it would declare a new ceasefire in order to boost the HDP's election chances. The people behind the attack wanted to 'prevent the ceasefire' from coming into effect, respected journalist Kadri Gursel tweeted. The PKK's ceasefire announcement became public shortly after the attack, but the decision by the rebels had probably been taken before."

In short, Erdogan now contemplates American heavy weapons in the hands of Syrian Kurds; the end of Turkey's ability to provide air support for Sunni rebels in Syria; a Russian campaign to roll up the Sunni opposition, including Turkey's assets in the field; and a collapse of his parliamentary majority due to an expanding Kurdish vote at home.

Whether the AKP government itself ordered the Ankara bombing, or simply looked the other way while ISIS conducted the bombing, both Turkey and global opinion will assume that the ghastly events in Ankara on October 10 reflect the desperation of the Erdogan regime. Regimes that resort to this sort of atrocity do not last very long.

The best thing that Turkey could do under the circumstances would be to ask the United Nations to supervise a plebiscite to allow Kurdish-majority areas to secede if they so chose. The mountains of southeastern Turkey with the highest concentration of Kurds are a drain on the national budget and of no strategic importance. Neither Erdogan nor his nationalist opposition, though, will consider such action; that would undermine both Erdogan's neo-Ottomanism as well as the old secular nationalism. The pressures under the tectonic plates will only get worse. Saturday's bombing may have demarcated the end of the Turkish state that arose out of the First World War.

(David P. Goldman is a Senior Fellow at the London Center for Policy Research and the Wax Family Fellow at the Middle East Forum.)



## Armenian EyeCare Project

Bringing Sight to Armenian Eyes

www.eyecareproject.com

### AECP Five-for-Five Campaign Funding Five Regional Eye Clinics in Armenia

The EyeCare Project's mission is to provide access to eye care for all Armenians and to eliminate preventable blindness. To accomplish their mission they have established seven sub-specialty clinics in Yerevan — each directed by an Armenian fellow who trained in the United States — and introduced eye care throughout the regions with a Mobile Eye Hospital, providing examinations and surgery for 500,000 Armenians.

Because the Mobile Eye Hospital can visit towns and villages only once every two years, the AECP has launched its biggest capital funding campaign ever — Five-for-Five — develop-



ing Five Regional Eye Clinics throughout Armenia in five years for \$5 million — \$1 million each. The clinics will provide access to eye care for all Armenians, all of the time.

The first clinic will open this year in Ijevan, Tavush. The other four will be located in Gyumri, Vanadzor, Kapan and Yeghegnadzor.

Access to eye care in Armenia is extremely limited — especially for the poor. Just a handful of towns provide basic surgery and none advanced surgery or specialized eye care, available only in Yerevan. Most Armenians

cannot afford surgery or travel to the capital.

The Regional Eye Clinics will enable all Armenians to access care for all of their needs including emergency trauma and serious eye disease rather than having to wait two years for the Mobile Eye Hospital to visit their town.

### Triplets Receive Gift of Sight at AECP Center of Excellence



Arman Ishkhanyan and Anna Grigoryan, from the Syunik province, were blessed with triplets, but because the infants were born premature, all three had problems with their sight. Jora, Armina and Mariam were all diagnosed with Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP) and Arman and Anna were told that if nothing was done to fix it, their beautiful babies would soon go blind.

"There were moments of hopelessness," Arman divulged. The family had initially traveled to Russia for aid, though ultimately, it was unsuccessful. But the desperation and heartbreak didn't last forever. The EyeCare Project's physicians emerged with a solution soon-after.

Operating as a team, Dr. Chien Wong of Moorfields Eye Hospital in London flew to Armenia, Dr. Thomas Lee of Children's Hospital Los Angeles was connected on Skype, and Dr. Hasmik Shahnazaryan, an Armenian surgeon in training, was on hand to help.

The surgeries were a success; the triplets' sight was saved for life.

Since the surgery, Jora, Armina and Mariam have had multiple eye screenings with positive results. Their father and mother, of course, are immensely grateful.

"My deepest gratitude to all the doctors and donors..." Arman said. "Our lives have changed 180 degrees."

### Donors Boyadjian and Mgrdichian Foundation Make Regional Clinics Possible

The Armenian EyeCare Project is enormously grateful to its donors. The organization is entirely dependent on donations for its eye care programs with the highest percentage possible going directly to Armenia for eye care. With the organization's largest project underway — five Regional Eye Clinics — contributions are needed now more than ever.

Thanks to Haig Boyadjian and his extraordinarily generous bequest, quality eye care will be accessible to the people in Tavush with the clinic named in his honor — the *Haig Boyadjian Regional Eye Clinic* in Ijevan.

The EyeCare Project's clinic in Vanadzor has been underwritten by the Mgrdichian Foundation — the *John and Hasmik Mgrdichian Regional Eye Clinic*. Berg Kayaian has named



the operating room in the Yeghegnadzor Clinic in honor of his mother, Araxie Apigian. With lots of naming opportunities still available the Project is reaching out to donors for clinics in Shirak, Syunik and Vayots Dzor. There will be a donor wall in each clinic and donors heralded at the Annual Gala on November 21.



Join the EyeCare Project for its  
**13th Annual Newport Gala**  
Celebrating 23 years of the AECP with an  
**Armenian Festival**

Saturday, November 21 at 6:30 PM  
Balboa Bay Club, Newport Beach, CA  
Reservations and Info: 949-933-4069