

# THE ARMENIAN Mirror-Spectator

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## OSCE Mission Comes under Azeri Fire

STEPANAKERT (PanARMENIAN.Net) – The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Mission

Chairman-in-Office, Ambassador Andrzej Kasprzyk. Field Assistants of the Personal

Aberle (Czech Republic) conducted the monitoring from the positions of the NKR Defense Army.



The OSCE mission crossing the border

Field Assistant Yevgeny Sharov (Ukraine) and staff member of the Office Peter Svedberg conducted the monitoring from the opposite side.

During the monitoring, the OSCE Minsk Group Co-chairs and Kasprzyk crossed the line of contact from Karabagh to Azerbaijan.

At the end of the monitoring, however, shots fired from sub-machine guns by the Azerbaijani side were registered.

Representatives of the NKR Defense and Foreign Ministries accompanied the monitoring mission on Karabagh side.

“During our line of contact crossing, repeated gunfire forced OSCE monitors to take cover. This is unacceptable,”

the OSCE Minsk Group US Co-chair James Warlick later said in a tweet.

on Tuesday, October 27, conducted a monitoring of the contact line between Nagorno Karabagh and Azerbaijan in Martakert-Tartar road section.

The monitoring was headed by the Personal Representative of the OSCE

Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Khristo Khristov (Bulgaria) and Jiri

## Fourth Annual Knights of Vartan Ararat Lodge Evening Fundraiser Record-Breaking Success

By Aram Arkun  
Mirror-Spectator Staff

WATERTOWN – The Ararat Lodge of the Knights of Vartan held its fourth annual charity fundraiser dinner on September 24 at the Armenian Cultural and Educational Center in Watertown. The draw for the record number of guests, 227, was to enjoy good food, drinks and Armenian camaraderie while assisting worthy local Armenian institutions. The participation of noted comedian Lenny Clarke in the evening’s program was an unusual additional element leading to increased attendance.

What is perhaps most significant about this event is that every year, it provides the opportunity for the Knights to choose worthy schools and organizations with Armenian cultural, educational, or athletic programs for children or young adults which they will financially assist. This is done in a non-partisan and non-denominational manner, and consequently this leads to broad backing of the evening in many segments of the Armenian community in the Boston area. For example, clergy from different denominations and hierarchies were present at the dinner, along with members of their parishes. This approach brings greater unity to the Armenian see KNIGHTS, page 16

## Koutoujian at White House for Criminal Justice Reform Discussion with President

WASHINGTON – Middlesex County Sheriff Peter J. Koutoujian was one of the law enforcement leaders from around the nation who arrived in Washington on October 22 as part of Law Enforcement Leaders to Reduce Crime and



Incarceration. The group focuses on effective ways to reduce incarceration for people who are mentally ill or suffering from substance abuse, while ensuring public safety. He noted, “As a Sheriff, former prosecutor and former defense attorney I have seen the justice system from many perspectives and I look forward to bringing my experiences to this crucial, important dialogue.”

## Fr. Andon Atamian Is New Priest at Belmont’s Holy Cross Church

Presentation of His New Book November 21

By Aram Arkun  
Mirror-Spectator Staff

BELMONT, Mass. – Fr. Andon Atamian has been the pastor of Holy Cross Armenian Church of Belmont for 10 months. He is also the vicar general of the Armenian Catholic Eparchy of Our Lady of Nareg in the United States of America and Canada. Following the much-beloved Fr. Raphael Andonian as the pastor responsible for the New England region, he came to Boston with great pastoral experience and oratorical skills.

see ATAMIAN, page 16



## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Teen Killed on Turkish-Syrian Border

ALEPPO (Armenpress) – New details have emerge about an attack against an Armenian family in the vicinity of Turkish-Syrian border. Armenian residents of Qamishli, the Avetisyan, became targets for snipers in the vicinity of Turkish-Syrian border on October 22, according to Gandzasar newspaper.

The son of the family, Armen Avetisyan, was shot twice and died on the scene. The source informs Gandzasar that the four members of the family, father, mother, son and daughter, were travelling from Qamishli to the Turkish border when the snipers attack began. After the incident the Avetisyan returned to Qamishli. The funeral of Armen Avetisyan took place this morning at St. Hagop Armenian Apostolic Church, Qamishli.

According to UN data, more than 220,000 people have died in Syrian clashes in the past five years. The number of Armenian victims exceeds 100.

### Borussia Beats Gabala in Baku without Mkhitarian’s Help

BAKU (Armenpress) – The German team Borussia defeated the Azerbaijani Gabala team here last week as part of the Europa League group stage, with a score of 3-1.

The Dortmund-based club managed to score a goal on the 31st minute.

Armenia national team midfielder Henrikh Mkhitarian, a star player on Borussia, did not go to Baku with his team. The decision was made by the club administration based on security concerns.

### Syrian Parliament Speaker Visits Armenia

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – Armenian Prime Minister Galust Sahakyan met with Syrian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Jihad Al-Laham who expressed his gratitude to Armenia for assisting them.

The meeting took place in the frames of 133rd IPU Assembly. Welcoming the Syrian parliament speaker, Sahakyan said Armenia feels the pain of the people in Syria.

“We are more than friends with Syria. We never forget that Syria accepted warmly the Armenians who escaped from the Genocide and helped them create a life for themselves,” Sahakyan said.

Al-Laham invited Sahakyan to Syria and expressed his gratitude for the meeting. He said, “The Russian-Syrian cooperation has recorded serious successes. We are grateful to you for staying near us and supporting us and I ask you to transmit Syrian President Bashar al-Assad’s gratitude to Armenian President Serge Sargsian.”

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### AWWA Gala

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## ARMENIA

## News From Armenia

## St. Louis Zoo to Help Open Reptiles Conservation Center in Armenia

YEREVAN (PanARMENIAN.Net) – Armenia may be getting its first conservation center for reptiles and amphibians thanks to a crowd-funding campaign launched by the Saint Louis Zoo, Missouri, St. Louis Public Radio reports.

The goal of the online fundraising is to raise \$40,000, so the zoo's WildCare Institute Center for Conservation in Western Asia can buy a building to help breed and ultimately save endangered species like the Armenian viper.

Center director and zoo herpetologist Jeff Ettling has been working in Armenia for more than a decade, particularly studying the viper. In that time, he said he learned a lot about how important conservation efforts are to the country that's one of 24 unique biodiversity hotspots in the world.

"It has a high level of endemism; quite a few species of reptiles and amphibians occur there and nowhere else in the world," he said.

Ettling said the country's Minister of Nature Protection, Dr. Aramais Grigoryan, and other researchers also recently completed a new analysis of the state of the country's animals. Of Armenia's 58 unique species of amphibians and reptiles, 30 are considered endangered.

"Really what we need to do is develop some sort of captive breeding facility, where we could pull in the 11 most critically endangered amphibians and reptiles, so we could breed them...and then put the offspring back in the wild to augment the populations, similar to what we've been doing here in Missouri with the Ozark hellbenders," he said.

While he's learned a lot from his Armenian colleagues, he has also been able to share some technology and conservation science with them. That's why he said it's important that the new conservation center also have a space for visiting researchers so scientists have a place to exchange information.

Ettling said the zoo and its partners hope the breeding center project will start next June.

## 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.

## Trees Planted in Yerevan in Honor of First US Ambassador to Armenia Harry Gilmore

YEREVAN – On Wednesday, October 14, the Armenian Assembly of America and the Armenia Tree Project (ATP) planted trees to honor the first US Ambassador to Armenia Harry Gilmore (1993-1995). Ambassador Gilmore passed away on April 23, 2015 at the age of 77. Close to two hundred guests attended the ceremony at the Parakar Memorial Park in Parakar Village, west of Yerevan.

While in Armenia, Ambassador Gilmore oversaw massive assistance and relief programs to help the Armenian people, including tireless efforts responding to the energy and food shortages caused by the blockades imposed by Azerbaijan and Turkey. He worked with Armenia's young government to help rebuild the country after



(L-R): Deputy Foreign Minister Ashot Hovakimian and Assembly Regional Director Arpi Vartanian plant a tree together in memory of Ambassador Harry Gilmore.



(L-R): US Embassy Chargé d'Affaires Woodward Clark Price and Assembly Regional Director Arpi Vartanian talking with Parakar Village children.

the devastating 1988 earthquake and strengthened US and Armenia relations. Ambassador Gilmore was the first recipient of the Armenian Assembly's Henry Morgenthau Award for Meritorious Public Service, bestowed on June 1, 1996 in Boston at the Armenian Assembly's National Tribute Gala in his honor.

The tree planting ceremony began with introductory remarks from Assembly Regional Director Arpi Vartanian, who discussed Ambassador Gilmore's tenure in Armenia and the close relationship he developed with the Assembly and ATP.

"Today, the Armenian Assembly of America and Armenia Tree Project are honored to plant trees in Ambassador Gilmore's memory," Assembly Regional Director Arpi Vartanian said. "He worked closely with the Assembly and the Tree Project, believing that the work we do was for the benefit of the Armenian nation and for building a strong US-Armenia relationship. It is our hope that as these trees grow and thrive, so too will his memory flourish," said Vartanian.

The event continued with a few words from Assembly Board President and ATP founder Carolyn Mugar. Mugar spoke about her wonderful interactions with Ambassador Gilmore. "With each encounter, I found him to be the right person for the position of first US Ambassador to the Republic of Armenia," she stated. "I know you all will hold a special place in your hearts as we cherish Ambassador Gilmore's memory and contributions to Armenia," said Mugar.

US Embassy in Yerevan Chargé d'Affaires Woodward Clark Price also spoke at the ceremony, explaining how today's bilateral ties with Armenia are strong thanks in part to Ambassador Gilmore, who established the foundation of the partnership. Price added that "these trees will grow, have deep roots, and embody the warm ties between the two countries." Following

Price, Deputy Foreign Minister of Armenia Ashot Hovakimian, representing the Armenian government also

spoke about Gilmore.

Before planting the trees, youth from Parakar Village performed several songs by Komitas. Local children also laid flowers by the plaque and displayed their artwork for the event.

Assembly Board Co-Chairman & ATP Executive Committee Member Anthony Barsamian joined the speakers, Vartanian, Mugar, and Hovakimian, to plant the symbolic trees.

"Tree by tree, region by region, they are 'greening' Armenia. Nearly 5 million trees have been planted by the Armenia Tree Project to date," said Vartanian.

Also in attendance were Nagorno Karabakh Speaker of Parliament Ashot Ghouljian, Assembly Board Member Raffi Kassarian, ATP Country Director Lucineh Kassarian, and other representatives of the Armenian government, the NGO community, as well as many who knew and had worked with Ambassador Gilmore.



## Violinist Joshua Bell in Concert in Armenia

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – Academy of Saint Martin in the Fields chamber orchestra conducted by Joshua Bell will perform in Armenia on November 15 in the Aram Khachaturian Concert Hall. The concert will be part of the 16th Yerevan Perspectives International Music Festival.

Bach's Violin Concerto No. 2, Barber's Adagio for Strings, Tchaikovsky's Serenade for Strings and Piazzolla's The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires will be played during the concert. He will be the soloist also.

The Academy of St Martin in the Fields is an English chamber orchestra, based in London.

In May 2011, the orchestra announced the appointment of Joshua Bell as its new music director, the second person to hold the title in the orchestra's history, effective September 2011.





## INTERNATIONAL

# AGBU Garbis Papazian Award Given To Jose Antonio Gurriaran

BARCELONA – On September 25, AGBU and the Associació Cultural Armenia de Barcelona [Armenian Cultural Association of Barcelona] (ACAB) honored writer José Antonio Gurriarán with the AGBU Garbis Papazian Award in Barcelona. The AGBU Garbis Papazian Award was established in 1986 with the goal of recognizing non-Armenian intellectuals who contribute to an increased awareness of Armenian history and culture. Award recipients have included people of various nationalities, including Baroness Caroline Cox of the United Kingdom, Peter Cowe of the United States, Ahmad Nourizadeh of Iran and Yves Ternon of France, among many others.

This year's recipient, José Antonio Gurriarán, is a journalist and writer who has published numerous books about the Armenian people. His most famous book, *La Bomba* [The Bomb], is an account of the Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia (ASALA) attack he suffered in Madrid in 1980. His book later became the inspiration for the French Armenian film director Robert Guédiguian's film, "Une histoire de fou" [Don't Tell Me the Boy Was

Mad]. Other works include *Armenios, el genocidio olvidado* [Armenians: The Forgotten Genocide], accounts of the children and grandchildren of genocide survivors, along with *Lisboa, ciudad inolvidable* [Lisbon: An Unforgettable City] and *El rey en Estoril* [The King in Estoril]. Gurriarán was also the assistant director of the newspaper *Pueblo* and has worked in television production in Spain and Belgium.

The award ceremony was attended by Avet Adonts, the ambassador of the Republic of Armenia to Spain, who addressed the audience: "It is not a coincidence that Mr. Gurriarán is being awarded the AGBU Garbis Papazian Award this year on the centenary of the Armenian Genocide. In this symbolic year, I think it is the right time to offer kind words to those people and organizations who today, like 100 years ago, often risking their own lives, tried to help, save and



José Antonio Gurriarán is a journalist and writer who has published numerous books about the Armenian people.

offer hope and the possibility of a new life to others. Crimes against humanity, mutual hatred, racism and intolerance are not limited by nationality, religion or justification. It is only with collective effort that it will be possible to have a more peaceful, comfortable, safe and just world," said Adonts.

The event was co-sponsored by ACAB, an AGBU partner organization, that operates an Armenian Saturday School and cultural center and organizes educational and cultural activities, events and lectures to cultivate a sense of identity and involvement in the relatively young Armenian community of Spain. "It was a special meeting with Gurriarán. His life turned into a struggle and found a mission when he started to write and speak about Armenians. It is a struggle for justice, reparation and restitution," said Datev Soulian, the chairman of ACAB.



The award ceremony was attended by Avet Adonts, the ambassador of the Republic of Armenia to Spain.



Razmik Tamrazian presented the award on behalf of Garbis Papazian.

## Ecumenical Service in Australia Commemorates Genocide Centennial

CHATSWOOD, Australia (Public Radio of Armenia) – More than 300 people gathered at Our Lady of Dolours Catholic Church, Chatswood, on October 13 for a service of prayer and remembrance for the 100th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, Maitland-Newcastle Catholic News reports.

Hosted by the Catholic Diocese of Broken Bay, Bishop Peter Comensoli welcomed Bishop Haigazoun Najarian of the Armenian Apostolic Church and dignitaries and members of the Armenian community, along with Bishop Robert Rabat of the Melkite Catholic Diocese, Bishop Bill Wright of the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle, representatives of the Greek Orthodox, Coptic Orthodox, and Uniting Churches,

and other religious, ecumenical and civic leaders.

In his homily, Najarian described the history of Armenian Christians which has been one of repeated struggle under persecution and at the same time resilience forged through faith and hope. Bishop Comensoli observed the genocidal impulses of our own time that link us to the remembered events of a century ago. Prayers were read by representatives of various Churches, with the variety of liturgical vestments and customs mingling colorfully in a vibrant ecumenical tapestry.

An Armenian choir and a Catholic choir led the congregation in song, a remembrance wreath was laid at the Paschal candle (a symbol of hope and resurrection) and a minute of silence

observed. The participation of Catholic and Armenian youth was a living symbol of hope. Parishioners of Our Lady of Dolours offered warm hospitality and supper. As parish priest Fr. Paul Finucane noted, the evening was a truly ecumenical experience of prayer and solidarity.

Among the dignitaries attending in the service were Fr. Shenouda Mansour, General Secretary of the NSW Ecumenical Council; Sr Elizabeth Delaney, General-Secretary of the National Council of Churches Australia; Sr Giovanni Farquer, Sydney Archdiocesan Ecumenical Commission; Peter Hamill, director, Broken Bay Catholic Schools Office; David Clarke MLC, representing the NSW Minister for Multiculturalism; Councillor John Hooper, Willoughby City Council.

## International News

### Four Killed in Aleppo

ALEPPO (Armenpress) – Four civilians were killed and 26 were injured in rocket shells fired by terrorists on al-A'zamia neighborhood in Aleppo on October 25. The Syrian SANA agency reported that two rocket shells fired by terrorists, positioned in Salah Eddin neighborhood, fell on al-A'zamia neighborhood at the roundabout of Bilal Mosque, killing 4 civilians, including a child and a woman and injuring 26 others.

The rockets also caused substantial damages and injured several people, who were transported to the University Hospital.

Last Sunday, three civilians were killed and three were injured in a terrorist attack with rocket shells on Shihan neighborhood in Aleppo.

### Vietnam President Plans To Visit Armenia

YEREVAN (News.am) – The President of Vietnam, Truong Tan Sang, plans to visit Armenia in the near future said the visiting Minister of Justice of Vietnam, Hà Hùng Cuong. He is in Yerevan within the framework of the 3rd International Forum of the Graduates of Moscow State Institute of International Relations.

"The visit of our president to Armenia is being discussed. I believe that we will improve our economic relations, which, unfortunately, are not so developed, to date," the minister noted.

He added that the Ministries of Justice of Armenia and Vietnam on Thursday signed a memorandum on cooperation.

"Yesterday [i.e. on October 22], I had a meeting with the Minister of Justice of Armenia, during which we signed a memorandum on cooperation," Cuong said.

He informed that the Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs of Vietnam, Vu Quang Minh, is also in Yerevan at present.

### Hackers Attack Azeri Opposition Online Channel

BAKU (Armenpress) – A powerful hacker attack was made on Azerbaijani opposition Meydan TV early in the morning on October 21. As a result, the Internet channel was blocked.

According to Turan news agency, they are taking measures to restore the website.

Meydan TV Internet channel is one of the main critics of the Azerbaijani authorities and is located in Berlin. It is run by Azerbaijani dissidents and former political prisoners.

### 15-Year-Old Arrested in Turkey for Insulting Erdogan

ISTANBUL (Zaman) – A 15-year-old boy was detained on Wednesday, October 21 in the Bünyan district of the province of Kayseri, for insulting President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

The child, identified only as Ü.E., was detained in front of a café by police officers and spent the night in custody.

### Turkey Rakes Russia to Arbitration on Gas Price Dispute

ANKARA (Armenpress) – Turkish state gas importer Botas has appealed to the International Chamber of Commerce's (ICC) arbitration court over the price of natural gas from Russia, an energy official told Reuters, after Ankara and Moscow failed to strike a deal following months of negotiations, Reuters reported.

Ankara obtained a 10.25-percent price discount on the 28-30 billion cubic meters (bcm) of gas it buys from Russia, Turkey's then Energy Minister Taner Yildiz said in February, but the two sides have been at loggerheads on putting a final signature on the deal.



# Community News

## St. Nersess Seminary On the Threshold of A New Era

By Hagop Vartivarian

NEW YORK – The Armenian benefactors Haig and Elza Didizian will be honored on November 22, 2015 for their substantial donation toward the construction of new buildings at St. Nersess Armenian Seminary in New York. This donation covers the lion's share of the cost of these buildings, the formal inauguration of which will take place next year. In this way, Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern) will have achieved another act of construction in his diocese while securing the continued existence of the seminary for youth who wish to serve the church.

Of course the birth of this seminary, and the work of the years that followed, were not easy. Nevertheless, it remained an institution worthy of affection, preparing new clergymen, largely American-born. The latter eventually would be sent to Holy Echmiadzin to experience monastic life and receive a true Armenian education as the completion of their training. St. Nersess was the vision of Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan, a former Primate of the American Diocese.

Twenty years ago, the seminary found itself in a difficult financial situation. There was even the danger that it might be closed. Archbishop Barsamian appealed to the well-respected Chicago Armenian couple, Dr. and Mrs. Raffy and Vicki Shoghag Hovanessian, to organize a fundraising campaign in the US. This was a difficult and practically impossible task at that time because American-Armenian donors were nearly all focused on aid for the Armenian earthquake zone and the myriad of financial needs of our newly independent homeland, the third Republic of Armenia.

The task lying ahead for the Hovanessians was not going to be easy, but with superhuman dedication they turned the impossible into the possible in order to ensure the existence of the seminary. Approximately \$1 million had to be raised in order to keep St. Nersess Armenian Seminary open. Thanks to the couple's many years of experience, their broad social circles, their tenacious work, and their charm, they were able to reach the goal of the campaign within the comparatively short period of three months. Church-loving Armenians were found who responded to their appeals. The rector of the Seminary at that time, Fr. Arakel Aljalian, worked closely with the Hovanessians.

The participation of the executor of the Paul Garabedian Charles Foundation, the lawyer Arsen Hanamirian, must be gratefully noted. He had followed the work of Shoghag Hovanessian in the Armenian community for years, and thus had the confidence to make a donation. In the autumn of that year, Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin I happened to be in Florida, and met with Hanamirian there. The latter had already donated one hundred thousand dollars to the seminary, but after this meeting, the magnanimous Hanamirian donated another four hundred thousand dollars. In this way, the contribution of an additional half a million dollars was secured, thanks to the efforts of Dr. and Mrs. Hovanessian, and the total amount of donations reached \$1.5 million dollars.

Some of the other donors from twenty years ago include the Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan Fund (\$150,000), the Dadourian family (\$100,000), Sarkis Gabrellian (\$100,000), Helen Mardigian (\$100,000), Anoush Mathevosian (\$100,000), Dr. Raffy Hovanessian (\$50,000), Hratch Toufayan (\$25,000) and Asbed Zakarian (\$25,000).

Today when the new building of this seminary is nearly ready for use, we recall with appreciation the vital work that Dr. and Mrs. Raffy and Shoghag Hovanessian carried out. It was an important encouragement for the seminary, which was able consequently to continue in its mission for the following 20 years.

(Translated from the Armenian)



Veteran Kenneth Abrahamian taking a photo with a young student who created a thank you card for him.

## Armenian American Veteran Visits WWII Memorial for the First Time

WASHINGTON – On October 20, World War II Veteran Kenneth Abrahamian took part in an Honor Flight to Washington, D.C., where he saw the National World War II Memorial for the first time. Abrahamian flew to Washington, along with 63 other WWII Veterans from California's Central Valley, from Bakersfield to Stockton. He was accom-

panied by his son and grandson, Kenneth Abrahamian Jr. and Kenneth Andrews Abrahamian.

Machinist Mate 3rd Class Abrahamian grew up in Fresno, California, where his family went to escape the Armenian Genocide in 1915. Following his high school graduation, he enlisted in the United States Navy to serve his country in WWII from 1942-1946. MM Abrahamian was stationed in the Pacific as a machinist mate aboard the USS Spangler and the USS Ajax.

"During the war, I felt like a normal American serving his country. I never expected a special flight to D.C. and this touching Memorial. I am grateful to be able to see it," MM Abrahamian told Armenian Agenda. "And I am so honored to be here at the Memorial and experience this with both my son and grandson," he said.

Abrahamian was not the only veteran in his family. His three brothers, Gabe, Richard and Leon, also served during WWII. Gabe Abrahamian served as a civilian welder in the Pearl Harbor Navy, Richard Abrahamian served in the Marines in Guam, and Leon Abrahamian served in the Navy.

Abrahamian has been honored in the past for his service during WWII. On September 9, 2013, Rep. Jim Costa (D-CA) recognized MM Abrahamian in the House of Representatives for his service and WWII Medals. He is the recipient of the Philippine Liberation Medal, WWII Victory Medal, WWII Asiatic Pacific Medal, Navy Good Conduct Medal, and American Campaign Medal. Following his visit to the WWII Memorial, Costa will host Abrahamian, his son, and grandson and treat them to dinner.

Honor Flight is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing America's veterans with honor and closure by visiting memorials built for their service to the nation. Honor Flight was co-founded by Jeff Miller and Earl Morse. Morse is a physician assistant and retired Air Force captain who worked in a Department of Veterans Affairs clinic in Springfield, Ohio, where he saw many patients who were WWII veterans. To his surprise, most veterans have never been to the National WWII Memorial and had no plans to visit in the future. In order to honor America's veterans, Miller and Morse formed the Honor Flight, a free arrangement to travel to Washington, D.C. and see the war memorials



Veteran Kenneth Abrahamian at the National World War II Memorial.

## Knights of Vartan Oakley Country Club Gala Recognizes Community Leaders

By Aram Arkun

Mirror-Spectator Staff

WATERTOWN – The Ararat Lodge of the Knights of Vartan recognizes leadership in the Armenian community and in its own organizations through an annual awards dinner. This year it will take place at the Oakley Country Club in Watertown on Friday, November 6.

To add to the commemorative aspect, the previous year's award recipients will this year be presenting the new awards. Lisa Kradjian of San Diego, Avak Dirouhie of the Daughters of Vartan, will take part in the program. At the end of the evening, there will be music and dancing provided by DJ Argishti (Chaparian).

James Kalustian will be honored as Vartan Mamigonian Man of the Year. He is president of the Armenian Heritage Foundation, member of the Supreme Religious Council of the Church of Armenia, chairman of the Diocesan Council of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern), and active in many other Armenian-American organizations, while professionally, he founds and helps to scale entrepreneurial health care services and technology businesses.

Playwright and teacher Joyce Van Dyke will be the new Shushanik Mamigonian Woman of the Year. She teaches at Northeastern and Harvard Extension School and has authored many award-winning plays on Armenian topics, including the Karabagh war, the Armenian Genocide and the American-Armenian immigrant experience. Her play "Daybreak," about two women survivors of the Armenian Genocide, is being performed at Tuft University's Balch Arena Theater from October 29 to November 7.

The Mamigonian Family Community Leader Award is being given to the Ashjian family. Joseph Ashjian, born in Aintab and raised in Syria, became a pharmacist, but loved the theater from a young age and founded a theater group in Syria. After immigrating to the US, he took over the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU)'s Baronian Theater Group and energetically supported the Armenian Evangelical Memorial Church of Watertown, and the Knights of Vartan. He passed away in 1993. His wife Alice supported him in all of his endeavors, and even served as a prompter backstage during his plays.

Their first-born child, Sona Ashjian, worked in the pharmaceutical industry, and now in the Armenian Memorial Church, while supporting the Sayat Nova Dance Company of Boston. Their eldest son Apo directed the AGBU Daron Dance Ensemble and began performing in plays at a young age alongside his father. Apo founded the independent Sayat Nova Company in 1986. He married Arlet (Ghoughasian). The youngest son, Hagop, works with his brother in the dance company. He married Arpie Ohannessian. The Ashjian grandchildren are also active in the Armenian community.

The Vartan Mamigonian Young Leaders Award will be given to Zareh Zurabyan, Armine Afeyan, Michael Demirchian, and Karina Demurchyan. They are young activists who successfully organized a vigil as part of the Boston Armenian community's commemoration of the centennial of the Armenian Genocide this year. Zurabyan from a young age has been involved in supporting Armenian activities, including the Armenian Tree Project and genocide education programs. A co-program director of the Armenian Genocide Centennial Committee of Boston, Zurabyan worked toward the inclusiveness of the vigil and helped develop the multimedia program. Demirchian, with leadership experience in the Armenian Youth Federation, see GALA, page 5





## COMMUNITY NEWS

# Richmond Armenian Food Festival Honors Genocide Centennial

By K. Burnell Evans

RICHMOND, Va. (Richmond Times-Dispatch) — In its 57th year, the Armenian Food Festival took on a defiant tone last month as celebrants of the annual rite cast an unflinching look at the atrocity that brought them all together.

Girls in long skirts and shirts adorned with flowers wore the forget-me-nots to commemorate the centennial of the genocide of their forebears at the hands of the Turkish government.

"They dance to remember how they made it here because 1.5 million of our people did not make it here," said their instructor, Carol Ashjian Chadoyan. "With every step, we tell the Turkish government we are still here, and we're not going anywhere."

The message rang out as the troupe clapped and stomped out ancient rhythms before the unblinking lenses of iPhones. Meat sizzled, wine was poured and pastries glistened under the late summer sun as hundreds of revelers flocked to St. James Armenian Church in Richmond.

"We have at least 1,000 pounds of pork and as much chicken, and the pastries" — said event co-organizer Leiza Bouroujian — "they began those months ago."

A group of about 20 women met at the church once a week throughout the summer to prepare dough for untold pounds of sweet, goopy pastries and savory treats, she said.

Richmonders may know the celebration by its beloved Hye burger and paklava, but church members on Sunday said they hope to impart a deeper appreciation for the warmth and resiliency of a people who refused to be extinguished.

"We are survivors," Bouroujian said. "We have been through a lot and yet we continue onward. Always."

Florence Soghoian, a retired English instructor whose mother escaped the genocide, has advocated for including lessons on the killings in school curricula.

She said she wrote a book, *Portrait of a*



Celebrating in Richmond

*Survivor*, about her mother and grandmother's experiences to capture history that might otherwise be lost.

"The ones who got out — many just barely lived; they were in no shape to tell their stories," Soghoian said. "So those who followed write to give them a voice."

The chapter in international history often is overlooked in favor of the first and second World Wars, she said, and the Turkish government refuses to characterize the systemic killings of the Armenian people as genocide.

President Barack Obama in April opted not to use the word "genocide" in a speech commemorating the centennial in a move critics said was intended to appease Turkey.

The slight was heartbreaking to many descendants of those who died in the period between 1915 and the early 1920s, when as many as half a million Armenians fled as troops executed and death-marched their families.

Soghoian said that during a forced march through the desert, her grandmother, exhaust-

ed and malnourished, could no longer nurse her 9-month-old infant. The child died.

Her grandmother was then separated from Soghoian's mother and forced to tend to Turkish troops as Soghoian's mother, then 7, tried and failed to save her 4-year-old sister.

"With the centennial, there are times when

during the night when I couldn't sleep that I'd think about my mother at 7 in the desert searching desperately for a blade of grass to give her baby sister," Soghoian said.

Her mother and grandmother were the only two to survive the genocide out of a family of 18.

Her mother eventually went to one orphanage, then another, while Soghoian's grandmother remarried. Her grandmother wrote letter after letter to orphanages until she found her daughter safe. The two reunited when Soghoian's mother was 16.

"The trauma made some people shut down, and it opened others' hearts," Soghoian said. "My mother and grandmother both used the life they had been given to help anyone who was hurting in some way; my mother felt she was the luckiest woman on earth."

Later in life, she put that sentiment to work crocheting bold-hued blankets for shut-ins, Soghoian said. The palette was distinctive.

"I asked her about it one day, and she explained that it was from her time in one of the orphanages," Soghoian recalled.

The colors were the same as rolls of ribbon purchased with change donated by children in the US. The girls in the orphanage would use the bright strips to tie back their long hair.

"All this time later, and she still felt that connection," Soghoian said. "She said the ribbon made them beautiful but, most importantly, that they had not been forgotten."

## Knights of Vartan Oakley Country Club Gala Recognizes Community Leaders

GALA, from page 4

Armenian Church Youth Organization of America and the Armenian Student Association at Northeastern University, was an excellent organizer.

Afeyan, involved in the Boston community from a young age, wrote her Yale thesis on a comparison of the Namibian and Armenian Genocides. After graduation she became involved in the Armenian Heritage Park, and started a vigil in the park in 2013. She was a co-chair of the vigil committee and member of the Massachusetts Centennial Committee.

Demurchyan has been involved in the Sayat Nova Company since 2007, and has been active with the Armenian Tree Project, Friends of Armenian Culture Society and the Armenian Business Network.

Finally, the Ghevont Yeretz Faithful Knight

for 2015 will be George Haroutunian, born in Chelsea, Mass. He has frequently served on the parish council of Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Cambridge, Mass., and for six years was its chairman. He has been a Diocesan delegate for 32 years. A member of the Knights since 1975, he served as commander of Haik Lodge from 1981 to 1982. Haroutunian joined the US armed forces during the Korean War, then worked in the Air National Guard, and saw active duty during the Berlin conflict of 1961. In 1968 he changed careers and worked 24 years in law enforcement with the Registry of Motor Vehicles in Massachusetts.

A reception will begin at 7 p.m. at Oakley Country Club (410 Belmont Street), and dinner at 8 p.m. Tickets cost \$100 per person, with complimentary parking. For reservations, email araratgala@knightsolvartan.org

### A Special Tekeyan "Soccer" Movie Night

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Christiano Ronaldo

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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**  
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**Movie begins at 7:30 pm sharp**  
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Funds raised from these events support the Tekeyan "Sponsor a Teacher" program supporting schools in Armenia and Karabagh



**BOSTON — K. George Najarian with his daughters Nancy and Patti was at Armenian Heritage Park celebrating his birthday on October 23 following the Najarian Lecture on Human Rights at Faneuil Hall the prior evening. Photo: Dr. Carolann S. Najarian**





## COMMUNITY NEWS

# Tenth Annual ABMDR Walkathon Celebrates Mission

LOS ANGELES – On October 3, close to 400 supporters converged in Glendale, California, to participate in the tenth-anniversary walkathon of the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry (ABMDR). The jubilant Walk of Life, which raises grassroots support for ABMDR's life-saving mission, drew scores of community leaders and elected officials, and several large teams of participants from Los Angeles schools, organizations, and youth associations.

In her remarks during the opening ceremony, at the plaza of Dignity Health Glendale Memorial Hospital and Health Center, Walkathon Committee co-chair Christina Ashjian welcomed participants on behalf of the committee, which is co-chaired by Salpi Aprahamian and Sharlene Gozalians.

Ashjian recognized the walkathon's honorary chairs and dignitaries participating in the event, including Archbishop Hovnan Derderian of the Western Diocese, represented by Father Mampre Kesabyan; Archbishop Moushegh Mardirossian of the Western Prelacy, represent-

ed by Father Vazken Atmajian; Jack Ivie, president of Glendale Memorial; US Congressman Adam Schiff, represented by Mary Hovakimian; California Assemblyman Mike Gatto, represented by Elena Semerdjian; Glendale City Council members Laura Friedman, Zareh Sinanyan, Vartan Gharapetian, and Paula Devine; and Burbank City Council member Emily Gabel-Luddy.

Sharlene Gozalians extended a special thanks to the two major sponsors of Walk of Life, Glendale Memorial and Foundation Lab. Both received awards for their ongoing support of ABMDR. As he accepted a Certificate of Appreciation for Glendale Memorial, Ivie said, "As you walk today, you're not only contributing to a local community event, but actually having a positive impact on people across the globe. Today's walk is also pretty exciting because it's taking place in an extraordinary year for the Armenian people, which has included centenary commemorations of the Armenian Genocide and celebrations of the 24th anniversary of Armenia's independence. Together, these events are of enormous significance to the worldwide Armenian community. Supporting Walk of Life reflects a core Dignity Health value: collaboration. Glendale Memorial deeply appreciates partnering with ABMDR to ensure that individuals around the world have access to the life-saving treatment they need to fight blood-related illnesses."

In his acceptance remarks, Areg Boyamyan, representing Foundation Lab, said, "For all of us at Foundation Lab, it's been a pleasure and honor to be a part of the growth of ABMDR, from its very infancy. We always look forward to supporting this wonderful organization."

Following the invocation, Aprahamian presented awards for outstanding support of the walk. The Providence High School team was awarded for having the highest number of participants; and the Americana Real Estate Group received an award for having raised the most funds. Aprahamian also recognized Rafik Mughnetsyan, president of the Armenian Student Association at University of California, Irvine, for his continued support.

As she addressed the participants, Dr. Frieda Jordan, president of ABMDR, said, "I think every one of you should be very proud of yourselves, because, by taking part in this great 10th-anniversary walk, you're becoming a beacon of hope for all those patients, in Los Angeles and beyond, who rely on our support for a chance to survive life-threatening illnesses."

Jordan also said that this year's walkathon was dedicated to all patients who are in need of a matched donor through ABMDR, including

Harut, a recent patient; and Cici Kardashian. Next she introduced a bone marrow donor, Paulette Malekian, who last year has helped save the life of a 10-year-old boy. "I'm glad I did it," Malekian said as she recalled the experience of donating bone marrow at City of Hope. "Becoming a donor was one of the sweetest moments of my life. It was like giving a second birth. If you haven't still registered with ABMDR, please do so. And if you're already registered, please pray that you receive a call informing you that you're a match."

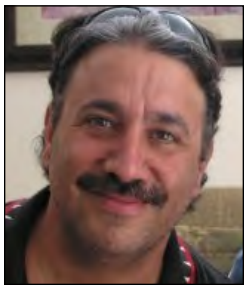
Prior to the commencement of the walk, participants warmed up to upbeat music, led by a trainer from Total Woman, which has volunteered its services for Walk of Life for the past six years. Subsequently Dr. Jordan performed the ribbon-cutting ceremony with the help of donors and patients.

The 5-K walk-run looped through central Glendale and concluded at the plaza of Glendale Memorial. The walkathon included a half-way stop at the Armenian Consulate, on Central Avenue, where walkers were greeted by Deputy Consul General of Armenia Valery Mkrtooumian and other Consulate staff. Longtime ABMDR supporter Dr. Garni Barkhoudarian was the first to make it to the finish line.

After waves of participants once again gathered at the plaza of Glendale Memorial after completing the walk, the festivities continued into the day. The celebration also gave participants the opportunity to join the ranks of ABMDR as potential bone marrow donors, while volunteers were on hand to answer questions and welcome new recruits.

## Mark Kolligian to Speak at Trinity Men's Union Dinner

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – The Trinity Men's Union of Holy Trinity Armenian Church will present Mark Kolligian, former vice president of customer insights



Mark Kolligian

at CVS Health, as Guest Speaker, at its dinner/meeting on Monday, November 9, in Johnson Hall of Holy Trinity Armenian Church, 145 Brattle St. He will talk about "The State of the Nation's Healthcare System." The dinner/meeting is open to all.

Mark Kolligian served as former Vice President of Customer Insights at CVS Health for over 21 years. In addressing the nation's healthcare system, he will talk about why it's

much worse than most realize, how the Affordable Care Act is attempting to fix it, and how this has driven one company to transform itself into a category of one.

Kolligian has made a career of delivering market insights to companies such as BASF, Bose, Chrysler, Converse, Farberware, Liberty Mutual and IBM. He currently serves as a member of the Board of Trustees at the Armenian Museum of America in Watertown, a member of the Board of Directors of Old Colony Habitat for Humanity and a member of the Board of Directors of CVS Health Charity Classic.

He graduated from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, with a degree in psychology, and received his Master of Business Administration degree from Boston University.

The evening will begin with the social hour at 6 p.m., followed by dinner at 7 p.m. Donation for the *losh kebab* and *kheyra* dinner is \$15 per person. RSVP is requested by November 8 by emailing [tmuhtaac@gmail.com](mailto:tmuhtaac@gmail.com), or calling the Holy Trinity Church office.

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## COMMUNITY NEWS

# Holy Trinity

By Seta Buchter

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — “Parishioner of the Year,” Deacon James M. Kalustian was feted at the Annual Church Banquet of Holy Trinity Armenian Church held on Sunday, October 18.

The Divine Liturgy and the day’s program were presided over by Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate, Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern), who also offered the homily. Rev. Martiros Hakobyan, Pastor of St. Kevork Armenian Church in Houston Texas, and a close friend of Kalustian, celebrated the Divine Liturgy. During the morning, Fr. Vasken A. Kouzouian, Pastor of Holy Trinity Church, led the archbishop to a special visit with the students of the Sunday School. During this warm exchange, the archbishop shared his thoughts on the various topics covered in each grade.

Following church services, the beautifully decorated Charles and Nevart Talanian Cultural Hall was filled with 225 area clergy from New England, parishioners, friends, family and guests who came together to honor Deacon James M. Kalustian, a devoted and dedicated son of the Holy Trinity parish, the Armenian Church and the Armenian community, to celebrate the 54th anniversary of the consecration of Holy Trinity Church on Brattle Street, and to recognize two outgoing Parish Council members and two outgoing Diocesan Delegates.

Daniel K. Dorian, vice chairman of Holy Trinity’s Parish Council, served as Master of Ceremonies. The afternoon’s program was a wonderful and fitting tribute to Deacon Jim



Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate, Deacon James M. Kalustian, Gregory A. Kolligian, Jr., and Fr. Vasken A. Kouzouian

Holy See, as Chairman of the Diocesan Council of the Eastern Diocese, and as Co-Chair of the 100th (Anniversary) Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide,” he continued, “attest to your years of exceptional service to and leadership of the Armenian Church and community, and the whole of the Commonwealth. Your grandmother would be proud of you. I know I am. Thank you for your example and friendship.”

Gregory A. Kolligian Jr., Chairman of Holy Trinity’s Parish Council, recognized and spoke about the dedication and devotion of two outgoing Parish Council members — Ara Hollisian and Thomas H. Stephanian — and two outgoing Diocesan Delegates — Gerald Ajemian and David DerVartanian. Each was presented with a gift of appreciation.

To the enjoyment of all present, Chevian sang a special song in Kalustian’s honor — *Horovel* by Gomidas Vartabed.

Kouzouian, in his tribute to the honoree, stated, “On this 100th anniversary year of the Armenian Genocide, it is befitting that today we



Deacon James M. Kalustian and Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate

Kalustian who has worked tirelessly for his parish, and the Armenian Church and community — both nationally and internationally — and whose leadership and dedication have made a difference.

Dr. Albert Kalustian, offered the toast in honor of his brother, stating that “Other than golf, the most important things in Jim’s life are family, church and the Armenian community. I believe that for Jim these are all synonymous, as he considers the church and the Armenian community part of his family. So Jim, congratulations and may God give you the strength, wisdom and health to continue to work for your family for many years to come.”

Sheriff of Middlesex County Peter Koutoujian, offered his personal gratitude to Kalustian for the leadership he offered the Armenian community through the Armenian Heritage Park, and presented Jim with a framed certificate from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Middlesex Sheriff’s Office in recognition of Deacon Jim being honored as Parishioner of the Year and the contributions he has made.

Anthony Barsamian, Esq., co-chairman of the Massachusetts Armenian Genocide Centennial Committee and a member of the Coordinating Committee for the Washington D.C. Commemoration, read a congratulatory letter from former Governor Deval Patrick. “You are a most deserving honoree!” wrote the former Governor. “Your work on the Armenian Heritage Park, on the Supreme Council of the

honor a grandchild of survivors. Like so many Armenian Churches across America, Holy Trinity was built on the backs of early Armenian immigrants — seeking to start life over in a land founded on the principle of Hope for a better future. Jim Kalustian, a grandson of survivors from Kharpert, Izmir, and Arapgir, is a powerful fulfillment of their hope. The Jim I have known over the years has always appreciated and honored his Armenian roots, all the while advancing himself through the best this land has to offer. Jim grew up in this church. What he valued came from his parents and grandparents. What he learned, he learned from watching those who came before him. What they instilled in him was: Faith, Hope, and Love for his Heritage and his Country and he has defined himself through both over the years. . . . There’s an old Armenian expression that sums up someone like Jim, *Partzratzeer, yev Partzratsoor* — Raise yourself up, then raise up others. And Jim has done exactly that. He has worked for the betterment of the Armenian Church and Community his entire adult life. . . . In this 100th anniversary year,” concluded the pastor. “Deacon Jim Kalustian, a grandson of Survivors, a son of Holy Trinity, and a leader of the Armenian Church, is Holy Trinity’s ‘Parishioner of the Year.’”

Kolligian in his remarks, reflected upon the three most influential people in his life at Holy Trinity Church — Deacon Gregory Krikorian, Kouzouian, and now Kalustian. Kolligian was grateful to Kalustian for his mentorship — offer-

ing advice, perspective and support whenever asked — during Kolligian’s years serving on the Parish Council. On behalf of the parish, he thanked Kalustian for all he has done for Holy Trinity, the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, the world-wide Armenian Church and all Armenians throughout the world. Greg stated, however, that all this would not be possible were it not for the honoree’s parents, Martin and Mimi Kalustian, to whom he also expressed thanks and gratitude.

He then read a letter from Kalustian to Kouzouian in which the honoree wrote that the Church would be receiving a gift of \$75,000 for the design, development and construction of the “Martin and Mimi Kalustian Learning Lab” in the Peter Adiaman Hall complex area. This gift would also include the installation of Wi-Fi and/or wiring for the entire Sunday School



Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate, with (from left to right), seated: Yn. Arpi Kouzouian; Fr. Vasken A. Kouzouian, Pastor of Holy Trinity Church; Deacon James M. Kalustian, Parishioner of the Year; Mimi Kalustian; Martin Kalustian; standing: Daniel K. Dorian, Parish Council Vice Chairman; Lisa Kolligian Dorian; Gregory A. Kolligian, Jr., Parish Council Chairman; Dr. Anita Kalustian; Dr. Albert Kalustian; and Mrs. Rosita Georgiades

complex. Kalustian stated, “While the message and teachings of our church have remained constant for generations, it is my belief that the means by which we teach and educate our community needs to evolve. It is my desire to create a learning lab that will utilize the latest technology and interactive teaching methodology for the betterment of all generations of our church community. . . .”

A gift of appreciation from the Holy Trinity parish was presented to him, who then began his remarks by talking about being a descendent of Genocide survivors, what his grandparents endured, and what lessons it taught him through stories told by his parents. “For while I am so proud to be American, the legacy that was passed from my grandparents helped me to realize that it was our responsibility to make sure that we let the world know that we are not

victims of the Genocide but in fact are victors. Our rich heritage, our presence here today and all that we have accomplished in our church communities throughout the United States bears witness to the fact that we as a people have triumphed over those who sought to eradicate us from the face of the earth.”

He stressed that today was not about him, “but about us — our Holy Trinity Family — and what we can do both collectively and as individuals to say thank you for our many blessings and to give back to our community” both in America and in Armenia. His remarks focused on three areas: (1) give thanks for what you are and what you have; (2) conduct a self-assessment — who am I? What have I done? What have I contributed? and last, (3) look to the future: What can I become and what is there left for me to do? Deacon Jim emphasized that “We should also remember that service to others is not an obligation but a privilege.” He also took this opportunity to thank some fellow parishioners who helped shape his sense of service.

Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, in his closing remarks, spoke about the importance and significance of this past year when the Holy Martyrs of the Armenian Genocide were canonized as saints of our church. He stated that “Today, you are honoring a gentleman who exemplifies the way the ‘Legacy of Our Martyrs’ can be an inspiration, and a force for good in our society. For Deacon James Kalustian, I know that his inspirational legacy begins with his grandparents: Genocide survivors from Kharpert, Smyrna, and my own native city of Arapgir. That legacy was reinforced in Jim through his dedicated parents, Martin and Mimi. And I know he took special inspiration from his godfather, Mark Kalustian: a man of deep learning with a thirst for knowledge, who lovingly built one of the great collections of Armenian artifacts. Through the example of such people, Jim came to experience and understand the meaning of sainthood. And he has applied that meaning to his daily life — whether in business, community action, and especially

service to the church. The Legacy of Our Martyrs has inspired Jim to take up service on the altar of our Lord, and to accept leadership roles in our church at the local, national and even international levels. And in a spirit of honoring that legacy, he has succeeded in making the story of our martyrs known within the broader reaches of this city and American society.” In congratulating the honoree on this honor, during this very special milestone year, the Primate presented Kalustian with an Armenian-motif ornament by New York artist, Michael Aram.

The day’s program came to a conclusion with the Benediction offered by the Primate.

Banquet coordinators were William and Karen Martin. Sincerest thanks and appreciation were expressed to them and to all those who underwrote many of the banquet expenses.





## COMMUNITY NEWS

# The Miracle of Survival: AMAA's 96th Annual Meeting in San Francisco

By Rev. L. Nishan Bakalian

SAN FRANCISCO – For most people, the word “miracle” connotes something unexpected or incredible. But for those who believe in Jesus Christ, that word indicates that God is at work in the world, pointing minds and hearts to His mercy.

This year, the 96th Annual Meeting and the related activities of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) were held in the picturesque San Francisco Bay Area from October 15 to 18, hosted by the Calvary Armenian Congregational Church.

The theme, “100 Years - The Miracle of Survival,” brought to the fore the remembrance of the Armenian Genocide, along with the dedication and sacrifice made by so many who strove to rebuild the life of the Armenian people, reconstituting the churches, schools and communities decimated in 1915. Yet today’s war in Syria and



Annual Meeting Worship Service and Installation of AMAA Officers



Keynote Speaker Rev. Haroutune Selimian

its deleterious effects on the fabric of our people, particularly in Syria and Lebanon, show us that the same determination and the same trust in God is demanded of us in these days.

Appropriately, the AMAA meetings were preceded by the gathering of the Armenian Evangelical World Council (AEWC).

The 96th Annual Meeting was held on Saturday morning. AMAA President Dr. Nazareth Darakjian presided over the meeting, which was attended by over 90 members. Delegates of Armenian Evangelical Churches, Unions, Armenian Evangelical World Council, AMAA Committees and affiliated organizations shared their reports, their joys and concerns and praised God for another successful year.

Making his presentation to the AEWC meetings on Thursday, the AMAA Board meeting on Friday, the Annual Meeting on Saturday, and especially as the Keynote Speaker at the Banquet that same evening, Rev. Haroutune Selimian, president of the Armenian Evangelical community in Syria, spoke eloquently about the volatility of the situation there. He listed the challenges

that Syrian Armenians are facing on a daily basis, and how God is equipping them to meet those challenges, with the support of the AMAA and other partners.

With over 250 in attendance at the San Francisco Airport Marriott Waterfront, the AMAA Annual Banquet was truly a celebration of thanks and an acknowledgement of God’s miraculous hand over the last century. Banquet Chair Valina Agbabian eloquently welcomed the guests and presented the Master of Ceremonies Dr. Jerry Manoukian. Dr. Manoukian brought warmth and humor to the event, which included a new video presentation on the AMAA’s work throughout the world.

All the past Executive Secretaries and Directors of the AMAA were honored: Rev. Mihran T. Kalaidjian (1919-1921), Rev. Andranig A. Bedikian (1921-1928, 1929-1930, 1943-1946), Rev. Manasseh G. Papazian (1928-1929), Rev. Dr. Yervant H. Hadidian (1930-1934), Rev. Nishan Begjan (1935-1943), Rev. Puzant H. Kalfayan (1946-1959), Rev. Edward S. Tovmassian (1959-1968), Steven Y. Mardiguan (1968), Rev. Dr. Giragos H. Chopourian (1969-1987), Rev. Dr. Moses B. Janbazian (1987-2000), Andrew Torigian (2001, 2003, 2005-2009), Rev. Jirair M. Sogomian (2001-2003), Rev. Dr. Peter Doghramji (2004), Levon Filian, (2010-2013), and Rev. Mgrdich Melkonian (2014). The record of each one’s service was read by the current AMAA Executive Director/CEO Zaven Khanjian and President Dr. Nazareth Darakjian. Most touching, though, was the presence of the descendants of many of those officials.

During the banquet, Margo Gulesserian, Arpi Haleblian, Ronnie Henesian and Gloria Medzian were also honored for their over 25 years of service as founding members and Chairs of the Friends AMAA Peninsula Chapter. Executive Director/CEO Zaven Khanjian challenged the members of this group to incarnate the Friends of AMAA Peninsula Chapter and continue their valuable service through the AMAA for the benefit of our children.

This weekend culminated in the Worship Service in the Sanctuary of the host Church. The President of the Union of Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East, Rev. Megrđitch Karagoezian, spoke about how the Lord helps us



Banquet Chair Valina Agbabian with Friends of AMAA Peninsula Chapter Honorees: Margo Gulesserian, Ronnie Henesian, Arpi Haleblian (not pictured Gloria Medzian)

in the “Absolute Imitation of Christ.” The newly-appointed Minister to the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America, Rev. Berdj Djambazian, outlined “Purpose-Driven Unity,” and helped us to see how the body of Christ is diverse, not restricted by uniformity.

The church choir and instrumentalists enriched the Worship Service with their music,

and the Executive Director of the AEWC, the Rev. Dr. Vahan Tootikian, brought the service to its culmination with the installation of the newly-elected AMAA Board members. The host pastor, the Rev. Nerses Balabanian, also remembered the names of pastors and laypersons active in the support of the AMAA who had passed away during the last fiscal year.



Banquet Honorees L to R: Elmer Kaprielian (grandson of Rev. Manasseh Papazian), Dr. Dorothy Hadidian Johnson (daughter of Rev. Dr. Yervant Hadidian, Stephanie Kalfayan (daughter of Rev. Puzant Kalfayan), Arousiag Tovmassian Missirlian (wife of Rev. Edward Tovmassian), Dr. Eileen Chopourian Stephey (daughter of Rev. Dr. Giragos Chopourian), Louisa Janbazian (wife of Rev. Dr. Moses Janbazian), Andy Torigian, Levon Filian, Rev. Mgrdich Melkonian, Zaven Khanjian (current AMAA Executive Director/CEO)

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COMMUNITY NEWS

# Armenian Women's Welfare Association 100th Anniversary Gala



Eric Bogosian and Peter Koutoujian

BOSTON – On Saturday, September 12, the Armenian Women's Welfare Association (AWWA) celebrated its 100th anniversary gala at the historic Boston Public Library. Nearly 200 people gathered in the outdoor courtyard to celebrate 100 years of service by a long history of volunteer Armenian women. The setting was magical.

The program began with AWWA President Brenda Khederian addressing the audience with a brief history of the organization and its accomplishments throughout the last century. She spoke about the founders of the AWWA and about the progression from the Home for the Aged to the Armenian Nursing Home to the present facility, the Armenian Nursing and Rehabilitation Center (ANRC).

The master of ceremonies, Peter Koutoujian, sheriff of Middlesex Country, expressed deep appreciation to the AWWA for the excellence of the Armenian Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.

Karla Fleming, the executive director of the ANRC spoke about the center being a leading nursing home in the state.

Board members JoAnn Janjigian and Annie Youssoufian spoke about their recent trip to the Hanganak NGO clinic in Stepanakert, Nagorno Karabagh, and their meetings with the beneficiaries. Hanganak is a health clinic that assists 200 elderly residents who live alone and have no other means of support or income. AWWA has provided medical assistance to them for the last 11 years.

The special guest for the evening was Eric Bogosian, a celebrated actor, playwright and author, who spoke about the long history of Armenians helping each other during times of need. He also spoke about his recent book, *Operation Nemesis*.



Barbara Tellalian and Dr. Carolann Najarian



Cynthia Kazanjian and Cheri Apelian



Sara Janjigian Trifiro, Barbara Tellalian and Tsoleen Sarian



Donald Tellalian, Sophie Tolajian and Susan Deranian



Gala committee



Martin Haroutunian



Ani and Arpie Kharajian, Marilyn Woloohojian, Cathy Minassian



Vahe Apelian, Carol and Henry Zeytoonjian



# Arts & Living

## BMOP Evokes Armenian Endurance in Season Opener

By Matthew Guerrieri

BOSTON (*Boston Globe*)— Music sustains in many ways, but on Sunday, conductor Gil Rose and the Boston Modern Orchestra Project opened their 20th-anniversary season with a program of literal musical sustenance — sounds, harmonies, moods held and stretched, persistent and enduring.

It was appropriate atmosphere for the theme of the concert, presented in collaboration with the Friends of Armenian Culture Society: a commemoration of the centenary of the Armenian Genocide, and the survival of Armenian culture at home and abroad.

*Cloudy Sky*, a folksong arrangement by priest, composer, and father of Armenian music Komitas Vartapet (transcribed for string orchestra by Komitas devotee Sergei Aslamazyan), already demonstrated an expressive stillness at the heart of that culture: a lyrical line, eloquently wandering its bittersweet mode, a steady tread of rising counterpoint creating its own gentle friction. Similar rhetoric turned oracular in *Khrimian Hairig*, Alan Hovhaness's 1944 tribute to Armenian cleric and activist Mkrtych Khrimian. Over the strings' moody, parallel-shifting harmonies — modern and archaic all at once — Terry Everson's impeccably burished solo trumpet filled Jordan Hall with long exhalations of melody, velvety and implacable.

Having featured the Massachusetts-born Hovhaness's music on both a recording and a previous, 2008 Armenian-themed program, Rose and the orchestra were attuned to his rhetoric, turning the sheer atmospheric presence of slow-moving and even static landscapes to dramatic ends. That pattern held in another reprise: An ill soloist having quashed the scheduled Shostakovich piano concerto, Rose recruited violinist Kim Kashkashian to revisit Betty Olivero's *Neharót, Neharót* (previously presented by BMOP in 2010), a meditation on Middle Eastern violence and sorrow. Kashkashian and accordionist Cory Pesaturo traded elaborately-ornamented threnodies over a slow crush of orchestral harmonies and interpolated recording of Israeli laments. The nationalities had changed, but the sound made common cause with the program's theme of continuance.

The second half brought the Boston premiere of Tigran Mansurian's 2011 *Requiem*, the Harvard-Radcliffe Collegium Musicum and the Boston University Marsh Chapel Choir joining Rose and the string orchestra for a superb, sumptuously stark performance. Mansurian, channeling the familiar Catholic rite into a memorial for the Armenian genocide's victims, alternates icon-like immobility — a frozen haze over the opening *Requiem aeternam* — with the genre's customary quasi-operatic dramatization. But even there, the sound turns back, again and again, to Armenian style and Armenian history. Compare the "Domine Jesu Christe" — a prayer for the deliverance of the departed, here turned strikingly aggressive — and the *Tuba mirum*, the last trumpet rendered as almost entirely a cappella chant, a pair of soloists (soprano Serena Alexandra Tchorbajian and bass-baritone Vartan Gabrielian) intoning the text, the choir answering, the raising of the dead regarded with an equanimous sense of restitution. It encapsulated the concert's restrained tenaciousness, sustained sounds asserting continued presence, tracing a long arc bending toward justice.



Scout Tufankjian speaking.

## Scout Tufankjian's *There is Only the Earth* New Jersey Book Presentation

FAIR LAWN, N. J. — Boston-born Brooklynite Scout Tufankjian is a well-known name in international photojournalism, becoming particularly prominent after her book documenting Barack Obama's 2007-8 presidential campaign. This followed four years of difficult and dangerous work in the Middle East. She was in Gaza (Palestine) during a period of Israeli aggression and then in Egypt during the revolution, whereby the government was changed and the Muslim Brotherhood came to power. She documented both situations through her photography, which helped influence international public opinion.

By Hagop Vartivarian

Tufankjian's book *Yes We Can: Barack Obama's History-Making Presidential Campaign* appeared in December 2008, and was ranked by the *New York Times* and the *Los Angeles Times* as a bestseller.

Her newest publication, *There Is Only the Earth: Images from the Armenian Diaspora Project*, is a gift to Armenian and non-Armenian readers at the centennial of the Armenian Genocide. On October 16, the Tekeyan Cultural Association of Greater New York (TCA) together with St. Leon Armenian Church organized a presentation on this book in the church hall of the latter. The Armenian Network of America-Greater NY and the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) were also cosponsors.

Ara Araz welcomed guests, and then NY TCA executive member Shemavon Atamian introduced Tufankjian, remarking that they have been friends for years.

Thanks to her continuing interests in Armenian affairs and her visits to various communities, Tufankjian was able to present different facets of Armenian life to the audience. She focused on aspects of daily life, staying away from secular and clerical leaders, and the luxurious and dissolute lives of some of the former (who in any case only constitute a small percentage of the Armenian people).

Her focus was on the Armenian in his everyday environment. She was able to connect with the Armenian mother, student, worker and craftsman, which gives greater value to this volume with its contemporaneity. During her lecture, she frequently quoted Armenian-American author William Saroyan, for whom she has great love and respect.

She has apposite photographs of Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), Calcutta (India), Anjar (Lebanon), Buenos Aires (Argentina), Hong Kong, Sydney (Australia), Alexandria (Egypt) and Latakia (Syria). Not only does she document the Armenian-populated village of Vakiflar in usurped Musa Dagh (she is on her maternal side descended from Musa Lertsi ancestors), and Hajin in Cilicia, but also gives prominent coverage to Karabagh and Armenia.

She has parallel and comparable pictures of daily life from different communities see TUFANKJIAN, page 11

## Armenian Devil Reappears After Being Erased from Centuries-Old Gospel

OXFORD, England (*Guardian*)— A demon lurking in the corner of a precious 17th-century Armenian gospel has reappeared centuries after he was deliberately scraped from the page by pious readers.

The creature is no longer visible to the naked eye, but once vied with the angel opposite him for the souls being weighed in the balance on judgment day, captured in the superbly illustrated gospel made by the renowned Armenian manuscript scribe, illuminator and theologian, Mesrop of Xizan, almost 400 years ago. The demon will be revealed again by David Howell, head of conservation research at the Bodleian library in Oxford, using hyperspectral imaging as part of an exhibition of Armenian treasures.

The exhibit opened on October 23 and marks the centenary of the genocide of the Christian minority under the Ottoman empire, which scattered surviving Armenian families.

The Bodleian, one of the largest and oldest university libraries in the world, began collecting Armenian manuscripts in the 17th century, but many of the pieces are far older, including an 11th-century manuscript copy of John Chrysostom's commentaries, and the only known copy of the first book printed in Iran, a book of psalms dating from 1638.

Another item on display, a matchbox-sized prayer book printed in Venice in 1831, has lengthy notes in frequently incorrect Mandarin, written in minute script by a former owner, the orientalist Solomon Caesar Malan who left his collection to the university. On one page he wrote "this is the wrong prayer."

The exhibition spans more than 2,000 years of Armenian culture. Richard Ovenden, the director of the library, said the exhibition would have many objects of exceptional beauty. "The Bodleian Libraries are honored to take part in the commemorations for the 100th



The Armenian manuscript, with the image of the devil deliberately erased in the bottom right.

anniversary of the Armenian Genocide by helping to share the history and culture of the Armenian people," Ovenden said.

A crimson silk altar curtain, embroidered in silver thread, was given in 1788 to the monastery of Surb Karapet in Taron. The monastery, founded in the fourth century, was destroyed after 1915.

As well as the spectacular manuscripts, the exhibition includes more humble objects precious to the Armenian families who have loaned them, including photographs and textiles. There is a lace collar that was made in 1890 for a donor's grandmother, and a tattered copy of a book of mystical poems by Saint Gregory of Narek passed down through generations of the same family and believed to protect the household. A *samovar* and a set of coffee cups and saucers — which traditionally were used for telling fortunes from the dregs — has been loaned by the Chalvardjian family.

The history of the objects illustrates the wandering lives of many Armenians after 1915. They were first used in Cilicia — now southern Turkey — and then brought with the family to Milan, Cairo and then the UK. The *samovar* was made in Russia, but the cups and saucers completed a circuit, originally made for export in Staffordshire.





ARTS & LIVING

# Victorious Hay Pem Performance in Saint-Laurent



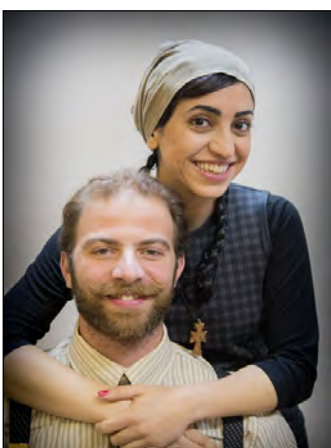
SAINT LAURENT, Quebec, Canada – October 17 will be engraved as an historical day for Tekeyan’s Hay Pem troupe. The test was a challenging one, because it was a first for an Armenian amateur troupe to perform in Saint-Laurent, as part of this latter’s cultural programming and have the performance in French.

In front of the Mayor of Saint-Laurent, Allan De Sousa, Jewish religious leaders, cultural representatives and an audience of almost all non-Armenians, Hay Pem’s performance was acclaimed by a standing ovation of more than a minute.

Once again, the troupe under the leadership of Nancy Issa Torosian delivered more than what it has been expected. “Une bête sur la lune” or “Beast on the Moon” by Richard Kalinoski, created intense moments and brought some tears among the audience and at numerous occasions brought them moments of joy and laughter. The cast of experienced performers such as Viken Froundjian, Arden Arapian (main role of Aram) and Hasmik Gasparyan (voice), were supported by Meghedi Aghourian considered a new revelation because of her past minor roles of the past, playing the main role of Seta, an orphan survivor of the Genocide.

A new cast of children also took part in the play. They were Arax Armenian, Thomas Shahbaghyan (violin) and Agustin Aparadian (one of the main roles of Vincent). They represent the future of Hay Pem and they did more than what was expected from them.

Nancy’s dream, as well as Tekeyan’s effort in presenting Kalinoski’s award winning play to an ODAR audience as part of the centennial events, had a great debut. The Armenians were almost absent, but the local non-Armenian crowd more than compensated their absence. The objective to reach others and give them the story of our nation was fully achieved.



Actors include Agustin Aparadian as the young boy, Arden Arapyan as the young man, Arax Armenian as the young girl, Meghedi Aghourian as the young woman and Viken Froundjian as the older man. (Photos by Kevork Torosian)



## Tufankjian’s *There is Only the Earth* Book Presentation

TUFANKJIAN, from page 10 preserving the same way of life, cuisine and traditions. During the course of her lecture, she periodically related various adventures and personal memories, especially those taking place in Turkey. Her pictures of Syrian-Armenian refugees in Karabagh and adjacent liberated territories are eyewitness records of the realities of our present life.

Her work is certainly one that inspires hope, and it will serve as a guide and primary source for future historians and researchers interested in Armenian life. It is a tasteful album, with a foreword penned by film director Atom Egoyan. Its 160 large, colorful pages make it a wonderful present for libraries and readers, Armenian or non-Armenian.

This is the fourth photography album presented

in the greater New York area this year. The first was Hrair “Hawk” Khatcherian’s *One Church, One Nation*, followed by Ariane Ateshian Delacampagne’s *Portraits of Survival: The Armenians of Bourj Hammoud*. The third is Armen Marsoobian’s *Fragments of a Lost Homeland*.

These are all publications worthy of encouragement and praise. Each was prepared and published through its respective author’s initiative and financing. How wonderful it would be if our Armenian philanthropic associations undertook the responsibility of their publication. Such thoughts should not only belong to the past...The first two authors are Lebanese-Armenians, while the latter two were born in the United States, yet it is clear that the same Armenian concerns and patriotic feelings are shared by all.



From left: Nurhan Becidyman of NAASR, Hagop Vartivarian, Scout Tufankjian, Shemavon Atamian and Diana Mkitarian of Tekeyan Cultural Association, and Ara Araz of St. Leon Church

**Tekeyan Cultural Association**  
presents

## REMEMBRANCE & REBIRTH

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**SATURDAY**  
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**7<sup>30</sup> pm**

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## Commemorative Concert Aims to Preserve Culture 100 Years after Genocide

MIAMI (*Miami Herald*) – Douglas Kalajian's father was 3 when his mother was killed during the Armenian Genocide. Now, 100 years later, Kalajian will share stories about his family's experience, accompanied by performers Myriam Eli, Alique Mazmanian, Reza Filsoofi and Joe Zeytoonian.

When Kalajian was 8, a professor on TV started talking about the Armenian Genocide. His father broke down.

"I asked my mother, 'Why is daddy crying?' She said it was 'because the Turks killed his mother.' Until that moment, I had no idea. And from that moment, I wanted to know the rest of the story," Kalajian said.

Kalajian discovered that it was a difficult topic to discuss; his mother discouraged his search, telling him never to ask his father about it "because it made [his father] too sad."

He kept searching for answers, though, and documented his search in his novel, *Stories My Father Never Finished Telling Me*. Kalajian will read from his book during the event and will take questions from the audience.

The story of loss and silence isn't rare for Armenians. Throughout the genocide, an estimated 800,000 to 1.5 million lives were lost.

Major facets of Armenian culture also were lost in the wake of the genocide. In an effort to preserve this culture, Arts at St. Johns and Harmonic Motion will host an Armenian Commemorative Concert to observe the 100th anniversary of the genocide.

Zeytoonian and his wife Eli were approached by Arts at St. Johns to put together the concert. Zeytoonian will play the oud (a traditional Armenian instrument) and his wife will dance and play percussion instruments.

"When musicians play these songs, they're preserving this culture. It's a gift not only to me, but to the whole world," said Kalajian.

Zeytoonian also was deeply impacted by the genocide; both sides of his family were devastated. His grandfather was killed when his grandmother was eight months pregnant with



Joe Zeytoonian

his father. He decided to convey the loss his family felt through his music.

"Armenian music has a particular nostalgia in its sound. My sound is a combination of that and the Anatolian roots of my parents who were driven from their homes in Maras, Turkey," Zeytoonian said.

The performances will consist of songs, dances and narratives. The aim is to inform people who may not have even been alive during the genocide.

"As with most heavy issues, simple awareness is crucial. In her book, *A Problem from Hell*, Samantha Power, ambassador to the United Nations, points out that the Armenian Genocide was the first of the 20th century. With muted reaction from familiar nation states, Hitler's boldness became manifested just 30 years later," Zeytoonian said.

The concert is called Hye Doun, which means Armenian home. It is part of the Arts at St. Johns 2015-2016 season theme, "Places We Call Home."

The concert will take place at Arts at St. Johns, November 7 at 7 p.m.

For more information, email [artsatstjohns@bellsouth.net](mailto:artsatstjohns@bellsouth.net).

Furthermore, he says, the Armenian civil servants prior to World War I were not appointed to their positions as the result of some kind of Ottoman benevolence, but were necessary employees, performing valuable services for the Ottoman state.

In his Preface, Kouyoumjian describes the difficulties encountered in his work of translation, including the fact that he was unable to identify the current names of some Armenian versions of geographical names. Also, some civil servants were only listed by their first names, so it was hard to differentiate between those with the same name. Kouyoumjian mentions the useful volume published in 1977 by Mesrob K. Krikorian, *Armenians in the Service of the Ottoman Empire, 1860-1908*, as an important reference work covering a wider span of time.

The volume includes a brief article by Parisian historian Hervé Georgelin giving a historical perspective on Armenians in the Ottoman Empire. He writes that "initially many Armenians were essentially hostile neither to the Ottoman society nor to the Ottoman state despite the emergence of more or less radical political organizations." Furthermore, the Ottoman state needed non-Muslim participation to implement the 19th century reforms known as the Tanzimat, which were a prerequisite for political and economic modernization. Armenians were particularly useful for the economy and state because of their modern technical skills and facility with Western languages.

Kouyoumjian wonders what happened to the Ottoman Armenian civil servants during the period of the Genocide. While there is evidence that some were brutally murdered, and a few survived and wrote memoirs, information is lacking about many others. Kouyoumjian says that he intended to honor their memory in preparing the present volume, which, he concludes, "is a testimony to the fact that contrary to what the Genocide denialist propaganda seeks to assert, the ethnic Armenians were an integral part of Ottoman society and were loyally serving the government of the day and discharging their duty of public service."

## AIWA's Olga Proudian Scholarship Will Benefit Women in Diplomacy

ARLINGTON, Mass. – The Olga Proudian Scholarship has been established by the Armenian International Women's Association (AIWA) in order to encourage young women to enter the field of Diplomacy and International Relations.

A reception has been scheduled on Friday, November 6, 7 to 9 p.m. at the Armenian Cultural Foundation to benefit the scholarship.

Special guests at the reception will be Rouben Shougarian, Armenia's first ambassador to the United States, Elizabeth Prodromou, Professor at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, and pianist Lilit Karapetian-Shougarian, who will provide a musical interlude.

Olga Proudian, one of AIWA's founders, is a native of Bucharest, Romania, and grew up in Europe and the Middle East before coming to the United States, where she has been active in both Armenian and non-Armenian community organizations. With her international and cosmopolitan background, she is particularly aware of the advantages of having women play a more active role in diplomacy and international relations.

With an extensive background in diplomacy, Ambassador Shougarian served as Armenia's Deputy Foreign Minister and as ambassador to Italy, Spain, and Portugal. Now on the faculty of the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, he is the author of *West of Eden, East of the Chessboard*.

Prodromou teaches in the Program on International Negotiation and Conflict Resolution at the Fletcher School. A graduate of Tufts University (BA) and MIT (PhD), she has held diplomatic appointments (including as vice-chair of the US Commission on International Religious Freedom) and publishes widely on the rights of religious minorities under secularist and non-secularist regimes with particular focus on comparative religious-political regimes in the Near East.

Lilit Karapetian-Shougarian is on the faculty of the New England Conservatory of Music and has performed extensively abroad as well as in the United States.

AIWA has previously focused on Armenian women in diplomacy. Several years ago, the Association, along with Project SAVE Armenian Photograph Archives and the Armenian Cultural Foundation, sponsored an exhibit about the pioneering Armenian diplomat Diana Apar. A native of Burma (Myanmar), Apar was living in Yokohama, Japan, during the Armenian Genocide, and helped hundreds of Genocide survivors escape to the United States. A prominent author, she pleaded the cause of Armenia in publications and in correspondence with leading political and religious figures. The First Armenian Republic named her honorary consul.

The Olga Proudian Scholarship in Diplomacy will be added to a number of grants AIWA makes annually to female students of Armenian descent enrolled as undergraduates or graduate students in various academic fields in higher educational institutions in the United States and around the world.

Further information and reservations for the November 6 reception is available by contacting AIWA at 65 Main St., Watertown, or [info@aiwainternational.org](mailto:info@aiwainternational.org).



Ambassador Shougarian



Professor Prodromou

## Armenians Serving the Ottoman Empire

By Aram Arkun  
Mirror-Spectator Staff

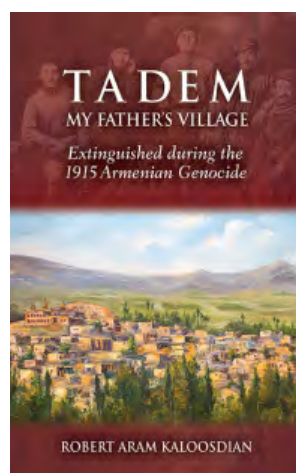
WATERTOWN – Despite all the prejudice and legal restrictions facing Ottoman Armenians, a certain number were able to rise to high positions in the Ottoman government before World War I. Dr. Hratch Kouyoumjian has translated and edited a brief excerpt from an almanac published in Armenian in 1909 by the Holy Savior Hospital in Constantinople which lists over 400 of their names. It has been published under the title *Ethnic Armenian Civil Servants in the Ottoman Empire in 1909* by the Armenian Genocide Centenary Commemoration Committee of the United Kingdom in 2015 in London. This 63-page book includes a Foreword by Baroness Caroline Cox calling for Turkey to recognize the reality of the Armenian Genocide and pointing out that Armenians suffered as victims of Azerbaijani attacks in Karabagh and Armenia in contemporary times, as well as in Iraq and Syria due to the Islamic State, in part because the lessons of the Genocide have not yet been learned.

After the Foreword, in a two-page note, Los Angeles journalist Harut Sassounian points out that not one Armenian name is listed among the Turkish civil servants in the 1924 almanac of the same hospital, no doubt as a result of the policies that led to the Armenian Genocide and the creation of the Turkish Nationalist movement, and even today their numbers are scanty.

ARMENIAN ASSEMBLY OF AMERICA  
NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL

Presents  
Annual Holiday Reception  
Featuring a Book Presentation and Signing

By  
**Robert Aram Kaloosdian**  
Author of "Tadem: My Father's Village"



Thursday, November 12, 2015  
6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

at the  
**Armenian Cultural Foundation**  
441 Mystic Street  
Arlington, MA 02474

We ask that you kindly RSVP to Lu Ann Ohanian (617) 510-6612 or [luannohanian@gmail.com](mailto:luannohanian@gmail.com) by Monday, November 9<sup>th</sup>. Food and refreshments will be served.

[www.aainc.org](http://www.aainc.org) | @ARAMAC\_DC





## 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/Miami Beach](http://artsatstjohns.com/th_event/hye-doun/Miami Beach).

## MASSACHUSETTS

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

**NOVEMBER 1 — The movie "Aram Aram" will be shown at 5 p.m. at the Regent Theatre, 7 Medford St., Arlington.** This is the first American independent dramatic film to take movie viewers inside the Armenian Community of Los Angeles. The film was first screened to a sold-out audience at the Los Angeles Film Festival where it was the first Armenian-themed film ever to screen at the festival in its history. All seats general admission. Tickets \$20. Proceeds benefit St. James Erebuni Armenian School, Watertown. For information call: 617-935-3997 or 774-259-6263.

**NOVEMBER 1 — The Armenian Museum of America, the Composer's Union of Armenia** and the Amaras Art Alliance present "Popular Songs by Armenian Composers Performed by the Bostonian" on Sunday, 2-4 p.m., Armenian Museum of America, 65 Main St., Watertown, 3rd floor, the Adele & Haig Der Manuelian Galleries. The concert will feature the voices of Noune' Karapetian, Roselin Osser, Michael Calmés and Philip Lima accompanied by William Merrill on the piano. They will perform a range of popular songs from Armenian composers. Light refreshments will be served at a reception following the concert. Both the concert and the reception are free and open to the public. This concert is made possible by a donation from the Dadourian Foundation.

**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.hypeointearmenianchurch.org](http://www.hypeointearmenianchurch.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 12 — The Armenian Assembly of America** will hold its Annual Holiday Reception featuring Assembly board member Robert Aram Kaloosdian who will present and sign copies of his new book *Tadem, My Father's Village*. The reception will take place at the Armenian Cultural Foundation, 441 Mystic St., Arlington, MA 02474 on Thursday, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. RSVP to Lu Ann Ohanian (617) 510-6612 or [luannohanian@gmail.com](mailto:luannohanian@gmail.com) by Monday, November 9. Food and refreshments will be served.

**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 — "Rediscovered Master: The Art of Simon Samsonian" exhibition** closing reception, Saturday, 6-8 p.m. The Armenian Museum of America, 65 Main St., Watertown. The event will include a short lecture involving reminiscence on the artist by family members, and a reception held in the Adele & Haig Der Manuelian Galleries on the third floor of the museum. The event is free and open to the public, and light refreshments will be served at the reception.

**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 Meghriyan**, 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 1 —The Tekeyan Cultural Association is presenting a talk by Peter Balakian** on the classic film "America America" written and directed by Elia Kazan. The film is about a young Anatolian Greek man from the provinces who loses his family fortune on his way to Constantinople and is dreaming of going to America. 7 p.m. Balakian will also sign copies of his two recent books, *Ozone Journal* and *Vise and Shadow: Essays on the Lyric Imagination, Poetry, Art, and Culture*. At the Armenian Museum of America. Co-Sponsored by Facing History and Ourselves.

**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.

**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 Merdianian. \$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 accessible. For further information, call church office at 401-272-7712.





## COMMENTARY

# Mirror Spectator



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EDITOR

Alin K. Gregorian

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Aram Arkun

ART DIRECTOR

Marc Mgrditchian

**SENIOR EDITORIAL COLUMNIST:**  
Edmond Azadian

**CONTRIBUTORS:**

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

**CORRESPONDENTS:**

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

**Contributing Photographers:**

Jacob Demirdjian and Jirair Hovsepian

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Telephone: 617-924-4420

FAX: 617-924-2887

[www.mirrorspectator.com](http://www.mirrorspectator.com)

E-Mail: [editor@mirrorspectator.com](mailto:editor@mirrorspectator.com)

For advertising: [mirrorads@aol.com](mailto:mirrorads@aol.com)

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## COMMENTARY

## Germany Bails Out Turkey

By Edmond Y. Azadian

Two nations have been the perpetrators of the two largest genocides in the 20th century – Turkey and Germany. There is much affinity between these two nations. In annihilating their minorities, they only outdid one other. During World War I these two nations were allies and recent historical research has unearthed German culpability in directing and monitoring the Armenian Genocide in the Ottoman Empire.

During World War II, Turkey was secretly assisting the German war effort, until the Allies emerged as victors. Thus in a last-ditch effort, Turkey's leaders were able to save the country from disintegration by declaring a nominal war against the crumbling Reich.

Today, a new alliance is being forged between these two old allies. Germany is a NATO member. It is also a member of the European Union (EU), if not its driving engine. Most EU members have differing views with regard to President Erdogan of Turkey. The common thread of their approach to Turkey has been to stonewall that country's accession to the EU. Germany and Chancellor Angela Merkel always advocated a "healthy distance" from Europe for Turkey. Germany's position was to offer a special status for Turkey in Europe, but never full membership.

But recent political developments seem to have changed this policy. President Erdogan played the role of the Sorcerer's Apprentice by triggering a chain of events which he could not control; a civil war by his instigation collapsed his domestic policy and his foreign policy got stuck in the Syrian quagmire.

Although Chancellor Merkel is embracing Erdogan and Turkey with all their burning issues, she could have been better served to opt for a more prudent policy, had she heeded the warnings of one of the major German papers. Indeed, in a long article, *Der Spiegel*, analyzing the situation in Turkey, wrote, "Recep Tayyip Erdogan – a devout Muslim, gifted populist, modernizer and father of the country's economic miracle – is in danger of becoming an autocrat, one who is dragging his own nation into civil war and stoking external conflicts. First, he wanted to overthrow the Syrian dictator Bashar Assad, and then he ignored the Islamic State (IS) for a long time. And now, he's been fighting the Kurds, the West's only partner in the battle against the Islamic extremists. Erdogan is reinstating old battlefronts and stirring mistrust and nationalism. He is imprisoning journalists and critics. And his soldiers are cordoning off and firing on entire Kurdish cities .... [Turkey] is a country at risk of falling into collective insanity, driven there by fanaticism, excessive nationalism and bizarre conspiracy theories."

At the beginning of the 21st century, Erdogan has resorted once again to the practice of ethnic cleansing, which his country experienced in the 1930s under Ataturk and later under the dictator Kenan Evran, following the military coup of 1980. Martial Law has been declared in the Cizre region, foreign journalists are banned while the Turkish army conducts indiscriminate bombing of Kurdish villages. In view of all these atrocities, Chancellor Merkel has rushed to Turkey, overturning her traditional policy of keeping away Turks in Europe and promising expedited dialogue with the Erdogan administration for Turkey's admission to the EU.

Erdogan's goal in resorting to his violent policy was to intimidate Kurds at home to assure absolute majority in the parliament in the November 1 election and to deflect the potential for the creation of a Kurdish enclave along Turkey's borders.

The influx of Syrian refugees into Turkey was Erdogan's own doing by instigating the war in Syria. Those refugees did not decide on their own to abandon their native land to seek a haven in Turkey. Erdogan himself displaced them, replacing them with Turkic extremists recruited from Turkmenistan and Xingjian Province of China (Uighurs) to fan the flames of his Ottoman dreams. Then the forceful Russian offensive in Syria dashed Erdogan's plans, giving an additional excuse for him to cry wolf in Germany. After Erdogan's visit, Angela Merkel flew to Ankara to reward Turkey for its crimes.

Erdogan encouraged these Syrian refugees to flood Europe, which was ill prepared to receive and to resettle them. Two million Syrian refugees have flooded Turkey, costing \$7 billion in humanitarian aid. Logic would have dictated punishing Erdogan for creating this humanitarian disaster, yet politics are not based on that

kind of logic. In addition to encouraging Turkey in its dream to enter Europe, Chancellor Merkel has pledged to help Turkey with \$3.4 billion in aid to compensate it for receiving and handling the refugee problem.

The online journal *Strategic Culture Foundation* writes in its October 22, 2015 issue, "Merkel's suggestion is that Turkey's integration into the EU can be sped up, using refugee management as a bargaining chip. 'How can we organize the accession process more dynamically,' she posed at a press conference in Istanbul. 'Germany is ready to open Chapter 17 this year and to make preparations for chapters 23 and 24.'"

The Greeks have demonstrated a cowardly duplicity in front of Turkey's assertive thrust into Europe, by grandstanding first and chickening out later; once again Cypriot Foreign Minister Ionnis Kasoulides has announced to the Associated Press: "Cyprus will not consent to letting Turkey restart stalled negotiations to join the European Union because Ankara has not done enough to help ongoing talks to reunify ethnically split country." But on the other hand, Cyprus' permanent representative to the EU, Kornelios Korneliou has stated on government radio that the Cypriot administration could agree to EU talks on its economy and monetary policy.

Germany is once again in its traditional role of rescuing Turkey. Merkel's blanket bailout to Erdogan can demonstrate how ugly politics can get.

Should Germany go ahead with its reversal of policy Europe has to embrace Turkey at its own peril.

While politics are being played on a grander scale, two Armenian issues have already become the casualties of those policies. The first one is the Bundestag resolution on the Armenian Genocide. It is true that the German president, Joachim Gauck and Bundestag President Norbert Lammert have given speeches during the course of the centennial year, and they have defined the massacres as genocide without mincing words, however, those speeches do not amount to an official resolution.

The German paper *Der Spiegel*, on October 17, commented on the issue that the German government is going out of its way to win over Turkey. The report says that the approval of the Armenian resolution that was so hotly debated this April in the Parliament will be postponed. It claims that the governing Christian Democratic Union (CDU), Christian Social Union (SCU) and Social Democratic Party (SDP) have "quietly" agreed to delay the pending final reading of the bill for as long as possible. Ironically, the only group supporting the resolution is the Green party, whose leader, Cem Ozdemir, an ethnic Turk, has criticized the other parties by stating: "The coalition is stalling but the clock is running out for the commemorative year, which is quickly coming to an end."

Why is Merkel so anxious to embrace Turkey, *Der Spiegel* asks? "The German government needs Turkey in tackling the refugee crisis. Turkey is important right now – the most important transit country for refugees from the Middle East who hope to reach Europe and especially Germany."

Whereas the refugee problem is a temporary issue, Merkel's political expediency will result in sealing Europe's destiny permanently with a Turkish banner.

The other casualty was of course the outrageous ruling of the European Court of Human Rights on the case pitting Dogu Perinçek versus Switzerland, which saw that the racist Turkish politician was let off the hook for his denial of the Armenian Genocide.

Much has been written about the issue, trying to salvage some positive elements in the ruling. The matter of the fact is that the verdict was clearly a political decision more than a legal judgment. To justify that decision, politically motivated legal experts can split hairs to demonstrate that the denial of the Jewish Holocaust can be criminalized in Europe but not the denial of the Armenian Genocide.

We can remember the case of a UN resolution in 1975 defining Zionism as a form of racism. Israel and its lobbyists fought for years and through US muscle, the resolution was overturned in 1991. That is how politics can shape the legality of these kinds of cases.

As we can see, Turkey is marching triumphantly through its disastrous behavior with German crutches. We can only wish to God to help Armenians and the Kurds.

## LETTERS

### Reasons to Pick on Republicans

To the Editor:

I guess it was an attempt to appear non-partisan that led you to print the Republican screed by a Ms. Alexanian ("Why Pick on Republicans," October 17 issue), that would have been worthy of being written by ex-Republican speaker, John Boehner. It

excludes any attempt at compromise by blaming all the ills of society, foreign and domestic, on those weak-minded liberals.

Those same ills that come from Republican subversion of our democracy by electoral shenanigans, the rejection of any attempt to curb gun violence with reasonable laws curbing the proliferation of guns, contributing to the rise of terrorism by engaging in mischievous military escapades, disputing well-founded scientific knowledge such as evo-

lution and human responsibility for global warming, trying to remove gains in health care, women's rights and generally, using legislative attacks, and rejecting, common sense solutions whenever they tend to conflict with their sense of ideological purity.

This is the legacy of so-called conservatism throughout history.

– Berge Tatian  
Massachusetts





## COMMENTARY



**My Turn**  
By Harut Sassounian

## Hastert to Plead Guilty of Sexual Abuse, Yet US Still Covers up Turkish Blackmail

This week, former House Speaker Dennis Hastert is expected to plead guilty to the charge of making secret payments to buy the silence of boys he had sexually abused when he was a high school wrestling coach. This plea deal with federal prosecutors would seal his court records, thus hiding from the public the details of the evidence against him.

Ever since 2005 when former FBI translator Sibel Edmonds exposed corruption at the highest levels of the US government, concerned citizens have been waiting impatiently for law enforcement officials to look into her shocking revelations.

Given the regrettably long silence by Washington and the mainstream US media, I believe it is time to expose once again the scandalous cover up of the claims that Turkish groups had bribed Speaker Hastert.

Philip Giraldi, former CIA officer and Executive Director of the Council for the National Interest, published in The American Conservative last week the sinister details of foreign governments blackmailing Speaker Hastert.

Edmonds was fired from her FBI position after revealing to her superiors the penetration of US government entities by Turkish agents “who were seeking to influence U.S. foreign policy while sometimes engaging in illegal activity,” according to Giraldi. “The scope of the corruption allegedly involved bribery of senior government officials and congressmen, arranging for export licenses to countries that were embargoed, and the exposure of classified information,” Giraldi wrote.

In a 2009 deposition, Edmonds explained that Hastert was “one of the primary U.S. persons involved in operations and activities that are not legal, and they’re not for the interest of the United States but for the interest of foreign governments and foreign entities.” She described Hastert’s wrongdoing as: “The acceptance of large sums of bribery in forms of cash or laundered cash and laundering it to make it look legal for his campaigns, and also for his personal use, in order to do certain favors and call certain – call for certain actions, make certain things happen for foreign entities and foreign governments’ interests, Turkish government’s interest and Turkish business entities’ interests.”

During the deposition, Edmonds was asked: “Did you have reason to believe that Mr. Hastert, for example, killed one of the Armenian genocide resolutions in exchange for money from these Turkish organizations?” She responded: “Yes, I do.... Correct..., and not only taking money, but other activities, too, including being blackmailed for various reasons.” After retiring from the House of Representatives, Hastert worked for the Washington firm of Dickstein Shapiro as a registered lobbyist for Turkey.

Edmonds also revealed during her deposition that Hastert “used the townhouse [in Chicago] that was not his residence for certain not very morally accepted activities. Now, whether that was being used as blackmail I don’t know, but the fact that foreign entities knew about this, in fact, they sometimes

participated in some of those not maybe morally well activities in that particular townhouse that was supposed to be an office, not a house, residence, at certain hours, certain days, evenings of the week. So I can’t say if that was used as blackmail or not, but certain activities they would share. They were known.”

Edmonds told congressional investigators that on FBI phone recordings Turkish individuals boasted of their secret relationship with Hastert. “They discussed giving him tens of thousands of dollars in clandestine payments in exchange for political favors and information. Many of the transcripts involved a suspect at the city’s Turkish Consulate, as well as several members of the American-Turkish Council and the Assembly of Turkish American Associations, business entities that some FBI agents believed served as occasional covers for organized crime. Some calls appeared to be referring to drug shipments and other possible crimes,” Giraldi wrote.

“Edmonds noted that the phone taps contained repeated references to Hastert’s volte face [change of position] in the fall of 2000 over the campaign to have Congress designate the killings of Armenians in Turkey between 1915 and 1923 a genocide. In August 2000, Speaker Hastert declared that he would support the resolution and send it to the full House for a vote. The resolution, vehemently opposed by the Turks, did indeed pass in the International Relations Committee by a large majority. Then, on October 19, shortly before a full House vote, Hastert withdrew it.... A senior official at the Turkish Consulate indicated in one recorded conversation that the price for convincing Hastert to withdraw the genocide resolution would be at least \$500,000,” Giraldi reported in his article.

Fifteen years later, the American public is still waiting for the US government to investigate the serious allegations of Turkish bribery and blackmail of Speaker Hastert!

# Thoughts on the Threshold of a New School Year

By Zarminé Boghosian

Scene I: September 2015: It is the start of a new academic year. The doors of the Armenian schools are open. The Centennial events continue to herald all over the world. In the year that marks the 100th Anniversary of the Genocide, in the affluent United States, an Armenian Day School is closing its doors. Meanwhile, in the war-torn Aleppo due to the creative genius of Armenians the students are welcomed with hopeful and positive colors. On the Eastern shore of the US, in New York City’s only Day School’s little office secluded I tend to my work. We are in the same “office-room,” my secretary and I.

Upfront is the heart-wrenching question which I dare not to vocalize . . .

“How long are we, ourselves to endure and last?”

The telephone rings...

Mr. Anonymous-ian wants to talk to you, “says the secretary” and passes the phone to me

I listen as I hold the receiver ... he is one of the compatriots that sympathizes.

“Did you hear that in the heavily Armenian populated California they have shut down an Armenian school?”

Yes, I read it with a sorrow! I replied.

“Well, how many students do you have as of now?” For a moment, for moment I pause and do not answer. Hagop Baronian comes to mind with his big and sad eyes in his abiding pain always spreading humor to the surrounding for a whole century!

“O! Mr. Anonymous-ian! I don’t know how far are you from school, just once go out and observe our street! All of the sidewalk on Oceania Street is filled from the door of the church all the way to 58th Avenue. There is a waiting line... Do you know that this so called BIG APPLE city of New York has how many Armenians?? I would guess, only one fifth (1/5th ) who has come out and standing in line and holding the queue.”

“We would be satisfied. We have no big building anyway. The school that is very near to celebrate 50th year jubilee, is located in a small building, hidden, right behind the church complex. This facility was intended for a Sunday school, the rumor has it. But, with Armenian stubbornness – call it persistence –

and with a daily effort this school is keeping its existence until now.”

This time the silence was on the other end of the receiver. A few more minutes of pause... Our Mr. Anonymous couldn’t believe what he has heard. Why believe? When we are accustomed to be concerned and pick up the telephone, after failure strikes and we are ready to ask of the institution’s health, the well-being and then go on to lament but never think to prevent what is inevitably to happen, take practical steps to avoid the disaster- Mr. Anonymous-ian knew well of our response.

But I don’t know, is it an Armenian habit or other people have the same habit? It seems he was prepared to hear another sad story from me.

His “lamentation” was in vain, with only interest in the number of students and... the end. What far reaching decision...?

O, no! We are comforted only with our expression of our regrets. With these thoughts I came out of the office, to breathe some fresh air having been affected from my own comments. With my camera in hand I began to photograph the posters and bulletins prepared and decorated by the teachers and proceed to display them on Facebook to announce to the world that Holy Martyrs Armenian Day School (HMADS) is alive and well with colors, spirit and with .. khutzbah!

Unexpectedly, from the school entrance through the glass doors I saw a very familiar face, dedicated for years to the church and to the school; always working as a volunteer, grandmother ,Mrs. Victoria. Our beloved grandma was holding the hand of her great-grandchild when along with her came her granddaughter and her younger daughter, in the carriage (taking her nap. What a sight! I was welcoming three generation entering HMADS!

Here is the order of registration! My humor turned into a reality or something close to it! “You cannot bring the spring season with one flower,” according to the old adage!

But at that moment the coincidence of that scene brought me out of my pensive thought! Wouldn’t have been great if every grandma would prevail upon her daughter or granddaughter and holding the hand of her great-grandchild lead them to the Armenian school? And... even more importantly each and every child and grandchild would listen and follow the path selected by grandma?

I kept the door open and greeted them with joy – the three generation of Armenians who were entering and coming in to the Armenian school. . Suddenly, I came to my senses to capture the moment! After all didn’t I have the camera in my hand?

I lead them in while the grandmother turning to granddaughter instructed her to go ahead and register her child.

“Go ahead,” she said, “register your child and I will look after this little munchkin, and later I will go to the hall below and help the other ladies make ‘manti’ for the church Festival.”

Here is the heroic grandmother pushing well past her 80s.

That particular day ... it was an opportunity to experience the revival of the Centennial of the Genocide indeed! It was a small triumph, a celebration, along with my heart rejoicing with the “Forget Me Not” imbedded in my soul. . .

Scene II – It’s the Feast of Exhalation! – In New York City there are seven Armenian Churches. Manhattan alone serves the Armenian community through four churches. With my husband, on that particular Sunday, we decided to attend the Holy Cross Church, which is located on 187th Street. We had two good reasons to go there. We had not only to honor the name day of the church, but also because the church dispensed a scholarship in memory of Mabel Fenner, established by this philanthropist herself.

A few of our students were the recipients – beneficiaries of this very encouraging event to which for one reason or another I was unable to attend. Another reason probably was the difficulty to park your car in Manhattan. To our surprise and for our comfort, the Parish Council had obtained permit for the church goes to double-park without the fear of being ticketed.

The church was fully crowded and the celebrant was the primate of the Eastern Diocese, His Eminence Abp. Khajag Barsamian. The church was infused with a soul-quenching atmosphere with the participation of Gomidas Choir. The church is double blessed also by the icon of “Charkhapan” (Holy Mother of God) in her premises along with the tomb of the tragically slain remains of Abp. Ghevont Tourian on the left of main altar.

After a few successive ceremonies and events, such as Holy Badarak, Holy

Communion, Primate’s message, the “Blessing of the Fields” with the Holy Crosses adorned with a bunch of basil leaves- the congregation was invited to the hall for the traditional “madagh.”

This was a wonderfully organized affair, with Madagh distributed freely along with other delicacies on the tables. The envelopes on the table were a gentle reminder for the generosity of the attendees. The hard work of the volunteers, who had prepared all that until late hours of the night before and their caring service was obvious.

The master of ceremonies of the day Krikor Anoushian, a representative of the senior generation of the church graciously introduced the hard working members of the church: Mr. and Mrs. Gozuboyikian couple and Mr. and Mrs. Jon Simonian. Another heartwarming surprise was to witness their son John Simonian, Jr. as the Parish Council Chair following in the footsteps of his parents.

The program started with Primate’s blessing, followed by a welcome from Parish Council Chair and a toast by the visiting pastor Rev. Bedros Kadehjian.

It was a pleasant surprise to witness all the congratulations to Rev. Bedros on the 10th Anniversary of his ordination into priesthood. Father Bedros, one of my former students from my teaching days at the Diocesan Loosavorchian Saturday school, is also one of the youngest clergymen in New York. He felt the calling from his childhood to serve with dedication. I was glad to witness both his parents’ pride and particularly on behalf of the Armenian community.

The next portion of the program was a bouquet of musical delight. Performing were a group of young violinists under the direction of an exceptional violist herself Mrs. Diana Vasilyan. There were, in this group also students of HMADS.

After the very enjoyable feast of violin numbers, we were treated to a virtuoso performance by Kariné Poghosian, who didn’t need a Steinway to show her rare talent and earned the admiration of the audience!

The hour had come to dispense the scholarships. Mr. Jon Simonian, Sr.

by profession an accomplished economist, who with the committee had succeeded from the proceeds of the Endowment Fund, find a way to encourage the youth of different ages.

see SCHOOL, page 16





# Knights of Vartan Fundraiser a Record-Breaking Success

KNIGHTS, from page 1

community. Sbarabed Armen Bogossian of Ararat Lodge stated, "This is one event which we organize every year which consistently turns out to be very successful."

This year, after the cocktail hour, attendees were served steak and lobster dinners, while two awards were presented in recognition of years of assistance to the Knights. First, Barry Calvani of Cal's News of Lynn, Mass., received the Friends of the Knights Award for his volunteer work as a consultant on how to set up the auctions and raffles for the four annual Knight's dinner fundraisers. He donated some items to the auctions, and through his memo-

abilia business gave the Knights a good deal on other auction items.

Then Peter Mikedis of Sidekim Foods in Lynn received the same award for his high quality catering of the dinners, and his willingness to help in many ways. He has also been a supporter of the Armenian Heritage Park project.

A silent auction, a live auction and the sale of raffle tickets took place during the next few hours and were successful. Lenny Clarke used his comedic talents to make the auction more dynamic than usual, with people excitedly bidding on items.

As a result of all this, the Knights are able to donate money to the following Armenian insti-



A scene from the live auction with comedian Lenny Clarke



Some of the items in the silent auction

tutions this year: \$2,500 to the St. James Erebusi Armenian School (a "Saturday school"), \$3,000 to the Armenian Cultural and Educational Center, \$2,500 to the Armenian General Benevolent Union Center on Mt. Auburn Street, and \$2,000 to the Sunday schools at Armenian Protestant churches.

A good deal of the evening's success, according to Sbarabed Armen Bogossian of Ararat Lodge, was due to the support provided by sponsor Mercedes-Benz Flagship Motorcars of Lynnfield. Other generous donors included Elite Gas of Wakefield, Hi-Tech Auto of

Cambridge, Goldquest Jewelers in Boston, RSN Jewelry Manufacturing of Boston, Nazarian Jewelers of Salem, New Hampshire, Custom Eyes of Waltham, Jack Kouyoumjian of Watertown, and Markarian Electric of Watertown.

There was one final important element. Bogossian added that "the organizing committee headed by Argishti Chaparian, with Armen Bogossian, Jirair Demirchian, Nelson Stepanian, Jack Kouyoumjian, Mike Cimen and Pierre Yapoujian as members, worked tirelessly to prepare for this evening."

## Fr. Andon Atamian New Priest at Belmont's Holy Cross Church

ATAMIAN, from page 1

Fr. Atamian was born in mountainous Lebanon to survivors of the Armenian Genocide from Mardin. At a young age, he moved to Kamishli, Syria with his family. After Armenian Catholic school there, he went to Zmmar Monastery's St. Mikayel Seminary from 1959 to 1964. He entered the Ardzivian Brotherhood of the Assumption of the Mother of God when he was 11 years old. After St. Mikayel he went to the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome for six years to continue his higher education. He studied philosophy and theology at this Jesuit-founded institution. He also studied at the Pontifical Armenian College or Levonian Seminary of Rome.

In 1970, he was ordained a celibate priest in the Armenian Catholic community and began working as a parish priest in numerous places, including Iraq, Syria and Greece, before coming to the United States.

His first posting was in Baghdad, and he stayed there some twenty years, on and off. He first worked as the pastor at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Nareg, but then was sent to Damascus from 1980-85. After this, he was in Athens for three years, 1980-85; in Kessab and Lattakia (Syria), from 1985 to 1992; in Iraq again from 1992 to 1995. Then he again was pastor in Damascus before going to Athens (1998-99). From 2001 to 2007 he was in Baghdad, having been chosen to be Primate of the Armenian Catholics of Iraq.

There were some 600 Armenian Catholic families in Damascus, and 80 in Kessab at the time. Fr. Atamian said that while Syria as a country was not badly off, Iraq was comparatively wealthy because of its natural resources. Thus, there were great Armenian merchants and community resources in Iraq.

Fr. Atamian was present during difficult moments of crisis in Iraq. He estimated that there were perhaps 500 Armenian Catholic families in Baghdad before the wars, around 1970. Now most have left. The rich Armenians fled to avoid being kidnapped and killed. For example, a great philanthropist and supporter of the Armenian General Benevolent Union, Levon Kaprielian, was killed even after the ransom price was paid by his family.

The Armenian Catholic cathedral was the first church to be attacked with car bombs during a series of attacks on August 1, 2004. This was a Sunday afternoon, and four more churches in Baghdad and Mosul were attacked that day in order to scare Christians in general, not just Armenians, out of Iraq. Many died that day. Fr. Atamian recalls that many were wounded in

his church. Fortunately, the Armenian cathedral was fairly new (10-15 years old) and built of stone, so instead of collapsing, only the glass from windows fell on people. A few months later, Fr. Atamian asked the Iraqi prime minister to aid in rebuilding the church. He said that as Iraq's enemies had destroyed it, the church must be rebuilt so people will not be discouraged and abandon the country. Indeed, in three months' time the state sent an inspector and the church was restored through state money.

The Armenian Catholic church distributed provisions, such as rice, sugar, tea, meat and tomato juice, every Sunday after mass to the attending families. The church had money and could afford to buy these items.

In 2007 Fr. Atamian was invited to come to Detroit, Michigan to be pastor of St. Vartan Armenian Catholic Church, and he remained there until the end of 2014, when he received his Boston appointment. There is a small community of 100 Armenian Catholic families in the Detroit area.

Reflecting on his experiences in the US, he said, "America is an ocean which will swallow us up. ... It is a struggle here, where forces are unequal. We must wage that struggle, but the end is not ours – not that the Armenians will disappear, but they become more American-Armenian." The national element of language and culture, may not remain, though the Catholic Armenian church will survive. He concluded: "We, all of us, form one heart, one people and one force. We must construct our community, building toward something better. We must add beautiful stones to adorn our national structure. This is done through culture. Culture can unite us, through our poetry and our talent. It binds us together."

Fr. Atamian is a prolific lecturer as well as an author. He travels frequently to various parts of the US, Canada and Europe to give talks on literary, religious and Armenian national issues. He likes giving talks on notable Armenian writers, ranging from medieval figures like Krikor Naregatsi and 19th century poets like Bedros Turian, to contemporary writers like Razmik Davoyan. Furthermore, he speaks on various Armenian radio shows on the same issues. For example, every week for the last four years he had a one hour show on Saturdays from noon to 1 p.m. on ArmenianVoice.com, based in Fresno. People ask him for advice and send questions based on the theme of the lecture of that day. His old shows are archived and still accessible. He also sometimes gives talks on the Armenian Independent Broadcasting of Boston's program (produced and directed by

Yevgine Gharibian).

He gets his messages across to an even larger audience of thousands through his Facebook page.

Naturally he also disseminates his ideas and messages through sermons every Sunday in church, and tries to have events with community participation of other denominations and groups.

He writes often in the Los Angeles Armenian newspaper *Nor Hayastan* and also in the Beirut Armenian newspapers *Zartonk* and *Aztag*, usually in free verse. He knows classical and colloquial Arabic, French, Italian and Latin, aside from Armenian. He primarily writes in Armenian and Arabic, and has published poetry in Arab newspapers in Lebanon. Sometimes they also translate his poems from Armenian into Arabic, as in the Beirut newspaper *An-Nahar*. Fr. Atamian is the author of three books, all in Armenian. He explained that he sits down and writes without much prior preparation, almost in a stream of consciousness style. He said, "I always give both religious and Armenian national messages in church and in my books. I write on society, unity and love." Current issues affecting Armenians in the diaspora, such as the plight of Syrian Armenians, or the situation in Armenia and Karabagh, are

reflected in his writing.

His first book, published in 2001, is entitled *Koyabaykarin ozhide* [The Dowry of the Battle for Existence], and the second, called *Gaydz ev ambrob* [Lightning and Thunder], appeared in 2013 and was reprinted last year.

Fr. Atamian's latest volume is titled *Meronapoyr mrunchner* ("Miuron-Scented Whispers," Glendale, California, 2015). It consists of poetry of a patriotic Armenian nature, and religiously and culturally inspired poems. They are all relatively short, from four to sixteen lines. He finds inspiration in Mesrop Mashtots, Ghevond Erets, and Grigor Narekatsi's works. It includes a preface by Dr. Vartan Tashjian, and words of praise concerning Atamian's prior book, *Gaydz ev ambrob*, from Catholicos-Patriarch Nerses Bedros XIX Tarmouni of the See of Cilicia of the Catholic Armenians, and from Edmond Y. Azadian. The 256-page volume ends with a short biography of the author penned by Antoine Karamanian.

A presentation of this new book and signing opportunity will take place on November 21 at 7 pm at Holy Cross Armenian Catholic Church in Atinizian Hall, with a presentation by Avik Derentz Deirmenjian.

## Thoughts on the Threshold of a New School Year

SCHOOL, from page 15

Among them was a young playwright, a college student who was working on his thesis on the Armenian Genocide, a student of music, two seminarians, from St. Nersess Seminary, three elementary school students from Holy Martyrs Armenian Day School (HMADS.)

I was proud of the students who earned these awards. Here was another encouraging attribute displayed from among our community by thoughtful Parish Council members of an Armenian Church.

Our Community has many Armenians who live a comfortable life. The churches and organizations have Endowment Funds from which some portion could be allocated to encourage the youth with their young parents, keep the school doors open and maintain a long line by those families waiting to register their children.

I reflect upon and once again I think of this benefactor – a HMADS Meds Hairig – who is an anonymous donor and personally keeps providing scholarship year after year for two students at HMADS.

Yes! Spring does not come with one flower, yet there are enough examples to tell us that where there is a will there can be results!

We need to want it... nationally! And keep the doors of schools open and encourage the Armenian students at all cost! Isn't it a fact that from these students will come forth our future clergy, and lay leaders....?

Our thanks to the Manhattan's Holy Cross Parish Council, who are inspired and led by the spirit of Ghevont Yerets!

(Translated from the Armenian original by Rev. Fr. Vertanes Kalayjian, Archpriest-Pastor Emeritus of Washington D.C.- Oct. 2015. Zarmine Boghosian is the principal at Holy Martyr Armenian Day School in New York.)