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Ten Volumes of Italian Diplomatic Documents On Armenians Soon to be Completed

By Aram Arkun
Mirror-Spectator Staff

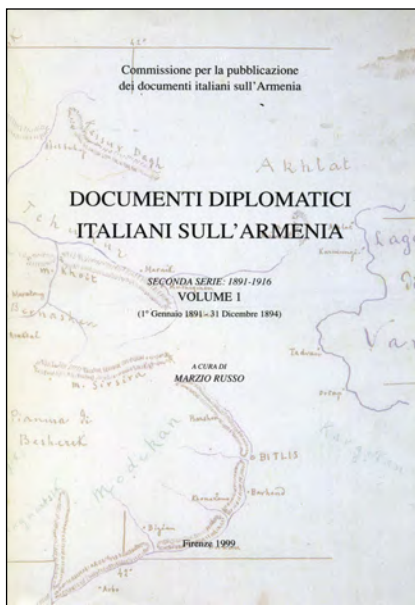
MILAN, Italy – In the scholarly world, serious major projects can take years to complete. It took more than 20 years to publish two series of volumes of the Italian archival series *Documenti Diplomatici Italiani sull'Armenia* [Italian Diplomatic Documents on Armenia], and this does not include prior planning and preparation time. This series of documents will save historians, political scientists and other scholars both time and money for decades to come by making primary sources on modern Armenian history easily accessible. It is a project that should be better known to Armenians around the world.

The project is comprised of a first series of three volumes, covering the years 1879-1890; the second series of six volumes, covering 1891-1911; and the third series of four volumes, covering 1912-1923. The sec-

ond and third series, directed by Marta Petricioli of the University of Florence, will be complete soon, when volume ten is published. The first series requires more time and financial resources because most documents are handwritten and take more time for transcription. All the documents published are from the Italian Foreign Ministry archives and are reproduced in their entirety. The only changes made concern spelling and style.

Each volume is edited by a young scholar, and contains an introduction about the events of the period it covers, an index of names and an index of places. The majority of documents are in Italian, but some are in English, French or Latin.

The project was and is supported financially by a group of Italian Armenians through the Union of Armenians of Italy (<http://www.unionearmeni.it/documenti-diplomatici-it-armeni/>), but independently run by academics. One of the Armenians involved is Agop Manoukian. Manoukian, see DOCUMENTS, page 4



Cover page of the first volume in the second series of volumes of Italian diplomatic documents on Armenians

'I Am Not Alone' Premieres to Standing Ovation And Critical Buzz At TIFF

TORONTO – The documentary capturing Armenia's Velvet Revolution, titled "I am not Alone," directed by Garin Hovannisian and executive produced by Serj Tankian, premiered to a sold-out crowd Saturday evening at the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF). Anna Hakobyan, the wife of Armenia's prime minister, also attended the world premiere. The head of TIFF Docs, Thom Powers, introduced the film as a "must-see for anyone who wants to make sense of recent history."

The premiere took place at the Scotiabank Theater and drew a capacity crowd of film-lovers, entertainment executives, human rights leaders, and government officials, including Armenia's Ambassador to Canada Anahit Harutyunyan and United States Ambassador to Canada Richard Mills.

"You might view this film as a political thriller," said Hovannisian, the director of see PREMIERE, page 3



Anna Hakobyan



Liza Minelli and Robert DeNiro in a scene from "New York, New York"

Mardik Martin, Scorsese Collaborator, Is Dead at 84

Born in Iran to Armenian Family

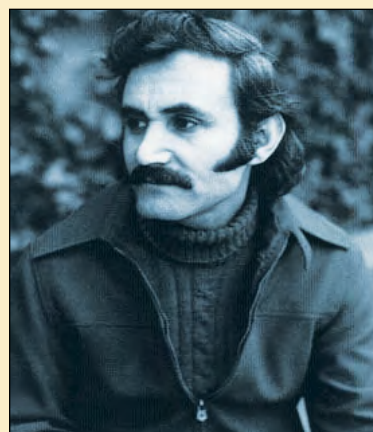
LOS ANGELES (*New York Times*) – Mardik Martin, a screenwriter who collaborated with Martin Scorsese on films like "Raging Bull," "New York, New York" and particularly Scorsese's breakthrough in gritty realism, "Mean Streets," died on Wednesday, September 11, at his home in Los Angeles. He was 84.

The cause was complications of a stroke, said Hunter Hughes, his friend and former assistant.

Martin met Scorsese when they were both film students at New York University in the 1960s. Obsessed with movies, they began to collaborate.

"For a time, we were inseparable," Scorsese said in a statement after Martin's death. "We went to see movies together, we talked about them endlessly, and then we started dreaming up the pictures we were going to make – in diner booths and on benches in Washington Square Park, walking the streets of Lower Manhattan or driving around the city, in hot and cold weather, in sunshine and in rain and snow, by night and by day."

Martin drew from the seedier side of New York, going to great lengths, he said, to dredge up realistic dialogue for his scripts. "I would drive around and pick up hookers, but not for the sex," see MARTIN, page 8



Mardik Martin in the 1960s

NEWS IN BRIEF

Statue of Armenian Genocide missionary Will Be Erected in Canada

YARMOUTH, Canada (PanARMENIAN.Net) – A series of activities honoring Canadian nurse and humanitarian Sara Corning, who helped rescue and care for thousands of orphans during the Armenian Genocide of 1915-1923, took place the weekend of September 14-15 in Yarmouth, Canada, including the unveiling of a bronze statue of Corning.

Born in the village of Chegoggin, Nova Scotia, Canada, in 1872, Corning made it her life's mission to help others. In her mid-twenties, she moved to the United States for training and worked in New England for almost 20 years, before returning to Nova Scotia to help the 10,000 victims of the Halifax Explosion.

In 1918, at the age of 46, Corning was certified by the American Red Cross and joined Near East Relief. Landing in Constantinople (Istanbul) soon after, she helped rescue and care for thousands of Armenian and Greek orphans, often risking her life in the process, for more than a decade.

Armenia Smoking Ban Is One Step Closer

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – The cabinet on September 12 approved a bill on amending the law on smoking in public places indoors.

Healthcare Minister Arsen Torosyan said that the bill has been debated for nearly a year and that certain clauses of it will come into force later, by 2024.

The bill envisages banning smoking in closed areas and gradually also in semi-enclosed ones. Certain restrictions are envisaged in public transportation, children's playing grounds and in healthcare, educational and cultural facilities. Certain regulations are envisaged also in the direction of promotion and advertisements and sale of tobacco products. I am convinced that these legislative changes will lead to a mass cultural change among the population to respect one another's right to be healthy and to appreciate it. And now is the very time, it is late but we can't delay it anymore as to what kind of a country we want to pass down to our children: healthy and developed or ill and having difficulties," Torosyan said, calling on restaurants to voluntarily adopt a smoke-free policy.

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said the objective is to give a certain amount of time to businesses. He also noted that his government has the least number of smokers compared to all previous ones.

"Eighty percent of the cabinet members are non-smokers. And it was very pleasant to record that 100 percent of the governors don't smoke, we don't know the situation in the law enforcement sector," he said.

INSIDE

Post-Revolution Art of Armenia

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ARMENIA

News From Armenia

Jamiroquai Concert in Armenia on November 6

YEREVAN (PanARMENIAN.Net) – British funk band Jamiroquai will give a concert in Yerevan, Armenia on November 6 within the Silk Note Festival, a Facebook event reveals.

This concert is arranged with support from My Step Foundation and International Association for Development of Cultural Tourism.

Founded in 1992 by front man Jay Kay, the musicians have established themselves as one of the most successful funk and acid jazz bands on the planet.

Throughout a career spanning almost 30 years, the band have sold over 30 million copies, winning numerous music awards, including a Grammy and 4 MTV awards.

Their album “Traveling Without Moving” holds the Guinness Book of World Records record for best-selling funk album of all time.

Government to Return 56 Billion in VAT Debt To Businesses

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – The Government of Armenia has approved amendments to the tax code which is aimed at returning 56 billion drams of VAT obligations back to businesses.

State Revenue Committee President Davit Ananyan said at a Cabinet meeting on September 12 that debit balances or “over-payments” exist in terms of VAT which have appeared from the VAT paid to suppliers in tax estimates presented to tax bodies or VAT charged by customs bodies and the obligation’s negative difference.

“Now we have old and new debit amounts. New debit amounts are returned every three-months, while old debit amounts are directed only for the payment of upcoming VAT obligations. With this decision we are eliminating the differentiation of the old and new debits,” he said.

Ananyan said businesses having up to 5 million drams debt will be given back the VAT amounts without applying to the tax bodies, while a simplified procedure will be in place for businesses having 5-40 million drams of debt. Businesses having more than 40 million drams debt will be granted the VAT return upon validating the paperwork and on principles of substantiation.

Former German President Visits Armenia

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – President of Armenia Armen Sarkissian hosted former President of Germany Joachim Gauck, on September 16.

The meeting was also attended by Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, who had invited Gauck to Armenia.

Welcoming Gauck, Sarkissian thanked him for his humanitarian activity and praised Gauck’s contribution to the recognition of the Armenian Genocide. He added that Germany and German companies can view Armenia as a gateway to the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU).

“I would like the major German international companies to cooperate with Armenia in IT, artificial intelligence and mathematics spheres,” Sarkissian said.

Gauck noted, “I am very happy for the fact that I meet a president in the person of you in the region who comes from the scientific circle. I have an honor to be here today. I heard that Armenia closely followed my speech on the Armenian Genocide at the Mother Cathedral of Berlin, and I am also grateful that I can get acquainted with your country, your people and culture not from the distance, but closer.”

During the meeting the sides also exchanged views on Armenia’s development prospects, the Armenian-German relations and the Armenia-EU partnership.

On September 15 Gauck had paid a visit to the Mother See of Holy Ekmadzin.

Gauck visited the Tsitsernakaberd Armenian Genocide Memorial, as well as several monasteries and historical-cultural sites. He will also get acquainted with the activities of different structures of the Armenian Church.

Pashinyan Scolds Ecologists, Defends Mining in Armenia

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) – Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan on Monday, September 16, accused environmental activists campaigning against the Amulsar gold mining project of misleading the public and said they must stop “demonizing” Armenia’s broader mining industry.

Pashinyan argued that the industry accounting for more than 40 percent of Armenian exports would be the country’s sole reliable source of hard currency in the event of a renewed war with Azerbaijan.

“Therefore, demonizing mining means dealing a blow to our national security,” he declared at a four-hour news conference held in the northern city of Vanadzor.

“Let’s leave mining alone ... There is hardly a civilized country in the world where there is no mining industry,” he said.

Pashinyan spoke in the context of the continuing crisis over the Amulsar project disrupted by protesters in June 2018. He again insisted that his government cannot break any laws to prevent a British-American company, Lydian International, from mining gold at a massive deposit in the southeastern Vayots Dzor province.

“On this issue we must pursue the truth till the end and the truth itself

must lead us to one or another decision [on Amulsar,]” he said. “And in terms of the truth, I find it very important that the public does not succumb to manipulations, including by my beloved and respected friends.”

In that regard, Pashinyan ridiculed some environmental protesters’ latest claim that mining at the Amulsar deposit would lead to not only toxic but also radioactive pollution. He also said that a recent government inspection disproved environmentalists’ allegations about a serious risk of the collapse of a mining waste disposal facility in the northern Lori province.

The facility is part of the Teghut copper mine employing about 900 people. Extraction and ore-processing operations there were halted in early 2018. The mine’s new, Russian owner restarted them recently.

Speaking in Vanadzor, Pashinyan renewed his calls for protesters to end their more than yearlong blockade of all roads leading to Amulsar, saying its continuation would ruin Armenia’s international business reputation and turn the country into a “black hole on the world’s economic map.”

He did not say whether or when the authorities will forcibly unblock the mine site if the protesters continue to defy his appeals. He noted only that an Armenian

court effectively declared the blockade illegal earlier this year and that the country’s laws specify cases where riot police can use force against protesters.

The protesters camped out at Amulsar as well as Yerevan-based environment activists maintain that the multimillion-dollar project is too risky for the environment.

Pashinyan met with Lydian’s top executives earlier this month. He said on September 9 that he received from them fresh assurances to the effect that “not a single liter of toxic water” would be leaked during gold production at Amulsar. He said the Armenian government will not hesitate to stop mining operations and even revoke Lydian’s license if the company fails to honor these commitments.

Pashinyan stated on Monday that Lydian’s project is much safer and more environmentally friendly than long-running mining operations carried out in Armenia by other companies. Pulling the plug on the Amulsar operation would mean that the government must also shut down all other metal mines and close thousands of jobs, he said.

Armenia’s largest metallurgical enterprise, the Zangezur Copper-Molybdenum Combine (ZCMC), alone employs more than 4,000 people. It is also the country’s number one corporate taxpayer.

Yerevan Court Refuses to Free Kocharyan

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) – A district court in Yerevan rejected on September 17 former President Robert Kocharyan’s latest demand for his release from prison which followed a Constitutional Court ruling on coup charges brought against him.

The Constitutional Court ruled on September 4 that an article of the Armenian Code of Procedural Justice used against Kocharyan is unconstitutional

because it does not take account of current and former senior Armenian officials’ legal immunity from prosecution.

Kocharyan’s lawyers seized upon that ruling to demand that their client be set free and cleared of the charges stemming from the 2008 post-election violence in Yerevan. A district court judge, Anna Danibekyan, received a relevant petition from them when she resumed on September 12 Kocharyan’s trial suspended

almost four months ago.

Danibekyan announced her decision to reject the petition at the start of the latest court hearing in the case. She did not immediately publicize the full text of the decision presumably containing her interpretation of the Constitutional Court ruling.

Kocharyan accused Danibekyan of ignoring the ruling when he reacted to her decision in the courtroom. His lawyers charged that the decision is the result of what they described as strong pressure exerted on the judge by Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and his political allies.

Pashinyan on Monday described the Constitutional Court ruling as “illegal,” citing dissenting opinions voiced by two members of Armenia’s highest tribunal. Also, the parliamentary leaders of his My Step alliance demanded that the court replace its chairman, Hrayr Tovmasyan.

One of Kocharyan’s lawyers, Hayk Alumyan, said these statements were a “clear message” to Danibekyan to the effect that her decision to end the ex-president’s prosecution would also be deemed illegal. Another defense lawyer, Aram Orbelyan, claimed that “various people visited” the judge to warn her against ruling in Kocharyan’s favor. Orbelyan did not elaborate on the claim which sparked vehement objections from trial prosecutors.

The judge presiding over the trial read out her decision as hundreds of vocal supporters and critics of Kocharyan again demonstrated outside the court building in Yerevan’s southern Shengavit district. Separated by riot police, they shouted insults at each other and chanted slogans in support and against the man who ruled Armenia from 1998-2008.

A smaller number of rival demonstrators watched the proceedings in the courtroom. Kocharyan’s detractors burst into applause when Danibekyan refused to free the 65-year-old ex-president.

Main Suspect in Armenian ‘Coup Plot’ Freed

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) – The presumed leader of a clandestine militant group that had allegedly plotted to overthrow Armenia’s former President Serzh Sargsyan was released from prison on bail on September 16.

A court in Yerevan agreed to grant Artur Vartanian bail on health grounds at the weekend. Vartanian’s lawyer, Levon Baghdasarian said the 37-year-old has serious health problems that have been aggravated by his nearly four-year imprisonment.

Vartanian and a dozen other individuals were arrested in November 2015 in a dawn raid on their hideout in Yerevan jointly conducted by the Armenian police and National Security Service (NSS). The law-enforcement bodies found large quantities of weapons and explosives stashed there. They made more than 20 other arrests in the following weeks.

The NSS said afterwards that Vartanian set up a group called the Armenian Shield Regiment before drawing up with his associates detailed plans for the seizure of the presidential administration, government, parliament and state television buildings in Yerevan. It said they also explored ways of shooting down President Sargsyan’s plane.

Vartanian admitted acquiring weapons and ammunition for the mili-

tant group when he and 19 other persons went on trial in December 2016. He insisted, however, that he never intended to seize power or assassinate Sarkisian.

Most of the other defendants also rejected the coup charges brought against them. They included former Deputy Defense Minister Vahan Shirkhanyan and Father Anton Totonjyan, an Armenian Catholic priest based in Gyumri. Shirkhanyan had allegedly advocated Sargsyan’s assassination, while Totonjyan was charged with financing the conspiracy.

Vartanian was the only defendant remaining under arrest before Saturday’s court order. The other suspects were freed pending the outcome of the trial before and after the 2018 “Velvet Revolution” that toppled the former prime minister.

Vartanian lived in Spain before returning to Armenia in April 2015 and setting up the Armenian Shield Regiment. According to the NSS, the core members of the group underwent secret military training in Vartanian’s paternal village in August-September 2015. Investigators released in late 2016 a photograph, purportedly taken in a village house, of 10 masked and armed men standing under the group’s banner.



ARMENIA

2019 Young Aurora: The Three Finalists

YEREVAN – The Aurora Humanitarian Project announced this week that they have chosen three finalist groups for the student-initiated projects from across the United World College (UWC) schools and colleges and the African Leadership Academy. The three are: Smokeless Kitchens from UWC East Africa, Precious Plastic from UWC Pearson College and Young Voices from UWC Atlantic College.

The three groups will present their projects during the inaugural Aurora Forum in Armenia on October 18.

In this third year of Young Aurora (previously named “Aurora Humanitarian Project for UWC Schools and Colleges”), the innovative ideas and well researched plans put forward by all competing teams demonstrated the students’ keenness to tackle humanitarian challenges which they encounter in their school’s vicinity. Strengthening this humanitarian spirit was the core principle behind the founding of the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative which, on behalf of the survivors of the Armenian Genocide and in gratitude to their saviors, established a number of programs that empower those who offer help and hope to people in urgent need of humanitarian aid around the world. Among these programs is Young Aurora, which encourages, showcases and supports student-driven projects addressing concrete humanitarian issues and offering solutions through innovative and sustainable approaches. Last year, the final round of the 2018 Aurora Humanitarian Project for UWC Schools and Colleges was held on June 8, 2018 at the TUMO Center for Creative Technologies in Yerevan, Armenia. After a highly competitive selection process, the final presentation took place within the Aurora Dialogues Additional Programming and UWC Changshu China’s project HOPE was named the winner.

This year, 14 projects were submitted for the Young Aurora prize by student teams from across 12 UWC schools and colleges and the African Leadership Academy. They address a range of issues, from migration to menstrual health and from civic engagement among the young to community support for the elderly. The

criteria seek to ensure that the projects are set up with a view to enact a long-term impact. To help meet these goals, the jury provides each team with detailed feedback so that whether they proceed to the final stage in Armenia or not, each project can go on to flourish. Therefore,

anticipated in last year’s event notes: “It is platforms like the Young Aurora initiative that ignite the budding lights for change. This is an investment in the generation that is learning, both from the damage that we have caused and the potential of the humanitarian spirit to over-

Precious Plastic team came face to face with the critical need for proper recycling practices, while simultaneously feeling disheartened by the lack of action taking place in the community to tackle this issue. The result was a plan to build a small plastic recycling factory on cam-



The members of the three finalist teams

while the teams each choose a specific issue to tackle, together they are learning the skills to enact a far greater humanitarian change.

The opportunities that Young Aurora offers participating students to refine and build on their skills to become future change-makers is precisely what two members of the jury, Colin Habgood, UWC International Board member and co-founder of GoMakeADifference and Ivana Situm, UWC alumna and UWC International Council Member, consider to be so invaluable.

The winning team will be granted 4000 euros towards the further development of their project, while the two other finalist teams are awarded 500 euros each.

Umra Omar, founder of Safari Doctors and member of the pre-selection panel who also par-

come this damage. These three impressive projects have chosen to improve our world for future generations. I could not be more proud to call these young changemakers my fellow UWCers!”

The final three are:

UWC East Africa with Smokeless Kitchens

Propelled forward by the aim of reducing and eliminating the damaging effects of smoke experienced in the kitchens of indigenous communities of the Chagga and Maasai tribes in Moshi, Kilimanjaro, the Smokeless Kitchens team have set out a plan to sustainably source low cost, high quality smokeless stoves that are operated using environmentally friendly fuel.

UWC Pearson College with Precious Plastic

Inspired by a Marine Science class in which the team took part in a beach clean-up, the

pus.

UWC Atlantic College with Young Voices

The Young Voices team found that the lack of civic engagement among young people in Wales is giving rise to a host of societal issues, including deepening inequality, social exclusion and a culture of blame. As the team outlines, “at its core, our project embodies our belief that every young person should actively participate in our society in our capacity as citizens.” They set about designing a peer-led civic education program for 13 to 18-year-olds with the aim of passing on all that they learnt at UWC to help other young people become engaged and compassionate citizens of tomorrow, while also closing the gap they soon discovered between the civic awareness of teenagers from different socioeconomic backgrounds.

‘I Am Not Alone’ Premieres to Standing Ovation And Critical Buzz At TIFF

PREMIERE, from page 1

the documentary. “Or a drama with high educational value. For me this film is most like a fairytale.”

The film’s first audience reacted with a thunderous standing ovation, as the filmmakers took the stage after the premiere for a question-and-answer session. Hovannisian, Tankian, and Hakobyan were joined there by

editor Barry Poltermann, executive producers Raffi Hovannisian and Dan Braun, and producers Alec Mouhibian and Eric Esrailian.

“It was a thrilling experience to watch the film. What our people accomplished deserves to be presented to the world. I am sure that this film will do it wonderfully,” remarked Anna Hakobyan, mentioning that the fairy-

tale of the velvet revolution was possible also due to the crucial and determined role of Armenian women.

“This film is unique as it holds the secret key to accomplishing progressive change anywhere in the world, utilizing decentralized civil disobedience,” added Serj Tankian, who also composed the original score for the film.



Melina Esrailian, John Pendergrast, producer Eric Esrailian

US Defense Official Visits Armenia

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) – A senior Pentagon official met with Armenia’s defense and foreign ministers during a visit to Yerevan on Wednesday, September 11.

Official Armenian sources said Laura Cooper, the US deputy assistant secretary of defense for Russia, Ukraine and Eurasia, discussed with them ways of boosting defense and security ties between the United States and Armenia.

A statement by the Armenian Defense Ministry said Cooper told Defense Minister Davit Tonoyan that Washington is ready to continue working with Yerevan in advancing their “numerous common interests.” Those include regional

security, the statement cited her as saying.

Both Tonoyan and Foreign Minister Zohrab Mnatsakanyan were reported to assure Cooper at their separate meetings that the Armenian government is committed to closer military cooperation with the US According to the Armenian Foreign Ministry, Mnatsakanyan said it also stands ready to “continue and expand its contribution to international peacekeeping efforts and humanitarian operations.”

Armenia currently contributes roughly 160 troops to NATO-led missions in Kosovo and Afghanistan. Cooper praised those deployments during her talks in Yerevan.

The US official announced her plans to visit Armenia when she spoke at a reception hosted by the Armenian Embassy in Washington in January. She said she is intent on “learning first-hand how we can deepen the defense and security ties between our two countries.”

US military assistance to Armenia has totaled about \$50 million since 2002. A large part of it has been provided to the Armenian army’s Peacekeeping Brigade whose soldiers serve in Afghanistan, Kosovo as well as Lebanon and Mali.



Garin Hovannisian, Anna Hakobyan, Serj Tankian, and Alec Mouhibian during Q&A

Correction

In an editorial last week by Edmond Azadian, titled “Tension in Armenian-Russian Relations,” Turkmenistan was incorrectly put on a list of countries in the former Soviet Union that had experienced revolutions recently. The correct nation was Kyrgyzstan.



INTERNATIONAL

International News

Armenia to Open Embassy in Israel

YEREVAN (Arka) – Armenia will open an embassy in Israel, Anna Naghdalyan, press secretary for the Armenian Foreign Ministry, told reporters on September 13.

“We see good foundations for developing dialogue and relations with Israel. There is a bilateral willingness to take steps to use the existing potential,” she said.

She said over the past year there has been a fairly active dialogue between Armenian and Israeli foreign ministries.

“By opening a diplomatic mission in Israel, we are once again affirming ourselves in the region where we have our priorities. Steps are being taken and there are dialogue and bilateral obligations,” Naghdalyan said.

Stepanakert, Ryde Become Sister Cities

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – The Stepanakert Council of Elders this week adopted a decision to proclaim the Australian city of Ryde as a twin city. The Council expresses conviction that establishment and expansion of friendship between the two cities will contribute to building and strengthening friendly relations between their peoples, as well as facilitating partnership between the Republic of Artsakh and Australia.

The decision followed a similar resolution unanimously adopted by the City Council of Ryde on July 23, 2019 on the eve of the working visit of the official delegation of the Republic of Artsakh to Australia headed by Minister of Foreign Affairs Masis Mayilian.

Armenia Ambassador Presents Credentials to Kyrgyz President

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – Ambassador of Armenia to Kyrgyzstan Gagik Ghalachyan (residence in Nur-Sultan) presented his credentials to President of Kyrgyzstan Sooronbay Jeenbekov, on September 12.

Following the ceremony, the ambassador and President Sooronbay Jeenbekov had a conversation with the participation of Foreign Minister of Kyrgyzstan Chingiz Aidarbekov.

During the meeting the sides referred to the prospects of developing the friendly relations between Armenia and Kyrgyzstan, praised the cooperation between the two countries in regional and international organizations, particularly in the sidelines of the Eurasian Economic Union and the Collective Security Treaty Organization.

Ghalachyan assured the president of Kyrgyzstan that he will make all efforts for developing bilateral cooperation in all the directions.

Turkey: 5 Opposition Newspaper Staff Released from Prison

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) – Turkey’s state-run news agency said on September 13 that five jailed journalists and staff members of the opposition Cumhuriyet newspaper have been freed on the orders of an appeals court.

Anadolu Agency said cartoonist Musa Kart and four other Cumhuriyet employees were released from their prison in northwest Turkey late on Thursday.

The journalists were convicted on terror-related charges, accused of supporting terror groups, including the Kurdistan Workers Party, the far-left Revolutionary People’s Liberation Party-Front and the network led-by US-based Muslim cleric Fethullah Gulen, whom Turkey blames for a failed coup in 2016.

Cumhuriyet is one of the few newspapers critical of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and the case against its employees increased concerns over press freedom in Turkey.

Some 130 journalists remain jailed in the country.

Two Human Rights Activists Receive 11th Annual Hrant Dink Awards

ISTANBUL (Bianet) – The eleventh International Hrant Dink Award was presented on Sunday, September 15 with a ceremony held at the Istanbul Lütfi Kırdar International Convention and Exhibition Centre.



Agnes Kharshiing



Nebahat Akkoç

This year’s winners were Nebahat Akkoç, who works tirelessly to raise awareness among women on women’s human rights and opposes male violence and Agnes Kharshiing from India who defends the rights of the poor, women, children and the disadvantaged in the region where she lives and also struggles for environmental rights.

The award ceremony was hosted by Ece Dizdar and featured the musical performances of Maral Ataman, students of Hrant Çizmeciyan and Büyük Ev Ablukada.

As part of the ceremony, the people and organizations from Turkey and from around the world, who raise hope for the future with their actions were saluted with the video ‘Inspirations 2019’.

International Hrant Dink Award has been granted every year since 2009 on September 15th, which is the birthday of Hrant Dink.

Given the same award in 2018, journalist Murat Çelikkın, the director of the Truth Justice Memory Center in Turkey, granted this year’s award to Agnes Kharshiing working for the rights of poor, women and children in India.

“The people should start to raise its voice, help the vulnerable and support them when their human rights are violated”, Kharshiing said while receiving her award and added, “It is only in this way that humanity can overcome hate. There are so many things that we can do together to bring peace to the world and fill the hearts of children with love, not fear.”

Nebahat Akkoç received her award from actor Ercan Kesal. Holding a brief speech of thanks, Akkoç said, “I am receiving this award on behalf of all women who try to stand up against violence by risking all prices to pay and enable us to dream a new world with the methods that they have developed themselves while coping up with their own violence.”

The opening speech of the ceremony was given by brahim Betil, the Advisory Board member of Hrant Dink Foundation. Touching upon the people currently behind bars in Turkey, Betil

was met with a long ovation when he mentioned arrested businessperson Osman Kavala.

After Betil’s opening speech, the below video of “Inspirations”, where “the ones who inspire humanity with what they have done against violence, pain and human rights around the world”, was screened:

International Hrant Dink Award is presented every year to individuals, organizations or groups that work for a free and just world free from discrimination, racism and violence, who take personal risks for achieving those ideals, who break the stereotypes and use the language of peace and by doing so give inspiration and hope to others. By means of this Award, the Hrant Dink Foundation aims to remind to all those who struggle for these ideals that their voices are heard, their works are visible, they are not alone, and also to encourage everyone to fight for their ideals.

Each year the award is granted to two individuals; one from Turkey and one from abroad. In addition to the award itself, after an annual scanning and reviewing process, the Award Committee makes a selection of individuals, institutions, organizations and initiatives that pursue activities in line with the principles of Hrant Dink Award and announces their names to the public during the award ceremony under the title of “Sparks” or “Inspirations”.

Ten Volumes of Italian Diplomatic Documents On Armenians Soon to be Completed

DOCUMENTS, from page 1

born in Como, Italy, is a sociologist who taught in various Italian universities and served as president of an industrial chemical group in Italy until 2010. He was president of the Union of Armenians of Italy for some years, and at present is its honorary president. Manoukian supported various publications, like the *Armenian Architecture Documents* series (1968-1990), and the Center for Studies and Documentation of Armenian Culture (in Venice since 1991). He is the author, among other works, of a book on the Armenian presence in Italy titled *Presenza armena in Italia. 1915-2000* (Milan: Guerini e Associati, 2014).

Two of the other Armenians involved in supporting the archival series through the Union of Armenians of Italy are Minas Lourian, current president of the Union of Armenians of Italy and director of the Venice-based OEMME Edizioni/ Centro Studi e Documentazione della Cultura Armena, and Pietro Kiuciukian, honorary consul of Republic of Armenia in Milan and Lombardia Region.

Manoukian said, “It was an Armenian of Rome, Dikran Sirinian [1923-2003; Prof. in Space Engineering] who noticed that in the archives of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs there was an already well organized dossier called Armenia. He saw that there were at least one thousand documents. After reflecting on this, he contacted a number of young historians, including Ara Sarafian and a German named Hilmar Kaiser. They knew of this archive and agreed to help create a committee in

1996. The head of the committee was Professor Ennio di Nolfo of the University of Florence.”

Among the other initial members, besides di Nolfo, were Fikret Adanir of Bochum University; Marcello Flores of



Agop Manoukian

the University of Siena, Marta Petricioli of the University of Florence, Raffaele Romanelli of the European University Institute of Florence, Hilmar Kaiser of the European University Institute, Ara Sarafian of the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and Alberto Tonini of the University of Florence. A series of meetings were held, Manoukian said, to define the methodology. The committee asked the University of Florence, which has a department of political science, to follow the work and maintain academic responsibility.

Sarafian, Kaiser and Adanir left the commission by the seventh volume of the series, leaving a four-man Italian group of academics.

Manoukian pointed out that for him personally, the documents on the Hamidian massacres were particularly

moving. Also very interesting, he thought, was the investigation of one of the Italian consuls in the months prior to the 1915 genocide, which provides a well-documented frame or context for what was happening in these territories. Armenian Catholic and Armenian Apostolic parish reports contain much detail, he said. The Armenian Genocide is documented vividly by various eyewitnesses, Manoukian said, and the documents also show how Italian civil society reacted to it.

Italy was interested in obtaining some of the Ottoman Empire’s territories, so there was this political dimension added to the issue. Manoukian said, “It is interesting to see that the diplomatic strategy was different from Italian national sentiment concerning these events.”

One curious point that the documents reveal, Manoukian said, is that since the Italian king had maintained the title of King of Armenia, through the Cilician Armenian kingdom, some Armenians wrote to him during the genocide, saying that as king of Armenia, he should help them.

Manoukian said, “We are also thinking of finding a historian to give a picture or synthesis of what all these volumes contain.” After the 10th volume is published, a regrouping will take place. Aside from the members who left the academic committee, di Nolfo passed away in September 2016. Another possibility being considered is making digital versions of the Italian documents available via the Internet.

At present, volumes may be purchased online

(e.g. <https://www.libreriauniversitaria.it/> or via the editor of OEMME EDIZIONI (segreteria@centrostudiarmeni.it; see <http://www.unione-armeni.it/documenti-diplomatici-it-armeni/>).

Community News

National Advocacy Conference Expert Panel Discusses Religious Freedom in Turkey, Middle East

WASHINGTON – On September 16, the Armenian Assembly of America hosted the 2019 National Advocacy Conference and Gala, where experts discussed issues important to the Armenian American community. The panel on Religious Freedom in the Middle East and Turkey will shed light on the risks and challenges of religious minorities, with emphasis given to the plight of the Christians in Turkey and throughout the wider Middle East.

The panel featured the Chairman of the US Commission on International Religious Freedom, Tony Perkins; President and General Secretary of the National Council of Churches (NCC), Jim Winkler; and Appointed Representative of the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem in the United States and former US Ambassador to Qatar, Patrick Theros. The panel will be moderated by Armenian Church of America (Eastern Diocese) Diocesan Legate Archbishop Vicken Aykazian, former NCC President and member of President Barack Obama's Advisory Committee on Faith Based Initiatives.

"During the Armenian Assembly's Advocacy Conference last year, a panel on Christians at risk in the Middle East, focused primarily on Syria and Iraq. The conference participants benefited from learning first-hand experiences on this topic, and I believe this year will be even more beneficial given the current issues Christians face in Turkey and the greater Middle East," said Aykazian.

Perkins has served as president of the Family Research Council (FRC), a public policy organization that provides research and advocacy on issues related to religious freedom, since 2003. Before joining FRC, he served as a representative in the State of Louisiana legislature, to which he was elected in 1996. A veteran of the United States Marine Corps, Perkins began his early career in law enforcement before working as a contractor with the US State Department's anti-Terrorism Assistance Program, where he oversaw the training of foreign police officers in counterterrorism techniques.

Perkins is also an ordained minister and remains active in ministry, speaking in churches of various denominations and associations in the United States and abroad. He has testified before the US Congress on international religious freedom issues, and has raised religious freedom concerns with foreign leaders, including with King Abdullah II of Jordan and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi.

Jim Winkler has been a lifelong social justice advocate and has held a deep passion for ecumenical and interreligious work. In 2013, he was elected President and General Secretary of the NCC, an ecumenical partnership of 38 Christian faith groups in the United States. Its member denominations, churches, conventions, and archdioceses include Protestant, Anglican, Orthodox, Evangelical, historic African-American, and Living Peace traditions. Together, they encompass more than 100,000 local congregations and 40 million Christians. Winkler is the public voice of the NCC and represents the Council as it addresses two major priorities: mass incarceration and interreligious relationships with a focus on peace.

American diplomat and public servant of Hellenic heritage, Ambassador Patrick Theros, served as the US Ambassador to the State of Qatar from 1995-1998. Prior to his appointment, he served as Deputy Coordinator for Counterterrorism at the US Department of State, responsible for the coordination of all US Government anti-terrorism activities outside of the United States. In 1999, the late Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Jerusalem, Diodoros I, inducted Ambassador Theros into the Order of

see ADVOCACY, page 6



Cilician coinage like this silver tram issued by King Levon I will be presented by Levon Saryan

Armenian Antiques Roadshow Hits Glendale

GLENDALE – The Hamazkayin Western Region Executive Board and local chapters have teamed up with the Armenian Numismatic and Antiquities Society (ANAS) to present the Armenian Antiques Roadshow in Glendale on Saturday, October 5. The event will be held from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Glendale Adult Recreation Center at 201 E Colorado Street, and is being organized to support the Armenian American Museum.

The purpose of the Armenian Antiques Roadshow is to encourage people to reconnect with their Armenian heritage with an event full of history through coins, books, manuscripts, rugs, and other antique artifacts. There will be a series of "show and tell" presentations by experts and private collectors, as well as an opportunity for people to bring their own Armenian antiques to have them verbally appraised.

There is no charge to attend the event, but a nominal donation is requested for appraisals. Community members are encouraged to bring in their items to learn more and reconnect with their ancient heritage.

"We're excited to find people that share our passion and interest in Armenian history, culture, and heritage. I'm proud to be part of a group of individuals—crusaders, really—that are trying in their own way and capabilities to preserve Armenian history," exclaims Jacque Armoudikian, who is president of Hamazkayin's Baruyr Sevag chapter from the San Fernando Valley. "We decided see ROADSHOW, page 7



Detail of miniature bronze hair pin sculptures dating back to 700 BC from the Urartu kingdom

Dr. Taner Akçam to Receive Lifetime Achievement Award

FAIR LAWN, NJ – Honoring the bravery and staunch efforts of historian Dr. Taner Akçam to uncover the truth about the Armenian Genocide throughout his robust career, the Knights and Daughters of Vartan will present him with a Lifetime Achievement Award on Friday, October 25, 2019, at St. Leon Abadjian Hall, under the auspices of Bishop Daniel Findikyan, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern).

A leading scholar on the Armenian Genocide – and one of the first Turkish intellectuals to acknowledge and openly discuss the Armenian Genocide – Akçam authored the groundbreaking book *Killing Orders - Talat Pasha's Telegrams and the Armenian Genocide*, verifying archival evidence that the Turkish government continues to deny in relation to the Armenian Genocide. In an interview with the *New York Times*, where Akçam was referred to as the "Sherlock Holmes of the Armenian Genocide," he states his hope that the evidence uncovered in *Killing Orders* would "remove the last brick of the denialist wall."

"My firm belief as a Turk is that democracy and human rights in Turkey can only be established by facing history and acknowledging historic wrongdoings," said Akçam, who received in PhD in 1996 from the University of Hannover with a dissertation titled *Turkish National and the Armenian Genocide: On the Background of the Military Tribunals in Istanbul between 1919 and 1922*.

Akçam, the Robert Aram and Marianne Kaloosdian and Stephen and Marian Mugar Professor of Armenian Genocide Studies at the Strassler Center for Holocaust and Genocide



Dr. Taner Akçam

Studies at Clark University, is an internationally recognized human rights activist. His outspoken advocacy of democracy and free expression has led to his imprisonment in his quest to seek truth in his native country of Turkey.

"We are indebted to Dr. Akçam for dedicating his career to researching the Armenian Genocide," said Hirant Gulian, chairman emeritus of the Knights of Vartan. "This milestone event is our way of showing our gratitude to his years of service."

In addition to honoring Akçam, the program will include special recognition posthumously for Aram Andonian and Rev. Fr. Krikor Guerguerian, who initiated and preserved the Istanbul Military Tribunal Documents of 1919-1921. Dr. Edmund Guerguerian, the nephew of Rev. Fr. Guerguerian, will also be recognized for providing the Guerguerian archives. Dr. Mary Papazian, president of San Jose State University, will serve as the keynote speaker. Remarks from prominent scholars and elected officials will occur throughout the program.

The banquet will take place on Friday, October 25, at 6:15 pm at St. Leon Abadjian Hall, located at 12-61 Saddle River, Rd in Fair Lawn. The event is hosted by the Knights and Daughters of Vartan and its Times Square Armenian Genocide Commemoration Committee. For reservations please contact Hirant Gulian (woeskygg@gmail.com) or Christine Akyemecian (Christine_aky@yahoo.com).

-Taleen Babayan



COMMUNITY NEWS

Archbishop Hovnan Derderian to Receive Khrimian Hayrig Award at ANCA-WR Gala

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. — The Armenian National Committee of America – Western Region (ANCA-WR) announced that Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Primate of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America, will be honored with the Khrimian Hayrig Award at this year's Annual Gala Banquet on Sunday, October 20, at the Beverly Hilton in Beverly Hills.

The award, first given in 2011 to Archbishop Moushegh Mardirossian, Prelate of the Western Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church of North America, is given by the ANCA-WR to clerical figures who have dedicated their lives in service to the Armenian nation and cause, in the spirit of the award's inimitable namesake. Other recipients of this award have been Archbishop Parkev Martirosyan, Primate of the Diocese of Artsakh, and Very Reverend Joseph D. Matossian, Minister to the Union of the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America.

"The Khrimian Hayrig Award represents an acknowledgment of exemplary service and devotion to the Armenian people by a religious leader. Archbishop Derderian for decades has personified this special type of commitment to the Armenian Nation and has collaborated

closely with the ANCA-WR to advance the Armenian Cause," remarked ANCA-WR Chair Nora Hovsepian, Esq. "We are pleased to have the opportunity to honor such a deserving leader with this special award."

Derderian was born in 1957 in Beirut, Lebanon and graduated from the theological seminary of the Cilician Catholicosate in Bikfaya, Lebanon in 1975. Continuing his theological studies in Etchmiadzin, Armenia, where he was ordained as a celibate priest by Vasken I, Catholicos of All Armenians, he then attended Oxford University in England, ultimately earning his master's degree in theology.

In 1990, Very Rev. Hovnan Derderian was elected Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of Canada, whereupon he was elevated to the rank of bishop and later as archbishop.

In 2003, Derderian became Primate of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America, where he continues to serve. Throughout his tenure, Derderian has overseen a vast expansion of the Western Diocese by consecrating new churches to serve local Armenian communities in Portland, Seattle, Las Vegas, Sacramento, Rancho Mirage and Santa Clarita. In addition to consecrating a new church in

Scottsdale, the archbishop is also leading the construction of a Senior Living Center to serve the aging Armenian population there. In addition, the St. Leon Cathedral in Burbank was built under his supervision and consecrated in 2010 as the spiritual center of the Western Diocese by Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians. Showing his confidence in the archbishop's leadership abilities, the Catholicos also appointed him as Chair of the committee of the Armenian Apostolic Church to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide and as head of the committee to oversee the renovation of the Mother Cathedral in Holy Etchmiadzin.

Recognizing the importance of cultivating and maintaining strong ties between the youth and the Church, Archbishop Derderian has also taken active steps to establish and expand numerous Saturday schools and Sunday schools, as well as an expansion of the Armenian Church Youth Organization, and the Nerouj program for youth empowerment and strengthening connections of young professionals with the Church.

In his capacity as leader of the Western Diocese, Derderian has consistently joined his ecumenical brethren from the Western Prelacy, the Armenian Catholic Eparchy and the Armenian Evangelical Union in uniting all segments of the Armenian-American community and its leading organizations in a structured environment of collaboration and cooperation to jointly pursue the rights and demands of the Armenian people, initially through the Armenian Genocide Centennial Committee which organized the 166,000 strong March for Justice in Los Angeles, and continuing through to the most recent establishment of the Pan Armenian Council of the Western United States.

Each year, the ANCA-WR Annual Gala Banquet attracts more than 1,000 attendees as



Archbishop Hovnan Derderian

it honors a variety of individuals who have served their community and their country with distinction. Past Gala honorees have included United States Senator Robert Menendez, Congressman Ed Royce, California Governor Jerry Brown, California Senate President Pro Tempore Kevin de Leon, California State Senator Anthony Portantino, California Majority Leader Walter Karabian, California Assemblymembers Katcho Achadjian and Paul Krekorian, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, artist Serj Tankian, and legendary late coach Jerry Tarkanian, among many others.

The ANCA-WR honorees for 2019 which have been announced thus far in addition to Derderian are US Congresswoman Judy Chu and Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger. The Gala will also feature a special Tribute to lifelong benefactor and philanthropist Hacop Baghdassarian.

Fresno's Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church to Host Annual Bazaar

FRESNO — Fresno's historic Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church is celebrating the harvest season by hosting their 69th annual food bazaar. This year's event takes place Friday, October 4, and features authentic Armenian cuisine. Lunch will be served from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and dinner from 5 to 8 p.m.

"Our Men's Society and Ladies Guild get together and work endless hours to prepare and cook all the foods that will be served at both lunch and dinner," said event chairperson Evelyn Hamamjian. "Everything served, including dessert, is homemade at the church."

Meals are available for dine-in, drive-thru and takeout. Pre-paid, pre-orders for lamb shanks and pick-up meal orders must be placed by September 27. To place an order, call the church office.

Doors open at 10 a.m. for shopping. A country store will feature frozen and baked items for sale. Vendors will be selling their goods, along

with handmade and vintage items. Tickets for a 50/50 raffle will also be sold. Lucy's Treasure Cove will also offer unique items similar to an upscale estate sale items. Come and enjoy perusing new and gently used treasures.

Church tours will be available at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Event goers can burn off calories Armenian dancing. The band Mark Ohanesian and Friends will perform from 7 to 10 p.m.

"Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church is one of the oldest churches in Fresno and funds raised help with the needs of the church and its community," Hamamjian said.

The church is located on the corner of Ventura and M Street in Old Armenian Town. The sanctuary was built in 1914 and is on the National Register of Historic Places.

"This year during the bazaar we will be offering tours of the church," Hamamjian said.

Sarah Soghomonian

National Advocacy Conference Expert Panel Discusses Religious Freedom in Turkey, Middle East

ADVOCACY, from page 5
the Holy Sepulchre.

Aykazian is the Diocesan Legate in Washington, DC, and serves Ecumenical Director of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America. He has participated in the World Council of Churches (WCC) since 1981, and as a member of its Central Committee representing the Catholicos of All Armenians from 1985-1991. Aykazian has served as a member of the WCC's Executive Committee since 2007. In 2005, Archbishop Aykazian was elected president of the National Council of Churches in the United States. In 2007, he participated in the General Assembly of the WCC in Porto Alegre, Brazil, and was elected as a member of the WCC Executive and Central Committees. In 2009, he was appointed to President Obama's Advisory Committee on Faith Based Initiatives, the first Armenian clergyman ever appointed to the position. He is a recipient of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor. In 2013, he was elected President of Christian Churches Together, an organization representing Catholic, Protestant, Evangelical, Orthodox, and other historic peace churches. He is the first Armenian elected as a board member to



Diocesan Legate Archbishop Vicken Aykazian

Habitat for Humanity International. In 2013, he was elected President of Habitat for Humanity Europe, Africa, and Central Asia. He has worked tirelessly to defend the rights of Christian minorities in the Middle East and Asia. Over the past 15 years, he has traveled to

Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, Jordan, Egypt, Israel, and Palestine and met with high level religious and political leaders representing all faiths.

In addition to this panel, the National Advocacy Conference and Gala includes other panel discussions, meetings with elected officials on Capitol Hill, and a congressional reception on the Hill celebrating US-Armenia relations.

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Sato Moughalian, flute

Friday, October 4, 2019 at 7:30 pm
Tekeyan Center (entrance located at back of building)
560 Sylvan Avenue, Englewood Cliffs, NJ 07632
Reception to follow

Free admission but RSVP is required by
October 2nd to Tekeyannynj@aol.com

*Ms. Shames' appearance is graciously underwritten
by the Jarvis and Constance Doctorov Family Foundation*

*Copies of the book will be
available for purchase and signing.
The presentation will be held in English.*



COMMUNITY NEWS

Fresh Pond Market Closes After 97 Years in Business

By Paula Ebben

CAMBRIDGE (CBS) - It's the end of an era and a Cambridge institution, as the Fresh Pond Market is about to close its doors after nearly 100 years in business. But the two brothers who own the shop say, it's time to relax.

Customers have been coming in ever since the news broke, showing their appreciation for the small, family run grocery on Huron Avenue in Cambridge. "This has been the longest running constant in my life," said Elizabeth Gilmore, who has been shopping



Crosby, left, and Marc Najarian

there for more than 40 years.

Fresh Pond Market opened in 1922. "We've

been here 97 years. I, personally, have been here for the last 60 years," said Marc Najarian, one of the owners.

He runs the shop with his younger brother, Crosby. "I started working here in 1965," Crosby said.

The market is the heart of the neighborhood, and has not only survived, but thrived. "I always say, if we don't have it, you don't need it," Marc said.

But Marc, 73, and Crosby, 68, are calling it quits, wanting to get out while they're still healthy enough to enjoy retirement. "I've been married 47 years. I have a great wife, and we just want to do a little traveling," Marc said.

"I want to work on my golf game. It needs some serious work, just ask my son," added Crosby with a smile.

So on Saturday, September 14, they said goodbye. "Bittersweet, you know. I'm happy but also sad," Marc said.

And longtime customers, who are more like friends, are feeling it, too. "It's crazy. It's going to be sad to see it go," said shopper Allie Worth.

"You know everybody who works here. If you forget your money it doesn't matter. Pay another day," said Barbara Harris.

"They have been so important to the community. They've lifted it up. They bring people



The exterior of the Fresh Pond Market

together," added Wylie Doughty, another long time shopper.

"We love you all. You've been really great,"

said Marc Najarian.

There's a deal in the works to sell the market and keep it as some type of food store.



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Armenian Antiques Roadshow Hits Glendale

ROADSHOW, from page 5

to do this event to bring awareness to our lost or stolen history, and introduce it to our community and especially the next generation that only learn about it through books. We want them to see and touch our history as well. And our board's leadership is as dedicated to this as I am."

The following is a list of presentations that will be held: Cilician coinage by Levon Saryan, Urartian and other ancient Armenian artifacts by Chuck Hajinian, Ancient Armenian Coin Collecting by Armen Moloian, display of artifacts related to William Saroyan, General Andranik and other notable figures by Carol Vartabedian-Gregg.

Several more presentations will be held in the afternoon: Armenian manuscripts by Gevorg Nersesyan, Ancient Armenian Coins by Sarkis Kilimjian, Roman "Armeniachus" coins and their stories by Joseph Sarkissian, and history of the Armenian Carpet and textiles by Hratch Kozibeykian.

Antique appraisals will be done during a break in the presentations between 2:30 and 4:30 pm.

"Our mission is to bring the light of the amazing, priceless inheritance that belongs to all Armenians, but is hidden due to a lack of exposure to these remarkable items. Whatever the cause - apathy, uncertainty, life distractions - all Armenians are wealthy beyond their dreams," says ANAS co-founder Chuck Hajinian. "Our ancestors have left us jewels of historical items. These items have stories to tell. At this event we want to help you hear their voice."

Hajinian has been a passionate collector of historical items for 40 years. He serves on the board of trustees of the Armenian Museum of America in Watertown. He recently developed a deep interest in the history of the Ancient Urartu Kingdom, which became known as Armenia over the next three millennia. At the Armenian Antiques Roadshow, he will display a unique bronze bowl from 800 BC from the Urartu/Armenian King Menua, as well as miniature bronze hair pin sculptures from 700 BC. He will be talking about these items and will have them on site for viewing.

Details are being posted regularly on the Facebook event page, available via: <https://tinyurl.com/armenianantiques>.



OBITUARIES

Mardik Martin, Scorsese Collaborator, Is Dead at 84

MARTIN, from page 1

he said in 2007. "I would bring a tape recorder and pay them \$100 for their stories."

His interviews inspired parts of "Mean Streets," a crime drama, set on the Lower East



Side of Manhattan, that Martin wrote with Scorsese. The film, which starred Robert De Niro and Harvey Keitel, was released in 1973 to critical praise and catapulted Keitel, De Niro and Scorsese to stardom.

Scorsese and Martin later collaborated on "The Last Waltz" (1976), the concert film about The Band, and on "New York, New York"

(1977), a musical drama (and a box-office disappointment) written with Earl Mac Rauch and starring De Niro and Liza Minnelli. They then worked together on "Raging Bull" (1980), about the troubled life of the boxer Jake LaMotta.

De Niro, who played LaMotta in the film, had spent years trying to persuade an initially reluctant Scorsese to adapt LaMotta's autobiography, Raging Bull: My Story (1970), with Peter Savage and Joseph Carter).

Martin wrote a first draft of "Raging Bull" in 1977. He said he had tried to interest Mr. Scorsese in the project by comparing it to biblical epics.

"Think of them as gladiators, fighting in an arena packed with people," Martin was quoted as telling Scorsese in a 2010 *Vanity Fair* article by the film historian Richard Schickel. "Then think of them exchanging blows, and the sweat and the blood flying all over the place, onto their tuxedos, their mink coats." That got him excited.

Martin wrote three versions of the screenplay, drawing on interviews he conducted with LaMotta and his ex-wife. But Scorsese and De Niro disliked all of them, Schickel wrote, and enlisted Paul Schrader to write a new version.

"I hated to do it after all the time Mardik spent," Scorsese was quoted as saying by the British newspaper the *Observer*, "but there was much more boxing than we wanted."

"Raging Bull" became one of Scorsese's most lionized films and was nominated for eight Academy Award, winning two, for best actor (De Niro) and best film editing (Thelma Schoonmaker). Both Schrader and Martin were credited as screenwriters but not nominated.

Mardik Vartan Martin was born on September 16, 1934, in Abadan, Iran, to Vartan and Heranoosh (Fenerjian) Martin, both of whom were of Armenian descent. His mother was a homemaker, and his father owned a book-

store.

Mardik was sent to a British boarding school in Baghdad at 10 and moved by himself to the United States in 1954, hoping to make his fortunes there. He initially went to N.Y.U. to study business before switching to film, all the while working as a waiter at Toots Shor's restaurant in Manhattan.

Scorsese was not the only director with whom Martin worked. He and Ken Russell wrote the screenplay for "Valentino" (1977), about the silent film actor Rudolph Valentino.

Martin's film work dried up in the 1980s, and he struggled with cocaine addiction. In recent years he taught screenwriting at the University

of Southern California's School of Cinematic Arts. In 2008 Ramy Katrib and Evan York released a documentary about his life, "Mardik: Baghdad to Hollywood."

Martin's last screenwriting credit was for "The Cut" (2014), a film about a survivor of the Armenian Genocide searching for his daughters in 1915. He wrote it with the director, Fatih Akin.

(While making a promotional trip for the film, Martin stopped by at the offices of the *Armenian Mirror-Spectator* and gave an interview to Alin K. Gregorian <https://mirrorspectator.com/2015/05/14/cinema-legend-behind-the-cut-screenplay-makes-stops-in-mass/>)

Carol Yeghiayan

Community Volunteer

BEDFORD, Mass. — Carol Yeghiayan died on September 11.

She was the wife of Raffi Yeghiayan; mother of Arra David Yeghiayan and his wife Suzanne of NH; Sona Melanie Yeghiayan of Germany and Sylva Karen Yeghiayan and her husband Scott Zaleski of Westwood. In addition, she leaves grandchildren Lincoln Arra, Kendall Sona, Cole Elijah Zaleski and Sevag Yeghia Nikolas, Daron Elias Konstantin, and Arek Elijah Kornelius Bardt.

She was the special niece of Aurora Dillon of Watertown. She graduated from Watertown High School in 1960 and went on to graduate from Pierce Secretarial School in 1962. She met her husband Raffi in the St. James Armenian Church choir and they built their lives together in the church community.

She was active in any and all things that brought together her greatest loves: spending time with family and friends, preparing and enjoying delicious food and making others smile. She was an active member of numerous Armenian organizations and charities including the St. James Parish Council, Mr. and Mrs. Group, Hai Guin and Daughters of Vartan.

Countless years of friendships forged in kitchens and at tables playing cards colored her life and the lives of those around her.

An avid seamstress and knitter, Carol ensured that teddy bears and hand-knit socks grace beds



and little feet worldwide. She loved to travel near and far, but never failed to emphasize that she was a Watertown girl through and through.

There was always enough time and love to care for her Aunt Dolly and to make visitors feel welcome. To her grandchildren's delight, doting on them was of utmost importance to her and celebrating life had the highest priority.

Funeral Service was held at St. James Armenian Church, 465 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown on Monday, September 16. Interment followed at Mt. Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge.

Harry Berj Telian

Active in Church

WATERTOWN — Harry Berj Telian passed away on September 7, at 93 years old.

He was born in Syracuse, NY, to Hagop and Venus Telian.

Harry was raised in a small and vibrant, Armenian community. Always a bright student, Harry began Syracuse University at 17. However, after his freshman year, Harry decided to enlist



in the Army-Air Force and served his country during World War II. In 1946, Harry went back to Syracuse graduating in 1949.

In 1948 at an AYP Picnic at Camp Haiastan, Harry met the love of his life, Joyce Kazanjian, from Watertown. They were married on July 3, 1949 on Syracuse University's campus at Hendricks Chapel by Archbishop Tirayre Hovhanesian. Nine months (and three weeks) later, Harry and Joyce welcomed their first son, Jack, into the world. During their 70 years of marriage, they had five children, seven grand-

children, three great-grandsons.

At a young age, Harry worked in the family dry cleaning business while selling mutual funds at night. His work ethic soon led to ownership of his own laundromat. With an insatiable thirst for a challenge, Harry ultimately sold the store and began to pursue his passion for sales and finance full time. Harry became a stock broker.

Some years later, as they were expecting their fourth child, Alice, Harry was hired by a Boston firm and Joyce finally convinced him to move to Boston. Harry and Joyce welcomed their fifth child, Lisa into the world as they settled into Dedham, Massachusetts. He finished his career as regional vice president for the John Nuveen Company.

Harry retired at 65 and much to his surprise truly enjoyed his retirement. He served on the Board of Trustees of Saint Stephen's Armenian Church even running the bazaar for a few years. Retirement allowed Harry and Joyce to travel and take cruises, visit their children, babysit for their granddaughter, Valerie, bowl and play tennis.

He is survived by his wife of seventy years, Joyce Telian; his younger sister, Alice Najarian; children Jack and wife Cathy, Karen and husband Steve, Alan and wife Nancy, Alice and husband Larry and Lisa and husband Rich; their seven grandchildren, Lani and husband J.R., Adam and wife Michelle, Valerie and fiancé Chris, Tyler, Victoria, Samantha and Alexandra, his three great-grandsons and countless relatives and close family friends.

The funeral was held at St. Stephen's Armenian Church, 38 Elton Avenue, Watertown on Tuesday, September 17. Interment was at Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge. Arrangements were made by the Aram Bedrosian Funeral Home, Watertown.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Khatchatur I. Pilikian

Activist for Kurdish Rights, Tenor, Painter, Professor

By Desmond Fernandes

LONDON – Khatchatur I. Pilikian, a patron of Peace in Kurdistan, died on July 28. Khatchatur was an indefatigable defender of human rights, a brilliant orator, an internationally acclaimed leading tenor and a sharp-edged public intellectual whose texts and presentations, like Chomsky's, "share ... a luminous theoretical, political, and forensic analysis of the functioning of the current global power structure[s], new and old modes of oppressive authority, and the ways in which neoliberal economic and social policies have produced more savage forms of global domination and corporate sovereignty."

He was also a remarkable performing and recording musician, artist, poet, research scholar and university professor who lived and studied in Iraq, Lebanon, Italy and the US before finally settling in London.

Amongst his many artistic and musical highlights, "as a leading tenor, he was invited to Armenia, where he made his debut in 1961, singing the role of Cavaradossi in Puccini's opera "Tosca," at the Speniarian Opera Theatre of Yerevan. His award-winning painting "Amore Eterno" of 1961 graced the cover of the Vatican's bi-weekly *Crociata* (no. 23). In 1962, Pilikian sang the part of "Tancredi" in the first performance of Virgilio Mortari's edition of Monteverdi's "Il Combattimento di Tancredi e Clorinda," produced at the Astaldi Palace in Rome, conducted by Mortari himself. In the spring of 1963, he performed songs by Mussorgsky, Rachmaninoff and Komitas on Italian radio (RAI) accompanied at the piano by his tutor, Giorgio Favaretto. It was the first Italian radio recording of Komitas songs.

In addition to this, Pilikian "created two roles in Mario Nascimbene's TV-opera "Faust a Manhattan," conducted by Franco Ferrara and directed by Sandro Bolchi, which represented Italy in the International TV Festival Premio Italia 64. In 1967, his recital program at the Purcell Room included twelve Komitas songs – a first performance in Britain. During the historic Paris student movements in 1968, the cultural committee of the International House of the City University invited Pilikian to interpret a multi-cultural vocal recital, accompanied by the pianist J.H. Austbo and performed at the Grand Theatre of the University.

Back in Yerevan, Pilikian was the tenor soloist in the first complete performance of Verdi's Requiem in Armenia, January 1969, conducted by Ohan Durian, at the Aram

Khatchaturian Concert Hall alongside the Armenian National Philharmonic Orchestra. He received his Doctorate in 1975. In 1976, he joined the music faculty of Wayne State University (Michigan), where, in addition to his academic responsibilities as a pedagogue/performer with WSU faculty, now Professor Pilikian designed and directed an original university radio WDET-FM series entitled "The Heritage of Armenian Culture" (HARC).

His epic poetry in English, with original illustrations in Chinese ink, titled *Labour 100–Panegyric on Old-New-Future Labour*, was published by Brentford & Isleworth Labour Party ... He [also] contributed the entry 'Music and Turner' in the Oxford University Press encyclopaedic publication titled *The Turner Companion*. In January 2002, he took part, as a tenor soloist, with Cahit Baylav (violin) and Hassan Erraji (oud) in the Nazim Hikmet 100 Celebration Concert at Queen Elizabeth Hall. After several years teaching violin in schools around West London", Khatchatur Pilikian retired and, in 2006, "produced and directed his original Audio-Visual Libretto, Harmonic Synthesis of Armenian Poems and Music, commissioned for the AGBU 100th Anniversary in Montreal, Canada ... In November 2009, he was invited to Athens to mark the 140th birth anniversary of Komitas Vardapet (1869-1935), with a song recital, under the auspices of the Armenian Social and Cultural Centre of Athens, Greece".

Alongside these considerable accomplishments, Khatchatur, whose parents were survivors of the Armenian genocide, produced several key political works, including *Refuting Terrorism – Seven Epistles From Diaspora*, *The Spectre of Genocide as Collateral Damage is Haunting the World*, *Free Zarakolu* and his comrades-in-letters and human rights campaigners in Turkey, *A Birds-Eye-View on the phenomena of Genocide and the Armenian Experience of it*, *The Crime Against Multi-Cultural Civilisation* and the book *UNESCO Laureates: Nazim Hikmet and Aram Khatchaturian* (Gomidas, London).

Many of Khatchatur Pilikian's texts and presentations in the UK parliament and in other public venues and The Spokesman (the Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation periodical) addressed the need to support the persecuted and marginalized; recognize the form, nature, impacts and repercussions of Turkish state terror and the Armenian, Kurdish, Assyrian, Aramean, Greek and 'Other' (inclusive of Baloch) genocides, and the manner in which neoliberal and war-mongering agendas and interventions have normalized genocide in its various forms worldwide.



Khatchatur remained active with numerous organizations, including solidarity with the Victims of All Genocides, Stop the War, Liberation, the Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation, the Socialist History Society, the London Socialist Film Coop, the Peace in Kurdistan Campaign and Palestine and Venezuela Solidarity.

At a UK parliamentary meeting on 23rd November 2011 – sponsored by Michael Connarty MP with the support of Eilian Williams/Solidarity with Prisoners of Conscience in Turkey, the Kurdish Federation UK, KNK and the Peace in Kurdistan Campaign – he rose in defence of the Kurds and those targeted by state censorship, including the publisher Ragip Zarakolu (owner and director of Belge publishing house):

To grasp well the motives why the valiant intellectual and human rights publicist Zarakolu is now one of the latest victims of the oppressive Article 301 of the Turkish penal code, we have to appreciate the historical background of oppression, the oppressive rulers and their governments' terror of the truthful word ...

Nazim Hikmet continued to be imprisoned even in 1948, the year of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and also, most tellingly, of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. The Turkish people's poet, the comrade-in-Arms and in-Lettres of Aragon, Mayakovski and Pablo Neruda, continued writing twelve volumes of verses, considered among the best in world literature, while in prison for nearly one-third of his entire life.

He was also instrumental in helping to launch the "Friends of Belge Press: An Appeal to Solidarity" (Patrons: Professor Noam Chomsky and Rosie Malek-Yonan). In a UK parliamentary meeting marking the 60th anniversary of the Genocide Convention, he reflected upon the following:

"Allow me to announce loud and clear, at the onset: that the alpha and omega of my reflections on Genocide remains this: that deep in my heart, I wish Armenians had no such experience to talk about. Indeed, I feel, perhaps I would even have been a happier human being if peoples all over the world, whether Congolese,

Nama, Herero, Abyssinians, Armenians, Assyrians, Kurds, Jews, Palestinians, Greeks, Bulgarians, Poles, Serbs, Kosovans, [Native] Americans of the north and the Indigenous communities of the south, Timorese, Vietnamese, Cambodians, Rwandans, Darfurians, and alas many others had also no such terrorising experience.

"But most importantly, I truly believe that our precious and only world will be a much better place to live and die for that matter if that ultimate state terrorism is banished out of existence for all times to come ...

"The crucial question remains: To prevent Genocide ever happening again, what kind of human relations should humanity aspire to? Perhaps the first step is what the brave Archbishop Desmond Tutu wants us to consider, saying: "If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor".

In a heartfelt eulogy, writer, filmmaker, theatre director and performance/installation artist Vaughan Pilikian paid tribute to Khatchatur:

"Uncle knew life was a gift ... He carved out space in the world that was uniquely his own because his sense of purpose drove him to do so. He was a true and proud socialist. He was also a humanist. The two things were the same for him. He believed and lived a credo that is increasingly rare today.

"Despite his cherished identity as an Armenian, he placed as the highest value the universality of being human. He believed in people and in what they could do. He saw through the world: right into its wounded heart. And he was moved by that sight and he did what he could to heal it."

Professor Khatchatur I. Pilikian is survived by his wife, Araxie, as well as their son, Vazken.

(Desmond Fernandes is a genocide scholar and founding member of Peace in Kurdistan (since 1994) and the Campaign Against Criminalising Communities. Formerly a Senior Lecturer in Human Geography at De Montfort University, his works on refugee rights, 'deep politics', genocide and the criminalisation of communities have been translated into a number of languages.)

Aram K. Johnson

Longtime Member of NAASR

LEXINGTON, Mass. – Aram K Johnson of Lexington died on September 4. He was 77.

He was a member of the board of the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) and a longtime member of the organization.

He was the son of the late Henry Jacob and Stella (Canarian) Johnson. He was predeceased by his sister Barbara (Johnson) Young and brother-in-law Manoog S. Young, and is survived by his nephew Armen Young and his wife Kelley of Littleton, Mass., and their children Christopher and Lauren, and his niece Adrina Gobbi of Watertown, and her children Jake and Mariah. He is also survived by many other relatives and friends including his cousin Robert Papazian of New Jersey.

Services were held at St. James Armenian



Church, 465 Mt. Auburn Street, Watertown, on Tuesday, September 10. Interment was private.

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COMMUNITY NEWS



Lilit Hovhannisyan Concert Supports Erebuni Armenian School

WINCHESTER, Mass. — Erebuni Armenian School is hosting a performance by singer Lilit Hovhannisyan on September 27 at 8 p.m. at Winchester High School. This is her first time in Boston as a part of a world tour. The show is a mix of Armenian folk and pop music for all audiences, with dance performances and surprise appearances.

Hovhannisyan has had sold-out shows in more than 50 cities, including Moscow, Los Angeles, Athens, Yerevan, Paris, Lyon, Madrid, Brussels, Toronto, Montreal and Vienna.

The Zangakner Performing Arts Ensemble, under the leadership of founder Hasmik Konjoyan, is joining her concert for a one-time special performance, while the Erebuni Dance Ensemble will also perform.

A large discount is offered for the performing children and students.

By buying tickets, the guests will support Erebuni Armenian School.

Here is a link to see what to expect: <https://www.facebook.com/events/388520135084629/permalink/456525321617443/>

To purchase tickets visit lilit.yapsody.com.



C.K. Garabed to Lecture on Etymology Of Armenian Surnames in New Jersey

TEANECK, N.J. — After years in the making, *The Dictionary of Armenian Surnames*, researched and compiled by writer and editor C.K. Garabed, is available online. The occasion will be marked with a slide lecture called “What’s in a Name? The Etymology of Armenian Surnames” to be delivered by Garabed at St. Thomas Armenian Church’s Ariyan Hall (174 Essex Drive, Tenafly) on Sunday, October 20, following church services.

At this event, Garabed will discuss the origins of Armenian surnames and the detective work involved in researching name derivations with examples of some highly unusual surnames. The program will start at 1:30 p.m. and is sponsored by the Cultural Committee of St. Thomas Armenian Church.

“C.K. Garabed,” pen name of Charles Garabed Kasbarian, is the columnist behind “Uncle Garabed’s Notebook,” which is in its 30th year of publication in the *Armenian Weekly*.

This dictionary project first came about when, in the late 1970s, Garabed started collecting names from church directories and donor lists as a hobby. In 1989, Garabed started his weekly column in the *Armenian Weekly* newspaper, but it wasn’t until 2004 that he began to include in each week’s column an Armenian surname, its definition and background. This resulted in many readers contacting him who wanted to know if he could tell them what their own family names meant, as they didn’t know. To date, more than 10,000 names have been compiled, but not all of them defined. While curiosity was his first motivation for exploring the subject of Armenian family names, Garabed says he came to appreciate the diverse nature of Armenian surnames, “which appear to cover the gamut of our ancestors’ life activities in the Old Country.”

Included in *The Dictionary of Armenian Surnames* is an Introduction, a Pronunciation Key, and an A through Z listing. To make the dictionary widely accessible, the work is posted to Garabed’s author page on Armeniapedia.org, available to all at no charge.

“With names like Bajaksouzian (which means legless; assigned to a short man), Soghanyemezian (which means one who does not eat onions), and Srmakeshkanlian (which means owner/worker of a factory where gold/ silver

thread is drawn), I sometimes think we Armenians — more than any other ethnic group — possess the most fascinating surnames,” Garabed says.

To carry out his work, Garabed consults Hrachia Adjarian’s *Root Dictionary and Etymological Dictionary of the Armenian Language*; Tigran Avetisyan’s *Dictionary of Armenian Surnames*; Stepan Malkhasian’s *Explanatory Dictionary*; dictionaries in Arabic, Armenian, Assyrian, Azerbaijani, Georgian, Greek, Kurdish, Persian, Turkish; other volumes; and many knowledgeable people to whom he is grateful.

“I was struck by how many Armenians didn’t know the meaning of their names,” says Garabed. “While I am not a linguist nor philologist, it still gives me great pleasure to conduct research in my modest amateur capacity and then pass on the results. I feel gratified in helping people learn more about their names.”

In recent years, people of part-Armenian ancestry have begun to discover their ancestral roots via genealogy tests. As such, Garabed hopes that they, too, may find this Dictionary helpful in deciphering their Armenian surnames.

One will observe that an Armenian name can denote a number of things about the possessor of that name: aristocracy, patronymic, occupation; geographic origin; physical traits; other special circumstances; and those assigned in derision by Turkish officials.

“People often are attached to their names because it gives them a sense of continuity and tradition,” explains Garabed, “There’s also the desire to honor their martyrs by perpetuating the memory of their identity as Armenian Christians. We should be grateful to our fellow Armenians for retaining their names as eloquent historical testimony to the oppressions their ancestors suffered at the hands of the Turks. Had the Armenians not clung to their names, I might not be working on such a project today.”

Prior to publishing this *Dictionary* online, Garabed produced, in 2013, *The Dikranagerdtsi Vernacular Handbook*. Other books by Garabed in the process of being published include *An Unusual Look at Biblical Subjects*; *The Dikranagerd Mystique Armenian Cookbook*; *The Tales of Nasreddin Khoja*; and *The Tale of Shah Ismail*.



Primate Bishop Daniel Findikyan, first row, third from right, with the other members of the Oriental Orthodox and Roman Catholic clergy

Oriental Orthodox-Roman Catholic Consultation Meets

QUEENS, N.Y. — Clergy of the Eastern Diocese took part in the US Oriental Orthodox-Roman Catholic Consultation on September 4-5.

Bishop Daniel Findikyan of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America and Bishop Gregory Mansour of the Maronite Church co-chaired the event at the Bishop Molloy Retreat House in Queens. Representing the Armenian Church this year were Fr. Diran Bohajian, Fr. Davit Karamyan, and Dn. Eric Vozzy.

A paper titled “Eucharistic Hospitality from the Catholic Perspective” was presented by Chorbishop John Faris of the Maronite Church. In response, Bishop Daniel, Fr. Athanasius Farag (Coptic Church), and Dr. George Kiraz (Syriac Church) presented Oriental Orthodox perspectives on the limited sharing of the Eucharist with the Roman Catholic Church.

Dn. Eric Vozzy presented a paper titled “Postmodernism: The Inner Search for Meaning,” a response to the challenge that postmodern culture represents to the church and her youth. Fr. Matthew Berrios of the Catholic Church spoke on the landscape, theory, and practice of youth ministry in today’s culture.

This year’s consultation involved clergy and scholars from the Armenian, Coptic, Syriac, and Catholic traditions. The annual meeting explores ways in which the Oriental Orthodox and Roman Catholic Churches might learn from one another on theological and pastoral issues.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Diocesan Camps Conclude Summer Season



NEW YORK – This year, the Eastern Diocese’s summer camps reached out to nearly 500 youth and young adults from throughout our local parishes.

The 2019 camp season concluded this month with Hye Camp at Camp Hickory in Illinois ending its ten-day program on August 3, and with St. Vartan Camp at the Ararat Center in upstate New York ending its six-week program on August 10.

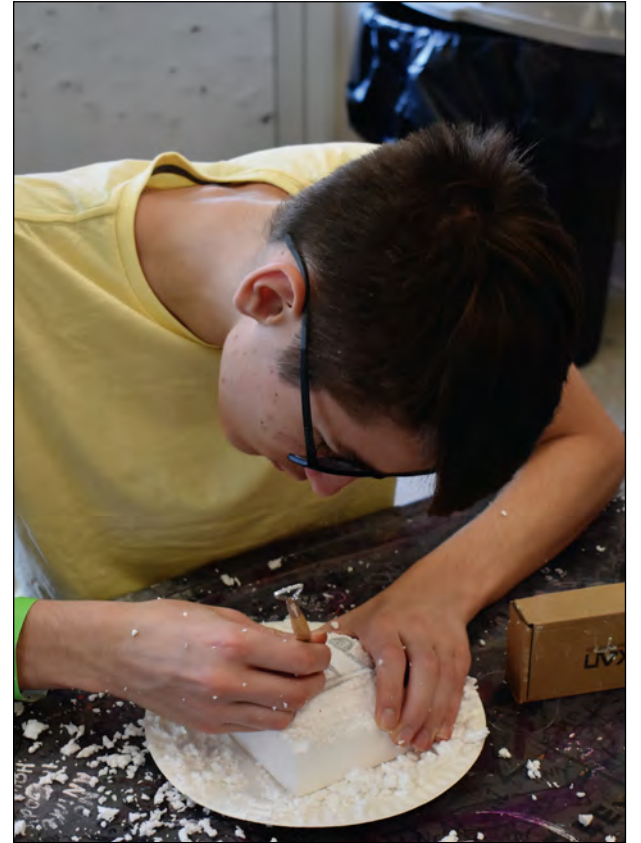
A highlight of every camp session was a visit by Diocesan Primate Bishop Daniel, who taught eager campers throughout the day, and spent time engaging the youth and young adults in conversation.

Diocesan pastors Fr. Aren Jebejian, Fr. Tadeos Barseghyan, Fr. Khatchatur Kesablyan, Fr. Vart Gyozyalyan, Fr. Vasken Kouzouian, and Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian served week-long “tours of duty” as camp directors, aided by the staff of the Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries, Kathryn Ashbahian and Jennifer Morris.

The Diocese is especially grateful for the generous efforts of the counselors-in-training, camp staffers, volunteers, families and visiting clergy whose contributions are vital to the success of the camp program.

Campers and parents can relive the joy and excitement of the 2019 camp season all year long, by visiting the camp photo galleries for St. Vartan Camp’s Session A, Session B, Session C, and Hye Camp.

Online registration for the 2020 camp season will begin in January on the camp website. For information, e-mail Kathryn Ashbahian (regarding St. Vartan Camp) and Jennifer Morris (regarding Hye Camp).



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Mimi Melkonian, author & educator

Nightingales

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More than 11 million Syrians have been forced to flee their homes as a result of civil war. Many of these people left everything and everyone behind to start new lives in a new country. They traveled hundreds, even thousands, of miles to start new lives in a place where they knew no one, and even didn’t speak the language. These are their stories—stories of escape, hope, and resilience.

In *Nightingales*, Mimi Melkonian has compiled a fascinating collection of stories of Syrian migrants who left familiar surroundings, family members, and more, knowing they may never step foot in their homeland again. Their vision of a better life is what inspired them to keep moving forward without looking back. Their resilience has enabled them to flourish in their adopted countries. Melkonian profiles 16 inspiring migrants, including artists, musicians, intellectuals, and entrepreneurs.

Light refreshments will be served. Books will be available for sale and signing

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Arts & Living

World Premiere of Aram Kouyoumdjian's 'Constantinople' to Be Staged by Award-Winning Vista Players

LOS ANGELES – The world premiere of “Constantinople,” the latest work by award-winning playwright and director Aram Kouyoumdjian, is being staged by Vista Players, the acclaimed theater ensemble that “set the standard by which others were judged,” at the Secret Rose Theatre in North Hollywood. “Constantinople” will open on Friday, September 27, for a six-weekend run through November 2.

A tale of resilience, the fast-paced, 90-minute production focuses on the Armenian community in the former Ottoman capital during the post-Genocide era at a time of political intrigue, military struggle, and a growing feminist movement.

“Constantinople” centers around Vehanoush, the editor of a feminist journal, and Roupen, a guerilla fighter (“fedayee”), who coordinate missions for the recovery of women and children abducted during the Genocide and also for the transport of weapons into Armenia. Their idealism is challenged, however, as the political situation around them takes a darker turn and endangers their own lives.

“While it has the colossal calamity of the Genocide as its point of departure, the play is not a tale of mourning or lament,” according to Kouyoumdjian. “It’s not a tale of victimhood. Its characters are all fighters – either literally or metaphorically – so it’s a tale of resilience, highly-charged and propulsive.”

Jade Hykush (Vehanoush) and Travis Laughlin (Roupen) are joined in the cast by Eva Abramian, Jonathan Fishman, Kristin Mothersbaugh, Luc Rosenthal and Robert



Walters. The show’s design team features Alan Tollefson (sets), Henrik Mansourian (lighting), and Allison Dillard (costumes), fresh off an Ovation Award win. Ara Dabandjian is the production’s original music composer and Armineh Hovanesian its stage manager.

Kouyoumdjian is the winner of Elly Awards for both playwriting (“The Farewells”) and directing (“Three Hotels”), and has been hailed for having “an adventurous artistic sensibility for intelligent productions” (Sacramento Bee). His feature plays and solo pieces have been performed in half a dozen cities, from Los Angeles (Fountain Theatre) to London (Finborough Theatre). His most recent productions include “Happy Armenians”; the open-air, site-specific performance “i Go On” at DTLA’s Grand Park; and last year’s world premiere of “William Saroyan: The Unpublished Plays in Performance.”

Performances of “Constantinople” are on Friday and Saturday nights at 8 p.m., and on Sundays at 3 p.m. Due to the intimate nature of the theater space, no late seating will be allowed.

Tickets can be purchased at www.itsmyseat.com/constantinople.



Sato Moughalian

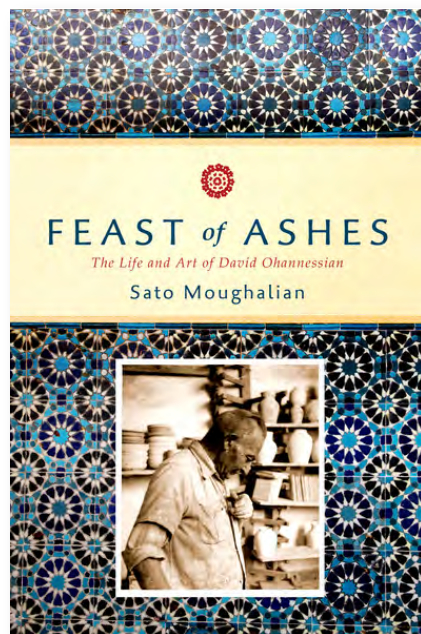
Life of Potter Ohannessian To Be Subject of Talk at Ararat-Eskijian Museum

MISSION HILLS, Calif. – The Ararat-Eskijian Museum (AEM), National Association for Armenian Studies (NAASR), will present a talk on the book *Feast of Ashes: The Life and Art of David Ohannessian*, by Sato Moughalian. The program will take place on Saturday, September 21, at 4 p.m. at the Ararat-Eskijian Museum/Sheen Chapel 15105 Mission Hills Rd., Mission Hills.

Feast of Ashes (Stanford Univ. Press, 2019) tells the story of David Ohannessian, the renowned ceramicist who in 1919 founded the art of Armenian pottery in Jerusalem, where his work and that of his followers is now celebrated as a local treasure. Ohannessian’s life encompassed some of the most tumultuous upheavals of the modern Middle East. Born in an isolated Anatolian mountain village, he witnessed the rise of violent nationalism in the waning years of the Ottoman Empire, endured arrest and deportation in the Armenian Genocide, founded a new ceramics tradition in Jerusalem under the British Mandate, and spent his final years, uprooted, in Cairo and Beirut. Ohannessian’s life story is revealed by his granddaughter Sato Moughalian, weaving together family narratives with newly unearthed archival findings. Witnessing her personal quest for the man she never met, we come to understand a universal story of migration, survival, and hope.

Moughalian is an award-winning flutist in New York City and artistic director of Perspectives Ensemble, founded in 1993 to explore and contextualize works of composers and visual artists. Since 2007, Moughalian has also traveled to Turkey, England, Israel, Palestine and France to uncover the traces of her grandfather’s life and work, has published articles, and gives talks on the genesis of Jerusalem’s Armenian ceramic art.

As part of the program, Moughalian, flutist, and Anya Garipoli, harpist, will perform three works by Gomidas Vartabed. Ms. Katawara’s appearance has been made possible by the Jarvis and Constance Doctorow Family Foundation, in collaboration with Ensemble.



'Stateless Diplomat' to Screen at Mosesian Center On September 29

WATERTOWN – The documentary film “The Stateless Diplomat: Heroic Life of Diana Aparcar,” by Mimi Malayan, will be shown at the Dorothy and Charles Mosesian Center for the Arts on Sunday, September 29 at 6 p.m.

A reception and opportunity to meet Malayan will take place after the screening.

The screening is organized by the Armenian Cultural Foundation with the co-sponsorship of the Amaras Art Alliance, Arlington International Film Festival, Armenian International Women’s Association, Armenian Museum of America, Armenian Women’s Welfare Association, National Association for Armenian Studies and Research, Project Save Armenian Photograph Archives, and the Tekeyan Cultural Association Greater Boston Chapter.

In 1890, an Armenian entrepreneur, Michael Aparcar, brought his wife, an aspiring writer named Diana and their newborn daughter to Japan, a country that had recently opened to the world and was bursting with opportunities for new businesses. After two bankruptcies Michael suddenly died leaving Diana with debts and three children in a foreign land. She had to support her family and stabilize the business, eventually making it a success; yet she still wanted to focus her energy elsewhere.

see DIPLOMAT, page 15



Diana Aparcar

Fresno Premiere Screening of 'The Stateless Diplomat: Diana Aparcar's Heroic Life' On October 8

FRESNO – Mimi Malayan, great-granddaughter of Diana Aparcar, will present her film, “The Stateless Diplomat: Diana Aparcar’s Heroic Life,” on Tuesday, October 8, in the University Business Center, Alice Peters Auditorium, at Fresno State at 7:30 p.m.

The presentation is part of the Armenian Studies Program Fall 2019 Lecture Series and is co-sponsored by the Armenian National Committee, Central California and the Hamazkayin Armenian Educational and Cultural Society, Taniel Varoujan chapter of Fresno.

“The Stateless Diplomat” tells the story Diana Aparcar, who in 1920 was appointed as Honorary Consul to Japan by Prime Minister Hovhannes Kachaznuni of the Republic of Armenia. Aparcar worked on behalf of Armenia and genocide survivors her entire life.

In 1890 an Armenian entrepreneur, Michael Aparcar, brought his wife, an aspiring writer named Diana and their newborn daughter to Japan, a country that had recently opened to the world and was bursting with opportunities for new businesses. After two bankruptcies Michael suddenly died leaving Diana with debts and three children in a foreign land. She had to support her family and stabilize the business, eventually making it a success; yet she still wanted to focus her energy elsewhere.

see APCAR, page 15



ARTS & LIVING

Post-Revolution Art: Dialogues about Revolution and Power

By Archi Harutyun Galentz

BERLIN — On August 14 an exhibition opened in Berlin, which was not only dedicated to the revolution in Armenia, but also, with the help of a special perspective, analyzed that acclaimed process of social change.

In one of the display windows of the gallery a video was set up, with pictures of the street protests and other political actions that shook Armenia one year and a half ago. On the other side of the entrance door there was a poster hanging that introduced the exhibition as “voices of queer-feminist activists and scientists, and feminist art from Armenia.” This exhibit project was presented by the experienced Armenian curator Susanna Gyulamiryan, who stated in her introduction to the show:

“The project, ‘Dialogues about Revolution and Power,’ is dedicated to all those women who have participated in political and social protest in Armenia for the last two decades, who initiated it and organized it, those who formed and shaped the women’s movement, who stimulated a feminist debate and developed modes of critical thinking...”

Average art lovers found themselves confronted by several challenges; the show raised questions about the very image of what an art work is and what it means.

On one wall of the gallery there were four monitors that displayed reflections and analyses of the 2018 Armenian revolution contributed by young Armenian female experts. The political positions expressed by these self-conscious women citizens of the republic are to be viewed as artistic actions. Formally conceived as a unified gestalt, this series of portraits moves from a poetical declaration (Anna Zhamakochyan “Revolution: The Return of Reality”) or the presentation of a one-line poem (Ruzanna Grigoryan “for the sake of the revolution, not to talk about the revolution”), to complaints about the incompetence of official reporting in Armenia, incapable of analyzing or even taking note of social phenomena (Gayan Ayyazyan “Chronicles of the April Revolution”) and a merciless deconstruction of the attempt on the part of the new government elites to instrumentalize the women’s movement (Anna Nikogosyan “The Gendered Shades of Regime Change in Armenia”). Nikogosyan can also be seen in the trailer projected onto the display window, with a poster from the protests in Spring 2018. Its radical conclusion, that it is too early (to put it mildly) to speak of revolutionary changes in the country, lends the entire exhibition a serious tenor, an uncompromising and skeptical attitude toward the populist rhetoric of officialdom.

These four video statements are also integral parts of the Armenian pavilion at the Venice Biennale this year, and can be seen at the Garden of Palazzo Zenobio of the Collegio Armeno Moorat Raphael until November 24.

Another work, which is also part of Armenia’s presentation at the Biennale, was the action by Narine Arakelyan (see ADK 183, “Revolution auf Sparflamme”), in which about 50 volunteers in Venice reenacted the periodic “iron pots and pans” action. During the revolution, women in Yerevan and other Armenian cities would open their windows and bang on pots and pans. In Berlin, a special video documentation of the action in Venice was produced for the Wolf&Galentz exhibition. Since one could listen to all the other videos at the Berlin show with ear phones, the noise of soup spoons banging pots and pans created background noise and brought the message home to the visitors.

The last video work, which could be viewed on a separate monitor, was linked aesthetically to the four videos in the entrance area. Tamar Shirinian, a Visiting Assistant Professor of Sociology and Anthropology in Jackson, Mississippi, tells the story of the women’s movement in the early years of socialism and the Stalin era in Armenia and the Soviet Union overall. Shirinian accuses the Bolsheviks of having exploited the “women’s issue” to rule in the outlying regions.

Gyulamiryan included this video in the exhibition as a deliberately provocative statement. Shirinian places in question something that has long since become a commonplace, namely,

that in the Soviet Union — to which Armenia belonged — equality between the sexes was more advanced (in the sense that it guaranteed more rights for women) than in the West. She makes clear that the relations between the sexes must be considered in a more differentiated form, and that more or less hidden disadvantages for women in the Soviet Union must

way for the peaceful revolution.

Susanna Gyulamiryan’s exhibition at Wolf&Galentz is also framed by three female portraits from the 1960s to 1980s by Armine Kalentz (1920-2007), who is presented as a guest artist. As the curator writes: “The presentation of this series of female portraits by the Soviet Armenian painter Armine Kalentz is a

have years of experience in organizing project spaces and, as working artists, are also interested in art forms and phenomena that reach beyond borders. In addition, they aimed at demonstrating support for an initiative that, from conception to realization of the Armenian pavilion in the Venice Biennale, was under the overall leadership of women; the commissioner,



A scene from the gallery

be made visible; also, that the motives for the actual improvement in living standards for women must be examined critically.

Two further exhibits complete the show. First, the three posters by Lusine Talayan. One of her works is a photo with graffiti, a play on words in Armenian, that might be freely translated, “A woman is without man.”/“A woman has no lord.” (see Armenian) As the curator writes in her text for the exhibition, this sentence, together with another work, discusses the theme of a “Reflection about complex questions regarding the visibility or invisibility of women, their relations to one another, and their desire for appropriate recognition of their importance in the social realm; the possibility of remembrance and the politics of commemoration.”

The third poster presents in simple graphic form the well-known statue of Mother Armenia, without her sword. The artist adds an obscene phrase borrowed from “male language,” except in the female form. This short saying functions as an eye-catcher for Armenian speakers; but, more important in my view, is the rejection formulated in the text, of any formal portrayal of Mother Armenia as a “patriarchal” representation of power.

The artist had originally planned to present the poster in multiple copies for the exhibition, and thereby express an explicitly democratic element. The plan could not be realized for financial reasons, as the printing costs were exorbitant; the print shop in Armenia was not willing to meet the artist half way — perhaps a sign of the unwillingness in Armenia to support contemporary art and feminist concerns.

The works of another artist must also be mentioned: two large color pencil drawings by Lousineh Navasartian. The Iranian born artist and designer lives in the Armenian capital Yerevan; in the Berlin exhibition she shows drawings of wounds that activists received during street protests. The works are based on photos taken by friends. Her delicate drawings stand as a monument and perform a kind of symbolic healing. By placing these drawings next to the posters by Lusine Talayan, which express patriarchal forms of monuments, these drawings might perhaps be considered as an alternative, explicitly female form of remembrance culture. The titles of the works, “Tamarik 29.07.2016” and “Gev 27.11.2014,” make clear that it is not only a question of the 2018 Velvet Revolution, but rather of the numerous protests and demonstrations that brought increasing numbers of people into the streets in the years before and that paved the

recognition of her life and her artistic journey, in which a lot of gender conflicts played a role. Unlike other Soviet Armenian artists, Armine Kalentz did not shy away from depicting in her memoirs gestures of male superiority and male methods of suppressing women.” The female portraits by Kalentz forge a bridge to the video presentation by Tamar Shirinian.

“Dialogues about Revolution and Power” has become a multifaceted exhibition that has elicited varying interpretations. The young gallery in Berlin-Pankow, which was established by two artists, Andreas Wolf and Archi Galentz, hosted this project for its third exhibition. They both

curator, and developing manager were all women. Noteworthy in this connection is also the fact that the funds, which were raised exclusively by these women, served almost exclusively to pay the male artists.

(This article, “Gespräche über Revolution und Macht” in der Galerie Wolf&Galentz in Berlin, appears in the original German version in the upcoming issue of *Armenische-Deutsche Korrespondenz*, ADK Jg. 2019/Heft 3, the publication of the Armenian-German Society, with the kind permission of its chairman Dr. Raffi Kantian. Muriel Mirak-Weissbach translated the text into English.)

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ARTS & LIVING

'Stateless Diplomat' to Screen at Mosesian Center for the Arts on September 29

DIPLOMAT, from page 13

Diana Apcar dedicated herself to the Armenian people, facing massacres in the Ottoman Empire from the 1890s to 1909, and then uprooting and annihilation through deportations and the killings of the Armenian Genocide beginning in 1915. Apcar pleaded the case of the Armenian people through letters, books and articles over a period of decades, and helped hundreds of Armenian refugees obtain temporary asylum in Japan before taking refuge in the United States.

This film tries to convey the pivotal moments in Apcar's life: her awakening to the Armenian cause, her spiritual vision prompting her into activism, her mental collapse and frustration as she foresaw the Genocide, and her endless humanitarian work, personally aiding hundreds of Genocide survivors. The culmination of this work resulted in her appointment as Honorary Consul of the Republic of Armenia to Japan in 1920. This position barely lasted six months due to the Sovietization of Armenia.

Mimi Malayan, director, producer, writer and researcher, was born and grew up in San Francisco. Her family then moved to Europe,

the Asian subcontinent and Brazil, but Mimi returned to the US to attend George Washington University to major in French language and literature. After ten years on the East Coast, she attended the University of California at Berkeley and received her Master of Landscape Architecture. For 20 years, she practiced her trade, focusing on urban parks, plazas and playground design.

After finding a box of papers dedicated to Diana Apcar in her uncle's apartment in 2002, Mimi began her research into her great-grandmother's contributions to Armenia and its people.

For more information on the film and Apcar, see <https://dianaapcar.org/>. The film was an official selection of the New Hope Film Festival of 2019 and the Pomegranate Film Festival of Toronto in 2018. It received the Armin T. Wegner Humanitarian Award for 2019 at the ARPA International Film Festival.

This year marks the 160th anniversary of the birth of Apcar, champion of human rights, writer, humanitarian, entrepreneur, diplomat and activist.

The screening of "The Stateless Diplomat," at the MainStage Theater of the Mosesian Center (321 Arsenal Street, Watertown) will be followed by a



Mimi Malayan

reception in the Rehearsal Hall of the same center. All are welcome to attend. Tickets are available for purchase at the door at \$20, or at \$10 online at <https://web.ovationtix.com/trs/pr/1016864> or by calling the box office.

Fresno Premiere Screening of 'The Stateless Diplomat: Diana Apcar's Heroic Life' On October 8

APCAR, from page 13

She soon committed her passion and idealism to the Armenian cause. She wrote a book a year, appealed to peace societies and sent her articles to major European and American newspapers, pleading her case: Armenians' right for "security of life and property on the soil of their own country."

Apcar helped save the lives of hundreds of Armenians fleeing the 1915-23 genocide by the Turkish government, by arranging for refugees to receive asylum in Japan, finding shelter for the refugees, and assisting them to find ultimate refuge in the United States.

The movie utilizes Asian-inspired scrolling animation, a moving musical score, and captivating, dramatized readings from Apcar's memoirs and letters, and interviews with relatives of those who Apcar assisted.

As a San Francisco native, Malayan has spent many years volunteering with various local Armenian organizations, providing her with unique access to community leaders. For ten years she served as a board member for the U.C. Berkeley Armenian Alumni and is currently a board member for Bay Area Friends of Armenian (BAFA).

Arthur Muradyan directed the film and works as Director/Producer in the field of video production, with an emphasis on motion graphics and animation. Currently he produces short films, educational videos and motion graphics in partnership with Ekaterina Rossikhina, DBA Animatography.

The lecture is free and open to the public.

Recipe

Guest Recipe



by Christine Vartanian Datian

Grapes Leaves with Rice, Lemon Juice, Olive Oil and Herbs

Recipe and photo are courtesy of the late Dr. Harold H. "Buzz" Baxter from the Gutsy Gourmet, his outstanding international food website.

INGREDIENTS:

1 cup olive oil, to taste
6 cups onion, finely chopped
1/2 cup roasted red bell pepper, chopped
2 cups uncooked white rice (Uncle Ben's, for example)
1 cup water
1 cup tomato sauce
1 cup fresh lemon juice
1 tablespoon fresh mint, chopped
1 tablespoon fresh sweet basil, chopped
1 tablespoon salt
1 tablespoon sugar
1 tablespoon chopped fresh dill
1 teaspoon black pepper
Dash cayenne, to taste
80-100 grape leaves
1 cup flat-leaf parsley, finely chopped, to taste
1/2 teaspoon allspice, optional
Sliced lemons as garnish

PREPARATION

For best results, the rice mixture should be cooked the day before and allowed to cool completely. In a large pot, sauté the onions in olive oil until translucent, about 10 minutes. Stir often to prevent burning.

Add all ingredients except the parsley and grape leaves, and bring to a low boil. Stir, turn heat to low, and cook, covered, for 15-20 minutes. Add the parsley, and stir for a few minutes. Remove the pot from heat and let cool completely.

ASSEMBLY

Rinse grape leaves thoroughly and squeeze out water. Remove stem from each leaf. Lay each leaf flat dull side up. Place 1-2 teaspoons of rice mixture on the leaf, fold sides over filling, and roll leaf up.

COOKING

Pre-heat oven to 350 degrees. Lay some unused or torn grape leaves, stems and pieces on the bottom of a large pot or casserole to protect rolled grape leaves (use cabbage, celery or lettuce leaves if there are not enough grape leaf scraps.) Arrange rolled grape leaves in the pot or casserole in as many layers as needed.

Add about 2½ cups of water over the grape leaves, place a crockery plate over the top of rolled grape leaves, and bake until water has almost absorbed, for about an hour. Check if rice is fully cooked, and remove pot or casserole from oven; let cool completely.

Refrigerate overnight for best results. Remove grape leaves from pot or casserole and place on a serving plate. Drizzle with olive oil and lemon juice, if desired, and garnish with thin lemon slices.

Yield: Makes about 80 grape leaves.

*Grape leaves may be purchased in most supermarkets and Middle Eastern stores. This recipe will keep well in the refrigerator for 5-6 days. Go to: <http://www.thegutsygourmet.net/yalnchi.html>



Armenian Yalnchi

Armenian American Museum to Hold Gala on December 8

GLENDALE – The Armenian American Museum and Cultural Center of California has announced that its second annual gala will be held on Sunday, December 8, at the Beverly Hilton in Beverly Hills.

Hundreds of supporters, community leaders, and public officials are expected to attend the event to celebrate and support the landmark project as it approaches its groundbreaking year.

"We are truly excited to announce the 2nd Annual Armenian American Museum Gala as the project approaches its historic groundbreaking year," stated Executive Chairman Berdj Karapetian. "We look forward to celebrating and supporting the landmark project with our community on December 8th."

The announcement of the 2nd Annual Gala comes on the heels of the appointment of the museum's exhibition design firm and project design team. The museum plans to begin construction in 2020.

The City of Glendale has dedicated a premier location for the museum in downtown Central Park as part of the city's arts and entertainment district.

The Armenian American Museum will be the first world class cultural and educational center of its kind in America. The museum program will feature a permanent Armenian exhibition, temporary multicultural exhibitions, performing arts theater, learning center, demonstration kitchen, and much more.

More than 1,000 attendees gathered for the museum's Inaugural gala last year. The gala honored Glendale City Council for securing the museum's future site. The Gala also honored California State Senator Anthony J. Portantino, California State Senate President pro Tempore Emeritus Kevin de León, California State Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian, and California State Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon for securing major funding from the State of California. Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger surprised the audience with a \$1 million check presentation during the event. Fox 11 Morning News Anchor/Reporter Araksya Karapetian served as the Master of Ceremonies for the evening.



ARTS & LIVING

CALENDAR

ARIZONA

NOVEMBER 2-3 — ARMENIAFest at St. Apkar Armenian Apostolic Church. Weekend food and cultural festival featuring traditional Armenian foods, beverages, exhibits, music and dance performances. 8849 E. Cholla St., Scottsdale.

CALIFORNIA

NOVEMBER 23 — Armenian EyeCare Project Gala. Join the Armenian EyeCare Project for its annual Gala celebrating another year of great accomplishments in Armenia. Held at the beautiful Balboa Bay Resort in Newport Beach, CA at 6:30pm. Evening begins with stunning cocktail reception and silent auction followed by an exquisite five-course dinner, live Armenian music by the Hosharian Brothers Band, an exciting live auction and more! Tickets are \$450/person if reserved by Oct. 10; \$500/person after Oct. 10; and \$250/person for those age 35 & under. All proceeds to benefit the AECP's many sight-saving programs in Armenia. To RSVP or for more information, call 949-933-4069, email info@eyecareproject.com or visit eyecareproject.com/gala

CONNECTICUT

OCTOBER 24 — Book presentation by Adrienne G. Alexanian, editor of her father's memoir *Forced into Genocide: Memoirs of an Armenian Soldier in the Ottoman Turkish Army*, University of Connecticut's Office of Global Affairs, UConn, Hartford, Hartford Times Building, Room HTB 210 – 10 Prospect Street, Hartford, from 5 to 8 p.m. For information: (860) 486-5184 or zahra.ali@uconn.edu. Book sale/signing during reception prior to the presentation and after. All proceed from the sale of the books will be donated.

FLORIDA

DECEMBER 13, 14, & 15 — Friday, Saturday, & Sunday - Friday - 6pm to 10pm; Saturday - 9am to 10pm; Sunday - 1pm to 6pm; - St. David Armenian Art & Food Festival, 2300 Yamato Road, Boca Raton, FL. Join us for an afternoon of delicious homemade Armenian food, fun, fellowship, raffles, and children's activities while you shop for Christmas gifts at our vendors. For more information, call the church office at 561-994-2335. Admission is free and there is ample parking on the church grounds.

MASSACHUSETTS

SEPTEMBER 22 — "Timeless Classics," Music of Bach, Handel & Vivaldi, performed by the Karapetyan String Quartet with Sargis Karapetyan, violin, Victoria Avetisyan, mezzo-soprano, Gregory Newton, bassoon, and Nune Hakobyan, piano and organ; 1 p.m.; Sanctuary, Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston, 145 Brattle Street, Cambridge MA. Event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact the Church Office at 617.354.0632, or e-mail office@htaac.org.

SEPTEMBER 22 — Sunday Afternoon for Families and Friends. Armenian Heritage Park on The Greenway, Boston. 2-4 pm. Wonderful afternoon with The Hye Guys Ensemble featuring Ron Sahatjian and Joe Kouyoumjian. Hoodsies, Face Painting and more RSVP appreciated hello@armenianheritagepark.org

SEPTEMBER 26 — Annual Fall Dinner and Drawing sponsored by the Friends of Holy Trinity 1000 Club, 6:30 p.m.; Charles and Nevart Talanian Cultural Hall, Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston, 145 Brattle St., Cambridge MA. All are invited; you don't have to be a member of the 1000 Club to attend and enjoy a delicious losh kebab and pilaf dinner for \$9.99/person. Dinner tickets on sale at the door. Raffle drawing will follow at 8 p.m., for monthly prizes of \$2,000, plus five \$25 door prizes. Special offer: purchase five "one-time" numbers for \$20, save \$5. For more information, contact the Church Office at 617.354.0632, or email office@htaac.org.

SEPTEMBER 28 — Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry (ABMDR) New England 8th Annual Walk of Life. Registration 10:30-11:00am at Armenian Educational and Cultural Center (ACE), Nichols Avenue, Watertown. Walk begins promptly at 11 am and goes down to Watertown Square. Registration is \$25 (\$10 for

students). For more info, visit www.abmdr.am/ne

SEPTEMBER 29 — Sunday, 6 p.m., the screening of "The Stateless Diplomat," a documentary by Mimi Malayan on the heroic life and legacy of Diana A. Apcar (1859-1937), Armenia's Honorary Consul to Japan in 1920 at Mosesian Center for Arts, Watertown. Organized by the Armenian Cultural Foundation and co-sponsored by Amaras Art Alliance, Arlington International Film Festival, co-Armenian International Women's Association, Armenian Museum of America, Armenian Women's Welfare Association, National Association for Armenian Studies and Research, Project SAVE Armenian Photograph Archives, and Tekeyan Cultural Association. The tickets will be available in the Dorothy and Charles Mosesian Center for the Arts through the following link: <https://web.ovationtix.com/trs/pe/10450012>

OCTOBER 2 — Food Tasting with Dr. Mari Firkatian, 6.30 p.m. reception, 7 p.m. lecture and tasting. Armenian Museum of America Adele & Haig Der Manuelian galleries, 65 Main Street, Watertown. Professor of History and Armenian cook, Firkatian will demonstrate traditional Armenian recipes from her book, *Home Again*. Tasting and Q & A to follow. Books will be available for purchase. To RSVP, call Garin Habeshian at 617-926-2562, ext.103 or email ghabeshian@armenianmuseum.org. Members \$15. Non-members \$20.

OCTOBER 2 —Joint Sts. Vartanantz — Hye Point Golf Outing at the beautiful Butter Brook Golf Club in Westford. Proceeds to benefit scholarships to Diocesan youth programs. 10 a.m. Shotgun start. Golfers with all skill levels most welcome. Single players will be grouped into foursomes. \$150 for Golf, lunch, and Dinner. \$165 will include 25 raffle tickets. Awards dinner to follow golf outing at Sts. Vartanantz Armenian Church, 180 Old Westford Rd., Chelmsford. For registration and sponsorship information, please contact Steve Sarkisian at 978-808-2820, Stsgolf@earthlink.net.

OCTOBER 7 — St James Men's Club Dinner Meeting - social hour and mezza at 6:15 PM and dinner at 7 p.m., St James Armenian Church Charles Mosesian Cultural and Youth Center - Keljik Hall, 465 Mt. Auburn Street, Watertown. Guest speaker Dr. Myron Allukian, public health expert and the former Dental Director of the City of Boston for 34 years. The title of Dr Allukian's presentation is Healthy is Wealthy: How to Live a Healthy and Longer Life, which is a discussion of health care in the United States with an emphasis on what individuals, families, and society can do to help ensure healthier lifestyles and healthier lives. He will also discuss the impact on our lives by the US health care system and big business. Dr. Allukian is currently the President of the Massachusetts Coalition for Oral Health and Vice Chair of the Oral Health Working Group. He has been called "The Social Conscience of Dentistry". Mezza and a Losh Kebab & Kheyma Dinner \$17/person. Ladies invited. For additional information call the St James Church office at 617-923-8860 or call Hapet Berberian at 781-367-6598.

OCTOBER 13 — Sunday Cultural Series! Traditional Armenian Dance Lessons. 2-4 pm, Armenian Museum of America Adele & Haig Der Manuelian galleries, 3rd floor, 65 Main Street, Watertown. On the second Sunday of every month, join experts Gary and Susan Lind-Sinianian for a workshop on Armenian dance. Gary and Susan have collected over 100 village dances and shared these with the community for the last 42 years. Learn Armenian dances performed at American picnics and traditional dances from the old country. Members free. Non-members \$12. Register online (<https://www.armenianmuseum.org/museum-events>) or call Education Coordinator, Garin Habeshian at 617.926.2562 Ext. 103

OCTOBER 19 — NOVEMBER 9 — Fall Studio Art Classes Armenian Museum of America Adele & Haig Der Manuelian galleries, 3rd floor, 65 Main Street, Watertown. Young artists will be inspired by objects on display in the galleries to refine their individual artistic talents. Projects such as painting from observation, designing Armenian calligraphy, and pottery decoration will be presented. Members \$96. Non-members \$120. For more info and to register visit <https://www.armenianmuseum.org/classes>, or call Education Coordinator, Garin Habeshian at 617-926-2562, ext. 103.

OCTOBER 18-19 — St. James 72nd Annual Bazaar, Delicious Armenian Food and Pastries. Silent Auction, Attic Treasures, Booths and Vendors. Raffles, Children's Activities, and more. Friday and Saturday. Details to follow. St. James Armenian Church – 465 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown. For more information contact

617.923.8860 or info@stthagop.com or visit www.stjameswatertown.org.

OCTOBER 19 — The Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) 100th Annual Meeting Banquet celebrating the Armenian Evangelical Church. Westin Hotel, Waltham, 70 Third Ave., Waltham. 6 p.m. reception, 7 p.m. Dinner, \$125. RSVP by October 5. Tickets and sponsorships available online at amaa.org. Checks payable to the Armenian Missionary Association of America, and mail to 31 W. Century Road, Paramus, NJ 07652

OCTOBER 19 — The Vosbikians are coming to the Merrimack Valley. The Armenian Friends of America proudly present their Annual HYE KEF 5 Dance, featuring The Vosbikians. The DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, Andover, MA. Tickets Purchased before 9/13/19 will include the Great Venue, Outstanding Buffet, The Vosbikian Band and 5 Free Raffle Tickets Adults \$75.00 & Students 21 & under \$65 Specially priced AFA Rooms available through 9/17/19. For Tickets and more information, Contact: Lu Sirmaian 978-683-9121 or Sharke' Der Apkarian at 978-808-0598 Visit www.Armenia-FriendsofAmerica.org

OCTOBER 20 — Annual Banquet of Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston, Celebrating the 58th Anniversary of the Consecration of Holy Trinity and honoring Bruce Newell as the "Parishioner of the Year," 12:30 p.m., Charles and Nevart Talanian Cultural Hall, 145 Brattle Street, Cambridge. Save the date; details to follow.

OCTOBER 27 — Sunday Cultural Series: Popular Songs by Armenian Composers Performed by renowned singers Arthur Ispiryan from Yerevan and Nara from California 2-4 pm, Armenian Museum of America Adele & Haig Der Manuelian galleries, 3rd floor, 65 Main Street, Watertown, MA. Please join us at the Armenian Museum as we welcome renowned singers Arthur Ispiryan from Yerevan and Nara from California as they perform popular songs by Armenian composers. Special appearance by Aram Satian, the president of the Composer's Union of Armenia and Composer Maestro Konstantin Petrosian. This performance is presented by Armenian Museum of America and the Composer's Union of Armenia, and sponsored by the Dadourian Foundation. Special appearance by Aram Satian, the president of the Composer's Union of Armenia and Composer Maestro Konstantin Petrosian. Members free. Non-members free with \$15 Museum admission.

NOVEMBER 1,2 — NAASR Grand Opening and Gala. Friday, November 1 — Grand Opening & Ribbon Cutting, NAASR Vartan Gregorian Building, at NAASR's new world headquarters, 395 Concord Avenue, Belmont, MA. Saturday, November 2 — NAASR 65th Anniversary Gala, at the Royal Sonesta Hotel, Cambridge. 6 pm Reception, 7 pm Dinner and Program. Honoree Dr. Vartan Gregorian, president of the Carnegie Corporation of New York; Master of Ceremonies David Ignatius, columnist for the *Washington Post* and novelist; Featuring renowned soprano Isabel Bayrakdarian, accompanied by the Borromeo String Quartet, performing a program of songs by Komitas. Further details to follow.

NOVEMBER 8 and 9 — Annual Autumnfest Bazaar sponsored by the Armenian Church at Hye Pointe, at our new location 1280 Boston Road, (Rte. 125) Haverhill, Friday 12 – 7 pm and Saturday 12 – 7 pm. Lamb, Losh, Chicken Kebab and Kheyma. Dinners served all day. Pastry table, Armenian cuisine, gift baskets, raffles for cash and prizes. For more info, visit www.hyepointearmenianchurch.org or call (978) 372-9227. Take Rte. 495 N to exit 48, bear right at the end of the ramp.

NOVEMBER 16 — St. Stephen's Armenian Elementary School 35th Anniversary Celebration. Keynote speaker: Dr. Diran Apelian, Professor of Engineering & Former Provost, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Distinguished Professor, UC Irvine. Entertainment: singer Artur Hakobyan (Mister X). Emcee: Lisa Gulesserian, Ph.D., Harvard's Preceptor on Armenian Language & Culture. @ The Westin Hotel Waltham-Boston. 6:30pm Cocktails / 7:30pm Dinner and program. More to follow...

DECEMBER 6 and 7 — Friday and Saturday, Trinity Christmas Bazaar, Friday, 12 noon-9 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston, 145 Brattle Street, Cambridge. For further information, contact the Church Office, 617.354.0632.

DECEMBER 15 — Christmas Holiday Concert — Erevan Choral Society and Orchestra, 3:00 p.m., Church Sanctuary, Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston, 145 Brattle Street, Cambridge, MA. Save the date; details to follow. For further information, call the Church Office, 617.354.0632, or email office@htaac.org.



ARTS & LIVING

Humor-Filled Sequel to 'Where Is Your Groom?' to Be Staged at Alex Theatre

GLENDALÉ – “Where Is Your Groom? II,” the comedic sequel to the equally funny original charmer will take place on Sunday, October 6, at the Alex Theatre.

The vibrant characters, all of whom exude a sense of warmth and familiarity, convey the challenges of being caught between two cultures in this laugh out loud comedy filled with theatrical high jinx. The contemporary play, by Taleen Babayan, appeals to all generations and highlights themes common in today’s diaspora, including the preservation of cultural identity in a melting-pot society. The performance, with sponsor support from the Nazerian Group, comes on the heels of a sold-out show brimming with 700 audience members in Pasadena last spring.

“Our second show will be even bigger and better,” said veteran actor and comedian Harout Soghomonian, who plays the role of the family patriarch. “I’ve really enjoyed being part of this production and collaborating with the next generation to stage an unforgettable show at the Alex Theatre.”

Through thoughtful dialogue, relevant issues are tackled and explored that “relay the frustrations of Armenian-Americans caught between the tensions of maintaining the traditions of a race almost extinguished from this earth a century ago and the desire to live a modern life,” according to past audience member Sheri Jordan.

“Where is Your Groom?” is a satire that will ring true for every Armenian-American and is a love poem dedication to the Armenian people akin to the style of Neil Simon or Woody Allen at their best,” said Jordan.

This show will mark the 15th staging of the original and its sequel.

“I quickly connected to the play as a whole and the main character of Lara in particular because I too make an effort to balance a contemporary life and maintain strong ties to my heritage,” said singer and actress Mariette Soudjian. “The character’s outside the box curiosity clashes in a customary community, which makes for great comedy.”

While the original play revolved around an Armenian-American family’s quest to find their daughter a suitable partner, the sequel focuses on the overbearing nature of Armenian parents, eager to plan a wedding in their own way - satirizing traditional elements of the Armenian family and cultural life.

“I absolutely love and appreciate projects that explore family dynamics through culture and generations,” said actress Helen Kalognomos, who portrays the character of the clever and zealous grandmother. “Taleen’s writing is honest, funny and heart-warming and I wish I could be both on stage and in the audience for this one.”

The current Los Angeles-based 20-member cast and crew are all Diasporan-Armenians with roots from across the globe, including the US, Lebanon, Kuwait, Iraq, Iran and Armenia, who share a love for the arts and are eager to have a voice in this present-day prevalent discourse.

“Conveying my Armenian culture through this creative platform has been both fulfilling and enjoyable,” said Aleen L. Khanjian, Esq., who joins the comic mix as the non-Armenian wedding planner. “The energy and rawness of this play is funny and engaging to all generations.”

D.C.) and Tekeyan Cultural Association (Armenia - Sponsor a Teacher), bringing together a manifold experience on stage, backstage, in the audience - and the community as a whole.

“Taleen proves adept at capturing the comedic side of the tragic reality of assimilation,” said Jordan. “While she serves up generous helpings of first-generation Armenian-centric jokes, the story and characters are relatable across virtually every immigrant ethnic minority.”

“Where Is Your Groom? II” features Harout Soghomonian, Maro Ajemian, Mariette Soudjian, Helen Kalognomos, Mary



The cast of “Where Is Your Groom, with playwright Taleen Babayan

The seminal work, which creates a diverse and unique space for members of all ages and backgrounds to explore the performing arts, has been staged at celebrated venues such as SVA Theatre, Columbia University’s Miller Theatre and Arsenal Center for the Arts, while benefiting Armenian organizations, including Friends of Warm Hearth (Armenia), Armenian Relief Society (Boston), Knights & Daughters of Vartan (Washington D.C.), Holy Cross Armenian Church (New York City), St. Gregory Armenian Church (Philadelphia), Abree Foundation (Washington

Basmadjian, Mardik Iskenderian, Vatche Ghanimian, Henry Abadjian, Haig Hovnanian, Joseph Hovsepian, Chris Kioudjian, Harven Danielian, Liza Iskenderian, Aleen Khanjian, Asdghig Abadjian, Aleen Vartkessian, Arees Setrak, Hannah Pollock and Arevig Abadjian. The performance will take place on Sunday, October 6, 2019 at the Alex Theatre in Glendale. Red carpet at 5:30 pm and show at 6:00 pm. Running time is 2 hours including intermission. Play is in English with some Armenian. Tickets are available online at www.alextheatre.org.

CALENDAR

MICHIGAN

OCTOBER 26 — Kef Time Keghi IV 6:30 p.m. Saturday, at St John Armenian Cultural Hall, Southfield, headlined with Traditional Keghetzi Pagharch feast, full buffet dinner with dancing, music by the Keghi All-Star Armenian Band. Reservations call Laura Negosian Lucassian at 248-376-3794 or email at Llucassian@TBEonline.org. Donation: Adults \$45, Children under 17, \$20. Cash Bar. Mail checks to Karen Nigosian, 21919 Michigan Ave, Dearborn. MI 48124 Checks payable to Nor Keghi Association. Proceeds to support continuing renovations at public schools and community projects in Nor Keghi, Armenia. Supported by parishioners of the four Armenian churches in Greater Detroit.

NOVEMBER 16 — The Knights of Vartan, Nareg-Shavarshan Lodge #6 and the Daughters of Vartan, Zabelle Otyag #12 will celebrate their respective 100th and 70th organization anniversaries. Featuring: Kevork Artinian and his All Star Band at St. Mary’s Cultural Hall, 18100 Merriman Rd, Livonia. This is a fundraiser Dinner/Kef Dance to celebrate Knights and Daughters as well as a chance for future members to observe how our community puts our heritage on display. All proceeds to fund renovation of school gymnasium, Knights of Vartan #106, Elementary School, Yerevan, Armenia. For Reservations Contact: Laura Lucassian, (248) 376-3794, Cost \$75 per person, \$40 after 9:30 pm

NEW JERSEY

SEPTEMBER 22 — Annual Picnic, Sunday, 12:30 to 6:30 p.m. St. Stepanos Armenian Apostolic Church, 1184 Ocean Avenue, Long Branch. Louleh and Shish Kebab, Dolma Dinners. Armenian Cuisine featuring Cheese Boereg, Pastries, Baklava and more. Armenian Music and Children’s Games.

OCTOBER 2 — Mimi Melkonian, author and educator, Nightingales: True Stories of Escape, Hope and Resilience, a compilation of Syrian refugees’ stories fleeing a country in the midst of a civil war. 7 p.m. Pitkin Education Building, Room A-104, Bergen Community College, Paramus Campus. Free and open to the public. Co-hosted by the Tekeyan Cultural Association-Greater New York, Armenian International Women’s Association New Jersey Affiliate and the Daughters of Vartan. Light refreshments will be serviced and books will be available for sale and signing.

OCTOBER 12, 13 — The Tekeyan Cultural Association’s Mher Megerdchian Theatrical Group will present “Caught in the Net,” a comedy in one act, directed by Harout Chatmajian. Oradell Elementary School, 350 Prospect Ave., Oradell. 8 p.m. on Saturday and 4 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets \$35 and \$50. Performed in Armenian with English subtitles. For tickets call Marie (201) 745-8850 or Talar (201) 240-8541.

OCTOBER 25 — Banquet Honoring Dr. Taner Akcam Abajian Hall St. Leon complex Fair Lawn, NJ Sponsored by Knights & Daughters of Vartan- Under the Auspices of His Grace Bishop Daniel Findikyan, Primate. For Reservations please call Sona Manuelian 551-427-8763. \$125 p.p. early reservations recommended.

NEW YORK

SEPTEMBER 26 — A GREEN Evening Celebrating Armenia Tree Project’s 25th Anniversary. Wine, hors d’oeuvres, and a brief update from Executive Director Jeanmarie Papelian. Proceeds will support ATP’s new Forestry Fund. 7:00 to 9:30 pm at Affirmation Arts, 523 West 37th Street, New York. A minimum donation of \$100 is requested. Please RSVP via www.getrooted-nyc.eventbrite.com or call (617) 926-TREE.

NOVEMBER 15 — Book presentation by Adrienne G. Alexanian, editor of her father’s memoir *Forced into*

Genocide: Memoirs of an Armenian Soldier in the Ottoman Turkish Army - Fordham University Armenian Society, Fordham University, 113 West 60th St. N.Y., N.Y. 10023 – Room 602 – 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. For information – Takoosh@aol.com Book sales/signing following the presentation. All proceeds from the sale of the books will be donated to St. Nersess Armenian Seminary.

RHODE ISLAND

SEPTEMBER 22 — The Cultural Committee of Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church, Providence Presents Meet With The Doctors - Questions & Answers. We invite everyone to avail themselves of this opportunity and “Meet with our Armenian Doctors” Dr. Martin Papazian, ear, nose and throat specialist. Steven Zaroogian, Moderator. Sunday, 12:30 p.m., Hanoian Hall, 70 Jefferson St., Providence.

SEPTEMBER 29 — The Armenian Historical Association of Rhode Island (AHARI) will host an afternoon with Susan Lind-Sinianian, renowned museum curator and educator at the Armenian Museum of America as she presents her upcoming book. Sunday. Refreshments 12.30 p.m., lecture at 1 p.m. Attendees are invited to bring their own family textile treasures with them for an “Antiques Road Show” style evaluation. AHARI, 245 Waterman St., fifth floor conference room, Providence.

OCTOBER 20 — The Cultural Committee of Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church, Providence Presents Meet With The Doctors - Questions & Answers. We invite everyone to avail themselves of this opportunity and “Meet with our Armenian Doctors” Dr. Herman Ayvazyan Internal Medicine. Topic: New Trends in Primary Care Medicine. Ara Boghigian, Moderator. Sunday, 12:30 p.m., Hanoian Hall, 70 Jefferson St., Providence.

Calendar items are free. Entries should not be longer than 5 lines. Listings should include contact information. Items will be edited to fit the space, if need be. A photo may be sent with the listing no later than Mondays at noon.

COMMENTARY

Armenia's Independence Day

By Edmond Y. Azadian

For many countries, independence day is a routine date in the calendar, when the anniversary is remembered while many of the liberties and opportunities created by that independence are taken for granted.

For Armenians, independence has a very special meaning, because we have lost it so many times and rediscovered it through the upheavals of history. It is much more precious, and we have to count our blessings every year that we celebrate independence, because the first independence in the modern era, in the early 20th century, lasted less than three years. When Armenia turned independent again in 1991, the first two and half years presented a threshold, a psychological barrier, which we crossed with the fear of losing independence in our hearts.

The two independence opportunities that were offered to Armenia came to being through international developments; in 1918, independent Armenia rose over the ruins of the collapsed Russian Empire and the second, in 1991, as a result of the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Following World War I, a political vacuum was created in the Caucasus, one which the emerging Kemalist movement in Turkey and Lenin's Bolshevik revolution in Russia were racing to fill. Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan formed a confederation called the Sejm, which was meant to hold those three embattled nations together. But the constituent nations had so many historical, territorial contradictions and adversities that the union did not last long and was dissolved as each nation declared independence.

Armenia was the last one to declare almost by default, as Prime Minister Simon Vratzian lamented in his book, that "peo-

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COMMENTARY



My Turn

By Harut Sassounian

Armin Wegner Asked Franz Werfel Not to Write his '40 Days of Musa Dagh'

Part III

Columnist Harut Sassounian will publish in a four-part series the exchange between the two historic figures Armin Wegner and Franz Werfel Armin.

Wegner wrote to Franz Werfel: "Radio and press continued to feed on me. In the end, a severe illness knocked me down, which I haven't overcome to this day. I was commissioned by a book club to write an in-depth work on Jewish Palestine. It stole laborious hours from my great Armenian novel, which would have been finished long ago, under other circumstances. Nevertheless, I have finished the first volume, although it still needs a revision. The draft of the second volume is about half way done, as well as parts of the fourth volume, which I had started previously.

When I returned from a sanatorium in Meran on December 12 (fairly recovered), and ready to go back to work again, I heard that you had read a chapter from a proposed Armenian novel in Berlin. By the way, the public oration of some sections of my Armenian novel took place on an evening in the Herrenhause, which the Association of German Narrators organized for me in November 1930, and which was reported to the press at that time.

Dear and honored Franz Werfel, you may now ask with certain rights, why I am writing all this to you? Isn't it always charming to see different poets use the same material as they shape it according to their temperament, personality and creativity? How many various Madonna paintings do we appreciate based on this artistic impulse, directed to the same motives in the times of the Middle Ages and the Renaissance? And, has this somehow affected the fame, success and cre-

ativity of the artists? Didn't it strengthen it, on the contrary?

Unfortunately, we live in other times today, not in an age of cultic community as we did then. In our case, we also deal with a work in which documents from the years of the Armenian deportation are a necessity. Documents which I, despite my own personal experiences, used heavily, as well. I must necessarily draw a parallel, where in some places, the content — in isolated cases, even in the exact wording — completely match. I see this when I have the newspaper reports of your last lecture in which all of those facts are listed, which Johannes Lepsius so vividly left in his journal in his own written judgment about his interview with Enver Pasha.

I hope you don't misunderstand me! It is not only the right, but the duty of a writer to use such documents. Nevertheless, it is not pleasant to see such parallels revealed in the eyes of the public. In every poetic work, it's not only the invention, but all the facts operate with and for the work, which the poet draws from the events and intellectual currents of his or her time. Contemporary history, even many literary works of their contemporaries, becomes a quarry for the significant artist, from which he or she breaks the building materials for their work. Emerson recognized this very well when he called Shakespeare a "library" of his time.

The moment I explain this to you, you will also understand the concern that has come my way, since I heard of your new project. Deep down, internally, such concern is certainly not the case. The characters of each poet are necessarily filled with his own flesh and blood, no matter how much he takes them from history, just as a good portrait at the same time shows the features of the master who painted it. But outwardly and economically, this concern is bigger; because your message forces me, at least regarding my first volume, which I would like to postpone until the completion of the second one, to publish it sooner than I intended.

I cannot stay indifferent if a genius, a much more famous and successful poet, like Franz Werfel, should come out with a novel that echoes with the conclusion of my own theme. Because with that he will take away from the public the punchline stuff that my work amounts to, and for which it was actually written. Obviously, I cannot finish the last volume and publish it, before completing the other volumes.

Perhaps my fear, caused only by the newspaper notes about your lecture, is unfounded, but imagining your book published makes me feel like a North Pole explorer, who after months of life-threatening hardships, arrives at the pole, realizing that

someone else had arrived before him a few days earlier.

If I make this presentation so detailed to you, it will first of all be to prove to you the extensive background of my work, with regard to the shaping of the destiny of Armenia. But there is also another reason that moves me - I am told by members of the Academy, and by friends who attended your last lecture, that you had said that the whole thing would initially be an indeterminate plan, and you did not even know if you were going to execute it at all. If this is correct, then my message should probably not be without influence on your decision.

It is possible that you, as a member of the Academy of the Arts, had heard of my plans, and the honorary award bestowed to me two years ago. Or, perhaps, my offer to the publisher Zsolnay, who is so close to you, or at least through literary circles in general? I suppose this is not the case, since, as a rule, writers knowingly do not cultivate the same materials at the same time, especially not when a project is in an advanced stage.

On the other hand, it proves once again the genius of your poetic vision, to devote your time and talents to the same formidable event. And yet, I was not only fighting for my own life's work here, but I also would have to warn you against continuing it.

Despite the equality of all primal humanity, Asia, the Asiatic characters, and Turks as well as Armenians, are so utterly remote from us that the design of Asia for any European poet, if he really wants to penetrate into the interior, remains an enticing as well as dangerous mystery. Although I have lived in the country for many years in close relationship with Armenians and Turks, although my Armenian and Turkish friends have provided me with rich personal, unpublished material, and although my own records of the Armenian people and their deportation fill out numerous booklets, documents which I have left, with the consideration of my planned work, to my dear friend Johannes Lepsius, yet I know the infinite psychological difficulty of the task. Even for you, it is possible, that this dangerous labyrinth, once it gets you, will lure you deeper and deeper. I do not know. If I had known beforehand to what extent my Armenian novel and the work on it would expand with the years, would I have had the courage to dare to get involved with it? My participation in this human tragedy has probably been the deepest and most central shock of my entire human experience."

Article to be continued next week.

The Armenian Brethren and The Turkish Language

By James Bilezikian

I was ten years old and I had been hearing sermons on sin and redemption for seven years. The sermons were proclaimed from behind a pulpit, by my uncle Vartan. The pulpit was neither attached to an ascending ladder, curved and pregnant with the promise of levitating heavenward, nor was it attached to a stairwell curling downward with the threat of judgment. Our pulpit was bound to the earth at the front of a stage, three feet above the floor, a general in command of an army, of pews. The pulpit stood there in its summer sweat, and in its winter freeze.

We, the bodies of that congregation of brethren from halfway across the world, now within a picnic ride from Plymouth, sat there, not as Plymouth Brethren, but as Armenian Brethren, smelling of garlic, weeping in silence, and singing from the heart. The hearth of our home was from across the Atlantic, through the straits of Gibraltar, even further, beyond the colossus at Rhodes, where the towns and villages lay, by the way of the 'ten thousand', and before that, the wonder of Alexander, as he trooped his way through western Asia, on his journey to the land of rupees and maharajahs.

We were neither covered by that history, nor emboldened. It was but another event under the reflection of the gaze of the ark, as her glance bore down upon us from her confinement in snow and ice, in the solitude of her wood and timber. That was our pale, the knowledge that the ark was above us, and everything below was a stage on which was written the cries of Noah's children.

From the pulpit, the sermons coursed their way to my soul through the filter of a translation. As they were preached in Turkish, a language unknown to me, although surrounding me, I received the truth, second hand, in the car ride home, and during the lunch that consumed half the afternoon, whose humor and intensity satisfied the mist of our history, and sustained our cord to the 'old country'.

I learned, during these bouts with Sunday afternoon, stories of the bible. My favorite was David and Goliath, if only because David's weapon of choice was my father's in his battle with the Kurdish boys in the mountains surrounding the city of Marash, his birthplace. Dad fought them when he was younger than the age David was when he fought Goliath. Dad was small, the weapon even smaller, yet everything grew large in my eyes which beheld the wonder of my father waging war at the very same age I was.

These stories provided life to the hours and Sundays spent in church listening to sermons in a language that was incomprehensible. I learned, also, how hard life could be, not from listening to the sermons, but, from sitting in those pews, which unlike the god about which I was being taught, were unforgiving. The oak benches, their back set at a puri-

and the frustration and comedy of backgammon. That language was a mountain stream, capturing the sun by day, and the moon by night. It touched everything's in its path, cooling the sun and warming the moon, and sending the single note of its cascade around one stone into a serenade over thousands. The forest, nearby, rung with the sound of its serenade, and the darkness at noon, in the depth of the forest, was lessened at its fringe, by the reflection of the sun on the maiden face of the stream.

Like all of life, the stream carried at its waistband, ready for adornment, the mask of death. I learned at an early age why this language was hidden from me, why it was not spoken to me, why all those around me shrunk back from teaching it to me. I learned at the age of ten that it was the language of the murderers of our race. It was a language that embraced me, but impaled the history of my people. It was a language whose origin and ownership was of and by a people who hated to death my ancestors and their progeny, and yet a language that provided a bridge for the establishment of a new life on a new continent. That was the brute of it all, the marriage of good and evil in the melody of a language.

Yet, it was from the English translation of this language

I LEARNED THAT THE LIFE OF THE CHRISTIAN WAS A HEROIC ONE. I FOUND MYSELF, WEEKLY, SAVING THE CONGREGATION FROM INTERLOPERS, BANDITS, THIEVES AND THUGS.

tan angle of discomfort, were hot and sticky in summer, cold and condemning in winter.

From all these Sundays and stories, I learned that the life of the Christian was a heroic one. I found myself, weekly, saving the congregation from interlopers, bandits, thieves and thugs. Jumping down from the balcony in a surprise attack, and overwhelming all with my derring-do, was normal fare for me on a Sunday morning, and only fitting to the fulmination against evil coming from the front of the sanctuary.

From the pulpit emanated always the sound of love. Because the sermons were in Turkish, the sound of the Turkish language was inseparable from the sound of love. In that language, also, I experienced the smells of mother's cooking, the taste of her fare, the laughter of our guests,

of a people of the Koran, that I learned the Bible. From that rough sound flowing from my uncle, who was dressed in a suit made by his own hand, and who was whiskered by a face filled with the stones and mountains of his loss, I learned the consequence of sin, and the commitment of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to the redemption of His people.

(James Bilezikian is a graduate of Boston University with a degree in history and a minor in political philosophy. Following graduation he studied the German language at Munich's Goethe Institute. Upon his return from Munich, he taught history and humanities at Newton High School, his alma mater. In 1974, he began a career in investment banking and retired in 2017.)



Persecuted Yazidis Find Sanctuary in Australia

By Phil Mercer

WAGGA WAGGA, Australia (Voice of America) – After the horrors of fleeing to Sinjar Mountain in northern Iraq to escape Islamic State fighters in 2014, several hundred Yazidi refugees are starting new lives in the Australian outback.

Members of the minority religious group have been resettled in a handful of regional centers, like Wagga Wagga, to relieve pressure on refugee services in Australia's main cities.

Wagga Wagga is proud of its country roots. It is a farming and transport hub halfway between Sydney and Melbourne.

Several hundred Yazidis are joining others here who fled persecution in Africa, Myanmar and Afghanistan.

Layla explains how she fled to Sinjar Mountain.

"In Iraq, ISIS kill lots of men and kill the children. Very, very hard story for Yazidi in Iraq. The ISIS came. We go to the mountain. With my whole family we lived in [the] mountain. Not eat, not have any water, not eating. After five days by walk[ing] we go to Kurdistan," she said.

Layla came to Australia with her husband and young child. Earlier this year, she was reunited with relatives she had to leave behind in Iraq.

"After my family all come to here, now it is easier for me here. I am very happy in Australia because my whole family [is] here. We [are] all safe in Australia. I love Australia," she said.

The refugees have hope for the future.

"I am Shahab and I am here about three months. [I] come from Iraq, directly from Iraq to Australia," she said.

Shahab is a former university teacher who spent more than five years in a camp after fleeing Islamic militants.

"We are eight people and we live in the one tent, and also the tent was made by like nylon. So if it is a winter, it was very, very cold. If it is summer it is very hot," she said. "I want to be a university teacher, a good university teacher maybe in the future. My sister wants to be a doctor."

A New Life in the Outback

Starting a new life in the suburbs of an outback city is not easy. Language is a problem, but there is a healthy dose of neighborly goodwill from Ian Lockwood, who lives nearby.

"Iraqi people moved in two doors from me and I went up and introduced myself because I noticed no people were going there, and I help and do whatever I can," he said.

"People do not realize what these people have been through," he continued. "If you spent a couple of weeks with them you'd find out. Very, very hard. Harsh. Because I didn't realize all this stuff was going on."

Belinda Crane is the head of the local Multicultural Council. She says refugees are mostly welcomed in Wagga Wagga, although there is occasional racism.

"I sort of say to families, you know, they said, you know, occasionally they might have someone yell out something to them in the car. But they don't feel unsafe about that. They say it is few and far between but they have experienced people sort of going, you know, go back to where you come from or whatever," Crane said.

Helping Relatives Back Home

Several thousand refugees have helped to revitalize Wagga, a city of about 70,000 people.

Yazidis held a rally in Wagga urging Australia to help relatives stuck in camps back home. Haji Gundor, a 21-year-old refugee, is pleading for justice.

"Yazidi people had everything; money, food, house, family, so they want to live in Iraq but they want justice to stop what is happening to them," Gundor said.

Life in Australia for Yazidis does come at a cost. For Adlan Osman and her 14-year-old son Aeham, there is guilt that they are safe, while others are not.

Osman said that Australia is good, but they worry about the people in Iraq a lot. "It makes it very difficult for us," she said.

Almost 3,000 Yazidis have been granted visas under Australia's humanitarian program. Campaigners are urging the government to give refuge to many more.

A Journalist Exposed Corruption in Azerbaijan. The Country Continues to Persecute Her. August

By the Editorial Board of the Washington Post

A SIGH of relief greeted the 2016 release from prison of the Azerbaijani journalist Khadija Ismayilova after 537 days in jail. She was unjustly incarcerated to silence her investigations of high-level corruption and cronyism. But the struggle still goes on. In another blatant attempt at harassment, Azerbaijan's Supreme Court on Aug. 7 upheld trumped-up charges of tax evasion against her.

As a reporter, Ms. Ismayilova uncovered hidden financial links in the telecommunications, construction, gold mining, hotel, media and airline services industries in Azerbaijan. Then, in 2014, she was arrested and imprisoned. The money flows and property holdings she exposed belonged to Azerbaijan's president, Ilham Aliyev, and his family, who used their positions to vastly enrich themselves.

Mr. Aliyev, who has ruled Azerbaijan as a personal fiefdom, succeeded his father, Heydar Aliyev, who also ran the oil-rich former Soviet republic for more than a decade. Both have shown a predilection for the iron fist. Reporters Without Borders ranks Azerbaijan 166th out of 180 countries and regions in its 2019 World Press Freedom Index. Freedom House says Azerbaijan is "not free" and adds, "Constitutional guarantees for press freedom are routinely and systematically violated, as the government works to maintain a tight grip on the information landscape. Defamation remains a criminal offense. Journalists – and their relatives – faced harassment, threats, violence, and intimidation by authorities. Many have been detained or imprisoned on fabricated charges, while others face travel bans."

The latest insult is a tax bill the government says Ms. Ismayilova must pay for Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty. She was the RFE/RL Azerbaijani Service's Baku bureau chief from 2008 to 2010.

Ms. Ismayilova says there are no taxes to pay – the organization is a nonprofit – and the charges are part of a wider pressure campaign against her. She says the government accuses her of illegal entrepreneurship because, lacking foreign ministry accreditation, "all the money I earn from foreign media is illegal." She told Voice of America that she is still fighting to acquire the honorarium from a UNESCO award she won in 2016. She is also under a travel ban, and her bank accounts have been frozen.

In January, the European Court of Human Rights ruled on Ms. Ismayilova's 2013 complaint that Azerbaijani authorities mishandled a blackmail campaign against her. She received a threatening letter with still photographs taken from a video secretly made in her bedroom of her having sex with her then-boyfriend. The letter demanded she "refrain from what you are doing, otherwise you will be shamed." Soon thereafter, the video was posted on the Internet.

Ms. Ismayilova discovered secret cameras in her apartment and demanded an investigation. The European Court found that it was not possible to prove "beyond reasonable doubt" that the Azerbaijani government had carried out the smear. But, the court said, the government had botched the investigation and failed to protect Ms. Ismayilova's rights to privacy and freedom of expression. She was awarded about \$19,000 in damages and court costs. It was a small pushback against Azerbaijan's relentless repression of journalists and free speech. Now, another Western response is needed to protect this courageous journalist from renewed persecution.

(This opinion was posted by the Washington Post on August 20.)

THE STATELESS DIPLOMAT
 ダイアナ・アプカー
 ステートレス外交官
**Diana Apcar's
 Heroic Life**

A Documentary by
Mimi Malayan

Organized by The Armenian Cultural Foundation and co-sponsored by
 Amaras Art Alliance, Arlington International Film Festival, Armenian International Women's Association,
 Armenian Museum of America, Armenian Women's Welfare Association, National Association for Armenian Studies
 and Research, Project SAVE Armenian Photograph Archives, and Tekeyan Cultural Association of Greater Boston

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ԹԵՔԵԱՆ Մշակութային Միութեան
 Փաստափնա-Կլենտլյ Մասնաճիւղի Կազմակերպութեամբ
 Տեղի Պիտի Ունենայ
 Հայկական Միջնադարեան Տաղասացութիւն
 (Աշխարհիկ ստեղծագործութիւններու փունջ մը)

Կը ներկայացնէ՝
 Նորայր Տատուրեան

Կիրակի, 6 Հոկտեմբեր 2019-ի երեկոյեան ժամը 5:00-ին
 Ալթադենայի ԹՄՄ-Պէշկէօթիւրեան Կեդրոնի Սրահին մէջ:
 (1901 N. Allen Avenue, Altadena, CA 91001)

Մուտքը Ազատ Հիւրասիրութիւն