

Global Tech Summit Gets Underway in Yerevan

YEREVAN (Combined Sources) – More than 2,500 participants from 70 countries are attending the 2019 World Congress on Information Technology (WCIT) in Yerevan.

The agenda will include discussion of the hottest topics in the industry. ICT industry leaders and innovators, government and global policy leaders, startups, and investors will exchange ideas in sessions such as “Black Swan,” “Innovation Meets Capital,” “Artificial Intelligence in Genomics,” “How ‘Green’ is Silicon,” “Rise of the Machines,” and many others.

The many stars of the IT world have arrived in Yerevan, where the conference got underway on October 7.

Among the high-profile attendees was co-founder of Reddit and Initialized Capital venture company, Alexis Ohanian. In a quick interview with reporters he said he is looking forward to his participation in the congress.

“It’s a major and important event held in Yerevan. Many people from different parts of the world come to participate in it,” Ohanian said.



Alexis Ohanian in Armenia

He emphasized that there are talented specialist in Armenia who have made serious progress in IT.

When asked when he planned to visit with his wife, tennis great Serena Williams and their daughter, Alexis Jr., he said his wife has a very busy schedule but hoped they will organize such a trip during the upcoming years.

The Congress is hosted by Armenia with the support and under the high patronage of the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

The World Congress on Information Technology (WCIT) was established by the World Information Technology and Services Alliance (WITSA). Its main organizing body is the Union of Advanced Technology Enterprises (UATE). The Congress will last until October 9.

The World Congress on Information Technology was initiated in 1978 by the World Alliance of Information Technologies and Services. The conference is held every two years.

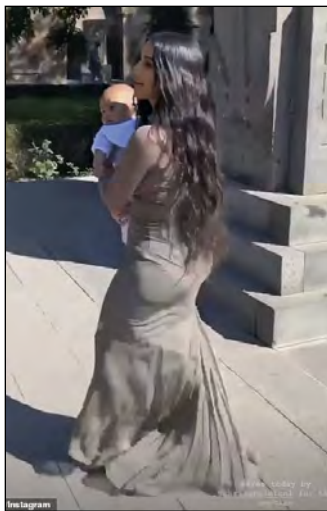
see SUMMIT, page 2

Kim Kardashian Returns To Armenia to Attend WCIT, Baptize Children

YEREVAN (*Daily Mail*) – Kim Kardashian appeared in great spirits as she touched down in Yerevan, Armenia, with her children North, six, Saint, three, Chicago, 20 months, and Psalm, four months, ahead of her younger three kids’ baptism on Monday, October 7.

The TV personality, 38, who was also joined by older sister Kourtney, 41, and her brood, Mason, 9, Penelope, 7, and Reign, 4, waved at onlookers as they strolled across the city ahead of the religious ceremony.

see KARDASHIAN, page 20



California Signs Turkey Divestment Bill

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – On October 3, California Governor Gavin Newsom signed AB 1320, the Divestment from Turkish Bonds Act, into law.

“California stands on the side of justice and remembers the 1.5 million souls lost during the Armenian Genocide,” stated Newsom. “Today and every day, let us recommit ourselves to making certain that we never forget and that we always speak out against hatred and atrocities anywhere they occur. I am proud to stand with friends and sign AB 1320 into law.”

California State Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian (D-46) authored the bill and spearheaded it to near unanimous passage in both chambers of the California state legislature.

see DIVESTMENT, page 8



State Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian

Genocide Recognition by US States: 49 and Counting

BOSTON – With the news in March that Alabama had become the 49th state in the country to adopt a resolution recognizing the Armenian Genocide, Aram

By Stephen Kurkjian

Special to the Mirror-Spectator

Who but a few congressmen from California whose districts might include large populations of Armenians care about adopting such resolutions asked Rep. Doug Bereuter of Nebraska, a powerful Republican who had used his position on the House Committee on International Relations in 1990 to oppose passage of a Genocide resolution in Congress.

America’s interest was to not antagonize Turkey, our NATO ally, not worrying about a wrong that had taken place at the turn of the 20th century, Bereuter implied.

“I think this proves how wrong he (Bereuter) was,” said Hamparian, whose organization has worked with the Armenian Assembly in advocating for the state-by-state passage of the Genocide recognition resolutions. The nearly unanimous number of states shows that a “lot more people than a few congressmen from California believe we have convincing evidence and justice on our side.”

Mississippi remains the one state in the United States that has not had a Genocide resolution adopted by its Legislature or (as was done by Alabama Governor Kay Ivey in March) signed as a proclamation by its governor. And with

see RECOGNITION, page 9

Hamparian, the executive director of the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA), almost immediately remembered the words spoken long before by a longstanding foe in Congress.

“A LOT MORE PEOPLE THAN A FEW CONGRESSMEN FROM CALIFORNIA BELIEVE WE HAVE CONVINCING EVIDENCE AND JUSTICE ON OUR SIDE.”

—ARAM HAMPARIAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ARMENIAN
NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF AMERICA



NEWS IN BRIEF

Russian FM Criticizes Pashinyan Karabakh Remark

MOSCOW (RFE/RL) – Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has criticized Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan for describing Nagorno-Karabakh as an integral part of Armenia, saying that such statements hamper efforts to end the Karabakh conflict.

Lavrov commented on the conflict when he spoke during an annual international forum held in the southern Russian city of Sochi on October 3.

“The parties are making quite serious statements,” he said. “In particular, there has been a statement to the effect that Karabakh is Armenia, just like Albanian Prime Minister [Edi] Rama said from Tirana than Kosovo is Albania. This certainly does not help to create an atmosphere conducive to the resumption of the political [settlement] process.”

The Armenian Foreign Ministry dismissed the criticism. “We find it important that each of the mediators avoids selective or one-sided evaluations,” said the ministry spokeswoman, Anna Naghdalyan. She argued that Pashinyan reaffirmed Armenia’s readiness for a compromise peace deal with Azerbaijan when he addressed the UN General Assembly in New York late last month.

Lepsius House, Genocide Museum Sign Cooperation Agreement

YEREVAN – On September 26, the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute (AGMI) Foundation resigned a cooperation agreement with the Lepsuis House.

The agreement was signed by the scientific director of Lepsuis House and the AGMI Director Harutyun Marutyan.

During the ceremony Lepsius House delivered to the AGMI the digitized archival materials of exceptional significance concerning the Armenian massacres during the Hamidian reign (1895-1897).

Digitization of archive materials has been carried out by Dr. Hayk Martirosyan, member of the editorial board of the *AGMI Journal of Genocide Studies*, who is conducting research at Lepsius House by the Evangelical Church Scholarship (EKD) in Germany.

Lepsius House and AGMI will undertake to mutually assist each other in research of the history and culture of the Armenian people, the life and work of Dr. Johannes Lepsius, and, in particular, in organization and completion of permanent and temporary exhibitions in Armenia and Germany dedicated to his activities during the mass extermination of Armenian people, as well as, the Armenian Genocide, the salvation of the Armenian people and its renaissance, German-Armenian relations and on other topics of mutual interest.

INSIDE

Cultural Ambassadors

Page 13

INDEX

Arts and Living	13
Armenia	2,3
Community News.	5
Editorial	18
International	4



ARMENIA

News From Armenia

Chief Advisor Osipyan Sacked

YEREVAN (Armenpress) — Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan sacked his chief advisor Valery Osipyan on October 8.

The decision on relieving Osipyan posted online at e-gov.am did not indicate a reason for the dismissal.

Osipyan was Police Chief of Armenia from May 2018 until September 2019.

He was fired on September 18 and on the same day was appointed chief advisor to the Prime Minister.

Chinese Ambassador Praises Close Relations

YEREVAN (Armenpress) — Ambassador of China to Armenia Tian Erlong referred to the Armenian-Chinese relations on September 27 at a conference dedicated to the 70th anniversary of the People's Republic of China, emphasizing that the friendly and partnering relations between the two countries dynamically develop.

“The Armenian-Chinese relations have historical roots. Since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries in 1992 the relations became more stable. There are no issues between our countries from political perspective, there is high level mutual trust and frequent mutual visits are paid,” he said.

According to him, trade and economic relations between the two countries develop firmly and confidently. “Starting from 2009 China remains Armenia's top 2nd trade partner. I mean for separate countries, since if we take the EU as a whole, China becomes 3rd. Mutual trade turnover between Armenia and China amounts to 10 or 11% of Armenia's foreign trade turnover,” Tian said.

According to him, humanitarian cooperation is also actively developing between the two countries and achievements in the sphere of education are also significant.

“The Confucius Institute successfully operates in Armenia. We see that the Armenian public, particularly the youth are greatly interested in Chinese language. Starting from last year Armenian-Chinese friendship school operates here,” he said.

Tankian, Ohanian Announce High Connections

YEREVAN (Armenpress) — Armenian figures like co-founder of Reddit and Initialized Capital venture company Alexis Ohanian, singer/songwriter Serj Tankian, producer of the film “The Promise” Eric Esrailian and president of Synopsis Armenia Yervant Zorian have developed an idea to create a new online platform named “High Connect” that will link Armenians of the world, they announced at a press conference on October 8, on the sidelines of the World Congress on Information Technologies.

“We will create a pan-Armenian online platform that will give an opportunity to the Armenians throughout the world with various preferences to be linked,” Tankian said.

He noted that they have not planned the logistics yet. “For years we were thinking what to do to make Armenia attractive not only for Armenians, but also for others. We were thinking how to connect world-spread Armenians. And after thinking and discussing for a long period we came to the conclusion that we will use our shared interests to create small communities,” Tankian said.

Ohanian noted that they have understood how fortunate they are to have so many opportunities. “We must take lessons from our careers and use them for this platform, so as Armenians throughout the world, in the Diaspora can use it and prosper,” Ohanian said, emphasizing that the common idea has joint them.

Esrailian said that they have been discussing the idea for nearly one year, but they started thinking about that much earlier. “It will be really a great thing to have such a platform for connection. Not only technology will develop in Armenia, but it will ensure the link between Armenia and Armenians abroad. We are very devoted to this idea and will invest all our experience,” Esrailian said.

Global Tech Summit Gets Underway in Yerevan

SUMMIT, from page 1

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan participated in the official opening ceremonies, after which, he met with the heads of a number of leading IT companies participating in WCIT 2019. The first meeting of the PM was with Co-Founder of Infosys Corporation, Indian businessman Narayana Murthy. Infosys is engaged in digital services and consulting.

Pashinyan welcomed Murthy to Armenia and highlighted the participation of the head of such a prestigious IT company in the 23rd World Congress.

Murthy thanked Pashinyan for the invitation and noted that he is glad to visit Armenia where the event of international importance for the IT sphere is held and to discuss issues referring to the development of the technological sphere, as well as issues referring to the prospects for cooperation.

“We consider education one of the key components for developing our country and at the moment we move forward in the path of implementing reforms in the sphere of education. Our IT sector records stable development with 20-25-percent annual growth. We have also set broad tax privileges for start-ups,” Pashinyan said.

Pashinyan also met with the head of Aerospace & Engineering Services of Mubadala Development Company Homaïd Abdullah Al Shimmari. Mubadala is an international investment company operating in over 50 countries.

Pashinyan welcomed the participation of the delegation of Mubadala in such an important event.

“We have good impressions from the technological sphere of Armenia and

we are interested in cooperation, particularly in the establishment of venture funds,” Al Shimmari said.

Pashinyan also met with Senior Vice President at Pixar Animation Studios Katherine Sarafian. Pixar Animation Studios is an American film studio located in California.

ed an impressive progress. Katherine Sarafian informed that an effective cooperation has been established between Pixar Animation Studios and the Armenian office of PicsArt Company, particularly in the sphere of experience exchange of animation specialists and Pixar Animation Studios is



Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan at the WCIT opening ceremony

Welcoming Sarafian's participation in WCIT 2019, he said, “Our goal is making the technological sphere a driving force for our economy and the cooperation with your company can be very useful for us. I think you will be able to find interesting platforms for launching technological activities in our country. We will be glad to see you in Armenia not only as a representative of Pixar Animation Studios, but also our compatriot whose achievements makes us proud.”

Sarafian noted that she was glad to be in Armenia for her fifth visit, where she last visited in 2011 during the opening of TUMO center for creative technologies. According to her, the IT tools and companies in Armenia have record-

ready to continue and expand the cooperation.

Pashinyan also met with Rajiv Ramaswami, CEO of VWmare.

Ramaswami noted that back in 2010, when VWmare had just started operating in Armenia, it had only 16 employees, but now this number has reached 200. According to him, this fact speaks about the huge technological potential of Armenia, existence of talented specialists and the dynamic development of this sphere.

“We are very happy to invest in the sphere of human talents, which really exists in Armenia. I have only one request to you, add the number of the talents, invest in the sphere of technological education,” he said.

Armenia to Set Up Powerful Anti-Graft Body

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) — The Armenian government formally decided on Thursday, October 3, to set up a new anti-corruption agency that will be empowered to prosecute state officials suspected of bribery, fraud and other corrupt practices.

The Anti-Corruption Committee (ACC) will be created in 2021 as part of an anti-graft strategy and a three-year action plan adopted by the government at a weekly meeting in Yerevan.

The ACC will inherit most of its law-enforcement powers from the existing Special Investigative Service (SIS) tasked with combatting various crimes committed by state officials. The strategy drawn up by the Armenian Justice Ministry sets a three-year “transitional period” during which other law-enforcement bodies will still be able to deal with corruption-related offenses.

The government will also give more powers to the Commission on Preventing Corruption formed under

the former Armenian authorities. The commission has until now been primarily charged with scrutinizing income and asset declarations submitted by senior officials and investigating possible conflicts of interest among them.

Speaking at the cabinet meeting, Justice Minister Rustam Badasyan said Armenian judges will now be a key focus of the commission's activities. The state body will be allowed to launch disciplinary proceedings against judges suspected of having dubiously acquired assets, he said.

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan confirmed that this “integrity verification” will be a substitute for a mandatory “vetting” of all Armenian judges which he demanded in May. “We realized that the word ‘vetting’ causes a great deal of allergy and decided to change the tile but keep the essence [of judicial reform,]” he said.

Pashinyan and other Armenian officials discussed the reform with a high-level delegation from the

Council of Europe that visited Yerevan later in May. According to an internal report subsequently released by the Strasbourg-based organization's Venice Commission, they agreed that “it would be neither necessary nor useful to carry out a general vetting of all sitting judges.”

“Instead, disciplinary procedures should be strengthened and a link with the asset declaration system established,” said the report.

Pashinyan has repeatedly claimed to have eliminated “systemic corruption” in Armenia since coming to power in May 2018. During his, law-enforcement authorities have brought serious corruption charges against dozens of individuals, including close relatives and cronies of former President Serzh Sargsyan.

The prime minister ordered law-enforcement authorities on September 20 to step up their anti-corruption efforts and, in particular, recover more public funds embezzled or wasted by former officials.



ARMENIA

Tekeyan Cultural Association Delegation Visits Berdzor School as Part of Sponsor a Teacher Program

By Anahit Kosakyan

BERDZOR, Artsakh – A delegation of members of the Tekeyan Cultural Association of the United States and Canada led by Arto Manoukian was received by the entire student and teacher body of the Vahan Tekeyan School No. 1 of Berdzor on September 30.

This school, which has a history of many years, always eagerly awaits the visit of its guests and this year was no exception. Here in this educational institution, every person is a soldier in battle, dedicated to his work. Each one contains a spark from the soul of Vardan Mamikonian, and a burning ember from brave Monte Melkonian. There is a portion of the craziness and heroic strength of our heroes in them, and the wisdom of their unbreakable will too.

The students greeted the guests with the traditional salt and bread, and exclaimed, “Dear



The Montreal delegation at their sponsored renovated classroom

where, and in exchange receive words of gratitude and thanks, good wishes and blessings,

Alek Manoukian. The Tekeyan Cultural Association visitors held conversations with students of different classrooms, and exchanged gifts with the teaching staff.

Through the moving speech of teacher Sirvard Tamazyan, the staff expressed its gratitude for the philanthropy and especially for the Sponsor A Teacher program participants who for years on end continued to support the teachers and staff of the schools bearing the Tekeyan name in Armenia and Artsakh.

This time the surprise was great, since for the first time the gifts were transferred directly to the bank accounts of each staff member in a modern fashion. At the end of the event, Nare Avanesyan’s words of farewell to the visiting philanthropists were notable. She compared the school to a book whose twelve pages have been restored, and expressed the hope that kind hearts would make the book complete.



Students and their teacher expressing gratitude to the Tekeyan Cultural Association



TCA Central Board member Arto Manoukian center, with Principal Anahit Kosakyan, and teachers Laura Torosyan, Anahit Khachatryan, Anna Hakobyan and Vartoush Movsisyan after distribution of the Sponsor A Teacher in Karabakh donations

guests, welcome to this cozy corner of the land of Artsakh. May your entry be providential for our educational institution. May your God-pleasing work only bring happiness and joy to all. Let us support one another, scatter the seeds of laughter, smiles and goodness every-

each of us in our work, each of us in our place.”

Ninth grade student Nare Avanesyan led the guests around the school. They saw the renovated classrooms and were present at the ceremonial inauguration of the two most recently renovated ones, named after Ashot Bekor and



Students of the 8th grade with some guests

Rep. Pallone Visits Armenia

YEREVAN (Combined Sources) – US Rep. Frank Pallone, the co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues, visited Armenia earlier this month, where he met with Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II and also visited Artsakh.

The prime minister welcomed his visit to Armenia and Artsakh and expressed confidence that this visit would further strengthen Pallone’s relationship with the Armenian people.

Welcoming Pallone’s visit to the Mother See, the catholicos said he appreciated the latter’s consistent efforts aimed at strengthening the Armenian-American relations and the attention towards difficulties Armenia is overcoming.

The two spoke about the situation in the Middle East and the shrinking Christian community. They also discussed the efforts towards the peaceful settlement of the Karabakh conflict, the challenges facing Armenia and state-church relations.

On October 4, he gave an interview to Armenpress, in which he said he welcomed the democratic developments in Armenia following the Velvet Revolution.

“I think we should provide no military aid to



Rep. Frank Pallone with Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II

Azerbaijan, since Azerbaijan is very aggressive and demonstrated that aggression in 2016. They should get no military assistance from the USA. We, the members of the Congress, did not know that the amount of the military assistance to Azerbaijan was so large, over \$100 million in the last three years. And that’s much more than the assistance provided to Armenia. And traditionally, under the section 907 of the Freedom Support Act you cannot provide military assistance to a country that has been actively aggressive, like Azerbaijan

was in April 2016,” Pallone said. “And the letter we have sent to the Department of State and Department of Defense we said that no military assistance should be provided to Azerbaijan, and we would like to know the justification for providing military assistance when you cannot do that. There is a paradigm that whatever you do for one country, you have to do the same for the other country. But I don’t say that we should give hundreds of millions of dollars of military assistance to the two countries, since we want peace, we do not want to encourage war. At this moment we are very upset that Trump’s administration has done that, but we want them to stop giving money to Azerbaijan. We also want to know what were the justifications for that, because we don’t know it and we investigate the issue now and we think it might be a violation of the Section 907.”

He also spoke about his visit to Artsakh, where he met with two organizations, Halo Trust and the Caroline Cox Rehabilitation Center. “This is an organization that helps children with disabilities. This is another important direction of our assistance,” he said.

The future of Artsakh should be clear, he added. “Artsakh has to be Armenian. I would like to see a peaceful settlement which the OSCE Minsk Group is trying to achieve. The peaceful settlement has to guarantee not only the fact that Artsakh is Armenian, but also it’s important the issue of the territories which are important for Armenia for security reasons.”

Appellate Court Reconfirms ADL Legal Rights in Armenia

YEREVAN (Azg) – An appellate court of the Republic of Armenia presided over by Judge M. Drmeyer on September 27 declined to accept an appeal by a group of Diaspora Armenians led by Argentinian-Armenian Sergio Nahabetian to force the Armenian Democratic Liberal Party (ADL) to change its name, coat of arms and flag in its bylaws.



The court, after presenting the basis for its rejection, recorded that its decision “comes into effect from the moment of realization, is final and is not subject to appeal.” In this way, it was confirmed once again that the ADL, which has continued its activities uninterruptedly since its licensing by the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia in 1991, is the sole legal political party with this name, coat of arms and flag.

Such attempts were rejected twice before by courts of general jurisdiction and appeal.



INTERNATIONAL

International News

Georgian PM to visit Armenia Next Week

TBILISI (Panorama.am) — Georgian Prime Minister Giorgi Gakharia will visit Armenia next week, the press service at the country's government reported on Tuesday, October 8.

"Neighboring countries are important partners of Georgia both in the foreign policy and economic trade relations," the government press service said in a press statement.

Gakharia will also visit Azerbaijan and leave for Turkey in late October after the trip to Armenia.

Azerbaijan Appoints New Premier

BAKU (PanARMENIAN.Net) — The Azeri parliament has approved Ali Asadov, who currently serves as Assistant to the President for Economic Issues, for the post of the country's Prime Minister at a plenary autumn session. Asadov's nomination was approved unilaterally, Sputnik reports.

On October 8, Novruz Mamedov, aged 72, filed his resignation from the post of prime minister.

Asadov was born on November 30, 1956, in Nakhijevan. He began his career in 1978 as the chief laboratory assistant at the Institute of Economics of the Academy of Sciences of the Azerbaijan SSR, in accordance with the designation of the State Planning Committee of the USSR.

He was appointed Assistant to the president of the Republic of Azerbaijan for Economic Affairs and Deputy Head of the Administration of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan on November 29, 2012 by a presidential decree.

Gymnast Reaches World Championships Finals

STUTTGART, Germany (PanARMENIAN.Net) — Armenian athlete Artur Tovmasyan has reached the 2019 World Gymnastics Championships men's finals.

Tovmasyan performed on the rings to collect 14.566 points and take the 8th spot in the qualification round.

Artur Davtyan, also representing Armenia, came in the 37th in the all-around contest, while Harutyun Merdinyan took the 13th spot on the pommel horse.

Putin Meets Kocharyan's Wife

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) — Russian President Vladimir Putin met with the wife of Robert Kocharyan, his former Armenian counterpart arrested on controversial coup and corruption charges, late on Tuesday at the end of his latest visit to Armenia.

Putin's press secretary, Dmitry Peskov, and Kocharyan's spokesman, Victor Soghomonyan, confirmed Armenian media reports about the meeting but gave no details. Soghomonyan shed no light on the issues that were discussed by Putin and Bella Kocharyan.

Putin reportedly spoke to her at the Russian Embassy in Yerevan right after holding talks with Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan on the sidelines of a Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) summit. The Russian president then headed to Yerevan's Zvartnots international airport where held another meeting with Pashinyan before returning to Moscow.

The Yerevan daily Hraparak quoted a spokesman for Pashinyan as saying that the two leaders did not discuss Kocharyan's prosecution.

Putin has repeatedly signaled support for Kocharyan ever since the latter was arrested and charged in connection with the 2008 post-election violence in Yerevan. The Russian Foreign Ministry openly alleged political motives behind the criminal case in July 2018. Armenia's government and law-enforcement authorities deny such motives.

Putin heaped praise on Kocharyan when he congratulated the latter on his 65th birthday anniversary on August 31. He described the former Armenian president as a "true friend of Russia" who had strengthened Russian-Armenian relations and contributed to regional security.



Caught Between Trump, Turkey and Kurds, Pentagon Struggles to Piece Together Syria Strategy

By Helene Cooper and Eric Schmitt

WASHINGTON (New York Times) — For nine months, the Pentagon played down the presence of its 1,000 troops in Syria, hoping that President Trump would not focus on the extent to which the American military was continuing to fight the Islamic State despite his order in December to pull out.

On Sunday, October 6, the president appeared to say he had had enough.

Now, for the second time in less than a year, the Defense Department, the State Department, Congress and staff across the national security establishment are scrambling to respond to the words of a president who views Syria and the fight against ISIS as a battle largely won and done for American troops. On Monday, October 7, after a White House announcement the night before that Trump was moving American troops out of the way of a threatened Turkish incursion into Syria, Defense Department officials were struggling to put their already piecemeal Syria military strategy back together again.

It will not be easy. Caught between furious Kurdish allies who see Mr. Trump's announcement as abandonment, an authoritarian Turkish leader who may take Mr. Trump's words as tacit permission to move against Kurds in northern Syria, and an American president who has made clear he wants out of the region, the Pentagon is approaching a junction that the military feared was coming for some time.

The Defense Department "made lemonade out of lemons" the first time Trump announced a Syria withdrawal, said Derek Chollet, an assistant secretary of defense in the Obama administration. The Pentagon withdrew 1,000 of its 2,000 troops, moved some command elements to Iraq, and continued to aid Kurdish fighters still fighting the Islamic State and holding some 11,000 Islamic State prisoners of war.

But officials did not trumpet their mission or their efforts.

It will be a lot harder to pull this feint again, military experts said, particularly if President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey goes ahead with his threatened incursion into northern Syria, as it has been the presence of American troops alongside the Kurds that many believe has kept him at bay.

Pentagon officials were insisting that the United States remained firmly opposed to a Turkish incursion. "The Department of Defense made clear to

Turkey — as did the president — that we do not endorse a Turkish operation in northern Syria," Jonathan Hoffman, a Pentagon spokesman, said in a statement. He warned that "unilateral action creates risk for Turkey," which would be responsible for thousands of Islamic State fighters being held by the Kurds.

But the departure of American troops from northern Syria makes it far more difficult to hold together the coalition fighting the Islamic State.

For a while, the generals at the Pentagon thought they were succeeding within the narrow confines of maneuver room that Mr. Trump gave them, obeying the president's order while not deserting Kurdish partners and undercutting gains against the Islamic State in northeastern Syria. Defense Department officials devised a plan for the Pentagon to cut its combat force there roughly in half by early this past May, or to about 1,000 troops — and then pause with what commanders called a "residual force."

The military would then assess conditions on the ground and reduce the number of forces periodically, if conditions allowed, until the force levels reached the 400 troops that Mr. Trump approved in February.

And, above all else, military officials decided they would keep quiet about Syria. The strategy extended all the way to combat outposts in the country, where Special Forces officers were reminded that their mission could end quickly if the commander in chief was publicly reminded that there were still 1,000 troops there, according to one officer who recently returned from Syria.

The longer withdrawal timetable gave the Trump administration more time to negotiate with European allies who had said they would not leave troops in Syria if the United States withdrew all of its forces. It was also supposed to allow more time for Washington to work out details of a safe zone south of the Turkish border, where Mr. Erdogan wants to repatriate hundreds of thousands of Syrian refugees now in Turkey. Turkey also wants to make sure Kurdish fighters cannot launch terrorist attacks across its border.

By late March, the American withdrawal settled around 1,000 troops — what the military calls an "economy of force" mission. The troops effectively operated between two allies: Turkey and the Kurds. Turkey is a decades-long NATO partner. The Syrian Kurds are

much more recent allies, but have played a pivotal role as the major ground force against the Islamic State.

The problem for Washington has been that the two hate each other.

After Mr. Erdogan threatened in early August to carry out a cross-border operation to attack the Syrian Kurds, American diplomats and commanders rushed to establish a series of confidence-building measures — joint reconnaissance flights and ground patrols by American and Turkish forces — along a 75-mile stretch of the 300-mile border east of the Euphrates River.

The American troops in northeastern Syria, largely teams of Special Forces, also provide important logistics, intelligence and other support for Syrian Kurdish fighters who continue to carry out raids and disrupt operations against Islamic State targets.

Since the American-backed forces ousted the Islamic State from its last shard of territory in Syria seven months ago, the terrorist group has been gathering new strength, officials say, conducting guerrilla attacks across Iraq and Syria, retooling its financial networks and targeting new recruits at a giant allied-run tent camp in northeastern Syria called Al Hol.

"After enlisting support from the Kurds to help destroy ISIS and assuring Kurdish protection from Turkey, the U.S. has now opened the door to their destruction," Senator Mitt Romney, Republican of Utah, and Senator Christopher S. Murphy, Democrat of Connecticut, said in a statement on Monday. "This severely undercuts America's credibility as a reliable partner and creates a power vacuum in the region that benefits ISIS."

Pentagon officials say the American presence, and several million dollars in assistance to maintain and upgrade the Syrian Kurds' makeshift jails in northeastern Syria, has ensured the Kurds continue to detain about 11,000 ISIS fighters, including more than 2,000 foreigners.

"It's hard to imagine Turkey has the capacity to handle securely and appropriately the detainees long held by the Syrian Kurds — and that's if Turkey even genuinely intends to try," said Joshua A. Geltzer, a former senior director for counterterrorism on the National Security Council in the Obama administration. "The release or escape of such detainees would instantly energize ISIS's efforts, already underway, to regroup and surge again."

Thomas Gibbons-Neff contributed reporting from Kabul, Afghanistan.

Community News

Zoryan Institute Welcomes Three New Members to Corporate Board Of Directors

TORONTO – The Zoryan Institute announced this week that three new members have accepted the institute's invitation to serve on its Corporate Board of Directors: Diran Avedian from Montreal, Canada; Ambassador Armen Yeghanyan from Yerevan, Armenia and Federico Gaitan Hairabedian from Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Avedian is the president and founder of Lactopur Inc. For more than 40 years, Avedian has been involved in international trade of commodities. He is a graduate of the American University of Beirut and later received his MBA from McGill University in Montreal. He is a long-time supporter, philanthropist and representative of the Zoryan Institute. He has provided scholarships for several students from Latin America to attend the Zoryan Institute's graduate-level Genocide and Human Rights University Program organized in partnership with the University of Toronto History Department. As a Corporate Director, he will continue to serve as a vital liaison to the academic and Armenian communities in Montreal. He will also continue to help develop many valuable relationships with the Institute, particularly in Latin America.

Hairabedian is the president of the Luisa Hairabedian Foundation, a fraternal organization to the Zoryan Institute in Buenos Aires. He served as a prosecuting attorney for several years and is currently in private practice in Argentina. As a human rights lawyer, Hairabedian works on behalf of the families of persons who disappeared during Argentina's military dictatorship. Through his work, more than fifty members of the Argentine military dictatorship were brought to justice and condemned for their actions. He is a 2005 alumnus of the Institute's Genocide and Human Rights University Program. He received his law degree in 2012 and completed postgraduate studies in



Diran Avedian, Armen Yeghanyan, Federico Gaitan Hairabedian

criminal law and international human rights law and international humanitarian law from 2014 to 2018.

As a Corporate Director, Federico Gaitan Hairabedian will help the Institute and its affiliated organization, the Luisa Hairabedian Foundation, to expand its activities in Latin America and establish important partnerships with universities and academic institutions as part of the future growth and development plan for the Institute.

Yeghanyan was formerly Armenia's ambassador to Canada and is now serving as director of the Policy Planning Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia. Previously he was Chief of the State Protocol Service Agency (2017-2018).

In 1992, Armen Yeghanyan received his master's degree from Yerevan State University, graduating from the Armenian History Department. From 1985-1987 he studied modern history at the Leningrad State University. As a Corporate Board Member, his role will be critical in guiding and directing the Institute in its efforts in Armenia. He will provide invaluable insight into the Institute's activities in dealing with the forces and factors that shape Armenia today.



Knights and Daughters of Vartan at Vartanank Square in Gyumri

Members of Knights And Daughters Visit Armenia

YEREVAN – Thirty-five members of the Knights and Daughters of Vartan from California to Detroit to New York, including newly installed Grand Commander Steven Adams, Grand Master of Ceremonies Dr. Dennis Shamlian and Past Grand Commanders Dr. Gary Zamanigian and Steven Kradjian, visited Armenia on a mission trip from September 15-22.

This was the fourth consecutive "Back to the Homeland" trip. For over 100 years, the Knights of Vartan has initiated many projects in US Armenian communities for Armenian Studies, Armenian Research, University Student Scholarships and its members have served actively as leaders in all Armenian Churches and organiza-

tions. Since 1988 the organization has been supporting numerous projects in Armenia as well. In 2016 the organization celebrated its 100th Anniversary in Armenia, and instituted the "Back to Homeland" trips. Not only do they support a number of projects financially in Armenia but they also visit many of these projects and meet the people they helped throughout the year. This allows the members to see the changes they made in the life of the people in Armenia and it inspires them to return home to create new projects. The result is the creation of a bond between the supporters, partner organizations and beneficiaries.

Each year the number of members, including friends of members joining the group, has been increasing and the list of projects visited during the "Back to Homeland" trip, has increased also. The weeklong trip was filled with many visits to completed projects and to new projects underway sponsored by Knights and Daughters of Vartan.

After an orientation meeting on Sunday morning the group attended church services at Saint Gregory the Illuminator Cathedral in Yerevan. The delegation then visited the Armenian Genocide Memorial and placed a wreath in memory of our sanctified martyrs. The Grand Commander, Steven Adams watered the tree planted by Knights and Daughters of Vartan delegation last year on the Genocide Memorial grounds and met with the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute Director Harutyun Marutyan. The Knights of Vartan's Centennial Anniversary Yearbook was presented to the Marutyan.

For more than 25 years, the Knights of Vartan (KV) have been renovating and building schools and kindergartens in Armenia through the Armenian Schools Support Project and the Armenian Territorial Development Fund (ASSP/ATDF World Bank). A kindergarten, renovated by the KV in Aparan, was renamed the "Knights of Vartan Kindergarten" through a decision of the local Community Council last year. Now 137 children attend this newly renovated and equipped educational facility. The number of students enrolled in the school increased by 31% because of the enhanced learning environment. Such facilities are not only providing a good education but they are also preparing the future generation of leaders in Armenia. The children performed Armenian

see KNIGHTS, page 6

FAR Celebrates 30 Years of Service to Armenia

NEW YORK – During one instant in 1988, life in Armenia changed. The earthquake that struck late morning on that cold December day left 25,000 dead, 45,000 injured, and 100,000 homeless. The situation was so desperate at the time that Soviet Armenia opened its doors to Western assistance. It was through this window that a few determined members of the Armenian Diaspora immediately mobilized to get relief to the disaster site.

Their efforts constituted the first mission of what would later become Fund for Armenian Relief (FAR), an organization which, this year, celebrates 30 years of humanitarian and development work in Armenia. A gala held at FAR's own Gyumri Information Technology Center (GTEch) at the end of September, recently commemorated this landmark.

FAR Board members, benefactors, many beneficiaries, and guests attended the event, during which FAR received Armenia's Medal of Honor for the Development of Connection with the Diaspora.

Many of its staff and associates were recognized as well. FAR's Armenia Country Director Bagrat Sargsyan also received a Medal of Gratitude for his individual efforts, and Board of Directors Chair Randy Sapah-Gulian received a First-Class Medal for Services to the Motherland.

"Conceived immediately after the devastating earthquake of 1988, FAR would evolve since then to become one of the most effective diasporan organizations reaching out to people in need and empowering those in the motherland who just needed an opportunity to have a dignified life," stated the address of the President of Armenia Armen Sarkissian on this occasion.

Members of FAR's Board of Directors had arrived in Armenia a few days before to visit project sites. Several of them, including Nishan Atinjian, James and Marta Batmasian, Carl Bazarian, Edward Mardigian, Sandra Shahinian, Dennis Tarzian, Greg Toufayan and Pontish Yeramyian, were also honored for their work in Armenia.

Arev Nersisyan, an assistant school principal from the Berd Region of Tavush Province and beneficiary of FAR's Breaking the Cycle of Poverty Program (BCPP), which provided her with start-up capital and guidance for building and maintaining her own agrobusiness, spoke about the benefits of the program, which greatly supplements her personal income.

"I have to be honest. We often saw other people who would come [to Berd] and 'promise' things, then we would never hear from them again," she said in her address to the audience. "More than six years later I can tell you that many of those fantastic things FAR was talking about have become a reality. Our children are growing up healthy and happy. Our mothers are taking good care of them; many of our fathers and mothers started working or cultivating land, making much better income for living decently. Tractors have all of a sudden reappeared in our villages and we are now able to revitalize the land we completely forgot about."

FAR's Beginnings

Following the earthquake, the Eastern Diocese Primate Archbishop Torkom Manoogian met with the Soviet Delegation at the UN to discuss emergency aid. Manoogian then partnered with builder Kevork Hovnanian and Dr. Edgar M. Housepian, who had secured additional help from Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center and assembled a team of 35 physicians to travel to the disaster site.

When they arrived in Spitak they saw with their own eyes the real impacts of tragedy – death, destruction and lives destroyed. Ironically, out of all this darkness, they

see FAR, page 8



Members of Knights and Daughters Visit Armenia

KNIGHTS, from page 5

songs and dances beautifully in authentic Armenian tradition. Another room was filled with handmade dolls crafted by the children and parents. The Arshakyan family originally from Aparan, now living in San Diego, provided t-shirts for the children with the KV logo on them.

Because the KV has had many projects in Tavush Province which borders Azerbaijan, it was not surprising that the group would take the long journey to visit again. The highlight of the trip was meeting with the Governor of Tavush Mr. Hayk Chobanyan who expressed his gratitude to the organization for making a difference in Tavush Province and its importance especially with regard to education. Projects visited in Tavush included an Aygepar village school where the Armath Robotics Laboratory was opened. This border village school has 58 students of which 14 attend Armath classes. They are preparing to participate in a national competition in November. Commander Tigran Sahakyan of Mamigonian Lodge has supported the "After School Program" in this school for a number of years.

Fr. Aram Mirzoyan, a long-time KV partner presented other projects being supported in the Berd area.

The Knights of Vartan Sports and Cultural Center in Vervn Karmiraghbyur, Tavush Province, which had its groundbreaking in 2016 has grown every year. This year the swimming pool was completed and added to the list of facilities operating at the center already (Soccer Field and Outdoor Movie Theater). The complex serves 7 communities, namely Verin Karmiraghbyur, Norashen, Movses, Artsvaberd, Aygedzor and Chinariy with a population totaling 22,000. The aim is to provide a high level of education for children living in border villages, so that the future generation will be healthy and strong.

The Fuller Center for Housing Armenia has

been on the list of KV charities for over a decade. The organization has gifted one or two homes every year. During the 2018-2019 fiscal year, the organization donated two homes in

Throughout the years the organization has seen an increase of newborn children in families who received newly completed homes. Donating such homes to families who qualify

good environment in which to learn for the students except for the gymnasium. Today the old windows have been replaced, a new drainage system and new heating system installed. State



Knights and Daughters of Vartan meeting with the Diaspora High Commissioner

memory of the late Past Commander Reverend Fr. Dajad Davidian, who was also a very good friend of the Fuller Center Armenia. The KV group was able to visit one of the families, the Mkrtchyan family in Avan village, Aragatsotn Region, where everyone was amazed by the breathtaking view from the house and the garden. The young family (husband wife and two children) finally have a home of their own.



New gym opening at KV 106 school, L to R, cutting the ribbon- School principal Marine Vardanyan, Grand Commander Steve Adams, Past Grand Commander Dr. Gary Zamanigian



KV at #106 KV school with students after Derenik Demirchyan's Vartanank play

raises their hopes for the future and allows them to give their children a good environment in which to live.

One of the special stops in Yerevan was the KV School #106 which received its name in 1995 after a number of KV projects were implemented. Last year the Nareg-Shavarshan Lodge and Zabelle Otyag of Greater Detroit donated the entire cost for the renovation of the gym and Arshavir Lodge in Worcester donated new equipment. The school, built in the nineteen sixties, was, after previous KV contributions, a

of the art gymnasium flooring over a cement base now are in place instead of warped wood over the ground. The entire construction was implemented by KV partner the Paros Foundation. The KV delegation had a ribbon cutting ceremony and a beautiful program was presented by the students in their renovated gymnasium. The group was then invited to the auditorium where the children presented Vartanank Novel by Derenik Demirchyan. The play was presented in cooperation with the

continued on next page



KV Past Commander Ara Avedisian playing with a child, Gyumri



Arevik Kindergarten in Gyumri, kids welcoming guests



COMMUNITY NEWS



The children singing for the visitors

from previous page

Derenik Demirchyan Museum and the KV #106 School. Principal Marine Vartanyan expressed her gratitude and hope for continued coopera-

Republic of Armenia in order to be able to raise concerns and learn about additional opportunities to be of assistance to the country. The delegation met with the new High Commissioner of Diaspora Affairs Zareh Sinanyan. The group heard first-hand about the Commissioner's future plans, his new vision for Armenia-Diaspora relations and of his priority being recognition of the Diaspora and promotion of a "strong Armenia-strong Diaspora" concept.

Armenian Independence Day on September 21 was celebrated by climbing Mount Ara and raising the Knights and Daughters of Vartan flag on top of the mountain. The hikers were amazed by the beauty of surrounding landscape.

Concluding the week-



Children in the Gyumri kindergarten

tion with the Knights and Daughters of Vartan.

After the devastating 1988 earthquake in Gyumri, Armenia, the KV responded immediately and over 150,000 USD was delivered. A number of individual members went to Gyumri throughout the years but this was first time that the "Veratarts Hayrenik" group made such a trip. Visits to KV projects, museums and a tour of the city were combined. Two kindergartens were completed after the earthquake and they have been fully operational ever since. They were part of the ATDF (Armenian Territorial Development Fund) World Bank and the KV ASSP (Armenian Schools Support Project). Seeing the kindergarten children dancing and singing at these schools filled the hearts of every Knight and Daughter with pride and reminded them of what the Knights of Vartan is all about - to protect the Armenian Homeland and the Armenian Church, to prepare Armenian Community Leaders and to maintain the Armenian spirit.

For over 15 years the Knights of Vartan has provided scholarships to 10 students each year from Yerevan State University and National Polytechnic University of Armenia. Each of the students selected come from low income families and have high grade point averages. This partnership has been ongoing and the "Back to the Homeland" group stops at each of these universities every year. For the second year in a row the KV granted Scholarships to two students at the American University of Armenia and the delegation had the opportunity to meet with the new AUA President Dr. Karin Markides.

A group of the KV delegation visited the Yerevan Brusov State University of Languages and Social Sciences where Commander Tigran Sahakyan sponsors an annual scholarship program. This year nine students with high test scores received scholarships and one student received an award as the winner of the essay contest whose essay was presented at the New York Times Square Armenian Genocide Commemoration in April.

Coming from the Diaspora, it is important to have a connection with the Government of the



From left, Bryan Ardouny, Anthony Barsamian, Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and Van Krikorian

Pashinyan Meets with Armenian Assembly Leadership

NEW YORK – Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, who was in New York on a working visit, met with the leadership of the Armenian Assembly of America, co-chairs Van Krikorian and Anthony Barsamian, Assembly Executive Director Brian Ardouny early in October+.

The Prime Minister attached importance to the activities of the organization aimed at strengthening the Armenia-Diaspora relations and raising and promoting the pan-Armenian agenda.

Issues related to Armenian-American relations and opportunities for their development were discussed during the meeting. Reference was made to the activities and upcoming programs of the Armenian Assembly of America.

long mission trip, a celebration with all of the Knights and Daughters of Vartan delegation took place. Around 80 Knights and Daughters, Mission Partners and friends gathered at the Megerian Carpet Museum for dinner, a tour and fellowship. The evening gave the KV the opportunity to acknowledge all of our partners in Armenia, some of whom traveled from border villages to Yerevan to be present at the event.

George Aghjayan to Discuss DNA Testing At St. James Men's Club Talk

WATERTOWN – On Monday, November 4, St. James Armenian Church Men's Club will host a dinner meeting at the St James Charles Mosesian Cultural and Youth Center, 465 Mount Auburn St. The guest speaker will be George Aghjayan, director of the Armenian Historical Archives and chair of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation (ARF) Central Committee of the Eastern United States.

Aghjayan's topic will be "DNA Testing and Reconnecting Family Ruptured by Genocide."

Aghjayan graduated with honors from Worcester Polytechnic Institute in 1988 with a Bachelor of Science degree in actuarial mathematics.

He achieved Fellowship in the Society of Actuaries in 1996. After a career in both insurance and structured finance, Aghjayan retired in 2014 to concentrate on Armenian-related research and projects. His primary area of focus is the demographics and geography of Western Armenia as well as a keen interest in the hidden Armenians living there today.

Other topics he has written and lectured on include Armenian genealogy and genocide denial.

He is a board member of the National Association of Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR), a frequent contributor to the Armenian Weekly and Houshamadyan.org, and the creator and curator westernarmenia.weebly.com, a website dedicated to the preservation of Armenian culture in Western Armenia.

This St. James Men's Club dinner meeting will begin with a social hour and mezza at 6:15 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m. Ladies are invited.



Knights and Daughters of Vartan at the Genocide memorial



Banquet with partners



COMMUNITY NEWS

FAR Celebrates 30 Years of Service to Armenia

FAR, from page 5

witnessed a determined sense of hope from Armenians they met. Optimism did show through the rubble.

This hope resonated with Hovnanian, Housepian and the archbishop who, after providing emergency assistance, didn't want to abandon the region in the wake of its destruction. Instead, they had a vision for partnering with Armenia's people to advance its long-term recovery and growth — and the initiation of Fund for Armenian Relief.

At first, the fledgling organization was a lifeline for the Armenian people. While medical assistance and relief supplies were its initial focus, FAR soon became the USDA's organization of choice to deliver food to the region. Hovnanian helped to start a housing project for those who had been left homeless by the earthquake; Housepian established a medical assistance program. And the Armenian Diocese appointed a special committee called the Diocese Fund for Armenia's Recovery (DFAR), which was later changed to FAR in 1993 when the organization officially received its 501(c)(3) status.

As a burgeoning player in the humanitarian and development field, FAR spent the next 10 years bringing humanitarian assistance to those



FAR's Board of Directors at the recent gala in Gyumri



FAR's three founders (left to right) Dr. Edgar Housepian, Archbishop Torkom Manoogian and Kevork Hovnanian

in need. When the Soviet Union crumbled, FAR worked to bring emergency food shipments to the area, and had also completed its first housing project in Stepanavan. An energy crisis during which the country was left in darkness most of the time, crippled society, as did the War for Nagorno-Karabakh liberation. During this time, FAR's work continued to focus on immediate survival by supporting massive emergency shipments of supplies to the region. Eventually, it started a soup kitchen program in various locations hit hard by unemployment and poverty, which today still supports more than 800 people.

Throughout the uncertainty that followed the fall of the Soviet Union, the Nagorno-

Karabakh War, and the energy crisis, FAR forged onward, focused on its mission of helping Armenians to survive. From there, FAR shifted its primary focus to Armenia's longer-term development. Through a US Agency for International Development (USAID) grant, FAR was able to create the PAROS system, a national social welfare system, which was led by FAR Country Director Bagarat Sargsyan. Projects like its Gulamerian Vocational Training and Education Program, which supports orphans who have aged out of institutions, and Armenian National Science and Education Fund (ANSEF) grants, which support Armenian scientists in their pursuit of research, continued in this direction.

The establishment of the FAR Children's Center made the organization a leader in advocating for child protection. The Continuing Medical Education Program (CME), which promotes professional development of rural doctors, took FAR's quest to advance healthcare to a new level. GTech has become a leading IT institution, which has largely contributed to transforming Gyumri's economic landscape.

Projects continue to grow and change with Armenia's needs. In 2018, FAR's Healthcare Program launched a project aimed at serving not only rural doctors but also nurses, who are often the sole primary healthcare providers in many areas, and thus indispensable to their

communities. A couple of projects that provide nutritious school meals to children have combatted the high levels of anemia previously prevalent in certain rural areas.

With the war in Syria entering its eighth year, FAR also has implemented projects aimed to assist displaced Syrian-Armenians. FAR's fundraising platform, Ayo!, launched in 2013 as a way to engage the younger population and give them a vehicle through which they can mobilize for positive change in their country.

FAR's aid to Armenia and Artsakh through more than 290 projects is valued at \$360,000,000.

— Erin Henk

California Signs Turkey Divestment Bill

DIVESTMENT, from page 1

"California, the 5th largest economy in the world, just told Turkey to end its deceitful campaign of genocide denial," stated Nazarian. "I want to thank my colleagues, Governor Newsom, the Armenian Assembly of America, the Armenian National Committee of America - Western Region, the Armenian Youth Federation, and Armenian Student Associations throughout the University of California and California State University systems, and all of the other college campuses for helping advocate for AB 1320," he added.

Armenian Assembly of America Southern California Regional Council (SCRC) member and senior policy advisor to the late Governor George Deukmejian, Helen Haig, was thankful to have wit-

nessed the signing ceremony in Sacramento.

"Today is a memorable day for Armenian Americans in California. I am pleased to join thousands of Armenian Americans and supporters of human rights, and to extend the Armenian Assembly of America's gratitude to State Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian for authoring and shepherding AB 1320, to Governor Newsom for signing the bill into law, to the bill's co-authors and supporters in the California state legislature, and to the activists and organizations who fought hard to educate lawmakers and ensure the passage of this bill despite heavy opposition from the Consulate General of Turkey in Los Angeles, as well as from special interest groups," stated Assembly SCRC member Helen Haig.

Nardolillo Funeral Home

Est. 1906

John K. Najarian, Jr.

Rhode Island's Only Licensed Armenian Funeral Director

1278 Park Ave. Cranston, RI 02910 **(401) 942-1220**
1111 Boston Neck Rd. Narragansett, RI 02882 (401) 789-6300

www.nardolillo.com

Telephone (617) 924-7400

Aram Bedrosian Funeral Home, Inc.

Continuous Service By The Bedrosian Family Since 1945

558 MOUNT AUBURN STREET
WATERTOWN, MA 02472

MARION BEDROSIAN
PAUL BEDROSIAN
LARRY BEDROSIAN

Giragosian

F U N E R A L H O M E

James "Jack" Giragosian, CPC
Mark J. Giragosian

Funeral Counselors

576 Mt. Auburn Street, Watertown, MA 02472, TEL: 617-924-0606
www.giragosianfuneralhome.com



COMMUNITY NEWS

Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation
(All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)

1. Publication Title
The Armenian Mirror-Spectator

2. Publication Number
0 0 2 4 - 2 3 4 x

3. Filing Date
10-08-2019

4. Issue Frequency
Weekly except for 3 weeks

5. Number of Issues Published Annually
49

6. Annual Subscription Price
\$80.00

7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer) (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP+4®)
755 Mount Auburn Street, Watertown, MA 02472-1509

Contact Person
Aram Arkun

Telephone (Include area code)
617 924-4420

8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer)

Same

9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank)
Publisher (Name and complete mailing address)

Baikar Association, Inc., 755 Mount Auburn Street, Watertown, MA 02472
Editor (Name and complete mailing address)

Alin K. Gregorian, 755 Mount Auburn Street, Watertown, MA 02472
Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address)

Aram Arkun, 755 Mount Auburn Street, Watertown, MA 02472

10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.)

Full Name	Complete Mailing Address
Baikar Association, Inc.	755 Mount Auburn Street, Watertown, MA 02472

11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box
☒ None

Full Name	Complete Mailing Address

12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) (Check one)
The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes:
☒ Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months
☐ Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement)

13. Publication Title
The Armenian Mirror-Spectator

14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below
10-08-2019

15. Extent and Nature of Circulation

		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)		1250	1230
b. Paid Circulation (By Mail and Outside the Mail)	(1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	945	943
	(2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)		
	(3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS®	2	0
	(4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail®)	25	25
c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4))		972	968
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail)	(1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies included on PS Form 3541	115	115
	(2) Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies included on PS Form 3541		
	(3) Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail)	28	28
	(4) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)	2	4
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3) and (4))		145	147
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)		1117	1115
g. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4 (page #3))		133	115
h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)		1250	1230
i. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15f times 100)		87.0 %	86.8 %

* If you are claiming electronic copies, on line 16, on page 3. If you are not claiming electronic copies, skip to line 17 on page 3.

16. Electronic Copy Circulation

	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Paid Electronic Copies		
b. Total Paid Print Copies (Line 15c) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)		
c. Total Print Distribution (Line 15f) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)		
d. Percent Paid (Both Print & Electronic Copies) (16b divided by 16c x 100)		

☐ I certify that 50% of all my distributed copies (electronic and print) are paid above a nominal price.

17. Publication of Statement of Ownership
☒ If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed in the 10-12-2019 issue of this publication.
☐ Publication not required.

18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner
Alin Gregorian, Editor
Date
10-08-2019

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

Genocide Recognition by US States: 49 and Counting

RECOGNITION, from page 1

the Mississippi state Legislature convening in January, ANCA has begun rallying among the small number of Armenians who live in the state as well as members of the Greek and Assyrian communities there to join in backing a resolution. Perhaps because the approval of the proclamations on the state-by-state levels are symbolic in nature and carry no foreign policy consequence, they have gained little national publicity. But the near-unanimous adoption of it by the state is as an important point of political achievement for the Armenian-American community. Historians and Armenian civic leaders said they were especially encouraged by the value the state adoptions bring towards advancing a Genocide recognition legislation in Congress.

California acknowledged the Genocide in 1968, while three years before, on the 50th anniversary, similar resolutions were passed in Maine, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Illinois.

“Of course, state recognition, such as that in Alabama, does not constitute US government recognition but it adds a moral and small legal advantage,” said Richard G. Hovannisian, Armenian-American, professor emeritus at the University of California. “Thus, whatever the motivations in the Alabama case, the recognition must be welcomed.”

Just the Right Words

Colgate Professor Peter Balakian, whose 2003 prize-winning book, *The Burning Tigris: The Armenian Genocide and America's Response*, helped renew international attention to the Genocide, believes the wording of the resolutions is vitally important and lauded the one passed by the German parliament in 2016 as a “thorough and in-depth statement” and a model for others.

“The German Bundestag not only acknowledges the events of 1915 as Genocide, but goes on to deplore the Turkish state's denialism,” Balakian said, adding that it recognizes that “a full discussion of these events of the past in the Ottoman Republic is still not possible today in Turkey. Scientists and writers who wish to deal with this aspect of Turkish history are being prosecuted and exposed to public defamation there.”

Although the German resolution also called upon the Turkish government to work to redress the harms that the Ottoman Republic had done to the Armenians, Turkey continues, as it has done for decades, opposing the passage of a similar proposal in the US Congress.

Presidential leadership, an essential element that would propel serious consideration of the resolution, is still missing from the debate. President Trump has done nothing to indicate that he would rally the Republicans in favor of passage.

The need to gain a persuasive Republican voice fighting for the resolution suffered a serious blow in 2014 when Rep. Eric Cantor, one of the strongest Republican voices in Congress, suffered a surprising loss in his re-election bid. Cantor, who had risen to House majority leader and was on the road to becoming speaker, might have been able to provide convincing advocacy to gain passage of a resolution through Congress – as he had when he was a member of Virginia's House of Delegates.

In 2000, he steered the resolution through Virginia's lower legislative branch and gained a last-minute compromise with Virginia Senate that assured its statewide passage. Cantor, whose State House staff included a long-time legislative researcher of Armenian heritage, also signed his name to the resolutions that were introduced in Congress during his term in office.

On the other side of the political aisle, several Democratic hopefuls on the presidential campaign trail – including former Vice President Joe Biden, Senators Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren and Kamala Harris – have stated they would sign a Genocide recognition proposal if elected. But that remains a very big if. At the present time far less than a needed majority of congressmen have signed their names supporting the resolution that was filed in April by Rep. Adam Schiff, a Democrat from California and Rep. Gus Bilirakis, Republican of Florida.

In the interim, the effort to gain passage of the resolution in the Mississippi, the only state in the

nation which has yet to adopt it, will hold center stage. The drive to gain recognition of the Genocide began in California in the mid-1960s, according to an archive assembled by the Armenian National Institute. https://www.armenian-genocide.org/current_category.11/affirmation_list.html

California Led the Way

In 1968, the California Assembly passed a resolution honoring the construction of an Armenian Martyrs Memorial.

As the sensitivity towards what their ancestors had suffered in 1915 grew in the Armenian-American community, as well as the importance for political awareness, groups in other states began to press their political leaders to join the national drive and give official recognition of the Genocide. With the Armenian National Committee of America and the Armenian Assembly separately providing support within the confines of their legal limits (the Assembly as a tax-exempt organization is restricted from lobbying on political issues) the drive for adoption of the resolution became a grass-roots effort with local Armenians leading the drives for passage.

But because the state-by-state passages have taken place without national publicity, the Turkish lobby has been relatively silent. But there is no underestimating Turkey's opposition to the Schiff

Rep. Gus Bilirakis

Rep. Adam Schiff

Bilirakis proposal that is pending in Congress. Concerned about the blow that such a condemnation would bring to its international prestige, Turkey appears willing to spare no expense to derail passage of the Genocide resolution.

Its team of lobbyists has included former top congressional Democrats and Republicans including former Speaker Richard Gephardt and Republican Bob Livingston. Since Donald Trump's political rise, Turkey has added such favorites as Michael Flynn, President Trump's first national security advisor, and Brian Ballard, who has been described by Politico, “the most powerful lobbyist in Trump's Washington.”

(Stephen Kurkjian served as chief of the *Boston Globe's* Washington Bureau as well as a founding member and later head of its investigative Spotlight Team during his 40-year career with the newspaper.)

Read News in Armenian at:



COMMUNITY NEWS

ABMDR New England's Eighth Walkathon Raises Funds for Life-Saving Mission

WATERTOWN — On September 28, the Armenian community of New England came together in support of the eighth annual Walk of Life by the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry (ABMDR). The event, which took place in Watertown, drew a large youth participation, with many students from area schools and colleges, as well as the support of numerous community organizations.

Once again, Walk of Life received support and sponsorship from several large and small businesses, including Prometrika LLC of Cambridge, the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, the Armenian-American Pharmacists' Association (AAPA), Watertown Savings Bank, ThermOil, Inc., the Armenia Tree Project, the Armenian Cultural and Educational Center (ACEC), and the AGBU New England District.

Prometrika has been a consistent supporter of the ABMDR; its CEO and founder, Miganush Stepanians, was awarded the Volunteer of the Year Award at the ABMDR 20th anniversary Gala in Los Angeles in August.

At the walkathon's opening ceremony, which was held on the grounds of ACEC, Lori Yogurtian of ABMDR New England welcomed the participants. "Seventy-five percent of [affected] patients' lives depend on finding a matched unrelated donor," she said. "This is already a difficult situation. However, the unique genetic make-up of Armenians makes it nearly impossible for them to find suitable matches among the existing international registries. Every person the ABMDR informs, swabs, and registers is another chance for a patient's life to be saved."

Jack Antounian, lead marshal of the walk and president of the Armenian Business Network



The ABMDR New England Walk of Life Committee and supporters.

dancing, and food, along with thousands of people attending the annual Faire on the Square festival.

In his remarks during the closing ceremony, Shant Der Torossian of ABMDR New England

said, "We're touched to see so many individuals and community organizations participate in our eighth walkathon. A big Thank-you to all those who assisted in promoting this event among their co-workers, friends, and family. We couldn't do this without you!" Der Torossian went on to convey the New England Walk of Life Committee's deep gratitude to the event's sponsors and the walkathon marshals from the ABN for their continued support.

Following Der Torossian's remarks, Alec Der Sirakian, Lilil Hovnanian, and Sossy Yogurtian (on behalf of the AAPA) were awarded the first, second, and third top-fundraiser awards, respectively. For the seventh consecutive year, the Armenia Tree Project will plant commemorative trees in Armenia in honor of the walkathon winners, as part of the #LivingCentury Initiative.

Aside from planning the Walk, ABMDR New England volunteers have been working to spread awareness

about ABMDR. In the weeks leading up to the walk, volunteers participated in a number of local community events to educate the public about bone marrow donation and ABMDR in general, and recruited new donors.

"I'm so grateful for the opportunity to volunteer with this organization," said Yeterian. "It has been a humbling experience to work with a group of passionate people who share a common goal: helping to save lives. I hope for the continuation of the ABMDR mission for many years to come!"

ABMDR New England is encouraging community members to join the team. Interested readers can contact NE@abmdr.am

About the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry: Established in 1999, ABMDR, a nonprofit organization, helps Armenians and non-Armenians worldwide survive life-threatening blood-related illnesses by recruiting and matching donors to those requiring bone marrow stem cell transplants. To date, the registry has recruited over 31,000 donors in 33 countries across four continents, identified over 9,000 patients, and facilitated 33 bone marrow transplants. For more information, call (323) 663-3609 or visit abmdr.am.

Photos courtesy of the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry.



Alec Der Sirakian (middle), first-place winner for fundraising, with committee members Michael Demirchian (left) and Shant Der Torossian.



Lilil Hovnanian, second-place winner for fundraising, with committee members.

(ABN), provided safety guidelines to the walkers. This year, the ABN marshals were joined by several volunteer members of ABMDR New England. Walk of Life concluded at Watertown Square, where participants enjoyed great music,



Haig Yeterian joins the registry as Lori Yeterian, his sister and Walk of Life Committee member, administers a simple swab test.



Sossy Yogurtian (holding award) and members of the Armenian-American Pharmacists' Association, the third-place winner for fundraising.



COMMUNITY NEWS

ARMENIAN HERITAGE CRUISE® 2020

January 12-19, 2020

▪ MIAMI ▪ JAMAICA ▪ LABADEE ▪ COZUMEL

Royal Caribbean's Oasis of the Seas

www.ArmenianHeritageCruise.com

**SAYAT NOVA
DANCE COMPANY**



CABIN OPTIONS

RATES*

INSIDE CABIN	\$1,069
CENTRAL PARK VIEW	\$1,169
OCEAN VIEW	\$1,279
CENTRAL PARK BALCONY	\$1,399
BOARDWALK BALCONY	\$1,399
OCEAN VIEW BALCONY	\$1,539
JUNIOR SUITES	\$2,329
GRAND SUITES	\$3,419

Rates are per person for double occupancy cabins:

Limited additional luxury suites available upon request. For pricing on triple and quad occupancy cabins, contact TravelGroup. Prices include Cruise, Port Charges and all AHC private events. Government tax of \$127.62 per person is additional. Rates and Information subject to change at any time without notice.

TRAVELGROUP
INTERNATIONAL

For Reservations and Information Contact:

TravelGroup International

Local: 561-447-0750

Toll Free: 1-866-447-0750 Ext 108 or 102

AHC@travelgroupint.com

125 SE Mizner Blvd, Suite 14, Boca Raton, FL 33432

You must book
with TravelGroup
to attend our
private Armenian
events.

**KEV
ORKIAN**

**ARABO
ISPIRYAN**

**NERSIK
ISPIRYAN**

**SARINA
CROSS**

JOIN US...

Dance Ensemble

Best Comedian

International Singers

Late Night Dance Parties

Cultural Lectures

CME Medical Program

Tavlou Tournament

Medical Professionals are invited to register for our "Challenges in Global Health" program offering 15.0 ACCME, CDE & CPE credits



COMMUNITY NEWS

Generations and Legacies: Louise Manoogian Simone's Vision for Armenian Studies

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — The Armenian Studies Program (ASP) at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor began the academic year by organizing and hosting a rare conference. A diverse group of scholars all of whom had been trained at some point in their careers by ASP came together not only to present their ongoing scholarly work but also to celebrate the remarkable legacy of Louise Manoogian Simone (1933-2019), former president of Armenian General Benevolent Union (1989-2002) and the visionary patron of ASP. The gathering took place on the evening of Friday, September 13, on the 10th floor of Weiser Hall, with its majestic view of Ann Arbor.

The conference opened with “Reflections on Four Decades of Armenian Studies at the University of Michigan.” In her opening remarks, the current director of the program Prof. Melanie Tanielian, associate professor of history, not only thanked the Manoogian family for their lasting contribution to ASP but also shared data compiled with the help of Naira Tumanyan, ASP Program Specialist that highlighted the program's impressive accomplishments in the areas of scholarship and education. The audience learned that since 2007 ASP has hosted 27 post-doctoral, 5 pre-doctoral, and 10 visiting fellows. It has organized some 160 public events since 2008, including 101 lectures, 23 workshops, 19 conferences, symposia and colloquia, 7 performances and exhibits, and 12 film screenings. Since 2002, ASP has awarded a striking 99 fellowships and grants. The program is built on the foundation of two endowed chairs, The Alex Manoogian Chair in Modern Armenian History (1981) and the Marie Manoogian Chair in Armenian Language and Literature (1987). With six



The scholars at the Armenian Studies Program at the the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, with Edmond Azadian, fourth from right

with which she led.

Kevork Bardakjian, director from 1995 to 2007, drew attention to the important expansion of the archival holdings of ASP from 1,000 to 18,000 books, making it one of the major centers of Armenian Studies research worldwide.

Ronald Suny, the founder of the program and director from 1981 to 1995, began by sharing his memories of working with key supporters of the program, the Manoogian family in particular. He insisted that the program would not have been possible without

and eye-opening conference. The four panels were composed of former ASP graduate students and postdoctoral fellows, who presented cutting-edge and field-defining work. It started with a fresh look at two generally well-studied periods through the lens of gender and sexuality. A recent graduate of the program Dzovinar Derderian's presentation analyzed Armenak Haikouni's (1835-1866) polemical texts regulating marriage and hygiene in the name of science and God among Armenians for the sake of the reproductive health of the Ottoman Empire.

Associate Professor at the University of Tennessee, Alison Vacca, examined the practice of two elite marriages in the medieval Caucasus comparing their accounts in Arabic, Armenian and Georgian sources. Former ASP director and associate professor of Iranian history Kathryn Babayan's insightful remarks highlighted the power dynamics involved in regulating late-Ottoman Armenian reproductive behavior or in fashioning brides as exchangeable goods in the medieval political imaginary of the Caucasus.

The second discussion of the day was concerned with Armenians' relationship to language, poetry, and literary culture. Murat Cankara, a faculty member at the Social Sciences University of Ankara, spoke of his ongoing research on the Armeno-Turkish literature, that is Turkish language texts written in Armenian script. Cankara's analysis focused on the relationship of Ottoman Armenians to the Turkish language. ASP's current

Language and Literature Lecturer Michael Pifer, connected Konstantin Erznkatsi's (13-14th centuries) Armenian theological poems to a larger Anatolian practice of spiritual instruction. Pifer used the image of the rose and nightingale, which also appear in the well-known Persian poet Rumi's verse, and spoke of an Anatolian poetic practice of the everyday that crossed religious traditions.

From poetry and language, the discussion moved to trace the history of Armenians and Kurds in Turkey. Ohannes Kılıçdağı, a Research Affiliate at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, described the relations between Kurds and Armenians in the Ottoman Empire. Kılıçdağı concluded by arguing that today local Kurds know and speak much more openly about the Armenian Genocide than Turks. While at times mobilizing an economy of guilt and taking responsi-

bility for the Genocide, Kurds often insist that their ancestors were instrumentalized by the (post-)Ottoman-Turkish state. The current Manoogian Professor of Modern Armenian History, Hakem Al-Rustom, shared with the audience a chapter of his forthcoming book. Based on anthropological research that he conducted in post-Hrant Dink Turkey and diaspora Armenian communities in Paris, Al-Rustom found that in post-genocide Turkey Armenian survival was “accidental and random,” some individuals having slipped through the violent machine which destroyed most of their compatriots and had no intention of sparing those that survived.

Christopher Sheklian, now the director of the Zohrab Information Center in New York, delved into the theology of the Orthodox Armenian Church. He offered a fresh look at Christology through the lens of theories of anthropology and philosophy. The Richard Hovannisian Endowed Chair in Modern Armenian History, Sebouh Aslanian, interpreted the extensive archive of the Armenian book production in print from 1512 to 1800. Inspired by the Annales school of history, he stressed the importance of confessionalism as well as the sustained nature of the early modern print revolution involving and shaping ports and port Armenians.

Vahe Sahakyan, a research scholar and senior information resources specialist at the University of Michigan-Dearborn, deployed theories from sociology and diaspora studies to analyze institutional, discursive, and communal spaces of difference in the United States, France, and Lebanon, and the cultural objects signifying the presence and permanence of these diasporic spaces.

The exhibition of the innovative and unconventional work that has defined ASP over the past four decades culminated in what was titled “Future Flashes.” The audience was presented with a potpourri of 5-min-long presentations by nine current students and post-doctoral fellows of the program. The young scholars in a fast and furious, back-to-back race presented their burgeoning research ranging from Armenian medieval poetry, late Ottoman language politics, the legacy of Vahé Oshagan, oppressive heteronormativity in Ottoman Empire/Turkey during World War I, conflict studies and democracy, Kurdish and Armenian encounters in Van, the medical discourse among Armenians, the afterlives of the ruins of Van, and the acquisition of Western Armenian as a heritage language. Throughout the two days, the public witnessed the myriad ways in which ASP has not only produced and provided a home for forward-looking scholars and exceptional scholarship but also forged a space wherein community of intellectual exchange and support is practiced.



From left, Professors Ron Suny, Melanie Tanielian, Kathryn Babayan, Jirair Libaridian and Kevork Bardakjian

current faculty since 2008, the program has had 13 graduate students, and 6 are currently enrolled. Since 2011 ASP faculty have collectively taught a whopping 3411 undergraduate and graduate students!

Following this glimpse into the history of ASP, its former directors joined Tanielian on stage. Each of them gave an overview of the work accomplished and the directions and innovations undertaken during their leadership. Kathryn Babayan, director from 2012 to 2019, highlighted the new research directions taken by the program, engaging with gender and sexuality, Mediterranean studies, and most recently materiality studies.

Gerard Libaridian, director from 2007 to 2012, spoke of his memories of Louise Manoogian Simone. He commented on her informed, demanding, but non-interfering style of philanthropy, and the expansive vision

the push and work of “the big three.” He named Alex Manoogian, Louise Manoogian's father, Alice Haidostian, and the Beirut-born and Detroit-based writer and intellectual Edmond Y. Azadian. Suny emphasized Azadian's paramount role in informing and encouraging the Manoogians to create ASP. Suny playfully but accurately referred to Azadian, seated among the audience, as Alex Manoogian's “Minister of Culture.” (Edmond Azadian is the senior columnist for the *Armenian Mirror-Spectator*.) At the closing of the first evening, the audience realized that with the five former and current directors of the program sharing their insights and a large number of its research cohort present, they had a window into the history of not only ASP, but also of the university and Michigan Armenian community.

Saturday, September 14, was an intense

Arts & Living

Armenia's Cultural Ambassadors Celebrate with Music

By Muriel Mirak-Weissbachn

Special to the Mirror-Spectator

BERLIN – It was the 28th anniversary of independence for the Republic of Armenia and the 150th birthday of national composer and musician Komitas Vardapet. To celebrate, the Little Singers of Armenia, a world class children's choir, travelled to Lithuania and Germany, performing in some of Europe's most famous concert halls. In Lithuania they appeared at the 700-year-old castle on Trakai island, at the Church of St. Francis in Kaunas and in the Culture House in Vilnius. The church of St. Catherine in Vilnius hosted a gala concert, attended by representatives of the diplomatic corps, statesmen and cultural figures. At the conclusion, they joined with the Lithuanian choirs Azholukas and Ugniale to perform *Erebuni-Yerevan* composed by E. Hovhannisyan.

On September 25, they were at the center of national day celebrations in Berlin, hosted by Ambassador Ashot Smbatyan. Performing in the Berlin Concert House, they offered classical music by Armenian and foreign composers, with Komitas at the center. And on September 29, they sang in the Gewandhaus concert hall in historic Leipzig, followed by an appearance in Halle. (In Leipzig, they also staged a flash mob on September 28 in the Mädlar Passage trade center, singing Armenian national songs.)

Founded in 1992, the Little Singers of Armenia are, in the words of Smbatyan, "the cultural ambassadors of Armenia who have their special role in our rich cultural heritage." The youngsters, between the ages of 11 and 16, represent a new generation, he said; born during these years of independence, they guarantee a bright future for the country.

Michael Roth, Minister of State at the German Federal Foreign Office, opened the gala concert with a speech highlighting the role of culture in German-Armenian relations. Speaking on behalf of the German government, he delivered his "sincere congratulations to all Armenians" on the anniversary. He quoted an Armenian proverb, to the effect that "mountains do not provide mutual support, but people do. And just as individuals lean and rely on each other, entire societies do the exact same thing." Citing this proverb as a "fitting reflection" of relations between Germany and Armenia, he expressed his gratitude for the cooperation that has grown over the past 27 years, "based not only on the commitment of our governments and politicians but, above all, on the effort of our civil societies, academia, cultural sectors and business communities." This includes German development cooperation as well.

Germans followed the Velvet Revolution, he said, "with great interest and admiration for the peaceful campaign conducted by a vibrant and diverse civil society." The political dialogue between Berlin and Yerevan then grew in intensity, as marked by Chancellor Angela Merkel's visit to Armenia in August 2018 and the visits to Berlin by the Armenian President and Prime Minister, in November 2018 and February 2019, respectively.

Although Germany is committed to developing this relationship, Roth said, "political dialogue alone is not enough. Culture, education and academia are key pillars of our bilateral relations." Here he pointed to the Goethe-Zentrum in Yerevan as a "popular showcase" for Germany, its language and culture. In its Cultural Preservation Program, the center has funded a project to document prehistoric petroglyphs as well as to restore and digitize manuscripts in the Matenadaran.

Study of German as a foreign language, see BERLIN, page 14



Nikol Pashinyan and Serj Tankian (or actors portraying them) at a game show

Tekeyan of New York Presents 'Big Bad Armo Show' Live in NYC

NEW YORK – The East Coast Armenian community enjoyed a special weekend of humor and laughter on May 10 and 11, when the "Big Bad Armo Show" (BBAS) presented its bilingual comedic sketches titled "Live in NYC" at the Symphony Space in NYC. The force behind this hilarious show is the talented actress, writer and creator Lory Tatoulain. Originally from Reedley, Calif., she loved theater at a young age. A Theater major at San Diego State University, Lory produced her first solo show "Sitting Twisted, Talking Straight" that featured 10 different sketches. This inspired her to create 10 different "Big Bad Armo Shows" that toured many cities in the US.

The May performance was co-produced by the Tekeyan Cultural Association of Greater New York Chapter. With three sold-out performances, the audience witnessed the comedic vignettes representing the Armenian diaspora with different dialects and hilarious characters.

The entertainment for the evening was provided by New Jersey based Shant and Raffi Massoyan. The duo performed Armenian and international songs and music.

The show opened with a Game Show "How Hye Are You?" actors impersonating Cher, Kim Kardashian, Kaitlyn Jenner, Nikol Pashinyan, Serj Tankian and Elton John. Followed by comedic sketches. Tatoulain's character of Sossi Hayrabedian, an immigrant from Middle East, campaigning for the Mayor of Pasadena made her a fan favorite. She is currently running for President of the US. She entertained the



Going off to camp

audience debating with Donald Trump.

The 12 skits had different vibes and various characters. Actors Mary Basmadjian, Helen Kalognomos, Andrew Kapamajian, co-director Ludwig Manukian, Alexander Mashikian, Micheal Strassner and Johnno Wilson drew huge laughs from the audience with their impersonations and talent.

Sketches such as Armenian Telethon, packing the kids for Camp Nubar and especially Marty and Varty, the entertainers aboard the Armenian Cruise, ending the show with a sing along *That's Amote* with the audience.

see ARMO, page 14

Dr. Beata Navratil's Lecture at Boston University on Anush Opera, Armenian Poetry and Music

By Elizabeth Eckert

BOSTON – On Tuesday, September 17, the Boston University Modern Armenian History and Lecture Series hosted Dr. Beata Navratil for a lecture titled "Poetry in Music: Armenian Sketches." The event was organized by Prof. Simon Payaslian, Charles K. and Elisabeth M. Kenosian Chair in Modern Armenian History and Literature.

Payaslian welcomed the audience and introduced the speaker. Born in Armenia, Navratil graduated from the Tchaikovsky Special Music School for Gifted Children. She received her Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degree in Piano Performance from Manhattan School of Music, and her Doctor of Musical Arts in Piano Performance from the Graduate Center at City University New York (CUNY). She is a recipient of the Gulbenkian Foundation Award, the All-American Scholar Award, and the US Academy Achievement Award.

Navratil has performed in numerous venues throughout the United States and Europe as a soloist, chamber musician, and accompanist.

In her talk, Navratil presented an overview of the relationship between Armenian culture, history, art, and music. Reading excerpts from the poem "Anush," a love story between two peasants Saro and Anush,



From left, Prof. Simon Payaslian, Elizabeth M. Kenosian and Dr. Beata Navratil

Navratil stressed the continued Armenian tradition of connecting poetry to music. "Anush" opera was written by poet Hovhannes Tumanian (1869-1923) and set to music by composer Armen Tigranian (1879-1950).

Navratil shared with the audience the importance of Armenian folk music and dancing, traditions and rituals, as demonstrated in this case in Armenian village life.

She underscored the historical and cultural significance of emotions in music and poetry, in storytelling and singing, particularly involving the character and role of the protagonists. Nature in "Anush," Navratil maintained, is humanized to emulate feelings and physical attributes of people. The three dominant components of nature – mountains, flowers and bodies of water – create a psychological environment and convey a specific mood and emotion. This humanization of nature serves as a vehicle for narrating or singing the story.

In her concluding comments, she also noted the difficulties involved in translating such a deeply culture-specific work of literature into English. Although this art form is difficult for non-Armenian people to understand, nevertheless successfully conveyed the cultural value of Armenian poetry and music and enabled the audience here at Boston University to gain an understanding of Armenian art and music.



ARTS & LIVING

'Fleabag's Andrew Scott to Headline Steven Zaillian's Tom Ripley Drama Series At Showtime Based On Novels

By Nellie Andreeva

LOS ANGELES (*Deadline*) – Showtime has given a formal eight-episode order to Steven Zaillian's drama series "Ripley," based on Patricia Highsmith's bestselling quintet of Tom Ripley novels, with Andrew Scott, hot off his starring turn on the Emmy-winning second season of "Fleabag," set to star in the title role. Oscar and Golden Globe winner and Emmy nominee Zaillian ("Schindler's List," "The Night Of") will write and direct the entire first season.

In the series, Tom Ripley (Scott), a grifter scraping by in early 1960s New York, is hired by a wealthy man to travel to Italy to try to convince his vagabond son to return home. Tom's acceptance of the job is the first step into a complex life of deceit, fraud and murder.

Zaillian will use the five novels written by Highsmith – *The Talented Mr. Ripley*, *Ripley Under Ground*, *Ripley's Game*, *The Boy Who Followed Ripley* and *Ripley Underwater* – as a road map to show Ripley's progression from con artist to serial killer. In Anthony Minghella's 1999 feature adaptation, "The Talented Mr. Ripley," the title role was played by Matt Damon.

"We are so thrilled to have the supremely talented filmmaker, Steve Zaillian, adapt the singular saga of Tom Ripley from Patricia Highsmith's novels as an ongoing series for Showtime," said Gary Levine, president of Entertainment, Showtime Networks. "With Andrew Scott, whose charisma knows no bounds, inhabiting the iconic lead role, we feel confident that this will be a special one."

On Sunday, September 22, "Fleabag" creator and star Phoebe Waller-Bridge credited Scott with the success of the

show's second season, which earned six Emmy Awards, including best comedy series. "Season 2 wouldn't have happened and wouldn't have exploded as it did if it wasn't for Andrew Scott who came into our 'Fleabag' world like a whirlwind and gave a performance with such depth and complexity that elevated the whole thing," she said in her acceptance speech for Outstanding Comedy Series.

Known for his portrayal of the Priest in "Fleabag," Scott won the BAFTA Award for Best Supporting Actor for his portrayal of Moriarty in "Sherlock" and the British Film Independent Award for his work in CBS Films' "Pride." His other recent TV credits include "His Dark Materials" and "Black Mirror." Scott is also an Olivier Award-winning theatre actor whose most recent work includes "Present Laughter" at The Old Vic, "Hamlet" and "Birdland."

Zaillian won Oscar, Golden Globe and BAFTA screenplay awards for "Schindler's List" and was also nominated for all three honors for his work on "Moneyball." He has received two other Oscar nominations, for "Gangs of New York" and "Awakenings," as well as BAFTA nominations for "Gangs of New York" and "American Gangster." In addition, he received Emmy nominations in both writing and directing and won the DGA award for "The Night Of," which he executive produced and which also received an Outstanding Limited Series nomination.

Ripley is co-produced by Showtime and Endemol Shine North America in association with Entertainment 360 and Filmrights. Executive producers are Steven Zaillian, Garrett Basch, Guymon Casady, Ben Forkner, Sharon Levy and Philipp Keel of Diogenes. Scott will serve as a producer.

Tekeyan of New York Presents 'Big Bad Armo Show' Live in NYC

ARMO, from page 13

The organizers thank Teni Apelian, Jack Hadjinian, Arpy Jahjah Tatouljian and TCA Greater New York Chair Hilda Hartounian, The Big Bad Armo Show backstage crew Nanor Avedissian, Nora Achabachian, Cathrine Granger, Lena Kzirian, Patti Mashikian, Karen Yazejian and Shoghik Yazejian for their tireless work.

This was the third time that the Tekeyan Cultural Association of Greater New York Chapter had hosted the Big Bad Armo Show.

This year, the TCA of Greater New York celebrates its 50th Anniversary. For many years the chapter has organized concerts, book presentations, cultural programs and social events for its growing community. The TCA mission has always been to promote and uphold Armenian identity, heritage and language through cultural and educational programs.

For more information about upcoming TCA Greater New York Chapter events, please like the chapters Facebook and Instagram @tekeyangreaterny.



From left, actors impersonating Elton John, Cher, Nikol Pashinyan, Kim Kardashian and Kaitlyn Jenner at the Big Bad Armo Show



Nikol Pashinyan and Serj Tankian (or actors portraying them) at the Big Bad Armo Show

Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Church
Providence, RI

Food Fair and Bazaar

November 2 and 3

Saturday 11.30 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Sunday Noon to 6 p.m.



70 Jefferson St.
Providence, RI 02908
401-272-7712
www.ArmenianFoodFairRI.com
Visa and Mastercard accepted

Armenia's Cultural Ambassadors Celebrate with Music

BERLIN, from page 13

which is third in Armenia after English and French, is an important factor in education there, and through the support of the German Academic Exchange Service, Roth said, "several hundred Armenians study at German institutions each semester." The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, established in 1953, has awarded Armenian academics with scholarships or prizes on 36 occasions. And there are 42 agreements for cooperation between research institutes and universities in the two countries.

Turning to politics, Roth pointed to the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement, recently ratified by Germany, as a sign of Armenia's closer relations with the European Union. This year, he added, "we are celebrating the tenth anniversary of the Eastern Partnership, which brought Armenia and five other Eastern European neighbors closer to the EU as well as to each other." Within this framework, Armenia benefits from a program funded by the Bundestag (Parliament), the Expanding Cooperation with Civil Society in the Eastern Partnership Countries and Russia. Exchange programs for youth organizations will receive funding through this mechanism this year, he added.

Germany, Roth continued, "as a member of the Minsk Group is supporting mediation efforts of the co-chairs in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict." And he voiced optimism that within this framework, "A peaceful solution to the conflict ... is possible!" To this end, he urged all sides to be open to compromise, expressing his hope "that credible and committed diplomatic efforts will lead to a lasting rapprochement and that the way will finally be paved for serious negotiations."

In conclusion, Roth turned to his host and picked up his main theme: "Ambassador: Music – rather than speeches – is center stage this evening. How delightful! Culture is not the cherry on the cake, but the yeast in the dough. The concert by the Little Singers of Armenia is a wonderful advertisement for Armenia as a nation of culture, which is being shaped and further developed by young people." He concluded with rousing words: "Congratulations, Armenia! Long live the German-Armenian friendship! Long live a Europe of peace, democracy and freedom!"

(Sources: www.myyerevan.am, German Foreign Ministry: www.auswaertiges-amt.de September 25, Translation of advance text)



ARTS & LIVING

Azadian's New Volume Feted by Yerevan Intellectuals

YEREVAN (*Azg, Baikar*) – Two presentations of Edmond Y. Azadian's newly published Armenian-language volume, *Echer goruseal yev angorusd* [Lost and Unlost Pages], were recently held in Armenia, first on September 25 at the Tekeyan Center and then on September 30 at Yerevan State University. This new volume is the continuation of the volume he published last year, *Zhamanagi yev zhamanagagitsneru hed* [With My Time and Contemporaries].

Azadian, familiar to subscribers of the *Mirror-Spectator* as the senior editorial columnist of the paper, is well known to Armenian readers as a literary critic and public figure. He is a overseas member of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia who has been given honorary doctoral degrees by both Yerevan State University and the Khachatur Abovyan Armenian State Pedagogical University, and is a member of the Writers Union of Armenia.

At the Tekeyan Center

Those present at the Tekeyan Center celebration included Rector Ruben Mirzakhanyan of the Khachatur Abovyan Armenian State Pedagogical University, Dean of the Department of Philology of Yerevan State University, President of the Writers Union of Armenia Eduard Militoniy, Secretary of the Writers Union Petros Demirchyan, literary critic Aleksandr Topchyan, Hamshen Armenian specialist Sergey Vardanyan, satirical cartoonist Sukias Torosyan, and various guests from Montreal, Canada.

Hagop Avedikian, editor of the newspaper *Azg* and chairman of the Armenian Democratic Liberal Party, served as master of ceremonies.



Hagop Avedikian



Edmond Y. Azadian speaking at Yerevan's Tekeyan Center

He said that Azadian is among the rare group of people who create, write and publish books

a writer of wisdom and courage, though he has not yet read this new volume. Militoniy in his turn noted that writers like Azadian are true classical figures from whom one can learn every day.

The compiler and editor of the book, Yervand Ter-Khachatryan, who is a respected literary critic philologist and writer, in his own right, emphasized the importance of the contents of the book and its author. He exclaimed that it is so pleasant to encounter a work written in Armenian by an author whose writing and thinking is truly

Armenian, in contrast to the truly terrible state

The evening closed with Azadian's expression of thanks to all those who participated in the event. He said that he always tries to publish his books in Armenia as a gesture towards national unity. He said, "We always speak of repatriation, but we must accept that together with people, those pages of literature must come to the homeland which have been created abroad, and are largely unknown to our compatriots living in the homeland. Is literature not a great force? I attempt also to bring Western Armenian here, where unfortunately it gradually is hardening like a diamond. Many no longer are able to take advantage of this hardness. This issue requires an urgent solution. UNESCO has already placed Western Armenian in the category of languages at risk. Why does this realization not exist in our homeland? I have great hope that soon work in this direction will be carried out, while in the future, concrete results will already be seen. I will contribute everything possible that I can for this work."



Eduard Militoniy

simultaneously. He said Azadian writes editorials for two newspapers, works diligently on behalf of his political party, and does many other labors, yet despite all these burdens, has managed to publish two books during the course of one year.

Demirchyan, while evaluating Azadian's characteristics, compared him with Yeghia Demirjibashian. Literary critic Topchyan spoke words of praise concerning Azadian, calling him

Edmond Azadian's new volume, *Echer goruseal yev angorusd* [Lost and Unlost Pages]

of Armenian language writing in general. He continued, "Azadian is one of those unique men whose perspective is broad." He can write about opera, literature, theater, sculpture or many other fields. Ter-Khachatryan pointed out a third important aspect to Azadian's works, which is his taking civic positions on issues, as Ter-Khachatryan said that a public figure should be a moral character.

Director, actor and musician Gerald Papasian

At Yerevan State University

Yerevan State University's Armenian Philology Department organized a book presentation event for Edmond Y. Azadian on September 30 at which students and faculty were present. Department dean Artsrun Avagyan pronounced Azadian to be a Mohican in his approaches to Armenian culture and the themes he has chosen. Avagyan went on to say to the audience, "You see before you a man who is Western Armenia to the marrow, who speaks, writes, reads and thinks in Western Armenian – this is a great distinctiveness." Avagyan said that the editor and compiler of the volume, Yervand Ter-Khachatryan, is himself a Mohican in his approaches to literary criticism and rigor, which are joined in his person to form the true synthesis of a writer and literary critic.

A dialogue between Azadian and the students emerged during the course of a question and answer session. Azadian advised all to familiarize themselves closely with the richness of Western Armenian, which today, unfortunately, is endangered as a language. He said, "Do not shy away from that language. Love it, learn it, master that language with which Varouzhhan and Siamanto [two Western Armenian master poets] wrote."

Ter-Khachatryan, while emphasizing Azadian's unique aspects as a thinker, also pointed out his "imperfections." He said that the latter is absolutely indifferent to his creations. He does not collect or preserve them, so that there is no bibliography to this day of his writings, despite Ter-Khachatryan's repeated advice to this effect. Ter-Khachatryan said, "Azadian is an extremely modest man. Few today know that it is thank to him that the letters of the Western Armenian writer Indra [Diran Chrakian] have reached us – something which Azadian accomplished silently."

At the end of the event, students received signed copies of Azadian's book as a gift.

(The above translation is based on articles by Gevorg Gyulumyan in *Azg* and *Baikar*.)



Ruben Mirzakhanyan

of Paris read the final story of Azadian's book, "The Desire of the Elderly," while the periodic performances throughout the evening of the Zvartnots *kanon* players of the Armenian State Pedagogical University led by Hasmik Leyloyan created a pleasant atmosphere.

Mirzakhanyan, who had organized the event and also is president of the Tekeyan Cultural Association of Armenia, spoke of Azadian's literary, political and public path and commented on Azadian's essay "Blue Yerevan." He said that though the author lived distant from Armenia, he expressed such warm sentiments about it, and concluded, "Behold Edmond Azadian, one of the best intellectuals of our times."

TEKEYAN CULTURAL ASSOCIATION
MHER MEGEROCHIAN THEATRICAL GROUP

PRESENTS
A HILARIOUS NEW
COMEDY BY *Ray Cooney*

ՀԱՆՑԻՆ ՄԵՐ
ԲՈՂՈՒԱՆ
CAUGHT
IN THE NET

ORADELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
350 PROSPECT AVE. ORADELL, NJ 07649

A COMEDY IN 1 ACT
DIRECTED BY **HAROUT CHATMAJIAN**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2019
8:00PM

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2019
4:00PM

TICKETS \$35 | \$50
MARIE (201) 745-0850 | TALAR (201) 240-8541

PERFORMED IN ARMENIAN
WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES



ARTS & LIVING

C A L E N D A R

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 AECF’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 7 — Saturday, 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. The Women’s Guild of St. David Armenian Church in Boca Raton, invites all members, spouses & friends to their Annual Christmas Luncheon & Fashion Show at the Wyndham Deerfield Beach Resort, 2019 NE 2nd Street, Deerfield Beach, FL, to enjoy an afternoon of fellowship, delicious food, and exciting fashion provided by Mario Pucci, among others. For reservations (deadline Nov. 29th) and additional information, please call Diane Azarian (401) 556-3886, Ginny Kyvelos (781) 789-9169, or the church office (561 994-2335.

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

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 17 — Third Thursdays! The Be-Bop Guitars directed by John Baboian in Concert at the Armenian Museum of America in the Adele & Haig Der Manuelian galleries, 3rd floor. Boston’s own “Be-Bop” Guitars! The “Be-Bop” Guitars is an all-faculty band from Berklee College of Music. This unique group features 5 of Berklee’s guitar faculty performing specialized arrangements that show the diversity of the instrument and of the performers. The remainder of the band: trumpet/flute, vibes, bass & drums are also from the Berklee faculty. This performance was made possible through the Dadourian Foundation. Members free! Non-members \$15. NOTE: The museum’s elevator is in the process of being upgraded and is currently out of service.

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 Banuqet celebrating the Armenian Evangelical Church. Westin Hotel, Waltham, 70 Third Ave., Watlham. 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 Ameirca, 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. Recognition will also be given to Outgoing Parish Council Members, Edmond J. Danielson, Daniel K. Dorian and Paul Jamgotchian. Dinner Donation is \$35 for adults and \$15 for Children under 12. Seating by advanced paid reservations only. RSVP requested by October 10; to purchase tickets, log onto www.htaac.org/calendar/event/703/ or call the Church Office,617.354.0632.

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 sons 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 — St. Stephen’s Armenian Apostolic Church Bazaar. 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Armenian Cultural and Educational Center, Watertown. Chicken, beef and losh kebab. Kufteh and kheyma dinners. Pastries and specialty gourmet items. Arts and crafts and auction items.

NOVEMBER 1 — 4-7 p.m., Friday, grand opening of the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research: Complimentary Light Fare and Entertainment. NAASR, 395 Concord Avenue, Belmont, MA 02478. Join us as we cut the ribbon symbolizing a new era, celebrating 65 years of achievement while transforming its goals for the future to welcome the next generation and launch a beautiful, new, state-of-the-art research center and gathering place. Open to the public free of charge.

NOVEMBER 2 — National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) 65th Anniversary Gala. Sold Out. Wait list only. Royal Sonesta Hotel Grand Ballroom. 40 Edwin H. Land Boulevard, Cambridge. 6 p.m. cocktail reception, 7 p.m. seated dinner. Performance by Isabel Bayrakdarian, accompanied by the Borromeo String Quartet. Distinguished Honoree: Dr. Vartan Gregorian, President, The Carnegie Corporation of New York. Master of Ceremonies: David Ignatius, Columnist for the *Washington Post* and Novelist

NOVEMBER 4 — St James Men’s Club Dinner Meeting - social hour and mezza at 6:15 p.m. 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 will be George Aghjayan, Director of the Armenian Historical Archives and the chair of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation (ARF) Central Committee of the Eastern United States. Aghjayan’s topic will be “DNA Testing and Reconnecting Family Ruptured by Genocide.” 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.

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.hypointearmenianchurch.org or call (978) 372-9227. Take Rte. 495 N to exit 48, bear right at the end of the ramp.

NOVEMBER 9 — Armenian Women’s Welfare Association, Annual Luncheon, Saturday, 12 - 4pm, Belmont Country Club, 181 Winter Street, Belmont.

NOVEMBER 9 —An Evening with Fr. Vasken Kouzouian: Celebrating 25 Years of Ministry, 6:30 p.m., Cocktail Reception; 7:30 p.m., Dinner and Celebration. Samberg Conference Center, MIT, Chang Building (E52), Floor 7. 50 Memorial Drive, Cambridge MA 02142. Donation: \$100 per person. Seating by advance paid reservation only, by November 1. Reserve online at <https://aneveningwithfrvasken.eventbrite.com> or through the Church Office, 617-354.0632..

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.

MICHIGAN

OCTOBER 26 — Kef Time Keghi IV 6:30 p.m. Saturday, at St John Armenian Cultural Hall, Southfield, headlined



ARTS & LIVING

Recipe

Guest Recipe



by Christine Vartanian Datian

Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church Bread Sticks (Simit)

INGREDIENTS

4 cups flour
1 cube butter at room temperature (Note: 1 cube is equivalent to 1 stick or 1/2 cup)
3/4 cup shortening
1/4 teaspoon salt
1 dry yeast cake, dissolved in warm water (Note: 1 dry yeast cake is equivalent to one (1/4-ounce) packet of dry yeast - or - 2-1/4 teaspoons of active dry or instant active dry yeast.)
2 tablespoons madzoon (plain yogurt) or sour cream
1 tablespoon whiskey or brandy, optional
1-2 large eggs, beaten
Sesame seeds as garnish

PREPARATION

Pre-heat oven to 350° F.
In a large bowl, blend the flour, butter, shortening, and salt together until well combined.
Add the yeast, sour cream or madzoon (plain yogurt), and brandy (if using). Mix and knead well. Let dough rest for 10 to 15 minutes.
Take a small amount of dough for each simit, roll pencil thin (about 6 inches long), and twist into a braid. Place on a greased cookie sheet and brush tops with beaten egg.
Lightly sprinkle with sesame seeds, if desired. Bake for 15-20 minutes until golden brown, do not burn. Remove from oven and cool completely on wire racks.
Yield: About 45 pieces.



*The is one of the treasured recipes published in the Armenian and Selected Favorite Recipes Cookbook by the Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church Trinity Guild (now Ladies' Guild) in 1970. The church is located in downtown Fresno, and is registered as a U.S. National Register of Historic Places. The cost is \$20.00 each to purchase the cookbook. Include \$5.00 for shipping. Please make check payable to: Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church. nazik@holytrinityfresno.org

Pianist Michael Krikorian in Concert at Fresno State

FRESNO — Fresno native-son Michael Krikorian will perform in recital as part of the "Young Armenian Talent" series of the Philip Lorenz Memorial Keyboard Concert Series at Fresno State. The performance will take place at 3:00PM on Sunday, October 20 in the Concert Hall on the Fresno State campus. Krikorian will be performing works by Scriabin, Babadjanian, Komitas, Bartók, Liszt, and Beethoven.

The concert is co-sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program of Fresno State and the Thomas A. Kooyumjian Family Foundation.

After completion of a Doctorate in Piano Performance at the esteemed Thornton School of Music of the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, Michael Krikorian returns to his hometown with a diverse program showcasing him as a brilliant pianist and equally talented composer. Dr. Krikorian earned his M.M. from Manhattan School of Music in the studio of Arkady Aronov, and his B.A. from Fresno State as a student of Andreas Werz.

A top prize winner at the 2018 Los Angeles International Liszt Competition, he has given acclaimed performances in numerous venues across the United States as well as Italy, France, China, and Korea. He also won first place in the Bell T. Ritchie Award Competition (2017), and second place in the James Ramos International Video Competition (2017).

Tickets may also be purchased online at the following website: <http://www.keyboardconcerts.com/events/season-48/michael-krikorian/>.



Michael Krikorian

CALENDAR

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

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

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

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.

OCTOBER 25 — The Cultural Committee of the Sts. Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church, Providence Presents "Armenian Café Night" with performances by renowned singers Arthur Ispirian (Yerevan), Nara (California) Special appearance by composer Aram Satian, President of the Composers Union of Armenia Sumptuous appetizers, wine, pastry and coffee will be served at 7:30 p.m. Egavian Cultural Center, 70 Jefferson Street, Providence. Tickets: \$35 per person. By reservation only. Reservations for tables of 8 can be confirmed upon receipt of payment. Reservation deadline: October 20. Tickets will not be sold at the door. For reservations: Call Ann Ayrassian at 401-529-5210. Payments accepted: Check only. Checks are payable to "Cultural Committee" and should be mailed to Ann Ayrassian at 234 Gentian Ave, Providence, RI, 02908

NOVEMBER 2-3 — Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church 89th Annual Food Fair and Bazaar. 70 Jefferson St., Providence. Saturday, 11:30 a.m.- 10 p.m.- Sunday, Noon — 6 p.m. Daily Raffle & Silent Auction, Kids activities, Balloon man. Armenian Food Market and Armenian Vendor gift shop. Shish Kebab, Losh Kebab, Kufta, Kheyma, Yalanchi, Armenian Pastries, Lahmajoon & many other delicious food available. All are welcome. Handicap accessible. Cash, Check, Visa and Mastercard Accepted. For further information, call church office 401-272-7712. www.ArmenianFoodFairRI.com

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

COMMENTARY

A Winning Hand at Eurasian Summit

By Edmond Y. Azadian

Armenia presided over the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) supreme summit, which began on October 1 in Yerevan. Much background politics and theatrics were at play.

The session took place on the heels of Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan's lackluster tour of the US; indeed, a crowd of 30,000 was anticipated at the Los Angeles rally. There were barely 6,000 enthusiastic expats who showed up, to whom the prime minister was profusely grateful. No prominent political figure met the Armenian leader, despite fanfare that Armenia had abandoned its strategic ties with Moscow, leaning Westward.

His photo opportunity at the halls of the United Nations headquarters with President Trump hardly amounts to a political success; the photos are proforma.

Back home, some speculations and apprehension anticipated the EEU session, where in addition to the regular members of the organization, Armenia had invited the heads of Iran, Moldova and Singapore, which expanded the economic potentials and parameters of the organization.

During a previous session of the EEU, which had taken place in Armenia, Kazakhstan's then-President Sultan Nazarbayev had snubbed the Armenian leader and dispatched his representative to the session. At the same summit, Belarus's President Alexander Lukashenko was outright dismissive of Pashinyan, if not insulting.

During the October 1 session, a drama was brewing with President Vladimir Putin's anticipated participation. Russian media had signaled the Kremlin's displeasure regarding the

Mrs. Bella Kocharyan. He fully participated in the proceedings of the program and on his way to the airport, he had a 1.5-hour one-on-one conversation with Prime Minister Pashinyan.

In his public meeting with the Armenian leader, he congratulated his host for his leadership; after all, Singapore's and Iran's participation added a new dimension to the forum. Armenia's prime minister held separate meetings with Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and Iran's President Hassan Rouhani, with whom he signed agreements for economic cooperation. Lukashenko had changed his relationship with Pashinyan to the point of a close friendship.

Iran indicated its interest in reviving the power plant project in the Meghri region.

During the course of negotiations, Armenia discussed the potential for exporting renewable energy to Iran against gas imports. Tehran also considered Armenia not only as a conduit to the EEU market, but far beyond as a transit route to Europe.

Under Western sanctions, Iran was looking to form new friendships and Moscow was eager not to lose its old strategic allies, allowing Armenia to restore its sovereignty vis-à-vis old partners.

Turkey was the 800-pound gorilla in the background. The Turkish military presence in Nakhijevan alarmed its historic adversaries, Russia and Iran.

Although the three nations have cooperated in Syria, Turkey's robust activities in the region has instilled fear in its neighbors. Therefore, Iran and Russia have signed a military pact as a deterrent to the Turkish thrust in Azerbaijan, trying to drive a wedge between Iran and Russia at NATO's behest. Although Armenia has no role in this new rapprochement, it becomes the prime beneficiary of that military pact.

Commenting on these developments, Manvel Sargsyan, direc-



Velvet Revolution in Armenia, and social media in Yerevan was abuzz with gloom and doom.

Former President Robert Kocharyan's incarceration became a major issue and it actually turned into a political tug-of-war between the East and West.

President Putin had indicated that he would meet his old friend, Kocharyan, even in his jail cell. Therefore, a race against time began, and despite public rancor against Kocharyan, his potential release from jail became a cliffhanger.

Many hoped against hope that he would be released from jail temporarily to save the administration from embarrassment. Political pressure behind the scenes was certainly at play to deny a victory to the Russian President.

Bringing this drama to a close, Judge Anna Denibekyan declined the request by Kocharyan's lawyer, Hayk Alimonyan, to bail out the former president from behind bars. This judicial stand was interpreted by the media pundits as a reassertion of Armenia's sovereignty.

Pashinyan's administration was also able to withstand pressure by the EEU members to invite Azerbaijan as an observer to the organization. That drive was also deflected to forestall any possibility of cooperation between Baku and the EEU, at least on the leaders' forum.

The opposition media were speculating that either President Putin would not show up at the last minute, or if he came, he would attend the official session only and depart in a few hours.

Indeed, Putin emerged from his plane with a poker face, but as the day wore on, his demeanor became livelier. Instead of heading to Kocharyan's jail, he opted for a brief encounter with

tor of the Armenian Center for Strategic and National Studies, writes, "But the times are changing. Global trends are forcing everyone to adjust their ideas about relationship with partners, even those who have never been considered a partner. Russia, driven into a corner by Western countries, can no longer rely on the Eurasian Union. There was an imperative to enter a wider space and into the sphere of relations between leading countries. And here you have to change your attitude towards your traditional partners, the club under the name EAEU (sometimes EEU is written as EAEU) has not become a mechanism for deploying a new network of global relations."

EEU was created by Russia to emulate the European Union and act as a counterbalance to it on the global scene. But thus far, the organization has not met its goals, because its members have diverse interests and politics. Sometimes, they are even competitors against each other on the world scene, such as Russia and Kazakhstan trying to supply energy to the same markets. Even its bid to vie for a common currency is a far shot.

Armenia considers it a vehicle to conquer international markets as do the other member states.

The EEU session which began with apprehension, helped Armenia to consolidate its relations with its traditional partners and develop new relationships.

That allowed Yerevan to recover its position in the regional politics.

The World Congress of Information Technologies (WCIT), which came on the heels of the EEU summit, proved to be the icing on the cake. As the prime minister announced, "Armenia can become a paradise for talented people."

Mirror Spectator

Established 1932

An ADL Publication

EDITOR

Alin K. Gregorian

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Aram Arkun

ART DIRECTOR

Marc Mgrditchian

SENIOR EDITORIAL COLUMNIST:
Edmond Y. Azadian

CONTRIBUTORS:

Florence Avakian, Dr. Haroutiun Arzoumanian, Philippe Raffi Kalfayan, Philip Ketchian, Kevork Keushkerian, Harut Sassounian, Hagop Vartivarian, Naomi Zeytoonian

CORRESPONDENTS:

Armenia - Hagop Avedikian
Boston - Nancy Kalajian
Los Angeles - Taleen Babayan
Berlin - Muriel Mirak-Weissbach

Contributing Photographers:
Jirair Hovsepian

The Armenian Mirror-Spectator is published weekly, except two weeks in July and the first week of the year, by:

Baikar Association, Inc.

755 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown, MA 02472-1509

Telephone: 617-924-4420

FAX: 617-924-2887

www.mirrorspectator.com

E-Mail: editor@mirrorspectator.com

For advertising: mirrorads@aol.com

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

U.S.A.	\$80 a year
Canada	\$125 a year
Other Countries	\$190 a year

© 2014 The Armenian Mirror-Spectator
Periodical Class Postage Paid at Boston, MA
and additional mailing offices.

ISSN 0004-234X

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Armenian Mirror-Spectator, 755 Mount Auburn St., Watertown, MA 02472

Other than the editorial, views and opinions expressed in this newspaper do not necessarily reflect the policies of the publisher.

Copying for other than personal use or internal reference is prohibited without express permission of the copyright owner. Address requests for reprints or back issues to:

Baikar Association, Inc.

755 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown, MA 02472-1509



COMMENTARY



My Turn

By Harut Sassounian

Jerusalem Armenian Patriarchate's Lawsuit Advances Through Turkish Courts

While the lawsuit filed by the Catholicosate of Cilicia based in Antelias, Lebanon, for the recovery of its former headquarters in Sis, Turkey, has received wide publicity, another lawsuit against Turkey that is just as important, is hardly known by the Armenian and international community.

This relatively unknown lawsuit was filed by the Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem seven years ago. During the last few years, the only news published by an Armenian newspaper in Istanbul has been about the various visits of Jerusalem Patriarch Nourhan Manougian to Turkey regarding claims filed for the Patriarchate's properties in that country. There have been no announcements by the Jerusalem Patriarchate and no interviews published in any Armenian media on this important lawsuit.

The first major news was published by the Turkish newspaper *Hurriyet* on October 2, 2019 regarding the Jerusalem Patriarchate's lawsuit in Turkey. *Hurriyet* reported that the Constitutional Court (the highest court in Turkey) ruled on September 12, 2019 that the lower Turkish court had violated the rights of the Armenian Patriarchate by denying proper access to the court to pursue its lawsuit (Article 36 of the Constitution). The Constitutional Court stated that the lower court had not sufficiently investigated the claims of the

Armenian lawsuit.

The Armenian Apostolic See of St. James in Jerusalem had filed a lawsuit in an Ankara court on August 26, 2016, seeking the recovery of its properties in Turkey. The Turkish documents refer to the St. James Congregation of the Jerusalem Patriarchate as Mar Yakoub which is the Turkish translation of Saint James or Sourp Hagop. The two different names had caused confusion in the court as to the true identity of the ownership of these properties.

The Constitutional Court sent the lawsuit back to the Ankara court demanding that the lower court review the matter by conducting further investigations. If the lower court reconsiders its earlier rejection, it would open the door for the pursuit of the lawsuit through the Turkish court system.

I had the honor of speaking by telephone with Patriarch Nourhan Manougian last week regarding the status of the lawsuit. To my knowledge, this was the first interview that his Eminence has granted to a member of the media on this subject. He informed me that the Armenian Patriarchate in Jerusalem owned around 1,200 properties in Istanbul alone. The Patriarchate also owned dozens of other properties throughout Turkey which were confiscated by the government during the period of the Armenian Genocide in 1915. Patriarch Manougian mentioned that a very large and valuable property owned by the Jerusalem Patriarchate in Yalova, Turkey, was sold by a Turkish-Armenian in the 1950's to a Turk and then fled to the United States. The Patriarch said he is interested in filing a lawsuit against the heirs of that Turkish-Armenian.

On August 7, 1973 the Turkish General Directorate of Foundations initially included the Jerusalem properties on its list. When the decision was made to exclude these properties from the General Directorate of Foundations, the Jerusalem Patriarchate filed a lawsuit on July 19, 2012. However, the Turkish court dismissed the lawsuit. Even though the Patriarchate won the appeal, the court rejected the decision! The Constitutional Court stated that at this point there was no need to examine the right of ownership of the properties claimed by the Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem.

The Constitutional Court further ruled that "before the documents and records, particularly the administrative examinations of the legal matter are presented to the court, it should have been possible to clarify if there was a second Foundation or not. Without clarifying all these issues and without realizing all these necessary examinations, the rejection of the lawsuit has caused a great inconvenience to the applicant [the Patriarchate], and the interference in its right to apply to the court has been disproportionate. With this rejection, the 36th Article of the Constitutional Court is violated – defending one's rights through trial."

This is a critical lawsuit not only for the Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem but also for the entire Armenian nation. The sheer number of the 1,200 properties demanded by the lawsuit makes it highly valuable, particularly given their location in Istanbul, the most prominent Turkish city.

While it is too early to speculate about the final outcome of this lawsuit, it is probable that should the Patriarchate regain the possession of some, if not all, of the 1,200 properties, the Turkish government may not allow the sale of these properties and the taking of the income out of Turkey, permitting only the use of the properties or their lease to others. The generated income could then be used to support the Armenian schools and churches in Turkey.

However, should the lower court and the Constitutional Court rule against the Armenian Patriarchate, it can then file a lawsuit in the European Court of Human Rights.

The Catholicosate of Cilicia is in the process of following the same scheme, after its lawsuit with the European Court of Human Rights was rejected because it had gone directly to the Constitutional Court of Turkey, sidestepping the lower Turkish court. The Catholicosate is now refiling its lawsuit with the lower court in Turkey.

The decision of the Turkish courts on these two lawsuits, followed by the European Court of Human Rights, if necessary, will reshape the agenda of the legal pursuit of the Armenian demands from Turkey, beyond its simple recognition of the Armenian Genocide.

Armenians Should Not Celebrate Columbus

When I saw "Happy Columbus Day" written in an Armenian church newsletter I wondered how many Armenians know that Columbus was responsible for the Taino Genocide (1492-1518) in which the Spanish through killings, slavery and disease wiped out most of the nearly 3 million Tainos that were the native people of the Northern Caribbean (present day Puerto Rico, Haiti, Dominican Republic, Cuba, Bahamas etc.).

By Anoush Ter Taulian

When Columbus arrived in the Haiti in 1492, he met the peaceful, generous Tainos. He didn't "discover" America – he invaded, instigating mass killings of the native inhabitants. Columbus's men strung up and burned Tainos alive. They cut off their heads for amusement and smashed Taino babies against rocks. Columbus enslaved Tainos in gold mines where their hands were cut off if they didn't meet their quota. Slavery also kept the Tainos from planting crops and many began to starve.

Columbus was himself a major slave trader and trafficker who wrote that 9- and 10-year-old Taino girls were in demand. Some sources attribute Spaniards marrying Taino women as a factor in the demise of the Taino culture without mentioning the ugly truth of rape and slave brides. Many Taino women jumped off cliffs or poisoned themselves to avoid being violated. Columbus was so sadistic that his own men sent him back to Spain in chains.

In 1937 as a way of recognizing the Italian-American heritage, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt made Columbus Day a holiday. Although Columbus never set foot in this country, hundreds of streets, cities, and schools bear his name in the United States.

In order to combat the glorification of this mass murderer on school bulletin boards and textbooks, anti-Columbus groups hold teach-ins around the country. Anti-racism groups are trying to have his statues removed.

Prof. Henry Thériault, president of the International Association of Genocide Scholars, said "Columbus is responsible for one of the early Genocides of people in the Western Hemisphere. There has not been any deep process of recognition or repair of this Indigenous Genocide." While a graduate student of the University of Massachusetts in 1992, he was involved in a protest of Columbus Day to rename it Indigenous Day.

At present, many cities like Cambridge, Mass. and Berkeley, Calif., along with the states of Florida, Vermont, Maine, Hawaii, Alaska, and South Dakota, have replaced Columbus Day with celebrations of Indigenous Day.

As Armenians we know about genocide denial and how history can be erased or twisted. Let's be in solidarity and help spread the truth about the Taino Genocide. As an indigenous Armenian I care greatly about this.

(Anoush Ter Taulian is a graduate of the University of California Berkeley. In 1992, she relocated to Artsakh where she volunteered in the liberation struggle alongside Monte Melkonian. She is an advocate for indigenous peoples everywhere.)

Shock and Disgust

Trump Turns a Blind Eye to Turkey's Slaughter of Kurds in Syria

By David L. Phillips

President Donald J. Trump succumbed to Turkey's demand for a "safe zone" in North and East Syria, announcing overnight that the US is pulling back forces that have served as a trip wire deterring Turkey's invasion. The pullback reverses years of US policy, ignoring advice from the Pentagon and State Department. Trump's decision is strategically flawed, tactically incoherent – and morally repugnant.

More than 11,000 Kurdish fighters have died fighting ISIS in North and East Syria at America's behest, and 22,000 more were wounded. Kurds were America's boots on the ground fighting the ISIS caliphate in Syria.

US cooperation with the Kurds dates back to the fall of 2014 when the Pentagon provided weapons and air support to the People's Protection Units (YPG) and the Women's Protection Units (YPJ) to defeat ISIS in Kobani. Since then, the Kurds defeated ISIS in Tell Abyad, the border crossing used by Turkey to supply its jihadist proxies in a Syria. Kurds were the point of the spear, liberating the capital of the ISIS caliphate in Raqqa. In March 2019, Kurds defeated ISIS in Baghouz, destroying its last sanctuary in Syria, after weeks of intense fighting.

Abandoning the Kurds, America's only ally in Syria, will result in a bloodbath. Turkey's President Tayyip Erdogan has pledged to cleanse Kurds and make way for refugees to resettle in Syria.

As we have seen in Afrin, which Turkey decimated in January 2018, heroic and highly motivated Kurdish defenders are no match for Turkey's air power, armor,

and criminal proxy, the Free Syrian Army.

The ISIS caliphate may be destroyed, but ISIS is far from defeated. US Special Forces were relying on their Kurdish allies to keep the pressure on ISIS.

Thousands of ISIS fighters have been detained by the Kurds. As Kurdish fighters redeploy to counter Turkey's aggression, ISIS detainees will escape and rejoin their Turkish compatriots.

US Special Forces have already abandoned observation posts in Tell Abyad and Ras al-Ayn. Without US protection, the Kurds have no place to turn for protection except the Syrian regime and Russia. As a result, America's position in Syria will be further marginalized as we enter the political and military end-game of Syria's civil war.

Washington's precipitous withdrawal will destroy multilateralism, causing France and Britain, who support the Kurds, to pull back their forces. US allies are dismayed by Trump's decision to abandon a year's worth of negotiations aimed at managing relations between Turkey and the Kurds, which kept Turkey's invasion at-bay.

The flight of Kurds will destabilize Iraq, which is struggling with domestic unrest. Iraqi Kurdistan already hosts hundreds of thousands of displaced persons from the war in Syria and sectarian conflict in Iraq.

As we saw in Kobani, Turkish Kurds will protest Turkey's invasion and war crimes. Resulting unrest risks civil war in Turkey. Violence will occur in Turkey's Southeast, where Kurds predominate, Hatay Province along Turkey's border with Syria, as well as Istanbul, home to more than one million Kurds.

Trump's wrong and short-sighted decision not only betrays the Kurds. It discredits the United States to partners in the worldwide fight against ISIS. Who will fight and die for the United States the next time we need friends to counter violent extremism?

WITHOUT US PROTECTION,
THE KURDS HAVE NO PLACE
TO TURN FOR PROTECTION
EXCEPT THE SYRIAN REGIME
AND RUSSIA.

[David L. Phillips is Director of the Program on Peace-building and Human Rights at Columbia University's Institute for the Study of Human Rights. He served as a Senior Adviser to the US State Department during the administrations of President Clinton, Bush and Obama. His most recent book is *The Great Betrayal: How America Abandoned the Kurds and Lost the Middle East (Bloomsbury)*. His forthcoming book is titled *Front Line Syria: A Political and Military History of the Civil War (Bloomsbury)*.]



Kim Kardashian Returns to Armenia to Attend WCIT, Baptize Kids

KARDASHIAN, from page 1

In April 2015, make-up mogul Kim and her husband Kanye West, 42, baptized their eldest daughter North into the Armenian Apostolic Church in Jerusalem, which was held at a 12th-century church within the walls of the Old City.

The Keeping Up with the Kardashians (KUWTK) star slipped into a clingy grey maxi dress, while her children were dressed in traditional cream robes.

Kim is also set to attend the World Congress on Information Technology (WCIT) event, four years after her first visit to Armenia.

The Vogue cover star was expected to discuss her beauty empire at the event, after recently hinting she's planning to produce her shapewear brand SKIMS in her ancestors' homeland.

The event — held between Sunday and Wednesday — sees the world's leading academics, technologists and entrepreneurs host sessions on technological advancements, as well as artificial intelligence, virtual reality, cybersecurity and climate change.

This year's WCIT follows the theme The Power of Decentralization: Promise and Peril.

The convention aims to explore the positive



Kim Kardashian looks cheery as she arrives in Armenia with North, 6, Saint, 3, Chicago, 20 months, and Psalm, 4 months, ahead of their baptism

family fled the country and relocated to California in the early 20th century - tweeted: 'Almost 3 am in Armenia and I can't sleep I'm so excited to be here and see everyone!'

Kim rose to fame as a reality star on E!'s Keeping Up With The Kardashians in 2007, but has since transformed into a savvy businesswoman - boasting a series of successful make-up, clothing and perfume lines.

The media personality is said to boast a net worth of \$370 million. Most recently, the brunette beauty launched her shapewear line, Skims, which reportedly made \$2 million in minutes, according to TMZ.

The mother-of-four revealed her plans to produce the range in Armenia last month.

The Armenian National Committee of America tweeted at the time: 'Thank you @KimKardashian for considering #Armenia as a future site for @skims production!'

'We look forward to your upcoming trip to Armenia, value all you do to share our heritage, and love and respect your family's passion for #Armenian #Genocide recognition.'

She replied: 'Thank you! I've been working extremely hard on this matter and hope my trip to Armenia will bring some amazing news because I have big plans!'

In April 2015, Kim visited Armenia with sister Khloe, 35, mother Kris Jenner, 63, husband Kanye and their daughter North.

During their visit, the reality stars laid red tulips at the memorial commemorating the victims of the Armenian genocide 100 years ago.

The group visited the eternal flame of the Armenian Genocide Memorial Complex on the outskirts of Yerevan as part of an eight-day tour of the country.

Meanwhile, the release of Kanye West's much-anticipated new album, Jesus Is King, has been pushed back a number of times.

The record's latest delays still didn't stop the hip-hop legend from going into full promo mode on in New York last week.

After delivering a dose of his Sunday Service performance at a church in Queens last month, the musician played master of ceremony during his Jesus Is King listening experience at the United Palace in Manhattan.

Being the proud wife and mother, Kim recorded some of the night's festive moments and shared them on her Instagram Story.

'So last night during Kanye's screening North and Saint decided to stand in front of the screen and do some dance moves,' the Keeping Up With The Kardashians star wrote along with some quick clips of her children's performance.



In good company: The reality star was joined by her older sister Kourtney, 41, and her children, Mason, nine, Penelope (pictured), seven, and Reign, four

and negative impact of information and communication technology on profits and prosperity, safety and security, democracy and humanity.

Feeling giddy about her trip, Kim - whose

Alexis Ohanian's Book Translated into Armenian

YEREVAN (Armenpress) — Co-founder of Reddit and Initialized Capital venture company Alexis Ohanian advises in his book *Without Their Permission: How the 21st Century Will Be Made, Not Managed*, not to wait for someone's permission for bringing to life any idea and set to work immediately.

The Yerevan presentation of Ohanian's book took place on October 8 in the presence of the author of the book, who answered the questions from reporters and talked with readers.

"Many young entrepreneurs asked me what is the secret of my success so I thought that the fastest and most effective way to answer them is writing a book," he said.

"I want people to be more go-getting and to make steps without waiting for someone's per-

mission. Internet and online tools give that opportunity to anyone," Alexis Ohanian emphasized, confessing that writing a book was not so easy. "For a week I remained at home where I could not use the internet and wrote the book during that one week," Alexis Ohanian said.

Translator Anna Mirzoyan emphasized that the book is about real people and real stories.

"The book mainly focuses on entrepreneurship and start-ups, but taking the initiative is not characteristic only of entrepreneurs. One of the heroes is a teacher who had a great contribution to the reconstruction of schools that were damaged as a result of a tornado. He opened the notebook and raised money for their reconstruction on the net," Mirzoyan said.

INSURANCE FOUNDATION FOR SERVICEMEN

A not-for-profit insurance foundation meant to serve military families recover from the loss or injury of their sons.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Share:
Help spread the word in your community by sharing our story on social media.

Donate:
No amount is too small. Please consider contributing to the Foundation at www.1000plus.am

Learn:
Visit our website at www.1000plus.am to gain a deeper understanding of who we are and what we do.

WWW.1000PLUS.AM

Check us out at
www.mirrorspectator.com

72nd ANNUAL St. James BAZAAR

FRI, OCTOBER 18 & SAT, OCTOBER 19, 2019
11 AM—8 PM

DELICIOUS ARMENIAN FOOD

Shish, Chicken and Losh Kebab | Kheyma Etch | Boereg | Manti | Yalanchi | Porov Kufte | Tourshi and more

FABULOUS DELICACIES AND PASTRIES

Choreg | Khadaif | Baklava | Tahin Hatz Simit & More

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

Pumpkin Decorating | Games | Face Painting Sunday School Bake Sale Booth | and more!

BOOTHS AND VENDORS

Silent Auction | Attic Treasures Jewelry | Armenian Handicrafts New! St. James Artisan Table

SUPER RAFFLE

Multiple Prizes!
Win Apple Products, Electronics, Amazon Gift Card, and more.

\$100 RAFFLE

\$5,000, \$1,000, \$750 and three \$500 prizes!
Only 350 sold—Purchase by 9/20/19 to enter an extra \$500 early bird drawing at the September Hye Café!

WWW.STJAMESWATERTOWN.ORG/BAZAAR

ST. JAMES ARMENIAN CHURCH
465 MOUNT AUBURN ST. WATERTOWN, MA | (617) 923-8860 | INFO@STHAGOP.COM