

# Ryan Air to Start Flights to Armenia

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) — After months of negotiations with the Armenian government, the Irish budget airline Ryanair announced on Wednesday, October 16m that it will launch flights between Europe and Armenia in January.

The company said it will initially fly from Yerevan to Milan and Rome four times a week. It pledged to open two more routes next summer: from Yerevan to Berlin and from Gyumri to the southern German city of Memmingen.

“These four new routes will further promote Armenian tourism, and will deliver over 130,000 customers annually to/from two European countries to one of Europe’s fastest-growing tourism destinations,” said David O’Brien, Ryanair’s chief commercial officer.

“We can service from 86 different cities and airports, whereas our competitors offer far less opportunity for Armenia,” O’Brien told a joint news conference with Tatevik Revazian, the head of the Armenian government’s Civil Aviation Committee, held at Yerevan’s Zvartnots

international airport.

Revazian negotiated with Ryanair representatives in Dublin early this year before announcing in March that Ryanair is considering becoming the world’s first budget



airline to fly to Armenia. She said in July that the Irish carrier is seeking financial concessions from the Armenian side for that purpose.

Revazian said that the Civil Aviation Committee has drafted a bill that would exempt Ryanair from a fixed \$21 tax levied from every air ticket sold in the country. She was confident that the government will approve the bill and send it to the Armenian parliament next month.

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## Armenian Assembly Presses Congress to Sanction Turkey

WASHINGTON —The Armenian Assembly of America presses Congress to work quickly and fully sanction Turkey, especially given Turkey’s ongoing attacks in northern Syria, even while a temporary “cease-fire” was brokered by US officials.

“It is crucial that the United States Congress follow through with sanctions imposed on Turkey for its violent invasion and seizure of northern Syria. The Turkish government has shown no compassion for the many lives lost this week, just like a hundred years ago. This territory that Turkey is invading is home to mass graves of Armenian Genocide victims. Turkish leaders have indicated that they will continue fighting until their demands are met,” Assembly Co-Chairs Anthony Barsamian and Van Krikorian said.

“There are many reasons why Turkey is not our ally. To name a few examples, Turkey continues to violate all basic human rights, denies religious freedoms especially to Christians, and has proven to be a lifeline for ISIS. It is further disturbing to find reports that nuclear weapons are being held ‘hostage’ by Erdogan at Incirlik Air Base in Turkey, at a time where Turkey is acting so irresponsibly. The US should have never been put in that position. Our weapons are not safe there, and should be removed.”

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## Teen Pianist Eva Gevorgyan Delights Boston YerazArt Audience

By Alin K. Gregorian

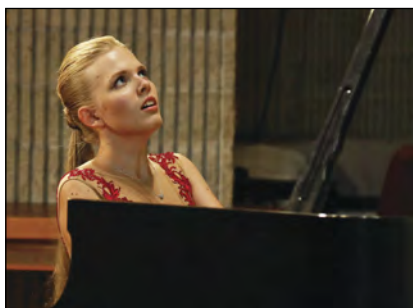
Mirror-Spectator Staff

BOSTON — The Boston-based arts aid organization YerazArt held a fundraising recital at the First Church on Marlborough Street, featuring Eva Gevorgyan, a 15-year-old pianist from Russia.

The church was packed with supporters and music lovers who were delighted with the talented young musician.

Gevorgyan performed pieces by Aleksandr Scriabin, Franz Liszt and Aram Khachaturian, reflecting her Russian and Armenian heritages and showcasing her immense talent and poise.

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Eva Gevorgyan

## Archbishop Bekchian Calls for Boycott of Istanbul Patriarchate Elections

ISTANBUL (Panorma.am) — Archbishop Karekin Bekchian, one of the candidates for Armenian Patriarch of Constantinople, issued a letter on October 21 addressed to Bishop Sahak Mashalian, the locum tenens of Turkey’s Armenian Patriarchate.

According to the report by Ermenihaber, Bekchian spoke about his decision to withdraw his candidacy for the post given the violation of the rights of other candidates amid the Turkish government growing interference in the elections.

In the letter, Bekchian, who once served as locum tenens of the Patriarchate, called on all candidates to boycott the elections in solidarity of those whose rights had been violated.

The development came after Turkish authorities issued guidelines for the election of a new patriarch for the Armenian Apostolic Church. The guidelines included a new condition that would preclude clerics serving outside of Turkey from participating in the election and severely restrict the number of individuals eligible to stand for election.

The election for Patriarch is scheduled to take place on December 11, 2019.

## French Armenian Magazine Offices Ransacked

PARIS (Armenpress) — The Union of Journalists of Armenia has condemned the October 21 attack on the office of the *Nouvelles d’Arménie* publication.

“This isn’t the first attack on the magazine, and as stated by the magazine’s personnel, none of the previous cases have unfortunately been solved. The reputed media outlet has for many years dealt with raising issues of pan-Armenian significance, condemning the denial of the Armenian Genocide, its support for the Republic of Artsakh. Any kind of violence or pressure against free speech is a great problem for any democratic state. Representatives of the editorial board of the Armenian magazine are linking the attack with Editor-in-Chief, CCAF Co-Chair Ara Toranyan’s participation in the anti-Turkish demonstrations in Paris and his support for Syria’s Kurds, and this is an alarming signal. The frequent attacks against the press, especially related with political realities, must become subject of everyone’s strongest condemnation,” the union said in a statement.

The Armenian Embassy in France said the criminals stole video cameras and three computers. The embassy condemned “this despicable attack” and called it “a serious attack on freedom of expression and republican values.”

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### Carrying Western Armenia

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“Michael Aram - Eternity Sculpture - Welding”

## NAASR Will Host Grand Opening Of New World Headquarters

### New Sculpture by Michael Aram to Be Unveiled

BELMONT, Mass. — On Friday, November 1, the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research will host the Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting of its spectacular, new, state-of-the-art global headquarters, named after Vartan Gregorian, president of the philanthropic foundation Carnegie Corporation of New York. The new building’s official name will be the NAASR Vartan Gregorian Building, fulfilling the request of the building’s principal benefactors, Edward and Pamela Avedisian of Lexington.

The public is invited to attend the ceremony from 4 to 7 p.m., at 395 Concord Ave. This event is the result of a national campaign to build a prosperous future for Armenian Studies and will celebrate NAASR’s 65 years of achievement and mark a new era as NAASR looks toward the future and welcomes the next generation.

Featured at the grand opening will be the unveiling of a site-specific sculpture that was donated by world-renowned Armenian-American artist, Michael Aram. His sculpture is an interpretation of a traditional Armenian symbol of eternity, or “Arevakhatch.”

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ARMENIA

News From Armenia

Jailed Ringleader of 1999 Parliament Attack Applies For Early Release

YEREVAN (Panorama.am) – Nairi Hunanyan, who is sentenced to life imprisonment over the 1999 shooting in the Armenian parliament, has applied for early release from prison, the Penitentiary Service of the country’s Ministry of Justice reported on October 22.

According to the source, the petition was received on September 11 and the decision over the case is expected to be made within an 80-day period by the respective bodies. It is noted that that the application by Hunanyan referred to the legal provision for prisoners serving life sentences who are entitled to apply for parole after 20 years of imprisonment.

Hunanyan, along with four other gunmen, organized the terrorist attack on the Armenian parliament on October 27, 1999, killing Armenia’s then Prime Minister Vazgen Sargsyan, Parliamentary Speaker Karen Demirchyan and six other officials.

Armenia Elected to UN Human Rights Council

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – Armenia was elected to the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHCR) with 144 supporting votes on October 14.

“Armenia is elected to UNHRC for 2020-2022 – with 144 votes – a strong testimony of recognition by international community of our democratic transformation and substantial progress in protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms,” Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan tweeted.

In turn, Armenian Foreign Minister Zohrab Mnatsakanyan said: “Great result! Big thank you to all our supporters, UN member states for the trust! Committed to work hard and cooperating with all our partners in promoting the human rights agenda.”

Airports Report Growth In Passenger Flow

YEREVAN (Panorama.am) – Armenia’s two airports saw a strong growth in passenger traffic in September 2019 against the same month of 2018.

Yerevan Zvartnots International Airport and Shirak Airport in the second largest city of Gyumri handled 324,755 passengers last month, up 16.5 percent from September 2018, Armenia International Airports told Panorama.am this week.

In September, Zvartnots Airport reported a 18.8-percent increase in passenger traffic. The airport served 312,240 passengers against 262,816 of the past September.

Shirak Airport welcomed 12,515 passengers last month, down 21.3 percent from September 2018 when passenger traffic comprising 15,904 people.

Since the beginning of the year passenger flow at the two airports of Armenia has grown 11.4-percent compared to the same period last year.

Japan PM Advisor Meets Pashinyan in Yerevan

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan met on October 17 with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s Special Advisor Eiichi Hasegawa, the Prime Minister’s Office said.

Hasegawa was in Armenia for the Global Innovation Forum.

Pashinyan said Armenia values political dialogue with Japan and the productive cooperation which has been developed on this basis has potential for expansion.

He expressed gratitude for the assistance provided to Armenia as part of JICA and noted that the implemented joint projects are contributing to the development of the Armenian-Japanese ties in various sectors.

Hasegawa thanked Pashinyan for the meeting and conveyed Abe’s greetings on the occasion of the ongoing reforms in in Armenia. He said that the Government of Japan is interested in deepening relations with Armenia and is ready to discuss prospects of further developing bilateral partnership.

The two discussed the process of infrastructure development in a number of sectors as well as prospects of deepening ties in education, tourism and humanitarian sectors.



The dignitaries outside the new Armenian-Iranian Scientific-Cultural Center

Artsakh President Attends Opening of Armenian-Iranian Scientific-Cultural Center

SHUSHI, Artsakh (Armenpress) – On October 14, Artsakh Republic President Bako Sahakyan was present in the town of Shushi at the opening ceremony of the Armenian-Iranian Scientific-Cultural Center.

Sahakyan expressed gratitude to the IDeA and Preservation for Eastern Historical Heritage foundations for the implementation of the project, expressing hope that the center would play an important role in cementing the Armenian-Iranian relations, promoting inter-religious and civ-

ilizational dialogue, as well as the development of tourism in Shushi.

Primate of the Artsakh Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church Archbishop Pargev Martirosyan, Artsakh Republic National Assembly chairman Ashot Ghoulyan, State Minister Grigory Martirosyan, minister of education, science, culture and sport of the Republic of Armenia Arayik Haroutyunyan, high-ranking officials, representatives of the Diaspora and foreign guests took part in the events.

Pashinyan Denies Persecuting Constitutional Court Head

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) – Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan denied through a spokesman on Monday, October 21, opposition claims that he ordered criminal proceedings against the chairman of Armenia’s Constitutional Court, Hrayr Tovmasyan, in a bid to force the latter to resign.

Pashinyan’s spokesman, Vladimir Karapetyan, at the same time effectively accused Tovmasyan of complicity in “crimes” committed by members of the former ruling Republican Party of Armenia (HHK).

Two law-enforcement agencies announced separate criminal investigations into Tovmasyan on October 17 two days after seven of the eight other Constitutional Court rejected the Armenian parliament’s calls for his dismissal.

The Special Investigative Service (SIS) said it is investigating a possible “usurpation of power” by Tovmasyan and former senior officials that helped him become head of the country’s highest court in 2018. For its part, the National Security Service (NSS) interrogated his father and two daughters.

HHK representatives as well as other critics of Pashinyan denounced the criminal proceedings as acts of political prosecution. They were particularly critical of the NSS’s actions, saying that the authorities are now targeting Tovmasyan’s relatives as part of their efforts to oust the court chairman.

Karapetyan brushed aside those claims. “If the NSS has some questions regarding corruption issues then I see nothing wrong with that,” he told RFE/RL’s Armenian service. “That body can address questions to any person. The proceedings are carried out at this level at this point, and any talk of [government] pressure is just meaningless.”

“They know very well who Hrayr Tovmasyan is,” Karapetyan said of the HHK critics. “He shares their ideology, he is well aware of the spate of crimes which ... had been committed by many

representatives of that party. This explains their support for their, so to speak, last of the Mohicans.”

The official also made clear that Pashinyan stands by his recent claims that Tovmasyan, who used to be affiliated with the HHK, was installed as Constitutional Court chairman as a result of legally questionable political deals cut with Armenia’s former political leadership.

Tovmasyan, who also served as justice minister from 2010-2013, dismissed those claims. He said on October 2 that the authorities want to force him out in order to gain control over Armenia’s highest court.

Under Armenian law, Tovmasyan cannot be prosecuted without the consent of at least five other members of the Constitutional Court. In a joint statement issued on Friday, seven court justices said they are “monitoring developments relating to Hrayr Tovmasyan and members of his family and will react if need be.”

The head of the SIS, Sasun Khachatryan, stressed on Monday that Tovmasyan has not been charged or regarded by his investigators as a suspect as yet. But he did not rule out the possibility of such charges.

“Do you want me to make presumptions?” Khachatryan told reporters. “I repeat that ... a criminal case been opened in connection with the existence of signs of an apparent crime.”

SIS officers raided the Constitutional Court and HHK headquarters in Yerevan to confiscate some documents on Thursday.

On Friday, the NSS sought to justify its decision to summon Tovmasyan’s father and two daughters for questioning.

In a statement, the former Armenian branch of the Soviet KGB said it is investigating a possible misuse of some 855 million drams (\$1.8 million) in funding allocated by the Justice Ministry in 2012 for capital repairs of three buildings. It said also suspected that Tovmasyan’s relatives had not submitted accurate asset declarations to a state body.

Lawyers for Tovmasyan’s family said NSS officers asked his daughters on Friday questions about a car and a garage which they received as a gift from a cousin who emigrated to the United States in 2016. According to them, Tovmasyan’s 75-year-old father was summoned to the NSS headquarters to explain who repaired the roof of his house in a village near Yerevan.

Arslanian: Armenia Can Be Part of Blockchain Revolution

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – Henri Arslanian, Chairman of the FinTech Association of Hong Kong (FTAHK), says Armenia has the necessary conditions for the development of blockchain technologies.

“Today a blockchain revolution is taking place in the four parts of the world. This flow also reaches Armenia which has a startup ecosystem, a developing civil society, a banking system which it trusts, and a diligence. All these factors are very important for the development of blockchain,” Arslanian said during the ChainPoint19 international blockchain conference in Yerevan, on October 14.

Arslanian said this is similar to cooking, as all the components are important.

He emphasized that many countries define laws over blockchain as every company wants to understand how they can record progress by using these technologies. “We see that the traditional financial companies are also entering into the blockchain world. The major banks gradually started to make experiments with blockchain and also cryptocurrencies,” Arslanian said.

He highlighted the role of education and the development of laws in the respective field.





## INTERNATIONAL

# Young Armenian Authors Attend Frankfurt Book Fair

By Muriel Mirak-Weissbach

Special to the Mirror-Spectator

FRANKFURT, Germany — The Frankfurt Book Fair is a highpoint in the German cultural calendar, and one that I look forward to every October. Hundreds of thousands of new books are on display at stands set up by publishers individually and in groups, according to country. About 7,000 exhibitors were present and the official catalogue had to be 800 pages long to include all their names. Every year a guest of honor, this year Norway, holds center stage, with a special pavilion and a vast array of events to present the country's literature and culture.

Beginning on a Wednesday, this year, October 16, and following for three days, the fair is open to people in the book trade, among them, authors, publishers, media groups, literary agents, translators, booksellers, illustrators, librarians, film makers, actors and journalists. On numerous stages set up throughout the several buildings on the huge fair grounds, writers engage in debates, interviews and round table discussions, more often than not broadcast on national radio or television. Special guests include the winners of the Nobel Prize for Literature, Polish author Olga Tokorczuk (2018) and Austrian Peter Handke, and the announcement of the winner of the Frankfurt Book prize always coincides with the fair's opening. This year it went to Bosnian-born author Sasa Stanisic.

After three days of contacts and contracts, meetings and discussions among people in the trade, on Saturday and Sunday, the doors open up wide to the general public and tens of thousands of book lovers stream in, to see some of the four hundred thousand new titles that have appeared this year. And in 2019 members of the general public had the chance to purchase books on site. Long lines would form, as visitors, clutching their brand new copies of a book, would patiently wait to have it signed by the author, who had just been the featured guest at an event.

## All the World's in Frankfurt

No country is too small to take part in this international gathering of booklovers. To be sure, the larger countries with greater strategic weight, like Russia, the United States and Germany, have more prominent representation, but Monaco and Lichtenstein, as well as Qatar and Kosovo are also on hand. The stand of the Republic of Armenia was small but well attended, buzzing with activity. Two large portraits of Hovannes Tumanyan and Komitas, whose 150th birthdays we celebrate this year, provided the backdrop for the stand, which was organized as a collective exhibition, with several publishers, including Zangak, NewmagEdge, Edit

Print, and Yerevan State University. The ARI Literary and Talent Agency, Antares Ltd. and GSM Studio were present, as well as the Mother See of Holy Echmiadzin "Vatche and Tamar Manoukian" Matenadaran (Library) Publishing House Vagharshapat. Members of the Ministry of Education,

and her poetry. She has published in several international media, including the *New York Times*, Eurasianet, BBC and the *Guardian*. She has issued three collections of poetry, *Poems* (2002), *Tabu* (2005) and *Beautiful* (2015), as well as a volume of photos, *From Princess to Slave*, which deals with vio-



Armenian presents its authors and books.

Science, Culture and Sport came from Yerevan and visitors could become acquainted (indirectly) with Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan through a brief selection excerpted from his book, *The Other Side of the Earth*, which was distributed in English translation.

On October 18, two young Armenian



Anahit Hayrapetyan

writers appeared in person on the Author's Stage with readings from their works. Introduced by moderator Astghik Saribekyan, Anahit Hayrapetyan and Norayr Sargssyan read selections in Armenian which were followed by German translations. Hayrapetyan is both a poetess and a photographer. Born in Armenia, she completed studies at the State University for Architecture (Department of Computer Systems and IT) as well as the Caucasus Media Institute (photojournalism). She has lived in Frankfurt since 2012 and has won prizes for both her photography

lence against women in Armenia. Her recitation of the poems "The Beautiful" and "Winter without Fear" displayed the musical quality of her poetry, with its rhythmically repeated phrases.

Sargssyan was born in Armenia in 1994 and began to write while still a teenager. He has published both online and in literary journals. In 2019 he received the prize of the President of the Armenian Republic for his first book, *Chinese Wall*, a volume of stories published by Aktuel Arvest. His stories are a means to try to understand himself and the world around him, through reflections on childhood and youth, friendships, marriage and the city of Yerevan. The excerpts he read from *Etudes* posed the question of what it means to write, to be an author.

It was a new experience for some members of the audience to hear the Armenian language, and this was precisely the reason, as moderator Saribekyan explained, why they had chosen to present the readings in both the original and German translation. Some of Hayrapetyan's poetry has appeared in German translation, by an Austrian publisher.

On the following day, Hayrapetyan appeared together with three other photographers on the ARTS + Stage, to present a box-book of photographs from Artsakh. The group, known as 4Plus, is a joint initiative by Armenian women photographers, aimed at empowering women and documenting social issues, especially violations of human rights. Another member of the group is Nelli Shishmanyany, a freelance photographer who has published internationally. Also a musician, she conducts the Avet Terteryan Art School children choir and is a member of the Hover State Chamber choir. Nazik Armenkakyany, one of the cofounders of 4Plus, has worked for Armenpress, Yerevan magazine and ArmeniaNow.com. Her photographs have won international acclaim and have been published in the *New York Times* and *Der Spiegel*, among others. She is also the author of two books on photography. Piruza Khalapyan also studied at the Caucasus Institute organized by World Press Photo. Her work has been exhibited in Armenia, Georgia, France and other countries, and has received awards, including from the British Council.

On October 19, Saribekyan hosted another reading, this time by Agapi Mkrtchian, whose German translation of fairy tales by Hovhannes Tumanyan appeared this year, on his 150th birthday.



From left, Astghik Saribekyan, Norayr Sargssyan and Anahit Hayrapetyan

## International News

### President Attends Japan Emperor Enthronement

YEREVAN (Armenpress) — President of Armenia Armen Sarkissian, together with his wife Nouneh Sarkissian, attended the enthronement ceremony of new Emperor of Japan Naruhito in Tokyo on October 22, the Presidential Office reported.

The ceremony was attended by delegates from 183 countries, including royal families, heads of state and government, other high-ranking officials, heads of international organizations.

Prime Minister of Japan Shinzo Abe delivered congratulatory remarks at the ceremony.

Emperor Akihito, 85, stepped down this year in April. Starting from May 1, his eldest son Crown Prince Naruhito, 59, became a new emperor.

### Armenian Pianists Win Top Prizes at Riga International Piano Competition

RIGA, Latvia (Panorama.am) — Armenian pianists Arthur Grigoryan and Armen Puchinyan won gold medals at 8th Riga International Competition for Young Pianists held on October 12-15.

Both musicians are members of the Armenian and Artsakh state target program (Artistic Director — Honored Artist of Armenia Armen Babakhanyan), ANM Media reported.

Artur Grigoryan was awarded the 1st prize in the Best Solo Artist category, while Armen Puchinyan and Artur Grigoryan won the Piano Duo category.

### Pashinyan Meets with New German Ambassador

YEREVAN (Armenpress) — Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan held a meeting with the new Ambassador of Germany Michael Johannes Banzhaf, on October 22, the Prime Minister's Office announced.

Pashinyan congratulated the ambassador on assuming office and wished productive work for the benefit of the further development and strengthening of the Armenian-German relations.

Pashinyan noted that Germany is an important political and economic partner for Armenia and that during the last 1.5 years a good dynamics in bilateral cooperation has been recorded.

The PM attached importance to the German government's support to the ongoing changes in Armenia, including the development of democracy and the reforms in combating corruption and other sectors.

"We have one goal: to conform Armenia to the highest democracy and anti-corruption standards," he said.

Pashinyan especially noted the presence of strong economic ties with Germany and the close cooperation with the KfW bank and the GIZ in the effective implementation of economic and social projects.

Pashinyan stressed the need for boosting the work of the Armenian-German inter-governmental commission for the utilization of the complete potential of bilateral economic cooperation.

The ambassador thanked for the warm reception and noted that the Armenian-German ties have developed more after the 2018 Armenian Revolution, when the country began coherent steps for the development and strengthening of democratic institutions.

"Your country is making big steps in the fight against corruption and the Government of Germany will continue supporting Armenia with the purpose of productively advancing the reforms," Banzhaf said.

The ambassador noted that during the last one year the German tourists' interest towards Armenia grew significantly, which is also associated with the ongoing changes in the country.

The sides discussed a number of issues related to the development of the Armenian-German cooperation in the fields of energy, construction, industry, tourism and infrastructure.

They also exchanged ideas over the Armenia-EU relations and partnership within the framework of the Eastern Partnership program.





## INTERNATIONAL

# Armenian Assembly Presses Congress to Sanction Turkey

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“The United States needs to make it clear that Turkey cannot do whatever it wishes and kill indiscriminately as it seeks to occupy a large section of land in Syria. If the US stood up to Turkey, as President Ronald Reagan and other world leaders have done when they reaffirm the Armenian Genocide, then Turkey would not be behaving in such a barbaric manner and assume it can get away with it,” the co-chairs added.

New footage show ongoing attacks by Turkey across northern and eastern Syria, including a hospital hit in Ras al-Ain. Immediately following the announcement of the “ceasefire,” Turkey’s President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said that the military operation was merely “paused for 120 hours” rather than a “ceasefire.”

“We will only stop the operation if our conditions are met,” Cavusoglu said in a press conference. He added that “as a result of our president’s skillful leadership, we got what we wanted.” The “safe zone” proposed by Turkey will be under full control of the Turkish Armed Forces. “Giving a break does not mean to withdraw our forces,” Cavusoglu stated. “We will go on being there.”

## US Senate

On October 18, US Senators Chris Van

Hollen (D-MD) and Lindsey Graham (R-SC) introduced the “Countering Turkish Aggression Act of 2019” to impose sanctions against Turkey following their invasion of northeastern Syria and their slaughter of the Kurdish people. Last week they introduced the framework of the bill.

The legislation would apply new sanctions to senior Turkish officials, including President Erdogan, key Turkish banks, military transactions, and their energy sector activities in support of the Turkish Armed Forces. It would require the US Treasury to move forward with delayed sanctions under Countering America’s Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) over Turkey’s decision to obtain the S-400 Russian missile defense system. It also would prohibit US military assistance to Turkey, bar President Erdogan and Turkish leadership from visiting the United States, and require reports on the net worth and assets of Mr. Erdogan amid concerns of corruption.

“This isn’t a political fight – this is about the countless people who are being slaughtered and the revival of ISIS. That is why we have come together on a bipartisan basis to act quickly,” said Senator Van Hollen. “While we work to pass the House resolution condemning these actions, we must move forward on these

sanctions and apply real pressure to Turkey to end this madness.”

“At a time when the United States needs to speak with a clear voice regarding Turkey’s invasion into northeastern Syria, this bipartisan sanctions bill is that clear voice,” said Senator Graham. “Our legislation builds upon the Administrations’ efforts to sanction Turkey and goes further in important areas like prohibiting military assistance and transactions to the Turkish Armed Forces as well as mandates sanctions due to the S-400 purchases.”

In addition to Senators Van Hollen and Graham, the bill is co-sponsored by Senators Lamar Alexander (R-TN), Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), Rob Portman (R-OH), Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), Pat Toomey (R-PA), Chris Coons (D-DE), Marsha Blackburn (R-TN), Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), Joni Ernst (R-IA), Maggie Hassan (D-NH), Mitt Romney (R-UT), Tom Carper (D-DE), Susan Collins (R-ME), and Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ).

On October 16, Republican Conference Chairwoman Liz Cheney (R-WY) and over 110 of her Republican colleagues in the House introduced legislation to sanction Turkey in response to Ankara’s military offensive against US-allied Kurdish forces in northern Syria.

The sanctions include a ban on US military assistance to NATO ally Turkey and, separately,

would apply to anyone who provides financial, material or technological support to or knowingly conducts a transaction with the Turkish armed forces, including defense articles, petroleum and natural gas. This bill also extends the sanctions placed by CAATSA on Turkey in response to its purchase of the Russian S-400 Triumph anti-missile defense system, opposed by the United States.

“We are very focused on what’s happening in Syria and Turkey. The situation in Syria today remains serious, remains grave,” Rep. Cheney said. “We’ve been working very closely with the Senate, working very closely across the aisle as well, but it’s very important to recognize the impact, in particular, that the Turks now are in a situation where we risk the resurgence of ISIS, where the Turks have gone in and we see evidence of atrocities being committed, and where our allies, the Kurds, frankly, are facing what looks like a betrayal from the United States that could have very negative consequences and impacts for us globally.”

House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Eliot Engel (D-NY) and Ranking Member Michael McCaul (R-TX) also introduced the Protect Against Conflict by Turkey (PACT) Act, which is legislation to impose sanctions and other consequences against Turkey for its invasion of northern Syria.

The PACT Act sanctions senior Turkish officials involved in the decision and those committing human rights abuses; penalizes Turkish financial institutions involved in perpetuating President Erdogan’s corrupt practices and those which deal with the Turkish defense industry; prevents the sale of arms to Turkey for use in Syria; requires the Administration to impose CAATSA sanctions for Turkey’s purchase of the S-400; requires a series of reports to address the negative consequences of the Turkish invasion of northern Syria; and mandates a report on Erdogan’s net worth and assets.

“What’s happening in Northern Syria right now is a disgrace,” said Engel. “Today, we are introducing sanctions to hold Erdogan accountable. Congress must continue bipartisan work to address the disastrous consequences of President Trump’s decision.”

McCaul said: “The carnage that we have seen over the past week against our Kurdish partners and innocent civilians has been unbearable. There must be consequences. That’s why we introduced a very tough and comprehensive sanctions package to punish Turkey for its actions. The President has already begun implementing sanctions and this legislation builds upon those. My number one priority is protecting the homeland from external threats and that’s at the heart of this bill.”

## Russia, Turkey Agree to Remove Kurdish Fighters along Turkey’s Border

By Kareem Fahim and Sarah Dadouch

ISTANBUL (*Washington Post*) – Russia agreed on Tuesday, October 22, to help remove Syrian Kurdish fighters from a large swath of Turkey’s southern border, giving its blessing to a Turkish military operation against a Kurdish-led force that had allied with the United States.

The agreement, reached after an hours-long meeting between Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Russian President Vladimir Putin in the Black Sea resort town of Sochi, addressed several of Turkey’s core security demands, including the establishment of a “safe zone” that would push the Kurdish-led force back from its frontier.

And it cemented Russia’s role as Syria’s central power broker, at a moment when the influence of the United States in the region is dissipating.

The agreement said Russia and the Syrian government, its ally, would start removing Kurdish militias from the border region beginning at noon Wednesday. That expanded on a previous agreement between the United States and Turkey, which had established a Turkish military zone along a narrower strip of the border.

After the Kurdish militias had withdrawn, Turkey and Russia would begin joint patrols in the border region.

The Erdogan government had earlier threatened to restart its military offensive if the Kurdish fighters did not fully withdraw from a predetermined area along Syria’s northern border with Turkey by

Tuesday evening. If the withdrawal is completed, Ankara has agreed to permanently halt its offensive, which is aimed at creating a vast buffer zone for Turkey along much of its border with Syria.

Erdogan’s meeting with Putin, the Syrian government’s most powerful supporter, had been widely expected to center on the thorny aftermath of Turkey’s military operation and the rapidly shifting Syrian map of control, as US troops withdraw and competing factions rush to fill the void.

“These are very critical days in the region,” Erdogan said after being greeted by Putin in Sochi. “The Peace Spring operation and this meeting will create very important opportunities,” he added referring to the title Turkey has given its military operation.

There were signs of trouble with the cease-fire even as the meeting in Russia got underway. The Kurdish-led militias, known as the Syrian Democratic Forces, said they had only partially completed their withdrawal from an area that stretches roughly 70 miles along Turkey’s border, and 20 miles deep into Syrian territory.

Mervan Qamishlo, an SDF spokesman, blamed what he said were ongoing attacks by Turkey and allied forces for the delay and said Kurdish-led forces had withdrawn only from the Syrian town of Ras al-Ayn.

“It seems that Turkey is not serious about the agreement,” he said in a text message on Tuesday

morning. “Until now, there is no withdrawal from other areas.”

Erdogan said shortly before departing for Russia on Tuesday that between 700 and 800 Kurdish fighters have withdrawn as part of the agreement. “It is said that the remaining 1,200, up to 1,300, are continuing to exit rapidly,” he said, citing information from Turkey’s defense minister.

“Of course we are tracking them. They are all going to leave, and this process will not end before they leave,” Erdogan added.

One of Putin’s other difficult tasks is to broker an accommodation between Erdogan and Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, who have been adversaries throughout Syria’s eight-year civil war. Russia has used its military power to help Assad beat back the Syrian rebellion and is trying to ensure that his government regains control over the entire country.

“The Russian military cannot give permission for the Turkish forces to either stay or leave the Syrian territory. Only the legitimate government of the Syrian Arab Republic can do that,” Putin’s spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters at a press briefing in Sochi.

Erdogan’s desire for a “safe zone,” stretching across much of northern Syria, complicates that plan. Assad, during a visit Tuesday to his troops in Syria’s northern Idlib province, called Erdogan “a thief” who has stolen Syrian land.

Putin’s role as Syria’s central power broker was bolstered after the Trump administration announced it was withdrawing its remaining troops from the north. The announcement – shortly after Erdogan spoke with Trump earlier this month – cleared the way for the Turkish offensive against the SDF, the main US military partner fighting the Islamic State militant group.

“Erdogan is well aware that the United States is an external factor for the region and for the conflict, while Russia is now an internal factor,” Fyodor Lukyanov, a Russian international affairs analyst who has advised the Kremlin, told the *Vedomosti* newspaper. “Russia controls these processes, and a lot depends on Moscow ... What Turkey wants to achieve in Syria is impossible without agreements with Moscow. No serious military action can happen there that counteracts Moscow.”

A large convoy of US military vehicles left Syria on Monday and crossed the Iraqi border. The convoy was heckled in places by Kurds who accused the United States of betrayal, and hurled rocks and vegetables at the vehicles.

On Tuesday, Iraq’s military said the newly arrived US forces would have to withdraw from the country. “There is no agreement for these forces to stay in Iraq,” a military statement said.

US Defense Secretary Mark T. Esper said the arriving troops would not remain in Iraq “interminably” and that the aim was to eventually get them home. The details would be worked out in discussions with Iraqi officials, he said during a visit Tuesday to an air base in Saudi Arabia.

## President Sarkissian hosts Vartan Gregorian and Lord Ara Darzi

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – President of Armenia Armen Sarkissian hosted co-founder of the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative Vartan Gregorian and Director of the Institute of Global Health Innovation at Imperial College London, Professor, Lord Ara Darzi, the Presidential Office announced.

Sarkissian and the guests exchanged views on pan-Armenian issues, the effective use of the Armenian people’s united potential, as well as Armenia’s development prospects in the changing world. Armen Sarkissian highlighted the importance of serving the Diaspora’s high-quality specialists’ experience and skills for the benefit of the homeland and its people, as well as creating respective opportunities for this purpose.



From left, Lord Ara Darzi, Dr. Vartan Gregorian and President Armen Sarkissian

## Ryan Air to Start Flights to Armenia

FLIGHTS, from page 1

The government hopes that Ryanair’s entry into the Armenian civil aviation market will cut the cost of air travel and attract more tourists to Armenia.

Armenia’s international air traffic has already grown rapidly since the liberalization of its civil aviation sector in 2013. The former Armenian government decided to switch to the so-called “open skies” policy following the bankruptcy of the Armavia national airline. The liberalization has led to lower ticket prices, giving a strong boost to the country’s growing tourism industry.

Ryanair’s ticket prices are expected to be significantly lower than those of airlines already flying to Armenia.

“Ryanair’s average fare for all routes across the year is something like 35 euros (\$38.5),” noted O’Brien. But he gave no concrete figures for its upcoming flights to Armenia.

“To celebrate the launch of its first Armenian airports, Ryanair has launched a seat sale with fares from just €29.99, for travel until May 2020, which must be booked by midnight Friday,” read a statement released by the company. It did not specify how much Ryanair customers will be charged after October 18.



# Community News

## Society for Armenian Studies Marks 45th Anniversary with International Conference in Honor of Tölölyan

LOS ANGELES – On October 12-13, the Society for Armenian Studies (SAS) held a major conference at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) titled “Diaspora and ‘Stateless Power’: Social Discipline and Identity Formation Across the Armenian Diaspora during the Long Twentieth Century,” to mark its 45th anniversary.

The two-day conference also honored Khachig Tölölyan, one of the most prominent scholars of diaspora studies in general and of Armenian diaspora in particular.

Co-sponsored by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, the Richard Hovannisian Endowed Chair in Modern Armenian History (UCLA), the Narekatsi Chair in Armenian Studies (UCLA), the Meghrouni Family Presidential Chair (University of California, Irvine), the Institute of Armenian Studies (University of Southern California), the Armenian Studies Program (California State University, Fresno), the Armenian Studies Program (California State University, Northridge), and the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR), the Conference brought together scholars from Armenia, England, France, Germany, Holland, Mexico, Portugal and the United States.

The conference opened on the morning of October 12. In his opening remarks Sebouh Aslanian (UCLA), acknowledged the presence of Richard Hovannisian, the co-founder of SAS and the first chair of Modern Armenian history at UCLA, thanked SAS president Bedross Der Matossian (University of Nebraska, Lincoln) and former president Barlow Der Mugrdchian (California State University, Fresno) for making the conference happen.

Aslanian dedicated most of his opening remarks to Tölölyan’s life as “scholar, editor and educator,” whose work has significantly shaped the fields of diaspora studies and Armenian diaspora in particular. Tölölyan’s life story, Aslanian observed, “is quite representative of a more general pattern of a twentieth century diaspora condition that binds all of us here, whether we like it or not, together as accomplices in the same history of displacement, transplantation, rebirth, of being in-between, of living in difference and creative hybridity, a life, in short, that is punctuated by civil wars and revolutions. This is the very same diaspora condition the study of which Tölölyan has long interrogated, made sense of, and helped shape in profound ways.”

Der Matossian acknowledged the founders of the SAS, namely Hovannisian, Dickran Kouyumjian, Nina Garsoïan, Avedis Sanjian and Robert Thomson, and the important role the SAS has played since then in promoting Armenian Studies in the United States and internationally. “There are many challenges facing Humanities in the 21st century, and Armenian Studies is also adapting itself to the new realities of the academic world,” Der Matossian stated. “One of the continuing challenges is how to make Armenian Studies relevant to the current academic and non-academic audience.”

Der Matossian continued enumerating the new podcast series and other projects that the SAS has embarked on since 2018 in order to disseminate knowledge of the field and make it relevant to a 21st century audience. He thanked all the sponsors and organizers of the conference and invited the first chair and panelists to take the stage.

The first session was titled “The Liminal Space: Armenian Immigrants in the Transnational Context.” Chaired by Salpi see SAS, page 9



Chairlady Alice Chakrian, YWCA Glendale Executive Director Tara Peterson and Archbishop Hovnan Derderian

## Agape Circle Raising Awareness and Funds At Home and Abroad

BURBANK, Calif. – The cities of Yerevan and Los Angeles were inextricably linked at the Agape Circle’s 6th Annual Luncheon at the Castaway Restaurant’s Starlight Room in a philanthropic event that both raised and distributed funds

**By Taleen Babayan**

Hovnan Derderian of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America.

Among the highlights of the afternoon, hosted by Sato Yessayan in memory of her mother Araxi Barooni, included the honoring of community members, learning about the global reach of Agape Circle’s donations, as well as a relevant panel discussion on women, family and health, from local professionals in the field.

In his keynote address, Dr. Thomas Lee, director of the Vision Center at Children’s Hospital of Los Angeles (CHLA) and associate professor of ophthalmology at USC’s Keck School of Medicine, traced the medical advances he initiated in Armenia since his very first trip to the country in 2009 with the Armenian Eyecare Project. Through the partnership and generosity of the Agape Circle, \$100,000 was donated to CHLA, in turn serving Armenia, under the guidance of Archbishop Hovnan Derderian.

“We ensure that everything we do makes an impact,” said Lee, who expanded his outreach work in Armenia after his initial mission trip through telesurgery mentoring by setting up remote guidance to stream surgeries out of Yerevan’s operating rooms, and inviting doctors from Armenia to be trained at CHLA. Staying current with advances in technology, Lee now crowdsources multiple doctors from around the world on conference calls in a partnership with Microsoft, while also establishing advanced training for nurses through the same system. “Our future relies on the health of our children.”

Lee’s latest venture, Avetis (Good News), provides electronic health records for Armenia’s children.

“I noticed that the hospitals in Armenia didn’t have electronic records and there was a lack of data collection on patients,” said Lee. “We decided that if

see AGAPE, page 7



Panelists and members of the Agape Circle Board

## Armenian Assembly Calls for Passage of Armenian Genocide Resolution

WASHINGTON – The Armenian Assembly of America echoes the condemnation expressed by leaders of the House and Senate with respect to Turkey’s invasion of Syria and the bloodshed therein. On October 17, Turkey reluctantly agreed to a temporary, 120 hour cease-fire in northern Syria after pressing ahead with its military offensive attacking Kurds and minorities in the region for over a week.

Sen. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) welcomed the cease-fire but indicated that “the other terms cave to the maximalist demands of Erdogan and would allow Turkey to ethnically cleanse a big swath of Kurdish areas and lead to a revival of ISIS.”

“While the ceasefire in northern Syria is a step in the right direction, Turkey should not be rewarded for its actions. For too long the United States has turned a blind eye on Turkey’s abysmal human rights record. This latest assault on vulnerable ethnic groups demonstrates the need for Congress to unequivocally affirm the Armenian Genocide and adopt the resolutions pending in the House and Senate. We call on Congress to act now,” stated Armenian Assembly Executive Director Bryan Ardouny.

Turkey’s actions this past week have been eerily similar to what happened to the Armenian people during the Armenian Genocide, a point that has not gone unnoticed by the media. The Chicago Tribune article titled “Trump snub allows Turks to replay Armenian strategy” makes the clear connection.

“Turkey’s assault on the Kurdish people in Syria – ‘Operation Spring Peace’ – is a replica of what Turks did to the Armenians from 1915 to 1922. The laundered term is ethnic cleansing, but it is genocide, aimed at a one-time US ally in the Mideast,” reported in Chicago Tribune article. “Of course, the Turks have denied for decades their persecution of the Armenians and the estimated 1.5 million deaths during the holocaust. Just as they deny the military incursion into Kurdish-held territory in Syria is to cleanse the region of civilians and combatants, using one of the world’s strongest military forces.”

“The Turks maintain they undertook the assault into Syria to stifle roving bands of terrorists, which they contend are Kurds. They labeled Armenians the same more than a century ago to justify the genocide of a peaceful people,” the article continued.

“I do not have a high level of confidence – in fact, I have no confidence – that Turkey will preserve true religious freedom or protect those religious minorities,” Tony Perkins, Chairman of the US Commission on International Religious Freedom, told NPR. “We could see another genocide in that region.”

Eric Edelman, former US Ambassador to Turkey and Undersecretary of Defense for Policy in the George W. Bush Administration, said in a recent interview published in The Jerusalem Post he was fairly certain that genocide was an option, saying the only time a Turkish government tried to move a million-plus people into Syria was in 1915 – “and that didn’t work out too well” – referring to the Armenian Genocide.

Human rights lawyer Eitay Mack added: “There is absolutely no doubt that Turkey’s success in preventing international recognition of the Armenian genocide between 1915 and 1923 has emboldened Erdoğan to commit horrific crimes against the Kurdish people in 2019.”

“For their part, they are resisting a century of Turkish efforts to erase Kurdish identity and language within the country’s borders, as the see RESOLUTION, page 8





# US Congressional Delegation Visit Armenian American Wellness Center

WASHINGTON – Members of U.S. Congress, Frank Pallone [NJ-06], Jackie Speier [CA-14], and Judy Chu [CA-27], arrived in Armenia in early October at the invitation of Speaker of the Armenian National Assembly Ararat Mirzoyan to discuss relations between the United States and Armenia.

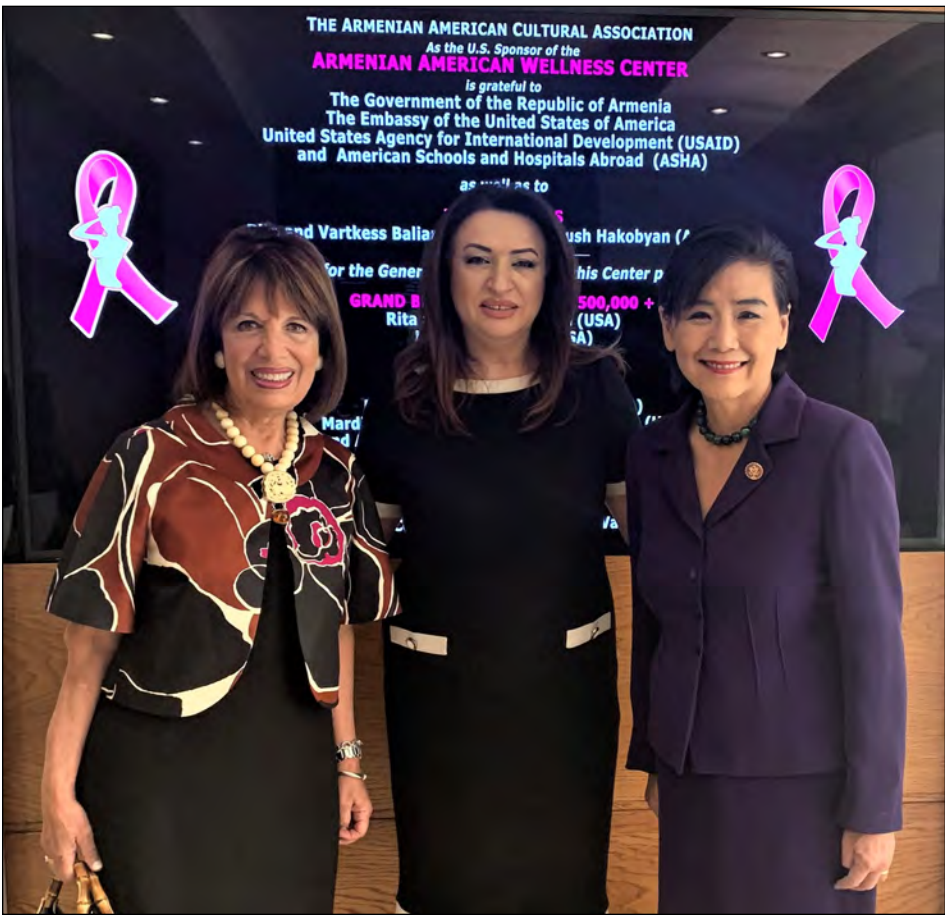
On Monday, October 7, at 10:30 a.m., Congresswomen Jackie Speier and Judy Chu paid a visit to the Armenian American Wellness Center (AAWC or Wellness Center), known for being an exemplary model of public-private partnership. The Wellness Center was founded in 1997 by the Armenian American Cultural Association, Inc. (AACA), a non-profit organization based in the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Area. Established as a single department to introduce previously non-existent mammography screening in Armenia, with support from AACA the Wellness Center has grown to include 10 departments equipped with cutting-edge medical technology.

After taking a tour of the Wellness Center and its departments, the Members of Congress wrote the following in the Center’s Guestbook:

“The Clinic is amazing and state-of-the-art. I am so impressed with the professionalism of the staff, equipment and facility. God bless Rita Balian,” said Speier.

“This Clinic is inspirational! You are doing such important work for so many women,” said Chu.

In 1997, in response to alarming breast cancer crisis in post-Soviet Armenia, Rita and Vartkess Balian from the United States, working closely with Hranush Hakobyan, then-minister of social welfare of Armenia, established the first mammography center in the country and named it the Armenian American Mammography University Center (AAMUC), later renamed to the Armenian American Wellness Center. Registered as the first non-profit entity, “Foundation” in Armenia on the campus of the Yerevan State Medical University, AAMUC was created to provide mammography screening for early and accurate



From Left to Right: Congresswoman Jackie Speier; Khachanush Hakobyan; and Congresswoman Judy Chu in front of the Main Donors Screen in the lobby of the Wellness Center.

(includes prostate cancer screening); (7) Dental Health Clinic; (8) Ambulatory/Outpatient Surgery; (9) Diagnostic Imaging (CT Scanner, Digital X-Ray, and Osteoporosis Screening using DEXA units); and (10) Orthopedic Services.

Since April 28, 1997, through July 31, 2019, 626,608 services have been provided to 496,633 patients. To date, close to 9,600 lives of Women/Mothers have been saved through accurate diagnosis and appropriate treatment provided at AAWC. Furthermore, 201 “Miracle Babies” have been born to couples struggling with infertility from chronic infections from four to fourteen years. In addition, AACA has organized and sponsored 80 medical exchanges between AAWC and eight U.S. medical university centers to provide training both on site in Armenia and in the U.S.A.

Furthermore, AACA and AAWC have been recipients of numerous international and national recognitions and awards, including annual public confidence awards, for being an exemplary medical facility providing high quality healthcare services as well as promoting patient care and women’s health.

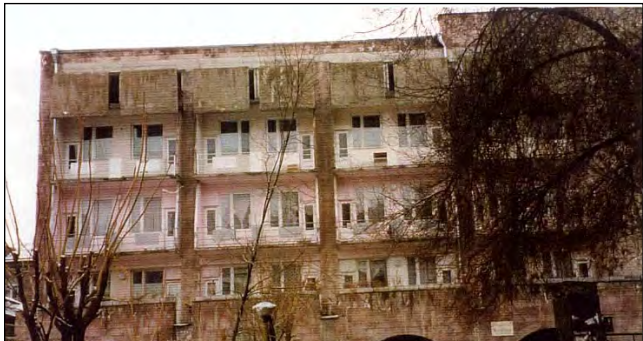
The Wellness Center continues its life-saving mission, thanks to the hard work and dedication of its Founders, mainly Rita Balian, who donates her time as AACA President and CEO/CVO (Chief Volunteer Officer), AAWC Executive Director Khachanush Hakobyan, and the 128 AAWC Staff Members, of whom 104 are women and 24 are men.

AACA and AAWC extend their gratitude to

Hovsep Sarafian from Michigan. Today, the Wellness Center represents a state-of-the-art medical facility providing advanced preventive healthcare services to patients from Armenia and the wider Caucasus region. The mission of the Wellness Center is to save, prolong, and improve the lives of women and mothers through the early and accurate detection of their diseases and provide appropriate treatment. For the past twenty-two years, the Center

has served a wide range of patients, including vulnerable populations in remote regions of Armenia during its Outreach Medical Missions provided free of charge – 356 to date.

Since the establishment of a partnership between AACA/AAWC and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in



Old Soviet-style building BEFORE reconstruction donated to AAWC by the Armenian Government in 2002.

detection of breast cancer.

In 2002, through a Special Presidential Decree, the Armenian Government donated the entire dilapidated five-story building, along with its land, to the Armenian American Wellness Center, which had previously occupied only the first floor of the building. With support from AACA, AACA’s grassroots fundraising, contributions from major donors from the Armenian Diaspora, and USAID grants, the building has gone through extensive reconstruction, expansion, seismic reinforcement, and renovation. The entire process was initiated and supervised by the late Vartkess M. Balian, an architect-engineer and real estate developer in the Washington, D.C., Metropolitan Area, with the assistance of architect



AAWC Building AFTER reconstruction, expansion, and seismic reinforcement of AAWC. The new building combines Armenian architectural designs and California-style structural engineering techniques.



Toshiba Aquilion Lightning CT-Scanner (made in Japan) installed at the Diagnostic Imaging Department. This innovative machine reduces radiation exposure to the patient by 80% and also provides virtual colonoscopy.



Photo taken in the main lobby of the six-story building of the American Armenian Wellness Center. From Left to Right: Dr. Hovhannes Vardevanyan, Chief of Diagnostic Imaging Department; Mrs. Khachanush Hakobyan, Executive Director; Congresswoman Judy Chu; Congresswoman Jackie Speier; Dr. Anzhela Ohanyan, Chief of Cytology Department; and Dr. Ani Hakobyan, Chief of Breast Screening and Diagnosis Department.

the early 2000s, AAWC has expanded to include the following 10 departments equipped with advanced medical technology: (1) Breast Screening and Diagnosis; (2) Gynecology; (3) Pathology Lab (Cytology and Histology); (4) Family Medicine and Endocrinology; (5) Pharmacy; (6) Urology

the Government of the Republic of Armenia, the Embassy of the United States of America in Armenia, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (ASHA) Program, and all the major and grassroots donors for their continued support.



Conference Hall of the Wellness Center located on the sixth floor. AAWC Medical Team holding public confidence awards, trophies, and other recognitions presented to them annually since 2004, during award ceremonies held at the Opera and Ballet Theater of Armenia.





## COMMUNITY NEWS

# Agape Circle Raising Awareness and Funds at Home and Abroad

AGAPE, from page 5

we were going to create this content, then we had to set up a digital health platform for the children."

He went back into action, collecting and storing information digitally on the weight, drug allergies, and diseases of 22,000 Armenian children that are now in the system through the Cloud (myavetis.com), enhancing the country as a whole as it "gives the government and the Ministry of Health data on the country's population."

## Health Mission for Children in Armenia

"If you have a compelling mission, getting other people to come on board is not that difficult," said Lee, who along with 12 CHLA colleagues flew to Yerevan last summer with a coding team and met with the Deputy Minister of Education and Deputy Minister of Health, as well as President Armen Sarkissian, to launch this venture in collaboration.

Prompted to travel to Armenia a decade ago to help diagnose and treat an "alarmingly high rate" of Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP), a complex and aggressive blinding disease that was affecting one third of Armenian premature infants, Lee maintains his ties to the country through ongoing medical trips and missions while building relationships with physicians and healthcare providers on the ground. In recognition for his efforts, he was awarded the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, Barbara M. Korsch Award for Medical Education (CHLA), Morris



Rev. Fr. Khajag Shahbazyan, Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Dr. Thomas Lee and Alice Chakrian

and Mary Press Humanism Award (CHLA) and Humanitarian of the Year Award (Western Union and Microsoft Health Innovation Award).

"We all love our children so deeply there's no reason parents in Yerevan can't experience the same type of care we get here in Los Angeles," said Lee. "For me that's been the hallmark of why I became a doctor."

Expressing his gratitude to the Armenian community, the Western Diocese and Agape Circle, Lee emphasized the significance of a communal society.

"I've come to understand the power and importance of community because it is this community you've created that's making a difference for populations of children as well as individuals like myself," concluded Lee.

## Heart of Agape Award

Expanding on the theme of humanitarian endeavors, the Heart of Agape Award was given to Marlene Yerevanian for her contributions to Our Lady of Armenia, a

non-profit that secures the development of orphaned, abandoned and needy children in the homeland. A special video presentation, filmed on site in Gyumri, highlighted Marlene's efforts and generosity since her first visit in 2006. Agape Circle Chairlady Alice Chakrian presented the award to Marlene, along with a \$2,000 contribution to benefit the organization that provides mental, spiritual, social and educational development for children and teenagers, with the goal of making them independent and self-sufficient

future citizens of the homeland.

"It is an orphanage, but a better name is a House of Love," said Yerevanian, thanking her family and friends for their encouragement and support of the organization. "The children are happy, strong and healthy because that house is filled with love and I encourage all of you to visit the home because it is a life-changing experience."

"We've been inspired by the incredible mission work that Our Lady of Armenia has accomplished by putting smiles on these children's faces," said Derderian. "Over the years I've observed Marlene's charitable work that she has done as a Christian filled with humility, love and a compassionate heart."

During the project presentation segment of the program, Chakrian announced a \$10,000 contribution to Tara Peterson, executive director of the YWCA Glendale, noting that Agape Circle is "honored to be part of the mission of YWCA because we want every woman who goes there to feel love and dignity."

In response to the donation, Peterson said she was "deeply grateful and emotional" and felt "inspired" by Lee's mission work, spurring her thoughts about making a connection between the Women's Support Center in Armenia and how the YWCA Glendale "can be a resource to women and children in Armenia."

"I know this contribution will go a long way," said Peterson, stating that the funds will be earmarked for the renovation of the shelter's backyard to provide a peaceful outdoor space for women and children. "We are going to name it the Agape Circle Garden of Hope because it will provide women and children with a sense of pride."

"Each and every one of us here are so thankful for what you do because it's unacceptable to see one woman being abused, as God forbid that," said Archbishop Derderian. "You've responded to God's call and we thank you for inviting us to be a partner in your most God-pleasing mission."

## What Women Want to Discuss

A panel discussion, led by moderator Eileen Keusseyan, titled "What Women Really Want to Talk About," featured Nora Chitilian, Lisa Arslanian, Aida Torosyan and Stella Baghdassarian, who explored a variety of topics related to family, women and health.

The invocation by Rev. Khajag Shahbazyan commenced the luncheon followed by welcoming remarks by co-chairs Armine Bedrossian and Peggy Kankababian, who emphasized the far-reaching impact of the organization's work that has been led by "divine love" as the Agape Circle continues to expand its family.

"We hope you take home with you a sliver of compassion and energy you witness today," said Kankababian. "Please open your heart and help us give to those who are in such need of assistance."

Honing in on Lee's work, the co-chairs spoke of his "compassion" by providing noninvasive and surgical treatment to children in Armenia suffering from retinal diseases, essentially "saving newborns from going blind."

Bedrossian hailed the "direction, encouragement and support" of Derderian, who has led Agape Circle to new heights. "Let's strengthen and spread our Agape Family," she concluded.

Over the last five years, Agape Circle has donated \$100,000 to CHLA to support the Vision Center, Children's Center for Cancer and Blood Diseases, and Newborn and Infant Critical Care Unit, with another ongoing \$50,000 pledge commitment; distributed gift cards to 50 needy families for the Christmas from the Hearts initiative and \$2,500 to the Homeless Prevention Project, sponsored through the Glendale Chapter of the Armenian Relief Society; contributed close to \$20,000 to the St. Peter Armenian Church and St. Leon Armenian Cathedral; gifted \$5,000 to the Starkey Hearing Foundation; contributed \$10,000 for YWCA Glendale Women's Shelter Garden Renovation; and donated \$2,000 to Our Lady of Armenia.

The Agape Circle committee members include Alice Chakrian, Rev. Fr. Khajag Shahbazyan, Armine Bedrossian, Celene Culhaoglu, Silva Derbalian, Angie Garibyan, Vicki Grigorian, Peggy Kankababian, Eileen Keusseyan, Silva Sepetjian, Aida Sethian, Maggie Sumian, Silvana Vartanian and Sato Yessayan. For more information visit [www.wdacna.com](http://www.wdacna.com).



## SPONSOR A TEACHER IN ARMENIA AND ARTSAKH



SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN 2001,  
THE TCA SPONSOR A TEACHER  
PROGRAM HAS RAISED \$709,500  
AND REACHED OUT TO 6,427  
TEACHERS AND SCHOOL STAFF  
IN ARMENIA AND ARTSAKH.



☐ Yes, I want to sponsor teachers in Armenia and Karabagh to continue helping them to educate the children, our future leaders. I would like to have the teacher's name and address.

☐ \$200 ☐ \$400 ☐ \$600 ☐ \$Other \_\_\_\_\_

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

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Make check payable to: Tekeyan Cultural Association -Memo: Sponsor a Teacher  
Mail your check with this form to:

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Your donation is Tax Deductible.





## COMMUNITY NEWS

# Armenian Bar's Judges' Night Attracts Hundreds of Enthusiasts, Scores of Judges

GLENDALÉ — On October 1, the Armenian Bar Association welcomed 70 members of the state and federal judiciaries at its Annual Judges' Night Dinner in Glendale, California. Despite it being a Tuesday evening, hundreds gathered at the magnificent Phoenicia Restaurant to honor California Court of Appeal Justice Helen I. Bendix and California Superior Court Judge Ruth Ann Kwan for their distinguished service and their exemplary roles as paragons of integrity and emulation.

"It was a thrill and a blessing to have such a flourishing wealth of federal, appellate and trial court judges join us as we recognized two exemplary jurists for their unwavering commitment to the advancement of the rule of law and the administration of justice," stated Armenian Bar Executive Committee Member, Saro Kerkonian.

The Annual Judges' Night Dinner honors jurists who have distinguished themselves beyond the laudable lines of high intellect, efficiency and consistency. It singles out for distinction those who have opened broadly the public's access to justice, advanced the precepts of the rule of law, incorporated compassion into

judges that appear at virtually any other bar association's judges night event!" said Chairman Gerard Kassabian. "Our Annual Judges' Night is also very special because it gives us the opportunity to create meaningful and often life-enhancing connections when we introduce sitting judges to aspiring law students. This rich tradition grows in popularity year after year!"

The master of ceremonies, legal-eagle Armen Akaragian, delighted the audience with quick-witted jokes and profound improvisations throughout the evening. Stepping off-stage, Akaragian reflected, "It truly was special to be part of such a memorable night where we all reveled in the glow of so many distinguished jurists and outstanding professionals."

Honorable Zaven Sinanian of the California Superior Court opened with a heartfelt introduction of the first honoree, Justice Helen Bendix. He enumerated Justice Bendix's accomplishments during her tenure within the Los Angeles Superior Court's Mandatory Settlement program, including noting that Justice Bendix shepherded the program into the success that it is today. Judge Sinanian's fond memories of working with Justice Bendix provided a gracious touch to the already-familial affair. Accompanying Justice Bendix at the event were her husband, U.S. District Court Judge John Kronstadt, and their children.

Justice Bendix received her well-deserved honor, thanking the Armenian Bar for selecting her for the commendation. Of Jewish descent, Justice Bendix spoke movingly about the deep connections between the Armenian and Jewish peoples, including their shared trait of enduring the challenges of their harsh histories, leading each community to be more resilient than ever.

Judge Kevin Brazile, who is the presiding judge of the entire Los Angeles Superior Court system, introduced the next honoree, Judge Ruth Ann Kwan. He took a somewhat different and refreshing approach by sharing beautiful and captivatingly-positive comments made by other judges about Judge Kwan. On a personal note, Brazile indicated that Judge Kwan had encouraged him to take affirmative steps to



Honorees Bendix and Kwan surrounded by the Armenian Bar's Leadership Circle

election and retain her seat.

As is the tradition for honorees at the Annual Judges' Nights, Judge Kwan and Justice Bendix were presented with beautiful works of classical, illuminated art prepared by renowned artist Seroon Yeretsian, each with peaceful, majestic representations of heavenly peacocks and with original inscriptions of praise and honor.

In an evocative musical interlude, Salpy Kerkonian channeled the stirring, expressive works of Komitas and Aram Khachaturian. She embellished her musical inflections with poignant background information about Komitas, paying

homage to the great muse for bringing traditional Armenian melodies to the modern era.

Also part of the evening program, not planned but most appropriate, saw Chairman Kassabian making public the Armenian Bar's appreciation for the altogether comprehensive commitment of the chief engineer of the event, the Association's Vice-Chairperson, Lucy Varpetian.

The Annual Judge's Night was an event to remember. "This was my first time at the Judge's Night and I came away impressed by the vast array of judges who came, obviously enjoyed, and stayed till the end. Kuddos to the Armenian Bar Association for getting together so many amazing and talented legal professionals for an unforgettable night," said Arthur Saakian, a Glendale litigator.



Left to right, Presiding Judge Kevin Brazile, Judge Ruth Kwan, Justice Helen Bendix, Judge Zaven Sinanian

the fabric of their characters, and guided others in profession and in life.

Phoenicia's outside patio swelled with pre-dinner chat and cheer during the bustling social hour, a felicitous prelude to the allure of the heaping, luscious Armenian fare at the tables. The main event began with masterful flutist, Salpy Kerkonian, performing the national anthems of the United States and the Republic of Armenia.

"I am extremely proud of our achievement tonight and must emphasize that it is our humble privilege to welcome 70 judges, which is more than double or triple the number of

support greater diversity on the bench.

Judge Kwan accepted her award to a rousing ovation and praised the Armenian Bar, describing her interesting path to the judiciary. To many people's surprise, her journey to the bench included more Armenians than many may have expected. Judge Kwan recalled that when she began considering a role in the judiciary, her husband's business associate, Ashot, introduced her to none other than Judge Dickran Tevzian over lunch at the Tevzian home. With first impressions being the lasting one, Judge Tevzian wrote her a letter of recommendation immediately after the lunch. Judge Kwan also recalled that when she was challenged while on the bench, the Armenian community of Montebello helped her secure the

## Armenian Assembly Calls for Passage of Armenian Genocide Resolution

RESOLUTION, from page 5

Turks have done to other ethnic minorities in the past. Let's not forget, the very ground we're speaking about in northern Syria, down the Euphrates River Valley, is the same location to which survivors of the Armenian genocide fled, having become the first victims of Turkish nationalism," according to a report in Rolling Stone.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's actions are not being lost on Congress, as well. On October 16, the US House of Representatives overwhelming passed legislation which "calls on Turkish President Erdogan to immediately cease unilateral military action in Northeast Syria and to respect existing agreements relating to Syria." And in that bill, Congress referenced that "Turkey has historically threatened, forcibly displaced, and killed Syrian Kurds, including during military operations in the Afrin District."

Last week, Rep. Albio Sires (D-NJ) stated: "These actions are particularly concerning

given Turkey's historical precedent of eliminating minority groups that it perceives as a threat, as it did during the Armenian Genocide."

"Now would be a good time for the United States to recognize the Armenian Genocide," Rep. Ted Lieu (D-CA) wrote on Twitter.

"The Hitler of our century," Boston Celtics basketball player Enes Kanter has said, is the president of his native Turkey," according to an article in The Spectator. "It's been time for justice for Turkey's victims, but there is now an opportunity for President Trump, given the tension between the US and Turkey due to our newly imposed sanctions in response to their military campaign in northeast Syria, to formally recognize Turkey's past and contemporary crimes."

"The [Armenian] Assembly is urging Congress to affirm the Armenian Genocide now that the circumstances have become not only overdue but especially ripe by adopting H. Res. 296," The Spectator article continued. "The best time to acknowledge Turkey's crimes was yesterday. The second best time is today."

## OBITUARY

### Haig Manoukian

MONTREAL — Sonia Manoukian and her sons, Arek and Chirac; Arto Manoukian and his daughter, Lori; Aren and Madeleine Manoukian and their son, Alek and the Soghomonian, Tchaylakian, Kalpakdjian and Pinkenberg families announce the passing of their father, husband, brother and uncle, Haig Manoukian, on October 18.

The wake was held on Monday, October 21 and the funeral services were held on October 22 at Saint Gregory the Illuminator Cathedral, Outremont, Quebec. The burial was at the Cimetiere Saint-Laurent.

To honor his memory, the family has established a fund in his name, "The Haig Manoukian Fund."



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## COMMUNITY NEWS

# Society for Armenian Studies Marks 45th Anniversary With International Conference in Honor of Tölölyan

SAS, from page 5

Ghazarian (USC), the panelists explored the historical and contemporary Armenian migration trajectories across North America, Europe and the Middle East. Nareh Galsytan (University of Milan) reexamined the diaspora-homeland relations by focusing on the Syrian nationals of Armenian and Assyrian backgrounds in the Netherlands. Carlos Antaramian (El Colegio de la Frontera Norte, Mexico) explored the Armenian immigration patterns to Mexico, illegal border crossings between Mexico and the U.S., and the formation of Armenian community in Tijuana in 1923-1932. Boris Adjemian (AGBU Nubar Library, Paris) emphasized the sedentariness of diasporas by examining the Armenian experiences from Addis Ababa, Jerusalem to Valence and Paris. Gegham Mughnetsyan (University of Southern California) tackled yet another less explored area by focusing on the Armenian displaced persons experiences from Funkerkaserne camp near Stuttgart, Germany, to their contemporary residence in Montebello, Calif.

Chaired by Houri Berberian (University of California, Irvine), the second session “Imagining the Diasporic Space: Social Memory and Cultural Production in the Armenian Diaspora” explored the literary and cultural production, and their effects across the Armenian diaspora. Focusing on the works by Vahe Oshagan, Hakob Karapents and Vahe Berberian, Lilit Keshishyan (USC) explored the ways in which “stateless power” informed those writers’ cultural character. Helen Makhdomian (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign) focused on Michael Arlen’s Passage to Ararat to suggest a critical examination of transnational memory work and kinship-making through translation and transculturation. Talar Chahinian (University of California, Irvine) examined the Western Armenian literary canon that established the so-called *hayetsi* mode of production and its limiting effects on the possibilities for benefiting from multi-local and transnational contexts. Sylvia Alajaji (Franklin & Marshall College) suggested a critical examination of the concept “Armenian music” by discussing the various perceptions of

Komitas within Armenian diasporic contexts.

Session three in the afternoon titled “Institutions, Governmentality and Power Relations in the Shaping of Armenian Diasporic Diversities” was chaired by Vahram Shemmassian (California State University, Northridge). Hasmik Khalapyan (American University of Armenia) examined the power struggle in the diasporic Armenian press dur-

close reading of the Ottoman-Armenian constitution through the framework of governmentality that resembled something close to a statehood within a state with the patriarch having the ultimate authority. Christopher Sheklian (Zohrab Information Center) highlighted the important role of the Armenian Apostolic Church in incorporating the Armenian immigrants from Baku and Syria into established

to show how denial had been the most important denominator of Armenians living in Turkey.

The second panel was devoted to the Armenian Diaspora Survey, a project sponsored by the Armenian Communities Department of Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation and implemented by the Armenian Institute, London. Chaired by Kasbarian, the panel was titled



Scholars at the SAS Diaspora Conference Held at UCLA

ing the late 19th and early 20th century Europe. Simon Payaslian (Boston University) explored the conceptualizations of homeland independence in the Armenian-American periodical press in the first decades of the 20th century. Nareg Seferian (School of Public and International Affairs, Virginia Tech) suggested a

Armenian communities and in shaping their identities. Daniel Fittante (University of California, Los Angeles) pointed to the emergence of what he called “ethnopolitical entrepreneurs” by examining the challenges of incorporating immigrants into political processes based on the case study of Armenians in Glendale.

## Keynote Address by Tölölyan

The afternoon of October 12 continued with a remarkable keynote speech by Tölölyan (Wesleyan University), titled “From the Study of Diasporas to Diaspora Studies.” The speech explored three broad themes: diaspora studies and studies of diasporas, power and choice. By examining the historical development of the conceptualizations of the term “diaspora” since the ancient biblical texts until modern scholarship also within the Armenian tradition, Tölölyan suggested new directions for future research. He continued to suggest thinking of diasporic “stateless power” as a form of “soft power” that needs further exploration in the case of Armenians and theoretically.

The morning session of October 13, chaired by Barlow Der Mugrdchian (California State University, Fresno) was titled “At Home in the Diaspora: Armenian Communities in the Middle East.” Sossie Kasbarian (University of Stirling, UK) examined the various experiences of Syrian Armenians in the Republic of Armenia, challenging the conventional perceptions of “home,” “homeland” and “diaspora.”

Ara Sanjian (University of Michigan, Dearborn) explored the political and confessional contexts in Lebanon and the nature of Lebanese political parties to demonstrate how Armenian political parties internalized the prevailing social-political inner workings of non-Armenian Lebanese political parties. Tsolin Nalbantian (Leiden University, Netherlands) focused on the complex relations between the Catholicosate of Echmiadzin, Catholicosate of Cilicia, various Armenian and Lebanese political circles developing during and after the controversial 1956 elections in the Catholicosate of Cilicia. The fourth panelist, Talin Suciyan (Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich), examined the Armenian experiences in Turkey

“Giving Voice to the Diaspora: The Armenian Diaspora Survey Project.” Hratch Tchilingirian (Oxford University), the director of Armenian Diaspora Survey, presented the results of the Pilot stage implemented in Boston, Pasadena, Marseille (France), and Cairo (Egypt) in May/June 2008, and the current survey being carried out in Argentina, Canada, Lebanon and Romania. The panelists, Razmik Panossian (Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation) and Tölölyan stressed the importance of the survey in providing rich data that researchers, policy makers and academics can use for developing informed policy proposals or for academic research and publications.

The final session, titled “Diaspora Policy and Diaspora Politics: Discourses, Ideologies and Governmentality in (Soviet) Armenia-Diaspora Relations,” was chaired by Marc Mamigonian (NAASR). Hratsin Vardanyan (Republic of Armenia) discussed some typologies of diasporas and examined the pros and cons of various classifications of the Armenian Diaspora. Vahe Sahakyan (University of Michigan, Dearborn) suggested a critical examination of the concept “governmentality” in the context of diaspora, and demonstrated how “governmental efforts” of diasporic elites in the Armenian case led to the fragmentation of the Armenian diasporic communities locally in many countries and transnationally. The final talk by Hagop Gulludjian (University of California, Los Angeles) explored the ways in which the competing ideologies and visions on Armenianness among Armenian diasporic actors have dealt with the problems of diaspora.

In his closing remarks Peter Cowe (University of California, Los Angeles) highlighted several takeaways that complicate the perceptions of diaspora, nation-state, home, homeland, host land, as well as the agency and role of diasporan elites and institutions in shaping diasporic subjectivities. Cowe closed the conference by expressing appreciation of the work done by the organizers, speakers, sponsors, students and the audience “rendering this conference the success it has truly been.”

For more information on the Society for Armenian Studies, visit the SAS website at [societyforarmenianstudies.com](http://societyforarmenianstudies.com).

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## COMMUNITY NEWS

# St. Vladimir's And St. Nersess Seminaries Mark 50 Years of Collaboration

YONKERS, N.Y. — Bishop Daniel Findikyan, Primate of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, delivered the annual “Fr. John Meyendorff Memorial Lecture” to celebrate 50 years of collaboration between St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary and St. Nersess Armenian Seminary.

The special event on Friday, October 11, on St. Vladimir's Seminary campus, began with vespers at the Three Hierarchs Chapel celebrated according to the Armenian rite. Findikyan — a graduate of both seminaries — then delivered the lecture, titled “The Sacrament of Theological Education: St. Vladimir's and St. Nersess Seminaries at 50 Years.”

“I should like to propose that the 50-year collaboration of St. Vladimir's and St. Nersess Seminaries illustrates the sacred, ecclesial, and truly sacramental essence of the theological enterprise, understood in its broadest, most Orthodox sense,” said the Primate. “And if that is true, then our half-century of common work in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ has great implications for us in this room, for Orthodoxy, for the Body of Christ, and, I think, for the world.”

The celebration was also attended by St.



The service at St. Vladimir's Seminary (Ryan Tellalian photo)

Nersess Dean Fr. Mardiros Chevian, St. Vladimir's President Fr. Chad Hatfield and its Academic Dean Dr. Ionut-Alexandru Tudorie, as

well as faculty, staff, seminarians, alumni, and friends from both institutions.

“It is remarkable for someone like me, who wasn't around 50 years ago, to encounter so many alums from both St. Vladimir's and St. Nersess ... who come and tell me stories,” said Fr. Chad Hatfield, “and most of those stories also conclude with reminiscence of life-long friendships. And I think that's one of the most important things about what we're doing here tonight.”

## Milestones of Collaboration

A formal relationship between St. Vladimir's and St. Nersess began in 1968, when negotiations with the former resulted in St. Nersess becoming a satellite institution. Over the coming decades, the two seminaries formalized (and later revised) a joint Master of Divinity (M.Div.) curriculum.

In 2004, the partnership resulted in the launch of the Treasures of the Armenian Christian Tradition Series (AVANT) through St. Vladimir's Seminary (SVS) Press.

The schools renewed their commitment to work together in 2016, via an Inter-Seminary Agreement of Collaboration signed with the Gevorgyan Seminary of the Mother See of Holy Echmiadzin, in Armenia. At present, seminarians studying at St. Nersess take approximately 40 percent of their course load at St. Vladimir's.

The October 11 celebration continued with a reception following the lecture Friday evening and a special fellowship event Saturday on the campus of St. Nersess, which included a tour of the campus and lunch. Five wood-carved crosses from Armenia were given out as awards to guests from St. Vladimir's Seminary, while the event concluded with the Antranig Dance Group performing three dances.



Fr. Chad Hatfield, left, with Bishop Daniel Findikyan (Ryan Tellalian photo)



**CHELMSFORD, Mass. —** The Women's Guild at Sts. Vartanantz, Chelmsford is in “Hye” gear preparing keufteh for the church's annual Fall Food Festival and Bazaar, November 22-23. The Festival will include a wide range dinner kebabs, Armenian pastries, a country store, raffles, attic treasures, live Armenian Music and dancing on Friday evening, and a narrated slide presentation and of the church sanctuary and vestry.



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## COMMUNITY NEWS

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# Arts & Living

## Diocese Celebrates The Heritage of Armenian Sacred Music

EVANSTON, Ill. — A three-day celebration of Armenian Church music brought clergy, deacons, choir singers, instrumentalists, and lovers of liturgical music to the St. James of Nisibis Church here, over the weekend of October 4-6.

Bishop Daniel Findikyan, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, presided over the “Sacred Music Festival,” organized by the Eastern Diocese’s Sacred Music Council (SMC). Around 50 people took part in its expert-led instructional workshops, educational seminars, and concert performances.

The tightly-packed schedule included a keynote address by the Primate, and sessions led by Fr. Mamigon Kiledjian, Fr. Hovhan Khoja-Eynatyan, Dn. Rubik Mailian, Solange Merdinian, and Sevag Derderian. It began on Friday evening with a reception for parish choir directors and clergy hosted by Findikyan.

Following a vespers service and dinner, Mailian gave a stunning lecture and recital titled “Gomidas Vartabed at 150 Years: His Contribution to Armenian Sacred Music.” At various points in his presentation, he had the audience singing along with his renditions of Gomidas’ hymns. As a prelude to the recital, St. James Church’s Narek Children’s Bell Choir performed a short set of pieces.

Saturday involved a full day of activities, beginning with a morning service and Findikyan’s keynote address, “When Armenians Sing with the Angels.”

“Srpazan’s speech truly set the tone for the entire festival, and had people talking about living up to the ideal of ‘singing with the angels,’” said Evanston pastor Fr. Hovhan Khoja-



At the Eastern Diocese’s Sacred Music Festival in Evanston, IL, pastor and musician Fr. Hovhan Khoja-Eynatyan leads a session on instrumental accompaniment during the badarak.

Eynatyan, who chairs the Sacred Music Council and led the effort to organize the festival.

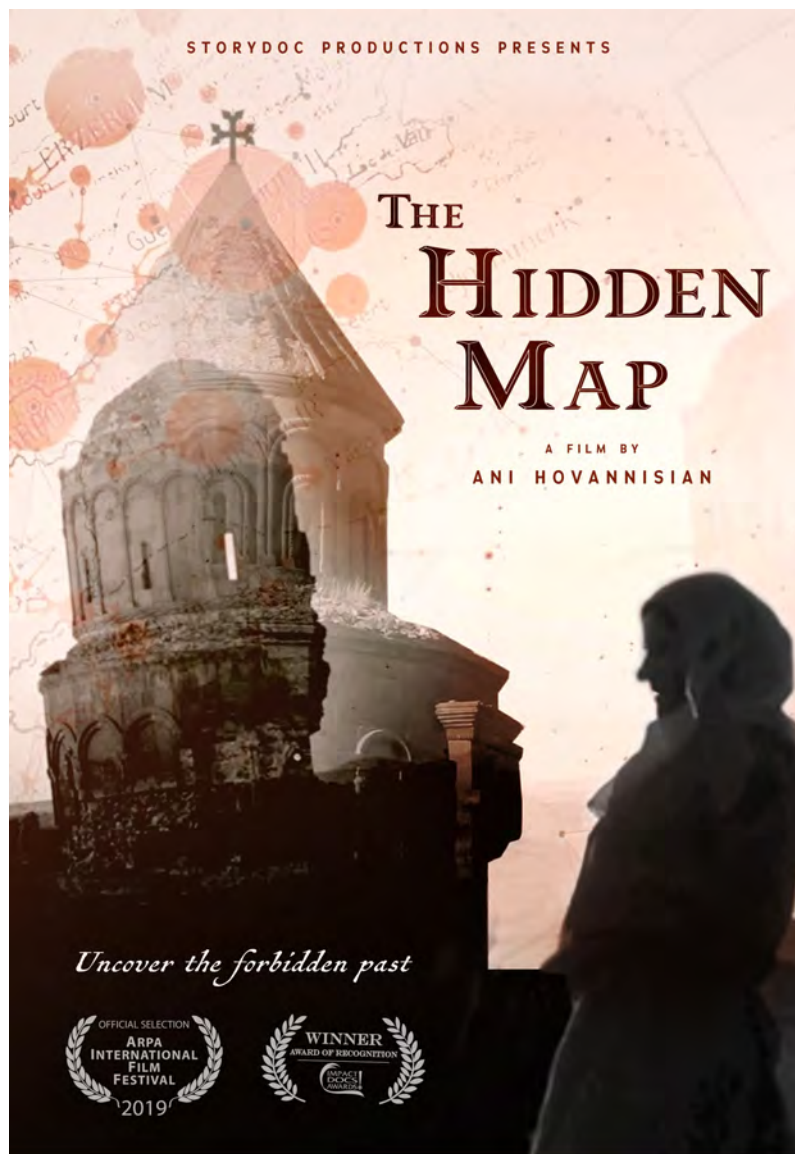
Breakout sessions involved instructors offering workshops on vocal technique, choir direction, youth outreach, and the use of the organ and other musical instruments in the church setting.

Attendees learned about the formal aspects of Armenian sacred music pertaining to meaning and performance. But they also received practical training on topics like posture, nutrition, and exercise, which can significantly enhance individual ability, and help singers adapt their talents as they age.

The Sacred Music Council gave a presentation on digital resources it has developed to aid choirs and deacons.

Festival attendees also came together to rehearse two compositions by Gomidas — his settings of Hayr Mer and Sourp, Sourp — in anticipation of the next day’s Divine Liturgy.

In their occasional free time, attendees explored downtown Evanston and Northwestern University campus, as well as the see DIOCESE, page 15



## ‘The Hidden Map’

Documentary Slated for Arpa And Pomegranate Film Festivals, Wins ImpactDOCS Award

LOS ANGELES — Arpa (Los Angeles) and Pomegranate (Toronto) Film Festivals have slated Ani Hovannisian’s new documentary “The Hidden Map” for their 2019 festivals in November. Prior to any public screenings, “The Hidden Map” has been recognized with an ImpactDOCS award in an esteemed international documentary film competition.

A broadcast journalist by education and training, Hovannisian directed and produced numerous true human-interest stories for television and other international audiences before setting out to make her first film. “The Hidden Map” was conceived when Hovannisian, traveling through historic Western Armenia with her father, historian Richard G. Hovannisian and a small group led by Armen Aroyan, had a chance encounter with an enigmatic Scottish explorer, Steven Sim. Camera always in hand, Ani began following the steps of the solitary explorer and learned that he had been documenting the relics of the lost Armenian past for 30 years. Though he had always traveled alone, almost invisibly, Sim agreed to set out together.

The Armenian and Scotsman trek through the layered landscape, digging beneath the surface of modern-day Turkey to uncover the crumbled remnants and see FILM, page 14



Ani Hovannisian in Dzitogh

## The Great Escape

### Punching through The Iron Curtain

By Philip P. Ketchian

This was not what he had struggled to come so far for. The water was ice cold. His legs were numb and not responding. He thought he had a remedy for that, so he slashed his legs with his sharp knife. That was no help and he was drowning. Instead, refusing to panic, he took a deep breath, dived down and crawled on the river bottom. After repeating that a few more times he resurfaced the last time to witness a scene straight out of a Hollywood horror film. A dragon-like object belching steam and smoke was trundling into view from the east. It was lit up with multiple searchlights in all directions turning night into day. The roar of its engine echoed back and forth against the canyon walls. He heard Surik call out to him to dive so as not to be spotted. It was the Erevan train out of Baku rumbling down the tracks. Border guards positioned on the train, with submachine guns at the ready, were scouring the area searching for anyone foolish enough to try to illegally cross the Soviet border in either direction. It was a passenger train and they would be confined under the watchful eyes of the soldiers to their seats the entire stretch of the trip, so that they could not attempt to leap off the train as they traveled so close to the international border. Those searchlights would also be illuminating the plowed strip of land between the railroad tracks and the river revealing the footprints the three friends had made crossing it. An alarm would be raised and border guards armed to their teeth and with trained dogs would be headed there very soon. He came up for air once more to see the end of the train disappearing around the bend in the distance. They had made it out safely! It was three o’clock in the morning on October 26, 1957; exhausted and shivering, they fell down prone on the ground on the Iranian side of the Arax River.

Just minutes before, the trio of friends had been standing atop a 3,500-foot-high craggy peak, and with the faint glow of the waxing crescent moon spotted the shimmering ribbon of the Arax River some 1,200 vertical feet below. Freedom was on its far shore. Little did they know, at the time, that the famous Julfa Armenian Cemetery was located a short distance to the east of them. Also visible were the railroad tracks and the plowed strip of land with the barbed wire fence behind it. This was the closest the Erevan-Baku rail line came to the river. First, however, they would need to climb down the steep and treacherous slope, the surface of which was made up of crumbling rock. It was tougher than they could have imagined. They had no ropes or any other special equipment. So they lay on their backs and inched down careful not to dislodge any of the stones that could create a rock avalanche on its way down and send a warning to the border troops. Halfway down the slope they spotted a lone soldier walking along the track. Had any rock fallen down at the time they would have been immediately discovered. They gave him enough time to go out of earshot range. Next to a large rock they undressed and left all unnecessary items there and continued their descent. When they finally had reached level ground at the foot of the hill just shy of the rail tracks they could breathe a sigh of relief. They cautiously looked about and along both sides of the rail line. The coast was clear. Surik put on his gloves and the trio ran helter-skelter across the rail tracks,

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE





## ARTS &amp; LIVING

## FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

over the plowed strip of land toward the barbed wire fence. With his gloved hands Surik grabbed the lowest electrified barbed wire and the second wire above from the ground with the other and separated them just enough for them to squeeze through. Only one final obstacle remained in front of them, and that was the Arax River flowing some 15 feet below at an elevation of some 2,350 feet above sea level, and about 250 to 300 feet wide at this spot. Not leaving any time for hesitation or second thoughts, like zombies they had plunged into the water.

Hagop (Akop) Yeremian was born in Peristeri, a suburb of Athens, Greece, in 1938. His father, Barsekh, a Genocide survivor from Ushak, had a construction business, and his mother, Eli, was an ethnic Greek. He also had an older brother and a sister. The neighborhood was inhabited mostly by Armenians, and Hagop attended the school established by the Armenian Church. His father was successful in his business and his expertise was much in demand during the post-WWII reconstruction boom in Greece. But the wave of repatriation also hit the Armenian diaspora with the force of a tsunami and the Yeremian family got caught in it just like the many hundreds of their neighbors.

Hakop's mother was reluctant to make the move. However, to keep the family together she went along. Mr. Yeremian signed up to go to Armenia, to rebuild and apply his expertise to the development of Armenia. This was despite the many pleas from the Greek Government for him to remain and lend his expertise to rebuilding the local infrastructure. Thus, he packed his belongings in crates and headed for the harbor to board the Soviet ship "Chukotka" in November 1947. Unbeknown to him at the time, he had done something that would end up being a lifesaver for his family. The house that he had built for his family in Peristeri ended up far too large for his current needs. He, therefore, had opened a grocery store in the unused portion. Now, not knowing what to do with all that foodstuff, flour, beans, olives, olive oil, canned foods etcetera, he loaded the entire inventory into crates and shipped it off with the rest of his belongings. Only once he was in Armenia did he realize what a treasure trove he had.

After a stormy passage through the Black Sea they disembarked in the Soviet port city of Batumi. In Erevan they were temporarily taken in by relatives who had repatriated back in the 1930's.

Yeremian soon took the 30,000-ruble loan that the government provided to the repatriates for building a new home. Being familiar with the business was crucial for them to move out, since their relatives were treating his goods as their own. Hagop's father was thoroughly familiar with the latest European construction techniques, so he was able to apply that knowledge for completing any project faster, cheaper, and of better quality. He was soon made responsible for the construction of a number of important industrial projects.

Meanwhile, Hagop entered school. It was day school for the first seven years and night school for the last three. He played soccer with the neighborhood boys whenever he got a chance.

While assisting his dad he had met Surik and Dikran. Surik Bagdasarian was 27 years old and from the small village of Bardzruni, situated a short mile from the Nakhichevan border. Dikran Karapetian was 21 and from the Nubarashen district of Erevan. Both Surik and Dikran were born in Soviet Armenia. As it turned out, Surik was an avid listener of banned foreign radio broadcasts, and was beginning to broaden his views of the outside world.

Another influence on him were the repatriates who had recently arrived in Armenia. It was clearly evident to him that these fellow Armenians had come from countries with higher standards of living and greater freedoms. Hagop and Dikran would also listen in from time to time. Hagop had had firsthand knowledge of his own to that, and was probably able to reinforce that thought. Eventually, Surik began making brief walking trips from his native village of Bardzruni over into Nakhichevan surveying the terrain. Detailed maps were not available to the public in the Soviet Union but he had a passable physical map of Soviet Armenia, which also included the Nakhichevan Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic. Nakhichevan has always been an Armenian province until Stalin and his Bolsheviks handed it over to Azerbaijan. It's not clear how far Surik had reconnoitered into Nakhichevan on his own or whether he had had

assistance from any other source, but he had made a crude sketch of a possible route to follow on that map. Sworn to secrecy, the three friends did not utter a single word to any family or friends.

When Surik announced that the time had come to leave, Hagop caused a delay. His father was building a better home for them and Hagop would not leave before completing the pouring of cement for the ceiling. That done, the trio were ready to hit the road in search of freedom and a better life. Early on the morning of October 21, in total secrecy the three friends left their homes and met at the bus station in central Erevan as planned. They took along some tools with them together with Hagop's permit for working in the restricted border regions to be able to say that they were traveling in search of construction jobs. Their bus did not leave that day for lack of passengers. Instead, they hitched rides on trucks heading north to the town of Sevan on Lake Sevan and to Martuni from there on the southeastern shore. They blended in and followed a circuitous route. Next they headed



This is a view of the area from east to west. The Arax River is visible flowing through the canyon. Nakhichevan is on the left side of the river. The ribbon of the railroad track is visible snaking along the Nakhichevan side of the river. The Soviet and Iranian border crosses through the river center. The trio of friends crossed the river at the spot where the railroad passes the closest to the river [see arrow]. (Google Earth 3D)

south to Yeghegnadzor and halfway to Bardzruni they dismounted and continued their journey on foot from there on. They had to pass by Surik's village of Bardzruni, some 20 miles south, making a wide arc around it to their right, to assure that they were not spotted and recognized by any of the villagers. Bardzruni is located less than a mile from the Nakhichevan border. Those days the borders of the Soviet Republics were wide open and not restricted. That first day in Nakhichevan they took refuge in the ruins of an abandoned Armenian church, a short distance from the Armenian border. What lay ahead was a wild desolate hilly landscape stretching all the way to the Nakhichevan and Iranian border some 40-plus miles in the distant south. From there on they were walking only at night and hiding by day. The local Azeris would have been suspicious of three Armenians heading toward the border and would report them to the authorities. While traveling through Armenia the trio had been able to scrounge some food, however, from this point onward that would only be a distant memory. Traveling light and fast they had neglected to pack any food or water with them. All they had was a bottle of vodka between them which was tossed out when emptied. That was a big mistake on their part, as water was scarce and lacking any kind of containers or cups when water was even found it was difficult to reach. They had no choice but to drink from whatever brook or puddle they came across, filtering it through their sweatshirts.

The going was tough and they had passed the point of no return. They trudged along up and down the dusty rocky hills, following the route laid down by Surik. One night when nearing the border they were spotted by a pack of dogs. These burly shepherd dogs were aiming at them. The trio took flight for their lives in the opposite direction only to be pursued by another pack coming at them head on.

Once again they altered their escape route. The two packs joined into one and continued the pursuit. Just as it appeared that all was lost, the

pack came to an abrupt halt. Hagop took a quick look back and was amazed to see that the dogs had all stopped on a dime. No barrier of any kind was visible anywhere. After negotiating the last three peaks and valleys they had reached the top of that final hill. It had been important for them to avoid the population centers. They had done so by traveling some 40 miles south from Bardzruni and arriving at the border just a few short miles west of Julfa. It appears that due to its rugged terrain and some mysterious stroke of luck, they may have come across one of the least protected spots of the entire border.

Early next morning they were awakened by the sound of barking dogs. Standing over them was a young soldier aiming a rifle at them. The Iranian border guard was shouting a threatening order at Hagop in an incomprehensible language and appeared ready to shoot. That was when Hagop became aware that he was still holding the knife tightly in his hand. Once he dropped it to the ground, the soldier greeted them in a friendly manner and walked them over to their adobe hut border post nearby. Meanwhile, a beehive of activity

Surik and Dikran were rejected their requests mostly because of apparent health problems. That did not suit Hagop and he refused to leave for America without his two friends; after all, they had been together in this from the very beginning. He was able to maneuver things and send them to America a few months ahead. Dikran's father had not returned home from the war, so he was hoping that his father had somehow survived and immigrated to the US. Assisted by the Tolstoy Foundation, which had been established by the youngest daughter of Leo Tolstoy, Hagop was to follow them a few months later, in October 1959.

In Boston he was sponsored by the Armenian Revolutionary Federation and reconnected with his two friends. He initially found employment at Deran's Confectionary Company in Cambridge Mass., owned by Deran Hintlian. A bit over a year later he was fortunate to be hired by Haig Merian. A recent immigrant himself, Haig had formed his own successful business, "Merian Carpet Service," and was happy to teach Hagop the profession. Surik and Dikran were also to join the team soon.

Haig Merian, from the village of Dzovinar, had served in the Soviet Army during WWII and was captured by the Germans. Rather than return to the Soviet Union after the war, where the Gulag was awaiting him, Merian was fortunate to be able to immigrate to the US.

A year later Hagop was drafted in the US Army. After completing service for his adopted country, Hagop returned to work with Merian for another year. By this time he had learned enough of the trade to go on his own and start "Akop's Carpet Service."

Hagop married Judith King in 1966, and one year later they had a daughter named, Maro.

I am in the course of including a chapter in my own memoir dedicated to a number of attempts made by members of the Armenian-American repatriate community to escape from the clutches of the Stalinist regime. All such prior attempts, as far as I know, were exposed by the KGB early in the planning stages. Unfortunately, most were arrested and sent to the Gulag. My own father may have been the only one who had taken a further step and visited a village on the border with Turkey. He had, somehow, been able to receive a permit by claiming to visit a sick relative there. That "relative" was able to provide my dad with the rare opportunity, and surreptitiously show him the lay of the land. He had pointed out the multiple lines of in-depth defense the barbed wire fences and the guard towers, the secret observation posts and other security devices the Soviet Border Guards had set up in order to foil or intercept anyone bold or naïve enough to attempt such an endeavor.

My dad was wise enough to realize that crossing the border into Turkey was impossible for him, especially with a wife and two children in tow, and therefore he immediately dropped that plan. We never learned of anyone able to escape from Soviet Armenia in that fashion during our long stay in Armenia. However, upon returning to the US in 1965 and visiting my cousin Armen Dedekian in Watertown. I met with the trio of friends who by then were living and working in the area. Armen had also recently returned from Soviet Armenia and met and befriended them. I was full of admiration for them and their heroic deed. Therefore, when writing my chapter of unsuccessful escape attempts, I included their story. On the other hand, I came to realize that their story is far more remarkable than that and deserves to be retold in greater detail. Nevertheless, I still harbor a suspicion that Surik may have had some assistance in selecting that route.

At this time only Hagop is alive and willing to be interviewed. His memory for details is remarkable. With the help of Google Earth he was able to locate and "walk" me to the exact spot where they had crossed the border to Iran on that fateful October night. There is no doubt that he had been fully aware of the many unsuccessful attempts of escape made by others before him. The risks were high, nevertheless, he accepted this once-in-a-lifetime challenge. When asked whether he is happy for his life in the US, he always answers: "I have been living the life of Riley!" That is even though he still can occasionally wake up in the middle of the night in a cold sweat not knowing which side of the Iron Curtain he is in.

Hagop had wanted to travel to Greece to visit his relatives there. However, Greece rejected his request fearing that he would spread Communist propaganda. He did request to settle down in the US and was told that that would be possible in the very near future.





## ARTS &amp; LIVING

# ‘You Could Never Not Be Who You Are, Could You?’

**By Harry Kezelian**

Special to the Mirror-Spectator

CHICAGO — The background image on my laptop is a panoramic photograph of the village of Husenig with its surrounding mountains and the city of Kharpert on the mountainside above it. The other day I was looking at this image as well as the image of the 1910 graduating class of the Getronagan Varjaran in Kharpert, which I have taped above my desk, and something in my head clicked as it never had before.

I work as a US History teacher in the Chicago Public Schools, but I am originally from Detroit. I have a fellow teacher, about 15 years older than me, Greek-American, raised in Chicago. One day he asked me, “have you ever been to Armenia?” and when I replied in the affirmative, he continued, “do you guys have a house there or some place you go?” I saw where he was going with this line of thought. Many Greek-Americans, particularly those with roots in the Greek Islands, have summer homes back in Greece, on an island – getaways where they can spend time in the summer with family, and reconnect with the inhabitants of not only their native country, but the very native villages from which their families came.

I had to explain to my friend that the situation was not the same with us. Armenian-Americans of Western Armenian descent do not have the luxury the Greeks possess, except for those from Istanbul and (until recently) Kessab. Our ancestral homes have vanished, our villages are populated by Turks and Kurds, and only in the last few years has it even become safe to go and take a look at those places. No one would dare buy a summer home in Kharpert or Sepastia – if the Turkish government would even allow it. And even if one could buy a home there – why would one go? To reconnect with the Kurds and Turks of our native provinces?

All of these points, I know, have been discussed and stated time and time again by thinking Armenians. Why am I repeating them? Well, I was looking at this picture of Kharpert, and as I said, something clicked.

Even if I was to explain to my Greek friend what this valley between three mountains was, where it was located, how many thousands of years it had been populated by Armenians, and why it was so important to me as the birthplace of my mother’s paternal grandparents – it wouldn’t mean much to him, even considering that he is Greek and something of a fellow countryman. Think about it – if he explained to me about a special valley, formerly Greek, which – let us leave the Turks out of this for a moment – had perhaps been overrun by Bulgarians, or Albanians, and was no longer a part of the Greek homeland, would it mean

much to me, except to arouse my sympathy for suffering people? If he explained to me that this valley was the center of an entire school of literature (I was thinking of Tulgadintsi, who sat in the center of the graduating photo), that it was the homeland of people who spoke and wrote a very special and poetic form of a literary dialect of Greek that no longer exists in present-day Greece, if he told me that they had a very special form of music that doesn’t exist in

folk music which Kharpert was famous for, and which survives predominantly in the US is also in danger of dying out; how Kharpert was famed for its “kufta” meatballs which are a specialty dish of Armenians in the diaspora....

We Armenians who follow community affairs and take an interest in our history assume that it has some kind of intrinsic value, that there is importance in knowing where we come from. We proudly rattle off names of villages or towns

cooking Kharpert Kufta the cuisine will die – or be left to the Turks to claim? Do we realize that we ARE Western Armenia? That every Kharpertsi in New England IS Kharpert? That every Sepastatsi in Detroit, New York, or Chicago IS Sepastia? That every Dikranagerdtsi in New Jersey IS Dikranagerd, individually and collectively?

But more importantly, do we look at ourselves as others would see us, if they knew the



Husenig (Photo Courtesy of Houshamadyan)

Greece anymore but is only played in parts of North America and that its greatest masters are old men who live in the old Greek settlement of Tarpon Springs, Fla., would any of that mean much to me? So why would I ever expect that it was going to mean anything to him to hear about Kharpert, how it was the center of the provincial school of Western Armenian literature; how it was the most educated and Westernized place in the Armenian provinces, including both the Orthodox and Protestant Armenian community; how the people spoke a charming rural dialect which nevertheless was quite close to literary Western Armenian; how Western Armenian itself was now an endangered language; how the Western Armenian

in Western Armenia – and often we do this whether we are Diasporan or Hayastantsi.

But do we realize that what we are doing is, in eyes of the world, quite bizarre? Do we realize that we are walking anachronisms? Does it occur to us that with a free and independent Republic of Armenia, which has developed its own modern culture and lifestyle for the past 200 years quite independently of us, that very few people aside from Diasporan Armenians care about what happens to Western Armenian language, music, cuisine, and culture? Does it occur to us that we are walking remnants? That if we stop speaking Western Armenian, the language will die. That if we stop dancing the “Tamzara,” the dance will die. That if we stop

whole picture? Why don’t we all just give up and speak Eastern Armenian? Why don’t we either move to Armenia, or give up the fight? Why don’t we forget about that music with the oud and clarinet? Why do we cling to this valley surrounded by three mountains, a valley we are never going back to?

My great-grandfather Nushan Hovsepien was born in that valley. His brother Krikor was a student of Tulgadintsi. His son, my grandfather Peter, loved Armenian music to his dying day, asking me to play my oud for him when I saw him just before he died. My mother, Peter’s daughter Patricia, raised me to be loyal to God first and my community, the Armenian community, second. Just like a good Armenian. These people were not and are not crazy. They were not rabid nationalists. This was just their reality. They easily connected who and what they were with Armenia as they knew it, as my mother knew it when she visited in 1976. But they weren’t from modern Armenia. They were cut from the cloth of Kharpert. Everything they did was dictated by where their ancestors came from. Being Armenian was something taught by their grandparents, not learned in Sunday School, or in a youth group, or through a book, or through a trip to Armenia. One hundred years later, they were still a walking anachronism – a group of people who were really from Kharpert (circa 1905), but who just happened to be living in 21st century Metro Detroit.

And the same can be said for my dad’s family. And the families of so many of my friends. When I moved to Chicago, a woman at my new church, who knew my mother and father, saw me helping out in the kitchen and said to me “you could never not be who you are, could you?” No, I couldn’t. And neither could they. And if that means we are going to walk around for the rest of our lives eating a cuisine, playing a style of music, and attempting to speak a language that is tied to a group of remote valleys in a distant part of the world, because of a historical connection that most Americans would laugh at us for trying to maintain – I say, let them laugh. We may seem funny to some, but we can never not be who we are.

## Documentary Slated for Arpa, Pomegranate Film Festivals, Wins ImpactDOCS Award

FILM, from page 12

buried stories of the forbidden past. He is consumed with finding and giving voice to the ruins before they disappear entirely. She is determined to come face to face with the ominous past, lifting long-silenced stories out of oblivion and people out of shadows as she reaches for home. Together, they reveal “The Hidden Map.”

Active in the American-Armenian community since her youth, Ani Hovannisian Kevorkian was an anchor and reporter at TeleNayiri and Horizon Armenian Television in Los Angeles for more than a decade. She has traveled to present-day Armenia since childhood, and seven years ago, rooted in the stories of her genocide-survivor grandparents and their entire generation, and shaped by the lifelong dedication of her own parents, Ani embarked on the first of several journeys into the historic Armenian homeland, where she continues to document living history through the stories of the land and the people.

“The Hidden Map” will be featured at the Arpa Film Festival at the historic American Legion theater in Hollywood on Saturday,



Steven Sim and Ani Hovannisian

November 9, at 3:15 p.m.

Hovannisian’s film will be shown at the Pomegranate Film Festival in Toronto on Sunday, November 17, at 1 p.m. followed by a discussion with the filmmaker.

Festival and film information, trailer and tickets are available at: <http://www.arpafilmfestival.com/documentary-film-the-hidden-map-at-2019-arpa-iff/> and <http://pomegranatefilmfestival.com/films/the-hidden-map/>.





## ARTS &amp; LIVING



## 'Gorky's Dream Garden' in New York

NEWARK, N.J. – The artist Arshile Gorky's life was transformed into a musical theater opera called "Gorky's Dream Garden" by composer Michelle Ekizian. It was performed on September 7 at the

Newark Museum of Art to an audience full of artists and intellectuals from New York and New Jersey.

**By Hagop Vartivarian**

Among the performers were Brent Barrett, in the role of Gorky; Karen Lubeck as Gorky's talented wife; mezzo soprano Hasmik Mekenejian as the ghost of Gorky's dead mother, Shoushan; Adela Maria Bolet as Gorky's sister, Vartoosh; and actor John Sannuto, as the memorializer of Gorky's art. The members of the Motion Dance Theater created moving scenes throughout the performance, accompanied by music.

The composer Ekizian has worked on this project for more than 10 years. It is set in an era of American society which required immigrants to assimilate culturally. This was not an easy situation for

Gorky, especially from his creation of his dream world in 1939 to 1948, and on occasion he would dream of his ancestral home and village, in its simplicity, and its apricot trees.

It was pleasant to hear in the musical sections of the opera, here and there, Armenian melodies which remind us of our recent past, such as in the Lullaby. Gorky, this survivor of the Armenian nation, managed to impose his creations on the world with the art he inherited from his people.

This reminds me of a beautiful day many years ago, when art critic Shahen Khachaturian, arriving from Yerevan, asked me to take him to the Newark train station, where Gorky had created a large mural on one of its walls. This was the first time I had communed with Gorky's art, and afterwards, each time I visited New York's art museums I went to see his works.

Michelle Ekizian should be congratulated on her great creative achievement.

*(Translated from the Armenian)*

## 'No Place Like Home' Topic of Lecture with Aysenur Korkmaz

FRESNO – Aysenur Korkmaz, from the University of Amsterdam, will present a talk "No Place Like Home: Ergir and the Ex-Ottoman Armenians in Soviet Armenia" at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 30, in the University Business Center, Alice Peters Auditorium, at Fresno State.

The presentation is part of the Armenian Studies Program Fall 2019 Lecture Series and is supported by the Clara Bousian Bedrosian Fund.

This talk explores spatial attachments among the ex-Ottoman Armenians who survived the Armenian genocide and settled in their 'new homeland', Soviet Armenia. It addresses the question of how the refugees dealt with loss and displacement and reflected on their former hometowns, referred to as "Ergir," a spatial construct denoting a symbolic "Armenian homeland" or a "local homeland" in Anatolia.

Korkmaz argues that the refugees conceptualized Ergir not only in relation to their expulsion but also the socio-political factors that influenced them in Soviet Armenia in three periods. The first era of reflection on Ergir was the 1920s and 1930s, replete with nostalgic sentiments. The second was the suppression of the theme of Ergir, between 1936-1960, particularly during political crackdowns in Stalin's era. The third period saw the revival of Ergir and marked a new phase in the conceptualizations of 'homeland' in which the displacement from Anatolia in 1915-1916 and the Stalinist purges have been enmeshed into one tragedy of the ex-Ottoman Armenians.



Aysenur Korkmaz

Korkmaz is a PhD researcher at the University of Amsterdam in European Studies. She earned her master's degree at Central European University in Nationalism Studies with honors. Her main areas of interest are the late Ottoman Empire, Soviet Armenia, as well as anthropological concepts of homeland, sacralization, and materiality. She has published several articles on the Hamidian Massacres, and the lives of Ottoman Armenian intellectuals in the nineteenth century, and the Armenian genocide. Korkmaz's current doctoral research explores the post-genocide articulations of the Armenian homeland (Ergir), through materiality and rituals.

The lecture is free and open to the public.

# Recipe

## Guest Recipe



*by Christine Vartanian Datian*

### Vanetzi Ashkile (Spinach Soup)

#### INGREDIENTS

2 lbs. stew meat (beef or lamb)  
2 large cloves garlic, chopped  
1 large onion, sliced  
1 small can tomato sauce  
3-4 cups chicken or vegetable broth or water  
1/2 cup zezads (also known as wheat berries or whole wheat kernels)  
2 large carrots, diced  
1 medium bunch green onions, chopped  
1 medium bunch parsley, chopped  
1 small bunch cilantro, chopped (optional)  
Salt, pepper, to taste  
2 medium bunches fresh spinach, washed, chopped  
Juice of 1 large lemon or 1/2 pound rhubarb, chopped  
4 medium eggs, optional  
1/2 cube butter or 1/4 cup olive oil, to taste

#### PREPARATION

Brown stew meat in a large pot in butter or olive oil, tossing. Add the onions and garlic, and sauté until onions are translucent; braise for about one hour, tossing occasionally.

Add the tomato sauce, broth or water, zezads, carrots, green onions, parsley, cilantro, and seasonings, and bring to a full boil. Stir, reduce heat, and simmer for 25-35 minutes until zezads is tender.

Add the spinach and lemon juice or rhubarb. Add more broth or water, if desired, to make a stew-like consistency. Simmer for 10 minutes or until spinach is cooked. (Optional, break in the eggs and steam for a few minutes.)

Serves 4.



\*This 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. To order, please call or contact: Nazik Arisian Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church  
2226 Ventura St., Fresno, CA 93721(559) 486-1141 (office)

## Diocese Celebrates the Heritage of Sacred Music

DIOCESE, from page 12

Lake Michigan shoreline with its vista of downtown Chicago.

Saturday's schedule concluded with the screening of "Singing in Exile," a documentary about a vanishing aspect of liturgical singing. It was followed by a discussion session with Aram Kerovpyan, director of the Akn Choir featured in the film, who answered audience questions via Skype.

The culmination of the festival came Sunday morning, as Findikyan celebrated badarak with all the festival attendees participating. Fellowship afterwards gave everyone a final chance to enjoy each other's company before returning home.

"People were very excited after the festival," said Khoja-Eynatyan. "And they were eager to have more gatherings like this. We need to consider responding to that hunger, perhaps holding these festivals periodically in the Diocesan regions."

"No matter where in the Diocese – or the world – they live, Armenian altar servers and choir members share something deep and profound in common," observed the Primate.

"Our sacred music is a force that binds us, elevates us, summons us closer to our Lord," he said. "This excellent festival was an important way to acknowledge the vital role played by these servants of the church, and to encourage others to join them."





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

**October 26 – West Coast Premiere of Armenian National Institute (ANI) Exhibition titled “The Lifesavers: American Humanitarianism and YMCA Philanthropy in Armenia 1918-1920”** at California State University, Northridge (CSUN) West Gallery (18111 Nordhoff St, Northridge, CA 91325). Exhibition opening is on Saturday, October 26 from 3-5pm, and the exhibit will be available for the public until Thursday, November 7. \$8 parking at Lot E6. For media inquiries or for group reservations to schedule a guided tour of the exhibition, please contact: Mihran Toumajan at [mihran@aaainc.org](mailto:mihran@aaainc.org) or (818) 291-6466.

**NOVEMBER 23 — 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, 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, a 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](mailto:info@eyecareproject.com) or visit [eyecareproject.com/gala](http://eyecareproject.com/gala)

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

Union of Armenia and Composer Maestro Konstantin Petrosian. Members free. Non-members free with \$15 Museum admission.

**NOVEMBER 1-2 — 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 7 — Lecture Series: Lives of the Desert Fathers and the history of Armenian manuscript production** with Earnestine Qiu 6:30 p.m. reception, 7 p.m. lecture at the Armenian Museum of America Adele & Haig Der Manuelian galleries, 3rd floor, 65 Main Street, Watertown. Discussion of the illuminated fifteenth-century manuscript of the Lives of the Desert Fathers (Jerusalem, Armenian Patriarchate, MS 285). This work was produced in Crimea and belongs to a long textual tradition. However, despite its significance as a rare and early example of an illustrated version of the text, Jerusalem 285 has received very little art historical attention. In addition to its aesthetic value, the quality and production of this manuscript provide a glimpse into the vibrant Armenian community present in fifteenth-century Crimea. Furthermore, the afterlife of Jerusalem 285 testifies to the rich and complex history of Armenian manuscript production. Free to the public. (The museum’s elevator is in the process of being upgraded and is currently out of service.)

**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](http://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, honoring Carolann Najarian,** MD with AWWA Founders Humanitarian Award on Saturday, 12 to 4 p.m. at Belmont Country Club, 181 Winter St., Belmont. Tickets may be purchased online at [www.eventbrite.com/d/ma-boston/awwa/](http://www.eventbrite.com/d/ma-boston/awwa/) or by contacting Stephanie Ciccolo at [sciccolo@armenain-nursing.com](mailto:sciccolo@armenain-nursing.com) or 617-522-2600 ext. 101, Complimentary valet parking available.

**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 10 — Second Sundays! Traditional Armenian**

Dance Lessons. 2-4 pm at the 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 in our staple program of the Second Sundays Cultural Series! 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 \$15. Register online or call Education Coordinator, Garin Habeshian at 617.926.2562 Ext. 103 today! For more information visit: <https://www.armenianmuseum.org/classes>

**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...

**NOVEMBER 21 — Third Thursdays! Classic Groove with special guest, John Berberian on Oud,** 7 p.m. reception, 7:30 p.m., concert at the Armenian Museum of America Adele & Haig Der Manuelian galleries, 3rd floor, 65 Main Street, Watertown. Classic Groove draws on the versatility of its members to perform a diverse mix of music for all occasions. Classic Groove’s repertoire ranges from R&B to Top 40, Smooth Jazz, Latin, Country, Swing, Middle Eastern, show tunes, male and female duets, Blues, and Motown. They are thrilled to have a special guest musician, John Berberian on the oud for this performance! This performance was made possible thanks to the Dadourian Foundation. Members free. Non-members \$15. (The museum’s elevator is in the process of being upgraded and is currently out of service.)

**NOVEMBER 22 and 23 — Saints Vartanantz Armenian Church, Annual Food Festival and Bazaar,** 180 Old Westford Rd., Chelmsford. Food and Pastries, and Vendors, Friday, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Live Armenian Music and Dancing, Friday – 6 to 8 p.m. Narrated Slide presentation about Sts. Vartanantz Church history followed by a Sanctuary Tour – Saturday, 11 a.m. Tavloo Tournament - Saturday, 2 p.m. For information, please call 978-256-7234. Also, possible to include the following picture and short article on the bazaar.

**NOVEMBER 24 — Second Sundays Cultural Series: Painting Mt. Ararat. 2-4 pm** at the Armenian Museum of America Adele & Haig Der Manuelian galleries, 3rd floor, 65 Main Street, Watertown. Sunday. Led by Artist-in-Residence Arevik Tserunyan, attendees will learn about artist Martiros Saryan and his depiction of Mt. Ararat to guide their own recreation. Members \$28. Non-members \$35. To register, call Education Coordinator, Garin Habeshian at 617- 926-2562, ext. 103 or email at [ghabeshian@armenianmuseum.org](mailto:ghabeshian@armenianmuseum.org). Limit 12 per class. (The Museum’s elevator is in the process of being upgraded and is currently out of service.) For more information visit: <https://www.armenianmuseum.org/classes>

**DECEMBER 1 — A cappella Christmas Concert by Boston Jazz Voices to Benefit the Armenia Tree Project.** 5 p.m. at the Jenks Center, 109 Skillings Road, Winchester. The venue has plenty of free parking. Event will feature an a cappella performance, refreshments, raffle, and silent auction. Tickets are \$30 each and a family four-pack of tickets is available for \$100. Tickets available via Eventbrite at [www.armeniatree.org/acappella](http://www.armeniatree.org/acappella)

**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 8 — Candlelit Labyrinth Walk: In Peace & Harmony** “Boston’s Newest Holiday Tradition.” Sunday, 4:30-5:30 p.m., Armenian Heritage Park on The Greenway, Boston. Meet & Greet. Celebrate. Walk the Candlelit Labyrinth. Tie a Ribbon with Your Wish on the Wishing Tree. Enjoy Hot Chocolate & Luscious Cookies. RSVP appreciated [hello@ArmenianHeritagePark.org](mailto:hello@ArmenianHeritagePark.org)

**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](mailto:office@htaac.org).





## ARTS &amp; LIVING

# Teen Pianist Eva Gevorgyan Delights Boston YerazArt Audience

PIANIST, from page 1

She was modest and charming, and only up close did one realize her extreme youth. From afar, with her glamorous red sparkling gown and utter dedication, she could have been mistaken for someone a couple of decades older.

Gevorgyan played straight for an hour, changing her tempo and touch for the various pieces. In fact, her performance elicited sustained applause and even a standing ovation.

Both the members of YerazArt and the 200 or so in the audience were delighted and enchanted by the young performer.

Yerazart Co-Chair Anna Afeyan expressed her delight with the young performer. "She is an up-and-coming star. She has amazing stage presence and her musicality is remarkable for her age," Afeyan said. "I got so emotionally

Festekjian and Anna Afeyan, "Funds raised will benefit our various programs, including YerazArt Scholarships for masterclasses, international education and competitions, our Instrument Donation Program which focuses on carefully selected rare instruments (mainly wind and brass), YerazArt Summer School and our newly established Young Artists Program."

They added, "We hope to get more people to join and support YerazArt to make it possible to nurture more young musicians from Armenia. Our vision is to expand our support to young musicians as we help them grow artistically and professionally. Whether they join the local Armenian musical stage or achieve stardom on the global stage, we feel we would have played a role in their success and helped them reach for their Yeraz (dream)."

Seraderian thanked the Afeyans and the Festekjians for co-founding YerazArt. Now, she said, "we represent Armenia on the global stage."

Arman Padaryan, country director for YerazArt in Armenia, thanked those attending and said that because of YerazArt, many students participate in master classes, thus helping their future prospects in the music industry.

He also said YerazArt has provided many music students in Armenia with instruments, particularly wind instruments.

"It is a relatively small organization that makes a big difference," he said. YerazArt in recent years has been focusing more on educational programs in Armenia and less on concert tours, resulting in a better use of resources. In previous years, talented young performers were brought to the US for exposure to various top performers, teachers and conservatories. "This has proven a more impactful use of our resources," the board said.



Eva Gevorgyan performing at the First Church in Boston

taken by her."

Afeyan added said after the concert, "it is worthwhile to be engaged in such an organization. It is our only fundraiser."

The program raised \$40,000.

Gevorgyan is one of the performers who has been helped by YerazArt, she added. She was part of the Young Artist program and played with the Armenian National Philharmonic.

According to a joint statement by event chair Seza Seraderian and YerazArt Co-Chairs Nina



From left, Sylvie Zakarian, Nicole Babikian Hajjar, Eva Gevorgyan, Arman Padaryan, Nina Festekjian, Ani Stepanian, Seza Seraderian, Anna Afeyan and Piruz Bogossian

After the recital Gevorgyan said she was happy with how it went. She noted she loved the "very deep and challenging" pieces by Scriabin (Two Poems, Three Preludes and Valse).

And such musicality and precision don't come easy; Gevorgyan noted that she practices about six to seven hours a day.

She has received dozens of first prizes, including from the Cleveland International

Piano Competition for Young Artists, the Grand Piano International Competition (Russia), the Robert Schumann Piano Competition (Germany), T. Amirejibi International Piano Competition (Georgia) as well as several other Competitions in Italy, Poland and Portugal.

In addition, she won second prize at the Cliburn International Junior Piano Competition in Dallas in June.

Gevorgyan was born in Moscow to an Armenian father and Russian mother. She has received a scholarship from the International Academy of Music in Lichtenstein. In addition, she has performed in many festivals, including Verbier and VP Bank Classic in Switzerland, Duszynski International Chopin Piano Festival in Poland, Perugia and Ferrara Piano Festivals in Italy and many others across Europe.

She has also performed with the Dallas Symphony, State Academic Symphony Orchestra of Russia, among others.

A Champagne reception featuring food from Nina Festekjian's anoush'ella restaurant followed.

For more information on YerazArt and their activities, visit [yerazart.org](http://yerazart.org).



From left, Noubar Afeyan, Eva Gevorgyan and Raffi Festekjian

## CALENDAR

### MASSACHUSETTS

**DECEMBER 31 — Sayat Nova Dance Company of Boston invites the community to welcome the New Year together,** at its New Year's Dinner-Dance celebration. St. James Church's Charles Mosesian Center/Keljik Hall, 465 Mt. Auburn Street, Watertown. Entertainment will be provided by popular singer Arabo Ispiryan and his band from Armenia, and community's very own DJ Rams! Cocktail hour is at 7 pm, with dinner served promptly at 8 pm. And of course, there'll be dancing 'til 2am! Donation: Adult - \$125; children (5-12): \$75 For tickets please call Alina Ashjian (617) 852-1816 or Mike Demirchian (617) 240-8266 or go online [SNDNYE2020.eventbrite.com](http://SNDNYE2020.eventbrite.com) Tickets are advance purchase only.

### MICHIGAN

**OCTOBER 26 — Kef Time Keghi IV 6:30 p.m. Saturday, at St John Armenian Cultural Hall, Southfield,** headlined with Traditional Keghetzi Pagharch feast, full buffet dinner with dancing, music by the Keghi All-Star Armenian Band. Reservations call Laura Negosian Lucassian at 248-376-3794 or email at [Lucassian@TBEonline.org](mailto:Lucassian@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

**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, 111 West 60th St. N.Y., N.Y. 10023-1402 — 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. For information — [Takosh@aol.com](mailto:Takosh@aol.com) Book sales/signing following the presentation. All proceeds from the sale of the books will be donated to St. Nersess Armenian Seminary.

**NOVEMBER 17 and 24 — Art show** sponsored by St.

**Gregory Enlightener Armenain Church of White Plains.** Two Sundays, 12-12.30, Creative art by five local artists for viewing and purchase. 1131 North St., White Plains.

### RHODE ISLAND

**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](http://www.ArmenianFoodFairRI.com)

**NOVEMBER 17 — Armenian Historical Association of Rhode Island presents Ruth Thomasian,** Founder and President of Project Save Armenian Photograph Archives, Inc. Program titled "A Look at Ourselves: Armenians through the Camera's Eye." Sunday. Refreshments at 12:30 pm Lecture 1:00 pm. AHARI located at 245 Waterman Street, 5th floor conference room Providence. The AHARI Museum will be open from 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. Everyone is invited to bring family photos for Ruth's "Antiques Road Show" evaluation after the presentation. [info@armenianhistorical-ri.org](mailto:info@armenianhistorical-ri.org)

**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

# Pan-Turkism on the March

By Edmond Y. Azadian

Turkey was the beneficiary of pre-Soviet-era turmoil in the Caucasus, signing the Treaty of Kars of 1923; it continues to benefit also during the realignment of powers in the post-Soviet period. Following the collapse of the Soviet Empire, Ankara rushed into Central Asia, where Enver Pasha had unsuccessfully attempted to create a Turkic empire and revive the caliphate and tried to play the religion card. Different ethnic minorities, which had been educated under an atheistic regime, did not take the bait, however, despite the fact that Turkey invested millions in building mosques and religious madrasas.

Ever since, Turkey has found a more effective means to create a zone of influence in the region, and that is the common language; “Six States and One Nation” is the motto at this time.

Some historians and pundits had been dismissive of concerns that Turkey may indeed pursue such a plan. But a recent conference in Baku, bringing all Central Asian nations together, bound linguistically, is the proof of that plan.

Very little, if anything, was heard from China, which is at odds with Turkey over the former’s treatment of its Muslim Uyghur minority population in its Xinjiang Province. It turns out that the revival of the Turkic dream not only affects China, but also Armenia, among other nations.

Fresh from his incursion into the Syrian territory, Turkey’s President Recep Tayyip Erdogan rushed to Baku last week to take part in the Conference of the Turkic Nations. What happened during the deliberations of that conference cannot be underestimated by Armenia and Armenians around the world;

had claimed for Turkey “the lost territories” in Iraq and elsewhere; today, Mr. Erdogan is trumpeting the same idea.

In the first place, Mr. Erdogan is very uncomfortable with the fact that the Aegean Islands on Turkey’s littoral were ceded to Greece. These have led to numerous military skirmishes over those islands, between the Turkish and Greek air forces, who both are fellow NATO members.

During the 1974 aggression titled “Operation Attila,” led by Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit, Turkey occupied 38 percent of Cyprus, which had been an Ottoman holding until 1878 when British Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli brought it under his rule in exchange for fending off Russian forces from the warm waters of the Straits.

Turkey has also stationed its forces on Iraqi territory, using a number of excuses and it is anyone’s guess if Ankara will move out its forces.

Today, a security zone has been carved out on the southeastern region of Syria, from where the indigenous Kurdish people are being ousted and where President Donald Trump has decided to keep token US forces to guard the oil wells, no one knows at whose expense.

To support his political and territorial ambitions, President Erdogan is clamoring to acquire nuclear weapons, to become a major menace in the region.

The New York Times, in a dispatch from Washington, says, “Turkey’s President, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, wants more than control over a wide swath of Syria, along his country’s border. He says he wants the Bomb. With Turkey now in open confrontation with NATO allies, having gambled and won a bet that it could conduct a military incursion into Syria and get away with it, Erdogan’s threat takes a new meaning. If the United

States could not prevent the Turkish leader from routing the Kurdish allies, how can it stop him from building a nuclear weapon or following Iran in gathering the technology to do so?”

Reading further down in the dispatch, one can realize that Turkey technically and virtually has a nuclear arsenal at its disposal. “There is another element to this ambiguous atomic mix: The presence of roughly 50 American nuclear weapons, stored on Turkish soil. The United States had never openly acknowledged their existence, until Wednesday, when Mr. Trump did exactly that.”

Answering a question about how safe the control of those weapons are, the writer responds: “But not everyone is so confident, because the air base belongs to the Turkish government. If relations with Turkey deteriorated, the American access to that base is not assured.”

Turkey has already carved a security zone 444 kilometers long and 20 kilometers deep in Syria. The original plan was 500 kilometers with 30 kilometers deep. If history is any proof, no power can dislodge Turkey from that area.

Turkey already occupies an entire province, formerly Alexandretta, which was ceded by the French colonial rule to Turkey in 1939 and has renamed it as Hatay.

If Turkey has bullied Syria, Iraq, Greece and Cyprus, snatching territories from them, certainly Armenia is no match for it. Analyst Karen Kareyan writes in Tert.am: “Today the prevailing opinion is that it is important for our

borders with Turkey to be protected by Russian forces and the Russian base on our territory. That is justified and serves Armenia’s interests. Turkey has been ignoring condemnations and world public opinion when committing military aggressions against its neighbors. What guarantees do we have that the same could not happen to Armenia, when Turkey expresses its willingness to cooperate with Azerbaijan and liberate Artsakh?”

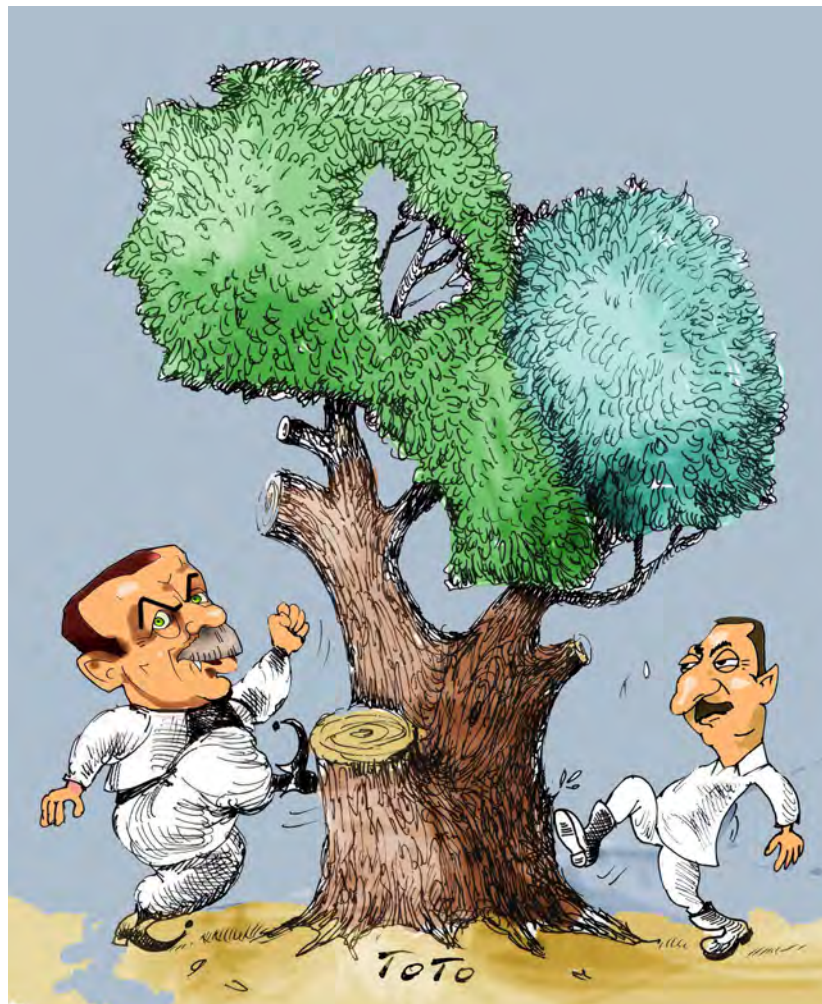
Then he writes about Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan’s political conversion, stating, “We have not forgotten Pashinyan’s boasting that he does not bow to Moscow. But fortunately, he visited Moscow and he became more Catholic than the Pope.”

Indeed, even if Moscow one day fails to defend Armenia, its military base in Gyumri continues to serve as a deterrent against Turkish aggression.

The Kremlin has built its military base out of self-interest, and not based on Armenian-Russian historic friendship or charity. Russia is projecting its power from that base into the region and well beyond, in the Middle East.

President Aliyev had made the thrust of his speech of Turkic nations in Baku the case of Zangezur, complaining that

*continued on next page*



in his speech at that conference, Azeri President Ilham Aliyev raised a fundamental issue, blaming Armenia for interrupting the contiguous territory of the Turkic nations by having Zangezur or Syunik, Armenia’s southern-most province.

Some analysts took note of this dangerous development, while Armenia, with its political and legal establishment are engaged in score-settling with the representatives of the former regime.

Aliyev’s speech is the sequel of a policy which he has been pursuing deliberately; that policy has to be analyzed within the context of Turkey’s territorial ambitions.

With the head of the most powerful nation in the globe “generously” donating the Golan Heights to Israel and another chunk of Syria to Turkey as a security zone, the game has become too dangerous to ignore.

When Baku and Ankara have set their eyes on Central Asian lands, President Erdogan’s attempts to revise the Lausanne Treaty of 1923 becomes a security threat to its neighbors. As we know, Lausanne had dismembered the Ottoman territory to carve out the modern Republic of Turkey. The Turkish leaders, deep down, have never come to terms with the deal. Once upon a time, it was former Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu who

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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

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Telephone: 617-924-4420

FAX: 617-924-2887

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

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

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

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**Baikar Association, Inc.**

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## COMMENTARY



## My Turn

By Harut Sassounian

## A Declassified Top Secret CIA Report On the Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict

A 48-page Central Intelligence Agency Top Secret Report, prepared in August 1988 and made public in 2012 with some deletions, is titled “Unrest in the Caucasus and the Challenge of Nationalism.” Despite the passage of time, the Report includes an interesting analysis of the Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh) conflict from the perspective of US intelligence services.

The CIA analyst, in the introduction of his Report, traced the origins of the Artsakh conflict: “Enmity between Armenian and Azeri factions has existed for hundreds of years, and the 1920s settlement subordinating Nagorno-Karabakh – Armenia’s cultural and religious center – to the Azerbaijan Republic has been a continual, albeit long-muted, source of Armenian frustration and concern. Azeri animosity toward the Armenians has been intensified by political, economic, and demographic trends that have adversely affected the political status of Azeris and increased the gap in living standards between Azerbaijan and Armenia. In particular, the rapid expansion of Azerbaijan’s young adult population has put enormous strain on the Republic’s capacity to provide adequate jobs, housing, and education. Azeri frustration has found an outlet in attacks on Armenians.”

The unnamed CIA analyst reported that a split within the Politburo on how to handle the Artsakh crisis made the situation worse. Second Secretary Ligachev and KGB Chief Chebrikov were the hardliners who vehemently opposed the separation of Artsakh from Azerbaijan. They disagreed with Gorbachev’s reforms and blamed foreign powers for inciting unrest inside the Soviet Union.

When two prominent Armenian writers, Silva Kaputikyan and Zori Balayan, met with Gorbachev in Moscow in February 1988, they reported that he was well briefed and assured them that he wanted a “just solution.” He acknowledged “the peaceful nature of the [Armenian] demonstrations and emphasized his personal sympathy with the desire to reunite Nagorno-Karabakh with Armenia....”

Upon the return of the Armenian envoys to Yerevan, in a radio broadcast on February 27, 1988, Kaputikyan called for Armenians to trust Gorbachev. “He knows about and understands our problem and wants to resolve it personally.... We must do our utmost to ensure that no harm” is done to him, Kaputikyan announced.

Regarding Soviet concerns about foreign, particularly Armenian-American interference in domestic Soviet turmoil, the CIA analyst reported: “The recent unrest appears to have made Soviet officials more fearful about the role of foreign actors in the Nagorno-Karabakh problem. Of the approximately 5.5 million people in the world today who speak Armenian, about 60 percent live outside the Soviet Armenian republic, about 1.4 million elsewhere in the USSR, and 2 million abroad. So far, Armenian emigres – most of whom see Turkey much more than Russia as the historic oppressor of their nation – have not been actively involved in pushing for change in the Soviet system or in Soviet policies. Moscow worries that diaspora attitudes could turn sharply critical of the USSR and that Armenians in the United States, particularly, could grow into a powerful anti-Soviet pressure group. Soviet officials are wary of the large concentration of Armenians in California and New York, states with large electoral votes that have been closely contested in previous presidential elections.”

In a footnote at the end of the previous paragraph, the CIA analyst specified that “the United States hosts at least 600,000 Armenians. About 90 percent of America’s Soviet Armenian immigrants came to California. Los Angeles – with 100,000 – has the largest community of Armenians outside Yerevan. The New York City region has about 70,000 Armenians, mostly from Lebanon and Iran.”

The CIA analyst added: “Moscow may be concerned that foreign Armenian terrorist groups like the Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia (ASALA) could turn against Soviet targets – although we have no evidence that this is the case. Hitherto, the USSR has figured very little in

ASALA’s blending of armed struggle with Marxist ideology; the dominant faction of ASALA considers Soviet Armenia as liberated territory and the group concentrates its attacks exclusively on Turkish officials. In fact, ASALA eventually would like to see ‘the Armenian provinces’ now located in Turkey and possibly Iraq [?] reattach themselves to the Soviet Armenian core. Furthermore, ASALA is now in a quiet phase, and its leader was assassinated on 28 April [1988]. Nevertheless, ASALA in early April did send a moderately worded appeal to Gorbachev supporting the reunification of Karabakh with Armenia, while characteristically stressing that Armenia is an integral part of the USSR and seeks only to rectify the border, not to pursue claims against Moscow.”

Finally, the CIA analyst explained the position of Turkey on the Karabakh conflict: “Although the Turkish Government has not explicitly sided with Azerbaijan, Turkey’s fear of resurgent Armenian nationalism makes Ankara sympathetic to Baku. When the crisis broke in February [1988], Turkish Government spokesmen indicated publicly that international agreements entitle Ankara to a voice in the crisis, an apparent reference to the 1921 treaty between the USSR and Turkey that led to the shift of Nagorno-Karabakh and Nakhichevan to Azerbaijan. Turkey no doubt especially feared that transferring Nagorno-Karabakh to Armenia would whet Armenian appetites and would lead to increased pressure to change the status of Nakhichevan and to acquire former Armenian regions in Turkey. Turkish officials probably also noted that some Armenian expansionist demands for a ‘Greater Armenia’ were based on historic claims rather than on the ethnic composition of the affected territories. Thus, some Armenians have demanded the return of Nakhichevan, even though Azeris now greatly outnumber Armenians in this region. Using such historical criteria, could give Armenians a claim even on some border parts of Turkey where only 50,000 Armenians now live.”

The CIA analyst concluded his Report by outlining five options the USSR had for the resolution of the Artsakh conflict:

- 1) “Sticking with the Status Quo”
- 2) “Making Further Economic Concessions” to Armenians
- 3 “Enhancing Autonomy of Nagorno-Karabakh Within Azerbaijan”
- 4) Expanding “Extraterritorial Native Cultural Institutions”
- 5) “Reconfiguration of Nagorno-Karabakh” by splitting it between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

## Pan-Turkism on the March

from previous page

“Zangezur cuts up the Turkic world.”

Commenting about Aliyev’s pitch about the region, Hakob Patalyan, a political analyst, said, “It is not the first time that Aliyev has expressed his ambitions for Zangezur. Even if Aliyev kept silent, Armenia and Armenians need to worry that Zangezur and Armenia itself will continue to remain a target for the Turkish-Azerbaijani tandem.”

The issue of Zangezur was raised by Aliyev even before this conference; in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, for a recent conference of former Soviet republics. At that meeting, Aliyev blamed the Armenian government for honoring Garegin Njdeh, by erecting his monument in Yerevan. He characterized Njdeh as “a Nazi collaborator” but in fact, Njdeh is historically known as the defender of Zangezur.

Indeed, during the attack of the combined forces of the Bolsheviks and the Turks, in 1920, when the legitimate government lost control of its territory, it was Garegin Njdeh, with his battalion of fedayees who defended Zangezur, eventually integrating it into Armenia. Njdeh remains as the liberator of Zangezur in Armenian history.

But there is also truth to Njdeh’s collaboration with the Nazis and that is corroborated by Maria Zakharova, spokesperson of the Russian Foreign Ministry. Every time Armenian-Russian relations deteriorate, independent from Aliyev’s blame, Ms. Zakharova has asked for the removal of Njdeh’s monument outside the Armavir Armenian Church in Russia.

Armenia is surrounded by hostile nations and it is not in the interest of the government to give in to partisan zeal and allow Njdeh’s controversial monument to create political problems with the neighbors.

Unfortunately, Njdeh and General Dro, the hero of the Battle of Kara Kelisa in May 1918, both collaborated with the Nazis during World War II and we cannot justify nor explain those away.

The French Marshall Philippe Petain, the victor of the Battle of Verdun in 1916, was no less a hero than Njdeh or Dro. But he spoiled his reputation when Germans occupied France during World War II and put him at the head of the Vichy Government. After the war, he received a death sentence as a traitor.

History should be the judge of Petain, Njdeh and Dro, not political expediency.

When Aliyev accused Armenia in Ashgabat for honoring a Nazi collaborator, Prime Minister Pashinyan gave a valiant rebuke which made Armenians proud. He argued that Njdeh was fighting the Turks and that the Armenians fought heroically during the war and sacrificed 300,000 young men and women.

However, the true answer should have been that the Germans formed “national battalions” recruiting the captured Soviet POWs. They formed Russian, Azeri, Belorussian and other “national battalions” tasking them with the responsibility of “liberating” their respective homelands from the Soviet rule.

Thus, technically, all the POWs became Nazi collaborators.

Zangezur is an important strategic territory for Armenia and Azerbaijan. That is why all Armenians were up in arms when Robert Kocharyan almost gave the region of Meghri, on the southern tip of Zangezur at the Key West summit to Heydar Aliyev, the current Azeri president’s father, in exchange for Artsakh.

Turkey’s power is gaining momentum every day and Azerbaijan is deriving its intransigence from Turkey’s aggressive posture.

The Alliance of Turkic Nations not only threatens Armenia but also Russia and China, and that is where all the national interests converge.

## Kayseri Conference by Dink Foundation Cancelled

(The following open letter was issued by the Hrant Dink Foundation, based in Istanbul, this past week.)

We could not understand the reason why the conference on “Social, Cultural and Economic History of Kayseri and the Region” that we were going to organize on October 18 and 19 at the Hrant Dink Foundation, Havak Hall has been banned.

As is known to all, the conference, which was initially planned to take place in Kayseri was banned due to the interference of the Kayseri Governorship.

Since 2008, the international conference series of the Foundation have contributed to a detailed understanding of the changing social, economic, politic and cultural structure of various cities of Turkey during the 19th and 20th century, and allowed the recent academic researches to be heard internationally. The series have set a precedent for its scientific approach and quality at international level. In the past years, the conference series were organized on Adana, Diyarbakır, Mardin, Van and Izmir. This year, we have chosen Kayseri province as the theme of the conference.

Our main aim was to highlight the multicultural and rich history of Kayseri with an international and prestigious conference and to share our detailed research and publication on the cultural heritage of Kayseri prepared in 2016 with the support of the European Union and the Ministry of EU Affairs (Turkey).

The international scientific committee of the conference has selected the papers of 27 scientists from various cities of Turkey as well as from the United States, France, Greece and Armenia and invited them to Kayseri to present their research during the conference to be held at a hotel on October 18-19, 2019. Moreover, a cultural heritage tour of Kayseri was planned to take place after the conference for the conference participants to witness the rich history of Kayseri first hand.

Yet, as the Kayseri Governorship banned the holding of this scientific conference in Kayseri, our Board of Directors decided to move the conference to Istanbul.

At a time when all the preparations have been made, all speakers from Turkey and all around the world have already arrived in Istanbul for the conference to take place today; on October 17th, Thursday at 17:08, just 16 hours before the conference an official notice of ban was given by the Sisli District Governorship to the Foundation based on the Law No:2911, which does not mention any justification for the ban decision.

The Hrant Dink Foundation was established in 2007 after the assassination of Hrant Dink to continue his dreams, legacy, language and heart. Encouraging dialogue, peace and the culture of empathy has been the main principles of the Foundation and during these 12 years the Foundation has held many workshops and international conferences on culture, history, economy, international relations, education and human rights and published reports regarding their outcome both in Turkish and English.

Since its establishment with a court decision, the Hrant Dink Foundation has been organizing similar conferences for many years which are in line with the articles stated in the charter of the foundation.

Foundations and political parties are outside of the scope of the Law No: 2911 on assemblies see DINK, page 20



# NAASR Will Host Grand Opening of New World Headquarters

OPENING, from page 1

Vartan Gregorian will be present along with the Avedisians, and David Ignatius, Washington Post columnist and novelist, who will be the master of ceremonies for the NAASR Gala the following evening on November 2, which is already sold out.

Also featured at the grand opening will be Ara Krafian, CEO of Symmes, Maini & McKee Associates of Cambridge, the architectural, design and engineering firm for the project; as well as Janet Ceddia, President of Altair Construction of Newton, the general contractor.

“We invite everyone to attend our grand opening,” said NAASR Chairman of the Board Yervant Chekijian, who will serve as master of ceremonies at the opening, which will also include a blessing of the building from local clergy. Many other local and national people of note will be in attendance, and Governor Baker has been invited to speak.

“We are sincerely grateful to all of the extremely generous and talented people who made our vision a reality. This building is NAASR’s gift to future generations,” said Chekijian.

The ribbon cutting will be followed by tours of the building through many of its public spaces, as well as NAASR’s rare book Mardigian Library, one of the top-five Armenian libraries open to the public in the diaspora, with some holdings dating to the 1600s, and rare periodicals dating to the 1800s, as well as the unique personal archives of prominent scholars, early Armenian-Americans, and religious leaders.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has given full support with a capital grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council’s



Rendering of NAASR’s new Vartan Gregorian Building

Cultural Facilities Fund and MassDevelopment of \$225,000 awarded in 2017, for installation of an elevator, other accessibility features, and fire suppression.

## Kayseri Conference by Dink Foundation Cancelled

DINK, from page 19

and demonstrations as stipulated by its article 4. The foundations can carry out any activity, event or meeting which are in line with their charter, subject to the control of the General Directorate of Foundations.

Despite the fact that we have been organizing these conferences on different provinces for many years and that the date of this particular conference has been known since last year, we do believe that banning of the conference through a decision which is against the law, just 16 hours prior to the event, is a significant blow to democracy and science. We have not been able to understand this prohibition which damages the reputation of Kayseri as well as our country outside of Turkey and in scientific circles. We feel very embarrassed on behalf of our country for all of our guests who came from different parts of Turkey and abroad to participate in the conference.

Respectfully yours,  
Hrant Dink Foundation



Michael  
Aram –  
Eternity  
Sculpture –  
Sculpting

## Zoravik Statement on Turkey’s Invasion of Northern Syria

We, Zoravik, a collective of diasporan Armenian activists, express our solidarity with the Kurdish, Armenian, Assyrian and Arab population of Rojava (Northern Syria), and strongly condemn Turkey’s military offensive against them. We equally deplore President Trump’s decision to give Turkey the green light to begin its assault against the SDF, the Kurdish-led forces that defeated ISIS in that region.

As a community of descendants of those who survived a genocide at the hands of the Ottoman Turks, we are outraged by Turkey’s use of force against innocent men, women, and children, which stirs up traumatic memories for all Armenians. The Trump administration is just as liable for these attacks due to its complicity in the atrocities and war crimes that have left scores of civilians dead and wounded.

This autonomous region of Syria (Rojava) has shown the world a locally-powered, bottom-up democracy that values gender equality, environmental sustainability, and pluralistic governance. Letting this model of democracy perish would be a great loss to the Middle East, and to humanity as a whole.

The towns being attacked by the Turkish army are home to a small but ancient Armenian population whose ancestors were massacred by the Turkish regime during the Armenian Genocide of 1915. These Armenians are once again being subjected to the trauma of war, ethnic cleansing, and displacement more than a century later.

We applaud the Republic of Armenia’s condemnation of the Turkish invasion in north-east Syria, share their concern for the plight of ethnic and religious minorities in the region, and support their call for effective international measures to prevent mass atrocities in the occupied areas.

We call on the US government and the world community to condemn Turkey’s unprovoked aggression against Rojava.

Finally, we urge all Armenians to contact their congressional representatives and voice their opposition to Turkey’s invasion of northern Syria, stressing the threat it poses to the safety and security of the civilian population, and to basic democratic values.

We say NO to Turkish aggression against Rojava, NO to ethnic cleansing in Northern Syria, and YES to solidarity between Armenians and Kurds!


In Solidarity,

Zoravik - Armenian Activist Collective  
zoravik@gmail.com  
www.facebook.com/zoravik  
October 14, 2019


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