

# THE ARMENIAN Mirror-Spectator

Volume LXXX, NO. 21, Issue 4614

\$ 2.00

The First English Language Armenian Weekly in the United States Since 1932



## NEWS IN BRIEF

### A Word about This Issue

The *Armenian Mirror-Spectator* is 16 pages this week instead of its usual 20 due to inclement weather. The one-two punch of the first storm of the season December 2-3 cost us much valuable time.

We will be back to our usual number of pages next week.  
Stay safe!

### Lavrov Says NKR Compromise Possible

BAKU (Armenpress) – Russia and Azerbaijan believe that an opportunity for finding compromise exists in the Nagorno Karabakh conflict settlement issue, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said on December 3 in Baku during a joint press conference with his Azerbaijani counterpart Elmar Mammadyarov, according to TASS.

“We have an understanding that there are opportunities for reaching a compromise. This isn’t easy work. This conflict is one of the most protracted ones in the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] territory,” Lavrov said. “The talks of today and yesterday allowed us to better understand how to try to move forward. I hope there will be results,” he said.

On December 2, Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev said during a meeting with Lavrov that Azerbaijan doesn’t see progress in the Karabakh conflict settlement issue.

### Armenia Is Top Travel Destination

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – Armenia is once again among the top 2020 tourism destinations, this time in *Condé Nast Traveler* luxury magazine’s “20 Best Places to Go in 2020” article.

According to *Condé Nast Traveler*, “Armenia is on its way to being one of next year’s most talked-about destinations, and there’s more to the tiny Caucasus nation than what makes the nightly news (or Kim Kardashian’s semi-regular visits). Ryanair will begin flying to Armenia in 2020, marking the first time a low-cost airline has serviced the country and ringing in a new era for travel there,” the article suggests.

The writer suggests many sights in Yerevan and outside the capital, adding, “The country’s natural wonders are perhaps even more arresting than its man-made ones. Lake Sevan, which engulfs 16 percent of the country, is a magnificent sight against the rugged foothills of the Caucasus Mountains and makes for refreshing dips during the scorching summer months. Off its northern tip is Dilijan National Park, a lush wooded reserve home to lynx, bears, and wolves.”

Among the other top destinations are Bahia, Brazil; Botswana’s Salt Pans; the Canadian Arctic; Canary Islands, Spain; Copenhagen; Dominica; Dubai; El Chaltén, Argentina; Guyana and others.

## INSIDE

### Armenian Studies in Poland

Page 3

### INDEX

Arts and Living . . . . .	10
Armenia . . . . .	2
Community News. . . . .	4
Editorial . . . . .	14
International . . . . .	3



A screenshot of the Hayastan All-Armenian Fund telethon

### \$10 Million Raised By Hayastan All-Armenian Fund

LOS ANGELES (RFE/RL) – In an annual telethon broadcast from Yerevan and Los Angeles on Thanksgiving, the Hayastan All-Armenian Fund raised about \$10 million that will be spent on fresh infrastructure projects in Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia.

They are designed to improve water supplies and expand the use of solar power in Karabakh and Armenia’s northern Shirak, see TELETHON, page 16

### Dr. Yervant Terzian, Acclaimed Astronomer at Cornell University, Dies

ITHACA, N.Y. – Yervant Terzian, the Tish Distinguished University Professor Emeritus in the Department of Astronomy at Cornell University, died on November 25, after a long illness.

He made major contributions to the field of astronomy as a researcher, an inspired teacher and a gifted administrator. He had a tremendous capability to infect both students and everyone he knew or met with the excitement for astronomy that he personally felt.

Terzian was born on Thursday, February 9, 1939 in Alexandria, Egypt. It was a cool early spring day, with rain transitioning from rain to drizzle and cumulus clouds against the Mediterranean sky. He was the son of a small merchant, Bedros Terzian, who as a child had fled the Armenian Genocide, and his wife, Maria (Kyriakaki) Terzian, the daughter of a fisherman from



one of the smallest and most remote Greek islands. By dint of his intelligence, determination, skillfulness and a formidable sense of duty and purpose, he lived an improbable life. Born into a family of modest means,

an ethnic minority in an occupied former colony of a declining empire, he channeled his intense passion for knowledge and education to become a leader in the field of radio astronomy and the broader field of astrophysics, and to build up Cornell University’s strong but small Astronomy Department into one of the most highly regarded in the world.

Terzian spent his youth in Alexandria and Cairo. At a young age he determined to become an astronomer and walked from his home on Ibrahim Pasha Road to the Cairo see TERZIAN, page 16

### Bishop Sahak Mashalian Discusses Upcoming Patriarchal Election in Istanbul, Opens New York Aghtamar Exhibit

By Florence Avakian  
Special to the Mirror-Spectator

NEW YORK –It was a unique and unusual event at a top gallery in New York’s art district. Bishop Sahak Mashalian, Locum Tenens of the Armenian Patriarchate of Istanbul, and one of two candidates for the position of patriarch, was in New York with a delegation of Armenian church and community leaders from Istanbul to open the photographic exhibition of the iconic Aghtamar (Holy Cross) Church on the picturesque shores of Lake Van.

The trip was organized and hosted by the Turkish Presidency which has embarked on a program to exhibit worldwide some of the ancient Christian churches in Anatolia.

Aghtamar was chosen as the first. There is no doubt that Turkey is sharing these treasures in order to present a more positive view of itself internationally, and to boost its tourism industry.

see MASHALIAN, page 11



Kyaw Hla Aung watering the tree he planted at the Tsitsernakaberd Genocide memorial

### Rohingya Human Rights Activist and 2018 Aurora Prize Laureate Kyaw Hla Aung Honored in Yerevan

YEREVAN – Despite the tragic nature of its focus, this year’s Aurora Forum had many uplifting and even joyful moments. One took place on October 16 at the bright and modern-looking Kamar Business Center, where a new postage stamp by Armenia’s official postal operator HayPost featuring Kyaw Hla Aung, the 2018 Aurora Prize Laureate, was cancelled with the participation of Aung, Minister of High Tech Industry Hakob Arshakyan, 2017 Aurora Prize

Laureate and chair of the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative Dr. Tom Catena, HayPost Executive Board member Arayik Abrahamyan, and President of the Union of Philatelists of Armenia Hovik Musayelyan.

This was the third year that cooperation among the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative, Haypost, and the Ministry of High-Tech Industry of the Republic of Armenia has led to the issuance of a commemorative stamp. Attached to it is a see AURORA, page 8

By Aram Arkun  
Mirror-Spectator Staff



## ARMENIA

## News From Armenia

## HayPost's New Souvenir Sheet Honors Komitas

YEREVAN (PanARMENIAN.Net) – A souvenir sheet with one stamp dedicated to the theme “Prominent Armenians. 150th anniversary of Komitas” was cancelled and put into circulation by HayPost CJSC on Sunday, December 1.

With the nominal value of 1100 drams, the sheet was authored by designer Gevorg Poghosyan and is printed in France's Cartor printing house with a print-run of 20,000.

The postage stamp itself depicts Komitas (Sghomon Sghomonyan, 1869-1935), the logo of UNESCO as the 150th birthday of Komitas was included in the 2018-2019 UNESCO calendar of renowned people and important events.

The souvenir sheet depicts the Holy Echmiadzin Cathedral as well as the signature of Komitas.

The sheet was cancelled by the Minister of High-Technological Industry Hakob Arshakyan, the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport Arayik Harityunyan, the Chief Executive Officer of HayPost CJSC Haik Avagyan, Bishop Anushavan Zhamkochyan and the President of the Union of Philatelists Hovik Musayelyan.

## Armenians Feel as Safe As Swiss, Gallup Poll Says

YEREVAN (PanARMENIAN.Net) – Armenians and the Swiss said they feel equally safe walking alone in their area at night, according to Gallup's Law and Order Index 2019, with 89 percent of respondents in each country giving a “positive” response.

The report says Armenia has scored 85 points to land in the 11th spot alongside France, Ireland, Japan, Sweden, Myanmar and Saudi Arabia.

Respondents were asked whether they have confidence in the local police force; whether they feel safe walking alone at night; whether they had had money or property stolen and whether they had been assaulted or mugged within the last 12 months.

Gallup compiles the “positive” responses to the questions into the report score for each country. The higher the score, the higher the proportion of the population that reports feeling safe.

## Yerevan Mayor Denies Corruption Claims

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) – Yerevan's Mayor Hayk Marutyan has strongly denied issuing construction permits or giving other favors to businesspeople who have donated garbage trucks and other equipment to the municipal administration.

Marutyan came under opposition and media fire after reluctantly naming last week private firms that donated at least 21 such trucks in the last few months.

It emerged that 14 of them came from a construction firm that secured in March this year the mayor's permission to build a residential complex in a Yerevan suburb. Three other vehicles were made available by a company reportedly controlled by the family of Samvel Aleksanyan, one of Armenia's richest businessmen.

Davit Khazhaky, an opposition member of the city council, claimed on Friday, November 29, that Marutyan legalized on November 4 the unauthorized construction a few years ago of a building formally belonging to Aleksanyan's wife. He said the mayor must be held accountable for this and other “corrupt deals.”

Marutyan rejected the claims in a live video address on Facebook later on Friday. He showed documents purportedly disproving any connection between the donations and any building permissions.

“The city accepts donations from all law-abiding people in the Republic of Armenia, regardless of whether or not they have any relations with the municipality,” the mayor's spokesman, Hakob Karapetyan, insisted on Monday. “It's only natural that some, if not many, of them have because they live and work in this city.”

“There are numerous organizations that have received permits in recent months but have not donated anything to the city,” Karapetyan said.

## Physicists from Armenia Participate in Discovery of Highest-Energy Photons from Gamma-Ray Burst

YEREVAN – Gamma-ray bursts (GRBs) are the most violent explosions in the universe, suddenly appearing in the sky, about once per day. They are thought to result from the collapse of massive stars or the merging of neutron stars in distant galaxies. The first GRB detected by the MAGIC telescopes, known as GRB 190114C, reveals for the first time the highest-energy photons measured from these objects. This ground-breaking achievement by MAGIC provides critical new insight for understanding the physical processes at work in GRBs, which are still mysterious. On January 14, 2019, a GRB was discovered independently by two space satellites: the Neil Gehrels Swift Observatory and the Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope. The event was named GRB 190114C, and within 22 seconds, its coordinates in the sky were distributed as an electronic alert to astronomers worldwide, including the MAGIC Collaboration, which operates two 17m diameter Cherenkov telescopes located in La Palma, Spain. An automatic system processes in real time the GRB alerts from satellite instruments and makes the MAGIC telescopes point rapidly to the sky position of the GRB in just 50 seconds after the beginning of the GRB.

The analysis of the resulting data for the first tens of seconds reveals emission of photons in the afterglow reaching teraelectronvolt (TeV) energies, that is, a million million (10<sup>12</sup>) times more



Prof. Ashot Chilingarian

energetic than visible light, and still a million times more energetic than the gamma rays through which GRBs are detected in satellite detectors. During this time, the emission of TeV photons from GRB 190114C was 100 times more intense than the brightest known steady source at TeV energies, the Crab Nebula. In this way, GRB 190114C became the record setter as the brightest known source of TeV photons. An

extensive campaign of multi-wavelength (MWL) follow-up observations of GRB 190114C ensued by over two dozen observatories and instruments, providing a full observational picture of this GRB from the radio band to TeV energies. In particular, optical observations made a measurement of the distance to GRB 190114C. It was found that this GRB is located in a galaxy from which it took 4.5 billion years for the light to reach the Earth.

“After more than 50 years since

laborations. Initially, the technique of arrays of Imaging Atmospheric Cherenkov Telescopes (IACTs) had been pioneered at Mt. Aragats in the 1980s. A setup was planned around a large cosmic ray array, named ANI. However, due to the collapse of the Soviet Union, construction of the array stopped and two leading physicists, Felix Aharonyan and Razmik Mirzoyan, moved from the Yerevan Physics Institute to Germany. With colleagues from the Max Planck Institutes in Munich and Heidelberg,



Twin MAGIC-Telescopes (Major Atmospheric Gamma-Ray Imaging Cherenkov Telescopes) at La Palma, Canarias

GRBs were first discovered, many of their fundamental aspects still remain mysterious,” says Razmik Mirzoyan, the spokesperson of the MAGIC Collaboration. “The discovery of gamma-ray emission from GRB 190114C in the new, TeV window of the electromagnetic spectrum shows that the GRB explosions are even more powerful than thought before. The wealth of new data on GRB 190114C acquired by MAGIC offer important clues to unravel some of the mysteries concerning the physical processes at work in GRBs”. Two papers in the Nature issue of 21 November describe the detection of the gamma rays up to TeV energies with MAGIC and the indication that inverse Compton scattering is the responsible process at work.

A third paper in the same issue describes the detection of another gamma ray burst with energies above 100 GeV (but below 1 TeV) from GRB 180720B, using the High Energy Stereoscopic System (H.E.S.S.) array of telescopes in Namibia. Although these photons were lower in energy and fewer in number than those observed from GRB 190114C, they were detected from deep in the afterglow phase.

Armenian physicists from the Alikhanian National Lab participated in both the MAGIC and the H.E.S.S. col-

Armenian physicists launched the first system of European ACTs on La Palma, Canary Islands. The IACT technique, and the Armenian design, proved to be very successful and later larger telescopes were commissioned on La Palma (MAGIC) and in Namibia (H.E.S.S.). Sophisticated methods of gamma image selection based on machine learning algorithms were developed at YerPhi by Ashot Chilingarian and for the first time applied to IACT data analysis. Recently a group of young Armenian astrophysicists from the International Center for Relativistic Astrophysics Network (ICRANet-Armenia) joined the MAGIC project. Currently, an international collaboration pursues the Cherenkov Telescope Array (CTA) project, with about a hundred IACTs, that will greatly surpass the capabilities of the existing telescopes.

Thus, the booming field of high-energy astrophysics, with its steady stream of exciting results, is firmly based on important contributions of Armenian scientists. Three papers in one issue of Nature is an exceptional result, of which the gamma ray community, including Armenia, can be very proud.

For more information visit <https://www.mpi-hd.mpg.de/hfm/HESS/pages/about/>.

## Deputy PM Sued for Alleging Corruption Among Anti-Mining Activists

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) – A group of environmentalists have taken legal action against Deputy Prime Minister Tigran Avinyan in response to his claims that some activists have ulterior motives in campaigning against a U.S.-backed gold mining project in Armenia.

Echoing a statement by Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, Avinyan said last month that the campaign is financed by Armenian mining firms seeking to thwart the multimillion-dollar Amulsar project.

A British-American company, Lydian International, started building mining facilities at the Amulsar gold deposit in southeastern Armenia in 2016 after a lengthy licensing process administered by former authorities in Yerevan. The

project was disrupted in June 2018 by several dozen environmentalist and residents of nearby communities blocking all roads leading to Amulsar. The protesters say that gold mining there would cause severe damage to the environment, a claim strongly denied by Lydian.

“There are sincere and honest people who really believe that this project is a disaster,” Avinyan said at an October 22 meeting with members of the Armenian community in Tbilisi. “But there are also people who are directly connected to some mining entrepreneurs operating in Armenia, who have been investing quite serious sums ... in this campaign.”

Responding to that statement, 15

environmental activists and other citizens opposed to the Amulsar project filed a defamation lawsuit against Avinyan this week. A lawyer for the plaintiffs, Gurgen Torosian said they consider the deputy prime minister's claims slanderous and want him to retract them.

One of the plaintiffs, Levon Galstyan of the Armenian Environmental Front, said he and the fellow activists opted for the legal action after Avinyan's office refused to provide explanations demanded by them.

The office declined to comment on the lawsuit on Thursday, saying that it has received no formal notifications from a Yerevan court that will deal with the case.



## INTERNATIONAL

# Komitas Celebrated in Berlin and Halle

By **Armenuhi Drost-Abarjan**

BERLIN – The Mesrob Armenian Studies Center at the Martin Luther University in Halle-Wittenberg celebrated its 20th anniversary in the academic year 2018-2019 with three international conferences, an exhibition on Levon I (see <https://mirror-spectator.com/2019/05/30/levon-i-and-the-kingdom-of-cilicia/>) and two concerts. The festivities concluded in October with an academic conference on “Komitas and his Legacy” on the occasion of the 150th birthday of the Armenian musicologist and composer, a symbolic figure for German-Armenian relations.

The international conference-festival titled “Komitas and his Legacy” on October 8-10 drew 50 guests and speakers from the US, Canada, Armenia, Russia, Ukraine, Croatia, France and Italy. It was a cooperative effort of the Komitas Museum-Institute in Yerevan (Dr. Nikolay Kostandyan/ Prof. Mher Navoyan), the Humboldt University in Berlin (Prof. Sebastian Klotz) and the State Library in Berlin (Meliné Pehlivanian) and took place in Berlin and in Halle (Prof. Klaus Neumann/ Prof. Armenuhi Drost-Abarjan) from October 8 to 10. In the banquet halls of the Humboldt University and the Halle University, high level representatives from the political, cultural and scientific communities in Germany and Armenia participated.

Armenia’s Ambassador to Germany Ashot Smbatyan and the priest of the Armenian Community in Germany Rev. Yeghishe Avetisyan opened the festive event by laying a wreath at the memorial plaque for Komitas at his alma mater in Berlin.

The aim of the conference was to take a new look at Komitas’s life work, by shedding light on those areas in which his work was innovative, including field research, musical ethnology, folk music,

medieval church music, the art of composition and liturgy. In the course of the event, aspects of Armenian music were also considered in the context of other musical traditions. The proceedings of the conference will appear in an anthology in Yerevan.

The program included the official opening of a travelling exhibition on Komitas, at the State Library in Berlin. A concert featuring works by Komitas was sponsored by the German Federal Minister of Foreign Affairs Heiko Maas and the Foreign Minister of the Republic of Armenia Zohrab Mnatsakanyan. Prominent artists who



Dr. Nikolay Kostandyan, left, and Prof. Mher Navoyan

exert his creative capacities.

The conference proceedings in Halle (where Komitas’s teacher Prof. Oskar Fleischer had earned his doctorate) took place on October 9, in an emergency situation due to a terrorist attack against the Jewish synagogue in the city that day. Although complex organizational measures were required to guarantee the security of the international guests, among them the Armenian Minister for Education, Science, Culture and Sports Arayik Harutyunyan, the conference and the final concert in the Händel House, with works by Komitas and his contemporaries, went smoothly and were very



performed were Hasmik Papyan (Vienna), Sergei Khachatryan (Eschborn), Hayk Sukiasyan (Madrid) and the Berlin vocal ensemble under the direction of Prof. Kristian Commichau (Potsdam).

Historian Claude Mutafian (Paris) and psychologist Dr. Rita Soulahian-Kuyumjian (Montreal) chaired a round table discussion on the theme of “Art in Times of Repression.” They considered various hypotheses regarding Komitas’s “silencing” (loss of speech) as well as the therapeutic treatments available to him; a survivor of the Genocide, the artist and scientist suffered a mental breakdown and, for twenty years of his life, was no longer able or willing to

successful. Particularly impressive was the performance of the famous Komitas interpreter Prof. Ruben Dalibaltayan (Zagreb), whose musical fireworks were a worthy tribute to the celebrated Armenian composer.

In her welcoming address, Prof. Valentina Calzolari (Geneva), president of the International Association for Armenian Studies (AIEA), said: “From abroad, I would like to express my heartiest greetings to all participants of this conference, some of whom have travelled from afar, as well as the organizers. I am convinced that this conference, with its modest title, “Komitas and his Legacy,” will lend a new interdisciplinary perspective to many aspects of Komitas’s life and activity, by locating his rich, multifaceted work in its historical and cultural context, and by highlighting his links to Europe and especially Germany, as well as the Ottoman Empire...”

“Since 1998 the Mesrop Center has developed into a privileged place for study of Armenian literature and history, especially literature and religious history in relation to other communities in eastern Christendom. I would like to express my hearty congratulations to Prof. Drost-Abarjan for this important development that she has secured for the center for the years to come. As the only center for Armenian studies in Germany, the Mesrop Armenian Studies Center plays key role in the field of Armenology. I wish the Center a long life, many further activities and international cooperative efforts, in addition to those it has already abundantly nurtured.

“The International Association for Armenian Studies, which I have the honor to chair, expresses special thanks to Prof. Drost-Abarjan and her team for the organization of the next AIEA general conference, which will take place next year, September 2020 in Halle.”

(This text was made available by the author, who is the director of the Mesrob Armenian Studies Center at the Martin Luther University in Halle-Wittenberg. A series of reports on the activities of the Center, including the item on the new center in Poland, will appear in the upcoming issue of the ADK (*Armenische-Deutsche-Korrespondenz*), the journal of the German-Armenian Society. The free translation from the original German is by Muriel Mirak-Weissbach.)

## Armenian Research Center Established in The Polish Academy of Sciences

By **Armenuhi Drost-Abarjan**

KRAKOW, Poland – As a gift to the Mesrop Center on its jubilee, Prof. Armenuhi Drost-Abarjan received an invitation from the president of the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences, Prof. Jan Ostrowski, to participate in the academic board of the Research Center for Armenian Culture, which was formally inaugurated at the Collegium Majus (Jagellon University Kraków) on September 21.

The establishment of the center is the result of years of work by university professors Andrzej Pisowisz and Krzysztof Stopka, who have dealt with the Armenian language and cultural legacy in Poland, in the context of their studies in History and Indo-Germanic Philology.

The center was set up on the initiative of Minister of Science Dr. Jaroslaw Gowin, with the aim of conducting research into the history of Polish Armenians in their cultural specificity as well as in relation to the Armenian Diaspora in central and eastern Europe.

The inauguration of the new center began following a visit to the historic Czartoryski Library, where Armenian manuscripts and early prints are also preserved. The international guests from Hungary, Rumania, Russia, Switzerland, Italy and Germany then gathered in the library of the Collegium Majus, where Stopka, the designated director of the research center, gave his welcoming speech.

Prof. Andrzej Zieba introduced the program and the three staff members of the new research center. The keynotes were delivered by Dr. Harutyun Marutyan, director of the Genocide Museum in Yerevan, and Vahan Vardapet Ohanian, representative of the Mekhitarist Congregation in Venice.

(Translated from German by Muriel Mirak-Weissbach)



Prof. Armenuhi Drost-Abarjan

## International News

### Syrian Army Reopens Crossing with ‘Turkish-Backed Militants’ in Aleppo

DAMASCUS (PanARMENIAN.Net) – The Syrian Arab Army (SAA) has reopened a humanitarian crossing with “the Turkish-backed militants” in eastern Aleppo after the violence in the town of Al-Bab subsided this week, Al-Masdar News reported on December 3.

A military report said the Syrian army reopened the Abu Al-Zandin crossing for all civilians to leave and enter the militant-held Al-Bab District of eastern Aleppo.

Previously, the crossing was closed due to the recent infighting between the Turkish-backed militants inside Al-Bab; however, it appears that the situation has calmed after a tense week.

### Levon Aronian Pulls out Of FIDE Grand Prix Due To Health Issues

YEREVAN (PanARMENIAN.Net) – Armenian grandmaster Levon Aronian announced on November 30 that he is withdrawing from the FIDE Grand Prix in Jerusalem due to health issues.

“After thoughtful consideration and with the permission of FIDE president Mr. Dvorkovich, I regretfully have to withdraw from the FIDE Grand Prix in Jerusalem,” Aronian said in a Facebook post. “Unfortunately, the dates clash with the treatment of my exhausting and troublesome breathing problems related to previous (and multiple) nasal surgeries which have not resolved the original issues.”

After the Kolkata GCT, Aronian was examined, and by doctor’s request will be treated in the second week of December.

“My fighting spirit, love of chess, and determination to bring my brand of creativity to this sport cannot be understated and that is why I consider a withdrawal from any tournament a very serious matter and not a choice to be taken frivolously, especially for ambassadors of the sport who are privileged to play the tournaments I do,” said the grandmaster.

“So please know that I will take that week to get the treatment I need to come back healthier and stronger.”

### Foreign Minister Says Turkey Should Address Reports of Attack Plans

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – Armenian Minister of Foreign Affairs Zohrab Mnatsakanyan said on December 2 it is important for Turkey to react to the leaked memo which reportedly revealed that Ankara has a military operation plan against Armenia codenamed ALTAY.

“Frankly speaking I can neither confirm nor deny the authenticity of that report,” Mnatsakanyan said at a press conference when asked to comment.

“If such an issue or claim exists, then it is the Turkish side that ought to [comment] first. And we haven’t yet heard any response from them. I don’t have to mention that naturally the issue contains serious concern, and we will continue following it,” the Armenian foreign minister said.

Unconfirmed reports that the Turkish military for two decades has had an attack plan for Armenia codenamed ALTAY made headlines last week. Nordic Monitor author Abdullah Bozkurt claims in an article to have obtained classified documents revealing that Turkey’s second Tactical Air Force Command developed operation ALTAY in July 2001.

Bozkurt was contacted for more information and validation, and the author claimed that all information contained in his article is “100 percent authentic.”

According to Nordic Monitor author Abdullah Bozkurt, the Turkish military inspectors found out that some of the pages of the plan had gone missing while conducting a review of the plans at the Controlled Documents Bureau by the Fourth Main Jet Base Command at Ankara’s Akıncı Air Base.

# Community News

## UCLA to Launch Institute To Advance Scholarship On Armenia and Diaspora

By Jennifer Wheelock

LOS ANGELES — The University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) plans to launch The Promise Armenian Institute, an entity that will establish a world-class research center and platform for public outreach about Armenia while integrating and expanding the university's existing Armenian studies offerings and connections to that country.

"This institute will be UCLA's new hub for all initiatives and research related to Armenia and the diaspora," said UCLA Chancellor Gene Block. "It will energize the teaching of Armenian history and culture in addition to reaching out to Armenians and Armenian institutions through research and public programs."

The first initiative of its size and scope, the interdisciplinary institute will have a home in the UCLA International Institute and will focus activities around two pillars. The first pillar is the Center for Armenian Studies, which will attract top faculty and visiting lecturers, support graduate and postdoctoral research on Armenian studies and provide funding for language classes. Building on an in-depth study of Armenian society, culture and history — including scholarship about the 1915 Armenian genocide and the worldwide diaspora — the center will provide the academic foundation for the institute's second pillar, Programs for Public Impact.

Programs for Public Impact will coordinate new and ongoing projects in archaeology, the arts, business and law, engineering, health policy and medicine, information technology and social policy, leveraging UCLA's expertise to strengthen communities in Los Angeles, in Armenia, and throughout the diaspora. Among existing UCLA efforts that already contribute to this mission are the Armenian Genome Project, which includes the study of genetics and familial diseases; faculty collaboration with the Armenian Health Ministry to improve the country's public health; and cultural heritage partnerships with the National Library of Armenia on digital projects. Ongoing and future cultural programs include art exhibitions, film screenings, music performances and other events featuring Armenian artists.

The institute, which has been in the planning phase for several years, is being created with a \$20 million gift from the estate of philanthropist and entrepreneur Kirk Kerkorian. Before his death in 2015, Kerkorian financed and served as executive producer of the film "The Promise," a personal passion project raising awareness of the 1915 Armenian genocide. When the movie opened in 2017, proceeds and



Christian Bale with a poster of "The Promise" film

gifts inspired by the campaign around the film supported a number of charitable causes, including The Promise Institute for Human Rights at UCLA School of Law.

"The Promise Armenian Institute at UCLA, which will support students, alumni and faculty see UCLA, page 7



Jack Medzorian

## Jack Medzorian Honored For a Lifetime of Service To Armenians

WATERTOWN — A who's-who of dignitaries, friends, family members, and colleagues gathered on November 17 to wish Jack Medzorian a happy 93rd birthday and to thank him for his service to Armenians and to Armenia, which he and his wife, Eva, have visited nearly 100 times since 1972.

The gala, which was held in Keljik Hall at the St. James Armenian Church Cultural Center and was hosted by the Knights of Vartan Ararat Talij No. 1 and the Daughters of Vartan Arpie Otyag No. 9.

Medzorian twice served as Commander of Ararat Tahlij during the 1990s.

Ararat Tahlij Sbarabed Argishti Chaparian and Arpie Otyag Dirouhie Dr. Knarik Arkun welcomed the guests and then introduced as master of ceremonies, family friend and Asbed Paul Boghosian.

Prayers were offered by Nakhgin Sbarabed Rev. Antranig Baljian and Rev. Arakel Aljalian. The celebration began with a video highlighting the many humanitarian projects in Armenia that Jack Medzorian has been involved with, including the delivery of educational supplies and medical equipment to remote areas of the country. The video also included good wishes to Jack by the former principal of what is now the Knights of Vartan School No. 106 in Yerevan.



State Rep. David Muradian, left, presents honoree Jack Medzorian with a proclamation from Gov. Charlie Baker.

Dr. Gagik Dallakyan of the Artsvaberd Hospital in Armenia's Tavush Region thanked Jack Medzorian for the portable ultrasound machines that were delivered to the medical facility. Other messages of gratitude came from Asht Yeghiazaryan and Rouzanne Sakanyan of the Fuller Center for Housing.

The high praise for Jack Medzorian was also echoed by the Knights and Daughters of Vartan. Liaison Gohar Palyan described how Medzorian and his wife would visit the remote border villages of Armenia, meeting with locals and making friends despite the dangers involved with traveling to those areas. Knights of Vartan Grand Commander Steven Adams, in his recorded remarks, see MEDZORIAN, page 5

## Armenian Assembly And ATP Meet with Armenian Students Association at UC Santa Barbara

SANTA BARBARA — On November 20, Armenian Assembly of America (Assembly) Western Region Director Mihran Toumajan and Armenia Tree Project (ATP) Western Region Community Outreach Manager Anahit Gharibyan were invited by the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB) Armenian Students Association (ASA) to present an overview of student-oriented programming from both organizations.

More than 30 students were in attendance and learned about the Assembly's and ATP's programs.

"We extend our thanks to UCSB ASA President Nayri Tagmazian for the warm welcome, to Armenian Assembly LA County Regional Committee member and Campus Liaison Delilah Shahbazian for facilitating the meeting, and especially to Mihran Markarian, who is a student at UCSB, a member of its ASA, and an alumnus of the 2019 Terjenian-Thomas Assembly Internship Program. The Assembly appreciates Mr. Markarian's staunch promotion of its summer internship programs," Assembly Western Region Director Toumajan stated.

Gharibyan's presentation highlighted the fact that ATP, currently celebrating its Silver Anniversary, has planted nearly 7 million trees to date. She explained that ATP looks forward to



ATP's Anahit Gharibyan speaks with the students.

working with the government of the Republic of Armenia in 2020 to launch and fulfill the ambitious yet farsighted goal of planting 10 million new trees in Armenia beginning in 2020, with a global Armenian celebration of this undertaking set for October 10, 2020. She also welcomed UCSB ASA members to volunteer with ATP in Armenia during the Summer season.

In his remarks, Toumajan's focused on the Armenian Assembly's flagship, 8-week summer internship programs in Washington, DC and Yerevan, Armenia.

Toumajan concluded the presentation by inviting Terjenian-Thomas Assembly Internship Program alum Mihran Markarian to share his experiences working at an immigration-centered think tank and overall observations about the D.C. internship program.

Applications for the Assembly's 2020 summer internship programs in Washington, D.C. and Armenia are available online at [www.aaainc.org/students](http://www.aaainc.org/students).



Mihran Toumajan speaks with a student.



## COMMUNITY NEWS

# Jack Medzorian Honored For a Lifetime of Service to Armenians

MEDZORIAN, from page 4

commended Medzorian for all the help he has given to Armenia, noting that his contributions are usually made quietly and without fanfare. Adams said that Medzorian embodies what it means to be a Knight of Vartan. The governor of Tavush Region in Armenia echoed those sentiments in a written letter to Jack Medzorian. Hayk Chobanyan wrote, "The energy you and Mrs. Eva Medzorian put into the development of Tavush and the generosity you have shown has motivated all of us to work hard so that one day we may be able to help others, as you have helped those when they needed your support."

Among those on hand to honor Medzorian in person was Vigen Sargsyan, the former Defense Minister of the Republic of Armenia. On the

office. Eloquent words of thanks and praise were also bestowed upon Medzorian by representatives of some of the many organizations that he is affiliated with. Among them were Yervant Chekijian, Chairman of the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) Board of Directors; George Haroutunian, Commander of the Armenian American Veterans of Greater Boston; Ara Balikian, Chairman of the AGBU New England District Committee; Alisa Stepanian, president of the Cambridge Yerevan Sister City Association (CYSCA); Edward Kazanjian of the Council of Armenian Executives and Nelson Stepanian, New England District Representative for the Knights of Vartan.

There was no shortage of entertainment dur-

Eva Maria Medzorian expressed her love for her grandfather with a heartfelt message which she delivered with him at her side. Jack and Eva Medzorian were joined at the gala by their four children and four of their five grandchildren along with cousins and other relatives.

It was his family whom Jack Medzorian thanked first when he stepped to the podium. He began by thanking his wife, whom he described as beautiful in heart and soul and that they met while he was the superintendent of the Saint James Armenian Church Sunday School and she was a singer in the church choir. In thanking the clergy in attendance, Medzorian noted that when the Knights of Vartan was formed in 1916, it was founded mostly by clergy from all Christian denomina-



From left, Rev. Vasken Kouzouian, Rev. Antranig Baljian, Jack and Eva Medzorian



Granddaughter Eva Medzorian with her grandfather

ing the gala for Jack Medzorian. It all began with a performance by a soloist with the Erebuni Dance Ensemble. On the musical side, grandchildren Alex Medzorian and

Angelina Faletti sang a toe-tapping rendition of *Too Marvelous for Words*, made famous by Frank Sinatra, while their grandmother, Eva Medzorian, serenaded the guests with the ballad, *Hayasdan*.

local political side, Middlesex County Sheriff Peter Koutoujian and State Rep. David Muradian of Grafton both presented Medzorian with proclamations. One was from the governor and lieutenant governor of Massachusetts and the other from the Middlesex County Sheriff's

tions.

He recounted the experiences that had the greatest influence on his life including running his high school newspaper in Arlington, serving in the US Army toward the end of World War II and then helping to create what became known as the Cpl. Paul Marsoubian AMVETS Post 41.

He also highlighted his more than 40 years at



Former Armenian Defense Minister Vigen Sargsyan



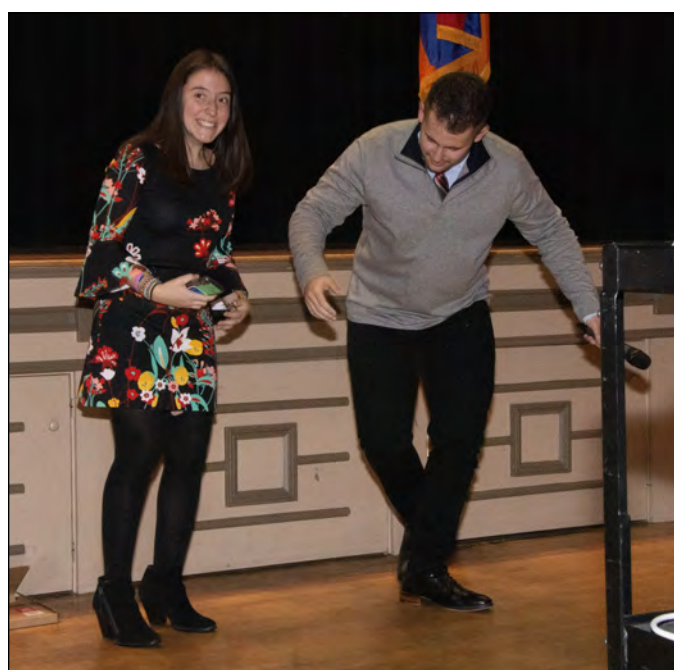
Sheriff Peter Koutoujian

resource center in the border town of Berd in Tavush Region.

Medzorian also talked about his involvement

in the Armenia Medical Aid Project which began in 1997 through Ararat Lodge with the shipment of 10, 40-foot containers to hospitals throughout Armenia. Most recently, five ultrasound machines were donated including four portable ultrasounds through the Robert Semonian Foundation. At the conclusion of his remarks, Jack Medzorian announced that he and his wife would make a donation through Ararat Lodge to the Women's Resource Center in Berd. He then expressed his appreciation to the gala's planning committee, the Knights of Ararat Lodge, the Daughters of Arpie

Otyag and all the volunteers and donors who made the event such a success.



Grandchildren Alex Medzorian and Angelina Faletti perform.

Baird Corporation where he started as a junior accountant and later became one of the company's top executives. After acknowledging the many Armenian organizations with which he has been involved, Medzorian turned his attention to the Knights of Vartan which he joined in 1986. He told his guests that the reason he joined was that he and his fellow Knights shared many common values including their Christian faith and preserving the ancient and rich heritage of Armenia.

Medzorian described the formation of the Knights and Daughters of Vartan flagship School-Aid Program, an offspring of a similar program begun by CYSCA. He thanked the Robert Semonian Foundation and other benefactors for funding five border village kindergarten projects and most recently, a high school gym renovation in Artsvaberd and a women's



Alyssa Stepanian with Jack Medzorian



## 2019 Trinity Christmas Bazaar

Friday, December 6 12 pm - 9 pm

Saturday, December 7 10 am - 7 pm

### Delicious Armenian Dinners

Lamb Shish, Losh, Chicken Kebab, Combo Dinners,  
Served: Friday, December 6, 12:00pm-7:30pm; and  
Saturday, December 7, 11:30am-6:00pm  
Take-out meals and a la carte menu available

### Armenian Gourmet Foods and Pastries

Choreg, Braids, Paklava, Bourma, Khadayif, Boregs, Tourshi,  
Kufta, Manti & much more ...

### Booths and Vendors

Country Store, Farmer's Market,  
Silent/Sports Silent Auction, Jewelry & Accessories,  
The Punch is Right Game, Poinsettias and Wreaths,  
Purl Leez Jewels, Abgaryan Hand-Painted Wearable Art  
Armenianvendor.com, Raffles, and more.  
TRINITY POP UP

### Children's Activities

Saturday, December 7, beginning at 11:30 am  
*Yuri Prince of Color* Interactive variety experience for children ages 2-9  
Visit with Santa Claus...and Mrs. Claus too!

For further information, please visit [www.htaac.org/calendar](http://www.htaac.org/calendar)

Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston  
145 Brattle Street, Cambridge, MA 02138 • 617.354.0632 • [trinitybazaar@htaac.org](mailto:trinitybazaar@htaac.org)



## OBITUARIES

## Mihran Hoplamazian (1921-2019)

### Detroit Armenian Community Leader

DETROIT – Mihran Hoplamazian was born at home, in Detroit, to Garabed and Yerchanig Hoplamazian, survivors of the Armenian Genocide. He grew up during the Great Depression, living in a four-plex with his extended family in a house full of children and love.

Mihran was one of the remarkable proud Americans who came to be known as the Greatest Generation. He and his brother were determined to enlist in defense of their country during World War II, before they could be drafted. Their own immigrant father encouraged this as his own gift to the country that gave him life and liberty. Mihran returned to civilian life as a second lieutenant and remained honored to have been allowed to serve his country the rest of his life.

After having attended Highland Park Community College, Hoplamazian became self-employed in the historic Eastern Market District of Detroit. He pursued a career in the butcher supply and casing business, a trade he learned from his uncle in New York City.

He remained actively employed, serving his customers until the very day of his passing. In all his years of business, his handshake was his contract. His ever-present business pursuits in the Eastern Market District earned him the affectionate title of “governor of the market.” He was not only a daily business fixture but was a lifelong customer of the Saturday open market, having, as a young boy, held the hand of his own father while doing their Saturday morning shopping.

Mihran’s life was punctuated by service and loyalty. His faith, his family and his beloved country were his mission. Hoplamazian served at the altar of St. John Armenian Church, first as an altar boy from the age of 8, and then as an ordained deacon, officiating at all the weddings and baptisms in his family. His altar service spanned 90 years.

Mihran was devoted not only to his faith but to his Armenian-American community. He was a founding member of the Armenian General Benevolent Union Special Projects Committee that helped to fund the Alex Manoogian School in Southfield and had just recently attended the 50th anniversary celebration of the school. He served on the school board longer than any other member, including as its chairman. And then he watched his own grandchildren and great-grandchildren attend the school.

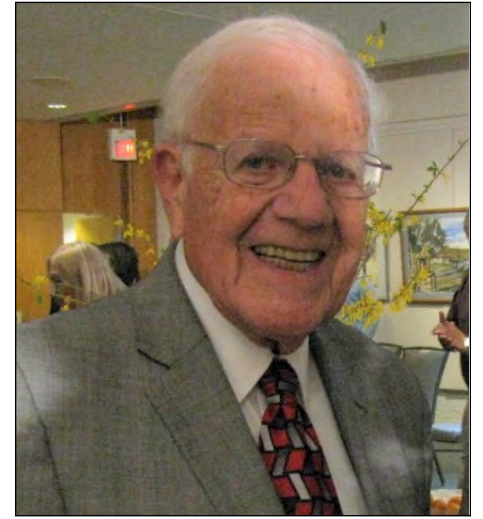
He served many times on the Parish Council of St. John. He was an active member of the national Armenian lodge, the Knights of Vartan, and tried never to miss an annual convocation. He was honored for his life of service to his church by the supreme leader of the Armenian Apostolic Church with the coveted St. Gregory the Illuminator Medal. He was an avid reader of the Armenian Mirror-Spectator.

Mihran passed away on November 14. A gentleman in the truest sense of the word, he will be truly missed by everyone whose life he touched.

Mihran was the husband of Gayle Sarkisian Hoplamazian and previously the late Rosemary

(1992). He was the father of Yerchanig Joy and Roy Callan, Garabed Hoplamazian, Christopher (Pamela) Sarkisian, Nicole (Jeffrey) Stillman, Shawn (Mary) Sarkisian and Nicholas (Tucker) Sarkisian. He also leaves behind his grandchildren Dikran (Kelly) Callan, Vahan (Eleeza Agopian) Callan, Knar (Michael) Pifer, Marin (Marcus Greene) Hoplamazian, Garo (Linnea Perrelli-Minetti) Hoplamazian and Christopher II, Shahanna and Ohannes Sarkisian, Noah Stillman, Grace and John Sarkisian and great-grandchildren Sosi, Zaven and Arev Callan and Dzovig Pifer.

He was the brother of the late Hermina (the late Martin) Buyikian, the late Dr. Aris (Alice) Hoplamazian and Sona (the late Jack) Simsarian, and will be missed by many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. a



## Aram Bogosian Veteran, Devoted to Family

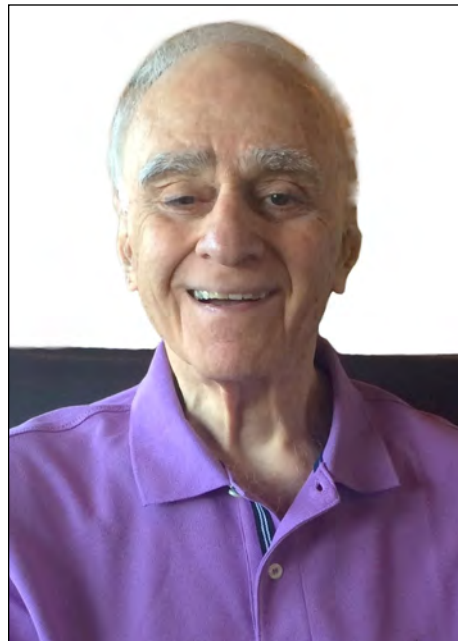
ANDOVER, Mass. – Aram Bogosian, 92, of Andover died Sunday, November 24, at his home of 57 years. He was predeceased by his wife of 58 years, Estelle (Aghoian).

He was born and raised in Methuen, the son of Khachig and Rose (Vartanian) Bogosian of Methuen. He was an Army veteran followed by a career as a cost accountant while attending night school. Aram was also a licensed real estate broker as his second job and was well known for his professionalism and well liked in the Merrimack Valley community.

In his early years, Aram worked at the family’s poultry farm. After graduating from Methuen High School, he attended Merrimack College, graduating with a bachelor’s degree in business administration.

He met his wife, Estelle Aghoian, at church and they were married in 1955.

His career spanned over 40 years employed



by RCA, Raytheon Company and Sanders Associates where he retired in 1992.

He served in the Army during the Korean War and was honorably discharged as a Corporal.

He loved being surrounded by his family and gardening with his wife. The fruits of their labors were enjoyed by family and friends for decades and will be remembered as prize winning vegetables. They frequently had family contests with his brothers, Paul and Michael Bogosian of Methuen. Each growing season would bring a new beginning of their everlasting love for each other and the enjoyment it produced with laughter and sharing.

He is survived by his daughter Cynthia Bogosian and her husband Dr. Bruce Patsner and his granddaughter, Jacqueline Mimmo of Boston, Massachusetts; his son, Brian Bogosian and his wife Lisa and his granddaughters, Ever and Lily of San Francisco, California. He is also survived by his beloved brothers and sisters-in-law, Richard and Sheila Aghoian of North Andover, and Allen and Darlene Aghoian of Methuen and many nieces and nephews.

His funeral was held on Saturday, November 30, at the Armenian Apostolic Church at Hye Pointe, 1280 Boston Road Haverhill (Bradford), MA. Burial followed at Elmwood Cemetery.

## Harutyun Artin Yesayan

TORONTO – Harutyun Artin Yesayan died on October 28, 2019. He was 96.

He leaves his cousins Sona Mercimekoglu (Istanbul), Norman Muir, David and Nicole Curtis and Jirayr and Houry Aznavourian and family.

He was born in December 19, 1922.



## INSURANCE FOUNDATION FOR SERVICEMEN

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

### HOW YOU CAN HELP



#### Share:

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



#### Donate:

No amount is too small. Please consider contributing to the Foundation at [www.1000plus.am](http://www.1000plus.am)



#### Learn:

Visit our website at [www.1000plus.am](http://www.1000plus.am) to gain a deeper understanding of who we are and what we do.

[WWW.1000PLUS.AM](http://WWW.1000PLUS.AM)

Telephone (617) 924-7400

## Aram Bedrosian Funeral Home, Inc.

Continuous Service By The Bedrosian Family Since 1945

558 MOUNT AUBURN STREET  
WATERTOWN, MA 02472

MARION BEDROSIAN  
PAUL BEDROSIAN  
LARRY BEDROSIAN

## Giragosian

FUNERAL HOME

James “Jack” Giragosian, CPC  
Mark J. Giragosian  
Funeral Counselors

576 Mt. Auburn Street, Watertown, MA 02472, TEL: 617-924-0606  
[www.giragosianfuneralhome.com](http://www.giragosianfuneralhome.com)

## Nardolillo Funeral Home

Est. 1906

John K. Najarian, Jr.

Rhode Island’s Only Licensed Armenian Funeral Director

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

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



**COMMUNITY NEWS**

### California State Senator Portantino Participates in Community Briefing in Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES – On November 12, California State Senator Anthony Portantino participated in the Armenian Assembly of America’s (Assembly) briefing in Los Angeles, hosted by Hagop and Tamar Tujjian at their home in La Canada.

In his remarks, Senator Portantino recapped recent pro-Armenian legislation that he spearheaded in the California State Senate.

Assembly Executive Director Bryan Ardouny briefed attendees of the Assembly’s work in Washington, D.C. and on Capitol Hill. He shed light on the U.S. government’s appropriation of upwards of \$60 million in U.S. economic development assistance to Armenia for Fiscal Year 2020, the recent U.S. House of Representatives’ passage of the Armenian Genocide resolution (H.Res.296), and current steps on the U.S. Senate side aimed at the passage of S.Res.150, the Armenian Genocide resolution in that legislative chamber.

Assembly Western Region Director Mihran Toumajan thanked members, friends, activists, and local board members who attended and supported the event.



California State Senator Anthony Portantino, right, speaks at the home of Hagop and Tamar Tunjian.



From left, Terry George, Kim Kardashian West, Khloe Kardashian and Dr. Eric Esrailian attend The Promise Armenian Institute event at Royce Hall.

### UCLA to Launch Institute to Advance Scholarship on Armenia and Diaspora

UCLA, from page 4  
for generations, is a testament to Mr. Kerkorian’s generosity and extends his unparalleled legacy,” said Dr. Eric Esrailian, chief of UCLA Vatche and Tamar Manoukian Division of Digestive Diseases, a producer of “The Promise” and close friend of Kerkorian. “With this new institute, the university will continue to keep the promise to remember Armenia’s history, to recognize the impact Armenians are making at UCLA and in our community, and to facilitate scholarship and collaborations around

the world in perpetuity.”  
“The Promise” and the Emmy-nominated companion documentary “Intent to Destroy” have been used extensively in educational campaigns over the past two years, and in October, the U.S. House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed a resolution recognizing the Armenian genocide.

“The film ‘The Promise’ was Mr. Kerkorian’s gift to the Armenian people and the world. The Promise Armenian Institute at UCLA will continue the legacy,” said Kerkorian’s close friend and personal attorney Patricia Glaser, an executive producer of the film. “The Armenian Genocide needs to be acknowledged and the Armenian culture needs to be allowed to flourish.”

“Kirk would be proud and thankful to UCLA for the fulfillment of The Promise Armenian Institute,” said Anthony Mandekic, Kerkorian’s estate executor, close friend and another executive producer of the film.

Campus and community leaders announced



Cindy Fan, UCLA Chancellor Gene Block and Dr. Eric Esrailian attend The Promise Armenian Institute Event At UCLA at Royce Hall on November 19, 2019 in Los Angeles, California.



Andre Agassi and Cindy Fan

### Students of Armenian Descent

Having Completed One Year of College by June, 2020

Applications and other information may be obtained from

**ARMENIAN STUDENTS’ ASSOCIATION  
Scholarship Committee  
333 Atlantic Avenue • Warwick, RI 02888  
Tel. 401 461-6114 • Fax 401 461-6112**

e-mail: [headasa@aol.com](mailto:headasa@aol.com)

Deadline for returning completed Applications: March 15, 2020

## ARMENIAN ASSEMBLY OF AMERICA



# SUMMER 2020 INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS

✓ WASHINGTON, D.C.

✓ YEREVAN, ARMENIA



**APPLY ONLINE AT [AAAINC.ORG/STUDENTS](http://AAAINC.ORG/STUDENTS)**

the new institute at a reception Tuesday. Attendees included businesswoman Kim Kardashian, “The Promise” actor Christian Bale, writer-director Terry George, producer Mike Medavoy, and tennis icon and philanthropist Andre Agassi.

“The new institute builds on a 50-year history of Armenian studies at UCLA, which started in the 1960s, and the university’s first endowed chair in the field in 1969,” said Cindy Fan, vice provost for international studies and global engagement. “Joining the International Institute’s other research centers on world regions and global issues, The Promise Armenian Institute will be a model of UCLA’s engagement with our global and local communities. This generous gift will benefit all of UCLA and beyond.”

The gift is part of the Centennial Campaign for UCLA, which is scheduled to conclude December 31.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

# Rohingya Human Rights Activist and 2018 Aurora Prize Laureate Kyaw Hla Aung Honored in Yerevan

AURORA, from page 1

donation coupon for 150 dram. HayPost transfers the 150-dram donations to the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative to help support humanitarian projects in 15 countries. The stamp designer each year has been Aurora Humanitarian Initiative member Alla Mingalyova.

Catena at the ceremony declared to the audience, including a large number of journalists, "The beauty of this stamp is that this stamp will now go all over the world, as you can imagine, and people will see that. This will help raise awareness about the plight of the Rohingya people and will make them ask questions..." Aurora co-founders Ruben Vardanyan and Noubar Afeyan briefly spoke about the goal of the Aurora Forum to both give Armenia strength and give some strength back to the world, with Armenia turning into a platform or center of innovation and discussion.

Prior to the ceremony, Aung visited the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute and Memorial at Tsitsernakaberd and also planted a tree in the garden which is identified with a plaque bearing his name.

Aung spoke briefly on several occasions during the day about the situation of the Rohingya. The 79-year-old lives in a camp for internally dis-



Dr. Tom Catena and Kyaw Hla Aung, at right, hold up the new stamp design and cover before the media

Bangladesh, where they remain to this day (<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/08/22/world/asia/rohingya-myanmar-repatriation.html>). Several hundred thousand Rohingya had preceded them as refugees from prior smaller waves of communal violence, while 128,000 were estimated to be internally displaced refugees in Rakhine state in July 2018 according to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. Violence continues in Myanmar against the Rohingya.

Seeing much injustice during his work, Aung studied to become a lawyer from 1982 and in his first case in 1986, appealed the confiscation of land from a group of Rohingya farmers. He was arrested for obstructing state projects and only released in 1988. He founded the National Democratic Party for Human Rights, to help legally restore the Rohingya's to equality, but again was arrested and sentenced in 1990 to 14 years in prison. Released in 1997, he was detained in 2012 for two months by the police, and in 2013 arrested and held for 15 months, until being granted amnesty.

Aung said that at present, "People are still living in Sittwe in IDP camps. The [UN Advisory Commission on Rakhine] Kofi Annan report said that they have to construct individual houses. But

[this is] not yet done...They are lying across the wall that they have done everything according to the Kofi Annan report." Aung said he met four times with Annan while this report (<http://www.rakhinecommission.org/the-final-report/>) was being prepared.

He continued: "There are Rohingya still living in their homes too, in Myanmar, but we are threatened. We cannot also hope for our lives. They can at any time attack us." The Rohingya fear being killed or expelled like their brethren in Bangladesh.

When asked whether the latter can continue to stay there for long, he replied emphatically, "No, no, no. They are facing very [great] hardships to keep staying in that country [Bangladesh]." Human trafficking is taking place there, he said.

Though the refugees were from Myanmar, Aung said, the Myanmar government had refused to issue them birth certificates or certificates of nationality for some 30 to 40 years now, despite recriminations from international governments. A citizenship law in 1982 excluded the Rohingya as an ethnic group.

Aung said of the solution that "it depends on the UN, Myanmar and Bangladesh. No other can be involved in this case and no other can do [it]. The UN can persuade the Myanmar gov-

ernment to accept all these citizen Rohingya. Since 1948, all the governments in Myanmar accept that these people are citizens of Myanmar. Now they are denying [it]. This is not logical. This is not acceptable."

Aung added, "Bangladesh is a very small country and very populated. Also, the monsoon rains are starting always and it is very difficult for Bangladesh to control these refugees...The UN has to solve this problem but the UN is very

weak, I saw." He exclaimed, "You can also tell this, my answer to the UN. I dislike UN work!"

He noted resistance to strong UN intervention as a factor, stating, "But some countries are also objecting for this - for example, China and Russia. Due to their objections, the UN cannot work for the Rohingya people."

He felt international organizations are powerless under the circumstances. He said, "They cannot do anything because it depends on the United Nations. Amnesty International is working for that and Fortify Rights [<https://www.fortifyrights.org/>]. They are reporting everything to the United Nations but the United Nations did not do a good job for the Rohingya people. I don't know why they are afraid of these two countries [China and Russia]."

Aung said that he was very happy about being selected as the Aurora Laureate. In Myanmar, he said, "I explained to them that Armenia is a very small country but now it is doing humanitarian works through this Aurora."

"After getting this Aurora prize," Aung said, "I am working hard. I can travel here, and help these Aurora Humanitarian Initiative members...I can see human beings of different religions and different human things and different countries. They are doing [this] for all human beings. I can share to my people what the Armenians are doing for Aurora." He concluded that "people around the world come to know that Aurora is doing a good job for humanity."



Kyaw Hla Aung speaking to media at Tsitsernakaberd

placed people (IDP) near his native city of Sittwe, capital of Myanmar's Rakhine state. Even coming to Yerevan is a very difficult task for him. He said that he had to apply to various Myanmar state offices, then go to the capital of Yangon, and again provide documentation and explanation of where he is going and why. The process took over a month.

Aung said, "I don't know why Aurora selected me but I am working for human beings since 1962, when our Myanmar government was caught [in a coup] by General Ne Win. At that time, the Myanmar government also [began] discriminating against Muslims and Christians there in our country. Since then, I am working for human beings, to get equality."

Aung had begun working in 1960 as a state court clerk in Sittwe, when Rohingya, who are Muslims, still could hold high positions in the government, military, police and society. Over the next few decades, discrimination against them increased so that they no longer could be appointed to such positions, while Rohingya in office were made to retire.

In August 2017, the campaign against the Rohingya culminated in a violent military-led attack which is called ethnic cleansing or genocide by international authorities and academics. Over 730,000 Rohingya fled to neighboring



Ruben Vardanyan addresses the audience, with Dr. Tom Catena and Dr. Noubar Afeyan behind him.



Kyaw Hla Aung signing the guestbook at the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute





## COMMUNITY NEWS

# Detroiters Celebrate Knights and Daughters Anniversaries

DETROIT - On November 16th, the Knights of Vartan Nareg-Shavarshan Lodge 100th Anniversary and the Daughters of Vartan Zabelle Chapter 70th Anniversary was celebrated with an elaborate dinner-dance in Detroit with over 200 guests. Special guest in attendance from Fresno, California was Knights of Vartan Grand Commander Steve R. Adams who also made an official visitation to the local Lodge (Tahlj) and met with Past Grand Commanders Vahram G. Fantazian, Simon Javizian, Edward H. Korkoian and Dr. Gary Zamanigian.

Shavarshan Lodge was instituted in 1918, named after the sacred battlefield where Vartan the Brave and his comrades fell, in defense of

The Zabelle Chapter and Nareg-Shavarshan Lodge have an extremely warm relationship. They work together to further the goals of the Knights and Daughters of Vartan.

After numerous activities during last 100 years, now was the time for Nareg-Shavarshan Lodge and Zabelle Chapter to celebrate their 100th and 70th anniversaries on November 16, 2019. Upon arrival, guests entered an elegantly ornamented ballroom and then were treated to a sumptuous assortment of Armenian hors d'oeuvres after which Past Grand Commander Vahram Fantazian welcomed everyone and invited Asbed Rev. Armash Bagdasarian, Rev. Fr. Garabed Kochakian, Pastor Hagop Haroutunian and Msgr. Andon Atamian to say Grace. A delicious gourmet dinner was prepared and then presented with French banquet service.

Following dinner, the Commander of Nareg-Shavarshan Lodge, Kazar Terterian, and the Matron of Zabelle Chapter, Lisa Aglamishian thanked everyone for attending the dinner-dance on this special occasion.

A video, prepared by the Knights of Vartan Communications Office Liaison in Armenia Gohar Palyan, of the Knights of Vartan School #106 gymnasium renovation in Yerevan, sponsored by the Nareg-Shavarshan Lodge and Zabelle Chapter, was then shown. More than \$30,000 was raised by the Knights and Daughters in Detroit to make the gymnasium renovation a reality.

Next, on behalf of the Daughters of Vartan Grand Matron Alice Kalustian of Los Angeles, Detroitier Gloria Korkoian, the Midwest Grand District Representative, presented 100th and 70th Anniversary Certificates to Nareg-Shavarshan Lodge Commander Terterian and

Zabelle Chapter Matron Aglamishian respectively. The program proceeded with the Knights of Vartan Midwest Grand District Representative Dr. Larry Farsakian from Chicago introducing Grand Commander Steve R. Adams who spoke eloquently, motivating and inspiring everyone present. He then presented a 100th Anniversary Certificate to the Nareg-Shavarshan Lodge Commander.

"One hundred years ago the Detroit Armenians didn't have Armenian established churches nor priests nor organizations that could provide any aid but the Armenians of that era had two important qualities: Firstly: Belief in God and Secondly Armenian National Spirit. And because of these qualities they thought about establishing this organization to help, to the best of their abilities, the broken genocide Armenian victims who were in dire need of help. This evening we have come together to observe 100 years of service to the Armenian

people" said Commander Kazar P. Terterian during his speech.

The night continued with everyone listening to the talented singer Kevork Artinian and dancing to the music of His All Star Band. The entire evening was extraordinary and went on well into the early morning hours.

Everyone enjoyed the celebration and it was an opportunity to remember all the charities

ropolitan community.

Like their namesake, the Sisters of Zabelle Chapter are dedicated and committed to preserving and sharing Armenian religion, history and culture. Zabelle Chapter's annual fundraiser "Manti and More," which is in its 20th year, benefits their charitable donations along with other fundraising events. The amount of the annual donations is based on proceeds from



Knights of Vartan Grand Commander Steve R. Adams (from right) presenting 100th Anniversary Certificate to the Nareg-Shavarshan Lodge Commander Kazar Terterian (from left).

their Christian faith and for the Freedom of Conscience of the Armenian People. Nareg Lodge was instituted in 1954. The name "NAREG" was chosen in honor of St. Gregory of Nareg, the 10th-century Armenian theologian and poet, who is considered to be the most outstanding figure in the Armenian literary heritage. The two Lodges have been working side by side and eventually on May 1, 1996, the two Lodges in Detroit merged as Nareg-Shavarshan.

The lodge has contributed to the growth and advancement of the Knights of Vartan nationally under the leadership of its illustrious sons: Alex Manoogian, Hagop S. Derderian, Vahram G. Fantazian, Simon Javizian, Edward H. Korkoian and Dr. Gary Zamanigian as Grand Commanders of the Brotherhood.

Zabelle Chapter was established on September 30, 1950 in Detroit. It was named after Queen Zabelle, the daughter of King Levon I. Mrs. Marie Manoogian was the first Dirouhie, who served from 1950-1952.



Guests dancing during celebration



From left, Past Grand Commanders Dr. Gary Zamanigian, Simon Javizian, Grand Commander Steve R. Adams, Past Grand Commanders Vahram G. Fantazian and Edward H. Korkoian

the Lodge and Chapter did over the years together. Every year they hold different events to raise funds. The funds raised from different activities supported a number of institutions such as the Sourp Khach Tbrebank in Istanbul, spearheading the establishment of the Armenian Research Center at the University of Michigan-Dearborn and assuring the accreditation of the AGBU Alex and Marie Manoogian School in Southfield, promoting Armenian relief programs, generously contributing to the St. John Armenian Church Building Fund Campaign, sponsoring social dances and various youth activities. They helped to set up and launch A.G.B.U.'s "Camp Ararat".

The Knights of Vartan was ready to face the challenges of the 1988 earthquake in Gyumri as well as the opportunities brought about by the subsequent independence of the Republic of Armenia. It was in 1988 then Shavarshan Lodge, raised more than \$150,000 for earthquake relief for Armenia.

Over the years the Nareg-Shavarshan contributed to the humanitarian assistance programs of the Brotherhood. In 2008 money was raised to send anesthesiology equipment to the medical center in the city of Gyumri, Armenia. During the financial crunch of 2009 the Knights and Daughters of Vartan raised \$20,000 at a New Year's Eve Celebration, and equally distributed the proceeds among the four Armenian Churches of Greater Detroit.

For the last 12 years, the Nareg-Shavarshan Lodge facilitated "Armenia Fest" a free public event at the historic Farmers Market in Royal Oak Michigan, primarily designed to bring the Armenian Community together and at the same time to showcase our rich cultural heritage to the general public. Funds raised at "Armenia Fest" are donated to humanitarian projects especially in recent years to the Syrian Relief Fund, supporting annual commemorations of Vartanantz and April 24 with the Detroit met-

fund raising events. Annual fundraisers began with luncheons and fashion shows in the 1970s. The funds supported school and kindergarten renovations, scholarships, child support, soup kitchens, housing, potable water pipeline renovation, church, Red Cross projects, health issues, environmental issues, Armenian



Gloria Korkoian (from right), the Midwest Grand District Representative, present 100th and 70th Anniversary Certificates to Nareg-Shavarshan Lodge Commander Terterian (from left) and Zabelle Chapter Matron Aglamishian (in the middle) respectively.

research, disabled children and youth, women support and more. From 1970-2019, the Zabelle Chapter donated more than \$240,000 to 67 charities on the local, national and international levels.

As we embark on a new millennium, Nareg-Shavarshan Lodge remains steadfast to the aims and aspirations of its Founding Fathers and its Knightly Principles, to defend the Armenian Churches, preserve our rich cultural heritage, foster the true spirit of friendship and cooperation among all Armenians, practice charity and benevolence, cherish morality, justice, truthfulness and as loyal citizens uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States.

As Knights of noble heritage onward we will march in the footsteps of our Founding Fathers with the undying faith that ours is Victory!

For more information about the Knights and Daughters of Vartan, visit <http://kofv.org>.

# Arts & Living

## St. Stephen's Armenian Day School Celebrates 35 Years

WATERTOWN – On Saturday, November 16, a crowd of more than 400 supporters and friends gathered at the Westin Waltham to celebrate St. Stephen's Armenian Elementary School's (SSAES) 35th anniversary. The cocktail hour featured light entertainment with pianist Levon Hovsepian, before guests were ushered in the ballroom.

The event was held under the auspices of Archbishop Anoushavan Tanielian, Prelate of the Eastern Armenian Prelacy. During his opening remarks, Rev. Antranig Baljian, read the letter of congratulation sent by Tanielian who could not attend the event.

The evening's mistress of ceremonies was Lisa Gulesserian, Harvard Preceptor on Armenian Language and Culture, and the keynote speaker was Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) and University of California Irvine (UCI) Professor of Engineering, Innovator and Entrepreneur, Dr. Diran Apelian. In his address, Apelian highlighted the importance of being aware and proud of one's origins and identity as a major predictor of success later in life.

In her remarks, SSAES Principal Houry Boyamian spoke about the heightened importance of an Armenian education for the Diaspora in today's world, and she renewed her pledge to keep the School affordable to all families seeking a rigorous education steeped in a solid Armenian foundation for their children. Chairman of the School Board, Levon Barsoumian, talked about the School's newly architected Financial Aid Program and honored Boyamian for her 31 years of service at the head of the School.

Event Chair, Nicole Babikian Hajjar, praised the school as a gift to the community and highlighted the theme of giving back as central to the entire celebration. She mentioned the school's "35For35 Challenge" initiative, a call to all SSAES alumni to give \$35 to the school on its 35th anniversary, reporting that about 200 alumni took the challenge, raising close to \$7,000. Babikian Hajjar announced that the anniversary's fundraising goal of \$350,000 to benefit the Financial Aid Program had been reached, and that \$3,500 of proceeds would be donated to the Soseh Kindergarten of Qarekah (Karabakh/Artsakh), one of the many Kindergartens funded by the Armenian Relief Society (ARS) in the region. Hajjar thanked the Planning Team, comprised of a large group of current and past parents of the School. In closing, the winner of the Armenia Getaway Raffle, Armen Barooshian, was announced.

Throughout the evening, guests were entertained by the operatic voice of Mister X (Artur Hakobyan) from Los Angeles, who sang a diverse repertoire in different languages.



Maral Orchanian, left, with Houry Boyamian



Soprano Lianna Haroutounian and Brian Jagde are the ill-fated lovers in Puccini's "Manon Lescaut" at the San Francisco Opera. Photo: Liz Hafalia, The Chronicle

REVIEW

## A Party Girl Gets Her Comeuppance in San Francisco Opera's 'Manon Lescaut'

SAN FRANCISCO (*San Francisco Chronicle*) – It's no easy matter getting an opera audience to warm to the title character of Puccini's "Manon Lescaut." She's vain, flighty, materialistic – no, a straight-up gold-digger – and although her music tells us that she's beautiful and sometimes even in love, that doesn't actually do the rest of us any good. It certainly doesn't inspire us to feel very invested in her fate.

By Joshua Kosman

That task, rather, falls to the soprano who undertakes the assignment. And to the extent that the San Francisco Opera's revival of "Manon Lescaut" took wing at all during the opening performance on Friday, November 8, at the War Memorial Opera House, it was thanks, once again, to the efforts of soprano Lianna Haroutounian.

This is now a familiar tale for San Francisco opera lovers. Each time Haroutounian comes to town – usually in an opera of Puccini – she unveils a performance of such grace and dramatic fervor that other concerns fade into the background. She's given us an imperious, full-toned "Tosca," and a delicate yet evocative "Madama Butterfly."

On November 8, she tackled the greater challenge of fleshing out a character who is at heart little more than a collection of tics and idiosyncrasies. Manon's journey begins with her being shipped like a reluctant UPS package to life in the convent, continues with a brief internal struggle between love and luxury in 18th century Paris, and comes to a weepy end outside the French penal colony of Louisiana, where the bayou has been replaced by a barren desert.

Through it all, Manon's response is never more than tissue-thin – this early work of Puccini's finds him still working toward the depth of characterization he would summon up in later operas. Yet Haroutounian continuously managed to locate whatever dramatic truth is present in the score.

Her arrival in Act 1, dewy and fresh-eyed, was shaped with singing of elegant simplicity, especially in the introductory motif (*Manon Lescaut mi chiamo*) that serves repeatedly as a musical tag for her character. In Act 2, the emotional whiplash that drives Manon to waver between her lover and her jewelry felt genuinely anguished as well as contemptible.

And in the final two acts, which the company has wisely run together in this elegantly realistic production by director Olivier Tambosi and designer Frank Philipp Schlößmann, the dark outcome of Manon's life – criminal conviction, exile, death – took on a somewhat tragic aspect in Haroutounian's account. The big concluding aria, *Sola, perduta, abbandonata*, boasted all the expressive urgency it needs to feel truly moving rather than simply campy.

Yet for all her vocal agility and theatrical resources, Haroutounian is not the kind of performer who can single-handedly hoist an operatic performance onto her shoulders and carry it to the finish line. She lacks, to take the obvious example, the imperious grandeur of Karita Mattila, whose *Manon Lescaut* here in 2006 simply dispersed any difficulties through force of character.

This time around, the difficulties popped up on all sides. The company's former music director, Nicola Luisotti, conducted inconsistently – now driving the music forward in a manic burst of energy, now letting it lapse into languorous aimlessness – and often seemed heedless about the balances between the orchestra and the singers. The sumptuously beautiful orchestral interlude that precedes Act 3, with no singers to contend with, emerged as the evening's most satisfying episode.

Tenor Brian Jagde, to whom the company returns unwaveringly when any Italian see OPERA, page 13

## Society for Armenian Studies Holds Annual Membership Meeting In New Orleans

FRESNO – The Society for Armenian Studies (SAS) held its 45th annual member meeting and sponsored panels at the 53rd Annual Conference of the Middle East Studies Association (MESA) in New Orleans, LA. On the afternoon of Thursday, November 14, the first day of the broader MESA meeting, SAS President Bedross Der Matossian welcomed members of the SAS, updating them on the past year's activities of the Society. These include concluding an agreement with Brill Publishers for future publications of the *Journal for the Society of Armenian Studies* (JSAS) and new Research and Travel Grants for Graduate Students.

Der Matossian was pleased to announce that membership in SAS has increased 35 percent in the past two years, with a substantial number of new graduate student members. Earlier that morning, the SAS Executive Council, including newly elected members Tamar Boyadjian and Christopher Sheklian, met to discuss future initiatives and strategic planning for the organization.

"It is a great honor to work with such a qualified team. The addition of Prof. Tamar Boyadjian and Dr. Christopher Sheklian to the Executive Council will enhance our future projects and advance the new vision of SAS," commented Der Matossian.

In addition to holding the Executive Council and Annual Membership Meeting, the Society for Armenian Studies sponsored two panels during the MESA conference.

The first panel, "Medieval Armenian Entanglements," took place the morning of Friday, November 15, and was organized by SAS Vice-President Alison Vacca. The panel was held in honor of Kevork Bardakjian for his service to the field of Armenian Studies. All the panelists and those present in the audience toasted Dr. Bardakjian, who was in attendance. Papers included, "Hell Hath No Fury: Sexual and Communal Relations in Twelfth-century Arts'akh," by Sergio La Porta and "The Women and the Foreigners of Abbasid Armenia, a Study of Sasna Crer," by Alison Vacca.

The second panel, a round table discussion on the "Organization of Sources and Connected Histories: The Case of Ottoman-Armenian Studies," was held later that afternoon. The panel was organized by SAS Secretary Dzovinar Derderian with Der Matossian as the chair and discussant. A lively discussion on the connections of Ottoman-Turkish and Armenian Studies took place between the panelists Yasar Tolga Cora, Dzovinar Derderian, Anush Suni and Murat Cankara.

At the annual meeting, Der Matossian announced the winners of the Society for Armenian Studies "Der Mugrdechian Best Book Award" for 2019. Two winners were chosen: Houri Berberian, for her book *Roving Revolutionaries: Armenians and the Connected Revolutions in the Russian, Iranian, and Ottoman Worlds* and Heghnar Zeitlian Watenpaugh, for her book *The Missing Pages: The Modern Life of a Medieval Manuscript from Genocide to Justice*. Additionally, the Fall 2019 recipients of the Society for Armenian Studies Research and Travel Grants for Graduate Students were announced: Irem Gülersönmez, Sose Grigorian, Varak Ketsemanian, Garine Palandjian, Megan Dixon and Leah Marangos.

SAS represents scholars and teachers in the field of Armenian Studies. It publishes the peer-reviewed *Journal of the Society for Armenian Studies*, available on its website: [societyforarmenianstudies.com](http://societyforarmenianstudies.com).



## ARTS &amp; LIVING

# Bishop Sahak Mashalian Discusses Upcoming Patriarchal Election in Istanbul, Opens New York Aghtamar Exhibit

MASHALIAN, from page 1

Though the cross has remained atop the church, it is a museum all year long except for one day when the Holy Badarak can be celebrated. In September 2019, Bishop Mashalian celebrated the Divine Liturgy. The church's architectural beauty, scenic landscape and historic importance have made it a top touristic attraction for the thousands who visit it annually.

The opening reception on November 5 was attended by more than 100 invited guests (including Armenians, Greeks and Turks) who were also treated to pianist Sahar Arzruni playing several selections, including Alan Hovhanness' masterpiece Aghtamar.

In his address in English at the reception, Mashalian explained that after the exhibition's initial presentation in Istanbul a few months ago, he was convinced that this extraordinary photography had to be seen by a much larger audience. He then convinced the Turkish government to bring it to New York. The exhibition will next travel to London.

"In this world capital city of New York, the exhibit represents the magnificent past of Anatolia, and the success of the great civilization of the Armenian nation," Mashalian with pride.

He paid tribute to the late great Patriarch Mesrob Mutafyan who was deeply involved in the church's restoration work along with the Armenian architect Zakarya Mildanoglu.

"The Holy Cross Church has already become a landmark in Turkey for faith and cultural tourism. And for Armenians, its preservation reminds them of their glorious past, becoming a point of communication with their ancestors."

From the view of the Turkish state, he said, the church's "restoration and promulgation with its Armenian origin and identity must be considered as a move of reconciliation and an invitation of friendship to the Armenian people. It is an attempt to overcome the difficulties of communication and to prepare a place of appointment for the Turkish and Armenian peoples on a cultural basis."

It is true, he said "that Aghtamar has witnessed many tragic events and crimes between these two nations, but Aghtamar can be a place of reconciliation," he concluded to a thunderous ovation.

Mashalian's trip had begun on Sunday morning November 3, when he attended the Holy Badarak at St. Vartan Armenian Cathedral in New York, where he greeted the church attendees and briefly spoke about the

"compass of God's family which is not limited by blood or heritage, but is thrown open to all who receive and enact the word of God."

During an exclusive interview in both Armenian and English, Mashalian focused on the upcoming December 11 patriarchal election in Istanbul.

When asked how his life has changed since becoming Locum Tenens, he replied, "As Locum Tenens, one has to act responsibly like a Patriarch, except for the title."

"Therefore, on July 4, when I was elected as Locum Tenens, I had the functions of preparing the election process, as well as fulfilling the role of Patriarch as top of the hierarchy with the churches, the government, the community leaders, the priests, the guests." The last election for Patriarch was 21 years ago.

The number of candidates for the post has steadily declined. For example, there were 16 in 1961, 12 in 1990, and 10 in 1998. "Turkey decided two months ago to reinstate an 1893 Armenian constitution in Turkey that said anyone who is to be elected must be part of (serve in) the Patriarchate of Istanbul," adding that Turkey obviously did not want some other candidates.

After the illness of Patriarch Mesrob Mutafyan, the other current candidate now for Patriarch is Archbishop Aram Ateshian who became the head of the Religious Council.

"Though Ateshian wanted to be the co-Patriarch in 2010, the government did not want a new election because there would have been many candidates, and the government favored Ateshian, even though his reputation was low in Armenia and the Diaspora."

## Election Process

Bishop Mashalian explained the election process will take place on two levels. The people choose delegates based on each church's population. The delegates include 17 clerical (priest) delegates to be selected on December 7, and 103 civil (lay) delegates to be chosen on December 8.

On December 11, these 120 delegates will come together in the Cathedral of Holy Asdvadzadzin and elect the Patriarch, as well as nine members of the Religious Council.

He noted that in Turkey with an Armenian population of about 60,000, there are 38 Armenian churches, 33 in Istanbul, and five in Anatolia. "Churches are ruled by the trustees. Every church has its own income, and church membership among the people is



Bishop Sahak Mashalian

without charge."

In the Armenian community, there are also two Armenian hospitals, and 17 all day schools with 3,100 students. There is also an active Armenian media, including the daily TV, and newspapers *Agos*, *Looys*, *Paros*, *Jamanak* and *Marmara*.

Mashalian promises to "accomplish the unity of the people under the family of the Patriarch." This includes "creating laws and regulations which define the place the Armenian church and community should have in Turkey.

"We don't have laws and regulations because there were no centralized institutions. We only had advising committees," he added.

Before 1960, there was a centralized committee, and then it evolved into a spiritual institution, and the Patriarchs had only spiritual authority, he revealed.

"As with all non-Muslim religious minority institutions in Turkey, the Patriarchates are not recognized as a legal entity. This affects its ability to petition the Turkish government for adequate redress. It also affects its ability to press its claims which are objectively recognized as legitimate. Therefore, the Patriarch as an individual must bear the burden of relying on his personal legal status to represent the Patriarchate," he explained.

And if he is elected Patriarch in December? "A patriarch must be a 'father' of his family first. Holding a strong symbol of unity for the church and community, he will have a moral power to solve many accumulated problems piled up for the last 12 years. The greatest challenge for the new patriarch will be to effect and influence the secular sphere with this non-existent secular authority through his spiritual authority. Legally, he has been left to be an 'advising father on worldly matters rather than an executive authority."

"Once the Armenian Patriarch is elected,

there will be an effort to make it legal through the government," he stated, adding that the Turkish government has promised in the future to assist the non-Muslim communities to discuss and solve their problems.

"I hope the new Patriarch will solve these issues," he noted.

## Family Prayers

Born in 1962, in Istanbul, the young Shaheen (the Bishop's baptismal name meaning, "bird of prey") loved nature, especially the sea. With no Armenian schools in the Istanbul district where he lived with his Armenian parents, he read the Bible in Turkish. He attended the Armenian church since age 5, and his paternal grandmother prayed he would become a vartabed (celibate priest).

He studied electrical engineering and philosophy at a Turkish university, and theology at universities in London and Dublin. At age 20, he met the future Patriarch Mesrob Mutafyan who had started a youth movement. He attended his lectures, and learned Armenian at age 20. After serving for six months in the army, he decided to become a celibate priest. He was elevated to the rank of Bishop in 1999, at age 37.

"Celibacy gave me education, mobility and an ability to concentrate more on spirituality." The deeply religious cleric considers the best elements of his work that of "preaching, teaching, advising, listening organizing, and helping charities. "When I preach the word of God I feel refreshed," he said quietly.

"It is through the will of God that I am in the Armenian Church. It gives me a sense of family. It's my nation," he commented with his typical humility and dedication. "The Armenian Church is the backbone of our nation's survival. For Armenians, it is the true sense of God."

"This new Armenian CD, **"Echoes of the Past"** features the exciting sounds of the New Mugrditchian Band.

The artists are, Mark DerMugrditchian-Clarinet/ Def; Greg Krikorian, Oud / Vocals; Kevin Magarian, Guitar/Vocals, Arthur Chingras- Dumbek.

The smooth and mello sounds of the songs played on this CD for your listening and dancing pleasure will bring back memories of the past.



A CD can be purchased by contacting Mark at 508-887-2847, or by E-Mail at [mdermugrditchian@gmail.com](mailto:mdermugrditchian@gmail.com).

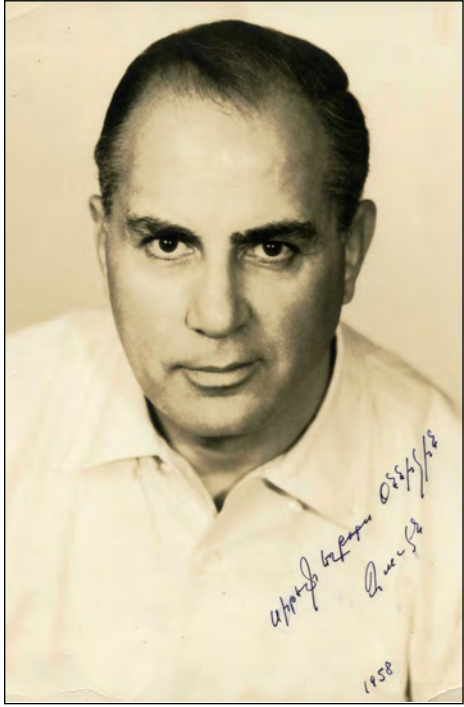
or Greg at [gregkrikor@aol.com](mailto:gregkrikor@aol.com).

The band is available for bookings by calling Mark at 508-887-2847 or Greg at 508-485-1506.

# New edition of Leon Surmelian Classic Republished

LONDON — *I Ask You, Ladies and Gentlemen* is Leon Surmelian's personal tale of deep sorrow and profound gratitude, of terrible loss and a lively embrace of life itself. The out-of-print book, first published in 1945, a bestseller in its time, was internationally acclaimed and translated into many languages.

The Armenian Institute, convinced of its relevance today, is bringing out a new edition



Leon Surmelian

for a new generation. With added photographs, a map, glossary and historical context, Surmelian's memoir of his own experiences of surviving genocide and migrating to find shelter is a story that resonates strongly even today.

Growing up in multi-ethnic Trebizond (Trabzon), in what is now north-eastern Turkey, Surmelian enjoyed his extended Armenian family, his Greek neighbors and Turkish friends. In 1915, his childhood world shattered, his parents were deported and his siblings were divided and sent into hiding for safety.

The Armenian Genocide had begun and he was soon on his own, his quest for survival forcing him on an adventurous and meandering journey from one fragile shelter to another. His idealistic vision of saving his people through agriculture took him on a scholarship to study in Kansas. There, on an isolated farm, he found an unexpected sense of belonging to this new, alien place, America. Amidst the harrowing losses, Surmelian eventually finds his way through his love of words and his poetry.

His zest for life is always present in his words and there is much wry humor in his narrative.

The devastation of a people and a culture, the struggles for survival of children as well as adults are far too familiar in our contemporary world. *I Ask You, Ladies and Gentlemen* is a witness to the sad news that little has changed, neither in the treatment of former neighbors as non-humans nor in the desperate courage and instinctive intelligence shown by the survivors searching for a new life. *I Ask You, Ladies and Gentlemen* is a book for today and a testimony to the humanity of survivors and the righteous who help them along the way.

## Praise for *I Ask You, Ladies and Gentlemen*

Professor Ronald G. Suny, University of Michigan said: "This edition includes the original introduction by author William Saroyan claiming the book contains "some of the finest writing I've ever read. The whole book is almost a lyric poem. Surmelian's style is simple and unaffected, warm and humorous, and at the same time full of the melancholy of the civilized and intelligent. I can't imagine anyone being disappointed with this book. It is one of the most beautiful and exciting stories I have ever read. There is an intimacy here, even though it is a memoir of displacement and mass murder. The big pic-

ture of a genocide — such a cold word for such unfathomable horror — is told from the vantage of a small boy, who remembers the smells and sounds of his hometown."

Author Nancy Kricorian added, "Leon Surmelian wanted his bestselling and widely translated memoir to be known as 'a universal story, the timeless legend of boyhood.' It is that, but it is also an astonishingly rich and nuanced portrait of an Armenian world lost to war and genocide. With fierce intelligence and beautiful prose, Surmelian tells his own tale of survival and renewal, and at the same time illuminates the tragic history of his people."

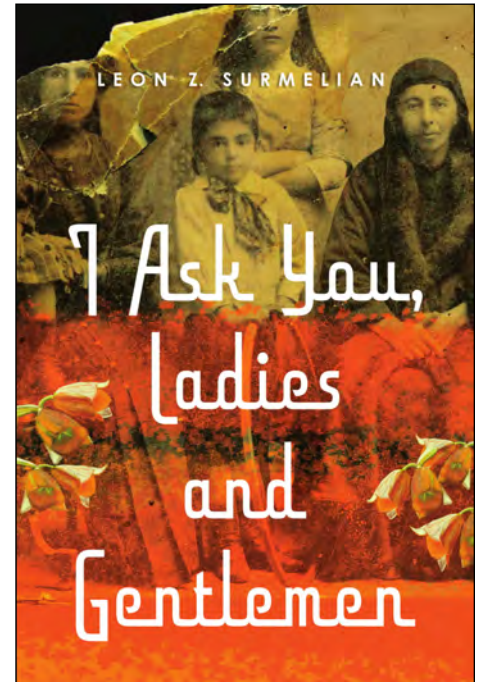
And Dr. Vartan Gregorian, President, Carnegie Corporation of New York noted, "Leon Surmelian's *I Ask You, Ladies and Gentlemen* remains a vivid reminder of man's inhumanity to man and the impact of genocide on a human soul. With a great command of detail, this masterful memoir recounts the horrors he witnessed as a child and the struggle to find a home. The lyricism and beauty of the prose enrich our understanding of the effects of diaspora on the Armenian people.

This masterpiece deserves to be widely read. I ask you, ladies and gentlemen, please ensure this book never goes out of print again."

Surmelian (1905 - 1995) was born in Trebizond, the third of four children in a large extended Armenian family. He survived the Genocide, moving between cities and countries, finding his brother in 1918 in a school in Istanbul. From there he went on scholarship to Kansas State University where he took a degree in agriculture, later becoming the best-known Armenian-American writer after William Saroyan at that time.

His translations and re-telling of stories include *Apples of Immortality: Folktales of Armenia* (1958); *The Daredevils of Sassoun* (1964) and in nonfiction, *Techniques of Fiction Writing: Measure and Madness*. He died in California.

The Armenian Institute, a UK registered charity, is an arts and culture charity dedicated to making Armenian culture and history a living experience through innovative programs, educational resources, workshops, lectures, exhibits and performances.



Cover of *I Ask You, Ladies and Gentlemen*

## Recipe Corner



by Christine Vartanian Datian

### Armenian Christmas Pudding (Anooshabour)

Anooshabour means "sweet soup" in Armenian. "That's the legend that Armenians recall on their Christmas, January 6, as they eat 'sweet soup' in thanksgiving," wrote reporter Nancy Ayer in the *Detroit Free Press* in 1955. In her article titled "Noah Liked This Dish, So Try It On Your Family," Ayer tells the tale of Armenian Christmas pudding and includes a recipe from a Mrs. Charles Boyajian who made and served it with other "Armenian hostesses" at the International Institute in Metropolitan Detroit. Founded in 1919, the nonprofit organization aimed to help immigrants with a variety of services including learning English and "understand each other's cultures."

"On Christmas Eve and on Christmas Day this cooled thick pudding is eaten, along with dried fruits served in colorful designs on great platters," the paper continued. The following recipe is courtesy of the *Treasured Armenian Recipes Cookbook* published by the Detroit's Women's Chapter, Armenian General Benevolent Union, Inc., in 1949.

Made with pelted wheat, called "dzedadz" in Armenian, it is soaked in water for several hours, then soaked again in warm water. This fruity, nutty pudding is adored by Armenians and people throughout the Middle East, and has graced holiday tables around the world for centuries and most likely predates Christmas itself.



#### INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup skinless whole grain wheat (pelted wheat or "dzedadz," also called shelled wheat berries)
- 1 1/2 cups golden raisins
- 1 1/2 cups dry California apricots
- 3 quarts water
- 2 cups sugar
- 2 tablespoons rose water or orange blossom water (obtained from most Middle Eastern stores)
- Ground cinnamon and choice of garnish

#### PREPARATION

Rinse wheat in a colander, then place wheat in a large pot with 3 quarts of water. Bring to a full boil; stir. Remove pot from stove; cover and allow wheat to soak overnight.

The next day, return pot to stove; cook on low heat (simmer) for about 1 1/2 hours. Rinse raisins and apricots; cut apricots in quarters and add all to the wheat with the sugar. Cook for 30 minutes or more. Remove from heat, add the rose water or orange blossom water, and pour into a deep dish.

Sprinkle with cinnamon and garnish with walnuts, blanched or slivered almonds, pomegranate seeds, small dried fruits or cherries.

\*Serve slightly warm or cooled to room temperature (and you can store it in the refrigerator for up to one week). If you do not plan to garnish pudding immediately after cooking, the surface will get dry and garnish will not stick. Cover with plastic wrap directly over the surface to help keep the surface moist.

Serves 15-20.

\*Recipe courtesy of *Treasured Armenian Recipes*, published by the Detroit's Women's Chapter, Armenian General Benevolent Union, Inc., 1949. To order, go to: <https://www.amazon.com/Treasured-Armenian-Recipes-Marie-Manoogian/dp/B0033QFPPIA> or <https://agbu-bookstore.org/products/treasured-armenian-recipes-simple-directions-but-delicious-food-i-by-agbu-detroit-women-s-chapter-i> or <https://naars.org/collections/on-line-books/products/treasured-armenian-recipes>.



## ARTS &amp; LIVING

## CALENDAR

## 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.

**FEBRUARY 15, 2020 — SAVE THE DATE for the Annual Dinner Dance** hosted by the Women's Guild of St. David Armenian Church, 2300 NW 51st St, Boca Raton

## MASSACHUSETTS

**DECEMBER 1-22 — Saturdays and Sundays, December 1-22**, Members-only Holiday Gift Shop Sale. 12-6pm, Armenian Museum of America, 1st floor, 65 Main Street, Watertown. Join us Sundays in December for afternoons of Christmas cheer! We welcome members of all levels to enjoy a special sale each Sunday before Christmas in which they receive an additional holiday discount of 25 percent (some exclusions apply)! Find that special gift or book to make this an extraordinary Armenian Christmas as you enjoy holiday music and refreshments. Renew, sign up, or give a gift membership to those you love.

**DECEMBER 5-29 — Thursdays — Sundays, December 5-29. End of the Year Book Sale.** 12-6 p.m. Armenian Museum of America, 1st floor, 65 Main Street, Watertown. Looking for the perfect gift or a treat for yourself that won't break the bank? Come to the Armenian Museum Gift Shop and explore our End of the Year Book Sale. Great titles on sale for \$20, \$10, \$5 and \$1!

**DECEMBER 6 and 7 — Trinity Christmas Bazaar. Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston.** Charles and Nevert Talanian Cultural Hall. 145 Brattle Street, Cambridge. Friday, 12 to 9 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Delicious Armenian dinners (lamb shish, losh, chicken kebab, and combo dinners), an a la carte menu and

take-out meals. The Bazaar is the perfect place to do your Christmas shopping or just get into the spirit of the season! For further information, contact the Holy Trinity Church office at 617.354.0632 or e-mail office@htaac.org.

**DECEMBER 8 — 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. Back by popular demand! On the second Sunday of every month, join 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. Follow in the footsteps of our ancestors to help keep these elegant traditional dances alive. Members free! Non-members \$15. Register online or call Education Coordinator, Garin Habeshian at 617.926.2562 Ext. 103. (The Museum's elevator is being upgraded and is currently out of service. For info: <https://www.armenianmuseum.org/classes>)

**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 14 — Children's Christmas Workshop. 1-4 p.m. at the Armenian Museum of America Adele & Haig Der Manuelian Galleries**, 3rd floor. This year we are welcoming children ages 7-12 to celebrate the season of giving by making Christmas ornaments and cards decorated with traditional Armenian motifs. Armenian Christmas Workshop allows kids to express their creativity by designing Armenian ornaments to adorn trees, and heartfelt cards to give to family and loved ones. After all, this is the true meaning of Christmas! Guiding the children through the spirit of sharing will be Artist-in-Residence Arevik Tserunyan. We will also be making cards for seniors at the Armenian Nursing Home and Rehab Center. The class will conclude with a tree lighting and decorating party in which the children help decorate the Museum's Christmas tree and enjoy refreshments. Members \$16. Non-members \$20. (Note: 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 15 — St. James 88th Anniversary Name Day Celebration - Honoring Hripsime Parsekian and Leslie Cristello, Parishioners of the Year.** 10 am Divine Liturgy. Name Day Banquet to follow. Keljik Hall. St. James' Charles Mosesian Cultural and Youth Center. \$45

per person. \$15 for children 12 and under. Advanced Reservations Required — purchase tickets online at [www.stjameswatertown.org](http://www.stjameswatertown.org). 465 Mt. Auburn Street, Watertown 617.923.8860 [info@stthagop.com](mailto:info@stthagop.com)

**DECEMBER 15 — Christmas Holiday Concert — Erevan Choral Society and Orchestra.** 3 p.m. Church Sanctuary. Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston. 145 Brattle Street Cambridge. Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston and the Erevan Choral Society and Orchestra, founded by the Very Rev. Oshagan Minassian (1930-2008) and now under the direction of Konstantin Petrossian, Music Director and Conductor, will present their annual Christmas Holiday Concert. The program will consist of a variety of beloved Armenian and Western sacred and holiday music. The public is warmly invited to attend this complimentary concert which is a gift to the community. For further information, contact the Holy Trinity Church office at 617.354.0632 or e-mail [office@htaac.org](mailto:office@htaac.org).

**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 [SNDCNYE2020.eventbrite.com](http://SNDCNYE2020.eventbrite.com) Tickets are advance purchase only.

## NEW JERSEY

**JANUARY 11, 2020 — Tekeyan Cultural Association of Greater New York presents "A Children's Song and Dance Show,"** starring Joelle. 2-4 p.m., Saturday, the Hovnanian School, 817 River Road, New Milford. Tickets \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door. Children 2 and under free. Joelle of Montreal will perform her first children's show in New Jersey. Light reception to follow. For tickets text or email Talia, 917-238-3970, [rsvptaliab@gmail.com](mailto:rsvptaliab@gmail.com) or Salpie 516-413-4178, [Salpimegerian@gmail.com](mailto:Salpimegerian@gmail.com).

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

## A Party Girl Gets Her Comeuppance in San Francisco Opera's 'Manon Lescaut'

OPERA, from page 10

repertoire is involved, gave his familiar performance as the impoverished student Des Grieux who loves Manon — vigorous and thrillingly fearless at the role's climactic junctures, but underwhelming in passages of middling intensity or vocal range. Baritone Anthony Clark Evans' performance as Manon's weirdly weaselly brother flitted in and out of focus, and even the Opera Chorus struggled at times to give their music the requisite vitality.

Happily, the veteran bass-baritone Philip Skinner was on hand to bring a measure of robust and insinuating villainy to the part of the lecherous Geronte, and there were strong contributions from Adler Fellows Christopher Oglesby, Ashley Dixon and Zhengyi Bai.

Yet none of it mitigated the feeling that this was an elaborate attempt to get us to sign on to an emotional voyage — Manon's passage from innocence to experience — that we would have been just as happy to opt out of.

"Manon Lescaut" ran at the San Francisco Opera through November 26. For upcoming programs visit [www.sfopera.com](http://www.sfopera.com)



Tenor Christopher Oglesby (left), soprano Lianna Haroutounian and tenor Brian Jagde in Puccini's "Manon Lescaut"

PHOTO: LIZ HAFALIA, THE CHRONICLE

# Mirror Spectator

Established 1932  
An ADL Publication

EDITOR  
Alin K. Gregorian

ASSISTANT EDITOR  
Aram Arkun

ART DIRECTOR  
Marc Mgrditchian

SENIOR EDITORIAL COLUMNIST:  
Edmond Y. Azadian

#### CONTRIBUTORS:

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

#### CORRESPONDENTS:

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

Contributing Photographers:  
Jirair Hovsepian

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

#### Baikar Association, Inc.

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

Telephone: 617-924-4420

FAX: 617-924-2887

www.mirrorspectator.com

E-Mail: editor@mirrorspectator.com

For advertising: mirrorads@aol.com

#### SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

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

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

ISSN 0004-234X

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

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

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

Baikar Association, Inc.

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

## A Deadly Dilemma

By Edmond Y. Azadian

The demons of history are once again haunting Armenia's political life. The memory and legacy of Garegin Nzhdeh have been resurrected and have become a controversial topic in the political discourse between Armenia and Russia, with the spillover affecting Azerbaijan.

In recent years, every time Russian-Armenian relations hit a snag, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Maria Zakharova referred to the issue of Garegin Nzhdeh, who is revered in Armenia and to whom monuments are dedicated in Yerevan, Kapan and at the monastery of Spitakavor. Recently, criticism of Nzhdeh's legacy has been amplified and has been overshadowing Armenia's foreign policy.

A controversy erupted in the Krasnodar region of Russia; the Armenian church in Armavir has a monument dedicated to Nzhdeh, along with General Andranik. For the locals, Nzhdeh remains a controversial figure and the monument has caused an outrage, to the extent that the city's authorities have asked the church to dismantle the monument.

But a city council deputy, Alexey Vinogradov, took the initiative to vandalize the monument by spraying it with black paint, even before the church authorities were allowed time to take down the monument.

The Russian state Duma has condemned the act of vandalism and Armenia's foreign minister, Zohrab Mnatsakanyan, at this time is faced with the delicate task of handling the case with the Russian authorities.

Azerbaijan is clearly behind the provocation. The government in Baku has decided to make this case as a cause celebre, since Nazi collaboration still remains an incendiary issue with the Russian public.

In recent months, Azeri President Ilham Aliyev twice in international forums blamed Armenia for harboring collaborationist sentiments by honoring Garegin Nzhdeh's memory and legacy.

Nzhdeh is an undisputed hero for Armenians, but for Azerbaijan, he is more than a collaborator and his name can be used in multifaceted anti-Armenian propaganda.

Indeed, Nzhdeh's Nazi collaboration is a potent and surefire way to incite the ire of the Russian public. On the next level, he can be used – and has been used – to further antagonize the Central Asian nations before which Turkey and Azerbaijan dangle pan-Turkic dreams.

During the last meeting of the Turkish-speaking nations in Baku, Aliyev raised the issue of the Zangezur region which has been blocking the territorial continuity of the Turkic nations. And the sole responsible party which has made possible the integration of Zangezur into Armenian territory has been Nzhdeh himself, fighting against Azeri and Bolshevik forces, in 1921.

On yet another level, Nzhdeh's Nazi connections serve as a convenient way to press their point that through honoring a hero with a Nazi past, Armenians are being anti-Semitic. This last item was highlighted at a meeting of Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries on October 12, 2019, where Aliyev and Armenia's Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan had a spat over the issue.

Aliyev, in his speech, mentioned that CIS leaders had repeatedly opposed the glorification of Nazis and he continued, "Unfortunately, this is happening in the CIS, in particular in Armenia, where the former authorities erected monuments to the fascist executioner and traitor Garegin Harutyunyan in the center of Yerevan, who served the German fascists under the nickname Garegin Nzhdeh."

Of course, Pashinyan, caught by surprise, responded in an eloquent manner that Nzhdeh had fought the Turks and saved Armenia's territory.

Aliyev also made a reference that the former Republican administration had adopted Nzhdeh's philosophy. That, of course, was a misunderstanding, because neither Prime Minister Serzh Sargsyan, nor any member of his government truly understood what Nzhdeh stood for when they were advocating Nzhdeh's philosophy. Once the Soviets had destroyed the belief system of each citizen in order to develop the conformist Soviet individual, it became almost impossible for any ideology to survive after the collapse of the socialist system. To this day, any

political philosophy in Armenia is only skin deep.

Now that Nzhdeh's legacy has become a political hot potato, it is not up to the Azeris and for that matter, the Russians, to dictate which hero Armenians should nor should not honor.

At the same time, Armenians have to take a deep breath and evaluate our heroes for the good of future generations.

Nzhdeh had a glorious biography as a state-building hero, a strategist, fighter and political philosopher. He fought in Van and Kara Kilissa, but his most valuable achievement was the declaration of the Republic of Mountainous Armenia, which included Zangezur and Artsakh. In 1921, combined Azeri and Bolshevik forces were fighting to dismember Armenian territory and annex Zangezur to Azerbaijan. He fought to his last breath to keep that province within Armenia, even disobeying his superior, Rupen Ter Minassian. After his historic victory in Zangezur, he moved to Tabriz, Iran, where the ARF-Dashnaksutyun expelled him from the party ranks, although his subsequent life and activities continued within the ARF circles.

His racist *Tseghakron* philosophy is thought to be inspired by Nazi ideology.

During World War II, Nzhdeh and General Dro (Drastamat Kanayan) were in Germany, collaborating with Hitler's forces to "liberate" their homeland. Life in the Soviet Union was not a walk in the park, but the illusion that Hitler would grant sovereignty to Armenia was only an illusion, because Europe – particularly France – provided case studies about Nazi intentions. Hitler's racist philosophy that only Aryans deserved sovereignty gave clear indication as to what to expect in case of the Axis forces' victory. All collaborators have used that hollow excuse, which does not stand up to facts.

What Dro and Nzhdeh had done was not unique during World War II. Russians, Ukrainians, French and even Azeris had defected and collaborated with Hitler. We can cite two salient cases; one is that

of Marshal Philippe Petain of France and the other Gen. Andrey Vlasov of Russia.

Petain was the hero of Verdun in 1916 during World War I, where 300,000 French and German soldiers were killed. Through his decisive victory, Petain earned the rank of Marshal and became the most revered soldier in France. However, during World War II, when the German forces occupied France, he headed the Vichy puppet government, put in place by the Nazis. Following the collapse of Hitler's empire, Petain was tried and

given a death sentence, which was commuted to life imprisonment, by Gen. Charles de Gaulle because of his age and ill health. He died in dishonor in a castle on the island of Yeu.

The other case is that of Gen. Andrey Vlasov, who had distinguished himself at the battle defending Moscow. He was captured by the Nazis in Leningrad while trying to break the German blockade of the city. He was taken to Berlin and became a turncoat. He organized the Armed Forces of the Peoples of Russia, and fought alongside Hitler's army. After Hitler's defeat, he was tried and convicted in Moscow and hanged in 1946, along with other collaborators.

A few weeks ago, French President Emmanuel Macron causally remarked that the heroes of Verdun have to be remembered; an uproar ensued throughout the country.

All these stories place the Armenian people in a deadly dilemma. Do we honor a hero for his heroic deeds or acknowledge him based on his whole person, warts and all?

Compared to Dro and Nzhdeh, General Andranik remains the personification of Armenia's liberation movement and the icon of Armenia's statehood.

But he has yet to meet the heroic treatment that Dro and Nzhdeh have enjoyed, most probably for two reasons; Eastern Armenians, historically, have maintained a bias against Western Armenians and that trend still continues until today. And Andranik was a son of Western Armenia, although most of his heroic deeds were with volunteers of Russian forces. The other reason is that Andranik resigned from the ARF and his scope was much larger. Dro and Nzhdeh have residual power bases among the ARF circles who hold them on a higher pedestal.

If there is one monument which deserves to be placed in the heart of Yerevan, at Republic Square, it is that of Andranik.

It is time to think clearly about Nzhdeh and Dro. We have to ask how history should judge them when we compare them to Petain and Vlasov.





## COMMENTARY



My Turn

By Harut Sassounian

## Turkish Money Motivated Senator Graham To Block Armenian Genocide Resolution

When Senator Lindsey Graham (Republican-South Carolina) blocked the Senate vote on the Armenian Genocide Resolution on November 13, 2019, there was widespread speculation as to what motivated him to do so. The reasons ranged from his meeting with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in the White House shortly before his vote, to his flip-flopping on several other issues, and to succumbing to President Trump's pro-Turkish policies.

Another good reason to explain Senator Graham's vote against the Armenian Genocide Resolution is the money he had received from Turkish-Americans for his political campaigns.

Ian J. Lynch wrote an article in the Ahwalnews.com website documenting the Turkish donations to Senator Graham's campaigns. These amounts are in addition to the millions of dollars that the Turkish government pays to American lobbying firms in Washington, D.C., to undermine the adoption of the Armenian Genocide Resolution in Congress. On October 11, 2019, Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld, was added to the long list of American companies lobbying for Turkey. Interestingly, this lobbying firm was hired by TransAtlantic Petroleum, a Texas company with oil and gas interests in Turkey. Akin Gump is supposed to lobby to block the implementation of sanctions against Turkey, a bill that was overwhelmingly adopted by the House of Representatives on October 29, 2019.

Lynch reported that the Armenian government spent no money on lobbying in the United States and the Armenian-American organizations in Washington, D.C. spent very little on lobbying compared to the millions of dollars spent by the Turkish government. "According to the most recent IRS returns, the AAA [Armenian Assembly of America] raised nearly \$2 million in 2017, however, as a 501(c)(3) non-profit

group it is not permitted to spend a substantial amount of its budget on lobbying. According to disclosures required by the Lobbying Disclosure Act (LDA), the AAA spent \$95,000 on lobbying activities in 2018 and \$80,000 so far in 2019. The ANCA [Armenian National Committee of America] is registered as a 501(c)(4) non-profit, meaning it can spend the majority of its budget on lobbying. Its total revenue in 2017 was nearly \$850,000, but the organization only spent \$120,000 on lobbying in each of the past two years, according to LDA disclosures."

After the US House of Representatives adopted the Armenian Genocide Resolution on October 29, 2019, the Turkish American National Steering Committee (TASC) went into action to stop the passage of the counterpart of the House bill in the Senate.

According to Lynch, "TASC's leadership and their associates have direct connections to Erdogan's inner circle and a recent history of making individual political contributions to Graham.... TASC's co-chairman, Dr. Halil Mutlu, is a cousin of Erdogan. He and his wife donated a total of \$10,800 to Team Graham Inc., the senator's re-election campaign for Senate in 2020, on Aug. 8, 2016. Their individual contributions of \$5,400 each are the maximum an individual can give to a political campaign in the U.S. per election cycle. Mutlu's employer, Baystate Medical Center in Massachusetts, is one of Team Graham's biggest sources of donations. In the current election cycle, the hospital's employees have contributed \$21,600 to the senator's 2020 campaign."

The employees of another Turkish-linked company, Nimeks Organics, are among the top donors to Senator Graham's campaign, providing a total of \$16,200 in individual donations during this election cycle. "Nimeks is a product line of Natural Foods Group based in Pennsylvania, which imports food products from Turkey. The company's CEO, Murat Guzel, is also the treasurer of TASC," according to Lynch.

In addition, the Guzel family donated a total of \$8,100 to Graham's presidential campaign on June 28, 2016, "despite the fact that Graham had dropped out of that race the previous December. The donation came shortly after the coup attempt in Turkey," Lynch reported. "Just weeks later, Guzel and his family donated a further \$10,800 to Team Graham, one day before the Mutlu family donated the same sum on Aug. 8. Neither the Mutlus nor Guzels are constituents of Graham, who represents South Carolina."

Strangely, Guzel was donating to a Republican Senator at a time when "he was the chair of the Democratic National Committee's Heritage Council and contributed nearly

\$300,000 to Democratic committees supporting Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign," according to Lynch. Guzel must have had a strong reason for heading one political party's committee while donating to its opponent.

Guzel maintained close contact with Berat Albayrak, President Erdogan's son-in-law and Treasury and Finance Minister, Bilal Erdogan, the president's son, and Ibrahim Kalin, the President's spokesman. From time to time, Guzel "asks Turkish officials for help coordinating his political activities," which was made public after Albayrak's emails were hacked, according to Lynch.

It is not surprising that the FBI investigated TASC officials. "In a Sept. 8, 2016 email, Ibrahim Uyar, a co-founder of TASC, told Albayrak that the FBI questioned him about whether TASC and other Turkish organizations were involved in efforts to intervene in American politics on the Turkish government's behalf. Uyar also indicated several others were questioned including Guzel and Halil Danismaz, the founding president of the Turkish Heritage Organization (THO)." In emails to Albayrak years earlier, Danismaz once proposed a "camouflaged" lobbying campaign to overcome "funding regulations and tax barriers that limit lobbying activities in the U.S." When the emails were released, Danismaz resigned from THO, Lynch reported.

The Turkish Coalition Northeast PAC also contributed to Senator Graham's campaign. In April of this year, it gave its maximum allowable donation of \$5,000 to Team Graham, "its largest gift to a candidate committee in the current election cycle," Lynch revealed.

After Senator Graham made supportive remarks about Turkey at a conference in Munich, Team Graham received a \$1,000 donation from the US lobbying firm Greenberg Traurig, LLP, which is hired by Turkey.

Senator Graham met with Greenberg Traurig lobbyists on January 10, 2019, a week before he visited Turkey to meet with President Erdogan. While in Turkey, Erdogan invited Senator Graham to attend a concert with him, which Graham described as "one of the best experiences" of his life.

Lynch concluded his report by asserting: "What is clear is that the close-knit network of Turkish organizations and political action committees in the United States with ties to the Erdogan family think Graham is worthy of the investment of their time and political contributions."

We do not know the result of the 2016 FBI investigation of TASC and other Turkish American organizations, however, there seems to be sufficient ground to look into their possible violation of the Foreign Agent Registration Act, as unregistered lobbyists for a foreign government!

# Remembering the Late Catholicos Vasken I 25 Years Since His Passing

By Father Zaven Arzoumanian, PhD

A quarter of a century has passed since the Armenian Church and nation lost a most venerable Pontiff, His Holiness Vasken I, Catholicos of All Armenians, on August 18, 1994 leaving behind a wealthy and unprecedented legacy. His record tenure, the longest among his predecessors of all times, Vasken I led the Armenian Church for 39 years with national and international, spiritual and educational remarkable achievements, including his equally unprecedented ten Pontifical journeys abroad. Vasken I, born and raised in Bucharest, Romania, was consecrated a diocesan bishop for his native diocese in 1951, soon followed with his election and consecration as the Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians four years later in 1955.

Barely six months after his enthronement, Vasken I received an invitation to visit the Catholicosate of the Great House of Cilicia for the election of the local Catholicos in Antelias, Lebanon, which had remained vacant since the passing of Catholicos Karekin I Hovsepian in 1952. Arriving the first week in February 1956, with an entourage of bishops from Europe and the Holy See, he tried to relieve the tense situation among the parties and the brotherhood. Other bishops arrived in addition to the local bishops and they all met several times under the presidency of His Holiness, including the Patriarch of Constantinople and the Locum Tenens of the Jerusalem Patriarchate, to clarify canonically the condition for a successful election. Unfortunately all efforts were unable to create the needed peace, and the election took place unilaterally after Vasken I Catholicos of All Armenians had left Lebanon for Cairo where the first Episcopal Convocation took place as planned by His Holiness.

### Moscow, May 1956

On May 12, 1956 Vasken I, just a few months after his election, paid an official visit to Kremlin and met with the Prime Minister of the Soviet Union Nikola Bulganin. The meeting, in the presence of both the Soviet and Armenian Ministers of Religious Affairs, was highly diplomatic and proved very favorable for the Armenian Church, as His Holiness presented seven urgent requests regarding the immediate needs of Holy Echmiadzin.

The Catholicos had mentioned in his report that the leader of the Soviet Union had read the written requests carefully, "giving them his official approval for each," even though we were unable

to identify those seven requests anywhere in a written form, cleverly, I think, avoiding unnecessary reaction set as an "example" for one or the other Republics to follow. The most important of the requests soon became conspicuous, namely, the return of the confiscated and abused Veharan, the Pontifical Palace and the residence of the Catholicos. In fact the impressive Palace built in 1912 was returned the next year in 1957, and was renovated in time for the National-Ecclesiastical Assembly of 1962.

### New Dioceses Established Abroad

During the four decades of his pontificate, Catholicos Vasken I formally established the following Armenian Church dioceses outside Armenia: Australia and the Far East, Brazil, Uruguay, Germany, Canada, Central Europe, and Switzerland. He also dedicated and consecrated the St. Vartan Cathedral in New York City, St. Hripsimeh church in Vienna, and St. Mary Magdalene church in Brussels. In Armenia and vicinity the Catholicos re-established local dioceses headed by the Diocese of Artsakh, and restored some of the ancient monasteries in the country with the cooperation of the Soviet Armenian authorities. His seasoned personality and high diplomacy always impressed the leaders of both the Soviet Union and the Armenian Republic.

The Catholicos blessed the Holy *Miuron* (Oil) six times, once every seven years as required for the distribution to all dioceses and individual churches for the anointing of church edifices, priests, and newly baptized children. Those blessings were prohibited during the harsh years of the Soviet system, and since 1926 no Blessing of *Miuron* had taken place in Holy Echmiadzin. The Catholicos was in dire need of bishops as well for the dioceses both in Armenia and abroad, and during his pontificate Vasken I consecrated 65 bishops. Both the numbers of the Blessing of the Holy Oil and the ordination of the bishops were unprecedented in recent history.

### Ecumenical Visits

Upon the invitation of His Holiness Pope Paul VI of Rome, the Catholicos of All Armenians visited the Vatican the first time, accompanied by both Armenian Patriarchs Yeghishhe Derderian of Jerusalem and Shnork Kaloustian of Constantinople. Pontifical visitations to the Vatican repeated, as delegations from the Vatican visited Echmiadzin on various occasions in return, such as on the Blessings of the Holy *Miuron* and other landmark anniversaries. The relationship with the Church of England was also very warm, as two Archbishops of Canterbury were invited to visit Armenia and Holy Echmiadzin during his pontificate. The Catholicos in return was invited to visit England several times.

Papal visitations to Holy Echmiadzin were realized only later by Pope John Paul II in 2001, and Pope Francis in 2016 during the pontificate of the present Catholicos Karekin II. On April 22, 1994, just prior to the passing of the Catholicos in August, a delegation from the Vatican visited the ailing Catholicos Vasken I headed by Cardinal Sylvester who presented the Pontiff with the relics of Saints Thaddeus and Bartholomew, the first Apostles of Christ who introduced Christianity in Armenia. Vasken I passed away in August the same year.

Catholicos Vasken's initiative was significant also in the active membership of the Armenian Church in the World Council of Churches in 1962. He was invited to Geneva to represent his ancient church with the celebration of a Pontifical Divine Liturgy, thus blessing the approval of the membership. Upon his return to the Holy See the Catholicos issued an Encyclical announcing the participation of the Armenian Church in the WCC.

### Unprecedented Visits Abroad

Amazingly His Holiness paid pontifical visits to the United States, Canada, European countries, India, Iraq, Ethiopia, Egypt, Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay, everywhere meeting with the state and ecclesiastical leaders. Special effects touched the United States where the Pontiff visited four times on four different occasions, the last being on the aftermath of the tragic earthquake that shook northern Armenia in December 1988. It was only a month after the disaster that Vasken I, this time tears in the eyes, arrived in New York and philanthropists from as far as Australia and Europe heeded the pontifical appeal to gather in St. Vartan Cathedral and organize relief on various levels. The tragedy needed immediate assistance in terms of housing, medications, and hospitalization for the victims who had lost tens of thousands of their loved ones, including a large number of school children.

### The Vaskenian Seminary

As the Armenian Church remembers with warm and filial affection His Holiness Vasken I on his 25th year of passing, in Armenia at the shores of Lake Sevan the new Vaskenian Seminary stands elegantly with young seminarians to witness the Catholicos' permanent presence among them. A chapel and a full-size statue of the Venerable Catholicos Vasken at the entrance of the Seminary testify the gratitude of a nation and its church for all times. The Seminary became the initiative of the present Catholicos His Holiness Karekin II who made the entire campus a reality from the days he was serving the Araratian Diocese of Yerevan.



## Acclaimed Astronomer Yervant Terzian Dies

TERZIAN, from page 1

Observatory to seek the director's advice. A few years later, he learned English (his fifth language) to read the astronomy books in the American Library of Cairo; the librarian, impressed by his enthusiasm, bought new books for him to read when he exhausted what their initial holdings. At 17 he was admitted to the American University in Cairo, where he earned an undergraduate degree in physics in 1960. Overcoming the bureaucratic obstacles that were placed on ethnic minorities following the fall of the King Farouk and the Egyptian Revolution of 1952, he entered the PhD program in astrophysics at Indiana University in Bloomington, which he completed in 1965. His doctoral research, conducted at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory in West Virginia, led to a lifetime of contributions to our understanding of the interstellar medium, the gas and dust between the stars. In early 1965 he joined the scientific staff of the recently built, and Cornell University managed, Arecibo Observatory in Puerto Rico, the beginning of a lifelong association with Cornell.

In 1967 Terzian moved to Cornell's Ithaca, NY, campus as assistant professor of astronomy, the start of a distinguished teaching career for which in 1984 he received the Clark Distinguished Award for Excellence in Teaching. Over the years he supervised many PhD students and authored, or co-authored, over 235 scientific publications and edited seven books including Carl Sagan's Universe. In 1979 he was appointed Chair of the Astronomy Department, a position he held for 20 years, a testament to his vision, his diplomatic skills and his strong sense of duty towards the University, his colleagues and his students. A tireless champion for scientific literacy, he engaged regularly with public audiences regarding important discoveries about planets, stars, black holes, and galaxies. While Chair, he founded the Friends of Astronomy (FoA), a group of Cornell related alumni who shared Yervant's enthusiasm for astronomy and who have been, and continue to be, very supportive of Cornell's Astronomy Department. However, it was in the broader area of astronomy that he made his major contributions. He was a scientific editor of the *Astrophysical Journal* for 10 years, starting in

1989. In 1996 he was appointed director of the NASA-funded New York Space Grant Consortium for Science Education and, later, director of the National Space Grant Consortium. In 2002 he was elected chair of the US Consortium of Universities and Institutes involved with the international project to build the next generation of large radio telescopes, the Square Kilometer Array, and chaired the site selection committee for the telescope.

Profoundly proud and thankful for all the opportunities that were attendant to becoming an American citizen, he served his country as a scientist whenever the occasion arose. Also proud and loyal to his Armenian and Greek heritage, he sought out or created opportunities to assist and collaborate with scientists from both nations. In the wake of the breakup of the Soviet Union and the loss of much of the funding for scientists in Armenia, Yervant and colleagues created the very successful Armenian National Science and Education Fund, which Yervant chaired, to raise money to support Armenian scientists based on peer reviewed proposals. He was a founding member of the Hellenic Astronomical Society and the Armenian Astronomical Society (1993 and 2001, respectively).

Yervant's contributions were widely recognized. He was awarded Honorary Doctor of Science degrees from the University of Indiana (1989), the Yerevan State University in Armenia (1994), the University of Thessaloniki in Greece (1997), and from Union College in New York (1999). In 1990, he was elected a Foreign Member of the Armenian Academy of Sciences. In 1999 the Friends of Astronomy established an endowment for The Yervant Terzian Undergraduate Scholarships; in 2009 FoA Chuck Mund, Jr. established the Yervant Terzian Lectures. In 2001 he was elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. In 2004 he received the Distinguished Alumni Award from the American University in Cairo. In 2008 he received the Gold Medal, the highest honor for scientific achievement, from the Government of the Republic of Armenia. In 2018 NASA awarded him its highest honor for non-government individuals, the Public Service Medal. Appointments by Cornell, as Stephen H. Weiss Presidential Fellow and Tisch Distinguished University Professor honored his contributions as a teacher and a scientist.

Competitive by nature and a former champion

athlete in track and field, Yervant had a love for sports throughout his life. He also greatly enjoyed traveling throughout the world and listening to classical, Greek, and Armenian music, cooking Greek food and tending to his fruit trees and flower gardens. He was especially fond of Ithaca, which he made his home for most of his life.

Yervant was preceded in death by his sister, Vaya Stamatopoulos of Athens, Greece, and by his first wife and mother of his children, Araxy (Hovsepian) Bablanian of Gainesville, Fla. He is survived by his wife, Patricia Fernández de

Castro, daughter Tamar (Joseph) Terzian, of Alexandria, VA; son, Sevan (Lee-Ann) Terzian of Gainesville, FL; grandsons Zaven Masih and Christopher Terzian; granddaughters Nairi Masih and Talar Terzian; nieces, Mary Stamatopoulos, Maral Tchelikdjian, and Talar Kizirian; nephew, Pericles Stamatopoulos and three grand-nephews.

A memorial gathering was scheduled at 404 Highland Road, Ithaca, NY, on Friday December 6, with the funeral to follow at the Pleasant Grove Cemetery.

## \$10M Raised by Hayastan All-Armenian Fund

TELETHON, from page 1

Lori and Tavush provinces. The Hayastan All-Armenian Fund has already implemented over \$350 million worth of similar projects since being set up in 1992.

Hayastan received more than \$11 million in donation pledges during last year's telethon. According to its executive director, Hayk Arshamyan, that included \$3.5 million promised by two wealthy Armenian Americans. They have still not transferred the sum to the fund headquartered in Yerevan, Arshamyan told RFE/RL's Armenian service on Friday.

At the latest televised fundraiser, Russian-Armenian billionaire Samvel Karapetyan made the largest donation worth \$1.5 million. This raised to around \$25 million the total amount of his financial contributions to Hayastan.

Another \$200,000 was contributed by Samvel Aleksanyan, one of Armenia's wealthiest businessmen. No donations by other well-known tycoons from Armenia and its worldwide Diaspora were announced this time around.

Many Armenians expected that funds raised by Hayastan will rise significantly after last year's "Velvet Revolution" in Armenia that brought to power a new, far more popular and trusted government. These hopes have clearly not materialized so far.

Arshamyan did not exclude that wealthy Armenian businessmen are unhappy with the current authorities in Yerevan that have launched criminal proceedings against some of them. "Maybe they are, but nobody should upset with anyone because Hayastan is a pan-Armenian structure that serves the Armenian people," he said.

Speaking at a Yerevan TV studio during the telethon, Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said the fund will increasingly rely on smaller donations coming from a much larger number of people.

"If five million Armenians donate \$200 per year or \$20 per month to the Hayastan fund we will have \$1.25 billion annually," said Pashinyan. He said he himself will donate 10,000 drams (\$21) each month, urging Armenians – and Diaspora celebrities in particular – to do the same.

Arshamyan said in this regard that the Hayastan management will put a growing emphasis on attracting mass online donations. In his words, some 1,500 people contributed a total of \$166,500 in this way during the latest telethon.

Hayastan's current Board of Trustees is headed by Armenia's President Armen Sarkissian and comprises Pashinyan, other senior Armenian state officials, Catholicos Garegin II as well as prominent members of Armenian communities around the world.

In recent years the fund has partly financed, among other things, the construction of a second highway connecting Nagorno-Karabakh to Armenia. The 116-kilometer-long road was inaugurated in 2017.

**TEKEYAN CULTURAL ASSOCIATION  
GREATER NEW YORK**

**Captain Hrair Hawk in Cilicia**  
Video presentation of his travels

Thursday, December 19, 2019  
Tekeyan Center, 7:30pm  
560 Sylvan Avenue  
Englewood Cliffs NJ 07632

Hrair Hawk's published works and his new book **"Armenia: Heaven on Earth"** will be available for sale.

**Free Admission**

**TEKEYAN CULTURAL ASSOCIATION  
GREATER NEW YORK**

Presents  
**A Children's Song & Dance Show**  
Starring: **Joelle**

Saturday, January 11, 2020 | 2-4 PM  
**Hovnanian School**  
817 River Road  
New Milford, NJ 07646  
Tickets: \$25 paid in advance and \$30 at the door  
Children ages 2 and under free

Come join us for a fun afternoon of singing and dancing with the much loved Armenian children's singer Joelle from Montreal for her first show in New Jersey.

Light reception to follow!

For tickets, please text or email:  
Talia 917-238-3970  
rsvptaliab@gmail.com  
Salpie 516-413-4178  
Salpimegerian@gmail.com

**Joelle**  
Joelleentertainment.com

Our Sponsors