**Azerbaijanis Attempt to Counter Two Boston Demonstrations**

By Aram Arkun

*BOSTON – Two successive Armenian public events to raise awareness of the recent attacks on the Armenian border by Azerbaijan were disrupted in the Boston area by Azerbaijanis or their supporters last week. On July 22, the Armenian Youth Federation (AYF) Greater Boston Noehde Chapter organized a “die-in” protest at the Thomas P. O’Neill, Jr. Federal Building in Boston. According to Meghri Dervartanian, a member of the chapter, it took place from 4:30 to 7 p.m. She said, “Most of us lay on the ground or sidewalk with signs stating ‘Stop Azeri aggression,’ ‘Armenia pro-peace, Azerbaijan wants war,’ and ‘Armenia wants peace.’ It is not something you see every day, so that got a lot of attention.’ Armenians standing around would explain to passersby what was going on in more detail."

see BOSTON, page 10

**Azerbaijanis Vandalize KZV Armenian School**

By Alin K. Gregorian

*SAN FRANCISCO – Some Azerbaijanis around the world are targeting Armenians, possibly responding to Jingosic messages issued by thecountry’s government, in the wake of that country’s sudden act of aggression against Armenia. In the wake of the defeat, the governments of both Azerbaijan and Turkey have issued incendiary messages aimed at their own diasporas, as well as Armenians both in Armenia and abroad.*

see KZV SCHOOL, page 11

**First Phase 3 Clinical Trial of Coronavirus Vaccine in US Begins**

By Elizabeth Cohen, John Benfield and Jamie Gumbrecht


The investigational vaccine was developed by the biotechnology company Moderna and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, part of the National Institutes of Health. The trial is to be conducted at nearly 100 US research sites, according to Moderna. The first patient was dosed at a site in Savannah, Georgia.

The trial is expected to enroll about 30,000 adult volunteers and evaluates the safety of the Moderna/SNH vaccine and whether it can prevent symptomatic Covid-19 after two doses, among other outcomes. Volunteers will receive either two 100 microgram injections of the vaccine or a placebo about 28 days apart. see MODERNA, page 20

**US House Approves More Funding For Mine Clearance In Karabakh**

WASHINGTON – The US House of Representatives approved on Thursday, July 23, $3.4 million in fresh US funding for humanitarian demining operations in Nagorno-Karabakh carried out by a British charity, the HALO Trust. The HALO Trust has cleared tens of thousands of antipersonnel and antitank landmines, mostly left over from the 1991-1994 Armenian-Azerbaijani war, since it began its work in Karabakh in 2001. The US Congress has financed the effort as part of its direct humanitarian assistance to the Armenian-populated territory allocated over strong Azerbaijani objec tives.

The current US administration has sought to end that assistance. An amendment to a House bill on US foreign aid in the fiscal year 2021 requires it continue funding the demining program in Karabakh. The amendment was drafted by three members of the House, one of whom, Jackie Speier, argued that Karabakh has one of the highest per capita mine accident rates in the world. More than 400 of its residents have been killed there by landmines since 1994. The measure was also co-sponsored by more than 30 other lawmakers. Armenian-American advocacy groups lobbied hard for its passage.

“Today’s vote represents a powerful rebuke to the Azerbaijani government-driven, State Department-supported effort to end Artsakh’s demining program despite its remarkable record of having removed tens of thousands of landmines and saving countless lives,” said the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA).

“For a relatively small investment, the United States can make a significant difference for the people of Nagorno-Karabakh, especially for the children,” it said in a statement. The aid allocation also needs to be backed by the US Senate.

**Mkhitarian Gifts Armenia Team Jerseys To Soldiers**

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – On July 27, Armenian national football team captain Henrik Mkhitaryan gifted Armenian national team jerseys to the soldiers, wounded during the military operations in the north-eastern part of Armenia-Azerbaijan state border. In July, the Football Federation of Armenia reported.

Mkhitaryan promised to meet the soldiers and sign autographs when he returns to Armenia. “I thank you for standing firmly and defending the borders of our homeland,” Mkhitaryan wrote in his letter to the soldiers.

**Armenia, Azerbaijan Urged to Restart Peace Talks**

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) – US, Russian and French mediators have urged Armenia and Azerbaijan to gear up for “serious substantive negotiations” on resolving the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict after recent deadly dashes on their border.

In a weekend statement, the three co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group also welcomed the current “relative stability” along a section of the border where heavy fighting broke out on July 12 and left at least 17 soldiers from both sides dead.

The hostilities largely stopped on July 16. The conflicting parties have since reported sporadic ceasefire violations mainly involving small arms. An Armenian army soldier, Asot Mikaelyan, was shot dead at the volatile border section early on Monday in what the Defense Ministry in Yerevan described as Azerbaijan sniper fire.

“The Co-Chairs appeal to the sides to take advantage of the current reduction in active hostilities to prepare for serious substantive negotiations to find a comprehensive solution to the conflict,” read the statement. “The Co-Chairs stress once more that refraining from new “conditions” or changes to the set-tlement process framework is not conducive to resuming a constructive dialogue,” it said.

Azerbaijan’s President Ilham Aliyev lambasted the mediators and threatened to withdraw from further peace talks just days before the flare-up on the border between Armenia’s northern Tavush province and Azerbaijan’s Tovuz district. Aliyev specifically blasted “those who are trying to establish new “conditions” or changes to the settlements process framework that are not conducive to resuming a constructive dialogue,” he said.

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**Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said last Thursday that Karabakh must become a “fully-fledged party to negotiations” mediated by the Minsk Group co-chairs.**

see TALKSK, page 3

**The ARZMEIN Mirror-Spectator**

*The First English Language Armenian Weekly in the United States Since 1932*
**Solar Panel Production Up by 36 Percent in Armenia**

YEREVAN (Panorama.am) – A total of 5,779 units of solar panels have been manufactured in Armenia in January-May 2020, according to the data released by the National Statistical Service (NSS). As the data suggest, the production volume grew by 35.6 percent compared with the same period the previous year. According to NSS, 3,015 units out of the total number were produced in May. NSS data next indicate that in January-May 2020, a total of 218,537 GigaWatt-hours of electricity were produced in Armenia's solar power plants, increasing by 41.7 percent compared with the same period of 2019.

**Defense Minister Meets With Russian Ambassador**

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – Defense Minister of Armenia Davit Tonoyan met with Ambassador of Russia to Armenia Sergey Kopirkin on July 28. During the meeting, Tonoyan presented a report to Kopirkin about the latest developments concerning the border villages and the Artsakh-Azerbaijan contact line, emphasizing the constructive and stabilizing role of Russia.

**EPIC and Dartmouth Create Plan for Crowdfunding for Armenian Startups**

YEREVAN – The Entrepreneurship and Product Innovation Center (EPIC) of the American University of Armenia (AUA) recently concluded a project with faculty from the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth College. Tuck is ranked as one of the top business schools in the world. Over the past year, a total of 150 students from Tuck together with 45 students from AUA graduated students worked to assess the feasibility of creating a crowdfunding platform in Armenia. The project concluded that it is possible to create an investment vehicle for early-stage Armenian startups to secure necessary equity-based financing from the Armenian diaspora and beyond. Similar crowdfunding platforms previously have been successfully used in developing countries to target individuals from prosperous diasporas for financing startups. For over 20 weeks, the teams conducted market research with dozens of stakeholders including startup founders, diaspora representatives and investors, crowdfunding experts, and legal advisors. The teams analyzed the local conditions for establishing and deploying a platform. Through the visit of the Tuck team to Armenia, the project recommended that an investment platform is scheduled to go live in early 2021. Working with a team that has global experience while focusing on multiple and practical issues and challenges in a developing country such as Armenia led to a valuable collaboration for everyone involved. For the participating AUA students, in particular, the project realized the importance of best practices and teamwork exemplified by the Tuck MBA students. Gorah Ashyanian (BC ’21) noted that “Each person brought their individual outlook and skills to the team. Through the in-depth interviews jointly conducted with the Tuck students, I understood the significance and power of teamwork. Their willingness to bring each other’s skills to the fore was an essential component of the research and something I would always apply in the future.”

Since the first project, this team has worked with incredible people from Tuck with great experience and working style, who were willing to share their knowledge with us. Not only have I learned a lot about the benefits of crowdfunding and the significant impact that it will have on Armenia, but also I had the chance to get valuable insights about Armenia’s startup culture and learn about the existing gaps in the startup ecosystem. It made me think about how I could contribute to Armenia’s overall business ecosystem and I would like to interview and contribute to the improvement of Armenia’s overall business environment,” shared Anh N.H. Nguyen (Tuck MBA ’21) from the AUA team.

During the research, students had multiple interviews with Armenian and non-Armenian founders to VC/angel investors, as well as legislators and advisors. I can’t wait to see this platform come to life,” says Ahn N.H. Nguyen (Tuck MBA ’21). The Tuck team plans to visit Armenia as soon as travel opens up in the future, and will maintain active ties with the AUA students and EPIC. The crowdfunding platform is scheduled to go live in early 2021.
European Court Seeks Information About Armenian Captive in Azerbaijan

STRASBOURGH (RFE/RL) — The European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) has ordered Azerbaijan to provide information about the whereabouts and condition of an Armenian man who was detained in its Nakhichevan exclave earlier this month.

Authorities in Nakhichevan reported the arrest of the 30-year-old man, Narek Sardaryan, on July 15 one week after he went missing while grazing cattle in a border village in Armenia’s southeastern Syunik region.

Sardaryan was shown on local television saying that he fled Armenia and was living in Azerbaijan as a third country. His family believes that he crossed the Armenian-Azerbaijani border by accident and was forced by the Azerbaijani security services to give a different reason for entering Nakhichevan.

A lawyer representing the family, Artak Zeynalian, asked the ECHR last week to help ensure that Sardaryan is safe and sound and can communicate with his wife, sister and parents.

The Strasbourg-based court agreed to issue such an injunction on Thursday.

According to Zeynalian, it specifically ordered the Azerbaijani authorities to reveal the place and conditions of Sardaryan’s detention and report whether he is facing any criminal charges, has access to a lawyer and can receive or send letters.

Baku must provide this and other information before the end of this month, Zeynalian told RFE/RL’s Armenian service.

Azerbaijani-Armenian border by

Sardaryan, who served as Armenia’s justice minister from 2018-2019, suggested that the ECHR took into account the tragic fate of other Armenian civilians who had strayed into Azerbaijani territory in similar circumstances.

In September 2010, a 20-year-old resident of a border village in Armenia’s Gagarkunik province, Manvel Saribekyan, crossed into Azerbaijan and was immediately accused by Baku of planning to carry out terrorist attacks.

Saribekyan was found hanged in an Azerbaijani detention center one month later. Azerbaijani officials claimed that he committed suicide. But in a January 2020 ruling, the ECHR backed Armenian forensic experts’ conclusion that young man was tortured to death.

Another Armenian villager, Karen Petrosyan, was pronounced dead in August 2014 one day after being detained in an Azerbaijani village across the border. The Azerbaijani military claimed that he died of “acute heart failure.” The Armenian authorities believe, however, that Petrosyan was murdered or beaten to death.

Armenian human rights ombudsman, Arman Tatoyan, discussed Sardaryan’s disappearance at a July 14 meeting with Clive Mytton, the head of the ECHR’s office of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). It is not clear whether officials from the ICRC office in Baku have since been allowed to visit Sardaryan.

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Armenian lawmaker fined over Lake Sevan Beach Party

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) — Armenian authorities have fined a pro-government parliamentarian and shut down a lakeside resort where he partied over the weekend in breach of coronavirus safety rules set by the government.

The late-night party featuring live music took place at a beach club located on the northern shore of Lake Sevan. Photographs and videos posted on social media showed Hayk Sargsyan, a 27-year-old lawmaker affiliated with Armenia’s ruling My Step bloc, and dozens of other young people wearing no face masks and not observing social distancing there.

This caused a media uproar in the country which has had one of the highest coronavirus infection rates in the world. The Armenian government has for months been trying to curb the spread of the disease by enforcing strict anti-epidemic rules.

Sargsyan himself admitted to Armenian authorities earlier this summer to comply with the rules requiring them wear masks in all public spaces.

The lawmaker, who is no stranger to controversy, said on Monday that police have fined him and the other revelers. He also apologized to the government for causing such a big and unnecessary rumour.

Sargsyan claimed that he only briefly failed to put on a mask. However, the widely publicized images suggest that he was not masked throughout the beach party.

A pop singer who performed at the event said he was told that it was allowed by Deputy Prime Minister Tigran Avinyan, who coordinates the government’s response to the coronavirus outbreak.

A spokesman for Avinyan insisted, however, that his office did not issue such permission.

The office shut down the Spitak Shorzha beach club for two weeks on Tuesday, saying that it violated a government ban on live performances and mass gatherings and failed to enforce other coronavirus safety rules.

The club manager, Vartan Simonyan, denounced the measure as disproportionate, saying that he will appeal against it. He said that the controversial party was organized by another private firm.

Some media outlets claimed that Sputnik Shorsha is owned by Sargsyan. They quoted a Facebook photo of the young lawmaker sitting behind the club bar and using what looked like a computer cash register.

Sargsyan, whose twin brother Nairi is an aide to Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, denies fully or partly owning the resort.

The chief of the Armenian police, Vahe Ghazaryan, has also faced media accusations of breaking the government rules. The Hraparak daily reported that Ghazaryan and dozens of other police officers dined late last week at a restaurant outside Yerevan.

“it was a protocol event, not a restaurant party,” a police spokesman insisted on Tuesday.

Ghazaryan’s predecessor was sacked by Pashinyan less than two months ago for failing to properly enforce the coronavirus-related state of emergency in the country.

Thousands of Armenians have since been fined by the police for not wearing face masks.

The authorities have also temporarily shut down scores of restaurants, manufacturing firms and other businesses not following the anti-epidemic rules.

In early June, Pashinyan also fired Armenia’s top army general, Artak Davtyan, one day after the latter hosted his son’s wedding party attended by dozens of guests.

President Sarkissian Visits Family of Soldier Killed by Azerbaijan

YEREVAN — President Armen Sarkissian visited on July 24 the Elbakyan family in Marashen, Shirak province. Their son, Army Captain Sos Elbakyan, had been killed on the Karabakh front earlier this month.

Sarkissian expressed his deep condolences to the parents of Elbakyan and noted that their son had sacrificed his young life defending devotedly the border of the Fatherland, our peace and security.

The president also expressed gratitude to the parents of Elbakyan for raising such a courageous and patriotic son. “I bow to his eternal memory. His heroism is immortal,” President Sarkissian said and noted that we will all take pride in our Army and its brave servicemen.

At the Marmashen monastery, President Sarkissian lit a candle in the memory of the young soldiers and the troops.

President Sarkissian pays his respects to the late Sos Elbakyan and his family.

Armenian Lawmaker Fined Over Lake Sevan Beach Party

TALKS, from page 1

The remark led Azerbaijan to claim that Armenia is seeking to change the format of peace talks. Baku has long refused to directly negotiate with the disputed territory’s ethnic Armenian leadership.

In their latest statement, the mediators — Andrew Schofer, Igor Popov and Stephane Vincent — expressed readiness to meet soon with Aliyev and Pashinyan “or their designees.” Since the start of the coronavirus pandemic, they have not visited the conflict zone.

But Armenia and Azerbaijani leaders elsewhere, organizing instead two video conferences with the foreign ministers of the two warring nations.

The American, Russian and French envoys also emphasized that they continue to stand for a Karabakh settlement the key elements of which they had laid out in a March 2019 statement.

In that statement they said that “any fair and lasting settlement” must involve “return of the territories surrounding Nagorno-Karabakh to Azerbaijan control; an interim status for Nagorno-Karabakh; providing guarantees for security and self-governance; a corridor linking Armenia to Nagorno-Karabakh; future determination of the final legal status of Nagorno-Karabakh through a legal binding expression of will.”

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Azerbaijan, Turkey to Hold Joint War Games

By Emil Donijelyan

YEREVAN (Re/RL) — The armed forces of Azerbaijan and Turkey started joint exercises on Wednesday, July 29, two weeks after deadly hostilities on the Armenian-Azerbaijan border which led Ankara to provide more military assistance to Baku.

The Azerbaijani Defense Ministry announced on Monday that the “large-scale” exercises will involve warplanes and artillery and air-defense systems. It did not specify the number of soldiers that will take part in them.

A ministry statement cited by Azerbaijan news agency says the joint military exercises of the two states will simulate joint operations in Baku and Armenia’s Nakhchivan exclave from August 15. It said separate drills involving the Turkish and Azerbaijani air forces will be held in these and three other locations from July 29 through August 10.

The ministry also said that the war games will take place in accordance with a Turkish-Azerbaijani defense treaty and an agreement on bilateral military cooperation. It did not link them with the July 12 outbreak of heavy fighting at a settlement along the Azerbaijani border with Armenia which has killed several days and left at least 17 soldiers dead.

Turkey has blamed Armenia for the flareup and reaffirmed its full support for Azerbaijan in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Yerevan has denied the Turkish reaction, accusing Ankara of trying to destabilize the region, under-cutting international efforts to resolve the conflict and proving a serious security threat to Armenia.

Immediately after the border clashes, a high-level Azerbaijani army delegation flew to Ankara for talks with Turkey’s top military and defense industry officials. Turkish Defense Minister Hulusi Akar told it that the Armenians “will certainly pay for what they have done” to his country’s military and diplomatic assets. Another Turkish official expressed readiness to supply Turkey’s made military drones and missiles to the Azerbaijani army.

Some statements fueled speculation about a direct Turkish intervention in the Karabakh conflict. Successful Armenian governments have relied on a number of international players, including the UN, Russia, France, and Germany, to mediate the conflict and pose a serious security threat to Armenia.

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The President of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Isabel Mota, emphasized that “By awarding this Prize, the Foundation highlights its commitment to urgent climate action, fostering communities that are more resilient and better prepared for future challenges. We believe that the prize offers a powerful tool to pro-ecting, in particular, the most vulner- able.”

Greta Thunberg said: “I’m extremely honored to receive the Gulbenkian Prize for Humanity. We’re in a climate and ecological crisis. It’s not as if we can just quickly as possible donate all the prize money of 1 million Euros to support the fight against climate change. In order to make a difference, we must have the right to contribute.”

The Grand Jury of the Prize, which is comprised of internationally renowned personalities from the fields of science, technology, politics and culture, highlighted Thunberg’s charismatic and inspiring personality, but also the force of her simple and distressing message capable of arousing disparate feelings, and her capacity to make a difference in the fight against climate change.

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Iraqi Kurds Fear Turkey’s Military Campaign Aims beyond PKK

By Kristina Jovanovski

ISTANBUL, (NBC News) – The conversion of Istanbul’s symbolic, shape-shifting Hagia Sophia into a mosque this week is described as a victory for the conservative religious agenda of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

The Hagia Sophia was once a cathedral, and then it was a mosque. And then, in 1935, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk transformed it into a museum. Since then, the 6th-century monument has been a question mark on good terms for years – but which is now seen to be warming.

Erdogan was once celebrated for overseeing Turkey’s rise from an industrial backwater and booming economy. But praise has long since given way to deep concern over the country’s shaky finances and imperfect democracy, intensified by the coronavirus pandemic.

Last year, the fears-led to his greatest political crisis when he was forced to give in on his plan to make the Hagia Sophia a mosque again, then a museum.

Erdogan now governs with the stingy public rejection of having had the voters choose the man he once called a “traitor” to his own country, the Kurdistan Workers’ Party. To lead both the capital, Ankara, where he lives, and Istanbul, his hometown, where he was once mayor.

The government, which is disillusioned to break criticism, has launched investigations into the press, arrested elected officials and imprisoned journalists during the coronavirus pandemic while passing a bill to release tens of thousands of inmates, lest they contract COVID-19 because of crowding.

To Turkey, Erdogan wanted to be a member of the democratic world, but that story has ended,” said Garo Paylan, 48, an Armenian who is one of the 10 prominent Kurdish politicians who has been imprisoned by the regime.

Erdogan “can’t give the people to the world, and he can’t be seen as negotiating on behalf of Turkish Muslim majority,” Paylan said on the phone.

While the Hagia Sophia decision was a major blow to the region’s most influential Kurdish Kurdish Regional Government (KRG) that its own future and imprisoned journalists during the coronavirus pandemic.

With the funding of modern Turkey, Ataturk established a nationalist approach to the country’s ethnic and religious diversity. But, analysts say, he saw to it that the threats to his powers from the peoples’ republics were extinguished.

The calculus has driven many of Erdogan’s nationalist policies, but analysts say, so have the threats to his power from the peoples’ republics.

In 2015, the party entered the Grand National Assembly, Turkey’s parliament, for the first time, stopping Erdogan’s party from getting a majority. That led him to partner with the nationalist Nationalist Movement Party, which forms a short stretch of the Turkish-Syrian border, have been in Turkey’s crosshairs: the Kurazaro Mountains that would disconnect Zap and Gane. Two other areas, away from the main fighting but still in the Kurdish heartland, Yanlipladin and Balıolin, are located in the southeast.

The PKK has helped create the Shingal region and control some of these areas.

In Syria, Turkey makes no secret of its intention to turn the enclave it has seized through four military operations into a contiguous buffer zone up to 35 kilometres (22 miles) in width, extending all the way to the Tigres mountains, which forms a short stretch of the Turkish-Syrian border before flowing into Iraq. And on the eastern bank of the Tigres, Ankara plans a second border crossing with Iraq to bypass the existing one, which opens into Iraqi Kurdistan, and secure a route to Tal Mar and Mosul under some form of Turkish military control.

While the region is already under Turkish control, the KRG has yet to declare a state of independence, and it has yet to declare a state of independence.

In sum, all those plans and moves are stoking fears that Turkey is seeking to narrow the Kurdish safe zone and isolate it from other Kurdish regions.

In 2018, when Turkey launched its first operation, codenamed Claw-Eagle and Claw-Tiger, respectively, began to come to the fore.

In Syria, Turkey’s intention is to narrow the Kurdish safe zone and isolate it from other Kurdish regions, and to establish a buffer zone.

Turkey’s military pressure is forcing the Kurdish militia and their international allies to retreat, and to establish a buffer zone.

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Violent Clashes Take Place in Russia between Armenians, Azerbaijanis

MOSCOW—YEREVAN (Combined Sources) — Human Rights Defenders of Armenia and Arman Tatoyan have drawn attention of the international organizations to the recent attacks and actions of Azerbaijanis against Armenians abroad on the grounds of ethni-
city or religion.

“These days Azerbaijanis are attacking Armenians in different countries on the grounds of ethnic affiliation. The reports (video, posts, etc.) which the Ombudsman’s Office is receiving through emails and threads of the observers of public materials prove this. The observation shows that the attacks on Armenians are taking place with the motive of hatred (or xenophobia) on the grounds of ethnic affiliation and are accompanied by chants containing hatred and degrading dignity,” the Ombudsman’s Office said.

He also reported that these attacks are also of provocative nature and are taking place with groups on civilian people. He drew the attention of the international organizations to these facts and stated that it is necessary to immediately prevent them in order to avoid further escalation and dangerous developments.

He spoke in the aftermath of at least 25 arrests in Moscow on Friday following overnight violent attacks involving local Armenians and Azerbaijanis which resulted from last week’s deadly fighting on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border.

The violence erupted late on Thursday, with various groups of men reportedly attacking other people and businesses on ethnic grounds.

An amateur video posted on the Internet showed several men smashing a car with Armenian license plates and beating up its driver. Another footage showed several youths assaulting an elderly man and demanding that he name the country they which they should control Nagorno-Karabakh.

A Russian-Armenian activist, David Tonoyan, reported at least five attacks on Armenians which he said mostly occurred in Moscow’s southern suburbs. One Armenian was stabbed and hospitalized as a result, he said, adding that the Russian police beelined up security in those areas.

“According to our information, only Azerbaijanis have been arrested so far,” Tonoyan said.

The Moskovskiy Komsomol reported that an Armenian man was badly beaten by a group of Armenians in one of those suburbs, Maryino. The Union of Azerbaijanis of Russia alleged an Armenian attack on an Azerbaijani-owned restaurant in the Russian capital.

The Moscow police department reported, meanwhile, that it arrested more than 25 people on suspicion of involvement in what it described as a “number of conflict situations between citizens” in Maryino. It was careful not to mention their nationality or ethnicity.

In a statement, the department said it is continuing to investi-
gate the incidents and warned of tough action against more-mass actions of collective violation of the public order. The Russian Ombudsman, Tatiana Moskalova, expressed serious concern over the “disturbances between representatives of the Armenian and Azerbaijani peoples.” She said ethnically motivated violence is “unacceptable in any civilized society.”

The violent incidents came hours after Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov met with leaders of Russia’s sizable Azerbaijan community. The Russian Foreign Ministry accused an Armenian attack on an Azerbaijani-owned food store in the southern suburbs of Moscow.

Azerbaijan's foreign ministry said its embassy had not been informed about this “provocation” and warned against the possibility of more attacks.

We believe that measures should be taken immediately to resolve the situation in order to avoid further developments. Business entities operating in Russia, regardless of nationality or citizenship, must comply with the laws of Russia. At the same time, given the current situation and attempts to involve the Armenian community in various provocative actions, we urge our compatriots to be vigilant, show restraint, not to succumb to provocations and not to take part in various actions or initiatives organized in response to provocations by the Azerbaijani side.

We continue to work on resolving the issues that have arisen, adhering to the principle of maintaining interethnic peace. In case of facing any provocations, please immediately report them to the hotlines of the Armenian Embassy, the Union of Armenian citizens in Russia and other structures, as well as contact the law-enforcement agencies.”

The Armenian Foreign Ministry said the following day that some of its diplomats working abroad have received threats. It did not elaborate.

In a statement, the ministry accused the Azerbaijani authori-
ties of inciting the violence. It also urged Armenian nationals liv-
ing abroad and Diaspora Armenians not to “succumb to any provocation.”

The Foreign Ministry of Armenia on Friday condemned the recent provocations of violence against Armenians abroad.

“Recently, we have witnessed the cases and attempts of vio-

lence against Armenian citizens and members of Armenian com-

munities in different countries of the world. There have been cases of obstruction of the normal work of the Armenian diplo-
matic service abroad and the Armenian communities, as well as a deliberate destruction of their personal and working property, which in some cases have threatened the security of the diplo-
matic staff as well. Discriminatory steps are being taken to dis-
rupt Armenia’s trade and economic relations with different coun-
tries,” the ministry said in a statement.

“Those acts are a reaction to provocations of the Azerbaijani side to take the tensions on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border to Russia and instigate a conflict between the two ethnic groups.”

In particular, these are taking place in the trade and econom-
ic platforms of Moscow and other Russian cities, which are some-
how linked with the Azerbaijani authorities.

We strongly condemn the practice of instigating ethnic clashes in different countries, which is another manifestation of Baku’s irresponsibility and in full line with the policy and rhetoric of the Azerbaijani leadership provoking hostilities between the two peoples without geographical restrictions.

We call on our compatriots to be vigilant, not to give in to any provocation, and in case of such situations to immediately con-
tact the local law enforcement bodies. Armenian community structures, diplomatic representatives of Armenia,” the state-
ment read.

(Stories from RFE/RL, and Panorama.am were used to com-
pile this report.)

Jeanne Barseghian Elected Strasbourg Mayor

STRASBOURG, France (franceblue.fr, ecolo-

ismynews.eu, etc.) — Jeanne Barseghian was elected as the city’s new mayor in a year term on June 28 during the French municipal elections, postponed three months due to the COV

ID-19 pandemic. The 39-year-old Barseghian won the list of a European Green or Ecological party, Europe Écologie les Verts (EELV) party.

Only a few months ago, her name was barely known to the public at large. She joined EELV and the party of Jean-Luc Mélenchon only in 2014, the municipal elections on the list of Alain Juppé, which joined in the second round with the Greens, and Arnaud Ruffion, a municipal councillor, as well as an advisor at the Eurométropole of Strasbourg, an intercommu-

nial region including 23 municipalities.

She was particularly involved in the battle against waste. In 2016, she signed a platform demanding the removal of plastic trays in school cafeterias. Two years later, she and her fellow ecologists quit the executive of the Socialists to join the Ecologiste-Bloc de gauche (ECO)’s by-pass project to the west of Strasbourg (IKO).

Barseghian, a vegetarian, was born in 1981 in the Hauts-de-Seine Department in Paris, near the Armenian capital. She studied at the University of Lille in its culture. In 2016, she also participated in the filming of a European Arte channel docu-

mentary, “Voyage en Anatolie” [Voyage to Anatolia], in which seven Armenians return to their ancestral homes, then controlled by

Sarkis was killed during the Armenian Genocide in Constantinople, whereas Berdjouhi Sarigian was born in 1917, after one of the first three women elected to the Armenian parliament during the first Republic of Armenia in July 1919. She later wrote short stories and memoirs in France.

Jeanne Barseghian worked on projects of cooperation with Armenia on sustainable tourism, sociocultural exchanges, and combat-
ing waste in 2010. She created in Strasbourg a branch of the Vosges-en-Anatolie association, named after the Armenian poet Parpar Sevak, and worked two years for it. During this period, she learned the Armenian language and she became immersed in its culture. In 2016, she also participated in the filming of a European Arte channel docu-

mentary, “Voyage en Anatolie” [Voyage to Anatolia], in which seven Armenians return to their ancestral homes, now controlled by Turkey.
Continuous Mission
Abp. Hovnan Derderian
fund.com.

teachers who spend hours devoting their time to
Derderian. “And we are equally grateful to the
schools through their contributions,” said
maintain a rigorous curriculum. “We are grateful
faith and trust of donors in the Armenian
gifts in the amount of $250 each. Three different schools have received graduation
sum of $5,000. Additionally, three students from
Church of North America Saturday Schools (CA) with a sum of $2,500.; St. Gregory A. & M.
Armenian Evangelical School (Sherman Oaks, CA)
Armenian Sisters Academy (La Crescenta, CA)
(Canoga Park, CA) with a sum of $50,000; the
from: AGBU Manoogian-Demirdjian School
Derderian Scholarship Fund include students
to the present.

because its inception in 2012. “Because of their gen-
many benefactors and donors who have con-
distribution of assistance came after a
request from applicants from various Armenian schools and at the urging of Archbishop Derderian. “The committee spent hours process-
ing the applications and reviewing each case with
an open mind,” said Mrs. Keuseyan. “Great care and sensitivity toward each applicant were
used in the selection process. We have many
bright students and we are pleased that the Fund will
have a positive effect on the institutions and
the youth of Armenians schooled in Armenian
establishments.”

None of this would be possible without the
many benefactors and donors who have con-
tributed over the years to the mission and cause
since its inception. “Because this is a
universality, we are able to provide students with the
support they need to succeed at each stage of
their education,” continued Keuseyan.
The Fund has distributed $378,250 from 2013 to
the present.

Current recipients of the Archbishop Hovnan Derderian Scholarship Fund include students from: AGBU Manoogian-Demirdjian School (Canoga Park, CA) with a sum of $50,000; the Armenian Sisters Academy (La Crescenta, CA) with a sum of $5,000; the CEF Meridian Armenian Evangelical School (Sherman Oaks, CA) with a sum of $2,500.; St. Gregory A. & M. Hossorpet School (Pasadena, CA) with a sum of $31,000; the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America Saturday Schools (Burbank, CA) with a sum of $5,000; and the American University of Armenia (Yerevan) with a sum of $5,000. Additionally, three students from three different schools have received graduation gifts in the amount of $250 each.
The success of The Fund demonstrates the
faith and trust of donors in the Armenian schools through their contributions, said
Derderian. “And we are equally grateful to the
teachers who spend hours devoting their time to
guiding and instructing our children in a healthy
environment, whether online or in-person.”

For further information and how to support
The Fund, visit www.abpdervanian scholarship.
fund.com.
CHICAGO — Ashd (‘Mr. Ash’) Baboorian, 80, passed away on July 3, 2020. He was born on July 26, 1939 in Iraq to Armenian parents, Nerses and Zanorh Baboorian. Ash is survived by his wife, Bonnie, and his two sons, David (married to ‘Michelle’) and Edward, as well as grandson, Adartin. Ash is also survived by two sisters, Seaa Greco (married to Frankie Greco with their two sons, Joseph and Cary) and Nora Cherchesky (with her daughter, Nari and Nara’s two sons, Thomas and Steven, and Ash’s brother, Nazik Baboorian (married to Sandy with their two sons, Brett and Eric). He has many greatnieces and great-great-nephews.

Upon immigrating to the US in 1960 he became entranced by the performance of stage and close up magic and country music, all of which he mastered and then performed for children and adults at every opportunity with the greatest pleasure.

Since 1985 he had operated Ash’s Magic Shop at 8955 North Western Ave in Chicago around the corner from the New York Lounge where he performed close up magic and his comedy for many decades.

Baboorian as Country Ash Ryan released and performed singles. His last single, Give Me Back was a San’ Serif play. He staged a couple of his plays in the 1980s. In his own words explaining his plays, “I look for alignments. Many things must align in the language for them to be a San’ Serif play. They are plays because all of them align with a clear dramatic arc.”

There will be no wake or funeral. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.

He was predeceased by his parents, Quark and Arroutoum Ordoubeigian.

Naomi Getsoyan Topalian
Mother, Nurse, Writer, Volunteer

LEXINGTON, Mass. — Naomi (Getsoyan) Topalian passed away on July 19, 2020. She was 92 years old.

She was the wife of the late Paul G. Topalian; mother of Janet Topalian-Moffatt and her husband Stephen; Eva Moffatt of Burlington and the late Andrew Paul Topalian; grandmother of Jessica Ordoubeigian and her husband Nick of Wilmington, Alexander Stephen Moffatt and his fiancé Kriatzer Allerica and Drew Topalian; sister of Meriza Kronin of Belmont and the late Sarkis Getsoyan, Paroleen Jacobson and Hshik Getsoyan. Naomi is survived by three generations of nieces and nephews.

Naomi graduated from the American University in Beirut, Lebanon and Boston University School of Nursing. She had a long career as a registered nurse working at numerous hospitals. She also taught nursing.

She wrote several books, including Breaking the Rock of Tradition, Ashentonsflowers Dust to Destiny, published by Baikar Publishing, and received many awards for her work including being inducted into the Hall of Fame at American Biographical Institute (ABI) in North Carolina.

She was active in the Armenian community, serving on committees and teaching the youth. Due to the ongoing pandemic and public safety measures, funeral services are private. A public celebration of life will be planned at a later date and will be announced. Arrangements were made by the Graigian Funeral Home.

Telephone (617) 924-7400

Donation

David and Judy Adishian of Rolling Hills Estate, Coll., donated $200 to the Armenian Mirror-Spectator in memory of Mary Adishian Vosgienian.

Aram Bedrosian Funeral Home, Inc.
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PAUL BEDROSIAN
LARRY BEDROSIAN
Have a long-term goal

It’s really hard to save without working toward something. Some long-term goals, like planning a family vacation, seem irrelevant in the current environment. But there are still some really important long-term goals you can set.

“Depending on your age group, you may still really want to pay off your student loans. You may want to pay off your credit card debt. These are the sort of goals people’s finances at any time, especially now if they’re unemployed,” Avanian said. “Then there are some long term goals that don’t go away. Like, maybe you were planning a wedding. If the wedding is not this year, it could be next year and two years from now, and you may still want a honeymoon.”

“The other thing that is more important now is people may want to buy a car because they may not feel comfortable taking public transport—she added.

Don’t forget to sprinkle in some short-term goals, too

“If you don’t have any fun, everyone goes crazy,” Avanian said. “If you’re doing more baking, maybe you buy flour or the utensils that you need. Maybe people feel good by donating. The range of what people might want to do to make themselves feel better is kind of beyond my imagination.”

If you are in a position to give back or donate to people in need, here are some ways you can help.

Don’t always be afraid of credit cards

This is a tricky one. Credit cards can be helpful but also dangerous, especially now, when people may not have the cash to fully pay them off. First and foremost, Avanian said, you should avoid fees at all costs. You always want to try to pay off as much debt as possible.

“There may still be offers for no interest credit cards,” she said. “Depending on your credit score and your work history, you may or may not be eligible. But it is actually a money management tool to have a credit card that doesn’t charge interest for six months. Could you use a new credit card to pay off an old credit card? Yes.”

Avanian also suggested that you review how your credit card charges interest. Sometimes, they charge the entire balance at the end of the month; other times, they charge it on a daily average basis. This means even if you don’t use your card often, you still may end up paying interest.

In the end, the less you can put on your card (if you’re paying interest) the better. The more you can pay off, the better. If you have a question, your bank is a great place to start, as it’s an essential service that’s definitely open.

“If you’ve been paying [your card] off well, it may be possible that your own bank may give you a new card that gives you double points or double cash back,” Avanian said. “There are many deals and types of credit cards that if you have time to do a bit of research you can save fees, interest and expenses.”

Invest in yourself

Avanian believes that, as the economy adjusts, new industries and jobs will pop that didn’t exist a few months ago, similar to the Great Depression. So we should invest in ourselves. That means taking free or affordable classes. You can even pay for them, if you must, but please consider learning a new skill.

“Change is unsettling, and we are in dra- matic times. What happens in the economy in the world go off a cliff simultaneously. Every recession is usually a slow burn, as with the Great Depression. It’s a different world and a different cliff,” Avanian said. “But that doesn’t mean that there won’t be opportunities.”

Knights of Vartan Mamigonian Lodge Soldiers On

KNIGHTS, from page 7

there are many Armenians that do good for the Armenian Cause specifically and Armenian causes in general without necessarily asking for any special recognition. This appealed to me greatly.” Under his leadership, the Knights of Vartan has been able to appeal to a new, younger generation of Armenians by emphasizing the organization’s oneness “It’s all about service to the community and the Church. As a member you learn real leadership. You develop a strong sense of belonging and integrity.”

Sahakyan encourages all young Armenians to go through this time feeling full and present now with COVID19 and self-isolation, but all young Armenians should consider participating when things return to normal,” says Sahakyan. “To join prospective members need to be nomi- nated by two sponsors: ‘If someone partici- pates in one of our projects, they will make those contacts,’” Sahakyan adds. “So it may seem secretive from the outside but it’s really open to anyone who is interested and wants to make the effort to become a member.”

Sahakyan points out that high educational and professional level of the Armenian soldiers in the world, while most are American-born, some now hail from the Middle East, with an increasing num- ber of Armenians from the Republic of Armenia and Istanbul also joining. Everyone has unfor- tunately been forced to deal recently with the limitations and constraints imposed on society by COVID-19, so the organization has switched to holding Zoom meetings, and some projects have been put on hold out of practical necessi- ty. Others continue as always, including schol- arships established for students at the American University in Armenia, Blyosov University, the National Polytechnic and Yerevan State University, for example, as well as aid to Artsakh and Artsakh. Monthly meetings are held and once a year a grand convention with all lodges in order to discuss old and new projects and discuss what we need to get done to help more Armenians forward in the diaspora and Armenia.”

Sahakyan’s passion is evident: “We are already preparing already for another April 24th commemoration in Times Square in 2021. The Knights of Vartan began these annual gath- erings that have become a tradition and are important in reminding the public and politi- cians—and Turkey—of what happened in 1915, and that we will not forget about the Genocide and the importance of its recognition.”

Other projects, including the Fuller Housing project, where we help to build homes for those in need in Armenia, are geared towards helping the future generations and their families. “The Knights of Vartan seem to be a dynamic orga- nization indeed,” and one that everyone interested and woke Armenian should consider joining, as the COVID-19 crisis hopefully winds down and life returns to an albeit new normal.

While other Armenian organizations have perennially struggled to attract young mem- bers, we have been divided along party and trib- al lines, the Knights of Vartan has an excellent mix membership. This is partly attributable to the belief that Armenians must stick together and help each other out. Sahakyan declared: “None of these divisions mean anything anymore. An Armenian is an Armenian. When you meet one, extend a hand and try to help them in any way you can.”
BOSTON, from page 1

Azerbaijanis Attempt to Counter Two Boston Demonstrations

Azerbaijanis drove by and threw water bottles from their cars, she said. She guessed that they found out about the event accidentally. Then, Dervartanian added, some parked their cars and came out. They were yelling in Azerbaijan so that the Armenians could only roughly guess at what they were saying. Dervartanian thought it meant that Karabakh is Azerbaijan. When the Armenians chanted “Azər xırda laahn the truth,” the newcomers yelled back “Armenians learn the truth,” and they flipped around all of the other slogans of the Armenians too.

There were around 50 Armenians participating in this protest, while around 20 Azerbaijanis had come. Dervartanian said they seemed older than the Armenians, with the exception of a few who might be in their 20s.

A second event was held at Harvard Square in Cambridge on Saturday, July 25 from 6:30 p.m. to 7. It was a dance flash mob organized by the Armenian General Athletic Union and Scouts Boston chapter (otherwise known as Homenetmen by the names of its Armenian initials), a sports affiliated with the Armenian Revolutionary Federation. The event was supposed to take place Thursday, July 23, but was postponed by Saturday because of rain.

Dervartanian is also a leader of the Homenetmen chapter. She said that the second event was advertised as open to the entire Armenian community. They had decided on several dances before the event and prepared a big sign stating “Azerbaijan wants war, Armenia wants peace.” The goal through dancing, a universal language, she said, was to show Americans that Armenians are in favor of peace.

Among the dances, however, was the traditional Yarkhusta. Dervartanian explained its symbolism as follows: “It definitely is a war dance, but with the recent attacks of Azerbaijan, not only on Artsakh but now on Tavush and various villages in Armenia, our soldiers in Armenia can’t just lay back. They have to prepare themselves and defend our people. It seems they were much more prepared this time. They came with their flags and ammunition for them to say we are the aggressors, so I am proud of our group that stayed calm and taught some people about our culture.”

Dervartanian remarked, “When we have had protests for the Armenian Genocide or other protests in the past, we never have had a group of Turks [or Azerbaijanis] show up and protest against us. We had been seeing it on the news, happening in different states and different countries, but did not think something like this would happen in Boston. The first time around, we were caught off guard a bit, but then we were prepared. We did not want to start a fight, but only wanted to get our point across and spread awareness.”

She felt they indeed succeeded, with many passersby asking questions and taking videos of the dancing.

Afterwards, according to some hitherto unsubstantiated social media reports, a small group of Armenians who arrived late, after the event was over, was attacked by Azerbaijanis while returning to its cars, and one Armenian in Cambridge on Saturday, July 25 from 6:30 p.m. to 7. It was a dance flash mob organized by the Armenian General Athletic Union and Scouts Boston chapter (otherwise known as Homenetmen by the names of its Armenian initials), a sports affiliated with the Armenian Revolutionary Federation. The event was supposed to take place Thursday, July 23, but was postponed by Saturday because of rain.

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KZV Principal Grace Andonian said shock and anger have given way to momentum. “It has absolutely energized me. I feel empowered. We are forced to fight this and come out of this. And I want to relay my strength to my community and my students,” she said.

She added that as the Armenian saying goes, the incident felt like cold water had been poured on her. “No use thinks this will happen to them. Things like this don’t happen here. [But now] nobody is safe,” Andonian added. “I felt unsafe and threatened.”

It is also a CRIME. We are working with San Francisco Police Department to investigate. We stand with our Armenian brothers and sisters.”

“It is very important that they are caught. It is a hate crime and should be treated as a hate crime,” Andonian added.

A GoFundMe page has been set up by the board to pay for the cleanup as well as enhancing the current fence around the school’s parameter. The fund has raised $78,000 by July 27. KZV has an annual student population of 120-140. The only Armenian school in Northern California, it starts at preK through 8th grade.

Los Angeles

One person was arrested and several people, including an officer, were injured after a peaceful protest turned violent at the Armenian Consulate in Brentwood on July 23, the Los Angeles Police Department said.

The protest, organized by the Armenian Youth Federation, started about 2 p.m. Tuesday with hundreds marching to the Armenian Consulate near the 11700 block of Wilshire Boulevard. A smaller group of Azerbaijani counterprotesters also was present.
Baritone Gurgen Baveyan is preparing a program featuring Baroque music. He will perform various roles, including, for example, that of the lead character in “Il viaggio a Rheims.” He sings at guest performances, for example, at the Frankfurt Opera Studio, where he has performed Rossini’s “Lusica di Lammermoor” and Silvio Peshtmaljyan’s “La Cenerentola.”

Baritone Gurgen Baveyan

Frankfurt Opera Studio, he has performed as Count Almaviva (“Le nozze di Figaro”), Giorgio (“Die dreiblättrige Eitem”), Don Alvaro (“I viaggio a Rheims”). He sings at guest performances, for example, at the Frankfurt Opera Studio, where he has performed Rossini’s “Lusica di Lammermoor” and Silvio Peshtmaljyan’s “La Cenerentola.”

Baritone Gurgen Baveyan

By Harry Kezelian

YerazArt Summer Music School Ends with Gala Concert

YERAYAN (Armenpress) – The YerazArt summer music school presented in collaboration with the Armenian National Philharmonic Orchestra was sumptuous, sumptuous with a beautiful gala concert. The students of the summer school performed at the online concert held on July 26, presenting the knowledge acquired during these days of intensive education. The annual music school was held for now only the second year, and it was held only by the musicians of the Armenian National Philharmonic Orchestra, but also invited soloists and fellows of YerazArt program from different countries held master classes with participation of selected young musicians.

The head of YerazArt, also the general producer of the Armenian National Philharmonic Orchestra Arman Padaryan, emphasized that this has been the fifth summer program by YerazArt.

“Our program for 15 years has supported talented young musicians in Armenia, supports their professional development. Within the annual framework of the program, not only master classes are held, but also instrumental instruments, scholarships are provided, we help young musicians to get master classes both in Armenia and abroad,” said Padaryan. He said that the goal for the participating talents is to get ready to perform on professional stages and in respect of orchestras. The main goal of YerazArt is to prepare immaculate musicians, because even in a difficult and war situation it is possible to win also due to a high cultural level.

Participating students were: Paolo Rintoo from Italy (French Horn, ANPO), Mary Hooijmans from the Netherlands (violin, YerazArt fellow, Maastricht conservatory), Juan Carlos Gil from Spain (trumpet, ANPO), Varden Gasparian from the USA (cells, YerazArt fellow, Colburn College), Sylvia Zakaryan (marimba, Longy school, member of YerazArt team), Nara Avetisyan (piano, YerazArt fellow, Kfûr Solidatov from Russia (trumpet, ANPO soloist), Harutyun Avetisyan (piano, YerazArt fellow, Leader of the City Symphonic Orchestra), Narek Avagyan from Armenia (flute, ANPO), Andranik Kocharyan (saxophone, ANPO), Harutyun Shakhoyan (oboe, ANPO).

Flutist Narek Avagyan, who has been teaching in the YerazArt Summer Music School for the third year, passing on his knowledge to the younger generation, said: “We were able to carry out all the lessons, keeping all the safety rules. I am very satisfied with the level of the participating talents, there were some really bright personalities. I had a great pleasure to work with, “he continued.

Baseuson Andranik Kocharyan has been teaching in the YerazArt Summer Music School for the fifth year in a summer school. He says the talents have been very excited about these lessons. He has been very satisfied with the outcome of the SMS lessons; he empha- sized that the students showed very good results due to their intensive work.

A total of 19 children took part in the SMS from Yerevan schools named after Sayat-Nova, P. I. Tchaikovsky, V. Mokatsian, Al Spendyanian and Z. Eshkenazian. The SMS is a depreciative art school from the Yerevan Komitas State Conservatory, Maastricht conservatory.

The students were free for all participants. Out of 19 participants, 7 took physical classes, keeping social distance at the rehearsal premises of Aram Khachaturian Concert Hall 12 participants received online master classes from teachers who resided in USA, Russia, Italy, and the premises of Aram Khachaturian Concert Hall. The lessons were free for all participants. Out of 19 participants, 7 took physical classes, keeping social distance at the rehearsal premises of Aram Khachaturian Concert Hall 12 participants received online master classes from teachers who resided in USA, Russia, Italy, and the premises of Aram Khachaturian Concert Hall.

A total of 13 children were selected to participate in the final gala concert averaged for general public via Facebook.

The concert in full can now be viewed at (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CQ7krS4-50c).
Miqayel Voskanyan and Friends Bring Dynamism From Armenia to the Modern Folk Scene

VOSKANYAN, from page 12

roughly the same place in Eastern Armenian musical culture as the oud has had in that of Western Armenia. Throughout the 19th and early 20th century, ashoughs (troubadours) of large cities and amateur musicians of small villages played the tar and sang for the enjoyment of the people; it was one of the most popular and versatile instruments used in Eastern Armenia before the Soviet Era.

Voskanyan has melded the enchanting sounds of the tar seamlessly into modern, jazz-, funk- and hip-hop-inspired arrangements with the other instruments of the band, and the whole concept is quite reminiscent of Ara Dinkjian’s band Night Ark which combined oud with jazz instrumentation in the 1980s and 1990s. And Voskanyan really pulls it off — this is not just a token addition of an ethnic instrument, as happens too often when we hear, for example, duduk dropped into a pop song with a hip-hop beat. Much of Voskanyan’s music can be heard on YouTube, including several live videos. Some standout live performances that are viewable include classic folk songs Eser Ufhat ք, which Voskanyan imbues with a bit of a hip-hop feel in his vocal phrasing, and Sari Aghjik known to readers perhaps as Sari Gelin, Neynim Aman, Varevan Bagh Em Abel, etc. (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kGxGE1_wcIc) which Voskanyan’s vocals, at first gentle and then powerful are showcased, with saxophone obbligato from Melkonyan. This classic song is an excellent test of an Armenian musician — though it is a simple, powerful song that will sound good when played by any competent musician, a great musician will always turn it into something new and fresh that usually shows forth that particular musician’s style, feelings, and abilities. Voskanyan more than passes the test.

The live performances as well as album recordings available display Voskanyan’s delicate yet powerful handling of the tar; his smooth vocals, the modernistic grooves of the rhythm section and Melkonyan’s jazz- and folk-influenced saxophone playing (the choice of the soprano saxophone, rather than tenor or alto, is perfect for Armenian music, and has also been used this way in klezmer circles in the US some 10-20 years ago). Melkonyan’s solos are as an important part of the band’s sound as are Voskanyan’s vocals and tar. The band’s first album was 2014’s “Folk Fusion,” and they have started work on a second album, “Nightology,” currently awaiting release. This writer, for one, cannot wait.

CONCERT IN TIMES OF CORONA

GERMANY, from page 12

Diana Sahakyan began playing the piano at the age of 7, made her debut at 13, and graduated from the A. Spendiaryan Music School three years later. She continued her studies at the Komitas Conservatory in 2004 and in 2005 won the 16th “FLAME” Piano Competition for young pianists in Paris. She earned her diploma as concert pianist in 2009 and in 2010 studied at the Frankfurt University for Music and Performing Arts under Professors Lev Natochenny, and Catherine Vickers, graduating in 2014. She went on to complete a Masters at the same university and has received several prizes, including participation there in the advanced course of study under Professor Oliver Kern and the “Programa de Perfeccionamiento” at the Escuela Superior de Musica Reina Sofia in Madrid. She has attended master courses in Germany, Austria and Switzerland, performs as a soloist, accompanist and in chamber music.

Due to the pandemic, programs for opera houses and concert halls, including the magnificent annual music festivals in the Rheingau, Bayreuth, and so many other German locations, have been dramatically cut back and revised, when not cancelled outright. Thus the open-air concert featuring Sahakyan and Baveyan is a special treat: those attending have been instructed to provide full contact information, and to bring face masks – as well as rain ponchos and umbrellas, in the (unlikely) event of inclement weather.

(Material for this article has been taken from Musikfestival Rheinhessen, Arte Musica Stiftung für Kunst und Kultur, and the website of Diana Sahakyan)
The Legend of Russian Makeup Artist Nanara Berezina

By Artsvi Bakhchinyan
Special to the Mirror-Spectator

YEREVAN/MOSCOW — Nanara Berezina, a leading beautician and makeup artist in Russia, world champion, creative director of the aesthetic section of the World Organization of Hairdressers, coach of the Russian national team for decorative cosmetics, teacher at the Dolores Academy of Hairdressing and the SPIIR Training Center, World Trainer, Golden Trainer of the World, laureate of international competitions, is a pioneer in her profession.

She was born in Armenia, lived in Nalchik (Kabardino-Balkaria, North Caucasus) and then moved to Moscow, where she still lives. She graduated from Moscow State University with a degree in biology. Back in Soviet times, she was the main coach of the USSR national team of beauticians, as well as an international judge. Since 1982, her works have received prizes at all international competitions for makeup artists and beauticians, including 18 gold medals.

Berezina made a tremendous contribution to the development of the Russian and international competition movement of makeup artists. For her, makeup is an art created on women’s faces and bodies...

Dear Nanara, can we say that you are the founder of the Russian school of makeup artists?

The founders of makeup art in the USSR were Dolores Kondradzhova, S. P. Mazhuleva and T. I. Karanova. It was a laboratory where specialists from all over the Soviet Union were trained.

When I started my competitive career in the 1970s, the terms included daytime and evening makeup. It was boring for me. I wanted to complicate things, make them more creative. There was haute couture in clothes, and I wanted to create haute couture in makeup to go with the beautiful dresses. I came up with the phrase “Runway Makeup” competition. This was included in all competitions in the USSR, and to this day everyone uses it. Then I created makeup for young people — prom, wedding makeup.

Your life motto is “Feel the joy of beauty!”

Yes, and back in the 1970s I was interviewed and asked to say a few words about my profession. So I came up with “Beauty is a good mood, and a good mood is a guarantee of health not only for her, but also for the people around her.” Each face is individual, and one must be able to emphasize what is beautiful on each face.

But the criteria for beauty change over time. What, in your opinion, is the ideal female beauty of the 21st century? For example, as a man, I am repulsed by silicone injections in a woman’s face. How do you feel about the fact that today even young girls are very prone to artificial changes?

Nowadays, admiration in fashion is a blind imitation, especially for the young. Artificial beauty is terrible. Care should be reasonable, after consultation with competent specialists. All these swollen lips are a mark of dissatisfaction in one’s personal life.

Which method of skin rejuvenation do you prefer: Botox, cosmetic surgery or thread lifting?

The best rejuvenation method is a kind smile on your face and daily face care!

I believe that fashion and music occupy an important place in your life. Some of your makeup items bear the names “Raoul’s Bolero,” “Harlequin” and “The Queen of Spades.”

Since childhood, I have grown up surrounded by beauty — my father’s paintings, my beautiful and always fashionably dressed mother. In 1976 I visited Leningrad (now Saint Petersburg) for the first time and did not leave the Hermitage for two days. The majestic luxury, created by human hands, simply captivated me. The Hermitage has now become a major landmark.

I use in the Body Art category. I love pure shading (as in classical painting), this purity of the work distinguishes my students from all over the world with their beautiful works.

You are a specialist at the Wella-Dolores Moscow beauty center, established by our fellow countrywoman Dolores Kondradzhova (Terryzyan), who founded also the first Union of Hairdressers and Beauticians in Russia. The De Vajan International Academy of Hairdressers, Makeup Artists and Nail Service is headed by Vazha Mikhtarian also operates in Moscow; the names of internationally acclaimed hairdressers and fashion designers Marina Amirkhanyan and Marina Vaskanyan are also known in Russia. And you have long been called the legend of modern Russian makeup art. How do you explain such high achievements by Armenians in this field?

In 1972, Dolores opened a Beauty Center and brought us all together — Marina Vaskanyan and Marina Amirkhanyan, also Olga Berberyan, a very talented master from Rostov-on-Don was in the national team. The USSR team of makeup artists also included Vladimir Mertchyan, Ivan Grigoryan and Vazha Mikhtarian.

And how can one explain the presence of so many talented Armenian makeup artists... you know, the Armenians are a talented people, skilled and creative, who appreciate beauty.

Please tell me about your background.

I was born in Gyumri-Leninakan. The surname is indeed Mertchyan, and my passport name is Armenuhi, but my dad called me Nanara from childhood, and remained so. In Leninakan, my father was known as Isray Vagho, as his name was Vagharshak Mkrtchyan. He took part in the war, was a scout. He had a workshop in Leninakan, drew a lot, sculpted, engaged in church mural painting. A lot of my father’s paintings were hung at our house, but after the earthquake of 1988, when we went there, the neighbor gave us only three of his paintings. Unfortunately, the life of my parents turned out so that I grew up with my grandmother in Nalchik, studied and started my career there (in 1983 I was awarded the title of Honored Worker of the Household Service of Kabardino-Balkaria). Since the ninth grade, I clearly knew who I would be and walked step by step towards my goal.

Do you remember your native language?

In the eighth grade, I bought a self-instruction book for the Armenian language and learned to read, write and speak. And in childhood, I repeatedly went on vacation to Artsakh (Karabakh).

If I am not mistaken, the last time you were in Armenia was in 2015, at the 10th Armenian Championship in hairdressing, decorative cosmetics and nail art. How do you assess the state of the makeup art in Armenia?

Armenia, under the leadership of the President of the Union of Hairdressers and Cosmetologists of Armenia Marina Avetisyan, has been taking part in the world and European championship of makeup artists since 2002. The level of work is very high, which speaks of the awards and prizes that the Armenian masters have. The makeup art under the guidance of Hrazhik Yegeyian takes well-deserved prizes. I can say that in Armenia it is very developed, like nowhere else, to do makeup before going to any events.
NEW YORK (Broadway World) — The National Endowment for the Arts recently announced the recipients of its 2020 National Heritage Fellowships on July 28. Onnik Dinkjian of Fort Lee, N.J. is among the nine recipients to be honored this year. These lifetime honor awards of $25,000 are given in recognition of both artistic excellence and efforts to sustain cultural traditions for future generations.

Dinkjian is hailed as one of the most beloved and influential Armenian singers in America, with an expressive voice said to convey both the joy of his Armenian heritage and the deep sorrow of its painful history.

Dinkjian was born in 1929 in Paris, France. His parents, born in Dikranagerd (Diyarbekir), Turkey, were survivors of the 1915 Armenian Genocide, and died when he was an infant. His godparents, also survivors of the genocide from Dikranagerd, adopted him and they immigrated to America in 1946. The Armenian dialect from Dikranagerd is unique and Dinkjian is one of the last remaining Armenians who speaks and understands it, and perhaps the last who sings in this endangered dialect.

Apart from the sacred music of the Armenian Church, Dinkjian’s repertoire consists of mainly folk and popular songs from the Anatolian (Eastern Turkey) villages, Armenia, and the Armenian Diaspora. Dinkjian is also a composer and lyricist, whose songs have become standards in the American-Armenian community. Read Onnik Dinkjian’s full biography online.

When asked what receiving this honor means to him, Dinkjian said, “Not only did America give my people a safe haven, it also provided me the opportunity to keep the dialect and songs of my ancestors alive, which I have strived to do for over 70 years. My goal was not to be recognized, but rather to pass our rich Armenian culture down to future generations. Receiving the NEA Heritage Fellowship is an honor beyond my wildest dreams. I am truly humbled and appreciative.”

A brief documentary captured Onnik recording his latest album, highlighting the importance of continuing and sharing this unique cultural art form. Watch the documentary online.

“For years, Onnik Dinkjian has used his talents to share the proud history of the Armenian people through traditional music,” said Governor Murphy. “His work is an inspiration not only to the Armenian Diaspora, but to artists across the world. We are proud of his many accomplishments and success in using his music to promote and preserve Armenia’s rich cultural heritage.”

“The State Arts Council is proud to support and celebrate the various art forms rooted in cultural heritage—art forms that can be found in communities throughout New Jersey,” said Council Chair Elizabeth Mattson. “We congratulate Mr. Dinkjian on this significant lifetime accomplishment and are honored to count him among the many talented and passionate artists who call New Jersey home.”

“I applaud the National Endowment for the Arts for recognizing Mr. Dinkjian for a lifetime of artistic and historical contributions through his music,” said Secretary of State Tahesha Way. “We are proud that New Jersey has been home for Mr. Dinkjian as he preserved the artistic heritage of his ancestors and shared his gifts with the world.”

Onnik Dinkjian Named NEA National Heritage Fellow
Delos Releases New Recording of Komitas’ Divine Liturgy for Mixed Choir by Vache Sharafyan

NEW YORK — On July 10, Delos released Komitas: Divine Liturgy, an early-20th masterwork by the revered Armenian composer Komitas Vardapet (1869–1935), in the world-premiere recording of a mixed-voice arrangement by his 21st-century compatriot Vache Sharafyan. This new version features the critically acclaimed Latvian Radio Choir led by its artistic director, Sigvards Klava, with guest soloists bass Hovhannes Nersesyan and tenor Armen Badalyan.

The recording was made at St. John’s Church in Riga, Latvia, September 20–22, 2019. It is impossible to overstate the significance of Komitas Vardapet’s music to the Armenian identity. “For Armenians, music is memory,” wrote Michael Church in The Guardian. “And whenever they gather to honor their dead — as Armenians all over the world do on Sunday, April 24, to commemorate the anniversary of the 1915 genocide in which 1.5 million Armenians in Turkey were either slaughtered or died on forced marches into exile — the songs they sing are by Komitas Vardapet, the composer who speaks for the soul of their nation.” Komitas, a priest and an eminent ethnomusicologist, was himself a victim of the Genocide. Though he survived, his psyche was shattered, and he spent most of his life’s last two decades in exile in a Paris asylum.

Komitas began working on the Divine Liturgy in 1892, and at least ten versions exist. The final version—the one presented on this recording—dates from 1914-15 and was completed just before his deportation from Constantinople, where he had settled in 1910, to a prison camp in Canik. The Liturgy is thus one of his final works. Komitas’ output was modest: 80 choral works and songs, arrangements of the Armenian mass, and some dances for piano. And yet he single-handedly laid the foundation for Armenia’s classical tradition, as his better-known compatriot Aram Khachaturian acknowledged. As a collector and arranger of the authentic folkongs of rural peasants, Komitas did for Armenia what Bartók did for Hungary; turning primitive material into bewitchingly sophisticated polyphony. He collected, transcribed, researched, and compared more than 3,000 pieces of Armenian music, more than half of which were subsequently lost and only around 1,200 are now extant. His appetite for songs was voracious, and his transcriptions reflect a remarkable ear, seamlessly interweaving threads of music, movement, and complex social relationships.

The Divine Liturgy was originally composed for a male choir, and previous attempts over the years to transcribe it for mixed-choir performance were not enthusiastically received. But Tigran Morkhkyan, the Armenian ambassador to Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia, believed a new concert version would bring more listeners to the masterwork, encouraging them to concentrate more on the music itself and the logic of its dramatic structure rather than on its ritual aspect. Sharafyan’s arrangement follows the original male-choir version as closely as possible, with the female voices lending it extra color and brightness.

The project took three years of preparation, and finally, on September 20, 2019, the Latvian Radio Choir, led by its artistic director, Sigvards Klava, became the first non-Armenian mixed choir to perform the Divine Liturgy, in an historic performance at St. John’s Church in Riga commemorating the 150th anniversary of Komitas’s birth. This recording took place during the three days following that historic performance.

One of Armenia’s major composers, Vache Sharafyan has created more than a hundred musical works. His music has been praised as “stark, mysterious and ultimately majestic” by the New York Times and “complex, deliberate, captivating” by the Boston Globe. His output includes symphonic works, chamber music, and choral and other vocal music. His compositions include the opera “Ring Abag,” and the ballets “Another Moon” (inspired by G. I. Gurdjieff), “Armenian Dances,” and “The Blade of the Desert.” Sharafyan’s compositions have been widely performed in his native country, but also internationally in the world’s most prestigious halls and by many contemporary music festivals in the United States and Europe.

About the Artists
Bass Hovhannes Nersesyan is both a priest and an opera singer. A graduate of the Komitas State Conservatory of Yerevan, since 2004 he has been a soloist at the Armenian National Academic Theatre of Opera and Ballet, and he also serves as a deacon in the Araratian Pontifical Diocese, one of the largest dioceses of the Armenian Apostolic Church. He has been a prize winner at many prestigious vocal competitions: the International Competition of Young Singers in Moldova, the International Young Opera Singers’ Competition “Opera Without Borders,” the Rimsky-Korsakov International Competition of Young Opera Singers, and the International Pavel Lavtchan Competition of Vocalists. In 2014 he was award ed the Armenian President’s Youth Prize for young musicians. Nersesyan has given concerts around the world and taken part in several international festivals.

Tenor Armen Badalyan studied violin at the Music College of Vanadzor in Armenia, and in 2003 he enrolled at the Komitas State Conservatory of Yerevan, from which he graduated as a voice teacher and opera singer. He has been a soloist at the Armenian National Academic Theatre of Opera and Ballet since 2008, and a member of the Tsaritsynskaya opera Theatre (Volgograd, Russia) since 2013. Since 1992, Sigvards Klava has been artistic conductor of the Latvian Radio Choir since 2003. He is a member of the Latvian National Academy of Arts since 2008, and a visiting professor at the Latvian Academy of Culture and Education since 2010.
Delos Releases New Recording of Komitas’ Divine Liturgy for Mixed Choir

from previous page

director of the Latvian Radio Choir, which under his leadership has become an internation-ally recognized, vocally distinctive group welcomed at the world’s top music festivals and regularly invited to collaborate with outstanding composers and conductors. He has received the Latvian Great Music Award several times and is also a recipient of the Latvian Cabinet of Ministers Award and the Order of the Three Stars. He has served as a principal conductor of the Latvian Radio and Dance Festival since 1990 and as a professor in the conducting department at Jazeps Vitols Latvian Academy of Music since 2000, and he takes regular part in international juries and educational projects. Klava has conducted concerts at the Royal Albert Hall in London, the Elbphilharmonie in Hamburg, the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, the Berlin Philharmonie, and many other venues, with ensembles such as the Netherlands Radio Choir, the Netherlands Opera Choir, the Netherlands Chamber Choir, the Cappella Amsterdam, Berlin’s RIAS Chamber Choir, and the MDR Leipzig Radio Choir. The Latvian Radio Choir is a unique ensemble of professional singers that offers its audiences an extraordinary variety of repertoire: ranging from early music to the most sophisticated contemporary scores. Its recording of Arvo Pärt’s Adam’s Lament, conducted by Tōnū Kaljulaid on the ECM label, won the Grammy® Award for Best Choral Performance in 2014. The choir is a repeat winner of the Great Music Award of Latvia (the highest national award for professional achievement in music) and has also received the Latvian Cabinet of Ministers Award. Its account of Sergei Rachmaninoff’s All-Night Vigil (Ondine) was praised by Gramophone as the best recording of February 2013 and was ranked among the 25 best albums of the year by America’s National Public Radio network. In January, 2020 the Latvian Radio Choir won the International Classical Music Awards (ICMA) Award in the Choral category for their album of sacred choral works by Pyotr Tchaikovsky.

Recipe

Eech

Helen Heghine Derapramian’s (Modified) Eech Recipe

Eech (or eetch) is a traditional Armenian dish consisting of fine bulgur, onions, tomatoes, tomato paste, bell peppers, lemon juice, olive oil, green onions, parsley, and seasonings, incorporated to create a robust and fragrant presentation. It is served as a salad, a side dish, or as a spread on fresh pita bread, lavash, or crackers. A common Lenten dish, it is also known as “meck kheysma” or meatless kheyma, but can be enjoyed any season of the year.

Helen Heghine Derapramian was born on September 11, 1931 in Aleppo, Syria, the second of eight children of genocide survivors Vahan and Sara Der Barghamian from Kharpert (Elazığ), Turkey. Helen was a devoted son of the year.

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 cup fine (#1) bulgur
- 1/4 cup olive oil, or a little more
- 1 large onion, chopped (snip half of it in oil and save the other half to mix with parsley for topping)
- 1/2 medium green bell pepper, seeded and chopped
- 1 (8 oz.) can tomato sauce
- 1 tablespoon tomato paste
- 3/4 cup water
- 1/4 cup fresh lemon juice, or a little more
- 1/2 large bunch parsley, chopped (use 3/4 of it in mixture and save 1/4 to mix with onion for topping)
- 1/2 teaspoon crushed dried mint
- 1/2 teaspoon crushed dried basil
- Salt and pepper
- Dashes of paprika, cayenne pepper or Aleppo pepper
- 1 1/2 cups grape or cherry tomatoes, cut in half (as garnish)
- 1/2 large bunch green onions, chopped (as garnish)
- Romaine lettuce leaves and fresh lemon wedges

PREPARATION:

Sauté the onions and bell pepper in olive oil until soft. Add tomato sauce, tomato paste, water, lemon juice, and seasonings. Stir, bring to a boil, and let simmer for 10-12 minutes, or a little longer. Check seasonings and remove from heat.

Add the bulgur to the tomato sauce mixture, and stir. Stir in 3/4 of the chopped parsley. Check seasonings and set aside. Cover and refrigerate until well chilled. When mixture is chilled enough to handle, scoop up a handful and shape into oval rolls (or use a 1/3 cup measuring cup for a uniform shape when it is inverted.)

Place on a platter and sprinkle with reserved onion and parsley mixture. Garnish with tomatoes and green onions, and serve with Romaine lettuce leaves and lemon wedges. It can also be served in a bowl, drizzled with olive oil, and garnished with the onion and parsley mixture.

Also see the late Buzz Baxter’s recipe for Armenian Eech from Fresno at: http://www.thegutsygourmet.net/arm-eech.html

Producers/Director Nigol Bezjian’s Donates Archives To Haigazian University

BEIRUT — On April 27, 2020, the Derian Archeological Library of Haigazian University was enriched with the archives of the well-known film producer and director, Nigol Bezjian.

In his letter addressed to the President, Rev. Paul Haidostian, he writes, “When I moved to Lebanon in the spring of 1997, the Armenianological Library became my second home. And for all the films I produced after that year, I greatly benefited from its rich collection. Moreover, the Bezjian family has had close relations with the Armenian Evangelical Church since the 19th century, as one of the founders of Aintab College.”

By gifting his archives to Haigazian University, Bezjian hopes that other centers of Armenian studies will make even more efforts to integrate the archives of Armenian intellectuals and artists into their collections.

Nigol Bezjian is the author and producer of more than 20 feature and documentary films, many of which have had screenings at international festivals and competitions. In the last two decades, Bezjian has donated numerous books and audiovisual materials to both of Haigazian University’s libraries. Researchers will have access to Nigol Bezjian’s archives according to the agreement made between the donor and Haigazian University.
On July 24, 1923, the Lausanne Treaty was signed to determine the borders of the current Republic of Turkey. This year, on the 97th anniversary of that treaty, Greece and Turkey were on the brink of war. However, there was not much coverage in the world media about that tension between the two neighboring countries.

Without interest by world media in shining a light on such issues, rogue states like Turkey and demagogues such as President Recep Tayyip Erdogan are riding high on every crisis.

Writing in the National Interest, Michael Rubin of the American Enterprise Institute, states: “Greek and Turkish fighter jets engaged in mock dogfights this week, over the Greek island of Kastellorizo, just a mile and a half from the Turkish coast, causing tourists to flee. Meanwhile, there is a growing risk that the Turkish and Greek navies will clash hundreds of miles to the west, if Turkey pushes forward with its plan to survey for gas in Greece’s exclusive economic zone. Greek officials say that all options are on the table and German Chancellor Angela Merkel has rushed to mediate as the US officials remain largely absent.” US officials are certainly absent by design and not necessarily by default, given the increasingly warmer relations between Ankara and Washington. The US has relegated the dirty work of the NATO to Ankara and in turn has looked to the other community is not alarmed, nor is it taking appropriate measures to stop his aggression.

Mr. Erdogan’s plans to dominate Central Asia, the space inside Turkey’s borders and Turkologist Ruben Melkonyan, believe Turkey will not dare to invade Armenia. Lillit Makunts, a member of parliament, announced on July 27 that joint military exercises will take place in Turkey as a voice of compassion.)

As the facts are sorted out in the Tavush region of Armenia, where, Erdogan needs Karabakh more than Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliev does. It is an excuse for Turkey to face Armenia and that falls perfectly in line with the goals Turkey has been pursuing. After suffering a defeat in Tavush, Erdogan dispatched a military delegation to discuss the conflict with the leadership there, Turkey’s National Security Council held a meeting chaired by President Erdogan, and came up with a stern warning to Armenia: “We condemn Armenia’s aggression against Azerbaijan, whose territories it has occupied illegally, disturbing peace and trampling international norms.”

What was more alarming, however, was Erdogan’s personal threat to Armenia: “This is not a border skirmish but it is an aggression on the very territory of Azerbaijan. Armenia has landed a punch beyond its capacity. We will defend our friend and brother, Azerbaijan. We will bring to its conclusion our mission in the Caucasus, left as a legacy to us from our forefathers.”

Last year, the European Union offered a slap on the wrist for Turkey about the latter’s plans to invade Greece and Armenia. Ankara did not disavow the news and its ensuing actions are deliberated to relay its intent to those countries.

What is the upshot? What are Turkey’s plans? Once again, “Azerbaijani blood will not be left unavenged.” 

As a result, the Soviet Union eventually collapsed and left to face Turkey in the wars named above. In addition, Turkey as a regional issue, which called for a solution between Armenia and Azerbaijan. As a result, the Soviet Union eventually collapsed and left to face Turkey in the wars named above. In addition, Turkey as a regional issue, which called for a solution between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Erdogan is not only talking about his intentions, but he is making good on his word, yet the international community is not alarmed, nor is it taking appropriate measures to stop his aggression.

Last year, the European Union offered a slap on the wrist for Turkey about the latter’s plans to invade Greece and Armenia. Turkey has rushed to mediate as the US officials remain largely absent. “This is not a border skirmish but it is an aggression on the very territory of Azerbaijan. Armenia has landed a punch beyond its capacity. We will defend our friend and brother, Azerbaijan. We will bring to its conclusion our mission in the Caucasus, left as a legacy to us from our forefathers.”

Kissinger undertook their China trip in 1972, they intended to drive a wedge between the two communist powers (China and the USSR), by offering economic incentives to Beijing.

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Erdogan is in the same headache that Hitler was in the 1930s when he became the rechtsradical leader to average Germany’s territorial and economic goals. Turkey has already weaponized religion as an extension of its military hardware. It has been threatening to weaken Russia by mobilizing its 25 million Muslims and has been agitating the Uighurs, in China’s Xinxiang Province. (There is little doubt that China is wreaking havoc on that minority but Turkey is making sure to insert itself in that issue as a voice of compassion.)

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Kissinger undertook their China trip in 1972, they intended to drive a wedge between the two communist powers (China and the USSR), by offering economic incentives to Beijing.
By Harut Sassounian

Turkish Intellectuals Acknowledge The Armenian Genocide on TV Program

(215). India brought the leader of the US to its doorsteps, because it obtained nuclear arms. North Korea brought the leader of the US to its doorsteps, because it obtained nuclear arms. The Nuclear Option

ingredient which may serve to develop a warhead.

idea may sound unthinkable, i.e., that Armenia can become a nuclear power. On the other hand, their intentions are to complete the grizzly task “his forefathers” have left unfinished.

Since Armenia’s weapons designers are so ingenious, they have to consider the nuclear option as a deterrent or any other super weapon that can prevent military aggression.

While the war is in soldiers. Turkish people rather died at the front where their state sent them: In Gallipoli, Suraksamik, Yemen, Suez, Galicia... Moderator: “We cannot call these [Turkish] deaths geno-

dize.” Aydin Chubukchu: “Of course, we cannot. They died in the war.

Moderator: “You mentioned the Germans who died in the Second World War.”

Arménians, Greeks, Assyrians served the purpose of Germans, since they formed a small ethnic group and were not a threat to Germany. The most important document is the absence of a war.

Aydin Chubukchu: “It is wrong to say that genocide was implied. The quote you are referring to is: ‘If we were able to keep them from being massacred, we would not leave a document saying ‘I deported and annihi-

lated you.’ But we can already infer many conclusions from the existing documents...”

Aydin Chubukchu: “The occupied territories were administrated by the Transcaucasian Commissariat with Armenian, Turkish, Georgian and Azerbaijani officials, with its capital in Erzurum. It was almost impossible to go anywhere in these territories.

Religious Indoctrination

HE WORLD recently witnessed how the Turkish state “reconquered” the 1500-year-old Byzantine holy church of Hagia Sophia in Istanbul, by converting it from a museum to a mosque. The Turkish state held a solemn ceremony during the first opening prayers of Quran, symbolizing the power of the conqueror and signifying that anything conquered by sword belongs to the conqueror – all churches, buildings, mosques and churches are subjects of the conqueror.

Turkey has alienated a number of countries, creating a niche for international diplomacy. The Turkish state is a super power, not only on the battlefield, but also in their innovations in military hardware, which brought down 13 Azeri drones, including one from Israel, which had been considered invincible.

The occupied territories were administrated by the Transcaucasian Commissariat with Armenian, Georgian and Azerbaijani officials, with its capital in Erzurum. It was almost impossible to go anywhere in these territories. The occupied territories were administrated by the Transcaucasian Commissariat with Armenian, Georgian and Azerbaijani officials, with its capital in Erzurum. It was almost impossible to go anywhere in these territories.

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Bishop Findikyan Issues Statement Against Hagia Sophia Conversion

On July 22, 2020, Diocesan Primate Bishop Daniel Findikyan issued the message below to support Orthodox Christian leaders, and to condemn an outrage against one of the wonders of the Christian world, Constantinople’s Hagia Sophia Cathedral.

Dear Faithful:

This week I have received a solemn request from the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, and its leader Archbishop Elpidophoros, my dear brother in Christ, to share their grief over a deeply disquieting turn of events in the life of Orthodoxy—and indeed all Christians.

You are all aware that the Turkish government has rendered a decision to convert Constantinople’s magnificent Cathedral of Hagia Sophia — “Holy Wisdom” — into a mosque. This decision represents a violation of the rights of Turkey’s national religious minorities. The concerns of millions of Christians were ignored—in spite of the fact that Hagia Sophia has long been listed among UNESCO’s World Heritage monuments.

Orthodox, Catholic, and Protestant Christians throughout the world have expressed their indignation. But we are united in an equally strong determination to challenge this act of cultural genocide. It represents a radical suppression of Christianity in one of our faith’s oldest, most magnificent homelands: the ancient realm of the Byzantine Orthodox Church in Asia Minor. Hagia Sophia was conceived and built 1,500 years ago, of our faith’s oldest, most magnificent homelands: the ancient realm of the Byzantine Orthodox Church in Asia Minor. Hagia Sophia was conceived and built 1,500 years ago, as the splendid jewel in the great Byzantine capital of Constantinople—a city that has been, and continues to be, an important center of Christian Church life. Faithful Orthodox architects and artisans contributed to the design, construction, and upkeep of the cathedral for centuries. Today we stand with our brother and sister Orthodox Christians in their righteous cause, and along with our Catho­lics convey support­ive love to the Ecumenical Patriarch, His Holiness Bartholomew I.

In Archbishop Elpidophoros’ message to me, he notes that the leaders of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America are inviting all Christians to join them on Friday, July 24, in a day of mourning over the evident fate of Hagia Sophia. Quoting an encyclical from the Greek Orthodox Church, he writes:

“Knowing that Friday, July 24 will be an ‘inauguration’ of this program of cultural and spiritual misappropriation and a violation of all standards of religious harmony and mutual respect, we call upon all God’s faithful of the Holy Church to observe this day as a Day of Mourning and manifest grief. We urge you to invite your fellow Orthodox Christians, and indeed all Christians and people of goodwill, to share in the following observances. We ask that every church toll its bells in lamentation on this day. We call for every flag of every country that is raised on the church property be lowered to half-mast on this day.”

With this directive, I inform our faithful that the Eastern Diocese and all its parish­ions will join our Orthodox Christian brothers and sisters, in a spirit of loving solidarity and familial support, during this Day of Mourning over the conversion of the Cathedral of Hagia Sophia (which took place on Friday, July 24).

I direct that on that day, every Armenian Church in the Eastern Diocese should lower its flags to half-mast, and at the hour of 3 p.m. (according to respective local times) should toll its bells for a period of one minute. I have asked our clergy to follow this bell tolling by offering solemn vespers prayers before the Altar of Our Lord. While most of us cannot come together for communal prayer under the current pandemic situation, I ask that every faithful Armenian offer a prayer at home at that hour.

These have been difficult, often painful weeks for all of us, in so many ways. The outrage against Hagia Sophia is truly an occasion for grief among us as Armenians, Christians, and civilized people. We hold out hope in the mysterious workings of our Lord, Jesus Christ, whose purposes may seem unknowable to us, but whose hand is surely guiding all human events towards their fulfillment in him. May our Lord grant strength and perseverance to all his faithful children.

With my prayers,

Bishop DANIEL

July 22, 2020

New Book on Armenian Publisher Is Released

ISTANBUL (Sumanak) — Turkish publisher Libra will publish a book by Evgi Yildirim which focuses on the 19th century publisher, Arakel Toutian Efendi.

The book is titled Kitapci Arakel’in Kataloglari. ‘Ferrec’ ve Eserlerini Tanitir (Presentation of the ‘Translated’ Works in the Catalogues of Kitabci Arakel).

The book includes lists of the books sold in Arakel Toutian’s bookstore. It also shows how translated works were presented to the reader during the Ottoman period and what information was included. In addition, the book shines a light on the history of book selling in Habs-xahi and includes references to people from the provinces who worked in the same street as grocers, painters, painters, photographers, and so on.

First Phase 3 Clinical Trial of Coronavirus Vaccine in US Begins

MODERNA, from page 1

Investigators and participants will not know who is getting the vaccine. Results from a Phase 1 trial of the vaccine published earlier this month in the New England Journal of Medicine included no immune responses in all of the volunteers and was generally safe. It had mild side effects, including fatigue, chills, headache, muscle pain, pain at the injection site.

A Phase 1 study typically studies a small number of people and focuses on whether a vaccine is safe and elicits an immune response. In Phase 2, the clinical study is expanded and the vaccine is given to people with characteristics — such as age and physical health — similar to those for whom the new vaccine is intended, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In Phase 3, the vaccine is given to thousands of people and tested for efficacy and again for safety.

The Moderna’s NIH vaccine is one of 25 in clinical trials around the world, according to the World Health Organization. Moderna is a co­founder of Moderna Inc. of several companies that received support from Operation Warp Speed, the federal government’s Covid-19 vaccine program. On Sunday, Moderna announced it had received an additional $472 million from the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority for Phase 3 studies and development of its Covid-19 vaccine, bringing the total to $655 million.

According to Johns Hopkins University’s tally of cases in the United States, there are more than 4.2 million confirmed cases of coronavirus in the United States and at least 146,935 people have died.