Volume LXXXXIII, NO.3, Issue 4744

AUGUST 6, 2022

\$2.00

Fighting Reported

YEREVAN (Azatutyun) — Nagorno-Karabakh's military on Monday,

August 1, accused Azerbaijani forces of

launching attacks on its positions in the

throughout the day its troops thwarted

Azerbaijani "attempts to cross the line of

alties," it said in a statement issued in the

evening. "The situation remains tense."

'The Armenian side suffered no casu-

The statement added that Russian

peacekeeping forces stationed in Kara-

bakh received "detailed information"

A Karabakh lawmaker, Artur Harutyu-

nyan, told RFE/RL's Armenian Service

shortly afterwards that the fighting has

stopped for now. He also said that the

Azerbaijani army did not capture any

"Everything is under the control of our armed forces," Davit Babayan, the Karabakh foreign minister said, for his part.

Meanwhile, the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry categorically denied any ceasefire violations in or around Karabakh. Earlier in the evening, Arayik Ha-

rutyunyan, the Karabakh president, held what appeared to be an emergency meeting with the Defense Army commander, Kamo Vartanyan, and other security of-

In what may have been a related devel-

opment, Armenian Foreign Minister Ara-

rat Mirzoyan held a phone call with US

Assistant Secretary of State Karen Don-

fried. An Armenian readout of the call

made no explicit mention of the reported

Donfried spoke with Mirzoyan and

Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Jeyhun

Bayramov on July 17, the day after their

direct talks held in Tbilisi. A week later,

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken

phoned the leaders of Armenia and Azer-

baijan. Blinken tweeted afterwards that

he sees a "historic opportunity to achieve

Last Thursday, the Armenian side said

that Azerbaijani forces opened fire at two

villages in Nagorno-Karabakh and Arme-

nian army positions on Armenia's border

On Saturday, Azerbaijani Defense Min-

ister Zakir Hasanov ordered his troops to

be ready to "prevent provocation attempts

by the enemy with decisive measures."

Some commentators in Yerevan suggest-

ed that Baku is preparing the ground for

The situation along the Karabakh "line

of contact" had been relatively calm since

another escalation in the conflict zone.

with Azerbaijan. Baku denied that.

escalation in Karabakh.

peace in the region."

Karabakh Armenian positions.

about the situation on the frontlines.

The Karabakh Defense Army said that

In Karabakh

territory's north and northwest.

By Nane Sahakian

contact?

ficials.

ASOF Aims to Deploy Full Force of Diasporan Scholars to Strengthen Armenia

By Alin K. Gregorian Mirror-Spectator Staff

BOSTON — A new organization hopes to provide a framework through which innovators in

Armenia — be they scientists, academics or artists — would be supported by their diasporan compatriots to gain access to the highest echelons in their fields.

That new body, Armenian Society of Fellows (ASOF),

held its inaugural meeting, at San Lazzaro Monastery in Venice, Italy, earlier this summer.

The organization is based on an idea by the late Dr. Vartan Gregorian, the former president of the New York Public Library, Brown Univer-

sity and later the Carnegie Foundation and expedited as a result of the disastrous war of 2020.

Just Getting Started

ASOF is led by an executive board, the chair of which is Prof. Ani Aprahamian, a professor of nuclear physics at Notre Dame University, in Indiana, who also serves as the director of the Alikhanyan National Science Laboratory, in

Armenia.

THE ARMENIAN

Ճանաչ էլ դիմաստո-ըն-և է- դիրատ, իմանալ դբանս Հանձարոյ

In a conversation last week, she and the board's secretary, Prof. Vatche Sahakian, a fellow professor of physics, at Harvey Mudd College in California, shed light on the organization and expressed hope that it will make a positive change

Aprahamian explained ASOF's vision. "We're hoping

this is not going to be just a diaspora organization. We are really planning and strategizing and our vision is to bring about significant change in a lot of the areas that our mission is in. It's no longer just a diasporan organization that focuses on some

razor-sharp point. We really feel it's time to engage all the people in Armenia, the government of Armenia as well as the diaspora."

The disastrous and devastating 44-day war of 2020 was the impetus for the organization, Sahakian noted.

see SCHOLARS, page 9

New UMich Armenian Literature Chair Has a Global Cultural Vision

By Harry Kezelian

Mirror-Spectator Staff

ANN ARBOR, MICH. — One of the most prominent positions in the field of Armenian Studies in America has a new occupant. On July 22, the Center for Ar-

menian Studies at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, announced the appointment of Dr. Michael Pifer to fill the Marie Manoogian Chair in Armenian Language and Literature.

The chair, which was established in



Dr. Michael Pifer

1987 with an endowment from philanthropists Alex and Marie Manoogian, had been held by Professor Kevork Bardakjian since its inception until his recent retirement. It followed the 1981 establishment of the Alex Manoogian Chair in Modern Armenian History at the same university.

Originally a part of the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, reflecting Armenia's status as a republic of the Soviet Union, in 1997 the chair was moved to the Department of Near Eastern Studies, which changed its name in 2018 to the Department of Middle East Studies, through

the initiative of Bardakjian.

Pifer, who was born and raised in Kalamazoo, Mich., is of Armenian descent through his mother, a native of Fresno, whose father was born in Kharpert. He studied the Armenian language at the University of Michigan with Bardakjian and graduated with his bachelor's degree in Near Eastern Studies and Creative Writing

in 2007. During that time he spent a year in Aleppo, Syria, to immerse himself in daily spoken and written Western Armenian. He subsequently received his PhD in comparative literature, also from UM-Ann Arbor, in 2014. His dissertation, titled "The Stranger's Voice: Integrated Literary Cultures in Anatolia and the Premodern see VISION, page 10

Azerbaijanis Destroy Another Armenian Cemetery in Karabakh

STEPANAKERT (PanARMENIAN. Net) — Azerbaijanis have destroyed another Armenian cemetery in the occupied territories of Nagorno-Karabakh (Artsakh).

Footage depicting the act of vandalism committed by Azerbaijanis has been shared on Telegram channels.

Azerbaijan, meanwhile, has been hindering the deployment of a UNESCO mission that would document the cultural and historical heritage of the region and prevent the destruction of significant monuments.

Since the end of hostilities in the fall of 2020, dozens of Armenian cemeteries, churches, monuments and memorials have been destroyed by the Azerbaijani military.



The cemetery monuments and memorials being destroyed

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March.



ARTSAKH

Restoring Artsakh's **Vocational School Is a Pan-Armenian Project**



MICHIGAN

Armenia Fest Draws 2000 Attendees at **Royal Oak Farmers** Market

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NEWS from ARMENIA

Columbia Records Signs Eurovision Singer Rosa Linn

YEREVAN (PanARMENIAN. Net) — Columbia Records has signed Armenia's Eurovision 2022 singer Rosa Linn, whose *Snap* has recently been used on more than 360,000 TikTok clips, with some having millions of likes.

"Never in my wildest dreams did I think I'd be able to say this but I am officially a signed artist on Columbia Records. A label that is home to so many of my idols. My life has changed quicker than I could have ever imagined," she wrote on Instagram.

"Thank you to all of you who have supported a girl from a small town in the heart of Armenia, and thank you for loving and listening to Snap. I'm so happy this song has connected us all and now I am ready for the next chapter of our journey," Rosa added.

Columbia Records, the label behind acts like BTS, Harry Styles, Lil Nas X, Adele and so many others, is an American record label owned by Sony Music.

Armenia, US Discuss Karabakh

YEREVAN (PanARMENIAN. Net) — Armenian Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan and U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Karen Donfried on August 1 discussed the Karabakh conflict and the situation in the region during a phone conversation.

"Issues on the normalization of relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan, as well as the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict were discussed," the Armenian Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

"Weighing in on the solution of the humanitarian problems resulting from the 44-day war, the sides emphasized the need for the urgent release of Armenian POWs and other detainees."

Forbes Recommends Armenia's 'Captivating Natural Wonders'

YEREVAN (Panorama.am) — Forbes has put Armenia's Khosrov Forest State Reserve and Dilijan National Park on its list of five captivating natural wonders to visit.

"While the first national park is widely agreed to have been established in 1872, Armenia's Khosrov Forest State Reserve has Yellowstone beat by roughly 1,500 years, first established in the 300s by King Khosrov III," according to a Forbes article from July 31.

"In the modern era, this expanse of juniper and oak forest is renowned for its high diversity of flora and fauna, with a particularly interesting array of iconic predators. Gray wolves, Eurasian lynx, and brown bears all call the park home, while lucky visitors may be able to catch a glimpse of one of the few remaining Persian leopards that still exist in Armenia."

The sprawling Dilijan National Park offers vast forests, indigenous fauna, and centuries-old structures in the heart of Armenia, it says.

More Diaspora Activists Denied Entry into Armenia

By Artak Khulian

YEREVAN (Azatutyun) — Two more Armenian Diaspora activists from Europe critical of Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan have been barred from entering Armenia.

Massis Abrahamian, a leader of the pan-Armenian Dashnaktsutyun party's branch in the Netherlands, and his 23-year-old daughter Suneh arrived at Yerevan's Zvartnots airport on Monday and Sunday, August 1 and July 31, respectively. Immigration officers there told them that they will be deported.

"Words cannot describe the disappointment and pain I feel for being denied my homeland," Suneh Abrahamian, who is also affiliated with Dashnaktsutyun, wrote on Facebook before flying back to the Netherlands.

Her father was still at Zvartnots's transit zone on Monday evening, waiting for a return flight to Warsaw. He said he too was not given any reason for being declared a persona non grata by the Armenian government.

The government declined to comment on the expulsions, referring all inquiries to the National Security Service (NSS). The NSS did not respond to an RFE/RL request for comment as of Monday evening.

Mourad Papazian, another Dashnaktsutyun activist and one of the leaders of France's large Armenian community, was similarly denied entry to Armenia two weeks ago. The Coordination Council of Armenian Organizations of France (CCAF) condemned the ban.

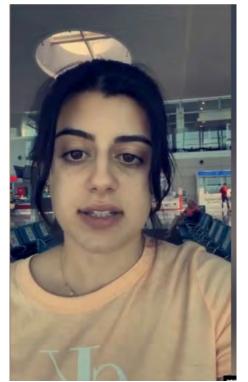
After an eight-day silence, Pashinyan's office said that Papazian was deported because of organizing an angry demonstration against the Armenian prime minister's June 2021 visit to France. It said the protesters threw "various objects" at Pashinyan's motorcade when it drove through Paris. The French-Armenian leader denied any involvement in that protest.

Massis Abrahamian suggested that he was not allowed to visit Armenia because

of being one of the organizers of protests that marred Pashinyan's May trip to the Netherlands. Some of the Dutch-Armenian protesters chanted offensive slogans



Pashinyan of seeking to silence his vocal critics in the worldwide Armenian Diaspora. "Even during Bolshevik rule there were no crackdowns on such a scale," he



Massis Abrahamian, left, and his daughter, Suneh

against the prime minister.

Abrahamian stressed that the protests were sanctioned by Dutch authorities and peaceful. "Every Diaspora Armenia will now be concerned about whether they will be allowed to enter Armenia upon their arrival," he told RFE/RL's Armenian Service from the Yerevan airport.

Dashnaktsutyun's organization in Armenia has been at the forefront of regular rallies launched this spring by the country's main opposition groups trying to topple Pashinyan. Not surprisingly, the party's Yerevan-based leaders were quick to condemn the latest expulsions of their Diaspora activists.

One of them, Artsvik Minasian, accused

claimed.

Another Dashnaktsutyun leader, Ishkhan Saghatelyan, linked the travel bans with what he called a government crackdown on opposition activists and supporters in Armenia. More than a dozen of them are currently under arrest, accused of assaulting police officers and government supporters. The Armenian authorities maintain that the accusations are not politically motivated.

"Nikol is trying to switch to authoritarian rule," Saghatelyan charged in a Facebook post. "World history shows that at some point all populists turn into dictators because they can no longer cling to power through fraud and deception."

Armenian Politician Barred from Entering Karabakh

By Nane Sahakian

Raffi Hovannisian, a veteran politician critical of Armenia's government, was reportedly not allowed to enter Nagorno-Karabakh late on Sunday for unknown reasons.

Hovannisian's Zharangutyun (Heritage) party said Russian peacekeeping soldiers manning a checkpoint in the Lachin corridor stopped him as he traveled to Stepanakert to attend his grandson's baptism.

"Showing him an order from their commander along with an accompanying photo, the soldiers at the checkpoint did not give any clear reason or justification for the refusal but confirmed that the ban could emanate from "the highest echelon" of official Yerevan," Zharangutyun said. in a statement.

It said Karabakh's leadership was "very surprised" by the entry ban and tried in vain to have it lifted.

The statement quoted Hovannisian as seemingly blaming Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan for the

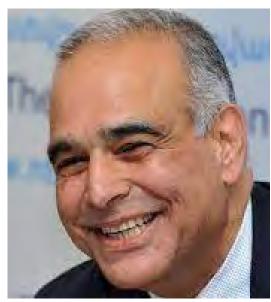
ban. The US-born politician, who had served as Armenia's first foreign minister, pointed the finger at an unnamed "failed leader who must quit along with his xenophobic neighbor for the sake of real regional peace and security."

The authorities in Yerevan and Stepanakert could not be reached for comment on Monday morning. The pro-government news website civic. am quoted a spokesperson for the National Security Service (NSS) as saying that Armenia's government has nothing to do with the travel ban.

Armenian opposition parliamentarians likewise blamed Pashinyan when they were

barred from entering Karabakh in April on a visit which was part of their campaign against far-reaching Armenian concessions to Azerbaijan.

Pashinyan and the Armenian Foreign Ministry put the blame on the Russian



Raffi Hovannisian

peacekeepers, however, saying that their actions ran counter to the terms of the Russian-brokered ceasefire that stopped the Armenian-Azerbaijani war in November 2020. Moscow rejected the criticism.



Restoring Artsakh's Vocational School Is a Pan-Armenian Project

By Haykaram Nahapetyan

Mirror-Spectator Video Correspondent

MARTUNI, Artsakh — Several diasporan organizations have combined efforts to renovate the vocational school in the town of Martuni in Artsakh. The Knights of Vartan, together with the Hayastan All-Armenian Fund, Genesis Armenia, Armenia Tools4Schools, the Western Prelacy of the Armenian Church in the United States. Sahman NGO. Armenian Educational Foundation, Armenian Tree Project, and the government of the Artsakh Republic (Republic of Nagorno Karabakh) provided funding to re-build the facilities. The site has been bombed in two wars, from the early 1990s to 2020, and the buildings were severely damaged. The school is the largest educational facility in the province with approximately 110 students trained in seven vocational departments, including in welding, wood working, sewing, and the culinary arts. The students live in the town itself and surrounding border villages.

"In the 1990s, the local headquarters of Artsakh's Defense Forces was located here in our school. Commander Monte Melkonian's office was in this room, which is my office now," said Artak Sargsyan, the director of the vocational school. The reconstruction of the building facilities has been in process for two years now and was ongoing in front of our eyes while we toured the area.

The Genesis Armenia foundation, led by Yerevan-based reporter and activist Abraham Gasparyan, supplied new sewing machines for the tailoring department. Its purpose is two-fold – its equipment can



Principal Artak Sargsyan

Vartan organization and Armenia Tools4Schools pitched in to rebuild.

When classes resumed in January 2021. there were no buses to transport the students from the villages. "It would take two hours for the parents to drive groups of students to the school. After the Knights of Vartan's Jake Bournazian provided new school buses, the transit time decreased to 40 minutes," noted Artak. The organization also purchased a used car for the school to teach the students how to drive.

After the October 2020 war, the school had no buses, no fence, no gates, no kitchen, no working appliances, and no lab. In less than two years, the Knights funded expert skilled tradesmen, and work with the students and other local villagers. The school manages its own construction team. handles its own equipment and material purchases, and works quickly on its own project schedules."

This is the second consecutive year that the Knights and Armenia Tools4schools provided tools relevant to each vocational department to all graduates. The young chefs got mixers, the tailors got irons, and so on. "Having the equipment to start a successful career once the student graduate is essential," said Jake. In 2021, the

Western Prelacy participated and supplied equipment for the drivers' department. The school got help from Hayastan All Armenian Fund and the Artsakh government pitched in as well. The authorities supplied the welding machines. Manager Grigoryan showed the outdated junk that would be recycled soon. The new machines were standing packed on the side.

"The key is the trust. We report back to the sponsors about every single dram we receive. They see that after the funds arrive, we start working and show the results," said director Artak Sargsyan. "They are very transparent exceeding our expectations on the speed and efficiency," Jake added on this subject.

People in Martuni were cheered up as they felt they were not left alone. Now the vocational school needs a new tractor and some more building materials for finishing up the constructions. "We want to teach our students to work with the tractors. We need to educate agricultural professionals," said Artak at the conclusion of our meeting.

I noticed that the principal, however, never renovated his own office while construction was occurring throughout the facility. Everything there looks like it has been decades ago. The historical background of his office-room and perhaps the scarcity of resources must be the reason. The recovering Martuni school stands as a reminder of the perseverance and determination of the locals to survive and remain on their indigenous land.

An accompanying video report to this article may be found at mirrorspectator.com.



Sign installed at the

contribution of American-

vocational school

recognizing the

Armenian donors

The principal refuses to renovate his office

department coordinator, noted that the employment provided helps the local residents recover from post-traumatic stress related from the 44-day war and living on the border next to Azerbaijani army.

"I have no doubts that in future our products will be recognized not only in Martuni and the Republic of Artsakh, but well bevond." said Gavane.

During the 2020 aggression, in unsuccessful assaults to capture the area, the Azerbaijani-Turkish forces dropped more bombs and shelled Martuni more than the capital Stepanakert. The lab and several buildings were severely damaged, and their school-buses were blown up. After hostilities were over, the US-based Knights of

be used both for teaching purposes and for the purchasing of equipment for all the demanufacturing. Gayane Matevosyan, the partments and provided materials for constructing the improvements to the common areas of the school grounds. One of the benefits of helping a vocational school is that the students themselves can work on renovation, practicing their skills on the

site. Karen Grigoryan, the supply manager, pointed to the whitened walls and updated floor saying the work was done by young learners. "And our female students supply the cold drinks for the workers," added the director.

After returning to the US, I met Jake Bournazian, the Knights of Vartan representative, who works as a lawyer in the Washington area. "So far we have paid zero dollars for the labor," he noted. "The school administration takes care of everything. The teachers are



Representatives of US Forest Service

YEREVAN — Representatives of the US Forest Service are in Armenia. They visited the protected areas of the Caucasian Wildlife Refuge (CWR) to learn about the work of the partner Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural

The primary purpose of the visit was to discuss the problems of wildlife in Armenia and the prospects for fire prevention. With the support of the US Forest Service, since 2020, the foundation has been implementing forest fire prevention, capacity building, and technical training of forest rangers in the CWR private protected area managed by the foundation, as well as a number of public awareness campaigns and

Visit Caucasian Wildlife Refuge

Assets (FPWC), it said in a statement on Monday.

Members of the US Forest Service in Armenia

Accompanied by the Director of the Foundation, Ruben Khachatryan, the partners toured the shelter, visited a nursery of native tree species, which was established in 2016 with the support of the US Forest Service, as well as learned about bear rescue, ecotourism, community development and a number of other programs. The foundation employees presented extensive information about upcoming projects to the partners.

"We are glad that we are working closely with the US Forest Service, particularly in the scope of forest fire prevention. The US Forest Service is one of the leaders in the world with its long-term experience, and the exchange of that experience will enable us to fight against wildfires more effectively," Ruben Khachatryan noted. He added that it is very important for colleagues to get to know all the programs implemented by the Foundation.

The prevention of forest fires is one of the important points of the policy adopted by the foundation, and an educational campaign is already being launched to this end.



INTERNATIONAL

INTERNATIONAL

Cyprus Airways Plans Armenia Route

NICOSIA (Public Radio of Armenia) — Cyprus Airways has announced plans to launch a new scheduled route to Yerevan, Armenia, RoutesOnline reports.

The service from Larnaca (LCA) to Yerevan's Zvartnots International ({{EVN})) will operate twice a week using Airbus A320 aircraft. Although the airline has not confirmed the start date, it said flights would be seasonal.

The Larnaca-Yerevan route is currently served nonstop by Wizz Air, which flies three times per week using a mix of A321 and A321neo aircraft. According to the schedules, the ULCC plans to increase frequencies to 6X-weekly by early September.

Greece's Aegean Airlines also offers a one-stop option between Larnaca and Yerevan via Athens (ATH).

Armenia's Freestyle Wrestlers Win Bronze at U17 World Championships

ROME (PanARMENIAN. Net) — Armenian freestyle wrestlers Razmik Yepremyan and Arman Harutyunyan won bronze medals at the U17 World Championships in Rome, the country's Wrestling Federation reports.

Yepremyan and Harutyunyan defeated all their opponents in the 71 kg and 45 kg weight categories, respectively.

Earlier, Gaspar Terteryan won gold in the 60 kg category of the Greco-Roman finals of the Championships. Ararat Varderesyan, also representing Armenia, snatched the bronze medal, while Gor Ayvazian from Georgia claimed victory in the 92 kg event.

Consultations between Foreign Ministries of Armenia and Russia

YEREVAN (News.am) — Armenian-Russian consultations on the themes of international organizations operating on the European continent were held in Yerevan on August 1 under the leadership of Armenian Deputy Foreign Ministers Paruyr Hovhannisyan and Vahe Gevorgyan and Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Grushko.

According to the Foreign Ministry's press service, a range of issues related to the activities of international organizations were discussed. The parties noted the importance of further cooperation on issues of mutual interest. Mutual readiness to continue the practice of holding inter-ministerial consultations as part of the allied cooperation was registered.

Later, Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan received Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Grushko.

Mirzoyan highlighted the importance of using the potential and experience of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group Co-Chairmanship in line with its international mandate.

Azerbaijan Is Remaking Its Military in Turkey's Image

By Fuad Shahbaz

On October 5, 2020, when the full-scale war between Azerbaijani and Armenian armed forces had just started in and around Nagorno-Karabakh, President Ilham Aliyev was already talking about military reform. In an interview with Turkish staterun broadcaster TRT, Aliyev said that his intention was to remake the Azerbaijani military "based on the Turkish model but on a smaller scale."

That reform had been underway for several years, as Azerbaijan sought to move away from a Soviet model of the armed forces — featuring a heavy use of conscripts and large quantities of infantry and armor units — toward a more NATO-style professional, mobile, high-tech force. As Turkey was Azerbaijan's closest ally, it was naturally the NATO military Baku sought to emulate.

Turkey's heavy military support to Azerbaijan in the war against Armenia solidified that orientation. As Aliyev put it in the interview: "Turkey's moral support and the Turkish defense industry products at our disposal strengthen us, and the whole world can see that. The Turkish Army is the second strongest army in NATO today, and no one can confront it."

Even though the war ended with an Azerbaijani victory, recapturing most of the territory it had lost to Armenians in the first war between the two sides in the 1990s, Azerbaijan's plans only gathered speed.

It began to roll out a series of new military reforms envisaging an increase in spending, setting up new units, a brand new National Defense University, and boosting the number of special forces. And all of it was to be based on a Turkish model.

The rapid development of special forces appears to be the top reform priority. In April 2022, Aliyev reported that "Azerbaijan has doubled the number of special forces after the Karabakh war." That includes a new branch of special forces established after 2020, units called "commandos" and based on Turkish units of the same name.

While regular special forces are elite

units oriented toward long-term conventional wars, commando units are more oriented toward shorter-term operations in hard-to-reach mountainous areas and in extreme weather conditions — the environment in many of the territories Azerbaijan regained in 2020, including the Lachin, Hadrut, and Kelbajar districts. Commandos go through a more intensive training program and are armed only with handheld weapons like sniper rifles and high-explosive hand grenades, and use light armored vehicles. Regular special forces, by contrast, are equipped with more heavily armored vehicles, large-caliber rifles, grenade launchers, man-portable mortars, and portable missile systems and other sophisticated kit.

So far, Azerbaijan has reported establishing five commando units, with two based in the Hadrut and Kelbajar districts. The location of the other three has not been made public, but it is safe to assume that they also are close to the border of Armenia and the line of contact with the areas in Karabakh controlled by Russian peacekeepers. And further expansion is expected: Adalat Verdiyev, an Azerbaijani military expert, has reported that Azerbaijan soon plans to double the number of commando units and regular military units in the Karabakh region. Officials have not made public how many commandos Azerbaijan now has, but Aliyev has said the number is in the "thousands."

The commando units will operate directly under a new Land Forces Command, which also is a direct Turkish import. The command was established in 2021 and its first commander is Lieutenant General Anvar Afandiyev, an alumnus of the Turkish Military Academy. The new command will now coordinate all ground operations; previously all military operations in any domain were commanded from the General Staff. Since its establishment, the Land Forces Command has opened a new command center and several other facilities.

The new National Defense University, set up in March 2022, is a Turkish model, with its standards based on that of the

Turkish Defense University. Azerbaijan also has boosted the number of its military personnel studying in Turkey itself, with more than 200 officers and contract soldiers studying there at the moment.

There are limits, however, to the Turkish military influence in Azerbaijan. While there were widespread reports following the launch of the 2020 war that Turkey may set up a military base in the country, Aliyev poured cold water on them, saying that "this option has not been discussed with Turkey." Azerbaijan's military doctrine does not allow the establishment of foreign military bases in the country, but Aliyev kept the door open. "If there is a big threat to Azerbaijan, we will use this opportunity, because Turkey is our ally," he said.

Perhaps the most well-known element of Turkish influence on Azerbaijan's military is in its weaponry. The TB2 Bayraktar drones played a critical role in the 2020 victory over Armenia, but they are far from the only Turkish weaponry in Azerbaijan's arsenal. Other recent acquisitions include the Dragoneye electro-optic sensor system, Cobra II armored vehicles, TRG-300 guided multiple launch rocket systems, TRLG-230 laser-guided missiles, T-122 Sakarya multiple launch rocket system, among others

The modernization of Azerbaijan's military is part of a broader post-2020 military expansion, including a significant increase in the military budget. Aliyev has cited the risk of Armenian revanchism as the reason. But a more likely motivation is the overall declining security environment in Azerbaijan's neighborhood. The full-scale conventional war now underway in Ukraine, and the relatively successful defense mounted by the NATO-trained Ukrainian armed forces has only strengthened the case for military reform and moving beyond the Soviet legacy.

(Fuad Shahbazov is an independent policy analyst focusing on regional security issues in the South Caucasus. This piece originally appeared on the site www.eurasianet.org on July 28.)

UN Official Removes Tweet on Visit to Armenian Genocide Memorial

By Artak Khulian

YEREVAN (Azatutyun) — UN General Assembly President Abdulla Shahid has deleted a tweet about his visit to the Armenian Genocide memorial in Yerevan condemned by Turkey.

Shahid, who is also the foreign minister of Maldives, arrived in Armenia on July 26, on a three-day trip involving talks with the country's president, foreign minister and senior lawmakers.

On July 27, he visited the Tsitsernakabert memorial to some 1.5 million Armenians massacred by the Ottoman Turks during the First World War. He also toured the adjacent Museum-Institute of the Armenian Genocide.

"Laid a wreath at the Memorial to the Victims of Armenian Genocide," Shahid tweeted afterwards. "Special thanks to Museum-Institute Director Harutyun Marutian & Hasmik Martirosian for a tour of the Museum."

The post was removed several hours later when the Turkish Foreign Ministry complained.



UN General Assembly President Abdulla Shahid (right) visits the Armenian genocide memorial in Yerevan, July 27, 2022.

The Armenian government did not respond to Ankara as of Thursday afternoon.

Shahid had met with Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan earlier in the day. The two men also attended and addressed a graduation ceremony held at the Armenian Foreign Ministry's Diplomatic School.

Shahid on Thursday refused to comment.



INTERNATIONAL

Turkey Reaps Rewards in International Standing as First Grain Ship Leaves Ukraine

By Andrew Wilks

ISTANBUL (Al Monitor) — The first grain ship to leave Ukraine since the Russian invasion departed from the port of Odesa on Monday, August 1, under a deal brokered by Turkey and the United Nations last month.

The apparent success of the July 22 agreement between Ukraine, Russia, Turkey and the UN raised Ankara's standing on the world stage, as well as that of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, according to analysts.

Facing an economic crisis and a looming election, the Turkish leader will welcome the positive media coverage that comes with playing such a central role in arranging a successful accord between the belligerent parties.

"The agreement is playing [in]to Erdogan's hands," said Kerim Has, a Turkish political analyst based in Moscow. "The major role of Turkey in securing the first agreement between the warring sides in Istanbul is important for Turkish prestige and for Erdogan personally."

The Sierra Leone-registered cargo ship Razoni left Odesa with 26,000 tons of corn. "I believe that we will ensure global food security thanks to this important step," Ukraine's Ambassador to Ankara Vasyal Bodnar tweeted.

It will be inspected by a joint team of UN, Turkish, Russian and Ukrainian officials near Istanbul's Bosporus strait on Tuesday, Turkish Defense Minister Hulusi Akar said. It is then due to head to the Lebanese port of Tripoli.

"This is a very pleasing and proud situation for us," Akar told the state-run Anadolu news agency.

He said the framework drawn up by Erdogan, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy created a "very wide working sphere" that allowed the shipments to go ahead.

In July, the IMF's World Economic Outlook sounded the alarm on the global crisis and the impact of trade barriers, noting "the link between prices and social stability means that further barriers to trade, or a poor harvest due to extreme heat and fertilizer shortages, risk causing further hardship, famine or unrest." The IMF said such risks "could be allayed by easing logistic hurdles brought about by the invasion of Ukraine, including the Black Sea blockade."

The Turkish Defense Ministry said other ships would pass through Black Sea safe corridors in the coming days. Ukrainian officials have said 17 ships are docked with almost 600,000 tons of cargo, mostly grain.

The shipment deal is expected to release some 22 million tons of grain held in Ukrainian silos and ease a growing global food crisis.

Turkish officials view the agreement as vindication of their stance as a mediator between Moscow and Kyiv. NATO member Turkey has good relations with both sides. It has not joined sanctions against Russia but at the same time has supplied

Ukraine with weapons, particularly armed aerial drones.

"We hope this process will continue without interruptions and problems," Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu tweeted after the Razoni departed. "We'll do what is necessary to this end. We hope that the agreement will lead to a cease-fire and lasting peace."

Timothy Ash, an emerging markets economist at BlueBay Asset Management in London who focuses on Turkey, praised Ankara officials for realizing the grain deal

"I put a really low probability on this happening due to the obvious security concerns," he said. "Turkish diplomats' tenacity played no small part in making this happen. Let's hope that this makes a meaningful step up in Ukrainian agro-food exports, helping alleviate pressure on global food markets, helping the world's poor."

Supporters of the Turkish government were quick to hail its role in finding a solution to the grain crisis.

"Turkey's intense diplomatic efforts that continued day and night for six weeks paved the way for the signing of the 'safe grain corridor' agreement in Istanbul, on which the food security of 400 million people depends," economist Kerem Alkin wrote in the *Daily Sabah* newspaper.

"Turkey's understanding of strong, entrepreneurial and humanitarian diplomacy was once again in effect when creating a permanent solution for the global food supply crisis, which is the most critical crisis on the global scale. This achievement was congratulated by all leading G-20 and OECD member countries."

Last month's breakthrough allowed for an Istanbul control center staffed by personnel from the four parties to oversee grain exports from Ukraine's ports in Odesa, Chornomorsk and Yuzhny.

The deal also allows Russia, which together with Ukraine accounts for nearly a third of global wheat exports, to export grain and fertilizers.

The departure of the Razoni is even more remarkable given continuing Russian missile attacks around Odesa following the finalization of the grain deal.

Volodymyr Sidenko, an expert with the Kyiv-based Razumkov Center think tank, told the Associated Press that the ship's voyage was just a "first step that could also be the last if Russia decides to continue attacks in the south."

However, Turkey's role as an intermediary between Moscow and Kyiv, as well as the West, could prove valuable in the event of talks to bring an end to the war.

"When I talk with Western diplomats in Moscow, they say the fact that Turkey keeps an open channel with Russia is also important for NATO," Has told Al-Monitor.

"If a peace deal will be reached, I am 99-percent certain it will be arranged in Istanbul with Turkey. The West can keep an open channel with Moscow, and this is something important to their interests."

Turkey Urges Neutrality from Third Parties on Cyprus

ISTANBUL (Ahval) — Turkish Defense Minister Hulusi Akar on August 1 called for third parties to remain objective and neutral on the question of the ethnically-divided island of Cyprus and urged for the recognition of the rights of Turkish Cypriots.

Akar made the remarks during a ceremony marking Armed Forces Day in Ankara, Türkiye newspaper reported.



Turkish Defense Minister Hulusi Akar

"Our expectation from the third parties is to be objective and neutral on the Cyprus issue, abandon strategic blindness, pursue an equal approach towards the Turkish Cypriots and pledge their rights," the country's top defence official said.

Cyprus has been divided since a July 20,1974 Turkish military intervention in response to a brief Greek Cypriot coup aimed at uniting the Mediterranean island with Greece.

Turkey justified the invasion by citing its rights to protect Turkish Cypriots. But the island has remained divided between the internationally recognized Republic of Cyprus, and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC), which is only recognized as a state by Turkey. The Greek Cypriot-governed Republic of Cyprus controls the southern two-thirds of the island, and the TRNC, where Turkey still keeps about 30,000 troops, the northern third.

"Greek Cypriots should realize the realities, see the Turkish presence and recognize the independence and sovereignty of the Turkish presence. They should acknowledge their right to live in security and prosperity," Akar said.

Turkey has fulfilled its responsibility as a guarantor state and will continue to do so, Akar said, adding that Ankara would never allow the violation of Turkey or the TRNC in the Aegean, eastern Mediterranean and Cyprus.

Turkey has been engaged in long-time dispute with Greece and Greek Cyprus over overlapping territorial claims in the Mediterranean and Aegean, as well as Cyprus

"Nobody should interpret our calls for dialogue as weakness and not see our statements regarding not allowing the violation of our rights' as a threat. Turkey will continue to stand with its Cypriots brothers in their rightful cause," Akar said.

Last year, after a five-year hiatus, the Turkey and Greece resumed talks to address their differences in the Mediterranean Sea and other bilateral issues, but the talks have failed to yield progress with tensions heightening between Ankara and Athens.

Yazidi Man Who Survived Two Genocides Resides in Refugee Camp

SHEKHAN, Kurdistan Region (Rudaw) — Khayri Khidir has survived two genocides in his lifetime, once during the Baathist regime's Anfal campaign while the other was the Islamic State's (ISIS) Yazidi genocide in Shingal. He now resides in one of the Kurdistan Region's refugee camps in Duhok province with his wife and children, after losing his parents and siblings 34 years ago.

Khidir was only 7-years-old when the Badinan Anfal began in August 1988. His family resided in an area nearby the town of Sharia, which was under the rule of the fallen Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein's Baathist regime.

The Anfal campaign, named after the eighth surah in the Quran, was the codename for Hussein's genocide which killed around 182,000 Kurds. The Badinan phase of the campaign, which Khidir survived, began on August 25, 1988 and continued until September 6 of the same year.

"My uncle came to our home and asked my mother if he could take me and my two sisters with him to Shingal. My mother said no, only take Khayri [Khidir], and I went with him," Khidir told Rudaw's Ayub Nasri on Sunday.

Khidir lost all six members of his family during the Anfal, yet still holds onto the hope of seeing them again, as the location of their graves remains unknown.

"My parents and my siblings were victims of Anfal 34 years ago. We, as Yazidis, have a tradition to visit our relatives' graves during religious holidays and ceremonies, but I do not have any graves. God willing, I will not lose hope until our hands meet each other again."

The Anfal campaign has been recognized by the Iraqi Supreme Court as constituting genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes. Yet, the campaign is yet to be recognized as genocide by the majority of the international community.

Khidir, now a father of four, had to leave Shingal with the rest of his family due to the threat of ISIS in 2014 and found refuge in Shekhan's Mam Rashan camp where he resides to this day.

Wednesday, August 3, marks the eighth anniversary of ISIS' capture of the Yazidi homeland of Shingal.

ISIS seized control of Shingal on August 3, 2014, killing thousands of the Yazidi minority and leading thousands more to flee their homes to escape the militant group's systematic killing of men and the enslavement of younger women and children

Eight years later, thousands of Yazidis remain in camps in the Kurdistan Region, unable to return home due to the lack of reconstruction, services, and security.



Community News

Eric Esrailian Elected to the **Academy Museum Of Motion Pictures Board of Trustees**

By Breanna Diaz

LOS ANGELES (UCLA Daily Bruin) — For Dr. Eric Esrailian, film has the promise to both entertain and educate.

Esrailian, executive board member of the UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television, joined the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures as one of three new members of the Board of Trustees on July 1. The board is one branch of the museum's governing body and includes film executives, actors and other leaders in the film industry. Esrailian, a doctor of digestive diseases and Emmy-nominated film producer, said his work producing "The Promise" stood out to the leaders of the museum for its depiction of the Armenian genocide and social advocacy campaign.

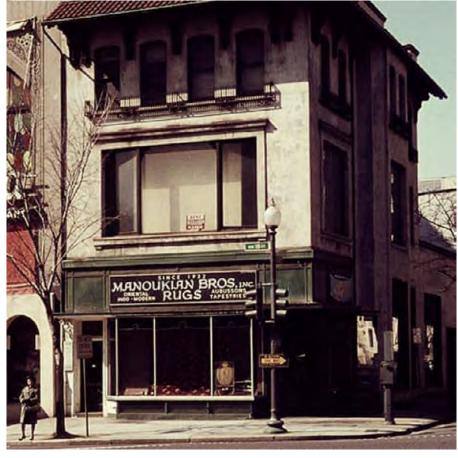
"They (The Academy Museum) expressed an interest in social impact entertainment and the potential impact that filmmaking can have on social issues," Esrailian said. "My experience with 'The Promise' ... resonated with them. That was the most visible project."

Set against the backdrop of the fall of the Ottoman Empire preceding the Armenian Genocide, "The Promise" tells the story of a love triangle between a medical student, a journalist and an Armenian woman. While the film is a fictionalized account of events, Esrailian said he also produced a documentary titled "Intent to Destroy: Death, Denial & Depiction," which reveals in-depth details of the genocide.

A long history of suppressed information about the Armenian genocide encouraged Esrailian to launch a social impact campaign to accompany the release of "The Promise," he said. To raise awareness and push for the United States to formally recognize the genocide, Esrailian said the filmmakers recruited actors such as George Clooney to promote the film because of their human rights activism work. He added that the campaign also partnered with multiple nonprofits and human rights institutes, including Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International.

"My great-grandparents were Armenian Genocide survivors, and my parents were immigrants and refugees," Esrailian said. "The odds of me being alive are so infinitesimally small that I always felt — and feel a responsibility to do something with my life."

Esrailian said proceeds from the film went to charitable efforts, including the creation of UCLA's first human rights institute, the Promise Institute for Human Rights, and the Promise Armenian Institute. When developing "The Promise" with director Terry George, Esrailian said the filmmakers wanted it to be both educational and entertaining. He added that the intention was for educators to see ESRAILIAN, page 8



The Manoukian Brothers store on Connecticut Avenue (photo from the 1960s)

Armenian-American Manoukian Brothers Among First Rug Dealers In the Nation's Capital

By Haykaram Nahapetyan

Special to the Mirror-Spectator

WASHINGTON — During the first days of March of this year, in a matter of a week, Virginia's House of Representatives and Senate passed the resolution HJR 362, honoring the centenary of a rug store in Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. In 1922, Manouk Manoukian and his brothers, originally from Aintab, established the Manoukian Brothers Oriental Rugs shop in Washington Circle in the nation's capital.

"They came to the US via Ellis Island," tells Mikael Manoukian, who a century later supervises the family-owned enterprise located in northern Virginia today. "My great-uncle Manouk first decided to set up a grocery shop. Later his brothers Movses, Mikayel, and Nouri joined him," continues Mikael, Movses's grandson, who is named after one of his great uncles. Soon the brothers decided to change their business profile and opened what now is the oldest continuously existing rug store in the nation's capital, in the area where the campus of George Washington University exists now.

The Manoukians would travel to New York and New Jersey and get merchandise from wholesalers. They sold carpets and rugs imported from India, Afghanistan, and Persia. The last ones were traditionally more in demand in those days.



The modern-day store in Arlington, VA

"My father Paul, who had a full-time job as a civil engineer, was also doing the rug trade. It was like double full-time jobs. After my grandfather and great uncles passed away, he assumed the store's leadership in a gradual process. When he retired from his civil engineering position, he still worked in the store," Mikael said.

In the 1960s the Manoukian Brothers store was located in a building at the intersection of 18th & Jefferson Place NW (Connecticut Ave). After 96 years in Washington, the Manoukians moved their rug store just across the river to Arlington, Virginia.

We toured the Manoukian Brothers shop, which has pictures of great-grandma Vartouhi from the historical homeland, the image of the Aghtamar Sourp Khach Armenian church, and yerakouyn (tricolor) flag. Another photo that drew my attention was taken in 1971. On Constitution Day of that year (September 17), Manoukian Brothers supplied a Persian sarouk for the celebration at the US National Archives. The picture depicts the *sarouk* lying under the US Constitution. People in uniforms, each representing a branch of American militaries, are standing in the corners. The see RUGS, page 8

iGorts:

Mayr Hayastan (Mother Armenia) Wants You!

By Mihran Aroian

Special to the Mirror-Spectator

YEREVAN — Two years ago, the Office of the High Commissioner for Diaspora Affairs launched a program to engage the Armenian diaspora in the growth and strengthening of Armenia. The program is called iGorts and this September will mark the third year of professionals who will spend a year in Armenia bringing their skills, talents, energy and intelligence to make our homeland strong. It is an initiative of the Armenian government to integrate professionals from the diaspora to work in a governmental agency in Armenia or Artsakh for a year. The purpose is that by bringing expertise, experience and knowledge from Armenian professionals in the diaspora, Armenia can tap into skills and talent that can help Armenia solve problems and bring about new opportunities. If you are so inclined to want to bring your expertise to the Armenian government, it is one way of contributing to the success of Armenia. This year, nearly 300 Diaspora Armenian professionals from 31 countries applied for participation in the iGorts program, and I was one of them!

It has been a dream of mine to have a more active role and involvement in Armenia. Teaching at the American University of Armenia (AUA) has always been rewarding but having an opportunity to have an impact on a larger scale appealed to me. I had learned about iGorts from two students that I had at AUA and decided to apply prior to the May deadline this year. To my pleasant surprise, I received five Zoom interviews. Two were with the Ministry of Economy, one with the Office of the Prime Minister, the National Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, and with the Armenian National Interests Fund (ANIF).

My first interview lasted all of two minutes. My second interview was fascinating. The opening question to explain my background never got answered but what we did explore was my motivation for wanting to work in Armenia. A 30-minute scheduled Zoom discussion ended after 90 minutes, when I was invited to visit with the Office of the Prime Minister. Since I am in Yerevan for the summer, I went in for a visit and we had another 90-minute discussion about how to increase cooperation between the various ministries and what such an effort would entail. As a professor of management at the McCombs School of Business at the University of Texas at Austin, this is one of my specialties. If I can help to increase synergy in the Armenian government, that will be a positive contribution. We also spoke about something I am very passionate about which is getting the diaspora more involved in the future of Armenia.

see iGORTS, page 7



COMMUNITY NEWS

iGorts: Mayr Hayastan (Mother Armenia) Wants You!

iGORTS, from page 6

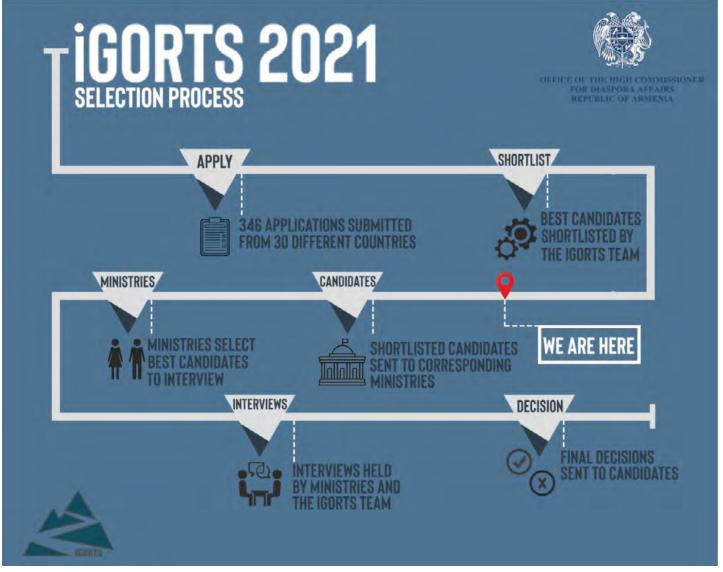
My third interview was with the Armenian National Interests Fund. It is a newly created investment fund controlled by the government and managed by professionals, to make equity investments in projects that will have an economic impact on Armenia. Given my background as an investment professional in the venture capital industry in Texas, they too would like to meet in person.

My fourth interview was with the Department of Foreign Trade and the Eurasian Economic Union. As in my first interview, it was unclear what assistance or value I could provide, but before departing I was invited to ask a question. My one question was "what problem is keeping you awake at night" and the response was the lack of ability to transport Armenian fresh produce to Russia. The trucking routes through Georgia are unusable and fresh fruits and vegetables are sitting in trucks spoiling trying to get to Russia. We discussed some options and before departing, I offered the following. If they are unable to find a solution by the end of the week, call me and I will come help solve the problem. This is a challenging but solvable problem. Russia is Armenia's main trading partner and without a stable path of transporting fresh produce to the Russian market, the local farmers will suffer financially.

The most recent interview was with the National Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (NCIE), which is looking at improving the capability for commercializing technology that comes out of Armenia. With my background in venture capital and serving on the board of Research Applications Inc, which was a venture capital firm that specialized in commercializing technology from the University of Texas at Austin, they were interested in my approach to commercializing Armenian research. I have been offered a one-year position with

NCIE and have requested some additional meetings to determine if I can help them meet their goals and objectives.

Even if the opportunity with NCIE does not go forward, I applaud the Armenian government for trying to tap into the diaspora for assistance. By working together, Armenians can help our homeland to improve the quality of life for Armenians, bring about economic growth, and help strengthen Armenia's capabilities. If we want our nation to thrive, all who have the desire and ability to contribute to Armenia's growth should take an active role



iGorts selection process in 2021

and I praise the Armenian government for creating such a program. I believe it takes courage to say "we can do better."

Bringing in new ideas and methodologies to try and solve some of the challenges in Armenia is a smart move. Only time will tell how effective these programs can be. It is quite possible that I may spend a year in Armenia working for the Republic of Armenia. It is also quite possible that none of this will work out. Regardless, I will still find my own way of helping to make a difference in Armenia. If I can be of service to the Republic of Armenia, it will only be my pleasure.

Although the iGorts position is unpaid, the Armenian government does provide a housing stipend, a round-trip ticket, medical insurance and all the required paperwork for a one-year residency. To learn more about the iGorts program, visit http://diaspora.gov.am/en/programs/25/fellowship



Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan meets with participants of iGorts program in 2021

Knights and Daughters of Vartan Visit Site of Armenian American Museum

GLENDALE — The Armenian American Museum and Cultural Center of California welcomed members of The Knights and Daughters of Vartan for a special visit to the construction site of the landmark center in July. The visit

GLENDALE — The Armenian Ameran Museum and Cultural Center of alifornia welcomed members of The Grand Convocation held in Glendale.

"We are very grateful to the members of The Knights and Daughters of Vartan for supporting the Armenian Ameri-



Members of the Knights and Daughters of Vartan at the Armenian American Museum in Glendale

can Museum and joining us at the construction site to witness the significant progress on the historic project," stated Armenian American Museum Executive Vice Chairman Zaven Kazazian.

The Knights of Vartan is an Armenian fraternal service organization established to encourage and support its members to assume leadership roles in cultural, educational, religious, and charitable organizations and activities on the local, national, and international to improve the Armenian nation and the diaspora. The Daughters of Vartan is an organization of women whose members are committed to contribute toward the intellectual development of Armenian women, cultivate nobility of character, perpetuate their cultural heritage, preserve the Armenian language, safeguard the sanctity of the Armenian home, and nurture and promote ethnic values.

"The Knights and Daughters of Vartan are grateful to have the special opportunity to visit the Armenian American Museum construction site and are eager to return in the future once the museum has opened its doors to experience an institution where Armenian culture and heritage will be preserved and celebrated," stated Bob Barsam, who is a member of both The Knights of Vartan and Armenian American Museum Board of Governors.

The Armenian American Museum is currently under construction in the museum campus at Glendale Central Park. The museum will offer a wide range of public programming through the Permanent Exhibition, Temporary Exhibitions, Auditorium, Learning Center, Demonstration Kitchen, Archives Center, and more.

For more information, visit https://www.ArmenianAmericanMuseum.org.

Esrailian Elected to the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures Board of Trustees

ESRAILIAN, from page 6

use "The Promise" in schools to teach kids about the Armenian genocide.

George said as he and Esrailian worked together to develop the story, Esrailian lent both his knowledge of Armenian culture and Hollywood connections to secure producers and cast members. It was more important to Esrailian and George that the film became a fixed representation of the Armenian genocide so that it could educate future audiences rather than break box office records, George said.

"The whole notion of social impact film and television making is central to what Eric and I believe in," George said. "That's at the core of the Academy as well. The museum is there to preserve those events."

When Esrailian approached producer Mike Medavoy to make "The Promise," Medavoy said a film about that topic had never been done before. Medavoy, who co-produced the film, said he and Esrailian

both recognize how films can impact an audience. By making films on important topics such as the Armenian genocide, people like Esrailian can create social change, he said.

No matter the field he pursued, Esrailian said he always felt compelled to help others in his career. While he is able to do so as a physician, Esrailian's firm belief in the power of entertainment to spark social change on a larger scale urged him to enter the film industry. "The Promise" is one of many films advocating for social issues, he said, but visual media remains a powerful tool for capturing people's attention when it comes to advocacy.

"It's (Film is) one way that we can share the stories and give a voice to the voiceless," Esrailian said. "Storytelling taps into so many different emotions that we all need to experience at times so that we can understand the importance of not allowing things like this to happen again."

In his new role, Esrailian said he hopes

to build a relationship between the Academy Museum and UCLA. By bridging the museum to the UCLA community, he said the institutes can collaborate on work amplifying social impact. Working alongside film industry professionals, Esrailian said he wants to connect those contacts with the School of Theater, Film and Television to benefit students, faculty and alumni.

"Those images that we see on screen can inspire people to want to go and learn more," Esrailian said. "If I can have any influence in helping guide the museum in that direction, ... that's my interest in storytelling, anyway."



Dr. Eric Esrailian





Dr. Nubar Berberian 2022 Annual Awards

Dr. Nubar Berberian, intellectual, journalist, activist and editor of many ADL daily newspapers for more than 50 years passed away at the age of 94 in November 23, 2016. In his Will, Dr. Berberian directed his Trust Fund managers to appropriate awards every year to college students of Armenian descent worldwide who major in either International Law or Political Science

ELIGIBILITY AND REQUIREMENTS

- Eligible recipients are college students of Armenian descent who major in either International Law or Political Science.
- Applicant must be enrolled in a full-time graduate program in a fully accredited college or university in
- Applicant must provide all of the information requested on the application form.
- Applicant must submit a copy of his or her most recent college transcript.
- Applicant is to include a small head and shoulders self-portrait
- Application could be received by requesting from Teadirector@Aol.com.
- Applicants should submit applications electronically (via email) to: Teadirector@Aol.com,
- The deadline of receiving the applications is September 15, 2022.
- The administrators and managers of the fund will vote the qualified winners in October, 2022 based on the merits of each applicant
- The winner or winners will receive their awards in November, 2022
- Winning applicants are not eligible to apply again.
- This announcement is published in Armenian, English, French and Spanish.

Watertown, MA, July 20, 2022

Manoukian Brothers Among First Rug Dealers of the Nation's Capital

RUGS, from page 6

historical photo also shows how much things have changed ever since, as it would be very unlikely to see a Persian rug underlying the American Constitution at an official event these days.

Mikael Manoukian continues to improve what was a traditional brick and mortar rug store by expanding its online presence and capacity. The family have been creative in making sure the business succeeds despite economic hardships, whether it be pan-

demics or economics. The rug-cleaning service and various folk concerts arranged right at the store are among the diverse options that support the Armenian-American enterprise.

(Video segments at mirrorspectator.com present snapshots of the rug store with Mikayel Manoukian reading Resolution HJR 362 adopted by Virginia's State Congress. Excerpts from the Rug Shop Concerts are included.)

OBITUARY

Dr. Michael Alan Gogjian

Dedicated to Healthcare in Merrimack Valley

METHUEN, Mass. — Dr. Michael Alan Gogjian, 71, passed away suddenly on July

Dr. Gogjian was a lifelong resident of Methuen. He attended Central Catholic High School, Class of 1969, and later graduated from Merrimack College magna cum laude in 1973 with a BA in biology. He continued his education graduating from Tufts University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences in 1975 with an MS in physiology, and then on to graduate Tufts Medical School in 1979.

He subsequently did his Residency at New England Deaconess Hospital in Boston, and after completion of his Fellowship at Harvard University in 1982, opened his private practice in North Andover, where he cared for thousands of patients during a career spanning four decades.

Dr. Gogjian was an integral part and highly regarded member of the Merrimack Valley medical community. Affectionately referred to by his colleagues as "the doctors' doc," he was a brilliant clinician and beloved physician, who was committed to the health and wellness of his patients and well respected among his colleagues and his Armenian church community.

He served for many years on the Lawrence General Hospital Executive Committee, where he was recognized for his 17 vears of dedicated service as Medical Staff Treasurer in 2010.

In his spare time, of which there was always too little, Dr. Gogjian enjoyed most his family gatherings during the holidays, church outings, summers at Seabrook Beach, classic TV trivia, and an occasional



round of golf.

He brought joy to all who knew him with his unique personality, extraordinarily kind demeanor, and of course, his love of the Three Stooges.

Above all, Dr. Gogjian was a compassionate and selfless man who devoted his life and love to family, friends and patients alike. Dr. Gogjian was predeceased by his parents Michael and Marguerite (Aznoian) Gogjian. He is survived by his sister Melanie Gogjian, aunt Alyce Aznoian, and several cousins, nieces and nephews. At the request of Dr. Gogjian and his family the funeral and burial were private. A memorial service for family and loved ones will be scheduled at a later date.

Arrangements were by the Conte Funer-

al Home.

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ASOF Aims to Deploy Full Force of Diasporan Scholars to Strengthen Armenia

SCHOLARS, from page 1

"In one form or another, there was always a conversation about the need to bring together the scholars and experts from the diaspora in a coordinated way, but nothing concrete was developed because of various challenges," Sahakian said. "I think the turning point was the 44-day war. Prior to that, there were some conversations about something like this, with people involved in northeastern Armenian diasporan circles," he noted, which included people like Gregorian, and the late astronomer Prof. Yervant Terzian of Cornell.

"After the 44-day war, I felt there was a sense of urgency, that one cannot push this agenda further and further away," Sahakian said. He recalled he had a "very inspiring discussion [with Gregorian] where a lot of the basic ideas of this organization took shape."

Sahakian noted, "One of the last things he said was, 'I will do everything in my power to make this happen."

Unfortunately, Gregorian died only a few weeks after the conversation but Sahakian reached out to more and more people, expanding the list of people who were interested in creating and joining in this venture.

Aprahamian concurred: "I share Vatche's concern that we don't have time any more. Our existence is in danger unless we can pull this off."

And Sahakian added, "Personally speaking, here we are, some of the best minds that this nation can offer. We come together — not a small feat — and we are ready to engage by physically coming to Armenia and making a difference. There is no doubt that we have the potential to do it. It's now time for the rest of Armenian society to back us up because we cannot do it alone."

Spirit of Collaboration

According to the society's website, its goals include "the creation of specific circumstances to encourage scholars and specialists from and outside the Armenian diaspora to bring part of their work to Armenia through their physical presence in Armenia and, as defined necessary by the Society, through virtual interactions; connecting individuals and institutions in Armenia with centers of research and education of high standing around the world; serving as an umbrella organization that promotes new and existing efforts focused on achieving excellence in education, engineering, the humanities, the natural and physical sciences, and the social sciences in Armenia; offering a platform for gatherings of academics and specialists from around the world interested in the advancement of Armenia in education, engineering, the humanities, the natural and physical sciences, and the social sciences."

This broad platform proposed and encouraged by ASOF has been welcomed by many both in the diaspora and Armenia, the two said.

Aprahamian noted there "hasn't been a sense of competition" with organizations that are working on similar goals in more specific areas, and that many have agreed to join and collaborate with ASOF.

"I really feel we have a chance with ASOF. It's concrete, it's serious and the members of ASOF are pretty well known all over the world. We are hoping to take Armenia with us to that higher level of recognition and global networking," Aprahamian said.

"Every organization that has heard about us we have contacted or they have contacted. There has been an enormous collaboration and cooperation willingness. That has been unusual for me," she added.

How it works is fairly organic, with many working groups tackling specific areas of interest.

Globally Recognized Scholars

Sahakian clarified, "This is not an organization, but a network, a forum for ideas. The basic working model is that the membership brings ideas to the forum for discussion. If an idea is interesting and has enough support, it will organically generate a project proposal would be really coming from individual members who form groups based on their interests and disciples and focus and the society's role as a whole is to give feedback on it and help launch implementation of the project. But," he added, "the project itself is a spinoff. It is not owned by the organization."

ASOF is an "incubator of the ideas," he added.

The idea then gets proposed to a partner entity. "There has to be buy-in from a local institute," Aprahamian said. "The project itself would be spearheaded by the members of ASOF that came up with it.

Added Sahakian, "The key ingredient which is dif-



Prof. Ani Aprahamian

ferent than the functioning of the body, is we want to throw human resources. The individuals that are proposing projects for implementation are putting themselves as participants for the project by going to Armenia."

The road will not be easy. "We are not deluding ourselves or living in a fairyland that it is going to be easy," Aprahamian said.

Sahakian added that one of the advantages of ASOF would be the sheer number of recognized scholars in specific fields, which could add gravitas and more accountability for a project that someone would want to pitch a foundation or entity for funds. For any project,, "It's a different thing if you come up with an idea, backed by 30-35 world-class scholars from the diaspora and the ASOF organization saying this is a great thing. Back it. It gives it stature."

Aprahamian noted that she and Sarkisian visited the International Center for Theoretical Physics in Trieste, Italy, "and the eyes in the room of all the program directors really opened wide when we showed them the intellectual capital behind such an activity," she added.

Efforts have gotten underway for funding for an organization for physical sciences in Armenia.

"The idea is, at least with the physical sciences, to build an institute like the Advanced Institute in Princeton, ..., and attract the best talent from around the world to come and spend time there and work with our local scientists," she said. "The idea is to take the level and the fame associated with that interaction to become a reality. That's what we are thinking about in terms of the physical sciences," she noted.

Currently the organization has 168 members but the organization is expecting to grow.

"Vatche contacted a core seed and that core gave more names," Aprahamian said "It was an enormous amount of work on Vatche's part, to actually have conversations with people to see if they could buy into the idea. There was a lot of enthusiasm so people we asked were all very enthusiastic."

"The center of the organization is in academia. Eighty-five percent of the membership is professors but we need the expertise of all kinds of people from outside academia," Sahakian said. "If you are a professor, researcher, and expert in a field, that is a good start."

Said Sahakian, a forthcoming meeting will finalize the roadmap for the organization. "Twenty percent of our fellows are from Armenia, so engagement [with Armenia] is already there and this will only expand with coming projects," Sahakian said. "As far as a roadmap, we will have a couple of small projects which are proof of concept and will help build trust, which will be executed immediately, within the next month"

Sahakian said that they are continuing with holding



Prof. Vatche Sahakian

conversations with established groups in Armenia, such as Foundation for Armenian Science and Technology (FAST) and various NGOs, including Gituzh, which aims to help scientists in Armenia.

The group hopes the next annual conference will be held in Dilijan, Armenia, where new ideas will be discussed and progress on the previous ones will be discussed.

For Aprahamian, the networking and increased investment in the sciences could potentially be a source of security for the nation. "I would like to see 20 years from now Armenia become a technological, scientific and cultural powerhouse in the region, to the point that our security is more or less guaranteed, because we have developed a society that can meet the challenges that the country faces. If we get there, we are done."

Interestingly, the organization has a dissolution clause built into its bylaws, which states that if within 20 years it does not meet its goals, it would be dissolved.

"In 20 years we either succeed or we fail and there is no point to go through the same track," Sahakian said.

"We have big plans and I think we're going to make it. I love the dissolution clause in our constitution. Twenty of years is plenty of time and we've seen a lot of action already. I really think it is going to work. It is the first time that without us publicizing, Apple is asking me about it, asking how to engage," she said.

Sahakian noted, "I think what we are doing is historic and to not be very modest about it, we have to succeed, otherwise, I don't see any other way to meet major challenges as a people. It's a beginning and the engagement of the entire nation, it could be financially, participation as scholars, it is the time for it.

Concluded Sahakian, "Vartan Gregorian's take on it was, 'It's very ambitious but long overdue."

The organization is raising funds for its slate of activities, including the scientific center in Armenia. To contribute or learn more, visit www.asof.am. To request information for membership, write to admin@asof.am



UMich Armenian Chair Has a Global Cultural Vision

VISION, from page 1

World," explored the figure and concept of the *gharib*, which is found cross-culturally in Armenian, Persian, Arabic, and Turkish literatures.

While *gharib* literally means "stranger" in Arabic, it is widely used in Armenian, Turkish and other Middle Eastern languages to reference a wanderer, pilgrim, emigrant, and so on. The concept has existed in Armenian culture since the Middle Ages and is often tied to the experience of Armenians leaving their homeland — willingly or otherwise. The closest equivalent in formal Armenian is *bantoukhd*.

Pifer from the beginning, has had a deep interest in the relationship between and across the various cultures of the Middle East, while focusing on the Armenian literary tradition.

"I'm a comparative literature scholar with a specialty in medieval Armenian literature," he says. "I'm also interested in what you might call the long history of non-standard Armenian language, from Middle Armenian to the development of the modern Eastern and Western dialects in the 19th century," he explained.

Unlike other languages in the Middle East or Europe, Armenian did not exist as the language of a royal court in most time periods and thus did not develop a "court literature." While the "formal" literature was written by clergymen (theology, hymns, histories) and was directly approved by the Church, the development of "secular" Armenian literature and poetry, written in so-called "Middle Armenian," took place in a much more informal way.

Pifer's first book, Kindred Voices: A Literary History of Medieval Anatolia, touches on such literature. It focuses on the poetic traditions that emerged in the region in the 13th century after the consolidation of Seljuk Turkish power over most of what is now Turkey and the re-emergence of an Armenian kingdom in Cilicia. The book shows how Anatolian Turkish poetry and Middle Armenian "vernacular" poetry first emerged. This took place in the same region and at the same time as the activities of the famous Sufi mystic Rumi, who lived in Konya and wrote his Persian-language poetry there, beloved to this day. The first Turkish poetry was initiated by Rumi's son, Sultan Valad, as well as the poet Yunus Emre, while only a little further to the east, also under Seljuk rule, poets like Kostantin Yerzingatsi and Hovhannes Yerzingatsi, along with the enigmatic Frik gave birth to the first "vernacular" Armenian poetry. The vernacular poetry was in the language of everyday people rather than Classical Armenian and reflected interest in nature and love while still centering on Christian themes. The language they used has come to be known as "Middle Armenian."

Middle Armenian is another of Pifer's particular areas of interest. As he describes it, non-standard forms of the Armenian language which didn't fit the Classical mold were used informally by these early poets. Such a tradition continued through the centuries in oral and written literature, including collections of folk songs, troubadour poetry and other genres. The development of the modern standardized Eastern and Western Armenian took place in the 19th century, based on the local dialects and prior informal versions of the language. "Middle Armenian" is sort of a catchall term for the informal language of those centuries, rather than a standardized language in itself. "It has a huge footprint and it's very diverse," Pifer says. As such, we can see the diversity of the different strands and expressions of Armenian culture reflected in that era, a

theme which runs through Pifer's work.

"There's something instructive about looking at the Middle Armenian period, in light of what's going on in other fields. To think about what it is that's happening with this non-courtly Armenian literature that seems so expansive, and doing all kinds of things that are happening in this decentralized way," he noted.

Perhaps the decentralized and open-ended style of medieval Armenian language and literature, in contrast to tense moments of standardization and consolidation of Armenian culture — the Christianization of the 4th and 5th century, the national revival of the 19th century, the post-Genocide reconstruction of the Diaspora and Soviet Armenian culture — lends itself to a different way of looking at the world, more applicable to the changing and diverse world we live in today, while remaining rooted in Armenian history.

"It's kind of restoring an unruliness that makes Armenian literary history unique; that's at the heart of some of my research," Pifer concludes. "What I'm interested in is bringing the heterogeneity of Armenian cultural production to the attention of anyone who wants to engage in it. I want to engage them with something written in the 5th century or 13th century to speak to what concerns they might care about today, or what the broader Armenian community might care about today."

State of Armenian Studies

One of the critical issues in Armenian Studies is how to gain more interest in the fields of Armenian history, literature and culture. Most Armenians are familiar with the experience of flipping through a history book on the broader region — say the Ottoman, Persian or Byzantine Empire — and finding only passing references to Armenia and Armenians. One of Pifer's primary goals is to make the scholarship and sources available to a broader scholarly audience.

"I think where the field is going is in an exciting way," Pifer says. There are more and more non-specialist scholars who are becoming engaged with different Armenian sources, who want to learn Classical Armenian."

Promulgating knowledge of the Armenian language to scholars in relevant fields something Pifer hopes to further with his appointment at U-M. He has taught Classical Armenian at the Hill Museum and Manuscript Library (affiliated with St. John's University in Minnesota), Fresno State, and at the Matenadaran. With Fresno's Sergio La Porta he has taken the same group of students to Armenia for three years during the summer.

Unlike most summer study programs in Armenia, the participants weren't necessarily of Armenian descent, but rather scholars in various fields, from Classics to Art History. Most were graduate students but some were also early- or mid-career academics, from all over America and Europe. With their new familiarity with the Classical Armenian language, these scholars can now bring their specialized knowledge to the Armenian studies field as well as introduce Armenia and the Armenian experience into their own fields.

Similarly, Pifer mentions the desire to use his position at the University of Michigan to make Classical Armenian as a language option more available at other Big Ten schools by making it available online or in hybrid ways

Another project Pifer is working with is a collaborative group of scholars known as "Armenia Entangled" and led by Dr. Zara Pogossian of the University of Florence. The group is trying to look at the Armenian experience from the perspectives of architecture, history, numismatics, art history, literature, and other fields. The group's name refers to the "entanglements" Armenians had with neighboring or even distant cultures and peoples and is funded by a grant from the European Research Council. The group, which has regular virtual meetings, is set to produce three volumes in the near future.

Pifer also notes the close relationship between scholars in the Armenian Studies field. "Being within a relatively smaller field can have its advantages. There's really no excuse to not read each other's work, for instance," which means that most scholars stay rather up-to-date on the latest research and studies. He also notes that Armenian scholars have to "wear a lot of different kinds of hats" and the field "has a lot of potential to produce people that are omni-directional."

Future of Ann Arbor Program

Pifer, by virtue of his position, is tasked with heading up the future direction of the Armenian literature and language program in Ann Arbor. He plans to add to the diverse roster of courses by adding, for instance a course on Armenian Film. He also plans to increase the graduate seminars available at Michigan, such as adding a translation seminar and a poetry seminar.

He also wants to increase the audience for Armenian culture and literature by offering a offering a course on comparative Middle Eastern literature, including Persian, Turkish, Arabic and Armenian literature in the medieval and modern periods. Setting the Armenian tradition within the regional context might draw more interest and students who would not otherwise be exposed to Armenian culture, he says.

Pifer is also conscious of the wider Armenian community in Southeast Michigan, of which he has become a part. He plans on continuing to partner with the AGBU Alex and Marie Manoogian School in Southfield to get their students interested in what studying Armenian history and literature can look like in a university setting. He has also spearheaded a program of "garj [short] talks", co-sponsored with St. John Armenian Church, in which post-doc scholars at the university speak to community members, presenting their research in a non-spe-

cialized way.

An Armenian Film Festival in the local area is also on his mind, "so that people could also engage with Armenian cultural production that's happening around the globe."

In general, Pifer likes to engage people. His inspiration comes from his own reading of medieval literature and the emotions it evokes. Much of his teaching philosophy is based on thinking about "how can I reproduce that excitement and wonder for someone today?" Further, his teaching philosophy is the essence of "pay it forward." "People are going to hopefully take some of that knowledge and do something new with it that I can't anticipate," he says.

Mentioning that there is a robust Armenian Students' Cultural Association (ASCA) on campus, mostly composed of undergrads, with whom the Center for Armenian Studies works closely, Pifer also shares that there is a growing graduate student body, with three graduate students arriving this coming year that will be studying under his supervision.

He also recognizes he role as a steward of the endangered Western Armenian language. Noting the initiatives of the Gulbenkian Foundation to help preserve the language, he describes his philosophy as "meeting people where they are."

"Students [in the Western Armenian course] might come with very little knowledge, sometimes spoken in the house, and with just a simple motivation like wanting to have a conversation with their grandparents. They come for all kinds of reasons and we need to meet them where they are, and thinking about what they want to do and ways they can use it in the world. Very few people are going to use [Western Armenian] professionally, but there are a lot of ways it can be used for community engagement, enrichment and creative expression."

Pifer is married to Knar Callan, who was born and raised in the strong Metro Detroit Armenian community, and the couple has two small children. "For myself I read a lot of different kinds of children's literature to them in Armenian. So this summer I've been writing a short children's story in Western Armenian and illustrating it. There's a lot of ways to encourage the flourishing of the language and one is nudging the imaginations of children."



Armenia Fest Draws 2,000 Attendees At Royal Oak Farmers Market

ROYAL OAK, Mich. — The 14th Annual Armenia Fest took place on Saturday, July 23, at the Royal Oak Farmers Market which was transformed into a middle eastern bazaar for an evening. Opening ceremonies included American/Armenian Anthems performed by Rubik Malian, prayers were offered by local pastors, Very Rev. Aren Jebejian and Pastor Hagop Haroutunian followed by an event ribbon cutting and welcome greeting offered by Fest Co-Chair David Terzibashian.

Two thousand attendees who traveled from across Michigan and the United States enjoyed traditional and contemporary Armenian music performed during the evening by the Armenia Fest All-Stars under the direction of Vaughn Masropian featuring the Armenian legend Hachig Kazarian. Guests were inspired by the music to join with the band to dance traditional line and solo dances. Interspersed



The Armenian Dance Company of Chicago performing at the Fest

throughout the evening were performances by the crowd favorite, the Armenian Dance Company of Chicago, who were dressed in authentic costumes and performed beautifully choreographed folk dances.

The indoor portion of the Market was filled to capacity with vendor booths featuring Armenian crafts, pottery, souvenirs, music, cookbooks, baked goods and jewelry. Authentic Armenian food including tasty kebabs, lamajoun (Armenian pizza), stuffed grape leaves, pastries and breads was prepared by popular area Armenian caterer, Gary Reizian, and enjoyed by guests.

The major sponsor of Armenia Fest is the Hagopian World of Rugs and the family of the late Edgar Hagopian who was the founding member of the Armenia Fest Committee. It was Edgar Hagopian's vision to showcase the Armenian Culture and Food to the citizens of Michigan that is continued by the present day members of the Committee.



Artist Potter Zabel Belian posing with her son, Ara, at her booth featuring Armenian inspired pottery

The Armenian community of metro Detroit numbers well over 100,000 within the tri-county regions of Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties. The Fest Committee sponsors events and programs which focus on Armenian culture, faith and history. Each year proceeds from the festival are donated by the Committee to humanitarian Armenian causes.

Armenia Fest Committee photo pictured from left to right are Hagop Alexanian, Ray Boujoulian, David Terzibashian, Noreen Masropian, Vaughn Masropian, Elise Papazian, Pam Coultis, Paul Kulhanjian, Angela Hagopian Snow.



Missing from photo are Ed Bedikian, Madeline Thomasian and Corinne Khederian



The Armenia Fest All Star Band in background with members of the Detroit Armenian Women's Club accepting the Choreg (Armenian Bread) Bake Off ContestTrophy in the foreground



View of the Armenia Fest Silent Auction at Committee Booth with Committee member Paul Kulhanjian



Arts & Culture

Winged Tatev Is Soaring Toward Hollywood Bowl

By Janice Onanian McMahon

Tatev, an Armenian-New Yorker, a multidisciplinary artist who writes the kind of music and possesses the kind of voice that feels right at home in rock, jazz, soul, Armenian folk, classical and pop, is reaching for ever-higher heights.

She is a film composer, a polyglot, an actor, a published translator, and an educator amongst many other things. Her varied musical influences, interests and inspirations arise from open-minded people, nature, languages, neurological expansion of the mind, travels, dance and love which is the fabric of all creation. Her broad range of talents weave a rich and genre-fluid musical experience, unique in both expression and potential.

As part of the human community that she hopes to create, she has entered the Opening Act 2022 competition, where she is currently ranked within the top 15. Winning this competition would result in a once-in-a-lifetime chance to perform at the Hollywood Bowl concert. She asks for support and votes from all who love her music and support her



Singer Tatev

vision!! To help her, visit theopenact.com/2022/tatev daily and select either the Together Vote or the Free Daily Vote option (with either card confirmation or Facebook log in confirmation) to assure her victory! Voting ends on August 4.

Tatev was born on July 7, 1987, in Armavir, which rests upon the valley of the majestic Mount Ararat, from whose ancient and fertile volcanic soil arises an abundance of fruits and vegetables. She was raised by strong, creative parents amongst the artistic and creative echelons of Armenia.

As a child, Tatev was one of the winners of Do Re Mi competition and subsequently was invited to tour in LA along with her peer and rising star, Sirusho, when she was just 11. As a teenager, Tatev lived in Yerevan and went to a British-oriented high school while playing at jazz clubs with Vahagn Hayrapetyan, Tyoma, Sash and many others until her family immigrated to the U.S. in 2003.

Although nowadays Tatev's band see TATEV, page 13



Maléna in Boston

Maléna Looks to The Stars

By Alin K. Gregorian Mirror-Spectator Staff BOSTON — While Arpine Martoyan is a regular 15-year-old from Armenia, her alter ego, Maléna, is an international singing sensation who won the Junior Eurovi-

sion Song Contest (JESC) in 2021 with the song, *Qami Qami*, whose live performance, as of this writing, has more than 3 million hits on YouTube.

"It's surreal. And the music video has more than 11 million views. Back when the song was in its early stages, I felt and heard the potential of it, but to actually reach that many people is a wonderful feeling," said Maléna in a recent interview.

Maléna is currently in Boston, at the Berklee College of Music, for the Aspire: Five-

Week Music Performance Intensive, a prestigious program whose alumni include Charlie Puth and Meghan Trainor. She received the school's Armenian Scholarship.

"I always knew that Berklee was an incredible and unique place for young musicians to develop themselves — with each person bringing their own background and musical experience to one place. Receiving this scholarship is something I am so thankful for," Maléna noted.

Maléna is having a grand time at Berklee.

"The summer program has been so fun. I've met many great new people, I've been going to jam sessions, and just generally sharing thoughts with the



Maléna on stage at the Junior Eurovision Song Contest

other students I'm meeting, and communicating through music. The professors are also amazing, and I'm learning so much," she said.

Asked if she will consider applying to attend the college full time, she said, "I'm definitely thinking about it. The idea is exciting to me, and getting a taste of the experience this summer has been one of a lifetime."

Maléna comes from a musical family, in which her grandfather plays the clarinet, her mother sings and plays the piano, while an uncle plays several instruments and does arrangements.

Maléna said she started singing at age 5 and aside from private voice lessons, studied at the Sayat Nova musical school for seven years. In addition to singing, she plays the cello

"I've been singing since I was born, for as long as I remember," she said.

In 2019 she signed a contract with label TKN Entertainment and started working see MALÉNA, page 13

New JSAS Volume Explores Theme Of Women in Performing Arts

The Society for Armenian Studies announces the release of Volume 28, Issue 2 (Fall 2022) of the *Journal of the Society for Armenian Studies* (JSAS), edited by Dr. Tamar M. Boyadjian (Michigan State University), editor-in-chief, and Dr. Rachel Goshgarian (Lafayette College), the Reviews and Reconsiderations editor on the theme of Armenian women in theater, cinema, and music.

"Performance II builds on themes of reticulated networks in the performing arts, while at the same time challenging the traditional models of how performance has been evaluated in the past. The contributions in this volume make intentional efforts to re-qualify the registers and frameworks in which the questions around performance and memory, identity, and the body — particularly the female body — have been previously analyzed," wrote Boyadjian.

Under the title "Performance, Memory, and the Archive," the volume begins with a conversation with Arsineé Khanjian, detailing how performances can open avenues for thoughts on memory and archive, Armenianness, cultural and diasporic identity, the female body, and political engagement. Khanjian's "Auctions of Souls. Performing Memory," is based on the life of Armenian Genocide survivor and American early cinema actress, Aurora Mardiganian, whom Khanjian successfully highlights in a "idiosyncratic artistic approach" by using images, scenes and passages from multiple sources. Khanjian argues the performance's contemporary relevance by showcasing how the context of the Armenian genocide continues to present itself in current social, ethical, and geopolitical issues present today.

The conversation is followed by the section titled "Between Activism & Authorship: Thoughts & Translations on Zabel Yesayan." The first article in this section by Talar Chahinian follows a collection of think-pieces that intersect with "dual performative acts of iconfication and translation, which frame the approach to understanding Yesayan in the last several decades. The collection of thoughts and translations, search to find and define Yesayan as a writer, activist, and feminist amongst contemporary debates while "ultimately guiding the reader back to her own words."

The second article by Maral Aktokmakyan examines problematic interest in the work of Yesayan and the broader question surrounding the fate of Armenian literary studies and criticism. Aktokmakyan argues that the growing craze for "feminist Yesayan" has a problematic reductive and teleological approach, which nearly disregards Yesayan's work. Instead, Aktokmakyan promotes a "rhizomatic reading that would liberate the author from overloaded feminist and genocide- based readings."

The third piece by Meriam Belli see JSAS, page 13



ARTS & CULTURE

Online Concert to Feature an Exclusive Performance by the Komitas Quartet

WATERTOWN — The Armenian Museum of America recently announced its 11th Online Concert featuring an exclusive performance by the Komitas Quartet of Yerevan. The concert will be shown online on Sunday, August 14 at 1 p.m. EST (10 a.m. PST and 9 p.m. in Yerevan).

Founded in 1924, the Komitas Quartet is the oldest-established string quartet still performing today. The group is named after Komitas, who had a formidable impact on Armenian music at the turn of the 20th century. From its early days, the Komitas Quartet was inspired by a variety of composers including Haydn, Beethoven, Schumann, Mendelssohn, Ravel, Debussy, Borodin, Tchaikovsky, and Prokofiev. Arrangements of Komitas' songs are a vital part of the repertoire of the Quartet, thus giving the world a chance to listen to the rich diversity of Armenian music.

The Komitas Quartet has performed with world-famous musicians including Emil Gilels, Dmitri Shostakovich, Victor Merzhanov, and Itzhak Perlman. The Quartet has played all over the world, in countries including Germany, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Austria, Japan, Canada, and the US.

This concert will be recorded in Armenia exclusively for the Armenian Museum of America, and it is produced by Daniel Ayriyan. The performers are Eduard Tadevosyan (violin), Syuzi Yeritsyan (violin), Alexander Kosemyan (viola), and Anzhela Sargsyan (cello).

The Online Concert series is free thanks to a generous grant from the Dadourian Foundation. Preregistration is not required. The link will be available on the Museum's Facebook page, YouTube Channel, and website www.ArmenianMuseum.org.



The Komitas Quartet recording in July, 2022

New JSAS Volume Explores Theme of Women in Performing Arts

JSAS, from page 12

is a translation of French lecture delivered by Yesayan on January 17, 1920. Originally published in the French *Revue des Études Arméniennes 2* (1922): 121–138, describing the banishment of Armenians from their homelands, the crimes that were perpetuated against them, and their resilience and strength. In addition, the translation focuses on gendered violence against women during the genocide and the display of their moral attributes, including their strength and national dignity during the war.

The fourth piece by Elyse Semerdjian is an annotated translation of Yesayan's report that explores how the Ottoman government and its proxies targeted women and children with specific forms of genocidal violence. The report provides an in-depth analysis of the specific forms of sexual atrocity central to genocidal design and details how women in the diaspora should organize to help what she called, "the International Commission of Women." Genocidaires were successful in unraveling communities because they could weaponize patriarchal notions of the family and proprietorship over women's sexuality to achieve their ends, thereby making the gender aspect of genocidal violence a central part of the design.

The section on Translations and Thoughts on Yesayan's work is followed by a section on Armenian Theater in Istanbul. The first article is by Ayşan Sönmez. The article details, "how the Ottoman Armenian theatrical experience became a legacy that was able to serve a budding Armenian nationalism, the idea of a shared Ottomanism during a specific time, and, eventually, to bolstering Turkishness as the Empire evolved into a nation-state." The reflections of all socio-political and economic developments of the Ottoman Empire during the 19th and 20th century could be found intertwined with the modern Armenian theatre.

Transitioning to premodern sculpting and performance, "The Medieval Armenian Symbol of Eternity in the Art of the Twelfth-Century Italian Sculptor Nicholaus: A Veiled Performance" by Lorenzo Dominioni and Antranik Balian, examine the medieval Armenian symbol of eternity or the whirl sign engraved in the forehead of five bull sculptures dating to the first half of the 12th century, and attributed to the Italian sculptor Nicholaus. Dominioni and Balian argue that the engravings found "in the bull head of Koenigslutter, Carpi, Ferrara and Verona were a veiled ornamental performance displaying the symbol of eternity to signify the concept of life in the hereafter." The symbol being deeply rooted in Armenian Christian art and foreign to Italian religious decorations leads them to conclude that Nicholaus' inspirational source was likely Armenian.

The section on Reviews and Reconsiderations starts with a conversation followed by two book reviews. Titled "Performing the Premodern in The Color of Pomegranates, Imagining and Communicating the Past" is

a conversation between Galina Tirnanić and Nicolas Trépanier, moderated by Goshgarian. The conversation deals with Sergei Parajanov's "Color of Pomegranates" (1969).

Following the conversation piece is a book review by Nazan Maksudyan of Takyhi Tovmasyan's Word, Voice, Taste: Takuhi Tovmasyan's, Reflections on Sofranız Şen Olsun: Ninelerimin Mutfağından Damağımda, Aklımda Kalanlar (Cheers to Your Table: Tastes from my Grandmother's Kitchen that Have Remained in my Mouth and my Mind). The combined cookbook and memoir explores a collection of more than 30 dishes, characters, and stories depicting a precious past.

Bedross Der Matossian reviews Armen T. Marsoobian's *Reimagining a Lost Armenian Home: The Dildilian Photography Collection*. In this review Der Matossian captures the uniqueness and rarity of the Dildilian family's ability to preserve their family history through photographs during war, deportation and genocide. He highlights the family's influential success and

the book's ability to take the reader through a journey in time and space by portraying the daily lives of Armenians in the Ottoman Empire. Der Matossian argues that the history of the Dildilian family, "provides a microcosm of better understanding how some Armenian families were able to use their skills in order to survive the genocide against all odds — a common thread among Armenian oral history testimonies of the period."

Commenting on this issue Der Matossian, the President of the Society for Armenian Studies said: "I would like to congratulate Dr. Tamar Boyadjian, the Editor-in-Chief and Dr. Rachel Goshgarian, the Reviews and Reconsiderations editor for putting together such an exquisite volume on the theme of performance. The depths as well as the insights presented in these articles are breathtaking. JSAS is receiving global recognition in the field of Armenian Studies. It has become one of the most prestigious journals in the field that is able to initiate dialogue on thematic as well as interdisciplinary topics."

Maléna Looks to the Stars

MALÉNA, from page 12

with Armenian songwriter and producer Tokionine. In 2020 Maléna got selected to represent Armenia in JESC but due to the war in Nagorno Karabakh, Armenia withdrew. Maléna released the single *Why* written by Tokionine, which was meant to be for JESC 2020. In 2021 she was featured on the song *Chem Haskanum* with singer and rapper Kristina Si. After that Maléna got selected for Junior Eurovision again and participated with song *Qami Qami*, written by Tokionine, Vahram Petrosyan, and herself.

"It was my first time writing lyrics. The English part is fully written by me, I also helped with the Armenian lyrics too. I hope blending the language makes the song accessible to wider audiences," Maléna said.

She noted that she has been studying English for two years.

This is the second JESC victory for Armenia; Vladimir Arzumanyan won in 2010 with the song *Mama*.

Maléna is thrilled with her victory. "Eurovision had always been my biggest child-hood dream. I had entered for national selection several times and failed. When I finally made, it didn't feel real. It was one of the happiest moments of my life," she said.

Reaching the competition was one thing, but winning was something else entirely.

"When dreaming about Eurovision, for me it was always just about participating and representing myself and country — winning honestly hadn't crossed my mind. It felt unreal and made me believe in myself even more," she recalled.

On stage, Maléna sings, struts and dances with the confidence of someone much older, in front of a huge audience, giving every indication that she is at home under the bright lights. "Performing in front of a huge audience is still new for me. I get nervous and it gives me anxiety. But I'm hoping with more time and experience, I will be used to it," she noted.

Asked if she wanted to send a message to her fans, she said, "Yes! I want them to know I'm working on some new things, and I'm excited to share them soon. Also, I want to say that I love them all very much and I'm thankful for their love that I receive everyday through social media. Thank you!"

As for the future, she said she is still deciding what is next in terms of education, adding, "I can't think about anything but music, it means everything to me. I love expressing myself through music because it's easier for me and represents me better than anything else." She is working on some new material, including making new music videos.

Tatev Is Soaring Toward Hollywood Bowl

TATEV, from page 12

is based in New York, where she met and has collaborated with Tigran Hamasyan, she keeps strong ties with Armenia where she leads songwriting workshops at TUMO, collaborates with Music of Armenia (which resulted to the 2019 London International Motion Pictures Award for the "Sounds of Sevan" project) and occasionally performs at various music establishments when visiting her family.

At age 12, Tatev had a near-death experience which only strengthened her awareness of the intertwined nature of our common essence and matter. This has caused her to be even more contrarian and rebellious towards the many societal norms, religious institutions, and reductionistic mindsets of our economic/marketing reality that create divisions and separations be-

tween people. Tatev is fascinated with the transcending and transforming property of sound and despite her early classical piano/voice and jazz training, she cannot be called a strictly jazz or classical musician. She believes strongly that musicians and all creatives who continuously train themselves to jump into the unknown have an unparalleled power to unite us across all borders, cultures and religions to establish a truly liberated generation of connected individuals throughout the world who understand that sustainable prosperity comes only from lifting each other up, being open to new things, not giving into fears imposed upon us so we can be in tune with the higher logic of our essence upon this beautiful planet.

Visit www.tatevsound.com to learn more about Tatev.

ARTS & CULTURE

Eve Egoyan

Between longing and belonging

By Artsvi Bakhchinyan

Special to the Mirror-Spectator

YEREVAN / TORONTO - Armenian-Canadian pianist and composer Eve Egoyan was born in Victoria, British Columbia, to Armenian-Egyptian parents. She studied at the Victoria Conservatory of Music, the University of Victoria, the Banff Centre for the Arts, Hochscüle der Kunste (Berlin), Royal Academy of Music (London) and at the University of Toronto. Her 14 solo CDs explore music by composers ranging from Erik Satie to contemporary composers including Alvin Curran, Jo Kondo, Michael Finnissy, James Tenney, Martin Arnold, Linda Catlin Smith, and Ann Southam. Her most recent album, De Puro Amor and En Amor Duro, features two large-scale works by Spanish-German composer Maria de Alvear. In 2018, Egoyan created "Solo for Duet", an integrated mix of sound, image, and unspoken narrative challenging traditional conceptions of piano and pianist. The following year she was the subject of director Su Rynard's 72-minute portrait film "Duet for Solo Piano" that documents this musical exploration.

Egoyan has been the recipient of several accolades including "Best Classical" by The Globe and Mail (1999) for her first solo CD; one of "Ten Top" classical discs, by the New Yorker magazine (2009); and "Top Classical Disc of the Year" by The Globe and Mail (2011). Eve's career has been significantly supported by awards and grants from the Canada Council for the Arts, other arts councils both national and international, foundations, scholarships, and private individuals. The CBC has named her one of the "best 25 Canadian classical pianists of all time". She is an elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada as well as an elected Associate of the Royal Academy of Music, England. Eve teaches privately in Toronto and on Zoom, everywhere.

Dear Eve, I was very happy to meet you during your first visit in Armenia last April. In Armenia many know your brother, Atom, and I think is time you long needed that we know also you.

I was very happy to meet you too, Artsvi! I am also grateful to have met the people you introduced me to and to visit the places you shared. Atom and I come from an artistic family. Both of our parents were painters. On my recent visit to Yerevan, I visited the National Gallery in Yerevan to see the few works they have by my parents. As both my parents have passed away quite recently, it was a very emotional experience for me to see their work in Yerevan.

Indeed, it should be so. When and where your first acquaintance with piano took place?

My journey with the piano has an unusual beginning. We had no piano in our home. From an early age, every day after school, I would visit my elderly neighbor who had a piano and ask her teach me everything she knew about it. Eventually, I requested proper lessons. My parents were not encouraging. I think they tried to dissuade me as they themselves knew how difficult it is to be a professional artist. I was put into a group piano class but, by that point, I was much too advanced. My teacher guided me into private lessons on scholarship.



Eve's performing photo - From film by Su Rynard "Duet for Solo Piano."

There is a story how a musician, seeing in a museum a collection of various tools of torture, made a joke that piano is also should be included there. Was he right?



Eve in Armenia – Photo by Gascia Ouzounian.

For me, the piano has always been a place of pleasure, engagement and freedom. Perhaps if someone is forced to practice, it could feel like a form of torture. I was never forced to spend time at the piano. I sought it out. The piano has always been a place for me to express myself and a place for me to explore my artistic curiosity.

You specialize in new works for the piano. Isn't it risky to deal with compositions who have not yet stood the test of time?

It is a relatively new practice to perform music from other periods. Historically, musicians performed music of their own time and composers wrote for instrumentalists that they personally knew. Also, historically pianists in particular have been composers and improvisers. I consider myself a traditionalist: I perform music of my own time, many works have been written for me to perform and I also compose and improvise. Classical concert music is primarily stuck in the past as classical music audiences tend to want to hear music they have heard before. Performing music of my time is a reflection of who I am as an artist, living now. I also want to bring my instrument into our time with me through the creation of new works and the subtle use of technologies in relation to the piano.

One of my acquaintances, a piano teacher, gave up her job saying that playing classic piano is over. Today we see new technologies intersect with musical instruments. Do you see the future of piano changing?

The piano is a European-based instrument. It holds history through its physical body and repertoire. However, not so long ago, pianos and all instruments were hand made to the owners' specifications. At the present, I modify the acoustic piano in ways that suit me using an optical sensor above its keyboard. This sensor allows me to trigger, through touch, images and other sounds. This includes the sound of another piano, a replicated sound, which can pitch shift, reveal harmonic overtones and create many other playful modifications of a piano that a real piano cannot itself produce. My modified piano is in a duet with its imagined self.

As I challenge myself as an artist, I challenge the piano, its history and the way it is traditionally heard. I want to release it from its past, and allow it to go on new journeys yet at the same time respecting and loving where it comes from.

In some of your performances you use your husband, media artist David Rokeby's software into images projected on a screen above the piano. I remember such a combination done also by Belgian-Armenian pianist Laurence Mekhitarian. Contemporary music is proper for such experimental approaches – I wonder if the same can work with classic pieces?

It would be great if you could share Laurence's work. We created *Surface Tension* to make a shift in the way image and sound usually co-exist. Most often, we witness image as pre-dominant and sound as an accompaniment. In *Surface Tension* both sound and image are created simultaneously and spontaneously. *Surface Tension* is a

unique environment that allows for the absolute wedding of image and sound (https://vimeo.com/6154175).

At this moment, I am working on another project with visuals collaborating with animator Christopher Hinton. In it, both sound and image will be fixed in prior to performance but I will have freedom in time to shift both as I play. During performance of this new work, images will be revealed in layers at chosen moments. This visual layering mirrors the ability of the piano, an instrument with a huge range of pitch and dynamics, to layer sound. Significant moments and transitions, musical and visual, will be articulated in sound and image.

You are also a composer yourself. Is your Armenian heritage somehow reflected in your work?

So far I have woven together only one work based on Armenian folkloric songs, *Ghosts beneath my Fingertips* (for Viva). I allowed myself to go through many songs and pick, entirely subjectively, what I felt sounded "Armenian." I wrote this piece before I visited Armenia. It expresses a longing of place, imagined and never experienced. Sounds of selected traditional Armenian instruments are also sometimes revealed as I play.

Now a new generation of Armenian composers gradually are being introduced to international circles – did you have any chance to get acquainted with their works?

I am in the process of getting acquainted with their works, both within Armenia and beyond. As an interpreter (not a creator) who is committed to performing works by living composers, it is my duty to look for artistic soul mates. I am not just a craftsperson who learns the work but also the communicator who presents new work to my audiences. Performing new works, pieces that have never been heard before, is a very delicate dialogue with one's listeners. For me, my performance must be fully invested in order for my audience to feel ready and open to enter the language of an unfamiliar composer. This is unlike, for example, hearing a work by Beethoven whose musical language we are already familiar with.

For many Diaspora Armenians visiting Armenia is a kind of pilgrimage. For some it is like returning home. For a few it is just a tourism. How was your experience?

My recent and first visit to Yerevan was only two-weeks-long. During that time, often alongside my dear friend — the remarkable musician and scholar Gascia Ouzounian — I combined meetings, musical and artistic explorations of Yerevan, and a few visits to exquisite historical sites. I had an amazing time. Everyone I met was beyond inviting and warm towards me, a stranger to their city. I loved my experience of Yerevan, its environs and the people I met. I am very grateful to the introductions that were made for me prior to my visit by the wonderful journalist Meri Musinyan and others.

I am intrigued by Armenia and need to return someday. I need to unravel what Armenia is for me, its past and its present. I am still finding my way between longing and belonging. I have the strong desire to walk. I want to experience the land more fully, its geography, the smell of the air, the sound of the place and allow myself feel whatever I feel.

And what are your plans after Armenia?

As a composer, I have just travelled back from Vancouver where I recorded an album with electronic musician Mauricio Pauly where my acoustic/augmented piano met his electronic sound world. We will be releasing a disc of this collaboration. I continue to work with the animator I mentioned previously. I have requests to create sound in collaboration with visual artists for installations and an invitation to write and perform a new piece for an ensemble in Montreal, Canada.

As an interpreter, I am developing programs mixing the music of Erik Satie and works by living composers who meet his aesthetic. Of course, I continue to refine my Armenian concert program with composers from Yerevan and the diaspora. I hope to perform this program in Canada and abroad.

While I was in Yerevan, I did receive invitations to improvise, create and perform. I am not sure how to make these happen right now as my first visit was supported by funding from the Canada Council for the Arts.

I wonder whether Armenians in Armenia would be interested in my work. I also wonder what context would be the best way for me to share my world if they were curious to experience it?

Armenia is very far away, geographically. If it were closer to where I live, I would be there again in a second.

CALENDAR

OF EVENTS & PROGRAMS

CALIFORNIA

SEPTEMBER 17 — The Orange County Trex Fraternity – Presents KEF TIME So Cal! Bagramian Hall • 900 W. Lincoln Ave, Montebello (within the church grounds of the Holy Cross Armenian Apostolic Cathedral). 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. Semi Formal or Business Casual attire. Delicious Mezza Style / Armenian Specialties. Beautiful large outside lounge. Cigars by Dr. Garo. Music by Kef Time Legacy Band featuring: Andrew Hagopian, Phillip Hagopian, George Nigosian, Jim Karagozian, and Mal Barsamian. Ticket Prices: \$85 Adults, College-age students and under \$65.00. Table Sponsor. 10 Tickets for \$800.00. Tickets at www.ticketleap.com. Donations are tax deductible. The Orange County Chapter Charitable Trust is a 501 C3 entity: E.I.N. 56-668-3467. A portion of our proceeds from this event will go to the Armenian EyeCare Project and to the Ararat Home of Los Angeles, Inc. Contacts: Ralph Dergazarian 714.681.3013 • Brian Melkesian 626.827.8434 • Chuck Simonian 559.799.3949 • Ari Gulugian 949.701.8006. httops://octriplex.org/kef-time/ Local hotel rooms at the Doubletree by Hilton.

MASSACHUSETTS

AUGUST 14 — Armenian Heritage Park on The Greenway, Boston. Join us for UNDER THE AUGUST MOON. Sunday at 7:30pm. Featuring the Black Sea Salsa Combo

SEPTEMBER 9 — Tekeyan Cultural Association Boston Chapter invites everyone to a cultural event honoring author, editor, philologist, educator and public figure, Jirair Tanielian from Beirut, Lebanon, for his 60 years of service and dedication to Armenian culture and the community. Friday, 7 p.m., Baikar Building, 755 Mt. Auburn, Watertown. Details to follow. For more information, please contact us at bostontca@gmail.com

SEPTEMBER 18 — Armenian Heritage Park on The Greenway, Boston. LET'S CELEBRATE THE PARK'S 10th Anniversary Sunday Afternoon at the Park! at 3pm. Featuring the Leon Janikian Ensemble.

SEPTEMBER 21 — Gala Benefit Celebrating Contributions of Our Nation's Immigrants. InterContinental Hotel, Boston.6pm Honoring Stephen Kurkjian, Distinguished Citizen, Leader, Pulitzer Prize Journalist and Author, and Recognizing Organizations Serving Immigrants and Refugees. Funds raised support the Legacy Fund, endowed fund to care for and maintain the Park year-round. Advance Reservations only. To receive the invitation, please

send name and address to hello@ArmenianHeritagePark.org

NEW YORK

AUGUST 12— Friday, 7–11 pm, all Armenians age 21+ are invited to another free "Armenian Night" at the most spectacular rooftop in Manhattan—a chance to re-unite with old friends and meet new ones. Entry is free if you arrive by 8 pm and mention host Andy Troy. (\$10 from 8 - 11 pm.) Bring Hye friends and business cards, and look for the Armenian flag at the entry. No RSVP. Hye professionals and students are most welcome to come and network with AESA, ABSA, and ArmenBar. 230 Fifth Avenue (& 27 St.), Manhattan.

NEW JERSEY

OCTOBER 15 — Save the date! The Tekeyan Cultural Association of Greater New York Chapter is celebrating the diamond anniversary of the Tekeyan Cultural Association with a gala. Details to follow.

RHODE ISLAND

AUGUST 5 to SEPTEMBER 9 — The Cultural committee of Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Church of Providence continues programming the "Armenian Cultural Hour" programs, Fridays at 7:30 p.m. The program can be livestreamed on the church's Facebook page by everyone at https://www.facebook.com/armenianchurchprovidence

August 5 - Armen Ajemyan, Trumpet

August 19 - Ruben Matevosyan, Concert in Yerevan

September 9 - Dance Ensemble of Vanush Khanamiryan Academy

PENNSYLVANIA

SEPTEMBER 21 — Book presentation by Adrienne G. Alexanian on her father's memoir Forced into Genocide: Memoirs of an Armenian Soldier in the Ottoman Turkish Army. Wednesday 7- 9 p.m., Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church, 100 N. Edmonds Avenue, Havertown. (610) 446-3330 office@amccpa.org. There are no other books in literature on this aspect of the Armenian Genocide. The book contains rare documents and pictures which will be shown during the presentation. Book signing during the reception. All proceeds will be donated to the AMCC.

Dr. Bedross Der Matossian to Speak about *Horrors of Adana*

FRESNO — Dr. Bedross Der Matossian will present an in-person lecture with the same title as his new book, *The Horrors of Adana: Revolution and Violence in the Early Twentieth Century*, on Friday, August 26, at 7 p.m., in the Whitten Boardroom of the Smittcamp Alumni House, on the Fresno

State campus. The presentation is part of the Spring Lecture Series of the Armenian Studies Program. The Leon S. Peters Foundation is a co-sponsor of the event.

In April 1909, two waves of massacres shook the province of Adana, located in the southern Anato-



Prof. Bedross Der Matossian

lia region of modern-day Turkey, killing more than 20,000 Armenians. The central Ottoman government failed to prosecute the main culprits, a miscarriage of justice that would have repercussions for years to come. Despite the significance of these events and the extent of violence and destruction, the Adana Massacres are often left out of historical narratives. The Horrors of Adana offers one of the first close examinations of these events, analyzing

sociopolitical and economic transformations that culminated in a cataclysm of violence. Drawing on primary sources in a dozen languages, Der Matossian develops an interdisciplinary approach to understand the rumors and emotions, public spheres and humanitarian interventions that together informed this complex event.

Der Matossian is the vice-chair, associate professor of modern Middle East history, and Hymen Rosenberg Professor in Judaic studies the at Department of History at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Born and raised in East Jerusalem, he is a graduate of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He completed his PhD in Middle East History at Columbia University in 2008. He has taught at MIT and the University of Chicago. He is the president of the Society for Armenian Studies (SAS). He is the author, editor, and co-editor of multiple books including the award-winning book Shattered Dreams of Revolution: From Liberty to Violence in the Late Ottoman Empire (Stanford, California: Stanford University Press, 2014). His most recent book is The Horrors of Adana: Revolution and Violence in the Early Twentieth (Stanford, California: Stanford University Press, 2022).

Copies of *The Horrors of Adana: Revolution and Violence in the Early Twentieth* will be available for purchase at the lecture.

The lecture is free and open to the public.

Principal

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St. Stephen's Armenian Elementary School of Watertown, MA, a private preschool-Grade 5 dedicated to educational excellence in an environment rich in Armenian Culture, is seeking a full-time principal.

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Minimum of 10 years relevant experience

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How to Apply

Send cover letter and resume, Statement of educational leadership philosophy and three letters of recommendation to Careers@ssaes.org

ARTS & CULTURE

Recipe Corner



by Christine



A Lentil Soup With Its Heart in Armenia

This recipe was featured on July 1, 2022 in the *New York Times* Food Section. Recipe from Marina Sarukhanyan. Adapted by Joan Nathan.

For her birthday, my friend Audrey wanted one thing: a lentil soup from Yerevan Market and Cafe, an Armenian spot in the Adams Morgan neighborhood of Washington, D.C.

Ethereal yet somehow earthy, it was unlike any lentil soup we'd ever had — orange and slightly tangy. We were left curious about its flavor.

It turned out the secret ingredient was apricots, the national fruit of Armenia.

Though apricots originated in China, their tie to Armenia is strong. They're botanically known as *Prunus armeniaca* (or "Armenian plum"). The wood of the tree is used to make the *duduk*, an ancient Armenian wind instrument still played today. When Armenia gained independence from the Soviet Union in 1991, its new flag was striped in red, blue and an orange hue that recalls what else but the apricot.

"Armenians are very much in love with apricots," said Marina Sarukhanyan, the owner of Silk Apron Catering in Gaithersburg, Md., which counts Yerevan among its customers.

According to Armenian folklore, apricots were among the fruit that Noah brought on the ark to cultivate after the floodwaters receded. These most coveted trees are in the Ararat Valley, beneath Mount Ararat — the mountaintop on which the ark supposedly landed.

Armenians collect apricots quickly during their short season, to be put to use in pies, breads and punch. Often, the fruit is cut and dried in the sun for fruit leathers, frequently called fruit lavashes, one of the oldest-known snacks. Mostly they're eaten fresh.

But possibly the most exquisite, yet simple Armenian dish in which apricots feature is simmered and savory. It was that very soup we tasted: *tsirani vosp apur*, which is among the modern Armenian dishes Sarukhanyan prepares for her clients, alongside *lahmajoun* and *jingalov hats* with 14 different herbs and greens.

Traditionally eaten in and around Yerevan, the Armenian capital where Sarukhanyan was born, the soup is prepared with fresh apricots in the summer and dried apricots throughout the year and can be eaten hot or cold.

"This contemporary soup is as common today as vegetable soup in other countries," said Sarukhanyan, who came to the United States in 2006. "But Armenians from outside Armenia may not even know this dish."

Lentils (red, orange or yellow), tomatoes and sometimes carrots are simmered in vegetable broth, though you could also use chicken broth. Lemon juice lends a punch of acidity. Then, it's drizzled with pomegranate syrup and finished with a few bright red pomegranate seeds, if you have them. But the defining feature of this distinctive soup is, of course, the apricots.

"We have the best in the world," Sarukhanyan said.

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 1/2 cups roughly chopped fresh apricots (about 7 ounces, from 2 large or 4 small apricots), or 1 cup sugar-free, unsulfured dried apricots
- 2 tablespoons avocado or vegetable oil
- 1 small onion, finely chopped

Kosher salt

- 1 medium tomato or 1/2 cup cherry tomatoes, chopped
- 5 to 6 cups vegetable broth
- 2 cups red, orange or yellow split lentils, rinsed
- 2 medium carrots, roughly chopped
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 1/2 laman initial along many if days
- 1/2 lemon, juiced, plus more if desired
- Pomegranate syrup, for drizzling

PREPARATION:

If using dried apricots, at least 40 minutes before cooking, cut them into quarters, soak in warm water to cover, then drain and set aside. (This can be done up to a day ahead. Cover and refrigerate, then bring to room temperature before using.)

Warm the oil in a medium saucepan set over medium-high heat. Add the onion, season with 1/2 teaspoon of salt and cook, stirring often, until the onion begins to turn golden at the edges, about 5 minutes. Stir in the tomato and cook for 5 minutes more, stirring frequently.

Pour 5 cups of the vegetable broth into the pot, scraping any stuck-on bits from the bottom, and bring to a boil. Add the lentils, cover, and reduce the heat to maintain a strong simmer. Cook, stirring once or twice, until the lentils are soft, 15 to 20 minutes.

Stir in 1 more cup of broth if the soup is too thick, then add the carrots, apricots and 1/2 teaspoon salt, and season with pepper to taste. Increase the heat to bring to a boil again, then reduce the heat and simmer, partly covered and stirring once or twice, for 10 minutes, or until the carrots are as cooked as you'd like.

Turn off the heat and stir in the lemon juice, then taste. If it's not sour enough, add a little more, and adjust for salt and pepper.

Ladle into bowls and serve warm, with pomegranate syrup drizzled over the top.

For this recipe, go to:

https://cooking.nytimes.com/recipes/1023297-tsirani-vosp-apur-armenian-apricot-and-lentil-soup

https://www.nytimes.com/2022/07/01/dining/armenia-lentil-soup.html

Also see:

Dzirani Abour (Cold Apricot Soup)

By Gadar Tanelian

This soup is featured in the *Adventures in Armenian Cooking Cookbook* from St. Gregory's Armenian Apostolic Church of Indian Orchard, MA., 8th Printing, 1994. The cookbook's dedication says, "This book is dedicated to all who enjoy the delights of cooking; with special appreciation to the Armenian women who have passed their treasured recipes down through the generations. Although some of the recipes have been adapted to using modern ingredients and methods, the spirit of traditional Armenian cooking has been kept. We hope the good feelings *Armenian Cooking* has given us, is passed on to you through this book." To purchase, contact: Mrs. Elizabeth Setian, 29 Linwood Dr., Wilbraham, MA 01095.*

INGREDIENTS:

- 1/3 cup dzedzadz (hulled wheat)
- 2 qts. Water
- 1 11-oz. box apricots
- 2 cups water
- 1/2 cup prunes (approx. 8 prunes)
- 1/3 cup raisins
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon sugar

PREPARATION:

Cook the dzedzadz well in 2 quarts of water and salt. Cook the apricots well in 2 cups of water. Mash and strain if skins are tough. Add the cooked apricots to the cooked wheat. If this mixture is too thick, add another 1/2 to 1 cup water. Add the prunes and after cooking a bit add the raisins. Add the sugar and cook until the prunes and raisins are cooked. Chill. Serve cold.

Serves 6.

NOTE: Water may be added if you prefer a lighter consistency. This may be diluted with ice cubes.

* Adventures in Armenian Cooking - This collection of 200 recipes was originally published in 1973 by St. Gregory's Armenian Apostolic Church of Indian Orchard, Massachusetts as a fund raiser.

Called tsiran/dziran in Armenian, the Armenian apricot has a soft, juicy and plump pulp that is encased within a velvety outer skin and surrounds a stone that hides an edible kernel inside. Praised as the national fruit of the country, the apricot owes its exquisite honey-like sweetness and pleasant flavor and fragrance to Armenia's volcanic soil, mild climate, and plenty of sunshine it gets throughout the year. In Armenia, people consume the fruit fresh or dried and prepare a vast number of delicacies with it -- be it marmalades, jams, preserves, juices, desserts, apricot vodka, apricot leather wraps, or various meat dishes. Apricots grown in the Ararat valley and the Meghri region have long been deemed as the best in the country. See: https://www.tasteatlas.com/armenianapricot

NTHE ARMENIAN SPECTATOR

SINCE 1932



An ADL Publication

THE FIRST ENGLISH LANGUAGE
ARMENIAN WEEKLY IN THE
UNITED STATES

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The Armenian Mirror-Spectator is published weekly, except two weeks in July and the first week of the year, by:
Baikar Association, Inc.
755 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown, MA
02472-1509
Telephone: 617-924-4420
FAX: 617-924-2887

www.mirrorspectator.com E-Mail: editor@mirrorspectator.com For advertising: mirrorads@aol.com

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

U.S.A. \$80 one year Canada \$125 one year Other Countries \$200 one year

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

ISSN 0004-234X

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

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

COMMENTARY

EDITORIAL

What Is Behind Azerbaijan's Rising Belligerence?



By Edmond Y. Azadian

The Armenian government is caught between a rock and a hard place; it has been negotiating on two fronts with Turkey and Azerbaijan, and most probably, giving in on major issues in hope of achieving an elusive peace, yet it has to put on a brave face for its citizens and proclaim that the negotiations will be yielding positive results.

At issue are the settlement of the Karabakh status and the creation of the Zangezur Cor-

ridor through Syunik, Armenia. For all practical purposes, it looks like Turkey and Azerbaijan will be receiving what they have sought; as one Turkish newspaper heralded, "the gate to Great Turan is opening," referring to the Zangezur Corridor, while Armen Grigoryan, the secretary of the National Security Council, has been reassuring the public that Yerevan is not after territorial claims but only after the security and rights of the people of Karabakh.

Finally, Grigoryan has conceded that negotiations are for peace, and are separate from the issue of the Karabakh conflict. Thus, while the government has been crafting the appropriate semantics to couch the inconvenient truth from the public, the opposition is denouncing the regime of Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan for selling out the country to the Turks and Azerbaijanis.

As Armenia grudgingly swallows the compromises, Azerbaijan is becoming more belligerent, with the firm belief that this is the best time to push Armenia to the breaking point. Indeed, Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev believes that the stars can never align again to offer another such chance, which was handed to him by the combination of the might of the Turkish and Israeli drones, Pakistani pilots and Syrian Jihadists. Time is not a friend of Azerbaijan, as the window is closing for those who will be seeking settlement of their problems through violence in the region.

Azerbaijani forces on a daily basis have made incursions into Armenia and Karabakh, and publicly blame the Armenian side. In fact, Zakir Hasanov, Azerbaijan's minister of defense, announced a few days ago that his country's armed forces stand in full readiness to counter any provocation from the Armenian side.

Azerbaijan is rebuilding its armed forces at a rapid pace. During the recent war, despite defections and security breaches, Armenia withstood the aggression for 44 days and damaged Azerbaijan's forces considerably. But Baku, this time around, is replenishing its arsenal with even more modern weaponry. Fuad Shahbazov, writing in Eurasianet.org, states, "The modernization of Azerbaijan's military is part of a broader post-2020 military expansion, including a significant increase in the military budget. Aliyev has cited the risk of Armenian revanchism as the reason. But a more likely motivation is the overall declining security environment in Azerbaijan's neighborhood. The full-scale conventional war now underway in Ukraine, and the relatively successful defense mounted by the NATO-trained Ukrainian armed forces has only strengthened the case for military reform and moving beyond the Soviet legacy."

Armenia's rearmament is a long shot, particularly in view of the fact that it does not have the same financial resources to compete with Azerbaijan. Armenia has just begun shopping for arms with the perspective of diversifying its resources, similar to Azerbaijan, as it is moving away from its Soviet legacy.

Ilham Aliyev received another moral boost when Ursula von der Leyen, the president of the European Commission, recently flew to Baku to sign a gas deal, praising the Azerbaijani dictator to the hilt, although Azerbaijan's capacity to replace the Russian gas flow is infinitely smaller.

Incidentally, Azerbaijan's gas deal with Europe must have been problematic for the Kremlin, as two days before Russia launched its war against Ukraine, Mr. Aliyev was in Moscow signing an agreement with President Vladimir Putin, which called for, inter alia, that the parties will refrain from entering into any business with a third party which could damage the economic interests of the signatories. And yet, after von der Leyen's visit to Baku, Moscow issued no objections.

As for negotiations between Armenia and Turkey, they have yielded insignificant results and don't look very promising at this time.

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Çavusoglu's expectation that "Armenia needs to take concrete steps" is only an excuse to drag the negotiation process. It would have been more advantageous for Armenia to bring to the table the issue of recognition of the Genocide and the ensuing compensation, to put Turkey on the defensive. After all, it was Ankara which did not stick to its side of the bargain and began negotiation without preconditions only to bring in its condition of Armenia signing a peace treaty with Azerbaijan. Armenia needs to revisit its no-precondition approach and offer up a list of demands.

While plans are being made for another summit between Pashinyan and Aliyev in Brussels, tensions are rising. Are we heading to another conflict before finalizing a peace deal? An Armenian political analyst, Tigran Grigoryan, offers an answer to the question by stating: "The reported truce violations signify the Azerbaijani leadership's dissatisfactions with the current



state of the peace process. Baku may be trying to ratchet up tensions in the Karabakh conflict zone in a bid to clinch diplomatic political concessions from Armenia."

This idea is further corroborated by the fact that Aliyev throws a fit every time the Armenian side reminds him that the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Process is tasked with resolving the Karabakh status issue. Now the US has joined the fray, resurrecting the moribund OSCE process, contrary to Russia's reluctance. To appease Mr. Aliyev, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov had announced in Baku recently that the OSCE process is dead, because the other two co-chairs, France and the US, refuse to cooperate with Russia. In an interview on Azatutyun TV, US Ambassador Lynne Tracy reiterated that to the contrary, the US is ready to cooperate with Russia to settle the Karabakh conflict. We have to be reminded that the issue was raised at a higher level when Deputy Secretary of State Karen Donfried

Perhaps, adding to Mr. Aliyev's nervousness is the fact that the US has shown renewed interest in the region and Secretary of State Antony Blinken has been calling the parties on a weekly basis. After his most recent call to Pashinyan and Aliyev, Mr. Blinken Tweeted that he sees "a historic opportunity to achieve peace in the region." Surprisingly, the Kremlin has also given a nod to the participation of third parties in the peace process in the region, provided that they don't undermine Russia's position.

see BELLIGERENCE, page 19



COMMENTARY

Implications of an Armenia-Azerbaijan Peace Deal

By Emil Avdaliani

Armenia and Azerbaijan are close to reaching a peace agreement that would help to alleviate Armenia's relative isolation. The potential rapprochement runs parallel to the apparent progress Armenia and Turkey have made in establishing diplomatic ties and has the potential to upend the geopolitics of the South Caucasus. Despite progress, a number of forces, geopolitical interests of foreign powers, and internal politics in Armenia could scupper the potential deal, which could have far-reaching effects on the wider Black Sea region.

Recent Developments

In a summit that began May 22 in Brussels, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev agreed on transit lines, including the Zangezur corridor, and on the formation of an international committee to address the countries' borders.

Though still far from reaching a definitive rapprochement, Armenia and Azerbaijan are poised to reach a tentative peace agreement. Over the past several months, Armenian officials have hinted at a major shift in Yerevan's perspective on a long-simmering Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

The first concrete sign came in March, when Baku released a framework document that stipulated the mutual recognition of territorial integrity of Armenia and Azerbaijan. Major points of the proposed peace treaty include the countries recognizing each other's sovereignty and state borders, an end to territorial claims, and establishing diplomatic relations.

Armenia's recognition of Azerbaijan's sovereignty has been a contentious issue since the end of the First Nagorno-Karabakh War in the early 1990s. However, Yerevan did not object to the proposition in the current proposed treaty, though it added some further points for discussion, such as the rights and freedoms of the Armenian population in Nagorno-Karabakh. This reflects a shift in the Armenian leadership's rhetoric over recent months – most notably when Pashinyan said in an interview that Nagorno-Karabakh was an integral part of Azerbaijan.

This is a major deviation from the official Armenian diplomatic rhetoric, which has traditionally regarded the separatist exclave as separate from Azerbaijan, a stance that has undermined every diplomatic attempt to solve the problem. Armenian politicians are denying that they have shifted their position, arguing that the self-determination of the Armenian population still represents Yerevan's core demand. But this, along with recent positive rhetoric from Baku, indicate that the two sides are heading toward a significant rapprochement – one that most likely includes Armenia recognizing Azerbaijan's territorial integrity.

Nonetheless, Armenia likely will require some concessions from Azerbaijan, such as special rights or autonomy safeguarding the lives of Armenian residents, the use of the Armenian language in schools or media, and maintaining the current land connection between Arme-

nia and Nagorno-Karabakh. Baku may grant these kinds of liberties, which after all are significantly less than what Yerevan was demanding before 2020. Moreover, Azerbaijan also needs the deal as it will pave the way for the Zangezur corridor to its exclave of Nakhichevan – one of the stipulations of the November 2020 tripartite treaty that ended the Second Nagorno-Karabakh War.

Potential Obstacles

Armenia's possible concessions are unlikely to go down well with the Karabakh Armenians who staunchly support the previous policy of total separation from Azerbaijan. In mid-April, Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh even voiced a possibility of joining Russia, while the de-facto government broke with the rhetoric in Yerevan, announcing that living under Baku's control is impossible for security reasons. Nevertheless, there is little the Karabakh Armenians could do as it is Yerevan which controls the negotiating process.

Pashinyan's government also faces a less-patient audience in Armenia itself, where the ruling party is under constant pressure from the opposition forces. Former President Robert Kocharyan and his allies are not popular among ordinary Armenians, but they could undermine the government's decision to move forward with a potential deal on Nagorno-Karabakh. On April 26 and 27, scuffles took place in central Yerevan amid protests against the potential deal. Since then, weeks-long demonstrations have taken place in Yerevan, but the threat to Pashinyan's government does not seem to be existential. He is likely to weather the storm, as the former rulers of Armenia are mostly associated with a corrupt system that undermined the country. In fact, the consensus in Armenia is that the defeat in 2020 cannot be blamed solely on Pashinyan but on decades-long deprivations at the hands of the Republican Party of Armenia.

The Armenian government will also face stiff opposition from the powerful Armenian diaspora, which has already staged demonstrations calling for a boycott of the potential deal. This might evolve into diaspora members restricting financial and political support for Armenia from abroad, a move that would complicate the Armenian government's position. However, a growing understanding is that the diaspora is largely detached from the realities within Armenia: Armenians in the diaspora have much more enmity with Turkey and Azerbaijan than Armenians living in Armenia.

Pashinyan is thus likely to survive a possible political crisis resulting from a deal with Azerbaijan. The wider spectrum of the population still supports the prime minister, mostly because there is no viable alternative but also because the present momentum behind the possible rapprochement with both Turkey and Azerbaijan will benefit Armenia both economically and geopolitically. The improved ties will help Armenia expand trade with Turkey and give it a new way to reach European markets. Moreover, the rapprochement means revived railway links and could turn Armenia from a regional pariah into an important actor in the South Caucasus.

Wider Geopolitical Picture

The change in Armenia's rhetoric reflects the changes on the ground. With the Second Nagorno-Karabakh War, Azerbaijan gained significant power over its rival. Its victory failed to change the calculus of Armenia's ally, Russia, and Baku has not received the support it hoped for from Moscow despite recent expanded bilateral relations – likely at least in part a result of Russia's preoccupation with its ongoing invasion of Ukraine.

The progress in Armenian-Azerbaijani relations is also linked to the nascent rapprochement in Armenian-Turkish relations. Ankara and Yerevan expressed readiness to establish diplomatic ties and agreed to open their long-closed border for third-country nationals, a sign of Turkey's growing role in the region. This role has both an infrastructure component – through the nascent corridor via Nakhichevan and the southernmost part of Armenia – as well as a military one, with Turkey expanding cooperation with Azerbaijan, seeing it as a launchpad for its ambitious vision of a mostly Turkic Central Asia, which has been on Ankara's agenda but has regained prominence amid the war in Ukraine. Turkey increased the sale of arms and actively promotes the activation of the Middle Corridor from China to the Black Sea via Kazakhstan and the Caspian basin. Turkey's growing role thus raises questions about Russia's dominant position in the region and how genuinely interested Moscow is in the revival of railway infrastructure.

Nonetheless, despite Turkish inroads, Russia's military capabilities still make it the most powerful player in the region. It has military bases in all South Caucasus states and is unlikely to withdraw from Azerbaijan in 2025 when the first term of its peacekeeping



European Council President Charles Michel meets Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev and Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan in Brussels, Belgium on May 22, 2022 (photo EU Council/Pool)

mission ends. Moreover, as a result of atrocities committed by Russia in Ukraine, France and the US ended their cooperation with Moscow in the framework of the OSCE Minsk Group, the body overseeing the Nagorno-Karabakh peace process. This effectively left the Kremlin as the only power managing the process and thus accruing further influence.

This growing competition between Russia and Turkey sidelines a third critical player in the region: Iran. The country would naturally benefit from Armenia's growing openness with its neighbors as it would help restore railway connections with Armenia and further with Russia, but there are also downsides for Tehran, which could lose its transit status between Nakhichevan and Azerbaijan proper if the corridor through Armenia becomes operational. That said, a recent deal with Azerbaijan on renewal of transit to Nakhichevan through Iranian territory shows it retains influence in the region.

Looking Ahead

Many questions remain around a possible Armenia-Azerbaijan rapprochement. A peace deal would have wide-ranging effects on the geopolitics of the South Caucasus, changing all paradigms governing the balance of power in the region since the 1990s. A new order will emerge where Russia will continue to play a critical role – alongside an increasingly influential Turkey. The EU, despite distancing itself following the 2020 war, will regain initiative. Iran's position will be most vulnerable among large powers neighboring the region.

The developments in the South Caucasus are critical for the US, as they represent a vital part of the wider Black Sea region where, amid Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the geopolitical balance of power is fluctuating. There is an opening for the US, through the EU and other Western institutions, to have a positive impact on the negotiation process for a potential deal and try to limit Moscow's goal of excluding the West from the South Caucasus.

(Emil Avdaliani is a professor at European University and the Director of Middle East Studies at the Georgian think tank, Geocase. He tweets at @emilavdaliani. The views expressed in this article, which first appeared at NewLinesInstitute.org on July 26, 2022, are those of the author and not an official policy or position of the New Lines Institute.)

COMMENTARY



UN Official Deletes His Tweet On Armenian Genocide, After Pressure from Turkey

The Turkish government resorted to its customary bullying tactics last week to force a high-ranking United

Nations (UN) official to delete his tweet on the Armenian Genocide.

On July 27, President of the United Nations General Assembly Abdulla Shahid issued a tweet with four photos showing him placing a wreath at the Armenian Genocide Memorial in Yerevan. He wrote in his tweet: "Laid a wreath at the Memorial to the Victims of Armenian Genocide. Special thanks to Museum-Institute Director Harutyun Marutyan & Hasmik Martirosyan for a tour of the Museum." Marutyan presented to the visitor books on the Armenian Genocide and showed him the three cross-stones dedicated to the memory of Armenians who were killed by Azerbaijan.

The wreath placed by the UN General Assembly President had white and blue flowers and was decorated with a blue ribbon with "United Nations" written on it. In the other photos of his tweet, he was seen observing a moment of silence at the Eternal Flame of the Memorial, taking a tour of the Armenian Genocide Museum, and signing the Guest Book in which he wrote: "I am very moved by my visit to this museum. I thank you for warmly receiving me as a part of my visit to Armenia."

During his three-day visit to Armenia, the President of the UN General Assembly met with various Armenian officials, including the President of Armenia Vahagn Khachatryan, Deputy Prime Minister Hambardzum Matevosyan, Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan, Vice Chairman of the Parliament Ruben Rubinyan, female diplomats of the Foreign Ministry, and spoke at the graduation ceremony of the Armenian Foreign Ministry's Diplomatic School.

Shortly after Shahid's visit and tweet, the Turkish Foreign Ministry issued an official statement condemning him for visiting the Armenian Genocide Memorial and alleging that his trip "to Armenia has been exploited with the purpose of exposing one-sided Armenian claims and it is in that context that he paid a visit to the so-called genocide memorial." The Turkish Foreign Ministry added: "He would have been expected to act in a fair and impartial manner, to be more careful and responsible in this regard. Representatives acting on behalf of the UN authorized bodies must carry out their duties in accordance with the UN legal instruments and relevant norms and rules of international law, particularly the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide dated 1948. We condemn and reject attempts to distort historical

facts and international law through political manipulation. Türkiye is of the opinion that the facts regarding the events of 1915 should be dealt with in a full, fair and honest framework."

Shahid, who is also the Foreign Minister of the Republic of Maldives, immediately deleted the tweet about his visit to the Armenian Genocide Memorial, succumbing to Turkish pressures.

Whereas the Turkish government had succeeded in imposing its will on the UN official, not a single Armenian official who met with the President of the UN General Assembly bothered to question him why he deleted his tweet, let alone criticize him.

Of course, nothing can excuse the submissive behavior of the high-ranking UN official who caved in to the directive of a dictatorial regime, contrary to the UN principles that he was sworn to uphold. Two sources confirmed some of the actions of the Turkish government: The Passblue.com website disclosed that Turkey rescinded its invitation to Shahid to visit Ankara. The Turkish Superhaber.tv further revealed that Turkey withdrew Shahid's invitation to attend the Ambassadors' Conference to be held in Ankara on August 8-12. Turkey probably used other behind-the-scenes measures to pressure Shahid.

It is highly offensive that Shahid, by agreeing to delete his tweet, disrespected the Armenian Genocide which had been corroborated by the UN itself. On August 29, 1985, the UN "Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities" adopted a report on genocide by a vote of 15 in favor, 1 opposed, and 4 abstentions. The "Revised and Updated Report on the Question of the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide" was prepared by British Special Rapporteur Benjamin Whitaker. Paragraph 24 of that report stated: "The Nazi aberration has unfortunately not been the only case of genocide in the twentieth century. Among other examples which can be cited as qualifying are the German massacre of Hereros in 1904, [and] the Ottoman massacre of Armenians in 1915-1916" The report also included an extensive bibliography on the Armenian Genocide. An earlier version of that report, prepared by UN Special Rapporteur Nicodeme Ruhashyankiko of Rwanda, had included in its paragraph 30 a reference to the Armenian Genocide which was subsequently deleted after excessive pressure by the Turkish government. I know these facts first-hand because I spent from 1978 to 1985 at the UN in Geneva as the representative of a non-governmental organization on human rights, countering the repeated Turkish attempts to delete the reference to the Armenian Genocide.

The Armenian government may not be aware of these facts. I suggest that the Armenian Foreign Ministry file a strongly-worded complaint with the Secretary-General of the United Nations to have the deleted tweet reinstated and apologize to the Armenian nation.

What is Behind Azerbaijan's Rising Belligerence?

BELLIGERENCE, from page 17

Thus, Armenia alone cannot contain Mr. Aliyev's tantrums, but it looks like the actions of major players may just do the job. This seeming cooperation between the US and Russia at a time when they find no common ground should put fear up Mr. Aliyev's back.

One of the astute analysts in Yerevan, Hovsep Khurshudyan, believes that Blinken's sustained interest in the region is a stabilizing factor, as he writes, "The frequency of the US Secretary of State Antony Blinken's phone calls to Yerevan and Baku is only one of the demonstrations of Washington's relevant efforts. In this context, I would like to note the clear and public identification of Azerbaijan as the source of provocations and Blinken's latest talks with Pashinyan and Aliyev. The US's heightened interest in the region is in Armenia's interest, primarily due to the fact that it is preventing Ilham Aliyev from further adventurous actions. Baku continues associating solutions to the regional problems — Armenia-Azerbaijan relations and the Artsakh problem — with the possible use of force. US diplomacy is the 'minimum threshold' ensuring security guarantees for Armenia."

Armenia desperately needs peace and stability to be able to recover from the devastating effects of war and maintain its sovereignty.

French Appeal against Baku Gas Agreement Published in *Le Monde* Daily

PARIS — The Coordinating Council of Armenian Organizations of France (CCAF), in agreement with 51 political leaders in France, published, on July 28, in the major daily *Le Monde* an appeal "against the gas agreement with Baku."

In its essence, the call declares: "we urge the European Commission to abandon immediately this project [importation of Azerbaijani gas] with Azerbaijan and for the heads of state and government of the European Union, as well as the European Parliament, not to ratify under any pretext an agreement which would have the effect of replacing dependence on Russian gas with dependence on Azerbaijani gas. "The 44-Day War of fall 2020 illustrated Azerbaijan's appalling designs. To the military subjugation was added the supply by Turkey of jihadists serving as auxiliaries to the Azerbaijani army – denounced by President Macron, the use of phosphorus bombs completely prohibited because of the human and ecological disasters that they generate and the torture of prisoners of war held in Azerbaijani jails in the greatest disregard of international conventions. [...]

"Erdogan and Aliyev are now using their military power to impose on the Republic of Armenia, under cover of 'a plan for the normalization of relations,' the opening on the sovereign territory of Armenia of a corridor which would connect Turkey to Azerbaijan, creating a de facto block, a powerful danger which will further threaten the peace and security of the European Union. By choosing Azerbaijan as a gas supplier, Ursula von der Leyen [President of the European Commission, who announced in Baku on July 18 the gas agreement] is actually weakening the European Union. The European Commission is unable to evaluate the story that is unfolding before its eyes. We urge it to abandon this project."

List of Signatories

Sabrina AGRESTI-ROUBACHE, MP for Bouches-du-Rhône; François ALFONSI, MEP; Emmanuelle ANTHOINE, MP for Drôme; Clémentine AUTAIN, Member of Parliament for Seine-Saint-Denis; Serge BABARY, Senator of Indre-et-Loire; Jérémy BACCHI, Senator of Bouches-du-Rhône; Azad BALALAS, Departmental Councilor of Bouches-du-Rhône; Julien BAYOU, MP for Paris; François-Xavier BELLAMY, MEP; Pierre BENARROCHE, Mayor of the 6&8th arrondissements of Marseille; Christophe BEX, MP for Haute-Garonne; Benoit BITEAU, MEP;

Etienne BLANC, Senator of Paris; Stéphane BLANCHET, Mayor of Sevran; Manuel BOMPARD, MP for Bouches-du-Rhône; Geoffroy BOULARD, Mayor of the 17th arrondissement of Paris; Valérie BOYER, Senator of Bouches-du-Rhône; Sophie CA-MARD, Mayor of the 1&7th arrondissements of Marseille; Damien CAREME, MEP; Marie-Arlette CARLOTTI, Senator of Bouches-du-Rhône; Luc CARVOUNAS, Mayor of Alfortville; Lauren COHEN, Senator of Val-de-Marne; David CORMAND, MEP; Gwendoline DELBOS-CORFIELD, Member of the European Parliament; Karima DELLI, Member of the European Parliament; Claire PITOLLAT, MP for Bouches-du-Rhône; Brigitte DEVESA, Senator of Bouches-du-Rhône; Gilbert-Luc DEVINAZ, Senator of the Rhône, President of the France-Armenia Friendship Group; Olivier FAURE, Member of Parliament for Seine-et-Marne; Rémi FERAUD, Senator of Paris; Bernard FOURNIER, Senator for the Loire; Christophe-André FRASSA, Senator representing French people living outside France; Claude GRUFFAT, MEP; Jean-Noël GUERINI, Senator of Bouches-du-Rhône; Sylvie GUILLAUME, Member of the European Parliament, President of the French delegation of Socialists and Democrats; Yannick JADOT, MEP; Didier JAU, Mayor of the 4th and 5th arrondissement of Marseille; Patrick KARAM, Vice-President of the Ile-de-France Region; Anthony KREHMEIER, Mayor of the 2&3rd arrondissements of Marseille; Julie LAERNOES, Loire-Atlantique Deputy; Pierre LAURENT, Senator of Paris; Arnaud Le GALL, MP for Val d'Oise; Constance LE GRIP, Deputy for Hauts-de-Seine; Emmanuel MANDON, Deputy for the Loire; Marie-Pierre MONIER, Senator of Drôme; Renaud MUSELIER, President of the South Region; Pierre OU-ZOULIAS, Senator for Hauts-de-Seine; Benoît PAYAN, Mayor of Marseille; Anne-Laurence PETEL, MP for Bouches-du-Rhône; Anna PIC, MP for Manche; Didier RAMBAUD, Senator for Isère; Bruno RETAILLEAU, Senator for Vendée, President of the Les Républicains group in the Senate; Michele RIVASI, Member of the European Parliament; François ROCHEBLOINE, Honorary Deputy; Caroline ROOSE, Member of the European Parliament; Lionel ROYER-PERRAULT, MP for Bouches-du-Rhône; Isabelle SANTIAGO, MP for Val-de-Marne; Mounir SATOURI, MEP;

see APPEAL, page 20



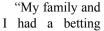
Manganiello Discovers His Armenian Heritage

By Beth Harris

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Joe Manganiello marveled at the years-old mysteries in his family that were solved through DNA by researchers on PBS' "Finding Your Roots," including a revelation involving

the actor's paternal grandfather.

It was so surprising that host Henry Louis Gates Jr. had to call Manganiello with the news so he wouldn't find out first during taping.





Joe Manganiello

pool of what it is, like what's so bad that you can't announce it on the episode?" Manganiello told a TV critics meeting Thursday.

Gates informed Manganiello that the man the family believed to be the actor's paternal grandfather really wasn't.

"My grandfather was a Black man of mixed race," said Manganiello, who is white. "That was fascinating."

As a result, Gates told him, "You are zero percent genetically related to anyone named Manganiello in the world."

Gates didn't stop there. The show's research traced back to the actor's fifth great-grandfather who was a slave who became free before slavery was abolished in Massachusetts, where Manganiello's father was born outside of Boston. His father's family came from Italy.

Manganiello found out his distant relative joined the Continental Army and fought alongside other Blacks for the colonies against the British in units that were non-segregated.

"None of us would have guessed that if we'd had 10 years of guessing," the actor said. "If Manganiello's not my last name, what is?"

Another mystery from his mother's side was solved, too.

Manganiello's maternal great-grandmother was a survivor of the Armenian genocide during World War I in which her husband and seven of her children were killed. She was shot, but played dead and escaped with an eighth child, who later drowned while they traversed the Euphrates River.

Manganiello was told his great-grandmother was incarcerated and met a German officer stationed at the camp. He said she became pregnant by the officer, who later returned to Germany without her. The actor's aunt had a picture of the man, which later got lost.

"We had nothing to connect us being German other than this," he said.

The show's researchers found that the actor's mother and aunt were the children of the half-German baby.

"That was a really profound moment for me," he said.

Gates said it took nearly a year to uncover the ancestry in part because the Turkish government doesn't give researchers access to vital records and population documents dating to the Ottoman Empire.

Manganiello was filming in Europe last year, and the locals mistook him as being German.

"To think that I don't look like the other people in my family is because I look like the Germans, OK, now that makes sense," he said. "It's really wild what we uncovered."

The 45-year-old actor known for "True Blood" and "Magic Mike" was born and raised in the Pittsburgh suburb of Mount Lebanon, Pennsylvania. He is married to Colombian-born actor Sofia Vergara.

The new season of "Finding Your Roots" begins Jan. 3. Among those featured are Oscar winners Viola Davis and Julia Roberts, as well as Carol Burnett, political activist Angela Davis and actor Danny Trejo.

Armenia Set to Start Work on New Corridor To Karabakh

By Susan Badalian

YEREVAN (Azatutyun) — Armenia is due to start building next month the Armenian section of a new highway that will replace the existing corridor connecting it with Nagorno-Karabakh.

The five-kilometer-wide Lachin corridor became Karabakh's sole overland link to Armenia following the 2020 war with Azerbaijan. Armenian forces pulled out of the rest of the wider Lachin district under the terms of the Russian-brokered ceasefire that stopped the six-week hostilities.

The truce accord calls for the construction by 2024 of a new Armenia-Karabakh highway that will bypass the town of Lachin and two Armenian-populated villages located within the current corridor protected by Russian peacekeeping troops.

Azerbaijani and Turkish construction firms have been rapidly building a 32-kilometer-long highway that will link up to new road sections in Armenia and Karabakh.

Armenia's Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructures said on Friday that work on the Armenian section will start in August.



A road sign at the entrance to the village of Kornidzor, June 7, 2022.

In late June, Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan's cabinet allocated funding for a geodetic survey and map design needed for the road's construction. A group of surveyors and other construction specialists were later spotted near Kornidzor, an Armenian village close to the Lachin district

"Surveyors came and took measurements in an area through which [the road] will pass," Lusine Karamian, an official from the village administration, told RFE/RL's Armenian Service.

"According to our information, the road will pass through fields adjacent to Kornidzor, said Karamian.

Arayik Harutyunyan, the Karabakh president, sought to allay concerns about the loss of the current Lachin corridor and its security implications when he addressed local legislators in June. He stressed that the route of the bypass road built by Azerbaijan was approved by Karabakh's leadership.

For many residents of Armenian and Karabakh villages located along the planned new corridor, those security concerns outweigh its potential economic impact on their communities. As one of them put it, "If you can tell me what will happen tomorrow, I will tell you whether or not the [new] road will be good for us."

Appeal against Gas Agreement

APPEAL, from page 19

Sylvain SOUVESTRE, Mayor of the 11 & 12th arrondissements of Marseille; Sarah TANZILLI, Member of Parliament for the Rhône; Marie TOUSSAINT, Member of the European Parliament; Martine VASSAL, President of the Bouches-du-Rhône Department, President of the Aix-Marseille Metropolis; Sonia ZDOROVTZOFF, Assistant to the Lyon City Hall for International Relations, Cooperation and Solidarity.





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