

At Least 49 Killed after Attack on Armenia

YEREVAN (Combined Sources) — On September 13, Azerbaijani forces attacked several towns near the border with Azerbaijan, including Jermuk, Goris and Kapan. Yerevan said it had responded to what it called a “large-scale provocation” by the Azerbaijan, resulting in at least 49 deaths.

The Armenian military said Azerbaijani forces were using artillery, combat drones and automatic weapons to strike its positions along various sections of Armenia’s border with Azerbaijan.



Soldiers on the border in August

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday sought to broker a ceasefire.

Russia, the United States and France called for restraint after the most deadly fighting since Armenia and Azerbaijan waged a six-week war over the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh in 2020.



Russian President Putin attends an unscheduled session of the council of the Collective Security Treaty Organization Collective (CSTO) via a video conference on September 13, 2022.

Russia, which in February sent troops into Ukraine in the biggest European land invasion since World War Two, is the main powerbroker in the Caucasus and an ally of Armenia through the Russian-led Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), which convened on Tuesday to discuss the situation.

Russia, which operates a military base in Armenia, sent thousands of peacekeepers to the region in 2020 as part of a deal to

end a war during which Azerbaijan made significant territorial gains in and around Nagorno-Karabakh.

Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan accused Azerbaijan of attacking Armenian towns because it did not want to negotiate over the status of Nagorno-Karabakh. He said the intensity of hostilities had decreased but attacks from Azerbaijan continued.

see ATTACK, page 2

Caucasus Heritage Watch Report Shows Near-Total Erasure of Armenian Heritage Sites

By David Nutt

ITHACA, N.Y. (Cornell Chronicle) — A new report from the Cornell-led Caucasus Heritage Watch (CHW) has compiled decades of high-resolution satellite imagery to document the complete destruction of Armenian cultural heritage in the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic of Azerbaijan beginning in the late 1990s.

Moreover, the latest finding of CHW’s heritage monitoring project suggests that the same policy of cultural erasure now threatens Armenian monuments in the Karabakh region of Azerbaijan. CHW has recently discovered the destruction of an historic church in Karabakh, one of hundreds of Armenian monuments in territories ceded to Azerbaijan under the terms of a 2020 ceasefire to a war between Azerbaijan and Armenia.



Satellite images from the Caucasus Heritage Watch

The destruction of St. Sargis church in the village of Mokhreneh between March and July 2022 provides evidence of the first major violation of a ruling by the International Court of Justice, which ordered Azerbaijan in December 2021 to prevent such acts.

According to CHW’s report on Nakhichevan, of the 110 medieval and early modern Armenian monasteries, churches and cemeteries that CHW identified from archival sources, 108 were destroyed between 1997 and 2011 in what the authors describe as “a systematic, state-sponsored program of cultural erasure.”

CHW was founded in 2020 by Lori Khatchadourian, associate professor of Near Eastern Studies, and Adam T. Smith, Distinguished Professor of Arts and Sciences in Anthropology, both in the College of Arts and Sciences, along with Ian Lindsay, associate professor of Anthropology at Purdue University.

see DESTRUCTION, page 9



Marie Charpentier, at right, in Armenia for the Starmus Festival

Nobel Laureate Charpentier Reveals Armenian Heritage

YEREVAN (Public Radio of Armenia) — Nobel laureate Emmanuelle Charpentier spoke about her Armenian heritage last week during her visit to Armenia. In an interview, Charpentier said her grandfather escaped to France during the Armenian Genocide.

“It’s a very strange story, which my father actually got to know much later. So, my name should not have been Charpentier. It should have been an Armenian name,” she said, adding that her grandfather’s surname was Sinanian.

He met her grandmother in Marseille, but they met again only five years after her father was born and then spent the rest of their lives together.

see NOBEL LAUREATE, page 2

Archbishop Aykazian Urges World Council of Churches to Be ‘Moral Organization’

KARLSRUHE, Germany — In stirring words delivered before the 11th Assembly of the World Council of Churches (WCC), which took place August 31 to September 8, Archbishop Vicken Aykazian, the Eastern Diocese’s Legate and Ecumenical Director, spoke out passionately about the ongoing aggressions committed against Artsakh and the Armenian people.

He said, “Why do we forget what is happening still in Armenia?” he said. “Every other week, they occupy one or two villages. What happened to the POWs — 110 to 118 prisoners of war in the last two years? There is no government in the world that is pushing the Turkish and Azeri governments to free those young people. Where are we when 5,000 young people were killed?”

Aykazian offered his remarks during the inaugural plenary session of September 1. He spoke in the broader context of the need for the WCC to take strong moral stances against injustice done to people anywhere in the world — and to hold government bodies accountable when they fail to defend the innocent against aggression and violence.

see APPEAL, page 4

BELGRADE
Aleksanyan Crowned World Champion



CAMBRIDGE
CYSCA Marks 35 Years of Friendship between Cambridge and Yerevan



COMMENTRY
Remembering an Unsung Hero of The Holocaust Era





ARMENIA

NEWS from ARMENIA

Five More Armenian POWs Freed By Azerbaijan

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) — Azerbaijan freed and repatriated on September 8 five more Armenian soldiers who were taken prisoner during or shortly after the 2020 war in Nagorno-Karabakh.

“We welcome this as a step contributing to the normalization of [Armenian-Azerbaijani] relations,” Armenia’s National Security Service said in a statement on the release of the prisoners of war (POWs). The NSS identified all of them.

The development came just over a week after Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan’s latest meeting with Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev hosted by European Council President Charles Michel in Brussels. Michel said that during the meeting he “stressed to Azerbaijan the importance of further release of Armenian detainees.”

Baku admitted holding 35 Armenian POWs and three civilian captives prior to the latest release. Most of them were given lengthy jail terms in trials condemned by Yerevan as a travesty of justice.

Azerbaijani media reported earlier on Thursday that a court in Baku shortened the prison sentences of four of the five servicemen repatriated to Armenia later in the day.

Armenian human rights lawyers believe that the real number of Armenians remaining in Azerbaijani captivity is higher.

Azerbaijan Army Targets Civilians

YEREVAN (Armenpress) — Starting from midnight till now the Azerbaijani units continue targeting the border settlements and civilian infrastructure, Armenian Defense Ministry’s spokesperson Aram Torosyan said.

“On the background of this obvious reality, the claims of the Azerbaijan side that they do not target the civilian population, are becoming more than absurd. There are sufficient evidences which confirm the criminal actions of the Azerbaijani armed forces against the civilian population,” he said.

OSCE Chairman Condemns Attack

YEREVAN(Armenpress) — The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Chairman-in-Office, Polish Foreign Minister Zbigniew Rau, and OSCE Secretary General Helga Maria Schmid called for an immediate ceasefire following reports of armed clashes along the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan, Armenpress reports citing the OSCE website.

“The escalation of hostilities at the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan must cease immediately. The progress achieved so far by following the diplomatic path must not be squandered,” said Rau. “There has been progress over the past eighteen months, including agreement between Armenia and Azerbaijan to continue work towards a peace treaty. These clashes jeopardize this progress and put countless lives at risk.”

At Least 49 Killed after Attack on Armenia

see ATTACK, page 1

Both Russia and the United States, at loggerheads over the Ukraine war, called on Baku and Yerevan to observe restraint.

“As we have long made clear, there can be no military solution to the conflict,” US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said in a statement. “We urge an end to any military hostilities immediately.”

The Russian foreign ministry said in a statement that the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan “should be resolved exclusively through political and diplomatic means.”

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Çavuşoğlu talked to his Azerbaijani counterpart Jeyhun Bayramov and called for Armenia to “cease its provocations.”

Charles Michel, president of the European Council, also urged Pashinyan to prevent further escalation. Michel met with Pashinyan and Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev last month in Brussels for talks on the normalization of ties between the countries, humanitarian issues and the prospect of a peace treaty over Nagorno-Karabakh.

France will bring up the clashes between Armenia and Azerbaijan at the U.N. Security Council, the office of President Emmanuel Macron said, adding that Macron



Damage in Armenia from the recent attack.

pikyan spoke with his Russian counterpart Sergei Shoigu in the morning. According to the Armenian Defense Ministry, the two men agreed to take “necessary steps to stabilize the situation.”

Shortly after Pashinyan’s phone call with Putin, Armenia formally appealed to Russia and the Russian-led Collective Security

House expressed its concern over Azerbaijani shelling of Armenian settlements and called for an immediate ceasefire and urge both sides to find a peaceful solution, the statement read.

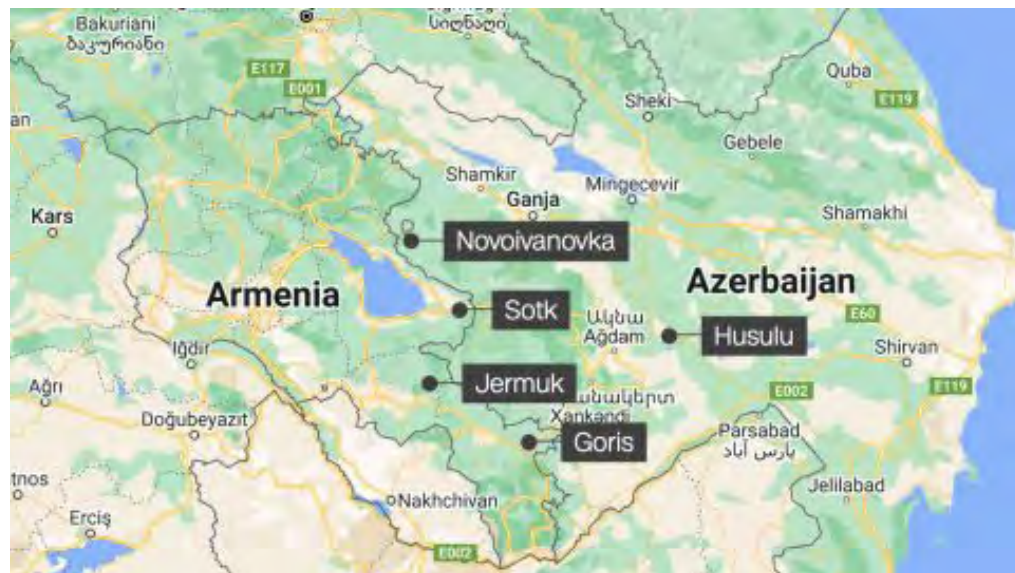
Meanwhile, in the US, Rep. Adam Schiff (D-Ca) condemned “an egregious violation of the ceasefire and direct attack on Armenia’s sovereignty” by Azerbaijan.

“Azerbaijan has reportedly shelled the homes of innocent civilians in Artsakh and is now attacking Armenia’s border,” Schiff said in a Twitter post. “The U.S. must halt all assistance to Azerbaijan – immediately and permanently.”

Fellow member of the US House of Representatives Frank Pallone (D-NJ) similarly condemned Azerbaijan’s reckless military attack on southern Armenia. “Aliyev must end his aggression immediately,” he said in a Twitter post. “The State Department and Secretary Blinken must work with the OSCE Minsk Group to secure peace in the region.”

Finally, Rep. Jackie Speier (D-Ca.), on Twitter said she was “Outraged by reports of heavy & coordinated Azeri artillery strikes on peaceful Armenian towns. To be clear: these are internationally recognized Armenian towns, NOT disputed territory. It’s unconscionable that the US continues to provide Aliyev w/ military aid.”

(Civilnet, Reuters, Azatutyun and news.am contributed to this report.)



continued to urge both sides to stick to a ceasefire.

Peace between Baku and Yerevan is possible only on the basis of territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, this was announced by the Turkish presidential office after the aggressive attack of Azerbaijan on the sovereign territory of Armenia in the early morning of September 13.

“Ankara supports Baku in the light of tension on the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan,” the message said.

The situation was discussed earlier by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Turkey and Azerbaijan, Mevlut Cavusoglu and Jeyhun Bayramov. Cavusoglu said that “Armenia should stop its provocations and focus on peace negotiations and cooperation with Azerbaijan.”

In Yerevan, the head of Defense Policy and International Cooperation Department of the Ministry of Defense, Levon Ayvazyan, and Deputy Head of the Operational Main Department of the Armed Forces, Colonel Albert Baghdadyan, met with the military attachés of foreign embassies accredited in the Republic of Armenia today to present the situation created as a result of the large-scale provocation of the Azerbaijani side.

On the initiative of Armenia, a special session of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Permanent Council also took place on Tuesday, the Press Secretary of the Foreign Ministry Vahan Hunanyan reported.

Meanwhile, Defense Minister Suren Pa-

ty Treaty Organization (CSTO) for urgent help in the face of what it described as a large-scale Azerbaijani attack on Armenian territory.

Moscow did not publicly side with Armenia. The Russian Foreign Ministry statement said “problems between Armenia and Azerbaijan must be resolved only by political-diplomatic means.”

Residents Report

During the fighting overnight, several Armenian border communities told RFE/RL’s Armenian Service that they heard powerful explosions and gunfire. The mayor of, Verin Shorzha, a border village in eastern Gegharkunik province spoke of “intensive gunfire” coming from Azerbaijani army positions across the local section of the long border.

According to a former local government official, several shells landed in another Gegharkunik community, Sotk, forcing some parents to evacuate their children to safer locations.

Another, serving Gegharkunik official was quoted by news.am as saying that some residents of the nearby village of Norabak were fleeing their homes.

The fighting also affected communities in Armenia’s southeastern Syunik province. In the local village of Karashen, an Azerbaijani shell hit a wedding hall, eyewitnesses said, adding that nobody was hurt as a result.

Reactions from Abroad

Reactions were swift against the attack.

Nobel Laureate Charpentier Reveals Armenian Heritage

NOBEL LAUREATE, from page 1

“My father got to know it when he was 60 and needed to renew his ID. He then figured out that his last name Charpentier was the name of his mother,” Ms. Charpentier said.

In 2020 the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry to Charpentier and Jennifer A. Doudna. They discovered one of gene technology’s sharpest tools: the CRISPR/Cas9 genetic scissors. Using these, researchers can change the DNA of animals, plants and microorganisms with extremely high precision. This technology has had a revolutionary impact on the life sciences, is contributing to new cancer therapies and may make the dream of curing inherited diseases come true.



ARMENIA



Aleksanyan Crowned World Champion

BELGRADE (Public Radio of Armenia) — Armenian Greco-Roman Wrestler Artur Aleksanyan beat Kiril Milirov of Bulgaria 5:1 in the final to be crowned World Champion in the 97 kilogram category. This is Aleksanyan's 4th world title. He previously won the championships in 2014, 2015 and 2017.

Artur Aleksanyan is an Olympic Champion, and has also won silver and bronze medals at the Olympics.

The wrestler, 30, has won the European Champion's title five times.

New US Karabakh Envoy Visits Armenia

YEREVAN (Azatutyun) — A senior American diplomat has met with Armenia's leaders in Yerevan less than three weeks after being appointed as the new US co-chair of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group on Nagorno-Karabakh.

The diplomat, Philip Reeker, arrived in Yerevan late last week on the first leg of his tour of the three South Caucasus states. He met with Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan on Saturday, September 10, before proceeding to neighboring Georgia.

The US Embassy in Armenia reported that during his talks with Pashinyan and other Armenian officials Reeker "underscored US commitment to helping Azerbaijan and Armenia negotiate a comprehensive peaceful settlement." It gave no other details of the talks.

Pashinyan was cited by his press office as praising "the important role of the US as a co-chair state of the OSCE Minsk Group." He also called for Washington's renewed joint peace efforts with the two other co-chairs, Russia and France.

Russia says that the US and France stopped working with it in the Minsk Group format following the Russian invasion of Ukraine. A senior US State Department official denied that in June.

Announcing the appointment of the new

US co-chair on August 24, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said that Reeker will strive for "direct dialogue between Armenia and Azerbaijan" aimed at a "long-term political settlement to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict." "

The Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry de-



Philip Reeker (C), US co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group, meets with Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, September 10, 2022.

nounced Blinken's statement, saying that the US risks being left out of the Armenian-Azerbaijani peace process with its attempts to "revive" the group. It again claimed that Azerbaijan's victory in the 2020 war with Armenia put an end to the Karabakh conflict. By contrast, the Armenian government reaffirmed support for the Minsk Group.

The US ambassador in Yerevan, Lynne Tracy, has repeatedly stated over the past year that Washington considers the conflict unresolved because there is still no agreement on Karabakh's status.

Moonk School of Technology Advances Education and Society In a Remote Artsakh Village

By Haykaram Nahapetyan

Mirror-Spectator Video Correspondent

HAGHORTI, Artsakh — The highway from Artsakh's capital of Stepanakert to Martuni turns into an unpaved dirt road which, after ups and downs and several curves, takes you to a rural settlement where pigs and chickens run beside your car. A white, modern-looking, neat house appears somewhat unexpectedly. Moonk, the school teaching technology in the Haghorti village of Artsakh, is Ashot Avanesyan's creation. The name stands for "we" in the Artsakh dialect.

"We needed 67 million drams (\$140,000) to launch the school. We started crowd-funding on the [reArmenia.com](https://rearmenia.com) platform and collected nearly 70 million [drams]. From literally \$1 donations coming from individuals to Aurora Foundation's \$50,000 substantial contribution, people and organization pitched in from many different places," noted Ashot, the principal of Moonk.



Ashot Avanesyan, principal of Moonk

In June, Moonk opened its doors with 3D printers, robots, computers, contemporary design, and colorful furniture. Situated next to the barns and coops of the village, the contemporary-looking hi-tech house aims to change the landscape and identity of the rural area.

"We named our main working space after Aurora. We name a working area after the donor of every donation above 2.5 million drams (about \$6,000). Another room is called Artsakh due to a substantial financial contribution from the Artsakh government," added Ashot.

He showed me a plastic model printed by a 3D printer. "This is going to fly after we finish it. It's a model of a colibri bird [hummingbird]," he noted.

The 3D printer produced a chess board with pieces that look like musical instruments; other pieces recall different cities of the world. The bishop has the appearance of the Eiffel Tower; the king is the Empire State Building of New York. The sky is the limit — the Haghorti professionals keep their sights as high as possible.

Khela Khokha, or smart kid in Artsakh's dialect of Armenian, is another project of Artsakh's tech innovators. The robotic intellectual child, controlled by cellphone application, is something they are working on now. "It is going to be a user-friendly and easy-going robot that a parent with a cellphone should be able to utilize. We see Khela Khokha as the technological mate of the kid(s) at home," explained Ashot.

Ashot himself is not from Haghorti but from the neighboring village of Mushkapat. It was easier to launch such a techno-school here because, thanks to the efforts of the village headman, many teenagers of Haghorti had already attended computer classes in Stepanakert and elsewhere.

"We pursue the following stages in our educational practice: first we discover the teenagers who want to learn programming and robot-engineering and teach them either at home or bring them here. After, we help our graduates launch a startup business," said Ashot.

There is also another Moonk school in the capital Stepanakert. "This is going to be



A chess board produced by 3D printer at Moonk with pieces representing different cities of the world

a chain. Indeed, we need financial resources, but more than this, we need specialists, and teachers," Ashot concluded.

The locals of Haghorti have already set up a programming company called Start Systems. Shushan, the manager, was working in the main area. "We have three employees here, one in Mushkapat and one in Yerevan. This is an online shopping website we are building now," she said, pointing to the screen's modern-looking interface.

Moonk is trying to reach out to IT companies in the Republic of Armenia or the diaspora seeking cooperation. "If they need to outsource their work, we are ready to take it. Also, if they need professionals, we can educate for them here, at Moonk, on the condition that afterwards, our graduates will be hired by them," Ashot said.

INTERNATIONAL

INTERNATIONAL

France Says It Will Take Azerbaijan's Aggression to UN Security Council

PARIS (PanARMENIAN.Net) — France will take Azerbaijan's fresh offensive against Armenia to the UN Security Council.

"France will bring the situation before the United Nations Security Council, of which it currently holds the presidency," the Elysée Place said Tuesday, September 13.

The Armenian Security Council earlier appealed to Russia, the UN and the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), a regional structure led by Russia, which is supposed to guarantee the territorial sovereignty of its members (Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan).

European Parliament Member Condemns Attack

LIMASOL (News.am) — Member of European Parliament Loukas Foulas, who represents Cyprus, spoke out on his Twitter regarding Azerbaijan's attacks on Armenia.

"We strongly condemn the attacks by Azerbaijan in Armenia. We call upon Josep Borrell to act immediately to stop all this cruelty," he tweeted.

Ambassador Reeker Arrives in Baku

BAKU (news.am) — US Senior Advisor for Caucasus Negotiations Ambassador Philip Reeker has arrived in Baku, the U.S. Embassy in Azerbaijan reported.

Reeker will discuss U.S. support for diplomatic efforts aimed at achieving a lasting peace.

CSTO Permanent Council Holds Special Session on Border Situation

MOSCOW (News.am) — A special session of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) Permanent Council was held on September 13 at the initiative of the Armenian side, the foreign ministry of Armenia informs Armenian news-NEWS.am.

During the session, the representative of the permanent mission of Armenia to the CSTO, Viktor Biyagov, informed the members of the CSTO Central Committee that after midnight on Tuesday, the armed forces of Azerbaijan carried out provocative and aggressive actions against the sovereign territory of Armenia, carrying out attempts to advance positions in some directions.

These actions of the Azerbaijani armed forces are considered a gross violation of the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Armenia, a CSTO member state, and the situation may lead to a large-scale armed conflict.

Biyagov noted that Armenia, addressing its allies in the CSTO, expects effective collective steps from them to ensure Armenia's security, territorial integrity, and sovereignty within the framework of the CSTO charter. He expressed confidence that CSTO mechanisms are able to restrain the aggressor.



Archbishop Vicken Aykazian

Archbishop Aykazian Urges World Council Of Churches to Be 'Moral Organization'

APPEAL, from page 1

"This organization must be a moral organization," he urged, "and care for every nation, every minority, every people that are suffering."

Some 5,000 participants, representing 351 Christian churches and denominations across the globe, were present at the WCC gathering in Karlsruhe, Germany — the largest, most comprehensive assemblage of the ecumenical organization's membership.

While the World Council of Churches holds administrative meetings and consultations at frequent intervals, the WCC Assembly convenes only once every seven years. This latest gathering was postponed an additional two years from its scheduled meeting time, due to the worldwide pandemic. The 2022 Assembly went forward from August 31 to September 8, under the theme "Christ's Love Moves the World to Reconciliation and Unity" — a motto inspired by St. Paul's exhortations in chapter 5 of his Second Letter to the Corinthians.

At the conclusion of the assembly, the World Council issued an official statement on the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh war, which appeals for the immediate release of Armenian POWs, urges international bodies to protect the Armenian heritage in Artsakh, endorses dialogue towards a just and peaceful settlement of the Karabakh conflict, and enlists WCC member churches to stand in solidarity with their fellow Christians in Armenia and Artsakh. (See below for the full text of the statement.)

At the same gathering, Aram I, Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia, was elected as one of the eight presidents of the World Council of Churches, representing the Oriental Orthodox family of churches. Catholicos Aram has been a leading figure in the WCC and other international ecumenical bodies throughout his long, distinguished ministry.

In addition, the WCC central committee elected Aykazian as one of its two vice moderators.

An internationally-recognized leader of the ecumenical movement in his own right, Aykazian was part of the larger Armenian Church delegation representing the Mother See of Holy Echmiadzin, taking part in the WCC Assembly with the blessing of His Holiness Karekin II, the Supreme Patriarch

and Catholicos of All Armenians.

The Armenian Church delegates had active roles in the assembly — not only in its general deliberations, but also in the work of the six "coordinating commissions" of the WCC. In addition, the delegates held a caucus meeting with their colleagues in the Eastern and Oriental Orthodox churches, to build on the longstanding relations among the church families, and to explore a more coordinated interaction in the larger ecumenical arena.

As visitors to Germany, members of the Armenian delegation were welcomed by Bishop Serovbe Isakhanyan, Primate of Diocese of Germany, and attended the Divine Liturgy in the city of Kehl, where they also met with Armenian community leaders.

Joining the delegation from the Eastern Diocese, in addition to Archbishop Aykazian, was Yn. Arpi Kouzouian of Cambridge, Mass.

The full delegation membership included: Archbishop Vicken Aykazian (Eastern Diocese of America), Bishop Armash Nalbandyan (Diocese of Damascus), Bishop Hovakim Manukyan (Diocese of the United Kingdom and Ireland), Bishop Gevorg Saroyan (Diocese of Masyatsotn), Bishop Serovbe Isakhanyan (Diocese of Germany), Fr. Garegin Hambardzumyan (Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin), Dn. Sahak Sukiasyan (Diocese of France), Yeretzgin Arpi Kouzouian (Eastern Diocese of America), Dr. Diana Tsaghikyan (Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin), Erika Areevna (Diocese of New Nakhichevan and Russia), and Manya Keshishyan (Diocese of Canada).

Statement on Consequences of the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War

The WCC released a statement in response to the voices raised about the atrocities being suffered by Armenians in Armenia and Artsakh:

Following six weeks of intense fighting for Nagorno-Karabakh/Artsakh, in late 2020, the WCC executive committee adopted a statement praying for wisdom, unity and calm, and grieving "with all those who have suffered terrible losses not only in the renewed fighting since 27 September, but throughout the long history of the struggle for self-determination in the region, entrenching antagonism more deep-

ly with each precious life lost." The WCC condemned the use of chemical weapons and cluster munitions, the targeting of civilians, hospitals and public infrastructure, and all other war crimes, beheadings, torture and other atrocities witnessed during the conflict. The WCC also appealed for respect for the holy sites and cultural heritage of Nagorno-Karabakh/Artsakh, in light of numerous reports of the desecration of such sites.

Almost two years after the end of the armed conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh, hundreds of ethnic Armenians are still illegally held by Azerbaijan, in violation of the Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War. While the world's attention is fixed on the conflict in Ukraine, Azerbaijani forces are reported to have launched new assaults on indigenous Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh as well as on the sovereign borders of the Republic of Armenia, with further loss of innocent lives and more prisoners taken.

Moreover, accountability for war crimes and other violations of international humanitarian and human rights law — repeatedly reported by Human Rights Watch, BBC, the Guardian and many other international media outlets — has not been achieved or pursued.

The 11th Assembly of the World Council of Churches (WCC), meeting in Karlsruhe, Germany,

APPEALS to the United Nations, the European Union and the authorities of Azerbaijan for the immediate release of all Armenian civilian hostages and POWs in accordance with international law.

REITERATES concern for holy sites and Armenian cultural heritage in the region, and urges UNESCO and all members of the international community to take all possible and appropriate measures to protect these sites.

CALLS for the start of meaningful dialogue for a just and peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict in the framework of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group.

REQUESTS the WCC and all member churches to remain engaged in Christian solidarity with the churches and people of Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh in their search for a just and sustainable peace.



INTERNATIONAL

How to Learn Western Armenian in Three Weeks – In Venice!

By **Mélanie Tuysuzian**

Special to the Mirror-Spectator

VENICE — For more than 30 years, the Padus-Araxes Cultural Association has organized an intensive summer course of Armenian in Venice, Italy. This program is open to individuals who are over 18-years old and interested in learning or improving



View from the Seminario Patriarcale

in Western Armenian. Every year, around 30 Armenians from the diaspora (and non-Armenians) gather in this European city with Armenian roots. It is a journey

of encounter and discovery, where all the cultures of the Armenian diaspora collide.

Classes usually start around 9 a.m., near the church of Santa Maria de la Salute, in the ancient building called the Seminario Patriarcale of Venice. To learn Western Armenian, four levels are established, from beginning to fluency. On the program are grammar, vocabulary, conjugation, declinations, and, for the most advanced participants, some classes of Armenian journalism and literature.

Rosine Tachdjian comes from France. She's a professional singer and works in an Armenian school in Paris. She has been teaching her course for 18 years now. "In three weeks, we tackle a one-year schedule of basic Western Armenian classes. It's really intense and complete," Rosine explained.

From Monday to Saturday mornings, the students also attend some classes in English to learn the history of the Armenians, with Raffi Setian from the United States, or on the old Classical Armenian language, or *Grabar*, taught by Benedetta Contin from Italy. These classes are offered in English so that everyone can understand both of these important topics.

Tamar Mangasar comes from Istanbul to take her place among the professors and teaches the second level of Armenian "I came here many times as a student, but this summer I came for the first time as a teacher and it was great," Tamar exclaimed. In the afternoon, some activities such as Armenian dance and duduk classes are offered, as well as lectures, movie projections or touristic visits. At the end of the stay, the participants must take an examination to determine their level and the increase of their Armenian skills.

Discovering a Worldwide Diaspora
In this huge group of students of all



The Seminario Patriarcale of Venice

ages and professions, the number of languages one hears each day is impressive. This summer, Emre, a 27-year-old German speaker, came from Austria with a scholarship to fulfill his college work and to grow closer to his Armenian roots. Veronica was from Mexico and wanted to learn the language of her grandfather. Aris, a student from Greece, just wanted to improve his Armenian, already learned through his family.

And what about Giovanni, from Italy? He's not even Armenian, but he has a major interest in the culture, and now that he has retired, he found time to learn another language. There is also Liz, from England, keen on learning the *duduk*. She was so proud of her performance after three weeks, thanks to the music teacher Aram Ipekjdian from Armenia.

Greg is from the United States (Detroit). He came with a good level of mastery of Armenian, which he wanted to perfect in order to speak with his children and future grandchildren. According to him, doing this course is a real opportunity to discover the diaspora. "I met people from France, Belgium, Germany and Hungary. It was a very international group. Coming from America, I don't have the opportunity to meet or talk with Armenians from different areas like that," he confessed.

Hearing different accents and languages is an essential part of these courses and a unique opportunity to exchange ideas with people you would never meet otherwise. During the three weeks, some evening meetings are scheduled to learn more about each culture and to share a meal, in the sweet Venetian twilight.

Venice Rich with Armenian History

Throughout the Venetian streets and islands, you can find many Armenian traces. The most famous example is the island of San Lazzaro degli Armeni (Sourp Ghazar). In the middle of the lagune, this small island has been home to the monastery of the Mekhitarists (Armenian Catholics)

since 1717. Over time, it grew into one of the world's most important centers of Armenian culture and studies. The very first book printed in Armenian was published by the monks of the island in 1512.

In its huge library, the monastery also harbors numerous Armenian paintings and more than 3,000 Armenian manuscripts, artifacts, and journals. Nowadays, this destination is becoming more popular with tourists, seduced by the history and tranquility of the place.

Venice also has its Armenian church, Santa Croce degli Armeni, near San Marco Place, which dates from the 13th century. Several Venetian historical buildings have belonged to Armenian families, such as the Zenobio Palace (also called the Palacio degli Armeni) in the Dorsoduro quarter. This palace was bought by the Armenian community at the end of the 19th century. In its old garden, some pomegranates are still growing, and the overall mood reminds us of Armenia's countryside. It was established as an Armenian college by the Mekhitarist fathers and continued as such until 1997.

This history is one of the reasons that pushed Archbishop Levon Zekian to found and direct the Padus-Arax Association in Venice thirty-six years ago. Another reason is because Venice is in the middle of Europe and therefore easy to travel to for most students. According to Archbishop Zekian and the members of Padus-Araxes, the Western Armenian language is in real danger of disappearance. Thus, not a year has passed without the summer program being taught, with the exception of the start of the recent pandemic. According to Zekian, this program is not ready to stop and will continue to gather together the Armenian diaspora.

For more information, here is the website of the Padus-Araxes Association: <https://www.padus-araxes.com/> You can also follow it on Facebook at www.facebook.com/VeniceArmenianProgram.



Armenian Community of UK Congratulates King Charles III, Offers Condolences

LONDON — Armand Abramian, chairman of the Armenian Community Council of the United Kingdom, sent a letter on September 12 to King Charles III, new sovereign of the United Kingdom, in honor of his succession, as well as offering condolences on the passing of his mother, Queen Elizabeth II.

He wrote, in part, "On behalf of the Armenian Community of the United Kingdom, may I offer my sincere condolences to Your Majesty, the Queen Consort and the members of the Royal Family for the demise of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. We all owe an immense debt of gratitude to her majesty for wholehearted devotion her life to her duties."

Community News

NAASR to Host Talk on 'Enforcing International Law' with Dr. Yeghishe Kirakosyan

BELMONT, Mass. — The National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) will host an in-person and online program, "Enforcing International Law: Challenges and Lessons," featuring Dr. Yeghishe Kirakosyan, Representative of the Republic of Armenia to the International Court of Justice, on Thursday, September 22, 2022, at 7:30 p.m., at the NAASR Vartan Gregorian Building, 395 Concord Ave., Belmont, MA.

This will be an in-person event and also presented online live via Zoom (Registration: <https://bit.ly/NAASR-Kirakosyan>) and YouTube (www.youtube.com/c/Armenian-Studies). For those attending in person, NAASR recommends the wearing of masks to prevent the spread of the Covid-19 virus.

In September 2021, the case of the Republic of Armenia vs. Azerbaijan was brought before the International Court of Justice, the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. This was the first case ever brought by the Armenia before the World Court.

The Armenian legal team argued that Azerbaijan violated the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination (CERD), engaging in state-sponsored violence and hate speech targeting



Dr. Yeghishe Kirakosyan

ethnic Armenians and desecrating Armenian cultural heritage. Following a counter-claim by Azerbaijan that sought to justify its unprovoked violence against Armenians, the court reached a historic decision against Azerbaijan on preliminary measures.

In this public forum, Kirakosyan will discuss the implications of this case and the court's ruling and share insights into the procedures of the International Court of Justice. Introductory remarks will be offered by Karnig Kerkonian, an international lawyer and professor of international law, who also serves on the Armenian delegation to the International Court of Justice in the case.

Kirakosyan is adviser to the prime minister and is also the representative of Armenia before the European Court of Human Rights. He has worked as an assistant to the prime minister and deputy minister of justice and is a lecturer in law at Yerevan State University. His research interests include international courts and arbitration, responsibility in international law, countermeasure and enforcement of international law.

For more information about this program, contact NAASR at hq@naasr.org.



Dn. Greg Kazanjian served as Poorvaragir, and Dn. Greg Zohrabian and Karo Boyadzhyan served as Kushotsagirs at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre

St. Nersess Deacons' Training Program In Jerusalem

ARMONK, N.Y. — The long-awaited pilgrimage to Jerusalem, postponed from 2020, took place August 1-15. With the blessing of Archbishop Nourhan Manougian, the Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem, 10 altar servers from both the Eastern and Western Dioceses gathered at St. Nersess Armenian Seminary for the journey of a lifetime. Fr. Mardiros Chevian, dean, selected and led the group of deacons and sub-deacons to study the most integral week of the Armenian liturgical calendar, *Avak Shapat*, at the seminary of the Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem.

Their journey began with overnight orientation at St. Nersess, including daily worship services; an overview of Holy Thursday and Good Friday services by Dn. Alex Calikyan, a 2019 graduate; an explanation of entry procedures into Israel by Fr. Mardiros; and a viewing of the film *From Ararat to Zion*. The participants spent time getting to know each other and preparing for their journey before departing from JFK airport on August 1. When they arrived in Tel Aviv the following day, Chevian and the ten pilgrims made their way to the Armenian Patriarchate in Jerusalem where they lodged for the entire two weeks at the seminary.

On their first full day and every morning during their trip, the group attended *Jhamerkootiun* and experienced the awe and splendor of Sts. James Cathedral with its beautiful icons and hundreds of oil lanterns suspended from the ceiling. After a tour of the Armenian Patriarchate, the group was received at the residence of the Patriarch, Archbishop Manougian, who spent time answering questions and explaining the importance of Armenians making pilgrimage to the Holy Land of Jerusalem.

As part of the daily itinerary, the group received instruction from Very Rev. Kevork Hayrabedian each morning to learn the *sharagans* of Avak Heengshapti and Avak Oorpaht (Holy Thursday and Friday) — the two days of *Avak Shapat* they concentrated on learning.

During the first week of excursions, the group first toured the newly renovated
see DEACONS, page 7



Daily liturgical instruction from Hayr Kevork Hayrabedian

Armenian Assembly's Terjenian-Thomas Summer Internship Is More than Politics

WASHINGTON — The Armenian Assembly of America is a family affair for Alex Karapetian, who met his wife Leslie during the Assembly's Terjenian-Thomas Summer Internship Program in 2002, and currently serves as an Assembly Board member as he strives to continue his family legacy with the organization.

"It was a fantastic experience to not only work on Capitol Hill and be part of the change, but also to meet a dynamic group of motivated young Armenian American professionals from all over the world," said Alex, who interned for then-Pennsylvania Congressman and current Senator Pat Toomey (R-PA).

He vividly remembers the energy of working on the Hill alongside "policymakers and change-makers" and building "irreplaceable" lifelong friendships that were made possible through the Internship Program.

Complementing the interns' work on the Hill, Alex highlighted the social and educational events that the Assembly organized on a weekly basis - from meetings with Senator Ted



Leslie Azarian Karapetian and Alex Karapetian

Kennedy (D-MA) to Congressman Adam Schiff (D-CA) - while attending local Armenian events, including a barbecue at longtime Assembly Board Member and supporter Annie Totah's house, and a summer festival at St. Mary Armenian Church in Washington D.C.

"The real takeaway from that summer was that I met my wife Leslie," said Alex. "She was my next door neighbor and now we have three sons who we hope will also join the Assembly's Summer Internship Program when they come of age."

Family history takes centerstage for both Alex and Leslie, whose families have been involved with the Assembly since its inception in 1972. In addition to philanthropic endeavors, their families also participated in key milestones for the Assembly, such as when Alex's aunt and uncle, Jeff and Helen Acopian, traveled to Armenia as part of the Assembly's first mission trip to the homeland in the early 1990s. His cousin, Ani Acopian, was also a former intern. Leslie's grandmother and grandfather, Barbara and Sam Hagopian, were involved as Board Members, and led the Assembly's Western Region from their home base in Texas. Leslie's uncle,

continued on next page



COMMUNITY NEWS

Terjenian-Thomas Summer Internship Is More than Politics



Karapetian Family: Alex, Leslie, Teddy, Nicholas and Zachary

from previous page

Sam Hagopian II, her cousin, Raffi Manoukian, and her three brothers also participated in the Assembly's Summer Internship Program.

"I feel very close to the Assembly and I felt I had to give back because the organization has done so much for Armenia and

Penn. and Melbourne, Fla.

Aside from his service to the Assembly, Alex also serves as a Member of the Board of Directors at Notre Dame High School, president of the Alumni Association at Lafayette College, Lafayette College Board of Trustees Committee Member, and former Board Member of Armenia Fund, USA.



Alex with his brothers-in-law who all participated in the Assembly's Summer Internship Program: Adam Azarian '09, Alex Karapetian '02, Michael Azarian '05, Alex Azarian '14

the diaspora, whether through securing humanitarian aid, promoting public awareness, and supporting legislation," said Alex. "As the third generation involved in the Assembly, it is my duty to pay it forward, because without the Assembly's efforts and relationship-building on Capitol Hill, we can't further our agenda and initiatives for Armenia."

In his professional career, Alex serves as President of Acopian Technical Company, a third-generation, family-run and operated business that manufactures electronics power supplies with locations in Easton,

Born in Los Angeles, Alex attended the Vahan and Anoush Chamlian Armenian School until his family moved to Easton, where he graduated from Lafayette College in 2004. He later received his graduate degree from New York University in 2009.

"The Assembly brings urgent Armenian-related issues to the forefront and does an amazing job of educating the diaspora to help them get involved and become aware of the issues," said Alex. "I see a promising future for Armenia and the organization itself. Needless to say, the Armenian Assembly of America changed my entire life."

St. Nersess Deacons' Training Program in Jerusalem

DEACONS, from page 6

Mardigian Museum, which will house even more artifacts upon its completion; the Gulbenkian Library where they were allowed to view two 10th-century manuscripts; and met the academic director of the Sts. Tarkmanchatz School, currently under renovation, and learned about the important role the school plays in educating the Armenian youth in the Armenian Quarter of Jerusalem. The group had the opportunity to play on multiple occasions during their stay, friendly soccer and volleyball matches with the local youth, creating new friendships and bonds.

Many afternoons, the pilgrims were present for the 3 p.m. *Jhamerkootiun* at Sts. James Cathedral. On one day, they toured the Soorp Purgich Convent where over the years, many Patriarchs have been entombed, the most notable of whom for the group were Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan and Archbishop Torkom Manoogian. They gathered around their tombs and performed a *Hokehankisd* service.

They traveled through the Zion Gate of the old city of Jerusalem and visited and prayed in the "Upper Room" where Jesus and the Apostles had "The Last Supper" and where Jesus washed the feet of the Apostles. There they sang *sharagans* and had a bible study.

Also, they visited the Garden of Gethsemane and Church of St. Mary's Tomb, as well as the Armenian section of the Garden of Gethsemane where they conducted bible study. They also toured the Christian Quarter and the "Stations of the Cross," concluding at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre,

where they saw the Armenian, Catholic and Greek sections and participated in the Armenian Tapor.

On the weekend of August 6 and 7, the group traveled to the Church of the Beatitudes, where Jesus preached the Sermon on the Mount. They took a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee, where Chevian instructed the captain to stop the boat, cut the engines, and drift in the middle of the Sea. He read the Bible passage about Jesus' miracle, "The Calming of the Storm," after which the boat returned to shore.

For Sunday Badarak, they crossed the border to Palestine and visited the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. Prior to touring the multiple Armenian altars and underground excavation that is believed to be the place where the Bible was first translated into Latin, the group participated in the Badarak, on the actual site of Christ's birth. Two participants - Dn. Garen Megrdichian and Michael Connors — served as *Kushotsagirs*.

The following week, the group traveled to churches in Nazareth, Cana, Ein Kerem and Jaffa, with a short stop to experience the warm waters of the Mediterranean Sea. A highlight was experiencing the River Jordan, the baptismal site of Christ by John the Baptist. Deacons Mark Krikorian and Greg Zohrabian were chosen to be Godfathers for the *Choororhnek* Service based on their birthdays being closest to the day of the visit to the baptismal site. All the participants put their feet into the sacred waters. They then moved on to the Mount of Temptations, where Jesus spent 40 days and nights overcoming temptation, and to



Pilgrims with Archbishop Nourhan Manougian and Rev. Fr. Mardiros Chevian

Jericho, the oldest known city in the world. A leisurely afternoon at the Dead Sea was enjoyed by all.

On August 14, they awoke early to prepare for a 4 am *Badarak* at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. The beauty of the Sepulchre in the early morning light was absolutely stunning. The group wore *shab-igs* and sang the choir parts that filled the Cathedral with their beautiful voices. Deacons Greg Zohrabian and Karo Boyadzhyan served as *Kushotsagirs*, and Deacon Greg Kazanjian as *Poorvaragir*. Having the opportunity to celebrate the Holy Badarak at such a revered and historic site was an incredible experience for all. Later that morning, they attended Badarak at Sts. James Cathedral, which was presided by Archbishop Nourhan Manougian who at the conclusion, blessed grapes. The bold and the brave met

at Razouk's Tattoo shop to memorialize the pilgrimage with a traditional haji.

Before departing for the airport, time was spent with the Patriarch to thank him again and bid their farewells. Karo Boyadzhyan and Jack Hamparian spoke beautifully on behalf of the group in both Armenian and English.

All 10 participants, under Chevian's leadership, had the experience of a lifetime, as they shared their faith, heritage, and emotions, with a common thread — their love for the Armenian Church. The program was funded by the following donors: Mr. and Mrs. Edward Mardigian, Mr. David and Dr. Myrna Onanian, Mr. and Mrs. Gregory and Meline Toufayan, and Dale Chakarian Turza. For more photos and to read the reflections from each participant, go to www.stnersess.edu.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Small But Mighty St. Louis Church Gets Support from Church Fund

By Stephan S. Nigohosian

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — The strength of a parish lies not in its total number of parishioners, but rather in each person's steadfast dedication to their Christian faith and the fellowship they share with one another. There is perhaps no greater example of this than Holy Shoghagat Armenian Church, which has served the Armenian community of Greater St. Louis for decades. Though it is comparatively one of the smaller parishes in the Eastern Diocese, its stature is among the largest when considering the dedication of its members. Notably, the parish's former pastor, the Very Rev. Mesrop Parsamyan, was elected Primate of the Eastern Diocese at the most recent Diocesan Assembly.

Yet, despite its positive attributes, Holy Shoghagat has unfortunately faced the same financial challenges as many other Diocesan parishes. The Covid-19 pandemic lockdown, challenging economic times and the passing of older donors are a few of the reasons behind a decrease in donations. Faced with the challenge of meeting their operating expenses, Holy Shoghagat's Parish Council met with representatives of the Armenian Church Endowment Fund (ACEF) earlier this year to explore possible solutions.

"ACEF made it very easy to understand investing in the Fund and they answered every question we had with professionalism and proficiency," said Paul Nersesian, the parish's operations manager. "As a result, they earned our confidence and we invested \$425,000 to establish six named endowments in the fund, each having a specific purpose to create an income stream for the church. It takes a little bit of the pressure off



Worshippers gathered at the Holy Shoghagat Armenian Church

our Parish Council to keep raising funds every year in a smaller community." One such investment, called The Memorial Fund, invests all of the "in lieu of flowers" donations gifted to the church from the 1980s through

the present. "As a result of their generosity, parishioners who have passed away still support our church in perpetuity with the financial returns we receive from investing their donations with ACEF," Nersesian add-

ed.

Parish Council Chairperson Maggie Norisgian Colliflower describes the revenue generated from investing in the ACEF Fund as a type of financial "safety net" that will help cover the church's day-to-day operating expenses, as well as fund sizeable building renovations. "Our church is an older building, and expensive items like replacing the roof crop up and need to be addressed," she said. "Our investment in the Fund will provide us with the cash flow needed to make these kinds of repairs."

The parish's current pastor, Fr. Voskan Hovhannisyan, describes Holy Shoghagat church as satisfying two basic needs for its parishioners: a spiritual homeland and a material homeland.

"One of our parishioners expressed a very beautiful and profound thought that I will never forget: 'Without the church we are nothing, and with the church we are everything.' This is the spirit and phenomenon of our parish," he said. "Many miles away from our historical homeland, after the Armenian Genocide, our church has become a tangible and national homeland, preserving our national image, culture and traditions."

Parsamyan's comments regarding his former parish eloquently reflect on its deep history and eye toward the future: "Families are the heart and soul of Holy Virgin Mary and Shoghagat parish. You can sense the joy of grandparents and parents when they see that they have managed, in spite of so many challenges, to pass the faith along to the next generation."



Holy Shoghagat Armenian Church in St. Louis, MO

Nardolillo Funeral Home

Est. 1906

John K. Najarian, Jr.

Rhode Island's Only Licensed Armenian Funeral Director

1278 Park Ave. Cranston, RI 02910 (401) 942-1220

1111 Boston Neck Rd. Narragansett, RI 02882 (401) 789-6300

www.nardolillo.com

Giragosian

F U N E R A L

H O M E

James "Jack" Giragosian, CPC

Mark J. Giragosian

Funeral Counselors

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

www.giragosianfuneralhome.com



COMMUNITY NEWS

Caucasus Heritage Watch Reports Near-Total Erasure of Armenian Heritage Sites

DESTRUCTION, from page 1
 “Cultural heritage faces more significant threats right now than ever before, from economic development to climate change. But the most serious threat to heritage comes from autocratic governments ready to reshape the past into a fiction that legitimates their domination,” Smith said.

illuminated manuscripts now held in museums.
 To identify the locations of the destroyed sites, the researchers turned to scholarly surveys of the region’s architectural history. They compared this source material with declassified U.S. satellite images from the 1970s and 1980s, Soviet maps from

poor condition they weren’t recognized as Armenian.
 Satellite evidence allowed the team to establish the timeframe for the destruction of every site in their database, with greater or lesser precision depending on the availability of satellite imagery. The evidence suggests that the campaign of erasure began in 1997 and was largely completed by 2009. In some cases, such as the Saint Tovma Monastery of Agulis, the buildings were replaced by mosques or other civic buildings.
 The new report on Nakhichevan, released Sept. 12, complements CHW’s parallel effort to monitor at-risk heritage sites in real time.
 From the deliberate destruction of synagogues in the Holocaust to the demolition of mosques in Bosnia Herzegovina in the 1990s, state-organized destruction of cultural heritage has plenty of precedents. The erasure of the Armenian sites in Nakhichevan is particularly troubling, the researchers say, because Azerbaijan has gone to great lengths to keep their policy of heri-

tage erasure secret.
 “Azerbaijan has been destroying sites clandestinely,” Khatchadourian said. “It’s a state secret. So unlike ISIS, or the Taliban, which made a big spectacle out of their form of heritage destruction, Azerbaijan does not want to be known as a state that sponsors cultural erasure. They spent a lot of money on UNESCO trying to brand Azerbaijan as a land of tolerance even as they undertook a systematic program of heritage demolition.”
 While cultural erasure in Nakhichevan shows the limits of how organizations like UNESCO can respond to violations committed by member states within their own sovereign territory, the team’s method of “heritage forensics” may provide a template for documenting attacks on cultural heritage elsewhere.
 CHW’s research is supported by the Aragats Foundation, Cornell and Purdue Universities, the Armenian General Benevolent Union and the Institute of Armenian Studies at the University of Southern California.



St. Hovhannes Church of Chahuk (built in the 12th or 13th century and renovated in the 17th and 19th centuries) was destroyed between 1997 and 2009, as documented in a new report from Caucasus Heritage Watch.

“Luckily, there are also new tools for researchers to uncover the facts that counter these fictions.”
 The researchers have built an interactive web platform that provides detailed historical background for each site and also allows users to swipe between images from “before” and “after.” For some sites, such as the Holy Mother of God church in Ramis, satellite imagery captured the destruction in progress.

Geographically, Nakhchivan is a 2,125-square-mile province sandwiched between Armenia, Turkey and Iran and an exclave of Azerbaijan – which lies further east, on the far side of Armenia. The region had been inhabited for centuries by a multicultural mix of Armenian, Turkic and Persian communities. But increasing ethnic tensions led to the exodus of Armenians from the province over the course of the Soviet period, leaving behind a rich cultural legacy of historic monasteries, churches and ancestral cemeteries.

As the Soviet Union was unraveling, Armenian and Azerbaijani forces clashed over the mountainous Nagorno-Karabakh region. Armenian separatists secured control over the disputed region (which Armenians call Artsakh) until September 2020, when Azerbaijan launched a military offensive, regaining much of the land.

Many of the cultural sites were significant architectural monuments. The Monastery of St. Tovma in the village of Agulis, an important ecclesiastical center of medieval Armenia, featured exquisite frescoes and inscriptions. St. Nshan Monastery of Bist was a well-known medieval cultural center with a scriptorium that produced

St. Karapet Monastery of Abrakunis (N.287) Nakhchivan, Azerbaijan



Satellite images from the Caucasus Heritage Watch

the 1930s to 1990s, and more recent satellite imagery, all of which enabled them to construct a meticulous visual timeline that shows the gradual eradication of cultural heritage sites.

“Since these cultural heritage monuments are no longer on the landscape, and since the government of Azerbaijan denies that they ever existed in the first place, it required painstaking forensic work just to find their precise geographic coordinates,” said Khatchadourian, who noted the uniqueness of incorporating spatial data from both sides of the Cold War’s so-called “Iron Curtain.”

Of the 110 identified sites, the researchers documented the total destruction of 108, or 98%. The two remaining sites – a small cemetery and a chapel – possibly evaded notice because they were in such

Tekeyan Cultural Association, Inc.

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

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

Watertown, MA, July 20, 2022

Telephone (617) 924-7400

**Aram Bedrosian
Funeral Home, Inc.**

Continuous Service By The Bedrosian Family Since 1945

558 MOUNT AUBURN STREET
WATERTOWN, MA 02472

MARION BEDROSIAN
PAUL BEDROSIAN
LARRY BEDROSIAN



COMMUNITY NEWS

CYSCA Marks 35 Years of Friendship

Story and Photos by Ken Martin
Special to the Mirror-Spectator

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — Light from a late summer full moon shone on Cambridge City Hall where Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui invited the public to the Sullivan Chamber on September 8 to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the founding of the Cambridge-Yerevan Sister City Association (CYSCA).

In 1985, Armenia was still part of the Soviet Union, when the Cambridge City Council and the Cambridge Peace Commission founded the CYSCA, as a partnership between the citizens of Cambridge and Yerevan. They wanted to foster friendship, mutual trust and dynamic interaction between the peoples of the two countries and their neighboring regions. The primary idea was to counter misinformation and images of the Soviet Union and its people as an “Evil Empire,” the now-infamous description of the USSR by President Ronald Reagan in 1983.

In 1986, a delegation from Cambridge traveled to the Soviet Republic of Armenia with former mayor and then City Councilor Frank Duehay to present a formal proposal to Mayor Arakel Avakian of Yerevan for the two cities to become Sister Cities. A year later the Yerevan mayor and an Armenian delegation traveled to Cambridge to formalize the agreement. Since the end of the USSR the Cambridge – Yerevan connection has remained strong with scientific, educational, and art and youth exchanges.

Brian Carr, executive director of the Cambridge Peace Commission, was the master of ceremonies for the 35th Anniversary event. He introduced Sevan Dulgarian, a graduate of the University of Massachusetts Amherst Commonwealth Honors College to sing *the Star Spangled Banner* and Alla Petrosyan from the Boston Children’s Chorus to sing *Mer Hairenik* (Our Fatherland), the Armenian National Anthem, and later the song *Erebuni* (the name of ancient Yerevan). Carr wants to discuss future projects.



Participants at the CYSCA anniversary program.

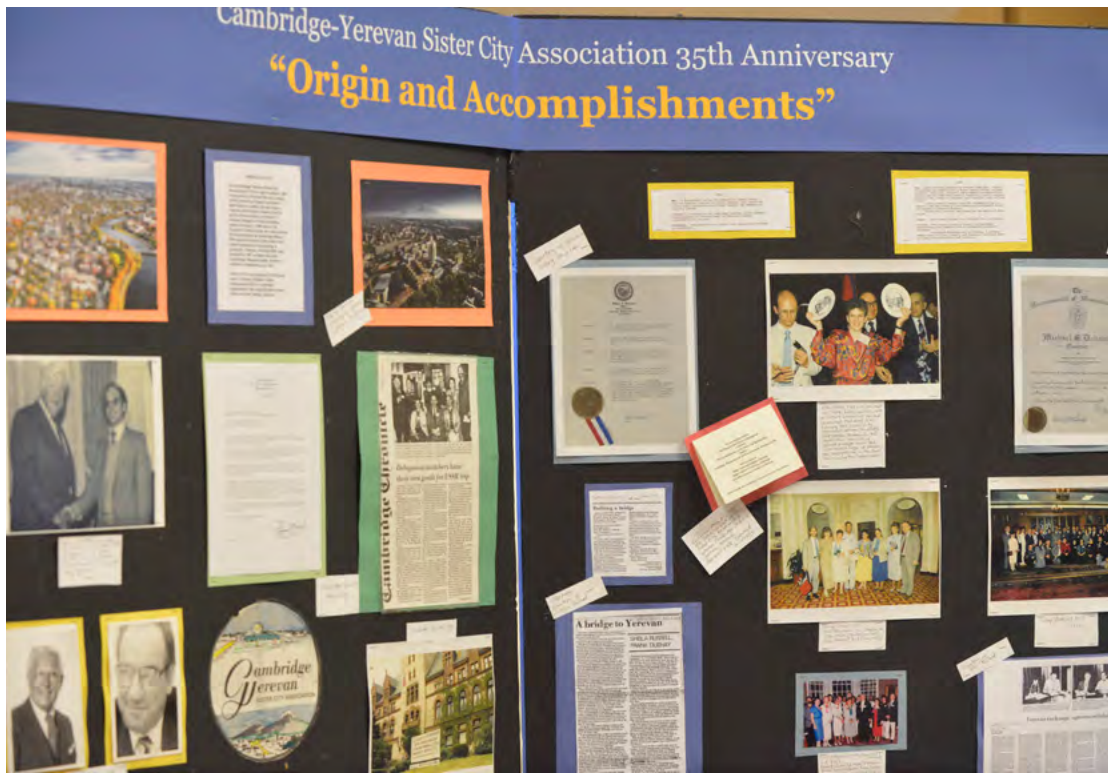
an, a graduate of the University of Massachusetts Amherst Commonwealth Honors College to sing *the Star Spangled Banner* and Alla Petrosyan from the Boston Children’s Chorus to sing *Mer Hairenik* (Our Fatherland), the Armenian National Anthem, and later the song *Erebuni* (the name of ancient Yerevan). Carr wants to discuss future projects.

Siddiqui welcomed the evenings participants and congratulated the CYSCA on 35 years as one of the most amazing partnerships.

Patty Nolan, former school committee member and current City Councilor, who married into an Armenian family, spoke briefly about Armenian history and culture, hosting visitors from Armenia, why

CYSCA is so relevant because the organization make connections, celebrates community, and keeps connections of the years between Cambridge and Yerevan.

Ellen Mass, a member of the CYSCA Board of Directors and one of the founders thought it strange to be present after all this time. The Cold War had ended during Mayor Avakian’s time and together they



Eva Medzoryan



Brian Carr Cambridge Peace Commissioner



City Councilor Patty Nolan and Eva Medzoryan



Alla Petrosyan, Boston Children’s chorus member, Mer Hayrenik

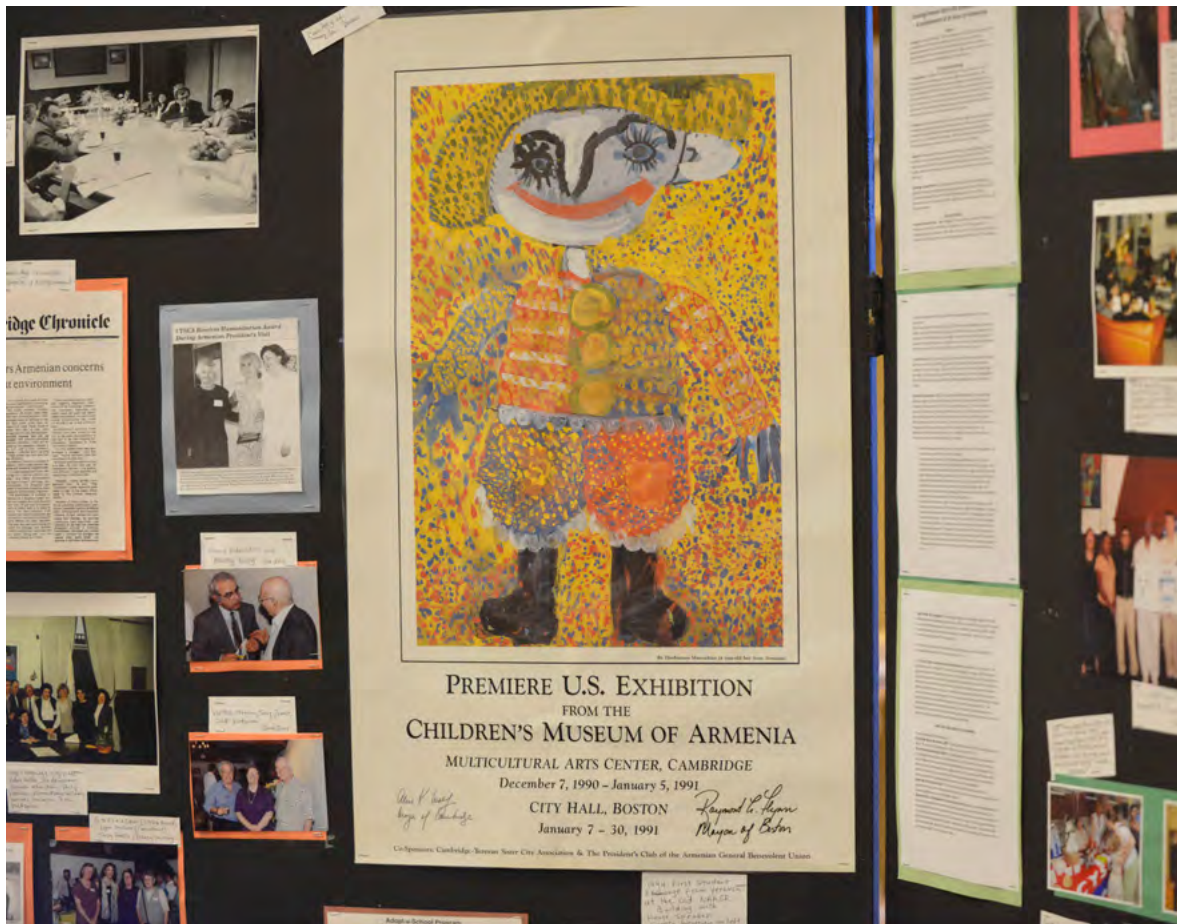


Cambridge Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui



COMMUNITY NEWS

Between Cambridge and Yerevan



Judy Saryan and other attendees at the CYSCA program

hoped to help international relations. Ellen mentioned former City Councilor Attorney David Wiley who work with diplomatic work and was in attendance.

Mass said that Mayor Francis Duehay did great things and that CYSCA succeeded in making peace not war, temporarily though. None-the-less cultural exchanges took place proving that people-to-people diplomacy is the only way to go to foster greater understanding between peoples. Ellen said she felt right and thankful for sharing some of her lifetime with Armenians working towards peace.

Ivan Bath, another founder, spoke about the first delegation from Cambridge in 1986 and from Yerevan in 1987. He remembered Mayor Avakian visiting Cambridge Schools and the agreement for biannual festivals including an event at the Longy School in Cambridge and how not long after the was a treaty between the U.S. and the USSR, to reduce nuclear weapons. He feels that everyone needs to re-commit to peace and the peace movement.

Former Peace Corp and CYSCA member Jennifer Bonislawski spoke about her time



ԹԵՔԵՅԱՆ ՄՇԱԿՈՒԹԱՅԻՆ ՄԻՈՒԹԻՒՆ
ՄԵՏԱԳՈՅՆ ԼՈՍ ԱՆՃԵԼԵՍԻ ՄԱՍՆԱՃԻՐ

Tekeyan Cultural Association
Metro Los Angeles Chapter

Presents

AN
EVENING
OF COMEDY III
Featuring

**HAROUT
SOGHOMONIAN**

Guest Appearance
**Tsoghig
Samuelian**



Special Guest
Appearance
antic



Saturday, October 8, 2022

7:30 PM Cocktails • 8 PM Dinner • 9:00 PM Program • 11 PM International Singer Koko Hayitian
Phoenicia Restaurant • 343 N. Central Ave., Glendale, CA

Admission \$100 • For reservations please call or text 818.730.1100
Contact • info@TekeyanLA.org for group seating (12 per table)
Tickets must be pre-purchased • No tickets will be sold at the door

 facebook.com/TekeyanLA  [@TekeyanLA](https://www.instagram.com/TekeyanLA)



CYSCA President Roxanne Etmekjian presents a certificate of appreciation to member Nancy Kalajian

spent in the Martuni area working with children and Lou Zikaris spoke as well.

A member of the first Armenian delegation to Cambridge, Esther Demirchian, Director of the City of Smile child cancer organization in Yerevan spoke about her early experience in Cambridge via a video recording.

A musical interlude followed violinist Emilya Gasparyan who performed Caprice no. 24 by Niccolò Paganini

Longtime member and founder Eva Medzorian in her comments mentioned that so much was lost because her husband, Jack, a great supporter of CYSCA, had died not long ago, and that she knew he was at the meeting in spirit, observing.

Closing remarks were offered by Roxanne Etmekjian, president of CYSCA, who thanked Mayor Siddiqui and the Peace Commissioner as well as Vache Sargysyan and everyone for making the 35th Anniversary of CYSCA possible.

Arts & Culture

NAASR to Host Webinar On Armenian Treasures of Romania

The Ararat-Eskijian Museum, the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR), and the Narekatsi Chair in Armenian Studies at UCLA, will present a webinar on Tuesday, September 20, 2022, at 12:00 noon (Eastern Time) / 9:00 am (Pacific), “Armenian Treasures in Romania,” with Dr. Levon Chookaszian, Bishop Tatev Hakobyan, Hrair Hawk Khatcherian and Dr. Claude Mutfian.

The webinar will be accessible live on Zoom (registration required)



Church of St. Mary, Botosani, Romania by Hawk Khatcherian

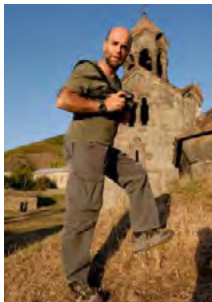
and on NAASR's YouTube Channel. To register go to <https://bit.ly/NAASR-Romania>.

The illustrated volume *Armenian Treasures in Romania (Patrimoniul Eparhiei Armene din România)* was published in 2020 and contains photographs of Armenian churches, architectural monuments, icons, manuscripts, silver crosses, mugs, manuscripts, dishes and other accessories, kept in Armenian churches, libraries, and museums in Romania.

Dr. Levon Chookaszian is the Chair of Armenian Art History and Theory at Yerevan State University whose publications include studies of T'oros Roslin and Arshag Fetvadjian. Bishop Tatev Hakobyan is the Primate of the Armenian Diocese of Romania. English translation of Bishop Tatev's remarks will be provided by Prof. S. Peter Cowe, Narekatsi Chair in Armenian Studies at UCLA.

Hrair Hawk Khatcherian is a renowned photographer whose work includes the collections *Armenia: Heaven on Earth: A Hawk's-Eye View of Armenia* and *Artsakh: A Photographic Journey*. Dr. Claude Mutfian is the author of many books about various topics concerning Armenia, including *La Saga des Arméniens de l'Ararat aux Carpates*.

For more information contact NAASR at hq@naasr.org.



Gilda (Buchakjian) Kupelian

Western Armenian A Call to Love, A Call to Learn (And Yes, It Can Be Done!)

By Elise Antreassian

NEW YORK — In 2010, UNESCO declared Western Armenian an endangered language, which, by their definition, was a language likely to become extinct in the near future because its speakers cease to use it or pass it on to the next generation. The backstory is familiar: As vital Armenian communities (Ottoman Turkey, Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, and elsewhere) were upended by war, revolution, oppression, or economic distress, the places where Western Armenian once thrived began to wane.

But well before the alarm sounded in 2010, Gilda (Buchakjian) Kupelian was more than aware of the urgency of the matter. She had already been long engaged in keeping the legacy of Western Armenian culture alive and thriving. It was at first simply the natural course for a young woman in Beirut, an important center of Armenian life. She was born and grew up there, attending the Armenian Evangelical College, and then Haigazian University, the only Armenian institution of higher learning in the diaspora. Pulitzer Prize winner William Saroyan was her graduation keynote speaker. Fresh out of college, after a short stint writing for the *Middle East Sketch* magazine, she was hired for the position of the Fine and Performing Arts Librarian at the JFK Cultural Center of the US Embassy.

She attributes the love for her heritage to her beloved parents, Dikran, a jeweler and son of Aintabtsi Genocide survivors, and her Lebanese mother, Laurice, who learned Armenian to speak impeccably and made sure her son, Serge, and daughter would not only learn Armenian but Arabic, French, and English, as well. After the Lebanese civil war, her family moved to America, where she eventually married and raised three daughters, all of whom speak Armenian and have their own well-informed sense of who they are and how knowing things Armenian is of immeasurable value.

Her background naturally led to a life's work when Kupelian assumed two long-time positions in New York City as director of Armenian Education/Studies, first at the Armenian Prelacy and then at the Armenian Diocese. Both jobs entailed working with Armenian schools (developing curriculum, training teachers, providing resources) in addition to producing programs and publishing materials for adults and parish use. Resources - *Let's Speak Armenian* and the *Practical Heritage Dictionary* among many others, special events such as the celebration at Monmouth University of the inception of the Armenian Alphabet, youth-centered projects, including the popular Armenian Jeopardy, and pedagogical sessions for teachers with preeminent scholars such as sociolinguist Prof. Joshua Fishman, language specialists Dr. Shushan Karapetian, Dr. Hilda Kalfayan, Dr. Ani Bakalian, Artoun Hamalian, and literati Dr. Vahe Oshagan, Dr. Herand Markarian, Aram Arkun, and Diaspora poet par excellence, Vehanoush Tekian, all garnered much excitement and interest in Armenian Studies.

Although a staunch advocate of Armenian language and literature, Gilda belies the fiery crusader stereotype. Rather it is with an Old-World reserve and soft-spoken manner that she manages to persuade many an Armenian to learn the language of their hearts. “Language is such an important tool to understanding the ethos of a culture. To be able to communicate in the language that connects Armenians all over the world and

see LANGUAGE, page 14

Liz Chater Researching Enthusiastically the Armenians in Asia

By Artsvi Bakhchinyan

Special to the Mirror-Spectator

YEREVAN // SOUTHAMPTON, UK — Liz Chater is an avid researcher of Armenian family history and genealogy in India and South East Asia. She is an author of books: *A Prominent Armenian from Calcutta and the Grand Old Man of Hong Kong: Sir Catchick Paul Chater: A Brief Biography* (2005), *Armenian Graves, Inscriptions and Memorials in India – Dacca – 1722-1977* (2011), *Symondsbury Dorset Cemetery Memorials and Inscriptions* (2012), *Eype Dorset, St. Peter's Churchyard Memorials and Inscriptions* (2012) and *Marble Hall Hong Kong - A Pictorial Review and other Residences Associated with Sir Catchick Paul Chater* (2012). Liz Chater runs her blog (<http://chater-genealogy.blogspot.com/>) with rich textual and visual information on Armenians in India. Its headline states: “Highlighting some of the lesser known, but just as important past Armenian characters in India. Those Armenians who have some sort of connection, or maybe simply buried in Calcutta and other locations in India, I re-create their lives and put them into short stories, at least as much as I am able to. The Armenians of India are unique and their stories need to be told. I hope this blog goes a little way to telling those stories.”

Liz, I am fascinated by your activities revealing the history of Armenian families and institutions of India and South East Asia. Your family name is associated with Hong Kong-based Indian Armenian businessman Sir Catchick Paul Chater, who was called the “richest and most generous man of China.” Any family connection?



Thank you for your kind words and observations. I am so passionate about Armenian family history in Asia and think it is incredibly important to not only remember the history of Armenians who once lived there, but to try and tell their stories. By doing this we can help to keep Armenian history alive and prominent, the Armenian footprints in Asia should not be allowed to fade. This is why I do what I do. There is a distant connection to Sir Paul Chater, but you know, we should also remember other equally important and prominent Armenians from India, contemporaries to Sir Paul. J. C. Galstaun of Kolkata, a generous property magnate, whose charitable and philanthropic actions towards

see RESEARCHER, page 14



ARTS & CULTURE

Prof. Anna Ohanyan to Present Talk on New Book

BELMONT, Mass. — The National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) will host an in-person and online lecture by Prof. Anna Ohanyan on her new publication, *The Neighborhood Effect: The Imperial Roots of Regional Fracture in Eurasia*, on Thursday, September 29, at 7:30 p.m., at the NAASR Vartan Gregorian Building, 395 Concord Ave. The program will be presented as the 3rd Annual Prof. Charles B. Garabedian Lecture at NAASR.

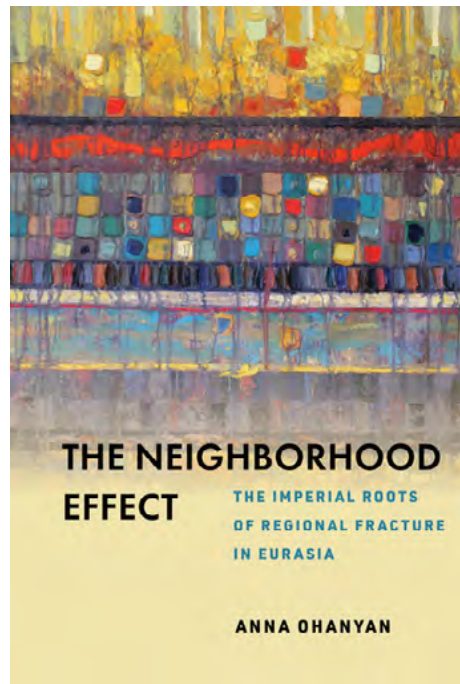
Why are certain regions of the world mired in conflict? And how did some regions in Eurasia emerge from the Cold War as peaceful and resilient? Why do conflicts ignite in Bosnia, Donbas, and Damascus — once on the peripheries of mighty empires — yet other postimperial peripheries like the Baltics or Central Europe enjoy quiet stability?

In *The Neighborhood Effect: The Imperial Roots of Regional Fracture in Eurasia* (Stanford Univ. Press, 2022), Ohanyan argues for the salience of the neighborhood effect: the complex regional connectivity among ethnic-religious communities that can form resilient regions. She examines case studies from regions once on the fringes of the Habsburg, Ottoman and Russian Empires to find the often-overlooked patterns of bonding and bridging, or clustering and isolation of political power and social resources, that are associated with regional resilience or fracture in those regions today.

Ohanyan is the Richard B. Finnegan Distinguished Professor of Political Science & International Relations at Stonehill College, a Nonresident Senior Scholar at

the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace/Russia and Eurasia Program, and a two-time Fulbright Scholar to South Caucasus. Ohanyan founded the Global Development and Security Studies Program at Stonehill and served as the chair of the Political Science & International Studies Department from 2014 to 2017. She is the 2022 recipient of the Michael Horne Award for Distinguished Faculty Scholarship at Stonehill and is a member of the NAASR Board of Directors.

She has authored and co-authored five books, including *Armenia's Velvet Revolution: Authoritarian Decline and Civil Resistance in a Multipolar World* (I. B. Tauris,



Prof. Anna Ohanyan

2020), *Russia Abroad: Driving Regional Fracture in Post-Communist Eurasia and Beyond* (Georgetown Univ. Press, 2018), and *Networked Regionalism as Conflict Management* (Stanford Univ. Press, 2015.)

The Neighborhood Effect is available for purchase from the NAASR Bookstore.

Professor Charles B. Garabedian (1917-1991) was born in Everett, Mass., and graduated magna cum laude from Everett High School and Tufts University (A.B. English and History). He attended Harvard Law School and graduated magna cum laude from Boston University Law School. During World War II he served in the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), and in the late 1940s he began his teaching career at Suffolk University Law School. His

expertise was tort litigation and damages, courses which he continuously taught at Suffolk University Law School for over 40 years. At the time of his death, Garabedian was the senior faculty professor at Suffolk University Law School. The annual lecture in his memory has been established at NAASR by Prof. Garabedian's niece, NAASR Board Member Joan E. Kolligian.

This will be an in-person event and also presented online live via Zoom (Registration: <https://bit.ly/NAASR-Ohanyan>) and YouTube (www.youtube.com/c/Armenian-Studies). For those attending in person, NAASR recommends the wearing of masks to prevent the spread of the Covid-19 virus.

For more information about this program, contact NAASR at hq@naasr.org.

Sayat Nova Dance Company of Boston to Celebrate 35th Anniversary

BOSTON — As our communities recover from an epidemic that has pained many families, threatened our ways of life, and irreversibly changed the way we conduct affairs and events, the Sayat Nova Dance Company of Boston (SNDC) wants to salute the resilience and focus of our community organizations that continue to carry the torch of our nation and her people.

On the weekend of October 8, SNDC will celebrate 35 years of existence within the community fabric of Boston. A grand achievement for sure, some perspective al-

lows one to fully measure the significance of this anniversary celebration. In 1986, the world was a very different place which saw the Chernobyl nuclear plant accident, the Challenger Space Shuttle disaster, as well as the first initial public offering of a small start-up company called Microsoft.

SNDC was formed in January 1986 as an independent, non-profit dance ensemble under the direction of Apo Ashjian. With his leadership and the efforts of a handful of dedicated individuals, the company began its journey of bringing young, talent-



ed individuals together from all ages and backgrounds to join in bringing Armenian folk dance to life. The company takes its name from the famous 18th century troubadour whose beautiful music and poetry captures the essence of the Armenian soul and spirit. As part of a rich culture, Armenian folk dancing is a reflection of life and the legacy of the Armenian people.

On Saturday, October 8, there will be a performance at 7 p.m. at the Eleanor Welch Casey Theatre at Regis College in Weston. On Sunday, October 9, there will be a gala banquet at 6 p.m. at the Castle, Framingham Sheraton, featuring Gohar Hovhannissyan and band.

Visit www.sayatnova.com/35th-anniversary for tickets and more information. You can also support the dance company by placing an add and/or a message in our commemorative 35th anniversary booklet.



ARTS & CULTURE

Liz Chater: Researching Enthusiastically the Armenians in Asia

RESEARCHER, from age 12 fellow Armenians and the city of Kolkata, should not be overlooked. He was also a passionate race horse owner and trainer, and I have no doubt his path would have crossed with Sir Paul Chater. Thaddeus Mesrope Thaddeus was a jute trader, property developer and another horse race owner. There really are a number of fine, outstanding Armenians from India who were successful and gave back to their community and city with abundance. We are familiar with commercial names such as Apar, Sarkies and Johannes. Then there are those whose commitment to education of Armenians in India were the building blocks on which the current institution stands today. D.A. David, Astwasatoor Mooradkhan and Manatsakan Varden all played crucial roles in the current education system of the Armenian College and Philanthropic Academy in Kolkata today. The only difference really between Sir Paul and all the others is that he left *all* his money to the Armenian Church, Kolkata. Not many of the others did so in such a generous fashion — not to the same substantial level.

How much of the history of Indian Armenians has been studied you and others and why is it crucial to research further?

I am a passionate researcher and I do so within the boundaries and limitations of the sources I have available to me. As a non-academic, that actually is quite restricted. However, there are a number of historians and academics who have and continue to research and study the history of Armenians in Asia and Persia and have produced some awe-inspiring essays and publications. For me, family history is all about knowing the basic information first, and to do that one must have that all important, birth, marriage and death information. With Armenian family history in India, the difficulty is that the registers are written in Armenian and have

never been translated into English and made available. But in 2005 when I was on my first visit to Kolkata, I took the initiative, with permission, to photograph the whole of the very earliest Armenian Church baptism register which dates between 1793-1859. When I returned home to the UK, I arranged to have it translated into English and I then donated all the translations to the families in British India Society who added the details to their growing database of family history records in India. All the translations of this early Armenian register are available for free for anyone to view, and they have helped many hundreds of people around the world with their own family history. This “unlocking” of basic data is considered to be unique and is the first time any such project has been undertaken of its size. There are of course still many records in the other Church registers still only in Armenian, and it would be wonderful to be able to get these registers translated into English and made freely available for others to find their ancestors. I recently donated to the Families in British India Society some further translations related to Armenians in Yangon, again, these are available for free to view on their website database. As I do more translations I will continue to donate them to FIBIS.

I am currently heavily involved with re-creating the history of Armenian presence in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Working closely with our Warden, Armen Arslanian and our church staff, I have helped put together a little of their lost historical presence. Under the guidance of Armen, we have a really good, solid, cohesive preservation and conservation program for the church and the surrounding premises. We also have a regular food assistance program where our church staff distribute weekly over 400 meals to local people who live close to the church premises. We also arrange medical camps for locals too. Armen is quite inspirational and continues to have very strong ideas of what he wants to achieve for the future and how best to help the local communities in and around Dhaka. We continue to hope that we will eventually be able to become a UNESCO Heritage Monument and this is something we are all working towards.

Our most exciting news is that we are currently planning to unveil an Armenian *khachkar* in the compound of the Armenian Church, Dhaka in November this year and the ceremony will be conducted by His Holiness Karekin II. Details of this event will shortly be posted on our website as well as

our social media platforms. It will be a wonderful occasion, made even more special by the presence of the Catholicos.

The Armenians left their material traces, like buildings and gravestones, in many corners of India. To what extent are these traces protected now?

The Armenian Church in Kolkata looks after the majority of the Armenian tombstones in India and ensures the cemeteries are well kept and the stones preserved. Some areas of India where there are tombstones, are cared for by the local municipal areas, such as the ones in Agra. In 2012 the Armenian graves in Surat were featured very prominently in the UNESCO World Heritage Week run by the Surat Science Museum. This only came about because I had previously spotted photographs of the graves posted on Facebook. I identified them as ones from Surat and I started a communication with the photographer. Some months later, the end result was they formed part of this incredibly important exhibition, these stones are in the care of the Surat authorities. <https://hetq.am/en/article/20881> http://homepages.rootsweb.com/~chaterfamilytree/Surat_Exhibition_page_of_Graves.html

Sometime you dispel popular legends — for instance, proving the Armenian origin of famous Indian singer Gauhar Jaan being false. Sometimes you confirm the legends — for instance, that famous British actress Vivien Leigh was a descendent of Indian Armenians. What other interesting and less known descendants the Indian Armenians have?

These type of stories and the research involved, can take a long time to create; months, sometimes years to put together. Other people I have worked on include Albert Abid <https://chater-genealogy.blogspot.com/2016/01/he-was-armenian-albert-abid-valet-to.html>. Also the story about Charles Lazarus & Co., of Calcutta dispels the story they were Armenian <https://chater-genealogy.blogspot.com/2021/07/charles-lazarus-co-of-calcutta-cabinet.html>. Then we have the story of Eliza Kevork, an ancestor of British Royals, Prince William and Prince Harry <https://chater-genealogy.blogspot.com/2017/07/theodore-forbes-eliza-kevork-their-male.html>

My impression is you are in touch with most of descendants of Indian Armenians. How do you characterize their identity? I assume, something mixed between Armenian, British and Indian?

I wouldn't say I am in touch with most of

them, but probably quite a lot. The present day descendants of Armenians in India are now all over the world. You'd have to ask them how they characterize themselves, I have no idea, but those I am in touch with are intrigued by and extremely proud of their Armenian roots just as much as I am.

Now one can see some liveliness between Armenian and Indian governments, as well as certain Indian presence in Yerevan. As a historian how would you appreciate the prospective of Armenian-Indian cooperation?

I am an enthusiastic Armenian researcher and I am excited to see the warm co-operation continuing to develop between Armenia and India. There have always been connections between the two countries, but in recent years the co-operation and collaboration seems to have really gained speed. Quietly working in the background in this regard is the Indo-Armenian Friendship NGO and it is now an organization and structure that I am sure will go a long way to help this joint relationship evolve. With the creation of the Indian Armenian Cultural Centre in Yerevan, Armenians have even better access to experiencing the Indian culture. For example, there are now some great opportunities for learning Indian dance, taking up the Hindi language, or experiencing Indian cuisine, and the Centre works closely with the Indian and Armenian embassies to help promote the growing ties with well thought out cultural events. Each supporting the other.

Thanks in part to the Armenian Church in Dhaka, there is also a growing relationship between Armenia and Bangladesh. Just recently, there were some Bangladeshi students who graduated from the United World Colleges in Dilijan. The college has been taking Bangladeshi students since 2016. Also recently, the Church in Dhaka has contributed to a new fund in Artsakh at the university for social entrepreneurship under the name of Mr. Martin the late caretaker of the church. It is exciting to see relationships developing in so many ways and areas between Armenia and Asia.

Do you intend to collect all your stories in a volume and eventually to write a historical monograph on Armenians in India? Especially the 20th century history is not written yet.

There's no intention of that at the moment, I simply do not have the time nor money to do such a project, but I am more than happy to continue to research the lost or forgotten and write it up for my website and blog.

Western Armenian: A Call To Love A Call to Learn

LANGUAGE, from page 12 down through the ages can break down walls, open vistas. And our literature! What a hidden treasure — words that inspire and challenge minds — it's a delight to savor these and be uplifted by them."

In addition to her part-time position at the Diocese, current ventures include translation (manuscripts, letters, and literature), and tutoring. Students in her online and in-person classes span a wide range of age, background, and interests. One of her adult students, a native Spanish-speaking young mother of two, has been regaling (and correcting) her Armenian in-laws with her proper use of Armenian, and one precocious 8-year-old pupil is making impressive progress to the delight of her parents and teacher.

It has been an adjustment to go from developing resources and programs, addressing parish groups and Armenian school teachers to one-on-one online teaching. "To be pragmatic this really seems the direction for the future of language instruction. People from anywhere in the world can learn. Just think of the possibility: to be able to read and understand a text, or write a poem, or compose a letter to a relative overseas, or even make new friends to chat with anywhere in the world — all so fulfilling." Kupelian's warm smile while declaring this, is reassuring. Yes. This will be a challenging journey, but also an immensely gratifying joy.

(Note: For information about online learning, contact Kupelian at gildakupelian@yahoo.com.)



THE H. HOVNANIAN FAMILY FOUNDATION

Is looking to staff up its Armenia Operations.

ALL levels of staff needed from Project Managers to Executive Directors
All hires will report directly to and be mentored by the President, EDELE HOVNANIAN.

Ideal Candidates who are self-starters, highly detail-oriented and fearless in learning new skills

- Must be willing to move to Armenia.
- Must be fluent in Armenian (Eastern or Western)
- Non-profit experience NOT required.
- Must have at least a Bachelor's degree and 5 years work experience
- Should be proficient in Microsoft Office applications
- Be able to work independently or as a team leader

Send resumes to: tbacon@h-hovnanian.com



ARTS & CULTURE

Recipe Corner



by Christine Vartanian



Vegan Chocolate Cake by Joumana Accad

Celebrate with a *Taste of Beirut's* Vegan Chocolate Cake

BEIRUT — Born in Beirut, food stylist and blogger Joumana Accad has taught thousands of home cooks about the traditional and legendary cuisine of her native Lebanon. Her extensive travels in her own country have brought her to local villages and towns to learn the customs of the harvest and to make a variety of meals with the area's homegrown ingredients. Her friendships with many locals have introduced her to a number of the wild herbs and spices grown in the hills and mountains of Lebanon and in other countries.

"I recently made this Vegan Chocolate Cake for a neighbor," says Joumana. "I told her I would make the cake with tahini and she liked the idea (and loved the cake). I used tahini, grape molasses (to add sweetness), and semi-sweet chocolate chips. I topped the cake with fresh sliced bananas glazed with apricot jelly, but the bananas can be switched to raspberries or strawberries or blueberries, or any fruit to add to this moist chocolate cake. The ingredients yield a small cake 9" wide, and about 1" thick. It can easily be doubled for a two-layer cake."

In her cookbook, *Taste of Beirut*, Joumana shares her heritage through traditional foods and anecdotes, teaching anyone from newbies to foodies how to master Lebanese cuisine. With over 150 recipes inspired by her Téta (grandmother) in their family's kitchen, she captures the healthful, extraordinary flavors of the Middle East and makes them easily accessible to home cooks and chefs everywhere. She completed high school in France and moved to the United States in 1979. She is the mother of two grown children and a former school teacher, photographer, pastry chef, caterer and translator.

Big on fresh, locally-grown seasonal foods, Accad spells out the benefits of Mediterranean cuisine as she weaves narrative and recipe into one on her blog, TasteofBeirut.com. She has published an acclaimed cookbook by the same name wherein she shares her heritage and captures the healthy flavors of the Middle East.

"This full-time occupation is a testament of gratitude to my Téta, Sitt Nabiha (Aftimos) Zabbat, a native of Deir el-Qamar in the Chouf Mountains, who delicately handcrafted the most incredible dishes. I have tried to emulate her while raising my children in the United States with the food of my native country, to give them a taste of my childhood and culture. TasteofBeirut.com is a window into the Eastern Mediterranean, where Lebanese food mingles with Armenian, Syrian, Persian, Iraqi, and Egyptian among a score of other flavors. I personally curate the original content of TasteofBeirut.com as well as style and photograph each and every image," says Joumana.

Joumana was recently named "One of 11 most popular Lebanese Food Influencers around the world." She remains active on social media channels, especially on Facebook, and has created several how-to videos on YouTube, such as her Baklava in Ten Minutes video that has attracted over 944,000 views.

INGREDIENTS:

1 cup 60% chocolate chips, melted in the microwave for one minute, in increments of 30 seconds
 2/3 cup tahini, light-colored, stir the jar first and pour
 1/2 cup grape molasses (or date or carob molasses)
 2/3 cup freshly squeezed orange juice
 2 tablespoons orange rind
 1 teaspoon Mexican vanilla or regular vanilla extract
 1 cup all-purpose flour (dip into flour bin, sift later)
 1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
 1/2 teaspoon salt

TOPPING:

2 fresh bananas, sliced
 1 large lemon, juiced (about 1/3 cup more or less)
 1/4 cup apricot jelly or up to 1/3 cup (more or less as needed)
 1 tablespoon sliced pistachios (optional)

FROSTING:

1/4 cup cocoa powder
 1/4 to 1/2 cup unsweetened almond milk
 1 cup powdered sugar
 4 tablespoons vegan butter or clarified butter or vegan ghee
 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

EQUIPMENT:

1 9" cake pan, greased, floured and lined with parchment paper
 1 mixer or food processor or bowl with electric beaters
 1 strainer
 1 sifter
 1 brush to glaze the bananas

Serves 6.

PREPARATION:

Preheat the oven to 375F. In the bowl of a mixer or food processor or a regular bowl (if doing it manually), place the creamed chocolate chips, the grape molasses, tahini, vanilla and orange rind, and mix until smooth. Add dry ingredients, previously mixed in a bowl and sifted, and combine until mixed.

Pour the batter into the cake pan and bake for 20 to 25 minutes, or until the cake has risen and gone down and a knife inserted comes out clean.

Cool cake.

Make the frosting by mixing the sifted cocoa powder, powdered sugar, vegan butter, vanilla and almond milk. Use enough almond milk to get a creamy but thick cream suitable for frosting.

Frost the cooled cake. Place in the refrigerator to stiffen the frosting and allow for an easier garnish with the bananas or other fruit. When the cake is cool and the frosting is stiff, slice the bananas and place on the cake overlapping the slices. Immediately brush bananas with freshly squeezed lemon juice to prevent the oxidation of the bananas. Gently melt the apricot jelly and apply on the bananas.

Refrigerate the cake to set the glaze, then cover the cake to keep it fresh. When ready to serve, place at room temperature for about 15 minutes.

Joumana says: "Apricot jelly can be obtained by heating some apricot preserves and straining it once it becomes liquid by removing the fruits. Use the jelly to glaze the bananas and keep the extra glaze in a covered container in the refrigerator. Apple jelly can be substituted for apricot jelly. Grape molasses can be substituted with date molasses or carob molasses or even dark brown sugar. Almond milk can be substituted with oatmeal milk."

For this recipe and more traditional Lebanese and Middle Eastern recipes, go to: <https://www.tasteofbeirut.com/vegan-chocolate-cake/>

Also see: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-7I7-9Amsqk>

Watch Joumana's expert video about making your own manoushe from scratch: <https://www.instagram.com/p/CMXcuWHvAk/>

Taste of Beirut is the culmination of years of travel and research by Chef Joumana Accad in Lebanon and really brings the tastes and flavors of that rich, cultural region to her readers. A simple dish such as Dandelion Greens, (called a "salad" in the Middle East) using dandelion greens sautéed in olive oil with onions and garlic, seasoned with salt, pepper and lemon juicer and topped with toasted pine nuts is a sweet and delicious appetizer and is enjoyed with wedges of Arabic bread. Accad's version of Muhammara, or Red Pepper and Walnut Dip, is a show-stopper, calling for roasted red peppers, garlic, walnut, cumin and pomegranate molasses. It also is served with Arabic bread. "I moved back to Lebanon three years ago in order to soak-up the culinary scene and gather all the information I needed for my cookbook. While there I cooked weekly in Beirut with established master cooks, learning tips and techniques to successfully prepare these traditional dishes."

ORDER TODAY: Go to: <https://www.amazon.com/Taste-Beirut-Delicious-Lebanese-Contemporary/dp/0757317707>.

(Photos courtesy Joumana Accad)



Joumana Accad



ARTS & CULTURE

CALENDAR
OF EVENTS & PROGRAMS

CALIFORNIA

AUGUST 25-DECEMBER 15 — 100th Anniversary at Fresno’s Valley Lahvosh Baking Company® - Guided Tours Available. Valley Lahvosh Baking Company® is listed on Fresno’s Local Register of Historic Resources and celebrates its 100th Anniversary in 2022. In honor of this milestone, guided tours of the factory will be given and are scheduled for: August 25, September 22, October 20, November 17 and December 15. Call today to reserve your place: (559) 485-2700 ext. 200. Sign up for a guided tour of this historic bakery and see where Valley Lahvosh® and the Original Peda Bread are made. <https://m.facebook.com/valleylahvoshbakingco/> <https://www.instagram.com/valleylahvosh/?hl=en>

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. <https://octriplex.org/kef-time/> Local hotel rooms at the Doubletree by Hilton.

OCTOBER 8 — The Tekeyan Cultural Association Metro Los Angeles Chapter presents “An Evening of Comedy III featuring Harout Soghomonian” on Saturday, 8 p.m. at Phoenixia Restaurant, Glendale . Special guest appearance by Antic and guest appearance by Tsoghig Samuelian. Admission \$100. For reservations call or text 818.730.1100.

MASSACHUSETTS

SEPTEMBER 14 – OCTOBER 14 — Opening Reception: Thursday, September 15, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Members Exhibition 2022, the upcoming exhibition at Mosesian Arts, Watertown, gives current members of the arts center an opportunity to showcase their work. What is surprising in this year’s exhibition is how many of the artists turned to nature for inspiration, for comfort, and reflection. <https://www.mosesianarts.org/>

SEPTEMBER 12 — St. James Men’s Club Monthly Dinner Meeting with speaker Mark DerMugrditchian discussing his book 4 Strokes West: An Amazing American Adventure. Monday. Losh Kebab and Kheyma Dinner. 6:15 p.m. Social Hour, 7 p.m. Dinner. \$20 per person. Ladies welcome. St. James Armenian Church – 465 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown. For more information e-mail mensclub@stthagop.com.

SEPTEMBER 18 — Join Holy Trinity Armenian Church for our annual picnic, from 12pm to 5pm! A delicious menu including Lamb Shish, Losh & Chicken Kebab, Eetch, Vegetarian Mezze Platter, Pastries, Armenian Delicacies, and Beverages. Enjoy live Armenian music with the Greg Krikorian Ensemble. A 50/50 raffle will take place. For more info please visit htaac.org/ or call 617-354-0632.

SEPTEMBER 21 — Gala Benefit Celebrating Contributions of Our Nation’s Immigrants. InterContinental Hotel, Boston.6pm Honoring Stephen Kurkjian, Distinguished Citizen, Leader, Pulitzer Prize winning Journalist and Author, and Recognizing Our Immigrant Heroes and Refugees. Funds raised support the Armenian Heritage Park and maintain the Park year-round. Reservations only. To receive the invitation, please send name and address to hello@ArmenianHeritagePark.org

OCTOBER 2 — Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston will host its International Food Festival which from 12 noon to 3 p.m. For more information, see <https://htaac.org/>.

OCTOBER 8 – SAYAT NOVA DANCE COMPANY’S 35TH ANNIVERSARY PERFORMANCE. A must see show! Honoring our heritage and celebrating 35 years of preserving and promoting the Armenian culture. To be held at Regis College (Eleanor Welch Casey Theatre), Weston, MA. Show begins promptly at 7 pm (doors open at 6:30 pm). To purchase tickets and to see the seating chart and pricing, please click on buytickets.at/sayatnovadancecompany/753694. All tickets are final sale. No videography.

OCTOBER 9 — Sayat Nova Dance Company’s 35TH ANNIVERSARY GALA, celebrating 35 years of preserving and promoting Armenian culture. To be held at The Castle at Sheraton, 1657 Worcester Rd., Framingham, MA. 6 pm – Reception; 7 pm – Dinner and Program. Entertainment by popular singer GOHAR HOVHANNISYAN & BAND. Donation: \$150 for adults; \$100 for 18 and under. RSVP by September 30.Tables of 10 guests highly encouraged. www.sayatnova.com/35th-anniversary

OCTOBER 14-15 — St. James Armenian Church 75th Annual Bazaar – Save the date for the return of our traditional two-day Bazaar! Delicious Armenian Food and Pastries. Silent Auction, Raffle, Children’s Activities, Booths and Vendors. Details to follow. St. James Armenian Church – 465 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown. For more information contact 617.923.8860 or info@stthagop.com or visit www.stjameswatertown.org.

OCTOBER 15 —Armenian Friends of America (AFA) will celebrate their 10th Anniversary of Hye Kef 5 with a dance. Performing will be Mal Barsamian, Joe Kouyoumjian, Leon Janikian, Ken Kalajian and Jason Naroian. 6:30 – Midnight, Doubletree by Hilton, 123 Olde River Road Andover. For AFA Room rates, Call the hotel front desk. Tickets are now available online: www.ArmenianFriendsofAmerica.Org. Tickets will not be sold at the door.

OCTOBER 29 — Save the Date: A Panel Discussion with Artists from “On the Edge: Los Angeles Art 1970s-1990s from the Joan and Jack Quinn Family Collection. At the Armenian Museum of America, 65 Main Street, Watertown. www.armenianmuseum.org/on-the-edge

NEW HAMPSHIRE

OCTOBER 2 — Shish Kebab Picnic – Sunday. The Ararat Armenian Congregational Church at 2 Salem St. Salem,NH will hold a shish kebab picnic Sunday, Oct. 2. A church service is at 10:30 a.m. followed by the picnic from noon to 4 p.m. Wildlife encounters for kids is at 2 p.m. The event includes food, live music, face painting, a bounce house and more. Meal tickets are \$20 at the door and include your choice of lamb or chicken, rice pilaf, vegetables, salad, hummus, tabouleh, pita bread and dessert. Free kids meals for children 12 and under. Free meal for the first 100 who attend the church service. For more information call Mary Ann @ 603-770-3375. All Tickets sold at door.

NEW JERSEY

OCTOBER 15 —The Tekeyan Cultural Association of Greater New York Chapter is celebrating the diamond anniversary of the Tekeyan Cultural Association with a gala. Honoree will be Sen. Robert Menendez (R-N.J.) artist Tigran Asatryan and his band from Los Angeles will perform for the first time for the New York/New Jersey community. The gala dinner, taking place at the Terrace in Paramus, N.J. (293 Paramus Road), will include a sophisticated silent auction pieces as well as a variety of raffle items. For sponsorships or tickets, please contact Talia Bouldoukian (rsvptaliab@gmail.com or 917 238-3970) or Tamar Degirmenci (tiiaa20@aol.com, or 201 315-6486).

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>

September 9 – Dance Ensemble of Vanush Khanamiryan Academy

September 23 — Armenian Cultural Hour - Friday, 7:30 pm, “Daniel Yerazhisht”

OCTOBER 1 — AHARI, the Armenian Historical Association of RI, is sponsoring an Open House, “Under the Tent”, at the museum on Saturday, Oct 1, 2022 from 1PM - 4 PM. celebrating its 5th Anniversary since its opening on 245 Waterman Street, Providence. It will be an interactive, informative and fun day. Bring old photos with Armenian script for translations. Live performances, dance instructions, refreshments and more. Chronicles’ oral histories. Free and open to the public. info@armenianhistorical-ri.org or 401-454-5111.

OHIO

SEPTEMBER 22 — Lessons of the Armenian Genocide: a lecture & Q&A from Pulitzer Prize-Winning Author Peter Balakian organized by the Armenian Cultural Garden of Ohio and John Carroll University Peace, Justice & Human Rights Program. 7 p.m. at the John Carroll University Donahue Auditorium (in the Dolan Science Center), 20700 N. Park Blvd. University Heights, OH 44118. Free and open to the public.

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.



An ADL Publication

THE FIRST ENGLISH LANGUAGE
ARMENIAN WEEKLY IN THE
UNITED STATES

EDITOR

Alin K. Gregorian

MANAGING EDITOR

Aram Arkun

ART DIRECTOR

Mark (Mgrditchian) McKertich

SENIOR EDITORIAL COLUMNIST

Edmond Y. Azadian

STAFF WRITER

Harry Kezelian III

CONTRIBUTORS

Christopher Atamian, Florence Avakian,
Taleen Babayan, Artsvi Bakhchinyan,
Raffi Bedrosyan, Christine Vartanian
Datian, Dr. Arshavir Gundjian, Philippe
Raffi Kalfayan, Ken Martin, Gerald
Papasian, Harut Sassounian, Hagop
Vartivarian

**REGIONAL
CORRESPONDENTS**

LOS ANGELES: Ani Duzdabanyan-
Manoukian, Kevork Keushkerian,
Michelle Mkhlian
YEREVAN: Raffi Elliott
BERLIN: Muriel Mirak-Weissbach
PARIS: Jean Eckian
SAN FRANCISCO: Kim Bardakian
CAIRO: Maydaa Nadar

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Jirair Hovsepian, Ken Martin

VIDEO CORRESPONDENT

Haykaram Nahapetyan

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

Baika 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

Armenia's Multi-Vector Foreign Policy: Confluence or Conflict?



**By Edmond Y.
Azadian**

One of the major problems plaguing Armenia's foreign policy establishment has been the stagnation of the country's diplomacy leading it towards isolation. Certainly, Armenia has no true friends and trusted allies, as proven by the 44-Day War.

The recent flurry of diplomatic initiatives indicate that Armenia is trying to break that circle of isolation; thus Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan's visit to Vladivostok to participate in the 7th Eastern Economic Forum, Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan's consultations with his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov in Moscow, and Minister of Defense Suren Papikyan's visit to the Pentagon have all inspired some hope that the international community is finally indicating that a measure of cooperation is on the way. But it is important to evaluate each initiative to find out whether it is in concert with the overall foreign policy agenda or whether it is in conflict with the others. In fact, is there a confluence among the policies or a conflict?

Pashinyan's meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Vladivostok and Mirzoyan's meeting with Lavrov are seen to be of a ceremonial nature wherein the Armenian side glorifies Russian-Armenian relations and overpraises the role of Russian peacekeeping forces in Karabakh, never mind that the force has been ineffective in enforcing a real peace in the region and preventing Azerbaijan's takeover of land in Armenia and Karabakh, such as, for example, Sev Lij in Armenia and Parukh and Kara-Klukh in Karabakh. Again, as we saw on September 13, Russia did not deter an Azerbaijani full-scale attack on Armenia, but rather claimed credit for reaching a ceasefire, one that sadly is observed at the whim of the Azerbaijani government.

The major peace mission that the Russian peacekeepers have carried out has been to evacuate the Armenian population in Berdzor, Aghavno and Sus, areas in Karabakh which were not even due to be handed to Azerbaijan according to the November 9, 2020 trilateral declaration.

Papikyan's visit was not on the highest level. Past Armenian defense ministers' visits to Washington ended with a meeting with their counterparts. Suren Papikyan was received at the Pentagon by US Undersecretary of Defense for Policy Colin Kahl, whereas Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin remained unreachable.

The agenda of this meeting was composed of "discussing the security situation in Ukraine, the challenges facing the South Caucasus' peace and stability and ways to strengthen the US-Armenia defense cooperation." As we can notice, there were no breakthroughs, nor any substantive achievements in the above meeting, about which the Armenian Ministry of Defense has commented that Papikyan and Kahl have agreed to step up bilateral cooperation in peacekeeping operations as well as military education and medicine. Of course, there could not be any talk about supplying Armenia with any military hardware, since Armenia is part of a competing military bloc, the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), headed by Russia.

Although Armenia's minister of defense returned almost emptyhanded from Washington, the meeting itself was enough to ruffle some feathers in the Kremlin. This meeting, as well as the August 30 summit in Brussels with European Union President Charles Michel and Pashinyan and Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev, had angered Moscow tremendously. That sum-

mit was supposed to take place in Moscow but at the last minute, it was shifted to Brussels, almost moving Russian Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Maria Zakharova to tears when she announced that peace between Armenia and Azerbaijan could only be achieved in Moscow and nowhere else.

One of the more prominent anti-Russian commentators in Armenia, Hovsep Khurshudyan, has an entirely different take on Papikyan's visit, interpreting it as "the process of Armenia's liberation from Russian Federation has begun and it cannot happen without the support of the West."

Khurshudyan opens a can of worms by stating that Armenia intends to acquire Western-made weapons. He also says that "getting rid of 'agents' under Russian influence has already begun in the country's armed forces."

For a long time, the current administration has been looking into ways to shirk responsibility for the recent defeat as well as actively find scapegoats. One theory being advanced was that Russian weapons in Armenia's possession and the Russian military doctrine had proved to be ineffective against the NATO-style war machine and Western military doctrine adopted by Turkey and Azerbaijan.

In line with these arguments, Karabakh military heroes, generals Jalal Harutyunyan and Mikael Arzumanyan, have been



accused of mismanaging the war and will go on trial. Khurshudyan, when referring to "Russian agents," is talking about these heroes and other military members in the general staff who have been trained in Moscow.

Russia is so deeply embedded in all facets of Armenian life, including its armed forces and security, that it will be too risky to seek a full extrication and thus a confrontation with Moscow, particularly in the shadow of recent Russian defeats in Ukraine.

Another aspect which has begun to worry Baku and Moscow is the US's more assertive role in the Caucasus, as signaled by the appointment of a high-ranking career diplomat, namely Philip Reeker, as the US co-chair of the Organization for Security of Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group. In addition to serving as the US cochair, Reeker will become the lead negotiator for the US delegation to the Geneva International Discussions.

This appointment has worried Baku, which has warned the US against reanimating the OSCE Minsk Group, insisting that Karabakh's status has been determined by force in the 2020 war. In this issue, Moscow is in tune with Baku, considering the OSCE process moribund, whereas the only hope for Karabakh's people is in the implementation of the OSCE principles, see POLICY, page 19

COMMENTARY

Remembering An Unsung Hero of the Holocaust Era

By Prof. James R. Russell,

On Christmas Day 1933, Archbishop Leon Tourian, Primate of the Armenian Church in North America, celebrated the Divine Liturgy (the term used by Armenians for the Mass) at the Holy Cross Church of Armenia on West 187th Street, inside the block just east of St. Nicholas Avenue, in the Washington Heights neighborhood of New York City. Hundreds of worshippers packed the church and many hundreds more spilled out into the street: there were so many Armenians then in the neighborhood where I was to be born twenty years later and grow up in, that a popular pun called it Washington *Hayots*’— that is, “of the Armenians.” It was an illustrious community that included a graphic artist who designed most of the Armenian typefaces that Armenian-Americans used in what was then a flourishing printing industry, and a translator of the medieval Book of Kings from Persian to whom Reza Shah had awarded Iran’s highest civilian medal. The art collector Haroutiun Hazarian, who in his younger years dressed stylishly and took his pet ocelot for walks in Central Park, lived on 170th St. and Fort Washington Avenue, two blocks north of the hospital where I was born. I knew him in his later years. On St. Nicholas Avenue there was a grocery store with the rather learned designation Nparavachar in elegant script. The proprietors were relatives of Aghasi Khanjian, the Communist Party chief of the Armenian SSR who had protected the national poet, Charents’, through the early 1930s but was himself murdered in Tiflis during Stalin’s Great Terror.

Armenians in the time of my youth were a visible part of the New York scene. When I was a kid I went to school with Maro Avakian, the daughter of the great violinist Anahid Ajemian and the CEO of Columbia Records, George Avakian. Anahid and her sister played at Carnegie Hall and I was there. The school was Walden, on West 88th St. and Central Park West, and the Avakians lived next door. Armenian restaurants like the Golden Horn, the Balkan Armenian, and the Dardanelles served a sophisticated cuisine that featured mussels, and patlijan karniyarik, and the sinful dessert ekmek kadayif. The menus were in both Armenian and English. New Yorkers listened to Aram Khachaturian’s music regularly on WQXR, the classical station owned by the New York Times. I live now in Fresno, California, the birthplace of William Saroyan, and in my childhood we read his short story “The Summer of the Beautiful White Horse” in school and I learned my first Armenian word, *Vazeh!* (Run!)

In those days the older generation in the neighborhood were mostly survivors of the Armenian Genocide, eye-witnesses to a crime that present-day Turkey persists in saying never happened. Ottoman Turkey had used the outbreak of World War I as a pretext to carry out a carefully worked out plan to exterminate its Armenian population. With the help of their German allies, the Turks coordinated mass arrests, death marches, shootings, burning, drowning. In many cases Armenians were killed gradually, so that their labor could be exploited first. Children were often taken away to orphanages: those too young to manage or too old to be Islamized were killed and buried in common graves. And so on. Yeshiva University, an Orthodox Jewish institution, is just down the block to the east from Holy Cross Church of Armenia. Washington Heights was a Jewish neighborhood, too: the Orthodox German Jewish refugees lived on Bennett Avenue and attended the Breuer shul. Many young parents,

when I was a boy, had numbers tattooed on their fore-arms. They whispered in kitchens about the war, thinking we weren’t eavesdropping. I went to Talmud Torah — Hebrew school — with the children of those survivors, and was Bar Mitzvah with them.

Archbishop Tourian, the prelate who was murdered, was the scion of a gifted and famous family. Bedros Tourian, an ancestor who died in his teens of consumption (and whose complete lyrics I have translated and published as a book), can justly be said singlehandedly to have invented modern Western Armenian poetry. The Archbishop was also a survivor, in this instance, of the last act of the Armenian Genocide. My friend Steve’s mom, Prof. Marjorie Housepian-Dobkin of Barnard College, wrote a book about that: in 1922, the army of Mustafa Kemal (he who was later to be styled Atatürk) conquered the ancient, civilized Aegean port city of Smyrna and burned it down. Hundreds of thousands of Greek and Armenian residents vanished, driven inland, and murdered. Many thousands more, thronging the quayside in terror, were literally pushed by the Turkish army into the sea. US Navy ships floated at anchor in the harbor, turning up their gramophones on deck to drown out the screams of desperate people. An American Protestant missionary pretended to be an admiral and raised a fleet of Greek fishing boats that were able to save many people. I knew a few members of Smyrna Armenian survivor families in Washington Heights. Abp. Tourian was a survivor of Smyrna, plucked out of the water. There is a film of all this: it was hidden

Their youth wing was called in English the “Race Worship Society.” The Dashnak press welcomed the Czech Jew Franz Werfel on his US tour to promote his novel, *The Forty Days of Musa Dagh*. The book is about the successful armed resistance to the Turkish deportation order by several Armenian villages on a mountain above the Mediterranean. It inspired the Jewish ghetto fighters during World War II. But two Dashnak leaders in Europe, Garegin Nzhdeh and Dro Kanayan, formed an Armenian Legion in Hitler’s Wehrmacht. Its record is controversial and cannot be compared to the villainy of the Ukrainian and Baltic units that took a proactive role in the Holocaust. Hitler never trusted or liked Armenians. And it should be noted that hundreds of thousands of Soviet Armenians fought and died in the ranks of the Red Army: an Armenian, the great Marshal Baghramian, commanded the Belorussian Front. But Dashnak opposition to Soviet rule in Armenia was uncompromising, and Abp. Tourian served a church hierarchy whose head, the Catholicos, was in Soviet Armenia, in the ancient holy city of Echmiadzin. He ignored Dashnak threats and refused their demands that he take a public stance against Soviet Armenia. He was physically attacked in Massachusetts; later, in New York, he was killed. The murder split the Armenian community in two for decades to come.

One of the witnesses to the grisly crime, which was on the front pages of New York newspapers for weeks (it even figures in the first novel that William S. Burroughs, the reigning sage of the Beat poets, wrote), was a young Genocide survivor named Avedis Derounian. He was shocked by the presence of fascist terrorists within his own community and resolved to serve his adopted country by infiltrating and exposing American fascist and Nazi movements. Adopting various pseudonyms, he joined the Silver Shirts and America Firsters. With his dark, Middle Eastern looks, Avedis pretended to be a pro-fascist Italian and mixed with the Nazi German-American Bund and the followers of the anti-Semitic rabble rouser Fr. Coughlin, the pro-Nazi flying ace Charles Lindbergh, and the hatred-spewing racist tycoon Henry Ford. Fortune magazine took him on, a Congressional committee was formed as the result of his exposes, and his book *Under Cover*, published under the nom de plume John Roy Carlson, was a US bestseller during World War II. All the groups and individuals Derounian investigated were vicious anti-Semites, and all posed a clear and present danger from within to American democracy. Had they not been neutralized, thanks in large measure to his efforts, a pro-Axis fifth column might have seriously impeded America’s war effort. And as it was, anti-Semitism in America was so virulent that this country sent refugees from Germany back to their deaths and did nothing to impede the Holocaust. Today, nearly ninety years after Hitler’s ascent to power, anti-Semitic attacks account for most hate crimes in the United States, not to speak of the UK and Europe, where it is no longer safe for Jews to live at all. Nobody has learned a thing.

After the war, Jews returning to their old homes Poland became the victims of pogroms by the hostile local population. Poland was a particularly evil case, but survivors of the Holocaust generally were unwelcome in the countries of which they had thought themselves citizens, and were unwanted by the world. Many braved the British blockade to come to the only place they thought was their own, the place they prayed for during two millennia of exile: the Land of Israel. When the British Mandate ended and the independent State of Israel was declared in 1948, the Arab countries surrounding Israel attacked it, as did the military units of the Arab population inside the country. In all cases, the enemy was aided by escaped German war criminals and other foreign anti-Semites, notably Englishmen. Arab ideology was eliminationist and envisioned a completion of the Holocaust. Socially, Arab thinking masqueraded at times as socialist, but in fact it was consistently Islamist, jihadist, and socially retrograde — much the same as the Iranian, Hamas, and sundry other jihadi lines today. Derounian traveled to the Middle East, and infiltrated the various Arab governments and militias at war with Israel, this time using his own name — Arabs and Armenians generally got along without a problem.

When he got home, Derounian wrote another book, *From Cairo to Damascus*, which was published by Knopf in 1950. It is in many ways a sequel to *Under Cover*, for in it the author exposes the Nazi core of the Arab and Moslem cause, describes the sickening personalities who



in a closet in Washington Heights for decades, the owners fearing that the Turks would find them, even in America. As the Archbishop walked down the aisle of the church in his splendid vestments that fateful Sunday, several men sprang from their pews and seized him. One stabbed him over and over with a long butcher’s knife. Tourian collapsed, bending his heavy crozier in two. Parishioners carried their stricken leader to the parish office and rang Marjorie’s father, Dr. Housepian, who lived down the block. She was a little girl then. She picked up the phone. Her father ran to the church, but Tourian died. The men who had conspired to murder him, with the help of a hired, out-of-town Mafia hit man, were local New York officials of a political party called the Armenian Revolutionary Federation, in Armenian, Dashnak. The organization had been active in Armenian community self-defense and resistance as well as political and constitutional reform in Turkey before the Genocide, and had championed a progressive political agenda that included socialism and women’s rights. In the wake of the Genocide it had led the fledgling first Armenian republic, which arose out of chaos of the disintegrating Tsarist Russian empire. Driven into exile by the victorious Communists, the embittered Dashnaks drifted farther and farther to the right, espousing an ultra-nationalist and fascist ideology.



COMMENTARY

MY TURN



by Harut Sassounian

California to Declare April 24, ‘Genocide Remembrance Day’ As State Holiday

California State Assemblyman Adrin Nazarian has finally succeeded in passing a legislative bill (AB 1801) he had sponsored to declare April 24, Genocide Remembrance Day, a state holiday.

The bill mandates that every year on April 24, all community colleges and public schools throughout California will close. State employees will be given time off with pay.

The text of the bill explains that: “The Legislature finds and declares that Genocide Remembrance Day would be a day for all to reflect on past and present genocides, but especially those that have felt the impact of these atrocities and groups that have found refuge in California, including, but not limited to, the Holocaust, Holodomor, and the Genocides of the Armenian, Assyrian, Greek, Cambodian, and Rwandan communities. Genocide Remembrance Day would be observed annually on April 24, also known as Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day, during the week the state of California traditionally recognizes Genocide Awareness Week.”

The text further states that on April 24 or on an alternate date “public schools and educational institutions throughout this state may include exercises, funded through existing resources, remembering and honoring the many contributions that survivors of genocide have made to this country. The State Board of Education may adopt a model curriculum guide to be available for use by public schools for exercises related to Genocide Remembrance Day.”

The State Assembly and Senate members worked tirelessly for months to have both Chambers of the California legislature adopt this bill. The odyssey started on February 7, 2022 when it was introduced in the State Assembly. The bill passed through several committees: Governmental Organization: 20 yes, 0 no; Higher Education: 12 yes, 0 no; Appropriations: 12 yes, 0 no; and the full State Assembly on May 26, 2022 by a vote of 75 yes and 0 no.

The bill then went to the State Senate passing through the following committees: Governmental Organization: 14 yes, 0 no; Education: 6 yes, 0 no; Appropriations: 7 yes, 0 no; and the full Senate on August 23, 2022 by a vote of 40 yes 0 no. The bill then went back to the State Assembly on August 24, 2022 in order to reconcile it with Senate amendments. It passed by a vote of 77 yes, 0 no.

The bill was then submitted to California Governor Gavin Newsom for his

signature on August 31, 2022. I contacted the Governor’s office and was told that he has until September 30, 2022 to sign or veto the bill.

I spoke with the sponsor of the bill, Assemblyman Adrin Nazarian, and congratulated him on his great efforts to pass this historic bill.

Another close friend of the Armenian community, State Senator Anthony Portantino, sent me the following empathetic message: “Far too many Californian families have been tragically affected by genocide. It’s sadly something that has touched many cultures since the first genocide of the 20th Century was perpetrated against the Armenian people by the Ottoman Turks. While we learn about Native American conquest, the Holocaust and other horrific violence committed against humanity, in our schools we don’t currently have one day that speaks to all of these atrocities and brings people together to remember, to love and to care for one another across ethnic communities. One day out of 365 for grieving and healing purposes is appropriate and I was proud to support it.”

Meanwhile, Turkish denialists are lobbying against the bill, trying to convince Gov. Newsom not to sign it into law. The Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA), a notorious genocide denialist organization, issued a statement on September 5, 2022 urging “the Turkish American community and friends of Turkey to send letters, faxes, and emails to Governor Newsom in order to urge him to veto” the Genocide Remembrance Day.

Here is what the ATAA urged its supporters to do: “Please communicate to Governor Newsom and his staff today and get your voice heard! Please copy/paste and send your sample letter using the email form link: Web contact form: <https://govapps.gov.ca.gov/gov40mail>. Please choose subject: AB01801\State holidays: Genocide Remembrance Day. Or send a letter to: The Honorable Gavin Newsom, Governor, State of California, 1021 O Street, Suite 9000, Sacramento, CA 95814.

In addition, the ATAA urged its supporters to send emails to: Jim DeBoo, the Governor’s Executive Secretary: jim.deboo@gov.ca.gov; and David Sapp, the Governor’s Chief Deputy Legal Affairs Secretary: david.sapp@gov.ca.gov, with this subject line: “AB01801\State holidays: Genocide Remembrance Day.”

To counter the Turkish denialist lobbying efforts, the Armenian community should inundate Gov. Newsom’s office with emails and letters, using the above provided contacts, urging him to sign AB 1801 into law. Act quickly, because the Governor will make his decision between now and Sept. 30.

Let us see who has the stronger voice in California: The large Armenian community numbering hundreds of thousands or a few Turks who want to export to California the Turkish government’s denial of the Armenian Genocide?

drove the postwar would-be Blitzkrieg against Israel... and then crosses the battle lines. And comes to us. The hard-bitten reporting becomes in Israel the prose of a humane dreamer. Socialist, kibbutznik, liberated and liberal, egalitarian, armed Israel, Derounian writes, is the blueprint for a future free Armenia. And he warns, presciently, that political Islam will prove a far more lethal and tenacious threat to humanity than Communism. Derounian’s books are forgotten, but they deserve to be reprinted and read as a warning to the generation of the present day.

The Armenian Genocide, which the Holocaust memorial and research center Yad Vashem in Jerusalem still ignores, for craven political reasons (I spent years beating my head against an unyielding stone wall on this issue), is crucial to the understanding of modern Jewish history as the dress rehearsal for the Holocaust. In a better world, the Jewish state that rose out of the ashes might correspondingly, redemptively, have served as a model for a future democratic Armenia, as Derounian hoped it would. But that was not to be. The Dashnaks, like the so-called “Captive Nations” (the mainly anti-Soviet and crypto-fascist émigré movements of Ukrainians, Estonians, Lithuanians, Latvians, etc.), jumped on America’s Cold War bandwagon. During the McCarthy witch hunts Dashnak propaganda demonized Derounian as a crank, a Kremlin stooge, and so on. (The Dashnaks also published a history of New York Armenian parishes: the entry on Holy Cross Church of Armenia does not mention the one historical event that ever happened there—the murder, by the Dashnaks themselves, of Archbishop Leon Tourian.) In 1979 I landed my first job, the only one in my long life that I look back to with fondness: I worked for the Archdiocese of the Armenian Church of America at St. Vartan Cathedral on 34th Street and Second Avenue, commuting downtown from, yes, Washington Heights. Once for some reason I had to contact Avedis Derounian. I spoke first to his sister, who warned me that the Dashnaks were utterly vicious and capable of anything. (I found that out later on, but it’s another story and this one’s long enough.) Then he and I chatted. He was a thoughtful, kind man. The campaign to discredit him had broken him, and in the obscurity of old age he spent his days quietly in the reading room of B’nai Brith in Manhattan. He felt comfortable in the company of the American Jews whom he had worked decades before to

defend, in a country that is and is not home, a country whose hospitality to the stranger was then, and still is, overshadowed by prejudices that can become murderous. As we know. As we cannot afford not to know.

Avedis died soon after. I’ve read his books. I had the honor to know him slightly. But in a lifetime of doing Armenian studies I’ve seen very little written about him. There is an archive of his papers, though, and perhaps it is time for a biography to be written. If anybody wants to do that, I’d be happy to talk with them.

The vestments Abp. Tourian wore when he died are caked in blood, and are kept still in a box to the side of the main altar of Holy Cross church. You can visit the antiquated little parish office — painted pressed tin, linoleum, old phones, as I remember it— where he died of his horrendous wounds. Down the block there is now a Dominican panadería where I once bought café con leche and a bun on a cold day, after a pilgrimage to the church. Most of the descendants of the Armenian families of Washington Hayots’ now live in the suburbs or across the river. Yeshiva University’s rococo, mosque-like a study house still rings with students chanting Gemara. Strangers live in my childhood home on Cabrini Blvd.; other strangers, in the apartment on Pinehurst Ave. nearby where I lived in my working years. My Armenian teachers — Maritza Tsaggos, Vart Tarpinian, Nina Garsoian — amazing women, each of them a legend, are now gone. New York itself is three thousand miles away from where I write these lines. Life at a certain point becomes a farewell symphony. But I have discharged a duty and remembered here a forgotten hero of the era of the Holocaust, a hero not only for Jews and Armenians but for all men and women who believe in freedom, democracy, human decency, and progress. Avedis Derounian, *Astvadz hokin lusavoreh* (May God illuminate his soul).

(James R. Russell, is the Mashtots Professor of Armenian Studies, Emeritus, Harvard University. A version of this article was published in the Blogs section of the *Times of Israel* on 11 September 2022, but was instantly buried in the archive of the online daily: presumably, to preserve the illusion of a free press while not offending Turkey and Azerbaijan. I offer it to the readers of the *Armenian Mirror-Spectator* in the hope that it will be informative and of interest.)

Armenia’s Multi-Vector Foreign Policy

POLICY, from page 17

which eventually will include a reprimand to Azerbaijan for having violated one of the three principles of the Helsinki Final Act, which forbids the resolution of any conflict through the use of force.

Although Armenia’s diplomacy seems to be on the move, judging from the results, the diplomats have only been spinning their wheels.

At the time of this writing, Azerbaijani forces launched a four-prong attack against Armenia’s sovereign territory, targeting the regions of Sotk, Kapan, Jermuk and Vardehis, claiming at least 49 victims and many more wounded.

Azerbaijan is supposedly conducting negotiations with Armenia in order to reach the goal of signing a peace treaty, but this surprise attack is a sign of impatience and the determination to sign this treaty on its own terms, compromising Armenia’s territorial integrity and sovereignty.

Russia’s cynical silence indicates that it is not an innocent bystander. Instead, it has tacitly encouraged Azerbaijan to force Armenia to appeal to Moscow for help instead of Washington, where Papikyan visited, to the chagrin of the Kremlin’s policymakers.

Many international voices have called for restraint, including the European Union, NATO, and the US State Department, but none of them have made any distinction between the aggressor and the victim. Ironically, the only unilateral condemnation has come from Mr. Çavuşoğlu, who has blamed Armenia for the conflict.

CSTO, of which Armenia is a member, has held an emergency meeting and promised to release its conclusions after deliberations, while Armenia is counting its dead.

This writer met with the former president, Levon Ter-Petrosian, on September 12, before the most recent attack, to get his view on the current situation. He seemed utterly devastated. He pulled no punches in criticizing both the current government and the leaders of the opposition, holding them responsible for the current mess.

When asked about how he is doing, his answer was: “Is there any Armenian anywhere in the world at this time doing well?”

That says it all.



Tekeyan Greater NY 75th Anniversary Gala Honors Senator Menendez

PARAMUS, N.J. — The Tekeyan Cultural Association (TCA) Greater New York Chapter is hosting a gala banquet on Saturday, October 15 commemorating the 75th anniversary of TCA worldwide. TCA is dedicated to advancing Armenian culture through its various centers and chapters, and the NY chapter's event is held under the auspices of the Central Board of the TCA of the United States and Canada.

US Sen. Bob Menendez will be honored at the banquet, while the well-known Armenian artist Tigran Asatryan and his band from Los Angeles will perform for the first time for the New York/New Jersey community that evening. DJ Barko will also contribute to the entertainment of guests.

The master of ceremonies is Diran Jebajian, a man who has spent the better part of his life serving the Armenian community through various organizations. An ordained deacon, he grew up in the Armenian Church, and has served on countless planning committees for the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church. He has previously served on the TCA Greater New York executive committee and performed with the TCA Mher Megerdchian Theatrical Group. Currently he serves as a co-host for the Armenian Radio Hour of New Jersey and recently was elected to St. Nersess Semi-

nary's board of directors.

Diran holds a master's degree in Public Administration, owns an event photography business, and serves as Chief of Emergency Medical Services for the Borough of Fort Lee, NJ. He believes strongly in the TCA mission to promote cultural, spiritual, and educational ties with our homeland, *irrespective* of political and ideological barriers.



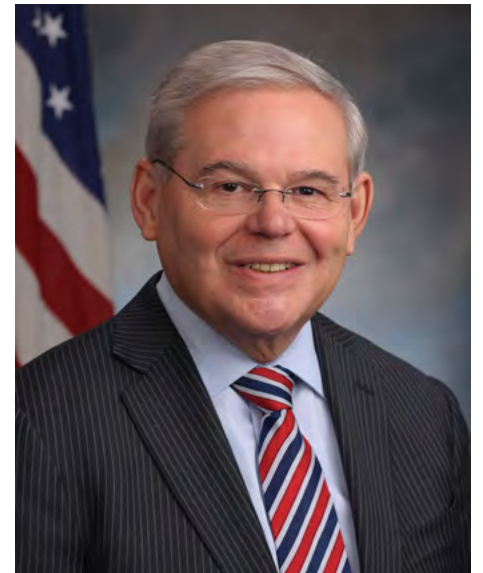
Diran Jebajian

Menendez has championed Armenian causes for decades, including justice for the Armenian Genocide and US support for Armenia and Artsakh. The son of Cuban immigrants, he entered politics in Union City, NJ, in opposition to local corruption. He obtained his law degree from Rutgers University, and worked his way up the ladder of government, winning elections as mayor, state legislator, congressman, and then, in 2006, US senator.

As senator, he became chairman of the important Senate Foreign Relations Com-

mittee, and was able to block biased candidates who potentially would have been hostile to Armenians from ambassadorial positions. He consistently has worked to constrict US assistance to Azerbaijan and enforce Section 907 of the Freedom Support Act of 1992. One of his important accomplishments was help pass a bill which got the US to formally reaffirm its recognition of the Armenian Genocide and its support of Armenian Genocide education.

He has of course played a prominent role on varied US foreign policy issues. He serves on the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee, where he champions increased consumer protection and corporate accountability, fairness in lending, affordable housing, and comprehensive approaches to community revitalization. He served as Chairman of the Banking Subcommittee on Housing, Transportation and Community Development where he fought for smart growth, jobs for the 21st Century and updating our aging transportation system. As a senior member of the Senate Finance Committee, he has sponsored legislation increasing access to health care, advocated for fairness in the tax code to help middle class families get college educations and be able to retire, and has pushed for trade initiatives to en-



Senator Bob Menendez

sure America's global competitiveness.

Senator Menendez is married to Nadine Arslanian (née Tabourian).

The gala dinner, taking place at the Terrace in Paramus, N.J. (293 Paramus Road), will include silent auction pieces as well as a variety of raffle items. For sponsorships or tickets, contact Talia Bouldoukian (rsvp-taliab@gmail.com or 917 238-3970) or Tamar Degirmenci (tiiaa20@aol.com, or 201 315-6486).



Tekeyan Cultural Association of Greater New York
requests the pleasure of your company at

TCA'S 75th Diamond Anniversary Gala

under the auspices of the Board of Directors of USA and Canada

Honoree
United States Senator Bob Menendez
Saturday, October 15, 2022

The Terrace | 293 Paramus Road | Paramus, New Jersey 07652

Cocktails & Silent Auction - 6 PM

Dinner & Dance - 7 PM

Premium Open Bar

For tickets, please contact:

Talia Bouldoukian: (917) 238-3970

Tamar Degirmenci: (201) 315-6486

Entertainment by Tigran Asatryan & Ensemble from Los Angeles and DJ Barko



\$250 per person

f @tekeyangreaternewyork

📷 @tekeyangreaterny



Pope Francis Arrives in Kazakhstan

NUR SULTAN, Kazakhstan (News. am) — Pope Francis arrived in the capital of Kazakhstan on September 13 to participate in the VII Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions, the press service of the head of state said.

"The high guest will be met by the head of state Kassym-Jomart Tokayev," the press service said.

On the eve of the Kazakh Foreign Ministry reported that the head of the Catholic



Church in his trip will be accompanied by more than 80 representatives of the media from among his pool.

The Pope is expected to celebrate a mass for 3,000 pilgrims who arrived in the Kazakh capital from Central Asia and other neighboring countries besides attending the congress.

The organizers reported that the congress of leaders of world and traditional religions will be attended by about 100 delegations from 50 countries, including representatives of Islam, Christianity, Judaism, Shintoism, Buddhism, Zoroastrianism, Hinduism and other religions.

Among the participants were also the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar Ahmad Muhammad Al-Tayyeb, Patriarch Theophilos III of Jerusalem, Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi David Lau, Chief Sephardic Rabbi of Israel Yitzhak Yosef and other religious leaders and representatives of several international organizations.