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**NEWS** IN BRIEF

## ADL, Armenagan Members Meet with President Sargisian

YEREVAN – On October 1, before leaving for his tour of diaspora centers, President Serge Sargisian met with a delegation of the ADL and Armenagan Ramgavar members. The delegates were from the US, Canada, Europe, the Middle East and Armenia.

The president said that for him it is very important the role ADL plays in the diaspora especially for the benefit of the Armenian communities in the sphere of culture, education and in Armenia-Diaspora relations. The president said he hoped that the meeting scheduled in Armenia would help solve the party's problems.

Then the president spoke with his guests about improving Armenian-Turkish relations and answered to their questions. He said: "Your views about this question are very important for me. see MEETING, page 2



President Serge Sargisian met with the visiting members of the ADL and Armenagan Ramgavar party in Yerevan.

## President Sargisian Meets With Diasporans in New York

**By Taleen Babayan**  
Mirror-Spectator Staff

NEW YORK – Addressing a select group of people at the New York Palace Hotel, Serge Sargisian, President of the Republic of Armenia, once again insisted that the Armenian Genocide and Nagorno Karabagh issues would not be affected by the Armenian-Turkish protocols.

Echoing the tenor of a talk by Eduard Nalbandian, foreign minister of Armenia, delivered at Columbia University last

Tuesday, Sargisian said that it is necessary to establish relations with Turkey without preconditions.

A day after tense demonstrations in Paris, Sargisian was met with protestors outside the New York Palace Hotel, waving Armenian flags and holding signs that read "Don't Compromise Armenia's Future" and "Genocide Is Not Negotiable."

Inside the hotel Sargisian met with some 50 leaders of the Armenian-American community, including representatives of the Armenian Democratic Liberal Party (ADL) Eastern District Committee, the Armenian see SARGISIAN page 3



The president and his entourage in New York

## Election Commission Rules against Krikorian

**By Thomas C. Nash**  
Special to the Mirror-Spectator

COLUMBUS, Ohio – The Ohio Elections Commission voted to reprimand David Krikorian on Thursday, October 1, for making false statements relating to a 2008 congressional election campaign in which he alleged his opponent took "blood money" to deny the Armenian Genocide.

Rep. Jean Schmidt, a Republican who represents Ohio's second district, filed false-claims charges against Krikorian in April, shortly after he announced he would run for the seat as a Democrat in 2010.

In the 2008 election season, Krikorian, in some campaign literature, had accused Schmidt of taking "blood money" to "deny the genocide of Christian Armenians by Muslim Turks" as a co-chair of the Caucus on US Turkish Relations and Turkish Americans.

Just before the election, candidate Krikorian, who then was running as an independent, wrote, "The people of Ohio's second district will, if they elect [Schmidt] on November 4th, condone her denial of the Genocide of 1.5 million Christians. And, in so doing, be guilty of a crime against humanity as the cover-up is just as bad as the crime."

Krikorian's attorney, Mark Geragos, expressed concern after the October 1 ruling that testimony supporting the allegations was not allowed at either the initial September 3 hearing or the follow-up, including that of FBI whistleblower Sibel Edmonds.

Edmonds broke a Justice Department gag order imposed in 2002 to give a deposition for the case in August. Among the intercepted communications she says she translated during her stint working see RULING, page 6

## PM: Armenia Needs World-Class Colleges

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – Prime Minister Tigran Sargisian took part on October 3 in the joint ceremonial session of the Council of Yerevan State University (YSU) and its Scientific Council, organized as part of the 90th anniversary celebration of YSU.

The government press office reported that Sargisian expressed confidence that there is the will and the means to change the university so that it becomes one of the top educational establishments in the world.

"I do not see any obstacles for you together with us to realize such a brave and noble project. This is the path for Armenian prosperity. If we do not have one of the best universities in the world we will not be able to claim to be a competitive nation in the world."

On behalf of the Armenian government, the prime minister assured those present that he is ready to assist in bringing the project to fruition.

## Prime Minister Receives OSCE Yerevan Office Director

YEREVAN (Armenpress) –Prime Minister Tigran Sargisian received this week the Director of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Yerevan Office Sergey Kapinos. Governmental press service said that the prime minister referred to the activity of the OSCE Yerevan Office, which includes different spheres and wide circle of issues.

During the meeting the head of the office spoke about the programs of the office in the anti-corruption policy, economic, nature protection and human rights spheres.

## Armenian Man Murdered in Moscow

MOSCOW (Interfax) – In the early hours of October 1, in southwest Moscow, unidentified assailants murdered a citizen of Armenian origin, reported law enforcement officials.

This is the second crime committed this week against someone from the Caucasus in Moscow. Earlier, as a result of mass fighting in that area, four citizens of Armenia and a native of the Northern Caucasus were wounded on September 29. People from antifascist circles of the Russian capital do not exclude that this could be the work of neo-Nazis.

On October 1, at about 11 p.m., the body of the man, was found. "Forensic experts have established that his death was a result of numerous knife wounds," said a source in law enforcement.

The source noted that, according to eyewitnesses, the victim was attacked by a group of youngsters.

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## Col. Moorad Mooradian, Longtime Mirror-Spectator Columnist, Dies

RICHMOND, Va. – Dr. Moorad Mooradian died on September 30.

He was born in Rhode Island, graduated from Central High School, Rhode Island College and the University of Rhode Island.

He received his PhD from George Mason University in Virginia. He was a four-time Fulbright Scholar to Armenia and established the first conflict resolution center in any former Soviet state, at Yerevan State University.

He was a highly decorated, 30-year Army veteran who served in Vietnam. He had been a regular columnist for the Armenian Mirror-Spectator see MOORADIAN, page 20



Col. Moorad Mooradian (Ret.)



## ARMENIA

## News From Armenia

## US Expert: Energy Flows From Caspian Region to Bypass Armenia

YEREVAN (Arminfo) – In the near future, the energy flows from the Caspian Sea Region will bypass Armenia, Robert Cutler, an expert on South Caucasus and Central Asia, a professor at University of Michigan, told journalists at the Caucasus Institute on Monday.

The construction project of the Baku-Ceyhan oil pipeline via Armenia was considered in the 1990s; however, for political reasons, the project was suspended and replaced by a route via Georgia. Cutler thinks that the situation in the region has not changed since then, and in the near future, Armenia will have to ensure its own energy security at the expense of other sources.

The Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline was finished in July 2006. Construction cost \$3.6 billion.

## Doing Business 2010 Report: Armenia Ranks 43rd

YEREVAN(Radiolur) – Despite the efforts of the Armenian Government, there is still much to do to ensure a good business atmosphere in the country, according to the “Doing Business 2010” report by the World Bank.

Not all agree with the placement of Armenia. The president of the Union of Manufacturers and Businessmen, Arsen Ghazaryan, said the methodology is faulty.

According to the “Doing Business 2010” report, Armenia has advanced seven positions. This, however, does not satisfy Prime Minister Tigran Sargsian. “Our neighbors Azerbaijan and Georgia have registered greater success. Azerbaijan considerably improved its positions last year; Georgia is also among the leaders. We are leading only on some criteria,” Sargsian said.

## Finger Puppets, Statues And Balloon Art at 2009 ‘High Fest’ Theater Festival

YEREVAN (ArmeniaNow) – Discarded items have become “Lady Macbeth,” “Brave Nazar” and “Carmen” in the hands of theater-loving students participating in the “Development of Scene-Painting in the South Caucasus and Central Asia” held as part of the seventh High Fest international theater festival in Yerevan.

The character statues are on display in front of the Hovhannes Tumanyan State Puppet Theater.

Despite the fact that the number of participating theater groups this year has nearly halved – 33 from 22 countries compared to 62 groups from 33 countries last year – because of the economic crisis, the festival director Artur Ghukasyan says this year’s festival has something that puts it on an equal footing with the previous one.

“This year we have a novelty, a strong Iranian program that will be of interest to many,” he says, in particular.

Among “surprises” this year is also Bulgaria’s Credo theater with its Shinel (type of a Russian coat) play (based on Russian writer Nikolay Gogol’s famous story) and the famous French Philippe Genty finger-puppet theater, whose head Philippe Genty introduced that new genre to the Soviet Union in 1962-1963 with his “Austrians” play, after which it began to develop.

The theater was on tour in Armenia also during those years and are glad to return with a play called “Zigmund Folie,” which tells about a person whose left part of the body acts independently from the rest of his body and he tries to understand why his body has been divided into two halves and tries to find peace of mind.

“Fingers allow a person to express himself better than actors could do with their play,” theater actor Eric Desaria says, explaining the great demand for this type of theater.

## CRD Continues Advances in Space Research

YEREVAN – “Cosmic Ray Research in Armenia,” a 2009 article in the international journal Advances In Space Research chronicles the development of Armenia’s Cosmic Ray Division (CRD) from its origin to the present, and offers a path to the future.

The article commemorates the 100th anniversary of the birth of Artem Alikhanyan, one of the world’s top physicists and founder of the Cosmic Ray Division and the Yerevan Physics Institute, led by Chilingarian.

Initial experiments investigating cosmic rays from the sun and distant galaxies commenced on Mt. Aragats from 1945-1955. During this era the main purpose of such investigations was to discover and to characterize cosmic radiation and discover its origins, and in addition to perform nuclear research during a time when high-energy particle accelerators were not yet available for this purpose. In essence, the sun and distant galaxies served as particle accelerators smashing subatomic cosmic ray particles into atoms high in the earth’s atmosphere. Armenian scientists working with their Russian counterparts, and when possible during the Soviet era with western scientists, contributed greatly to the understanding of nuclear and particle physics.

Some major programs which were

senior scientists that their research would continue no matter what – but that it would be done in Armenia, and not in foreign countries.

In addition to being a brilliant scientist and manager, Artem Alikhanyan was also a dedicated educator. In the 1960s he initiated the famous Nor Ambert school at CRD’s research station on Mt. Aragats near the ancient Ambert fortress. Scientists and students from many countries attended advanced courses on aspects of Cosmic Ray physics and modeling of astrophysical processes while getting experience with modern particle detection systems. CRD’s head, Prof. Chilingarian, is continuing this vision. CRD’s Data Visualization Interactive Network (DVIN) won the World Summit on Information Society award for the world’s best e-science project at the World Summit on Information Society in Geneva in 2005, and the Pan-Armenian e-content Mashtots competition. Much of the work on DVIN project was accomplished by young Armenian students and recent graduates studying at CRD.

In September 2005 the Solar Extreme Events (SEE-2005) conference was held at Nor-Ambert, attended by 75 scientists and students from 11 countries. Many of the papers presented at this conference were by young scientists, engineers and students working at CRD. In October 2008 CRD hosted the international symposium on Forecasting of Radiation and Geomagnetic Storms by Networks of Particle Detectors (FORGES). At this conference CRD scientist Bagrat Mailyan received the Alikhanyan Award for “Best Paper by a Young Scientist” as determined by the FORGES international board of directors. Other highly-valued papers selected were by Armen Hovhanisyan and Tigran Karapetyan.

CRD initiated and got funding for the initial development of a world-wide network of advanced Cosmic Ray particle detectors, the Space Environment Viewing and Analysis Network (SEVAN), using innovative detectors designed at CRD’s laboratories. It is CRD’s young scientists, engineers and students who have deployed these systems in Armenia, Croatia, and Bulgaria with more to be installed in Slovakia, India and probably other countries as well. Data from these detectors will be sent to Armenia where it will be analyzed and shared with the international scientific community.



Prof. Ashot Chilingarian, head of CRD and director of Yerevan Physics Institute



Some of the young staff members leading CRD into the future

about to commence did not proceed when the Soviet Union and the Armenian economy collapsed. But due to the perseverance of the CRD’s scientists, who often had to work extended periods without pay, research continued and major advances were still made. SCACRD members Joseph and Lisa Dagdigian visited CRD in December 1999 and were told in unequivocal terms by one of CRD’s

## Prime Minister Sargsian Meets Chairman of Belgian Senate

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsian received this week Chairman of the Belgian Senate Arman de Decker. Greeting de Decker, Sargsian said he is pleased with the high level of Armenian-Belgian relations and noted that such meetings provide a good opportunity to speak about bilateral relations and Armenia-EU cooperation.

During the meeting, the two discussed new opportunities of partnership and development prospects, particularly in high technology, tourism and communication and culture.

They particularly stressed the signing of a free-trade agreement between Armenia and the European Union, and the importance of the European Neighborhood Policy.

## ADL, Armenagan RAG Members Meet with Pres. Sargsian

MEETING, from page 1

As you know, I decided to start an international trip because I am sure that in order to solve important problems for our people, it is important that the government know everybody’s views. The views are different and I should listen all views and explain the fundamentals of the process.

The delegates thanked the president for the conversation. They said that this meeting and the conversation helped them understand consequences of the protocol, and wished him luck.



Members of the ADL and Armenagan Ramgavar Party gathered in Yerevan.



## ARMENIA

# President Sargisian Meets With Diasporans in New York

SARGISIAN, from page 1

General Benevolent Union, the Armenian Assembly of America, the Armenian National Committee of America, the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America and the Prelacy of the Armenian Church of America, in a conference-room setting.

He spoke uninterrupted for close to half an hour, acknowledging the concerns of the diaspora, while stressing that relations between Turkey and Armenia should be normalized.

"I do believe that staying enemies with Turkey for an eternity is not helpful or useful to us," said Sargisian. "This is why I initiated the current phase of Armenian-Turkish negotiations."

Speaking about the events of 1915, Sargisian described Turkey as a country that "subjected

Addressing concerns about the provision in the protocols which calls for the establishment of a subcommittee of historians to review the Genocide, Sargisian insisted this approach would not strike a "blow to the campaign for the international recognition of the Genocide."

As to arguments that the protocols would force Armenia to relinquish all claims to historic Armenian lands in present-day Turkey, Sargisian said "we as a state cannot file territorial claims against another state."

"We're signing protocols on improving relations," he said. "I don't think by establishing ties with Turkey, we would be shutting the door for our claims or demands."

In the second part of his address, Sargisian said that Armenia won Nagorno Karabagh on the battlefield and will continue fighting for its recognition in the international arena.

"This process is being dealt with by the [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe] Minsk Group co-chairs," he said. "We will opt for settlement only in one instance, and that is if we get what we have been seeking since 1988: Nagorno Karabagh cannot be part of Azerbaijan."

The Minsk Group was established by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in 1992 in order to negotiate between

Armenia and Azerbaijan over Nagorno Karabagh. Sargisian was expected to meet with Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev on October 8.

"Indeed we are a small country, indeed our possibilities aren't as great as Turkey's, but we can't act from the position of the weak," Sargisian said in the conclusion of his remarks.



ADL's Vartan Ilandjian, center, with President Serge Sargisian

us to Genocide, deprived us of our vital areas and 100 years since, has not only denied this reality but retained its hostile attitude and actions."

"There are grounds for pessimism and doubt," he said. "On the other hand, we expect there will be a discussion on the merits of the protocols."



Protesters held signs outside the New York Palace Hotel, where the president met with Armenians in New York.

"Our salvation lies in having a strong and prosperous state, and we are all united around this common objective."

Sargisian then opened up the floor to questions and discussion. The president's staff announced that the question-and-answer session would be off-the-record. The discussion lasted for several hours.

Sargisian was accompanied by former President of Karabagh Arkady Ghokhassian, Armenia's Ambassador to the US Tatoul Markarian, Armenia's Ambassador to the United Nations Garen Nazarian, Minister of Diaspora Hranoush Hakobyan and others.

Said Bryan Ardouny, executive director of the Armenian Assembly, "President Sargisian addressed the concerns raised whether it was

the concern that the protocols called for a joint historical commission to debate the Genocide or if the protocols would forfeit Nagorno Karabagh. The president addressed these concerns and made it very clear there are no preconditions. It was at times a passionate exchange from the participants. Sargisian listened to all comments and concerns and addressed them."

The representative of ADL Eastern District Committee was Vartan Ilandjian, vice chairman of New York Chapter; the representative of the Tekeyan Cultural Association Central Board of Directors was Antoine Bazarbashian.

From Canada, ADL Board members Hratch Torikian, Dr. Hrair Der Kevork and Barkev Nazaretian participated.

## Opposition Unites in Efforts to Thwart Turkish-Armenian Deal

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) — Armenia's main nationalist forces opposed to the unprecedented rapprochement with Turkey initiated by the current government have vowed joint action to stop the signing of the deal that they view as detrimental to the country's state and national interests.

Several Armenian political parties, including Zharangutyun (Heritage) of ex-foreign minister Raffi Hovannisian, opposed to the policies of President Serge Sargisian and his majority allies in government and parliament on Turkey on Tuesday joined the initiative of the key government critic, the Armenian Revolutionary Federation (ARF) that has pushed for the current process of normalization with Ankara to be aborted unless changes are made in the text of the two draft protocols envisaging the establishment of diplomatic ties and opening of the border between the two historical foes.

The ARF and other critics in and outside Armenia have expressed concern about several points among the Protocols that were initialed on August 31 and are expected to be signed later this month by the two countries' foreign ministers.

A joint statement signed on behalf of 11 parties that also include Aram Karapetian's Nor Zhamankner (New Times), the People's Party led by Tigran Karapetian, Aram Sargisian's Democratic Party, the Ramkavar-Azatakan Party of Armenia and others, challenged the protocol clause that commits Armenia to recognizing its existing border with Turkey.

The parties said in their statement that Armenia and Turkey have no mutual treaty other than the 1921 Treaty of Kars that defines Armenia's current border. They said by recognizing the existing border Armenia, for the first time as an independent state, will ratify the part

of the treaty that is essential to Turkey thereby meeting one of its key preconditions.

The parties also voiced their concern over the planned establishment of a Turkish-Armenian intergovernmental sub-commission to conduct an "impartial scientific examination of historical documents and archives" that they claim will put an end to the further international push for the world's governments to recognize the killings of more than one million Armenians as genocide. They view this provision as the satisfaction of Turkey's second longstanding precondition.

Another concern expressed by the parties regards the synchronized and interlinked timeframe between the Armenia-Turkey normalization and the Armenian-Azerbaijan talks on the Nagorno-Karabagh dispute as well as the clause in the protocols that refers to the principle of territorial integrity.

"Thus, Turkey gets an opportunity to get [Armenia] to meet its next precondition demanding that Armenia and mediators should ensure developments in the Karabagh settlement process suitable to it. And finally, by registering a bilateral decision to open the border that was closed by Turkey unilaterally, Turkey in fact shares its responsibility for keeping the border closed until today with Armenia," the statement said.

Representative of the ARF Executive Council of Armenia Armen Rustamian said the statement was open for other political parties and groups to join.

"The situation is indeed very serious, and the political groups that put their signatures to this joint statement set the beginning of the formation of a single front that will make it possible to prevent developments that are undesirable and damaging for us," emphasized Rustamian.

Rustamian added that they still hope the Armenian authorities will not sign the protocols.

Despite its vocal opposition to the protocols, the ARF has so far refrained from making demands for Sargisian's resignation. Meanwhile, the nationalist party has sought the resignation of Foreign Minister Eduard Nalbandian, a stance criticized and derided by the more radical and influential opposition alliance, the Armenian National Congress (HAK) of ex-president Levon Ter-Petrosian, which has been seeking Sargisian's resignation despite largely endorsing his dramatic thaw with Turkey.

"This is an issue of a pan-national significance. This is not a matter of leadership change. This is an issue of our future, our future generations... This unity, in its essence, is pure and sincere. I am confident that all national forces must come to this field," said Rustamian.

Rustamian said the HAK had not been approached as a single alliance and asked to join the statement, even though some of its member parties had been offered to sign. "They [these parties] also expressed concern, but perhaps out of some political considerations did not join," he added.

Zharangutyun Party Board Chairman Armen Martirosian said the party had offered cooperation to both the HAK and the ARF, but only the ARF responded to the offer.

Nor Zhamanakner's Aram Karapetian said that the party uses "all spheres of cooperation", being with the ARF on the Armenian-Turkish problems and cooperating with the HAK on the country's domestic problems, in particular in the matter of demanding Sargisian's resignation.

"Wait a little. Perhaps all this will snowball into one single stance that this government cannot lead the process either inside or outside the

country so that the Armenian people should feel secure," said Karapetian. "I think that Armenia today is getting ready for a new wave. The field is becoming more opposition. Believe me, the new wave will begin soon."

### Scientific Article or Scientific Denial? Analysts Argue

YEREVAN (ArmeniaNow) — The Ararat Military-Scientific Center filed a lawsuit against the Caucasus Institute (CI) Foundation in Armenia for printing and distributing a book which has an article refuting the Armenian Genocide. The word genocide is written in quotation marks 34 times.

The book, *Caucasus Neighborhood: Turkey and The South Caucasus* (Yerevan), has an article called "Turkey-Armenia Relations: An Eternal Deadlock," by Aybars Görgülü.

"The author of the article referring to the Armenian Genocide casts doubt on that historical fact not only by an open announcement but also by legal means using the term Genocide in quotation marks several times (34)," said Armen Ayvazyan, director of Ararat Military-Scientific Center.

The editor of the book is director of the institute, Alexander Iskandaryan.

Iskandaryan said the article "does not have any sentence refuting the Genocide." In the article the expression "genocide allegations" is used several times.

Ayvazyan said if these sentences are not a denial, then "Iskandaryan either does not know what denial means in general or he does not want to accept it."



## International News

### Lebanon Armenians Angry over Planned Turkey Deal

BEIRUT (AFP) – Armenia's President Serge Sargisian faced a largely hostile reception on Tuesday from members of Lebanon's Armenian community up in arms over Yerevan's plans to establish ties with Ankara.

Sargisian's brief stop in Beirut was part of a week-long international trip aimed at calming concerns among members of the Armenian Diaspora over Turkish-Armenian efforts to normalize relations.

But such plans have angered many in Lebanon's 140,000-strong Armenian community, mostly made up of the descendants of survivors of the Armenian Genocide.

Hagop Pakradounian, one of six Armenian deputies in Lebanon's parliament, said the community was all for improved ties between Armenia and Turkey but not at any price.

"This issue concerns Armenians worldwide and not just those in Armenia," Pakradounian told AFP.

"We are not talking about a simple economic accord between two countries but a historic one that concerns each Armenian family, whatever its nationality," he said.

### Two Lebanese Men Jailed for Baku Plot

BAKU (BBC News) – An Azerbaijani court has jailed two Lebanese men for plotting to attack the Israeli embassy here, sentencing them to 15 years each.

The men were named by court officials as Muhammad Ali Karaki and Najmeddin Ali Hussein.

Four Azerbaijani nationals received jail terms ranging from 12 to 14 years, the official news agency Turan said.

The group was also found guilty of plotting an attack on a Russia-rented radar station in northern Azerbaijan.

The prosecution linked the group to Lebanese Hezbollah, as well as its allies the Iranian Revolutionary Guard, and the "al-Qaeda network," officials said.

The staunchly Sunni Muslim al-Qaeda is not known to have any links with Hezbollah, which is a political and militant movement representing Shia Muslims in Lebanon.

Defense lawyers boycotted the sentencing, saying it was unjust, and pledged to appeal against the verdict.

"We believe that the court made its decision based on personal opinions rather than on facts and evidence," said lawyer Vugar Khasiev, in remarks quoted by the AFP news agency.

International press outlets have claimed that Hezbollah was preparing a spectacular attack in Baku to avenge the assassination of its military leader Imad Mughniyeh.

### Turkish PM Erdogan Re-Elected Leader of Ruling AK Party

ANKARA (Tert.am) – Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan has been re-elected as the chair of his ruling Justice and Development (AK) Party last Saturday, reports Turkish news agency Anadolu Ajansi.

Erdogan won 1,362 votes of 1,363 AK Party delegates at the party congress held in Ankara. One vote was invalid.

AK Party members also elected the members of the party's executive boards. Seventeen members of AK Party's central decision-making and executive board have changed. State Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Bulent Arinc, Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu, former ministers Huseyin Celik and Kursad Tuzmen and former deputy chair of the party's parliamentary group Salih Kupusuz have been elected new members of the board, which is composed of 50 party members.



On July 9, AGBU interns were welcomed at the AGBU Alex Manoogian Cultural Center in Paris, France. This event has become a kick-off tradition for participants of the AGBU Paris Summer Intern Program.

## AGBU Paris Summer Intern Program Successfully Wraps up Its 7th Season

PARIS – From the beginning of July until mid-August, 12 students of Armenian descent from Armenia, Canada, France, Russia and the United States came together to participate in the 2009 Paris Summer Intern Program (PSIP). The program, which is concluding its seventh season, is a unique experience for students who are able to expand their professional knowledge and learn about their Armenian identity through special events, lectures and outings coordinated by PSIP staff.

This year's students worked at a number of leading French institutions, including Association Française de la Relation Client, France Loisirs, Institut Supérieur des Métiers, Grant Thornton, Groupement Interprofessionnel International Arménien, Kalayciyan Architects, Lefevre Pelletier & Associates, Musée d'Orsay, Pierre and Marie Curie University, and Radio France Internationale.

During the summer, students met with Hovhannes Guevorkian of the Representation of the Republic of Nagorno-Karabagh in Paris, who discussed the political fault lines in the Caucasus; historian and author Claude

Mutafian, who spoke about Armenian history; and professor, historian and director of the AGBU Nubarian Library Raymond Kevorkian, who addressed recent efforts at Armenian-Turkish reconciliation. Interns also had the opportunity to visit the Embassy of the Republic of Armenia in Paris, where they met with General Consul Vahe Vahramyan and Diplomatic Attaché Ara Mkrtchyan.

In addition to lectures, PSIP-organized events and activities strengthened the networking and social component of the Paris program. Students attended a reception organized in their honor at the Alex Manoogian Cultural Center, where they were welcomed by AGBU Europe Chairman Alexis Govciyan. The students also spent time with AGBU Youth members, who showed the interns around Paris, while giving them a taste of daily life in the French capital. Among the landmarks visited were the Louvre, the Musée d'Orsay, Versailles and two sites in Normandy (Trouville-sur-Mer and Honfleur).

Students lived in the Maison des Étudiants Arméniens, a residence hall created in 1928 by AGBU's first presi-

dent, Boghos Nubar. Since its founding, the building has housed several generations of international Armenian college students who arrive in Paris to complete their post-secondary education.

Business student and PSIP participant Hayek Harutyunyan, who interned at the French Association for Client Relations, acknowledged that leaving home allowed him to "understand the challenge of preserving your Armenian identity outside of Armenia and the effort it takes to keep it." Sveta Ohyanian, a student of Roman philology, interned at the Musée d'Orsay, where she was "very happy to be working at a prestigious museum and greatly improve my French, especially spoken French." Aren Manoukian, a biomedical science student at the University of Montreal, interned at the Pierre and Marie Curie University. The program, he said, gave him an incredible opportunity to work hands-on in a laboratory with fellow researchers.

Every summer, PSIP Director Zarouhi Odabashian sees the formative experience PSIP can be. "An internship allows students to affirm their career choice and helps them position themselves in their area of specialty," she said.

### EU Hits China, Brazil, Armenia with Five-Year Tax on Aluminum Foil

BRUSSELS, Belgium (Bloomberg) – The European Union imposed five-year tariffs on aluminum foil from China, Brazil and Armenia to help EU producers including Poland's Grupa Kety SA compete against cheaper imports.

The duties as high as 30 percent punish Chinese, Brazilian and Armenian exporters for selling the wrapping in the 27-nation EU below cost, a practice known as dumping. The levies target such manufacturers as Shanghai-based Alcoa Aluminum Products Co.

EU producers that also include Novelis U.K. Ltd., Greece's Symetal Aluminium Foil Industry SA and Bulgaria's Alcomet suffered "material injury" as a result of dumped imports from China, Brazil and Armenia, the EU said in a decision today in Brussels. The five-year duties follow provisional levies introduced six months ago and will take effect after being published in the Official Journal by October 8.

The tariffs are 17.6 percent on Companhia Brasileira de Alumínio and any other Brazilian exporters, 13.4 percent on Armenia's Rusal-Armenal and any fellow exporters and as much as 30 percent on Chinese manufacturers.

The EU accepted an offer by

Companhia Brasileira de Alumínio to sell at a minimum price in return for an exemption from the anti-dumping duty while rejecting a similar proposal by Rusal-Armenal.

The six-month levies were as high as 42.9 percent and the EU will refund importers the difference with the lower five-year duties. The trade protection covers aluminum foil in rolls as wide as 650 millimeters (25.6 inches) and a weight exceeding 10 kilograms, with a thickness between 0.008 millimeter and 0.018 millimeter.

Market Share

China, Brazil and Armenia increased their combined share of the EU market for the product to 49 percent in the 12 months through June 2008 from 14 percent in 2005, according to the bloc. China's share rose to 30.7 percent from less than 1 percent in the period, while Brazil's fell to 12.8 percent from 14.1 percent and Armenia's grew to 5.3 percent from zero, the EU said.

The duties against China, Brazil and Armenia are the outcome of a probe opened in July 2008 after a dumping complaint by the European Association of Metals.

### German-Armenian Central Council Is For Opening of Border

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – The Central Council of German-Armenians supports the opening of the Armenian-Turkish border without preconditions.

An official from the council said that an electronic vote had been organized on President Serge Sargisian's tour to meet representatives of Armenian diaspora in different states to discuss issues of signing the protocols with Turkey.

Prior to that, the Central Council of German-Armenians had organized discussions on the latest developments regarding the improvement of Armenian-Turkish relations.



## INTERNATIONAL

## Enthusiasm Greet's AGBU's Virtual College and Youth Program in Moscow

MOSCOW – From September 18-21, AGBU Central Board Member Yervant Zorian and Director of the AGBU Armenian Representation Ashot Ghazarian visited Moscow, Russia, to meet with Armenian students and members of the local Armenian community to present extensive information about AGBU's educational and youth projects, including the organization's newest contribution to global Armenian education, the Armenian Virtual College (AVC).

AVC was officially launched in June and joins AGBU's list of educational and youth programming, which includes day and Saturday schools, scholarships, summer camps, internships, educational trips, scouting, and Young



From left, Hamayak Gevorkian, Director of the Armenian Apostolic Church Youth Center; Yervant Zorian, AGBU Central Board member; Ter Arakel, Spiritual Father of the Armenian Apostolic Church Youth Center in Moscow; Anahit Torosian, Teaching Head of the Youth Center; and Ashot Ghazarian, AGBU Armenian Representation Director at the Armenian Apostolic Church's Youth Center in Moscow, Russia.



Yervant Zorian, AGBU Central Board member, and Ashot Ghazarian, AGBU Armenian Representation Director, with Armenian students who attended the presentation about AGBU's youth and educational programs, which highlighted the organization's newest initiative, the AGBU Armenian Virtual College.

Professionals groups.

During their visit, the AGBU representatives made presentations at Moscow State University and the Youth Center of the city's Armenian Apostolic Church, which were attended by university students, Church youth group members, Armenian community representatives, teachers and students of the Youth Center, and other guests.

After the presentation, two AVC students from Moscow, Tatul Adzhmian and Vartan Marashlian, shared their firsthand experience about using AVC during the summer term. They expressed their enthusiasm for the project and their personal success at using it as a learning tool.

Bishop Yezras Nersisian, Primate of the Armenian Diocese of Russia and Nor Nakhijevan, was present at the Youth Center presentation. He stated in his speech, which concluded the presentation, "For over 100 years, the AGBU around the world, along with the Armenian Church, maintained the identity and the faith of the Armenian nation."

During their stay in Moscow, Zorian and

Ghazarian met with Nersisian and Armen Smbatian, Armenia's ambassador to Russia, who, in turn, pledged to support AGBU in the implementation of educational and youth pro-

jects in Russia. Together with Nersisian, the AGBU representatives toured the new Armenian Church being constructed in central Moscow.

### Security at High Level Before Turkey-Armenia Soccer Match

BURSA, Turkey (Arminfo) – Security at high level will be provided in the town of Bursa, where a football match will be held between the national teams of Turkey and Armenia on October 14, to avoid possible incidents.

As the Turkish Today's Zaman reports, almost all preparations are in their final phase. The necessary security measures have been taken to prevent incidents that could possibly erupt during the match. Unfurling anything other than national flags or banners won't be allowed in the stadium. Any incidents of hooliganism will not be tolerated and offenders will be removed from the stadium.

Gov. Sahabettin Harput of Bursa said this match is important for the prestige of the city. "We will be the center of attention, a big number of journalists and media representatives will be closely following the match. I assess the match as a turning point in terms of relations between the two countries," Harput noted.

Harput also stated that they have made a tremendous effort to prevent provocative slogans during the match. Harput said they have talked to various civil society organizations and fans' associations to avoid any possible problems during play.

Zaman also recalls that during the Turkish Super League soccer match between Diyarbakrspor and Bursaspor on September 29, some Bursaspor fans were hostile towards Diyarbakrspor players and fans, accusing them of being "separatists." Ten people, including children, were injured after supporters from both teams hurled stones and other projectiles at each other. Five people were detained in connection with the clashes. Some Bursaspor fans waved banners that read "Happy is he who says I am a Turk," accusing Diyarbakrspor supporters of being pro-PKK and telling them to leave the country. Amid this crisis in the soccer match, concerns were again raised about the Turkey-Armenia soccer match.

### Turkey Anti-IMF Protest Dispersed

ISTANBUL (BBC) – Police in Turkey have used tear gas and water cannon to break up protests against a meeting of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

Several hundred protesters shattered the windows of banks and a fast-food restaurant in Istanbul, reports say.

Dozens of arrests were made, and many shops in the city centre remain closed.

Delegates of the two organizations are holding their annual meetings, with co-operation in international finance reportedly high on the agenda.

"Long live freedom," chanted crowds of protesters, some of whom covered their faces with red scarves. "IMF get out of our city."

Shield-wielding riot police wearing gas masks erected barriers around the convention centre where finance ministers, central bankers and economists were meeting.

Police helicopters hovered above the protests, which were organized by several Turkish trade unions.

A student was arrested last week for throwing a shoe at Dominique Strauss-Kahn, the IMF managing director, during a speech he gave at an Istanbul university.

The IMF is discussing ways to make itself more representative of the new world order where developing countries make up nearly half of the world economy, but only have about one-third of the votes in the IMF.

## Sponsor a Teacher in Armenia and Karabagh 2009



Since its inception in 2001, TCA's 'Sponsor a Teacher' program has raised over \$350,000 and reached out to 2,715 teachers and workers in Armenia and Karabagh.



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## NATIONAL NEWS

# Boy Scouts of America Help Preserve Future Site of Genocide Museum

WASHINGTON — As part of their community service program, a Boy Scouts of America troop from the Washington, DC, region is volunteering to help preserve the National Bank of Washington (NBW) building, which is a designated site on the National Register of Historic Buildings.

As plans proceed to convert the 1920s structure into the Armenian Genocide Museum of America (AGMA), the preservation of the historic building has remained one of the priorities of the museum project. The renovation plans will restore the site to its original grandeur, as well as allow for the installation of full-scale exhibits on the tragic ordeal of the victims and the long struggle of the survivors. The NBW structure has historic designation for both the exterior and the interior main hall of the former bank space.

rior main hall of the former bank space.

“As we pull together the AGMA plans and exhibits, we also want this historic site to be presentable and available to the local community,” said Van Z. Krikorian, museum trustee and chairman of the project’s building and operations committee. “We are honored by the offer of the Boy Scouts of America to pitch in with our efforts to improve the site for public use. Their volunteer spirit exemplifies the best of our country’s values and is especially appropriate since the Boy Scouts of America in the past honored Armenian Assembly of America Chairman and AGMA Board of Trustees Chairman Hirair Hovnanian with their Distinguished Service Award for serving on their National Board.”

The reviews and approvals of the District of Columbia Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB) and the architectural plans developed according to HPRB specifications have clarified which portions and what details of the existing structure must be preserved and will be renovated. The review also identified aspects to the interior of the building that were later additions or are features that do not constitute part of the original integrity of the historic building.

AGMA is located on “The Extra Mile: Points of Light Volunteer Pathway,” which is a new national monument dedicated to the spirit of service in America. “The Extra Mile” honors heroes of the nation’s service movement with a series of large bronze medallions, including William D. Boyce, founder of the Boy Scouts of America. Other honorees include suffragist Susan B. Anthony, abolitionist Frederick Douglas, advocate for the blind Helen Keller, civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., Special Olympics founder Eunice Kennedy Shriver and American Red Cross founder Clara Barton, who led American relief efforts in response to the 1896 Armenian massacres. The AGMA offices are also located across the street from the Church of the Epiphany, which is one of the starting points of the Civil War to Civil Rights: Downtown Heritage Trail.

# Election Commission Rules against Krikorian

RULING, from page 1

for the FBI in the immediate wake of 9/11, is proof of the Turkish government’s illegal influence in Congress, the Department of Defense and the State Department — including efforts to block the Armenian Genocide resolution through bribery and blackmail.

The commission, which during the hearing comprised of four Republicans and one Democrat, voted 5-0 to reprimand Krikorian for making false statements.

Some of the false-claims charges were dismissed. The claim that Krikorian falsely stated Schmidt took money from Turkish contributors was voted down 3-2, while a claim that he falsely used Federal Elections Commission information was dismissed 4-1.

Geragos said the decisions reflected the partisan nature of the panel.

“It’s obviously a political decision in that [Krikorian] is a Democrat and the three who voted against him are Republicans,” Geragos said.

While Schmidt’s attorney, Donald Brey, said his client had not sought fines or prosecution for Krikorian, which were also possibilities, he said he would expect Krikorian not to make such statements going forward.

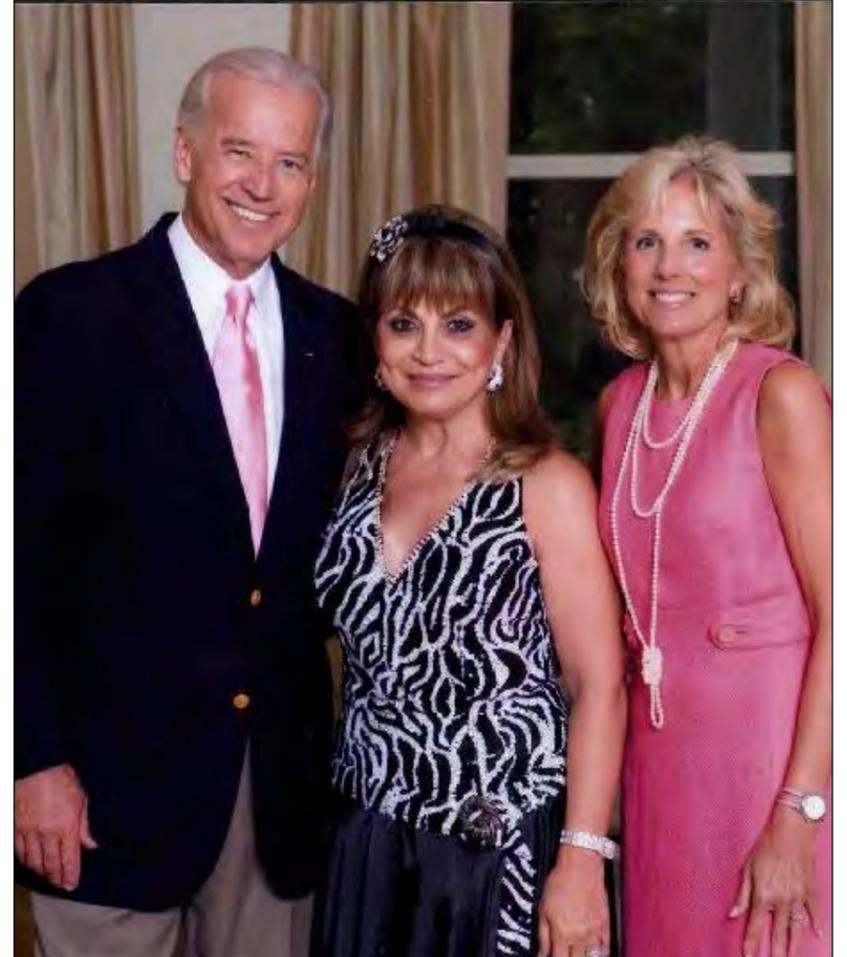
“It’s one thing to say ‘I think she should have signed off on this resolution,’ but it’s not fair game to tell people she took money from the Turkish government,” Brey said. “They found that he lied about that. Voters have a right to know the truth.”

Geragos said an appeal would likely be filed “in very short order.”

“[Krikorian] didn’t do anything except tell the truth in a federal election, where a state board has no business,” Geragos added.

In addition to the appeal, another case stemming from Schmidt v. Krikorian may be brewing. Peter Musurlian, an Armenian filmmaker on hand to document the hearing on September 3, told the *Cincinnati Enquirer* he would file criminal charges against Brey for shoving him as he entered an elevator.

Musurlian could not be reached on deadline.



From left, Vice President Joseph Biden, Annie Totah and Dr. Jill Biden

# Armenian Assembly Board Member Discusses Armenian Issues with Biden

POTOMAC, Md. — At a recent dinner reception at Vice President Joseph Biden’s residence, Assembly Board Member Annie Totah had the opportunity to express the community’s appreciation for his longstanding support during his tenure in the US Senate. Totah also discussed the need for the US to fully affirm the Armenian Genocide and urged the vice president to uphold the administration’s commitment.

“We appreciate Vice President Biden’s decades-long record on Armenian issues and strongly urge the Obama Administration to unequivocally affirm the Armenian Genocide,” Totah said, adding that “Genocide education and affirmation are keys to prevention.”

# Ambassador Scheduled to Headline Assembly’s 2009 Holiday Reception at Armenian Embassy in Washington DC

WASHINGTON — On Tuesday, September 15, the Armenian Assembly of America attended the 199th anniversary of the Independence of Mexico, which was held at

position with the Mexican government. We look forward to having the ambassador as our guest at our DC Holiday Reception in December,” stated Totah.



From left, Taniel Koushadjian, Annie Totah, Ambassador Arturo Sarukhan, his wife, Veronica Valencia and Gustavo Albin, ambassador of Mexico to the OAS

the Organization of American States (OAS) office building in DC. Assembly Board Member Annie Totah and Grassroots Director Taniel Koushadjian were special guests of Ambassador Arturo Sarukhan, who is a grandson of Armenian Genocide survivors.

“I am so delighted to come here to celebrate the momentous occasion of Mexico’s independence. I have known and collaborated with Ambassador Sarukhan over the last two years and we are very proud that someone of Armenian heritage has achieved such a high

A 15-year career diplomat, Sarukhan has served as Mexico’s ambassador to the US since 2007. Prior to this post, he served as chief foreign policy expert and international spokesperson for Mexican President Felipe Calderon, Mexico’s Consul General in New York City, and was chief of staff to two Mexican ambassadors to the US from 1993-1998.

Sarukhan will be the guest speaker at the Assembly’s Holiday Reception at the Armenian Embassy on December 6.

# Organizations File Amicus Brief in California Case to Support Survivors

LOS ANGELES — The Armenian Bar Association, the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA), the International Association of Genocide Scholars and the Zoryan Institute for Contemporary Armenian Research and Documentation recently jointly signed onto an amicus brief filed in the United States 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in the case of *Movsesian v. Versicherung*.

On August 20, a divided three-judge panel of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals held that the California Code of Civil Procedure section 354.4, which refers to the Armenian Genocide and allows for certain claims arising out of the Genocide to be pursued in California courts, is pre-empted by statements of federal Executive Branch officials in the Clinton and Bush Administrations. The decision came despite the fact that the statements do not carry the force of law, were not embodied in any international agreement, and were unrelated to the settlement of private claims, in this case, insurance claims. The brief requests a panel rehearing and a rehearing en banc.

The Armenian Bar Association secured pro bono assistance from the international law firm, Bingham McCutcheon, LLP, with attorneys David M. Balabanian, David B. Salmons and Erin S. Conroy, drafting the brief for the amici curiae. In addition to assistance provided by the ANCA and the Zoryan Institute, research assistance was also provided by the Armenian National Institute.

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# Community News

## ASA Awards \$66,000 in Scholarships

WARWICK, R.I. – Lori Kooloian, chairperson of the ASA Scholarship Committee reported that the Armenian Students' Association of America (ASA) has awarded a total of \$66,000 this year in scholarships to aid 28 college and university students in the United States for the academic year 2009-2010. The scholarship award recipients and their school for the year 2009 are:

Tatya Michelle Altunyan, University of Delaware; Maral Mardios Balayan, Boston University; Gregory Hapet Berberian, Georgetown University School of Medicine; Alex Michael DiStasi, New York University Tish School of the Arts; Jacquelyn Kali DiStasi, University of Maryland; Artavazd Arto Ginosian, University of Washington; Meredith Ann Hutchinson, Columbia University; Kevin Kaldjian, University of Southern California; Henrik Karapetyan, University of Michigan; Lisa Kachaturian, University of Maryland, Law School; Alec George Kherlopian, Boston University; Tatevik Khoja-Eynatyan, Johns Hopkins University; Ani Krikorian, Villanova University; Hovhannes K. Kulhandjian, University of Buffalo; Michael K. Kulhandjian, University of Buffalo; Andrew David Kzirian, Columbia University; Jeannette Frances Laudicina, Boston College; Marissa Renee Lizotte, Northeastern University; Nara Martirosyan, Grambling State University; Ani Zabelle Megerdichian, Quinnipiac University; Robert Harold Nazarian, The College of the Holy Cross; Megan E. Sarian, James Madison University; Michael Gregor Sherenian, Drexel University College of Medicine; Talar Tatarian, George Washington University Medical School; Nazig Milkon Tchakarian, Stony Brook University; Sarah Rose Varadian, Stonehill College and Talene Melissa Yeremian, Drexel University.

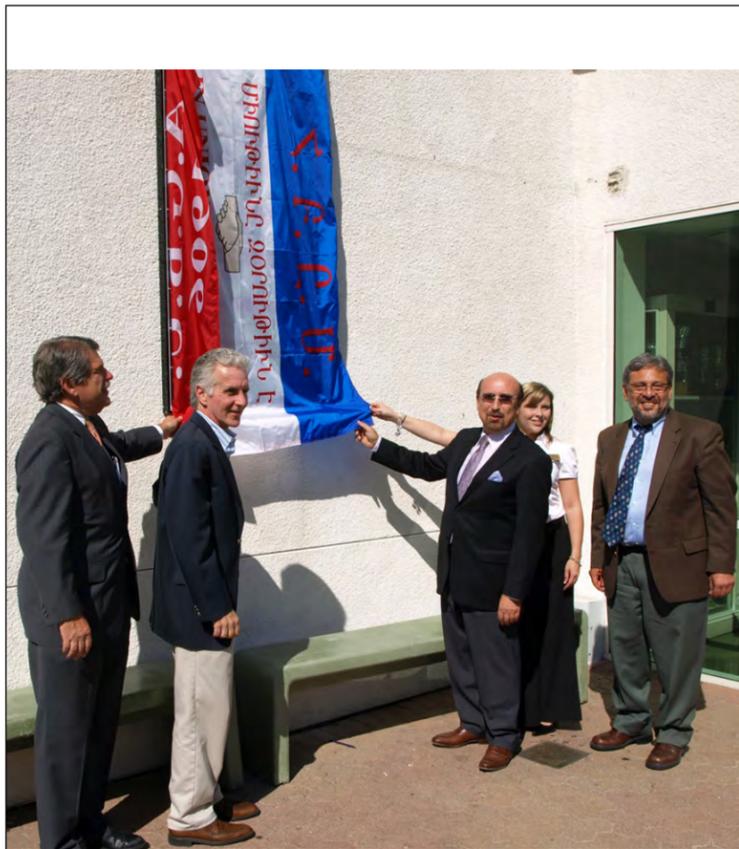
The ASA Gold Medal for outstanding scholastic achievement to a college undergraduate was awarded to Angelia Anne Ahlijian of Ypsilanti, Mich., a student at Eastern Michigan University majoring in professional writing.

The ASA Silver Medal Award Committee selected 10 high school seniors to receive the Silver Medal Award. The Silver Medal Awards are given annually to high school seniors who have demonstrated outstanding scholastic ability.

The following students were selected to receive the award: Elizabeth Susan Derderian of Wynantskill, NY; Kyle G. Dinkjian of Fort Lee, NJ; Dalita P. Getzoyan of Lincoln, RI; James Alexander Hamblin of Medway, Mass.; Emily Susan Hanoian of North Providence, RI; Christopher Kazar Janigian of Cranston, RI; Tatevik Martirosyan of Cranston, RI; Melissa Debra Megrđichian of Cranston, RI; Stephanie Frances Surabian of East Greenwich, RI and David Kenneth Tomajian of Dinuba, Calif.

For ASA Scholarship applications, contact the ASA National Office, 333 Atlantic Ave., Warwick, RI 02888, or e-mail: headasa@aol.com. Deadline for scholarship applications to be submitted is March 15, 2010.

ASA Silver Medal Applications for high school seniors are available; the deadline for applying for this award is May 1, 2010.



From left, Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, California Assemblyman Paul Krekorian, Sinan Sinanian, chairman of the School Board of Trustees, Jessica Forkish, representative of Los Angeles City Council Member Dennis Zine, and Sevan Varteressian, president of California Green Designs, unveil the wall plaque, which commemorates AGBU Manoogian-Demirdjian School's continuing dedication to solar power.

## AGBU Manoogian-Demirdjian School in Southern California Expands Solar Energy Use

CANOGA PARK, Calif. – "This is indeed a historic day," said Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Western), in his remarks at the dedication ceremony of the Solar Energy Project held at AGBU Manoogian-Demirdjian School on Thursday, September 17.

The day's program commenced with welcoming remarks by Levon Keshishian, the school's director of Business Operations, who spoke about the institution's commitment to innovation: "Our school has been a leader and forerunner in many aspects of school operations, and it is rewarding to see that many follow our lead. One such project is the solar project."

Keshishian mentioned that while California adopted regulations only recently, increasing its Renewable Portfolio Standard to 33 percent by 2020 and advancing California's commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing the state's renewable energy, the Manoogian-Demirdjian School is producing almost 40 percent of its electricity needs with the Solar Energy Project.

Keshishian invited California Assemblyman Paul Krekorian to address the audience of high school seniors, teachers, administrators, board members, members of the PTO, Booster Club members and community representatives. Krekorian is the first chairperson of the newly-created Select Committee on Renewable Energy, which leads the State Assembly's goal of meeting at least 33 percent of California's electricity needs from renewable resources like the sun and the wind.

Krekorian praised the school's decision to pursue the use of solar power and congratulated the leadership for the bold step.

Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky took the podium and congratulated the school in becoming a beacon of hope and leader in such a useful project, benefiting the environment and becoming an example for other entities to follow.

Los Angeles City Council Member Dennis Zine, who could not attend the ceremony due to unexpected and urgent city business, was represented by his deputy for special projects Jessica Forkish, who conveyed the council member's congratulations.

Derderian congratulated all those involved in this worthwhile project and offered his prayers for the continued success of the school. Addressing the senior class, he exhorted them to learn from their teachers and school leaders, especially in endeavors that impact the future of our community, country and the world.

Sinan Sinanian, chairman of the School Board of Trustees, thanked Sevan and Miganooosh Varteressian for conceiving of the solar project idea and implementing it as the general contractor. He commended them for their professional workmanship and financial contribution of \$125,000 towards the completion of the project. He praised Sevan Varteressian for turning the idea into reality. A short video presentation of the project followed.

Sevan Varteressian, president of California Green Designs, and John Hoffman,

see SOLAR, page 20

## Orlando Mission Parish Community Begins Construction Of New Church

ORLANDO, Fla. – Undeterred by humidity and rain, members of the Orlando parish gathered last Sunday to witness the groundbreaking and cornerstone blessing ceremony for the community's soon-to-be built Armenian church.

Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern), visited the parish to preside over the groundbreaking ceremony and to bless the four cornerstones of the new church building.

At a banquet following the ceremony, the Primate announced that Harry and Suzanne Toufayan and family had pledged \$750,000 for the church, which will be named St. Haroutiun Armenian Church in honor of Harry Toufayan's father.

Harry Toufayan, the owner of Toufayan Bakery, is a benefactor of the Eastern Diocese and the Mother See of Holy Echmiadzin. He will be the godfather of St. Haroutiun Armenian Church when it is consecrated next spring.

Assisting the Primate in the September 27 groundbreaking were the Very Rev. Nareg Berberian, pastor of St. David Armenian Church of Boca Raton; the Rev. Hovnan Demerjian, pastor of St. Hagop Armenian Church of St. Petersburg and the altar servers and choir members of the St. David and St. Hagop churches. Berberian has been visiting the Orlando parish to celebrate the Divine Liturgy, in the absence of a permanent pastor for the community.

"This is a great occasion, and the fruit of long effort," Barsamian said. "I am pleased to see the community coming together over this task."

The Primate anointed each of the four cornerstones of the new church with Holy Muron.



Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern), anoints a cornerstone of the new Orlando, Fla. church with Holy Muron.

Some 120 parishioners then gathered at the Villas of Grand Cypress banquet hall, where the Primate announced that the Toufayan family of New Jersey had pledged their donation to the church. The announcement was welcomed by a standing ovation.

"Everybody was elated," said long-time parishioner and parish council treasurer Lucine Mardirosian-Harvey.

During the banquet, Dr. Sam Mikaelian, coordinator of development at the Diocese, spoke about the importance of giving and community life. A "wish-list" with items needed for the interior of the church was distributed, and a group of parishioners donated funds for a processional cross in honor of Mardirosian-Harvey.

see ORLANDO, page 9



## COMMUNITY NEWS

## Attorneys Vartkes Yeghiayan and Rita Mahdessian Honored in Greece

LOS ANGELES and ATHENS — California Attorneys Vartkes Yeghiayan and Rita Mahdessian were recently honored in Athens, Greece, for their efforts in repatriating the legal rights of the Eastern Greeks.

In 2008, Yeghiayan facilitated the creation of a voluntary settlement program with New York Life Insurance Company for heirs of Greeks who had purchased life insurance policies in the Ottoman Empire prior to 1915. The total value of the voluntary program was \$15 million.

In a magnificent setting at Dora Stratou Amphitheatre at



A representative from the mayor's office presents the awards.



Rita Mahdessian and Vartkes Yeghiayan



Former Prime Minister of Greece Yiannis Grivas and President of the Federation of Refugee Associations of Greece Athanasios Lagodimos with the honorees

the Acropolis, the Federation of Refugee Associations of Greece, the Pan-Pontian Federation of Greece, the Ecumenical Federation of Constantinopolitans and the Pan-Hellenic Federation of Thracian Associations jointly honored the lawyers with a cultural program, including performances by Greek traditional dance ensembles. The event, which took place on September 14, was attended by some two thousand people, including former Greek Prime Minister Yiannis Grivas, who presented the awards. Also present were representatives from the mayor's office, the press and political parties.

The ceremony was preceded by a one-day International Conference on September 12, at the auditorium of the Athens Parnassos Literary Society, on the occasion of the 54th anniversary of Septemvriana (Istanbul prior to 1955, The Restitution of Minorities as a prerequisite for Respect of Human Rights in Turkey.) The topics covered the mechanisms of confiscation of properties and persecution during World War I.

## AMAA Will Celebrate 20th Anniversary of the Armenian Children's Milk Fund at 90th Annual Meeting

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — The Armenian Children's Milk Fund (ACMF), an all-volunteer organization formed by a diverse group of caring individuals in the Greater Boston area shortly after the earthquake in Armenia in 1988, has saved the lives of thousands of Armenian infants by providing them with formula.

The Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) has provided technical and logistical support to this program over the past 20 years.

Lilit Galstyan was one of the many children that benefited from this program. She was born in Vanadzor, Armenia on March 11, 1992. Galstyan was very ill as an infant and spent much of her first year of life in the hospital. Her mother was also ill and the family lacked the means to purchase formula to feed Lilit. They turned to the Armenian Children's Milk Fund, which supplied formula free of charge until Galstyan's first birthday. She is now a healthy 17-year-old and will share her testimony at the AMAA's 90th Annual Meeting Banquet, which will celebrate 20 years of the ACMF's success.

The 90th Annual Meeting will be held in Providence, and hosted by the Armenian Euphrates Evangelical Church in Providence. Over the course of four days (October 16-19),

AMAA members and friends, representatives of Armenian Evangelical Churches worldwide, AMAA Chapters and representatives of AMAA affiliate organizations will join to celebrate the mission and service ministries of this unique organization.

In conjunction with the AMAA's activities, the Armenian Evangelical World Council will have its meeting on Friday, October 16 and the Board of Directors of the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America will hold meetings on Sunday and Monday (October 18 and 19). The Board of Directors of the AMAA will meet on Friday evening to report on activities and discuss future plans.

On Friday at 2 p.m. a special seminar will be held for all participating pastors and representatives. The seminar will also be open to the public. Two prominent speakers, Harold Nahigian and Todd Polyniak, will be sharing their insight regarding investing and financial stewardship.

For the past 50 years, Nahigian is considered by his peers as the dean of investments and financial planning in Southern California, having more than \$200 million under management for individuals, families, corporations and church-affiliated organizations. Nahigian has been president of Nationwide Investments &

Insurance, Inc. from 1979 to the present. In addition, he is the regional director of the Financial Network Investment Corporation and a life member of the University of Southern California Alumni Association.

Todd Polyniak, CPA, is a principal and director of accounting and auditing with Sax, Macy, Fromm & Co., AMAA's independent auditors. Polyniak has presented over 50 educational programs and serves as a director on several non-profit boards. Besides his professional side, Polyniak is an Evangelical Christian, periodically teaching in his church.

The annual meeting of the AMAA will be held on Saturday, October 17 at 9:30 a.m.

Participants in the meeting will review both the activities and the financial reports of the association.

The highlight of the weekend's activities will be the 90th Annual Meeting Banquet, which will be held Saturday at the Crown Plaza in Warwick, RI.

The Annual Meeting Worship of Praise will be held on Sunday, October 18, at the Armenian Euphrates Evangelical Church in Providence, at 11 a.m. Leading the worship service will be the New England pastors — Rev. Mike Mekredjian and Rev. Avedis Boynerian — who will give the Armenian sermon and Rev. Greg Haroutunian the English sermon.

### Obituary

## Annie S. Karakaian

WATERTOWN, N.Y. — Annie S. Karakaian, 98, formerly of Sackets Harbor, died early Friday morning at Angel's Inn, Watertown, where she had resided since January 2009.

A memorial service was held on Friday, October 9, at Fellowship Baptist Church in Watertown with Rev. Earl Reff officiating. Burial followed in Rural Cemetery, Adams.

Born October 1, 1911, in Constantinople, Turkey, the daughter of Kevork and Armavanie Tateosian Sarafian, she and her family escaped the Armenian Genocide and moved to the United States in 1922, where their names are listed at Ellis Island.

She graduated from Detroit City High School in Detroit. Following the Depression, the family returned to New York City. At the age of 60, she attended Queens College, where she earned her Bachelor of Arts, graduating cum laude.

She married Aram Karakaian on July 15, 1933, in New York. The couple lived in the Bronx before moving to Whitestone. Aram

Karakaian died in May 1991.

Annie Karakaian moved to live with her son and daughter-in-law, Edward and Sharon Karakaian, Sackets Harbor, in August 2007 before moving to Angel's Inn in Watertown.

Surviving in addition to her son and his wife, are two sons and a daughter-in-law, Charles Karakaian of New York, John and Julie Karakaian of Seville, Ohio; a grandson and his wife, Nicholas and Sarah Karakaian of New York; a brother, Harry Sarafian of San Francisco; a sister, Eva Exizian, Fla. and several nieces and nephews.

Three brothers, Don, Al and John, predeceased her.

Donations in her memory may be made to the Activity Fund at Angel's Inn, 518 Pine St., Watertown, NY 13601 or Hospice of Jefferson County, 425 Washington St., Watertown, NY 13601.

Arrangements were by the Pidcock Funeral Home, Adams.

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## COMMUNITY NEWS

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## Orlando Mission Parish Community Begins Construction of New Church

ORLANDO, from page 7

"Although they are small in number, miraculously this community is now building a church that the coming generations will cherish," said Berberian.

The parish already has an ACYOA group, with plans to form other organizations in the future.

Last Sunday's celebration was the culmination of years of effort by members of the

ment center but in the ensuing years the young parish found it difficult to realize that vision, and efforts focused instead on erecting a new church.

A five-acre plot was purchased in 1993, and a smaller purchase followed three years later. As property values rose, the parish council decided to sell both parcels and purchase a third section of land on which to build the new church. The



Archbishop Khajag Barsamian presides over the groundbreaking ceremony of St. Haroutian Armenian Church in Orlando, Fla. Assisting him are the Very Rev. Nareg Berberian, pastor of St. David Armenian Church of Boca Raton and the Rev. Hovnan Demerjian, pastor of St. Hagop Armenian Church of St. Petersburg, Fla.



Archbishop Khajag Barsamian anoints a cornerstone of the new Orlando, Fla.

Armenian community of Orlando.

Shortly after its establishment as a mission parish on May 7, 1985, by then-Primate Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, the community began considering the construction of a church building.

Initial plans also called for an adjoining retire-

ment center, completed in 2005, helped the community raise money for construction costs.

Last spring, the Orlando parish received the final permit needed to proceed with the project. Coincidentally, the permit was issued on April 24. Construction began in August, with plans to open and consecrate the new church on April 11, 2010.

"It's been a difficult journey," said Parish Council member Richard Bargamian. "But I am very happy to be a part of it."

Parishioners also note the contributions of Mardirosian-Harvey, who has been involved with the project since its earliest days, attending countless planning and zoning board meetings and helping gather support for the undertaking.

"This church is really God's miracle," she said. "No one person could have accomplished something like this if it wasn't God's will."

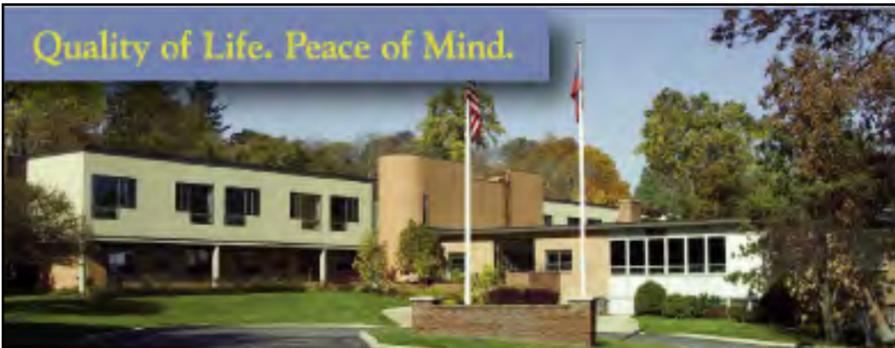
Designed by the late Ramon H. Hovsepian of Worcester, Mass., the new church will feature a copper dome and elements of traditional Armenian Church architecture. With the mortgage paid, the community will now focus on furnishing the church.

"It's been a lot of work," said Parish Council Chair Aram Nazarian. "A lot of prayers have been answered. The community is very excited that we're going to have our own church in Orlando."



The Very Rev. Nareg Berberian, pastor of St. David Armenian Church of Boca Raton, Fla., with altar servers at the groundbreaking ceremony of the soon-to-be built Armenian church in Orlando, Fla.

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## COMMUNITY NEWS

## Michigan Hye Beat Detroit Fetes Edgar Hagopian

By Betty Apigian Kessel

DETROIT – When you can get almost 300 people to gather for an evening of tributes to one person, he must have done something right. So it was on September 20, when Metro-Detroiters and others from across this nation attended a most memorable evening honoring Edgar Hagopian at the stylish Royal Park Hotel in Rochester, Mich.

Hagopian has earned a stellar reputation and has been labeled a humanitarian, prominent businessman, philanthropist, leader and friend. Although those are marvelous attributes, it is his solid marriage of 52 years to his beloved Sarah and devotion to their three children that seals them as a family. “We love you, Dad,” was in essence the sentiment expressed by his children, Suzanne, Edmond and Angela who were gracious in their appreciation to the large group who turned out to fete their father.

As a teen, Hagopian worked with his father

group for their many successful projects when in fact they in turn say he is their inspiration.

Guests were greeted warmly by members of the Hagopian family and committee members as they arrived into the candlelit, flower-filled reception area of the Royal Park for the cocktail and hors d’oeuvres hour. Kanoun music was provided by Ara Topouzian. Cellist Debra Fayroian and violinist Adrienne Ronmark provided a musical interlude prompting Hagopian to comment “their music touches one’s soul.”

Very Rev. Diran Papazian delivered a fitting and beautiful blessing commenting on Hagopian’s true Armenian spirit and generosity.

Guests dined on a gourmet filet mignon dinner accompanied by a selection of fine wines.

Event co-chairs were Corinne Khederian and David Terzibashian, who in his remarks called Hagopian, “Worthy of being called an Asbed.” Master of Ceremony duties fell to the capable Simon Javizian. American and Armenian national anthems were sung by Rubik Mailian with piano accompaniment by Margaret Benian.

Key advisor for the evening was the Detroit Chapter of the Knights of Vartan.

Hagopian World of Rugs showroom with its hundreds of extraordinary Oriental rugs and carpets serves as a backdrop for Armenian gatherings featuring authors, professors, scientists and even Turkish scholars. Many writers have had solemn wine-blessing ceremonies performed on their books there. Guests are encouraged to seat themselves on these priceless

works of art as authors unfold their literary accomplishment in this rarified atmosphere of stimulating conversation reminiscent of the great salons of Europe and all while they freely partake of an ample assortment of food and refreshments generously provided by the Hagopian Family.

Among the dignitaries who shared their thoughts, love and respect for Hagopian were former Congressman Joe Knollenberg, Edgar’s long-time friend who gave the toast stating “this day should have come long ago” speaking of how Edgar worked to increase military aid to Armenia and Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, who with Hagopian worked hard to get “Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day” signed into Michigan law.

It was a day of proclamations and special trib-



Edgar Hagopian (r) and Rep. Thad McCotter

Haroutun in the family cleaning business. The company expanded and in 2009, the Hagopian Family of Companies celebrated 70 years of business. The third generation of Hagopians, including the Hagopian’s son-in-law Ken Snow are now operating the business with the same ideals of community involvement and a mission to move forward. Through it all, Hagopian remains an unusually humble man.

The tribute has been in the planning stages for several months, brought to smooth fruition by a loyal group of Hagopian’s friends known as the Armenian Festival Committee because of their summer outdoor food and music festival attracting thousands. They are a band of Armenian-Americans dedicated to perpetuating the Armenian spirit by bridging the community. Hagopian modestly is quick to give credit to this

It was a day of proclamations and special trib-



Edgar Hagopian and Irina Lazarian, executive director of Armenia Fund USA

utes by Mayor Brenda Lawrence of Southfield, state Rep. Chuck Moss who called Hagopian “One of Oakland Counties finest residents,” as well as Bryan Ardouny, executive director of the Armenian Assembly of America, on whose board Hagopian serves as well as on ARMEN-PAC with Annie Totah. Harry Derderian of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation and Detroit United Committee stated, “We don’t take you for granted. We have all felt his financial and moral support.” Corinne Khederian on behalf of state Sen. John Papageorge, Diana Alexanian on behalf of Edmond Azadian of the Armenian Democratic Liberal party and the Tekeyan Cultural Association, and many others lauded Hagopian’s generosity.

Azadian had recently written a fine editorial in where he described Hagopian “As a man of his word and he does not mince them,” said to be right on the mark by Hagopian and that he always believes one should be true to oneself no matter the ramifications.

Also attending was Irina Lazarian of the Armenia Fund USA. At Hagopian’s request, net proceeds from the event will be donated to the AFUSA.

Every word of praise and appreciation spoken were for the man who that night was overwhelmed by the accolades showered upon him, a man driven by his passion for America and his ancestral homeland – “Don’t you feel a strong sense of obligation to maintain this incredible 3,000-year-old Armenian culture?” he says.

In 2005, Hagopian received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor. He is a major benefactor of the Detroit Institute of Arts and an honorary board member. Hagopian’s involvement in local, national and international causes are legend and too numerous to mention. Aiding him is his faithful assistant, Pam Coultis, who makes it all

mesh smoothly.

Hagopian is a man who loves all things beautiful – art, music, literature, architecture and people – but more than that, his wish is to bring the Armenian community together in unity, to end the division.

The perfect evening concluded with Hagopian’s remarks revealing his humanity. He remembered his Muslim friends by mentioning Ramadan had just ended, and that it was the beginning of Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish time for forgiveness and rebirth. “Let’s start anew,” he said. “Remember how lucky you are our parents came to America.”

We are all lucky that out of Armenia’s ashes, a first generation

Armenian American came forth to reap the benefits of a hard work ethic who has dedicated his life to making the world a better place with his leadership. I’m not quite sure just one evening is enough to fete someone of Edgar Hagopian’s ilk.

He is “The Original Hagopian,” dyed in the wool, weaving his own pattern of generosity.

(Michigan Hye Beat appears courtesy of the Armenian Weekly.)

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Standing, from left, Simon Javizian, Corinne Khederian, Edgar Hagopian, Shirley Sarkisian, David Terzibashian, Ray Boujoulian and Ed Bedikian; seated, from left, Gregory Vartanian, Madeline Thomasian, Pam Coultis, Hagop Alexanian, Angela Hagopian Snow, Diana Alexanian and Suzanne Hagopian

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## New York METRO

# Archbishop Aykazian, Rev. Abdalian Attend Appeal of Conscience Foundation Awards Dinner in New York

NEW YORK — On Tuesday, September 22, Archbishop Vicken Aykazian, Legate of the Eastern Diocese and President of the National Council of Churches, represented the National Council of Churches (NCC) at the annual awards dinner of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation in New York City. The Rev. Tateos Abdalian represented Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern). Barsamian, who is a long-serving vice president

of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation, was in the midst of an official visit to Armenia.

More than 450 civic and religious leaders were present at the gathering, including Archbishop Demetrios, leader of the Greek Orthodox Church in the United States; Roman Catholic Cardinal Theodore McCarrick; former US Secretary of State Dr. Henry Kissinger; media mogul Rupert Murdoch; Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barack and Bono, lead singer of the rock band U2.

Each year the Appeal of Conscience Foundation recognizes individuals who have helped support programs and initiatives that promote religious freedom and human rights. The 2009 honorees included Prime Minister Gordon Brown of the United Kingdom; Bernard Arnault, CEO of Louis Vuitton and Muhtar Kent, CEO of Coca-Cola.

As he recognized Kent, who was born to Turkish parents, Rabbi Arthur Schneier, the founder of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation, encouraged improved relations between Armenians and Turks. Kent later approached Archbishop Aykazian and the two shared a cordial conversation, both wishing the best for a peaceful future for Armenia and Turkey.

Aykazian was also able to speak with pop singer and human rights activist Bono. "Our two peoples, the Armenians and the Irish, have had similar stories of sufferings and challenges, but we have survived," Aykazian said. He then blessed Bono for the good work he has done around the world, and prayed that God would give him strength to continue his efforts. "He was truly grateful, and I was very impressed,"

Aykazian said of the artist who has been recognized for his humanitarian efforts, and whose music often deals with Christian themes.

The Appeal of Conscience Foundation, a coalition of business and religious leaders estab-



Archbishop Vicken Aykazian with Bono, lead singer of the rock band U2, at the annual awards dinner of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation

## Foreign Minister of Armenia Speaks at Columbia University

NEW YORK — In a lecture at New York's Columbia University on Tuesday, September 29, Armenia's Foreign Minister Dr. Eduard Nalbandian stressed that questions concerning the Nagorno-Karabagh issue and the Armenian Genocide would not be put in jeopardy by the Armenia-Turkey protocols, due to be signed this month.

The 30-minute talk, which was open to the public, also highlighted in more general terms Armenia's foreign policy agenda and other regional difficulties the country faces.

"The Caucasus region presents a hot spot with security threats and challenges," said Nalbandian. "Interstate tensions have arisen because of closed borders and the economic blockade [on Armenia]."

Nalbandian advocated the open-border policy with Turkey, saying it would bring security and stability to the region. Nalbandian said that if the protocols are ratified, Armenia would establish diplomatic relations with Turkey within a two-month

time period, and subsequently create sub-commissions addressing issues such as consular affairs and transportation between the two countries.

Another commission of international experts would be charged with opening up dialogue on the Armenian Genocide — a move that Nalbandian insisted would allow Armenia and Turkey to address the past without compromising the historical factuality of the 1915 Genocide.

Nalbandian also emphasized Armenia's determination to find "a durable and just resolution of the Nagorno-Karabagh" question.

"There are no preconditions, and the Nagorno-Karabagh settlement cannot be linked with Armenian-Turkey normalization," Nalbandian said repeatedly. "This is separate, and any linkage between them will damage this process."

Turning to broader foreign policy concerns, Nalbandian said a key challenge is to strengthen relations in the Caucasus.

"For Armenia, regional security is a priority," he said. "Differences should be settled by peaceful means."

Nalbandian, who is on an official visit to the United States, said he recently met with US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to discuss ways to further enhance cooperation between the United States and Armenia. He said that they have reached new levels of engagement with the Individual Partnership Action Plan (IPAP) between Armenia and NATO.

A charged question-and-answer session followed Nalbandian's presentation, focusing mostly on the Armenia-Turkey protocols. Nalbandian said that only press statements released jointly by the parties involved in the Armenia-Turkey talks should be considered as official positions on the issue. He added that many rumors are circulating in the Armenian community to the detriment of the negotiation process.

An announcement outlining the protocols was released on August 31 by the foreign ministers of Armenia, Turkey and Switzerland. Titled the "Protocol on the establishment of diplomatic relations" and the "Protocol on the development of bilateral relations," the two documents must be signed and submitted to the parliaments of both countries for ratification before the process can move forward.

"We shouldn't leave the burden of our problems on the coming generation," Nalbandian said. "We need mutual cooperation and our common objective should be the shaping of a region that is safe and prosperous for all."

The September 29 lecture — titled "Armenian Foreign Policy: Challenges in the Region of the Caucasus" — was hosted by the Harriman Institute and Columbia University Armenian Society at the university's School of International and Public Affairs. The event drew Armenians representing a wide range of organizations, representatives of the Armenian and Turkish embassies, including Armenia's Ambassador to the US Tatoul Markarian, Armenia's Ambassador to the UN Garen Nazarian, and Turkey's Consul in New York Ayse Uzer, as well as Armenian and Turkish journalists.

"It is critical to have a constructive dialogue about the protocols throughout the diaspora so that the voice of every Armenian can be heard," said Nora Khanarian, a graduate student who is secretary of the Columbia University Armenian Society.

"It is not only important for Armenia's leaders to come to diasporan communities and speak with them in open forums, it is imperative," said William Bairamian, a graduate student who is a member of the Columbia University Armenian Society. "Armenia's leaders must recognize that the diaspora has been indispensable in Armenia's development since independence."



Foreign Minister Eduard Nalbandian at Columbia

## Avaks Begin Fall Season with Trip to Ararat Center

By Florence Avakian

NEW YORK — The fall season has ushered in a new schedule of events for the St. Vartan Cathedral Avak group gatherings, with the hardy senior ladies and gents missing none of the weekly events under the leadership of St. Vartan Cathedral dean, the Rev. Mardiros Chevian.

The Avaks are now preparing for their three-day trip to the Ararat Center in upstate New York, from September 29 to October 1. The program includes daily worship services, Bible study, exercise, apple-picking and other entertainment.

Last spring, the Avaks took a trip to Washington, DC. The trip included a special visit to Washington's St. Mary Armenian Church, with a lunch hosted by the local Armenian community.

Also on the schedule were visits to the Smithsonian's Air and Space Museum, the Natural History Museum and the Library of Congress. Participants received professional guided tours of historic Washington, DC including the US Capitol, the Supreme Court, the

White House, Embassy Row and the National Archives.

Other trips the Avaks have taken over the past several years include a three-day trip to Montreal, Canada. In addition to these pleasurable out-of-town excursions, the Avaks meet every Thursday, during which they attend Bible classes with Deacon Sebah Oscherician, enjoy a delicious homemade lunch and are enlightened by a cultural program.

The Avaks have viewed films and videos, heard lectures and enjoyed musical programs after lunch. Last season, talks have been given by Diocesan Vicar General, the Very Rev. Haigazoun Najarian; Holy Martyrs Armenian Church pastor, the Very Rev. Vahan Hovhannessian; Dr. Svetlana Amirkhanian; St. Vartan Cathedral Choirmaster Khoren Mekanejian; Diramayr Shake Kadehjian; Krikor and Clara Zohrab Information Center Director Dr. Rachel Goshgarian; FAR representative Arto Vorperian; Flushing Armenian Home Director Aggie Ellian; cosmetologist Rita Oscherician; fitness instructor Arpine Dod; and journalist Florence Avakian. Musical programs were shared by St. Vartan Cathedral soloists Hasmig Meikhanedjian and Maro Partamian.



Members of the St. Vartan Cathedral Avaks group listen during a cultural presentation last season.

# Arts & Living

## 'Celebrate 2009 Armenian Cultural Heritage Series' To Present 'The Golden Voices of Opera,' Nov. 6

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — Holy Trinity Armenian Church and its choir present a concert with Yeghishe Manucharyan, tenor; Victoria Avetisyan, mezzo-soprano; Yelena Dudochkin, soprano and Tatyana Dudochkin, piano, "The Golden Voices of Opera," on Friday, November 6, at 8 p.m., at Longy School of Music, 27 Garden St.

The program is part of "Celebrate 2009 Armenian Cultural Heritage." Featured will be favorite arias, duets and romances including Verdi, Puccini, Rossini, Tigranyan, Abrahamyan, Rimsky-Korsakov and others.

*New York Newsday* wrote about Manucharyan: "Admired for his outstanding musical intelligence and for the purity, power and flexibility of his voice, tenor Yeghishe Manucharyan is quickly becoming one of the most sought after young tenors singing today."

Soon after her dazzling debuts with Caramoor International Music Festival as Gluck's Orfeo and as soloist at Washington's Kennedy Center with Bobby McFerrin, Avetisyan was honored with Caramoor's Young Vocal Artist of the Year Award, and is the recipient of numerous other distinctions.

Richard Dyer of the *Boston Globe* wrote that Yelena Dudochkin's performance of Shostakovich *Satires* "were sung with dramatic intelligence." And, Tatanya Dudochkin, pianist and teacher, is sought after to perform, teach and coach and is currently chair of the Piano Ensemble Department at the New England Conservatory, School of Preparatory and Continuing Education. Critically acclaimed for her performances as soloist and chamber musician, Dudochkin has concertized extensively throughout the former Soviet Union, United States, Canada, Spain, Italy and Holland.

"With the extraordinary talents of these gifted artists, this is a much-anticipated event for both the Armenian and non-Armenian community," stated Fr. Vasken A. Kouzouian, pastor of the Holy Trinity Armenian Church.

For further information and tickets, contact the church office at [office@htaac.org](mailto:office@htaac.org).

## Sayat Nova Dance Company To Perform in California

GLENDALE, Calif. — The Sayat Nova Dance Company of Boston (SNDC) will bring its "Power in Rhythm" to the Los Angeles area on November 8, at the Glendale High School Auditorium, 1440 Broadway, at 5 p.m.

Members of the company will entertain and inspire their audience through an artistic weave of Armenian dance, music and theatrical landscapes. Adorned in stunning and colorful costumes, over 60 members of the troupe will bring to life the strength, passion and determination that characterize the Armenian people and culture.

In its 24th year now, SNDC stands strong and is poised more than ever to carve its place in the world of Armenian dance.

Dramatic lighting, stage props, high energy, elaborate costumes and a large group of dedicated dancers magnify the experience of watching SNDC perform.

For more information, visit [www.sayatnova.com](http://www.sayatnova.com).

Tickets may also be purchased through [www.itsmyseat.com](http://www.itsmyseat.com).



Drummer River Guerguerian

## Drummer River Guerguerian Shares World Rhythms and Personal Insight

ASHEVILLE, N.C. (*Asheville Citizen-Times*) — Fortunately for the art of percussion, River Guerguerian's parents got tired of hearing their 8-year-old banging on pots and pans under the kitchen cabinets. They bought him his first true love, the drum, the tool that would lead him everywhere from Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center to an off-the-grid nature sanctuary in the Himalayas.

The biorhythms of the Appalachians lured him to plant roots in Asheville. Guerguerian continues to share not only his vibrant and versatile percussion through performances and workshops, but also a rich and refreshing personal philosophy that the experience of drumming can be far more than just playing an instrument. On Sunday, he hosts a drumming workshop at Jubilee! on Wall Street.

**By Casey Blake**

From kitchen cabinets to Carnegie Hall, Guerguerian has literally followed the beat of his own drum across the globe. Born of Armenian-Egyptian extraction in Montreal, Guerguerian traces his love of world rhythms back to an early beginning of his prolific career. "Even after my parents found their way to Canada, they were constantly playing Middle Eastern music from their homes while I was still in the womb," Guerguerian said. "I feel so lucky that I always knew music would be my life. It was never a question."

At age 11, Guerguerian followed the beat to New York City, eventually attended the Manhattan School of Music Conservatory and took with him the school's award for most outstanding percussionist. After graduating in 1988, Guerguerian could be found all over the globe as a freelance percussionist. Over the next several years, he played alongside a truly diverse range of artists from the BBC Orchestra and Oscar-winning composer Tan Dun to Chuck Berry, Ziggy Marley and David Wilcox.

Even after such apparent commercial success (anything but a guarantee for a professional percussionist), Guerguerian found himself anywhere but the mainstream. In 1994, he sold all his possessions and, in his words, "cut my umbilical cord to the West," moving to a wildlife sanctuary in the Himalayas. He would remain completely off the grid for the next five years until he settled in Western North Carolina in 1999. As Guerguerian puts his affection for the Appalachians, "these are the oldest mountains in the world. These mountains don't play games."

He continues to travel internationally with Turkish Sufi musician Omar Faruk Tekbilek and performs with Asheville-based world-fusion jazz trio Free Planet Radio.

Locals can experience Guerguerian's calming cadence and high energy on Sunday when the Jubilee Arts Team presents a workshop for adults and children to learn about rhythms from the Middle East as well as other cultures around the world. In true Guerguerian style, however, the rhythms he teaches will not be coming from a metronome.

"The thing about drumming is that you have to play it with your whole body, not just your hands," Guerguerian said. "There are constantly rhythms all around us and inside us. From the blood in your veins, to the way you breathe and walk, it's all about tapping into that inner timekeeper."

Participants will also learn about tone production and how to play harmoniously with other people, a skill that Guerguerian believes is underappreciated. "Playing with other people is truly communal. On a primal level we're all connected through waves and pulses," Guerguerian points out. "Understanding that can really change the way you listen to everything around you."

Although Asheville may have the mountains to thank for Guerguerian's residence here, the city itself has kept him close. "I have a real emotional connection to drumming here; it's such a creative place for me," Guerguerian says of the city. "Asheville just forces you to be the person you're supposed to be."

## Art Historian Shahen Khachatryan Credits Soil of Shirak for Emil Kazaz' Genius

PASADENA, Calif. — An evening of tribute dedicated to the prominent sculptor and artist Emil Kazaz will take place at the AGBU Alex Manoogian Center in Pasadena November 7, organized by the AGBU Southern California District Committee. The keynote speaker of the tribute evening and exhibit will be art historian Shahen Khachatryan, who has been invited especially from Yerevan for this occasion.

Khachatryan is one of Armenia's well-known art historians. He was born in Aleppo in 1934. In 1946, he and his family repatriated to Armenia. He became certified by the Leningrad Academy of Art. He worked in the State Gallery of Armenia. In 1967, Martiros Sarian proposed that Khachatryan assume the position of director of the newly-created museum named after him — a position which he held until 2004. In 1990, he also became director of the National Gallery.

Khachatryan is the author of a dozen or so studies devoted to topics of 19th- and 20th-century Armenian art. He has organized exhibits in various cities of Italy, France, Germany, Greece, the United States, Hungary and the former Soviet republics. He is presently working in Echmiadzin, as cultural advisor to the Catholicos of All Armenians and as director of the Arshile Gorky Museum.

Haig Messerlian, vice chairman of the AGBU Southern California District Committee, while visiting Armenia recently, interviewed Khachatryan.

Below are excerpts from that interview: **Haig Messerlian:** Tell us about interesting new developments in the realm of Armenian art.

**Shahen Khachatryan:** For me, a welcome new development pertains to Aivazovsky, who died in 1900. For an entire century, this marine painter was always represented in books published in Russia solely as a Russian artist. But now a long-wished-for monograph has been published in Moscow. The author, Tatyana Mamontova, is the only Russian art historian who, having studied our art and the history of the development of our painting, has not only confirmed Aivazovsky's Armenian origin but also presented him as a devotee of Armenian culture. Through this delightful study, the notion that Aivazovsky wasn't Armenian, which is mentioned on the first page of the book published in St. Petersburg immediately following the marine artist's death, is virtually negated.

**HM:** Well, what was the reason for not considering him Armenian?

**SK:** That undoubtedly stemmed from the political situation, for which the following had served as the basis. It's a known fact that when people selected new places of residence, they often used to change their names. For example, when Aivazovsky's father moved from Poland to the Crimea, he changed his name from Gevork to Kostantin, and his surname Haikazian to Gaivazovsky, which was closer to the Russian. His two sons, Archbishop Gabriel and the great seascape painter [Hovhannes], cut out the initial letter "G." Of course, the master painter's ties with Armenian life and culture in Russia weren't widespread. He signed certain paintings, as well as letters written in Armenian, "Hovhannes Aivazian."

see KAZAZ, page 15



## ARTS &amp; LIVING

## Archbishop Derderian Welcomes *Children of Armenia* Author Michael

BURBANK, Calif. — On September 25, Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, the Primate of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, welcomed Armenian-American author Michael Bobelian to the Diocesan Center.

During his book tour in California, Bobelian presented Derderian with a signed

Simon & Schuster and released in early September. The book is the first to chronicle the aftermath of the Genocide, recounting the Armenian struggle for justice in the face of a century of silence and denial.

During their meeting, Derderian inquired as to what inspired Bobelian to write his book.

Bobelian explained that he had been stirred to write this book by his family's story. As the grandson of Genocide survivors, Bobelian struggled to rationalize how an event as widely reported as the Armenian Genocide could fade from public consciousness. He wondered what role America played in helping Turkey

evade public accountability. And he was amazed to learn that decades of silence passed before a new generation of Armenian activists arose to renew the fight for justice. When he realized that no one had the answers to these questions, Bobelian decided to write *Children of Armenia*.

Based on years of archival research and personal interviews with dozens of people from former presidential candidate Bob Dole to Armenian advocates of the past few decades, *Children of Armenia* is the first book to trace this post-Genocide history. It reveals the events that have conspired to eradicate the "hidden holocaust" from the world's memory

and chronicles the story of the Armenians who struggled to seek justice in the face of Turkish denial.

California Gov. George Deukmejian said of the book, "This powerful and gripping account of a people's century-long struggle for justice is long overdue."

Bobelian, a graduate of the University of Michigan Law School and the Columbia Graduate School of Journalism, is on a nationwide book tour. For more information about the book, event dates and an excerpt, visit [www.childrenarmenia.com](http://www.childrenarmenia.com). The book is available in local bookstores as well as Amazon.com and Simonandschuster.com.



Archbishop Hovnan Derderian meets with Michael Bobelian, author of *Children of Armenia*.

## The Struggle towards Remembrance of the 'Forgotten Genocide'

**Children of Armenia: A Forgotten Genocide and the Century-Long Struggle for Justice.** By Michael Bobelian. Simon & Schuster. 388 pp. 2009. ISBN 978-1-4165-5725-8

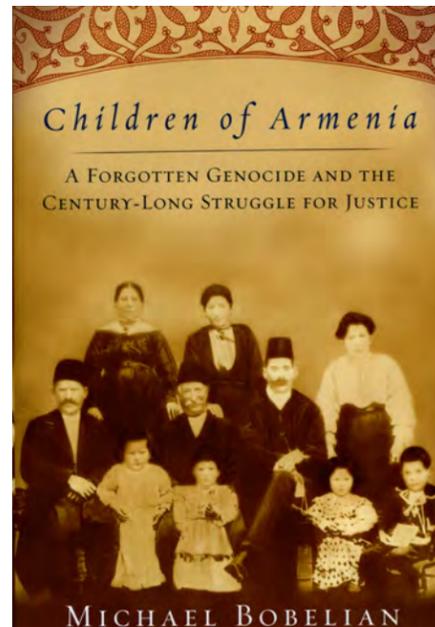
**By Daphne Abeel**

Special to the Mirror-Spectator

Over the decades, many both inside and outside of the Armenian community have pondered the question: why did the Armenian Genocide become the "forgotten genocide?"

In his new book, journalist and lawyer Michael Bobelian has set out to answer that question.

By tracing the course of geopolitical events since World War I, he has highlighted and shaped what may be familiar material to set down a narrative that explains the virtual dis-



appearance of the first genocide of the 20th century from an international scene where once everyone knew and recognized the plight of the "starving Armenians."

This is not simply a chronicle of the forgetting, but also of the gradual groundswell of effort, especially since the 50th anniversary of the events of 1915, in the Armenian community to achieve full recognition of the tragedy. Although widespread accounts of the Genocide in the international press and eyewitness accounts from many including US Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire Henry Morgenthau produced an outpouring of financial aid to and sympathy for Armenians, Bobelian illustrates that a pattern of neglect and marginalization of Armenian interests took hold after the promises of the Treaty of Sevres were vacated. The failure of that treaty to deliver the promise of an independent Armenia, and the consequent struggle between the emerging Soviet Union and Turkey for control of a weak and fledgling Armenian Republic, doomed Armenia and the Armenians to the sidelines of a geopolitical struggle that blanketed their cause.

Bobelian's account pays tribute to many individual Armenians who fought tirelessly in their people's cause to achieve not only the moral recognition of the Armenian Genocide, but also the political reality of its statehood.

Among them were Armen Garo, who in 1896 led the takeover of the Ottoman Bank; Avedis Aharonian, who represented the Armenian Republic in the post-World War I peace talks, and who signed the Treaty of Sevres in 1920; Krikor Zorab, an Armenian member of the Ottoman Parliament who was murdered in the early stages of the Genocide; Michael Minasian, who led the efforts in California in the 1960s to build a Genocide memorial; Van Z. Krikorian, who lobbied ceaselessly in the 1980s for the passage of a resolution in the US Congress to recognize the Genocide and Vartkes Yeghiayan, who filed the successful class-action lawsuit against the New York Life Insurance Company for the settlement of policies issued to Armenians during the period of the Genocide.

There are also accounts of Armenians who chose violence to avenge wrongs, in particular of Soghomon Tehlirian, who assassinated Talaat Pasha in Berlin in 1933. Bobelian provides an extended description of the assassination in 1973 of two Turkish diplomats in

California by Gourgen Yanikian. In his portrayal of Yanikian, he underlines how frustration and rage at the lack of justice can influence an individual's mental state.

Bobelian also traces the interdependence between the United States and Turkey back to the efforts of Admiral Mark Bristol after World War I to defeat the Armenian mandate and to champion Turkey's interests in increased trade with the US and diplomatic relations with the new nation of Turkey formed under the leadership of Kemal Ataturk.

With the absorption of Armenia into the Soviet Union, the Armenian cause faltered, and those who had escaped the Genocide found themselves in new countries, faced with the challenge of rebuilding their lives. Many tried to put the horrors of the Genocide behind them. Some individuals even changed their names, denying their Armenian identity.

It was not until 1965 — the 50th anniversary of the Genocide — that the Armenian community began to unite in its efforts to achieve recognition. Since that time, memorials have been built, more than a handful of nations have recognized the Genocide, and yearly resolutions have been filed in the US Congress for recognition. But geopolitical interests have continued to trump moral concerns. With Turkey a member of NATO and a convenient base for US interests in the Middle East, the congressional resolution has been defeated every time up to the present.

Still, Bobelian can point to some positive developments: the statements by such leading Turkish intellectuals such as Taner Akcam and novelist Orhan Pamuk that acknowledge the Genocide, the holding of a conference on Turkish soil to discuss the Genocide and a spate of newly-published and widely-distributed books that highlight the facts of the Genocide.

He notes, "Few mainstream works other than Franz Werfel's *Forty Days of Musa Dagh* touched the subject." [the Genocide]. In contrast to the Holocaust, which was written about by a host of talented eyewitness writers such as Primo Levi and Elie Wiesel, to name but two, the Genocide, for many decades, remained largely the province of amateur accounts, many of which were not translated from Armenian. Those who might have written more eloquently and persuasively were among the first victims of the Armenian Genocide — the intellectuals.

Inevitably, Bobelian's book ends on a wistful and inconclusive note, "...nearly a century after the survivors spent so much energy rebuilding their lives that they hardly had time to mourn, their children — the children of Armenia — are still waiting for justice to prevail."

Still, change is on the horizon. Turkey and Armenia are processing the opening of their borders, and while there is no provision that this be dependent on Turkey's recognition of the Genocide — and many in the Armenian Diaspora oppose this border opening — the seeds could be there for a greater flow of truthful information, and ultimate justice for the "forgotten Genocide."

Bobelian's account will stand as a useful analysis of the way in which national self-interests have triumphed over what is just and right. And it is possible that self-interest, for example Turkey's desire to become a member of the European Union, may one day coincide with justice and the acknowledgment of historical truth. The 100th anniversary, fast approaching in 2015, could be the defining moment.

copy of his book, *Children of Armenia: A Forgotten Genocide and the Century-Long Struggle for Justice*, which was published by

### ST. JAMES 62<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL BAZAAR!

Friday, October 16, 2009 (10 a.m. to 9 p.m.)

Saturday, October 17, 2009 (10 a.m. to 9 p.m.)

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## ARTS &amp; LIVING

## CALENDAR

## CALIFORNIA

**OCTOBER 18 – OCTOBER 27 – Michael Bobelian, author of *Children of Armenia*, published by Simon & Schuster, will participate in a series of readings and book signings.**

- October 18 – 4 p.m., at the Ararat-Eskijian Museum, 15105 Mission Hills Road, Mission Hills, Calif.
- October 27 – 7 p.m. at Chaucer's Bookstore, 3321 State St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

**NOVEMBER 7 – Armenian Professional Society Honors Dr. Vartan Gregorian as their Professional of the Year.** Sheraton Universal, Los Angeles. Tickets: \$150.

**NOVEMBER 8 – Sayat Nova Dance Company of Boston travels to California** to present its dynamic "Power in Rhythm" performance at Glendale High School Auditorium, 1440 E. Broadway, Glendale. For tickets, contact [www.itsmyseat.com](http://www.itsmyseat.com).

## FLORIDA

**FEBRUARY 6, 2010 – Cupid Capers Fun Night**, presented by Women's Guild St. David Church Boca Raton, featuring Onnik Dinkjian, vocals; Ken Boyajian, oud; Mal Barsamian, clarinet; Ara Dinkjian, guitar and Noubar Boyajian, dumbeg. Save the date. Details to follow.

## MASSACHUSETTS

**OCTOBER 10 – New Perspectives on the Life and Art of Arshile Gorky**, with Very Rev. Krikor Maksoudian, PhD, translator and former director of the Krikor and Clara Zohrab Information Center; Matthew Spender, artist and author of *From a High Place: A Life of Arshile Gorky*; Sara Bogosian, chair, Arshile Gorky Exhibition, Whistler House Museum of Art, Lowell. Saturday, 7 p.m., at the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) Center, 395 Concord Ave., Belmont. Presented by NAASR and Whistler House Museum of Art. Admission free. Reception following program. NAASR bookstore open at 6:30 p.m. Many new titles available; numerous books on Gorky.

**OCTOBER 13 – Knights of Vartan, with guests from Birthright Armenia**, host dinner social, at Armenian Holy Trinity Apostolic Church, 145 Brattle St., Cambridge. Tuesday. Social, 6 p.m.; dinner, 7 p.m.; presentations, 7:45 p.m. \$15 with RSVP, \$20 at the door. To RSVP, visit [www.msz.com/kov/rsvp.aspx](http://www.msz.com/kov/rsvp.aspx). To RSVP for dinner, call Arman Derian at (781) 862-7865. To learn more, visit [birthrightarmenia.org](http://birthrightarmenia.org).

**OCTOBER 14 – Free showing of "Armenia: the Sleeping Beauty."** The Andover Memorial Hall Library, 2 North Main St., Andover. 7 p.m. (sharp) to 8:45 p.m. For directions check: [www.mhl.org/about/visit/directions.htm](http://www.mhl.org/about/visit/directions.htm).

**OCTOBER 15 – Human Rights in Armenian History, a lecture by Prof. Simon Payaslian**, at 7 p.m. at the Armenian Library and Museum of America, Watertown. Payaslian, Kenosian Chair in Modern Armenian History and Literature at Boston University, discusses the development of human rights in Armenia within a long historical perspective and contends human rights values and customary practices require centuries of development. For more info., visit [www.almainc.org](http://www.almainc.org). The event is free and open to the public.

**OCTOBER 16-17 – St. James 62nd Annual Bazaar. Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.** Armenian food, shish kebab, chicken kebab, losh kebab, kheyma and etch. (served from 11 a.m.-8 p.m.) Armenian delicacies and pastries. Boereg, manti, yalanchi, porov kufteh, tourshi, choereg, cream and nut khadaif, bourma, baklava and more. Booths and vendors including the country store, Armenian items, attic treasures, jewelry and spa vendors, candy sale. \$100 raffle. (Only 350 sold. Purchase by September 30 to be entered in a \$500 special early-bird drawing. Grand prize: \$5,000; second-fourth prizes: \$1,000. Fifth-eighth prizes: \$500) and \$2 raffle. Silent auction including art from Armenia and Jerusalem, jewelry, gift certificates and sporting events. St. James' Mosesian Cultural and Youth Center, 465 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown. For info., call (617) 923-8860.

**OCTOBER 23 & 25 – Armenian Festival, Armenian Church of Our Saviour**, offering the most delicious shish, losh and chicken kebab on char-broiled grills. Freshly-made kheyma, kids meals available, raffle/prizes, beer and wine. The best authentic Armenian baked goods, country store, music and fun for the entire family. Friday, October 23, 5-9 p.m., and Sunday, October 25, 12-5 p.m. Cultural Center, 34 Boynton St., Worcester. (508) 756-2931.

**NOVEMBER 1 – Armenian Children's Concert, featuring Nouné Karapetian and Tsapikner.** Sunday, 3 p.m. First Armenian Church, 380 Concord Ave., Belmont. Kids, bring a pillow to sit on. Tickets: \$15 in advance; \$20 at the door. To purchase in advance, call Liana (617) 744-0595. Sponsored



**On October 15, Prof. Simon Payaslian, the Kenosian Chair in Modern Armenian History and Literature at Boston University, pictured above, will present a lecture, titled "Human Rights in Armenian History" at the Armenian Library Museum of America, in Watertown, Mass. at 7 p.m., titled. For more info., visit [almainc.org](http://almainc.org).**

by Erebus Saturday School and Amaras Art Alliance. For more info., visit [www.erebusischool.org](http://www.erebusischool.org) or [www.amaras.org](http://www.amaras.org).

**NOVEMBER 6 – Wine Tasting, 7-9 p.m. Sts. Vartanantz Armenian Church**, 180 Old Westford Road, Chelmsford. Tickets: \$30 per person (before October 24) \$35 thereafter. Includes brief wine presentation, appetizers and wine. Contact Carol Hildebrand (978) 618-6982 or e-mail [stswine-tasting09@gmail.com](mailto:stswine-tasting09@gmail.com).

**NOVEMBER 6 – Jazz Nights @ ALMA with Steve Tashjian's Classic Groove** at Armenian Library and Museum of America, Watertown. Classic Groove returns to the stage, performing an exciting range of jazz favorites in ALMA's Contemporary Art Gallery. The concert begins at 8 p.m.; the museum doors open at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15 and include one complimentary glass of wine for those 21 and over. ALMA members, students and JazzBoston members (with proper ID) pay \$10. Visit [www.almainc.org](http://www.almainc.org) or call (617) 926-2562 to preorder your tickets/make table reservations.

**NOVEMBER 6 – "The Golden Voices of Opera,"** featuring Yeghishe Manucharyan, Victoria Avetisyan and Yelena Dudochkin with Tatyana Dudochkin, piano. Celebrate 2009 Armenian Cultural Heritage Program. Sponsored by Holy Trinity Armenian Church and Choir of Greater Boston. Friday, 8 p.m. Longy School of Music, Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambridge. Tickets: \$25 per person. The program will include favorite arias, duets and romances, including Verdi, Puccini, Rossini, Tigranyan, Abrahamyan, Rimsky-Korsakov and others. For further info., contact the Holy Trinity Church Office at (617) 354-0632 or e-mail [office@htaac.org](mailto:office@htaac.org).

**NOVEMBER 6-7 – St. Stephen's Armenian Apostolic Church, 53rd Armenian Bazaar.** Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Armenian Cultural and Educational Center, 47 Nichols Ave., Watertown. Lamb, losh and chicken kebab, kheyma, kofta and yalanchi. Meals served from 11:30 a.m.-8:30 p.m. Takeout available. Armenian pastries, gourmet, soujoukh, arts and crafts, books, tapes, art sale, children's games. Auction starts at 7 p.m. Also raffles, sports tickets and much more.

**NOVEMBER 7 – Film Screening of "Hove,"** presented by the Armenian Library and Museum of America, 65 Main St., Watertown, at 2 p.m. Olympia Dukakis stars in this moving tale about two Armenian women whose friendship is deeply affected by an encounter with the past and the powerful, unresolved legacy of the Armenian Genocide. Co-star Shirleyann Kaladjian and Director Alex Webb will attend the screening. Admission is \$8. ALMA members pay \$5. Visit [almainc.org](http://almainc.org).

**NOVEMBER 14 – AWWA Annual Luncheon and Auction, Burlington Marriott, Burlington.** 11 a.m., Silent auction, 12:30 p.m. Luncheon/Live Auction and Raffle. Mistress of Ceremonies, Janet Jekhlian, guest auctioneer – Jordan Rich of

WBZ Radio. Reservation information: Karen Diranian (781) 643-2832.

**NOVEMBER 16 – Concert of works by Lexington composer Hayg Boyadjian and several members of the Boston Symphony Orchestra.** Edwin Barker, principal double bass of the Boston Symphony Orchestra; Doriot Anthony Dwyer, former principal flautist of the Boston Symphony Orchestra; John McDonald, pianist, former chairman of the Music Department and present director of Graduate Music Studies at Tufts University, and Jodi Hitzhusen, soprano. First Parish Church, 7 Harrington Road, Lexington Center. For more information, call (781) 862-9395.

**NOVEMBER 19 – The Armenia Fund USA welcomes the Prime Minister of Karabagh Araik Harutunyan and Archbishop Barkev Mardirossian.** Panel to also include the president of Karabagh's press attaché, David Babayan. ACEC Hall, 47 Nichols Ave., Watertown. 7-9 p.m. For info., contact AFUSA (212) 689-5307.

**NOVEMBER 22 – Sayat Nova Dance Company of Boston** sponsors the popular and most loved singer Alla Levonyan of Armenia in a live concert. Mark your calendars. More details to follow soon.

**DECEMBER 4 – Jazz Nights @ ALMA with Yulia Musayelyan Quartet** at Armenian Library and Museum of America, Watertown. Musayelyan (flute), Fernando Huergo (bass), Franco Pinna (drums) and a pianist conclude the 2009 concert series with original compositions and arrangements that infuse folk rhythms from Argentina, Armenia and other cultures. The concert begins at 8 p.m. in ALMA's Contemporary Art Gallery; museum doors open at 7:30 p.m. Tickets, \$15 (includes one complimentary glass of wine for 21+). ALMA members, students and JazzBoston members (with proper ID) pay \$10. Visit [www.almainc.org](http://www.almainc.org) or call (617) 926-2562 to preorder tickets/make table reservations.

**DECEMBER 4 and 5 – Trinity Christmas Bazaar, Holy Trinity Armenian Church**, 145 Brattle St., Cambridge. Friday, 3-9 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Save the date. Details to follow. For info., contact Holy Trinity Church Office at (617) 354-0632 or e-mail [office@htaac.org](mailto:office@htaac.org).

**DECEMBER 5 – Second Annual Breakfast with Santa. 10 a.m. St. James Armenian Church**, Charles Mosesian Cultural and Youth Center, Keljik Hall. 465 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown. Tickets must be purchased in advance, and include breakfast, time and photos with Santa, and a special gift for each child. Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$20 for children, 1-12 years old; \$15 for children under 1-year-old. Payment must be received to reserve your space. Contact Mark Janian at (617) 875-3671 or [Markhj77@yahoo.com](mailto:Markhj77@yahoo.com) or e-mail [stjamesbreakfastwsanta@yahoo.com](mailto:stjamesbreakfastwsanta@yahoo.com) for tickets. Tickets will also be available in the St. James church office and during Fellowship Hour on Sundays. Call Tina Kurkjian at (781) 727-3643 or e-mail [stjamesbreakfastwsanta@yahoo.com](mailto:stjamesbreakfastwsanta@yahoo.com) to include a greeting, ad or photo of one's child in the Christmas Greetings Book.

**DECEMBER 12 – Concert featuring Hoy Lari to benefit the Armenian Children's Milk Fund** at First Armenian Memorial Church, 380 Concord Ave., Belmont.

**FEBRUARY 27-28, 2010 – Arsenal Center for the Arts sponsors the Sayat Nova Dance Company of Boston.** The production will be performed for two nights at the Charles Mosesian Theater, 321 Arsenal St., Watertown.

**MARCH 6, 2010 – St. Stephen's Armenian Elementary School of Watertown** will host a Wine Tasting Event. Details to follow.

## MICHIGAN

**DECEMBER 4 – Isabel Bayrakdarian appears in concert** at St. Sarkis Armenian Apostolic Church of Dearborn, Friday, 8 p.m. Soprano and opera star Bayrakdarian and pianist Serouj Kradjian perform in a benefit concert under the auspices of Archbishop Oshagan Choloyan at the Dearborn Performing Arts Center Michael Guido Theater on Michigan Avenue. Reserve tickets are \$50, \$40 and \$25. Contact Dearborn Performing Arts Center Box Office for tickets: (313) 943-2354 or their website: [www.dearbornfordcenter.com](http://www.dearbornfordcenter.com).

## NEW JERSEY

**OCTOBER 10 – Tekeyan Cultural Association – Mher Megerdchian Theatrical Group Presents "Who Killed The Eastern Dentist?"** A Masquerade Party in Baronian's 1860s Istanbul. A Murder Mystery Dinner Theater prepared by Harout Chatmajian. Assyrian Orthodox Church of the Virgin Mary, 644 Paramus Road, Paramus. Saturday, at 8 p.m. Donation, \$60; BYOB; dress code (optional); 1860s attire and mask. For tickets, call Marie Zokian (201) 745-8850, Noushig Atamian (718) 894-5878, Maro Hajakian (201) 934-3427 or Missak Boghosian (212) 819-0097.



## ARTS &amp; LIVING

**NOVEMBER 15 — “One Nation, One Culture,” a cultural festival under the auspices of Dr. Hranush Hakobyan,** Republic of Armenia Minister of Diaspora, organized by Hamazkayin Eastern USA Regional Executive, featuring Alla Levonian from Armenia and Babin Boghosian & Ensemble from Los Angeles, with the participation of Antranig Dance Ensemble of AGBU, Akh'tamar Dance Ensemble of St. Thomas Armenian Church, Yeraz Dance Ensemble of St. Sarkis Church, NJ, Hamazkayin Nayiri Dance Group and Arekag Children's Choir and Dohl Group. Sunday, 4 p.m. Felician College, 262 S. Main St., Lodi, NJ. Donation: \$75, \$50, \$35, \$25. For more info. or tickets, contact Haazkayin at (201) 945-8992 or paradon2009@gmail.com.

## NEW YORK

**OCTOBER 11 — St. Gregory the Enlightener Armenian Church,** White Plains presents a concert of Armenian folk songs performed by the Shnorali Chorale of the Armenian Church of the Holy Martyrs, Bayside. Admission price includes luncheon at 12:30 p.m. and concert at 2 p.m. Advance reservations, \$15; tickets at the door, \$20; children under 12, free. Event sponsored by the Cultural Committee. Call the church office at (914) 428-2595.

**OCTOBER 15 — Michael Bobelian, author of *Children of Armenia*,** will participate in a reading and book signing. 7 p.m. at the Zohrab Center, 630 Second Ave. This groundbreaking book is the first to chronicle the aftermath of the first genocide of the 20th century. For more info., www.childrenarmenia.com.

**OCTOBER 24 — AGBU New York Special Events Committee (NYSEC)** presents — AGBU Performing Artists in Concert. A benefit for the AGBU Performing Arts Fellowship Program, showcasing the talents of 12 Armenian youth, under the artistic direction of Hrant and Kevork Parsamian, all of whom have benefited from AGBU's scholarship assistance toward their studies in performing arts. Curtain time 8:30 p.m. Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, 154 West 57th St., New York City. Tickets, \$65. For tickets and info., call (212) 319-6383, ext. 124 or visit www.carnegiehall.org.

**JANUARY 15, 2010 — On the occasion of its 20th anniversary,** the Fund for Armenian Relief will honor and thank a lifetime benefactor to the global Armenian community, Dr.

Edgar Housepian. Dinner and Program at Cipriani Wall Street New York City, 7 p.m. Info. at (212) 889-5150 and far@farusa.org.

## RHODE ISLAND

**OCTOBER 18 — Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church Name Day Banquet,** Sunday. Egavian Cultural Center. Immediately following church services. Honoring Parishioners of the Year: Irene Eranosian and Robert Janigian. Tickets: adults, \$20; children (under 15) \$10. For tickets, contact Ann Ayrassian at (401) 272-4743 or the church office at (401) 272-7712. Deadline for ticket sales: October 12. No tickets will be sold at the door.

**OCTOBER 25 — Husenig Grove Family Day and Hayride.** Full-course spaghetti dinner at 2 p.m. Hayride at 3 p.m. All are welcome. Husenig Grove is on Simmons St., Rehobeth. Dinner for adults, \$12. Hayride and dinner for children, \$6. For more info., call Marc Janigian at (401) 942-3477.

**NOVEMBER 28 — Providence ACYOA hosts the Annual Holiday Kef,** featuring an All-Star Band. Jason Naroian, Leon Janikian, Kenny Kalajian, David Hoplamazian, Joe Kouyoumjian and more. For individual or table of 10 reservations, call Kevork Vartanian at (401) 419-1052 or Ara Janigian at (401) 486-8495 or Sevan Janigian at (401) 533-4147 or contact providenceacyoa@gmail.com.

## PENNSYLVANIA

**OCTOBER 21-JANUARY 10, 2010 — Programming Associated with Arshile Gorky: A Retrospective.** Philadelphia Museum of Art. Open Tuesday-Sunday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. On Fridays, museum open until 8:45 p.m. General Admission is \$16 for adults (free for museum members). Parking available on the terrace level lot, and in the Museum Parking Garage. For questions about programming call (215) 684-7349 or visit www.philamuseum.org.

• October 23 — Michael Taylor and Arshile Gorky. Van Pelt Auditorium. \$20 each (\$16, members; \$14, students), Friday, 7 p.m. Includes museum admission, ticket required. Taylor is the Muriel and Philip Berman Curator of Modern Art and curator of Arshile Gorky: A Retrospective. He will present a lecture, “Rethinking Arshile Gorky” on the exhibition's repositioning of Gorky and his work within the history of

modern art.

• October 25 — “Ararat” and “A Portrait of Arshile” by Atom Egoyan. Van Pelt Auditorium, Sunday, 2 p.m. “Ararat” was one of the first full-length feature films to deal with the topic of the Armenian Genocide, from the fictionalized point of view of a teenaged Gorky. Egoyan's short film, “A Portrait of Arshile,” is a meditation on one of Gorky's haunting self portraits.

• October 30 — Arshile Gorky and the Armenian Genocide with author Peter Balakian. Van Pelt Auditorium, Friday, 6:30 p.m. \$20 each, (\$16 members, \$14 students). Includes museum admission, ticket required. Lecture sponsored by Locks Foundation. Gorky's work in the context of the Armenian Genocide is the subject of this lecture, given by Peter Balakian, the Donald M. and Constance H. Rebar Professor in Humanities and Professor of English at Colgate University. Author of the *New York Times* Notable Book *The Burning Tigris: The Armenian Genocide and America's Response* (HarperCollins2003).

• November 6 — Art After Five performances inspired by Arshile Gorky: A Retrospective. On Friday evenings, the Great Stair Hall is transformed into an intimate cabaret for Art After Five performances — with table service, cocktails, elegant, café-style appetizers and desserts. The Armen Donelian Trio, 5-8:45 p.m. Free after museum admission, \$16. Jazz pianist and composer Armen Donelian with bassist David Clark and drummer George Schuller perform original works based on Armenian folk songs.

• December 4 — Richard Hagopian leads a concert of Armenian music, 5-8:45 p.m. Free after museum admission (\$16). Includes folk songs from Gorky's birth village, Khorkom. Musical works performed date back to 16th century. Richard Hagopian on oud (Middle Eastern fretless lute), Harold Hagopian on kanun (ancient 76-stringed harp) and Paul Aljian on dap (traditional handheld percussion).

**The *Mirror-Spectator* has a new Calendar Policy: The *Mirror-Spectator* is now accepting all calendar items for free. All items may be sent to [mirrors@mirrorspectator.com](mailto:mirrors@mirrorspectator.com). Due to the anticipated shortage of space, items may be edited to fit the space.**

## Junior Choir Leadership Development Program Graduates Five New Students

GREENVILLE, N.Y. — The Sacred Music Council of the Eastern Diocese held another gathering of the Junior Choir Leadership Development Program (JCLDP) from August 17-23 at the Ararat Youth and Conference Center. Deacon Leon Khoja-Eynatyan of Washington, DC, led the third year of instruction for the following students: Talar Aydin (Holy Martyrs, Bayside, NY); Maral Demirjian (St. Gregory of Narek, Cleveland, Ohio); Harry Lang (Holy Trinity, Cambridge, Mass.); Alexander Janiuk (St. Mesrob, Racine, Wis.) and Tatevik Khoja-Eynatyan (St. Mary, Washington, DC).

This year's focus was “The Daily Hours.” The Very Rev. Daniel Findikyan, dean of St. Nersess Seminary, returned to present his lesson, titled “Introduction and Overview of Daily Prayer in the Bible and Early Church.” Participants also heard presentations on “Zhamakirk and Other Liturgical Books Needed to Conduct the *Zhamergutian*” and “Psalmody, Hymns, *Sharagans*.” The day ended with a question-and-answer session.

The Rev. Karekin Kasparian, pastor of St. Gregory the Enlightener Church in White Plains, and a veteran teacher, presented his lessons on “Liturgy of Hours in the Armenian Church,” “Night Service,” “Morning Service” and “Sunrise Service.”

Gregory Dalakian, a graduate of JCLDP '06 and current music director at Parsippany High School, presented “Teaching Basic Tone Production,” “How to Run an Efficient Rehearsal,” and “Advanced Conducting,” where the students were able to view themselves on video, critique their effectiveness and make comparisons to last year's tapes.

Conductor Konstantin Petrossian, composer and music director at Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Church in Rhode Island, lectured on the evolution of Armenian liturgical as well as secular music through the ages utilizing recordings to demonstrate the music of different composers. He gave historical background on Gomidas, Yegmalian and other Armenian composers. He concluded his session by reviewing songs that



JCLDP participants with Rev. Garen Gdanian and altar servers of St. Peter Armenian Church

every choir director should know, such as *Hrashapar*, *Oorakh Ler*, *Khorhoort Medz* and

*Echmiadzin*. The instructional sessions ended with a run through of the Divine Liturgy in preparation for the next day's service.

The students' week-long session was balanced by evening sing-a-longs, game nights and dinner outings. Free time was spent practicing conducting techniques. The students confidently conducted their portions of the *badarak* on Sunday, August 23 at St. Peter Church in Watervliet. The Rev. Garen Gdanian was the celebrant and was pleased that the students knew the correct variables and *sharagans*. At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, a requiem service was conducted in memory of Dr. Socrates Boyajian, founder of the JCLDP, on the occasion of the first-year anniversary of his untimely passing.

Sacred Music Council member Anoush Givelekian presented the participants with a

certificate — signed by the Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Eastern Diocese — for successfully completing their third year of instruction. As graduates of the JCLDP, the participants achieved the title of Assistant Choir Director, and can now direct their church choirs. Parish priests and Parish Council chairs are urged to encourage these young adults in their new roles.

A farewell luncheon was provided by the Parish Council of St. Peter Church, where an impromptu sing-a-long was given by the members of the JCLDP and the deacons of the parish. The Sacred Music Council will hold a third session of the JCLDP next year from August 16-22 at the Ararat Center. Participants must be nominated by their parish priest or Parish Council chair and need to meet eligibility requirements.

## Art Historian Khachatryan Credits Soil of Shirak for Emil Kazaz' Genius

KAZAZ, from page 12

The times, of course, changed. Armenia gained independence as a republic, and the doors of its ancient culture opened to the world. Today, the intention of changing one's name does not arise among Armenian artists working abroad. As an example, we can mention the young violinist Sergei Khachatryan, who is widely known today around the world and whose performances in various countries are deemed brilliant successes.

**HM:** I'd like for you to speak about our young artists.

**SK:** That's a topic of interest to me, a source of inspiration. First, let me speak about the 1960s generation. It's impossible to forget the struggle they waged, overcoming the uniformity, the lack of individuality that prevailed then in the art world. Owing to honest devotion to the rules of creation and the establishment of a unique language of expression, one can say that our fine arts experienced a new rebirth. Minas Avetisyan, Ashot Hovhannisian, Ashot Melkonian, Rafayel Atoyian, Hakob Hakobian and others were appreciated for their originality. Now a new generation of artists has come

forth, and many of that generation have left their mother country, voluntarily or involuntarily.

**HM:** Do you consider that a negative phenomenon?

**SK:** Yes and no. Yes, because the most important thing for our cultural advancement is the maintenance of a national artistic image, giving new interpretations to our national traditions. That tendency is now diminished. The reason is the ever-increasing trend toward similarity (globalization). However, when it penetrates the realm of culture, the danger is closer, and the image of our national culture begins to change, disappear. Remaining true to one's national culture means remaining a worshiper of natural law: [maintaining] the identity of each national group. Submitting to such a concept, which national group will be able to lose the “vineyard” of its spiritual life? The beauty of the world lies in diversity, in uniqueness...

I also replied no. No, because leaving one's country doesn't mean not taking “one's own” along, forgetting it. When a rivulet's water is pushed out of its bed and is spread around new areas, it spurs new births and the taste and

aroma of the water's spring is preserved without fail.

The artists working abroad will invariably achieve good results if they remain faithful to the call of their soul and the power of longing that is soldered to the Armenian soul.

I would be glad to say a few words about the sculptor and painter Emil Kazaz at the exhibit-tribute evening organized by you for him, which is to take place on November 7 at the AGBU Alex Manoogian Center in Pasadena. The recently-deceased art critic Henrik Igitian noted in a study of his: “Emil's heroes are newcomers, from a non-existent past at that. They are outside of a concrete time and environment; they are figures having passed through the machine of time and become transformed. It's as if their author has come from another life, as well, and taken on the mission of reminding about the sad joy of soul, love, goodness and existence.”

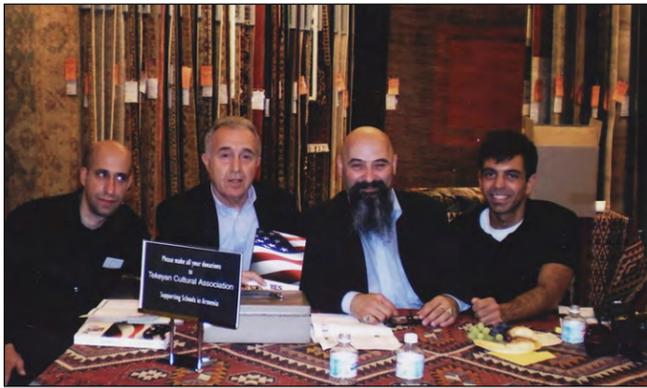
This is an apt opinion disclosing Kazaz's inner world. An exhibition of certain works of his recently opened in the Academy Gallery in Yerevan. Kazaz is the gift of the soil of Shirak, which produces talented individuals.



## ARTS &amp; LIVING

## Partamian Discusses Book in Detroit

BIRMINGHAM, Mich. — On Tuesday, September 8, Metro-Detroit Armenians gathered at Edgar Hagopian's Birmingham rug showroom to hear provocative television personality and publisher of the newly-released book *Yes, We Have*, Stepan Partamian, speak. Organized by the Detroit Chapter of the Tekeyan Cultural Association, after an introduction by Edmond Azadian, Partamian



From left, Ara Belian, Hagop Alexanian, Stepan Partamian, Stepan Dallakian in the Hagopian Showroom

spoke of his research over the last year to put together *Yes, We Have*, which celebrates contributions made by American Armenians to the United States of America. The crowd enjoyed the overview presented by Partamian and a lively question-and-answer session ensued lasting well

into the night. Partamian then spoke of his plans to publish an expanded edition in the future to include extensive biographies, articles and photographs. Guests lined up to purchase a signed copy of the book, while they noshed on wine, coffee, choereg and cheese provided by Tekeyan.

## Author Koolakian to Lecture on Book on American Committee for Independence of Armenia at ALMA

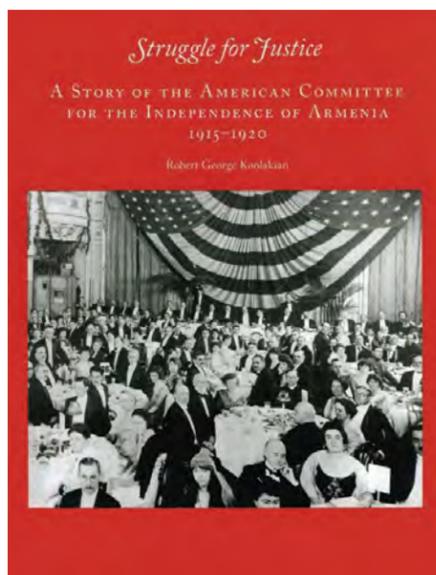
WATERTOWN, Mass. — The Armenian Library and Museum of America (ALMA) and the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) will present a lecture by author Robert G. Koolakian on his new book, *Struggle for Justice: A Story of the American*

President Woodrow Wilson's administration, these individuals served this remarkable philanthropic effort, bringing humanitarian aid to the victims of the Armenian Genocide in the Ottoman Empire.

After a lengthy involvement with the Armenian awareness movement in America and abroad, the top-level founders of this organization banded together at the close of World War I to form a new American committee. In one of the most formidable gatherings of American and world figures ever assembled, they recruited public support for an even more impressive group of adherents and from among the Allied nations who joined this sociopolitical movement in the early weeks of 1919, coinciding with the later first session of the Paris Peace Conference. All confirm the highest level of attainment achieved by the Armenian awareness and independence movement in the United States.

The many documents, both written and photographic, included in *Struggle for Justice*, bring the history of this organization to life. One symbolic photograph, depicting the main ACIA convention in New York on February 8, 1919, vividly documents these international post-war meetings, giving a human face to this untold story.

ALMA is located at 65 Main St. For more information about the lecture or exhibit, visit [www.almainc.org](http://www.almainc.org) or [www.naasr.org](http://www.naasr.org).



*Committee for the Independence of Armenia, 1915-1920*, on Thursday, October 22, at 7 p.m. in ALMA's Contemporary Art Gallery.

Advance copies of *Struggle for Justice* can be purchased through the ALMA and NAASR websites.

*Struggle for Justice* is an account of the beginning of the American Committee for the Independence of Armenia (ACIA), as told in the surviving papers of three accomplished Armenian-Americans from Syracuse, NY. From the inception of the "Armenian and Syrian Relief" program in the United States during

## Hamazkayin and Amaras To Present Program on Komitas

LEXINGTON, Mass. — "Komitas: the Multifaceted Man and His Musical Work" is an event marking the 140th birthday of this simple man who gave so much to Armenian culture. A joint presentation by Hamazkayin-Boston and Amaras Art Alliance in Boston, this event covers narratives of the life and works of the master, musical parts that are as close to the original as possible and a slide presentation.

The event will take place at the National Heritage Museum, 33 Marrett Road, on Sunday, October 18, at 2:30 p.m. Tickets can be purchased on line from [www.AmarasOnline.com](http://www.AmarasOnline.com).

For more information on the life of Komitas visit [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Komitas\\_Vardapet](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Komitas_Vardapet).

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## ARMENIAN CHRISTMAS PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND

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JANUARY 15-24, 2010

- ◆ Celebration of Armenian Christmas in Bethlehem (January 18-19 Old Calendar)
- ◆ Audience with His Beatitude Archbishop Torkom Manoogian Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem
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- ◆ Exclusive tour of the Armenian Quarter and Patriarchate of Jerusalem
- ◆ Shop in the Grand Bazaar of Jerusalem
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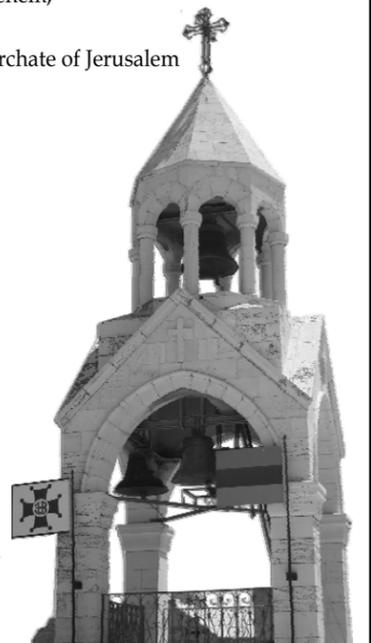
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For other information, contact: Fr. Mardiros Chevian  
Tel: (212) 686-0710, ext. 153  
E-mail: [dean@armeniandioocese.org](mailto:dean@armeniandioocese.org)

**Registration Deadline: NOVEMBER 5**

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630 Second Ave., New York, NY 10016  
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## COMMENTARY

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EDITOR

Alin K. Gregorian

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Thomas C. Nash

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Taleen Babayan

ART DIRECTOR

Marc Mgrditchian

PRODUCTION

Dilani Yagaratnam

COPY EDITOR

Rose Muggeridge

**CONTRIBUTORS:**

Elizabeth Aprahamian, Dr. Haroutiune Arzoumanian, Edmond Azadian, Prof. Vahakn N. Dadrian, Diana Der Hovanesian, Philip Ketchian, Kevork Keushkerian, Arsen Noubar Mamourian, Moorad Mooradian, Sonia Kailian-Placido, Harut Sassounian, Mary Terzian, Hagop Vartivarian, Naomi Zeytoonian

**CORRESPONDENTS:**

**Armenia** - Hagop Avedikian

**Boston** - Nancy Kalajian

**Philadelphia** - Lisa Manookian

**Contributing Photographers:** Sarkis Bahar, George Bogosian, Jacob Demirdjian, Harry Koundakjian.

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

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(201) 800-1164

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## COMMENTARY

## Rest in Peace, Moorad

In the months since Moorad Mooradian's health took a turn for the worse, his wife, Lillian, would call or e-mail once a week or once every two weeks to tell me when the next column would come.

One of the few things in life Moorad could not do well was type. Therefore, Lillian would type each and every column, let him edit the column, incorporate those corrections and then send them off.

For the past month, no such message came. As Lillian was always so meticulous when it came to sending the columns, I suspected the worst, yet still hoped for the best.

It is with profound sadness that I know now there won't be any more columns by Moorad Mooradian, our longtime columnist, on page 19. Moorad and Harut Sassounian, together, have led us to have a terrific opinion page, one which I automatically designated "H&M" on the page map I would draw up every week. It has been a page to which many people turn first.

Moorad was a charming man with a booming voice who was dedicated to his family and his country. This at-times conservative man had a tremendously open mind which could embrace opinions other than his own. In other words, if you could present a logical viewpoint to him, he could be convinced, without prejudice.

He had the posture of someone who has served in the armed

forces – which he did proudly for decades. He was a natural teacher, enriching the lives of students at West Point, George Mason and Yerevan State universities, as well as his readers in this paper and others.

He was a man who was trained in the art of war, yet relished peace through conflict negotiation. Had he been healthier, he would have been writing up a storm about the Protocols.

He and Lillian had a wonderful relationship, which after almost five decades of marriage, still seemed fresh, yet with the depth of ease that living together for such a long time creates.

They were a lovely team together and had raised a loving family.

It is fitting that his last column, which appeared in the July 18 edition, was about a group that he was passionate about: The Armenia Tree Project.

Our condolences go to Lillian and their children, grandchildren and one great-grandchild, as well as to all those in Virginia, Rhode Island and Armenia, where they lived at various times and whose lives they touched.

I feel privileged to have known Moorad. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

– Alin K. Gregorian

## Armenia Revels in Its Chess Prowess

By David Edmonds

I speak not a word of Armenian, and the first man I met in Armenia spoke not a word of English.

He was the driver picking me up from the airport.

"David," I said, pointing at myself. "Tigran," he said, shaking my hand, "Tigran Petrosian."

This seems a weird coincidence. In 1963, his namesake, Tigran Petrosian, had defeated Mikhail Botvinnik to take the world chess title.

For Westerners it was a case of one Soviet Man beating another. The Soviets used chess to demonstrate the superiority of communism over capitalism, and had created a highly efficient chess factory, churning out prodigies like sausages.

But that is not how they saw it in Armenia. For them, Petrosian was above all an Armenian.

National obsession

Tens of thousands of people gathered in Opera Square in the capital Yerevan, to watch the games being displayed on giant boards, as the moves were relayed from Moscow.

The result led to an outpouring of patriotic fervor. That same year, John F Kennedy was assassinated.

"In America everyone can remember where they were when Kennedy was shot," one man tells me. "Here in Armenia, everyone of a certain age can recall the exact moment Petrosian became world champion."

From that moment on, chess became a national obsession.

"A spectator tells me that Armenia's number one player, Levon Aronian, is their equivalent of David Beckham. He even has the designer stubble."

My driver, Tigran, was not the only Tigran I met.

Tigran is an ancient Armenian name. Tigran the Great built a vast empire here in Roman times.

But since the chess conquests of Tigran Petrosian, Tigrans have multiplied.

Tigran Xmalian is a director, who has made a film that uses chess to tell the history of modern Armenia. It is a tragic story.

The defining episode occurred in World War I. Around a million people were massacred or died of exhaustion in enforced deportations by the Ottoman Turks.

Since the late 1980s, Armenia has experienced a catastrophic earthquake, war with Azerbaijan and economic collapse. Tigran Xmalian says chess offers the people hope - the chance of salvation. For in chess, he says, every pawn can become a queen.

Later I meet the president of the Armenian Chess Federation. The interview had taken months to arrange.

That may seem odd until you realize that in his spare time, he is also president of the country.

His cabinet consists of two Tigrans – the prime minister and the finance minister.

The state already offers free training to the most promising players, and a guaranteed salary (equivalent to the average wage) to any Armenian who reaches the elite title of grandmaster.

The president now plans to introduce chess into the school curriculum.

"We don't want people to know Armenia just for the earthquake and the genocide," President Serge Sarkisian said. "We would rather it was famous for its chess."

In the centre of Yerevan, there is an imposing four-storey, Stalinist-era edifice where anybody can turn up for a quick blitz game, lasting just a few minutes, or a more measured contest of several hours.

Some players thump the pieces down like slabs of meat, others glide them across the board as if they were fragile china.

The men (they are almost all men) range from international class to what in the chess community are known as patzers, useless amateurs.

The building is called the Tigran Petrosian Chess House and inside you can hear lots of

explanations as to why Armenians excel at the game.

Secretly, sometimes not so secretly, many think that the real reason is Armenians are just more creative, more logical, and just, well, smarter than the rest of us.

At a major international chess tournament taking place in the spa resort of Jermuk in the arid mountains, I bump into yet another Tigran Petrosian.

He is no relation of Armenia's chess legend, but when Petrosian won the world title, says the younger Tigran, his father had a dream that if he ever had a son he would call him Tigran.

The boy has himself grown up to be a high-ranking grandmaster, a member of Armenia's world-conquering side.

Cheery and plump, this Tigran Petrosian is an unlikely sex symbol, but in Armenia chess players are celebrities.

A spectator tells me that Armenia's number-one player, Levon Aronian, is their equivalent of David Beckham. He even has the designer stubble. Young girls and aspiring chess players chase him for photos and autographs.

In Jermuk, the crowds gather in the piazza where the games are being shown on display boards. A number of seated, elderly gentlemen passionately debate the moves, the high sun reflecting off their brown, bald temples.

The tournament is called the Tigran Petrosian Memorial Tournament. The world champion, who died two decades ago, would have turned 80 this year.

Tigran Petrosian junior hopes to make the Armenian side that will defend its gold medal in 2010.

"The name gives me a good feeling," he says.

"But the problem is that with this name everyone expects me to win every game. It is too much pressure."

(This was story was originally printed in the *BBC News Magazine* in September 2009.)

### Notice to Contributors

The *Armenian Mirror-Spectator* welcomes articles, commentaries and community news from our readers. In order to assure the accurate and timely publication of articles submitted, please note the following policies:

– All articles submitted should be typed, double (or triple) spaced and printed in a type size large enough to be clearly legible (10

point or larger). Submissions that do not conform to these specifications will be assigned lowest priority.

– Articles sent by fax are acceptable, and e-mail submissions are encouraged.

– All submissions should include the name of a contact person and a daytime telephone number.

– Deadline for submission of all articles and advertising is noon on the Monday of the week of publication.

– Photos will be published without charge at the discretion of the editors and art director.

Photos will be returned only if a self-addressed and stamped envelope is included.

– The *MS* will publish only one article about an upcoming organizational event. For major special events, exceptions may be made only by special arrangement with the editors.

– Telephone numbers, ticket prices and other details (at the discretion of the editors) will not be included in press releases, but should be reserved for calendar listings and advertisements.



## COMMENTARY



## My Turn

By Harut Sassounian

## Protocols to Be Signed and Ratified

The president of Armenia spent just 24 hours in Los Angeles on October 4, following brief visits to Paris and New York. Angry protesters greeted him in all three cities, accusing him of making unacceptable concessions in a pending agreement with Turkey.

In a large conference hall in the Beverly Hilton hotel, Beverly Hills, around 60 community leaders were invited to exchange views with the President on the Armenia-Turkey Protocols. They had to first pass through metal-detectors to get into the hall.

Meanwhile, thousands of demonstrators had gathered outside the hotel waving placards, demanding President Sargisian's resignation, and chanting slogans that could be heard all the way inside the eighth floor conference room. A small plane could be seen hovering overhead, flying a large banner with the inscription – "No to Protocols."

After the president's opening remarks, I was called upon to address the issues at hand. In welcoming the president to Los Angeles, I wondered why he had decided to consult with Diaspora Armenians, only after the negotiations with Turkey had been concluded and the Protocols already initialed. What was the purpose of this "consulting tour," when Armenia and Turkey were just days away from signing the protocols in Switzerland? If the visit was intended to appease the diaspora, why was it not done earlier, before most Armenians went into a frenzy, causing chaotic scenes in Paris where demonstrators were violently dragged off by the French police to allow the president to lay a wreath at the feet of the Gomidas Statue?

Tense confrontations do not lend themselves to calm and meaningful dialogue.

I also questioned the wisdom of trying to reconcile with Armenia's long-standing enemies, at a time when Armenians have great difficulty reconciling with each other. Rather than forming an Armenian-Turkish commission, there is a greater need for an intra-Armenian task force to reach a common understanding of their political demands, and agree on a proper division of labor between the Armenian government and Diasporan communities.

I expressed the opinion that these protocols were not only poorly negotiated, but also concluded under foreign pressure. Furthermore, contrary to the president's protestations, the protocols include several Turkish preconditions, such as acceptance of Turkey's territorial integrity, and re-examination of the Genocide issue.

While the Armenian side has negotiated in good faith, Turkish leaders have kept repeating their rejectionist refrain – as seen in President Gul's recent statement in Nakhichevan – that Turkey would not open its border with Armenia, until the Karabagh conflict is settled. What was the whole point of these negotiations and concessions, if Armenia's border with Turkey would remain closed?

Even if the protocols are signed and ratified, and the border is opened, Armenia could still end up holding an empty bag, should Turkey, under some future pretext, close it down again. I asked Sargisian if he would be prepared to add a reservation to the protocols, stating that Armenia would nullify the agreement, should Turkey close the border again!

I also expressed my agreement with the president's concern – stated during an interview with the Armenian Reporter – that some of the provisions of the protocols were bound to make the pursuit of the recognition of the Armenian Genocide even more challenging. I asked the President if it was wise to make the Armenian activists' already difficult task of confronting the powerful Turkish state even more difficult.

I concluded my remarks by urging the president not to rush into signing these flawed and detrimental protocols. Why attempt to resolve through a single document, decades-long problems between Armenia and Turkey? A one-line document

simply calling for the establishment of diplomatic relations and opening of the borders would have sufficed.

I pointed out that the president's acceptance of the protocols was forcing Armenians to pin their hopes on the possibility that Turkey itself would inadvertently end up safeguarding Armenia's interests by refusing to ratify the agreement for its own reasons.

In response to my remarks, Sargisian expressed his willingness to accept my suggestion to add a reservation to the protocols that would call for the repeal of the agreement, should Turkey ever decide to close the border, after opening it.

In the course of the three-hour-long meeting during which very few of the 29 speakers supported the protocols, Sargisian insisted that he would never accept the re-examination of the facts of the Armenian Genocide by the historical sub-commission referred to in the protocols.

He stated that the main task of this sub-commission would be to discuss the steps necessary for the removal of the consequences of the Genocide. The president expected that the agreement would open new avenues to educate the Turkish public about the Armenian Genocide. He also categorically rejected the possibility of being pressured into making concessions on Artsakh.

Given President Sargisian's refusal to accept the re-examination of the Genocide and rejection of any concessions on Artsakh – two key Turkish demands – one wonders if members of the Turkish parliament would ever agree to ratify these protocols and open the border with Armenia.

President Sargisian concluded the lengthy session by acknowledging that he himself has concerns about some aspects of the protocols that have not been fully assessed. He stated that the Protocols could close the door on future demands from Turkey and may cause difficulties in resolving the Artsakh conflict. Similar concerns were also expressed by Arkady Ghoukassian, the former president of Artsakh, who was accompanying President Sargisian.

Despite such misgivings, it was clear from the Sargisian's overall remarks that he did not entertain any revisions of the protocols, and seemed fully intent on seeing them signed and ratified, possibly after adding some reservations.

# Let's Publicize Armenia Correctly

By Tom Vartabedian

Being in the newspaper business all my life, I know the true value of good public relations. And publicizing Armenia correctly continues to be an ongoing struggle.

It's too bad that every journalist in America wasn't Armenian or sympathetic to our cause. But I'm afraid that is not the case. We must create our own PR vehicle.

Public relations is really an art – giving the public what it likes to hear and creating

blurb in the coming events column.

But this was no ordinary picnic. Our Armenian church was joining forces with the Catholic church next door and hosting a combined picnic. Many people were involved. Two churches of different spiritual backgrounds were uniting in the best Christian spirit.

Moreover, we were dedicating a new patio area in memory of deceased pastor Rev. Vartan Kassabian. The agenda was full of cultural activity. Two Armenian children's dance troupes were coming to perform. There was a band. And enough food to feed two parishes and then some.

A reporter called some days later, looking to embellish the story and turn it into a front-page piece. I had succeeded in drawing some interest. Now here comes the debate: What I considered important to the piece, she shrugged off.

"Tell us something about your Armenian church," she asked.

"How much time do you have?" I replied. Her question was rhetorical, or so it seemed. I went on

about how we were the first nation to adopt Christianity as a state religion in 301 AD and how our church was still a catalyst in the Armenian community after more than 1,700 years.

"I did not know that," she answered.

I assumed she knew something about the Genocide. Wrong again. Despite all the articles that have been written and published in the media, it really amazes me that there are people out there in the dark.

It's the old question, "Armenian? What's that?"

Then, the reporter expressed her ignorance even more.

"You want people to attend your picnic?"

she added. "History doesn't attract people to a social event. A genocide isn't going to conjure up interest. It may stifle it. What sells is food. They want to know what's on the menu."

Say what? The fact we have the oldest Christian nation in the world and lose 1.5 million Armenians in 1915 can't hold up to a piece of *baklava*!

I wasn't about to tell the woman her business but if I knew nothing about a genocide and someone called me about a picnic, I might consider the sympathy factor. The human interest quality. I might also point to the resilience of a nation in getting a genocide recognized by the rest of the world.

Okay, so food is a common denominator among cultures. Maybe I have blinders on, but how can we allow kebabs to overshadow the death and revival of our sacred land?

The reporter needed a lesson in reporting.

Then came the obvious thought. If she was callous and unaware of our history, how many more were there like her imbedded in journalism in America? Perhaps the fault lies with us. Maybe we're not pushing the right buttons enough.

As conscientious Armenians, we must act as our very own publicists and make the newspapers aware of our heritage. As the 95th anniversary of our genocide approaches next year, the time to act is now. Just writing an article won't cut it.

A better approach might be to set up a meeting with the editors and ask for equal play. I find it incongruous that one church would get an entire page of colored photographs for their picnic and another church like ours receives zilch.

When all is said and done, the worst thing you can say about our cause is nothing.

(Tom Vartabedian, a retired journalist from Haverhill, Mass., is a regular contributor to the *Mirror-Spectator*.)

**"...we must act as our very own publicists and make the newspapers aware of our heritage. As the 95th anniversary of our genocide approaches next year, the time to act is now. Just writing an article won't cut it."**

awareness. A good public event often deserves publicity, but is more often created by it.

Not long ago, I was being interviewed by a reporter of a small town journal. Now that's a switch. It's usually me asking the questions and others giving the answers.

Being in charge of publicizing our church picnic, I took it upon myself to draw up a press release and send it off electronically. Nothing to it. A day or two later, I followed up with a note to each paper with the idea of going a step beyond and having a feature story done. What's there to lose, right?

Church picnics don't ordinarily call for extenuating stories but a graph or two at the bottom of the lifestyles page and perhaps a

## LETTERS

## Disrespectful Dissent on Protocols from ARF

To the Editor:

Somehow I'm not surprised that the most strident voices against the Turkish-Armenian protocols are coming from the ARF.

This group has been sowing discord among the Armenian people, not to mention the Armenian Church, almost forever. It's one thing to be in respectful opposition to a policy of other groups, but to accuse fellow Armenians of traitorous behavior, as they are wont to do, is beyond the pale. I haven't an informed opinion about the implications of these protocols, but I do believe that any agreement between blood-rooted enemies can't be totally bad. The example of the European Union is an example where historical enemies finally recognized their common humanity and decided that the best approach was to finally live together in peace. On the question whether these protocols are giving away any fundamental Armenian rights, we have to trust the judgment of the actual Armenians, the citizens of Armenia, to know what's best for their long-term welfare. The idea that we might get our lands back except for this agreement is just a hopeless fantasy. It doesn't make sense that Turkey would voluntarily give up part of their lands to the Armenians after they got rid of them when they were just living there as Turkish citizens. A rapprochement with Turkey may actually lead to the possibility of Turkey allowing Armenians to resettle in the area adjacent to Armenia, where there's plenty of vacant land available and such a decision would be beneficial to both parties. This may be as naive as any other approach, but it has more of a chance of happening than the hard-nosed way the anti-protocol people are pursuing. The best lesson that history can teach us is that you have to pick your fights intelligently.

– Berge Tatian Stoneham, Mass.



## COMMENTARY

# Let's Review Our Declarations...

“If it should be in the interest of the Armenian people to shake the hand of the Turk one day, you must forget that that hand has been dipped in the blood of your father. Politics is not poetry. There aren't any permanent friends and permanent enemies when it comes to peoples. There are permanent interests and damages. As long as you cannot restrain your feelings, you can't become the leader of your people. You remain a poet-agitator. What is worse, you aren't the one who is pushing the crowd; rather, it is the crowd that is pulling you behind it.”

—Ruben (Pasha) Ter Minassian

## By Hagop Vartivarian

The above quote pertaining to Armeno-Turkish interrelations reflects the judgment of one of the well-known figures of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation (ARF), particularly during his youth. This is the sober judgment of an Armenian activist, who had walked alongside Antranig, the incomparable Megerdich Avedisian and the great Mourad of Sebastia during the days when the Armenian people was subjected to genocide by the Ottoman Turks, Young Turks and Kemalist Turks.

This is not the first time that the Armenian people have been forced to establish relations with the Turks. Generally familiar are the treaties of Batumi and Kars, and especially the shameful Treaty of Alexandropol, which were signed by the Dashnak authorities of the first Republic of Armenia and the Turkish government representatives in the early 1920s, with the former relinquishing territorial claims.

It should also not be forgotten that the Dashnaks, having embraced the Young Turks in 1908, not only extended a helping hand to them, but also collaborated with them.

Today, Armenia is facing a new political order in the otherwise explosive region of the Caucasus. On the east, there is the Karabagh independence movement against Azerbaijan; on the west, the blockade by Turkey. On the north, there is the prospect of Georgia's uncertain political future, coupled with the demands of the Javakhk Armenians for their rights; on the south, the rather hard-line position of the West with regard to Iran. These realities force the Armenian authorities to adopt a prudent stance, politically and militarily.

Worthy of consideration also is the major world economic crisis and the gradually-increasing competitive struggle between the two superpowers Russia and the United States, which had created relatively warm relations following the cold war, from which the Armenian people undoubtedly derived benefit.

With the creation of unusual economic and political conditions, it would be difficult for Armenia to continue its existence in a normal manner without being jolted. As it is, more than one third of our people have left the homeland. The financial assistance coming from the diaspora (traditional or the former Soviet republics) has greatly slowed down. The flow of money from Armenian organizations has also begun to diminish, again as a consequence of the world economic crisis. The allocations and various kinds of help from the United States and other friendly countries earmarked for Armenia are a fraction of what they were previously.

Meanwhile, Azerbaijan is rapidly increasing its military capacity through revenues generated from the sale of its oil. In recent weeks, the United States renewed the otherwise super-strong Turkish army in the Middle East with modern military equipment worth approximately eight billion dollars.

The Armenians living in the homeland experienced agonizing days this time last year, when South Ossetia was fighting for its independence prior to its seizure. With the closure of the northern border, Armenia had to depend upon Iran, which couldn't provide the Armenian people with the most fundamental daily foodstuffs, inasmuch as the nearest harbor was miles away.

The initiative to cultivate new relations between Armenia and Turkey, with the prospect of creating a good neighborly situation, was surely made as a compulsory addition to this mosaic. The very next day after the declaration, not only the United States and the rest of the West but also Russia and even Syria hailed such an initiative.

The development of such a relationship is not something, which has come about only now. Such initiatives existed during the administrations of the first president, Levon Ter-Petrosian, and the second president, Robert Kocharian. Attributing such an initiative to the current president Serge Sargisian and qualifying it as an act of betrayal toward Armenia and the Armenian people is not only inappropriate but also far from being honest. Again, it wouldn't be correct to

also put the major share of responsibility for this on the shoulders of Edward Nalbandian, Armenia's Minister of Foreign Affairs, who is a respected diplomat having earned his present position through years of experience, because both the president of the republic and the foreign minister are supremely aware of their responsibility, especially during these difficult days, and are working together to secure national rights from Turkey in order to defend our borders and maintain our republic's sovereignty.

With years of accumulated experience and, especially, being quite familiar with the feelings and just demands of our people both in the diaspora and the homeland, they shall cultivate Armeno-Turkish relations with utmost wisdom.

We don't at all have the right to judge and evaluate the patriotism of our respected president and foreign minister. We don't have the right to put the patriotism of any national public servant on the balance scales and weigh it, least of all that of Mr. Serge Sargisian, who was the capable defense minister of the Republic of Armenia for many years. He has fought in the trenches during war, experienced life on the front and demonstrated the everyday patriotism of the Armenian soldier. He has secured not only the borders of our homeland but also the security zones of Artsakh and vicinity.

Uproar over Armeno-Turkish relations and negotiations has been made in the diaspora largely by the ARF. This is so, despite the fact that the ARF of Armenia was a party to President Serge Sargisian's government during and after his election campaign. When the ARF wholeheartedly fought against Levon Ter-Petrosian's opposition movement in the past presidential elections, its intention was to secure a few ministerial posts in the administration.

With the prospect of reinsuring its reputation, which it had slowly begun to lose, the ARF adopted this orientation. It did so to become the standard bearer of the Armenian Case, having already lost all hope of coming to power in the homeland and having given way to other political assemblies in the diaspora. Yes, the ARF came forth, considering this new development the best opportunity to achieve its goal. As it makes a new attempt at cheap demagoguery by rekindling the natural hidden feelings of the Armenian people, it once again is presenting itself as the competent party to the rights of the Armenian people and the enemy of the Turk. In the 21st century too, Ruben Pasha would have said, “Simply poetic politics!”

On the contrary, the current leaders of such an organization enriched with years of experience should have adopted a different policy. These days, a greater level of seriousness was to be expected from an organization having experienced the extremes of Armenian life, having participated in the revolutionary movement, having gained a fair amount of political maturity during the years of the first Republic of Armenia, and having often been involved in the international political sphere.

The street was not to be the venue of such a reaction to this new development in Armeno-Turkish relations. Solutions to the present situation will not be found in the streets of Yerevan, New York or Toronto, with a few hundred rank-and-file members hoisting protest banners. On the contrary, one would think that new sober-minded political figures, who have now joined the ARF bureau, should have sat down on a higher level with Armenian government leaders. Certainly every reasonable individual knows that there are other diplomatic ways to reach the president and discuss Armeno-Turkish relations.

Fortunately, the ARF's effort to also hitch our other traditional political parties to its wagon failed, except for Toronto, where only a handful of misguided Ramgavars participated in the rally organized by it. It should be said that the silent majority of the Armenian Democratic Liberal Party's (Ramgavar) membership stays true to its orientation, maintaining its loyalty to and trust in Armenia's authorities on a permanent basis. This has always been our traditional direction. Furthermore, if certain Ramgavar circles are not expressing their protest against the ARF in public, they are simply fol-

lowing internal party discipline and stating their anger only in narrow circles. The same is the case with the Hunchaks too, who, despite the declaration of their supreme body, have not totally severed their ties with the Armenian authorities, whether in Armenia or the diaspora.

However, apart from our three traditional political parties, it must be noted that today the Armenian Church carries an important weight and represents public opinion, at least in the diaspora. As it is, its Diocesan Primates don't share the ARF's opposition to the Protocols. The same goes for the Armenian General Benevolent Union, the Armenian Assembly and other new political groups, which support Armenia's president and government insofar as Armeno-Turkish relations are concerned, albeit with cautious optimism.

Thus, it is not realistic to say that the Armenian Diaspora is totally opposed to the restart of Armeno-Turkish relations. There is no such thing. Today's new generation is reading world public opinion with regard to Armeno-Turkish dialogue, evaluating it and giving their opinion, one way or the other. We are dealing with a new generation that has emerged from Armenian ghettos, is familiar with the world and possesses powerful reason and logic. Moreover, every leader in charge of this or that organization must be aware of this.

In light of all this, it is expected, particularly at this historic time, that the leaders of our traditional political parties will rally around the Armenian government, flank our president and, with their political experience, engage in harmonious work with President Sargisian. The new situation is of concern to every Armenian, whether diasporan or native, whether in position of power, aspiring to power, or in the opposition. All programs presented to us should be confronted with our collective forces.

To the credit of Armenia's president, he will very shortly visit the important centers of the diaspora and give extensive explanations to those with positions of responsibility in our community, as well as the general public. He is aware that it is the right of the Western Armenian segment of our people, which is scattered all over the world, to know the motive for negotiations by the current Armenian authorities and, particularly, if there are pre-conditions connected with the Armenian Genocide and/or other issues. In the final analysis, it is the president of the homeland of all Armenians who is coming to visit our communities and, as such, he deserves a respectful reception.

As a nation, we should equally share the responsibility for each success or failure, because we are living through difficult days in an unnatural environment.

Also, our political parties should have the prudence to review their hastily released declarations, and soon they should present themselves to the Armenian people as more prudent, sober-minded and far-sighted traditional organizations.

“If it should be in the interest of the Armenian people to shake the hand of the Turk one day, you must forget that that hand has been dipped in the blood of your father.”

(Translated by Aris G. Sevag)

## Anonymous Letters Policy

**The Armenian Mirror-Spectator will from time to time run letters without a signature, as long as the writer or writers include their names and phone numbers for verification purposes, and as long as they provide a reasonable explanation for their request for anonymity. The publication of such letters is strictly at the discretion of the editor.**



# Obama Backs Sargisian Efforts on Armenia-Turkey Thaw

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) – US President Barack Obama expressed his support for the Armenian leader's efforts to achieve normalization of relations with Turkey as the two spoke on the phone recently.

As reported by the Armenian president's press office, the phone conversation took place during President Serge Sargisian's stop in Los Angeles, where he was on Sunday as part of his continuing tour of major Diaspora-Armenian communities to discuss the Protocols proposed to be signed, with Turkey.

Obama reportedly reaffirmed the United States' official position that Armenian-Turkish

normalization should proceed without any pre-conditions and should not be linked to the status of Nagorno-Karabagh.

Sargisian was quoted as expressing his gratitude to the US leader for the support in the process of Armenian-Turkish normalization and also as presenting his impressions of the diaspora tour. According to the release for the media, the Armenian president emphasized that "the concerns and fears of the far-flung Armenian Diaspora regarding the process are natural, considering the fact that the Armenian people was subjected to genocide by Ottoman Turkey, about which Obama has repeatedly

mentioned in his public speeches."

Sargisian last week embarked on a weeklong tour of major diaspora communities, including Paris, New York, Los Angeles, Beirut and Rostov-on-Don, to try to allay possible concerns about his dramatic rapprochement with Turkey among Armenians living abroad, many of whom are descendants of survivors of the Armenian Genocide.

During the phone talk with Obama, Sargisian also reportedly thanked the US president for "the huge mediatory work" conducted by the United States as part of the Minsk Group of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in

Europe (OSCE) that advances international efforts on settling the Nagorno-Karabagh conflict. As reported by his press office, Sargisian emphasized Armenia's readiness to move forward on the way of achieving a peaceful settlement of the problem. He said the basis of this settlement should be "the decision by Nagorno-Karabagh's people about their ultimate legal status by the free expression of will, which is the basis of the Madrid principles of settlement presented by the Minsk Group mediators."

Sargisian was met by large demonstrations opposing the Protocols in Paris and in Los Angeles.

# Opposition MPs Lose Parliament Seats

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) – Stripping the country's largest opposition force of its modest representation in parliament, the Armenian authorities have revoked the mandates of three opposition legislators prosecuted and convicted in connection with last year's post-election unrest in Yerevan.

Parliament deputies Hakob Hakobian, Miasnik Malkhasian and Sasun Mikaelian were among dozens of opposition figures arrested following the March 1, 2008 clashes between security forces and opposition protesters. Despite their vehement protestations of innocence, Armenian courts found all three men guilty of organizing the "mass riots" in June.

Hakobian and Malkhasian were sentenced to five years, a punishment that allowed them to walk free in court thanks to a general amnesty declared by the authorities. Mikaelian, who was also convicted of illegal weapons possession, got nine years in prison and did not qualify for immediate release.

Armenia's constitution stipulates that parliament deputies shall automatically lose their

seats in the National Assembly if they are "sentenced to imprisonment." Citing this provision, parliament speaker Hovik Abrahamian signed on September 15 documents formally depriving Hakobian, Malkhasian and Mikaelian of their mandates.

The move led the Central Election Commission to call on Thursday new elections in two single-mandate constituencies that have until now been represented in the parliament by Hakobian and Mikaelian. The polls will be held on December 6.

Unlike his two comrades, Malkhasian was elected to the National Assembly in May 2007 on the ticket of the ruling Republican Party of Armenia (HHK) under the system of proportional representation. In accordance with Armenian law, the CEC gave his seat to another candidate who occupied a lower position on the HHK slate and, unlike Malkhasian, did not defect to the opposition camp ahead of the February 2008 presidential election.

Malkhasian on September 17 called his and his colleagues' ouster from the assembly ille-

gal and pledged to challenge it in the European Court of Human Rights. "We were illegally deprived of our liberty right from the beginning, and those illegalities are continuing to this day," he said.

"We were always ready to surrender those mandates. We didn't do that because we wanted to be able to show the European Court illegal actions taken against us," added Malkhasian.

The three men were the last remaining members of the parliament affiliated with the main opposition Armenian National Congress

(HAK). Another HAK parliamentarian, Khachatur Sukiasian, quit the parliament last week in protest against its pro-government majority's March 2008 decision to lift his and his opposition colleagues' immunity from prosecution. Unlike the three ousted deputies, Sukiasian went into hiding and avoided arrest in the wake of the 2008 unrest.

Levon Zurabian, the HAK's central office coordinator, also condemned the mandate revocation. "The authorities are continuing the wave of illegalities, which shows that they don't want anyone from our movement to be in the National Assembly," he charged. "They are afraid of any manifestation of democracy and are doing everything to stifle the voice of the people."

## AGBU Manoogian-Demirdjian School in Southern California Expands Solar Energy Use

SOLAR, from page 7

Hoffman, account executive, who are the main undertakers of this project, took to the stage and went over the various stages and aspects of the project. Varteressian expressed his joy, both as a parent of children attending the school and as a professional in the field of renewable energy, for AGBU to have made such a commitment. He then thanked everyone who was part of the execution of the project at the Manoogian-Demirdjian School, including the enthusiastic school staff.

Hoffman spoke about the entire project and gave details to the students about producing solar power. He said, "This system is a 180 kW system, which came on line in early 2007 and has thus far produced 352,000kWh of clean electricity which

means...the school's solar power has already generated the electricity needs of a typical household for 32 years." Comparing it to coal, he explained, "We have saved 4,500 pounds of nitrous oxide or 1.5m pounds of carbon dioxide, saving 475 acres of trees."

Two students from the Class of 2010, Armen Haroutounian and Vatche Youssefian, were invited on stage to speak about the school's environmental awareness and their goal to initiate a vigorous recycling program at the school with the help of parent volunteers.

During the program, commendations and congratulatory mementos were presented by the dignitaries. To conclude the program, a special wall plaque constructed of a solar panel was unveiled.

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## Col. Moorad Mooradian, Longtime Mirror-Spectator Columnist, Dies

MOORADIAN, from page 1

dating back to 1991. He had taught at George Mason University and Yerevan State University. In addition, he was an accomplished reporter and author, sought-after speaker and champion for Armenian causes both in America and Armenia. He was a longtime member of the Executive Committee of the Armenia Tree Project.

Mooradian leaves his wife, Lillian; their four children, Paul, Martin and Gregory Mooradian and Natalie Hogan and their spouses; eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild. He also leaves two sisters, Anahith Boyajian and Beatrice Petricone, and an extended family of cousins, nieces and nephews.

A requiem service was held on Sunday, October 4, at St. James Armenian Apostolic Church, Richmond. Interment was on Monday, October 5, at the Quantico National Cemetery, Triangle, Va.

Another requiem service will be held on Sunday, October 11, at 1 p.m. in Providence, RI at Sts. Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Apostolic Church, 70 Jefferson St.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to the Armenia Tree Project at their website: [www.armeniatree.org](http://www.armeniatree.org) or by phone in the Watertown, Mass. office.

The family wishes to thank those who have expressed concern and support for him and his family during his illness.