

Armenia, Turkey Sign Landmark Protocols

Documents to Go Before Parliaments

ZURICH (AP) — Turkey and Armenia signed a landmark agreement Saturday to establish diplomatic relations and open their sealed border after a century of enmity, as US Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton helped the two sides clear a last-minute snag.

“There were several times when I said to all of the parties involved that this is too important,” Clinton said. “This has to be seen through. We have come too far. All of the work that has gone into the protocols should not be walked away from.”

The Turkish and Armenian foreign ministers signed the accord here after a dispute over the final statements they would make. In the end, the signing took place about three hours later than scheduled and there were no spoken statements.

Clinton and mediators from Switzerland intervened to help broker a solution, US officials said on condition of anonymity, in keeping with State Department regulations. Better ties between Turkey and Armenia have been a priority for President Barack Obama, and Clinton had flown to Switzerland to witness the signing, not help close the deal.

Clinton told reporters traveling later on the plane with her to London that both sides had problems with the other’s prepared statement and that the Armenian foreign minister had to call his president several times.

She said it became important just to approve the accord and not have the sides see PROTOCOLS, page 2



Armenia’s Foreign Minister, Eduard Nalbandian, left, and Turkey’s Foreign Minister, Ahmet Davutoglu, shake hands after signing the Protocols in the presence of Swiss Foreign Minister Micheline Calmy-Rey, French Foreign Minister, Bernard Kouchner and US Secretary of State, Hillary Rodham Clinton. (AP Photo)

Turkey Again Links Armenia Ties With Karabagh Concessions

YEREVAN (RFE/RL and A1 Plus) — Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan has told reporters that his country “cannot adopt a positive attitude” toward Armenia unless it “withdraws from occupied Azerbaijani territories.”

Erdogan emphasized that an internationally-brokered agreement on the disputed Nagorno-Karabagh territory is critical to the ratification by the Turkish parliament of the Turkey-Armenia protocols on closer relations, signed on October 10 in Zurich.

If passed by the Turkish and Armenian parliaments, Ankara and Yerevan would restore diplomatic relations and reopen



NKR Deputy Foreign Minister Vardan Barseghyan

their border, which has been sealed since 1993, RFE/RL’s Armenian Service reports.

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu told reporters on October 11 that Armenian forces should withdraw “not only in Karabagh but also the seven Azerbaijani districts adjacent to Nagorno-Karabagh that are under occupation.”

The comments came hours after Azerbaijan’s Foreign Ministry criticized Turkey for sealing the deal with Armenia that Baku said “clouds the spirit of brotherly relations” between the two Turkic-speaking countries and is in “direct

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Attorney Ara H. Margosian II Dies

WATERTOWN, Mass. — Ara H. Margosian II of Watertown, died on October 6. He was 46.



He leaves his wife, Helen “H e g h i g” (Vosbigian), sons Ara H. Margosian III and Hovig Margosian; parents Ara H. and Arev Margosian; brothers-in-law Sarkis and Toros

Vosbigian and their families, including children, Shant, Nina, Rubina, Carlo and Gacia Vosbigian. He was the nephew of Araxie Margosian and her husband, Hagop.

He had founded his law practice in Watertown in 1991. He was active in the Homenetmen association, as well as the Armenian Heritage Park and Peace of Art organizations.

Funeral services were at St. Stephen’s Armenian Church on Tuesday October 13.

Interment was in Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge.

Memorial gifts in his memory may be made to Homenetmen or the Armenian Educational and Cultural Center, both at 47 Nichols Ave., Watertown, or St. Stephen’s Armenian Church.



YEREVAN — Dr. Arshavir Gundjian was one of the speakers at the Armenian Democratic Liberal-Armenagan convention held here earlier this month. For full coverage of the convention, see pages 10 and 11.



NEWS IN BRIEF

Komitas Vartabed’s Letters Published

YEREVAN (HETQ) — A new anthology of letters written and received by Komitas Vartabed has been published by Sarkis Khachents and the Printinfo publishing house.

The work contains 184 letters written by Komitas and 37 that he received. It is the most extensive volume of its kind to date. Each letter includes detailed background information and notation for the readers and errors appearing in previous compilations have been edited out.

It is the third book in the musical series and will be followed by the fourth and final volume, *Komitas in the Memoirs and Testimony of Contemporaries*.

The book is now available in Yerevan bookshops or by calling the publisher.

Turkish Court Rules Pamuk Can Be Sued

ISTANBUL (Monsters and Critics) — Turkey’s Supreme Court of Appeals ruled Wednesday that Nobel Laureate Orhan Pamuk can be sued for remarks made several years ago about the alleged massacres of Armenians and Kurds during World War I, the semi-official Anatolian Agency reported.

“Thirty-thousand Kurds and a million Armenians have been killed and almost nobody dares to mention that, except for me,” Pamuk was quoted as saying in a Swiss magazine in 2005.

Nationalist activists filed suit against Pamuk, saying his remarks had insulted them and demanding compensation.

Although lower courts in Istanbul have twice rejected the case, the higher court ruled that the case should be heard again.

Pamuk, the acclaimed author of *Snow* and *My Name is Red*, won the Nobel prize in literature in 2006, the first Turkish author to do so.

After he made his comments in 2005, charges were brought against him that he had “insulted Turkishness.” The charges were later dropped for technical reasons.

Serge Sargisian Congratulates Obama

YEREVAN — President Serge Sargisian congratulated the US President Barack Obama on behalf of Armenian people, on his winning the Nobel Peace Prize this week.

In his message, Sargisian praised the role of the US as a co-chair of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group, with its constructive work aimed at settling the Karabagh conflict.

He also expressed his gratitude for the assistance of the US administration toward improving relations with Turkey.

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Quel (Le) Grand!

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ARMENIA

News From Armenia

PM Sargisian Receives Gulbenkyan Delegation

YEREVAN (Armenpress) — Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargisian received this week a delegation from the Galust Gyulbenkyan Foundation, headed by the inspector of Board of Directors, head of the Great Britain, Ireland and Armenian communities department Martin Yesayan.

The prime minister praised the activity of foundation for the preservation of Armenian identity and development of Armenian sciences.

He expressed hope that the visit would give new impetus to the development of cooperation between the foundation and Armenia.

Armenia Set For Russian Gas 'Discount'

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) — Russia will likely scale back a planned further increase in the price of its natural gas delivered to Armenia, the Armenian national gas utility confirmed on Tuesday.

Under the terms of a supply contract signed by the ArmRosGazprom (ARG) operator with a subsidiary of Russia's Gazprom monopoly, the price of Russian gas for Armenia rose from \$110 to \$154 per thousand cubic meters in April and was due to reach \$200 a year later.

The Moscow daily *Kommersant* reported Tuesday that Gazprom is now ready to charge ARG only \$180 per thousand cubic meters starting from April 2010 in view of last year's drastic fall in international oil prices. The paper said it has already cut the cost of Russian gas to be supplied to Europe next year.

ARG spokeswoman Shushan Sardarian confirmed the information. "Intensive negotiations are underway with the Russian side over reducing that \$200 fee," Sardarian said. The parties have already reached a "tentative agreement" on the discount disclosed by "Kommersant," she said.

Russian gas is the main sources of winter heating for Armenian households. It is also used by local thermal power plants for generating about one-third of Armenia's electricity. The April surge in the gas price immediately pushed up the cost of basic utility services in the country.

Gazprom lost its monopoly on gas supplies to Armenia with the launch of a gas pipeline from neighboring Iran earlier this year. ARG, in which Gazprom holds a majority stake, began importing Iranian gas in May. The volume of those deliveries, modest at the moment, is expected to rise significantly in the coming years.

Armavia Launches Yerevan-Bahrain Flight

YEREVAN (PanARMENIAN.Net) — Armavia Air Company is opening a new gateway to the Middle East. From now on, in addition to such cities as Dubai, Beirut and Aleppo, Armavia clients will be able to visit Bahrain, Armavia's forth point of destination in the Middle East. Flights to and from Bahrain and will be on Mondays, starting October 26.

USAID/Armenia Suspended Program Might Be Recommended

YEREVAN (PanArmenian.Net) — On September 29, Vice Speaker of Parliament Arevik Petrosyan met the Director of US International Development Agency (USAID) Jatinder Cheema. The meeting focused on USAID/Armenia suspended program recommencement, organizational matters and activity spheres selection.

On behalf of Armenian National Assembly Chairman Hovik Abrahamyan, Vice Speaker of Armenian Parliament Arevik Petrosyan emphasized the importance of program recommencement.

Ara Hakobyan Appointed Ambassador to India

YEREVAN — President Serge Sargisian on October 10 signed a decree appointing Ara Hakobyan ambassador extraordinary to India, based in New Delhi.

President Sargisian Scheduled to Attend Soccer Game in Turkey

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) — President Serge Sargisian was to press for a speedy implementation of the newly

signed Turkish-Armenian agreements during his landmark visit to Turkey on Wednesday, October 14, a senior pro-government lawmaker in Yerevan said on Tuesday.

Sargisian and his Turkish counterpart Abdullah Gul were due to hold face-to-face talks and have dinner before watching the second leg of a World Cup qualifier between Turkey's and Armenia's national soccer teams in the northwestern city of Bursa.

Razmik Zohrabian, deputy chairman of the ruling Republican Party of Armenia (HHK), said Sargisian plans to raise with Gul the mandatory parliamentary ratification of the two protocols that were signed in Zurich over the weekend.

"This may be the last meeting of the two leaders before the parliamentary ratifications," Zohrabian said. "They will be talking not only about football at their meeting. They will also be talking about Turkish-Armenian relations, about how to have the two parliaments endorse this document."

Protocols on Agenda for Discussion with Gul

through the Turkish parliament "within a reasonable timeframe." He also warned the Turks against linking the ratification process with the Nagorno-Karabagh conflict.

According to Zohrabian, the Armenian side may well annul the agreements if they do not come into force "before next spring." "If the process drags on, then we could declare the signed document null and void in accordance with international law," he said.

Zohrabian also played down nationalist street protests that could greet the Armenian president in Turkey. He argued that Gul himself faced peaceful demonstrations by Armenian nationalists when he visited Yerevan in September last year. "There will be similar protests against Serge Sargisian in Turkey," he said.

(The *Mirror-Spectator* will have full coverage of the game and the meeting in its October 24 issue, as the events were scheduled to occur after press time.)

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make speeches that could be interpreted as putting legal conditions on the document. She told each country that could be done later, "but let the protocols be the statement because that was what we were there to sign."

The accord is expected to win ratification from both nations' parliaments and could lead to a reopening of their border within two months. It has been closed for 16 years.

But nationalists on both sides are still seeking to derail implementation of the deal.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called the signing a "historic decision" that "constitutes a milestone toward the establishment of good neighborly relations," spokeswoman Michele Montas said in New York.

American officials said Clinton, as well as the top US diplomat for Europe, Philip Gordon, and Swiss Foreign Minister Micheline Calmy-Rey were engaged in furious high-stakes shuttle diplomacy with the Turkish and Armenian delegations to resolve the differences.

Diplomats said the Armenians were concerned about wording in the Turkish statement that was to be made after the signing ceremony at University of Zurich and had expressed those concerns "at the last minute" before the scheduled signing ceremony.

Clinton had arrived at the ceremony venue after meeting separately with the Turks and Armenians at a hotel, but abruptly departed without leaving her car when the problem arose.

She returned to the hotel where she spoke by phone from the sedan in the parking lot, three times with the Armenians and four times with the Turks. At one point in the intervention, a Swiss police car, lights and siren blazing, brought a Turkish diplomat to the hotel from the university with a new draft of his country's statement.

After nearly two hours, Clinton and Armenian Foreign Minister Eduard Nalbandian met in person at the hotel and drove back to the university where negotiations continued.

In the end, the Turks and Armenians signed an accord establishing diplomatic ties that could reduce

tensions in the troubled Caucasus region and facilitate its growing role as a corridor for energy supplies

the killing of an estimated 1.5 million Armenians during World War I. The discussion is to include "an impartial scientific examination of the historical records and archives to define existing problems and formulate recommendations."

"There is no alternative to the establishment of the relations with Turkey without any precondition," said Sargisian. "It is the dictate of the time."

Javier Solana, the EU's foreign policy chief, thanked Turkey, which is a candidate for European Union membership.

"This is an important cooperation, no doubt, of Turkey to solve one issue that pertains to a region which is in our neighbor-

hood," Solana told AP Television News.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov also was present for the ceremony in Switzerland, whose diplomats mediated six weeks of talks between Turkey and Armenia to reach the accord.

Turkey's Ahmet Davutoglu appeared the far happier top envoy as he smiled broadly while posing for photographs and greeting the other foreign ministers in attendance. Armenia's Nalbandian, by contrast, only grudgingly smirked as he shook Davutoglu's hand.

About 10,000 protesters rallied Friday in Armenia's capital to oppose the signing, and a tour of Armenian communities by Sargisian sparked protests in Lebanon and France.



Turkey's Foreign Minister, Ahmet Davutoglu, foreground, with Foreign Minister Eduard Nalbandian

bound for the West.

The agreement faces nationalist opposition, and protests have been particularly vociferous among the Armenian Diaspora.

Major countries, however, expressed their support for the accord, with the foreign ministers of the United States, Russia, France and the European Union in the room to watch the much-delayed signing.

"No problem, they signed," quipped French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner.

Armenian President Serge Sarkisian said his country was making "responsible decisions" in normalizing relations with Turkey, despite what he called the unhealable wounds of genocide.

The agreement calls for a panel to discuss "the historical dimension" of

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ARMENIA

Armenian Opposition Condemns Signing of Turkey Deal

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) – Armenia's leading opposition forces reacted angrily on Monday to the signing of far-reaching Turkish-Armenian protocols, again branding them as a sellout.

The most vocal critic of the deal, the Armenian Revolutionary Federation (Dashnaksutyun), said it will fight against the protocols' ratification by parliament "by all possible means" and again threatened to campaign for President Serge Sargisian's resignation.

"The Armenian Revolutionary Federation is determined to fight for the scuttling of the protocols," the nationalist party said in a statement. "To that end, Dashnaksutyun will resort to all political and constitutional means, including regime change."

The statement reiterated the party's main

arguments against the agreements, including a claim that they could thwart broader international recognition of the Armenian genocide. It said Sarkisian himself shared opposition concerns about rapprochement with Turkey in his latest public pronouncements on the subject.

Giro Manoyan, a senior party representative, told journalists that a Dashnaksutyun-led coalition of a dozen opposition parties will stage another demonstration against Sarkisian's policy on Friday. One of those parties, Zharangutyun, was also quick to condemn the high-profile signing of the two agreements welcomed around the world.

Zharangutyun's US-born leader, Raffi Hovannisian, described it as "the latest entry in the ledger of crimes committed, and covered up, against the Armenian nation."

"As a servant of the Armenian nation ... I am appalled by this latest offense," Hovannisian said in an "open letter to the Armenian nation." "As an Armenian citizen ... I ache as the soul of our nation is traded away for illusory promises of 'good will' and 'open borders' with Turkey."

Like Dashnaksutyun, Hovannisian condemned Yerevan for pledging to formally recognize Armenia's existing border with Turkey and agreeing to the formation of a joint panel that would look into the 1915 extermination

and deportation of the Ottoman Empire's Armenian population. That, he said, "not only challenges the untouchable veracity of the Genocide, but secures the complicity of the Armenian state in absolving Turkey of any responsibility for its genocidal actions."

The charge was echoed by a leading member of the Armenian National Congress (HAK), the country's largest opposition alliance that has more moderate views on Turkey than Dashnaksutyun and Zharangutyun. Levon Zurabian accused Sarkisian of "forfeiting the genocide" to gain strong international support for his rule challenged at home. "Armenia is not getting an open border even at the expense of renouncing genocide recognition," he told RFE/RL, pointing to Ankara's renewed linkage between Turkish-Armenian relations and the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict resolution.

Zurabian said the HAK will officially react to the development later this week. The opposition bloc led by former President Levon Ter-Petrosian stopped short of rejecting the Turkish-Armenian protocols as a whole in a statement issued last month.

Also condemning the Zurich accords was Armenia's longtime former Foreign Minister Vartan Oskanian. "It is difficult to imagine a more demeaning signing or a more demeaning document," read a statement issued by

Oskanian's Civitas Foundation think-tank. "The parties themselves and the representatives of the world powers, all were present but all remained silent."

"When such a 'historic' moment goes by with none of the sides or the witnesses able to say anything acceptable or in agreement with the rest ... it is difficult to see how this document can provide the serious basis of trust and respect necessary for stable and respectful relations between the parties," the statement said, scoffing at a compromise arrangement that salvaged the Turkish-Armenian deal.

By contrast, the ruling Republican Party of Armenia (HHK) described the protocol signing as an "achievement." Galust Sahakian, the leader of the HHK's faction in parliament, also downplayed Turkey's possible refusal to ratify the protocols and open the border with Armenia before a Karabakh settlement.

"Of course, we would certainly not gain from that," Sahakian said at a news conference. "But we wouldn't lose anything either. In any case, it is Turkey that would be in a difficult situation." The Armenian side will "stop the negotiating process" if the Turks drag their feet over the protocol ratification, he said.

Zurabian insisted, however, that Turkey will manage to keep more countries from recognizing the Armenian massacres as genocide even if it declines to implement the agreements.

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contradiction to the national interests of Azerbaijan."

Yerevan has not directly responded to Erdogan's statement, but Armenian President Serge Sargisian implicitly threatened to walk away from the agreements if Ankara fails to complete the ratification process "within a reasonable time frame."

Deputy Foreign Minister of the Nagorno-Karabagh Republic (NKR) Vardan Barseghyan in an interview said he considers any discussion on territories as nonsensical.

"We must first discuss the cause and then the effects. The first thing we must do is to solve the issue related to the status of the NKR. The Nagorno-Karabagh Republic's position remains unchanged and that is that the Nagorno-Karabagh conflict can't be settled without the participation of the NKR. If Azerbaijan truly wants to settle the conflict, it must be ready to sit down and negotiate with the NKR. No decision will be acceptable for the NKR without our participation," said Barseghyan.

He mentioned that the territories on which different interpretations are made make up the territory of the NKR, which is established by the NKR Constitution. The Deputy Foreign Minister of the NKR expresses gratitude to the RA authorities for representing the interests of the NKR during the talks, but he also stated that that is not enough for the conflict settlement.

"Of course, it is better to negotiate than to wage a war, but any resolution of the conflict is excluded without the participation of the NKR.

Barseghyan said Karabagh must express its viewpoints and Azerbaijan is the one that must be the first to hear those viewpoints. "The current format of negotiations goes to show that Azerbaijan is not ready for the resolution of the conflict. The negotiations process doesn't include the prerequisites for real progress. Azerbaijan and the NKR lack mutual confidence and Azerbaijan is to blame for that. Azerbaijan currently rejects any contact with the NKR." Despite the process of negotiations, the Deputy Foreign Minister says that independence is not a matter of discussion. "We only face the issue of international recognition."

Touching upon the protocols and their impact on Karabagh, Barseghyan said: "Of course we are interested in Turkey's interest in the conflict resolution. As you know, to this day, Turkey has had a negative impact on the Nagorno-Karabagh conflict and has acted for the benefit of Azerbaijan. However, we are in favor of having good relations with all countries of the region and to have open borders."

President Addresses Nation, Diaspora, on Eve of Signing

(President Serge Sargisian made the following remarks in Yerevan, the night before the Protocols were to be signed in Zurich.)

For the past several months the attention of Armenia and the Armenians worldwide was focused on the ongoing process of the normalization of the Armenian-Turkish relations and in particular the two initialed Protocols. All parts and layers of the Armenian nation answered our call to open a public debate on the documents and engaged in it. We saw a new strong wave of a debate over the smaller and bigger issues which concern Armenia and the Armenians.

The debate included a variety of issues not related to the Armenian-Turkish negotiations but concerning the whole Armenian nation. This process caused and triggered a new, engaged discussion on the place and the role of Armenia and the Armenians, the present and the future of Armenia and the Armenians. As a result, the world saw and understood that, when it comes to the normalization of the Armenian-Turkish relations, they have to deal not just with Armenia with its three million population, but with the ten million Armenians. And let no one ignore the fact that, contrary to any slogans, the Armenian nation is united in its goals and is strong with its sons and daughters. And let no one try to split Armenia and our brothers and sisters in the Diaspora in presenting their concern over the future of Armenia as an attempt to impose something on the Republic Armenia.

The historic destiny of our nation has many times been focuses on the directive of searching wise exits of the most complex situations. We have only succeeded when we pragmatically assessed the current challenges and took appropriate actions. Today we also find ourselves in a similar position. In order to build and consolidate our statehood we, in our collective identity, need to demonstrate adequate thinking and action.

Today, we are trying to put on a normal track the relations with a country where, under the Ottoman rule, our nation fell victim to the policy of patricide and genocide. The scars of the Genocide do not heal. And the memory of our martyrs and future of our generations dictates to have solid and stable state, powerful and prosperous country, a country which is the rebirth of the dreams of the whole Armenian nation. One of the significant steps along that road is having normal relations with all our neighbors, includ-

ing Turkey.

Independence dictates the will and determination to take responsible decisions; it dictates pragmatism and forward-looking sustained work. That is the road I have selected. I have done it with the strong understanding of the historical reality and a strong belief in the future of our people.

There is no alternative to the establishment of the relations with Turkey without any precondition. It is the dictate of the time. It is not this need that is being debated today. The concern of individuals and some political forces is caused by the different interpretation of certain provisions contained in the Protocols and their historic mistrust towards Turkey.

Having realistically assessed these circumstances and being convinced in the necessity and correctness of the steps undertaken, I insist on the following:

1. No relations with Turkey can question the reality of the patricide and the genocide perpetrated against the Armenian nation. It is a known fact and it should be recognized and condemned by the whole progressive humanity. The relevant sub-commission to be established under the intergovernmental commission is not a commission of historians.

2. The issue of the existing border between Armenia and Turkey is to be resolved through prevailing norms of the international law. The Protocols do not go beyond that.

3. These relations cannot and do not relate to the resolution of the Nagorno Karabagh conflict, which is an independent and separate process. Armenian does not regard the clause of the territorial integrity and inviolability of the borders contained in the Protocols as in any way related to the Nagorno Karabagh problem.

4. The Armenian side will give an adequate reaction if Turkey protracts the process of ratification or raises conditions for it. Armenia undertakes no unilateral commitments though these Protocols and does not make any unilateral affirmations. Armenia is signing these Protocols in order to create basis for the establishment of normal relations between our two countries. Hence, if Turkey fails to ratify the Protocols within a reasonable timeframe and does not implement all the clauses contained herein within the provided timeframe or violates them in the future, Armenia will immediately take appropriate steps as stipulated by the international law.

Dear compatriots, in addressing you I want to emphasize that today, more than ever our people should stand united; we should have capability of maturing our collective identity to life in the reality of statehood. That is our road to the future.

The signing of the Protocols will be followed by stages of their ratification and implementation. All the concerns and possible threats which were so widely expressed in the course of the debate will be taken into careful consideration and we shall be able to prevent any development that might contradict our national interest. Today, I am more than convinced that we will succeed. And we will do that together, all of us, the Armenians. Today we are not the same we were only a few months ago. And it is a fact from now on.

I have confidence in the wisdom of our people. I have confidence that together we shall hand down a prosperous and peaceful motherland to our generation. It will definitely be so.

And may God be with us.

Armenia Takes Part in the International Book Fair in Frankfurt

FRANKFURT, Germany (Armenpress) – Armenia will take part in the international book fair being held October 14-19 here.

Eduard Militoniansky of the Armenian Culture Ministry said that Armenia is presenting many more books, compared to 2008. Among the books are works of fiction, science-fiction and children's literature, as well as books translated into Armenian in a range of subjects, including economics, political science and philosophy, albums and encyclopedias.

Special attention will be paid to publications dedicated to writer William Saroyan. According to Militoniansky, participation in such fairs has a great importance for publishers. They have an opportunity to get acquainted with the news of publication, obtain new partners as well as to propose joint projects.

Each year numerous publishers, writers, translators as well as representatives of prominent libraries from 120 states take part in the Frankfurt book fair. In addition, book presentation seminars, roundtables, readings and other cultural events are also held.

This is the 17th time Armenia takes part in this exhibition.



INTERNATIONAL

International News

Forward Yeghia Yavruyan Scores Goal in Israeli Championship

HAIFA, Israel (PanArmenian.Net) — Yeghia Yavruyan, a forward on the Armenian national football team and Maccabi Tel-Aviv, scored a consolation goal in Israel's championship in a match his team was losing to Hapoel Haifa.

Concluding the match 3-1, Yavruyan secured the 5th position (seven points) for Maccabi Tel-Aviv.

Maccabi Haifa is leading the championship with 12 points.

Yeghia Yavruyan and Shlomi Arbeitmam (Maccabi Haifa) top the list of Israeli championship goal-scorers.

Lufthansa Reduces Winter Flight Schedule

FRANKFURT (MSNBC) — German airline Deutsche Lufthansa AG said Friday it would reduce the number of its winter flights by 7.4 percent through the phase out of smaller aircraft.

The Cologne-based company said the cutbacks would come mainly from European and domestic routes that use smaller aircraft, which will be replaced by larger aircraft. Therefore, the available seat capacity will remain stable in the winter schedule.

The company, which is Europe's largest airline by sales, said it will fly to 191 destinations in 78 countries compared with 194 destinations in 79 countries in 2008. Lufthansa didn't specify what country it was exiting, but said in the past several months it discontinued flights to Yerevan, Armenia; Bristol, England; Ufa, Russia and Portland, Ore. for economic reasons. The new schedule takes effect October 25.

The company said in contrast to the new cutbacks announced for Europe, it was making a slight increase in some long-haul flights — including those to the US.

"We are maintaining existing connections and not radically revising our route network," the company said in a statement.

Eiffel Tower Lit Up in Turkish Flag Colors

PARIS — Within the frameworks of the "Season of Turkey in France," the Eiffel Tower was illuminated, on Monday, October 5, with the Turkish flag colors. The Eiffel tower remained lit up with the Turkish colors through October 11.

Abdullah Gul was visiting France last week as part of the same celebration. During the visit, he met with Prime Minister Nicolas Sarkozy.

A journalist from *Le Figaro* newspaper asked the Turkish president if he was ready to tackle the question of the Armenian Genocide. He replied: "We wish establishment of a historical commission to establish the facts."

When asked again if those facts had not been established, Gul replied, "No, of course. These events took place 100 years ago. Admittedly, there was tragic and deplorable sufferings, but there was mutual suffering. Our objective is peace, stability and the cooperation in all this area, for the future of our children."

IMF to Quit Azerbaijan

BAKU (Eurasia.net) — The International Monetary Fund apparently is closing its office in Azerbaijan, according to Azerbaijani media reports. Baku, which continues to benefit from windfall energy-export profits, apparently has little interest these days in working with international lenders on new projects. Unidentified members of the IMF office in Baku, quoted by the Anspress news agency on October 6, said that the fund had recalled its resident representative and laid off staff. The IMF representatives reportedly said that, given the lack of ongoing programs in the country, keeping an office open was not justifiable, Anspress reported.

The IMF website contains no public announcement about such a decision. The IMF has funneled \$600 million in aid to Azerbaijan since 1993. Baku plans to repay a remaining debt of \$40 million to the IMF by 2014, the APA news agency reported.

IMF, World Bank See Quick Impact from Turkish-Armenian Border Opening

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) — The International Monetary Fund and the World Bank have reaffirmed their strong support for the reopening of the Turkish-Armenian border, saying that its positive impact on Armenia's recession-hit economy could be felt as early as next year.

Senior officials from the two multilateral lending institutions welcomed economic implications of the unprecedented thaw in Turkish-Armenian relations which will result in the signing of key fence-mending agreements between Ankara and Yerevan later this week. Speaking on the sidelines of the ongoing IMF and World Bank meetings in Istanbul, they said that growing signs of economic recovery around the world should also reflect positively on the economic situation in Armenia.

According to the latest IMF projections presented during the global forum, the Armenian economy will grow by 1.2 percent next year after enduring one of the steepest declines in the world this year. The World Bank also expects renewed modest growth in the South Caucasus country in 2010.

Ratna Sahay, deputy director of the IMF's Middle East and Central Asia Department, said the growth rate could well be higher if the Turkish-Armenian

frontier is opened for commerce and travel soon. "Once the border opens up we think that the impact would be pretty quick because it would reduce [Armenia's] transportation costs tremendously," she said. "There would also be a lot of indirect impact through trade in goods and services with Turkey."

"I don't know if it will happen in 2010," said Indermit Gill, the World Bank's chief economist for Europe and Central Asia. "But my sense is that [positive effects of border opening] can happen very, very quickly because there are entrepreneurs on both sides that are very keen to take advantage of business opportunities on the other side of the border."

"What we find is that countries that are globally integrated tend to be also pretty regionally integrated as well," said Gill. "And both of these integrations are very good things. Countries that are more integrated tend to converge faster to higher income standards."

"So I think these are very positive developments, and if you want to see a whole body of evidence of why this is a good thing you should actually look at Western Europe, which was a very divided neighborhood not so long ago. Now it's the most integrated neighborhood."

Both officials emphasized the fact

that Armenia is a landlocked country with high transportation costs that hamper economic activity and badly needed foreign investment. "Therefore, to have access in terms of transportation through Turkey would be of great benefit to Armenia," said Sahay. "At the same time it would also benefit Turkey in terms of cross-border trade and tourism."

The IMF official said an open border with Turkey would also make Armenia more attractive to foreign investors. "Armenia has a lot of advantages vis-à-vis the level of education and skills of the Armenian people," she argued. "There is also, of course, a big Armenian population that is outside, which is also going to be looking to see how opportunities in Armenia are going to expand. So provided that the policy environment is good, the opportunities to me seem quite a lot."

That border opening would lower the disproportionately-high cost of shipping cargos to and from Armenia is accepted by many local businesspeople and analysts. But just how quick and positive its impact on the economy as a whole would be is a matter of contention in the country. Some Armenian economists believe that it would take years before the country starts reaping tangible benefits.

Turkey Boosts Syria Ties Amid Renewed Israel Row

ALEPPO, Syria (AFP) — Turkey boosted its ties with Syria on Tuesday at the first meeting of a newly formed cooperation council, only days after Ankara's relations with Damascus foe Israel took a downturn.

The foreign, defense, interior, economy, oil, electricity, agriculture and health ministers of the two countries attended the strategic talks in the northern Syrian city of Aleppo.

Their agenda called for a series of meetings between respective ministers in their fields and the signing of diplomatic and economic agreements.

The foreign ministers signed a deal on scrapping visa requirements for each other's nationals.

Turkish-Syrian relations have improved after decades of mistrust based on Ankara's accusations that Damascus supported Turkey's banned Kurdistan Workers' Party.

But Syrian Foreign Minister Walid Muallem told a news conference with Turkish counterpart Ahmet Davutoglu that Damascus regarded the PKK as a "terrorist organization banned" in his country.

Turkey's ties with Israel took a turn for the worse on Sunday when the Jewish state announced Ankara had decided to exclude it from the "Anatolian Eagle" joint military exercises.

The move came after Syria and Turkey signed an agreement in Istanbul last month to establish the cooperation council as part of efforts to forge closer links. Under the accord, the council will meet once a year.

The air force exercises involving Turkey, Israel and members of the NATO military alliance had been due to be held near Konya in central Turkey from October 12 to 23.

On Tuesday, Israeli Vice Premier Silvan Shalom urged Turkey "to come to its senses" following the spike in tensions between the two allies.

"Turkey is an important Muslim state sharing strategic ties with Israel. I hope the Turks come to their senses and realize that the relationship between the



Syrian Foreign Minister Walid Muallem

two states is in their interest no less than ours," he said.

"The deterioration of ties with Turkey in recent days is regrettable," Shalom said.

In contrast, the Syrian foreign minister said "it is natural that we would wel-

come" Ankara's decision to exclude Israel from the maneuvers.

"The Turkish decision was taken because of Turkey's position towards the Israeli aggression against the Gaza Strip" between last December and January, he said.

Damascus "welcomes the cancellation, because Israel always attacks the Palestinian people, maintains an embargo on Gaza and rejects any Turkish effort to resume peace talks" between Syria and Israel, Muallem added.

Syria and Israel began indirect peace talks through Turkey in May 2008.

But they were suspended last December after Israel launched a 22-day war on the Gaza Strip that killed more than 1,400 Palestinians and 13 Israelis.

In Aleppo, Davutoglu underlined the importance of the Aleppo meeting for the two Muslim neighbors. "Turkey is the gateway for Syria to Europe just as Syria is the gateway for Turkey to the Arab world," he said.

Fraud Case Delayed until December

MONTREAL (CTV Montreal) — A 68-year-old former real-estate agent from Montreal's Armenian community could face additional fraud charges.

Leon Kordzian is already on trial for fraud and weapons possession, but the case is being delayed while Montreal investigators conduct another fraud investigation.

Kordzian is accused of defrauding dozens of people by recruiting investors for real-estate transactions with promises of 18 to 24 percent returns.

He was supposed to appear in court last week, but his lawyer Daniel Lighter convinced the judge to delay the case.

"We postponed the case until December because we've been advised by the Montreal Police department because there might be, might be several more accusations coming down within the next several weeks," said Lighter.

Ali Reza Pedram was one of the original whistleblowers, saying he lost \$10 000 to Kordzian.

He thinks more people have agreed to talk to police.

"He comes as a friend to you and then convinces you he has something in return as a friend. And you trust him," said Pedram.

Many alleged victims were too scared or too embarrassed to come forward, while two say they received death threats.

Kordzian promised his Ahuntsic triplex collateral for his investors, but the building is legally registered in the name of his sister.

He is due back in court on December 15.



Community News

Sacred Music Council

Tribute to Socrates Boyajian On the First Anniversary Of His Passing

WASHINGTON — One year ago, on August 28, 2008, the Armenian Church lost one of her shining stars, Dr. Socrates Boyajian, who succumbed to cancer at the early age of 48. Boyajian was an ordained deacon of the church and the leader of the Association of Armenian Church Choirs of America for several years up to his demise. His untimely death left a deep void in the ranks of the Choir Association, whose members remember him as a humble, God-loving servant of the church.

Born in Damascus, Syria, Boyajian immigrated to the United States with his family and settled in Washington, DC, where his father became the choir leader of St. Mary's Armenian Church there. Later, upon the passing of his father, Boyajian assumed the position of St. Mary's choir director to the end of his days.

Under Boyajian's supervision, the modern choir books used today in most Armenian Churches of the Eastern as well as Western Dioceses, were prepared by the Choir Association and published in 1994 under the title of *Sacred Music of the Armenian Church* under the auspices of Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate. Boyajian also spearheaded and coordinated the Junior Choir Leadership Development Program at the Ararat Center and for many years ran the website of the Choir Association, the latter at his own expense. His generosity was also evident at every stage of his activity in the association's work.

At the most recent session of the JCLDP, held August 17 through 23, students of the program, visibly moved by the loss of their leader, had the following to say: "Sograd was one of the most talented individuals I've ever met (the amount of musical material he has gathered and produced is simply astounding! ...and it was all done in addition to his day job...amazing...), but he was also probably the most humble. He took the matter of sharing his gifts and enriching others very seriously. To me, personally, he was not just a great musician I looked up to. I am blessed to be able to call him one of the mentors in my life." — **Tatevik Khoja-Eynaytan**

"One of the things that always impressed me about Socrates was that he pursued endeavors which most people saw as futile and as something that could never work, and yet he often succeeded. Look at the *Giratssooyts* for example. Almost everyone recognizes that having an on-line tool for the Sunday variables is an invaluable resource and would be very helpful to inform choir directors across the Diocesan parishes. However, even those with the time and ability to create such a tool would probably think that 'people wouldn't use it' or 'how would people even know it existed' — at least I would think that. Socrates could have spent all that time creating the entire website and perhaps it would have never caught on. But knowing that his efforts might all be for nothing did not deter him and he did it. It was the exact same way with the two volumes of the *Sacred Music Books...*" — **Harry Lang**

As an accomplished musician, Boyajian composed an opera, "Armenia — the First Christian Nation," for the Armenian Language Lab and Resource Center of the Eastern Diocese on the occasion of the 1,700th anniversary of the conversion of the Armenian Nation to Christianity in 301 AD. On a local level, he was a key driver in the Washington, DC, Armenian Folk Music Ensemble and played in a local philharmonic.



Susan Kulungian lights a candle at St. Gregory Church of North Andover for all those afflicted with breast cancer.

A Woman's Crusade against Breast Cancer

ANDOVER, Mass. — Susan Kulungian smiles coyly when people call her "the mad hatter."

One day, she comes dressed as a pirate with a patch over her eye and the next day a chef with an armful of groceries. The hats are worn to match the outfit. A

By Tom Vartabedian

baseball cap comes on when she cheers for her favorite team — and there are days when there's a bandana. Or no hat at all. That's when the real Susan Kulungian steps forward — a stay-at-home mom with two children fighting breast cancer. One look at Kulungian with her hats and you'd never know the 45-year-old was fighting the dreaded disease. According to the American Cancer Society, one out of eight women is afflicted with this disease in America.

"By bringing a smile to others, I find it's the best medicine for me," she said. "A good sense of humor often works wonders. There are others out there who might have the same thing and could use a quick pickup. I want to show people that you can overcome obstacles with a positive attitude."

Susan's blog (kulungian.blogspot.com) becomes instant therapy. She's got a section titled "The many hats you wear when you're bald" and another updating readers on her radiation and chemotherapy treatments.

A piece called "Hair today, gone tomorrow," details her reaction to the treatments.

The natural, bald look is often seen in church on Sundays when Susan attends with husband John, who chairs the Board of Trustees, and their two children, Tori, 15, and Nick, 12. The family support has been huge ever since Susan was diagnosed in January.

"I got the news right after Armenian Christmas," she recalled. "I was in a store buying crafts when my cell phone rang. It was my oncologist telling me the cancer test was positive. I froze in place and became disoriented."

Susan stormed out of the store as tears welled in her eyes. She got in her car and broke the news to her husband at work. The children were informed later that afternoon.

see CRUSADE, page 8

Saint Apkar Armenian Church Consecrated in Arizona

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — On Friday, September 20, the Primate of the Armenian Church of America (Western) Archbishop Hovnan Derderian celebrated the Divine Liturgy as part of the ceremonies to consecrate the new St. Apkar Armenian Church.

Serving at the altar were Rev. Zacharia Saribekyan, pastor of the host church, Rev. Manoog Markarian, pastor of St. John Garabed Armenian Church of Hollywood, Calif. and the deacons of St. Apkar Church. The Khachadourian Choir, led by Dean Stepan Gozumyan, sang the hymns of the Divine Liturgy.

Derderian was assisted by Archbishop Vatche Hovsepian. The Primate acknowledged and praised the work of Saribekyan and awarded him with a cross. Deacon Jirair Avakian, Suzie Grigorian and Rita Bebekian were also awarded with gifts for their service to the church. The Primate also recognized the efforts of all donors, faithful and volunteers. The mayor of Scottsdale was also awarded for his dedication and service to the Armenian-American community.

St. Apkar's Consecration and the Divine Liturgy was followed by a banquet in which Derderian awarded certificates and medals of appreciation to those people who were vital in realizing the completion of St. Apkar Armenian Church. The recipients included volunteers, the long-time faithful, deacons, the Chairman of the Parish Council Deacon Jirair Avakian, the Fundraising Committee Chairman Suzie Grigorian, Rita Bebekian, members of the Ladies Society and others. In his parting speech, Derderian blessed everyone present and bestowed well wishes to the faithful clergy of St. Apkar Armenian Church.

The first gathering of Armenians in Arizona took place in 1957. The first Divine Liturgy was celebrated in 1963 by the Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, then Primate. The diverse members of the parish expressed their gratitude to Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, now Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem, for paying special attention to this parish during his years as the Primate of the Western Diocese.

The church acquired its own site in 1982 through the donation of a two-acre land by Marguerite Hovsepian. The Melikian Cultural Center was built with the donations of Gregory and Emma Melikian and was officially opened in January 1992. The Melikian Cultural Center served as the gathering place for the church as well as other occasions.

Through Hovsepian's generosity, it became possible to start the construction process of the church. On his pontifical visit to the Western Diocese, Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II attended the Arizona Parish on June 16, 2005 and blessed the land on which St. Apkar was being built.

A dinner and dance had preceded Sunday's ceremonies on Saturday night, at the Melikian Cultural Hall. The guests were treated to the music of Khachik and his band.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Weekend Activities in Southern California

LOS ANGELES — Two extraordinary events marked the weekend of September 26 to be memorable for the many members and friends of Tekeyan Cultural Association in the Greater Los Angeles Area.

The first one was the presentation of the newly-published art book of surrealist Jean Kazandjian and the exhibition of his recent paintings. It was organized by Tekeyan Cultural Association's Los Angeles Chapter, on the occasion of its 40th anniversary of its inception. It took place on Saturday, September 26, at the Boyadjian Hall of the Armenian General Benevolent Union's Manoogian complex in Pasadena.

By Kevork Keushkerian

A capacity crowd was gathered there to admire the many works of the famous artist, who was there in person with his wife, Christine and two sons. Notable among the art connoisseurs were Very Rev. Baret Yeretizian, representing Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, the Primate of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America, painter Joseph Jeraco with his wife, as well as Prof. Osheen Keshishian of the *Armenian Observer*, and many others.

Master of Ceremonies Parsegh Kartalian welcomed the audience in three languages: Armenian, English and French, as the artist currently resides in France. He then introduced Gloria Orenstein, professor of comparative literature at the University of Southern California, to present the book and the artist.

The most attractive of the works was a huge masterpiece, hung on the wall behind the podium, named "Victory." It was composed of nine diagonal pieces, put together in three sections. One could see the head in the middle section, with two stretched hands in the adjoining sections, giving the impression of a soaring eagle. This was no surprise to the audience, as the artist is an architect, by profession.

At the conclusion of the presentation, the artist answered questions raised by the curious members of the audience. A book signing and reception followed.

It is noteworthy to mention that Kazandjian's album of his recent paintings was also presented to the public at the Armenian Library and Museum of American in Watertown, Mass. on September 10. The presenter there was art critic and former *Mirror-Spectator* editor Krikor Keoseyan.

The second event was the celebration of the 140th birthday of poet and writer Hovhannes Toumanian, organized by Tekeyan Cultural Association's Pasadena-Glendale Chapter. It took place on the evening of Sunday, September 27, at TCA's Beshgeturian Center in Altadena.

Master of Ceremonies Kevork Keushkerian welcomed the audience and introduced the keynote speaker, Hratch Sepetjian. Sepetjian is the chair of the Armenian Department at the AGBU Manoogian-Demirdjian School in Canoga Park. He graduated from the AGBU

Garmirian Elementary School in Antelias, Lebanon and attended the AGBU Melkonian Educational Institute in Nicosia, Cyprus. Upon graduating in 1987, he attended the Yerevan State University, graduating with a master's degree in Armenian philology and pedagogy in 1994. He's been residing in California with his wife since 2002. He has two daughters.

Hovhannes Toumanian was born in Tsegh, a village in Armenia's Lori region. He is well known for his poetry, prose and especially his short stories, whose themes involve ordinary people and their naivety about the facts of life and their daily routines, said Sepetjian. Toumanian himself wasn't much different from the people he depicted in his stories, continued Sepetjian, who then related a few stories from the poet's life, to prove his point.

Toumanian had a big family and often he did not remember the names of his own children. Once, he went to a school and inquired about two of his daughters. But unfortunately they were not there, as they were attending another school. Embarrassed, he went to the other school and inquired about them. The headmaster burst into laughter and told him that they were not there, as they had graduated.

Once, strolling in the marketplace, Toumanian saw two pairs of beautiful red shoes. Unaware of shoe sizes, he bought them, thinking they would fit at least two of his daughters. Unfortunately, they didn't and to save money, he returned the shoes to the store. A few weeks later, Toumanian spotted the same shoes in the same store and totally oblivious to his previous experience, he bought them again.

Toumanian is the author of the lyrics of Dikranian's "Anoush" opera. Some of his famous works are: *Katch Nazar*, *Paregentan (Shrovetide)*, *A Drop of Honey*, *The Dog and the Cat* and the *Death of Gigos*.

A musical selection, *With My Homeland* by Toumanian, was rendered a cappella by Khatchig Nahabedian and a poetic recitation of two of Toumanian's works, *The Death of Gigos* and *A Drop of Honey* was rendered by professional actor-director Setrak Bronzian.

Closing remarks were rendered by Yeretizian. He noted that Toumanian was instrumental in establishing "Vernadoon," the poets' salon, in Tbilisi, Georgia. He further concluded that Tbilisi was a haven for the writers of the Eastern Armenian, just as Istanbul was for the writers of the Western Armenian dialect.

A light reception followed.

In conclusion, it's noteworthy to mention that although Toumanian died and was buried in Tbilisi, his heart was transplanted in his birthplace, Tsegh, upon his wishes.



Hratch Sepetjian talks about Hovhannes Toumanian.

TCA Dickranian Students Elect Student Council Officers

LOS ANGELES — Thursday, September 25 was Student Council Election Day at the Tekeyan Cultural Association (TCA) Arshag Dickranian School.

After weeks of preparation and rigorous campaigning, the students cast their votes and elected the following slate of six candidates as the Council's Executive Committee for the current scholastic year: Alex Garibyan as president, Hykouhi Shamlyan as vice president, Anahit Mestchyan as secretary, Samson Mgdasyan as treasurer, Gevork Keshishyan as assistant secretary and Harout Berberian as assistant treasurer.

The Student Council at Arshag Dickranian School serves as the link between students and the school administration and is elected every year by the students. It is comprised of officers elected from the 11th grade and two representatives from every class, starting from sixth grade.

The Student Council's responsibilities include organizing student activities, tutoring weak students, preparing events and organizing certain fundraisers.

Located at 1200 North Cahuenga Blvd., the



From left, Secretary Anahit Mestchyan, Treasurer Samson Mgdasyan, President Alex Garibyan, Vice President Hykouhi Shamlyan, Assistant Treasurer Harout Berberian and Assistant Secretary Gevork Keshishyan.

TCA Arshag Dickranian Armenian School is a federally tax exempt, Pre-K to 12th-grade private educational institution. For more information visit www.dickranianschool.org.

PAAVA's Luncheon to Honor All Who Served

PHILADELPHIA — The Armenian Community is being invited to join the Philadelphia Armenian-American Veterans Association (PAAVA) as it honors all who have served, when PAAVA holds its annual luncheon, on November 8.

The luncheon will be held at Holy Trinity Church, 101 Ashmead Road, Cheltenham, following a memorial service at noon. A reception will begin at 12:30 p.m. with lunch to follow at 1:30 p.m.

This marks the 11th annual lunch to honor the Armenian-American veterans sponsored by PAAVA, which enjoys the support of all five churches in the area. Although all luncheons are held at Holy Trinity Church's hall, because it is the largest, each church plays host in turn. This year, St. Gregory's Church will be host. The other churches are Holy Martyrs Church, St. Mark's Church and Sts. Sahag-Mesrob Church.

All veterans and the spouses of deceased veterans will be guests of PAAVA. For the members of the community, the cost will be \$20, payable in advance. No money will be collected at the door.

As in the past, PAAVA will publish a Souvenir Program, and a feature of this year's program

will be a page devoted to 44 known Armenian veterans buried at Arlington National Cemetery, up to May 1978. In its desire to keep a record of the Armenian veterans who have served this country, PAAVA is asking for the names of Armenians buried at Arlington since that date. The list includes one from the Spanish-American War, 10 from World War I, 29 from World War II, one from Korea and three from Vietnam.

This effort was prompted by the burial there, in February, of Katchadoor "Kappy" Kapeghian, a 22-year veteran of the Air Force and who was a stalwart member of PAAVA's board. A 12-minute video tribute to Kapeghian will be featured in the brief program following the lunch.

In addition to the community's presence, PAAVA is requesting contributions; the names of all donors will be listed in the Souvenir Program.

All contributions, as well as payments for tickets, should be made payable to PAAVA, and should be sent to: Richard Weinsheimer, Apt. 229, 300 Earnest Way, Philadelphia, PA 19111. All contributions are tax-deductible.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

AGBU Camp Nubar Wraps up 46th Summer

New Director, Record-Breaking Attendance

NEW YORK — On August 15, after six weeks of activities, fun and friendships old and new, Camp Nubar finished its 46th season in the Catskill Mountains in Upstate New York.

After 16 previous summers as a camper and counselor, Jennifer Omartian led a highly-qualified staff as a first-time director, not only keeping camp traditions alive, but creating several novel, cultural, athletic, artistic and social activities.

This summer, Camp Nubar also witnessed several new ground improvements, made possible through funds raised during the camp's 45th-anniversary event in 2008. Over \$90,000 was raised for improvements in the camp drainage systems and roofing. The money also allowed for the purchase of a new motor boat, kayaks, outdoor ping-pong tables, MacBook Pro computers (for digital video editing), and digital kilns for ceramic classes.

Counselors arrived a week before campers did for a training session, which included extensive Red Cross, First Aid and CPR instruction. Counselors hailed from across the United States, but also as far afield as Lebanon, Turkey, France, Ireland and Canada.

The first-session campers, many of whom had traveled from Canada, arrived at the beginning of July to officially start the summer season. Three weeks later, the second session began and featured a mid-summer Open House visitor event, where family, friends and many Camp Nubar alumni reconnected over Armenian food, dance performances, a waterfront exhibition and a basketball game played by campers and staff. Camp ended with a record-breaking 140 campers for the third session, which featured the highlights of Color War and a banquet.

New activities this summer included aerobics, advanced photography, fishing, water polo,



Young Armenians return to Camp Nubar every summer because of the great friendships they form and the one-of-a-kind activities they experience.

Armenian cooking and group fitness. "Dancing with the Staff," a spin-off of the popular television show "Dancing with the Stars," added a new twist to the evening activities' schedule. The Canteen, or camp store, featured new improvements, including healthier snack selections, such as Vitamin Water and granola bars, and fashionable camp gear.

"Camp Nubar was amazing this year," said camper Brenda Yazujian from Philadelphia. "There were many new activities added to make our days even more fun."

Traditional camp events like weekend dances, with Luau, Hoe Down and Hollywood themes, continued to be camper favorites. In addition, campfires, talent shows, lip syncs, scavenger hunts, capture the flag, ultimate Frisbee, Olympics, basketball and tennis tournaments, certified horseback riding, arts and crafts, ceramics, Armenian history and language lessons, archery instruction and sports competitions with

other local camps remained popular daily activities. There were weekly visits from clergy for religious services, including Rev. Taniel Karadjian, Rev. Bedros Kadehjian, Rev. Kapriel Mouradjian, Rev. Stepanos Doudoukjian, Very Rev. Daniel Findikyan and Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern).

A highlight of the summer, known as "Color War," is a competition, which encompasses athletics, team spirit, chariot races, the arts, Armenian language and dance, trivia, music and choreographed cheers. From the start of summer, campers and counselors eagerly await the surprise kick-off of Color War, in which the camp is divided into two teams, blue and gold, for a fun-filled contest that lasts three days. This year, the Blue Werewolves, led by generals Arno Isnar and Maral Varolian, and captains Dan Sahakian and Audrey Demirjian, trumped the Gold Warriors, led by generals Armen

Shamamian and Tamar Merjian, and captains Anthony Antreasyan and Andrea Afrikan. In true camp tradition, as soon as the competition ended, blue and gold teams made green peace over a shaving-cream fight and water activities by the waterfront.

"Camp Nubar '09 was one of the most special things I've ever been a part of," said Daniel Antreasyan, the assistant director. "We had a ton of talented counselors who made it a priority to make sure the campers got the most of their experience and that they left wanting more."

For the first time this year, Camp Nubar has created multimedia materials, including a camp newsletter, cabin photographs and slideshow, which are available on the camp website: www.campnubar.org. Counselors have also started a Twitter account, www.twitter.com/campnubar09, and a Facebook group, which will allow campers to follow camp updates and happenings all-year long.



On the occasion of its 20th anniversary, the Fund for Armenian Relief (FAR) is proud to honor and thank a lifetime benefactor to the global Armenian community

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President, Fund for Armenian Relief

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COMMUNITY NEWS

A Woman's Crusade against Breast Cancer

CRUSADE, from page 5

"It's a very scary moment with young children," she confessed. "We leaned on one another and prayed for the best."

Kulugian underwent a lumpectomy to have the cancerous tumor removed — one day after the community lost its pastor, Der Vartan Kassabian.

"His death was traumatic," said Kulugian. "I was thinking he'd be there for me. I found out

\$3,000 for breast cancer research.

"My support mechanism has been just great," she confirms. "The children are dealing very well with it in their own way."

Others who've gone through the same ordeal have been sources of inspiration to Kulugian while those at church have lent their physical and moral support. Two friends from Longmeadow had breast cancer and both are doing well.

A woman in church approached Susan and pointed to another group chatting. Three of the five were breast cancer survivors, including her.

"To have that touch you at a young age is scary," said Kulugian. "It's a woman's worst fear. I have God on my side, my church, family and friends. That's the fortunate side."

Other hardships have pierced Kulugian's life. She lost a brother, Stephen, at 29 and her father, Ara Shrestinian, has Alzheimer's. He had served as a deacon in the church before the disease struck him.

"My mom (Virginia) has been a tower of strength through all this," added Kulugian. "I have to stay strong so others around me won't grow weak."

She started the blog in March as a way of keeping others informed and creating a bit of levity in her world, despite the difficult times.

In one report she wrote: "I got a call after my second treatment from my good friend Steve. He told me he had something to show me and wanted to drop by. When he got to the door and took off his baseball cap, I couldn't believe it. He had shaved his head in support of me."

She writes about the good days and the bad; the chemo treatments and people met along the way. She tells of life as it should be and the simple dialogue with her friends. There is sunshine in her blog — the gift of life.

"I laugh every day, mostly at myself," she beamed. "I'll keep the blog going through Christmas. By then, I hope to be in remission."

Her good friend Christine Kourkounian had pink breast cancer bracelets made for the clan. They belong to a group called the Armenian Desperate Housewives — a group of former AYFers from Merrimack Valley, now married, who enjoy a girls' night out once a month.

The chef's hat often comes on when Susan takes to the kitchen to prepare her cookies. Sometimes she decorates them with a red, blue and orange flag. She also enjoys gardening, scrapbooking, crafts and reading.

In her handbag was a Nicholas Sparks' book, *True Believer*.

"The biggest thing I've learned through all this is to live each day to the fullest, be thankful for what you have and not take life for granted," Kulugian noted. "Love the people you love. When I get down on myself, I simply refuse. The pity party is over."



Susan Kulugian as chef personified wearing one of her cancer hats.

he died on Facebook. Der Vartan called me every day after I was diagnosed and visited me often. Just hearing his voice was so uplifting. When he died, I gained an angel."

Four weeks of recovery was followed by four rounds of chemotherapy and even more rounds of radiation daily over a 6 ½-week period. Although the prognosis remains very good, there is a downside.

"There's a very high recurrence rate for people with my type of cancer," she pointed out. "All I can do is stay positive."

And positive it has been on every front. Nothing in her life has been compromised, least of all her family and her Armenian Church community. She has been there at every event, attending picnics this summer at Camp Hayastan and helping with her own church picnic and bazaar.

Kulugian joined up with a neighbor Lisa Corti to form a team which entered the Susan Komen Race for a Cure in Boston on September 26. She ran the five kilometers and felt all the better for it. She raised more than

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New York METRO

A Decade of Excellence: AGBU Young Professionals of Greater New York and Northern California Model the Way

NEW YORK and SAN FRANCISCO – In 1995, the first Young Professionals (YP) group was established in Los Angeles, Calif. by then-BU President Louise Manoogian Simone as a means to actively engage young Armenians between the ages of 22 to 40 in the mission of AGBU. This single act set in motion a trend which, nearly 15 years later, boasts a vibrant, growing network of over two dozen YP groups around the world run entirely by AGBU volunteers.

This year, for the first time ever, the AGBU Central Board of Directors honored the Young Professionals of Greater New York (YPGNY) and the Young Professionals of Northern California (YPNC) with special awards on the occasions of their 10-year

to improve the quality and range of its civic activities. For example, YPGNY, which has annually sponsored student scholarships for the AGBU New York Summer Intern Program (NYSIP) since 1999, teamed up with the program in 2000 to organize Mentoring Night, an evening of professional exchange between local young professionals and visiting interns. In 2007, the initiative was expanded even further into a one-on-one mentorship program, in which YPGNY members provide professional guidance and advice through special gatherings and offline support throughout the eight-week-long internships. Extending its community activities to the interns in 2003, YPGNY introduced NYSIP to Sunshine for Seniors, a day of service with the residents of the New

organizing body of FOCUS, the AGBU event for young Armenian professionals from around the world.

Aline Markarian, current YPGNY co-chair with colleague Danny Abajian, shared her thoughts on the future of the organization: “As we move ahead training new board members on the inner workings of the group, it is our goal to ensure our generation carries on the legacy and high standards set by the members before us, while building upon their accomplishments by experimenting in untapped areas such as the environment and the arts.”

A key ingredient to success imparted by the groups in New York and the Bay Area has been their close, supportive relationships with senior leadership in their local AGBU Chapters and Offices. Nowhere is this most relevant than in San Francisco, where then-AGBU Oakland Chairwoman Ashken Mouradian spearheaded the establishment, growth and sustainability of the AGBU Young Professionals of Northern California.

Inspired by the results of the group in Los Angeles, Mouradian recounts, “The San Francisco Bay Area didn’t have anything like this at the time and, by being the first to establish the young professionals group, our shining moment was bringing all Armenian young people under one roof.”

In its 10th year running, YPNC represents the only YP group to singularly mount a weekend getaway, coined the Winter Gala, which attracts hundreds of YPs on an international scale to the Bay Area. One of the group’s proudest achievements, the signature Winter Gala evolved from a one-day benefit dance in its early years to an extended weekend with proceeds earmarked for AGBU-affiliated programs in Armenia. To this end, benevolent YPNC, with its yearlong roster of quality events and activities, has donated \$48,000 in total, representing a sizeable quarter of the funds raised by the network.

Running a volunteer organization in sprawling San Francisco has its challenges, yet YPNC has an unblemished reputation as a stable organization which is fiscally responsible, boasts strong leadership and cultivates strong working relations with fellow Armenian and non-Armenian organizations.

Key reasons for their 10-year success include their ability to set a clear mission and vision for the organization, take risks with new events, and most importantly, foster an environment of teamwork and camaraderie.

“YPNC has filled the needs of the 22- to 40-year-old crowd, targeting events towards their interests which may not be addressed by other Armenian groups within our community,” shared Ed Minasian, longtime YPN board member and former chairman for four years. “Our service reached beyond the needs of our constituents to also support the Bay Area Armenian and non-Armenian communities, like Mt. Davidson Cross, the annual Genocide Commemoration, and by volunteering at local soup kitchens and Habitat for Humanity.”

In agreement on the reputation inherited from the group, new Co-Chairs Steven Cherezian and David Ojakian project on the group’s future plans: “This year we aim to refocus the group and truly embody the core

values and mission of AGBU, while emphasizing the Young Professional aspect that makes our AGBU committee so special. We look to introduce new professional networking opportunities and community-service events this year, while continuing to raise funds and awareness for the AGBU charitable programs in Armenia.”

With the support of local communities, the results of YPGNY and YPNC are born from a commitment and charitable spirit. In addition, their ability to keep up with the times and the needs of their constituencies will continue to propel them forward as leading organizations amongst their peers.

For more information on the AGBU YP Network, visit www.agbu.org/yp.



Top: AGBU Young Professionals of Greater New York Committee Members were beaming at the group’s inaugural event in 1999; Bottom: Members of the YPGNY Committee gathered during the group’s trademark silent auction and reception in January 2009 which raised \$15,000 for the AGBU Children’s Centers of Armenia.

anniversaries for extraordinary service to the Armenian community. Deserving of the highest accolades, YPGNY and YPNC were two of the first groups established by AGBU in the late 1990s and, through a decade of service, have mastered harnessing the talents of the younger generation for the greater good.

With an overwhelming response from its contemporaries, YPGNY in 10 years has witnessed a five-time increase in its constituency base. Members close to the group attribute this achievement to its open-door policy for all young Armenians, as well as conscientious efforts to cultivate community relations. In 2008 alone, YPGNY’s diverse programming drew in 1500 YPs and, defying the economic climate in 2009, its trademark Armenian Christmas Reception hit record-breaking attendance figures, raising a remarkable \$15,000.

Even more impressive, fundraising powerhouse YPGNY has donated \$93,000 in total – the most raised by any one AGBU YP group – to AGBU-affiliated programs since its inception. Striving to make a long-term impact, YPGNY also established the AGBU YP Endowment Fund in 2002 to benefit the AGBU Children’s Centers of Armenia, which has since become a pan-YP endeavor and totals a substantial \$79,800.

Ensuring the group is realizing its fullest potential, YPGNY has worked over the years

York Armenian Home in Flushing, Queens.

“With an organization as venerable as AGBU, we embrace the role and responsibility that comes with representing the young face of AGBU to the world,” shared Natalie Gabrelian, associate director of the AGBU Education Department, and former chairwoman of YPGNY for seven of its 10 years.

To this end, AGBU Central Office invited key members over the years to help organize milestone events, such as its Centennial Celebration in 2007, represent the organization annually at the Armenian Genocide Commemoration in Times Square and sit on

Fall Lecture Series To Take Place at St. Nersess Seminary

NEW ROCHELLE, N.Y. – St. Nersess Armenian Seminary announces the lineup of its popular fall public lecture series, titled “The Armenian Church, A Distinctive Christian Voice.” As a small Christian denomination, is the Armenian Church a mere footnote to the legacy and influence of the world’s larger churches? Does the historic church of the Armenians have a message to humanity beyond its political and ethnic borders? Scholars and hierarchs – Armenians and non-Armenians – will reflect on the distinctive features of Armenian Christianity, its theological vision and insights and its



Prof. Abraham Terian

mission to Armenians and to the world today.

All are welcome to attend these lectures. They will take place at the seminary and will begin at 7:30 p.m., lasting about one hour, after which speakers open the floor to questions and discussion. A reception follows.

On Monday, October 19, the lecture will be titled “How Armenians See Jesus,” by Prof. Abraham Terian, professor emeritus of Armenian Patristics at St. Nersess Armenian Seminary.

Other lectures will be on Monday, November 23, by Rev. Dr. Maxwell Johnson of the University of Notre Dame, titled “How Armenians Make Christians” and Monday, December 14, by Dr. Roberta Ervine, Professor of Armenian Studies at St. Nersess Armenian Seminary titled “How Armenians Read the Bible.”

For more information, write to info@stnersess.edu.

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YEREVAN RAG-ARMENAGAN CONVENTION

Armenagan-Democratic Party Stands for Calm, Strength

By Marieta Khachatryan

YEREVAN — “We cannot aspire to power, we haven’t aspired to power either, because we haven’t been in power, and I don’t think that we will be in power in the near future. We haven’t been radical opposition and we won’t be either; rather, we will act and speak out in opposition regarding those issues, in which the executive authorities are deficient or are in error, and we will encourage, support all those undertakings in which the authorities are acting correctly, effectively, in the interest of our people. We are a party inclined toward the government; we are a party of calm strength, and will remain as such.”

These thoughts were expressed by Hagop

practical and patriotic policy in Armenian life for more than a century, had occupied a unique place in the Armenian national-political scene, especially since its return to the homeland and activities in the country’s political landscape. Reflecting on the turbulent events of the recent past, Sargisian was full of hope that following this unifying convention, the Ramgavars would be able to work in unity, in a cohesive manner and with a spirit of unanimity, thereby restoring the vision of this esteemed party. “We have a lot of work to do together in the name of the state, the people and their unity,” the president said in his message.

The ADL patriarch, former editor of various party organs Dr. Nubar Berberian (Boston) delivered a heartfelt message directed to the convention’s participants, while Prof. Arshavir Gundjian, longtime chairman of ADL’s Central

Committee, reflected on the situation created within the ADL. He mentioned the finest representatives from the party’s past — Vahan Tekeyan, Arshag Chobanian, Kersam Aharonian, Parounag Tovmasian, Haigashen Ouzounian, Hratchia Setrakian — and then the current individuals who are continuing in the patriotic path of their predecessors — Dr. Nubar Berberian, Yervant Azadian, Hagop Avedikian and others. “During the course of its existence, the ADL has

waged a heroic struggle to maintain ties with the Motherland and the Mother See. There are many who have hampered that operation but we have succeeded in maintaining and developing that bond; and history has proved the veracity of that national policy of ours,” Gundjian pointed out.

Again turning to the address of Avedikian, who was elected chairman of the Armenagan-Ramgavar Liberal Party yesterday, mentioned that despite numerous attempts, a fourth political party wasn’t created in the diaspora during the past 90 years; rather, the three traditional parties remained. This demonstrates not only the traditionalist stance of the Diaspora Armenians but also the fact that the political field is saturated and remains so. “As far as the return of our party to the Motherland in the 1990s is concerned, the regeneration of the ADL, the Tekeyan Cultural Association, the Azg newspaper and, subsequently, the Tekeyan Center on Armenia’s soil was the result of

Avedikian, member of the executive committee of the Armenagan-Ramgavar Liberal Party chairman, during the ceremony of the unifying convention of the Armenagan-Ramgavar Liberal Party, which was held on October 3 in the Arno Babajanian Philharmonic Hall. Present at that convention were numerous delegates from the diaspora, representatives from different districts of the Armenian Democratic Liberal Party (Canada, USA, Great Britain, France, Lebanon, Switzerland and other countries), representatives of the parliamentary coalition and non-parliamentary parties of the Republic of Armenia.

Before that, party Vice Chairman Armen Manvelyan had announced the opening of the unifying convention. Bishop Ararat Galtakchyan, Grand Sacristan of the Mother See, had performed the opening prayer.

President Serge Sargisian had also welcomed the convention with his message, in which he noted that the ADL, with its prudent, balanced,

RAG Leaders Meet with Parliament President

YEREVAN — Armenian Parliament’s President Hovig Aprahamian received the representatives of RAG World Council Arshavir Gundjian, Yervant Azadian, Vartan Ouzounian and Hagop Avedikian.

Welcoming the guest at the Parliament building, Aprahamian reiterated the importance of the rela-



Dr. Arshavir Gundjian (left) and Hovig Aprahamian

tions between the diaspora and Armenia within the context of the problems of the region. He praised the work of the Ramgavar party for the last 88 years, especially in all countries in the diaspora.

Members of the council then discussed with the president the Protocols between Armenia and Turkey and relations between the two countries and discussed some of thorniest problems facing Armenia.



Hagop Avedikian addressed the convention.

utmost enthusiasm, utmost devotion,” he said, recalling that the ADL became one of six political parties to sign the declaration proclaiming Armenia’s independence. He also recalled the fissures in the ADL, starting from one that occurred during the years of the Pan-Armenian National Movement and continuing down to those brought about by different individuals and the party’s defeat in the 2003 parliamentary elections.

“The Armenian Democratic Liberal Party, which had the second largest group of deputies in the National Assembly, espoused decidedly oppositionist positions. The ADL was subsequently defeated in the elections of 2003, when it was optimally prepared; it had more than 8,000 members, approximately 80 party struc-

result of all that, the Ramgavars did not take part in three successive state elections.

Avedikian came to the forefront of a group of faithful Ramgavars, headed by members of the old guard. On May 20, 2009, he undertook the re-creation of the party in Armenia, calling it the Armenagan-Ramgavar Liberal Party, not only to respect the letter of the corresponding Republic of Armenia’s law, but also to return to the party’s roots. This initiative was warmly received by all the former, deactivated and demoralized veterans; in just three months’ time, the party already has 16-17 chapters in Yerevan and the provinces of Armenia. In explaining the purposes of the unification, Avedikian pointed out the necessity of modernizing the party’s activity, implementing the

Resolution of the ADL-Armenagan Unifying Convention

1. The ADL-Armenagan Unifying Convention, held in Yerevan October 3-5, declared itself to be the founding meeting for the creation of the (ADL) or RAG (Ramgavar-Armenagan Gousaktsutioun) World Council. It was resolved:

- To create the RAG World Council;
- To elect the executive committee of RAG World Council;
- The executive committee shall be composed of 11 members, six of whom shall represent the diaspora and five shall represent the Republic of Armenia;
- The central office of the executive committee of the RAG World Council shall be established in the capital city of Yerevan.

2. The founding meeting for the creation of the RAG World Council recommended to the executive committee the following:

- To draft the Rules and Regulations of the RAG World Council.
- To organize the process in the diaspora and the homeland for the unification of the Armenian Democratic Liberal Party (ADL-RAG) and the creation of new structures.
- To convene a representative assembly of the RAG World Council in Yerevan in October 2010.

— Executive Council of the ADL-Armenagan Unifying Convention

tures; it had its offices in various cities, parallel with the central office in Yerevan; and it had waged a marvelous campaign. Probably the reason was that the elections, the electoral college, unfortunately had been rendered into an exchange, a market for financial and economic transactions, for which our party wasn’t ready...Then, taking advantage of the atmosphere of disappointment that followed that defeat, a few rogues took control of the party and the undermining activity began full scale. It wouldn’t have been so bad if they had at least accomplished something. The dissolution spread to all regions, among themselves; they neutralized each other, leaving just one rogue, the most ignorant and the most unmannerly, who continues to disparage the party.” As a

institutional practices of contemporary European political parties. He also noted the prospect of establishing the central office here and making the field wide open to the youth.

The convention welcomed the representatives of the coalition parties. While Astghik Gevorkyan, president of the Journalists’ Union, stressed their remarks, one word had remained in her consciousness: unification. That unification is taking place just at the right time, since it is very necessary for our people today, more than ever before, she said.

Vazgen Manukyan, National Democratic Union Party chairman, next addressed the attendees. “You have a great history, you’ve traveled a long road...and you still have a long

continued on next page



YEREVAN RAG-ARMENAGAN CONVENTION

ADL World Council Will Promote Stabilization between Diaspora and Armenia

By Hasmik Harutyunyan

YEREVAN – During the last three days of its convention, the Armenagan-ADL Party held a general assembly, as a result of whose deliberations and discussions, the conclusion was reached to create a Democratic Liberal Party World Council, whose central office would be located in Yerevan.

By a unanimous decision of the 55 delegates at the convention, having arrived from various Diasporan-Armenian communities, the council is the only one authorized by the party to represent it on the Armenian political scene. Its purpose is to regulate the activity of individual Ramgavars living in various parts of the world, as well as that of Ramgavar structures; to coordinate efforts among the communities so that they will form part of the party's projects and programs. The council has an executive committee consisting of six individuals from the diaspora and five from Armenia.

Reflecting on the problems and splits in the party, veteran ADL activist Dr. Arshavir Gundjian recalled the numerous projects conceived by the ADL during the past 50 years, which have achieved the desired result. "Through those projects, all the structures and central organs of the diaspora, were in balance, because we were the builders of those projects.

Then certain people lowered the standard. We did everything so they would return, join us and rise together, but they didn't agree," said Gundjian, considering certain individuals in



From left, Hagop Vartivarian, Edmond Azadian, Hagop Avedikian, Dr. Arshavir Gundjian and Armen Manvlian

Armenia and the diaspora.

Hagop Avedikian, editor in chief of Azg daily and newly elected chairman of the Armenagan-ADL Party, in turn, reflecting on this issue, noted that the recent problems within the ADL emerged after the 2003 elections, when the party was unable to achieve victory, despite having prepared a good pre-election plan. "The party experienced a major disappointment, as a result of which an inter-

nal power shift took place. We gave those individuals plenty of time, in order to be able to move the party's ship forward; then the internal wrangling ensued, with just one of the three remaining. And that individual is using the party as a vehicle for personal gain and making a livelihood. This is not the first time that political life in Armenia is bearing witness to such phenomena. Such impropriety is not to be found in the

history of the Armenian Democratic Liberal Party. In any event, that individual isn't worthy of further discussion," said Avedikian.

In connection with Armenia-Turkey relations and the immense wave of protest in the diaspora, Gundjian noted, "The party's position pertaining to the protocols between Armenia and Turkey is clear. Armenia cannot have stagnated and frozen relations with Turkey. There's no need to fear starting rela-

tions with Turkey, taking a step in that direction. It is necessary to take steps to avoid that stagnation. On the other hand, we must be vigilant, attentive with respect to those relations," said Gundjian. The diasporan Armenian scientist also touched on concerns of worry. "There are two points of concern for us. First, we must say clearly that the genocide issue is imprescriptible and indisputable. In that connection, actions must be organized and taken in such a way that the major movement, which exists in the diaspora and Armenia, will not encounter difficulty, in terms of genocide recognition by individual countries. Our territorial demands are likewise imprescriptible. We are satisfied that our main leaders of state are just as concerned, such that we don't doubt for a minute that they will take a responsible approach, with regard to both territorial demands and Genocide recognition, and that there won't be difficulties, refluxes."

Gundjian decried the protests carried out in the diaspora, with the encouragement of the ARF. The head of the ADL press office, Hagop Vartivarian, said, "We know very well that yelling and shouting is worthless. We are worried that a rift will be created between the Armenian Diaspora and Armenia. There is that risk. Our party sees the risk of disturbing the balance. The ties between Armenia and the diaspora must not be weakened."

(Translated by Aris G. Sevag)



The audience at the convention

from previous page

road to travel. It is characteristic that this development is being pursued at the time when a new state of affairs is beginning between Armenia and Turkey...we are standing before a simple road, and that road demands not only unity, that we not forget our roots, that we pursue those issues that we were pursuing up till now; furthermore, in this new state of affairs, let us benefit from the new advantages provided by this state of affairs and also to confront those issues that we are bound to face. We need not only unity but also new quality," he said, adding that he knew many of the participants and was confident that those individuals could ensure stature for the party.

Galust Sahakyan, vice chairman of the Republican Party of Armenia, observed that the name itself, Armenagan, harkens back to the party's roots, to emerge on the field of events with more inspiration and daring, and become the pioneer for today's issues. "Your existence makes it possible for society and all of us to revitalize our blood," he

said. He added that the Republican Party of Armenia is a conciliatory, unifying party.

Aram Safaryan, representing the Prosperous Armenia Party, noted that his party is a political force that professes liberal values in economics and promotes traditional values in the public sphere. "In this realm, we are ready to cooperate with the Armenagan-ADL Party, in terms of solving problems of pan-national importance," he said, in dictating two paths of



Representatives of local Armenian political parties, as well as religious dignitaries, attended the convention.

cooperation: internal policy and Genocide recognition.

Paruyr Hayrikyan, founding chairman of the National Self-Determination Union, greatly

Prime Minister Receives ADL Delegates

YEREVAN – Prime Minister Tigran Sargisian received a Ramgavar Party delegation from US, Canada and the Middle East. The delegates were in Armenia participating to the Armenagan-Ramgavar Party's general meeting.

Sargisian reiterated the importance of ADL party in the diaspora and wished that the general meeting succeeded in strengthening and advancing the activities of the party and helped resolve the problems facing the organization for the betterment of the party in the future.

Members of the delegation have the prime minister for his sincere dialogue and wished him success in his endeavors.



Seated, from left, Vartan Ouzounian, England; Edmond Azadian, US; Panos Titizian, US; Dr. Arshavir Gundjian, Canada; Hagop Avedikian, Armenia and Prime Minister Tigran Sargisian

stressed his participation in a convention that is bound to promote national unity. "We are participants in two natural, regular activities: one is that unification is taking place in Armenia, which has an inordinate number of political parties; and second, the political parties are working within the state; a political party can't be outside of it."

Comments

• Dr. Haroutian Arzoumanian, president of the Executive Committee of Tekeyan Cultural Association, US and Canada: "This is a historic day, not only for the party and Tekeyan circles, but also for the Armenian people as a whole because, as you saw in everybody's remarks, this is a rebirth, a return to roots all the way back to the Armenagan Party, which was the first Armenian political party, founded in 1885. This movement will surely unify the powerful moral force that these parties have had in the past; it is the recreation of balance and righteousness that will take place. My practical expectation is to synthesize our activities in the diaspora and Armenia on behalf of our people. As it is, this has always been our motto, but difficulties, disagreements occurred internally

and, to some extent, externally in the past 10-15 years or so. We hope that the prior accord will be recreated from this day on, and we will overcome the previous difficulties."

• Hagop Vartivarian: "We were waiting for this day to come and it did so, and I'm certain that this organization will make its positive contribution within our structures in Armenia and, particularly, in our diasporan structures. We wish everyone success and good luck."

• Edmond Y. Azadian: "I wish to say that today I am proud of this unifying event, for which we have fought for a long time, both in Armenia and in the diaspora. Today this struggle has reached fruition. I shall face the future with self-confidence. Today, much was said about our roots, our history and our accomplishments, but all that justifies us to be a party of today, a modern organization, more united and in pursuit of more practical goals than principles, dreams, which have their place too, but our people are very much linked to theoretical or illusory propositions; we have always been a party of action, practicality and I wish for our future to be characterized by that."

(Translated by Aris G. Sevag)



Arts & Living

Artist Emil Kazaz to Be Honored in Pasadena by AGBU

PASADENA, Calif. — Taking place in Pasadena in early November is a three-day tribute to the life and art of Emil Kazaz, world-renowned sculptor and painter. Kazaz, who is known for his juxtaposition of mythical creatures, classic yet modern figures, and a playful view of the world, will be honored by AGBU for his lifetime achievements.

Starting Friday, November 6, and continuing through Sunday, November 8, Kazaz's latest works will be on exhibit at the AGBU Center in Pasadena. This will be an exceptional opportunity to meet the artist, view and discuss his works, and purchase his paintings, sculptures and mixed media pieces.

The climax of the weekend will be a tribute event at the AGBU Pasadena Center on Saturday, November 7, at 7:30 p.m. The public is invited to attend this free event and join art connoisseurs, critics, collectors and fellow artists for an evening of stimulation, presentation and musical entertainment.

Especially invited distinguished speakers for the November 7 tribute will include internationally esteemed art historian and author Shahen Khachatryan, who is currently the cultural advisor to Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians, and the director of the Arshile Gorky Gallery in Armenia. A graduate of the Leningrad Academy of the Arts, Khachatryan has managed the National Art Gallery in Yerevan, and has served as the director of the highly-regarded Martiros Sarian Museum. His vast knowledge of 19th- and 20th-century Armenian art will be a great asset in the night's discussion of Emil Kazaz's art. Most recently,

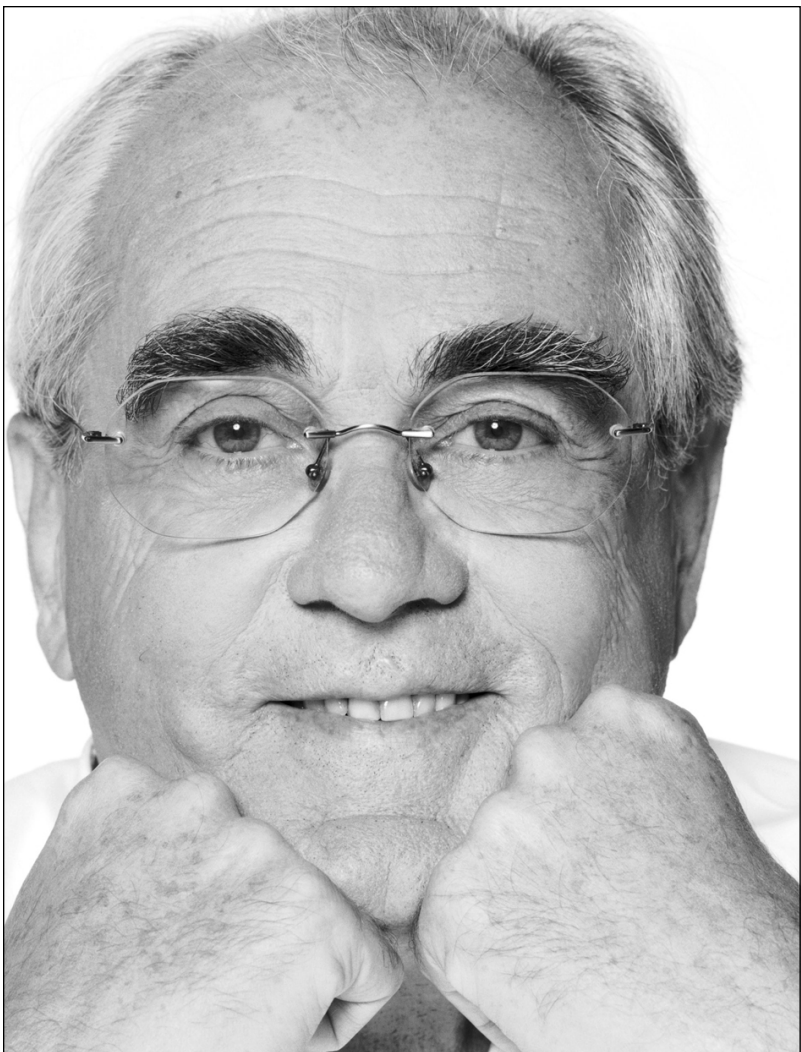


Emil Kazaz

Khachatryan published two prestigious art books on 19th-century Russian-Armenian seascape painter Hovhannes Aivazovsky and early 20th-century modernist painter Martiros Sarian.

Joe Lewis, a nationally known artist, author and educator who is currently serving as dean of Alfred University's School of Art & Design, in Alfred, NY, will also speak at the event. Throughout his career, he has come across the work of Kazaz. His close association with Kazaz led Lewis to author many articles and essays on his art and the philosophy behind his creations. He will help shed light on Kazaz's oeuvre. Lewis is a graduate of Hamilton College, where he received a master of fine arts degree, and from the Maryland College Institute of Art, as a Ford Foundation fellow. He has likened the characters and situations in Kazaz's art to the "adventurers of Homer, moving through unreal worlds of appearances where nothing is what it seems."

The evening presentation will be accompanied by the majestic music of Vatche Mankerian, internationally-renowned pianist, composer, conductor, author, lecturer and an advocate of Armenian music. Mankerian holds a master's degree from the USC Thornton School of Music where he studied with Stewart see KAZAZ, page 13



Michel Legrand

Oscar-Winning French-Armenian Composer Michel Legrand To Perform in Boston

BOSTON — Michel Legrand, the multiple Academy Award-winning French-Armenian pianist will play a rare Boston engagement at Symphony Hall on Wednesday, November 18, at 8 p.m.

He will be joined by French singing sensation Mario Pelchat and five-time Grammy Award-winner Dionne Warwick. They will be accompanied by a quartet of musicians including Catherine Michel (harp), a soloist with Opéra de Paris. The concert is a mixture of classical movie tunes by Legrand, as well as jazz and Hollywood hits, built around the romance and nostalgia of the French "chanson."

An amazingly versatile virtuoso pianist, composer, arranger, conductor, director, producer and singer, Legrand is a three-time Oscar winner (out of 13 nominations) and five-time Grammy winner.

He released his first album, "I Love Paris," in the 1950s; it became one of the best-selling instrumental albums ever released. He has composed more than 200 scores for iconic films including "The Umbrellas of Cherbourg," "The Thomas Crown Affair," "Yentl" and "The Three Musketeers." Legrand has also authored television scores, composed several musicals and made well over a 100 albums. His memorable songs, *How Do You Keep the Music Playing*, *What Are You* see LEGRAND, page 14



Dionne Warwick

Nareh Arghamanyan Debut: Ravishing Insight

By Gayle G. Hathorne

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (KCMetropolis.org) — Armenian pianist Nareh Arghamanyan triumphantly took the stage of the Folly Theatre last week in a Kansas City debut recital that had concert goers abuzz with her sensitive and profound interpretations of some of the deepest music written for piano.

Arghamanyan was presented by the Friends of Chamber Music as the opening concert of their 34th season. Most recently the winner of the Montreal Competition and of a prodigious list of piano competitions worldwide, the 20-year-old artist presented works that paid tribute to the bicentennial celebrations of three bulwarks of romanticism, Mendelssohn, Schumann and Chopin, as well as to the father of the Romantic period, Beethoven.

But this was no evening of sentimental heart-throbbing fluff, despite the ultra romantic figure she cut onstage in a billowing garnet gown and long dark tresses that fell nearly to her waist. As if to illustrate Artistic Director and President of The Friends of Chamber Music Cynthia Siebert's premise that these composers were all revolutionaries of the highest order, Arghamanyan presented a program of works culled from the mature apex of each that shared astonishingly similar elements of radical departure from form and tonality, rhythm and style.

To be certain, the program of free-form contemplative masterpieces may have been too demanding for some to fully appreciate at the end of a long work week. For my taste, it was the sort of recital I would like to listen to again and again to revel in the beauty and insights of some of my favorite works performed with such soulful interpretations. The only disappointment of the evening for me was the sight of some empty seats upstairs in the balcony despite the Friends' last minute offer to give ticket holders for the opening night concert two free tickets to the concert. After hearing her for the first time, it wouldn't surprise me if the next time Arghamanyan graces the stage of the Folly Theatre the seats are sold out.

The program opened with what is arguably Felix Mendelssohn's finest piano composition, the *Variations sérieuses in D Minor, Op. 54*, written in 1841 as his contribution towards a project to erect a monument to Beethoven in Bonn. Arghamanyan opened the work in a halting agogic statement of great tonal beauty that drew one in instantly. As she unfolded the 17 variations ranging from pensive melancholy introspection to colossally demanding virtuoso technical passages, a hallmark of her style emerged. Arghamanyan possesses a beautiful singing tone that never falters or loses its musical prominence even amidst blustery *leggiere* runs executed brilliantly. Her technical prowess is such that it serves her musical intelligence, rather than challenges it, and with the strength of this virtuoso's musical acumen, it is a wonder to behold.

It was followed by a performance of the *Piano Sonata No. 31 in A-flat Major, Op. 110* by Beethoven that opened to a beautiful range of colors. Arghamanyan performed the original version composed by Beethoven, with his original nuances of phrasing that have only very recently been rediscovered by pianist and scholar Paul Badura-Skoda, whose urtext edition will soon be published. Arghamanyan studied with Badura-Skoda in Vienna for a year after winning the Herbert von Karajan Scholarship. The fugue at the end of the work hearkened to the regal and driving energy of a Bach fugue, see DEBUT, page 13



ARTS & LIVING

North Andover Church Stages Musical on Armenian Immigrants



"Hello Ellis Island," a musical spoof of Armenian immigrants coming to America during the Genocide years, will be staged by a group called The Way We Were October 25 at 1 p.m. at St. Gregory Armenian Church.

NORTH ANDOVER, Mass. — An endearing musical about the voyage of dreams and the pursuit of freedom in America is coming to North Andover.

"Hello Ellis Island," a lighthearted play based on the life of Armenian immigrants who left their native land during the Genocide years, will make its Merrimack Valley debut Sunday, October 25, at 1 p.m. at St. Gregory Armenian Apostolic Church, 158 Main St.

The performance will be staged by a group of actors and actresses from the Mid-Atlantic area who call themselves The Way We Were, under the direction of theatrical impresario Hourig Papazian-Sahagian.

A troupe of 22 performers dressed in Armenian costumes and swaying to the rhythm of ethnic music will stomp upon the stage to entertain both child and adult alike. The event is being sponsored by the St. Gregory Armenian School, whose students perform an annual show in the spring.

Superintendent-director Sossy Jeknavorian calls the event "a way for American-born Armenians to connect with their roots."

"Those appearing in the cast are ancestors of

these Genocide survivors," said Jeknavorian. "They share many tender family memories of these early days in America. The plot can relate to any immigrant group passing through Ellis Island and greeting the Statue of Liberty."

Cast members include picture brides, a bachelor or two, a grand Armenian-American woman, a wealthy rug merchant and a wandering minstrel.

Sahagian wrote, choreographed and now directs the show, which takes place on a boat in 1922 with Genocide survivors leaving their respective villages in historic Armenia and arriving in a new world to restart their lives while maintaining their Armenian Christian identity.

The 90-minute show includes dialogue, humor, tears and sadness, singing and dancing, all with the spirit of hope and renewal. It is marked by complicated family scenarios, courtship hazards and travels of romance, culminating with an amusing wedding celebration reminiscent of the musical-comedy style of Broadway.

A luncheon will precede the show. Tickets may be purchased at the door or in advance by calling the church.

Nareh Arghamanyan Debut: Ravishing Insight

DEBUT, from page 12

interspersed with forays back into the pensive depths of Beethoven executed with rare lucidity and stirring passion.

Arghamanyan's beautiful singing tone throughout was marred only by a tinny sound in some of the top notes of the new Steinway grand piano, which was also receiving its debut to Kansas City audiences that night. In a brief

interview before the concert during the complimentary hors d'oeuvres and wine pre-concert reception, Siebert explained that the new instrument had only been previously played this summer at the Santa Fe Festival, and was not the same instrument heard last week on stage accompanying the Stefan Jackiw violin recital, also being auditioned for purchase from the Steinway Company. That mechanical problem

was apparently successfully solved by tuning performed upon it during intermission, because those sounds did not discolor the remainder of the recital.

Following the intermission, Schumann's *Humoreske in B-flat Major, Op. 20* began with the longing tones of the pensive opening mood, evoked with exquisite lyrical transparency. The work, composed in five main sections, showcased Arghamanyan's formidable technical prowess and mature interpretive genius in her realization of its many sudden contrasting moods.

Arghamanyan concluded the program by going straight into Chopin's *Polonaise-fantaisie in A-flat Major, Op. 61*, with its opening mystical chords followed by transcendental *arpeggios* that serenely set the tone for the ravishingly passionate interpretation of Chopin's inward journey that followed. No note played was just a note for Arghamanyan — every single one sang within the sublime nuance of her superbly evoked musical lines or disappeared into the underlying undulations of accompaniment.

The evening ended with an encore piece that tied together subliminally all the works of the program, the *adagio* movement from Bach's



Nareh Arghamanyan

Keyboard Concerto in D minor, BWV 974, a transcription of Alessandro Marcello's *Oboe Concerto in D minor*. The long and hauntingly pensive melody was played with a ravishing perfection of timing that revealed layer upon layer of exquisite beauty.

Artist Emil Kazaz to Be Honored by AGBU

KAZAZ, from page 12

Gordon, Eduardo Delgado and Nancy Bricard. He has performed as a soloist in the world's most revered venues spanning four continents, including the Armenian Philharmonic Orchestra in Yerevan, Armenia. Mankerian, who has won several international competitions, has been praised by many major media outlets, including the *Los Angeles Times*, which wrote: "Mankerian performed with quiet poetry... there was nothing assembly-line about the reading." The *Cleveland Plain Dealer* described him as "a bold and vibrant performer."

Adding to the musical interlude will be operatic tenor Bakur Kalantaryan, who started his musical career at the age of 11 at one of Armenia's leading music schools, where he studied under Prof. Nona Melkumova. During his four years at the Komitas Conservatory in Yerevan, he received numerous awards and delivered over a hundred performances. More recently, Kalantaryan was awarded the gold medal and named Grand Champion Vocalist of the Year during the World Championship of Performing Arts, held in Los Angeles. He is a proud scholar of international tenor Vahan Mirakian. Much adored by Kazaz himself, Kalantaryan's empowering voice will be a perfect complement.

Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Western), will attend the event and represent Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians. Sinan Sinanian, representing the AGBU Central Board of Directors, and Berj Shahbazian, chairman of the AGBU Southern California District Committee, will also assist.

The three-day celebration is organized by the AGBU Southern California District Committee and the AGBU Kazaz Tribute Committee chaired by Haig Messerlian, with members Ani Aivazian (vice-chairperson), Ara Arzumanyan, Ara Babayan, Sonia Babayan, Ani Babian, Nairie Balian, Houry Boghossian, Eada Bourian, Ani Boyadjian, Ben Charchian, Maral Ghazarian, Garine Haytayan, Vahe Imasdounian, Ivan Kesian, Aleen Khanjian, Vartouhy Kojayan, Yeva Manucharyan, Avedis Markarian, Silva Nazaretian, Siran Oknayan, Krikor Satamian, Shaghig Sepetjian, Garine Seuylemezian, Tamar Sinanian, Maida Tchaprastian, Shake Toumayan and Aline Yeterian.

The art exhibition will be on Friday, November 6 and Saturday, November 7, 7:30 to 10:30 p.m., and on Sunday, November 8, 2 to 6 p.m. The tribute will take place on Saturday, November 7 at 7:30 p.m.

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ARTS & LIVING

AGBU NYSEC Concert to Showcase 12 Young Performing Artists and Premiere by 19-Year-Old Composer

NEW YORK — Celebrating the music of Armenian and classical composers, the upcoming AGBU Performing Artists in Concert program will be held at Weill Recital Hall, 154 West 57th St., on Saturday, October 24, at 8:30 p.m.

Organized by the AGBU New York Special Events Committee (NYSEC), this benefit for the AGBU Performing Arts Fellowship Program will showcase, under the artistic direction of Hrant and Kevork Parsamian, the talents of 12 young musicians, all of whom are AGBU scholarship recipients in the field of music.

In addition to works of composers such as Khachaturian, Babajanian, Shostakovich and Schumann, the program will feature the US premiere of 19-year-old Gevork Badalian's composition based on five folk songs about the Armenian Genocide, compiled by Verjine Svazlian. Residing in Armenia, Badalian has won the top prize at the Ghazaros Sarian Competition and his works have also been performed at Armenian festivals.

Natalie Aroyan (soprano)

Aroyan has performed on numerous stages all over the world. A graduate of the AGBU Armenian Saturday School, she completed a Postgraduate Diploma of Opera at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, where she took on the role of Rosalinde in Strauss' "Die Fledermaus" in 2008. She has received first place in numerous competitions, including the Australian Singing Competition Finals, performing with the Australian Opera & Ballet Orchestra, the Opera Foundation Lady Fairfax New York Competition, the Herald Sun Aria Competition and the International Vocal Arts Institute prize in Tel Aviv. She performed in the 49th Meistersinger Competition Finals in Austria, where she won first place and was also awarded the Audience Vote.

Marina Chamasyan-Herder (piano)

Chamasyan-Herder was born in Yerevan. During her studies at the Komitas Conservatory there, she won the third prize at the First National Piano Competition and performed with the Philharmonic Youth Orchestra in the Khachaturian Concert Hall. She holds master's degrees from the Conservatory of Amsterdam, Netherlands and Bowling Green University in the United States. She has been awarded prizes from the Marjorie Conrad Duo Competition, Catholic University Concerto Competition and the Ibla Grand Prize International Piano Competition. Currently, she is completing her doctorate degree at the Catholic University of America and teaches at Wolf Trap Center for Education.

Monika Chamasyan (violin)

Chamasyan was born in Yerevan in 1976. She began her studies in violin and piano at the Achemian Music School in Yerevan. Later, she attended the Tchaikovsky Music School, where she became a violin student of Willy Mokatzian. She toured Germany as the first violinist of the Armenisches Quartet, which premiered works by Tigran Mansurian and Eduard Mirzoyan. Following her graduation from the Yerevan

Conservatory, she joined the first violin section of the National Chamber Orchestra of Armenia. She currently lives in Reston, Va., where she continues to perform as a recitalist and maintains students.

Stepan Dadourian (flute)

Dadourian became a soloist with the Bulgarian Opera's Philharmonic Society, conducted by Plamen Parvanov. He recently performed with the Pan American Symphony Orchestra in New York under the baton of Joseph Liso. He has taken part in concerts throughout the US and Europe. A graduate of the National School of Music in Plovdiv, Bulgaria, Dadourian is currently pursuing an artist diploma in classical flute performance under Koaki Shinkai at the Long Island Conservatory of Music of the State University of New York.

Aleksandr Nazaryan (viola)

Nazaryan gave his debut concert at Weill Recital Hall as a soloist and a chamber musician in 2008. He has played with the Chamber Orchestra of New York, the Juilliard School Orchestra and the Chihuahua Symphony Orchestra of Mexico. He has held principal viola positions with the Las Vegas and Chautauqua Music Festival orchestras, and most recently the Singapore Symphony Orchestra. He received bachelor and master of music degrees from the Juilliard School, where he studied with Samuel Rhodes. Currently, he is in the second year of the Suzuki Violin Teacher Training Program at the School for Strings.

Hrant Parsamian (cello)

Parsamian recently performed with the Mark Morris Dance Group, the Houston Symphony, the Montgomery Symphony Orchestra, and at Chris Botti's Gala Concert at the Tilles Center. Parsamian, together with violinist Benjamin Sung and pianist Jihye Chang, are founding members of the Arsenal Trio, with recent performances at the ClefWorks Chamber Music Festival, the University of Louisville New Music Festival and the Gregory Singer Concert Series in New York. He is also founding member of the Parsamian Brothers Duo with his brother, Kevork. He holds bachelor's degrees from the Hochschule fur Music in Vienna and the Juilliard School, and received his master of music degree from Yale University.

Kevork Parsamian (cello)

Parsamian was born in Sofia, Bulgaria. He began his cello studies at the age of 4 under the tutelage of his mother and later continued his studies at the Sofia Music School. After coming to the United States in 1995, he received his bachelor's degree at the University of Cincinnati and his master's degree at Indiana University, followed by an Artist Diploma at Yale University School of Music. He has been awarded full scholarships from the University of Cincinnati, Indiana University and Yale University, and was granted an award to study at the Aspen Music Festival in 1996. Currently he is on faculty in the preparatory division of Manhattan School of Music and is a member of the international Sejong Soloist.

Anoush Simonian (viola)

Violist Simonian began her musical training at a young age, making her solo debut with the Delaware Symphony at the age of 16. She has since performed in some of the greatest halls, including Carnegie Hall, Avery Fisher Hall, Alice Tully Hall in New York City and the Academy of Music in Philadelphia. She received a full scholarship to Temple University's Pre-College division for gifted young musicians and served as principal violist there and at the Philadelphia Youth Orchestra. She received her bachelor and master of music degrees from the Juilliard School, where she also served as principal violist of the Juilliard Symphony and the Juilliard Opera Orchestra. She received the Gluck and Morse Fellowships. She is currently a doctoral candidate at the State University of New York.

Nazig Tchakarian (violin)

Tchakarian made her Carnegie Hall debut in May 2008. She is an award winner of national and international competitions, such as the International Competition "Pancho Vladigerov" and the "Rodolfo Lipizer" International Violin Competition in Italy. She is currently on the faculty of the International Festival-Institute at Round Top and performs as concertmaster of the Texas Festival Orchestra. She holds a bachelor of music degree from Louisiana State University and a master of music degree from the Cleveland Institute of Music. She is currently pursuing a doctorate at Stony Brook University.

Varta Tchakarian (piano)

Bulgarian-Armenian pianist Tchakarian has performed in Bulgaria, the Netherlands, France, Canada and the US. She made her New York debut at a recital in 2005 at Yamaha Artist Services and her Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall debut came in 2008 as a member of Tchakarian Duo with her sister, Nazig. She is winner of the De Bose National Piano Competition and the Susan L. Tajra Foundation Piano Prize in Paris and was granted first prize in numerous competitions in her

native country. She is currently performing and teaching in the New York City area.

Viktoria Tchertchian (violin)

Tchertchian was born in Plovdiv, Bulgaria. From an early age, she became well known as a participant in solo concerts, orchestral concerts and chamber concerts in Europe. She was a soloist with the Plovdiv Symphony Orchestra. In 1996 she won a full scholarship to Louisiana State University. In 2006, Tchertchian received her master in violin performance degree from the Longy School of Music in Boston. She currently performs with the Portland Symphony, the Rhode Island Philharmonic, the Boston Pops, the Cape Symphony Orchestra and the New Hampshire Music Festival. She also teaches at the Powers Music School in Massachusetts, the Manchester Community Music School and the St. Paul's School in New Hampshire.

Sylvie Zakarian (marimba)

Bulgarian-born percussionist Zakarian, a winner of international music competitions, has given critically-acclaimed recitals at such venues as Weill Recital Hall and Town Hall in New York, the Wilshire Ebell Theatre in Los Angeles, the Regis College Theatre and the Berklee Performance Center in Boston. She has also been a soloist with the National Academy of Music orchestra in Bulgaria, the Ensemble for Contemporary Music at the Royal College of Music in London and the Quincy Symphony Orchestra in Massachusetts. Zakarian holds degrees with honors in percussion and marimba performance from the Royal College of Music in London and Boston Conservatory. She made her British radio debut on the BBC's "Classic FM" and, a year later, performed a recital on BBC Radio 3's "Young Artist's Forum." Currently, she is on the faculty of the Winchester Community Music School and an affiliate at the Office for the Arts at Harvard University.

For tickets and information, call AGBU. To purchase tickets directly through the Carnegie Box Office, call CarnegieCharge or visit www.carnegiehall.org.

Legrand to Perform in Boston

LEGRAND, from page 12

Doing the Rest of Your Life? and *The Windmills of Your Mind* are included in the list of America's Greatest Movie Songs by the American Film Institute.

He has collaborated with a tremendously varied list of artists, including Maurice Chevalier, Miles Davis, Kiri Te Kanawa, Edith Piaf, Johnny Mathis, Neil Diamond, Sarah Vaughan, Stan Getz, Aretha Franklin, James Galway, Ray Charles, Lena Horne and Barbara Streisand, to name just a few.

Warwick is a New Jersey native and humanitarian activist who has, over an illustrious four-decade career, established herself as an international musical star. Warwick received her first Grammy Award in 1968 (for the classic *Do You Know the Way to San Jose?*), and in so doing, became the first African-American solo female artist of her generation to win the prestigious award for Best Contemporary Female Vocal Performance. Her hits like *Anyone Who Had a Heart* and *Walk on By* brought success and vis-

ibility around the world. With her own star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, Warwick continues to work tirelessly with various organizations dedicated to empowering and inspiring others.

Pelchat is a multi-platinum Québec recording star whose sexy velvet voice is familiar from the musical "Nôtre Dame de Paris." He made his album debut with "Je Suis un Chanteur" (1982) as a teenager. He has been the star of several musicals, "La Vie en Bleu" (Paris and Monte Carlo), "Nôtre Dame de Paris" (France, Italy, Canada, Lebanon, Switzerland, Belgium) and "Les Dix Commandements" (Canada), and is the recipient of numerous Felix awards (the Québec equivalent of the Grammy). He and Legrand worked together on an album, released this March 2009, where Pelchat interpreted Legrand's world-famous songs. After a sensational show in Paris, the chemistry was such a success, that the Canadian and now a three-city American tour were launched.

For tickets, www.bostonsymphonyhall.org.



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ARTS & LIVING

Children of Armenia Sheds Light on US Policies, Diaspora Regarding Genocide

By Richard G. Hovannisian

It is said that one of the earliest lessons imparted in schools of journalism is that the first few pages of a manuscript are critical in determining its acceptance or rejection. Those introductory pages must capture the attention of the in-house reader, the literary critic, and ultimately the book-purchasing public. If this is indeed the norm, then Michael Bobelian has met the challenge. His prologue introduces Gourgen Yanikian preparing for the unthinkable in the 1970s — a carefully-choreographed plan aimed at Turkish consular officials. The well-educated, aged survivor hopes to draw attention to the enormous unrequited wrong committed against the Armenian people by engaging in a shocking act of violence against individuals who are innocent except for being representatives of a perpetrator and denialist state. True to a good mystery plot and using the approach of Samantha Power and other well-known writers, the author leaves the reader in suspense as to what actually happens thereafter. Rather, before returning to unravel the mystery much later in the narrative, he dips back into the history of the Armenian Genocide and the efforts of Armenian-American advocacy groups to gain recognition and condemnation of the Great Crime and some form of relief and justice. He does this with an engaging literary style and a vivid vocabulary while intertwining the historical and the personal.

The first four chapters provide a historical overview of the Armenian Genocide; the miscarriage of justice in the postwar Turkish courts-martial; the acts of Armenian vengeance seekers who felled several of the chief architects of the Genocide; the struggle to create an independent Armenian Republic and the advocacy campaigns of the American Committee for the Independence of Armenia, boasting a roster of prominent American political, religious and educational figures and driven by the tireless attorney Vahan Cardashian. He also addresses the strategies of successive Turkish governments to suppress memory of the Armenian Genocide, a policy so successful that the calamity had become a virtual “Forgotten Genocide” by the outbreak of World War II, barely two decades later.

These developments from 1915 to the 1940s are generally well known to students of the period, but the four chapters are a useful prologue to the main focus of the study. As it happens, however, most but not all of the minor historical errors and other slips appear in this introductory section (inaccuracy or inconsistency in dating, geographic distances and terminology, sequence of events, cited statistical figures and proper identification). Moreover, many of the passages, with or without ascription, seem all too familiar or derivative. While not detracting greatly from the value of the broader study, such weak spots could have been avoided with the input of a specialist in modern Armenian history and perhaps a copyeditor’s more discerning eye.

This observation notwithstanding, the book is captivating and is of particular value to persons interested in US foreign policy, the history of the Armenian-American community and the achievements and shortcomings in Armenian advocacy efforts, especially in the United States Congress. Bobelian not only has gained impressive insight into these matters through his numerous interviews with key individuals but he is also the first, as far as this reviewer knows, to have made use of the now-declassified relevant files of the State Department and other agencies for the period from the 1940s onward. He has been able to delve behind the scenes to discover the actual views and attitudes of officials whose tactful public statements might be at great variance from their blunt and even deprecating private assessments.

What becomes clear after the introductory chapters is that United States policy, starting with the presidency of Harry S. Truman and the formulation of the Truman Doctrine to

block Soviet expansion by bolstering up Greece and Turkey, was no longer driven primarily by economic interests but equally and even more so by superpower ideological, geostrategic and military considerations. This position created strong barriers to the rather unsteady attempts at Armenian advocacy, which were regarded as undesirable annoyances by ranking officials of all administrations since the Truman years. The redefinition of US policy is clearly evidenced in a State Department memorandum as early as November 1945: “This Government does not now reaffirm the stand taken by President Wilson

... This Government does not favor the establishment of an independent Armenian National State at the expense of any country.” Another telling State Department memorandum, which rings true up to the present time, includes the observation that the “Armenian case ... rested too heavily on history and massacres.” In other words, Armenians had neither the power nor the geopolitical wherewithal to influence the course of events. Clearly, humanitarian and historical factors were not — and are not — central to the formulation of fundamental US foreign policy.

This negative conclusion aside, 1965 was a watershed year for renewed Armenian advocacy, now with a native American-born generation discovering the ways to take part in the American political process. Bobelian recounts the breakthrough with the erection of an Armenian memorial monument on city property in Montebello, Calif., the preceding contested and tense public hearings, and the ultimate dedication of the monument in Bicknell Park in 1967 with thousands of survivors and their progeny in attendance. He also describes the increasingly strident responses of both the Turkish and US governments.

The Armenian Assembly of America was formed as an umbrella organization in 1971-72 and became the primary conduit of Armenian advocacy in Washington, DC, although the Armenian National Committee established its own presence there in the 1980s. With the support of a core of sympathetic Congressmen, some but not all with Armenian constituencies, the Armenian lobby was able to get commemorative resolutions passed in the House of Representatives in 1975 and once again, with the critical leadership of Speaker Thomas “Tip” O’Neill, in 1984, in memory of the “victims of the Genocide perpetrated in Turkey.” Bobelian presents both what is in the official record and, from personal interviews, what was happening behind the scenes, assessing the factors that allowed the Armenians to have their way at least twice within one decade despite the mounting pressure of the US Executive Branch as well as paid lobbyists and business partners of the Turkish government.

Armenian advocacy hit a firm ceiling after 1984, as the mobilization of elements profiting from cordial relations with Turkey received the powerful backing of the State Department, the Pentagon and the White House itself, as one president after another reneged on campaign promises regarding recognition of the Armenian Genocide.

Bobelian goes into great detail about the strongest Armenian push in the United States Senate in 1989-90, this time led by Republican Senator and later presidential candidate Robert Dole and his Democratic colleagues Edward “Ted” Kennedy and Carl Levin. Even though the administration of George H.W. Bush, reinforced by dozens of US corporations, used every means possible to scuttle the resolution, the legislation advanced through the critical Senate Judiciary Committee. It was then that increased political and economic pressure by the Turkish government and concerns about American military bases in Turkey, the economic impact on the American defense indus-

try, the safety of the Jewish community in Turkey, and other issues all came together to deprive the advocates of the minimum number of votes needed to override a threatened filibuster. On the other hand, what was significant in these debates was that the opponents raised pragmatic arguments and, unlike in previous years, there were no longer voices

that questioned the reality of the Armenian Genocide and the pain and suffering of the Armenian people.

Although Bobelian ends the Congressional aspect of his study with 1990, many of the same themes have con-

tinued over into the Clinton administration, when the president himself had to intervene directly to remove an Armenian commemorative resolution from the House’s agenda, and into the 21st century when President Barack Obama had to seek a way to circumvent the issue in his declaration in April 2009.

Since the 1990s, advocates of the Armenian cause have also sought other avenues of action. One such way, following the Jewish model, has been the pursuit of legal recourse

by suing companies or governments connected in some way with the Armenian Genocide. A successful example was the filing of a class-action lawsuit against the New York Life Insurance Company on behalf of beneficiaries of policyholders who had perished in the genocide. The case ended in an out-of-court settlement of some millions of dollars that were distributed to descendants of the victims as well as to several Armenian benevolent, charitable and educational organizations. This approach has now been extended to other cases.

Michael Bobelian has made a significant contribution to an understanding of the potentials and limitations of advocacy groups that may hold the moral high ground but possess only limited economic, demographic and political strength. It is a saga of persistency against great odds, which occasionally has reaped sufficiently uplifting and nurturing benefits for the struggle for justice to continue.

(Prof. Richard Hovannisian is the Armenian Educational Foundation Professor of Modern Armenian History at the University of California at Los Angeles. A slightly different version of this review will appear in the forthcoming December issue of the *Journal of the Society for Armenian Studies*, edited by Dr. Joseph Kéchichian.)

Book Review

Michael Bobelian: *Children of Armenia: A Forgotten Genocide and the Century-Long Struggle for Justice*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2009. 308 pp.

New Book by Yair Auron, Hrayr Karagueuzian Takes on Injustice

PISCATAWAY, N.J. — *A Perfect Injustice* by Hrayr S. Karagueuzian and Yair Auron is a contribution to understanding why the issue of stolen Armenian wealth remains unresolved after all these years — a topic addressed for the first time in this volume.

Except for a short period after the end of World War I and the ensuing armistice, Turkey has consistently denied that it ever employed a policy of intentional destruction of Armenians. The 1913-1914 census put the number of Armenians living in Turkey at close to two million. Today only a few thousand Armenians remain in the city Istanbul and none elsewhere in Turkey. Armenian sites in Turkey, including churches, have been neglected, desecrated, looted, destroyed, or requisitioned for other uses, while Armenian place names have been erased or changed.

As with the Jewish Holocaust, Armenian properties that were seized or stolen have not been restored. Sixty and 90 years after these terrible events, Jewish and Armenian victims and their heirs continue to struggle to get their properties back. There has been only partial restitution in the Jewish case and virtually no restitution at all in the Armenian case.

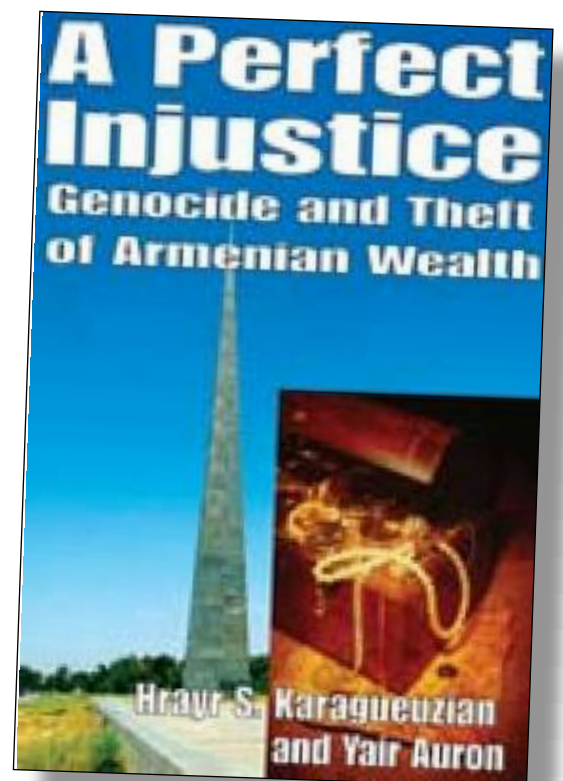
“The authors accumulated the material item by item and slowly began to piece together the story of a massive injustice towards the victims of genocide. . .

A fascinating investigation, a book rich in details and full of documents,” says

Dickran Kouymjian, who is an Emeritus Haig & Isabel Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies at California State University in Fresno.

No adequate reparation for the deeds committed against the Armenians can ever be made. But resolving claims with respect to stolen property is a symbolic gesture toward victims and their heirs. This is unfinished business for Jewish heirs and survivors of the Holocaust, as it is for Armenians.

To order a copy of *A Perfect Injustice*, published by Transaction Publishers, visit <http://www.transactionpub.com>.





ARTS & LIVING

C A L E N D A R

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.

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 18 – Amaras Arts Alliance Hamazkayin Educational and Cultural Society present “Komitas,” the multi-faceted man and his musical work in celebration of the 140th Anniversary of his birth. 2:30 p.m. National Heritage Museum, 33 Marrett Road, Lexington. Admission: \$20/\$15 for students and seniors.

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 khyma, 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.

OCTOBER 24 – Fall Harvest Bazaar, Saturday, noon-8 p.m. First Armenian Church, 380 Concord Ave., Belmont. Armenian and Middle Eastern delicacies and pastries, fresh nuts and dried fruits. Kebab served all day, children’s activities. Marketplace featuring books, plants, attic treasures, handmade accessories and more. All welcome. For info., (617) 484-4779, www.firstarmenianchurch.org. Handicap ramp and T accessible.

OCTOBER 25 – The 48th Anniversary Banquet of the Consecration of Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston, following services, at Charles and Nevart Talanian Cultural Hall, Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church of Greater Boston, 145 Brattle St., Cambridge. This year’s banquet will honor Albert Zouranjian as the “Man of the Year” recipient and recognize outgoing Parish Council members Bill Cirino, Edmond J. Danielson and Ara Dermovsesian. Seating is by paid advance reservation only. Donation \$20 per person. Deadline for reservation is Tuesday, October 20. For info., visit www.htac.org or contact the church at (617) 354-0632 or office@htaac.org.

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 by Erebus Saturday School and Amaras Art Alliance. For more info., visit www.erebusischool.org or 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.

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 or call (617) 926-2562 to preorder your tickets/make table reservations.

NOVEMBER 6 – “The Golden Voices of Opera,” featuring



On Friday, November 6, at 8 p.m., a performance titled, “Golden Voices of Opera,” featuring Yeghishe Manucharyan, Victoria Avetisyan (pictured above), Yelena Dudochkin, with Tatyana Dudochkin, celebrates the 2009 Armenian Cultural Heritage Program, sponsored by the Holy Trinity Armenian Church and Choir of Greater Boston; it will be at the Longy School of Music, Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambridge. For more information, contact the Holy Trinity Church Office at (617) 354-0632.

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.

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, khyma, 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.

NOVEMBER 13 – Black Sea Salsa band at Ryles Jazz Club, Cambridge, 8 p.m.-11:59 p.m. Black Sea Salsa brings its original tunes of Middle Eastern and Latin Jazz back to Ryles. Led by Dan Teager (of Arlington, Mass.), Black Sea Salsa is a 15-piece band of six horns, five rhythm and four vocalists and creates one big sound. For tickets, call Ryles Jazz Club at (617) 876-9330. For info., e-mail maria@blackseasalsa.com.

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 Jeghelian, 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 18 – A rare appearance by a living legend, conductor Michel LeGrand, in Concert at Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston. Wednesday, 8 p.m. Also featuring Mario Pelchat and five-time Grammy award-winner Dionne Warwick. Presented by Maestro Artist Management. Tickets, \$45-\$75, available at www.bostonsymphonyhall.org. For tickets, call Symphony Charge at (888) 266-1200.

NOVEMBER 19 – The Armenia Fund USA welcomes the Prime Minister of Karabagh Araik Harutunyan and Archbishop Pargev 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 – Appearing for the first time in Boston, a live concert by the popular and loved singer Alla Levonyan of Armenia. Sponsored by the Sayat Nova Dance Company of Boston, www.sayatnova.com. 4 p.m. at the Watertown High School Auditorium, 50 Columbia St. Also appearing with a brief performance will be the Sayat Nova Dance Company and students from the Abaka Armenian School for the Performing Arts. Donation: \$35 (reserved seating); \$25 (general seating). Buy your tickets today by calling Talin at: (508) 397-7977 or Apo at (339) 222-2410 or e-mailing tickets@sayatnova.com.

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 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.

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 or e-mail 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 st.jamesbreakfastwsanta@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.

NEW JERSEY

NOVEMBER 15 – “One Nation, One Culture,” a cultural festival under the auspices of Dr. Hranush Hakobyan, Republic of Armenia Minister of Diaspora, organized by



ARTS & LIVING

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 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 mirrorads@aol.com. Due to the anticipated shortage of space, items may be edited to fit the space.

YerazArt Young Musicians Dazzle at the National Heritage Museum

LEXINGTON, Mass. — Once a year, they come to America with a mission to connect all music enthusiasts with the sounds and

soul of Armenia. Different faces each year, but the same mission all along. They are the YerazArt Young Musicians from Armenia, a

group of talented young artists sponsored by the YerazArt Foundation, who performed Saturday, October 3, at the National Heritage Museum here, the first stop of a tour that is taking them to San Francisco, Fresno, Boca Raton, Montreal and Toronto.

This year's stars were vocalist Mane Galoyan (16), cellist Hayk Sukiasyan (15), duduk player Norayr Gapoyan (16), violinist

"We are thrilled at the crowd's response," YerazArt concert tour manager Apo Ashjian was quoted as saying. "This is very rewarding, both for the musicians and for all those involved in making this tour happen."

This is the fifth consecutive North American concert tour sponsored by the YerazArt Foundation, a Boston-based non-profit organization co-founded by entrepreneurs Nourbar



From left, duduk player Norayr Gapoyan (16), cellist Hayk Sukiasyan (15), oboist Mane Harutyunian (22), vocalist Mane Galoyan (age 16), violinist Hrayr Karapetyan (18) and pianist Hripsime Aghakaryan (17)

Hrayr Karapetyan (18), pianist Hripsime Aghakaryan (17) and oboist Mane Harutyunian (22).

In an impressive display, they performed a diverse repertoire of classical pieces by Beethoven, Bizet, Colin, Rimsky-Korsakov, as well as Armenian compositions by Babadjanian, Baghdasaryan and Komitas, to name a few.

The program culminated in a standing ovation and an encore, which produced a graceful rendition of Babadjanian's Vocalise, especially arranged in quintet format for the YerazArt artists.

Afeyan and Raffi Festekjian in 2004. The mission of YerazArt is to nurture, to support and to promote young musical talents from Armenia through assistance with professional development, participation in international competitions and the organization of an annual concert tour.

This year's Boston-area concert was sponsored by the Khatchig Babikian Fund and organized by the St. Stephen's Armenian Elementary School of Watertown. All proceeds from the event benefited the school.

For further information on the group or to make a donation, visit Yerazart.org.

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COMMENTARY

COMMENTARY

Armenia and Turkey at a Crossroad

By Edmond Azadian

October 10 marked a historic watershed in Armenian and Turkish relations with the signing of the controversial protocols in Zurich, Switzerland. The pictures at the signing ceremony said as much — if not more — than the contents of the papers themselves. Besides the foreign ministers of the signatory countries, present were the heads of the foreign ministries of the host country, Switzerland, which brokered the deal, as well as the foreign ministers of the major world powers — the US, Russia, France and the European Union.

That picture symbolized the convergence of the interests of those powers, which seldom happens in recent diplomatic history. Ironically, the protocols reflected more the interests of those countries than the interests of the signatories themselves.

For the US and the European Union, the Caucasus region has become a new battleground to grab energy sources, after the collapse of the Soviet Union. For Moscow, it continues to be a losing battle to retain its influence in “near abroad.” Turkey and Iran have tried to fill in the power vacuum, each with the help of a major power. The three mini republics in the region were only pawns in this maze of interests and power struggle. They certainly had their own priorities, which could be achieved only in consonance with the interests of one or other major power.

The predictions that Turkey would cease to be a major power player in the region after the demise of the Cold War turned out to be only wishful thinking, as Ankara came out stronger and more dominant, thanks to its military and political buildup during the Cold War years. Turkey mended its relations with Russia faster than the West was able to do. That placed Armenia between a rock and a hard place.

The three Caucasian republics had very limited space to maneuver. Georgia threw in its lot with NATO and the West, with dire consequences. Azerbaijan kept its balance between the two camps under Turkey’s tutelage. Armenia’s “complementarism” ran its course, as Russia worked out a modus vivendi with Turkey and with the West.

This is the scenario in which the crucial protocols developed and were eventually signed. Of course, this is the beginning of the road rather than its destination. What happens during the forthcoming months and years in Armenia and Turkey will determine the ultimate outcome of the deal.

In the historic perspective, for Turkey, Armenia is a hurdle in its drive to reach Central Asia, to achieve its age old Turanian designs. They believe their national interests are hampered by the tiny republic, remaining after the Genocide. One way or another, the Ottoman, Ittihadist, Kemalist and current rulers, have vied for the destruction of our nation. Just a few months ago, Turkey’s current minister of defense, Vecdi Gonul praised the Ittihadist ethnic cleansing, asking the rhetorical question that could Turkey have the present unified territory had Armenian and Greek minorities not been expelled and destroyed?

For Armenia it is a determination to survive, prosper and recover its historic land.

At today’s political and strategic stalemate, the goals of both parties have become entangled with the interests of the major powers.

After 17 years of the blockade, Armenia needed to come out of its isolation and take the road to economic recovery. With its dwindling population and shrinking economy, it could run the risk of not even being able to protect its own borders.

Realizing this dire situation, Turkey offered to open the borders at a stiff price. To begin with, blockading Armenia was a virtual act of war for which Turkey needed to be reprimanded rather than compensated.

Also, opening the borders benefited Turkey more than Armenia, because with closed borders Ankara could never make headway in its drive to join the European Union.

Therefore, Ankara tried to obtain double or triple gain against opening the borders, by a) reviving the 1921 Kars Treaty, b) discrediting the Genocide issue and c) conditioning the border issue with the settlement of Karabagh conflict in favor of Azerbaijan.

Armenia drove a hard bargain to defeat the Turkish demands. The last-minute ditch, which delayed the signing of the protocols, indicates that we have been dealing with an extremely devious adversary and the implementation of those protocols may still pose some surprises down the road.

There are some pitfalls that warrant extreme caution in negotiations and implementation of the measures ahead.

a) mutual recognition of the existing borders and territorial integrity of each party is tantamount to reviving the Kars Treaty of 1921, without direct allusion to it. But that also guarantees Armenia’s territorial integrity, which was under threat during the late Turgut Ozal’s administration.

We lost historic Armenia by blood and we can only regain it by

blood. As the Turkish dictator Kenan Evran cynically remarked once, that territories cannot be given; they can only be taken by force. In fact, which was the treaty that we breached when Armenian reconquered Karabagh? Therefore, trading territories is contingent upon the relative strength of the parties involved and historic opportunities presented.

b) The inter-governmental subcommittees mentioned in the protocols are open to interpretations. For Armenia, they indicate to tackle a host of issues between the parties. For Turkey, it is mostly to study “scientifically” the historic facts about the Genocide, as if there was any doubts left about Genocide. It is a forgone conclusion that the Armenian Genocide is an established fact by the august body of Genocide, scholars and by more than 20 countries in the world. If Turkey wishes to take up the issue again, with the help of discredited scholars such as Heath Lawry, Justin McCarthy, Halajoglu, etc. it stands to lose more credibility. Turkey will not recognize the Armenian Genocide, until the Article 301 is removed from its penal code and until the Turkish population is educated enough to face its tragic past courageously and honestly. The hard task of educating the Turkish populace has already begun with the scholarly works of historians such as Taner Akçam, Murad Bilge, Halil Berktaş and others.

Taking up the issue with Turkey on a governmental level may only contribute to the drive taken up by these valiant scholars. We have historic facts and justice on our side and we should never miss the opportunity to confront the Turks on any level, be it scholarly or diplomatic.

Discussing the Genocide issue with Turkey should not be interpreted as questioning the veracity of the Genocide.

Turkey has some very tangible fears in recognizing the Genocide, foremost among them, being the fear of compensations. Even if Turkey refuses territorial concessions, material compensations are inevitable.

It will be a long and arduous process to come to terms with Turkey on the Genocide issue and that can be achieved only with the help of the international community, especially when the European Union stands firm on its condition of Genocide recognition before admitting Turkey into the EU.

A case in point was the TARC negotiations, which led the way to the International Court for Transitional Justice, which established the fact of Genocide. Although the conclusion was mutually binding, Turkey refused to abide by it, because there were no consequences.

Prior to the signing of the protocols, the president of Armenia took a trip to the diaspora, flying into the eye of a storm. It was a necessary trip which did not yield the intended results because Armenians are so fragmented in the homeland and the diaspora.

Nothing pleases the Turks more than watching the Armenians divided. One can imagine the day when the Turks signal that they are ready to recognize the Genocide or to discuss our territorial claims. At that point, the fragmentations and turmoil may become even more rampant because we have lost the collective will to confront historic opportunities with appropriate political sobriety.

Today Armenians are divided in many ways; some segments of the diaspora are against the Armenian government, party against party. Most of the commotion is generated because very few people have read or understood the protocols, therefore, they are easy prey for demagogues. Others are intent in settling selfish or partisan scores by questioning the legitimacy of the president. Yet others, like the ARF call for the resignation of Foreign Minister Nalbandian, believing they have the monopoly on patriotism and the Armenian case. What the Dashnak party has proposed does not go beyond some editorial changes in the language of the protocols. But their hunger strikes, calling for the resignation of the foreign minister, labeling the president as a “traitor” are not commensurate with their editorial changes of some cosmetic value. Some renegade members of the ADL, deviating from the traditional party line, have been hanging on the coattails of Dashnaks.

However, every group is for the opening of the borders and resumption of diplomatic relations with Turkey, but on a variety of terms.

Contrary to some allegations, the Armenian government has come up with a clear statement that it is not compromising on the Genocide issue, it is not selling out Karabagh and that there are no preconditions whatsoever to affect the agreements.

Fortunately, major organizations, especially in the US and Canada, have come up with statements calling for unity and caution. Emotional outbursts do not amount to policy. We are at a very critical crossroad of our history.

At one point or another, one administration had to take the initiative to break the logjam. There is no guarantee that any previous or future administration could or can achieve a better deal. There is more likelihood that we can get a less favorable deal as the interests of the greater powers converge.

We are at a very critical crossroad of our history. United we stand and divided we fall.

THE ARMENIAN Mirror- Spectator

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COMMENTARY



My Turn

By Harut Sassounian

Nine Actions Armenia Must Take Before Ratifying the Protocols

The very first step in attempting to “normalize” relations between Armenia and Turkey – signing the Protocols in Zurich on October 10 was nearly aborted when the Foreign Ministers of both countries objected to the statements that each had prepared for delivery following the signing ceremony.

Since both parties had the right to review in advance each other’s closing statements, the Armenian Foreign Minister complained that the Turkish side planned to raise unacceptable issues on Karabagh (Artsakh) and the historical commission. For his part, the Turkish Foreign Minister objected to his Armenian counterpart’s attempt to assert that the establishment of relations between the two countries was not based on “any preconditions.”

After more than three-hours of intense back and forth, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and other high-ranking officials, succeeded in pressuring the Armenian and Turkish Foreign Ministers into signing the Protocols, without making closing statements.

Despite the massive outpouring of Armenian sentiment,

accusing Armenia’s leadership of making unacceptable concessions, Foreign Minister Eduard Nalbandian went ahead and signed the Protocols in Zurich.

The signed Protocols are now to be submitted to the Armenian and Turkish Parliaments for ratification.

Before this final step, however, the Armenian side should consider taking the following nine actions in order to minimize the damage the Protocols would cause to Armenian interests:

1) A non-governmental organization or an opposition political party should file a lawsuit with Armenia’s Constitutional Court, challenging the constitutionality of the Protocols. This initiative would be separate from the legal requirement that the Constitutional Court pronounce judgment on whether a particular international agreement is in line with Armenia’s Constitution.

2) Before taking up these Protocols, the Armenian Parliament should wait and see if its Turkish counterpart will ratify them first.

3) If the Turkish Parliament fails to ratify the Protocols “in a reasonable timeframe,” the Armenian government should declare them to be null and void.

4) The Armenian Parliament should not ratify the Protocols, if the Turkish Parliament attaches any reservations or provisions at the time of ratification.

5) The Armenian government should withdraw the Protocols from parliamentary consideration, if the Turkish Parliament links its ratification to unrelated issues, such as the Artsakh negotiations or the Armenian Genocide.

6) The Armenian Parliament should add a provision to the Protocols, stating that they would be considered null and void, if after ratification Turkey does not open the border with Armenia within the stipulated 60-day timeframe or if it closes the border after opening it. In fact, President

Sargisian committed himself to adding such a provision, in response to a suggestion I made during his meeting with Armenian-American leaders in Los Angeles on October 4.

7) The Armenian Parliament, before ratifying the Protocols, should pass a law making it illegal for any governmental entity or agency to participate in any effort that questions the truth of the Armenian Genocide. This law would counter declarations made by Turkish leaders and others that the historical sub-commission mentioned in the Protocols would re-examine the facts of the Armenian Genocide.

8) The Armenian Parliament should make it illegal for any Armenian official to negotiate, sign or approve any territorial concessions regarding Artsakh. This would shut the door firmly on repeated Turkish demands for Armenian concessions on Artsakh, prior to the ratification of the Protocols.

9) The Armenian Parliament should declare the Treaty of Kars, signed under duress by the Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic, to be null and void. Once the Treaty of Kars is annulled, the reference in the Protocols to relevant international treaties defining the existing Armenian-Turkish border would no longer be valid and therefore, would not preclude future Armenian territorial demands from Turkey.

It is imperative that the Armenian authorities implement the foregoing steps, because merely providing verbal explanations in defense of the Protocols would not eliminate their detrimental effects.

Since Armenia’s leaders are unwilling or unable to renegotiate and amend these Protocols, due to the international pressure brought to bear on them – as seen during the Zurich spectacle – the least they should do is to take actions that would limit the damage to Armenia’s national interests.

Old Fashioned Values, Mores Needed

By Frank Nahigian

Your children are in trouble. So are mine.

Trouble with a capital “T.” They’re living and coping and struggling to make their way in an America that’s a lot different from the one in which you and I raised them. Basically, it’s an America that’s becoming increasingly secularized, and that’s not what you and I expected. You and I were raised with a profound respect for fundamental Christian principles and, increasingly in today’s society, those principles

are becoming more a handicap than an ideal standard of behavior. They are, of course, a personal asset for each of us individually, but they no longer have a social benefit. This condition in society is relatively new in America but the concept has been expressed often before in the history of civilization: “Virtue is its own reward.”

One of the major blessings of being advanced in age is having the freedom to do almost whatever we choose. For our entire working lives we did what we had to, like it or not, to provide for our families and live a life. Now, at 76 years of age, the way I’d most like to spend my remain-

ing years is by working at projects I enjoy doing that may help make the world a better place for my children and theirs. A place that’s safer and more nurturing. That makes sense, doesn’t it? I think we all want the same thing: a better life in a better world for the children who survive us. It’s a goal that makes the struggle worthwhile.

Making “here” a better place to live is supposed to be the reason why we vote the way we do when it’s election time. We have a choice among competing politicians in municipal, state and national elections. We vote for the people we think will do the best for us, give us what we think is necessary to improve society, the environment, the planet. As children, we assumed political candidates were men of honor and integrity and competence with whom we shared a common goal, and I’ll bet my parents thought so, too. My parents were simple people who came to America with a strong work ethic and faith and trust in the authenticity of the country’s stated principles. That was the country, in which you and I grew up and made our way.

Something happened to the dream. What happened had the following result: I no longer have faith or confidence in our politicians, and you probably don’t either. Never mind the hypocrisy, now there’s just too much dishonesty to bear, as well. I know you know what I’m talking about, no explanation necessary, but I read an article recently, that for me, was the straw that broke the camel’s back; it’s one of the cover stories in the November 1 issue of The American Conservative Magazine. Personally, I’m apolitical, independent as can be. I don’t much care for either the radical right or the radical left. I just want to be left alone to help my family get along as pleasantly as possible in an orderly world where unacceptable behavior is discouraged or punished and acceptable behavior is the norm. Years ago, our parents used a word to describe unacceptable behavior: “Amot.” You don’t hear this word any more and it’s not because the Armenian language is spoken less. It’s because now, nothing is amot. You don’t even hear “shame” said in English. The magazine article informs us of the extreme extent to which that’s true. It’s tragic testimony to the loss of moral compass implicit in American society today. The magazine interviews Sibel Edmonds who was fired from the FBI in 2002 for exposing corruption by agents of foreign countries involving American officials in the State Department, the Pentagon and Congress. Her testimony was documented, but

there have been no consequences to the culprits. To me, it’s outrageous and disgraceful, but that’s neither here nor there. The point is that now, the laws of the land are enforced selectively, not universally, so we aren’t safe any more, and our elected officials are more interested in furthering their own personal agendas rather than those of their constituents. America’s basic principles as recorded in the Constitution are being subverted and overridden. Little by little, property rights have been diminished by legislation as well as by interpretation and, more recently, individual rights are being diminished not so much by legislation as by the conscious disregard for the enforcement of laws of the land. I, personally, have experienced it occasionally. I’d guess you have, also. The problem is, the fox is in the chicken coop and the electorate will continue to vote to keep him there. What can we do about it? No, voting differently in the next election won’t help; we’ll still be putting Democrats or Republicans in those offices.

I’m not so certain that our children, who grew up in more comfortable circumstances in a more sheltered environment have those street smarts. Before I die, I’d like to leave them better-equipped to survive in the social environment in which you and I and the rest of our generation are leaving them. I’d like to leave them within a larger, stronger family situation.

Networking is acknowledged to be a critical fact of life these days. Workers are becoming increasingly specialized and, consequently, increasingly interdependent. I envision a tool that will help all our children to network more effectively. The family unit is the core unit of our lives. We trust each other and we do for each other for the welfare of the family members collectively and individually. I want my children to have the benefit of a larger family. How does not happen? Where do the additional members come from? I think it comes from the computer. I think we need to use the computer to build more familial-like connections within the Armenian community, locally and nationally, by building a directory that ties us all together. If we all occupy the same, common directory, and we need a resource, we’d rather choose from among unfamiliar Armenians than from among unfamiliar non-Armenians, don’t you think? I think we’ll trust each other more, treat each other better and want to help the other party more, if the other is another Armenian. I could be wrong, but that’s what I think. What do you think?

(Frank Nahigian is a retired businessman and Greater Boston resident. He is a member of the First Armenian Church.)

LETTERS

Thanks to Manoog Young for His Efforts

To the Editor:

I read Mr. Manoog Young’s letter in your paper and I would like to share some memories. In the mid-1950s, I attended a lecture by Mr. Young to the New York ASA. When I entered the room, there were many books set on their bases with the pages spread out on the desk in front of him. I was prepared for a college lecture. But my brain was suddenly jolted into heightened alertness. He was reading passages from each book and saying they were lies. The authors were Ivy League professors writing about Turkey. He responded to our excited reaction that they were probably wine and dined and given specific books for reference.

For the rest of my life, I read non-fiction searching for the author’s message for balance in the narrative and primary reference sources.

In the early 1960s, during my first week as a newly-appointed teacher in a New York City High School, I quietly took an empty seat in the teacher’s cafeteria for lunch. There were many teachers seated at adjoining tables. I began to eat faster because one of the teachers at the opposite side was describing Turkey in glowing terms and dominated the entire lunch period. I finally finished and inquired about her sources, which she said was a high school report on Turkey. I asked her to read a few more books on the topic, turned around and left. I caught a glimpse of everyone looking at me as I stood up. The lunch finally began to taste really good. I found out later that I was sitting at the History Department table. A young biology teacher was advising them about their facts. I believe I had the right to make the comments because both of my parents were Genocide survivors.

We’ve come a long way since the ’60s, thanks to Mr. Young, because his energy, stamina, passion, dedication and hard work helped establish university chairs in Armenian studies throughout the US, making the facts of history accessible to educated Americans.

I left the school for married life in Pennsylvania as the acting chairman of the College Advisory Office processing seniors for college admission, so I never felt penalized.

Turkey is still rewriting the black pages in their history books, tearing many of them out completely. Ironically, the millions the country still spends trying to change their historical record, in my opinion, further disseminates their dismal human rights record throughout the world and also helps unify the Armenian Diaspora.

I thank you again, Mr. Young, on behalf of Armenians everywhere for ensuring that the truth does prevail at least in most American books about Turkey.

— Sonia Hagopian
Havertown, Penn.



The Coming Russian Defeat in the Caucasus

By David Boyajian

Russia will be well along the road to total defeat by the US and NATO in the Caucasus and beyond if the recently proposed Armenian –Turkish “Protocols” are ratified.

Within two months after ratification, Turkey would be required to open its border with Armenia. Subsequently, or perhaps simultaneously, the Azerbaijani – Armenian border will open if, as appears increasingly possible, an Artsakh (Karabagh) peace agreement is signed.

Regardless of whether the Azeri border opens, a fully open Turkish – Armenian border would inevitably result in US and NATO penetration and subjugation of Armenia.

Let us look at US and Russian policy in the Caucasus, both past and present.

The West’s Goal: Domination

For two decades, the West, as well as Israel, has dreamt of dominating the Caucasus, which is the gateway from Europe and Turkey into the oil and gas-rich Caspian Sea region. To do so required ripping the Caucasus’ three ex-Soviet countries – Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia – from the Russian bear’s claws. The US and NATO have largely succeeded in doing so.

The West has already built two major gas and oil pipelines – BTE and BTC – from Azerbaijan’s Caspian coast, through Georgia and Turkey. The US insists that all pipelines bypass Russia and Iran.

Though Georgia and Azerbaijan are under continual Russian pressure, both are NATO candidates and have aligned themselves with the US.

That left Armenia, perhaps Russia’s only real ally in the world, as the sole obstacle to total American domination of the western land route into the Caspian.

By coaxing Turkey to open its border, Washington is now trying to lure Armenia away from Russia and into the infinitely richer and more modern, attractive and democratic Western/NATO bloc.

Wealthier, stronger, and about 30 times larger and more populous than its small, besieged eastern neighbor, Turkey has been picked for the lead role in the West’s seduction of Armenia.

Armenia’s Importance to US Strategy

Until last year’s Georgian – Russian war, the US had been silently pleased with Turkey’s blockade of Armenia. Washington hoped the blockade, imposed mostly due to the Artsakh war, would create economic pressure on Armenians to resolve that conflict.

Note that only an Artsakh peace agreement could fully pry open the Azeri-Armenian-Turkish corridor that NATO and Washington craved. [See the author’s “Why Artsakh Matters to the West and Russia” on Armeniapedia.org.] But the war in Georgia cast

doubt on that country’s ability to continue hosting western-bound pipelines. For the US, the only alternative to unstable Georgia is Armenia. This explains why Washington has been dramatically stepping up pressure – and the “Protocols” are part of that pressure – on Turkey, Armenia and Azerbaijan to resolve their differences and thereby create a new American path into the Caspian.

How does Russia feel about Armenia’s border issues?

Russia’s Fatal Mistakes

The Kremlin had long been silently pleased with the closed Turkish – Armenian border and the Artsakh stalemate. After all, these prevented the US from penetrating Armenia and dominating all three Caucasus countries.

Now, however, confidential and other sources indicate that Moscow favors both the Turkish-Armenian “Protocols” and an Artsakh peace agreement.

Russia reportedly hopes that trade across the Turkish-Armenian border would enable it to profit from its ownership of Armenian industry, particularly electricity production and transportation.

However, given Armenia’s small economy and size, the extra revenue for Russia would not be considerable.

The Kremlin is also reportedly worried that a new Russian-Georgian war would hurt Armenia’s economy since most Armenian imports/exports must now go through Georgia.

Thus, Russia allegedly hopes that an open Turkish-Armenian border would give its Armenia ally an alternative import/export route in case of a war. Yet, given its alliance with Georgia, Turkey might well close its border with Armenia in such an eventuality. Conversely, were the Turkish-Armenia-Azeri corridor to remain open, this would partly defeat the very purpose of a Russian attack on Georgia.

Moscow and Ankara have developed significant economic and political relations in recent years. And Russia supplies most of Turkey’s natural gas. Thus, the Kremlin apparently believes that it can dictate to Ankara. The Kremlin is wrong. Regardless of how friendly it becomes with Russia, Turkey will stay within NATO, its only protection against its historic, nuclear-armed Russian enemy.

Moreover, Turkey – and Georgia, which also depends on Russian gas – will eventually develop alternative energy sources and no longer be vulnerable to Russian pressure. In the meantime, Russia will lose Armenia to the West.

Russia is also trying to buy up future production from Azerbaijan’s oil and gas fields in hopes that, in so doing, the West will lose interest in Azerbaijan. In return, Russia is apparently pressuring Armenia to, in effect, hand Artsakh to Azerbaijan.

This is a grave error. Historically, Azeris have betrayed Russia, as happened in WW I when they sided with Turkey, and will do so again. In the meantime, Armenian anger at Russia for

selling out Artsakh, combined with the lure of Western wealth, will permanently drive Armenia away from Russia. Only a true Russian alliance with, not economic and military bullying of, Armenia, will keep Armenia as a friend. Armenia’s fear of Turkey is not enough.

Russian Policy Blunders

Russia has a long history of disastrous policies. In the space of 75 years, Russia lost two empires – Czarist and Soviet – and the Cold War. Russia allowed false prophets – Bolsheviks – to impose the inefficient and inhumane political and economic system of Communism upon it. Russians let a deranged Georgian, Josef Stalin, maim and murder countless millions of them. Even today, most of Russia’s wealth comes not from human productivity but courtesy of Mother Nature: oil and gas.

Recent Kremlin policy has been deeply influenced by Aleksandr Dugin, an extreme nationalist ideologue. His political philosophy, Neo-Eurasianism, advocates a Russian led alliance of Asian and Slavic countries. Like most Russian analysts, Dugin saw Armenia as a barrier against Turkey, Russia’s historic enemy. Dugin then changed his mind.

He now thinks that Turkey is a Russian ally. This is a clear sign of Neo-Eurasianism’s immaturity.

The Kremlin – this time with Medvedev and Putin at the helm – is once again listening to false prophets. Turkey’s arm can indeed be twisted, but not broken, by Russia. Moreover,

Turkey is tougher than Russia. During the Cold War, genocidal Turkey would have annihilated Russia had it, rather than the Soviets, possessed nuclear weapons.

While Turks make Russians think they’ve become friends, Russians foolishly throw their only ally, Armenia, to the Turkish wolf. Russia will lose Armenia but will not win Turkey over. Pan-Turkism will continue, pushed by the West for its own purposes.

Moreover, as I noted two years ago, once NATO enters the Caucasus, it “could then jump across the Caspian Sea and march straight into Muslim Central Asia, posing a possibly mortal threat to Russia.”

Reject the Dangerous Protocols

Armenians must openly reject the “Protocols.” Besides abrogating long-standing Armenian rights vis-à-vis its genocidal neighbor, they are a formula for Turkish hegemony over Armenia.

If the Turkish-Armenian border is to open, it must be in a way that does not permit Turks to infiltrate, buy up, Ottomanize, and eventually control Armenia.

Armenians must now publicly and bluntly emphasize to their Russian ally that the “Protocols” will result in Russia being surrounded by NATO and ultimately, along with Armenia, destroyed.

(David Boyajian is an Armenian-American freelance writer. Many of his articles are archived at Armeniapedia.org.)

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Vatican: Bishop Urges Turkey to Recognize Armenian Genocide

VATICAN CITY (AKI) – An Armenian Catholic bishop from Egypt, Krikor-Okosdinos Coussa of Alexandria, has called on Turkey to accept that the World War I killings of many hundreds of thousands of Armenian Christians was a genocide. Successive Turkish governments have refused to do so, arguing atrocities took place on both sides, and that Muslims also died.

“In 1915, the Ottomans ... killed the Armenian people in Greater Armenia and Lesser Armenia (Turkey). One and a half million people perished during this genocide,” Coussa told a synod of African bishops taking place in Rome.

The killings drove the Armenians from Turkey to the Middle East and throughout the world, he noted.

“The leaders of the Armenian State and the heads of the Armenian Churches (Catholic, Orthodox and Evangelical) are performing an act of public pardon towards the Turks.

“We do so while appealing to the Turks to recognize the Genocide, to pay homage to the martyrs and to grant Armenians their civil, political and religious rights,” Coussa said.

In an apparent reference to a landmark agreement signed last weekend between Turkey and Armenia normalizing ties and ending a century of hostility, Coussa stated: “The path of reconciliation between the two states has begun.”

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