

THE ARMENIAN Mirror-Spectator

Volume LXXXI, NO. 17, Issue 4161

\$ 2.00

The First English Language Armenian Weekly in the United States

NEWS IN BRIEF

Turkish Document Cites Israel as 'Serious Threat'

ANKARA (Ynet) – The Turkish national security council recently added Israel as a “main threat” to a document dubbed the “red book” which lists threats to Turkey, local media reported.

The council decided to remove Syria, Bulgaria, Georgia and Armenia from the list of threats. Greece, however is still considered a threat, albeit an external one, whereas Iran was also removed from the list.

This is the first time Turkey has defined Israeli activity in the Middle East as a threat.

The document, which is valid for the next five years, noted that Israeli actions may cause countries in the region to start an arms race and also that the Middle East must be free of nuclear weapons.

Apart from Israel, Turkey added other threats such as online terror and global warming.

Relations between Jerusalem and Ankara deteriorated significantly since the raid on Gaza-bound flotilla last May, which killed nine people. Turkey demanded Israel apologize, a demand Israel has not complied with.

Last week Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan said he would not participate in an Athens climate conference if Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu attends. He also noted that Israel is close to losing Turkey “as a good friend in the Middle East.”

Armenian PM Receives Montreal Delegation

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargisian received this week Montreal mayor Gerald Tremblay and members of his entourage. Yerevan mayor Gagik Beglaryan partook in the meeting.

Welcoming the guests Sargisian rated high the role of the friendly relations formed between Yerevan and Montreal in the dynamic development of Armenian-Canadian bilateral relations and expressed gratitude for the friendly attitude displayed toward the Armenian community of Canada.

Tremblay pointed out the important contribution of the Canadian-Armenian community to the expansion of partnership between the two countries.

The two discussed a range of issues of mutual interest. Particularly, applying of the Montreal experience in garbage removing, snow removal and the effective organization of transport communication as well as creation of environment protection center in Yerevan with the sample of Montreal's St. Michel environmental protection center. As a possible way of cooperation the parties mentioned the implementation of joint programs in religious and cultural tourism sphere.

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Zartok Revival

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US and France Hail Medvedev Mediation on Karabagh

ASTRAKHAN (RFE/RL) – Officials in Washington and Paris have welcomed the Russian leader's latest effort on Karabagh to broker an agreement between Armenia and Azerbaijan on the exchange of prisoners of war and bodies of soldiers killed in recent clashes.

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev hosted the latest round of talks between Armenian President Serge Sargisian and his Azerbaijani counterpart Ilham Aliyev in Astrakhan, southern Russia, on Wednesday. The meeting resulted in a joint declaration in which the sides



From left, Presidents Aliyev, Medvedev and Sargisian meet in Astrakhan.

agreed on the need for confidence-building measures, including a POWs and human remains swap “with the assis-

tance of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) see MEDIATION, page 3

New Branch of Armenagan-RAG Formed in Martuni Region

MARTUNI, Armenia – A new Armenagan-RAG branch was opened here on October 24, through the efforts of local activists and Papken and Anahid Megerian of Philadelphia.

The local chapter was established under the chairmanship of Housig Mekhitarian one year ago, during which time the organization planted trees and supported humanitarian efforts locally.

On October 24, headed by Armenagan-RAG national Chairman Hagop Avedikian, a delegation visited the region and Papken Megerian became the godfather of eight young men and women who joined the ranks of the party.

After the opening ceremony, the delegation visited Martuni Mayor Bagrat Harutunian and discussed the problems facing the town.

Report from Turkey: Hrant Dink's Spirit Lives

By Daphne Abeel
Special to Mirror-Spectator

ISTANBUL – I had been motivated to travel to Turkey as a result of my association with the *Armenian Mirror-Spectator*, where I worked as the assistant editor for eight years and where I continue to work as a freelance writer.

I had been to Armenia back in 2001 and in the meantime had read countless articles about Turkey in the Armenian and American press, and had met some of the Turkish scholars, writers and intellectuals who have acknowledged the Armenian Genocide – people like Taner Akçam, Hassan Çemal, Orhan Pamuk and Fatma Muge Goçek. I had reviewed books by Turkish writers such as Pamuk and journalist Ece Temelkuran. It was



Hassan Çemal

time, I thought, to see Turkey for myself.

I arrived in Istanbul on September 19, the day that the Armenian community held a mass at Akhtamar. I did not arrive in time to attend the ceremony, but it was written about the next day in the English-language *Hurriyet* daily and people in Istanbul seemed to know all about it.

The young concierge at my small hotel in the Sultan Ahment district in Istanbul chatted quite cheerfully with me about the occasion, without expressing any particular opinion about it. And the newspaper reported that the reason the cross had not been raised was that it was too heavy. This seemed like more than a bit of spin. A week or so later, another article in the English-language daily noted that local Turkish residents in Akhtamar had been fearful that the gathering of some thousand Armenians who attended the ceremony would turn on them and demand their houses and lands back.

see TURKEY, page 10



The delegation in front of the new office

Edmond Y. Azadian Visits TCA Arshag Dickranian School



The guests visited classrooms at the ADS. See story on Page 8.



News From Armenia

Tigran Sargisian Meets European Journalists

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – Prime Minister Tigran Sargisian this week received a number of media representatives from different European countries, the government's press and information department reported.

During the meeting, Sargisian answered a number of questions related to the economic and social policy of the Armenian government, the economic priorities of the Republic of Armenia and the perspectives of development, Armenia's bilateral relations with different countries and regional developments.

ArmenTel Sponsors Tolstoy Conference

YEREVAN (Arminfo) – ArmenTel CJSC announced this week that it was sponsoring a conference titled "L. N. Tolstoy: Russian and National Literatures" organized by the Public Organization of Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, Armenia-Russia Friendship Society and Yerevan Humanitarian Institute. The event will be held on November 13-14.

Scientists-literary scholars from the leading Armenian institutes, as well as guests – representatives from Moscow, Saint Petersburg, Yasnaya Polyana, Yelts, Tula and Tbilisi will take part in the conference. Participants in the conference will present papers to be included in a collection of scholarly works of the conference.

"We welcome the warm attitude of ArmenTel CJSC to the propaganda of the Russian literature and are grateful to the Company for assistance and fruitful cooperation with public and educational establishments," Chairman of Armenia-Russia Friendship Society, rector of Yerevan Humanitarian Institute Mikhael Amirkhanyan said.

ArmenTel also sponsored similar conferences dedicated to Nikolai Gogol and Anton Chekhov.

Yerevan to Host Armenia-Kazakhstan Business Forum

YEREVAN (PanARMENIAN.Net) – Armenian Minister of Transport and Communication Manuk Vardanyan met with the Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Armenia Ayimdos Bozzhigitov.

The minister briefed the ambassador on infrastructure projects implemented in transportation sphere, including South-North railway project feasibility study and international contest for South North expressway construction.

As the Ambassador noted, lack of transport passages between the countries hampers adequate product turnover. "The Armenia-Kazakhstan business forum scheduled for December 2010 will focus on increasing product turnover between the two countries," Bozzhigitov stated.

Shirak Plant Will Fulfill The Sugar Demand in Armenia

GUMRI (ArmeniaNow) – During a visit to Gumri last weekend, President Serge Sargisian said Armenia will soon not need to import sugar, due to the improved quality and lower prices of the Akhuryan sugar factory in the Shirak province.

Construction of the sugar beet plant (on the site of a Soviet-era one) began in 2006 and has seen an investment of about \$102 million. It started operating in the summer of 2009 and now employs 700 workers.

Sugar beet is grown on the 50 hectares of land leased by the factory.

The annual sugar demand for Armenia is about 90,000 tons, and plans call for the plant to produce 220,000 tons and export the excess. A ton of domestically-produced sugar will cost \$70-80 less than imported sugar.

While the plant is prepared to produce more sugar, local farmers are still not part of the process, as Armenian farmers prefer growing potatoes and cereals rather than sugar beets.

Armenia-Israel: Will the New Ambassador Usher In New Stage in Armenian-Israeli Relations?

By Aris Ghazinyan

YEREVAN (ArmeniaNow) – Israel's new Ambassador to Armenia Shmuel Meiom submitted his credentials to President Serge Sargisian last week. The submission of credentials, as a rule, is seen as a usual protocol event, but in this case, it was a bit more.



Meiom (left) told Sargisian that Israel wants to raise bilateral relations with Armenia to a higher level.

The political accents of the appointment of a new Israeli ambassador to Armenia fit well into the context of fundamentally-new regional realities, namely, sharp complications in Turkish-Israeli relations.

At present, the situation in the region is such that Israel and Armenia have a common adversary – Turkey.

In this sense, the relationship between the two states could theoretically reach a new perspective level. In particular, the powerful Jewish lobby in the United States could theoretically back the Armenian resolutions on genocide and thus undermine the Turkish positions in the international political arena.

The Central Jewish Resource

(www.sem40.ru) says: "Turkey may forever lose the support of the powerful Israeli lobby in the United States and its efforts to block the adoption of an Armenian Genocide resolution."

In an article in The Washington Times under the headline "American Jewish community ends support of Turkish interests on [Capitol] Hill" Eli Lake wrote that it was impossible to expect a different result of the strong reaction from Ankara to Israeli actions against this spring's "Freedom Flotilla."

PHOTOLURE PHOTO

He recalls in the story that in 2008, leading Jewish organizations decided no longer to block the adoption of the Armenian Genocide resolution in Congress, which, in the opinion of the journalist, was a response to the worsening Israeli-Turkish relations.

Meanwhile, still in 2002, Israel's Ambassador to Armenia Rivka Cohen stated in Yerevan that "nothing, including the tragedy of the Armenians, could be compared with the Holocaust." In that connection, Armenia's Foreign Ministry even sent a note of protest to the Israeli Foreign Ministry and said that Armenia considered any attempt to deny or diminish the fact of the Armenian Genocide, for whatever motivation it was made, to be unacceptable.

The statement of Israel's official representative then elicited a wide response among Armenians. Harout Sassounian, the publisher of the California Courier, wrote then that "the denial of the Armenian Genocide by the Israeli ambassador was done within the

position of his government. One thing is clear: Israel's leaders are ready to sacrifice historical truth for the sake of their strategic relations with Turkey."

However, the situation today is different. This is due to the sharp complication of the Turkish-Israeli relations.

On October 30, in connection with the new appointment of the Israeli ambassador to Armenia, the Central Jewish Resource wrote that "for more than two decades before the eyes of the whole world, Turkey and Azerbaijan continue to maintain the blockade of the Republic of Armenia."

The same web portal says that "the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA) distributed a memo for the US Congress, which accuses Turkey of applying double standards. ANCA stresses that Turkey is the last country that has the right to sermonize to other countries. The memo lists all acts of violence and aggression committed by Turkish leaders both at home and abroad for a hundred years."

Another Israeli portal, IzRus, noted: "Perhaps for the first time an Israeli ambassador to a former Soviet country, who usually combines diplomatic activities in several states, is proposed to focus on Armenia."

Meiom is a career diplomat with more than 30 years of experience. He is the former head of the Israeli Foreign Ministry department for CIS countries, and in recent years was Israel's ambassador to Croatia.

In handing his credentials to the Armenian president the diplomat said that "cooperation between Armenia and Israel can contribute to peace and prosperity in the region" and for the first time assured the Armenian leadership that "Israel wants to raise bilateral relations to an excellent level."

Yerevan Grappling with Domestic Violence Issue

By Gayane Abrahamyan

YEREVAN (Eurasia.net) – Traditionally a taboo subject in Armenia, domestic violence has become the subject of public discussion after the recent murder of 20-year-old Zaruhi Petrosyan, allegedly by her husband and mother-in-law. More than 3,000 people have signed a letter to Prime Minister Tigran Sargisian, above, to address the problem. (Photo courtesy: Government of Armenia.)

The issue of domestic violence, long a taboo topic in Armenia, is generating public debate these days. The catalyst is a case, in which a young mother was, according to witnesses, abused to death by her husband.

Social networks in Armenia have been buzzing about the case since

October 1, when 20-year-old Zaruhi Petrosyan died after suffering a series of heavy blows that caused a brain hemorrhage and left her with broken fingers and bruises all over her body. Shortly before collapsing, Petrosyan reported that she had suffered the injuries in a fall. Her neighbors and her sister, however, asserted that Petrosyan had been abused by her relatives at her home in Masis, not far from Yerevan.

The victim's sister, Hasmik Petrosyan, alleged that her sister's husband and mother-in-law routinely abused her, and that she often had extensive bruising on her body. She wanted to escape the abuse, but because she was an orphan, she did not have a support network to turn to for help. "If there was a law, and the police were more attentive toward such cases, my sister might be alive today," she said.

Based on witness accounts, authorities took Petrosyan's 30-year-old husband, Yanis Sarkisov, into custody and charged him with inflicting bodily harm under Article 112 of the Armenian Criminal Code. No trial date has been set. He faces up to 10 years in prison, if convicted. Petrosyan's mother-in-law is also under investigation, but no charges have been brought against her yet.

According to Hasmik Petrosyan, about a year before her death, Zaruhi left her husband, and lived for a few weeks with her sister. But Sarkisov reportedly threatened to kill both women, along with Hasmik's family members. Zaruhi thus felt compelled to return.

Rights groups are hoping that the Petrosyan case becomes a landmark in their efforts to implement legal safe-

guards against domestic violence. In a letter addressed to Prime Minister Tigran Sargisian that bore about 3,000 signatures, activists called on government leaders and legislators to address the issue quickly. "Our silence confirms that such cases are nothing extraordinary in Armenian society and allows them to be repeated," the letter stated.

Susanna Vardanian, the head of the Women's Rights Center, a Yerevan NGO, contended that the lack of legal protections played a big role in Petrosyan's death. "Zaruhi had turned to the police twice, but they [authorities] only had her husband sign a promise not to beat her again."

Results from a survey of 1,000 Armenian women conducted in 2008 by Amnesty International showed that women in roughly three out of 10 families suffered from physical abuse.

"If before the organizations fighting against domestic violence were accused of breaking up families, now both the public and many politicians admit that the problem exists, and it has to be dealt with," says Vardanian.

If a few years ago many MPs were unconvinced that domestic violence was a problem, that is no longer the case. "This [Petrosyan] case has made us acutely aware of the problem, and so now many realize that the issue should have been tended to before," Heritage Party MP Zaruhi Postanjian said. "A law must be adopted and urgent steps should be taken to fight against these problems, which do not bring honor to our families."

(Gayane Abrahamyan is a reporter for ArmeniaNow.com in Yerevan.)

Correction

A story by Aram Arkun appeared on the front page of last week's issue, titled "Hajin Armenians Assemble in Beirut's New Hajin to Commemorate the Past and Strengthen Identities." In the story, it was indicated that Eghig Jerjian had been a member of the Hunchagian Party since 1995. He has been a member far longer; he has been a member of the Central Executive of the party since 1995.



INTERNATIONAL

Mass Trial of Kurdish Activists Starts in Turkey

ISTANBUL (BBC) – Hundreds of supporters of the defendants gathered outside the courthouse in Diyarbakir.

The trial has begun in Turkey of 151 people, including 12 mayors, accused of links to the armed rebel group, the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK).

They are accused of crimes including membership of an illegal armed group, spreading its propaganda, undermining Turkey's territorial integrity and holding illegal public demonstrations.

The trial is being seen by some as a test of Turkey's democratic credentials.

EU representatives are reportedly monitoring the proceedings in Diyarbakir, the largest city in the Kurdish-dominated southeast of the country.

The courtroom had to be specially built because of the number of those being tried.

They include the mayor of Diyarbakir himself, Osman Baydemir, who has publicly called for Kurdish autonomy.

The PKK has fought a 26-year conflict with the Turkish government, which has claimed more than 40,000 lives.

It has revised previous demands for independence, and now calls for more Kurdish autonomy. It is viewed as a terrorist group not just in Turkey, but by

the US and European Union.

Heavy sentences possible

Turkish law prescribes severe penalties for giving even vocal support to the PKK, and some of the defendants face possible life sentences.

A leading Kurdish politician, Ahmet Turk, said the trial was "an attempt to break our will."

Turk had a seat in parliament until Turkey's Constitutional Court banned his Democratic Society Party in December, for alleged links with the PKK.

He told reporters outside the courthouse: "At a time when we are seeking peace, it's unacceptable that our friends are being held in jail for 18 months, only for expressing their thoughts and opinions."

In Monday's hearing, defense lawyers demanded that they be allowed to make their arguments in Kurdish. The judges adjourned the case until the afternoon to rule on the demand.

Mixed signals

There is tight security around the courthouse for the trial, which is expected to last for months

Analysts say the Turkish government is employing a two-pronged approach to its relations with the Kurds.

In July 2009, Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan stepped up attempts to seek a peaceful solution.

Some steps have been taken to improve Kurdish rights, but a tentative peace process with the PKK quickly stalled.

Fighting between the two sides spiraled again this year.

A series of police raids since April 2009 has led to around 1,500 arrests of Kurdish activists, suggesting a renewed determination by the authorities to subdue the Kurdish movement, says the BBC's Jonathan Head in Istanbul.

But there have also been recent talks with neighboring Syria and Iraq about ending the conflict, and this year some state officials have been negotiating with the jailed PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan.

European lawyers and human rights activists are monitoring the trial, which is expected to last for months.

The European Commission releases its report next month on Turkey's progress towards meeting EU membership criteria.

Last year, it criticized the use of anti-terror laws to prosecute people for expressing non-violent opinions on Kurdish issues.

US Threatens Turkish Bankers' Arrest if More Dealings with Iran

ISTANBUL (World Bulletin) – US officials threatened Turkish bankers with arrest during foreign visits if they continue doing business with Iran, a Turkish website said.

A top US government official increased pressure on Turkey on Thursday to enforce international sanctions against Iran.

"All we want is the sanctions to be imposed throughout the world," Stuart Levey, the US treasury undersecretary for terrorism and financial intelligence, told another Turkish broadcaster NTV after meeting Turkish government and banking officials for two days to discuss US and UN sanctions.

The purpose of this visit is to maximize our chances that the sanctions imposed on Iran are successful," Levey was quoted as telling a group of journalists.

"Turkey of course plays an important role given its proximity to Iran as a neighbor. Implementation of the sanctions here is as important as it is everywhere."

A US delegation visited Turkey in August to put pressure on the country's banks.

On Wednesday, Deputy Prime Minister Ali Babacan said in Washington that Turkish banks had become hesitant about dealing with Iran, but Turkey had left decisions on whether to continue its dealings follow-

ing US and European sanctions up to them.

While saying Turkey would comply with UN resolutions, Babacan said Ankara had not provided guidelines to its banking sector on how to deal with unilateral sanctions imposed by the Washington and the EU.

He also reiterated Turkey's position that only diplomacy, not sanctions,

would change Iran's stance.

Mustafa Koc, chairman of Turkey's largest energy-to-banking conglomerate Koc Holding, said Turkish companies were starting to feel the US pressure.

Tupras, Europe's fourth biggest oil refiner and 51 percent owned by Koc, announced in August that it was no longer selling petroleum products to Iran.

Turkish Amb.: Our Relations with Azerbaijan Are Perfect

LONDON (Arminfo) – "The Turkish-Armenian protocols, signed last year, had no lasting impact on the relations of two Turkic nations, Turkey and Azerbaijan," Ambassador of Turkey to the UK Unal Cevikoz said during an event titled, "Azerbaijan and Turkey: Redefining the Parameters of the Relationship," organized by the European Azerbaijan Society on October 25 at the Institute of Directors.

"Nothing can negatively affect the Turkish-Azerbaijani brotherhood," Cevikoz said. He illustrated this fact by citing the Agreement on Strategic Partnership and Mutual Assistance, signed between President Aliyev and Turkish President Gul in August; energy

agreements ratified by the Turkish BOTAS and Azerbaijani SOCAR companies; and the recent strategic agreement signed during the Summit of Turkic-speaking countries.

Cevikoz described the linguistic, religious and cultural links between the two countries, recalling that Heydar Aliyev, former Azerbaijani president, considered the relationship by the phrase: "single nation, two states."

Cevikoz referred to the post-independence relationship as having three phases - an emotional period, reuniting two Turkic nations (1991-93); a decade when strategic partnerships were developed (1993-2003) and the maturity era (since 2003).

US, France Hail Medvedev Mediation on Karabagh

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Minsk Group co-chairs and the International Committee of the Red Cross."

At a press briefing in Washington on Thursday US Assistant Secretary of State Philip Crowley welcomed the October 27 joint statement by the presidents as a "positive development."

"We appreciate President [Dmitry] Medvedev's personal efforts to reach this agreement, which aims to build confidence between the parties and to strengthen the 1994 ceasefire," said Crowley. "This joint statement represents a positive development in the ongoing OSCE Minsk Group process to reach a peaceful resolution to the conflict of Nagorno-Karabagh and we look

forward to seeing its implementation as soon as possible."

France, the other OSCE Minsk Group co-chair state, also welcomed the declaration signed through Moscow's mediation.

"The measures set out in the resolution adopted in Astrakhan can help to reduce tension and violations of the ceasefire, which have become frequent in past months. Therefore, France expects them to be executed immediately," the French Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

Early reactions from Yerevan about the declaration were also mostly positive amid cautious optimism about the future of peace talks.

Armenian Foreign Minister Eduard

Nalbandian called the meeting in Astrakhan "useful and important" in a statement.

Internationally-mediated talks between Armenia and Azerbaijan have been ongoing since 1994 when an uneasy ceasefire brokered by Russia was signed between the warring parties in Karabagh to end nearly three years of hostilities.

By that time some 30,000 people had been killed in the conflict and hundreds of thousands of people had been displaced.

Skirmishes along the line of contact between the Karabagh and Azerbaijani armed forces has intensified in recent months.

International News

Turkey to Assume CMCE Chairmanship Nov. 10

ISTANBUL (PanARMENIAN.Net) – Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu said that Turkey will be active during its six-month chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe it will assume on November 10.

"Turkey's taking over the chairmanship of CoE Committee of Ministers is a very important and historical development. It displays the level reached by Turkey in its democratization process. Turkey also holds the presidency of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. These are the highest positions held by Turkey simultaneously in the European system created after the Vienna Congress in 1815," the Anatolia News Agency quoted Davutoglu as saying.

Referring to Turkey-Greece relations, Davutoglu said, "We resumed exploratory talks between Turkey and Greece following last year's meeting between Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Greek Prime Minister George Papandreou and my visit to Greece earlier this year. The talks will be held in an atmosphere of goodwill and compromise. We want the Aegean Sea to turn into a sea of friendship."

Iranian Director to Helm Film in Armenia

TEHRAN (Tehran Times) – The Iranian director of the box-office hit "Lizard" Kamal Tabrizi plans to make "Peaceful Streets," a social drama, in Armenia.

The film's technical crew is currently in the country, but the casting has not yet been completed.

The deceptive title of "Peaceful Streets" brought the shooting of the film to a halt in early October. It was rumored that the film involved political issues, particularly the post-election unrest in Iran.

However, Tabrizi resumed shooting after producer Mahmud Razavi and Iranian culture officials held talks.

"Peaceful Streets' is not a political film, this is a mere social film focusing on normal and abnormal behaviors as seen in the society," Razavi said in an interview.

According to Razavi, the screenplay of film was revised several times before it could obtain a production license from the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance.

He also said that they have been forced to change the film's location to a foreign country to gain the approval of the Culture Ministry.

"The Lizard" is a controversial comedy about a thief who escapes from prison clad in a cleric's robe. The film, which had been warmly received by people, provoked storms of protest from Iranian officials and Muslim clerics. Subsequently, it was banned shortly after its premiere in 2003.

Chatham House to Award Turkish President

LONDON (PanARMENIAN.Net) – Turkish President Abdullah Gul, who was recognized by Chatham House "as a significant figure for reconciliation and moderation within Turkey and internationally, and a driving force behind many of the positive steps that Turkey has taken in recent years," will be invited to collect the award and a scroll signed by Queen Elizabeth II, at a ceremony here on November 9.

Gul, according to a release from Chatham House, has worked to deepen Turkey's traditional ties with the Middle East, mediate between the fractious groups in Iraq and bring together the Afghan and Pakistani leaderships to try to resolve disputes during 2009. He has also made efforts to reunify the divided island of Cyprus and has played a leading role, along with his Armenian counterpart, in initiating a process of reconciliation between Turkey and Armenia, Chatham House believes.

"Turkey is now an important country with a growing role both regionally and globally, which is why the country becomes a priority for the Chatham House," Fadi Hakura, member and director of European and Middle Eastern Studies at the Chatham House, told the Anadolu Agency.



ARMENIAN DEMOCRATIC LIBERAL ORGANIZATION

DISTRICT COMMITTEE OF USA AND CANADA

82nd ANNUAL CONVENTION

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2010, 10:00 AM

TEKEYAN CENTER, St. LAURENT-CANADA

WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF

HAGOP AVEDIKIAN

EDITOR OF AZG DAILY, PRESIDENT

ARMENAGAN-RAG POLITICAL PARTY OF ARMENIAN REPUBLIC

7:00 PM

CONFERENCE DEDICATED TO THE

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDATION OF THE

ARMENAGAN PARTY IN VAN, HISTORICAL ARMENIA

THE FIRST POLITICAL PARTY OF THE ARMENIAN NATION

MAIN SPEAKER

HAGOP AVEDIKIAN

TEKEYAN CENTER, 825 RUE MANOOGIAN, ST. LAURENT, QUEBEC, Canada

Community News

Ambassador Evans To Be Honored by APSLA

By Florence Avakian

LOS ANGELES — John Marshall Evans, former US ambassador to Armenia, will receive the 2010 “Professional of the Year” award from the Armenian Professional Society of Los Angeles (APSLA), at the 52nd APS annual gala banquet, on Friday, November 19. He will attend the gala with his wife, Donna Evans, former president of the World Affairs Council of Washington.

He is being honored for his courage and his dedication to truth for openly acknowledging the Armenian Genocide. Receiving this award is a “special honor,” he said in a brief correspondence with this writer. “I will be honored to join the ranks of previous honorees like Vartan Oskanian and Dr. Vartan Gregorian. And I intend to speak about the concept of professionalism at the event.”

When asked if he has ever regretted using the “Genocide,” he said, “The short answer is no, I do not regret it. I said what I said in 2005 in good



Ambassador John Evans

conscience, based on my reading of history and the 1948 Genocide Convention. I knew before I used the word that there would be negative consequences for my career. What I do regret is that some of the other things I said at that

time and in recent years may have been overshadowed by my use of the word, ‘genocide.’

“I did not use the word for cheap effect, but in the context of an honest discussion with Armenian-Americans about the realities of Armenia’s international situation. I don’t see how one can be honest while denying the reality of the Genocide,” he stated.

Hailing from Williamsburg, Va., Evans studied Russian history at Yale (BA, 1970) and Columbia Universities where he started a PhD program before joining the Foreign Service. His diplomatic tour of duty has included Tehran, Prague, Moscow, St. Petersburg, Moldova, the US Mission to NATO and the US State Department.

A Russian expert, he directed the State Department’s Office of Analysis for Russia and Eurasia, in 1999, receiving several awards. From May 2002 until September 2004 when he presented his credentials to Armenian President Robert Kocharian as US ambassador to Armenia, he directed the Office of Russian Affairs.

His association with Armenia began when he coordinated the American response to the devastating 1988 earthquake in Armenia. At the time, he received a medal and an appreciative statement from the Armenian government.

Shortly after he assumed his ambassadorial position in Armenia, it was at February 2005 meetings in California, that Evans declared, “I will today call it the Armenian Genocide. I think we, the US government, owe you, our fellow citizens a more frank and honest way of discussing this problem. The Armenian Genocide was the first genocide of the 20th century. I pledge to you, we are going to do a better job at addressing this issue.”

Thus, he became the first US official since former President Ronald Reagan to publicly acknowledge the Armenian Genocide. According to the ANCA, Evans had intensely studied the matter, and had also consulted with a lawyer from the US State Department before publicly going on record.

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The staff and the students at St. Stephen’s Armenian Elementary School

St. Stephen’s Armenian Elementary School Marks Quarter Century

WATERTOWN, Mass. — St. Stephen’s Armenian Elementary School (SSAES) is celebrating its 25th anniversary, on Saturday, November 20, with a glittering gala at the Renaissance Boston Waterfront Hotel, featuring Dr. Joyce Shushan Barsam as keynote speaker.

Since opening its doors with a handful of students in 1984, St. Stephen’s has become a vital force in the Armenian-American community of greater Boston. The school emphasizes a rigorous bilingual program in a warm atmosphere of family and community. Students receive an in-depth instruction of the Armenian language, culture and history in addition to the high level of education provided at any top private school.

In 2003, the prestigious Association of Independent Schools in New England (AISNE) accredited the school, making it the only Armenian school in the region to achieve this status.

Since 2004, every fifth-grade graduating class takes a two-week field trip to Armenia as part of their curriculum. The trip connects students to their ancestral homeland and creates a lasting bond between them.

Said the school’s principal of 23 years, Houry Boyamian, “We are passionate about the school. I am putting in a lot of effort to keep us on such a high level that parents would not hesitate to enroll their children. We have many second-, third- or fourth-generation American-Armenians who bring their children here, in order to foster their Armenian spirit while giving them a first-rate education.”

The school keeps up with the latest educational approaches, and the students consistently achieve top marks in the Comprehensive Test of Basic Skills.

Many of St. Stephen’s graduates go on to receive their higher education at world-class universities, including the London School of Economics, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Tufts and Dartmouth.

Currently, the school has about 180 students, many of whom live in communities with excellent public school systems.

A recent study by Harvard University showed the importance of a strong kindergarten education, as well as the impact of a rigorous academic curriculum at a very young age, on the future of students. In addition, studies have shown that learning a second language at a young age can increase a student’s creative and complex thinking, as well as develop neural pathways more fully. Part of that rigorous yet child-friendly education at SSAES is a full-immersion bilingual education.

The school has experienced an organic growth; within the past decade, it has added a separate nursery building, to accommodate the growing list of enrollees.

Housed in the Armenian Cultural and Educational Center, the elementary school has established thanks to its Armenian character, academic strength, devoted staff and low student-to-teacher ratio.

Dr. Joyce Barsam

The gala committee members have expressed their joy that Barsam has agreed to be the keynote speaker at the affair. Barsam has been deeply engaged in teaching and education throughout her life. She received her bachelor’s degree magna cum laude from Tufts University, majoring in French literature, and acquired her secondary school teaching certification, but also taught foreign languages in the elementary schools. After receiving a master’s degree in French from Stanford

see ANNIVERSARY, page 9

San Francisco Bay Area AUA Supporters Welcome Dr. Bruce Boghosian

OAKLAND, Calif. — About 50 Bay Area supporters of the American University of Armenia gathered at the home of Stephan and Sylvia Melikian on the evening of Saturday, October 23 to welcome incoming American University of Armenia (AUA) President Dr. Bruce Boghosian and his wife, Laura Boghosian. The event was hosted by the Melikians and by Francois and Suzy Antounian, long-time supporters of the university.

In opening the evening, AUA’s vice president of Development and Government Relations, Bruce Janigian, expressed his gratitude to the hosts for opening their home to celebrate the growth and development of the university.

UC Berkeley professor, Dr. Armen Der Kiureghian, a founder of AUA and a member of its Board of Trustees, introduced Boghosian and his wife to the guests.

Boghosian, who had just returned from Yerevan after spending nearly two months at his new post, summarized the core programs and activities at the university. He described the hard work and dedication of the university’s employees and students, as well as the benefits of the American style of graduate education.

AUA is one of the most visible American presences in Armenia, providing educational opportunities that are largely complementary to those of the country’s other universities.

The event was attended by numerous Bay Area AUA alumni, who conveyed the pivotal role that AUA played in their lives and careers. They all shared the view that the establishment of the university in Yerevan was one of the most important and significant investments in Armenia’s recent history.

Marine Gouchian, an AUA School of Business and Management graduate and currently a certified public accountant, emphasized the need for active engagement by alumni to shape the future of AUA. “I really hope that AUA supporters are not discouraged that some of the graduates leave Armenia in pursuit of other opportunities,” said Gouchian. “I assure you, that wherever we go, we are the ambassadors of our country with continued involvement in Armenian affairs. We do everything in our power to promote and assist Armenian causes. Armenia only becomes stronger when its people are strong, regardless of where they live.” In fact, statistics indicate that more than 80 percent of AUA graduates remain in Armenia.

Now an attorney in the states of New York and California, Evelina Manukyan, a Law Department graduate of AUA, emphasized that AUA teaches its law students that a solid and transparent legal system is the backbone of every developed society. She indicated that this should be the true goal of a legal education, rather than merely learning to navigate through an existing legal system.

Dr. Arsen Tonoyan, a graduate of AUA’s College of Engineering and a Principal Engineer at Dassault Systems Simulia Corporation in California, expressed his confidence that mechanical engineering can play a crucial role in Armenia’s development.

Informal, congenial discussions among AUA supporters, trustees and alumni continued throughout the evening.

Donations in support of the American University of Armenia can be sent to the American University of Armenia Corporation at 300 Lakeside Drive, 12th floor, Oakland, CA 94612.

The American University of Armenia Corporation (AUAC) is registered as a non-profit educational organization in the United States and is affiliated with the Regents of the University of California. Receiving major support from the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU), AUA offers American-accredited instruction leading to masters degree in eight graduate programs. For more information about AUA, visit www.aua.am.



Dr. Joyce Shushan Barsam



COMMUNITY NEWS / OBITUARY

Two Sub-Deacons Ordained at Church of the Holy Translators

FRAMINGHAM, Mass. — The Rev. Vard Gyoalian, a priest from Holy Ekmadzin who is completing a pastoral internship at the Church of the Holy Translators in Framingham, celebrated his first Divine Liturgy at the church on Sunday, October 24.

Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern), presided over the service, during which he ordained two young parishioners to the sub-diaconate.

Gyoalian said the day was particularly special for him because it was the first time he celebrated the Divine Liturgy with the Primate presiding.

"It was touching for me because he ordained me," Gyoalian said, referring to his July 2009 ordination at St. Gregory the Illuminator Cathedral in Yerevan.

At the invitation of Barsamian, Gyoalian traveled to the United States this fall and was assigned to intern at the Church of the Holy Translators. He is being mentored by the parish pastor, the Rev. Krikor Sabounjian, in

a program designed to help prepare him to serve as a full-time pastor in the Eastern Diocese.

"The Framingham community has become like family to me," said Gyoalian. "They are very warm and caring and they are always willing to assist me."

Barsamian delivered the day's sermon, and a special message for the parish's children. In observance of the Feast of the Discovery of the Holy Cross — which marks the fourth-century "discovery" of the actual cross of the Crucifixion by Queen Helena, mother of the Roman Emperor Constantine — the Primate spoke about the significance of the cross to the Armenian people.

"From the earliest days, the Holy Cross was recognized as the symbol of salvation for all Christians," the Primate said.

"We Armenians consider ourselves a khachagir, or cross-bearing, nation," he went on. "This is a source of pride for us, but also a solemn responsibility. Over the centuries we have borne Christ's cross with faith, hope and

love. During times of adversity and upheaval, the Holy Cross has been the most powerful support for the Armenian flock of Christ. In times of peace, too, the sign of the Holy Cross is always our most abundant source of consolation — healing old wounds and illuminating the way to God's kingdom."

During the Divine Liturgy, the Primate also ordained Daniel Hyde and Ara Bablouzian to the sub-diaconate. The two were ordained as acolytes in February 2009.

Sabounjian, who has been working with the young men, said they had been coming to church before the morning service on Sundays, and lately even during the week, to prepare for the sub-diaconate.

Following services, parishioners gathered for a fellowship hour, where they had a chance to speak with Barsamian in an informal setting.

The parish also dedicated a special cake to Daniel Hyde and Ara Bablouzian, congratulating the young men on their newly-bestowed rank and encouraging them to continue their service to the Armenian Church.



Archbishop Khajag Barsamian and the Rev. Krikor Sabounjian with the sub-deacons

Obituary

Nancy S. Movsesian

BRADFORD, Mass. — Nancy S. (Nance) Movsesian, a longtime theater publicist and devoted Armenian-American, died on Tuesday, October 26, at her home, 58 Bradford Ave., after a short illness.

She was born in Haverhill and lived in Bradford most of her life. She graduated from Haverhill High School and attended Abbott Academy in Andover.

Movsesian was founder and president of Ideas Associates of Boston, a public relations firm, which publicized shows of every magnitude.

Over the past 35 years, Movsesian handled

scores of productions, from musicals to comedies and dramas, rubbing elbows with some of the greatest performers throughout the past generation.

Movsesian also promoted venues at the Charles Street Playhouse and managed Boston's Wilbur Theater for a number of years prior to establishing Ideas Associates. She was also associated with the Clarendon Playhouse, North Shore Music Theater and West Newbury Summer Theater.

She could be found distributing packets of information to theater critics on press night, often introducing them to the stars at a recep-



Nancy Movsesian

tion, which usually followed each show. She was among the organizers of the Elliot Norton Awards ceremony honoring the late *Boston Globe* theater critic.

Her adroit interpretations and characterizations in the performing arts captivated audiences throughout New England.

Movsesian was proud of her Armenian-American ancestry, taking every opportunity to showcase her history and culture. Though she never got to visit Armenia, she lived her dream at every interval.

Of importance to her was Bradford College,

within proximity of her home. Movsesian joined other neighbors in keeping the institute's memory in hand and ensuring a proper transition after it had closed many years ago.

She enjoyed vacationing at the family retreat in Lake Ossipee, where she would escape at every opportunity. She also shared a close relationship with a number of nieces and nephews, along with five siblings.

She was a member of the Humane Society of America, New York Press Association and Christian Science Church. Hobbies included gardening, caring for her Yorkshire terrier and cat, classical music and reading history.

She was the daughter of the late Moses and Koharig Movsesian, both immigrants from Armenia. She leaves two sisters, Elinor Tate, Lincoln, RI, and Lucy Talanian, Milton; a brother, Albert S. Movsesian, North Andover; two sisters-in-law, Charlotte and Sandra Movsesian, and one brother-in-law, John Tate. She was the sister of the late Roxie Shamlian and US Army Col. Anthony A. Movsesian, and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

A private funeral service is taking place Saturday morning at 11 at H. L. Farmer & Sons Funeral Home, 106 Summer St., followed by burial in Elmwood Cemetery, Bradford.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made either to Merrimack Valley Hospice House, 360 North Ave., Haverhill, MA 01830 or Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (MSPCA), 400 Broadway, Methuen, MA 01844.

Dora Garabedian

EAST HARTFORD, Conn. — Dora H. Garabedian died on October 18, at Hartford Hospital following a valiant struggle to overcome the effects of a heart attack.

She was born in Somerville, Mass., a daughter of Harootune and Angele Berberian.

A graduate of Watertown High School, she met her husband, Haige Garabedian, who, at the time, was an undergraduate student at Boston University. They subsequently married on December 21, 1947 and established residency in East Hartford where they raised a family of a son and two daughters.



Dora Garabedian

situation with a minimum of complaints as she went about her involvement in church and Armenian community activities. An ardent parishioner of St. George Armenian Church she served a number of offices as a member of the Womens Guild. The church conferred its Outstanding Service Award upon her in 1989 for her "tireless efforts to serve the church; for always being available when called up; for always volunteering when needed and for heeding Christ's call to serve." A "snow bird" for many years, she enjoyed participating in religious and social functions at St. David Armenian Church in Boca Raton, Fla.

When the Connecticut and Western Massachusetts chapter of the Knights of Vartan's auxiliary — the Daughters of Vartan — was instituted in 1973 its Grand Council appointed her to be the first Dirouhi of Nairi Otyag. She cherished her involvement in the organizations' endeavors and maintained an active relationship throughout her life.

She is survived by her husband, Haige; a son, Thomas J. Garabedian, and his wife, Dora Verne (Kishibay) of Hopkinton, Mass.; two daughters, Andrea Karanian, and her husband, Robert, of Avon, Conn.; and Audrey, of East Hartford, Conn.; six grandchildren, Deran and his wife Kate, of London; Berj and Gregory Garabedian; Elyssa, Justine and Jarod Karanian; her sisters, Mary, and her husband, Richard Humber, of Woburn, Mass., Emma and her husband, Sarkis Toomajian, of Worcester, Mass., as well as several nieces and nephews.

Her funeral was held on October 23, at St. George Armenian Church, Hartford, followed by rites of committal at Fairview Cemetery in New Britain. Donations in her memory were directed to St. George Armenian Church, 22 White St., Hartford, CT 06114 and to the NGO program in Armenia — Mer Doon, Our Home, Inc., c/o Julie Ashkian, 84 Ellsworth Blvd., Kensington, CT 06037.

For 17 years she worked for the State of Connecticut's Bureau of Collection Services. In 1981, the bureau conferred its Service Award upon her recognition of her "Outstanding Achievement as the Clerk of the Year."

Afflicted with multiple sclerosis (MS), which impaired her mobility, she made the best of her

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Edmond Y. Azadian Visits TCA Arshag Dickranian School

LOS ANGELES – Taking time from his brief stay in Los Angeles, Edmond Y. Azadian, vice chairman of the Tekeyan Cultural Association (TCA) Board of Directors, paid an official visit to Arshag Dickranian School on Thursday, October 21.

He was accompanied by the Very Rev. Baret Yeretzyan and TCA Board member Vatche Semerdjian.

After being greeted by George K. Mandossian, chairman of the School Board of

progress the school had made over the past three decades and its marked growth into becoming a prime learning institution.

The group then conducted an hour-long tour of the campus, meeting with staff members at the administrative offices, pre-Kindergarten toddlers and several upper-grade classrooms, where Azadian took time to speak the teachers and interact with the students, stressing upon the valuable education they receive at ADS.

At the conclusion of the tour, the visitors



Edmond Y. Azadian spoke with the students during their Armenian Studies session

Trustees, and Principal Vartkes Kourouyan, the distinguished guests were led to the principal's office, where they were briefed about the day to day operation of the school.

Azadian, a supporter of the school since its inception, was delighted to see the significant

were invited to the Walter and Laurel Karabian Hall to join the students for lunch, which is prepared daily and served by the ladies of the PTO Lunch Committee.

For more information on the school, visit www.dickranianschool.org.



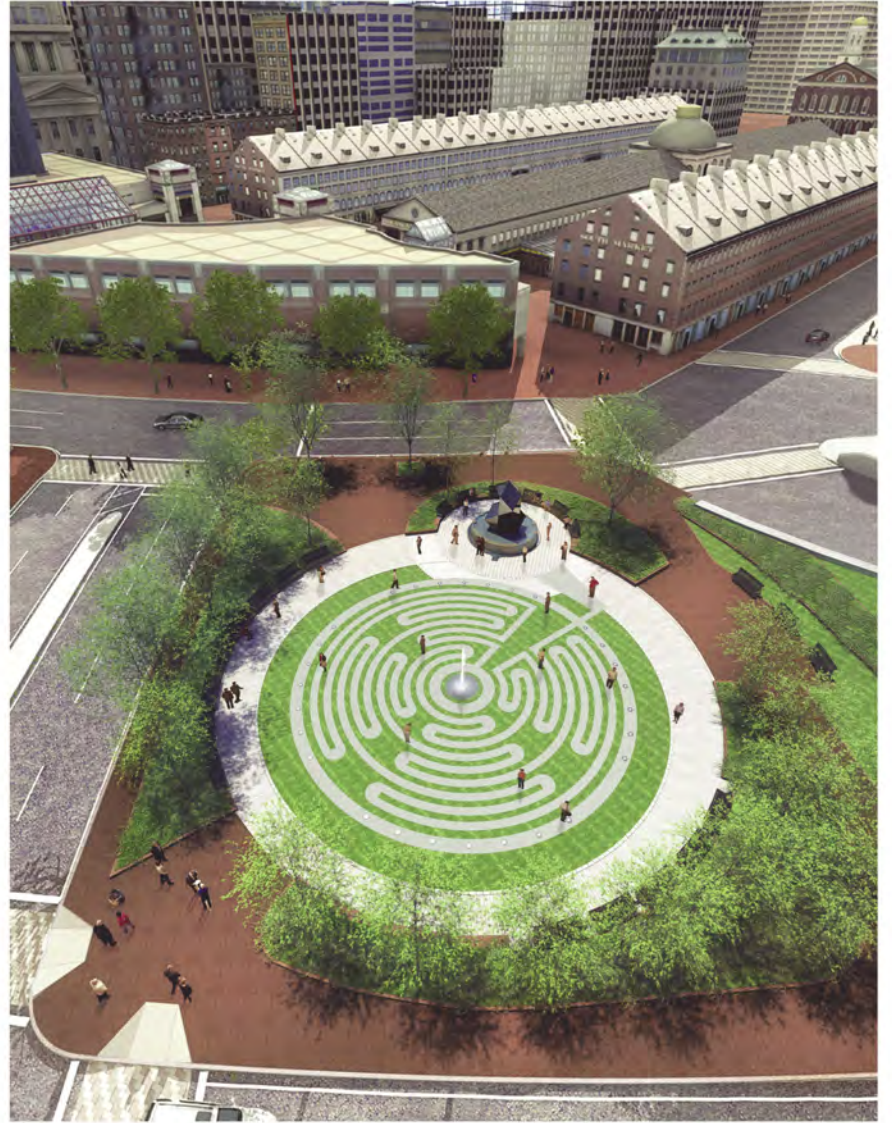
From left: Very Rev. Baret Yeretzyan, Edmond Y. Azadian, Principal Vartkes Kourouyan and a teacher at the classroom



From left, George Mandossian, Edmond Y. Azadian, Very Rev. Baret Yeretzyan and Vatche Semerdjian

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New York METRO

Holy Trinity Armenian Church, Cambridge, Honors Nevart Talanian as 'Parishioner of the Year' at Anniversary Banquet

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — On Sunday, October 24, the Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston celebrated the 49th anniversary of the consecration of their church on historic Brattle Street. Fr. Vasken A. Kouzouian offered prayers during church services for the departed souls of Holy Trinity parishioners, pastors, members of the Building Committee, Women's Guild members and those who have worked for the church.

Following church services, parishioners, friends and family gathered in the Charles and Nevart Talanian Cultural Hall to honor their Parishioner of the Year, Nevart Talanian,

Armenian Church of America (Eastern), and Fr. Mampre A. Kouzouian, former pastor of the church. James M. Kalustian, on behalf of the Armenian Heritage Foundation and state Rep. Peter J. Koutoujian, read a proclamation of congratulations from the Massachusetts House of Representatives and expressed the foundation's gratitude for Talanian and the Talanian family for their generosity and confidence in being the first to step forward in support of the Armenian Heritage Park project, paving the way for others to follow.

In his tribute, Bruce Newell, Parish Council chairman, warmly spoke of this year's Parishioner of the Year, chronicling her love, support and commitment to Holy Trinity Church over the years. Newell and Kouzouian, on behalf of the parish, presented Talanian with an inscribed crystal mantel piece.

On behalf of his grandmother, Chris Talanian stated: "Obviously, this means a great deal to her, and she is greatly honored with this prestige. If you know my grandmother, then you know how much the church means to her and how well-deserving

she is of this award. If you knew nothing about Nevart Talanian, all you would have to do is ask her friends and that would be enough. The people with whom she comes in contact aren't just being polite when they have the nicest things to say about her. They say the things they do because it's the truth."

In his remarks, Kouzouian stated: "Having been raised in the family of dedicated parishioners, Nevart has known what it means to

work for one's church, support one's church, and maintain one's church since she was a child sitting at the knee of her parents learning this important lesson. As the child of Holy Trinity's Godfather, she must have heard the plans being formed, the dedication needed, and the hopes of her parent's generation as they began building this church brick by brick, and placing their hopes and dreams upon the Rock of their Christian faith. Nevart took the devotion of her parents to their church and instilled it into the home she and her husband Charles built together and where they raised their family. Nevart, you are most inspiring. With all your elegance and charm, you do whatever is needed of you within your church. You build our Trust Fund and ask 'What more can I do?' You donate to the needs of our church and ask 'What more can I do?' You donate to our Sunday School needs, our altar needs, our kitchen needs and repeatedly ask, 'What more can I do?' You help make our manti, our pastries, our delicacies and you ask 'What more can you do?' Well, you've done it all, and I thank you. On behalf of all the pastors who have served this church during the time of your father and mother, and during Charles' time and your time — for all the support the Simonian and Talanian Families have offered Holy Trinity be it on Shawmut Avenue or here on Brattle Street — we thank you. You are one of the greatest 'Marble Pillars' this parish has ever had the honor of calling a 'Parishioner.' And I look forward to journeying with the family you raised as they pick up the mantel of their mother and father and grandfather."

Also, during the banquet, Newell recognized two outgoing Parish Council members, Lisa Stephanian Burton and Richard Kratljan. Burton served on the Parish Council for two years and Kratljan for four.

On behalf of the parish and in recognition of their devoted service, Kouzouian and Newell presented each with an inscribed crystal faceted paperweight. In recognition of it also being Stewardship Sunday, Mark Haroutunian, Parish Council treasurer, spoke of the status of the 2011 Stewardship Program.



From left, Rev. Vasken Kouzouian, Nevart Talanian and Bruce Newell

a lifelong member and true steward of the church who, after giving, always asks "What more can I do?" Richard Sahagian, vice-chairman of the Parish Council, who served as master of ceremonies, introduced Gail O'Reilly who offered the toast in honor of her mother.

Letters of tribute in honor of Nevart Talanian were read from Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Diocese of the

Armenian Sisters' Academy Open House

RADNOR, Penn. — Why send your child to the Armenian Sisters Academy when there are great public schools in the area?

Simply put, in addition to a strong academic program, students learn essential values. At the academy, respect is fostered towards other students, teachers and the school itself. Children are taught life lessons in kindness and helping others. Small class sizes ensure they receive individualized attention — there is no getting lost in the shuffle at the academy. Young children are mentored and as they mature, they guide other youngsters. Students learn and grow spiritually and culturally in a comfortable environment where they are part of a big, extended family. And in the process, they become fluent in a second language and have a solid sense of identity and belonging in their community.

The open house will be held Tuesday, November 16, from 9:30-11 a.m. There are a few openings left for pre-school children in the Montessori program. To make a reservation for the open house, contact Susan Pogharian at admissions@asaphila.org. For more information about the academy, see www.asaphila.org.

Ambassador Evans To Be Honored by APSLA

EVANS, from page 5

The repercussions were immediate and explosive. The American Foreign Service Association cancelled the "Constructive Dissent" award it was to give to Evans in a June 17, 2005 ceremony at the US State Department.

The normal diplomatic term for US ambassadors in foreign countries is three years, but in mid 2006, Evans was recalled by the State Department. At a farewell dinner in his honor, Kocharian honored him with the prestigious Mkhitar Gosh Medal.

Currently, Evans is writing a book about the Armenian Genocide which he put on hold in 2009 "to await the outcome of the Turkish-Armenian Protocols. It is essentially completed."

In the meantime, he continued, "I have given substantial testimony to the Oral History Project of the Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training, and recently signed off on the edited transcript which will eventually end up in the Library of Congress."

Why is the Genocide issue much bigger for the Diaspora than for Armenia or Nagorno-Karabagh, I asked. "As US Ambassador in Yerevan, I was never asked about the Genocide by the local press," he answered. "This does not mean, however, that Armenians in the Republic of Armenia do not care about their history. They do. It is simply that they have many other current concerns, about jobs, education, their future. The issue of the Genocide, as we learned when we did some careful polling, does figure among the concerns of Armenians in Armenia."

The Armenian Professional Society (APS) was formed in 1958 for the advancement of education and fellowship among Armenians. Since its creation, the APS has supported more than 300 students of Armenian descent in the United States by giving scholarships to graduate students in different fields. The APS has also supported education in Armenia by giving grants to five Armenian institutes of higher learning, including the State Engineering University, Yerevan State University, the American University of Armenia, Artsakh State University and the School of Architecture and Construction at Yerevan State University.

For more information, visit www.apsla.org; the e-mail: apsla@apsla.org.

St. Stephen's Armenian Elementary School Marks Quarter Century

ANNIVERSARY, from page 5

University, she taught language and literature at Cardinal Cushing College, where she served as chair of the Foreign Language Department.

After her marriage to Dr. Paul Barsam and when the last of her three children had entered first grade, she returned to Tufts University to complete her PhD degree in French literature. She has subsequently been on the faculty at Tufts and Northeastern University.

She has been active in numerous community organizations from being a founding member of the board of the Zoryan Institute, vice chair of the National Center for Genocide Studies, board member of the Friends of Armenian Culture Society and a consultant to the Town of Belmont foreign language curriculum committee.

Elected to a 10-year term as Trustee of Tufts University from 1994-2004, she served as chair of its Academic Affairs Committee and has been appointed Life Trustee Emerita. She has also served for 20 years on the Tufts Board of Overseers for Arts and Sciences and is currently an active member of the Board of Overseers of the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University.

Since 1997 she has been vice president and trustee of the Tavitian Foundation, Inc., whose primary mission is to provide academic scholarships to students of Armenian descent. From 1999 to the present, Dr. Barsam has brought together the resources of the Tavitian Foundation and the Fletcher School by creating advanced certificate graduate training programs for young professionals from Armenia's government ministries and agencies.

St. Stephen's Students Recall their Time at the School

Of course, there are many intervening years between when a student graduates from SSAES at fifth grade and when they reach college, but several alumni attributed their successes to learning skills and discipline first exercised at SSAES.

Vazrik Chiloyan, a 2000 graduate of SSAES, is currently a senior at MIT, double-majoring in mechanical engineering and physics. He said, "For me, St. Stephen's Armenian Elementary School gave me the academic discipline I needed to excel in school after elementary school. I remember even in middle school I took my work very seriously, always trying to put forth my best effort and taking the extra time to check over my work rather than just completing it and turning it in. I am really grateful to have gone to the school so that I could keep my Armenian language strong."

Another graduate, Armine Nalbandian, a 1996 graduate of the school and a Fulbright Scholar, concurred: "I think St. Stephen's actually made a huge difference in my approach to learning. Though I can't say I was the best student while I was there, I have such incredibly fond memories of not only my classmates (many of whom I still keep in touch with), but also the teachers. The attentive instruction, small class-sizes and incredible community feel just cannot compare to the experience most students at that age have. I clearly remember my third grade teacher describing my unique learning style to my inquiring mother, a very important observation that is true to the way I learn to this day. I would definitely say that knowing how to learn a second language was important and the knowledge I gained of Armenian at St. Stephen's has stuck with me to this day. St.

Stephen's isn't just a school, it truly is a fantastic community and I hope that my kids can be part of it as well in the future."

Her sister, Ani, concurs. "In a short period of time, SSAES helped teach me the focus and motivation I needed to succeed within the public school system. Having moved from Yerevan only one year prior to my entry into SSAES, I was quickly surrounded by the appropriate nurturing environment and educational atmosphere, which helped foster a strong foundation and build the skill set I needed to thrive. I am grateful for the lessons learned and the community created at SSAES by both my teachers and my peers."

To secure a brighter future for the school, the board and the administration have organized the gala.

Boyamian said the school keeps up with the latest educational approaches. She also praised the school's parents, who "through their love and care" help the school with regular fundraising.

Rouzan Abrahamian, co-chair of the gala committee, said, "This gala will celebrate the school's past, but will aim to make its future even more brilliant. Truly, we want to live up to our slogan for this event, 'opening doors to a bright future.'"

Added Boyamian, "I have seen the journey of this school and I am very, very happy with its progress. It is a vital and critical institution. The support of the larger community will ensure another 25 successful years."

For tickets to the gala, call the school or write to gala@ssaes.org. To learn more about the school or the schedule to a tour of the school, visit www.ssaes.org.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Report from Turkey: Hrant Dink's Spirit Lives

TURKEY, from page 1

My first impression of Istanbul, driving in from the airport, was of a massive blanket of low rise buildings stretching as far as the eye could see on both sides of the Bosphorus. Today, Istanbul is home to more than 15 million people and the city is continuing to grow. I wondered if I would be able to make any sense of this vast metropolis in a few days. The little Hotel Almina on the European side of the Bosphorus turned out to be very much on a human scale, situated in a cul de sac – the narrow streets leading to it were far too small and narrow for any tour buses to penetrate, and I would discover that was a blessing.

My first appointment was with the editors of *Agos*, Hrant Dink's paper, located on the Asian side. It was at least seven to eight kilometers from my hotel and I did not dare try to use the public transportation system for fear I would get lost or not get to my appointment on time. I had taken the precaution of typing out on sin-



Mayda Saris

gle sheets of paper the addresses of every place I wanted to go, and this turned out to have been a prudent maneuver.

I called a cab and handed the driver the address. To reach one's destination it is important to know the district of the city as well as the street name and *Agos* is located on a main thoroughfare in the Sisli district.

Taxi drivers in Istanbul are a hardy and resourceful lot. They cope every day with what is, essentially, a permanent traffic jam. Sunday is the only day that the streets are even moderately clear. I was told the situation was far worse 10 years ago before the metro system had been built. In any case, we proceeded with stops and starts across the Bosphorus on the Galata Bridge, where many men and a very few women were casting their fishing lines into the water. I wondered if the fish were clean enough to eat as it seemed to me the Bosphorus was a very busy place with oil tankers, other sorts of cargo ships, public ferries, tour boats and private fishing boats plying the waters vigorously and, no doubt, discharging all manner of waste.

When we got to the other side, my driver, who spoke only a few words of English, did not seem to know exactly where to go. "*Gerek sor-mak*" (it is necessary to ask) said I, in my extremely rudimentary Turkish. He leapt out of the cab and began running up and down the sidewalk asking shopkeepers if they knew the address of *Agos*. As he did this, I thought about how horrific it was that Dink was murdered in broad daylight on this very busy street. I tried to imagine the scene, the shot, the young assassin, the fallen body, the bystanders, the blood on the pavement.

He returned to the cab and signaled me to get out. In fact, we had stopped exactly in front of the right building. It had a sign on the old double wooden doors, *Sebat*, which, aptly, means perseverance in Turkish. The driver accompanied me in the minute elevator, which barely held the two of us, and we ascended to the *Agos* offices. Only a small hand-lettered sign

written on the door jamb announced the presence of the newspaper.

A male receptionist, seated at a desk at the end of a narrow hall lined with small offices, greeted me suspiciously and was not about to let me in until I blurted out the name of the woman I had come to see, Mayda Saris, the paper's art director. I produced my typed sheet of paper with her name on it. And then she, herself, appeared and assured the receptionist that, indeed, she was expecting me.

Although I had not met her previously, she had come to the United States a few years ago and visited the *Mirror-Spectator's* offices in Watertown. We spoke in French, hers being fluent due to some years of study in Paris and mine only adequate. I asked her what it was like to continue with the paper now that Dink was gone.

"It is a completely different situation, psychologically," she said, "*mais il faut que continuer* [but it is necessary to continue]. Certainly, we have the sense that we are in danger."

Saris, a lively and attractive woman, with a shock of thick, blond hair, lives with her husband within walking distance of the office and said that, of course, the employees lived with a greater sense of risk, but that their sense of commitment to the paper and its mission was undiminished.

Agos employs 25 people and comes out once a week at 24 pages, 20 in Turkish, and four in Armenian.

Shortly, I began a conversation with Aris Naidjhi, who calls himself the business manager (redacteur) of *Agos*, but is quick to add that people on the staff wear many different hats. He speaks English well and we were able to converse freely. He had been to Akhtamar to report on the religious ceremony. He said he had been making regular trips to Van for the past 10 years to visit the local people and to see how things were there.

"It was an enormously emotional moment for the people who had come to celebrate the mass. You could feel it, you could sense it," he said.

"Everyone wants to come to Istanbul these days," he said, "and they practice living city life in Van. Then, they come to Istanbul."

He continued, "One of the issues the Armenian community here has to face is the Armenians who once converted to Islam. Some want to convert back, and the question is how can they be integrated with the Armenian community who remained Christian."

Naidjhi lamented the lack of Armenian books in the schools. "The Minister of Education doesn't seem to know that there are no Armenian or Greek books in the schools. The last Armenian book was published in 1884."

Naidjhi's relationship with *Agos* dates back a long way. Now, in his early 30s, He first began working for the paper when he was 17. He has involved himself in efforts to take Turkish journalists to Armenia. He is also somewhat disparaging of what the Armenian-American Diaspora has been able to accomplish in Armenia.

"Look," he said, "the big player in Armenia is Russia. It Russia doesn't want something to happen, it doesn't happen. Gazprom owns many of the energy facilities in Armenia; Russia imports more from Armenia and sells more to Armenia than the US does."

He concluded, "So, Hrant is gone. The paper is different, it is not the same paper. Hrant opened the door. It's not easy to carry on, many people expect everything to be the same. I brought 14 people to Turkey last year from the US and Iran. Many of them were afraid to come. What I want people to see is that it isn't about

ethnicity, it's about humanity. How can you say it isn't possible for an Armenian to marry a Turk when there are only 50,000 Armenians in Istanbul?"

My second appointment, the next day, was

through reading the work of people like Taner Akcam and Orhan Pamuk. Pamuk was one of the first well-known novelists to touch one of the taboos in Turkey. And Taner Akcam was the first intellectual who wrote openly about the



"Turkey's streets are cleaner than ours. There is virtually no trash or garbage visible. There is no graffiti on city walls or buildings"

with Hassan Çemal, the grandson of Talaat Pasha. I had met him briefly at Harvard University, where he gave a talk last fall to a packed audience of Armenians and Turks in which he explained how he had come to his position of acknowledging the Genocide.

Çemal is a senior columnist for *Milliyet*, one of Turkey's major newspapers. *Milliyet* is owned by the Dogan Media Group, a large conglomerate, which owns several newspapers as well as television stations.

Again, to arrive at *Milliyet*, I called a cab and we drove for what seemed miles on a major highway out of the center of Istanbul. After passing through security, I was ushered to Çemal's office by his longtime assistant, Birkan Erk. As behooves a senior columnist, Çemal occupies a large corner office with a view, off the main newsroom, which is as modern as any boasted by the *New York Times*, *Boston Globe* or *Washington Post*. The room is lined with the book jackets of his many published works, the

Genocide. Pamuk still spends time in Turkey, but he is careful and does not make public appearances."

He continued, "After the assassination of my dear friend, Hrant Dink, I traveled to Yerevan. It was his suffering that took me there. I visited the Genocide Memorial in Yerevan." Çemal serves as a member of the jury for the Friends of Hrant Dink Foundation, which awards grants to journalists, filmmakers and others, who promote Dink's spirit.

Speaking about the role of the press in Turkey, Çemal smiles ruefully and says, "It all depends on what point of view you come from. *Taraf*, for example often criticizes the government and they write about the supposed military plots by the Ergenekon to overthrow the government. *Taraf* makes a great contribution to the rule of law in this country. No other paper has taken on this role."

As to the question of whether Erdogan's Islamic AKP party is taking Turkey closer to being a religious Muslim state, Çemal snorts derisively, "The rumors of the Islamization of the government is all just total bull. You can criticize the government justifiably for many reasons, but claiming that Turkey could become another Islamic dictatorship is simply preposterous. Turkey is firmly on the path to democracy and trying to deal with two main problems. One is the military. The military should stay out of politics."

Çemal continued, "The other major problem is the Kurds. There have been about 40,000 people killed in the clashes between Turks and Kurds. It is important that the Kurds be granted their cultural identity, their cultural rights, their education in Kurdish. The recent

passage of the 26 articles to reform the constitution are an important step in the right direction."

Çemal is wily when it comes to categorizing any segment of Turkish politics. "What is a liberal? What is a leftist? Well, in the US, in Texas, if you're a liberal, you can be called a Communist. In New York, you would be called something else entirely. Again, it all depends upon where you are coming from."

My third and final interview was with Prof. Betel Tonbay, to whom I had been referred by

continued on next page



Prof. Betel Tonbay

most recent being a study of the Turkish military. His column appears in *Milliyet* six times a week. He began his career as a journalist in Ankara in 1969 after graduating with a degree in political science and studying for a year and a half in Germany.

Like Orhan Pamuk, he has written about and acknowledged the Genocide, but unlike him, he continues to live full time in Turkey.

"For a while, I wore a bulletproof vest and the state assigned me a body guard," he said. "But I got tired of all that and just stopped doing it. I came to the acknowledgment of the Genocide



COMMUNITY NEWS

from previous page

Taner Akçam. We met at the very modern coffee shop at the Sabancı Museum. Tonbay holds a PhD in mathematics from the University of California, Berkeley, and teaches at a local university. A lively and attractive woman, she is also a member of the board of the Friends of Hrant Dink Foundation, which has offices in the same building as Agos. She spoke movingly about how she had come to recognize the Armenian Genocide. She had studied in Paris for a time and came across the work of Akçam when she was about 17. She had never heard of the Genocide, she said but once she read Akçam's work, she did more research and became convinced of its historical and factual truth.

She spoke of the work of the Dink Foundation and said that its main purpose was to award grants to journalists, artists and others, who embodied the spirit of Dink. She mentioned a recent award to a woman Palestinian filmmaker.

It is my impression that Turkey is striving energetically to present an image of a forward-moving, modern, democratic country. Twenty million people will have visited Turkey by the end of this calendar year, and the government would like to push that to 30 million. That, in a country of only 72 million may be a strategy of diminishing returns. The majority of tourists are from Russia and Germany, and, at present, the United States only accounts for about 600,000.

However, with all major sites truly mobbed by tourists, the word may get around that visiting Turkey is too much of a crowd experience, at least in the peak tourist months of September and October. The cruiseships, are to a large extent, to blame for the influx as they bring two to three thousand people in at a crack. I heard that Istanbul was planning to build a special docking area for the cruise ships so that they would not interrupt the other types of ship traffic. Many of these visitors are herded on to tour buses and at the most important monuments and museums; it is impossible to avoid them. When you visit the Blue Mosque, Hagia Sophia, Topkapi Palace, Ephesus, etc. there are tours behind you and tours ahead of you.

Turkey has worked hard at updating and renovating many hotels, restaurants and places of interest. Turkish toilets, which were once an object of derision in the late 1950s and early 1960s when I first started traveling, are a thing of the past, at least in the better hotels and at the gas station rest stops along major routes. In fact, Turkey's streets are cleaner than ours. There is virtually no trash or garbage visible. There is no graffiti on city walls or buildings, and drivers, by and large, obey the speed limit.

As for the appearance of women and their state of dress, the manifestations ran the gamut. In the university district along the shore of the Bosphorus north of the city center, I saw young women in skintight jeans, wearing scanty tops and holding hands with their boyfriends and many couples walking along the street with their arms around each other. This is prohibited by Islamic law. I also saw many women in the business districts wearing nothing but modern dress.

ing but modern dress.

In the residential sections of the city, in the neighborhood of my small hotel, for example, most women, although not all, wore the scarf and also (to me) a peculiar, raincoat-like garment buttoned down the front.

The Hotel Almina was located close to three mosques and they sent out the call to prayer five times a day starting at about 5:45 a.m. I have to say I never saw a single person going into a mosque, people didn't even turn their heads at the call to prayer.

Mosques are ubiquitous in Turkey. Every town of any size has one, and while some are built by private community groups, most are



"The little Hotel Almina on the European side of the Bosphorus turned out to be very much on a human scale, situated in a cul de sac — the narrow streets leading to it were far too small and narrow for any tour buses to penetrate, and I would discover that was a blessing."

built by the government and all mosques are the property of the government.

Our guide was an interesting example of the multi-ethnic aspect of Turkey. Although he repeatedly stated his loyalty to the Turkish gov-

ernment and made a point, several times, of saying that he was a Turkish citizen and spoke Turkish, it became apparent, that he was, in fact, a Syrian Arab. His family lived in Antioch, a town on the Syrian-Turkish border and at home they spoke Arabic. He referred in somewhat vague terms to the hope that his identity and ethnic group would be fully accepted in Turkey. Because he did not explain what he meant by this, I could only guess that there were some ways in which he did not feel fully accepted. He had attended the university in the modern city of Izmir and stated that he had been occasionally harassed by his fellow students, but he painted himself as something of a rebel and admitted that while he was at university, he did not fast at Ramadan.

Concerning negativity and hostility towards Armenians, I did not encounter it except for on one occasion. While I was on my own in Istanbul, I took one of the commercial tours around the city. As we drove along the Bosphorus, the somewhat elderly guide, who spoke both bad English and German, pointed out sections of the city, which were previously identified with various religious and ethnic groups. He recited the locations of the Greeks, the orthodox Muslims and the Jews. I piped up, "What about the Armenians?" and his response was an angry, dismissive gesture. "They live on the other side," he said, pointing towards the Asian side.

Both Çemal and the tour guide stated that Kurds are rapidly becoming a larger percentage of the population in all sectors of the country.

"They have many more children than the Turks do," said our tour guide. "Our fear is that they will gradually out-populate us."

Our tour guide referred repeatedly to Armenians in his accounts of the history of various sites. He spoke of the Armenian architect, Balian, who had designed buildings for the sultans. He never, in his talks on the public address system in our bus, referred to the Genocide, but privately, he told me that he believed the Genocide had taken place and that as far as he was concerned, it should be acknowledged.

A glimpse of real Turkey for me was the day we visited a site known for its association with the Greek physician, Aesclepius. I chose not to visit the entire site, which was very large, and waited for the rest of the tour near a small stand that sold honey and nuts. Turkey is a very hot and dry country and this year, it has been especially dry. The entire sunflower harvest was lost and I saw cattle and sheep nibbling on brown stubble. However, the one crop that seems to survive the most difficult climatic conditions is the olives. Olive trees grow everywhere, in fields, on mountain slopes and the time of the olive harvest was at hand.

I noticed a rather stout, elderly man leading a very small donkey by a rope. The donkey was already laden down with saddlebags of olives.

The man and donkey stopped almost in front of me and the man prepared to heave himself on top of his minute beast of burden. Oh no, I thought, this isn't going to work. The donkey is going to collapse. Not at all. Once the man had hoisted himself aboard, the little donkey picked up his head and trotted off at a brisk pace, as though there were nothing more in the world he would like to do.

Another glimpse of the real Turkey for me was in Antalya, an attractive and modern town on the coast, several hundred kilometers from Istanbul. I was outside our very fancy hotel which was in a posh neighborhood on the sea's edge, waiting for the tour to get started. I saw two women emerge from one of the expensive apartment houses across the street. Each had a young child firmly by the hand and were headed for a private van that was parked by the sidewalk. Obviously, the kids were being sent off to school. One of the children, a boy of perhaps 5, was having none of it. He kicked, he screamed. His mother dropped his backpack on the sidewalk and he fell down clutching it, kicking his legs and continuing to yell at the top of his lungs. His mother grabbed him firmly by the arm and pushed him towards and into the van. The van closed its doors and the two women walked back to their apartment house, no doubt looking forward to a quiet second cup of coffee.



Aris Naidjhi

For me, the real Turkey was captured in the days I spent at the small Hotel Almina in the Sultanahmet, when, at the end of the day, after I had done my interviews, struggled with the horrible traffic and managed to achieve my goals armed with my very small amount of Turkish, I would order a beer and sit in the roof garden. The sea gulls swarmed around my head. The ships in the distance on the Sea of Marmara moved their heavy cargoes, the cry of the muezzin from a nearby mosque sounded in the evening air and the little tram that passed the back of the hotel would rattle by. Yes, at that moment, I felt I experienced for a short time the magic of Orhan Pamuk's Istanbul. For that short time, Istanbul was at peace with itself and with me.

(Daphne Abeel, former assistant editor at the *Mirror-Spectator*, traveled to Turkey earlier this fall.)

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Garabed and Armine Zambak Scholarship to Help Armenia's Next Generation of Leaders

NEW YORK – The Fund for Armenian Relief (FAR) announced recently that it has selected the very first Garabed and Armine Zambak Scholars. Tamara Ghalayan and Armenak Minasyants will receive full tuition coverage for their graduate studies in international relations at Yerevan State University.

Established in May, the Garabed and Armine Zambak Scholarship Fund is the most recent addition to FAR's educational programs. Armine Zambak created this fund in honor of her late husband Garabed Zambak (1915-1977), a successful entrepreneur and business leader in Istanbul who lost his father during the Genocide.

Each fall, the program will provide full tuition coverage to outstanding graduate students at Armenian universities who have demonstrated a commitment to political science, international relations or public administration. Ten graduate students initially applied to the program this year.

This scholarship is an amazing opportunity, as tuition fees at Armenian universities are extremely high and often prevent many young people from earning their degrees. Both of this year's recipients live in households where one parent is unemployed and their families struggle to make ends meet.

Ghalayan was born in Charentsavan in 1989. Throughout school she has participated and won many academic Olympiad challenges. While interested in a variety of subjects, she decided that studying international affairs would provide her with

the well-rounded education she is seeking.

In 2008, during her third year of university, Ghalayan won an Arabic language competition and participated in a 15-day language program in Egypt. With an aptitude for languages, she speaks Armenian, Russian, English, French and Arabic. She recently defended her undergraduate thesis "Armenian-Russian Relations in the Recent Years."

Minasyants was born in 1989 in Yerevan. He graduated secondary school with honors and was admitted to the Department of International Affairs at Yerevan State University. During his undergraduate years, Minasyants often participated in various events organized by NGOs and international organizations, and received numerous awards and acknowledgement certificates. In 2009, he worked in the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Armenia as an English translator.

She strongly believes that diplomacy is the best expression of strong state policy regarding current international developments. Excited to receive this scholarship, Minasyants will contribute his knowledge and skills to the strengthening of Armenian laws for the best interests of the nation.

Support for higher education is a major component of FAR's work. Through its more than 10 diverse scholarship programs, FAR provides a vital opportunity to Armenian youth who wish to continue their education at both state and private universities, or trade schools.



Tamara Ghalayan and Armenak Minasyants

Knights and Daughters of Vartan, New York Chapters Honor Writer, Director Alex Webb

NEW YORK – On October 15, Knights and Daughters of Vartan Brooklyn, NY Chapter invited Alex Webb, writer and director of the short film "HOVE" to present the film to a room full of very interested Knights and Daughters, at the Eastern Diocese of the

Armenian Church Complex.

The turnout included guest Grand Secretary of Knights of Vartan PC Leo Manuelian, Mid-Atlantic Grand District Representative PC Edward Sanossian, Daughters of Vartan New Jersey Chapter Matron Annette Fehmian and

other guest knights and daughters.

The short film, "Hove, the Wind" is perfectly presented and studies the effects of the Armenian Genocide on two modern day women at a personal level. The two women characters are played by Shirleyann Kaladjian, the director's wife and Academy-Award-winning actress Olympia Dukakis.

In only 10 minutes, the director was able to give a concise look at the characters, their emotional turmoil, through the two extremely talented actresses. Every second and every small

movement can be interpreted to the hidden emotional and psychological feelings most Armenians can relate to.

Every detail is thought over and superbly executed to raise the Genocide question in the minds of the audience. "Hove, the Wind" has been screened in several film festivals including Montreal World Film Festival, Shortfest Week in Palm Springs Film Festival and Pomegranate Film Festivals. There is a possibility of it being nominated for an Academy Award as well.



Alex Webb and Shirleyann Kaladjian



From left, Mid-Atlantic GDR NS Edward Sanossian, Avak Tbrabed NS Leo Manuelian, Alex Webb, Shirleyann Kaladjian, Anahit Otyag Dirouhie Ani Minnetyan, Sahaganoush Otyag Dirouhie Annette Fehmian and Mamigonian SB Arman Izmirliyan

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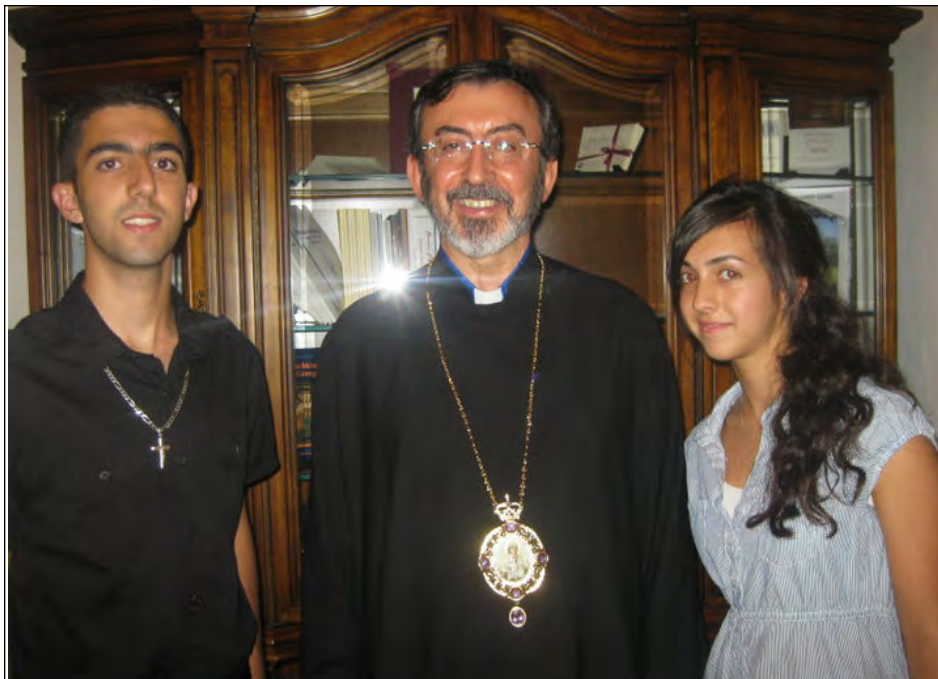
A Singular Experience for Two Students from Jerusalem

By Florence Avakian

NEW YORK — “We need a sizeable Armenian population in Jerusalem,” said Vasken Panossian, and Karin Hagopian, both born in the Holy City. These two 17-year-old senior high school students from the Sts. Tarkmanchatz School who have strongly expressed the desire to continue to study and live in Jerusalem, came to the United States, and partook in the Summer Conference program at St. Nersess Armenian Seminary for 10 days in July.

This innovative project of bringing students from Jerusalem to New York to participate in the St. Nersess program was conceived and planned by the Rev. Mardiros Chevian, dean of St. Vartan Armenian Cathedral, five years ago. “It allows two students each year who are doing well academically in their studies to experience something exceptional and exciting. It also raises the prestige of the Sts. Tarkmanchatz School and inspires the next class of students to achieve this goal.”

Chevian, who secures funding for this project from anonymous benefactors, emphasized that the St. Nersess summer conferences where he was the director from the late 1970’s to the early 1990’s, is the ideal place



Vasken Panossian and Karin Hagopian met with Archbishop Khajag Barsamian

where these students can gain more knowledge about their faith, and meet other young people and form lasting friendships.

“These students upon their return to their school, relay their excitement about the pro-

gram to their friends and other students,” he pointed out. “The experience is equally enlightening for the Armenian-American youth that they meet. As the number of youth coming from Armenian Jerusalem grows, there will be a core group in Jerusalem of young people who have shared the same experience. There is great excitement among other students to participate in this program.”

For Panossian and Hagopian, the experience was “awesome, inspiring and exciting. St. Nersess was like a family environment, emphasizing teamwork and cooperation. We got closer to God, learned more about the culture in America, and made new friends who are like family,” they stated.

Mariam Sarkessian, one of the young American-Armenian participants in the St. Nersess Summer Conferences, “loved being with the Jerusalem youth. Their presence at the session gave a true feeling of international unity for the Armenian community. I could see few differences that separated them from the American-Armenian youth who also attended the session. These Jerusalem teenagers undoubtedly made an amazingly wonderful impact on everyone’s experience at the session.”

Sarkessian said that she is now encouraged

to visit Jerusalem and the Armenian Patriarchate, and support the survival of the community.

The St. Nersess experience for Panossian, whose paternal ancestors hail from Ourfa and Van, and whose mother is Christian Arab, made him feel “closer to his Armenian side.” Hagopian’s family is originally from Marsh. Both students hope to attend Hebrew University next year. His goal is to become a CPA, and Hagopian’s to pursue a career in medicine.

Both had praise for the high level of academics at the Sts. Tarkmanchatz School, whose principal is the Very Rev. Norayr Kazazian. Under his leadership, many improvements have occurred and are still continuing in the curriculum and the facilities, including new labs for chemistry, biology, computer science and the renovation of the entire building.

“It’s the only Armenian school in Jerusalem, and it’s one of only three schools in the whole country where the British International Exam is given,” Panossian related. “We learn four languages, with many courses in English, and get individual attention. It’s almost like tutoring,” he said.

“It’s our second home,” added Karin.

When the two came to the Diocese headquarters in New York, they were welcomed by the Primate, Archbishop Khajag Barsamian. They also had the opportunity to visit the Armenian Home in Flushing, NY. “I expected to see old people with illnesses,” remarked Panossian. “When I heard their stories and saw their wisdom, I was moved. I felt the love, caring and compassion. It changed me 180 degrees.”

Exchange and Fellowship

The Very Rev. Daniel Findikyan, dean of the St. Nersess Armenian Seminary noted, “for the past several years, we have enjoyed the presence and participation each summer of two young people from the Armenian community of Jerusalem at our summer study conferences. What a joy it is to see them forge friendships with the American-Armenian kids at St. Nersess. As dean of the seminary, I am very proud that through the efforts of Fr. Mardiros Chevian who coordinates the program and secures the funding to support it, St. Nersess can be a place for this sort of exchange and fellowship within the embrace of the Armenian Church.”

And Rev. Hovnan Demerjian who served the direction of the session that the two students attended, noted that “Vasken and Karin were outstanding representatives of Sts. Tarkmanchatz School’s best and brightest. They brought so much to the session B, and took a piece of St. Nersess back home.”

The concept of this program was inspired by Chevian’s trips to Jerusalem, where he met with Patriarch Torkom Manoogian and inquired as to how he could help the Sts. Tarkmanchatz School. Upon hearing Father Chevian’s proposal to bring students from the School to the St. Nersess summer conferences, the Patriarch offered his blessings and approval.

“It is an outstanding program because it establishes ties between the youth of the Diocese and the youth of Jerusalem to discuss with their peers their depth of faith, and their Armenian heritage. Based on the experience of the past five years, the results have been very positive,” Chevian commented. “What they take back will help them share and support each other as they grow in their professional and Christian backgrounds. It also “strengthens their commitment to the Armenian presence in Jerusalem and tightens ties between the young people here and there. It is a small contribution to the growth and progress of the leadership of the Sts. Tarkmanchatz School.”



The young students from Jerusalem with fellow attendees of St. Nersess Armenian Seminary summer program

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Arts & Living

Eva Medzorian: Humanitarian Activist / Singer

By Ruben Hayrapetyan

YERVAN (*Azg*) – The city of Berd was infused with new life thanks to the grand reopening celebration of the Arevaberd Cinema Theatre which was enriched with a solo performance by Eva Medzorian, the American-Armenian humanitarian activist and performing artist. The Berd community has known the husband and wife team, Jack and Eva Medzorian, for a number of years through their charity missions for education and health centers in this far away mountainous province (Tavush). However, this is the first time they welcomed Eva Medzorian on the stage.

On Sunday afternoon, September 12, all 400 seats of the Arevaberd Cinema were occupied by guests. Berd had been cut off from this type of cultural event for a very long time. The reopening of the Arevaberd Cinema Theatre was an unprecedented and historical happening and the people were overjoyed.

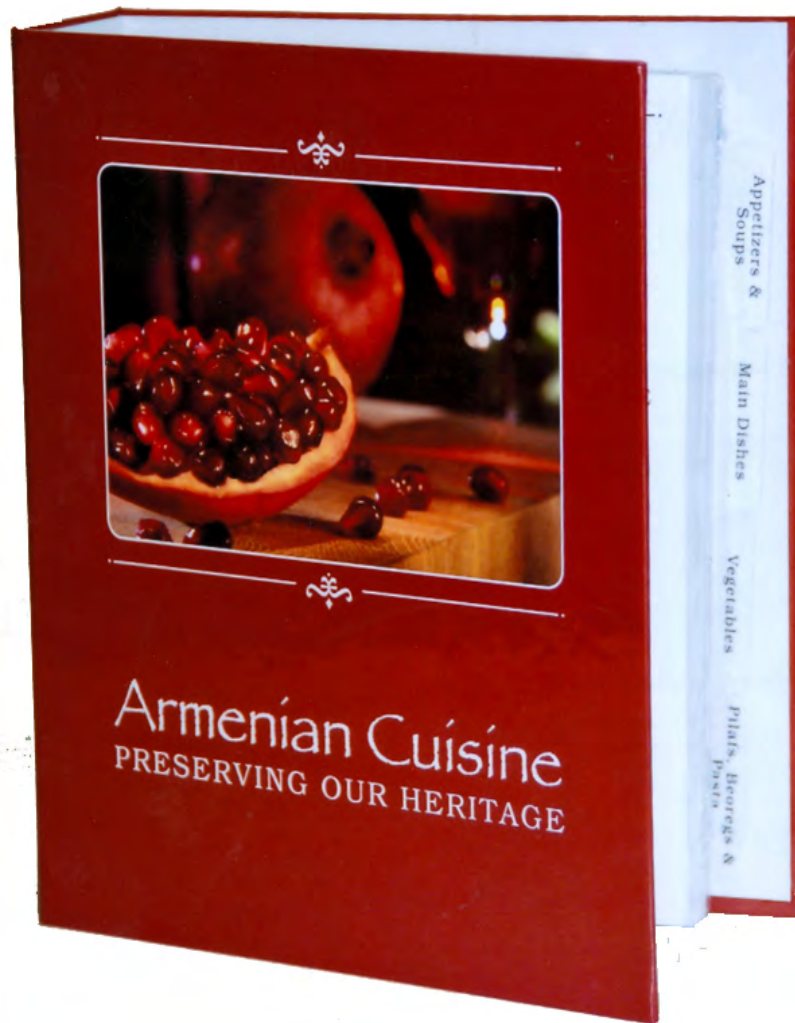


Eva Medzorian

And what was instilled in this singer who was born and grew up in America? During her many philanthropic trips to Armenia, she also researched and extended her knowledge of traditional Armenian music. She charmed the audience with her velvety coloratura voice, which was embellished with a Western-Armenian accent. In her own classic style she managed to stir the soul, inspiring her audience to join in with some of their favorite songs. The audience was thrilled with her selection and delivery, especially several favorite American blues songs which included George Gershwin's *Summer Time*. The range of Medzorian balances her philanthropic range.

The Medzorians are the parents of four children and have five grandchildren. Over the years, husband and wife have assisted and supported more than 150 schools in Armenia and Artsakh. Jack Medzorian is currently a board member of Cambridge Yerevan Sister City Association (CYSCA) and Eva Medzorian is the founder of the Armenian International Women's Association (AIWA). Even though she is approaching her seventh decade of life, she is still going strong.

On the opening afternoon the audience experienced a most lively and dynamic performance. "We are most thankful to Mrs. Eva, for this beautiful evening," stated Berd resident Laura Verdian. "Mr. Victor Hayrapetyan has provided us the gift of this grand cinema and now this singer with her performance has made this evening unforgettable. Her repertoire was the best. She chose songs which we hold dear to our hearts. The songs she chose were not an easy task to sing. Most impressive of all this was the beautiful voice that came from America on the lips of this Armenian woman who traveled such a long distance which touched us all. It was wonderful. We will miss her."



New Armenian Cookbook Armenian Cuisine – Preserving our Heritage

SOUTHFIELD, Mich. – Armenian women through the centuries have been responsible for preserving their ancient culture. An integral part of the Armenian identity is the cuisine. Many of the treasured recipes of Armenian cuisine are from the six provinces of historic Armenia and have been handed down through word of mouth only, from generation to generation. And so the Women's Guild of St. John Armenian Church of Southfield, Mich. Realizing that these recipes must be collected lest they be lost with the passage of time, the guild has picked up the gauntlet and spent two years collecting and researching 600 recipes to bring them into the 21st century.

The guild has taken these treasured and labor-intensive recipes and incorporated today's technology and techniques for each to make a user-friendly cookbook while keeping the covenant of their forefathers to perpetuate their ancient culture. In order that the cookbook be kept to the highest standards, each recipe that was submitted and accepted was tested. The recipe book, which has only been available since September, is already going into its second printing. Heading the project were co-chairs Pamela Dayinian and Dolly Matoian and Guild Chairperson Linda Tiffany.

The cookbook, *Armenian cuisine – Preserving Our Heritage*, includes more than 450 mainly Armenian recipes, from distinctive breads, pastries, appetizers, desserts, main dishes and vegetables, including whole grains common to the Armenian home. The book may be purchased directly from St. John online at stjohnarmenianchurch/publicationsandinfo/armeniancuisinerecipebook.html with an order form that can be downloaded. It will ship to any location.

Many of the treasured recipes of Armenian cuisine are from the six provinces of historic Armenia and have been handed down through word of mouth only, from generation to generation.

Therault Explores the Influence of Gorky's Armenian Roots

ANN ARBOR, Mich. – The Armenian Studies Program (ASP) hosted art historian, Associate Prof. Kim Therault of Dominican University. Therault's lecture, drawing from her 2009 book, *Rethinking Arshile Gorky*, connects Gorky's life as a displaced Armenian Genocide survivor in New York with his art. Not only was Gorky a Genocide survivor, but an American artist who was born in Turkey to Armenian parents, changing his name from Vostanik Manoog Adoian to the Russian Arshile Gorky; he embodied the displaced and marginalized.

Therault posited that Gorky used "abstraction to resolve personal drama" and reconcile the events he experienced and witnessed as well as his conflicting sources of identity. Gorky and his sister emigrated in 1920 after his mother died of starvation, to join his father who had left Armenia for the United States in 1910. As an artist Gorky strayed from the traditional path of the Armenian immigrant community, nor did he fit the image of mainstream America. Therault pointed to a work, which illustrated Gorky's awareness of this double bind. In the 1933 work, "Portrait of the Artist and his Imaginary Wife," Therault explains how the painting expresses the "irretrievable alternate past" which portrays the wife Gorky may have met in Armenia and suggests the life they might have had.

The lecture also included information regarding the methods employed while conducting research and followed the themes of displacement, trauma, identity and memory explored in the book. Therault further suggested that understanding Gorky's work depended on the recognition of the Armenian Genocide. A recording of this lecture is available on the Armenian Studies website at www.umich.edu/~iinet/asp/.

The University of Michigan's Armenian Studies Program promotes the study of Armenian history, culture and society. A member of the University of Michigan International Institute, the program organizes educational opportunities for students, faculty and the community. For more information, contact the Armenian Studies Program or visit www.umich.edu/~iinet/asp/.

Knights, Daughters Of Vartan, Sponsor San Diego Art Night

SAN DIEGO – Due to the success of this past January's show, The Knights and Daughters of Vartan, San Diego will again host Armenian Art Night on November 13, from 5-9 p.m., and November 14, from 12-4 p.m., at St. John Garabed Armenian Church, 4473 30th St.

The San Diego chapters of the Knights and Daughters of Vartan respectively are hosting this cultural event, which will feature an art sale of works by reputable Armenian artists: paintings, etchings, jewelry and sculpture.

Proceeds from Armenian Art Night sales will benefit the Armenian School Support Project (ASSP), a program of the Knights of Vartan and the World Bank, which provides a 95/5 match for funds raised to support schools in Armenia in dire need of repair. This means that for every \$50 donation to help rebuild schools in Armenia, the World Bank will match with \$950 to ASSP.

For more information, contact armenianartnight@gmail.com or visit www.armenianartnight.com. For more information on the Knights and Daughters of Vartan and the ASSP, visit www.kofv.org.



ARTS & LIVING

Kazanjians Present Journey to Historic Armenia 2010 at ALMA on November 11

WATERTOWN, Mass. – The Armenian Library and Museum of America (ALMA), in conjunction with the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR), will feature “A Journey to Historic Armenia 2010: There Really is Something There,” a multimedia presentation by Edward and Mary Ann Kazanjian, on Thursday, November 11 at 7:30 p.m.

The event will take place in ALMA’s Contemporary Art Gallery (third floor) and is free and open to the public. The presentation will feature photographs and first-hand accounts from their travels.

In May, Edward and Mary Ann Arakelian Kazanjian of Belmont returned for a second time to the interior of Turkey (Historic Armenia) with tour guide Armen Aroyan of California. A 2,000-mile journey was made through more than 50 cities and villages in Historic Armenia from the Black Sea to the

Mediterranean (Cilicia). The highlights of the journey were the climb to the Monastery of Abarank near Ucpinar where they found the two 16-foot high khatchkars and a visit to Hromgla, the fortress where Catholicos Nerses Shnorhali (Nerses the Graceful) wrote many of his liturgical pieces. The pilgrimage included Amasya, Marsovan, Samson, Ordu, Shabin Karahisar, Erzincan, Ucpinar, Pertek, Kharpert, Kuyulu, Yeghike, Malatya, Marash, Aintab, Berejik, Jibin, Hrumgla, Kilis, Antioch, Musa Dagh, Belen, Iskenderum, Tarsus, Lampron and Adana.

Their first presentation based on their first trip to Historic Armenia took place in November 2009 and attracted a large crowd eager to learn about the lives and lands of their families. This new presentation covers a different itinerary and promises to be equally impressive.



Edward and Mary Ann Kazanjian

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Tekeyan Cultural Association - Mher Megerdchian Theatrical Group

Մեծարանքի Ուրախ Երեկոյ եւ Հաշկերոյթ

A Joyful Tributary Banquet

Գրիգոր Սարամեանի (Բեմադրիչ, Դերասան, Թարգմանիչ)

Թատրական Ծառայութեան 50 Ամեակին Առթիւ

Krikor Satamian’s 50 Years of Service to the Armenian Theater

The Clinton Inn Hotel, 145 Dean Dr., Tenafly, NJ

Կիրակի, Նոյեմբեր 21, 2010 ժամը 7-ին Sunday, November 21, 2010 at 7pm

Donation: \$75

For Information/Tickets Call Maro Hajakian (201) 934-3427, or Noushig Atamian (718) 894-5878

A Daily Newspaper Reborn in Beirut:

An Interview with Baydzig Kalaydjian,
Editor of the ADLP Organ *Zartonk*

By Aram Arkun
Mirror-Spectator Staff

BEIRUT, Lebanon – Beirut supports three Armenian-language daily newspapers – *Ararad*, *Aztag* and *Zartonk*. Each one is the organ of a traditional (meaning originating in the Ottoman era) Armenian political party. It is a great achievement for the ever-decreasing Armenian population of Lebanon to maintain these papers, especially with Western Armenian in retreat throughout the world. While in Beirut, I had the opportunity to briefly interview the present editor of *Zartonk*, the official publication of the Armenian Democratic Liberal Party (the Ramgavars). *Zartonk*’s first editor was poet Vahan Tekeyan in 1937, and it has continued to have respected writers and intellectuals as editors in later years, including Kersam Aharonian (1948-81).

In May 2008, *Zartonk* had been closed for approximately 15 months and its future was uncertain at best, when an effort was made to revive it. Thanks largely to the efforts of Lebanese member of parliament Hagop Kassardjian, financial and internal administra-

tive obstacles were overcome, and two editors were invited to restart the publication. Hrayr Garabedian returned to Beirut from Vienna, joining local writer Baydzig Kalaydjian. After about a year Garabedian left the newspaper, and Kalaydjian continued as editor-in-chief. *Zartonk* recommenced as a semimonthly, and gradually increased the frequency of its publication until it turned back into a daily this June.

Kalaydjian had a long history with *Zartonk* prior to her editorship. She began writing for it as a correspondent in 1990. She had her own weekly page on “women’s affairs” which she prepared for some six or seven years. Kalaydjian was quick to point out to me that she was not writing about women in the kitchen and other traditional spheres, but rather on the Armenian woman in Armenian national life, education and various modern realms. She felt at the time that Armenian women could not bring up children properly by staying at home. They had to be free, and involved in Armenian community life. They thus could become the pillars of the latter, not just of family life.

Kalaydjian is a graduate of the Melkonian Educational Institute, the Armenian General Benevolent Union’s Yervant Hussissian see ZARTONK, page 17



Runnig Wolf Photography
BY JACOB DEMIRDJIAN
YOUR ONE STOP INTERNATIONAL ART DEALER
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Baydzig Kalaydjian



Lunch with the *FT*: Larry Gagosian

By Jackie Wullschlager

LONDON (*FT*) – How do you get to be the world's most successful art dealer? The steely-eyed, silver-haired 65-year-old who steps discreetly into C London in Mayfair is not giving much away. "I'm a kinda lowbrow guy," Larry Gagosian says, acknowledging the greetings from tables full of international collectors in town for the Frieze art fair as he slips into a corner seat beside me. "I couldn't put it better than Woody Allen does, 'Just give me a good game and a good beer.' I'm just like the next guy."

In black trousers, open-necked shirt and checked jacket, he has certainly tried to look ordinary. Tanned and trim (when at home in New York, he works out in the pool at his Manhattan town house), Gagosian speaks softly, slowly, deliberately, as if to undercut his powerful image.

But to say he is "just like the next guy" is straining the truth. Gagosian is masterminding the careers of blue-chip names such as Jeff Koons, Takashi Murakami and Damien Hirst. He owns nine (soon to be 10) galleries round the world. When we meet, he is fresh from an opening at one of his London galleries, Hirst's "Poisons + Remedies" in Davies Street, a Mayfair space that he says "has been a gold mine." He is en route to a party at the other gallery, on Britannia Street near Kings Cross, to celebrate James Turrell, the American conceptualist and experimental sculptor of light and space who has just joined the Gagosian stable. When I congratulate him on his recent, museum-quality Picasso show in the same Britannia Street gallery, talk turns naturally to his pleasure in "building a nice Picasso collection." Collecting for himself, says Gagosian, is "a perk" of the job.

C London, formerly known as Cipriani, is Gagosian's neighbor on Davies Street and a favorite haunt. Without bothering to open the menu, he asks for grilled swordfish – surely appropriate for a man known as the sharpest operator in the business.

In the past week, Gagosian has been in London for the giant Frieze contemporary art fair, then in Paris to receive the Légion d'Honneur – an award he studiously avoids mentioning throughout our lunch – and to inaugurate his ninth gallery, a swankily revamped hôtel particulier close to the Champs Elysées. "There's room for a gallery like ours there, so we decided to take the plunge. And Paris is catching up with London – don't you think so?"

The charming sleight that my opinion matters conceals ruthless ambition and business acumen. Gagosian is establishing himself in the French capital ahead of Bernard Arnault's museum, the Louis Vuitton Foundation for Creation, designed by Frank Gehry, which will transform Paris as a contemporary art centre.

The Paris gallery is part of an expanding empire establishing Gagosian as the art market's one truly global brand. By next weekend he will be back in New York to open an important Robert Rauschenberg show – he represents the artist's estate. Next month a Giacometti exhibition will launch his 10th gallery, in Geneva, and he shows Murakami in Rome. A Hong Kong gallery is scheduled for January.

"Yeah, I like to travel, like anyone does," says Gagosian. "I like to have a reason to visit each city – that's very satisfying. I go to Rome, I have a reason to be there, not just looking at the sights. Not that the sights aren't worth looking at but I'm not the sort of person who goes somewhere just because it's there. I mean, it's great for people to do that but I don't do it."

What he does is enact, in real street level spaces, the abstract idea of 21st-century global culture. "New York used to drive the art world but it's much more diverse, more global now. One sees wealth in many more different parts of the world, and the big change is electronic information – being able to show images anywhere. Yet you have to reinforce that with bricks and mortar apparently, this business is

based on walking in a door and looking at things. Most major galleries have clients round the world; we've built all these galleries. It's a particular approach, I'm not sure it's necessary but it is fun. Once I started I couldn't stop."

He was born in 1945 in Los Angeles, the elder of two siblings, to Armenian immigrant parents, a stockbroker and "a homemaker," and "had to leave LA to take the next step up – New York was the obvious place to go, so right off the bat I was moving – always moving."

After an English degree at the University of California Los Angeles, "I started selling posters on the sidewalk." He acquired them for \$2, stuck them in aluminum frames and resold them at \$15. "I didn't think it would lead to anything. I didn't go to museums when I was a kid, it wasn't that sort of family. It was only when I started to get into the art world that I understood such a profession as art dealer existed."

"I wasn't particularly ambitious at college, I had no career path whatsoever. I started from scratch so it always felt like progress."

Did he follow any models?

"I'm not really a scholar but I read a couple of biographies of [Sir Joseph] Duveen – I find his style kinda inspiring. He was a risk-taker, not afraid to buy a very expensive work of art. He believed in the power of art – that's where the confidence has to be. Art's been around a long time: I can't screw it up too much!"

Duveen was a British art dealer who grew rich in the early 20th century by acting on one idea: that Europe had old art while America had new money. Gagosian opened his first gallery in Los Angeles in 1979 and similarly made a fortune taking the excitement of the east coast art scene – Richard Serra, Frank Stella, Eric Fischl – to west coast collectors newly rich from profits in entertainment, real estate and technology. He also acquired a reputation for turning collectors' houses into extensions of the Gagosian Gallery, brokering deals on the principle that anything is for sale if the price is right.

An early triumph in the mid-1980s was cold-calling the collectors Burton and Emily Tremaine and persuading them to sell their Mondrian, "Victory Boogie-Woogie," to Condé Nast publisher Si Newhouse for \$12 million.

That sum sounds small beer compared to today's prices, which, Gagosian says, "I would not have anticipated – I don't think anyone would."

In 2006, he brokered another famous private sale, from entertainment mogul David Geffen to hedge fund billionaire Steven Cohen, of Willem de Kooning's "Woman III" for \$137 million – the second most expensive work of art ever sold.

Gagosian has, he acknowledges, "a natural feel for selling. Innate cleverness is part of my DNA. My judgment isn't always right but I tend to be able to size things up."

He was also "born with a good eye – well, I think it is a good eye. I've always been extremely visual, looked at things closely, been captivated. I don't want to say I have any special gift but if you haven't an eye, you won't be a dealer."

Moving to New York in the 1980s, Gagosian caught the attention of Leo Castelli, then America's most influential gallerist, who "became a very, very good friend. He took a liking to me, I think, because I could sell things for him. It annoyed a lot of people, which was part of the idea." Gagosian acquired the nickname "Go go," while Peter Schjeldahl, an art critic for *The New Yorker*, has described him as being "like a shark or a cat or some other perfectly designed biological mechanism."

Why do people have these reactions to him? "You'd have to ask them! But anyone is susceptible to pangs of envy and competition – it's what makes the world go round. As long as you behave well, there's nothing wrong with being aggressive." He has poached from other dealers – Murakami from Marianne Boesky, Franz West from David Zwirner – but "never from Leo, why would I? It would have been bad manners, and bad business."

Our short lunch is interrupted by a waiter

assuming we have finished, but "I'm not through with it yet," Gagosian says of the last shreds of his salad, as if it were a tricky installation.

Since Castelli's death in 1999, he sums up, "the art world has become much more a business, for better or worse, through thick and thin – and even the lean times are not that lean!" Has Gagosian effected this transformation? "I haven't changed the way art's sold but I'm the kind of person that likes to push and keep challenging myself. I haven't reinvented the wheel but by expanding it into a global business, that's a contribution. But the model of art dealing is pretty fixed."

Never before, though, has a dealer swollen an artist's prices simply by anointing him into his stable. British painter Glenn Brown, for example, joined Gagosian in 2004 with a record price of £46,000; now his top price is £1.4m – a 30-fold rise, exceptional in just six years. "Taking an artist at entry point and building that reputation – if you pick well – it's one of the neatest things you can do as a dealer," Gagosian says. And he has just, he mentions, had dinner in New York with the abstract painter Cecily Brown; he talks warmly of her new baby, and also of the fact that "when she started, her big canvases were \$8,000. Now they're – more expensive." (One fetched \$1.1m at Sotheby's in May.)

Is his Midas touch so infallible that things get dull? "If everything's blue-chip, it might make good business sense but it becomes kinda sterile. But you try to show the most interesting, innovative artists – that's your judgment, your taste – it's the most crucial decision a dealer has to make."

Like other great dealers – Daniel-Henry Kahnweiler with Picasso or Castelli with Jasper Johns – Gagosian will be remembered for facilitating certain great careers: particularly Richard Serra, with whom he has worked since 1982 – "I built my gallery in Chelsea with Richard in mind, to keep him excited and engaged, I bought the building because his work demanded it" – and Cy Twombly. "Yeah, I push him. I'm sure he sort of groaned when he heard I was opening in Paris," says Gagosian, who has launched each European venue, including Paris, with a Twombly show. "One of

the greatest joys of my life has been working with Cy. It's an awesome career."

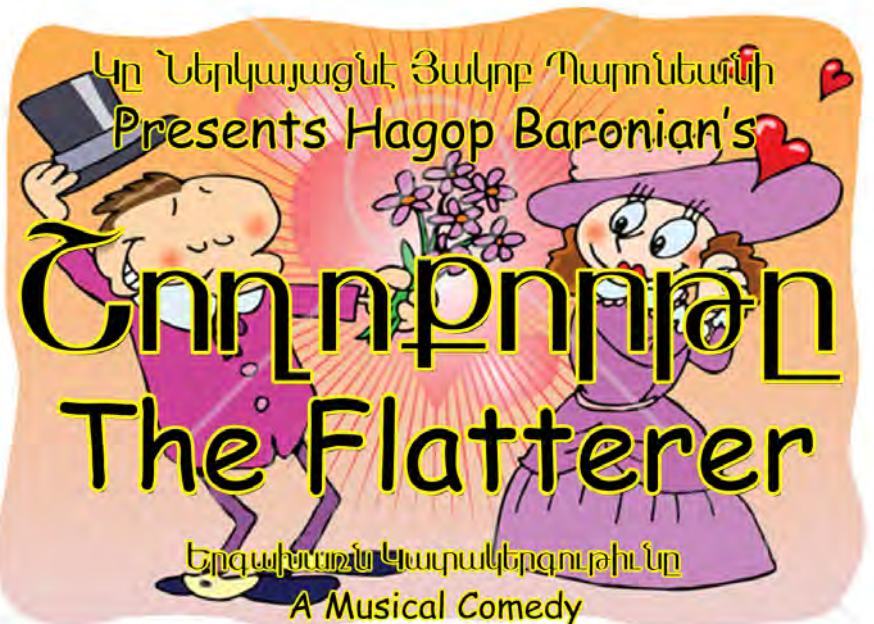
Gagosian has no family and it is noticeable that his most shimmering shows this year – Picasso in London, Monet in New York – have been historical. "I don't want a premature retrospective," he says, but he is displaying part of his own collection for the first time this autumn, in Abu Dhabi. He turns down dessert and tells me, "I don't do coffee," but, as I request the bill, he asks, "Do you do this sort of thing often? I don't."

He rarely gives interviews and I have been wondering why he agreed to this one. Is it competitive drive? Hauser & Wirth, his nearest rival, has just opened spectacular premises in Savile Row and Gagosian is aware that he "needs a bigger space, in the centre," to reaffirm his London presence. His final speech, though, delivered in a fluent rush, suggests something deeper: at 65, this fearfully efficient selling machine is also concerned with the longer view, the legacy.

"TS Eliot said that every new piece of literature alters what's been written before, and you can adapt that to art," he says. "Taste changes, time will tell. But you can't freak out about it and you can't be paralyzed because you can't always hit the bull's-eye when it comes to art history. That shouldn't stop you taking your shot. Art dealers feel they have to obfuscate the mercantile part of their profession but let's not kid ourselves – it's a business. Artists have families and children and like anyone else they want to live decently – sometimes very decently. We use our best judgment but we just don't know: great art has lasting value, it doesn't go away. And, look, I could have been selling insurance – I mean no disrespect to that profession – but anyone doing what I do has to feel really fortunate. It's a wonderful world, the best."

(Jackie Wullschlager is the *Financial Times* art critic. RSTW [Rauschenberg, Serra, Twombly, Warhol and Wool] is an exhibition from Gagosian's private collection, Menarat Al Saadiyat, Abu Dhabi, which will run through January 24, 2011.)

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Tekeyan Cultural Association ~ Mher Megerdchian Theatrical Group



Բեմադրութեամբ՝ Գագիկ Կարապետեանի
Directed by Gagik Karapetian

Oradell Elementary School, 350 Prospect Avenue, Oradell, NJ

Շաբաթ, Նոյեմբեր 20, 2010 ժամը 8-ին Saturday, November 20, 2010 at 8pm

Կիրակի, Նոյեմբեր 21, 2010 ժամը 3-ին Sunday, November 21, 2010 at 3pm

Tickets: \$35, \$25

For Information/Tickets Call Maro Hajakian (201) 934-3427, or Noushig Atamian (718) 894-5878



ARTS & LIVING

A Daily Newspaper Reborn in Beirut

ZARTONK, from page 15

Institute for Armenian Studies, and Yerevan's Hrachia Ajarian University, where she received a master's degree on the search for roots and Armenia identity. She focused on Peter Balakian's memoir *Black Dog of Fate* in particular, and now continues to work with Azat Yeghiazarian in the Armenian Academy in order to complete her doctorate on the post-Genocide diasporan press.

Kalaydjian taught Armenian language and history for many years. She worked for 16 years at the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU)'s Garmirian School of Beirut, and then, was invited in 2000 to the Melkonian Educational Institute in Cyprus to teach the same topics. She physically left *Zartok* then, but continued to contribute articles frequently. She also served on the editorial board of *Khosnag*, the Lebanese AGBU publication, and in Cyprus also worked on Melkonian's own publication and the *Paros* newspaper, as well as the on-line magazine *Gibrahayer*.

Zartok at present provides Lebanese political news on the first page. Very important breaking news pertaining to Armenians will also be placed on the first page, but otherwise Armenian issues are presented throughout the rest of the newspaper, which is, in all, usually eight pages long. These news items are often obtained from websites from the Republic of Armenia and are translated into Western Armenian. Reports about various Diasporan Armenian communities are presented in summary. Kalaydjian reads Turkish and therefore occasionally translates and summarizes relevant items from Turkish newspapers like *Zaman* and *Hürriyet*. *Zartok* has provided a great deal of coverage of issues pertaining to the Hamshen and Dersim Armenians. A variety of Armenian historical and cultural topics are frequently addressed.

I asked if there was anything distinguishing *Zartok* from the two other Lebanese-Armenian dailies. Kalaydjian replied, "We very clearly are different from the other newspapers in one chief point. From the very first day, we have always adopted the same orientation and have not changed it since our founding. One of *Zartok's* chief goals in the Soviet period was to worship Armenia, even if unwillingly, and even if others were against it. This upbringing I myself received through *Zartok*, and it was a great honor for me to have had. I still teach my students that the Soviet period was one of great progress for Armenia." She went on to discuss the present period: "Even when we have political differences with the existing regime in Armenia, we still support it. Furthermore, we have always remained faithful to Holy Echmiadzin, no matter what the situation, and continue to do so, because we believe in its decisive historical and religious role for our people."

Zartok employs nine full-time staff mem-

bers, including Kalaydjian. Of the nine, two are writers. In addition, occasionally the freelancer Hamo Moskofian contributes articles, as do writers from Lebanon and outside. There is a section on Armenians in North America, to which writers like Hagop Vartivarian contribute dispatches. Vartivarian and other party members in the US have worked hard to get *Zartok* reopened, and the Tekeyan Cultural Association and others in the US support *Zartok* financially. Many American-Armenians follow *Zartok* through its website.

In 2005-2007, *Zartok* published an Arabic-language monthly supplement called *Al-Mulhak*. It may be resumed again later. Kalaydjian pointed out that "it is true that the young generation is turning to Arabic, but it is also adopting English. This question should not be specifically limited to Lebanese-Armenian youth only. This is a diaspora-wide situation, and even sometimes a problem in Armenia." At present, however, she still feels the majority of the population, perhaps 60 percent, have been educated in Armenian schools and so still have a connection with the

Armenian language.

At present, the newspaper has over 1,200 subscribers, primarily in Lebanon, in the cities of Damascus, Aleppo and Lattakiya in Syria, and in Jordan. Half of these subscriptions are complimentary. *Zartok* established a website about 10 years ago, which recently has been expanded. It is done in color now. Many Lebanese-Armenian expatriates still read the newspaper through this website, as do other diasporan Armenians and many residents of the Republic of Armenia. The Internet version has perhaps 10 times as many readers as the print edition.

The editors of *Zartok* and the two other Beirut Armenian dailies now enjoy good relations with each other and often meet. Kalaydjian thinks a friendly rivalry can be useful for the community at large. She is optimistic about the future of the Armenian press in Lebanon: "I still believe that there is a role for the printed press like *Zartok*. We no longer take outside subscriptions, but people write us that they want hard copies. This is not a question of different generations and ages;

some young people want the printed copies too. Last year when my students had events and these were covered, they obtained the hard copies and read them with interest." Kalaydjian finds that the younger generation of Lebanese Armenians today is very interested in "news on Armenian issues, and questions of Armenian identity. For example, the youth liked Peter Balakian's *Black Dog of Fate* (in Armenian translation). It made them feel that it was not too late for them either [to become more connected with their Armenian heritage]."

Zartok is still expanding. Recently, Ardavast Melkisetian joined as administrator for the newspaper in order to increase its circulation. About three months ago, *Zartok* established a literary and cultural supplement in Armenian and Kalaydjian is considering starting a supplement for adolescents. It might be possible to expand the website too, and add audio and video material, but there are some complications since the newspaper's hosting server is located in Germany. Kalaydjian wants to actively do as much as available resources will permit.

CALENDAR

CALIFORNIA

NOVEMBER 13 — Armenian EyeCare Project Eighth Annual Gala. Balboa Bay Club, 6 p.m. For info, call (866) 448-2327 or (979) 675-5611.

MASSACHUSETTS

NOVEMBER 13 — Armenian Nursing and Rehabilitation Center 35th Annual Luncheon and Auction, at the Burlington Marriott, 12 p.m. Cindy Fitzgibbon of Fox25 Morning News and Jordan Rich of WBZ News Radio will conduct live auction. Silent auction includes jewelry, tickets, gifts from Armenia, gift certificates, sports items and many other prizes. Tickets, \$50. Advance ticket purchase highly recommended. Call Susan Giragosian at (617) 926-0455 or e-mail awwaauction@gmail.com.

NOVEMBER 19 — Annual Thanksgiving Hantes and Family Night on Friday, 6:30 p.m. Sponsored by Armenian Sisters' Academy. Tickets: \$18, for adults; \$12, for children. For tickets, call (781) 861-8303.

DECEMBER 3-4 — Trinity Christmas Bazaar, Holy Trinity Armenian Church, 145 Brattle St., Cambridge. Friday, 3-9 p.m.; Saturday, 10-7 p.m. Armenian lunch and dinners, farmer's market, country store, candy, gourmet, pastries, silent auction and more. New: sports silent auction, Santa's Playland, Saturday 10:30 p.m.-12:30 p.m.

DECEMBER 9 — Celebrating 78! & Beyond, an evening reception to benefit The Armenian Mirror-Spectator, Thursday, at the Taj Boston, 15 Arlington St., in Boston. Keynote speaker, Tim Kurkjian, Major League Baseball Analyst, ESPN and ABC Sports. Kurkjian and Wendy Semonian, publisher, *The Improper Bostonian*, will both receive the 2010 Excellence Award. Presenters are 2007 award recipients Armen Keteyan, CBS News, and Stephen Kurkjian, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist. To receive an invitation, e-mail your name and address to anniversary@mirrorspectator.com.

NEW JERSEY

NOVEMBER 7 — Akh'Tamar Dance Ensemble of St. Thomas Armenian Church of Tenafly presents its newest show, "Harvest," with Babin Boghosian & Ensemble from Los Angeles at Felician College, 262 S. Main St., Lodi, NJ. Sunday, 4 p.m. Donations: \$50, \$35, \$25. For more info, call Talin Cinar (201) 724-7538; Maral Kaprielian (201) 289-6486; Maral Kalishian (845) 729-1888; Elizabeth Ohanian (201) 783-5433 or St. Thomas Armenian Church (201) 567-5446.

NOVEMBER 20 and 21 — Tekeyan Cultural Association Mher Megerdichian Theatrical Group presents Hagop Baronian's "Shoghokort" or "The Flatterer" — a satiric comedy directed by Gagik Karapetian from Armenia. Special guest appearance by Krikor Satamian. Oradell Elementary School, 350 Prospect Ave., Oradell. Saturday, at 8 p.m., Sunday, at 3 p.m. Tickets: \$35 and \$25. For more info and/or tickets, call Maro Hajakian (201) 934-3427 or Noushig Atamian at (718) 894-5878.



On November 19, the Armenian Sisters' Academy, pictured above, will sponsor an Annual Thanksgiving Hantes and Family Night on Friday, 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$18, for adults, and \$12, for children. For tickets, call (781) 861-8303.

NOVEMBER 21 — NY/NJ Tekeyan Cultural Association and its Mher Megerdichian Theatrical Group will be honoring renowned actor and director Krikor Satamian. Distinguished guests will be present to pay tribute to their accomplished colleague. The banquet will be held at The Clinton Inn Hotel, 145 Dean Dr., Tenafly. Sunday, at 7 p.m. Donation: \$75. For more info and/or tickets, call Maro Hajakian (201) 934-3427 or Noushig Atamian at (718) 894-5878.

NEW YORK

NOVEMBER 11 — Award-winning author Steven E. Wilson will present his latest book, The Ghosts of Anatolia, on Thursday, at 7 p.m., at the Zohrab Center, located in the Diocesan Complex, 630 Second Ave., New York. A book signing and wine-and-cheese reception will follow the program. This event is free and open to the public. For more info, contact Taleen Babayan at (212) 686-0710.

RHODE ISLAND

NOVEMBER 27 — Providence ACYOA 39th Annual Kef Night, featuring Jason Naroian, Kenny Kalajian, David Hoplamazian, Brian Ansbikian and Armenain Janigian, 70 Jefferson St. Tickets, \$25. For table reservations, call (401) 486-8495 or e-mail providenceacyoa@gmail.com.

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(617) 964-3400



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THE ARMENIAN
Mirror-Spectator

Established 1932

An ADL Publication

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The Armenian Mirror-Spectator is published weekly, except two weeks in July, by:

Baikar Association, Inc.

755 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown, MA 02472-1509
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FAX: 617-924-2887

www.mirrorspectator.com

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New York/New Jersey Office

560 Sylvan Ave., Englewood Cliffs, NJ 07632
(201) 800-1164

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

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| | 1st Class | \$120 a year |
| Canada | Air Mail | \$125 a year |
| All Other Countries | Air Mail | \$190 a year |
| Display advertising rate: \$7 per column inch | | |

© 2010 The Armenian Mirror-Spectator
Periodical Class Postage Paid at Boston, MA
and additional mailing offices.

ISSN 0004-234X

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Armenian Mirror-Spectator, P.O. Box 302, Watertown, MA 02471-0302

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COMMENTARY

Astrakhan Summit, or Much Ado About Nothing

By Edmond Y. Azadian

Negotiations to resolve the Karabagh conflict have been moving at a snail's pace; so slowly, indeed, that any insignificant progress is amplified in the media and hailed by the major powers with inordinate gusto.

Since the Russian-Georgian War over Abkhazia and South Ossetia, the US and the European Union have resigned to the fact that most frozen conflicts resulting from the collapse of the Soviet Union should be left to Russian initiative, with the tacit understanding that the latter will be mindful of the West's energy interests in the Caucasus region.

Thus, there seems to be no incentive for the parties to resolve the frozen conflicts. Those frozen conflicts may erupt any time into open warfare, should the interest of any party be compromised.

Russia, as well as the Western powers, has been trying to tone down the bellicose rhetoric emanating from Baku. It is reported that even President Barack Obama personally has advised Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev that there is no military solution to the Karabagh problem. Regardless, Baku authorities continue their battle cries at their leisure.

The summit held in the Russian city of Astrakhan on October 27 was the seventh one undertaken by Russia's president, who brought together Presidents Serge Sargsisian and Aliyev.

Incidentally, Mr. Aliyev had a sideshow in Astrakhan, when he attended the dedication of a monument to his father, Heydar Aliyev, as he had done earlier in Kiev, keeping up with the Stalinist tradition of his father.

The summit drew much attention from all quarters. The first optimistic comment came from Armenia's Foreign Minister Eduard Nalbandian who cited three important achievements at the summit: a) the reaffirmation of Meindorf Declaration principles of November 2, 2008; b) that the parties have agreed to reinforce mutual confidence through diplomatic channels and c) to exchange POWs and bodies of slain soldiers.

All three points are infinitesimally tiny steps towards any progress; the only meaningful agreement seems to be the exchange of prisoners, which is normal practice after each conflict. At least it is a relief for Armenia, because Azerbaijan thumbs its nose at the Geneva Convention and treats the POWs brutally. A case in point is the capture and murder of a disoriented Armenian shepherd by the Azeri side.

Nalbandian's positive assessment was echoed in Baku (surprisingly!), Ankara, Paris and Washington.

The Turkish Foreign Ministry issued a declaration characterizing the summit as a step "towards confidence-building" and wishing that it extends beyond "humanitarian boundaries to cover other areas."

The French Foreign Ministry, in turn, has hailed the agreement

between the parties "to exchange prisoners and bodies of slain soldiers through the Organization for Security and Cooperation [OSCE] Minsk group and the International Red Cross."

Mr. Phillip Crowley expressed his appreciation on behalf of the US State Department and emphasized that the agreement reached at Astrakhan, through Mr. Medvedev's initiative will further consolidate the ceasefire agreement of 1994.

Every time there is a positive movement in the negotiations, Baku authorities routinely torpedo all hopes. Indeed, it has become almost a ceremonial process for Azerbaijan to breach the ceasefire agreement – and this time was no exception. Even before the delegations had left for their respective capitals, the Azeris triggered a skirmish at the contact point.

Adding insult to injury, Azerbaijan's Minister of Defense Safar Abiyev has decided not to betray his bosses' war-mongering tradition. Almost simultaneously to the Astrakhan meeting Abiyev was visiting China (October 25-29). During his visit to Beijing, Mr. Abiyev stated, "should the peaceful negotiations not yield results, Azerbaijan will resort to all means, including the army, to restore the country's territorial integrity."

Unfortunately, Azeri officials do not feel restrained and they dampen all hopes of a peaceful solution by such rhetoric. The Minsk Group co-chairs never counter Azeri war threats. Either they keep silent or issue warnings to both sides, which is tantamount to encouraging Baku to continue its reckless conduct with impunity.

Even worse, the OSCE representatives recently referred to Nagorno Karabagh's capital, Stepanakert, in its Azeri name, Khankendi, and they referred to Karabagh as Azeri territory occupied by the Armenians. Karabagh has never been part of Azerbaijan's territory, even in the Stalin era.

The Armenian parliament, in its turn, has devised its own scare tactic; through Raffi Hovhannissian's Heritage Party, a draft resolution has been brought to the parliament floor. Every time Baku authorities fall out of line, the draft law is placed on the parliament's agenda for discussion. The proposal calls for the recognition of the Nagorno Karabagh Republic by Armenia and invites the international community to follow suit.

The proposal was debated during the Astrakhan Summit to pressure Baku to compromise. But at the conclusion of the summit, the Republican Party representative Galoust Sahakyan moved that the debate be postponed until December 9, not to prejudice the ongoing negotiations.

On December 9, another summit is scheduled to be held in Astana, Kazakhstan. But no party is holding its breath that something more positive can emerge from that summit either. Most probably the parties will go through the same motions, the same rhetoric will be repeated and the negotiations will return to square one.

With all the best intentions Astrakhan Summit cannot be characterized as anything but "much ado about nothing."

Will Astana be its carbon copy?

Let's wait and see.

Just Who Is An Armenian?

By Yervand Khosrovyan

The old refrain, who qualifies to be called an Armenian, came crashing through in real life terms just a few days ago.

At a football match here in Hamburg, Germany, some Armenian guys from Armenia called some Armenian guys from Istanbul "Turks" because they were speaking Turkish, not Armenian.

Similar cultural clashes have happened in the past; it's not a new occurrence.

Armenians from different regions had met up in Germany to play some "friendly" football matches. Things got out of hand and punches were thrown along with some choice invectives.

A local Armenian yahoo forum in Germany has been besieged with comments; most accusatory in nature of one or another side. Each commentator believes he or she knows what the correct definition of an Armenian is.

Let's put the question on the table – who exactly is an Armenian?

Are the 18,000 Armenians now in Los Angeles jails Armenian? What about the recently arrested Armenian mafia types who scammed millions in a US Medicare system fraud? What do you call the Armenians responsible for the death of young men serving in the Artsakh Army? Can Armenians who rip off their fellow Armenians or those who plunder the resources of Armenia, be called Armenian? What about the thousands who leave Armenia and those who force them to leave?

Naturally, the simple answer is that they are all Armenians. That's to say, the way we approach the issue is incorrect. It appears that whether or not one feels a member of the Armenian nation is irrelevant. The litmus test is whether one speaks the language or not or, as many see it, whether one belongs to the Armenian Apostolic Church. These people don't even consider Armenian Evangelicals or Catholics "real" Armenians.

Aren't some of these same Armenian-speaking, Armenian Apostolic Church members, in their short-sightedness, allowing for the gradual disappearance of the language in Armenia by permitting the establishment of foreign-language schools? Are these Armenians actually "Turks" in disguise? Of course not; but they are Armenians of a different stripe.

Why can't we just accept the fact that Armenians are simply a people just like any other? Not better or worse; they're a mix of

good and bad, with their share of faults and foibles.

Why can't we accept the Armenian reality that exists, even though sometimes it may leave a bitter taste in our mouths? We must realize that to change this reality we need to understand one another, to help one another, and not criticize or insult. The principle of "teaching and being taught" must be a key component of the equation.

Defining a nation and its traits, of course, is different from an individual's national belonging and his/her emotions. A nation has a unique make-up – history, language, culture, religion and, of course, the native homeland on which it lives, survives, creates and develops its culture, language and literature.

Naturally, it would be ideal if the traits of an individual feeling a sense of belonging to a nation correspond to the general traits of that nation – ideal, yes, but not mandatory.

It is enough that a person feels a part of the nation as a whole; for the individual to be considered a member of the national family.

Rather than abusing and stereotyping others, we should respect their feelings. We need to help and show them the way, as it were, so that they too can fully display our national traits.

(Yervand Khosrovyan is a member of the European Congress of Armenians. This commentary appeared in the November 1 issue of Hetq online.)



COMMENTARY



My Turn

By Harut Sassounian

VP Biden's Sensational Revelation of Phone Calls with President Sargisian

Armenians worldwide were scandalized last week by Vice President Joe Biden's revelation that President Sargisian had told him: "look, do not force this issue [Armenian Genocide recognition] now, while we are in negotiations [with Turkey]."

Biden's statement posted later that day on YouTube — www.youtube.com/watch?v=C-vVX2B1H3k — was so shocking that most Armenians refused to believe that President Sargisian would have discouraged the American President from recognizing the Armenian Genocide! Some went as far as to question if the speaker shown on video was really Biden, and if his words had been altered. Others wondered about the identity of the young man conversing with Biden, suspecting him to be an impostor or a foreign agent.

Given the far-reaching consequences of the words attributed to President Sargisian, his press secretary immediately issued a categorical denial. Two days later, the US Embassy in Armenia issued a clarification/retraction. Taking into account these confusing and contradictory statements, I will try to shed some light on the lesser known aspects of this episode:

1) The young man speaking with VP Biden on YouTube

is not an impostor. He is an Armenian-American activist.

2) It is not widely known that right after President Obama issued his April 24, 2009 commemorative statement, Biden phoned three prominent Armenian-Americans. He informed them that President Obama had omitted the Genocide word from his statement after President Sargisian gave his consent during a phone call with the Vice President. Clearly, Biden was using his conversation with Sargisian to excuse President Obama's failure to keep his campaign promise to Armenian-Americans.

3) Biden repeated the same statement last week, this time on video. He was trying to win over Armenian-Americans to support Democratic candidates in the tightly contested November 2 elections. When the young man asked Biden what message did he have for the Armenian community which was "burned" or deceived by President Obama, the vice president reassured him that the administration was "not backing off" from its promise on the Genocide. He added: "The Turks have to come to the realization of what the reality is." Biden then conveniently blamed Sargisian for President Obama's lack of acknowledgment of the Armenian Genocide. The vice president concluded his comments by cynically stating with a chuckle: "Reality has a way of intruding."

4) Armen Arzumanyan, President Sargisian's press secretary, issued a prompt rebuttal, stating that the president "did not use the expression ascribed to him in the video, directly or indirectly." Arzumanyan boldly called upon the White House to release the transcripts of the two phone conversations between President Sargisian and VP Biden in April 2009.

5) On October 29, the US Embassy in Armenia reacted by announcing that during his two phone conversations with Biden in April 2009, "President Sargisian did not raise the issue of the content of President Obama's statement for Armenian Remembrance Day or seek a delay in consideration of House Resolution 252." This carefully worded statement was meant to soothe the Armenian government's

severe irritation at Biden's surprising disclosures.

It would have been far more informative, however, had the US government released the transcripts of the two phone conversations between President Sargisian and VP Biden. The Armenian side could have also clarified matters by releasing its transcripts of the phone calls, if they were taped, or a summary record. Furthermore, since the two leaders were using an interpreter, it would be interesting to compare President Sargisian's Armenian words with those translated into English — which was what Biden actually heard!

In the absence of a transcript, outsiders have no knowledge of what was actually said during these phone calls. Yet it is clear that starting in early 2009, Obama administration officials were pressuring the Armenian government to sign an agreement with Turkey, so they could use it as an excuse for not recognizing the Armenian Genocide. And that is exactly what happened, when Armenia and Turkey signed a preliminary agreement, "a roadmap," on the eve of April 24, 2009. President Obama quickly capitalized on it. In his "Armenian Remembrance Day" statement, he avoided the word genocide by claiming that Armenia and Turkey "have agreed on a framework and roadmap for normalization."

The controversy regarding what President Sargisian may have told Vice President Biden is one more unwelcome outcome of the Armenia-Turkey Protocols. However, the video had the unintended side effect of raising the Armenian Genocide issue to the highest echelons of the US government and received coverage by worldwide media. A week before the Armenian activist's conversation with Vice President Biden, Armine Babayan of Los Angeles also had an important personal encounter. She had the rare opportunity to speak directly with President Obama about the Armenian Genocide during his campaign stop in Las Vegas. Turkish denialists must not be too pleased that within one week the president and vice president of the United States were reminded of their unfinished agenda on the Armenian Genocide.

'A Genocide Survivor's Last Wish'

By Tom Vartabedian

LIKE many Armenian Genocide survivors, my mother would stand erect at April 24 commemorations with a red carnation in hand, recite her prayers and sing her songs with conviction.

The fact that she was into her mid-90s made little difference.

As the years rolled by, she watched her coterie dwindle from 70 to a precious few. In her hometown of Haverhill, she remained the sole survivor. Her Armenian name was Ojen — an unusual one at that — and her very last observance in 2008 had fate written all over it.

Only one other survivor from Merrimack Valley showed up that year and her name was Ojen. They could have rehatched the tragedy that befell their people during the genocidal years of 1915-1923 when 1.5 million Armenians perished at the hands of the Ottoman Turk.

But how many times must you hear the same diatribe, shed the same tears, before

growing weary? Instead, they spoke of being the last of a vanishing breed. One Ojen said to the other, "You'll outlive me. I'm in a nursing home. You're living independently."

The other replied, "Yes, but you seem to be stronger than an ox. You'll go on living forever."

My mother passed away October 19 with her family by her side. Even the nurses at Hannah Duston Nursing Home marveled at how she was able to defy death so persistently, unaware that she was able to evade the Turkish gendarmes as a child by hiding in a well for days.

The last thing she said to me occurred about four days prior to her demise. She grabbed my attention out of the clear blue and this is what she offered in a voice that crackled with sentiment.

"Continue being true to your faith and your heritage. But that is not enough. Make sure your children and grandchildren practice their culture and worship God. If we don't have our church and our heritage, we have nothing. The responsibility is in your hands now."

Although it may have been premature, I do believe it was a sense of closure on her part,

One Ojen said to the other, "You'll outlive me. I'm in a nursing home. You're living independently."

knowing that her wishes were revealed and how the ethnic baton was being passed from one generation to another.

This past Sunday, I gathered my Armenian School students together and told them her wish. Those who knew expressed their condolences. We used her life as an example of resiliency.

For what it was worth amidst a class of adolescences, I told them, "We owe it to these remaining survivors and those who died for their cause to lobby for recognition and get a Genocide bill passed in Congress. We need an admission of guilt from Turkey and the restoration of our land and churches."

Jennie was laid to rest with a funeral fit for

a queen. She may have been humbled by all the attention and probably never realized the true legacy she had left behind. Inside the casket with rosary beads in hand was a miniature Tricolor flag that rested on her heart.

A hand-carved wooden cross stood erect, prepared by a Russian immigrant who arrived here in the 1940s as a 21-year-old cousin she and her sister sponsored. On the day of her burial, a dear friend who had just returned from a pilgrimage to Syria handed me a plastic bag containing some sand. It was from the desert of Der Zor where thousands perished during a death march.

The sand was sprinkled in the form of a cross during the burial service, sending Jennie back to her roots.

I look back upon it all with no remorse. You tend to dwell upon the good times, even while being institutionalized the last four years. You see the smile, not the tears. You remember happy thoughts, not the tragic moments. Every new day was a gift.

She used to grin at the thought of how she ever wound up inside a nursing home. It was just for a visit, I told her. She had broken a hip and needed rehabilitation.

"Four years. Oh my! This was the longest visit I ever had anywhere," she often reminded me.

The woman was feisty. At the ripe age of 90, I took her car keys away after some erratic driving. She balked at such insolence. How would she transport herself to the gym anymore?

A few days later, I got a call from a neighbor. "Come quickly," she urged. "Jennie's in the garage and she's got the hood up in her car with wires in her hands." I sped the whole way and there she was, trying to jump-start the vehicle.

But that was Jennie — always in the driver's seat.

(Tom Vartabedian of Haverhill, Mass., is a longtime community activist. He contributes frequently to Armenian newspapers.)

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

- All articles submitted should be typed, double (or triple) spaced and printed in a type size large enough to be clearly legible (10 point or larger). Submissions that do not conform to these specifications will be assigned lowest priority.
- Articles sent by fax are acceptable, and e-mail submissions are encouraged.
- All submissions should include the name of a contact person and a daytime telephone number.

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