

AGBU Concludes its 86th Worldwide Annual Assembly

AGBU Directors, Leaders From around the World Head to South America for Large Celebration

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina – The world's largest non-profit Armenian organization, the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU), concluded its 86th annual assembly here, with the participation of delegates from Germany, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, United States, Lebanon, France, Greece, Italy, United Kingdom, Russia, Syria, Switzerland, Uruguay, Brazil and Argentina.

see AGBU, page 9



AGBU President Berge Setrakian opened the 86th Assembly.

Armenia Plans Karabagh Bill Vote Amid Fresh Talks

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) – Armenia's parliament speaker on Tuesday said lawmakers will consider passing a bill recognizing Nagorno-Karabagh's independence should there be such a request from the head of state after his fresh talks with Azerbaijan's leader this week.

Armenia has not formally recognized Nagorno Karabagh as an independent state as the political majority in its parliament has so far regarded the move as premature and potentially harmful to the ongoing internationally-mediated talks with Azerbaijan.

Earlier this month, the country's top legislative body was due to vote on a Karabagh recognition bill drafted by the opposition Zharangutyun (Heritage) party.

But the party's leader, Raffi Hovannisian, postponed the vote until the end of October after consultations with speaker Hovik Abrahamian and other leaders of the parliament's pro-government majority.

At a press briefing on Tuesday, October 26, Abrahamian confirmed that the Zharangutyun-drafted bill might be put to a vote as soon as October 27 or 28 unless the party decided to postpone the vote again.

If held, the vote would come amid a fresh round of talks between Armenia and Azerbaijan around the Nagorno-Karabagh settlement.

The presidents of the two countries, Serge Sargsian and Ilham Aliyev, were scheduled to meet in Russian's southern city of Astrakhan on Wednesday. The host of their meeting discussing Karabagh was Russian President Dmitry Medvedev.

It is not yet clear what particular aspect of the currently faltering peace process will be on the agenda of the talks as the sides have released very few details ahead of their meeting.

Earlier this month, the HHK made it clear it would block the bill if it reached the vote in parliament.

Armenia, Iran Seek to Expand Economic Ties

By Hrach Melkumian

TEHRAN (RFE/RL) – Armenia and Iran pledged to give a new boost to the development of their economic ties as Prime Minister Tigran Sargsian paid a three-day visit to the Islamic Republic starting on October 25.

While meeting with Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad on Tuesday, Sargsian reiterated the Armenian president's invitation to Iran's leader to visit Yerevan.

Sargsian stressed that his visit would "give a fresh impetus" to Armenian-Iranian economic ties which he said still did not match the high level of political relations the two neighboring states have.

According to a report by the Armenian government's press office, during the meeting Iran's leader stressed that there are "no restrictions" for raising the quality of economic ties and bringing them to the level of political relations and that Iran is "ready to assist in all initiatives."

see IRAN, page 3

Hajin Armenians Assemble in Beirut's New Hajin To Commemorate the Past, Strengthen Identities

By Aram Arkun

Mirror-Spectator Staff

BEIRUT, Lebanon – The Armenians of Hajin returned to their town after World War I thinking that they could rebuild their homes safely under British and French protection. Instead, Turkish Nationalist forces ended up besieging them from March to October 1920. When the town was captured, many thousands of Armenians were killed. The Hajin Compatriotic Union of Beirut, Lebanon, with the support of Haigazian University and some individual donors, organized a series of events in commemoration of these victims on October 15 to 16. These included a photo exhibit, musical performances, a symposium, an evening public concert with fireworks, the preparation of the traditional jidabur (a stew similar to herisa) and, after a requiem ceremony in St. Kevork Church in the quarter of New Hajin of Beirut, a special commemorative meal.

see HADJIN, page 5



Gerard Chaliand spoke at the event.



NEWS IN BRIEF

Chess Player Aronian Ranked 2nd in World

PARIS – On October 26, Levon Aronian surpassed World Champion Anand Viswanathan with his current International Chess Federation (FIDE) rating and is now the second among the chess players in the world.

Currently Anand and Magnus Carlsen are playing in the Nanjing, China tournament, and their current ratings may change. FIDE will publish its official (not current) rating list on November 1.

According to <http://chess.liverrating.org/>, the world's current top five are: Magnus Carlsen, Aronian, Anand, Vladimir Kramnik and Veselin Topalov.

Erdogan Criticism Online Leads to Arrest

ISTANBUL (News.am) – A criminal case was launched against a 28-year-old music teacher working in one of the schools of Corum province of Turkey after he voiced criticism of Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan on his Facebook page.

The teacher was suspended from his job after he disparaged Erdogan on the September 12 referendum. An administrative inquiry has been launched as well, Hurriyet reported.

The teacher told the National Education Ministry that his criticism was not insulting and was not out of line.

Eneolithic Burial Site Found in Armenia

YEREVAN (News.am) – Well-preserved burial grounds of people from the Eneolithic age have been discovered in the caves of Areni 1, Vayots Dzor. Excavations are being conducted in cooperation with archeologists from the University of California (US) and University College Cork (UCC) (Ireland), head of the Armenian team Boris Gasparyan said.

The Eneolithic age is a period in which the use of early metal tools appeared alongside stone ones. The period is a transitional one outside of the traditional three-age system, and occurs between the Neolithic and Bronze Ages, about fifth century BC.

Gasparyan said experts have found the bodies of adults and children in clay tombs. Children's bodies are intact, whereas the adults were dismembered. The find is a unique opportunity to find out the children's genetic code by means of DNA analyses. This, in turn, will supply scientists with valuable information on the humans' genetic evolution.

Since colors were not widely spread in the Armenian territory in the Eneolithic age, the colorful vessels with the sun and animals painted on them stand out.

INSIDE

On Ziggurat page 14

INDEX

Armenia	2
Arts and Living	14
Calendar	17
Community News.	4
Editorial	18
International	3



ARMENIA

News From Armenia

WWF Proposes System To Protect Orchards Without Harming Bears

YEREVAN (ArmeniaNow) – The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Armenian Office has proposed a solution for protecting orchards in Meghri, Syunik province, from brown bears without harming the animals, which are registered in the Red Book of Endangered Species.

Six residents of Nrnadzor, Shvanidzor and Alvank villages are paid 200 euros each to protect orchards before the end of the harvesting in late November, using whistles and special signals during night-watches in order to drive the bears back to forests. Employees of Arevik National Park, who deal with security issues of animals in the region, will support them.

From September, when fruit in orchards ripen, such as pomegranates, grapes and figs, bears descend on them to eat the sweet fruit. In order to save their harvest, peasants often kill the animals, however, as the numbers of the animals are dwindling, the WWF decided to come up with a solution to help all involved.

Holding night watches in orchards is the brainchild of Alexander Malkhasyan, representative of the WWF Armenian Office, who says that his monitoring, held during recent years, showed that there are only 50 brown bears left in Syunik.

Internet Users Doubled In Armenia in 9 Months

YEREVAN (news.am) – The number of Internet users in Armenia has increased two-fold from January 1 to October 1, said Samvel Arabajyan, member of the Armenian Public Services Regulatory Commission.

According to him, 71-72,000 have broadband Internet access, whereas the number of dial-up users reached 47-50,000 as of January 1. Thus, the total number reached 120,000-125,000, whereas as of October 1 the number of Internet users exceeds 160,000.

NKR President Receives Cultural Delegation

STEPANAKERT, Karabagh (Armenpress) – On October 25, President Bako Sahakyan of Nagorno Karabagh received a delegation of artists and those working in the cultural sphere.

Sahakyan stressed that encouraging the cultural sphere was among the pivotal strategic directions of the republic's development and its representation in the world.

Secretary of the Security Council, head of the Office of the Artsakh Republic President Marat Mousaelyan, Minister of Culture and Youth Affairs Narine Aghabalyan, Minister of Education and Science Vladik Khachatryan and other officials attended the meeting.

Two Found Dead at Russian Military Base in Armenia

GUMRI (RFE/RL) – Two citizens of Russia serving at a military base in Armenia were reportedly found dead within the premises of their unit on Saturday.

The Armenian police on Monday identified them as Armen Zakharian, 27, and Artur Yenokian, 39, both of whom are ethnic Armenians and had served under a contract at the Russian military base stationed in Armenia's northwestern city of Gumri.

The bodies were found at one of the leisure rooms of the Russian Frontier Guard Department and had numerous cuts and stab wounds on them, the report said.

No other details were immediately released.

Military prosecutors from Russia are conducting an investigation.

Russia currently has about 3,000 troops stationed in Armenia and mainly protecting its borders with Turkey and Iran.

Iranian, Armenian Convicted on Espionage Charges in Armenia

By Karine Simonian

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) – A court in Yerevan has found an Iranian citizen guilty of spying in favor of Azerbaijan and his alleged Armenian accomplice of committing high treason.

Both men were given lengthy prison terms on Monday following a trial that lasted several months and was held behind closed.

Behnam Bagheri, a citizen of Iran whom the judge identified as an ethnic Azeri in the verdict, was sentenced to 10 years in prison for trying to smuggle out of Armenia some footage that contained “anti-Armenian propaganda that could be used to discredit Armenia's international prestige.”

According to the prosecution, Bagheri received a disc with the video in question in September 2009 from retired Armenian Lieutenant Colonel Gevorg Hayrapetian.

The Iranian was arrested by Armenia's National Security Service late last year when he was crossing the Armenian border into Iran and was later charged with spying for Azerbaijan.

Hayrapetian, 47, a decorated veteran of the 1991-1994 Nagorno-Karabagh war with Azerbaijan who worked in the Armenian Defense



Behnam Bagheri, right, and Lt. Col. Gevorg Hayrapetian, left, in court

Ministry system from then until 2007, was convicted of high treason and illegally keeping weapons and sentenced to a total of 12 years in jail.

Both men denied the charges throughout the trial.

Their lawyers said no evidence had been found during the investigation and trial to convict their clients. They said they would appeal the verdicts.

Bagheri's brother, Javad, who attended the trial in Yerevan along with his mother said that his 30-year-old brother had attended school for only five years, would make his living

as a sheep herdsman in a predominantly Azeri-populated region of Iran and was visiting Armenia for the first time to see his girlfriend.

He thus tried to show that his brother could not have committed the crime for which he was convicted. he was convicted of.

And Hayrapetian's lawyer, Seda Safarian, said that after receiving the verdict the defense counsel will start making public the evidence based on which her client was convicted.

“You will see that there is nothing in this evidence,” she said.

Armenian Captive's Body ‘Still Held by Azerbaijan’

By Irina Hovannisian

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) – The body of an Armenian captive who died under disputed circumstances in Azeri custody earlier this month has not yet been handed over to Armenia, according to a representative of an Armenian government committee dealing with prisoner affairs.

The man, Manvel Saribekian, was found hanged in his prison cell on October 5 nearly a month after being captured by Azerbaijani troops in circumstances disputed by the sides.

While pledging to investigate the death, the Azerbaijani authorities claimed that the 20-year-old “saboteur” had committed suicide and had no traces of violence on his body.

Armenian officials dismissed these claims, saying that he was tortured to death or “driven to suicide.” They also insist that Saribekian was a civilian resident of an Armenian border village who accidentally strayed into Azerbaijani territory.

Armen Gabrielian, the head of a working group at the Armenian government-affiliated committee dealing with issues of prisoners, hostages and missing persons, said that until now the Azerbaijani side has not given the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) even a certificate confirming Saribekian's death, something, he insists, it ought to have done.

Gabrielian says such behavior constitutes “a gross violation” of international humanitarian law.

He also claimed that the Azerbaijani side categorically refuses to have direct negotiations with the Armenian side over the return of Saribekian's body, while the ICRC office in Baku, which is a mediator between the parties, “is having problems.”

“The Azerbaijani authorities raise obstacles to the international organi-

zation's employees and impede their work,” said Gabrielian, reminding that before Saribekian's death Azerbaijan, too, had not allowed Red Cross officials to visit the Armenian captive.

Meanwhile, Azerbaijan maintains that Armenia has not yet returned the body of an Azerbaijani soldier killed in a June firefight in Karabagh, where skirmishes and armed clashes intensified in the past four months amid a faltering peace process.

The soldier, Mubariz Ibrahimov, died along with four Armenian servicemen in what the Armenian side says was an Azerbaijani attack on a Karabagh army outpost in the disput-

ed territory.

Authorities in Stepanakert, meanwhile, insist that the Karabagh Armenians are not holding the body and that “the individual died in neutral territory.”

Catholicos Karekin II, the supreme head of the Armenian Apostolic Church, reportedly met with President Serge Sargisian late last month to discuss the return of the killed Azeri soldier's body after an appeal to him made earlier by Azerbaijan's Shia Muslim leader, Sheikh-ul-Islam Allahshukur Pashazade, through Russia's Orthodox Patriarch Kirill, to assist in the repatriation.

Ex-Police Officer Faces Eight-Year Jail Term in Custody Death Case

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) – Prosecutors in Armenia are seeking an eight-year prison sentence for a police officer standing trial for ill-treating a young man who died in police custody in murky circumstances.

Maj. Ashot Harutunian, the former chief of criminal investigations at the police department of Charentsavan, a small town about 40 kilometers north of Yerevan, was arrested in late April and charged with beating Vahan Khalafian, one of several suspects in a theft investigation, which allegedly led the latter to commit suicide.

Khalafian, 24, was detained on April 13 along with several other young men and died in custody later that day in what police, and later investigators, said was suicide, with the man allegedly stabbing himself to death with a knife.

Khalafian's family and leading human rights groups, however, challenged the official version of the events, claiming

that the young man was tortured and subsequently killed by his interrogator, or interrogators.

Police initially denied the suspect was ill-treated during the interrogation, but Armenia's Special Investigative Service conducting a probe in the suspicious death said later that Khalafian committed suicide after enduring torture at the hands of Harutunian.

During the trial Harutunian, the main defendant in the case, pleaded not guilty to the charge. He also alleged that Khalafian was in fact tortured to death by one of his subordinates, who now faces a lesser charge in the same proceedings after allegedly agreeing to cooperate with the prosecution.

The prosecution on Monday also demanded between 18- and 24-months' suspended prison sentences for the other three police officers in the same trial charged with abusing their official position and “failing to prevent Ashot Harutunian's actions.”



INTERNATIONAL

Armenia, Iran Seek to Expand Economic Ties

IRAN, from page 1

Reports from Tehran's official media quoted Ahmadinejad as saying that "regional states are capable of meeting all their needs and safeguarding security of the region through expansion of bilateral ties."

"Tehran and Yerevan enjoy positive and progressing ties, sharing common views to boost bilateral cooperation in all fields," said Ahmadinejad, according to Iran's IRNA news agency.

Earlier, on Monday, Armenia's premier also met with Iran's First Vice-President Mohammad-Reza Rahimi. During that meeting, Rahimi also reportedly said that Tehran saw "no restriction for expansion and development of its ties with Armenia."

According to IRNA, underlining the need for speeding up the construction of an Iran-Armenia railway, the



Prime Minister Tigran Sargsisian arrives in Tehran on October 25.

Iranian vice-president said that the implementation of the railway agreements would be "a big step" towards the development of the two states.

Dutch Team up with Armenia for Bredolab Botnet Take Down

By Jeremy Kirk

AMSTERDAM (*Computer World*) — Armenian authorities arrested a 27-year-old man on Tuesday on suspicion of running a large botnet that was dismantled after a unique take-down operation by Dutch law enforcement and computer security experts on Monday.

Dutch authorities said they seized dozens of servers used to control the Bredolab botnet, estimated to have infected millions of computers worldwide.

Bredolab is a type of malicious software program that can steal login and password details, log keystrokes, and steal any data from an infected computer. The Dutch High Tech Crime Team, which is part of the National Crime Squad, began investigating the botnet over the summer, according to a press release issued on Monday.

The Bredolab botnet was capable of infecting up to 3 million computers per month. By the end of last year, it was estimated that 3.6 billion spam e-mails were sent out daily containing the Bredolab malware, according to the High Tech Crime Team.

The team said it has disconnected and seized 143 servers used for Bredolab, working with the Dutch Forensic Institute, Govcert.nl, the Dutch computer emergency response team, and the security vendor Fox IT. The 143 servers were part of the network run by LeaseWeb, the largest hosting provider in the Netherlands, and had been hired through one of LeaseWeb's resellers.

The Armenian man was tracked down in a joint effort between Fox IT, which is based in the Netherlands, and Dutch law enforcement. The man is suspected of renting computers that had been infected with Bredolab to cyber crime players in other countries, said Ronald Prins, founder of Fox IT.

For example, a cyber criminal in Spain could rent 100,000 machines infected with Bredolab, then upload their own specific malicious software program to those machines, such as the Zeus online banking malware, Prins said.

The Armenian man had constructed a massive botnet, at one point infecting up to 29 million computers in countries including Italy, Spain, South Africa, the US and the UK. The Dutch police wanted to disrupt and shut down Bredolab.

"We wanted to take down the botnet," Prins said. "What we also wanted to do was make sure the botnet wouldn't switch over to other infrastructure under his control."

The Dutch police decided to use a tactic they have apparently used before, taking over the computers infected with Bredolab and directing them to servers not under the control of the Armenian. Fox IT helped with that by uploading a "good" bot developed by police to those PCs, Prins said.

The action started about 2 p.m. CET on Monday. Upon opening their web browser, people with computers infected with Bredolab are now being redirected to a website set up by Govcert.nl, the Computer Emergency Response Team for the Dutch government. The web page, written in English, warns people that their computer is infected and includes instructions for how people can remove Bredolab.

So far, at least 100,000 computers have displayed the web page, which also has a link where people can file a com-

plaint about Bredolab. So far, 55 people have filled out the complaint form, according to the Dutch National Prosecutor's Office.

The action by the Dutch authorities represents a bold move, as infecting anyone's computer — whether it's with a "good" bot or a malicious one — is likely against the law in many countries.

When the Armenian — or whoever controlled Bredolab — noticed that the botnet was being taken over, a distributed denial-of-service attack was launched against the infrastructure used by investigators, Prins said. But it didn't disrupt the botnet takeover.

"At that point, I don't think it was clear to him that the police were actually taking over," Prins said.

Investigators were able to trace Bredolab's controller to Armenia, which resulted in the arrest. Botnet operators are very smart, but they need to make at least 20 evasive steps in order to stay anonymous, Prins said.

"We only need one mistake to catch him," he said.

EU Teams to Patrol Greek Border amid Migrant Surge

ATHENS (BBC) — The European Union (EU) is for the first time sending border guards to help Greece stem an influx of migrants entering across the land border with Turkey.

Many of the illegal migrants claim to be from Afghanistan.

The Rapid Border Intervention Teams set up in 2007 "are activated today for the first time," the European Commission said late on Sunday.

The Commission said the flows of illegal migrants entering Greece had "reached alarming proportions."

Greece requested EU help. The UN says the burden on Greece is "critical."

But it reports that illegal crossings on Greece's land border with Turkey have intensified. It recorded a six-fold increase there in the number of Afghans trying to enter Greece in the second quarter of this year.

In total during that period, 90 percent of the migrants detected trying to enter the EU illegally were on the Greek land border, Frontex says.

Half of those detected were Albanian

workers looking for seasonal jobs in Greece, Frontex says. Albania borders on northwestern Greece.

The EU teams, coordinated by Frontex, will be deployed at the Greek-Turkish border and "will act under the authority of Greece," on a mission of limited duration, she said.

Greek officials quoted by Frontex say up to 350 migrants are trying to enter Greece daily in the Orestiada area.

On October 1, Frontex opened a regional centre in Piraeus, Greece — the agency's first such office outside its Warsaw headquarters.

The new EU border teams will act as officers of the national border guards "and, as such, are authorised to carry their service weapons and wear their own uniform," the EU rules state.

A Commission spokesperson, Tove Ernst, told the BBC that the teams would carry out border checks like the Greek border guards. But the details of their deployment, including their total number, are still being worked out.

International News

Dink Murderer Will Be Tried in Juvenile Court

ISTANBUL (PanARMENIAN.Net) — An Istanbul court has ruled that Ogun Samast, the suspect in custody for the assassination of Agos newspaper's editor, Hrant Dink, is to be tried in a juvenile court, CNN-Türk reported.

The court based its decision on the grounds that Samast was under the age of 18 at the time of the assassination.

Ambassador Hands Credentials to African Union Chairman

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (Armenpress) — Armenian Ambassador to Egypt Armen Melkonyan handed his credentials to Chairman of the African Union Commission Jean Ping on taking the post of observer and authorized representative in the African Union and conveyed the greetings of Armenian Foreign Minister Eduard Nalbandian.

The press service of the Armenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that after the ceremony separate talks were held, during which the prospects of expansion of mutually profitable cooperation between Armenia and Africa were discussed.

Melkonyan presented to Ping the priorities of Armenia's foreign policy, the active involvement in international and regional processes, and gave illustrations over the negotiation process of Nagorno Karabagh. During the meeting, bilateral importance was attached to the investment of Armenia in a number of African states, such as Egypt, Sudan and Ethiopia.

European Far-right Parties Want Referendum on Turkey

VIENNA (AFP) — Europe's far-right parties want a European Union-wide referendum on Turkey's plans to join the current 27-nation bloc, the leader of Austria's populist Freedom Party, Heinz-Christian Strache, said Saturday.

Strache, who had invited right-wing parties from Belgium, Denmark, Italy, Slovakia and Sweden to a two-day meeting in the Austrian capital, told a news conference that the parties believed Turkey had no place in Europe and ordinary citizens should be given a say in the matter.

Europe would be "straying down the completely wrong path" if it were to admit "non-European countries" into the European Union, the far-right party leader said.

"That would be the end of the European Union. It would be the beginning of a Euro-Asian-African Union, which goes completely against the project of peace in Europe and must therefore not be allowed," Strache said.

Under the EU's Lisbon Treaty, which came into effect in December 2009, a Europe-wide referendum can be held if a million people in a "substantial number of member countries" call for one.

Russia Hosts Fresh Karabagh Talks

MOSCOW (RFE/RL) — The leaders of Armenia and Azerbaijan held another meeting, hosted by Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, in the southern Russian city of Astrakhan on October 27. (The meeting was held after press time for the Mirror-Spectator.)

The Armenian president's press office said on Friday that Serge Sargsisian and Ilham Aliyev will "continue their negotiations over a peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabagh conflict" during their meeting hosted by Dmitry Medvedev, in the southern Russian city of Astrakhan on October 27.

The last time Medvedev hosted a meeting between Sargsisian and Aliyev was on June 17. Within just over 24 hours after that meeting a major ceasefire violation occurred on the line of contact of Azeri and Karabagh-Armenian armed forces, with four Armenian and one Azerbaijani soldiers reportedly killed in the firefight.



Community News

Judge Opts out Of Schmidt-Krikorian Suit

By Barrett J. Brunzman

BATAVIA, Ohio (Cincinnati.com) — Rep. Jean Schmidt's defamation lawsuit against David Krikorian, a political foe who allegedly said she is beholden to the Turkish government, has taken on Byzantine overtones in Clermont County Common Pleas Court.

Judge Victor M. Haddad, a Republican, asked the Ohio Supreme Court to remove him from the case, noting that he has contributed money to Schmidt and continues to support her politically.

"I can be fair, (but) that's not the issue," Haddad said. "It's the appearance."

Schmidt, a Miami Township Republican, represents the 2nd Congressional District, which includes Clermont County and eastern Hamilton County. On October 27, visiting Judge John W. Kessler of Montgomery County, who has been assigned to take over the case, is to schedule hearings on motions by the attorneys.

Haddad said he didn't get a chance to announce he hoped to be removed from the case until after Christopher P. Finney, one of Krikorian's attorneys, said during a September 27 hearing that Schmidt's attorneys shouldn't represent her.

Finney said he intends to call as witnesses in the case Schmidt attorneys Bruce E. Fein and Donald C. Brey to question them about who is paying their legal bills.

It's not Schmidt "but special interest groups ... paying for these expensive lawyers to sit here and persecute a former political opponent of Mrs. Schmidt over protected political speech," Finney told the judge. "She's up to her ears in conflicts of interest and, in fact, illegal conduct with the Turkish lobby in this country."

The suit claims that Krikorian, an Armenian-American who failed to unseat Schmidt in 2008, falsely accused her of taking money from Turkish government-sponsored political action committees to deny the genocide of 1.5 million Armenians by Turks during World War I.

Filed in June, the suit seeks \$6.8 million in compensatory and punitive damages from the Madeira businessman for what Schmidt claims were false allegations of complicity in campaign finance crimes, bribery and perjury.

"This court is being abused in a horrific way by a sitting member of the United States Congress," Finney said. "We believe this case is frivolous and entirely political. ... 'These statements [made by Krikorian are] a normal part of the political discourse covered by the First Amendment,'" Finney said.

Brey denied Finney's allegations and said the suggestion Schmidt's attorneys should be removed from the case was "sort of trial by ambush."

Finney's "attempt to depose and take all sorts of attorney-client privileged documents from me and from Jean Schmidt's other counsel is utterly improper," Brey said.



President Serge Sargisian and Margaret Ajemian Ahnert

FAR Names First Margaret Ajemian Ahnert Scholarship Program Beneficiaries

NEW YORK — The Fund for Armenian Relief (FAR) recently announced the selection of its first five Margaret Ajemian Ahnert Scholars, who now have the chance to continue their education in journalism and become future leaders in the Armenian press.

Established in July, this scholarship aims to specifically support and empower aspiring female journalists by providing the opportunity to receive the education and training they need. Margaret Ajemian Ahnert established this scholarship fund in memory of her mother Ester Ajemian. The fund, administered by FAR, provides full tuition and monthly stipends to female graduate students in Armenia. Ahnert, herself a media specialist, worked for years as a television producer and a teacher before publishing her first book, *The Knock at the Door: A Journey Through the Darkness of the Armenian Genocide*, which is based on her mother's memories of the 1915 genocide, its unprecedented horrors and her escape.

Twenty-three people applied for the scholarship. The five winners are working toward their master's degrees in journalism at Yerevan State University and the Armenian State Pedagogical University. Only one student is from Yerevan; the rest are from various regions of Armenia and neighboring republics. Students are required to maintain excellent grades and must agree to work in Armenia or Karabagh for the same number of years that they are supported by the scholarship.

This year's scholars are:

- Anna Aghvanyan was born in 1989 in Alaverdi in the Lori region. Along with her studies, she works at ArmenPress News Agency, filing anywhere between five and 10 news stories per day. She has also written interesting articles about everyday student life, which have been published in the newspaper, *Hayastani Zrutsakits*. While she realizes that she has chosen a challenging field, Aghvanyan believes every journalist has an important mission to deliver the truth. With determination to develop her professional skills, She will study in France for six months next year on scholarship at the Université de Versailles. Her father works as a driver's assistant in Sanahin's Locomotive Depot. Her mother is unemployed. She can only afford to pay her university's dormitory fees.

see SCHOLARSHIPS, page 5



From left, Satenik Asatryan, Naira Hambardzumyan, Betghehem Arabyan, Manya Poghosyan and Anna Aghvanyan

Decorated Army Officer to Speak at PAAVA Luncheon

PHILADELPHIA — Kerry C. Kachejian, who was a much-decorated officer during his tours of duty in Afghanistan and Iraq, is returning as the speaker when the Philadelphia Armenian-American Veterans Association (PAAVA) honors all who served at its annual Veterans Day luncheon, November 14.

The luncheon, at 1 p.m., will be held at St. Gregory the Illuminator Church, 8701 Ridge Ave., where the organization began.

All veterans and their spouses, as well as the spouses of deceased veterans, will be PAAVA's guests. Tickets for all others is \$20.

Kachejian, then a colonel on active duty, spoke at the PAAVA lunch two years ago, giving an illustrated talk on the experiences of his units in Afghanistan and Iraq. Now, a civilian, though in the reserves, Kachejian will discuss his book, *SUVs Suck in Combat: The Rebuilding of Iraq During a Raging Insurgency*, and will sign copies after the luncheon.

Currently director of homeland security at Raytheon, Kachejian is also a much-sought-after speaker at conferences and private events discussing such topics as reconstruction of Iraq and Afghanistan, the psychology of terrorism, contractors on the battlefield and critical infrastructure protection.

A 28-year army veteran, Kachejian is a graduate of West Point and earned a master's degree in systems engineering from Virginia Tech. He holds the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, the Bronze de Fleury medals and the Combat Action Badge. He is Airborne and Ranger qualified.

A native of nearby West Chester, Kachejian now lives in Springfield, Va., with his wife and three children.

PAAVA is supported by all five churches in the Philadelphia area, members of which serve on the board. The luncheon will be held at St. Gregory's new Founders Hall.

Because no tickets will be sold at the door, reservations must be made in advance and can be made by contacting Larry Der Hagopian, Philip Der Pilibosian, Diran Shakarjian or Richard Weinsheimer.

Three Receive Azarian Youth Scholarship Fund Grants

MIDLAND PARK, N.J. — The John M. Azarian Memorial Armenian Youth Scholarship Fund announces that scholarship grants were awarded to Ester Shaginian, Alene Aroustamian and Ilona Martirosova for the 2010-2011 academic year.

The John M. Azarian Memorial Armenian Youth Scholarship Fund was formed in 1976, following the untimely death of John M. Azarian Sr., by his wife, Barbara. The purpose of the fund is to award scholarships to students of Armenian descent who demonstrate compelling financial need, academic achievement and Armenian church-related activities.

Since its inception, the John M. Azarian Memorial Armenian Youth Scholarship Fund has awarded more than \$400,000 in grants to deserving students of Armenian descent. Its goal is to assist deserving students with the hope that they will one day return something beneficial to the Armenian community.

Anyone interested in applying can download an application at www.azariangroup.com/scholarship.html



COMMUNITY NEWS

Hajin Armenians Assemble in Beirut's New Hajin to Commemorate the Past and Strengthen Identities

HAJIN, from page 1

Hajin Armenians from places as far afield as Marseilles and Pasadena came to attend the events, though the majority were from Beirut. The events began on the evening of October 15 with formal speeches by the presidents of the Hajin Compatriotic Union and Haigazian University, respectively Paul Yacoubian and Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian, as well as the ambassador of the Republic of Armenia to Lebanon Ashot Kocharian. A letter of encouragement from the director of the Armenian Genocide Museum Institute, Dr. Hayk Demoyan, was read.

The main speaker that evening was Dr. Gerard Chaliand, a specialist in guerrilla warfare from France who over decades has personally investigated and written about liberation movements in Africa, the Middle East, the Caucasus, Central Asia, Russia and South America. He has taught courses in major universities around the world and founded in France the Group for the Rights of Minorities. He has served as advisor to the French Foreign Ministry's Center of Research and Planning from 1983 to 1994 and from 1997 to 2000, was the director of the European Center for Conflict Research. Just as importantly, at least for this conference, Chaliand's uncle, Garabed Chalian, was the last governor of Hajin.

Chaliand gave an overview of modern Armenian history and nationalism. He felt the Armenian elites, especially, after World War I, were in a "sort of historical myopia" and did not understand what was going on. Context must be understood to avoid becoming its victim, he said. However, at the end, in 1920, the Armenians of Hajin chose to die bravely as warriors instead of surrendering. No other choice was left.

Musical performances by Talar and Lori Yacoubian and Arek Dakessian took place. At least 250 people were present, including several parliamentary deputies and a state minister.



Archbishop Kegham Khacherian blesses the *madagh*.

The crowd then walked to the Matosian Exhibition Room of the Mugar Building of Haigazian University. There, they viewed the photo exhibit, which consisted of reproductions of printed photos of various aspects of Hajin that were enlarged and displayed on the walls. The photos remained in the hall until October 20.

The next day, on October 16, a symposium took place with the participation of six speakers. Dr. Raymond H. Kévorkian, director of the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) Noubarian Library in Paris, France, member of the National Academy of Sciences of the

Republic of Armenia, and author of numerous works on the Armenian Genocide, spoke on the deportations of Hajin in 1915. He pointed out that this was one of the earliest deportations, which indicated that Hajin, a town with an overwhelming Armenian majority in a mountainous and inaccessible region, was considered a serious potential threat to the Ottoman Empire.

Aharon Shkhrdemanian, a graduate of the AGBU Hovagimian-Manoogian Boys Secondary School, the Melkonian Educational Institute and Yerevan's Polytechnic Institute, and editor of the Beirut daily Armenian newspaper *Ararad* since 2002, spoke about German-Turkish relations and the deportations of Hajin.

Aram Arkun, a New York-based historian, examined the attempts after World War I by the Armenians, British, French and Ottomans to bring to justice those specifically involved in the Hajin deportations. He focused primarily on two criminal officials, showing that not only did they escape punishment, but actually ended up prospering. As often happens during foreign intervention in cases of mass violence, the actions of the intervening powers were moved more by self-interest than justice, local courts were part of the original power structure implicated in the violence, and the victims themselves remained powerless to achieve justice.

Dr. Vahe Tachdjian, a native of Lebanon who studied in Yerevan, Belgium and Paris, who now works in Berlin on a website called Hushamadean about the Ottoman Armenian heritage, is the author of a book about French policy in Cilicia and Upper Mesopotamia. Tachdjian placed the events in Hajin after World War I into the broader context of French foreign policy, and examined the fate of orphans sent to Hajin after the deportations.

Dr. Yeghig Jerejian, like Shkhrdemanian a graduate of the AGBU Hovagimian-Manoogian Secondary School, received his degree in dentistry from Yerevan's Medical Institute. He has been a member of the Social Democrat Hinchagian Party from 1995, and in 1992-2009

was consecutively elected to four terms as a member of the Lebanese parliament from Beirut. Jerejian gave an overview of the history of Hajin and explored its revolutionary spirit.

Antranig Dakessian, another graduate of the AGBU Hovagimian-Manoogian school, studied at the literary criticism section of Yerevan's State University's Philological Division, and has master's degrees from the American University of Beirut's Political Science Division, and from Scotland's Edinburgh University in political research. He has taught in a number of Armenian high schools, runs the Student Affairs Department of Haigazian University, and since 1993 has been the responsible secretary for the *Haigazian Armenological Review*. Dakessian examined the available church records of New Hajin quarter's Surp Kevork Church as an initial attempt to understand demographic changes taking place in the Beirut-Armenian community. This is an ongoing project which may have interesting practical repercussions for the Lebanese-Armenian community.

That night in front of St. Kevork Church in Beirut's quarter of New Hajin, preparations for a traditional *madagh* for the next day were taking place. The traditional *jid abur* was cooked in large cauldrons. A marching band belonging to the Hay Marmnamarzagan Miutiwn (HMM) of the Social Democrat Hinchagian Party led a large crowd of several thousand down the main street of the quarter to listen to a series of speakers, dancers and singers, who presented Armenian revolutionary and popular songs while fireworks lit up the sky above.

The next morning, Sunday, October 17, St. Kevork Church was full as a special requiem service was conducted after the Divine Liturgy for those who died in Hajin, and the *madagh* was blessed. Archbishop Kegham Khacherian of Beirut held up the fighters of Hajin as examples of how to resist obstacles in contemporary life. The afternoon ended with a special luncheon in the church at which the efforts of the Hajin Compatriotic Union's organizing committee were recognized.

While various Cilician-Armenian compatriotic unions in Lebanon hold commemorative events frequently, this apparently was the first time that a symposium or conference with academic speakers from outside of Lebanon accompanied the more traditional religious and popular celebrations. This was an attempt to reach out to wider circles. Many of the speakers later were interviewed on Lebanese-Armenian radio about Hajin and their research. The articles presented at the conference will be published as a volume next year.

Armenian Heritage Park

On the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway, Boston



Coming in 2011

You can make the difference!

For Sponsorship/Naming Opportunities, please call
James Kalustian 781-777-2407 Charles Guleserian 617-484-6100
Haig Deranian 617-484-2215 Walter Nahabedian 781-891-7249
Dr. Jack Kasarjian 617-232-6350

Visit www.ArmenianHeritagePark.net

FAR Names First Margaret Ajemian Ahnert Scholarship Program Beneficiaries

SCHOLARSHIPS, from page 4

• Naira Hambardzumyan was born in 1990 and has written for newspapers since the age of 12. As a child, she learned painting in the Center for Fine Arts Education. Today, she successfully manages the "Youth Page" of the Eter Weekly (<http://www.eter.tv/>). She also works as a press secretary in the Hay Aspet (Armenian Knight) Educational Philanthropic Fund. Her undergraduate thesis was devoted to issues regarding the press and the military. She also wants to create a journalism handbook for beginners.

• Manya Poghosyan was born in 1990 in Getashen, Azerbaijan. She was 2 when her entire village fled to Armenia as a result of attacks. Today, her family barely manages to make ends meet. For many years they lived in the Hankavan Dormitory and just recently celebrated a house-warming at their new apartment in Hayanist. Poghosyan has wanted to become a journalist since childhood. She primarily writes about Armenian refugees who have migrated from Azerbaijan and their harsh living conditions. Some of her articles received the Silver Feather award.

• Satenik Asatryan, a student at Armenian State Pedagogical University, was born in Khndzoresk, in the Syunik region, in 1989. The village is famous for its wonderful nature and ancient pagan history. During the

Nagorno-Karabagh War, the men of this village led heroic struggle in the name of liberation. Asatryan's father, Rafik, was wounded during one of such battle on April 17, 1994. Today, he is handicapped and unable to work. Currently, the 21-year-old lives with her brother in a rented apartment in Yerevan. She is a talented writer and a correspondent for various newspapers.

• Betghehem Arabyan also studies at Armenian State Pedagogical University. She was born in 1988 in Vale, Georgia. During her years at the local Armenian school she wrote many poems and novels. Arabyan was only 3 when her mother died of heart failure. In 2004, her father died in a car accident. In spite of her family tragedy, she decided to return to her ancestral homeland. "All my plans are connected with Armenia," she said.

Recently, the scholars visited FAR's Yerevan office to sign their program contracts. Each of them received a copy of *The Knock at the Door*. They expressed their gratitude for the assistance of the program and promised to fulfill their benefactor's hopes.

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.



COMMUNITY NEWS

THE ARMENIAN MIRROR-SPECTATOR

THE FIRST ENGLISH-LANGUAGE ARMENIAN WEEKLY IN THE UNITED STATES

Celebrating 78 Years and Beyond



Keynote Speaker



Tim Kurkjian



Major League Baseball Analyst

2010 AWARD of EXCELLENCE RECIPIENTS



**Wendy Semonian
Eppich**

Publisher,
The Improper Bostonian



**Tim
Kurkjian**

Major League
Baseball Analyst



EMCEE

Chris Talanian
NECN's Style Boston

Armen Keteyan, CBS News, and Stephen Kurkjian, Pulitzer Prize winning journalist, themselves recipients of the 2007 Award of Excellence, will present the awards.

Thursday

December 9, 2010

7:30 PM

Taj Boston Hotel • 65 Arlington Street, Boston

For more info call (617) 359-0413 • Email: anniversary@mirrorspectator.com

Hosted by Kevork and Jacqueline Atinizian and Family



New York METRO

Manoogian-Demirdjian School Students Recognized as AP Scholars and Commended Students

LOS ANGELES — AGBU Manoogian-Demirdjian School (MDS) students received recognition for their achievement on the College Board's 2010 Advanced Placement Program (AP) Examinations and the National Merit Scholarship Corporation's 2011 National Merit Scholarship Program.

Twenty-five students at MDS earned AP Scholar Awards based on their outstanding performance on AP Examinations. Around 1.8 million students worldwide took the exams, and about 18 percent earned awards for varying levels of achievement.

Nine MDS students qualified for the AP Scholar with Distinction Award by scoring at least 3.5 on all AP exams taken and 3 or higher on five or more of the exams. They are: Koko Deranteriassian, Ari Ekmekji, Nar Gulvartian, Nairi Khachatoorian, Mikael Matossian, Narineh Melkonian, Tamar Melkonian, Serli Polatoglu and Talia Tanielian.

Two students, Lena Galian and Silva Malkhassian, received the AP Scholar with Honor Award by earning an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of the exams.

By completing three or more AP exams with scores of three or higher, 14 MDS students earned the AP Scholar Award. They are: Mary Azoian, Elda Boulgourjian, Christopher Geozian, Rafi Mardoyan, Ashley Markarian, Frederick Papazyan, Ani Shirvanian, Taleen Shirvanian, Artien Voskanian, Alex Yeghiazarian, Derek Yeghiazarian, Nicole Yeghiazarian, Vatche Yousefian and Anais Zarifian.

The AP Program at MDS was established in 1992. It grants students the opportunity to take challenging college-level courses while in high school. Students who perform well on AP exams can receive college credit and/or advanced placement in college.

Two of the students who received AP Scholar Awards, Ari Ekmekji and Nar Gulvartian of the graduating class, also earned the 2011 National Merit Scholarship Program title of Commended Student based on their results on the 2009 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT). Ranking among the top 5 percent of more than 1.5 million students who entered the competition, they are among the 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation who are acknowledged for their academic promise.

Established in 1976, AGBU Manoogian-Demirdjian School (www.agbumds.org) is one of AGBU's largest Armenian schools in the diaspora and continues to serve Southern



Nar Gulvartian and Ari Ekmekji, the winners of the 2011 National Merit Scholarship Program title of Commended Student

California's growing Armenian-American community.

For more information on AGBU and its schools around the world, visit www.agbu.org.

Obituary

Jennie S. Vartabedian, Haverhill's Last Genocide Survivor

HAVERHILL, Mass. — Jennie S. (Hekimian) Vartabedian, 98, the last remaining survivor of the Armenian Genocide in Haverhill, died earlier this month at the Hannah Duston Longterm Health Care Center with her family by her side.

She was born in Dikranagert (Diarbakir), Armenia, on December 11, 1911, a daughter of Missak and Vartouhi (Yadejanian) Hekimian, and lived in Somerville for most of her life after immigrating to America as an 8-year-old.

She was a survivor of the Armenian Genocide, taking part in annual commemorations throughout Merrimack Valley and serving as an activist for her nation's cause right to her death.

Last year, she was honored by her community, at which time a video was prepared on her life. The documentary was shown to residents at her nursing home, attended by city and state officials.

Vartabedian spent her childhood years in Newton Upper Falls and was educated in Needham Schools. She and her sister, the late Virginia Fundeklian, also a Genocide survivor, ran Jennie's Sweet Shop in Porter Square, Cambridge, from 1931 to 1935 while in their teen years to help meet family expenses.

After marrying her husband, Edward K. Vartabedian, in 1939, the two owned and operated Broadway Coffee Shop in Somerville for 30 years until her husband died in 1975.

In later years, up to age 80, Vartabedian worked as a medical technician at the Somerville Council on Aging, giving blood pressure readings to the elderly and assisting them



Jennie S. Vartabedian

with tax returns.

For years, she sponsored a memorial scholarship in her husband's name to Somerville High graduates furthering their education in the field of business. She made it a point to meet each graduate who received the scholarship and handed them a plaque. Many of the grateful students returned to thank her in later

years.

She often maintained that a proper education was the foundation for success and impressed that tenet upon her two sons and five grandchildren.

Vartabedian was a longtime member of Holy Cross Armenian Catholic Church of Cambridge and later Belmont, serving as both a benefactor and catalyst in her earlier years. She catered to many religious leaders inside the comfort of her home with sumptuous Armenian dining. Among her guests was the late Cardinal Gregory Peter Agagianian, patriarch of all Armenian Catholics.

For nearly two decades, she ranked as the oldest member of Health Works, a fitness center in Cambridge, and received a gold membership card. At age 90, she still made daily trips to the gym by car and kept in peak physical condition.

If you unraveled her past to find clues of her longevity, she would preface her memories with this: "I always worked hard and looked to God for inspiration."

Among her other interests were reading, cooking, managing investments, caring for a 2-family home and enjoying her family. Her greatest asset was remaining young at heart and maintaining a pleasant disposition, even under

duress.

She leaves her son, Thomas M. Vartabedian and his wife, Nancy, of Haverhill; a daughter-in-law, Rita Vartabedian, of Arlington; five grandchildren, Lisa Untracht and her husband, Zachary, of Chelmsford; Michael Vartabedian and his wife, Katy, of Medford; Sonya Vartabedian Sico and her husband, Pasquale, of Amesbury; Ara Vartabedian and his wife, Julie, of Hudson, and Raffi Vartabedian and his wife, Sarah, of Auburn; eight great-grandchildren, Amanda and Michael Untracht, and Maya, Benjamin, Rocco, Rex, Anna and Mazie Vartabedian, and several nieces, nephews and cousins. She was the mother of the late Edward C. Vartabedian, who died in 2000.

A funeral mass was celebrated by the Very Rev. Raphael Andonian at Holy Cross Armenian Catholic Church, Belmont, followed by burial in Oak Grove Cemetery, Medford.

Arrangements were by the Aram Bedrosian Funeral Home, Watertown.

Memorial contributions may be made to either St. Gregory Armenian Church Building Fund, 158 Main St., North Andover, MA 01845; Holy Cross Armenian Catholic Church, 200 Lexington St., Belmont, MA 02178, or Hannah Duston Activities Fund, 126 Monument St., Haverhill, MA 01832.

Samuel L. Koundakjian

HAWTHORNE, Calif. — Samuel L. Koundakjian, 74, died on Sunday, October 10.

He was born in Aleppo, Syria, on June 9, 1936 to Loutfig and Isgouhi Koundakjian.

He graduated from Aleppo College and moved to Beirut, Lebanon where he was the sales manager at Fontana.

Koundakjian married Yeranouhi Kassemjian on July 15, 1967, and subsequently they had three daughters.

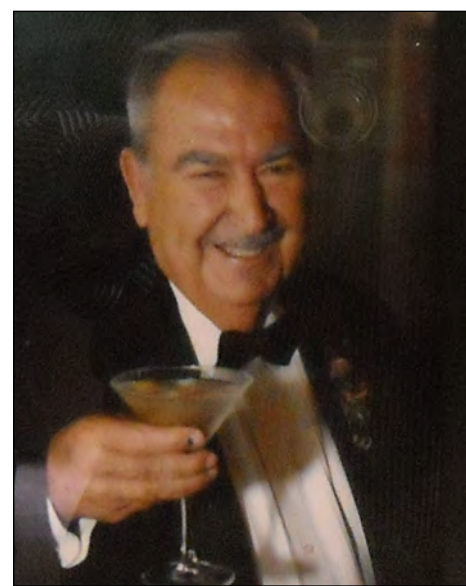
He and his family immigrated to the United States in October 1976, leaving behind a war-torn Lebanon. They were granted US citizenship on June 20, 1985.

Koundakjian was proud to have lived the American Dream, and he worked hard until his retirement. He was a proud member of the Westchester YMCA. One of his favorite pastimes was to work in his garden. Over the years, family, friends and neighbors have enjoyed the stuffed grape leaves from his grapevines and the delicious fruits from his many fruit trees. He also loved having friends and family over for barbecues.

He looked forward to attending Sunday morning services at the United Armenian Congregational Church.

Koundakjian leaves his three daughters, Catherine, Christine and Carla, and his two brothers, Harry of New York and Philip of Sarnia, Ontario, Canada.

His wife, Yeranouhi, died in 2009.



Sam Koundakjian

A memorial service was held on Sunday, October 24, at the United Armenian Congregational Church, Los Angeles.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the Westchester Family YMCA, 8015 Sepulveda Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90045 or to the Armenian Tree Project, 65 Main St., Watertown, MA 02472-9992.

Telephone (617) 924-7400

Aram Bedrosian Funeral Home, Inc.

Continuous Service By The Bedrosian Family Since 1945

558 MOUNT AUBURN STREET
WATERTOWN, MA 02472

MARION BEDROSIAN
PAUL BEDROSIAN
LARRY BEDROSIAN

Giragosian FUNERAL HOME

James "Jack" Giragosian, CPC
Funeral Counselor

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



New York METRO

Sr. Nersess Hosts Successful Fundraising Reception

50th Anniversary of Seminary Launched During Evening Program

NEW ROCHELLE, N.Y. — An elegant candle-adorned tent and beautiful starlit sky set the stage for the St. Nersess Armenian Seminary's third annual "Evening Under the Stars" fundraising reception and silent auction. Alumni and friends of St. Nersess gathered on September 25 to support and celebrate the Seminary's past achievements, ongoing successes and bright future as the 50th anniversary of the institution's founding was launched during the evening program.

Diran Jebejian and Jonathan Najarian, both of New Jersey, were introduced as the co-

these programs will always have a special place in my heart."

Jebejian concurred: "St. Nersess has been an active part of my life since I was 12 years old. It has helped to shape me spiritually and strengthened my service to the Armenian Church. I, too, am honored to have been asked to serve as co-chair of the 50th Anniversary celebration, and look forward to solidifying the future of the seminary."

Both are encouraging everyone to step forward this coming year especially to financially assist in securing the future of the seminary.

St. Nersess, founded in 1961 by Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan, former Primate of the Eastern Diocese, is the only Armenian seminary specifically serving the Armenian Church in North America. Forty members of the clergy and numerous lay leaders have graduated from St. Nersess and actively serve in the North American Dioceses. In addition, the St. Nersess Summer and Winter Conferences continue to touch the lives of hundreds of youth each year. It is estimated that more than 6,000 youth have benefited from these conferences over the past five decades.

In fact, always inspiring to see during this annual reception are college students and



Friends gathered to reminisce and support this vital institution.

young professionals who enthusiastically assist throughout the evening by greeting and serving guests delicious hors d'oeuvres and

beverages while sharing stories of how St. Nersess has impacted them through their conference experience. "By hearing these stories, I am reminded of how the Seminary touched my life as a teenager," shared event chair and Seminary Board member, Suzanne Akian. "The sparkle in their eye provides me with the determination to do all I can to keep the Seminary thriving for generations to come."

Nearly 100 people attended this event and several more supported it through sponsorships. Five exclusive items were also donated for the silent auction. All proceeds from the reception and auction will directly benefit the Seminary's Youth and Vocations programs.

To learn more of the events, programs and activities surrounding the seminary's 50th anniversary, visit www.stnersess.edu.



Shake Derderian, St. Nersess alumni, shares a conversation with the Very Rev. Daniel Findikyan, seminary dean and professor of liturgical studies.

chairs of the seminary's 50th-anniversary events taking place in 2011.

"It is an honor for me to be asked to serve as co-chair of the 50th anniversary of St. Nersess Armenian Seminary," shared Najarian, continuing, "I look forward to being able to give back to a place that has given so much to me as a graduate of the summer study programs. The seminary and



Generations of St. Nersess Armenian Seminary supporters gathered for the third annual "Evening Under the Stars" fundraising reception on September 25.

Call for Thanksgiving Telethon Volunteers

NEW YORK — Armenia Fund USA is seeking volunteers in New York and Boston for its Thanksgiving Day telethon as well as pre-telethon to solicit funds.

Numerous Armenian youth, young professionals, students, faculty, performers and dancers — Shushi Dance Ensemble and Sayat Nova among long-time volunteers — volunteer to make phone calls during the pre-telethon fundraising campaign November 18-21 and receive donations during the telethon itself on Thanksgiving Day, November 25. This year's "Water Is Life" campaign is determined to focus on a human right that is the most basic of needs: water.

Rural populations in Armenia and Karabagh whose villages do not have water access abandon their villages in search of better living conditions. Today, more than 100,000 acres of land lays arid, with farmers unable to generate income due to lack of irrigation water. The most frustrating part is that the water source exists; it is the means of transporting it that does not.

Past volunteers in Boston, New York and Detroit signed up for three- to four-hour shifts, often oversteering their initial time commitment; upon arrival, it became evident that the telethon is not only an opportunity for volunteerism but for socializing as well. As Armenia Fund USA Executive Director Irina Lazarian explains, "Not only is this an opportunity to volunteer and help Armenia Fund's efforts by providing the necessary support to our fundraising drive, but also, this is one of the best ways — a fun and unique way — to connect to our roots and to help our homeland."

Those interested in helping out can do so in Boston or New York. To sign up to volunteer visit www.ArmeniaFundUSA.org.

Sponsor a Teacher in Armenia and Karabagh 2010



Since its inception in 2001, TCA's 'Sponsor a Teacher' program has raised over \$395,000 and reached out to 3,078 teachers and school workers in Armenia and Karabagh.



☐ Yes, I want to sponsor teachers in Armenia and Karabagh to continue helping them to educate the children, our future leaders. I would like to have the teacher's name and address.

☐ \$160 ☐ \$320 ☐ \$480 ☐ other \$_____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Tel: _____

Make check payable to: Tekeyan Cultural Association — Memo: Sponsor a Teacher 2010
Mail your check with this form to:

TCA Sponsor a Teacher
5326 Valverde, Houston, TX 77056

Your donation is Tax Deductible.



COMMUNITY NEWS

AGBU Concludes 86th Worldwide Annual Assembly

AGBU, from page 1

As of 2009, the net asset of the AGBU has been assessed at \$332,032,169. During that period, the AGBU has allocated \$18,947,504 for educational, \$8,905,988 for cultural, \$2,113,586 for religious and \$3,143,586 for humanitarian purposes. AGBU runs and supports programs in Armenia, such as the American University of Armenia, the St. Nersess Hospital, AGBU Children's Centers, Armenian Philharmonic Orchestra, the Ultrasound Center and the Vaskenian Theological Seminary of Holy Echmiadzin. In Karabagh, they contribute to the Karabagh Chamber Orchestra and the Karabagh Repopulation Project. In the diaspora, AGBU sponsors over 30 day and Saturday schools in North and South America, Europe, the Middle East and Australia. More than 6,500 students are enrolled in these schools, where the curriculum includes instruction about their heritage and identity. Today, the AGBU Scholarship Program offers financial assistance to a broader range of Armenian students around the world such as AGBU Fellowships, Performing



At the French Embassy, from left, Berge Setrakian, Vera Setrakian, Joseph Ougourlian, Ambassador Jean-Pierre Asvazadourian and Ruben Kechichian

Arts Fellowships, Religious Studies Fellowships, International Scholarships and Heritage Scholar Grants, as well as the New York, Paris and Yerevan Summer Intern Programs. Along with its many cultural centers and day schools, the AGBU operates also Camp Nubar in the US, Colonie de Vacances in France, and other sites in Bulgaria and Syria where thousands of youth come together.

Since 1995, the AGBU Young Professionals have been a growing network of YP groups and supporters from around the world who promote Armenian identity and heritage for young Armenians between the ages of 22 to 40.

The 86th annual meetings program began on Wednesday, October 13, with a concert by violinist Sami Merdinyan in the French Embassy of Argentina. The ambassador of France to Argentina, Jean-Pierre Asvazadourian, accepted the petition of the local AGBU chapter to host the delegates of the AGBU 86th



Cutting the anniversary cake, from left, Ruben Kechichian, Elsa Kechichian, Vera Setrakian, Eduardo Eurnekian, Anahid Karmirshalyan, Ambassador Vladimir Karmirshalyan and Berge Setrakian



Berge Setrakian and Eduardo Eurnekian

Annual Assembly. (In 1984, when the AGBU 69th General Assembly was held in Buenos Aires, the US Embassy also hosted all the assembly delegates, headed by Life President Alex Manoogian.)

The concert was attended by the AGBU President Berge Setrakian and his wife Vera; AGBU Central Board members, Ambassador of Armenia in Argentina Vladimir Karmirshalyan and his wife; the Primate of the Armenian Apostolic Church for Argentina and Chile, Archbishop Kissag Mouradian; businessman Eduardo Eurnekian; members of delegations and members of AGBU Buenos Aires. The concert was a true pleasure for the delegates, which ended with cocktail reception by Asvazadourian.

Afterwards, the delegates moved to the AGBU headquarters on Armenia Street, and at the Nazar and Artemis Nazarian Hall, the Young Professionals of AGBU Buenos Aires officially greeted all the founders and former chairmen of the local Youth League Organization on its 70th anniversary and the alumni of AGBU Marie Manoogian Educational Institute. The Educational

Institute was founded in 1974 and starting in 1979 until now, it has graduated 605 young Armenians from its high school. They were the first students in the diaspora who began Friday night dinners with the help of their parents, to raise funds for their graduate travels to the motherland, Armenia. This tradition now has been adopted by hundreds of Armenian day schools all over the diaspora today.

continued on next page



Gala dinner participants



Diana Der Garabedian, editor of ADL weekly *Sardarabad*, with Eduardo Eurnekian



COMMUNITY NEWS



AGBU Concludes Its 86th

from previous page

The next day, students at the Berdjuhi Emirian primary section of the Marie Manoogian Educational Institute, received the delegates and presented to them Argentine and Armenian traditional songs and dances. Delegates, presided over by Berge Setrakian and other members of the Board of Directors, toured the institution and visited the classrooms, where students were learning Armenian history and culture through AGBU Virtual College program, which was started two years ago by AGBU Central Board of Directors.

On Friday, October 15, the official gala-dinner of the 86th General Assembly was held at the Hotel Four Seasons, during which Eduardo Eurnekian was honored. From airports to agriculture, from energy to banking, Eurnekian's name is synonymous with global business. A native of Argentina, Eurnekian is a renowned entrepreneur who has more recently been working to develop Armenia by investing in different sectors and thus creating jobs for its citizens. Eurnekian was born in 1932 in Argentina to Armenian immigrants. He began his career in the textile industry and built one of the most important companies in that sector in the country. In the early 1980s, Eurnekian purchased the bankrupt Cablevision SA cable TV station and transformed it into the largest private cable TV company in Latin America, with more than a million subscribers. He later sold the company for \$750 million. His media involvement included, among other things, an open-air TV chain, several radio stations and a financial newspaper. In 1988, he formed a consortium called Aeropuertos Argentina 2000, and he was awarded a 30-year concession to operate many of Argentina's airports. He has since expanded his business to incorporate major airports in Uruguay, Ecuador, Italy, Armenia and Peru. In agribusiness, Eurnekian owns the largest expanse of artificially irrigated land in Argentina and a total of 400,000 acres of farmland. He recently formed a new company, Tierras de Marruecos, which will explore the development of Morocco. During the last decade, Eurnekian began taking an active interest in Armenia and its future. In 2001, he started the renovation of Zvartnots International Airport runway and platforms – which are already completed – and the construction of a new high-tech terminal (of which phases one and two have been completed, while phase three is to be inaugurated in the fall of 2011.) His company, Tierras Armenia, works to promote agribusiness in the nation, including a focus on fruit and vegetable production in Arevadasht, just 40 miles outside Yerevan. He also sponsors

continued on next page



Laying the foundation for the headquarters of General Antranig Scouts



Youth Liga's founders



Graduates of 1979-1989



Graduates from 2000 to 2004



Graduates from 1990 to 1999



Graduates from 2005 to 2010



Board members at the swimming pool

COMMUNITY NEWS

Worldwide Annual Assembly



Young students perform the Argentinean tango.

from previous page

Fruitful Armenia, a nonprofit organization, which annually brings together various Armenian companies and organizations in an effort to promote agricultural growth, boost sustainable micro-business and train local workers. In 2006, Eurnekian acquired the third largest bank in Armenia, Converse Bank. He is in charge of the mail system in Armenia, HayPost, and the infrastructural renovation of its approximately 900 branches. In

continued on next page



Berge and Vera Setrakian handing AGBU Flag to a flag bearer student



Rosita Yusefian, director of the Armenian department, explains the Virtual College class system to the board members.



At Nazar and Artemis Nazarian Hall of the School



Kindergarten students with their teachers



COMMUNITY NEWS

AGBU Concludes Its 86th Worldwide Annual Assembly

from previous page
addition, he provides philanthropic help to the local Armenian communities and to the Holy See of Echmiadzin.

A visionary businessman, Eurnekian has been named Business Man of the Year 1995 in Argentina, and in 1999 he received the Leonardo Award from the Italian government, which is given to the leading foreign businessman. In September 2001, he received the St. Gregory the Illuminator Order medal and the decoration of St. Mesrob Mashtots from President Berge Sargsian, the highest decoration of the country.

AGBU, which has always encouraged philanthropy and active involvement in Armenian community life, honored Eurnekian in appreciation of his commitment to bettering the lives of Armenians.

Setrakian made Eurnekian an honorary member of the Central Council of the AGBU, which received a standing ovation and lengthy applause. Eurnekian humbly announced that he is just doing his duty for his people in Argentina and in Armenia. The whole episode and the gala dinner was televised by the Local TV 5 and aired to the public through YouTube.

On Saturday morning, the 86th Assembly took place at Sahagian hall, with the participation of more than 200 delegates and members. All speeches were simultaneously translat-

ed into English, Armenian, French and Spanish. After the Argentinean, Armenian and AGBU anthems, Setrakian opened the assembly with an encouraging speech, emphasizing AGBU's educational, cultural and humanitarian work. A financial report of the last two years was presented to the delegates. After the reports submitted by advisers, delegates voted to elect Joseph Ougourlian of New York as new member of the Central Board of Directors, to replace Dr. Arshavir Gundjian, whose term as member expired, according to the AGBU by-laws provisions of reaching the age of 75.

Finally, Archbishop Mouradian surprised all the delegates by reading Catholicos Karekin II's pontifical decree addressed to Bedros Piandarian, long time financial director of AGBU Central Board of Directors in New York, and a second decree addressed to Ruben Kechichian, chairman of AGBU Buenos Aires Chapter, and decorated them with the Nerses Shnorhali medals.

After the meeting, the delegates went to the land adjacent to Alex Manoogian Cultural Center and laid the foundation stone of the new General Antranik scouts' center.

(Compiled by Kevork Marshlian, sources included the ADL newspaper *Sardarabad* of Buenos Aires, the AGBU website, contributions from Diana Der Garabedian, editor of *Sardarabad* and AGBU Buenos Aires Chapter.)



Artoun Hadidian, director of the Department of Education



Delegates voting during the 86th assembly



Bedros Piandarian receives the Nerses Shnorhali Medal.



Ruben Kechichian receives the Nerses Shnorhali medal.



Sam Simonian



Sinan Sinanian



Carol Bagdasarian Aslanian



Nazareth Festekjian



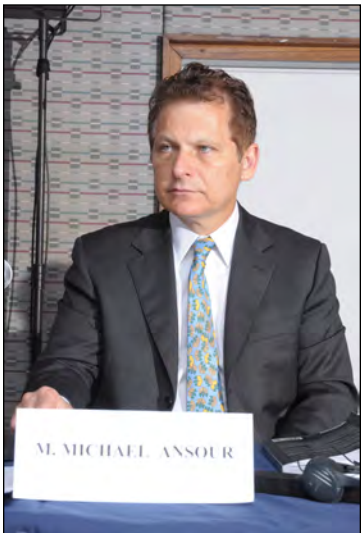
Yervant Zorian



Vahe Gabrache



Vasken Yacoubian



Michael Ansour



Aris Atamian



Member of AGBU Council of Trustees, Karnig Yacoubian



New York METRO

Armenian Identity at Center of ACYOA Leadership Conference

NEW YORK — ACYOA members attending a leadership conference at the Diocesan Center in New York last weekend learned that good leadership is grounded in a strong sense of identity.

The conference, held from October 8-10, brought together 53 young people representing 24 parishes to discuss Armenian identity in 21st-century America. They heard from exemplary

death and domination, our ancestors drew the line,” Barsamian noted. Quoting from Yeghishe’s history of the Vartanantz War, he reminded the ACYOA members of St. Vartan and his companions’ fervent response to the Persians: “From this faith nothing can shake us. Not men or angels. Not fire or water. Not the sword — not even torture.”



Marta Batmasian, Fund for Armenian Relief Board member, urged young people to embrace their Armenian heritage.

leaders in the Eastern Diocese, and brainstormed ways young Armenians could take up leadership roles in the Armenian Church.

The event followed on the success of a similar gathering held in March to encourage and guide young members of the Armenian Church in assuming more responsibilities in their parishes, and at a Diocesan level. Both conferences were planned by the ACYOA Central Council, with support from Diocesan clergy and leaders.

Themed “Leading with Faith,” this month’s seminar focused on exploring how the Christian faith is at the core of the Armenian identity and how that faith has inspired generations of leaders to build up the Armenian nation.

Participants discussed the connection between faith and identity, as articulated by St. Vartan and his followers in the fifth-century Battle of Avarayr, and considered how the legacy of the Vartanantz saints is relevant to their generation.

“It was due to the Holy Translators that the ‘Church of Armenia’ first became the ‘Armenian Church.’ And by the time of St. Vartan, a generation later, all the elements of the Armenian identity were finally in place — and rooted so deeply that it was no longer possible to imagine a separation of the word ‘Christian’ from the word ‘Armenian’: the latter signified the former, and in fact had no meaning apart from it,” said Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern).

“When the Persian king declared that Armenians would have to renounce Christ or face

These “words are inscribed in the Armenian soul, expressing the very essence of the Armenian identity,” the Primate said. “Vartan and his soldiers fought a war to prove that they meant what they had said. Armenian knights, priests, and common people united in battle to defend their homeland and their freedom.”

Turning to Armenians in America, Barsamian spoke about the first waves of immigrants, who established the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America and, later, erected St. Vartan Armenian Cathedral in the heart of Manhattan.

“Today, the Armenian identity is in your hands,” he told the young people. “How will you express it in your daily life? How will you honor it and advance it through your deeds?”

To begin answering these questions, participants engaged in activities to help them identify the strands that make up their identity. They also heard from seasoned leaders about their experiences as Armenians in the United States.

During a panel discussion on Saturday, Rev. Vasken Kouzouian, attorney Antranig Garibian, financial specialist Suzanne Akian and communications expert Arda Haratunian shared professional advice, encouraging young people to become more involved in the church and other community organizations. They spoke about ways their Armenian identity had enriched their lives.

An interactive presentation on leadership by the consulting firm Gap International stressed the importance of setting goals, taking a firm stand, and listening to one’s constituents. Later,

the Rev. Yeprem Kelegian asked the ACYOA members to consider how they might “take a stand” to continue expanding both their organization and the larger sense of community within the church.

The Rev. Mardiros Chevian, dean of St. Vartan Armenian Cathedral, spoke of the strong foundation established by previous generations of Armenian-Americans, and called on young people to appreciate and safeguard what has been passed on to them.

“This conference, this gathering of the youth of the Armenian Church, was already envisioned 50 years ago by those who built this cathedral,” he said. “They built this house of worship knowing you would come.”

A tour of the Diocesan Center helped acquaint young people with the work of the Eastern Diocese. Participants also had a chance to talk about the parish projects they’ve been carrying out since the last conference in March. Highlights include visiting the elderly, hosting family dinners, and conducting a phone-a-thon to encourage increased participation in church services among the ACYOA.

“It’s inspiring to see the determination and enthusiasm here,” said ACYOA Central Council member Ara Janigian. “This group can take the ACYOA to the next level.”

On Sunday, during the celebration of the Divine Liturgy, young people assisted Archbishop Barsamian on the altar and sang in the choir. In his sermon, the Primate again stressed the role of the Holy Translators, of Sts. Vartanantz, and of other great Armenian figures in shaping and preserving the Armenian identity.

At an afternoon luncheon with Marta Batmasian, Fund for Armenian Relief Board member, and philanthropist Aso Tavitian, attendees learned how they might become involved in development efforts in Armenia. Both speakers have shown a tremendous level of commitment to Armenia and bolstering other Armenian causes.

Batmasian, a native of Istanbul, warned of the danger of losing one’s sense of self and urged young people to embrace their Armenian heritage. After a successful career in insurance, real estate and academia, Batmasian and her husband are leading figures in South Florida’s philanthropy and in the Fund for Armenian Relief.

Tavitian spoke about a program he supports to train young public servants from Armenia at Tufts University’s Fletcher School. He is also the co-founder of Syncsort, a technology company, and a member of the Board of Trustees of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace,

among other high-profile organizations.

Reflecting on his own professional journey, he emphasized the importance of “finding something you love and building on that,” and said “being successful means you grab opportunities as life presents them.”

From Planning to Action

At the closing session, conference participants had the opportunity to apply the leadership tools they had been discussing all weekend to formulate an action plan for a joint ACYOA-FAR project.

In small groups, ACYOA members discussed steps they would need to take at the parish level to collect art supplies and other items for the Fund for Armenian Relief’s Children’s Center in Yerevan. The goal is to collect the materials between Thanksgiving and Christmas, and to ship them to Armenia in January, as part of the ACYOA Holiday Outreach initiative.

The project is one phase of a three-pronged plan to build a partnership with FAR—an idea that was first adopted at the ACYOA’s Annual Assembly last spring. Other proposals include building a digital platform for the Children’s Center and launching a summer internship program for ACYOA members at FAR’s office in Yerevan.

A committee has been named to oversee these goals. Committee member Katrina Shakarian outlined the digital platform, which would develop a website and blog for the Children’s Center to forge a relationship between ACYOA members and young people in Armenia.

ACYOA members said reaching out to children



Archbishop Khajag Barsamian observes a brainstorming session during the young adult leadership conference.

in need would provide them with a sense of fulfillment, help them to better understand the challenges facing their homeland, and inspire continued engagement with humanitarian efforts in Armenia.

“Being given the chance to make an action plan for FAR — and knowing that the Diocese is supporting us with this project—is very reassuring,” said Mitchell Mouradjian of Holy Resurrection Church, of New Britain, Conn.

Diocesan Council Chair Oscar Tatossian, who helped plan the conference, said it was encouraging to see young people from across the Eastern Diocese dedicate their time and energy to attend the three-day event. He also noted that the planning committee — headed by Archbishop Barsamian and comprising Diocesan leaders, clergy, staff and the ACYOA Central Council — is committed to supporting the young people of the Diocese.

“I think this was an excellent use of Diocesan resources,” he said, “and the Eastern Diocese is committed to offering more programs to build and support young parish leaders. Our goal is to have future leaders who are very well prepared to take responsibility for church life, who have a strong sense of identity, and who feel a spirit of unity among themselves.”

ACYOA members left the conference reenergized.

“This is one of the most successful conferences I’ve been to,” said Nathaniel Kadamian, of St. Mesrob Church in Racine, Wis. “I think it’s great that we come together, make connections and brainstorm ways we can be more involved.”

NORDESIGN & BUILD 617-283-5299
NEW CONSTRUCTION – RENOVATIONS – BATHS & KITCHENS



Arts & Living

New Journal of Society for Armenian Studies Released

FRESNO — The latest issue of the *Journal of the Society for Armenian Studies* (JSAS), Volume 19, Number 1, June 2010, was just published and includes five original articles about Armenians throughout the Americas. Much like earlier analyses that focused on Armenians in America, the five essays in this issue examine the origins and development of various communities in Argentina, Brazil, Mexico and Uruguay. The Society of Armenian Studies owes Nélida Boulgourdian-Toufeksian a debt of gratitude for soliciting these contributions from colleagues throughout Latin America and ensuring their initial translations from Spanish and Portuguese into English.

In addition to Boulgourdian-Toufeksian's essay on "From the Ottoman Empire to Argentina: The reception of post-genocide Armenians — Immigrants or refugees?," the following papers appear: Felipe Arocena and Adriana Topalian on "Young Armenian-Uruguayans: Identity and participation in the community;" Carlos Antaramián on "Armenians in 1930's Mexico City and April 24th Commemorations;" Monica Nalbandian and Lusine Yeghiazaryan on "Highlights on the Armenian Community of Brazil" and Gabriel Levita on "Deinstitutionalization of Ethnic and Religious Freelancing: Strategies and Speeches of Armenian Leaders" shed much light on these oft-neglected subjects.

The June issue contains the moving "Four Poems" by Helene Pilibosian. There are also three commentaries. Two are on the Armenia-Turkey protocols by Razmig B. Shirinian and the editor, which were first presented in Los Angeles, on December 17, 2009, at a seminar on the Protocols jointly sponsored by the Armenian Educational Foundation Endowed Chair in Modern Armenian History at UCLA and the Analysis Research and Planning for Armenia Institute. Prof. Steven Leonard Jacobs' presentations on the Armenian Genocide, redrafted for JSAS purposes, offer food for thought. While his arguments revisit well-known facts, they avow and elucidate what needs to be constantly reaffirmed, especially when the Armenian and Jewish holocausts are compared.

Seven book reviews by Michael Bobelian, Michael Kovacs, Robert Krikorian, John A.C. Greppin, Simon Payaslian and Hovann Simonian provide assessments on the latest publications. This is followed by a research note by Amber Karlins that explores an intriguing subject, focusing on how Arshaluys Mardiganian experienced the horrors of the Armenian Genocide, came to the United States, caught the attention of a screenwriter and his spouse and, with the help of the Near East Relief organization, turned her story into a book and a popular movie.

Finally, this issue includes an experiment, examining 36 Turkish articles and editorials originally published in *Hürriyet Daily News*. All highlight concerns among members of the Turkish intelligentsia and offer a rare glimpse into Turkish perspectives. They also reveal noteworthy insights for researchers to better identify important questions dealing with contemporary Armenian affairs and, perhaps, decipher nascent ties between Turkey and Armenia.

JSAS is now the only multi-disciplinary publication that appears on a semi-annual calendar to better serve the scholarly community and inform the growing list of lay supporters with the latest contributions. Edited by Dr. Joseph A. Kéchichian, the journal follows a straightforward policy with respect to submitted essays, as each is read anonymously by three referees: two outside experts, as well as the editor. Interested readers who wish to join the SAS and receive its refereed journal can contact Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdchian, Society for Armenian Studies, c/o Armenian Studies Program, 5245 N. Backer Ave., PB4, Fresno, CA 93740-8001 or e-mail barlowd@csufresno.edu.



Tchaikovsky.jpg: A view of the stage during the Armenian Philharmonic Orchestra's presentation of "Eugene Onegin" this July.

Armenian Philharmonic Orchestra Presents Pyotr Tchaikovsky's 'Eugene Onegin' Opera

YEREVAN — This summer, Armenian film director Vigen Chaldanian and the Armenian Philharmonic Orchestra presented "Eugene Onegin," an opera by Russian composer Pyotr Tchaikovsky, at the Aram Khachaturian Concert Hall. Produced and directed by Vigen Chaldanian and conducted by artistic director and principal conductor of Armenian State Philharmonic Orchestra Eduard Topchjan, "Eugene Onegin" was staged with the support of the Republic of Armenia Ministry of Culture.

Solos were performed by Rosa Hovsepiyan (as Larina), Liana Ghazarian and Susanna Melkonian (as Tatiana), Greta Bagian (as Olga), Gevork Hakobian (as Onegin) and Hovanness Ayzazian (as Lenski). Soloists of the Alexander Spendiaryan Opera and Ballet Academic Theater and Hover Chamber Choir also participated in the opera.

"I am sure this will be a very interesting evening. 'Eugene Onegin' is one of the most famous classical pieces and has not been on our stage for a very long time," said fellow conductor Harutun Arzumanyan in an interview shortly before the opening night.

The opening night consisted of elaborate costumes and stage decorations, a packed hall and prominent figures of the Armenian musical stratum in the balcony, including Eduard Mirzoyan, Tigran Mansourian and Yuri Davtian. The audience was deeply moved by the outstanding performances by the soloists, the high professionalism of the orchestra, and the remarkable direction that made the music come alive. This was Topchjan's sixth successful attempt since 2001 to present concert performances of the world's most famous operas. With the July performance of "Eugene Onegin," the Armenian Philharmonic Orchestra successfully closed out the 2009-2010 concert season, which is sponsored by the AGBU.

A New Approach to Turkish-Armenian Understanding

Story of *Deep Mountain* Told by Author at the University of Michigan

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — The Armenian Studies Program (ASP) opened its fall public lecture series with journalist and author, Ece Temelkuran. She discussed the process of researching and writing one of her recent books, *Deep Mountain: Across the Turkish-Armenian Divide*, and its connection with the death of her friend, Dink Hrant.

The lecture was co-sponsored by the Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies (CMENAS).

The lecture began with the presentation of a song about and photos of Dink written by ASP Visiting Scholar Murat Ozuyksel.

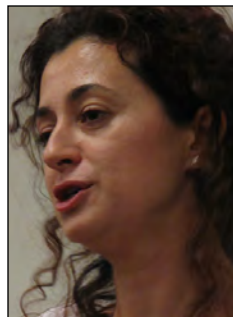
Said Temelkuran, "It's difficult to talk after seeing this presentation about my friend. I want to thank Hrant in front of all of you because he is the reason for the book."

Dink had challenged Temelkuran to visit Armenia. On that trip Temelkuran visited the Armenian Genocide museum and had discussions with several locals. In her visit with the poetess Sylva Kaputikian, she asked what was the obsession with Mount Ararat, the

women responded "My dear young lady Ararat is a matter of height for you [Turks] but a matter of depth for us [Armenians]." Temelkuran continued to explain her interactions with Armenians and her attempt

to understand and explain Turkish-Armenian relations. Dink then encouraged Temelkuran to visit the Armenians in America; he was tragically murdered before the meeting.

To learn about Temelkuran's approach to the difficult problem of Turkish-Armenian relations, go to the ASP website (www.umich.edu/~iinet/asp) under events and programs, where the video is linked to the title of the lecture.



Ece Temelkuran

Balakian Reflects on Manhattan in New Poetry Collection

By Thomas C. Nash

Special to the Mirror-Spectator

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — Acclaimed author Peter Balakian helped kick off this year's season at the Blacksmith House Poetry Series by reading from his first collection of poetry in nearly a decade.

Balakian joined Michael Klein, author of the poetry collection, *then, we were still living*, for a reading that alternated between Klein's confessional approach and Balakian's introspective take on Manhattan, as featured in his new book of poems, *Ziggurat*.

Balakian, an English professor at Colgate University known primarily for his bestselling memoir, *Black Dog of Fate* and *The Burning Tigris: The Armenian Genocide and America's Response*, has also remained an accomplished poet. *Ziggurat* (University of Chicago Press) traces his youth in Manhattan alongside the days following the September 11 attacks.



Peter Balakian reading from *Ziggurat* at the Cambridge Center for Adult Education as a part of the opening of this year's Blacksmith House Poetry Series

"My continued interest in catastrophe and violence — which I suppose will always be tied in with the Armenian Genocide — began percolating in this book," Balakian told the audience at the Cambridge Center for Adult Education last Monday.

The concept of the ancient structures "became an echoing metaphor" in the aftermath of the World Trade Center's destruction, which Balakian watched "built from the ground" during his time as mail courier.

"They became, to me, mental spaces," he added. "Spaces of reverie and perspective."

Balakian admitted to at first feeling like he could not write about what happened, and from the reading it was clear why. Many of the selections Balakian chose to read focused on the immediacy of the events, including "Going to Zero," in which he encounters the space where the towers had stood for the first time since they fell.

The book also encapsulates his reactions to various cultural influences — ranging from Andy Warhol's art to the poetry of Emily Dickinson.

"A-Train/Ziggurat/Elegy" ties many of the book's themes together, and at 47 sections is also the centerpiece of the collection. Balakian read from a few of the sections, which focused on a professor's musing on a student serving as a reporter in Iraq.

Balakian's next reading will occur at Kepler's Books, in Menlo Park, Calif. November 18.



ARTS & LIVING

Fashion Show Benefit Honors Longtime Organizer Mary Atamian

By Nancy Sheehan

WORCESTER (*Telegram and Gazette*) — Mary Atamian is a fundraiser with real style.

She has long been known for her generous heart and, since 1949, her knack for turning fashion into funds for countless charitable organizations.

She chaired "Fashions: Now and Then," a show that combined the latest looks as well as a few retro styles to benefit cancer research through the UMass Memorial Foundation. The event was held at Pleasant Valley Country Club in Sutton and featured fashions from the Pleasant Street store of famous Worcester designer James Hogan and The Treasure Chest, a discount designer boutique in Shrewsbury.

Atamian's fashion shows and other events have benefited Hope Lodge, the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, American Cancer Society and many others. She also has put on charity variety shows, including the High Fever Frolics, a long-running revue that benefited Memorial Hospital, through the 1970s.

In addition to raising money for cancer research, the September 15 fashion show honored Atamian for her many years of service and offered a chance for many old friends to reconnect with her — and some new ones, too.

Atamian's first fashion show was a fundraiser in 1949 for the Women's Club scholarship fund in Uxbridge, where she lived at the time. She moved to Worcester with her husband, Elias, after he opened a car dealership here. It offered a larger theater for her special talents of organizing and mobilizing a small charitable army. She started with one event, which quickly led to another ... and another and another ...

"I did something big in the city — I don't recall what — and we made a lot of money," she told an interviewer in 1985. "And someone approached me and asked if I would be on the board for the Cancer Society." She didn't even consider saying no. She has also raised money or served as a volunteer for the Worcester County Music Association, the Worcester Art Museum and the Armenian Assembly of America among other cultural and organizations. Needless to say, her charitable calendar was a full one.

"One year we did a fashion show for Hope

Lodge and Cystic Fibrosis on the same day, with James Hogan," said Audrey Mingolla, a fashionshow committee member and longtime friend of Atamian. "That was many years ago, when you could get people to come at noon-time, when ladies would go out for lunch. We had a good crowd at noon and a whole different group of people because one was for cystic fibrosis and the other was for American Cancer. It worked because we kept the flowers. Everything was set. The clothes were there. The models were there. The room was set. All they did was change the linen and the names cards and we just did it all over again."

Tragedy struck in 2001 when Atamian's daughter, Candy Atamian, an executive with the former Filene's department store who helped her mother with fashion shows, died after a long battle with cancer. She was 46. "She kept up with her commitments all that through her personal tragedy, even with that heartbreak," friend Elaine Saliba said. "She is a very dedicated and caring individual."

Even behind the scenes.

"There's a humanitarian side to Mary that very few people know about," Saliba said. "She was a dear friend of my mother's and when my father died, she'd take her to dinner. She'd take her to a movie. She had an SUV and she'd put a stool out to help my mother to climb up into it. If you invite her to lunch or dinner or whatever, she always brings a gift. She never shows up empty-handed. She's just a very thoughtful person."

Also on the fashion show committee are Caryl Masiello and Madelyn Anusbigian, but Atamian is the boss, Mingolla said. "She she's going to say 'I want this' and 'I need that' and, you know what, we're going to get it for her just because she's Mary. People will do anything for Mary."

Hogan has been asked to be involved several times over 20 years or so, and he always says what everyone else does. "Mary would come and ask me to do it and I would say 'I'd love to,'" he said. "We were always so honored and privileged to help whatever charities she was working on."

What was it about Atamian, besides a warm personality, that made people so willing to help?

"You always knew she was going to do a great job," Hogan said. "You just did your part, but you knew that everything else would be



Mary Atamian

taken care of and that it would be done beautifully."

Many people involved with the show, like Hogan, have known Atamian for decades. Lisa Oates, owner of The Treasure Chest, met her

only last fall but quickly discovered a deep connection.

"She came into the store, and she is a very engaging person," Oates said. "We're talking and she asked me what my maiden name was. I told her 'Dowd' and it turned out she had been a close friend of my mother, who died 25 years ago. She started crying and we sat down and talked and talked. Since then she stops by from time to time, and we've developed a nice friendship."

As the fashion show's volunteer models came into the Treasure Chest, even the ones Oates was meeting for the first time, they uttered a familiar refrain. "They all say 'I'd do anything for Mary,'" Oates said. "You'll hear that from everyone."

In 1949, Atamian founded the annual fashion show for the American Cancer Society for research, which became an annual event at Pleasant Valley Country Club, Sutton, Mass., for Hope Lodge.

Atamian is the recipient of several awards, including: American Cancer Society Award, 1968; John J. Calabro Award given by the American Arthritis Foundation, 1969; Massachusetts Easter Seal Society Award, 1990; Worcester Woman's History Project Award, 2000; Armenian Assembly of America Outstanding and Development Award, 2005 and Armenian Church of Our Saviour (Worcester) Recognition Award, 2007.

A Concert of Armenian Folk Music Presented by Komitas Choir of St. John Armenian Church

SOUTHFIELD, Mich. — Rubik Mailian, choir director and soloist of St. John's Armenian Church of Greater Detroit, together with its 28-member Komitas Choir, will present "A Concert of Armenian Folk Music" on Friday, November 19, at 8 p.m. in the auditorium of the church, located at 22001 Northwestern Highway.

The evening will feature Armenian folk songs, dance and instrumentals. A reception of Armenian dessert delicacies will follow the performance. Prior to the concert, between 6:30 and 7:45 p.m., concertgoers will have the opportunity to enjoy a complimentary tour of the Alex & Marie Manoogian Museum and to view the renowned sanctuary of St. John.

Mailian, music director of St. John's Armenian Church, is recognized not only as a choral director but also as a soloist where he is equally versatile in opera and concert repertoire. Along with innumerable recitals in the local area he has sung in New York, Boston, Miami and Houston. His operatic experiences include performances with the

Houston Grand Opera, Des Moines Metropolitan Opera and the Michigan Opera Theater. His major orchestral experiences include the Mass in B Minor, Beethoven's Ninth, Carmina Burana and Mahler's Eighth led by Christopher Eschenbach and Robert Shaw.

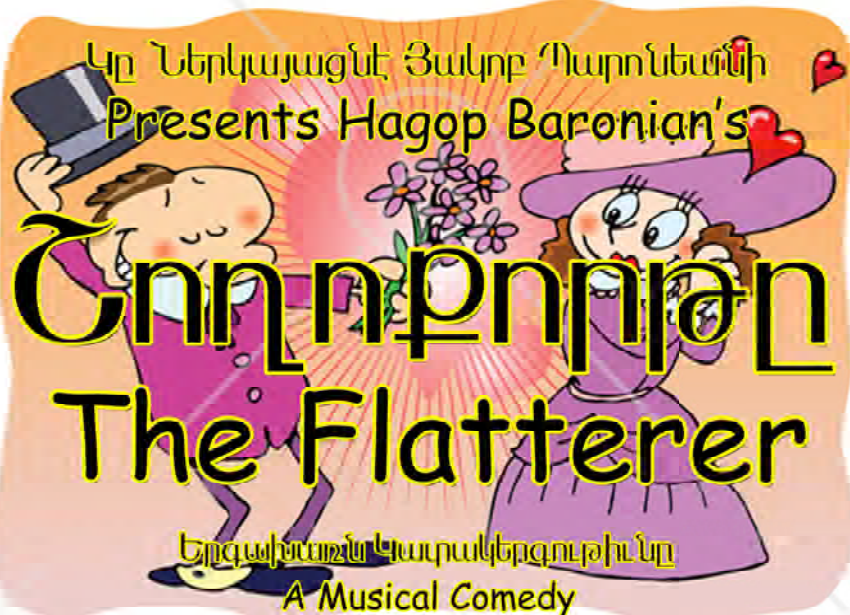
Under the leadership of Mailian, the Komitas Choir of St. John's Armenian Church was one of only two choral groups in this area to be invited to participate with the International Paris Ile de France Choir at the Concert for Peace in the World in Paris, at the United Nations building, sponsored by the United Nations. They have been invited to perform at several concert venues and churches around the world, including the Cathedral of Holy Echmiadzin in Armenia. Locally the choir has performed by invitation at many venues including Christ Church Cranbrook.

For further information and to purchase tickets, call St. John's Armenian Church. For directions to the church, visit the church website, www.stjohnsarmenianchurch.org.



The Armenian Mirror-Spectator
The First English language Armenian weekly newspaper in the United States, now in its 78th year of publication

Թէքեան Մշակութային Միութիւն
Միեր Մկրտչեան Թատերախումբ
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

Newton Symphony Concert to Feature Music of Hovhaness, Khachaturian

NEWTON, Mass. — The Newton Symphony Orchestra (NSO) will present a concert on Sunday November 14, titled “The Mystic Beauty of Armenian Music,” which will be dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the birth of composer Alan Hovhaness.

The concert will take place at 3 p.m. at the former Rashi Auditorium, 15 Walnut Park, Newton Corner, on the grounds of the Andover Newton Theological School.

The program features Joseph Scheer, concertmaster of the Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra in Aram Khachaturian’s *Violin Concerto*. The

concert opens with the beautiful *Prayer of Saint Gregory* by Alan Hovhaness, played by the NSO’s principal trumpeter, Daniel Davis. Next comes Hovhaness’ *Symphony No. 2, Mysterious Mountain*. The second part of the concert will open with Khachaturian’s *Masquerade Suite* and close with the *Violin Concerto*.

There is a free pre-concert lecture by musicologist Steven Ledbetter. After the concert the audience is invited to join the soloist, orchestra members and conductor for refreshments.

For more information on the program and for tickets visit www.newtonsymphony.org.



Joe Scheer



Dan Davis

YerazArt Musicians Perform at Radnor Sisters’ Academy

RADNOR, Penn. — On a rainy October afternoon, students of the Armenian Sisters’ Academy (ASA) were mesmerized by a live classical music performance by young performers touring with YerazArt, which helps young musicians from Armenia. While classical music is not

usually the students’ first choice, they were entranced watching it performed live by musicians their age or slightly older.

The children gazed in awe as 13-year-old violinist Davit Hakobyan’s flying fingers made his violin dance. Equally talented was saxophonist

Eduard Nersisyan, 19, whose smooth melodies accompanied Shoghakat Vardanyan, 17, on piano. Students were treated to Rasa-Lila Buniatyan, 17, playing the kamancha along to songs by Sayat Nova; one of which many students recognized from hantes performances. A request for an encore was granted, and the teachers gave these young people a standing ovation.

Arpy Minasian, an ASA parent who helped organize the musicians’ visit, summed it up: “In addition to regular school, these musicians practice four to five hours a day. We know if you (ASA students) put your mind to it and aspire to a goal, you can be just as talented.”

YerazArt also performed at the academy that evening to over 200 attendees from throughout the Philadelphia community.



The performers from YerazArt visited the Armenian Sisters Academy in Radnor, Penn., ahead of their concert.

E-SUBSCRIPTION AVAILABLE

The *Armenian Mirror-Spectator* will be available every Thursday, in COLOR and PDF format to all who subscribe specifically to this electronic delivery.

The annual rate is \$50.

To subscribe to this service, please fill out the following and mail it along with your check of \$50 made out to the:

Armenian Mirror-Spectator,
755 Mt. Auburn Street,
Watertown, MA 02472

☐ Yes, Please e-mail me the *Armenian Mirror-Spectator* every Thursday.

My E-mail address is _____

Name and Last name _____

You can also e-mail your request to mirrorads@aol.com for faster service

ԹԷԿԵԱՆ ՄԶԱԿՈՒԹԱՅԻՆ ՄԻՈՒԹԻԼՆ
ՄԻԵՐ ՄԿՐՈՂՅԵԱՆ ԹԱՎԵՐԱԽՈՒՆԲ
Tekeyan Cultural Association - Mher Megerdchian Theatrical Group

Մեծարանքի Ուրախ Երեկոյ եւ Հաշկերոյթ

A Joyful Tributary Banquet

Գրիգոր Սաթամեանի
(Բեմադրիչ, Դերասան, Թարթմանիչ)

Թավերական
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

Filtero
Alfred Demirjian
Data Recovery
Computer Forensic Specialist

20 Concord Lane Cambridge, MA 02138
tel 617 491 1001 aa@techfusion.com cell 617 797 5222

techFusion.com



ARTS & LIVING

Gerald Papasian to Star in Play by Irina Brook in New York

NEW YORK — Gerald Papasian will be playing Bottom and Demetrius in “Waiting for the Dream” by Irina Brook at New York’s La MaMa Theatre in early November. The play is a hilarious adaptation of the classic “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” by William Shakespeare, performed by an all-male cast of six.

In the past five years, the Irina Brook Company has brought the play to different types of venues, from rough Paris suburbs to forests and remote villages. “In each different spot something magical occurred,” Brook remembers. The show was performed over 300 times in various countries, including Armenia, Italy, Morocco and Poland.

A founding member of the Irina Brook Company, Papasian has played Sancho Panza in “Somewhere...La Mancha” at



Gerald Papasian

Peter Brook’s famous Bouffes du Nord Theater in Paris, as well as “The Good Person of Szechuan” at the Théâtre National de Chaillot, both directed by Brook.

Co-author with Nora Armani of the hit show “Sojourn at Ararat,” he is also the founder of the Dikran Tchouhadjian Research Center, which is dedicated to the promotion of Armenian opera, theater and music worldwide.

Papasian restored “Arshak II,” which was played at the San Francisco Opera, and staged “Anoush” at the Detroit Opera House. This fall, he directed a new adaptation of the popular operetta, “Gariné,” in Paris and Marseilles. The president of Armenia recently awarded him the Movses Khorenatsi medal, the country’s highest cultural honor.

The play will be staged at La MaMa Experimental Theatre Club, 74A East 4th St., in French (and partly English), with subtitles. The run will start on Wednesday, November 3 and end on Sunday, November 7.

To purchase tickets online, visit www.lamama.org.

Peter Balakian to Read from Ziggurat in California

SAN FRANCISCO — Peter Balakian will read from his new book of poems *Ziggurat* (published by The University of Chicago Press) and will also discuss issues concerning the Armenian Genocide and contemporary affairs during a question-and-answer session.

Balakian will read at the following locations: November 18, 7 p.m., Kepler’s Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park; November 20, 7:30 p.m., The Booksmith, 1644 Haight St., San Francisco; and November 21, 4 p.m., Mrs. Dalloway’s, 2904 College Ave., Berkeley and November 22, 7 p.m., ALOUD Reading Series. Mark Taper Auditorium, Central Library of Los Angeles, 630 West Fifth St.

For reservations and information on the latter, visit <http://www.lfla.org/event-detail/522/Peter-Balakian>.

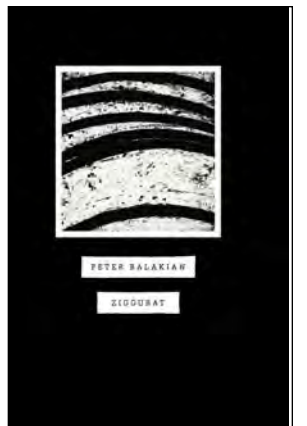
In *Ziggurat*, Balakian continues to define himself as one of the most distinctive voices of his generation.

He explores history, self and imagination, as well as his ongoing concerns with catastrophe and trauma.

Balakian is the Donald M. and Constance H. Rebar Professor in Humanities and professor of English at Colgate University.

He is the author of five books of poems including *June-tree: New and Selected Poems 1974-2000*, and three prose works, including *The Burning Tigris: The Armenian Genocide and America’s Response*, a *New York Times* best seller, and *Black Dog of Fate*, winner of the PEN/Albrand Prize for memoir.

For further information about Balakian’s tour, visit www.PeterBalakian.com.



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 6 — On Saturday, at 1 p.m., the Armenian Church of Cape Cod invites the community to hear Pulitzer Prize-winning and retired Boston Globe Metro reporter Stephen Kurkjian at St. Peter’s Church, 421 Wianno Ave., Osterville. Light luncheon at 12:15 p.m. preceded by 10 a.m. badarak. \$10 per person, donations suggested. Call Lucy at (508) 548-7673 by October 27 for reservations.

NOVEMBER 12-13 — Annual Bazaar sponsored by the Armenian Apostolic Church at Hye Pointe, 110 Main St., Haverhill. Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Armenian cuisine served all day: lamb, losh and chicken kebab dinners, kheyima dinners, plus a variety of your favorites. Pastry table, country store, gift basket raffles, raffles for cash prizes and gift certificates. For more info, visit www.hypointechurch.org or call the church office at (978) 372-9227.

NOVEMBER 13 — Armenian Nursing and Rehabilitation Center 35th Annual Luncheon and Auction at the Nursing Home, 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. 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 14 — The 50th anniversary celebration of the founding of the Kirikian Armenian School will take place on Sunday, November, 14, at St. Thomas Armenian Church, Tenafly. Reunion cocktail hour, 1 p.m., followed by three-course lunch and program, featuring current Kirikian Armenian school students. Tickets: \$65, adults; \$20 for 12 and under. RSVP by October 25. No tickets sold at door. For reservations and info, contact Nadine Yavru-Sakuk at nyavrusakuk@gmail.com.

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 13, the Armenian Nursing and Rehabilitation Center will host its 35th Annual Luncheon and Auction at the Nursing Home, at the Burlington Marriott, in Burlington, Mass., noon, featuring Cindy Fitzgibbon of Fox25 Morning News, pictured above, and Jordan Rich of WBZ News Radio, who will conduct a live auction. A silent auction will take place as well. Tickets are \$50. For info, call Susan Giragosian at (617) 926-0455 or e-mail awwaauction@gmail.com.

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.

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.

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.

839 Washington Street
Newtonville, MA 02160
(617) 964-3400



KAROUN
Restaurant

Armenian Mid-Eastern Cuisine

Entertainment Fridays
and Saturdays

Eurdolian Family



COMMENTARY

COMMENTARY

Now Is Precisely the Right Time to Recognize The Armenian Genocide

By Taniel Shant

“The Armenian Genocide is not an allegation, a personal opinion or a point of view, but rather a widely documented fact supported by an overwhelming body of historical evidence. The facts are undeniable,” stated Sen. Barack Obama in 2008. During the historic election of 2008, Barack Obama campaigned to change Washington’s political landscape bringing in fresh and dynamic approaches to some of the most challenging problems facing our nation. Since his election, both the Obama Administration and the 111th Congress have been very busy, for better or worse. In the context of Armenian-American issues, many have argued that enough has not been done. At the same time, many opportunities have arisen to begin the honest change we all hoped, and some of us voted, for.

Since the 2008 elections, developments in the Middle East and South Caucasus have transformed the region. Some would argue that these transformations have reshaped US foreign policy. From an Armenian-American standpoint, we have seen Armenia’s bold move to normalize relations with Turkey without preconditions collapse at Turkey’s feet, witnessed the deterioration of Turkish-Israeli relations, the downward trend of US-Turkish relations and the realignment of the American political system, including the impact of the Tea Party. So what do all of these events have to do with Armenian-American issues?

For a start, the bold and courageous move by Armenian President Serge Sargisian to initiate the process of normalizing relations with Turkey was suspended earlier this year due to Turkey’s inability to deliver on their international commitments. Supplementary to the Armenian-American community’s impressive grassroots effort, Turkey’s failed policy of blockading Armenia in order to force concessions on Nagorno-Karabagh, Turkey’s failure to ratify the protocols and Turkey’s failure to achieve “zero problems with zero neighbors” bolstered the favorable outcome in the House Foreign Affairs Committee vote of H. Res. 252, the Armenian Genocide resolution, on March 3, 2010. While Obama referred to the Armenian Genocide by the Armenian term, he should have used the English word to properly live up to his campaign promise. However, for every opportunity missed, another will surely arise.

Second, the deterioration of Turkey’s relations with Israel has been rather rapid. This year witnessed the Israeli ambassador’s humiliation of their Turkish envoy (publicly putting him on a low chair), a Turkish television series depicting Israeli soldiers murdering Palestinian children, the infamous flotilla incident off the coast of the Mediterranean, and most recently the exclusion of the Israeli ambassador to Erdogan’s Iftar dinner. For years, it has been

widely known that the American-Israeli lobby had quietly pressured the US Congress not to adopt an Armenian Genocide resolution. Since Erdogan’s outburst at Davos last year, and the aforementioned events of 2010, that no longer seems to be the case.

Then we have Turkey’s repositioning in the world, increasingly, in opposition to US interests. In addition to Turkey’s refusal to honor its international commitment to normalize relations with Armenia and lift its blockade, Turkey stood in opposition to international sanctions against Iran. The government of Turkey chose to vote against the US backed sanctions meanwhile media reports have identified numerous Turkish banks and firms doing business with Iran in violation of UN Security Council Resolution 1929. The lack of Turkish support of US policy and their deteriorating relations with Israel underscores the reasoning behind sending four Turkish delegations to Washington, DC this year alone, with a fifth expected following the US mid-term elections this November.

Turning to the realignment of the American political system, the conservative grassroots movement known as the Tea Party Express has captured headlines and has been the number one topic of primary election discussions. It appears that the Republican Party, which is poised to gain a substantial number of seats in both the House and Senate this November (potentially becoming the majority), is shifting further to the right of the moderate conservative elements that have traditionally led the party. This realignment is noteworthy since there are substantially more democrats than republicans listed as official cosponsors of H. Res. 252. It can be expected that if there are any delays in scheduling a vote on the House floor during the “mother of all lame-ducks” slated to begin the week of November 15, that the chances of a realigned right wing majority party in Congress next year will be that much more challenging to convince than that of the 2000 GOP-led House of Representatives.

In conclusion, one should expect that any country will follow its own national interest, but Turkey should not expect to have it both ways. While Obama missed his best opportunity earlier this year, this Congress has one last chance. With only a 10-day lame-duck session left to bring this bill up for a floor vote, every Armenian-American should be writing, emailing and calling their representative to urge them to bring H. Res. 252 to the floor for a vote this year. For years we have heard the excuse that now is not the right time. With a neutral American-Jewish lobby, a competing, repositioned Turkey, and the prospects of a far right majority in the US Congress come 2011, the 111th Congress of the United States should recognize the will of their American constituencies. In reality, now is precisely the right time to affirm the US record on the Armenian Genocide.

(Taniel Shant is an Armenian-American working in politics in Washington, DC.)

LETTERS

Republican Ad Has Been Misinterpreted

To the Editor:

Recently, there has appeared in your pages reactions of a sort to my ad that all Armenians should vote Republican this November in order to teach the President a lesson for lying to the Armenians. In this response, I will ignore the letter to you, since it misses the entire point of the ad, and I will respond to the ad that appeared.

In order to make my ad as effective as I thought it should be, I made a few assumptions so that I could use the largest type-faces and the spacing available and still make the ad readable. I assumed (always a mistake, when dealing with Armenians) that the Armenians would understand that I was referring not to all politicians who lie as easily as they breathe, but to this president only, and that I was referring to the matter of his not publicly stating that “Yes, there was a Genocide of the Armenians by the Turks beginning in 1915.”

I assumed (there is that mistake, again) that Presidential (i.e., American) recognition of the Armenian Genocide is important to the Armenians.

It has been pointed out what the president is supposed to have said in Ankara. The test of any statement or resolution or other measure regarding the Armenian Genocide is the reaction of the Turks. Twice, when France referred to the Genocide of the Armenians (without

referring to the Turks, by the way!), Turkey reacted by recalling its ambassador, canceling agreements and meetings and issuing damning comments. We will ignore the fact that after each blustering episode, Turkey put its tail between its legs and sent back its ambassador and resumed trade with France. Twice, also, the same thing happened with regard to statements in Canada.

There being no reaction from Turkey regarding any statement by “President Meds Yeghern” means that Turkey took no offense. That the president said (or is supposed to have said) that his views about the Genocide haven’t changed means absolutely nothing. What he supposedly thinks and what he supposedly said is irrelevant. What he does is what is important and what he has not done is state publicly and openly that “Yes, there was a Genocide of the Armenians in 1915.” He doesn’t even have to say “by the Turks.”

Therefore, as long as the president keeps to himself his belief that there was a Genocide of the Armenians, he is not keeping his promise, he is lying to the Armenians, and he is keeping his Turkish masters happy.

If that is the state of affairs that the Armenians (or some Armenians) want, then so be it.

Don’t, however, expect the President – any president – to keep his word, if the Armenians

blindly respect a man who does not keep his pledge. By the way, and for what it is worth, I was present when Candidate Yeghern told the Greek Cypriots (at a conference) that he would make every effort to get the Turks out of Northern Cyprus (he hasn’t), that he would get the Turks to recognize Bartholomew II as the Ecumenical Patriarch (he hasn’t), that he would get the Turks to open the Halki Seminary (he hasn’t), that he would ask the Skopje government to change the name of its country to something other than “Macedonia” (he hasn’t). Does one see a pattern there? All of these would offend Ankara. Let the Hellenes react, to these you say. Exactly.

The president knows that when he uses the words “Meds Yeghern,” he is speaking to the Armenians (who will be pleased that he knows two Armenian words), but when he uses the words “Armenian Genocide,” he is speaking to the world (and the Turks will not be pleased). That was what I assumed was understood when I worded my ad as I did.

I apologize for not making my ad clearer. Also, I now know what my mother meant when she used to say that “there are some Armenians who will say ‘It is raining,’ when someone spits in their faces.”

– A. Kevorkian
Philadelphia, Penn.

THE ARMENIAN Mirror-Spectator

Established 1932

An ADL Publication

EDITOR

Alin K. Gregorian

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Aram Arkun

ART DIRECTOR

Marc Mgrditchian

PRODUCTION

Dilani Yagaratnam

CONTRIBUTORS:

Elizabeth Aprahamian, Daphne Abeel, Dr. Haroutiune Arzoumanian, Edmond Azadian, Prof. Vahakn N. Dadrian, Diana Der Hovanessian, Philip Ketchian, Kevork Keushkerian, Sonia Kailian-Placido, Harut Sassounian, Mary Terzian, Hagop Vartivarian, Naomi Zeytoonian, Taleen Babayan

CORRESPONDENTS:

Armenia - Hagop Avedikian

Boston - Nancy Kalajian

Philadelphia - Lisa Manookian

Contributing Photographers:

Jacob Demirdjian, Harry Koundakjian, Jirair Hovsepian

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

Baika Association, Inc.

755 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown, MA 02472-1509

Telephone: 617-924-4420

FAX: 617-924-2887

www.mirrorspectator.com

E-Mail: **editor@mirrorspectator.com**

For advertising: mirrorads@aol.com

New York/New Jersey Office

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

U.S.A.	2nd Class	\$75 a year
	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

Copying for other than personal use or internal reference is prohibited without express permission of the copyright owner. Address requests for reprints or back issues to:

Baika Association, Inc.

755 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown, MA 02472-1509

Check us out at
mirrorspectator.com



COMMENTARY



My Turn

By Harut Sassounian

Time to Take a Stand: Who to Vote for and Who to Vote Against?

The November 2 congressional elections are expected to have a tidal wave effect on America's political landscape. Campaign ads and political commentaries have flooded the airwaves and everyone is anxiously following the polls to see if their favorite candidate or party is going to prevail or get tossed out.

In two short years, President Barack Obama's popularity has plummeted precipitously. Disappointed by his administration's disastrous performance, the American public has turned on Democratic incumbents, many of whom fear losing their congressional seats.

Even though several key races are too close to call, political pundits expect that Republicans will take over the House of Representatives, and possibly the Senate. If these predictions come true, there will probably be total gridlock in Washington until the next presidential and congressional elections in 2012. Until then, all new initiatives undertaken by the Obama administration will be stalled in Congress, making it almost impossible to pass any bills on important national issues.

In such a confusing situation, how would an Armenian-American vote? Those who are staunch Democrats or

Republicans have an easy choice to make. They would vote for their party's candidates, regardless of their position on issues.

However, those who care about Armenian issues have a somewhat more difficult task. They could take the position that since Democrats have not delivered their promises on the Genocide resolution, they would punish them by voting instead for Republican candidates. The problem is that traditionally most Republican members of Congress have been less supportive of the Armenian Genocide issue than Democrats. Thus, voting for all Republican candidates, while perhaps emotionally satisfying, will not benefit the Armenian Cause. On the contrary, Armenians would be helping to elect candidates who are less sympathetic than the current members of Congress, many of whom are Democrats.

Another option is to sit out the elections completely, since neither Democrats nor Republicans delivered on Armenian issues when they were in power. This is not a good option, however, as it would squander decades of political investment the Armenian community has made in American civic life.

The option I recommend for the consideration of Armenian-American voters is none of the above. Do not vote blindly for your party's candidates and do not sit out the election.

The optimum choice is to vote for candidates of any party who have demonstrated a proven track record of active support on Armenian issues. Those who are reluctant to vote on the basis of a candidate's stand on Armenian issues should remember that most voters make their selection based on their perceived self-interest. Jews, Blacks, Hispanics, Turks and other ethnic groups vote for candidates who support their causes. Those in high-income brackets typically vote for candidates who promise to lower their taxes, while poor people usually support those who favor funding more social services. Why should Armenians

be the exception and shy away from supporting candidates who favor their issues? Voters make their electoral choices on the basis of their interests. It is then up to elected officials to balance the conflicting interests of their constituents.

Armenian-Americans can keep their friends in Congress by re-electing the 120 Democratic and 36 Republican House members; and one independent, 12 Democratic and two Republican Senators, all of whom received top grades from the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA). At the same time, Armenian-Americans can reduce the number of their opponents in Congress by supporting candidates who are running against the 18 Democratic and 22 Republican House members who received a failing grade from ANCA. To check the individual record of Members of Congress, please consult the ANCA's report card by clicking on: www.anca.org.

Finally, everyone must be aware that the day after the November 2 elections is the unofficial start of the next presidential campaign. In this regard, it is distressing that President Obama came to Los Angeles and Glendale last Friday and not a single Armenian protested his appearance. How could Armenians ignore the fact that the president did not keep his promise to acknowledge the Armenian Genocide during his first two years in office? As President Obama was desperately seeking to convince voters to support Democratic candidates, Southern California's large Armenian community missed a unique opportunity to show the President its displeasure before the national media.

By their absence, Armenians sent an ominous message to all candidates: You can promise anything to Armenians to get their money and votes, and after the election, you can break your promise with impunity!

Armenians need to wake up from their lethargy. If they want elected officials to take them seriously, they must reward their political friends and penalize their opponents.

The Shaming Of America

By Robert Fisk

Our writer delivers a searing dispatch after the WikiLeaks revelations that expose in detail the brutality of the war in Iraq – and the astonishing, disgraceful deceit of the US.

As usual, the Arabs knew. They knew all about the mass torture, the promiscuous shooting of civilians, the outrageous use of air power against family homes, the vicious American and British mercenaries, the cemeteries of the innocent dead. All of Iraq knew. Because they were the victims.

Only we could pretend we did not know. Only we in the West could counter every claim, every allegation against the Americans or British with some worthy general – the ghastly US military spokesman Mark Kimmitt and the awful chairman of the Joint Chiefs, Peter Pace, come to mind – to ringfence us with lies. Find a man who'd been tortured and you'd be told it was terrorist propaganda; discover a house full of children killed by an American air strike and that, too, would be terrorist propaganda, or "collateral damage," or a simple phrase: "We have nothing on that."

Of course, we all knew they always did have something. And yesterday's ocean of military memos proves it yet again. AlJazeera has gone to extraordinary lengths to track down the actual Iraqi families whose men and women are recorded as being wasted at US checkpoints – I've identified one because I reported it in 2004, the bullet-smashed car, the two dead journalists, even the name of the local US captain – and it was *The Independent* on Sunday that first alerted the world to the hordes of indisciplined gunmen being flown to Baghdad to protect diplomats and generals. These mercenaries, who murdered their way around the cities of Iraq, abused me when I told them I was writing about them way back in 2003.

It's always tempting to avoid a story by saying "nothing new." The "old story" idea is used by governments to dampen journalistic interest as it can be used by us to cover journalistic idleness. And it's true that reporters have seen some of this stuff before. The "evidence" of Iranian involvement in bomb-making in southern Iraq was farmed out to *The New York Times's* Michael Gordon by the Pentagon in February 2007. The

raw material, which we can now read, is far more doubtful than the Pentagon-peddled version. Iranian military material was still lying around all over Iraq from the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war and most of the attacks on Americans were at that stage carried out by Sunni insurgents. The reports suggesting that Syria allowed insurgents to pass through their territory, by the way, are correct. I have spoken to the families of Palestinian suicide bombers whose sons made their way to Iraq from Lebanon via the Lebanese village of Majdal Aanjar and then via the northern Syrian city of Aleppo to attack the Americans.

But, written in bleak militarese as it may be, here is the evidence of America's shame. This is material that can be used by lawyers in courts. If 66,081 is the highest American figure available for dead civilians, then the real civilian mortality score is infinitely higher since this records only those civilians the Americans knew of. Some of them were brought to the Baghdad mortuary in my presence, and it was the senior official there who told me that the Iraqi ministry of health had banned doctors from performing any post-mortems on dead civilians brought in by American troops. Now why should that be? Because some had been tortured to death by Iraqis working for the Americans? Did this hook up with the 1,300 independent US reports of torture in Iraqi police stations?

The Americans scored no better last time round. In Kuwait, US troops could hear Palestinians being tortured by Kuwaitis in police stations after the liberation of the city from Saddam Hussein's legions in 1991. A member of the Kuwaiti royal family was involved in the torture. US forces did not intervene. They just complained to the royal family. Soldiers are always being told not to intervene. After all, what was Lt. Avi Grabovsky of the Israeli army told when he reported to his officer in September 1982 that Israel's Phalangist allies had just murdered some women and children? "We know, it's not to our liking, and don't interfere," Grabovsky was told by his battalion commander. This was during the Sabra and Chatila refugee camp massacre.

The quotation comes from Israel's 1983 Kahan commission report – heaven knows what we could read if WikiLeaks got its hands on the barrels of military files in the Israeli defence ministry (or the Syrian version, for that matter). But, of course, back in those days, we didn't know how to use a computer, let alone how to write on it. And that, of course, is one of the important lessons of the whole WikiLeaks phenomenon.

Back in the First World War or the Second World War or Vietnam, you wrote your military reports on paper. They may have been typed in

triplicate but you could number your copies, trace any spy and prevent the leaks. The Pentagon Papers was actually written on paper. You needed to find a mole to get them. But paper could always be destroyed, weeded, trashed, all copies destroyed. At the end of the 1914-18 war, for example, a British second lieutenant shot a Chinese man after Chinese workers had looted a French military train. The Chinese man had pulled a knife on the soldier. But during the 1930s, the British soldier's file was "weeded" three times and so no trace of the incident survives.

But I do suspect this massive hoard of material from the Iraq war has serious implications for journalists as well as armies. What is the future of the Seymour Hersh and the old-style investigative journalism that *The Sunday Times* used to practice? What is the point of sending teams of reporters to examine war crimes and meet military "deep throats," if almost half a million secret military documents are going to float up in front of you on a screen?

We still haven't got to the bottom of the WikiLeaks story, and I rather suspect that there are more than just a few US soldiers involved in this latest revelation. Peter Pace, the uninspiring chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, is briefing journalists on how soldiers should react to the cruel treatment of prisoners, pointing out proudly that an American soldier's duty is to intervene if he sees evidence of torture. Then the camera moves to the far more sinister figure of Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, who suddenly interrupts – almost in a mutter, and to Pace's consternation – "I don't think you mean they (American soldiers) have an obligation to physically stop it. It's to report it."

The significance of this remark – cryptically sadistic in its way – was lost on the journo, of course. But the secret Frago 242 memo now makes much more sense of the press conference. Presumably sent by General Ricardo Sanchez, this is the instruction that tells soldiers: "Provided the initial report confirms US forces were not involved in the detainee abuse, no further investigation will be conducted unless directed by HHQ [Higher Headquarters]." Abu Ghraib happened under Sanchez's watch in Iraq. It was also Sanchez, by the way, who couldn't explain to me at a press conference why his troops had killed Saddam's sons in a gun battle in Mosul rather than capture them.

So Sanchez's message, it seems, must have had Rumsfeld's imprimatur. And so General David Petraeus was presumably responsible for the dramatic increase in US air strikes over two years; 229 bombing attacks in Iraq in 2006, but 1,447 in 2007.

Interestingly enough, US air strikes in Afghanistan have risen by 172 percent since Petraeus took over there. Which makes it all the more astonishing that the Pentagon is now bleating that WikiLeaks may have blood on its hands. The Pentagon has been covered in blood since the dropping of the atom bomb on Hiroshima in 1945, and for an institution that ordered the illegal invasion of Iraq in 2003 – wasn't that civilian death toll more than 66,000 by their own count, out of a total of 109,000 recorded? – to claim that WikiLeaks is culpable of homicide is preposterous.

WikiLeaks yesterday released on its website some 391,832 US military messages documenting actions and reports in Iraq over the period 2004-2009. Here are the main points:

Hundreds of incidents of abuse and torture of prisoners by Iraqi security services, up to and including rape and murder. Since these are itemized in US reports, American authorities now face accusations of failing to investigate them. UN leaders and campaigners are calling for an official investigation.

Coalition leaders have always said "we don't do death tolls," but the documents reveal many deaths were logged. Respected British group Iraq Body Count says that, after preliminary examination of a sample of the documents, there are an estimated 15,000 extra civilian deaths, raising their total to 122,000.

In February 2007, an Apache helicopter killed two Iraqis, suspected of firing mortars, as they tried to surrender. A military lawyer is quoted as saying: "They cannot surrender to aircraft and are still valid targets."

Britain's Bureau of Investigative Journalism says it found documents detailing new cases of alleged wrongful killings of civilians involving Blackwater, since renamed Xe Services. Despite this, Xe retains extensive US contracts in Afghanistan.

Out of the 832 deaths recorded at checkpoints in Iraq between 2004 and 2009, analysis by the Bureau of Investigative Journalism suggests 681 were civilians. Fifty families were shot at and 30 children killed. Only 120 insurgents were killed in checkpoint incidents.

Reports detail US concerns that Iranian agents had trained, armed and directed militants in Iraq. In one document, the US military warns a militia commander believed to be behind the deaths of US troops and kidnapping of Iraqi officials was trained by Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard.

(Robert Fisk is Middle East correspondent for *The Independent* newspaper, in which this commentary appeared on October 24.)

Armenia Fund USA



Thursday, Thanksgiving Day, November 25, 2010

U.S. EASTERN REGION :: CHANNEL GUIDE

State / Station	Cable Channels	Satellite Channels	Time
MICHIGAN WMYD TV 20	Charter Communications Ch. 3, 6, 10 or 20 Comcast Cable Ch. 3, 13 or 20 Brighthouse Networks Ch. 6 Wide Open West — Detroit Ch. 20	DirectTV Ch. 887/20 Echo Star Ch. 8034	12PM–6PM
MASSACHUSETTS WZMY-TV * <small>* Or check your local guide for WZMY-TV (MyTV)</small>	Comcast Cable Ch. 18, 25, 79 Charter Communications Ch. 26 Verizon FiOS Ch. 6 RCN Ch. 18	DirectTV Ch. 50 DISH Ch. 50	12PM–4PM
NEW YORK WMBC 63	Verizon FiOS Ch. 18 RCN Ch. 19 Cablevision Ch. 20 Time Warner Cable Ch. 10, 18, 21 or 63	DirectTV Ch. 63/895 EchoStar Ch. 63/8115	12PM–6PM
NEW JERSEY WMBC 63	Verizon FiOS Ch. 18 Cablevision Ch. 20 Comcast Cable Ch. 17, 19, 20, 24, 32, 63 Time Warner Cable Ch. 21 or 63 US Cable of Paramus Ch. 10 Service Electric Ch. 18	DirectTV Ch. 63/895 EchoStar Ch. 63/8115	12PM–6PM
EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA WMBC 63	Blue Ridge Cable TV Ch. 18		12PM–6PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TELETHON CONTRIBUTIONS:

Armenia Fund USA
80 Maiden Lane, Suite 301
New York, NY 10038

Phone: 212-689-5307
Fax: 212-689-5317
Web: www.ArmeniaFundUSA.org
Email: info@armenianfundusa.org

OR CALL TOLL-FREE:
1-800-888-8897