

Confidential Document Targeting Hrant Dink in 1990s Exposed

ISTANBUL (Armenpress) – Procedural instruments of Hrant Dink’s case reveal striking details on the participation of the state, particularly the police and intelligence services, in the murder of the



Hrant Dink

Istanbul-Armenian journalist.

The investigation of the case exposed a document which made clear why Hrant Dink was not given a passport for years, Agos reported.

For nearly 25 years Dink applied to the Regional Security Office in Istanbul to receive a passport, but his applications were always sent back. In the sidelines of the investigation of the journalist’s murder, a document dating to 1997 labeled “confidential” was found. In addition to Dink’s name, the name of the then-vicar of the Armenian Patriarchate of Constantinople and the current Patriarch Mesrob Mutafyan was mentioned in the document. see DOCUMENT, page 4

Traces of Germany in Armenian History and Culture

By Heide Rieck-Wotke

Special to the Mirror-Spectator

BOCHUM, Germany – What do we know about the footprints left since the Middle Ages in Armenia, footprints made by German emperors, bishops, researchers, artists, farmers and mountain climbers? This is the question that Armenian historian Azat Ordukhanyan delved into during a discussion with German author Heide Rieck on March 12 at Bochum University. Ordukhanyan, who is the president of the Armenian Academic Association 1860, has been collaborating with author Rieck on Armenian cultural events over the past several years in this city in Germany’s Ruhr region. Illustrations projected onto a screen brought the lecture to life for the capacity crowd.

The history of Germans in Armenia follows two main historical routes: the first, in the wake of the Crusades, leads through Cilicia (in today’s Turkey), the second goes from Ulm, along the Danube to the Black

Sea and then via Odessa overland towards the Caucasus into the region of today’s Republic of Armenia.

As a typical example of the many German aristocrats and church leaders who crossed the Armenian Kingdom of Cilicia (1080-1375) on their way to Jerusalem in the Crusades, Ordukhanyan presented the story of the end of the life of German-Roman Emperor Frederick I, known as Barbarossa. In 1190, on his crusade to Jerusalem, Barbarossa carried with him a crown, which he planned to place on the head of the Armenian Prince Levon II, making him King of Cilicia. On the evening before the festive ceremony, the German emperor wanted to refresh himself in the waters of the briskly flowing Calycadnus river. But he was never to return to the home of his host. Who can imagine into what a mood Levon II fell when he learned that his high-ranking guest from Germany had drowned? Now there was no joyous coronation celebration. A funeral instead.

The heart of Friedrich I was embalmed and buried in the Armenian Cathedral of see GERMANY, page 4



Houry Gebeshian at the European championships in France, April 2015

‘Hooting for Houry’

By Aram Arkun
Mirror-Spectator Staff

WATERTOWN – Armenian women in the Soviet Union were trained as

professional gymnasts, but after the independence of the Republic of Armenia, only male gymnasts prepared for the Olympics. Now there is an Armenian American, Houry Gebeshian, who is very close to qualifying as the first Armenian female gymnast for the upcoming summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. She has had to overcome obstacles to do so, but her desire to serve as a positive role model for young Armenian women has given her extra willpower.

Gebeshian was born in Auburndale, Mass. in 1989, but obtained Armenian citizenship in 2010 to be eligible to compete in Armenia’s name. She lives in Cleveland, Ohio but was visiting the Boston area recently to participate in the Starlight Invitational competition at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, sponsored by her old hometown gym.

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Striving to Be the First Female Gymnast to Represent Armenia in the Olympics

Ben H. Bagdikian, Reporter of Broad Range and Conscience, Dies at 96

By Robert D. McFadden

BERKELEY, Calif. – Ben H. Bagdikian, a journalist and news media critic who became a celebrated voice of conscience for his profession, calling for tougher standards of integrity and public service in an era of changing tastes and technology, died on Friday at his home in Berkeley, Calif. He was 96.

His wife, Marlene Griffith Bagdikian, confirmed his death.

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Ben Bagdikian in 1976. His topics included civil rights and prisons to the Pentagon Papers.



NEWS IN BRIEF

MP Garo Paylan Demands Freedom of Worship for Minorities

ISTANBUL (Armenpress) – Turkish-Armenian Garo Paylan, a member of the Turkish Parliament as a representative of the People’s Democratic Party, defended the right to freedom of worship for religious minorities in the country during the regular session of parliament.

Demokrathaber.net reported that Paylan last week accused the Turkish authorities of infringing upon the rights to worship of Christians and other minorities.

“We all, including me, pay taxes, Christians, Muslims, Alevis, everybody professing some religion pay taxes. But the Directorate for Religious Affairs serves only one religion and one sect of it,” he said.

He referred also to the comments of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who has said previously that “he wishes for a religious society.” Paylan inquired why, in that case, are religious schools not opened.

“This means Christians have no right to be religious? Why? Why should the religious school of the Armenian Patriarchate be closed?” he asked.

Battle for Armenian Patriarchate Rages on

ISTANBUL (*Daily Sabah*) – A Turkish court’s decision to appoint the mother of ailing Armenian Patriarch Mesrob II Mutafyan as his custodian, has revived the long-standing debate over his potential successor. While the Patriarchate in Turkey, headed by acting-Patriarch Aram Atesyan, insists on keeping Mutafyan as its leader, some prominent members of the Armenian community have called for the election of a new patriarch.

Patriarch Mutafyan has been in a vegetative state since 2008. Several plaintiffs have filed a lawsuit for the appointment of a custodian for the patriarch in his absence, while Tatyos Bebek, a prominent figure in the Armenian community has sought a court order to that effect so that a new patriarch can be elected when the court officially recognizes the patriarch cannot fulfill his duties. An Istanbul court on March 9 appointed the patriarch’s 78-year-old mother, Mari Mutafyan, as his custodian.

Turkish law bans the election of a new patriarch while his predecessor is alive. A patriarchal election is required to be held by the synod, and the synod has to apply to the Interior Ministry after approving the election.

Atesyan, who had reportedly pledged that an election would be held in 2014 though the council of bishops, sought a rejection of the lawsuit by the court.

The patriarch acts both as a religious leader and a leader of Turkey’s Armenian community and also runs several non-profit organizations.

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Chefs Party

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ARMENIA

News From Armenia

Amnesty International Demands Release of Azeri Activists

BAKU (Armenpress) – Amnesty International this week launched a campaign demanding the release of Azerbaijani spouses Arif and Leyla Yunus for treatment.

Azerbaijani authorities interfere with the departure abroad for emergency medical treatment of the Yunuses – known human rights defenders and prisoners of conscience. After the insistent demands of the international community the couple has been finally provisionally released, but criminal charges against them has not been lifted. They are still considered convicted, the report said.

Amnesty International urged everyone to support the couple and to e-mail the Azerbaijani President and Attorney General with a call to remove from the spouses' charges and release the couple for treatment abroad, as their treatment in Azerbaijan is not possible.

The head of the Institute of Peace and Democracy, Leyla Yunus was detained on July 30, 2014 and charged with serious crimes, including treason. In August 2015 she was sentenced to 8.5 years of imprisonment. In December of the same year, this term was replaced by a suspended sentence.

More than 200 Students To Study at Russian Universities

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – More than 200 Armenian students will study at universities in Russia for free, director of the Russian Centre of Science and Culture in Yerevan Mark Kalinin said this week.

According to Kalinin, the session of the working group on the organization of admission to Russian universities will be held at the end of March, in which representatives of the Russian Embassy in Armenia, the Ministry of Culture, Science and Education of Armenia, organizations of Russian compatriots in Armenia, as well as representatives of the leading Russian universities are included. Currently 389 applicants have submitted applications. According to Kalinin, Armenian entrants are very interested in getting a free education in Russia.

Every year, 150 entrants from Armenia enter the best technical universities in Russia.

Love Wave Eurovision Song Gets More than 1 Million Views

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – The music video by Armenian singer Iveta Mukuchyan for her song *Love Wave* has already been viewed more than 1 million views on YouTube. The song is Armenia's entry for the Eurovision competition.

The music video appeared on the Internet on March 2. The co-authors of the song, presented by the Public Television of Armenia, are Levon Navasardyan and Lilit Navasardyan, authors of the lyrics are Iveta Mukuchyan and Stephanie Crutchfield, who tried to build the whole song on the singer's emotions, doubts and feelings.

Just like earthquakes, the wave of love is alarming, sobering, it can change a person's life in just a second, as the first wave of an earthquake. The music video of the competition song is co-production of the Public Television of Armenia and the German Blacksheep Communications.

Mukuchyan collaborated with the Kivera Naynomis (chief designer Arevik Simonyan) fashion house for the music video.

Artur Aleksanyan Wins Silver Medal in European Championship

RIGA, Latvia (Armenpress) – GrecoRoman wrestler Artur Aleksanyan won the silver medal at the European Wrestling Championship.

In the final round, he competed against and lost to Nikita Melnikov from Russia.

Four Finalists for Aurora Prize Named by 100 Lives

NEW YORK and YEREVAN – On Tuesday, March 15, the Aurora Prize Selection Committee announced the names of the four Aurora Prize finalists: Marguerite Barankitse, from Maison Shalom and REMA Hospital in Burundi; Dr. Tom Catena, from Mother of Mercy Hospital in the Nuba Mountains of Sudan; Syeda Ghulam Fatima, the General Secretary of the Bonded Labor Liberation Front in Pakistan; and Father Bernard Kinvi, a Catholic priest in Bossemptele in the Central African Republic.

The Aurora Prize for Awakening Humanity is a new global award that will be given annually to individuals who put themselves at risk to enable others to survive. Recipients will be recognized for the exceptional impact their actions have made on preserving human life and advancing humanitarian causes, having overcome significant challenges along the way. One of the four finalists, the ultimate Aurora Prize Laureate, will receive a grant of US\$100,000 and the chance to continue the cycle of giving by nominating organizations that inspired his or her work for a US\$1 million award.

The Aurora Prize was created by the co-founders of 100 Lives, a global initiative seeking to express gratitude to those who put themselves at risk to save Armenians from the Genocide a century ago. On behalf of the survivors of the Armenian Genocide, the annual Aurora Prize aims to raise public consciousness about atrocities occurring around the world and reward those working to address those issues in a real and substantial manner.

"All four finalists are being recognized because they have found the courage to fight against injustice and violence inflicted upon those most vulnerable in their societies," said 100 Lives co-founder and Aurora Prize Selection Committee Member Vartan Gregorian. "We created the Aurora Prize not just to honor, but to support the unsung heroes who reclaim humanity and stand up to such oppression and injustice. One hundred years ago, strangers stood up against persecution on behalf of our ancestors, and today we thank them by recognizing those who act in the same spirit in the face of modern atrocities."

Marguerite Barankitse, from Maison Shalom and REMA Hospital in Burundi, saved thousands of lives and cared for orphans and refugees during the years of civil war in Burundi. When

war broke out, Barankitse, a Tutsi, tried to hide 72 of her closest Hutu neighbors to keep them safe from persecution. They were discovered and executed, whilst Barankitse was forced to watch. Following this gruesome incident, she started her work saving and caring for children and refugees. She has saved roughly 30,000 children and in 2008, she opened a hospital which has treated more than 80,000 patients to date.



From left, Dr. Tom Catena, Father Bernard Kinvi, Marguerite Barankitse and Syeda Ghulam Fatima

Dr. Tom Catena is the sole doctor at Mother of Mercy Hospital in the Nuba Mountains in Sudan. An American, Catena is the only doctor permanently based near the country's border with South Sudan, and is therefore responsible for serving more than 500,000 people in the region. Despite several bombings by the Sudanese government, Catena resides on the hospital grounds so that he may be on call at all times. His selfless acts have been brought to light by a number of media and aid organizations, and he was named one of Time's 100 Most Influential People in 2015.

Syeda Ghulam Fatima has worked tirelessly to eradicate bonded labor, one of the last remaining forms of modern slavery. Fatima is the general secretary of the Bonded Labour Liberation Front Pakistan (BLLF), which has liberated thousands of Pakistani workers, including approximately 21,000 children, who were forced to work for brick kiln owners in order to repay debts. The interest rates are too high for workers to pay off, trapping the workers in forced labor and poor – often brutal – conditions. Fatima has survived attempts on her life and repeated beatings during the course of her activism.

Father Bernard Kinvi became a priest at age 19, after losing his father and four sisters to prolonged violence and illness. Father Kinvi left his home country of Lome, Togo to Bossemptele, a small town just inside the border of the Central African Republic, to head a Catholic mission which consisted of a school, church and the Pope John Paul II Hospital. In 2012, civil war broke out in the Central African Republic

between Muslim Seleka rebels and the anti-balaka (anti-machete) Christian militia. Amidst the violence, Kinvi's mission provided refuge and health services to those on both sides of the conflict, saving hundreds of people from persecution and death.

From July to October 2015, nominations were received from around the world through a public portal on www.aurorapize.com. Candidates were nominated for their selfless work, from

battling bonded labor to harboring refugees, to delivering frontline care in conflict zones.

One of the four finalists will be announced as the inaugural Aurora Prize Laureate during a ceremony in Yerevan, Armenia on April 24. Selection Committee Co-Chair George Clooney will present the award. The Aurora Prize finalists will be celebrated as part of a weekend of events bringing together leading voices in the humanitarian field, including the International Center for Journalists, International Rescue Committee and Not On Our Watch to discuss some of the most pressing humanitarian issues the world is facing today, and acknowledge those confronting them.

Recipients will be recognized for the exceptional impact their actions have made on preserving human life and advancing humanitarian causes. On behalf of the survivors of the Armenian Genocide and in

The Aurora Prize Selection Committee includes Nobel Laureates Elie Wiesel, Oscar Arias, Shirin Ebadi and Leymah Gbowee; former President of Ireland Mary Robinson; human rights activist Hina Jilani; former Australian Foreign Minister and President Emeritus of the International Crisis Group Gareth Evans; President of the Carnegie Corporation of New York Vartan Gregorian; and Academy Award-winning actor and humanitarian George Clooney.

The Aurora Prize will be awarded annually on April 24 in Yerevan, Armenia.

Further information is available at www.aurorapize.com.

Activists Raise Concern on Firm Neutering Stray Puppies in Yerevan

YEREVAN (ArmeniaNow) – Animal rights activists are sounding an alarm that Unigraph-X, an organization in charge of dealing with stray animals, fails to do its work properly.

The Dingo Team NGO, which has been dealing with stray animals since 2011, says that about 40 dogs recently set free by Unigraph-X are not sterilized and are in poor health.

Yerevan's Mayor Taron Margaryan also referred to the concerns, instructing the organization to tighten controls and provide the public with a detailed account of its activities.

Ovsanna Hovsepyan, the founder of the Dingo Team, said: "After our

protests Unigraph-X began to create the impression that it does sterilization. However, we managed to catch, with difficulty, seven of the first 40 dogs that were set free. We held a public medical inspection in the presence of journalists that showed that the animals actually were not sterilized: moreover one of them was pregnant," she says.

"The bellies of the dogs were sewn with non-absorbable sutures that would cause problems later. All wounds were in festering condition. On puppies, there were very tight collars, which would begin to choke them in one or two months."

Before 2015, the organization annually got about \$500,000 from the state budget for sterilization of dogs. This year, about \$250,000 were allocated from the city budget to Unigraph-X, which has been dealing with the issues of stray animals since 2009.

"I want to state that the sole responsibility of possible problems that there may occur connected with stray animals, like aggression, or dog packs in the streets, is on Unigraph-X, because they are working in a very wrong way," Hovsepyan said.

Repeated telephone calls to the Unigraph-X office for comments were not answered.



INTERNATIONAL

‘Hooting for Houry’: Striving to Be the First Female Gymnast to Represent Armenia in the Olympics

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Gebeshian said she has self-funded almost all of her training expenses until now through her fulltime job as a physician's assistant in the labor and delivery floor at the Cleveland Clinic. Consequently, she cannot devote as much time as she would like to preparation. She said, “I only practice 16 to 20 hours a week, compared to other Olympians who do 30 to 40 hours a week.”

She also does not have access to the coaches and special gyms that others have. Instead, she said, “I coach myself. I am in the gym every single day. I create all of my training plans, and diet plans and conditioning plans. I create 6 months of routines and then follow it.”

Armenia does provide her with a coach who will go to competitions with her when she represents the country. He is a men's coach, since Armenia does not have a women's program, and everything Houry does must be coordinated through the men's program.

Theoretically, Gebeshian has another disadvantage, as she is, at 26 years old, around 10 years older than most of her competitors. She explained, “This is not like any other sport. There is a lot of pounding of the body, which eventually breaks down. You spend 5 hours or so a day in the gym and it is a lot on the joints and bones. I would be lying if I said my body doesn't hurt every day.”

However, she does have the advantage of experience, and there are a handful of other women who compete at the Olympic level at ages more advanced than hers.

Gebeshian, like many others, began gymnastics very young. She said, “My mom loves to tell this story. When I was a kid, I used to wiggle myself out of my car seat and somehow get into the front seat. My mother would yell in surprise, ‘what happened?’ I was very active, and always moving, so she took me to the local YMCA.” There they recognized that she had some potential, and said she should go to a gymnastics gym. Houry started at Massachusetts Gymnastics Center in Waltham, and loved it ever since.

As a child, she practiced one or two days a week, and then built up to five days a week, four hours a day. Again, in college at the University of Iowa, she was only allowed 20 hours a week, according to the National Collegiate Athletic



Houry Gebeshian

Association (NCAA) rules. She competed for the Iowa Hawkeyes from 2008, and in 2010 was the Big Ten balance beam champion as a junior. In 2011, she advanced to the NCAA Women's Gymnastics Championship as an individual all-rounder.

It was while she was in college that the opportunity to compete for the Republic of Armenia for the Olympics arose. Her family was very Armenian in spirit. Houry exclaimed, “I was immersed in Armenian patriotism!” Her father was born in Anjar, Lebanon and her mother in Damascus, Syria, but both came to the US for higher education.

Said Gebeshian, “I was born and raised in an Armenian household. Armenian was my first language.”

“When I was much younger,” she noted, “my mom said you should do it, but I said I am not good enough.” In 2009, her father's friend, Paul Varadian, who was serving as a liaison to the Armenian Olympic program, said that Armenia was looking for more female representation, and suggested Houry should try to qualify for the 2012 Olympics. Her family financially supported her attempt in 2011, but, in part due to a stress fracture in her heel, she only made it to third reserve.

After this disappointment, she took a three-year break from gymnastics to go to graduate school in Wake Forest University in North Carolina and get a medical master's degree. She restarted training about a year and a half ago during the summer of 2014. She said that though she had her career as a physi-

cian's assistant, she decided, “I have goals, and the best way to achieve them is by example.”

Houry is not only trying to represent Armenia in the Olympics. She hopes that if she qualifies, this will encourage people to devote more funding and resources to develop an Armenian women's team in gymnastics, as well as to improve support for the men's team, which is very successful but poorly funded.

She explained that it takes many years to train new gymnasts from childhood, and unlike in the Soviet period, independent Armenia only has a recreation program for girls. Initially, she said, a good approach for Armenia would be to attract girls in countries like the US who are naturally talented and are already being trained. “Now, everywhere I go,” Houry said, “I am trying to recruit other people, trying to get other people out, showing it is possible to do all this. It is not impossible, whatever your dream is. You just have to do it. Everywhere I try to spread my story and inspire the youth — and the adults, and recruit as much as I can. I think I am getting a bit of a following.”

She has succeeded in finding other Armenian Americans interested in doing what she is doing. They are of varying ages and backgrounds, scattered in different parts of the US. Eventually Houry would like to be a mentor or head of the national Armenian women's team. She said, “I would try to get programs started and building up in Armenia.”

Houry has a GoFundMe page (www.gofundme.com-hootingforhoury) which is already raising funding and getting equipment for the Armenian gymnastic team. She is supporting the existing men's team as well as working towards creating a women's one. Houry declared that the members of the men's team “are such great athletes. It is amazing to see how much they can do with the limited resources they have.”

She has already accomplished a lot over the past year or so. It was difficult to get back into shape. She said, “I would say it took me at last 6 or 7 months to really start the process of reteaching myself all the things I knew how to do. It was harder because I was teaching myself. I had no coach.” She competes every six months or so in big competitions for Armenia, like the European one in April 2015. Otherwise, she goes to meets in the US for fun and practice. She also uses the local opportunities for recruiting for the Armenian team.

The first weekend of this March, for example, she went to a large sports festival hosted by Arnold Schwarzenegger in Columbus, Ohio which had a gymnastics competition. She did a lot of networking and set up a booth to tell her story. She also met Schwarzenegger briefly.

The main qualifying event for the summer Olympics in Rio is coming up in April. Houry was admitted to this final qualifier due to a strong performance at the first round in the 2015 World Championships at Glasgow last October.

There are 35 Olympic spots for individuals representing countries like Armenia which do not have a team. All big countries can field teams with five athletes, but only 12 teams in all can compete in the Olympics. In addition to the team competitions, there is an individual all-around Olympic competition, and also a competition for event specialists, in which Houry theoretically could participate.

There are only 36 individuals who qualified to compete for the 35 spots at Glasgow. Thanks to her determination and talent, Houry has an extremely good chance of making it, and making history for Armenia.

International News

Russia, Iran in Talks on Laying Power Line via Armenia

MOSCOW (Public Radio of Armenia) — Russia's energy ministry is in discussion with Iran on laying an electricity power line between the two countries via Azerbaijan and Armenia, Energy Minister Alexander Novak was quoted by RIA news agency as saying on Monday.

Speaking to reporters after a meeting with his Iranian counterpart, Hamid Chitchian, in Tehran, Novak said Iran and Russia can have constant exchange of electricity.

“We are seeking to lay an electricity power line between the two countries via Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Georgia,” he said, adding that multilateral negotiations are underway to that end.

Chitchian told reporters that a joint meeting of officials from these countries is planned to be held in Tbilisi, Georgia, within the next few weeks to discuss and make a final decision on linking the power grids.

Lille Honors Memory of Genocide Victims

LILLE, France (Armenpress) — On March 12, municipal authorities from the French city of Lille paid tribute to the memory of the Armenian Genocide victims by renaming a town square the Armenian Genocide Martyrs' Square.

The mayor of Lille and French-Armenian Ani organization spearheaded the event, which was attended by Armenia's ambassador to France Vigen Chitechyan and the President of the French National Assembly Claude Bartolone, who is a resident of Lille.

The two delivered addresses during the ceremony. Chitechyan expressed his gratitude to the mayor of Lille for inaugurating the square commemorating the Armenian victims and thanked Bartolone for his support and attendance.

He highlighted the importance of conveying the memory of the Armenian Genocide in the context of current geopolitical realities, emphasizing Turkish authorities' inability to face up to the past after 100 years and the ongoing negative consequences of the mentioned above in the form of prosecutions against groups of people.

After the speeches, wreaths were placed near the memorial stone of the square on behalf of Armenia, France and Lille city.

The ceremony was followed by a reception.

Sargisian Meets with Community in Greece

ATHENS (Public Radio of Armenia) — President Serge Sargisian, who was in Greece on an official visit, met with the representatives of Armenian organizations in Greece.

Sargisian stated that the centuries-long Armenian-Greek warm relations have not only been preserved, but have entered the stage of interstate and political ties. “I am living blissful moments each time when our Greek partners speak about the input of the Armenian community to the development of the Greek state, when they speak with special warmth about the diligence, dedication and organized nature of the Armenians,” said Sargisian.

Along with the Armenian-Greek relations, the president spoke about the issues on the internal and external agenda of the country which this year celebrates the 25th anniversary of independence.

“Greece is among the countries which was not only among the first to recognize the Armenian Genocide (in 1996) and proclaim April 24 the official day for commemoration of the victims of the Genocide, but also in 2014 criminalized the denial of the genocides of the Pontic Greeks and Armenians. We will never forget the invaluable assistance of Greece and the Greek people extended to the Armenians during the Metz Eghern and in consequent years, when boats loaded with the Armenian refugees anchored at the seaport of Piraeus. With the help of Greeks, Armenians settled in Athens, Salonika, Thessaly, on the vast plains of Macedonia and Thrace and elsewhere and received unconditional support and assistance of the Greek authorities.”



ADL Chairman in Greece Meets with President Sargisian

ATHENS — Sarkis Khachadourian (at left), chairman of the Armenian Democratic Liberal Party in Greece, met with President Serge Sargisian of Armenia on March 15. Sargisian on the last day of his visit to Greece met with the representatives of three Armenian political parties in Greece, the Social Democratic Hnchakian Party, the Armenian Revolutionary Federation and the Armenian Democratic Liberal Party. The president and his delegation left Greece for Cyprus later that day.



INTERNATIONAL

Traces of Germany in Armenian History and Culture

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St. Sophia of Tarsus, his mortal remains were sent on to Jerusalem, but must have been taken to Tyre (in modern-day Lebanon) due to ongoing conflict. The Armenian cathedral is no longer Armenian however. It was turned into a Turkish mosque. There one can read on a plaque:

“NOT FAR FROM THIS PLACE ON JUNE 10, 1190 THE ROMAN GERMAN EMPEROR FREDERICK I BARBAROSSA DROWNED IN GÖKSU AT THE HEAD OF HIS ARMY ON THEIR WAY TO PALESTINE AFTER HE HAD ARRANGED WITH THE SELJUK SULTAN KILIÇ ARSLAN II TO MARCH PEACEFULLY ACROSS HIS TERRITORY.”

Barbarossa's son Henry VI made good on his father's promise eight years later when he sent a representative to the Armenian Kingdom. In 1198 the Cardinal of Mainz, Conrad of Wittelsbach, as Papal legate and representative of the German Emperor Henry VI, crowned the Armenian Prince Levon II, making him King Levon I of Cilicia (1187-1219 also known as Leo I) in the cathedral of St. Sophia. He was also

called “the lion from the mountains.” The holy unction was performed by the Armenian Catholicos Grigor Abirad.

In their book titled, *The Swabians on the Black Sea Coast and in the Caucasus*, Alexander Yaskorski and his son Rudolf Yaskorski documented the departure of the Brotherhood of the Children of Christ from Swabia, Hessen, Luxemburg and Bavaria. Two hundred years ago this Christian community of well over 8,000 men and women, young and old, had a goal that was far away, and yet in a sense, so near, because it was obvious: that goal was the holy mountain of Ararat. At the beginning of the 19th century, these pious Christians believed that a second flood was about to overwhelm the earth. On top of Mount Ararat they would be saved and would be able to survive by trusting God; since it had been prophesied to them that in 1836 Jesus would come back to earth. For this reason, they sent a letter to the Russian Czar Alexander I requesting permission to traverse part of the czarist territory. The request was granted without difficulty, because the mother of the czar was a German, Sophia Dorothea Augusta von Württemberg (in Russian: Maria Fyödorovna). Thus in the summer of 1816, 40 families with-

bags and baggage started out from Ulm on their journey – along the Danube and across the Black Sea. In Odessa they paused to rest. In February 1817 the General of the Russian-Caucasian army Yermolov gave them permission to settle 35 kilometers from Tiflis, and already by September 1817 the village named “Marienfeld” was so well built for habitation that in Spring 1818 they could send numerous letters back home, with the message, “You can come.” Immediately 1,500 families with 5,000

Hessians and Luxemburgers who had set out for Mount Ararat ever saw it. Was there a flood in the 19th century? – that is the question this author raised, and added: In the 20th century a flood enveloped mankind in such a horrendous manner that even a holy mountain could not save it.... Since 1921, Ararat no longer lies on Armenian territory.

In 1946 Stalin gave the order to German prisoners of war to blow up one of the two German churches in Tiflis. Following protests, however it



Isahakyan Library

President Sargisian Pays Visit to Moscow for Talks with Counterpart

MOSCOW – President Serge Sargisian on March 11 visited Moscow for official talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The leaders of the two strategic partner-states discussed a wide range of issues on the agenda of the Armenian-Russian bilateral relations. They also spoke about the integration processes in the Eurasian area, exchanged views on the current international and regional issues and challenges. The two also discussed issues pertinent to the present stage of the Nagorno Karabagh (Artsakh) peace process and possibilities to move the process forward.

According to the Armenian president's website, Putin said, in part, “There is no need to describe our bilateral interstate relations: they are really of a strategic nature. I am very pleased to state that fact and note that our relations develop and develop successfully. There are certainly some problems of the objective nature, and I mean first of all our economic cooperation, though here too we understand that over all we can be content with the foundation we laid for our relations. I have no doubt that based on our mutual decisions of previous years we will advance on that direction too.”

Putin then referred to Armenia this year chairing the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO).

Sargisian thanked Putin for the welcome, adding, “I agree with you hundred percent that our relations develop very well. In general, this is a good tradition – to meet at the beginning of the year, to recap on the results of the last year's work and set guidelines for the current year. In political, economic, military and technical, as well as humanitarian areas we have complete understanding and relations develop very well. I would like to thank you for the implementation of all those agreements which we have reached during our previous meetings.”

He added he supported the Russian position regarding Syria and the Russian-US activities aimed at arriving at a ceasefire in Syria.

Sargisian also thanked Russia for its efforts for the resolution of the Karabagh conflict. “I would like to thank you personally for the efforts which Russia exercises for the resolution of the NK conflict. We continue to adhere to a peaceful settlement of the conflict.”

Later, Sargisian, who is also the chairman of Armenia's Chess Federation, attended the official opening ceremony of the Candidates Chess Tournament.

Document Targeting Hrant Dink in 1990s Exposed

DOCUMENT, from page 1

“An individual named Firat Dink is among our targets due to his pro-Armenian activities. He is the editor-in-chief of *Agos* periodical, published in Istanbul by Armenians, and is in close ties with the vicar of the Armenian Patriarchate Mesrob Archbishop Mutafyan, famous for his Armenian nationalist inclinations,” reads the document.

The court demanded this document within the framework of investigating the complicity of former officials in Dink's case.

Another document exposes that the state had been interested in the ethnic background of the murderer of Hrant Dink, Ogün Samast, and the person who put him up to the murder, Yasin Hayal'i.

It is mentioned in a justification sent by the Intelligence Department of General Directorate of Security that Yasin Hayal'i's background has been explored until 1904 year. The observation showed that there are no non-Muslims among the members of his family. The same has been revealed for Ogün Samast.

Hrant Dink was born on September 15, 1954.

He founded the only bilingual (Armenian and Turkish) newspaper in the Armenian community – *Agos*. By that he aimed to introduce the issues of both the community and the minorities of Turkey. He thought that the people in Turkey were prejudiced against the Armenians as they were not well familiar with the Armenians. So he used to say that the Armenians of Istanbul led very isolated life and that if those in Turkey knew the Armenians better, all the prejudices would vanish.

Dink was killed on January 19, 2007 as a result of armed attack in front of the editorial. The man who organized the assassination, Yasin Hayal, was sentenced to life imprisonment and the perpetrator Ogyun Samast was sentenced to imprisonment for 22 years by the decision of the court on January 17, 2012.

In October 2014, Istanbul's 5th High Criminal Court decided to start the trial for the murder of Hrant Dink from zero. Prosecutor Gökalp Kökçü has filed a lawsuit against 26 former and current officials who are believed to have played a role in the assassination.

children and youngsters made their way via the Danube to the East – in 14 columns, about 8,000 people, among them the aged and the sick. Three thousand of them perished along the way and many were so exhausted that they could not continue, and stayed in Odessa. Only 500 members of the Brotherhood of the Children of Christ remained true to their mission and continued on to Mount Ararat.

In Tiflis, Georgia, the settlers heard from Russian officials and soldiers that it would be too dangerous to go farther – because of the wild Kurds, Turks and Tartars. (This was the region of today's Azerbaijan.) As a result the “Swabian villages” – Katharinenfeld, Marienfeld, Elisabeththal, Aleksandersdorf, Petersdorf, Freudenthal and Alexanderhilf – grew up about 35 kilometers from Tiflis. The settlements Neudorf, Lindau and Gnadenberg were established in Abkhazia. German was the language they spoke. In this way other German communities came into being (like Old Katharinenfeld, Annenfeld, Helenendorf, Alexejevka, Grünfeld, Eichenfeld and other places in the East, like Arzach Province, Koxt District, in the czarist period: Yelisavetpol Province, today the Republic of Azerbaijan). Around 1900 there were about 25,000 Germans in the Caucasus. Following the arrival of German troops in the Soviet Union in 1941 all Germans were relocated to Siberia and Central Asia.

There were some settlers, however, who traveled farther and in 1891 founded three German villages between Kars and Gumri (Petrovka, Estonka and Vladikars). They specialized in wine growing, forestry and hunting. Almost every village had its own school and church. Soon some Swiss also moved to this region, set up two milk and cheese factories and later sent Swiss cheese to all the lands of the Czarist empire. Each German family owned 50-70 cows. In 1914 the Russian czarist army deported many of these villagers to the Yelisavetpol Province, beyond the Ottoman Empire.

In 1921 a treaty was signed between two revolutionary movements, namely the Bolsheviks (Lenin and Stalin) and the Atatürk movement: on March 16 the Moscow Treaty and on October 13, 1921 the Treaty of Kars. In the process, the holy Mount Ararat was wrested from the Armenians.

In 1971 a grandson of German emigrants photographed a home in Petrovka near Kars, where Muslims were living. Above the door frame he recognized a wooden beam with an inscription carved in German: “Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him” (Psalm 37:5).

Only half the 8,000 Swabians, Bavarians,

was not blown up, but rather torn down, dismantled stone by stone and the stones were used for other purposes. German prisoners of war were forced by the dictator also to build a fantastic bridge in Yerevan, which, to mock them, was named the “Victory bridge.”

German Scientists in Armenia

In 1829 the German geologist and geographer Prof. Friedrich Parrot from the German University Dorpat in Estonia received permission from the Russian czar to explore Ararat. From time immemorial it had been strictly forbidden to climb the holy mountain. Parrot appealed for assistance to the Catholicos of the Armenians and in this way the young writer, researcher, pedagogue and translator Khatchatur Abovyan became his fellow-traveler. To climb the mountain, they took Russian soldiers and Armenian mountain guides from the surrounding villages with them. On September 27, 1829 at 3:15 p.m. the group reached the peak Massis (greater Ararat). They danced with joy on the ice and Abovyan placed a cross, which he had brought from Echmiadzin, on the peak. On November 8, they climbed up the “Sis” (smaller Ararat). The press throughout Europe reacted with indignation, anger and hatred to this sacrilege. Did it not even come to a trial? But with foresight the explorers had cleverly brought glacier chunks from the summit back with them. Never had the soles of their feet touched the holy mountain. Snow and ice had protected it from contact. In 1845 Abovyan made the climb again, this time with the German geologist and mineralogist Prof. Otto Wilhelm Hermann von Abich (1806 – 1886) at his side. (There is a mineral named after the German researcher, called Arbachit.)

In 1914, together with the German theologian Dr. Johannes Lepsius, the Armenian writer Avetik Isakyan founded the German-Armenian Society in Berlin. Avetik Isakyan is the name of the library at Republic Square in Yerevan. The building was constructed in 1896 by the German master builder Nikolaus von der Nonne, who also built many residences that he rented out in Yerevan. For a time von der Nonne was also the mayor of Baku.

Many more such stories could have been told that evening in Bochum, had time allowed; but at the conclusion of the delightful presentation, now and again interrupted by questions from Heide Rieck-Wotke, listeners rushed to add their comments and queries.

Translated from German by Muriel Mirak-Weissbach

Community News

28th Anniversary of Sumgait Pogroms Commemorated

By Florence Avakian

NEW YORK — The 28th anniversary of the Sumgait pogroms was remembered and commemorated on February 28 at St. Vartan Cathedral. It was sponsored and organized by Marina Bagdasarova of the Brooklyn Armenian Mission Parish, and Dr. Svetlana Amirkhanian, president and founder of Direct Help for Armenian People (DHAP).

Following a solemn requiem service after the Holy Badarak service at St. Vartan Cathedral, more than 100 people, many former residents of Azerbaijan, congregated at Kavookjian Hall, for a special commemorative program of poignant remarks, poetry and music.

Starting off with a minute of silence for the hundreds of Armenian victims who were brutally massacred in Sumgait on February 27 to 29, 1988, Bagdasarova related that in addition to the actual murders, another 18,000 fled to Armenia, many of whom were killed in the December 7, 1988 earthquake in Armenia.

Sumgait was not alone, related Bagdasarova. The violence continued until 1992 in Kirovabad, Baku and Maragha by Azeris using axes, knives, crowbars, clubs and hammers, cutting Armenian victims to pieces, raping, torturing, and throwing men, women and children off balconies. These acts of such perverse cruelty were reminiscent of the 1915 Genocide of the Armenians by Ottoman Turkey.

"We will never forget. We will never forgive," declared Bagdasarova. Genocide and massacres

must not be forgotten. We must attempt to achieve recognition, justice, and punishment of the perpetrators. Our hope and legacy for the future is to stop violence for future generations," she said.

Dr. Svetlana Amirkhanian noted that though she has never been to Sumgait or Baku, she felt "very close to them."

The massacres in Azerbaijan brought another wave of immigrants to the US, she said, and was instrumental in organizing an Armenian school in Brooklyn for the Armenian newcomers. "The preservation of our Armenian school is very important so that our history, culture, language will never be forgotten or lost. We're few but we are strong, and we will survive," she said with great emphasis.

Michael Abagyan, born in Azerbaijan, stressed the importance of informing members of the U.S. Congress of the crucial issues. A group of Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA) members did just that in December. "We went to members of the House of Representatives and the Senate, and asked for help with our issues," he reported.

Representing ANCA, Dr. Artur Martirosyan pointed out that dozens of ANCA members demonstrated in front of the Azerbaijani Mission to the United Nations on Friday, February 26. "We must work together for Artsakh's independence. We should be more proactive," he declared.

Yuriy Tsaturyan revealed that Artsakh being so small "has more intellectuals than any other piece of territory." And Vitaliy Atamalyan, spoke of coming to the US and working to get the Armenian refugees together in order to "advance our history and culture among the

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A workshop organized with partners in the Environmental Education Network developed the Network's future strategy: "An environmentally conscious generation for a green and sustainable planet"

ATP Scales Up Environmental Education with New Coalition of Partners

YEREVAN — "There are mounting environmental challenges facing Armenia that affect the welfare of entire communities, and infringe on a student's right to attain the highest standard of health. Therefore environmental education is a pathway to future social and economic stability," explains ATP Country Director Lucineh Kassarian.

Moving beyond tree planting alone, Armenia Tree Project has made environmental education one of its core programs since 2005. The idea has been put into practice through active collaboration with NGO's, government ministries and international organizations to develop new education approaches to accommodate the needs of schoolchildren.

Last month, ATP organized and participated in three public events geared toward environmental education and the potential for its expansion in schools at the national level.

"Many organizations are operating in this field, but there was a lack of cooperation," notes Environmental Education Program Manager Alla Sahakyan. It was this realization that led to the strengthening of the Environmental Education Network (EEN) in 2014. ATP has led this two-year project aimed at strengthening the capacity of civil society organizations to implement environmental education programs.

The "Empowering Environmental Education Network for Strengthening Environmental Governance in Armenia" project was funded by the EU's Strengthening Environmental Governance by Building the Capacity of NGO's Project, implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and delivered by the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP). EEN now involves more than 30 civil society, education and international organizations operating in Armenia.

The conference held on February 17 as part of the abovementioned project was focused on making recommendations for improved environmental education policies and cooperation between stakeholders. The presentations and discussion were intended promote participatory decision-making and to inform the government on ways to incorporate environmental issues into policies and strategies such as the State Program of Education Development for 2016-2025.

see ATP, page 7



ATP organized a roundtable discussion on the role of environmental education and awareness raising in Armenia following the global climate change agreement reached Paris

EyeCare Project Announces Appointment Of Rostom Sarkissian as Director of Development

NEWPORT BEACH, Calif. — Rostom Sarkissian has been appointed as the Armenian EyeCare Project (AECPP) director of development.

Sarkissian is a Los Angeles-based public policy professional with more than 10 years of experience in campaigns, project management, non-profit development and government and media relations. Sarkissian holds a Master's degree in Public Policy from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government and a B.A. in Diplomacy and World Affairs from Occidental College. He served as a Coro Fellow in Pittsburgh, PA, and is a two-time Richter Scholar who has conducted research about Armenia and Javahk. Sarkissian is fluent in English and Armenian and also speaks Spanish.

"I am very excited to join the Armenian EyeCare Project as we work to fulfill our mission of eliminating preventable blindness in Armenia," said Sarkissian.

"I look forward to our 25th Anniversary in 2017, and working with friends of the EyeCare Project throughout the United States and in Armenia to achieve our 'Five for Five' capital campaign goal to develop five Regional Eye Clinics across Armenia's Marzes in five years."

The Regional Eye Clinics (REC) in Armenia will provide access to quality eye care in the regions of Armenia including medical treatment, eye surgery and laser treatment to all income groups. As the Project implements the Regional Eye Care System throughout Armenia, it will have the distinct advantage of a 24-year history working in Armenia and nearly 15 years of experience providing eye care in the remote regions of Armenia with the Mobile Eye Hospital. The Project's ability to leverage its long-time experience and relationships with the Ministry of Health, private physicians at the Malayan Eye Hospital and 8th Clinic Hospital and USAID will be an enormous advantage as the five Eye Clinics are established.

Over the next five years the Project will develop five Regional Eye Clinics throughout Armenia, located in Ijevan in Tavush, Spitak in Lori, Kapan in Syunik, Yeghegnadzor in Vayots Dzor and Gumri in Shirak. The locations of these Eye Clinics will enable rural Armenians to have access to quality eye care and surgery within a reasonable distance. They will no longer have to travel to Yerevan for eye care or cataract surgery or have to wait for two years for the Mobile Eye Hospital to visit their town.

"We welcome Rostom to our team," said Roger Ohanesian, Founder and Chairman of the EyeCare Project. "Rostom's active involvement in the Armenian community in Los Angeles and throughout the United States makes him a welcome addition to our team as we continue to expand our programs and develop our five Regional Eye Clinics in Armenia."

Bringing accessible, quality eye care to the people of Tavush, the Armenian EyeCare Project opened its first Regional Eye Clinic, the Haig John Boyadjian AECPP Regional Eye Clinic, located in Ijevan, Tavush, last July in celebration of Haig's life and with his brother, Peter Boyadjian, Florida, and many dignitaries in attendance. A second clinic, the John and Hasmik Mgrdichian AECPP Regional Eye Clinic, located in Spitak, Lori, will open this year, in July. The extraordinary support of these donors is testimony of their confidence in the work of the Project and its eye care programs, which

see APPOINTMENT, page 7



Rostom Sarkissian



COMMUNITY NEWS

Southern California Armenians Unite for Katcho

LOS ANGELES – On February 24, 2016, 60 Armenians gathered in support of State Assemblyman Katcho Achadjian's bid to represent the 24th District of California in the United States House of Representatives. The event raised more than \$75,000 for the campaign.

Judge Dikran Tevrizian, Walter Karabian, Frank Melkonian, Charles Ghailian, Berj Boyajian, Vahe Yacoubian, and Harry Nadjarian, who had joined efforts in support of Achadjian's Congressional bid, hosted the event.

Vatche Fermanian, Antranik Sinanian, Nicholas Nadjarian, John Simonian, Haig Tacorian, Albert Boyajian, Haig Kelegian, Berj Karapetian and Yervant Demirjian were co-hosts.

"As active members of the Armenian community and seasoned professionals in law, business, philanthropy and more, these individuals – Democrats and Republicans alike – have taken careful note of Assemblyman Achadjian's significant contributions to the Armenian community worldwide and concluded that he deserves the support of all Armenians in his quest to represent them in Washington DC," said one of the young professionals attending the fundraiser.

"It is both humbling and energizing to have

the support of Armenians across the political spectrum. Their generosity and support is overwhelming," said Achadjian.

In 2013, Achadjian helped lead a delegation of California State officials, including the Speaker of the Assembly, on a week-long mission to Armenia, drawing the attention of the State's decision makers to Armenia's culture, history and political conditions. This was the first such visit by a Speaker of the Assembly in the history of California, while in office.

"I have had the pleasure of knowing Katcho for many years. His accomplishments are a source of pride for Armenians everywhere, especially when one notes his success with a non-Armenian electorate. He has come very far and now it's our duty and pleasure to help raise one of our own to the next level," said Harry Nadjarian.

"Katcho has all the skills of an effective leader and will achieve success on a national level. Therefore, we must unite in our efforts to get him elected" continued Nadjarian.

Assemblyman Achadjian faces a tough race for Congress with eight opponents. Armenians make up less than 1 percent of the congressional district for which he is running (San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and part of Ventura Counties).



From left, Frank Melkonian, Vahe Yacoubian, Walter Karabian, California State Assemblyman Katcho Achadjian, Judge Dikran Tevrizian, Berj Boyajian, Harry Nadjarian and Charles Ghailian

"With an impressive lead in two recent polls, our support will go a long way in helping Katcho get his message to every corner of the congressional district. We urge everyone to join us in this effort" stated retired Judge Dikran Tevrizian, one of the hosts of the event.

As a three-term Assemblyman has helped pass critical legislation benefiting the Armenian community, including:

- AB1915 - the Armenian Genocide Education Act : ensuring Armenian Genocide is taught in all California schools, AB41: commended the extraordinary service delivered by the Near East Relief to the survivors of the Armenian Genocide and Assyrian Genocide

- AB167: marked August 31, 2014 as William Saroyan Day

- AB126: directed Department of Transportation to erect informational sign on a State Highway, marking the Western Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church in LA

- AB32: a measure to encourage and support Nagorno-Karabakh Republic's efforts to develop as a free and independent nation

- Co-Authoring the Armenian Genocide Remembrance Resolution every year in office

- Helped establish the California Armenian Legislative Caucus, which strives to ensure that California Armenian Americans' voice is heard and given a platform.



From left, Dr. H. Steven Aharonian, former AMAA Board President, Levon Filian, AMAA West Coast Executive Director, Ambassador Richard M. Mills, Jr, Zaven Khanjian, AMAA Executive Director/CEO and Dr. Nazareth Darakjian, AMAA Board President

AMAA Meets with US Ambassador to Armenia

GLENDALE – On Tuesday, March 8, Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) representatives attended a meeting with current US Ambassador to Armenia, Richard M. Mills Jr.

Accompanied by Jeffrey Parechan, USAID Regional Alliance Contact for Europe & Eurasia, the March 8 meeting at the Brand Library and Arts Center was one in a series of Ambassador Mills' meetings with various representatives of the Armenian-American community around the country.

AMAA representatives in attendance were: Dr. Nazareth Darakjian, AMAA Board president; Dr. H. Steven Aharonian, former AMAA Board president; Zaven Khanjian, AMAA executive director/CEO and Levon Filian, AMAA West Coast executive director.

The ambassador shared plans and priorities for the advancement of the country. He was also interested to learn more about AMAA's global ministry, especially in Armenia.

Among topics discussed were current events in Armenia, security matters, influx of Armenians from war torn Syria, freedom of speech and religion, plans for a stronger economy, and expand help to residents of bordering villages of Armenia.

28th Anniversary of Sumgait Pogroms Commemorated

SUMGAIT, from page 5

young." Both speakers were former residents of Azerbaijan. With great pathos and emotion, Eugenia Sarian performed Sayat Nova's *Tamam Ashkhar*. And 16-year old Zovinar Aghavian, a soloist of the St. Vartan Cathedral Choir, sang Komitas' *Groong* with poignant feeling. The seven young members of the Arminstring Ensemble, under the musical direction of Diana Vasilyan offered heartfelt performances of compositions by Khachaturian, Tchaikovsky, and E. Hovhannisyan's Yerevan Erebuti.

And the 15 youngsters of the Astghigner Music Ensemble, from ages seven to teenage years, offered several heartwarming selections under the baton of their musical director Maria Sahakyan. These children hail from the

Brooklyn Armenian parish made up of mostly immigrants from Azerbaijan. Their rendition of the soul-searing and mournful song *Adanyt Voghb* brought tears to many in the audience. The song was accompanied by two of the older girls, dressed in black and red doing a slow tribute dance dedicated to the martyrs of Adana.

The Very Rev. Mamigon Kiledjian, Dean of the St. Vartan Armenian Cathedral, expressed appreciation to organizers Bagdasarova and Amirkhanian, as well as to the speakers and performers. A special thanks was voiced to Ara Manoukian, director of the Ardzagang Armenian TV for advertisement and promotion. A prayer for the Sumgait martyrs, and the singing of the *Hayr Mer* concluded the memorable event.

Giragosian

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Chefs Party for Heritage Park

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — Celebrate with Boston’s top Chefs during the Chefs Party for Our Park! to benefit for Armenian Heritage Park’s Ongoing Care being held on Wednesday, May 18, at the Royal Sonesta Hotel Boston here.

In keeping with a key theme of the park to celebrate the immigrant experience, this fabulous evening showcases our collective culinary heritage.

Each chef will present a signature dish inspired by a parent, grandparent or mentor for guests to taste while they mix, mingle and support a great cause.

The star-studded culinary line-up includes Chef Owner Alex Crabb with Owner Carol “Shish” Parsigian, Asta; Executive Chef Brian Dandro, ArtBar and Royal Sonesta Hotel; Chef Owner Brian Poe, Poe’s Kitchen at the Rattlesnake, Tip Tap Room, Bukowski Tavern and Cluckit!; Chef Ed Robinson, Nubar; Chef Owner Jeffrey P. Fournier, 51 Lincoln and Waban Kitchen; Chef Owner Leo Romero, Casa Romero; Chef Michael Amiralian, 80 Thoreau; Chef Owner Seta Dakessian, Seta’s Café; Chef Owner Steve DiFillippo, Davio’s; Chef Owner Vicki Lee Boyajian, Vicki Lee’s; Pastry Chef Nathan Kibarian, Bastille Kitchen; and Flour Bakery & Café Pastry Chef Owner Joanne Chang.

Wines are courtesy of Tutunjian Estate Vineyards with Teas and Coffee hosted by Gilbert Tsang, Owner, MEM Tea Imports and Mark E. Mooradian, Founder, MEM Tea and Karnak Farms.

Funds raised will help to fully endow the fund for the Park’s ongoing care to ensure that the park is impeccably cared for year-round for many years to come.

Of the \$2 million goal, \$1.7 million or 85 percent has been raised with \$300,000 or 15 percent remaining.

Advanced Reservations are required. To receive an e-Invite, email name and email address to info@ArmenianHeritagePark.org

for a Reply Form.

Those who cannot attend but want to give a gift, can make a tax-deductible donation at ArmenianHeritagePark.org or mail a check, made payable to Armenian Heritage Foundation, to the Foundation, 25 Flanders Road, Belmont, MA 02478. In the memo, indicate for the Chefs Party/Park’s Care. All supporters will be acknowledged in the Evening Thank You.

Armenian Heritage Park on the Greenway welcomes all in celebration of the immigrant experience. The Park graces the public space with design features to engage all ages.

The Abstract Sculpture, a split dodecahedron, commemorates the immigrant experience.

Annually, the Abstract Sculpture is reconfigured, symbolic of all who pulled away from their country of origin and came to these Massachusetts shores, establishing themselves in new and different ways. In early April, a crane lifts and pulls apart the two halves of the split dodecahedron, made of steel and aluminum, and reshapes the two halves into a new and different Abstract Sculpture.

“...the Abstract Sculpture shows how public art becomes a part of the city...an example of public art that is both permanent and alive...”, wrote Joanna Weiss in the April 11, 2015 the *Boston Globe*.

The Abstract Sculpture sits atop a Reflecting Pool; its waters wash over its sides and re-emerge as a single jet of water at the Labyrinth’s center. The Sculpture is dedicated to lives lost during the Armenian Genocide of 1915-1923 and all genocides that have followed.

The Labyrinth, a circular winding path paved in grass and inlaid stone, celebrates life’s journey. A single jet of water marks its center, representing hope and rebirth.

Art, Service, Science and Commerce are



A shot from the 2014 Chefs Party for Our Park!

etched around its circle in tribute to contributions made to American life and culture.

At the crossroads of resident, business and tourist footpaths, Armenian Heritage Park on the Greenway is between Faneuil Hall

Marketplace and Christopher Columbus Park. The Park and its endowed public programs is gift to the City of Boston and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts from our Armenian-American community.

ATP Scales Up Environmental Education with New Coalition of Partners

ATP, from page 5

“We strongly believe in the power of environmental education. It brings together concerned adults and the young generation,” noted UNICEF’s Armenia Representative Tanya Radocaj at the event. “It brings the energy of young people, of children, upfront.”

This energy has been the driving force for ATP’s education programs, beginning with the publication of the “Plant an Idea, Plant a Tree” teacher’s manual and the opening of two education centers sponsored by Michael and Virginia Ohanian of Boston. In 2015, for example, more than 3,500 students visited the Ohanian education centers in Karin and Margahovit villages.

As a follow up to the global climate change negotiations that took place in Paris in December, ATP and its partners organized a round-table discussion on February 4 that

focused on the role of education and raising awareness around climate change in Armenia. The Paris talks broke new ground when 195 nations reached an agreement on the need to address climate change and its impact. Several experts were on hand to discuss the negotiations and its relevance to Armenia as a developing country that is also feeling some of the effects of a changing climate, including long, dry summers and extreme weather events that can wreak havoc on roads, topsoil and crops.

The importance of education — which is outlined in Article 6 of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change — was touched upon during the discussion. “We should expand the word education beyond schools and engage whole communities, both formally and informally,” noted Aram Gabrielyan, UNFCCC National Coordinator, at the roundtable.

Another participant in the discussion, Anahit Gasparyan, the senior specialist of the National Institute of Education, noted that when teachers have a low level of familiarity with an issue such as climate change, they are unable to pass it on in an effective way, so improved environmental training practices are useful in bridging the gap of “scalability.” Diana Haroutyunyan, the UNDP Climate Change Program Coordinator, expressed confidence that in the global context, it is important to find out how people learn so as to adapt methodologies accordingly.

The discussion was followed by a series of working meetings of the EEN members in Tsaghkadzor, where the participants developed EEN’s future strategy of “an environmentally conscious generation for a green and sustainable planet.”

“One of the key achievements of the project implemented with UNDP/GEF support is the inclusion and support of extracurricular environmental education as a strategic approach. This was a direct result of the series of roundtables jointly organized with EEN members and policymakers,” adds Sahakyan.

“We’re inspired by the level of interest and activity in the field of environmental education in Armenia. When we started in 2005 there were very few working in this area, and now through EEN we have developed working relationships with NGO’s and government who are committed to improving the quality and impact of this important field,” concluded Kassarian.

EyeCare Project Announces Appointment Of Rostom Sarkissian as Director of Development

APPOINTMENT, from page 5

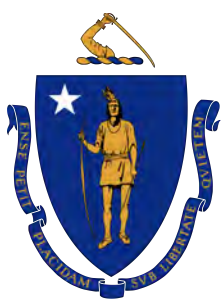
have treated more than 600,000 and restored the sight of 50,000 through cataract and other surgeries.

The Regional Eye Clinics will make an enormous difference in the lives of the people of Armenia — restoring the sight of thousands who today cannot afford cataract surgery or the trip to Yerevan for care. Cataract is the leading cause of blindness in the world and in Armenia. Today 91,000 Armenians or 30 percent of the population, age 65 and over, have cataracts in one or both eyes, causing partial or complete blindness. By 2050, a little more than 30 years, that number will more than double. Because cataract surgery is so limited in Armenia just 24 percent with cataracts have surgery most people go without care leaving them visually disabled. In the United States people accept cataract surgery as a part of aging and it is a common procedure. Sadly, in Armenia, many have learned to accept blindness as a part of growing older because they have no access to care or cataract surgery.



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Organized by the State House Armenian Genocide Commemoration Committee, Boston



COMMUNITY NEWS

The Knots That Bind Us

A Discussion on the Status of Women in Armenia

SAN FRANCISCO — The San Francisco chapter of the Armenian International Women's Association and the three Bay Area Armenian Relief Society Chapters: Agnouni, Erepouni and Garin hosted a profoundly insightful evening to support the Women's Support Center (WSC). Guests gathered at the beautiful Tufenkian Showroom within FloorDesign, San Francisco to hear WSC Executive Director Maro Matosian discuss the status of women in Armenia.

AIWA-SF has been a long time partner and supporter of the Women's Support Center. Founded by Matosian in 2010, the WSC actively assists and empowers victims of domestic violence as well as advocate for the defense of women's rights in Armenia. Matosian presented an illuminating discussion on the status of women in Armenia and how WSC programs address challenges facing women in Armenia today. She said, "In a society where women are educated, offered equal opportunity as men, that is a society that advances. Today with the majority of the population in Armenia being women we cannot afford not using women's potential to advance our country. For this we have to raise our voices and demand that women are treated with respect and break away from stereotypes that demean and belittle

women for the only reason to reinforce sexism and male dominance."

Sophia Moradian, AIWA-SF Vice President, was also moved by the presentation: "It was a pleasure to meet and hear Maro speak about such an important topic that is quite difficult to discuss. It's easier to not think or talk about such issues, but if we stay silent then we inherently support the perpetrators. This event helped to bring the issue of domestic violence to life and definitely engaged our audience."

Meghedi Nazarian, author of *Hearts of Armenia* remarked, "This was such an important event for so many reasons and I was honored to be a part of it. Seeing various community organizations working together for a common cause was so special. And having Maro come all the way from Armenia to shed light on a topic that affects many of our Armenian sisters was definitely an eye-opening experience." Throughout the event, guests were able to purchase a signed copy of her book, of which, half of proceeds are donated to AIWA-SF to support the Women's Support Center. *Hearts of Armenia* is a picture book filled with 87 hearts captured by Nazarian during her stay in Armenia from April to October 2015.

Sadly, domestic violence is widespread glob-



The guests at the AIWA-SF discussion

ally, and Armenia is certainly no exception, yet it is a topic that is rarely discussed, it is also an issue that isn't well funded. The emotional evening also served as a fundraiser, as such all the funds raised from the evening will be donated to the Women's Support Center.

In reflection upon the evening's events, guest and Knightsbridge Wireless CEO commented, "With great excitement I always endeavor to attend all of AIWA-SF's organized events. AIWA

is truly a professional organization that connects, educates and supports Armenian women of all ages and backgrounds, and inspires them to give back to their communities through mentorship, networking and volunteerism. Personally, I am highly impressed and very proud and dedicated fan for being involved with such a noble organization."

All proceeds from the evening went to support the Women's Support Center's work in Armenia.

Worcester Public Library To Host Armenian Exhibit, Mouradian Lecture

WORCESTER — An exhibit titled "Historical Documentation Of The Armenian Genocide" will be held at the Worcester Public Library, 3 Salem Square, for the month of April 1-30, sponsored by the Knights Of Vartan Arshavir Lodge No. 2.

The focus of the exhibit is on government documents, official reports, communications, photographs, letters, books, magazine and newspaper articles that were published during the years of the Genocide from 1915 to 1923. These materials accurately document the facts and the truth about the first Genocide of the modern era. The Turkish government, Turkish and other scholars, continue to deny that the Genocide "happened."

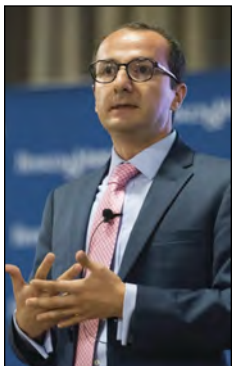
Official records and published proof from the era as the Genocide was "happening" disprove their claims. Ten display cases in two locations on the Main Floor of the library will accommodate the exhibit.

Special Events in the Saxe Room are the following:

On Sunday, April 3 at 3 p.m., there will be an opening ceremony with Mayor Joseph Petty; A performance by The Greater Worcester Armenian Chorale; Local premiere of "The Wind," a film starring Olympia Dukakis and Shirleyann Kaladjian, directed by Alex Webb: a story of two modern Armenian women faced with an unexpected encounter from the past and with the unresolved legacy of the Armenian Genocide.

On Tuesday, April 5 at 6 p.m., the local premiere of the film "The 100-Year-Old Survivor," directed by Peter Musurlian will take place.

On Wednesday, April 13 at 6 p.m., Dr. Khatchig Mouradian, PhD in Armenian Genocide Studies from Clark



Dr. Khatchig Mouradian

University's Strassler Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, will discuss "Resisting Genocide from World War I to Today."

The Exhibit and Special Events are free and open to the general public. For additional information contact Charles Der Kazarian at ckd-kwomc@verizon.net.



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COMMUNITY NEWS

Armenian Woman Donates Stem Cells to Save Cancer Patient in Israel

LOS ANGELES – Seven years ago, when Maria, a Yerevan resident, became a bone marrow stem cell donor with the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry (ABMDR), she had no clue that someday she would actually be able to help save someone's life. That opportunity presented itself on March 9.

After Hadassah Medical Center's Bone Marrow Transplant Department, in Jerusalem, contacted ABMDR for a matched-donor request, Maria, 36, was identified as a match for a cancer patient in Israel. As further tests confirmed Maria as a perfect match, Hadassah requested from ABMDR that her stem cells be harvested for a bone marrow transplant that could save the life of the Israeli patient.

Maria's stem cells were harvested at ABMDR's Stem Cell Harvesting Center, in Yerevan. Once the painless, non-invasive harvesting procedure, performed by Dr. Andranik Mshetsyan, was completed, the donated stem cells were flown to Israel through a special courier. Maria has been an ABMDR bone marrow stem cell donor since 2009. She is a nurse and the mother of two children: Alex, 15; and Knarik, 18 months old.

Present at Maria's harvesting procedure were ABMDR Executive Director Dr. Sevak Avagyan and Medical Director Dr. Mihran Nazaretyan, as well as Dr. Bella Kocharian, former First Lady of Armenia. Kocharian became ABMDR's very first registered bone marrow donor when the organization



From left: Armine Hyusyan, Dr. Mihran Nazaretyan, Dr. Bella Kocharian, and Dr. Sevak Avagyan.

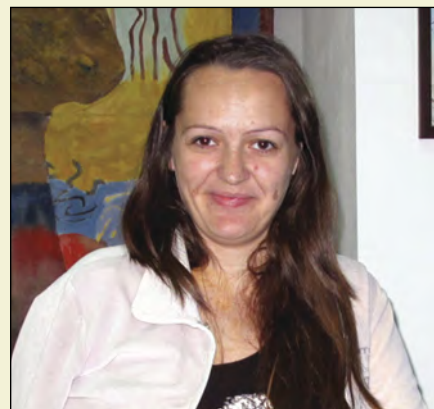


Dr. Bella Kocharian, Dr. Sevak Avagyan, and Maria during the harvesting procedure.

was established in 1999, and has served as its honorary chair ever since.

"We Armenians are a Mediterranean people, and, as such, share our genes with peoples throughout the region, whether they be Jews, Greeks, Italians or Ethiopians," Avagyan said. "Today we are absolutely delighted that the life of a patient in Israel is poised to be saved through an Armenian bone marrow donor. Nothing can be more gratifying!"

To date, the registry has recruited over 28,000 donors in 28 countries across four continents, identified over 3,500 patients, and facilitated 26 bone marrow transplants. For more information, visit abmdr.am.



Maria donated stem cells for a life-saving transplantation in Israel.

Laser Center Closer to Establishment in Armenia

BOSTON – In April 2014, a team of three dermatology laser specialists from the United States (US) returned to Yerevan, Armenia to further the development of a state of the art laser dermatology center for treatment of scars and vascular anomalies. The team of US physicians consisted of Dr. R. Rox Anderson of Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School, Dr. Lilit Garibyan of Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School, Dr. Nishan Goudsouzian of Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School and Dr. H. Ray Jalian of UCLA Medical Center, and Dr. Christine

American Wellness Center, the team evaluated close to 120 patient and treated over 50 patients including several cases under general anesthesia. Thanks to the generous support of Candela-Syneron, permanent installations of the GentleMax Laser (used to treat vascular birthmarks) and the AlexTriVantage (used to treat traumatic tattoos and pigmented lesions) donated by Candela-Syneron laser company were left in Arabkir Medical Center. In addition, a donation by Dr. Christine Avakoff allowed for the permanent installation of the Pulsed Dye Laser (used to treat vascular birthmark and scars) at the Armenian American Wellness Center. With this donation, the team performed the first ever pulse dye laser treatment of a port wine stain in Armenia. This treatment, which has been standard of care for port wine stains and other vascular birthmarks in the US for more than 10 years, will greatly impact the lives of young children with these potentially disfiguring lesions.

In addition to the treatment of patients, the team organized an education seminar for local physicians hosted by Lumenis, Inc. laser company to provide information on the laser technologies and how it can be used to treat a variety of medical conditions. Lumenis also sponsored the shipment and use of a laser for scar treatments. There are plans under way now to obtain a laser for scar treatment that can permanently be housed in Arabkir hospital. The ultimate goal of this mission is to establish a sustainable laser



Dr. Hrachya Arshakyan and Dr. Alina Arshakyan, both plastic surgeons at Arabkir Pediatric Hospital are standing next to the two lasers (the GentleMax and the AlexTriVantage lasers) donated by Candela-Syneron laser company to Armenia.

Avakoff, who is in private practice. Building on their first mission in 2013, the team's main goal was to establish a permanent presence in Yerevan, to bring lasers, to train local doctors to allow continuity of care to patients with vascular birthmarks and scars.

In collaboration with local plastic surgeons and Arabkir Medical Center and the Armenian

center in Yerevan. This was the teams second mission trip to Armenia and now they feel one step closer to the goal to establishing a medical laser center in Arabkir Pediatric Hospital where plastic surgeons, Dr. Hrachya and Alina Arshakyan, were trained to perform laser procedures for children with vascular anomalies and scars.



Dr. Lilit Garibyan, Dr. Nishan Goudsouzian, Dr. Rox Anderson and Dr. Ray Jalian in the operating room at Arabkir Pediatric Hospital right before starting the treatment cases.

center in Yerevan.

"Unfortunately, sometimes the most effective and innovative healthcare technologies don't get to the patients who need them most," said

Anderson. "We're determined to change that."

Children with burn injuries or vascular birthmarks, whether they live in the suburbs of New York City or a small village in Armenia – should have access to treatments medical lasers treatments.

Donations for paying for the day to day cost of this clinic in Armenia is vital for its survival, especially at the beginning stages. To help, contact Dr. Lilit Garibyan directly at lgaribyan@mgh.harvard.edu.

Arts & Living

Third Socially Relevant Film Festival Takes Place in NY

NEW YORK — Eight Armenian films will be screened as part of the third SR Socially Relevant Film Festival, a groundbreaking non-profit film festival that showcases socially relevant films with human interest stories. The festival opens on the 14th of March with a panel on “Adapting the Novel to the Screen” with such prolific panelists as Pulitzer Prize winning playwright Robert Schenkkan, and widely published French novelist Marc Levy.

The films screen through March 19 at The Bow Tie Cinemas Chelsea and the closing night Awards Ceremony takes place at the Tenri Japanese Center on March 20.

The full line-up and program of this year’s SR Socially Relevant Film Festival was announced at its Press Day, hosted at Bocca East in Manhattan, on February 2. Selected films will focus on the current topics of immigration, female empowerment, human exploitation, gender politics disability and more, and will feature distinguished personalities including Erin Brockovich, Olympia Dukakis, Sally Field, Marc Duret and others.

Two narrative features and six shorts revolving around Armenian themes will have a special presence in this year’s film festival, including the international premiere of “100 Years Later” (directed by John Lubbock) which follows historian Ara Sarafian’s journey through Anatolia as facts of the 1915 Armenian Genocide are uncovered and dialogue is established with local Kurds and Turks.

The second feature, “Who Killed the Armenians?” (directed by Mohamed Hanafy Nasr), will have its World Premiere at the festival and is the first Arabic documentary on the Armenian Genocide, filmed in Egypt, Armenia and Lebanon. The film reveals rare documents, footage and interviews related to the 1915 Armenian Genocide.

The short film, “Eclipse,” (directed by Ara Yernjakyan) which will have its US premiere, revolves around the children who suffered and the families that were destroyed during the Armenian Genocide.

“The film is a reminder of the fact that children are the most vulnerable sector of the society during any war and conflict,” said Ara Yernjakyan in an interview with Lilit Movsisyan. “It is children that suffer from the mistakes of the adults in the first place.”

Yernjakyan said he wanted to focus on the social issue of children in the film, which screened at the Golden Apricot Festival in Armenia, with a desire to appeal to both Armenians and non-Armenian audience.

“I am sure that everyone can be part of my audience, especially those who are not indifferent to the fate of children,” he said.

“Girl on the Moon,” (directed by Aren Malakyan), filmed in Armenia, focuses on the first steps of disabled people and how they try to change the course of their lives through dance.

In an interview with Movsisyan, Malakyan said it was necessary to show through the language of cinematography the process of staging a dance performance.

“We long studied the psychology of children, interacted closely with them, and became friends, so that they could feel at ease in front of the camera,” said Malakyan. “My goal was not to make people pity them through the film, but rather awake more a powerful sense in people, so that the latter look at them and dream about being as strong as those disabled people.”

The film received the jury’s special prize for the first time in Almaty (the largest city in Kazakhstan) and received accolades at the VEB see FILMS, page 11



Lucine Amara

Voice Like a Magnificent Violin: Lucine Amara Turns 90

NEW YORK — On March 2, notable musicians, musicologists and artists from nearby states gathered to celebrate in splendid setting the 90th birthday of Lucine Amara, the sublime Armenian singer, the treasured diva of the Metropolitan Opera.

Lucine Amara appeared on the stage of globally acclaimed Metropolitan Opera in 882 productions, depicting 56 roles in choice repertoire of international art of opera, which have often been broadcasted by radio and television. Amara is the only singer in the world who has sang at the same opera house for over 40 years, not to count her performances for the television and radio, recordings and participation in films.

Amara has performed the principal roles in Bizet’s “Carmen,” Puccini’s “Madama Butterfly” and “La Boheme,” Tchaikovsky’s “Eugene Onegin,” Offenbach’s “The Tales of Hoffmann” (Les Contes D’Hoffmann), Mozart’s “Don Giovanni,” Leoncavallo’s “Pagliacci,” Verdi’s “Il Trovatore” and “Aida,” to name just a few.

For the past 20 years, she has been the artistic director of the New Jersey Association of Verismo, where talented young vocalists develop their art under her immediate attention and guidance.

Lucine Armaghanean-Amara is the daughter of Adrine and Georg Armaghanean, survivors of Armenian Genocide of 1915. To the question regarding the altering of her name, L. Amara replied: Lucine is the moon [in Armenian], as you know it, “armaghan” means a gift, but I’ve changed it to Amara, which means bitter, unkind in Italian.

Amara was born on March 1, 1925 in Hartford, Conn. Initially, she studied at the San Francisco’s Community Music School as a violinist, simultaneously singing at the choir of a local Armenian church, thus learning the liturgy, classical hymns and canticles.

Soon, thanks to her naturally beautiful voice, the gifted young singer was trusted with solo parts. The appreciation of Armenian parishioners encouraged Lucine. By the definition of her listeners, she possessed an “angelic voice,” and for that very reason she was advised to take vocal training lessons instead of continuing her current studies.

Following the advice of relatives and close friends, Lucine began her studies with Richard Bonelli at the Music Academy of the West.

The years 1945-1946 became memorable in Amara’s artistic career, marking her stage debut at the War Memorial Opera House as a chorus member... as a contralto! In 1948 she won the first prize at the Atwater Kent competition. In 1949, her teacher, Stella Eisner-Eyn, decided that Lucine should participate in the auditions at the Metropolitan Opera and the almighty Fortuna smiled upon our compatriot. She was given a “young artist” contract. In 1950 her rendition of “Celestial

see AMARA, page 12

Reclaiming Konia Tells Story of Ancestor

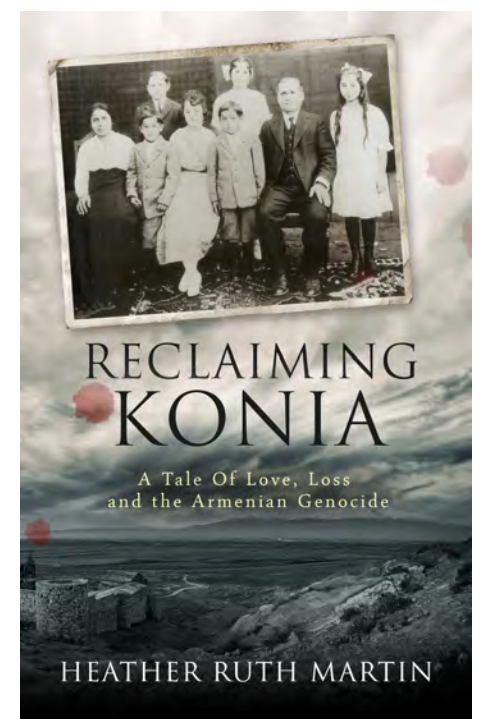
WATERTOWN — On April 7, the Armenian Museum of America will be hosting a book presentation and signing with Heather Martin, the author of new book, *Reclaiming Konia: A Tale of Love, Loss and the Armenian Genocide*. The program will be held at 7:30 p.m. on the 3rd floor of the museum in the Adele & Haig Der Manuelian Galleries.

Melkon Jenanyan — an Armenian preacher who died in 1956 — has come back to tell his story according to his great-granddaughter Heather Martin. From Melkon’s wish to share his trauma related to the Armenian Genocide, Martin is now the author of the novel based on Melkon’s life story. *Reclaiming Konia* is now available in print and through Kindle on Amazon.

“My father was really, really clear — Melkon, his grandfather — wanted nothing to do with the old country,” said Martin. “Melkon’s children were not taught Armenian or Turkish, even though he wrote his sermons in both languages. He never spoke of any violence he experienced, violence which caused them to leave before the 1915 genocide killed 1.5 million Armenians, Assyrians and Greeks. It wasn’t until I was inspired to write his story that he



Heather Martin



began to vocalize many pent up regrets and pain. I’m not a psychic — but every writer is inspired by some unknown force, I just happened to know who it was that was influencing my creative process.”

It is the author’s hope that as more people read *Reclaiming Konia* and other works about the Genocide, that the Armenian generation will begin to heal their trauma surrounding it. Martin also hopes that it will bring more awareness to non-Armenians about the political challenges surrounding the Armenian Genocide.

“Ultimately this novel was about more than just the political component,” she said. “I had the chance to help my ancestors heal from a trauma that occurred over 100 years ago through my writing. In the process I have rekindled the family legacy and joyful memories of those who have passed on.”

Along with being a writer, she has an eponymous consulting firm that helps small and mid-sized companies with their strategy and sales, and also provides career consulting and resume writing services to individuals.



ARTS & LIVING

2015, The Armenian Condition in Critical Perspective: New Book by Seta Dadoyan

Seta Dadoyan recently published a new book titled *2015 – The Armenian Condition in Hindsight and Foresight – A Discourse*. A modified excerpt from the foreword of this 214-page book in Western Armenian and English is printed below in order to give readers an idea about its contents.

This project will be truly critical to the extent that it contributes to the liberation/emancipation from ideological rationalizations, sedimentations, and routine practices on all the levels of Armenian culture. By increasing the chances of conscious freedom of thought and action, this is also an attempt to open a new space, away from stagnation, domination and manipulation in whatever form they appear and operate.

This study radically differs from most others in the literature of Armenian humanities and social sciences in connection with the “situatedness” of individuals and communities. Like all human beings, Armenians are thrown, as it were, into a history, or a set of stories that they did not start and cannot finish, but which they must continue in one way or another. The centenary of the Armenian Genocide is an occasion to reflect not only upon a major cataclysm, but a vast amount of historical and cultural traditions, narratives, ideologies, projections, also prejudices or pre-judgments. In order to determine how to act, they must first understand themselves with respect to the stories in which they find themselves, as to who they are and where/how they want to go.

The situation is more complicated than it appears, because for many the understanding of the meaning of their peculiar history and traditions is simply inherited and re-projected into the process of understanding. In sum, standing in a constantly changing temporal/spatial position, the texts that Armenians need to understand, in one way or another, are part of the narratives in which they already find themselves. Understanding history is a way of attending to things and reacting to them directly. Even though knowledge is always finite and never complete and certain, to understand, means to grasp, to agree, to be able to do/act, and be fully and actively part of the historical processes.

Temporality distinguishes this hermeneutic experience. This is its three-dimensional character (past, present and future). It means that the present moment or the Centenary, includes both the past and the future, and that these three dimensions are mutually reciprocal and inter-affective. For Armenians the object of the understanding process at this juncture is not the capturing of immutable truths of the past and epic dreams for the future, but rather in the absence of traditionally assumed a priori ahistorical bases, providing fresh interpretations of Armenian realities. At least theoretically, every-

one is supposed to be involved in a historical living/learning process, in which the knower and the known object are part of the same circle of analysis. No one and no institution is or should claim to be a disembodied knowledge-machine /source.

This study gives great importance to historical knowledge, and knowledge in general. Because knowledge is strictly embedded in serving human interests, in this case the interest of the Armenians. It follows that it cannot be considered value-neutral and/or objectively independent. Armenians have an interest in knowing their history in dynamic and contemporary terms, because such interest is attached to the preservation of their identity and persistence. To preserve their identity means to see their fundamental interest in the emancipatory force of understanding and knowledge.

The most distinguishing aspect of the history of the Armenians and their condition is their uniqueness. Therefore, avoiding generalizations, commonly held notions and sentimentalism, this study starts by the identification of the various aspects of this uniqueness at all times and locations. It then runs a critical re-evaluation of the historical processes in hindsight into the past, and foresight into the future.

Part One is dedicated to the brief definitions of the aspects and levels of the uniqueness of the Armenian condition historically. In order to bring out or show the contrast/gap between the written record of history on the one hand, and the facts on the ground on the other, fifteen items are presented in pairs of contradictory themes. The first item presents the abstractions and assumptions in the histories and dominant belief-systems among Armenians, the second states the actual occasions or the facts on the ground at which any radical change or reform must start. Some of these items are ideology-realpolitik, homeland-habitat, center/periphery-Metastystem.

Part Two is an analysis of the next Armenian century in foresight. Nine possible exits or L-Turns, and reversals or U-Turns are suggested on the levels of the public, the schools, and the intellectual culture. For example, I suggest the

necessity of neutralizing passive elements and assumptions in the public mindset, and promoting a culture and ethics of critical thinking through the knowledge of the culture, arts and history. Another exit is adopting deliberate and well planned multi-lingualism and multi-culturalism.

Part Three, the most theoretical, is a phenomenological and holistic analysis of three vital themes in hindsight and foresight: identity, the western Armenian language, and historiography. ‘Piety starts at home’, therefore, this study should be the first to set an example. In order to provide schematic historical information, I have added a

Chronology of Armenian History as Appendix I.

Specifically for this study I have also added an Armenian-English and English Armenian more or less academic glossary as Appendix II. My initiative to take on the difficult and complicated task of writing in Armenian and English is part of the objectives of this opus.

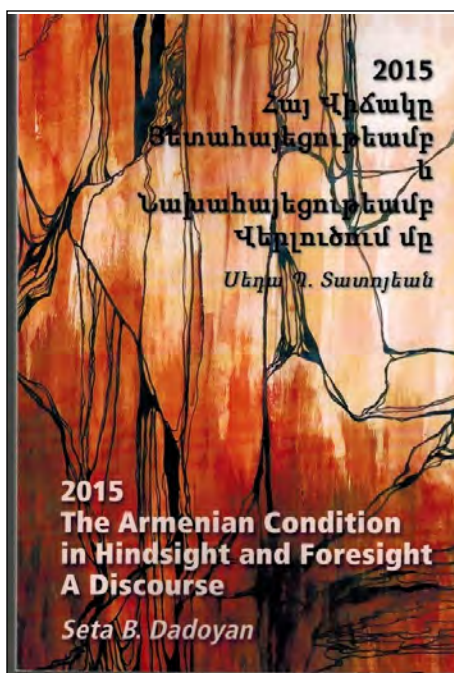
If the so-called next Armenian century is a ‘to be or not to be’ phase, it is time for Armenians to start thinking, talking and writing in their native

language. Otherwise all activity, under whatever banner or slogan it appears, will be paradoxical, because it will concern a people which has failed or not wished to maintain the language, one of its greatest legacies. Unfortunately, even those who still speak a mixed West Armenian, have difficulty reading and comprehending academic texts in that language. In this respect, having parallel texts in Western Armenian and English on opposite pages is a useful format for reference and exercise. There is always the problem of the Western Armenian language. There aren’t many Armenian authors who have adopted contemporary critical theories and write in Western Armenian. Thus there has not been a need to find or create appropriate terms for new concepts. Many terms do not have their equivalents. Fortunately, being relatively recent, the language is flexible and allows this process. As the reader will notice, for this study I have created several terms such as mdatruyt for mindset, nakahayetsutun for foresight, hedayetsutun for hindsight, mtahertsum for schizophrenia, and so on.

As an interdisciplinary and critical work, the book is essentially a set of arguments against traditional narratives, corresponding mindsets, public discourse and activity. Based on the actual historical experiences of the Armenians, this is a philosophy of ‘things Armenian’ in hindsight and foresight on a more or less popular level. It is time to launch a broad re-evaluation of all things Armenian. The effort can only have positive results and create serious self-consciousness on individual and collective levels. It does not matter at all if this opus inevitably causes some confusion and reaction. There is no other way to fight modern Armenian dogmatism and/or indifference in order to open the way before the development of new self-perceptions for a new century.

This book was written because a crisis on the national level is at hand and intellectual work is born precisely in these circumstances. The immediate occasion is the Centenary, which is a bridge between the past and the future. The past is no more here except in hindsight. Based on the Armenian condition both in the past and the present, foresight is what Armenians should develop individually and collectively. This is a soul-searching moment and the single most important question is ‘what’s next in the next century?’ On the popular level and from all pulpits, the calls for justice and reparation inspired everyone, even the indifferent toward their roots and immediate past. However, the way in which the occasion was celebrated and treated, the Centenary and all the issues related to the Genocide turned the latter into a mythomoteur, or the constitutive myth of the nation. It would hopefully create unity and regeneration in the nation. This is a debatable issue. But the rhetoric practically overwhelmed all other urgencies concerning the possibilities of the persistence of the people and the revival of the stagnating intellectual culture, language and literature. The sheer emotional weight of the episode and the ripples of the celebrations/protests/conferences spread worldwide. But they also created a dangerously closed and small pond for all things Armenian. Fresh sedimentations accumulated over existing ones and chances for the development of a rigorous culture beyond the mere rhetoric seem remote. This is a fact on the ground. There is a crisis.

The persistence of the people and the culture depend on the dynamic flow of fresh and critical re-evaluations of all things Armenian in hindsight and foresight. For both, the historical sense and understanding are conditions but they are not here yet. In this respect, intellectual culture is of the essence and the Armenian intellectual must be more self-conscious, self-critical and accountable. This is where this study takes its beginnings, and hopes to bring its contribution.



Third Socially Relevant Film Festival Takes Place in New York

FILMS, from page 10

Apricot festival. Malakyan also received a youth award from President Serge Sargsian for the film.

“The SR Socially Relevant Film Festival is exciting for me because it has a social orientation,” said Malakyan. “The film is intended for people regardless of their nationality. In all nations, there are children with such problems who deserve attention and respect.”

“How to Cross from Jiliz to Jiliz,” directed by Marineh Kocharyan and Sona Kocharyan, is about a young girl who dreams of being with her grandmother and relatives who live on the other side of the border, only a few meters away. The film will have its New York premiere.

The film was inspired by Kocharyan’s studies at the Georgian Institute of Public Affairs, when she prepared a report about the Jiliza village and the border, and decided it would be an important subject material for a documentary. The film, which has already participated in several festivals, won the jury’s special prize at the Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival and the CinéDoc Tbilisi international documentary film festival and winning of the chief prize of the “Young Documentarians” short film competition, organized by the US

Embassy and Tumo Center for Creative Technologies.

“Our film is created for an audience of every type and taste,” said Kocharyan in an interview with Lilit Movsisyan. “Many different audiences have viewed the film and became interested in the issue.”

“Now I Know,” directed by Anna Bayatyan from Armenia, will have its International Premiere, focusing on the theme of hope. In an interview with Lilit Movsisyan, Bayatyan said the film presents a disagreement between an individual and society as spiritual pressure is placed on one person who does not live according to everyone else’s standards.

“The motto of the SR-Socially Relevant Film Festival New York matches the message of the film,” said Bayatyan. “It’s a great opportunity and best chance to communicate with other directors and producers.”

“Shattered,” directed by David Hovan, focuses on memories of war and chaos and post-traumatic stress disorder. It will have its New York premiere.

“Where is the Euphrates, Son?” Directed by Rouben Pashinyan, filmed in Armenia, the film tells the story of an Armenian grandfather who

arrives in Armenia as a tourist and tries to find the Euphrates River. It will have its New York premiere at the festival.

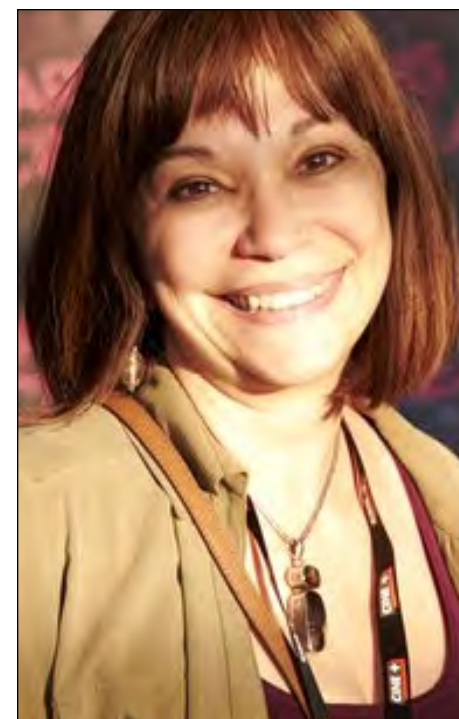
Although centering his film around the Armenian Genocide, filmmaker Ruben Pashinyan said, “My Son, Where is the Euphrates?” focuses on a brighter future and an optimistic note of awareness.

“The film is not a film production, but a public outcry which we couldn’t but raise especially on the 100th anniversary of the Genocide,” said Pashinyan of the film.

Founded by award-winning actor, filmmaker and curator Nora Armani, SR aims to satisfy a market need concentrating on everyday human stories as an alternative to the proliferation of gratuitous violence in film making.

In its first two years of the festival’s founding, it has served as a platform for 108 films from 33 countries, offered four industry panels and presented over 12 awards to talented filmmakers from all over the world. SR believes that positive social change is possible through the powerful medium of cinema.

To stay updated on the entire slate of movies, dates, and times, or to purchase tickets, visit www.ratedsrfilms.org.



Nora Armani

Voice Like a Magnificent Violin: Lucine Amara Turns 90

AMARA, from page 10

Voice" ("Voice From Heaven") in G. Verdi's Don Carlos was defined by the critics as an unprecedented interpretation and an off-stage success. Celebrated violinist Isaac Stern once remarked: Your singing sounds like a magnificent violin.

Thus, in 1950 begins Lucine Amara's glorious artistic career not only within the walls of the Metropolitan Opera house, but also on stages of famed opera houses throughout the world.

Despite her crowded schedule, Amara found time to record Verdi's *Requiem* and Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9*, consequently acclaimed as one of the best performances of that work. Amara appeared with famous Italian tenor Mario Lanza in "The Great Caruso" film and recorded Pagliacci with Franco Corelli.

Among others, Amara worked with such prominent conductors and artistic directors as James Levine, Dimitri Mitropoulos, Eugene Ormandy, Leonard Bernstein, Leopold Stokowsky and Pierre Monteux. She shared stage with Franco Corelli, Carlo Bergonzi, Nicolay Gedda, Placido Domingo, Luciano Pavarotti, Jan Peerce, Richard Tucker, Jon Vickers and other virtuosi of the vocal art. As you might have noticed, Amara often sang with

Italian singers. For several decades, the Metropolitan Opera had two prominent principal singers of Armenian descent: Lucine Amara and contralto Lili Chookasian (Chookaszian).

With her powerful talent, Lucine Amara conquered the best stages. Her preferred roles are in W.A. Mozart, G. Puccini and G. Verdi repertoire.

It is a commonly known fact that the cradle of the art of opera is Italy, and a still more widely known fact is that only exceptionally talented performers succeed in winning the love and appreciation of Italians.

Having thoroughly researched innumerable nuances, comprising the facets of Bel Canto and having listened to many a singer well-versed in that style, Amara is firmly set as one of the stars in the constellation, symbolizing Armenian singers at the Metropolitan opera in New York - one of the most esteemed opera houses of the world. Other memorable singers are Armand Tokatyan, Ara Berberian, Lili Chookasian. (It is worth mentioning another contemporaneous actor-singer and fellow Armenian, Michael Kermoyan (baritone), celebrated for his stellar performance in The King and I.) That brilliant "constellation" of Armenian stars will shine forever in the history

of Metropolitan Opera, proving that we, Armenians, as one of the ancient nations of the world, have truly made significant contributions to the universal sphere of arts and culture.

It is a different issue, as to how many more such stars we could have in arts, sciences and culture if Turkey had not broken the spine of our nation by annihilations of intelligentsia.

Amara is not one of the singers for whom it would suffice to capture the audience solely by her beautiful voice. No, not so at all for her. The art of opera is a musical drama, a theater, in which each participant must display perfect acting, as required from actors of dramatic theatre.

While Lucine Amara's acting is superb, her majestic voice flows like an abundant river, like honey - thick and vigorous when appropriate, and at times sorrowful and celestial.

Generally, any singer's art - especially the strength of the voice - the capacity and vibrations of vocal cords are measured by singing gently, sotto voce. Singing loudly is relatively easy, while singing softly is far more difficult.

The ability to sing softly is a special art. Amara concurs with this mentality. She is capable of singing softly with an incredibly masterly command. While singing softly, her vocal resonance, timbre and color are never reduced. Her renditions are inherently refined and typically there are no changes of timbre within her vocal range (diapason).

Sotto voce stems from Bel Canto. Examples of the former are ample in Armenian canticles, folk songs of peasants, in laments of exiles longing for motherland and in heroic song narratives (sagas).

Amara's accomplished renditions in romantic and Verismo styles are highly esteemed and admired by vast Italian audiences in Italy, the very cradle of operatic art.

For decades, Amara appeared in principal roles at the season openings of the Metropolitan opera. The Times deftly qualified Lucine Amara as "... the greatest lyric soprano of our times." Time Magazine stated: "She brought to the stage the kind of dazzling vocal splendor that made the Met famous..." "Lucine Amara is a superstar by longevity; a phenomenal vocal and dramatic artist of the highest order." In reviews for Mozart's "The Magic Flute" we read: Mozart's opera [i.e. The Magic Flute] was revived at the Metropolitan opera thanks to Lucine Amara. We also encounter in the press of the period: "Lucine Amara is the pride of Metropolitan."

The extraordinarily beautiful voice, flexible vocal cords, splendid stage presence of Amara have enraptured her audiences at her concerts. As witnessed by her concert programs, alongside of celebrated arias, vocal works of Western European composers, Amara always performed songs and romances by Armenian composers.

Music lovers of our country relished Lucine Amara's live performances twice (1965 and 1991) with passionate, reverent emotions. I too

was present at her concert in 1965, with the official responsibility of overseeing the live radio broadcast of the concert of this inimitable singer. The frenetic ovations of the audience made Amara sing encore three additional songs. Poet Paruyr Sevak described his impres-



Lucine Amara

sion of the concert in these words: Amara turned us into violins and played on the [strings] of our emotions.

After the resonate success of her concert in 1991, Amara postponed other scheduled concerts. Instead, she chose to record a large number of Armenian songs and romances at the State Radio of Armenia. Is there a better expression of patriotism than this act of love?

In 1991, at age 66, Amara left the stage of Metropolitan opera, but remained professionally active, singing at concerts, coaching and working on music-related projects. Currently, Amara and her daughter, Evelyn (also an opera singer, voice teacher and stage director) give master classes in the United States, Canada, Australia and Mexico.

Doubtlessly, besides being an American operatic artist, Amara is also an Armenian by her heritage, temperament and imagination. Her surrounding has the breath of Armenianism. Although an American-born, she has never been solely American. Amara speaks Armenian fluently, maintains close ties with the Armenian community and the Armenian Apostolic church, honors and practices Armenian traditions and customs.

Occasionally, even at her respectable age of 90, she performs cherished Armenian songs and romances at the events within the Armenian and American communities.

Original Armenian article by Henrik Anassian

Translated into English and edited by Arevig Caprielian



by Christine Vartanian Datian

Eggplant Walnut Ricotta Rolls With Fresh Greens and Basil Salad

INGREDIENTS

6 Japanese eggplants, sliced lengthwise in 1/2-inch slices
Kosher salt
1 1/2 cups ricotta cheese
1/2 cup finely ground walnuts, (about 1 cup whole walnuts ground in a food processor)
2 cloves garlic, finely grated or chopped
2-3 tablespoons olive oil
1 teaspoon dried dill
1/2 teaspoon sea salt
1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
Juice and zest from 1 lemon
Canola oil

FOR THE SALAD

8-10 cups tossed mixed salad greens
3-4 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
1 tablespoon balsamic vinegar
1/4 cup candied walnuts
1 large handful fresh basil

PREPARATION:

Wash eggplants, cut off and discard stems. On a cutting board, using a mandolin or sharp knife, slice each eggplant lengthwise in long pieces, 1/2-inch thick.

Sprinkle eggplant slices with some Kosher salt and place in a large colander to drain for 15 to 20 minutes. Discard liquid.

In a medium bowl, combine the ricotta cheese, walnuts, garlic, olive oil, dill, sea salt, nutmeg, lemon juice and lemon zest. Mix all ingredients until smooth in texture and set aside. (Ricotta filling should be chilled until ready to use.)

In a large deep skillet, pour 1/2-inch canola oil and heat over medium heat until oil is hot. Blot the pieces of eggplant with paper towel to remove any water droplets and fry eggplant slices in batches until golden brown on both sides, about 90 seconds per side. Remove from pan to drain flat on paper towels.

Place slices of eggplant on a tray or dish and spread a tablespoon or two of the ricotta filling across each slice; roll up pinwheel style and repeat until all eggplant slices have been filled and rolled.

In a medium bowl, toss salad greens with olive oil and balsamic vinegar. Arrange salad on four serving plates and serve with the eggplant walnut ricotta rolls. Toss torn basil leaves over the salad. Garnish salad with candied walnuts.

Time: 40 minutes

Yield: 4 servings

For Christine's recipe that was originally published in the New York Times, go to: <http://cooking.nytimes.com/recipes/1017803-eggplant-walnut-ricotta-rolls-with-fresh-greens-and-basil-salad>

Christine's recipes have been published in the Fresno Bee, Sunset and Cooking Light Magazines, and at <http://www.thearmeniankitchen.com/>

For Christine's recipes that have been published in Sunset and Cooking Light Magazines, go to: <http://www.myrecipes.com/search/site/Datian>

Author Dana Walrath to Discuss *Like Water on Stone*

BURBANK, Calif. - Burbank Public library Award-winning author Dana Walrath, PhD, will be speaking on Monday, April 4. The event will be held at Buena Vista Library, 300 N. Buena Vista St., Burbank.

Walrath's latest book, *Like Water on Stone* (Delacorte/Random House, 2014), is a novel in verse about the Armenian genocide of 1915. This absorbing novel tells the story of three siblings who flee into the mountains, hiding by day and running by night when Ottoman pashas implement their plans to eliminate all Armenians. Lyrical language and musical threads wrap the description of the Armenian genocide in a note of magical realism with Ardziv, an eagle, describing the young sibling's escape.

Walrath will speak about her experiences in Armenia as a Fulbright Scholar, her travels to Western Armenia in 1984, and how these journeys influenced *Like Water on Stone* and continue to affect her life. Blending an anthropological tool kit with excerpts from this novel, Walrath will explore why stories, especially stories about phenomena surrounded by denial, play a critical role in healing.

Admission is free and open to the public.



Dana Walrath



ARTS & LIVING

C A L E N D A R

CALIFORNIA

APRIL 15 - DEADLINE. If you are looking to embark on the educational adventure of a lifetime, then consider the American University of Armenia’s Summer Program 2016. The program combines unique academic offerings with the benefits of a safe, welcoming, and exciting environment. Participants will also experience the authentic sights, sounds, and flavors of Armenia through the Discover Armenia Educational Tours. Apply at im.aua.am by April 15.

CONNECTICUT

APRIL 23, 2016 Annual Armenian Genocide Commemoration. Connecticut State Capitol; Flag Raising at 11:00 a.m.; Commemoration in the House Chambers at 11:30 a.m. Keynote Speaker, Shant Mardirossian, Chairman Emeritus, Near East Foundation.

MASSACHUSETTS

MARCH 13-MAY 21 — Book Tour Schedule for Armenians of the Merrimack Valley. Authors E. Philip Brown and Tom Vartabedian are embarking on a presentation tour and book signing of their new book.

- **March 19:** Barnes & Noble, Salem, NH, 1-4 p.m.
- **March 31:** Buttonwoods Historical Museum, 7 pm, 240 Water St., Haverhill
- **April 2:** Armenian Museum of America (ALMA), 2 pm, 65 Main St., Watertown, sponsored by ProjectSAVE
- **April 7:** Avak luncheon, St. Gregory Church, 158 Main St., North Andover, noon
- **May 21:** Vermette’s Market, 6 Pond St., Amesbury, 10-2, book-signing only

MARCH 20 — Anniversary dinner hosted by the Merrimack Valley “Arax” ARS Chapter, 1 p.m., Jaffarian Hall, St. Gregory Church, 158 Main St., North Andover. Luleh kebab dinner and program, speaker Talin Daghljan. Tickets at the door.

MARCH 31 — 8:00 p.m.: “From Musa Dagh to the Warsaw Ghetto: Armenian and Jewish Armed Resistance to Genocide,” with Eric Bogosian, Dr. Deborah Dwork, Dr. Dikran Kaligian, and Dr. James R. Russell. Co-sponsored by the Center for Jewish Studies at Harvard University, the Mashtots Chair in Armenian Studies at Harvard University, and the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR). At Harvard University, Science Center Auditorium D, 1 Oxford Street, Cambridge. Contact 617-489-1610 or hq@naasr.org for more information.

APRIL 2 — Swing into Spring Dinner-Dance. Sts. Vartanantz Armenian Church, Chelmsford, Kazanjian Ballroom, 180 Old Westford Rd. Chelmsford. Dinner at 6 p.m. followed by non-stop Armenian and Middle East music by the Jason Naroian Ensemble featuring Jason Naroian, dumbeg and vocals; Brian Anisbigian, oud; Ara Jeknavorian, clarinet; and Dave Anisbigian, guitar. Paid in advance tickets (received by March 27) are \$25 for adults, \$10 for children (6-12), and 5 & under, free. At-the-door, \$35 for adults and \$15 for children. For reservations, please contact Maria at ria.tk@verizon.net (617-240-3686).

APRIL 2 — Back by popular demand — Sayat Nova Dance Company of Boston (SNDC) proudly presents the return of renowned entertainer/comedian/pianist **Kev Orkian** to Boston, with his brand new show “Little Fingers.” Saturday, 8 p.m. (doors open at 7:30) in Shaw Auditorium, Watertown High School, 50 Columbia St., Watertown. Reserved seating only. Tickets are available by 617-852-1816. VIP tickets (limited amount available) are \$65 and include reserved priority seating and pre-show private reception with Kev. General show tickets are \$50, includes reserved seating. Visit www.sayat-nova.com for the seating chart and see attached flyer for more details.

APRIL 7 — Book Event: Reclaiming Konia: A Tale of Love, Loss and the Armenian Genocide by Heather Martin book talk and signing, 7:30 p.m., Adele & Haig Der Manuelian Galleries (3rd Floor). Heather Martin will speak about the development of the book, reading her favorite passages, and signing copies. The event is free and open to the public and light refreshments will be served at the reception.

APRIL 9 — Sayat Nova Dance Company 30th anniversary

Alumni Reunion. Saturday, 7:30 p.m. in Cambridge. Calling all SNDC Alumni and members for an evening of fun and surprises. Come eat, socialize, reminisce.... Please RSVP by March 20, at sndc_info@sayat-nova.com or call 617-923-4455.

APRIL 9-10 — Two days of workshops, presentations, community and discovering your Armenian roots. This conference grew out of the Armenian Genealogy group (*Haygagan Dzakumnapanutyun*) on Facebook. Watertown. Cosponsored by National Association for Armenian Studies and Research; Project SAVE Armenian Photograph Archives, Houshamadyan, Armenian Museum of America, Tekeyan Cultural Association, and Hamazkayin-Boston. Various times, Watertown area. To register, visit <http://www.armeniangenealogyconference.com/registration/>

APRIL 17 — Erevan Choral Society Spring Concert, “In Commemoration of Our Sainted Martyrs of 1915.” Sponsored by Holy Trinity Armenian Church, 2:30 p.m., Church Sanctuary, 145 Brattle Street, Cambridge. The concert is under the direction of Composer Konstantin Petrossian, Music Director and Conductor. Guest Soloists are David Ayrian (Kamancha) and Gohar Manjelian (Mezzo Soprano), with Nune Hakobyan on the organ and piano. The Armenian and non-Armenian community is invited to commemorate through music the Holy Martyrs of the Armenian Genocide. The concert is a gift to the community.

APRIL 22 — Save the date. The annual commemoration of the Armenian Genocide at the Massachusetts State House. Friday, 10.30 a.m., State House Chamber, Catered Reception at 12 noon in the Great Hall. Keynote speaker will be announced at a later date.

APRIL 30 — Armenian / American Dance, Saturday, 7 p.m. – 12 a.m., 1 Market Street, Lawrence, Complimentary Coffee & Dessert, Cash Bar, 50/50 Raffle, Armenian music provided by The Jason Naroian Ensemble, American music provided by DJ Kory Sirmaian. Tickets: \$20 in advance; \$25 at the door. Melanee Naroian:(978) 683-0613, Lucy Sirmaian: (978) 683-9121. Sponsored by The Armenian Church at Hye Pointe Women’s Guild.

MAY 7 — Experience Public Art! during ArtWeek Boston. Armenian Heritage Park on the Greenway, Boston. At 1 p.m. - World Labyrinth Day: Walk As One At 1 Together with people in cities and towns worldwide, walk the labyrinth at 1pm joining this annual international initiative of The Labyrinth Society in collaboration with the Labyrinth Guild of New England and Friends of Armenian Heritage Park. For first-time walkers at 12:45pm, an Introduction to walking a labyrinth with Chiara Megighian Zenati, Certified Labyrinth Facilitator. At 1:30 pm - Reception to View The 2016 Configuration of the Abstract Sculpture Welcome: Nanore Barsoumian, Editor, Armenian Weekly; Public Art: Lucas Cowan, Public Art Curator, Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy; Personal Perspective: Alin Gregorian, Editor, The Armenian Mirror Spectator; Tea & Desserts hosted by MEM Tea Imports and Eastern Lamejun Bakers. All are invited.

MAY 12 – Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston Presents the Dr. Michael and Joyce Kolligian Distinguished Speaker Series, with John Prendergast, founder of “The Enough Project,” an initiative to end genocide and crimes against humanity, co-founder “The Sentry,” a new investigative initiative focused on dismantling the networks financing conflict and atrocities. 7 p.m. Thursday at Charles and Nevart Talanian Cultural Hall, Holy Trinity, 145 Brattle Street, Cambridge MA Info: 617.354.0632

MAY 14 — Sayat Nova Dance Company of Boston continues its 30th anniversary celebrations with a night of song and dance with beloved singer Arabo Ispiryan, direct from Armenia. Don’t miss out on this night of pure Armenian entertainment. Come and celebrate with us as we sing and dance all night with Arabo. Generous appetizers (mezze) will be provided. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. To be held at St. James Armenian Church, Charles Mosesian Cultural and Youth Center, 465 Mt. Auburn Street, Watertown. Tickets are available by calling Apo at 339-222-2410 or Hagop at 617-780-6295. VIP table seating at \$100/person (includes 1 free drink/person and a bottle of champagne for the table); Premium table seating at \$75/person (includes a bottle of champagne for the table); General seating: \$65. Please reserve your tickets early.

MAY 18 — Chefs Party for Our Park! Benefit for

Armenian Heritage Park’s Ongoing Care Royal Sonesta Hotel Boston, Cambridge. Celebrate with Boston’s Top Chefs, presenting signature dishes inspired by parents, grandparents or mentors for you to taste while you mix, mingle and support a great cause. Advanced Reservations only. To be acknowledged in the Evening Thank You, please respond by May 6. To receive an invitation, please email your name and email address to info@ArmenianHeritagePark.org

APRIL 23 — Procession and flag raising for 101st anniversary of Armenian Genocide at Lowell City Hall, 10 a.m., followed by a reception and cultural program by area schoolchildren at nearby Masonic Center. Sponsored by the Armenian National Committee of Merrimack Valley & Armenian Genocide Commemorative Committee of Merrimack Valley. For the march, gather at corner of Merrimack & John Streets at 9:30 a.m.

MAY 27 — 65th Annual Armenian Night at the Pops, Featuring Boston Pops Orchestra, Keith Lockhart, Conductor; presenting Edvard Poghossian, cello. Presented by Friends of Armenian Culture Society. Symphony Hall, 301 Massachusetts Ave., Boston. For tickets and information, visit facsboston.org

SEPTEMBER 10 — Sayat Nova Dance Company of Boston 30th Anniversary Gala. Details to follow.

SEPTEMBER 18 — Sunday Afternoon At The Park For Families & Friends. Armenian Heritage Park on the Greenway, Boston. 2-4pm. All are invited. **SEPTEMBER 30 — OCTOBER 2 — 25th Anniversary Celebration,** Armenian International Women’s Association. Charles Hotel, Cambridge.

NOVEMBER 15 — Thank You Reception For All Supporters of Armenian Heritage Park. Armenian Cultural and Educational Center, Watertown. 7:30pm. During the evening, supporters will receive the Armenian Heritage Park Commemorative Book which will acknowledge all supporters in the category of giving that combines all their contributions since the Campaign’s inception. Deadline for first time supporters and for supporters to increase their contribution is September 22, 2016. Contributions are tax-deductible as allowed by law. All supporters are invited.

December 18 — Candlelit Labyrinth Peace Walk. Armenian Heritage Park on the Greenway, Boston. 5:00-6:30pm. All are invited.

ILLINOIS

APRIL 18 — Award-winning poet and critic Peter Balakian will give a Center for Advanced Study (CAS)/ MillerCommlecture on “The Armenian Genocide, Poetry of Witness, and Postmemory” at the Spurlock Museum Auditorium at 4 p.m. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The event is free and open to the public and hosted by The Initiative in Holocaust, Genocide, and Memory Studies. Co-sponsored by: Center for South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, Department of English, Department of French and Italian, Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, Department of History, Department of Religion, European Union Center, Program in Comparative and World Literature, Program in Jewish Culture and Society, Spurlock Museum, The Future of Trauma and Memory Studies Reading Group.

NEW YORK

APRIL 5 – Fund for Armenian Relief (FAR) presents Sahan Arzruni in Benefit Concert “Together for Armenia,” Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. An evening of solo piano music to benefit the Vanadzor Old Age Home administered by FAR. Merkin Concert Hall - Kaufman Music Center, 129 West 67th Street, New York. Tickets \$35, will go on sale in February 2016. Please contact FAR for more info: noune@farusa.org or 212.889.5150.

RHODE ISLAND

APRIL 16 — Saints Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church, Providence, Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide, “Legacy of our Martyrs,” Saturday at 7 p.m. Concert of Armenian Patriotic Songs Performed by the Armenian Chorale of Rhode Island, 70 Jefferson St., Providence. Fellowship- Egavian Hall, following concert



Mirror Spectator



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COMMENTARY

The Doves Are No Longer Safe in Turkey

By Edmond Y. Azadian

Hrant Dink, the courageous journalist who believed that he could promote democracy in Turkey by getting the people to face the dark history of that country, was assassinated on January 19, 2007 in front of the editorial offices of *Agos*, the bilingual weekly which he had founded with the hope of engaging Turks and Armenians in a cathartic dialogue.

He used to believe that Armenians in Istanbul lead a very isolated life and that if those in Turkey knew the Armenians better, all prejudices would vanish.

By the same token, by exposing facts about the Armenian Genocide, he believed that he was not only serving a historic truth, but that he was also promoting human rights to cleanse Turkey of its grisly past, and pave the way for democracy.

In view of his bold statements about Turkey's human rights abuses and denial of the Armenian Genocide, people were always worried about his security. He, however, always comforted them, believing that Turkish society was changing and maturing. He also believed that he was living like a dove and people always protected doves. Unfortunately, he was wrong.

In the process of the investigation of Dink's murder, a document dating back to 1997 has surfaced labeled "confidential." In addition to Dink's name, the name of the then-vicar of the Armenian Patriarchate of Istanbul, Mesrob Mutafyan, was also used. The document stated, "an individual named Firant Dink is among our targets due to his pro-Armenian activities. He is the editor-in-chief of *Agos* periodical, published in Istanbul by Armenians and is in close ties with the vicar of the Patriarchate, Mesrob Archbishop Mutafyan, famous for his Armenian nationalist inclinations."

It turns out that the "deep state" in Turkey had targeted Hrant Dink long ago, as revealed by recent court documents.

Indeed, in October 2014, Istanbul's 5th High Criminal Court made a decision to begin Hrant Dink's trial from zero. Prosecutor Gokalp Kokçu filed a lawsuit against 26 former and current officials who are believed to be implicated in the assassination.

Contrary to the statement in the above documents, Dink and the Patriarch were never close and their antagonism toward each other was very public. Only after Dink's assassination did the Patriarch realize how close their destinies had been and he tearfully acknowledged that fact in his eulogy at Dink's funeral.

It almost feels like that moment was the beginning of the end for the Patriarch.

Perhaps it would be impossible to prove medically that Patriarch Mesrob developing dementia at a relatively young age was the result of the fear he experienced after so many death threats and actual bombs thrown at his headquarters in Kumkapu.

At this time, the Patriarch has been reduced to a shell of his former self. An Istanbul court recently appointed the Patriarch's 78-year-old mother, Mari Mutafyan, as his custodian. She will be entitled to represent her son by court order.

In the meantime, the Patriarch's health has put the Armenian community in an impasse. The Turkish authorities cynically do not allow for the election of a new Patriarch as long as the incumbent is alive, never mind that he is in a vegetative state.

In any civilized country, such religious matters would be handled by the respective community it is affecting, but not in Turkey.

The fear that pushed the Patriarch over the edge and into his current state is shared by the entire Armenian community in Turkey and that fear is fanned by the government itself.

In a recent press conference in Armenia, a specialist in Turkish studies, Tiran Lokmagyozyan, stated: "Armenians have double fear in such cases. The first one is that the security of the state is under threat. In addition, there are individual fears for being Armenian. It is a well-known fact that whenever such incidents take place in Turkey, minorities, including Armenians, become the first target. We witnessed that when Turkey took measures against the Kurds, the

name of the Armenians was heard more often, as if the battle was against the Armenians in the first place. The police made announcements through loudspeakers calling Kurds Armenians to insult them."

No only do the police use the name of Armenians as an insult, but officials, beginning with the prime minister himself, Ahmet Davutoglu, justify also the Genocide, which at last count, they had said they did not commit. In a recent speech decrying the Kurds, who had opened an office in Moscow, Davutoglu said that the Kurds are colluding with Russians as "Armenian gangs did during World War I."

Armenians have always lived in fear for a reason. The Turkish government has regularly encouraged the hatred and distrust of Armenians and from time to time, has terrorized them officially, even after the Genocide. In 1942, they instituted the confiscatory "wealth tax" (*varlik vergisi*) to bankrupt the community and to send affluent Armenians to the labor camp of Askale, where many perished under harsh conditions.

The pogrom of September 6-7, 1955, was directed against the Greeks, while Armenians would also share their plight.

The pogrom was instigated by a false-flag operation concocted by Ankara to incite the mob. Turkish agents were sent to Salonika to bomb the house where Atatürk had been born. That was enough cause to begin a rampage in Istanbul against Greeks and Armenians.

The Turks are masters of such intrigues; during the war in Syria, a plot was discovered, whereby the head of the Turkish security services (MIT), Fidan Hakan, was ready to bomb the tomb of the father of Fatih Sultan Muhammed (the conqueror of Byzantium) in Syria to justify an invasion.

Even recent bombings in Ankara are believed to be false-flag operations to justify the murderous rampage against the Kurds in the country's eastern region or Western Armenia. Although Prime Minister Davutoglu said that his government was "almost certain" that this week's explosion was the work of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), the facts suggest otherwise. Indeed, a news item which was published in *Nokta* newspaper

on March 13 states: "It appears that the Turgev Foundation established by President Erdogan and his family had already sent a message to its members BEFORE the Ankara bombing around noon, warning them to stay away from the bombed area. So the governing party had warnings about the bomb but shared the information with 'his' people rather than all his citizens."

Turkey has become a dangerous place. Mr. Erdogan has unleashed the violence, with the hope and belief that

he can control it to the very end.

After the most recent Ankara bombing, President Obama repeated his mantra that the US will stand by Turkey, however, no word or concern was expressed about the victims of the government onslaught.

Criticism in the western press is getting louder and louder, asking the West to abandon Turkey as a NATO ally. One of the last such articles was signed by Dough Saunders in Toronto's *Globe and Mail*, with the following conclusion: "Mr. Erdogan has destroyed the unified and open Turkey he earlier helped create. And he has done so using the tools not just of an authoritarianism but now by silencing the media, of totalitarianism. It is time to stop treating Turkey as an ally, but as a country that has stepped beyond the pale."

To figure out the irony of the situation, it suffices to refer to a news item which reports that Istanbul Governor Vasip Sahin met with Armenian, Jewish, Greek and Muslim religious leaders and at the conclusion of that meeting he said to them that Istanbul has been a city where people from different religions live and that all the religious communities have been living in peace "in the city of harmony and fellowship."

And this, when the eastern region of the country is a war zone, where Kurds cannot rescue even their dead from the streets and when the minorities are stricken by fear in the entire country.

Had Hrant Dink been warned early enough that the doves are no longer safe in Turkey, perhaps he would be alive today.





COMMENTARY



My Turn

By Harut Sassounian

US Ambassador to Armenia Faces Criticism at Glendale Appearance

Richard Mills, US Ambassador to Armenia, spoke at the Western Prelacy in La Crescenta, Calif., on March 10, during his tour of Armenian communities throughout the United States to brief them on his diplomatic work in Armenia.

In his welcoming remarks, Archbishop Moushegh Mardirossian, Prelate of the Western Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church, expressed the hope that “the United States, as a champion of justice and human rights, will in due time join the scores of nations that have formally acknowledged the indisputable truth of the Armenian Genocide.”

Ambassador Mills spoke about the progress Armenia has made in the last two decades and presented the four priorities being pursued the US Embassy:

- 1) deepening business and trade relations between Armenia and the United States;
- 2) countering corruption;
- 3) strengthening democracy, human rights, and civil society;
- 4) creating a better understanding of US foreign policy goals.

The ambassador explained that the United States encourages reconciliation between Armenia and Turkey by continuing to support the Protocols that were signed in 2009, but not ratified. Speaking of the Armenian Genocide Centennial, Ambassador Mills remarked that “Armenians were massacred and marched to their deaths by the Ottoman Empire,” carefully avoiding the term ‘Armenian Genocide.’

At the end of the ambassador’s presentation, I had the privilege of being called upon to ask the first question. I respectfully commented:

“I know that ambassadors don’t decide US foreign policy. You are simply the messenger. I would like to go on record to say that it is deeply offensive to the Armenian community for you to come here and not use the word genocide to describe what happened to Armenians in 1915. I am not blaming you. It is not your fault! You know what happened and the US government knows what happened. American officials have repeatedly recognized the Armenian Genocide since 1951. I have written a book that documents US recognition of the Armenian Genocide which I will be happy to give you. It is not understandable to Armenians and non-Armenians around the world why the US government is now reluctant to use a word that describes what it acknowledged a long time ago. This reluctance puts the United States at a disadvantage when its officials give lectures to Armenians in Armenia about democracy, morality and justice, and yet they fail to comply with their own principles. The US government should be an example to the rest of the world! I am just using you as a messenger. I see that one of your colleagues from the State Department is here with you. I hope that you would transmit my message to your superiors in Washington.”

Ambassador Mills gave the following brief answer: “My only response will be to reiterate President Obama’s goal

which he set forth in his statement on April 24th: ‘We want full, frank and just acknowledgment of what happened from the Turkish government and Turkish people.’”

Regrettably, the US Ambassador was simply following President Obama’s deplorable reluctance to utter the words “Armenian Genocide,” despite his repeated promises to do so as a candidate.

Regardless of whether President Obama and his underlings use the term genocide, the fact remains that the United States has repeatedly acknowledged the Armenian Genocide at the Presidential and Congressional levels.

Nevertheless, the Armenian-American community and Armenians worldwide have an obligation to confront and reject every attempt to minimize or distort the proper characterization of the Armenian Genocide. Remaining silent upon hearing such reprehensible terminology is an insult to the memory of the Armenian Martyrs, particularly when unacceptable euphemisms are uttered in Armenian church halls and community centers.

Ambassador Mills was probably surprised by the adverse reaction of the audience to his statements not only regarding the Armenian Genocide, but also his faulty claim that Turkey was fighting against ISIS!

Unfortunately, we cannot expect every American ambassador to sacrifice his/her diplomatic career by telling the truth to power as did John Evans, the former US Ambassador to Armenia. He boldly acknowledged the Armenian Genocide at a great personal cost, during a similar tour of the Armenian communities in the United States.

Ambassador Mills should be commended for his efforts to improve US-Armenia relations. However, his superiors in Washington should be made aware that his good work is being undermined by their shameful word games regarding the Armenian Genocide!

Turkey’s Violence Spreads from East To West with No End in Sight

By Shabtai Gold

November’s parliamentary elections in Turkey were a vote for stability, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan claimed as his party swept the polls and formed a single-party government.

Since then, the violence in the country has only intensified, with Sunday night’s car bombing in Ankara that killed 37 people a brutal reminder that without any political solutions forthcoming, there is no end in sight.

Turkish authorities are reportedly suspecting Kurdish militants for the suicide car bombing. The conflict between the state and militants from the Kurdish minority has been intensifying in recent months, forcing more than 350,000 people to flee their homes in south-eastern districts.

Hundreds have been killed – the exact figure is hard to determine – and entire districts have seen widespread destruction which, especially in the town of Cizre, recall scenes in neighboring Syria. The state’s forces are accused of rights abuses.

Mostly, the conflict has stayed in the largely Kurdish south-east of the country, but analysts say the bombing in Ankara, the second such attack in the heart of the Turkish capital in less than a month, is an attempt to drag the war into the west of the country.

“There is a leakage of the poor security situation in the east to the west of Turkey,” says Gareth Jenkins, an Istanbul-based researcher at the Silk Road Studies Program, an academic institution.

Not all Kurds in Turkey support the armed Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK). Even those who do not, Jenkins says, are feeling that their plight is being ignored, not only by the government but also by Turkish citizens in Istanbul and Ankara.

“There is a sense of massive frustration that the west of the country has turned its back on the east,” he says.

This is helping fuel radicalism. While Erdogan insisted in his condemnation of the Ankara bombing on the “unity and solidarity of our people,” the reality on the ground is that Turkey is becoming more and more polarized.

“Ethno-politics is becoming the primary concern splitting Turkey into two groups,” says Metin Gurcan, an independent security analyst who writes for al-Monitor website.

Last year, Erdogan dismissed an agreement reached by top ministers with Kurdish officials which was meant to help pave the way for a final peace deal. Soon after, the PKK threatened new violence.

An Islamic State attack on a pro-Kurdish rally in Suruc in July then killed three dozen people and set in motion the current wave of violence between the state and the PKK.

Gurcan says that Syria is clearly part of the dynamics at work here. The emergence of autonomous Kurdish regions in the neighboring country has sparked hopes and nationalism among the minority group in Turkey.

The fight against Islamic State in both Syria and Iraq, led on the ground by Kurdish militants with ties to the PKK, has only served to inspire youngsters and instill a sense of righteousness into their cause.

Many of the radicalized youth believe Turkey’s foreign policy, even inadvertently, helped Islamic State establish itself in Syria, in part because the porous border was the main highway for jihadists to join the civil war.

But fighting Turkey, the second largest army in NATO, is a Sisyphean task. The PKK and its allies in urban centers are doomed to lose. As the state makes gains against their positions in Kurdish cities, the more extreme wings of the nationalist movement are spreading the fight.

“They are expanding the front to western Turkey. It is the reaction of the weaker side,” says Gurcan.

Analysts don’t believe that a military solution can be obtained in Turkey and eventually the state and the PKK will have to return to the negotiating table for a resolution.

However, if the violence worsens – and there is an expectation that spring will bring even more fighting – and the country becomes more polarized, then there is a danger “they won’t be able to find a table,” says Gurcan.

“The longer the return to talks is delayed and the more blood is spilled, the harder it will be. And Turkey will have to pay a higher price in concessions,” says Jenkins, noting that the Kurds will insist at least on devolution of power to their regions.

(Shabtai Gold is a correspondent for dpa)

Armenia Draws Europe’s Attention to its Efforts on Syrian Refugees

YEREVAN (ArmeniaNow) – While Europe is grappling with one of its most serious recent migrant crises caused by the influx of refugees and asylum seekers from war-torn Syria, Armenia says it is also making a contribution to dealing with the situation.

By Sara Khojayan

Speaking at a ministerial meeting of the European People’s Party in Vienna, Austria, on March 13, Nalbandian said: “Armenia has sheltered nearly 20,000 refugees from Syria, thus making our country the third largest recipient of Syrian refugees in Europe on per capita basis.”

Nalbandian stressed that in order to find solutions to the issues on migration, first of all it is necessary to track reasons behind it. In this context, the minister attached importance to united fight against terrorism, process of political resolution of the crisis in Syria.

Before that, Armenia’s top diplomat addressed the issue at his meeting with Federica Mogherini, the European Union’s High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the European Commission, who paid a visit to Yerevan on March 1.

Director of the Institute of International and Security Affairs Stepan Safaryan sees Nalbandian’s statements as an attempt to attract financial means for Armenia. The political analyst says he was among the first who once criticized the Armenian authorities for not taking part in international discussions on Syria.

“For example, Armenia did not try in any way to become a party in international talks on Syria despite the fact that it has a Diaspora in that country and is, in fact, a Middle Eastern nation. In this sense, our authorities has, unfortunately, stepped aside,” Safaryan said.

“And now that our authorities see that Turkey is, roughly speaking, managing to bring in money for Syrian refugees, they are trying to show that something is being done in Armenia as well and that we need some assistance, too,” the analyst added, describing such steps as belated.

Safaryan believes that the most important thing for Armenia today is to try to encourage Syrian Armenians who fled hostilities in their country to stay on in Armenia. In the recent period quite a few refugee families have reportedly left Armenia, having encountered difficult social and economic conditions as well as bureaucratic obstacles in their historical homeland.

According to various estimations, some 18,000-20,000 Syrian refugees, mostly ethnic Armenians or Syrians in mixed marriages, have come to Armenia in the period of 2012-2015. During the same period, an estimated 5,000 of them left Armenia for other countries. At present, the number of Syrian refugees in Armenia is estimated at about 13,000-16,000. Most live in the capital.

The Armenian government began to take legal steps to assist ethnic Armenians from Syria still in the summer of 2012 when first groups of refugees began to arrive in the country. For example, documentation procedures were streamlined for Syrian Armenians, Syrian Armenian students were exempted from tuition fees, businesses were provided with opportunities to receive preferential loans, etc.

A new wave of Syrian Armenian immigration into Armenia was observed in 2015 when fighting intensified in Syria, particularly around Aleppo and other cities and towns where a majority of Armenians live.

According to Armenia’s Diaspora Ministry, more than 2,000 Syrian Armenians took refuge in Armenia in 2015 alone.



Ben H. Bagdikian, Reporter of Broad Range and Conscience, Dies at 96

BAGDIKIAN, from page 1

Over five decades, Bagdikian was a national and foreign correspondent for newspapers and magazines; a reporter, editor and ombudsman for the *Washington Post*; the author of eight books; and for many years a professor and the dean of the Graduate School of Journalism at the University of California, Berkeley.

Born into an Armenian family that fled from genocide in Ottoman Turkey, he grew up in Depression America with a passion for social justice that shaped his reporting. He became an undercover inmate to expose inhumane prison conditions in Pennsylvania, rode with an Israeli tank crew to write about the 1956 Suez Crisis, and lived with oppressed families in the South to cover the civil rights struggle in the 1960s.

He was the *Washington Post's* conduit for the Pentagon Papers, the secret Defense Department study of decades of American duplicity in Indochina that was disclosed by the military analyst Daniel Ellsberg and published by the *Post* and the *New York Times* in 1971 in defiance of the Nixon administration's attempts at suppression as the nation debated its deepening involvement in the war in Vietnam.

But he was perhaps best known as the author of *The Media Monopoly* (1983), which warned that freedom of expression and independent journalism were threatened by the consolidation of news and entertainment outlets in a



Ben Bagdikian

shrinking circle of corporate owners. A mere 50 companies, he wrote, controlled what most Americans read in newspapers and books and saw on television and at the movies.

By 2004, when he published *The New Media Monopoly*, the last of seven sequel editions, the number of corporate giants controlling much of the flow of information and entertainment had

proliferated, and some observers contend that the Orwellian perils envisioned by Bagdikian have receded or become moot.

While Bagdikian was most vociferous against ownership concentrations — calling for limits on the size of newspaper chains, for example, even if the limits ran afoul of the First Amendment —

dwindled to five. “This gives each of the five corporations and their leaders more communications power than was exercised by any despot or dictatorship in history,” Bagdikian wrote.

Journalists, scholars, corporate officials and the public still debate the drawbacks and merits of limited media ownership. But the Internet and desktop publishing have extended freedom of speech to anyone with a computer. Cable networks and

his news media criticism ranged widely. He examined conflicts of interest and journalistic integrity, legal issues affecting the press, the media's responsibility to act in the public interest, and trends in investigative reporting.

He rebuked newspaper publishers who pressed journalists to promote advertisers' interests, breaching the traditional wall between news and business. He was troubled by the wide use of anonymous sources in news reports, and by the credulity of reporters and editors who accepted the “official” accounts of self-serving government spokesmen, especially when facts were being suppressed on national security grounds.

He urged tougher standards of public service for broadcasters seeking renewal of their licenses. He advised Americans not to rely on television networks for news, calling them “one network in triplicate” because of their similarities. And he especially deplored the celebrity status of television network anchors.

“The worst thing that can happen to a journalist is to become a celebrity,” he told *The Progressive* in 1997. “The honest job of the journalist is to observe, to listen, to learn. The job of the celebrity is to be observed, to make sure others learn about him or her, to be the object of attention rather than an observer.”

Ben Haig Bagdikian was born on January 30, 1920, in Marash, Turkey, the youngest of five children of Aram Bagdikian, a chemistry teacher, and the former Daisy Uvezian. The family fled the massacre of Armenians when Ben was an infant and made its way to America, settling in Stoneham, Mass. His mother died when he was 3, and his father became pastor of an Armenian Congregational church in Cambridge.

He graduated from Clark University in 1941 and worked briefly as a reporter for the *Springfield Morning Union* in Massachusetts. In 1942 he married Elizabeth Ogasapian. They had two sons, Christopher and Frederick, and were divorced in 1972. His second marriage, to Betty Medsger, ended in divorce. In 1983, he married Marlene Griffith. Besides her, he is survived by Frederick. Christopher died in 2015.

After serving as a navigator in World War II, Bagdikian joined the *Providence Journal and Evening Bulletin* in Rhode Island in 1947. Over the next 15 years he was a local reporter, a member of a team that won the 1953 Pulitzer Prize for deadline coverage of a bank robbery, a foreign correspondent in the Middle East and a Washington correspondent.

From 1963 to 1967 he was a Washington-based contributing editor of the *Saturday Evening Post* and wrote freelance articles about politics, poverty, housing, migration and other subjects for the *New York Times Magazine* and other publications. He also covered the civil rights movement, sometimes as a companion of victims of intimidation and violence.

His first book, *In the Midst of Plenty: The Poor in America*, was published in 1964. His other books included *The Information Machines: Their Impact on Men and the Media* (1971), *The Effete Conspiracy and Other Crimes by the Press* (1972), and a memoir, *Double Vision: Reflections on My Heritage, Life and Profession* (1995).

Frustrated by the “sins and omissions” of reporters and television crews at news events, he began writing media critiques in the 1960s after formulating a Bagdikian Law of Journalism: “The accuracy of news reports of an event is inversely proportional to the number of reporters on the scene.”

Bagdikian studied the news media for the RAND Corporation from 1967 to 1969. After joining the *Washington Post* in 1970, he became an assistant managing editor and the ombudsman, representing the newspaper's readers. From 1972 to 1974, he wrote for the *Columbia Journalism Review*. He taught journalism at Berkeley from 1976 until retiring in 1990, and was the graduate school's dean from 1985 to 1988.

“Never forget,” he told his students at the outset, “that your obligation is to the people. It is not, at heart, to those who pay you, or to your editor, or to your sources, or to your friends, or to the advancement of your career. It is to the public.”

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