

# THE ARMENIAN Mirror-Spectator

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## Armenian Man Charged with Causing One of Russia's Deadliest Crashes

MOSCOW (Armenia Now and Russia Times) – Armenian diplomats are following the fate of Hrachya Harutyunyan, a 46-year-old citizen of Armenia charged with last weekend's deadly bus crash near Moscow.

Harutyunyan reportedly crashed a truck loaded with gravel into a bus near the city of Podolsk, killing 18 and injuring more than 60 passengers, was currently in the hospital with minor injuries.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs told local media that the Armenian embassy in Moscow is in touch with Harutyunyan's defense attorneys.

Earlier, footage had appeared on the Internet, showing Harutyunyan in his arraignment wearing a women's flowered dressing-gown, prompting Armenian authorities to suggest he was purposely being humiliated.

Armenian Ombudsman Karen Andreasyan formally wrote to his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Lukin, this week, bringing the human right defender's attention to this circumstance as well as asking him to look into this instance of humiliation and take action aimed at providing assistance to the citizen of Armenia within the scope of his powers.

Harutyunyan faces up to seven years in prison for what has been qualified as manslaughter – breaking traffic rules resulting in an inadvertent killing of two or more persons.

The case has elicited great response across Russia, with calls made for stricter control over foreigners working as drivers with licenses issued by their countries.

A local news website wrote that see CRASH, page 4



Prof. Peter Der Manuelian

## Harvard Egyptology Professor Merges Ancient Discoveries with New Technologies

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – Harvard's Philip J. King Professor of Egyptology Peter Der Manuelian first discovered his passion for all things Egypt during a fourth grade history class at the Belmont Day School.

**By Gabriella Gage**  
Mirror-Spectator Staff

"I remember that as the first class that actively grabbed my attention," said Manuelian.

From there, he was hooked. Luckily, young Manuelian was able to foster this interest locally at the famous Egyptian collection at Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (MFA). He is the university's first Egyptologist in more than half a century.

see MANUELIAN, page 13

## Armenian Diocese in Canada in Disarray

*Editor's Note: A crisis erupted at the Diocesan Assembly on May 25, 2013, when the delegates voted to elect a new Primate in the person of the Very Rev. Aren Jebejian. Partisans of the former Primate Bishop Bagrat Galstanyan took the waves of electronic media, trying to reverse the decision of the delegates. Adding fiction to facts, they tried to expand the scope of the crisis reviving old grudges and settling*

*scores.*

*Eventually, Bishop Galstanyan returned to Echmiadzin, where he was assigned to a new position. Fr. Jebejian resigned gracefully, preferring not to get involved in a crisis to which he was not a party. Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II dispatched Archbishop Nathan Hovhanissian to Montreal to serve as a interim locum tenens, until tempers cool and the Diocese convenes for its annual assembly to elect a new Primate.*

*It is understood that neither Hovhanissian nor Galstanyan will run as candidates.*

*A group of sober-headed members of the church have released a statement focusing on the real issues plaguing the church community in Canada. Had these facts been known earlier, the majority in the community would have perhaps reacted in a more balanced way.*

*Here below we reproduce that statement.*

The community must now be informed that Bagrat Serpazan's conduct has had two opposite facets. Most have known one only. They now need to know the whole story.

Vehapar is announcing an appropriate Pontifical arrangement for our community.

Archbishop Nathan Hovhanissian will oversee the Canadian Diocese Operations Bagrat Serpazan's conduct has disqualified him from future posting in Canada. This text has been prepared based on information gathered from a number of well-informed sources

It is very sad to witness the turmoil created within the Canadian community, following the Diocesan Elections of May 25, which were held in exceptionally orderly manner with strict compliance with the prevailing bylaws of the diocese. Unfortunately, however, vicious statements are continuing to be spread on the Internet, all instigated

see CANADA, page 16

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### France Armenian Diocese Leader Resigns

PARIS (Armenpress) – Leader of France's Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church Norvan Zakaryan has submitted his resignation to the Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II.

According to *Nouvelles d'Armenie*, the letter by Zakaryan was submitted to Echmiadzin on July 1.

The mandate of Zakaryan as leader of the French Diocese was scheduled to expire in 2014.

A member of the Parish Council of the Armenian Apostolic Church in Paris refused to comment on the resignation. Zakaryan became the leader of the France Diocese in 2007.

### Ex-Turkish President Describes Armenian Genocide as 'Lawful Act'

ISTANBUL (PanARMENIAN.Net) – Former Turkish President Kenan Evren said that he considered the Armenian Genocide to be "a just and lawful act."

The report, titled "Turkey's Internal Threat" and sent to the court in connection with the hearing on the 1980 coup led by then-Chief of the General Staff Erven, accuses Armenians of treason and says that "what happened to them was a just and lawful act."

The report says that 50,000 to 100,000 Armenians died while the number of Turks killed was much greater, according to *Radikal*.

Evren and Gen. Tahsin Sahinkaya, former commander of the Turkish Air Force, are currently on trial for their role in the 1980 coup.

### Turkish MFA 'Displeased' With Armenian Prosecutor Remarks

ISTANBUL (PanARMENIAN.Net) – The Turkish Foreign Ministry said in a statement that Turkey "strongly rejects" Armenian Prosecutor General Aghvan Hovsepyan's remarks claiming that lost Armenian territories should be returned to Armenia.

Turkish Foreign Ministry Spokesman Levent Gümrükçü said "it must be known that nobody can dare to claim territory from Turkey."

Gümrükçü said "the remarks of Armenia's Prosecutor General reflected the problematic mentality prevailing in Armenia on Turkish-Armenian relations and its neighbor Turkey's territorial integrity."

"The statement also contradicted the obligations of Armenia to the international organizations it is affiliated such as the United Nations and Organization for Security and Coordination in Europe," Gümrükçü said.

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### Park for City

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**LAS VEGAS – The Knights of Vartan's 95th Annual Meeting concluded last weekend, during which it was reported that the organization has made more than half a million dollars in contributions to the Armenian communities of US and constructive contributions through humanitarian programs in Armenia and Karabagh. During the four-day convocation of the Daughters of Vartan and Knights of Vartan, Nigoghos Atinikian II was reelected as commander of the brotherhood. In the photo, the new Grand Council members are, seated from left, Armen Mahserejian, Commander Nigoghos Atinikian II and Nelson Stepanian; standing from left, Robert Avakian, Michael Guleserian, Kevork Marashlian and Jean-Jacques Hajjar. A full report will follow in an upcoming issue.**



## ARMENIA

## News From Armenia

## Hranush Hakobyan Hosts Thessaloniki Mayor

GUMRI (Armenpress) – Minister of Diaspora Hranush Hakobyan hosted a delegation headed by the Mayor of Thessaloniki Yanis Butaris.

Hakobyan welcomed the guests and said to Butaris, “I am glad that you stress the role of youth in your programs. They have great potential to deepen cooperation in economic, educational, cultural, touristic and other fields.”

Butaris, in his speech said, “The Armenian community in Thessaloniki has an important place in the social life of the city. I hope to improve relations between our two communities.”

At the end of the meeting, Hakobyan and the mayor exchanged souvenirs. Butaris arrived in Armenia to establish closer contacts with its sister city, Gumri.

## Switzerland Will Invest \$30 Million in Armenia

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – Switzerland will double its investments in the South Caucasus. In Armenia alone, Switzerland will invest \$30 million.

The regional director of the Swiss Cooperation Office in the South Caucasus, Rudolf Shokh, addressed these new strategies, saying, “Based on the experience of previous years, the new strategy will reflect the wide initiatives of Switzerland directed to mediatory missions and positive developments in the region.”

During the coming four years, Switzerland will implement investments in three main fields. Shokh said, “The largest financing will be implemented in economic development and employment. The other two fields will include management and public services and human security and protection.”

## Golden Apricot Film Festival Concludes

YEREVAN (ArmeniaNow) – Armenian President Serge Sargsian late on Tuesday met with the honorary guests and film industry professionals from Armenia and different countries of the world who are participating in the 10th International Film Festival, Golden Apricot, in Yerevan.

The participants of the meeting spoke with the Armenian head of state about the history and successes of Golden Apricot as nominations in this year’s festival. They spoke about the reputation of the Golden Apricot Festival growing from year to year, the range of its participants expands, and the number of movies increases too.

The film festival kicked lasted through July 14. The theme of the festival was “Crossroads of Cultures and Civilizations.”

## Apricots Exported Around the World

YEREVAN (PanARMENIAN.Net) – Armenian apricots remain popular not only domestically, but internationally, with 26,800 metric tons of apricots already exported to Russia this year, Deputy Agriculture Minister Robert Markaryan said.

“In addition, 3,800 tons were exported to Georgia and about 76 tons to the Netherlands, Norway and Belarus. For the first time, Armenian apricots were exported to Zimbabwe,” Makaryan added at a news conference in Yerevan.

## PM Congratulates Biden On Independence Day

YEREVAN (PanARMENIAN.Net) – Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsian congratulated US Vice President Joe Biden on occasion of the American Independence Day celebrated on July 4.

“On behalf of the Armenian government, I congratulate you on this holiday and with the American people peace and welfare. The Armenian-American relations have been developing during the recent year, helping strengthen our country’s security and economic stability,” Sargsian said in his message.

## Egoyan Meets Tumo Students, Selects Winning Logo

YEREVAN – World-renowned filmmaker Atom Egoyan and his wife actress Arsinée Khanjian spent more than two hours with students at Tumo this past Saturday discussing 14 short works of animation produced by participants in the Ego Film Arts logo project.

“What I saw in the submissions was so beyond what I could have ever dreamt of,” said Egoyan about the 10-to-15-second, student-made animations of his company logo. “I mean I was in tears when I watched all of this.”

For three months, a group of 22 Tumo students conceptualized and produced original visual animations of Egoyan’s emblematic logo. Working with animation professional Edward Artinian via Skype and Tumo staff member Mariam Poghosyan, the students developed unique renderings of the logo with themes and narratives they felt represented the award-winning director.

“Each of you have found something from Atom’s personal life, whether knowingly or not,” affirmed Khanjian as she accompanied Egoyan in the discussion with the students. “You put things together and really summed up his essence.”

From an homage to Egoyan’s famous glasses, to a 360-page hand-drawn animation sequence, and various abstract formulations of the logo, each animation was constructively appraised one-by-one during his visit.

In the end, Khoren Matevosyan, Hakob Muradyan and Robert Voskanyan’s “Hands” submission was selected as the winning project. Egoyan indicated that he would use the ani-



Filmmaker Atom Egoyan visits Tumo for the first time with his wife, actress Arsinée Khanjian, and speaks with students in the Ego Film Arts logo project.

ated logo in one of his upcoming projects.

The visit was Egoyan’s first to the learning center and he took time to engage in conversation with the students about both his personal journey as a filmmaker, as well as his excitement about the potential Tumo holds for the future.

“We, as a people, are extraordinarily creative,” stated Egoyan. “We are amazing artists and you are all a part of this amazing heritage. Now, with this building and these resources, we have the ability to express that.”

Egoyan returned to Tumo on Monday to participate in a special panel discussion organized in conjunction with the Golden Apricot International Film Festival. The three-person panel explored the topic of Transmedia, an

emerging form of storytelling where multiple media platforms are combined to tell a single story.

## Montserrat Caballé Calls Artsakh a ‘Cradle of Christianity,’ Sings at Gandzasar Monastery

STEPANAKERT (RadioLur) – World-renowned soprano Montserrat Caballé described Artsakh as a “cradle of Christianity.” “The most important is that this cradle of Christianity has been maintained in the region. This is the greatest impression from my visit,” Montserrat Caballé said, speaking on Artsakh Public TV.

The world-famous soprano performed Komitas’s *Krunk* at Gandzasar Monastery. Caballé said she admires the harmony of Armenian music and



Montserrat Caballé with Archbishop Pargev Martirosyan

Armenian architecture. She was inspired by the stories told by the Primate of the Artsakh Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church Archbishop Pargev Martirosyan.

“This is a very important moment, because it’s a great blessing to be in this island of Christianity. Christianity sits very deep in my soul. All this is like a miracle,” she said, confessing that she had similar emotions in Israel and Vatican.

Montserrat Caballé was in Artsakh for a private visit. She visited Stepanakert, Gandzasar, Shushi and had a meeting with NKR President Bako Sahakyan.

Sahakyan noted that she had a great number of admirers in the republic and underlined that cooperation with famous artists would greatly contribute to the development of culture in Artsakh.

NKR Culture Minister Narine Aghabalyan said the private visit will be followed by practical steps. There are plans to organize master classes next time, she said.

“Montserrat Caballé’s visit to Nagorno Karabagh was a great honor and great joy to us. I’m confident it will have an influence on both the development of culture in Nagorno Karabagh and the recognition of Artsakh,” she added.

## Top OSCE diplomat calls for more active Efforts on Karabagh Settlement

YEREVAN (ArmeniaNow) – The chairman-in-office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) has urged international mediators to work more actively towards the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabagh conflict as he held meetings with Armenian officials in Yerevan.

Speaking at a joint press conference with Foreign Minister Eduard Nalbandian on Monday, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine Leonid Kozhara said: “Ukraine supports the activities of the OSCE Minsk Group, but we believe that the mediators should work more actively, as no international conflict has yet been solved

Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Ambassador Andrzej Kasprzyk, did not rule out that an Armenian-Azerbaijani meeting “at the highest levels” would be organized by the end of the year.

The co-chairs said that they and the ministers “continued ongoing discussions on the substance of the peace process, focusing on means to reduce tensions between the sides and create conditions for a meeting at the highest levels later this year.”

Speaking in Yerevan, Kozhara also urged Armenia and Azerbaijan to develop contacts on the civil society level, emphasizing that Ukraine was ready to



Foreign Minister of Armenia Eduard Nalbandian, right, with his Ukrainian counterpart, Leonid Kozhara

within the framework of conferences or meetings.”

In a statement issued from Vienna, Austria, on Saturday, following yet another round of talks with the foreign ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan, the co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group, Ambassadors Igor Popov of the Russian Federation, Jacques Faure of France, and Ian Kelly of the United States, as well as the Personal

offer a platform for holding such meetings and roundtable discussions and work as far as possible to eliminate the humanitarian consequences of the conflict.

After his meeting with the Armenian foreign minister and their joint press conference the OSCE chairman-in-office reportedly headed for a meeting with Nagorno-Karabagh Republic President Bako Sahakyan.



## INTERNATIONAL

## Moldovan Ombudswoman in Hot Water over Statements in Armenia

YEREVAN (ArmeniaNow) – Igor Korman, the speaker of the Moldovan parliament, has accused ombudswoman Aurelia Grigoriu of damaging the country's reputation by delivering a controversial speech in the Armenian National Assembly last week as part of an international conference held in Yerevan.

Grigoriu, one of the delegates attending the conference on European standards for the rule of law that was organized by the Council of Europe in the Armenian capital on July 4-5, accused Armenia of continuing the "occupation of 20 percent of Azerbaijan's territory" and of having committed a "genocide" against the Azerbaijani people during the 1992-1994 war in Nagorno-Karabagh as she

made her speech from the tribune.

The statements drew an angry response from both the Armenian hosts of the event and many international delegates attending it. Grigoriu's assurances that she was not explicitly serving the interests of Azerbaijan did not convince most of the observers as the Moldovan jurist's ties with the oil-rich nation could easily be tracked via online social networking sites.

Meanwhile, media in Azerbaijan gave a new dimension to the story by claiming Grigoriu was pressured in Yerevan because of her comments – something that the Armenian side has vehemently denied, blaming Azerbaijan for fueling another anti-Armenian hysteria.

After the conference in Yerevan

Grigoriu returned to the Moldovan capital of Chisinau where she is facing backlash this time from her colleagues in parliament.

According to the Moldovan news website publika.md, Grigoriu risks losing the support of members of the country's parliament as Speaker Korman said that she is to testify before the parliamentary human rights commission over her behavior in Armenia.

"This was a serious mistake. This shouldn't have happened," said the top Moldovan legislator.

Meanwhile, the Armenian Diaspora in Moldova demands that Grigoriu resign before her parliamentary mandate formally expires in three months' time.

## Library of Alexandria Wins Calouste Gulbenkian Prize

LISBON – The Library of Alexandria, one of the most prestigious centers of knowledge worldwide, and its director Ismail Serageldin are the winners of the 2013 Calouste Gulbenkian Prize, which amounts to 250,000 euros (\$326,000).

"The Library of Alexandria is a cultural reference point around the Mediterranean resulting primarily from the vision, the commitment and the tireless work of Ismail Serageldin," stated the jury for the international Calouste Gulbenkian Prize, attributed annually to an institution or a person, that stands out for their role in defense of the values essential to humanity.

From among the 70 nominations received, the jury presided over by Jorge Sampaio chose to honor the Library of Alexandria, an Egyptian institution of learning and knowledge that last year completed its 10th anniversary, and its director Ismail Serageldin, an "academic and cultural activist of excellence."

In the words of the jury: "The Library of Alexandria is unique in the sense that it represents a large Egyptian library, international in scope, endowed with the mission of serving as a center of learning, tolerance, dialogue and understanding between cultures and peoples as well as a leading institution in the digital era."

On the site where once stood the ancient Library of Alexandria, October 2002 witnessed the inauguration of a complex making up the modern Library of Alexandria. Today, this vast complex receives about 1.5 million visitors every year. In addition to caring for millions of books and providing the intellectual center point to many important regional and international networks, the Library of Alexandria furthermore hosts a number of institutions and incorporates a vast digital archive, six specialized libraries, four museums, a planetarium, eight academic research centers, 15 permanent exhibition facilities, four art galleries for temporary exhibitions and a conference center in addition to other infrastructures.

Serageldin also chairs the Boards of Directors for each of the library's affiliated research institutes and museums. He serves as Chair and Member of a number of advisory committees for academic, research, scientific and international institutions and civil society efforts. He was Chairman of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (1994-2000); founder and former Chairman of the Global Water Partnership (1996-2000) and the Consultative Group to Assist the Poorest (1995-2000), a microfinance program; and was Professor at Collège de France, Paris, and Distinguished Professor at Wageningen University in the Netherlands. Serageldin has also

served in a number of capacities at the World Bank, including as Vice President for Environmentally and Socially Sustainable Development (1992-1998) and for Special Programs (1998-2000). He has published over 60 books and monographs and over 200 papers on a variety of topics including biotechnology, rural development, sustainability, and the value of science to society. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in engineering from Cairo University and Master's degree and a PhD from Harvard University and has received several honorary doctorates. Among his many other distinctions and honors, he

was made a member of the French Order of Arts and Letters in 2011.

The Calouste Gulbenkian Prize Jury is made up of Sampaio (Jury President), Vartan Gregorian (Carnegie Corporation, USA), Paul Brest (Stanford Law School and former President of the Hewlett Foundation), Commander Pedro Pires (former president of the Republic of Cape Verde), Princess Rym Ali of Jordan (founder of the Jordan Media Institute), António Nóvoa (rector of the University of Lisbon) and Mónica Bettencourt-Dias (researcher at the Gulbenkian Institute of Science).

## Gordon Brown Awarded Raoul Wallenberg Centennial Medal

STOCKHOLM, Sweden – In June, Gordon Brown was awarded the Raoul Wallenberg Centennial Medal for his services to educating young people about the Holocaust and its rescuers.

At a ceremony hosted at the residence of the Swedish Ambassador Nicola Clase, Eduardo Eurnekian, chairman of the International Raoul Wallenberg Foundation (IRWF) presented Brown with the award. The ceremony was attended by a number of Holocaust survivors and rescuers, including Sir Nicholas Winton, who saved 669 Czech children before the outbreak of the war in September 1939 by evacuating them and aiding them in rebuilding their lives.

The Centennial Medal is awarded in honor of Raoul Wallenberg, who used his position as Sweden's special envoy in Budapest, Hungary to protect the lives of tens of thousands of Jews near the end of the Second World War. Wallenberg was detained by the Soviet Army in 1945 and disappeared in their custody in suspicious circumstances. While his actual fate remains unknown, his legacy has been preserved by the IRWF, which promotes the values of "solidarity and civic courage" through education and public awareness campaigns.

Speaking at the ceremony, Brown said, "To be here with Sir Nicholas today is a huge privilege. For 40 years he sought no award or recognition. Only later was the full extent of his bravery known. He really is a hero of our country."

Accepting the medal, he continued, "This is an award that should have gone to my father. He inspired me to think of the sacrifice of people in the Holocaust and made me aware very early in life of the story of Raoul Wallenberg. Hailing

from a neutral country, Wallenberg volunteered to go and do what he could to help. This story of courage beyond endurance is a story that must be told for generations to come."

As chancellor in 2005, Brown allocated funds to the Holocaust Educational Trust (HET) to allow British school pupils to visit the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camps. So far, 18,000 pupils have visited the site where over one million people perished at the hands of the Nazi regime. In 2009, shortly after visiting the camp himself, the British Hero of the Holocaust Award was also established to recognize the heroism of British nationals during the Holocaust, with Nicholas amongst its recipients.

Presenting the medal, Eurnekian said, "This award is bestowed upon Gordon Brown in recognition of his lifelong commitment to promote story of Raoul Wallenberg. The award is also a recognition to the brave British rescuers of the Holocaust – one of whom is here today, Sir Nicholas Winton, who turned 104 last month. We hope this award elevates the recognition of such honorable and courageous actions."

The Swedish ambassador said, "As we remember Raoul Wallenberg's life and work, as well as other heroes' courageous actions, we reaffirm our common aspiration for moral understanding and justice in the world. His story will forever live and inspire future generations."

Brown has long been vocal about the Wallenberg story. He profiled Wallenberg in his 2007 book, *Courage*, describing him as "an inspired leader whose strength of character summoned others to his cause and whose bravery defied all logic of self-preservation."

## International News

### Petition Launched to Prevent Destruction of Houses in Mush

ISTANBUL (PanArmenian.net) – An Istanbul Armenian group has launched a campaign to collect signatures on imzakampanyam.com to protest the destruction of historical Armenian houses in the town of Mush.

The petition claimed that the majority of the municipal council members responsible are representatives of the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) led by Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan. "The Genocide that started in 1915 continues till today as cultural and economic Genocide," wrote the petitioner author. So far, the petition has been signed by 679 people.

### New Iranian President Sends Letter to Sargisian

TEHRAN (PanArmenian.net) – Iranian President Hassan Rouhani has replied to the congratulatory message Armenian President Serge Sargisian sent on the occasion of the Iranian elections.

"We are hopeful that the efforts being exerted by both sides will help the promotion of bilateral relations in all directions. We will expand our cooperation with Armenia through mutual understanding, trust and respect," wrote Rouhani in the letter.

### Supplies Distributed to Aleppo Armenians

ALEPPO (Armenpress) – Aleppo Armenians continue to live under war conditions. Emergency and recovery organizations continue to supply families in need. According to Zarmik Poghikyan, a reporter from the Gandzasar newspaper, "Various organizations help Armenian families in need."

The blockade of the city continues despite efforts of the governor. On July 16, some supplies of vegetables were delivered to local markets, though at increased prices. "The supply of electricity and water has been improved compared with previous days. Dozens of cars with fuel have entered the city," said Poghikyan.

According to further reports, Aleppo Armenians are doing their best to continue with day-to-day life. The Syrian pan-national regional department has organized events for Armenian children and other young people called "Life Goes On." Poghikyan said, "These are Aleppo Armenians with Armenian culture."

### Air Arabia Returns to Armenian market

SHARJAH, United Arab Emirates (Arminfo) – The low-cost carrier Air Arabia is returning to the Armenian market and will launch Sharjah-Yerevan-Sharjah flights on August 16, Husam Raidan, Air Arabia airline head of the Corporate Clients and Customer Relations Department, said at a press conference on Tuesday.

Raidan said that the flights will depart from Sharjah International Airport on Tuesdays and Fridays arriving at Zvartnots International Airport. Return flights will depart on the same days.

Raidan said that August 16-30 the tickets for Yerevan-Sharjah-Yerevan flights will cost \$175. The return ticket for Yerevan-Sharjah-Sri Lanka flights will cost \$550. Air Arabia said they had a "special surprise" for the media representatives – a 30-percent discount on tickets if professional identification document is presented.

When asked by reporters why the company had decided to return to the Armenian market after an unsuccessful run, Raidan replied, "Return to the markets is the model of the company's business." To note, Air Arabia entered the Armenian market in 2005 and stopped the flights in 2006. Raidan pointed out that the market has changed for the better and that the company will contribute to tourism development.



## INTERNATIONAL

# Diyarbakir's Surp Giragos Church to Have Museum

ISTANBUL (*Hürriyet Daily News*) – A part of the Surp Giragos Armenian Church in Diyarbakir will be opened as a museum for the history of the Armenians from the southeastern province.

Ergün Ayik, head of the Surp Giragos Church Foundation, said that a building within the church's complex would be transformed into the Diyarbakir Armenians History Museum.

Ayik said that upon his meetings with Diyarbakir Mayor Osman Baydemir and the Diyarbakir Culture and Tourism Directorate, the Armenian Culture and Arts section of the Diyarbakir City Museum, which is to open in a newly renovated historical building, would be opened within the Surp Giragos Church.

The church was renovated and opened for services two years ago thanks to donations from the Armenian community and Diyarbakir Metropolitan Municipality. Stating that the interior design of the Armenian museum would be handled by the municipality, Ayik said the museum's security would also be provided by the same office.

"The cleaning, electricity and water costs will be catered by the municipality, as well as the 24-hour surveillance of the church complex," said Ayik. "Thus, our foundation will be freed of an important amount of costs."

The foundation president said the museum would be formed from personal belongings and called for the Armenians, who possessed objects from their ancestors, to send them to the Surp Giragos Church Foundation. He added that as the building was going to be constructed according to the collected objects, potential donors should make haste in shipping their belongings.

Concerning the objects to be displayed, Ayik said belongings from Armenian artistic, cultural and economic life, including old letters, commercial documents, music pieces, household appliances, clothing, paintings, carpets and rugs, stalls and craftsmen's tools, would be exhibited in the museum.

He said the collected belongings would be transferred to the inventory of the foundation pending the signing of a protocol for the museum.

Ayik said that until four years ago, the only remaining trace of Diyarbakir's Armenians was two ruined churches in the city, adding that Armenians had lived in the region for "thou-

sands of years" and had built a "big kingdom."

"I wish with my whole heart that the happiness and positive mood deriving from invigorating the past that was fading into oblivion and paying the debt of conscience we owe to our ancestors will be felt by a greater part of our society," Ayik said.

## Karabagh President Slams Baku over 'Destructive Policy' Hampering Conflict Resolution

YEREVAN (ArmeniaNow) – Nagorno-Karabagh Republic (NKR) President Bako Sahakyan accused Baku of pursuing 'destructive policy' obstructing peace in the region as he met a top Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) official visiting Armenia on Monday.

During the meeting between Sahakyan and OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Ukraine's Foreign Minister Leonid Kozhara that took place in Yerevan the sides reportedly discussed a number of issues related to the settlement of the Karabagh conflict.

According to the NKR president's press office, Sahakyan emphasized official Stepanakert's com-

mitment to a peaceful resolution of the conflict within the framework of the OSCE Minsk Group. He stressed the necessity of restoring the negotiating format approved at the Budapest summit of the OSCE, adding that it is impossible to reach a comprehensive resolution without the NKR's direct participation in the negotiating process.

Sahakyan charged that official Baku's destructive policy is becoming more dangerous over time and is the main obstacle to the settlement of the conflict. This position must be given an appropriate assessment from the international community, he emphasized.

NKR Foreign Minister Karen Mirzoyan, Personal Representative of the OSCE

Chairperson-in-Office Andrzej Kasprzyk, other officials attended the meeting in Yerevan.

Meanwhile, on Monday Kozhara was also received by Armenian President Serge Sargsian. Sargsian reportedly hailed the visit of the delegation headed by the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, which he said showed the Ukrainian chairmanship's attention towards the South Caucasus.

During the meeting both sides expressed their full support for the Minsk Group's mission in the Karabagh conflict settlement. They also discussed the recent developments in the Karabagh peace process and touched upon the issues of international agreements on arms control, the presidential press service said.

## St. Movses Khorenatsi Kindergarten Graduates

TBILISI – On June 29, in the Calouste Gulbenkian Hall of the Hayartun Center of the Armenian Diocese in Georgia, a farewell matinee of St. Movses Khorenatsi Kindergarten senior group students was held. The clergy, teachers, parents, guests and representatives of the Tbilisi Armenian community all gathered for the festivities.

Children in festive attire opened the holiday with a prayer after receiving a blessing from the head of the diocese, Bishop Vazgen Mirzakhanyan.

Unlike previous events, the graduates themselves welcomed the audience and hosted the entire matinee and also recited the alphabet, sang songs and performed dances.

Ten of the 16 St. Movses Khorenatsi kindergarten graduates will start the new school year in the local Armenian school. Principal of School No. 104 Irina Zhamkochyan and a representative of the Armenian Embassy, Vahagn Afyan, assessed the students' preparation level and the kindergarten teachers' contributions. The headmistress Eugenia Markosyan, song and dance teachers Lala Gevorgyan and Narine Ghushchyan and the spiritual supervisor Deacon Gevorg Antonyan all aided in the creation of more opportunities for students and a strong foundational Armenian education for them.

Benefactor of the Hayartun Center of the

Armenian Diocese, Boris Saakov, said that he appreciated the evening's activities and that his support had been well-utilized.

Mirzakhanyan blessed the audience and praised the kindergarteners' activities and their spirit of Armenian culture.

Anna Petrosyan, the wife of the Hayartun Center Board of Trustees member Nelson

Petrosyan, presented the St. Movses Khorenatsi Kindergarteners with course completion certificates.

After the graduation, a christening ceremony of the kindergarten students and the parents of two children took place at the Surb Etchmiadzin Church in Avlabar under the leadership of Mirzakhanyan.

### President Addresses Armenian Genocide during Visit to Concentration Camp In Poland

WARSAW (ArmeniaNow) – President Serge Sargsian of Armenia addressed the issue of the Ottoman-era Genocide against Armenians as he visited a World War II concentration camp in Poland on Wednesday as part of his official visit to the country.

The Armenian leader visited Majdanek located near Lublin, which now serves as a memorial complex. After laying a wreath in the mausoleum of the complex and paying tribute to the memory of the tens of thousands of victims which were exterminated by the Nazis in this concentration camp, Sargsian made a speech, in which he shared his emotions and feelings as well as called for the condemnation and prevention of similar crimes in the future.

"From hushing up and denying the reality up to criminal silence and nonchalant connivance – these are the conditions in which the gravest crimes in human history are taking place. Majdanek might have not happened if the first genocide of the 20th century perpetrated against the Armenians had received universal condemnation and had the perpetrators received their due punishment," said the Armenian leader, according to his press office.

"It would be remiss of me if I did not recall the words of the one of the greatest sons of the Polish nation, a person utterly devoted to the all-human values and solidarity among the people - John Paul II, 'The Armenian Genocide had become a prelude to the horrors which were to take place during the two World Wars, in the concentration camps and countless regional conflicts, claiming millions of lives.'"

He continued, "There is no condemnation without prevention and there is no prevention without condemnation."

### Mkhitarjan joins Dortmund for 27.5 million euros

BERLIN – Champions league runners-up Borussia Dortmund have paid 27.5 million euros (\$35.38 million) to buy Armenian international attacking midfielder Henrikh Mkhitarjan from Shakhtar Donetsk, the Ukraine side said on Tuesday.

"Shakhtar Donetsk and Borussia have settled all matters on Henrikh Mkhitarjan transfer to the German club. Transfer fee is 27.5 million euros," Shakhtar said in a statement on their website.

Mkhitarjan, capped 37 times by Armenia, had an impressive season as he helped Shakhtar win the Ukraine league title and reach the Champions league last 16 where they were knocked out by Dortmund.

"We are delighted that we got a fantastic new signing for the attacking midfield role in Henrikh Mkhitarjan," BVB sporting director



Henrikh Mkhitarjan

Michael Zorc told Dortmund's website.

Mkhitarjan, who scored 46 goals in 106 games after joining Shakhtar in 2010, is Dortmund's third signing of the close season following the arrivals of Sokratis and Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang.

## Armenian Man Charged with Causing One of Russia's Deadliest Crashes

CRASH, from page 1

Harutyunyan chose migrant work in Russia to earn money for a tombstone for his son who reportedly had been killed while serving in the Armenian army.

Armenian President Serge Sargsian sent a telegram of condolence to his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin, over the tragic bus crash. According to the presidential press service, Sargsian asked Putin to convey his condolences to the families and relatives of those killed in the crash. He wished a speedy recovery to the injured.

On July 13, a KamAZ truck ploughed into a bus in a Moscow suburb. As a result, the bus split in half.

In the wake of the deadly bus crash, State Duma deputies Monday proposed tightening both traffic regulations and punishment for violating them.

An unidentified police official told Interfax that the driver exceeded the speed limit at a

road turn "for reasons that so far remain unclear," causing his truck to fall on one side and most of the gravel to fall into the bus, gravely injuring passengers.

The truck may have been overloaded and also may have had faulty brakes, the official said.

Harutyunyan reportedly committed seven traffic violations last year, including crossing into an oncoming lane of traffic and driving a car in improper operating condition.

On Monday, State Duma Deputy Mikhail Degtyaryov of LDPR proposed a bill that would increase the maximum fine for driving with expired transit plates, which are temporary numbers given to a new car or one that is up for sale, from 800 rubles (\$25) to 10,000 rubles (\$306) for a first-time offender. For repeat offenders, a 5,000-ruble (\$153) fine would be replaced by suspension of one's driver's license for up to three months.

The bill would also reduce the allowed period for driving with transit plates from 20 to 15

days.

Degtyaryov said transit plates allow drivers to avoid punishment for violating traffic rules because they are not included in a unified database of the national traffic police.

Saturday's crash will speed up enforcement of legislation that would oblige holders of foreign driver's licenses to obtain Russian licenses, Mikhail Bryachak of United Russia, who is first deputy head of the Duma's Transportation Committee, told Izvestia. That law will take effect in the fall, Bryachak said, without elaborating.

Vitaly Yefimov, another first deputy head of the Transportation Committee, told The Moscow Times that before Saturday's crash, the law banning foreign licenses had been set to take effect on November 1.

It was unclear on what date the law will now take effect.

Monday, July 15, was declared a day of mourning for the victims.



## COMMUNITY NEWS

# Community News

## Armenian Heritage Park on the Greenway 'Commemorates, Contributes to the Entire City'

BOSTON – “Memorials are tricky ...” writes Karen Cord Taylor in *Downtown View* (June 18, 2013). “The most successful examples are, of course, Lincoln’s, Washington’s ... The Armenian Genocide Memorial on the Greenway, is another success. I was skeptical ... (but) Armenian Heritage Park turned out to be lovely and interesting. It evokes an experience beyond the catastrophe it commemorates. It contributes to the entire city, not to a single group of people.”

Since Armenian Heritage Park on Boston’s Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway opened on May 22, 2012 so many visit, spend time, and meet family, friends and colleagues. The Park’s two features serve to engage all ages: an Abstract Sculpture, a split dodecahedron, resting upon a Reflecting Pool and a Labyrinth.

This year on the first Sunday in April, the Sculpture was reconfigured for the first time. The annual reconfiguration – one of over twenty – celebrates the immigrant experience, all who were pulled away from their country of origin and came to these Massachusetts shores, establishing themselves in new and different ways. The Sculpture is “dedicated to lives lost during the Armenian Genocide of 1915-23 and all genocides that have followed,” the words etched on the base of the Reflecting Pool upon which the Sculpture rests. Its waters wash over its sides and reemerge as a single jet of water at the Labyrinth’s center, representing hope and rebirth. The white flowers blooming in late

PETER VANDERWARKER PHOTO



The Armenian Heritage Park

### April pay fitting tribute.

On the evening of April 23 this year, a Candlelight Vigil, hosted by the AGBU Young Professionals with the AYF-YOARF Greater Boston “Nejdeh” Chapter, fittingly commemorated the 98th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide with poetry, prayer and song as candles flickered in the rain’s mist.

The Labyrinth, an ancient pattern of concentric circles, celebrates life’s journey. Art, Science, Service and Commerce are etched around its outer circle in recognition of accomplishments made.

In collaboration with the Labyrinth Guild of New England, monthly labyrinth walks are held at the Park on the third Wednesday of the month from May-October at 7:30 a.m. and noon.

The Park’s Labyrinth is the only labyrinth on public land in the northeast. People travel worldwide to walk a labyrinth. “Labyrinth designs have been found on ancient coins, see PARK, page 7



Pictured center left to right: Dearborn Mayor Michael A. Guido congratulates Westborn Market founder George Anusbigian and his son, Anthony Anusbigian on their 25th anniversary at the original Westborn location in Dearborn.

## Westborn Market Celebrates 50th Anniversary

DETROIT (*Free Press*) – The Anusbigian family continue the Westborn tradition 50 years after opening in 1963.

It started 50 years ago as a fruit stand at Michigan and Oakwood in Dearborn where George and Jeanette Anusbigian sold produce.

By Carol Cain

Westborn Market is still located at that intersection, but the fruit stand has been replaced by a sprawling 25,000-square-foot building where the family still sells produce as well as meat, dairy, deli, wine, flowers and much more.

The company has grown to include stores in Berkley and Livonia and is run by the couple’s three sons – Mark, Jeff and Anthony. They have 300 employees in all. (Jeanette Anusbigian died in 1989 and George in 1994).

Westborn Market has continued to grow amid fierce competition in the specialty market – produce still being the name of the game for the family-owned operation.

“We have two buyers at Detroit Produce Terminal (near Ambassador Bridge where produce is brought in each day) at 3 a.m. who carefully pick out produce for our stores,” said Bryan Bandyk, marketing manager of Westborn Market.

The produce is taken directly to its stores to make sure the product is as fresh as possible.

“Fresh blueberries or right-in-season cherries are the backbone and DNA of our company but that freshness has extended to different areas as well,” said Anthony Anusbigian.

“We are also looking for fresh ways to support our local farmers and artisans. This mission has helped us to stay relevant in an extremely competitive retail world,” he added.

He cannot remember a time in his life when he didn’t work at the market.

“The lines between where home life started and work life ended were mostly blurred,” Anusbigian said.

“It’s not really a career, it’s a total lifestyle commitment,” he added. “We feel as if our patrons really are entering our home and we are forever attempting to create a warm and inviting experience.”

Westborn has been successful by keeping its focus on all things local.

“We have more than 3,000 Michigan-based items in our stores,” he said. “We have developed annual ‘Meet Michigan’ food festivals that we host at our stores and we’ve partnered with the Michigan State University Product Center on their ‘Making It In Michigan’ marketplace food show.”

The next MSU marketplace show will be held November 12 in Lansing, see MARKET, page 7



Westborn founders George and Jeanette Anusbigian

## Nish Boyajian Memorial Foundation Barbecue Raises Spirits and Funds

QUINCY, Mass. – On what turned out to be a beautiful Memorial Day Sunday, May 26, saw the 10th annual Nish Boyajian Memorial Foundation Barbecue. With well over one hundred people in attendance, the annual fundraiser was a resounding success. Those attending enjoyed traditional Armenian, Greek, Arabic and Irish music played superbly by Dr. Harry Papazian, Garo Papazian, Mal Barsamian, John Berberian, Hagop Garabedian, Joe Koumjian and Costas Maniatacos. Armenian and Middle Eastern delicacies, drinks, and desserts were in abundance, as well. With plenty of delicious food, music and hospitality, this is always a special day.

The event has been growing steadily each year, and this year a record amount was raised, enabling the foundation to build much-needed playgrounds in outly-



Fans came in a variety of ages.

ing villages in Armenia, such as Akhuryan. In the last year, playgrounds have been built in Arevic, Ghugasayan and Mrghayan, all through the direct financial and logistical support of the Nish Boyajian Foundation, and the help of new board member and point person in Armenia, Rev. Dajad Davidian.

Foundation head Richard Boyajian was very pleased with the turnout and said, “as always, a debt of gratitude is owed to the generous people who make this such a tradition, successful in so many ways.”

Raising funds for the foundation’s charitable works in Armenia is the cornerstone of the barbecue, always held on Memorial Day Sunday, and with that goal



Seated outdoors, attendees enjoyed good food and company.

in mind, the Belmont Senior Quilting Circle donated quilts for needy children of Armenia as well as one that was raffled for the foundation. Also copies of the book *The Astrologer of Karabagh*, published by the Armenian Cultural Center and edited by Ara Ghazarians, were sold with a portion of sales going to the foundation.

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



## COMMUNITY NEWS

## Father Garen Gdanian

LATHAM, N.Y. — Father Garen Gdanian, 88, died on Thursday, June 27, 2013, surrounded by his family.

He was the second child of the late Kevoork and Siranoosh (Tavookjian) Gdanian. He was born on February 1, 1925 in Aleppo, Syria. His baptismal name was Sarkis. He attended local Armenian schools, first, the Nersessian School, then Zavian, and later Gertairsatz School. At the age of 13, he entered the Armenian Seminary of Jerusalem and studied there six full years. In 1944, he returned to Aleppo and taught at the Zavian Armenian School for one year. From 1945 to 1947, he studied at the Armenian Theological Seminary of Antelias, Lebanon. In the year 1947, Father Garen came to the United States as a student upon the invitation of then Primate, Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan. He studied at the Episcopal Theological School in Cambridge, Mass., where he received a Master of Divinity degree in 1950. He continued his studies one more year by attending the Harvard Divinity School.

Gdanian was ordained a deacon in January of 1948 and was assigned to Lowell Armenian Church as deacon-in-charge. On December 19, 1948, Nersoyan ordained him as a priest at St. Vartanantz Church of Lowell, Mass., giving him the priestly name Garen. He served this parish nine years as its pastor. It was at this parish that he met his soulmate, Zabelle. In 1952, Gdanian

married the former Zabelle Kludjian and together they had three children.

In September of 1957, he became pastor of St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Church in New York City. Archbishop Mampre Calfaian, who was the Primate at that time, made the change in assignment. He stayed in this second parish for 13 years, until 1970.

He was elected pastor of St. Peter Armenian Church of Troy, NY and began serving this community in September 1970. The parish was building a new church sanctuary in Watervliet and in two months' time, the church community moved from Troy to Watervliet. He faithfully served this third parish for 19 years.

Following his retirement in September 1989, Gdanian continued to serve the St. Peter parish and community as pastor emeritus up until the time of his death.

In 1977, he received his floral Pilonium and in 1984 he was elevated to the rank of *Avak Kahana* or arch priest. He served on the Diocesan Council from 1971 to 1975.

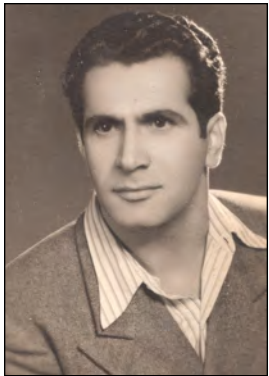
The St. Peter Parish and Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America honored and celebrated his milestones of ordination to the priesthood in 1973 (25 years), 1988 (40 years), 1998 (50 years), and 2009 (60 years).

Gdanian continued his studies by joining various workshops and seminars and by attending courses at the University of New York at Albany

## Aram Hagop Kalikian

FREDERICK, Md. — Aram Hagop Kalikian, 88, formerly of Cranston RI, died on July 1. Born on October 20, 1924, to Hagop (born in Agn, Turkey) and Haigouhi Artinian-Kalikian (born in Bucharest, Romania) he grew up in Bucharest, with his sister, Louisa (1921) and brother Garabed (1923).

Due to the early and prolonged illness of his father, young Aram Kalikian became an apprentice to a master jeweler in order to help his family. Hardship followed him, as he lost his parents



Aram Hagop Kalikian

and brother in the early 1940s. However, by hard labor and honest application of his trade, he was able to survive the tough years during World War II in Romania and immigrated to Armenia in 1948 with his sister Louisa.

Unbeknownst to him, the same ship which transported him to Armenia was also carrying his future bride, Vassilica Effeian.

In Armenia he quickly earned a reputation as a trusted and well respected master jeweler, and trained many young apprentices along with a few of his fellow recent emigrants from the diaspora. He was instrumental in establishing the first fine jewelry manufacturing factory in the then-Soviet Republic of Armenia. The facility went on to become one of the major fine jewelry production facilities in the former USSR.

He was also a fine model maker, and many of his jewelry creations earned top prizes and awards.

Aram Kalikian and Vassilica Effeian met each other in Yerevan, and after a brief courtship were married on April 25, 1954. They moved to New York City in August 1973 with their two sons, Hagop and Varoujan. Soon after his arrival, Aram Kalikian opened a small jewelry business on 47th Street, in Manhattan's jewelry district. Here again, he soon became recognized as an honest and hardworking master jeweler. In 2007, the couple moved to Cranston, RI. They were in the process of moving to Frederick when he succumbed to illness and passed away at Frederick Memorial Hospital.

He is survived by Vassilica, his wife of 59 years; their two sons, Hagop and Varoujan, and their spouses, Armine and Aida; four grandchildren, Arpi, Aram, Arman and Narek; his sister Louisa of Salem, Mass., and two nieces, Haigouhi and Araxi, and their spouses, Onig and Richard, and their children Ara, Manoug, Hasmig, Anahid and Karine.

Despite having limited education, he loved to read and was able learn on his own to read, write and speak three other languages, in addition to his native Romanian. He succeeded in learning how to read and write Armenian, Russian, and finally at the age of 50, he made a special effort to learn English.

The funeral service was held on Saturday, July 6 at St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church, followed by burial at Mount Olivet Cemetery.

The family asks that in lieu of flowers, donations be made in his memory to St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church, 4125 Fessenden St. NW, Washington, DC 20016.

## Azad Nakashian Torikian

COSTA MESA, Calif. — Azad Nakashian Torikian died on July 4, after a long illness. She was 64. She was born in Cairo on November 29, 1948.

She leaves her husband, Varoujan Torikian; daughter and son-in-law Maral and Ara Dakessian; daughter Aleen Torikian and son Garen Torikian; granddaughter Dahlia Dakessian; sister Ani (and husband Hratch) Torikian of Montreal; mother-in-law Lucine Torikian; sister-in-law Rose Kassardjian and family, as well as members of the Nakashian, Dakessian, Mazmanian, Demirdjian, Bilemdjian, Titizian, Mouradian and Terzian families.

Funeral services were held on Thursday, July 11 at St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church in Costa Mesa. Internment followed church services at the Memory Garden Memorial Park, Brea.

Memorial donations in her memory may be sent to St. Mary Armenian Church, Costa Mesa.



Azad Nakashian Torikian



Fr. Garen Gdanian

and Siena College in Loudonville, NY. He was a member of the Watervliet Clergy and Capital Area Clergy Support Group. He also published several inspirational books based on his sermons and life experiences.

Although retired, he always helped out by filling in as a priest when needed in the Diocese, including the nearby Springfield and Binghamton parishes. He also travelled to serve parish communities in Texas, Ohio and Florida,

as well as two preaching missions in Armenia.

He was a well-loved, kind, gentle and intelligent man. His passion for his church and for the people he served never ceased to be a second priority. His family was always number one. As a dedicated husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather, he filled his family's lives with knowledge and joy that will stay with them for a lifetime. As an important figure in the Capital District community and throughout the Eastern Diocese, he will be dearly missed.

He is survived by his wife, Zabelle (Kludjian); daughter Arpy Gdanian Ernest, son Kyn (Maureen), daughter Garyn Ahearn (Brian); six grandchildren: Katrina Ernest Mayba (Christopher), Lucy Gdanian Stoyles (Gregory), Naomi Gdanian, Anna Gdanian, Josiah Gdanian (Chelsea) and Gregory Gdanian and two great-grandchildren. Additionally, he leaves behind several nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was pre-deceased by two brothers and one sister.

The funeral service took place on Tuesday, July 2, in St. Peter Armenian Apostolic Church, Watervliet. Interment followed in Albany Rural Cemetery, Menands, NY. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Peter Armenian Apostolic Church, Building Fund, P.O. Box 196, Watervliet, NY 12189. Visit [www.parkerbrosmemorial.com](http://www.parkerbrosmemorial.com) to leave a message of condolence.

## Donations

In memory of Arsen Demerjian, Arman and Marilyn Norehad donate \$100 to the *Armenian Mirror-Spectator*.

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In memory of her father, Garabed Hovespian, and godfather John Bogosian, Ruth Swisher and her husband, Wilford, of Newington, Conn., donate \$100 to the *Armenian Mirror-Spectator*.

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## COMMUNITY NEWS

## Westborn Market Celebrates 50th Anniversary

MARKET, from page 5

At the event, budding vendors and creators of local products gather to learn more about the business. As part of the festivities, a competition is held and one person will win a chance to have their product featured at the three Westborn Market locations for a year.

"Buying and supporting local is less of a strategy and more of a core philosophy of how we operate our business each and every day," Anusbigian said.

Catering is another booming area as Westborn has been providing party trays, fruit baskets, floral designs to families and corporations.

From wines to special cheeses, they often special-order products for customers.

"With a bigger focus on helping keep employees healthy, we are now also delivering fruit to over 30 companies each day," Bandyk said.

Bandyk, who has been with the company for seven years, admits one challenge has been overcoming the stereotype that because the store is smaller, its products are more expensive.

"That's just not true," Bandyk said. "We are competitive and in some cases, even less expensive. We keep our finger on prices and we know our customers do as well."

As part of its 50th anniversary celebra-



Pictured, left to right: Anthony Anusbigian, with his wife and two children, Mark Anusbigian, center, with his wife and two sons, standing in the truck and Jeff Anusbigian, with his wife and two daughters.

tion, the company is featuring events in all three stores through the end of the year. For

more on those events, see [westbornmarket.com](http://westbornmarket.com).

## Armenian Heritage Park on the Greenway 'Commemorates, Contributes to the Entire City'

PARK, from page 5

embossed on pottery, etched onto cave walls through the Renaissance...," reports Cheryl Balian Scaparrotta in "Labyrinths Exploring the Path of Life," *WestonWellesley Magazine*, Winter 2012/2013, which profiled with photos Armenian Heritage Park on the Greenway.

World Labyrinth Day, an international initiative of The Labyrinth Society, was held for the first time at the Park on Saturday, May 1. Each year on the first Saturday of May at 1 p.m., people worldwide "walk as one in peace and harmony."

Public programs at the park are offered in collaboration with the Mayor's Office of Art, Tourism & Special Events and the Greenway Conservancy with the Friends of Armenian Heritage Park.

Corporate walks and meetings at the Park also providing opportunities to engage. Several corporations on the Boston Elderly Commission have been building awareness of the health and team building benefits of walking a labyrinth. Many have observed that although the Park is in the middle of the city, there is a unique sense of quiet and calm felt by visitors.

Fourth graders from the North End's Eliot School recently met with the park's architect/designer at the park to learn about how a geometric shape becomes art, how the split dodecahedron was constructed and is reconfigured annually – and its meaning.

For Boston By Foot and other walking and bus tours, the park has become a popular destination.

During Labor Day weekend, Armenian Heritage Park – its sculpture and labyrinth – will be highlighted in the Boston Arts Festival at Christopher Columbus Park.

On October 24, 2013, the fourth annual Najarian Lecture on Human Rights at Faneuil Hall will take place. An endowed public program, the purpose of the endowed series is to advance understanding of human rights issues and societal abuses worldwide, and to increase awareness of the work of individuals and organizations so that we are all more actively engaged. The annual lecture at Faneuil Hall has been inspired by the New England women and men – intellectuals, politicians, diplomats, religious leaders and citizens – who from 1895-1918 at Faneuil Hall heard the eyewitness accounts of the atrocities taking place against the Armenian minority of the Ottoman Empire and spoke passionately about the urgent need for intervention. Distinguished Bostonians, among them Julia Ward Howe, Clara Barton, Charlotte Perkins Gilman and Alice Stone Blackwell, heard these accounts and were moved to assist the Armenians. Philanthropists nationwide raised over one hundred million dollars. The American Red Cross launched its first international mission with Clara Barton bringing aid to the Armenians. America's first international human rights movement was launched, as told in Peter Balakian's *The Burning Tigris: The Armenian Genocide and America's Response* (HarperCollins, 2003).

Construction of the park and its endowed public programs have been made possible because of the commitment of supporters. The Armenian Heritage Foundation, sponsor of Armenian Heritage Park, comprises representatives from 42 Armenian-American parishes and organizations within Massachusetts. The foundation has now embarked on the last phase of the campaign to build the endowed fund for the park's ongoing care and maintenance. That the park be impeccably cared for is critically important. There are several ways to support and participate. Contributions may be made on line at [www.ArmenianHeritagePark.org/DONATE](http://www.ArmenianHeritagePark.org/DONATE) or by mail. For a Sponsor Form, email [info@ArmenianHeritageFoundation.org](mailto:info@ArmenianHeritageFoundation.org). A few naming opportunities at the park remain.

For further information, call James Kalustian (617) 899-4309, Charles Guleserian, (617) 484-6100 or Haig Deranian (617) 489-9465. All supporters will be acknowledged in the Commemorative Book. For further information, visit [ArmenianHeritagePark.org](http://ArmenianHeritagePark.org) or email [info@ArmenianHeritagePark.org](mailto:info@ArmenianHeritagePark.org).

## Bone Marrow Registry Sponsors Walk of Life in Watertown on September 28

WATERTOWN – On Saturday, September 28, the New England Chapter of the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry (ABMDR) will host its second annual Walk of Life walkathon here. Funds raised through the walkathon will support the work of the ABMDR, which helps Armenians worldwide survive life-threatening, blood-related illnesses by recruiting and matching donors to those requiring bone marrow stem cell transplants.

"Bone marrow transplanting procedures are now as simple as a blood draw, and pose little or no pain, so raising funds to recruit bone marrow donors is a key first step toward saving a

life," said ABMDR President Dr. Frieda Jordan.

The walkathon will take participants on a 2.2-mile route that begins at the Armenian Cultural and Educational Center (ACEC), 47 Nichols Ave., and concludes at the Faire on the Square town celebration on Main Street, where participants can enjoy the festivities, including local food, music and dance.

"Every step taken during the walkathon, brings hope for a long-awaited bone marrow match for a fellow Armenian struck with a life threatening disease like leukemia or other blood-related illness – and since the unique genetic make-up of Armenians, makes it

extremely difficult to find suitable bone marrow matches among the existing international bone marrow donor registries, the ABMDR's database serves as a vital resource when crisis strikes," said Jordan.

"Whether you choose to walk or sponsor a walker with a monetary contribution, you can make a huge difference in someone's life so we'd like to urge the entire community to support this event," said Alvar Badalian, chair of the New England chapter of ABMDR. To register for the walkathon, sponsor a walker or for more information, visit [www.abmdr.am/ne-walk/](http://www.abmdr.am/ne-walk/).

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## New York METRO

# Walking Alongside the Lord In the Holy Land

NEW YORK and JERUSALEM – They stretched their heads above the crowd and peered through the heavy incense smoke rising in the sanctuary, as a rare ceremony unfolded before them. Here, in the dimly lit interior of Sts. James Armenian Cathedral, a group of 27 young pilgrims from the Eastern Diocese caught their first glimpse of the ancient Armenian presence in Jerusalem.

The young people were among the pilgrims attending the enthronement ceremony of Archbishop Nourhan Manougian, the 97th Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem, on Tuesday, June 4. They had arrived in Jerusalem just a day earlier to take part in this year's Diocesan youth pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

Under the leadership of Diocesan Primate Archbishop Khajag Barsamian and the Rev. Mardiros Chevian, the young people spent 10 days tracing the footsteps of Christ, deepening their understanding of biblical history, and learning about the history of Armenians in the Holy Land. The pilgrimage was made possible through a contribution by Aso Tavitian of New York, who has supported a number of Diocesan youth programs.

"The enthronement of Archbishop Nourhan Manougian was a special moment that I am proud to have witnessed," said pilgrimage participant Sevak Marout. He added that Archbishop Manougian had served as a pastor in his home parish of St. Kevoork Church of Houston, Texas. "The fact that the Patriarch knew me and my family made it an unforgettable privilege to attend the ceremony," he said.

Earlier on June 4, the pilgrims took part in the celebration of the Divine Liturgy at the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, where they served on the altar and sang the sacred hymns of the badarak.

"Today we embark on a journey that has the power to shape us, and direct us, throughout our lives," Barsamian said in a sermon that morning. "As we learn more about our Lord, we will also learn more about ourselves, and we will recognize the great potential that lives within each of us – which Christ wants to draw out of our hearts."

He went on to outline the qualities that Christians should strive for: humility, outreach, forgiveness, sacrifice, compassion, and love. "Our mission is to follow Christ," Barsamian said, "and then to encourage others to listen to his call, and follow him."

At the conclusion of the service, the group proceeded to the Armenian monastery and later walked through the Shepherds' Field, where the angels passed on the joyous news of Christ's birth.

The next morning, the pilgrims traveled to the Church of the Tomb of the Blessed Virgin, where Chevian celebrated the



Pilgrims with Archbishop Khajag Barsamian at the Jordan River.

upon which Jesus prayed on the night of his arrest. During a Bible study session, they examined Jesus' anguished prayer in the garden, and discussed the importance of both individual and communal prayer.

"Being at the Garden of Gethsemane helped me to realize that Christ became truly human for mankind," said Tamar Pounardjian of St. Gregory of Narek Church of Cleveland, Ohio. "He suffered and he endured pain, and knowing this gives us hope when we encounter times of crisis."

At the Church of Dominus Flevit on the Mount of Olives, where Jesus wept for Jerusalem, the group sang *Der Voghormya* and *Hayr Mer*. Later they visited the Pater Noster Church and found the "Lord's Prayer" inscribed in Armenian, as well as in more than 130 other languages. They concluded their third day in Jerusalem by joining the local Armenian community for a reception to celebrate Manougian's enthronement.

Traveling outside Jerusalem, the group headed to the region of Galilee, where they visited the Church of the Beatitudes. During a Bible study led by Fr. Chevian, they reviewed the Beatitudes of Jesus and considered how these teachings can help them become better leaders in their parishes.

"As we were discussing the Beatitudes, I realized that we were doing the exact same thing that Jesus did thousands of years before us," said Alexis Davitian of St. Mary Church of Hollywood, Fla. "It was the most moving and beautiful epiphany I have ever had."

"It's uplifting for me to witness the spiritual growth in our young people as they discover their Armenian Christian identity while walking in the footsteps of our Lord Jesus Christ and experiencing the strong and historic Armenian presence in the Holy Land," Fr. Chevian said. "It's always a blessing for me to help them in that discovery."

A boat ride took the group across the Sea of Galilee. The young people enjoyed a period of quiet meditation, and later sang and exchanged the "Kiss of Peace." They also saw the site where Jesus multiplied the fish and the bread to feed a crowd of 5,000 people, and traveled to Nazareth to visit the Church of the Annunciation, built over the well at which Mary received the news that she would conceive a child. At Mt. Tabor, they saw where Jesus was transfigured before the apostles Peter, James, and John.

### Visiting the Armenian Patriarchate

The next portion of the pilgrimage was spent at the Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem. At the cemetery of the Patriarchate, Barsamian and Chevian performed a requiem service for the souls of past patriarchs.

The group met with Manougian, and had the opportunity to learn more about the Patriarchate, Sts. James Cathedral,

and Sts. Tarkmanchats School. The ACYOA Central Council presented Manougian with a check for \$1,000, as part of the organization's annual contribution to the Armenian Patriarchate.

This year, the pilgrims also presented three checks on behalf of other organizations: \$20,000 was contributed by St. John Church of Southfield, Mich.; \$6,000 was collected by the Women's Guild Central Council for Sts. Tarkmanchats School and \$5,000 was raised by the Knights and Daughters of Vartan for the school.

Following lunch with members of the St. James Brotherhood, the young people took part in an evening service at Sts. James Cathedral. They received a formal tour of the Patriarchate and enjoyed social time with local Armenian youth at Sts. Tarkmanchats School.

"One of the most important things I learned on this pilgrimage was about the Armenians of Jerusalem," said Aaron Derderian of St. James Church of Watertown, Mass. "I saw for myself how much they love and cherish our presence here."

On Saturday morning, June 8, the pilgrims visited the Armenian Seminary of Jerusalem, where they met with local clergy and youth for a discussion on the ways they can live out the teachings of the Gospels. The conversations resonated with this year's Diocesan theme "Living the Gospel of Christ."

"This trip really inspired me to be a better leader in my church," said Alex Manucharov of St. Sarkis Church of Charlotte, NC. "The experience of being in Jerusalem showed me how unique our church is, and moved me to become more involved in our community."

Rising before 4 a.m. on Sunday, the young pilgrims made their way through the Old City to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, the site of Christ's crucifixion, burial, and glorious resurrection. Barsamian celebrated the Divine Liturgy.

Another highlight of the journey was a stop at the Jordan River, where Christ was baptized by John the Baptist. Barsamian and Chevian performed the "Blessing of Water" ceremony. The olivewood crosses that were used during the ceremony were presented to two pilgrims whose birthdays were closest to the date of the visit to the Jordan River: Crystal Densmore, of St. Mesrob Church of Racine, Wis., and Marcus Dalakian, of St. Mary Church of Livingston, NJ.

Other sites the pilgrims visited were the Mount of Temptation, Upper Room, Pool of Bethesda, Jericho, Qumran Caves and the Dead Sea. They also saw sites sacred to other faiths present in the Holy Land, including the Dome of the Rock and the Wailing Wall.

Their journey came to a close at the very site from which



Standing in prayer at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher.

Jesus ascended into heaven after giving his disciples the Great Commission. Here, at the Church of the Ascension, the pilgrims attended a pre-festal service, or *nakhadonag*, for the Feast of the Ascension. The service was presided over by Archbishop Manougian.

"To spend our whole trip following in the footsteps of Jesus and to end our trip where Jesus ended his time on earth with his disciples was remarkable," said Chelsea Kress of St. Leon Church of Fair Lawn, N.J. "You can read about these places in the Bible, but to visit them brings it full circle. This trip was life-changing and deepened my faith in God."

On their final evening in Jerusalem, the young people gathered at a local Armenian restaurant, where they celebrated the new friendships formed during the pilgrimage and reflected on what they had learned in the course of the trip.

"This trip changed me for the better," said Aaron Derderian. "I just graduated from college, where for the past four years I experienced a bit of a separation from my faith and the Armenian Church. After my pilgrimage to the Holy Land, I feel more rejuvenated and eager to reconnect with God and my church."

– Kathryn Ashbahian contributed to this report.



A Bible study at the Pool of Bethesda.

Divine Liturgy. Armenians hold services daily at the church, which marks the site where Mary was buried by the apostles before her assumption into heaven.

"Witnessing the Armenian presence at the Church of St. Mary was a moving experience, and it gave me a great sense of pride," said Danielle Malconian of Holy Trinity Church of Cambridge, Mass. "I felt the strength of our roots in the Holy Land, and began to understand the dedication of those who preserve our heritage here."

At the Garden of Gethsemane and the Church of All Nations, the pilgrims knelt and prayed before the rock




**New York  
METRO**

# Camp Nubar Hosts 50th Anniversary Celebration, Open House

DELANCEY, N.Y. – On Sunday, July 28, the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) Camp Nubar will hold its annual open house, which will serve as a platform to celebrate its 50th anniversary on campgrounds.

Open House has traditionally offered an opportunity for campers to showcase to their parents and friends the skills learned throughout the summer, such as horseback riding, water-skiing, performing arts and Armenian dance and song. It also showcases friendships made in an Armenian environment set against the backdrop of the Catskill Mountains. For former campers and their children, Open House is an excuse for informal reunions among friends and former campers. This year, the tradition will be extended and enhanced through activities tailored to engage everyone visiting on this occasion.

The highlight this year will be the rededication of Lake Arax in a blessing ceremony presided by Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern), along with Rev. Vertanes and Yn. Anahid Kalayjian, who are remembered by generations of campers for their active and prolonged involvement with the camp.

“We have to encourage every Armenian parent to visit with their children that wonderful place where a miracle is carried out every day, where the Armenian identity is developed amid games, activities that include ceramics and other crafts, horseback riding and water sports,” said Vertanes Kalayjian, who served as the camp’s



This year’s campers are already excited about AGBU Camp Nubar’s Open House.

director for many years. “Open House will be an opportunity for parents to see why they have to send their children there. I cannot think of any place in the United States with such an edifying

environment as Camp Nubar.”

“Camp Nubar has left unforgettable, sweet memories in me,” said Kalayjian, former camp nurse and spiritual guide every Sunday. “I’m happy I served for 25 years toward our teenagers’ physical, moral and cultural development.”

Camp Nubar creates the opportunity to educate the new generation, strengthening their young bodies, souls and minds,” continued Kalayjian. “There, our children get acquainted with our culture, our language, Church, songs, dances, traditions and customs. They learn what Vartavar is about, how Armenians traditionally celebrate weddings, Christmas and New Year. Every morning, we gathered around the flagpole and I would teach them a parable with a moral, so that they would reflect on it the whole day.”

This year, Open House has been structured as a family day and will include bounce houses, face paint, games, relays, hikes, special snacks and other activities, which will be free of charge. There will be a fee for lunch.

“We look forward to welcoming visitors to Open House each year, but on this occasion, we are even more excited to have alumni from so many generations and so far away join us,” said Camp Director Jennifer Omartian. “The campers eagerly await this important ceremony and the new achievements they will share with their parents and friends. We hope many familiar and new faces will come see our beautiful grounds and witness the amazing bond of this community.”

Group transportation for Open House has been arranged for Sunday, July 28, departing from New York City (Midtown East Courtyard by Marriot, Third Avenue and 53rd St.) and New Jersey (Dwight-Englewood School, 315 E Palisade Ave., Englewood, NJ). Vans will leave early in the morning and return in the evening the same day.

Festivities begin the night of Friday, July 26 with the 50th anniversary celebration at Guastavino’s in New York City.

For more information and tickets, visit [campnubar.org/50](http://campnubar.org/50).



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## Peter Balakian Appointed Nikit and Eleanora Ordjanian Visiting Professor at Columbia University for Fall

NEW YORK – Prize-winning writer and scholar Peter Balakian has been appointed the Nikit and Eleanora Ordjanian Visiting Professor in the Department of Middle East, South Asian and African Studies at Columbia University for the Fall of 2013. He is the Donald M. and Constance H. Rebar Professor of the Humanities in the department of English at Colgate University, where he has taught since 1980.

Balakian was also the first director of Colgate’s Center for Ethics and World Societies.

Balakian’s nine books include *Black Dog of Fate*, which won the PEN/Albrand Prize for memoir, and *The Burning Tigris: The Armenian Genocide and America’s Response*, which won the Raphael Lemkin Prize and was a New York Times best seller.

The pioneering scholar, in English, who opened up in Anglo-American literature the field of Armenian Genocide trauma and memory studies, Balakian will be teaching a course titled “The Armenian Genocide and the Holocaust: Memory and Representation.”

This course has been approved to satisfy Columbia University’s Global Core requirement – a first for any courses offered through the Ordjanian Visiting Professorship Program.

The seminar-style course (G4326, Call # 86035) will be taught on Thursdays from 2:10 – 4 p.m. and is open to auditors as well as matriculating students. Registration is from August 26 to 30 and classes begin September 5.

Tuition for auditors will be \$2,500 and for

Lifelong Learners (people over the age of 65) will be \$800. Registration may be done online at [www.ce.columbia.edu/auditing](http://www.ce.columbia.edu/auditing).

This course will be an investigation of the impact of genocide on the self and the imagination’s representations in literature, film, and video testimony. Primary texts will include poetry, memoir, video testimony, film and visual art. The course will concern itself with the aftermath of two 20th-century genocides – that of the Armenians in Turkey during World War I and that of the Jews in Europe during World War II – both seminal events of the 20th century that, in various ways, became models for ensuing genocides.

The Visiting Professorship program at Columbia is made possible by an endowment established by the late Dr. Nikit and Eleanora Ordjanian in 1998. Previous Visiting Professors have included Levon Abrahamian, Vardan Azatyan, Melissa Bilal, George Bournoutian, Seta Dadoyan, Helen Evans, Roberta Ervine, Rachel Goshgarian, Arman Grigoryan, Robert Hewsen, Ara Sarafian and Khachig Tololyan.

The Fall 2013 Ordjanian Visiting Professorship received additional support from the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU).

The Visiting Professorship is one of several programs of the Armenian Center at Columbia, the organization that raised the initial funds to establish a Chair of Armenian Studies at Columbia in 1979 and which continues to provide funds for scholarships, library acquisitions, academic publications, lectures, conferences and symposia.

# Arts & Living

## Photography Exhibit Reveals Gleaming, Gritty New York

WAKEFIELD, Mass. – Local photographer, Ara Hagopian, is currently showing his photographic exhibit, “New York 72 Hours: Street Photography” at Creations Café, 400 Main St. through August. Hagopian spent three consecutive days and nights photographing in New York City last month to complete the project.

“New York is a city of big idea, important people and renowned landmarks,” said Hagopian. “One of my favorite pairings is the Cyndi Lauper photograph and the shot of the crude tile floor with the single star inlay. In New York, there are stars among millions of non-stars and those two photographs show the dramatic range of that basic idea.”

The exhibit also features a write up for each photograph. In “Silver and Gold,” Hagopian’s study of light and shadow, he wrote, “As the sun sets, varieties of tone mover across the city’s face. Fortunes migrate with time. Gold is here and gone. Silver spreads and sheds. Darkness knits and takes it over – it’s also on its way out.”

Familiar landmarks are shown in new and innovative ways. Time Square was shot in black, white and red. The Rockefeller building is presented using 20 organic tints under intricately cut layers. Radio City Music Hall was shot at night, but with a high



“Cyndi’s Eyes” by Ara Hagopian

exposure value so the neon sits evenly with the buildings’ natural tones.

Hagopian, 48, is an artist, writer and photographer. He has exhibited work in 30 solo shows since 2004. His pen-and-ink “The Magnificent Recovery” was selected by the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston for their 2008 summer art auction. Hagopian’s book, *What Happened to Vicky Lee? A Collection of Short Stories*, will be released this month.

## Arpa International Film Festival Call-for-Films

LOS ANGELES – The Arpa International Film Festival is currently hosting a call for film submissions for the upcoming 16th annual festival to be held September 26-29 at the Egyptian Theatre in Hollywood.

“We encourage all filmmakers to take advantage of Arpa Film Fest as a launch pad to a career in filmed entertainment and production arts,” said Festival Director Alex Kalognomos.

“We have hosted many notable premieres of films that have gone on to commercial success, distribution and VOD. Currently, ‘Lost and Found in Armenia,’ which had its US premiere at Arpa last year, is enjoying consecutive sold out screenings nationwide. Other success stories include ‘My Uncle Rafael’ and the internationally acclaimed film, ‘Venezzia,’ which had its world premiere at Arpa,” said Kalognomos.

This year’s festival will focus on the feature film genre and industry programs aimed to help filmmakers develop their projects.

The 2013 event will also include an anniversary screening of “Khachaturian” at the American Cinematheque.



Nora Armani and Mike Camoin

## Rated SR New York Film Festival Shines New Light On Film Violence

NEW YORK – Nora Armani, founding artistic director, announced this week a new film festival that will launch in New York City and Rensselaerville, NY, March 14-20, 2014.

Titled “Rated SR” for Socially Relevant, the festival is a response to the proliferation of violence and related social ills in today’s movie industry. The fest aims to satisfy a market need to concentrate more on everyday positive human stories seeking an audience.

The Downstate-Upstate event will provide festival attendees and public alike with the best of both worlds: the buzz of Manhattan and the rural setting of Rensselaerville. The main goal of the festival is to support filmmakers who are producing films that tackle the tough social and environmental issues of the day without relying on gratuitous violence or sensationalism to draw in an audience.

“Rated SR aims to show that socially relevant films can be of high artistic value, educate, enlighten, but most of all equally entertain and be commercially viable,” said Armani who holds extensive festival organizing and curatorial skills honed from decades of experience in the United States and overseas markets. Armani organized film weeks at London’s ICA, Cine Lumiere, AFI in Los Angeles and Kennedy Centre, collaborated with Paris’s Pompidou Centre, The Edinburgh and Cambridge Film Festivals and the International Film Festival Rotterdam. Armani had her films in the official selection of the Cannes Film Festival and is invited to attend the Producers Network at the Cannes Film Festival this year.

Armani is joined in organizing “Rated SR” by Mike Camoin, founder of the festival’s Filmmaker’s Lab that will take place March 18-20 during the Upstate portion of the fest. Camoin is an Albany-based filmmaker, producer and director with a number of completed documentaries and shorts. Camoin is currently in post-production with “An American Life: The Journey from Violence to Hope,” centered on mental illness and criminal justice featuring David Kaczynski.

Armani and Camoin met serendipitously in Rotterdam during the fest’s synergistic industry forum and quickly discovered a mutual interest in non-violent storytelling. It is this synergy they want to carry over to New York with “Rated SR.”

Joining Armani and Camoin is Carol Ash, president of the Carey Center for Global Good, in Rensselaerville, which will host the Upstate section of the Festival on its 100-acre campus. “The Carey Center for Global Good’s mission is bringing together innovative and dynamic people from around the world to seek creative solutions to the most pressing challenges of the day. Rated SR’s theme of non-violence make this partnership particularly unique,” said Ash whose facility began hosting dialogues through film in 2012.

“We’re quite fortunate to have found a partner in the Carey Center for Global Good,” stated Camoin.

Keeping with the tradition of the institute, the Upstate retreat center is an ideal facility for filmmakers to gather in a supportive environment and move their respective and significant stories to completion. “The screening and lab components are designed to be complimentary,” he noted.

Armani is a seasoned actor and filmmaker who notably draws her inspiration, see FESTIVAL, page 12

## Love Lure, New Book of Poetry, Debuts at Diocese

By Florence Avakian

NEW YORK – In his new book of poetry titled *Love Lure*, author Kevork Kalayjian Jr. has written, “A table appears in different shapes and diverse dimensions from different perspectives. Similarly, the feeling of love is shaped from different perspectives – the maternal, paternal, procreational, sibling and friendship and other perspectives. In Armenian, the sound and utterance of *Love Lure* translates to ‘good news,’ another perspective from which to understand love and its many promises.”

On Thursday evening, June 20, at the Diocese of the Armenian Church (Eastern), the Zohrab Information Center, and the Armenian Studies Program sponsored the debut of *Love Lure*. Gilda Buchakjian Kupelian, Coordinator of the Diocese’s Armenian Studies Program welcomed the audience.

Born in Azez, Syria, Kalayjian, whose descends from Genocide survivors, graduated from the Melconian Educational Institute in Nicosia, Cyprus. Continuing his education in America, he received a BA in political science and economics from Fairleigh Dickinson University, an MEd in counseling psychology from William Patterson University and a CPA from Pace University.

However, his chose his profession as an auditor for the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance. To round out his multifaceted interests, he has written that he is “passionate about painting, writing and gardening, and plans to raise bees in his backyard beside his vegetable and fruit garden.”

Kalayjian comes from a large, well-known family, which includes his wife Maral and three sons; brothers Fr. Vertanes Kalayjian, former long-time pastor of St. Mary’s Armenian Church in Washington, DC, and Vasken Kalayjian, a painter and designer; sisters Dr. Annie Kalayjian, an international human rights activist, and Zarmine Boghosian, principal of the Holy Martyrs Church Armenian Day School, who shared fond remembrances of their early family life.

The book of poetry has been designed and edited by Kevork’s son, Aramazt, and his wife, Ani, respectively, both of whom will be spending a year in Armenia volunteering their services in several villages under the auspices of the Children of Armenia Fund (COAF). Both Kevork Kalayjian and Ani read a number of poems from the book which has been divided into three sections – “Love Lure,” “No Comment” and “Requiem.” A memorable segment of one of the poems reads, “You still always wonder it ever exists, the warmth, the tears, the jealousy, the aggression, the beauty...Love.”

Closing the literary event, the Very Rev. Daniel Findkyan, director of the Zohrab Information Center at the Diocese, called Kalayjian “a man of enormous depth, a Renaissance man, aware of love and beauty. The work displays our Armenian heritage and identity, both with a biting edge, and enormous strength and vitality.”

*Love Lure* can be purchased in the bookstore of the Armenian Diocese, 630 Second Ave.



Kevork Kalayjian (third from right) with family members at last week’s book celebration



## ARTS &amp; LIVING

# Sayat Nova Dance Company Enjoys Busy Summer

BOSTON – In the past 27 years, many young women and men have passed through the doors of Sayat Nova Dance Company of Boston (SNDC). On any given Sunday, one can hear the music at Abaka School for the Performing Arts in Watertown, as a vibrant group of dancers continue to rehearse tirelessly, to keep the tradition of Armenian folk dancing alive. They represent the Armenian community of Watertown in many different venues ranging from the West Coast to Montreal, Canada and as far away as Armenia and Artsakh. Locally they have performed on prestigious stages such as the Cutler Majestic Theatre in the Theater District of Boston, Arsenal Center for the Arts in Watertown and most recently took part in the Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, in the beautiful Berkshires in Western Massachusetts.

Being given the opportunity to perform and take part in the Jacob's Pillow Inside/Out Dance Festival on July 4 was one of the most significant events in SNDC history. A national historic landmark and America's longest-running dance festival, Jacob's Pillow has hosted more than 50 professional dance companies from around the world. It has been awarded the National Medal of Arts by President Barack Obama,



Members of the Sayat Nova Dance Company at the Jacob's Pillow Inside/Out Dance Festival

the highest arts award given by the United States government.

SNDC performed for 45 minutes, to a capacity audience who was intrigued, and based on the questions asked during a ques-

tion-and-answer period that followed the performance, it was apparent that they were mesmerized by the program.

The hard work and dedication that director/choreographer Apo Ashjian instills in his

all-volunteer dancers, is apparent and carried out during each dance number. At SNDC, members perform alongside life-long friends, siblings, cousins, spouses, classmates, and some, with their own offspring. This is what sets Sayat Nova Dance Company apart from most other dance groups. The intimate relationships between members allow this group to function as a large family, depending on one another, surpassing all expectations with each and every show.

Dances such as "Zanzezour" or "Jahel Sirds" characterize the beauty of Armenian women through graceful dancing while the strength of Armenian men comes through in dances such as "Kochari," an old folk dance that has been performed in the Armenian highlands for over a thousand years.

The Boston community will have yet another opportunity to see SNDC perform as they have received an invitation to represent the Armenian community in Boston's first annual Outside the Box arts Festival. This free, one-hour performance, is taking place on July 19, at 7 p.m. at Boston Common's Park Street Stage, located near the Park Street T stop.

Recruitment of new members has begun as SNDC opens its doors to new members.

– Shushan Yegoyan

## AGLA New York Hosts Inaugural Benefit

NEW YORK – Some 30 guests attended a May 23 event at the home of Veken Gueyikian and Hrag Vartanian in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, to celebrate Armenian gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered unity and to raise money for specific organizational goals.

Specifically, the benefit targeted three areas, chairman and Armenian Gay and Lesbian Association (AGLA) New York board member Christopher Atamian explained, "We're beginning a small 'Emergency Fund' to help lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people in need both in Armenia and the diaspora – for example to help rebuild a bar like DIY which was firebombed in a recent hate crime, or to help with legal fees for LGBT people in need." A second aim was simply to raise funds to help with the everyday expenses of running the organization and the many meetings, conferences and events such as New York's PRIDE

March that it participates in. One of the night's guest speakers, Maria Mahl, a human rights advocate who currently works at the United Nations on women's security and peace building and Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) rights, commented on the importance of the work that AGLA NY does, saying, "It is especially important now given the backlash against LGBT people that we have seen of late."

A third goal of the benefit was the creation of the George Stambolian Memorial Scholarship for LGBT students or those of Armenian origin. Stambolian was a beloved professor of French literature at Wellesley College, one of the founders of LGBT Literature and the editor of the famed *Men on Men* writing series. Stambolian passed away from AIDS in 1991. One of Stambolian's former students, Nancy Agabian, spoke of him, saying, "[He was] aware of and appreciated the paradoxes of life and of

literature...[he] embodied them and worked for them in a meaningful way." Agabian read two excerpts from her own books where she mentioned Stambolian, *Princess Freak and Me as Her Again*.

The event raised close to \$2,000. Atamian said, "There are so many established benefits already in New York and in the Armenian community, but everyone reacted beautifully and understood the importance of our organization and its activities."

Particularly for Armenian LGBT youth and community members who sometimes feel ostracized in a conservative community, AGLA NY says they want to provide a lifeline of hope and friendship to its members and allies. From its beginnings in 1998, AGLA NY continues to grow.

For more information or to donate to projects such as the Emergency Fund or the Stambolian Scholarship, visit [www.aglany.org](http://www.aglany.org).

## Mayreni Publishing Issues *Khodorchur: Lost Paradise, Memories of A Land and its People*

MONTEREY, Calif. – A new book, titled *Khodorchur: Lost Paradise, Memories of a Land and its People*, is about the steadfast people and beautiful land of Khodorchur (now Sirakonaklar, Turkey), a cluster of historic Armenian villages referred to as Little Rome in the late 18th century. Its pages bring to life the customs and traditions of a hardy people who toiled to keep their land and identity against all odds and who were eventually deported and nearly completely annihilated by the Turkish state during World War I.

"In memory of this group of Armenian Catholics, isolated in their mountainous range north of Erzurum, we have only a few photographs and this famous work published by the Mekhitarist fathers – a memorial that is indispensable." Raymond

## Sponsor a Teacher in Armenia and Karabagh 2013



Since its inception in 2001, TCA's 'Sponsor a Teacher' program has raised over \$563,000 and reached out to 4,440 teachers and school workers in Armenia and Karabagh.



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

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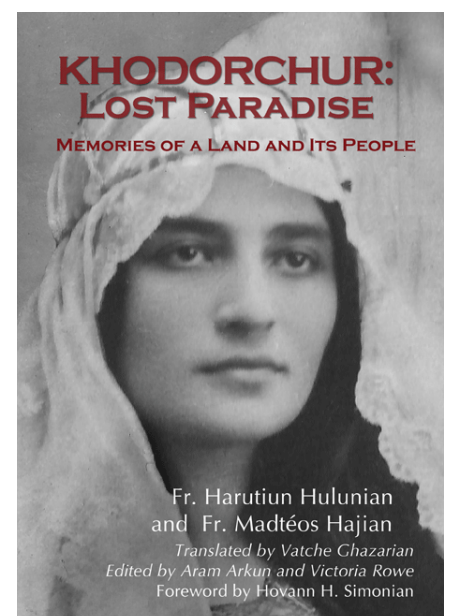
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Kevorkian, historian, author of *The Armenian Genocide: a Complete History*.

This *hushamadean* book is a complete translation of the original with enhancements. The volume contains 652 pages, 18 pages of plates, new maps, an update of the dialect, and an addendum on travel to the region by a survivor's son.

Published by Mayreni Publishing, based in Monterey, it is currently available from NAASR bookstore in Belmont, Mass., and on [amazon.com](http://amazon.com).



# Friends and Supporters Celebrate during the Children of Armenia Fund's Summer Soiree

NEW YORK – The Children of Armenia Fund (COAF), a nonprofit organization committed to improving the lives of children in rural Armenia, celebrated the beginning of summer with its third annual Summer Soiree on Tuesday, June 25. COAF Board Member Khalil Barrage served as the evening's host, welcoming guests who gathered at the PH-D Rooftop Lounge of the Dream Downtown Hotel. Friends and supporters of COAF came together and celebrated the organization's recent accomplishments and raised funds for water projects in Armenia's rural villages.

The evening featured multiple fundraising opportunities, which helped COAF raise more than \$30,000. Guests moved to the tunes of DJ Ellison Robinson and enjoyed passed hors d'oeuvres as well as mini-cupcakes provided by Baked by Melissa, one of the evening's sponsors. Other sponsors of the event included Duggal Visual Solutions, who provided all of the print and visual materials for the event, as well as Yerevan Magazine.

For more information, visit [coafkids.org](http://coafkids.org).

COAF is an independent, nonprofit, nongovernmental 501(c)(3) organization.



Khalil Barrage, left, with Garo Armen



Enjoying the rooftop portion of the reception

## Rated SR New York Film Festival Shines New Light on Film Violence

FESTIVAL, from page 10

among others, from the work of Sherry Lansing, Oprah Winfrey and Nelson Mandela. Armani studied drama and sociology in England and currently divides her time between London, Paris and New York. Her most recent work, "Moving Stories," screened at the Monaco Film Festival in the official selection in May 2013.

Camoin is founding member and former President of Upstate Independents, Inc. He is an advisory board member to The New School of Radio and Television, and serves as a consultant to the Albany Film Commission. He has appeared on Vox-Pop with WAMC's public radio Alan Chartock discussing all things independent motion pictures.



From left, Larry Feinberg with Maryam and Khajag Keledjian



Guests enjoyed mingling.

Armenian International Women's Association, New Jersey Affiliate

St. Thomas Armenian Church Cultural Committee

Tekeyan Cultural Association

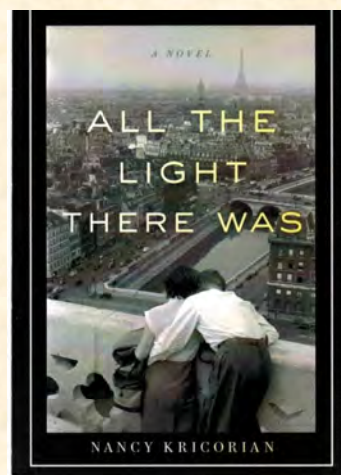
Present author

Nancy Kricorian

And her new novel

*All The Light There Was*

The story of an Armenian family's struggle to survive the Nazi occupation of Paris in the 1940s



Friday, September 20, 2013

At 8:00 PM

St Thomas Armenian Church

174 Essex Drive

Tenafly NJ 07670

Published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

"Nancy Kricorian is a gem, her work subtle and nuanced and moving. *All the Light There Was* brings Nazi-occupied Paris vividly, tragically, and heroically to life."

-Chris Bohjalian, author of *The Sandcastle Girls* and *Midwives*

Nancy Kricorian is the author of the novels *Zabelle* and *Dreams of Bread and Fire*

For more information, please call Ani Chatmajian at (201) 965-7785 or Talar Sarafian at 201-240-8541



## ARTS &amp; LIVING

# Harvard Egyptology Professor Merges Ancient Discoveries with New Technologies

MANUELIAN, from page 1

The last Egyptologist at Harvard was George A. Reisner (1867-1942), whom Manuelian described as “one of the greatest archaeologists and Egyptologists of his generation.”

“I feel honored and privileged to try to help reawaken Harvard’s glorious archaeological legacy of work in Egypt. There is indeed great passion for the subject here, and I’ve been supported on every level,” said Manuelian.

Manuelian grew up in Belmont amidst the Boston area’s thriving Armenian community. His grandmother fled Istanbul during World War I and found her way to Boston, where she married a fellow Armenian and started a family.

Manuelian attended Harvard University as an undergraduate before earning his doctorate in Egyptology from the University of Chicago. He also studied in Germany at the Universität Tübingen.

While immersed in his studies, Manuelian began what would prove a longstanding relationship with the MFA, as he embarked on his first volunteer summer at the MFA in 1976. In 1977, he accompanied the MFA team to Egypt to begin his field research in archaeological projects in Giza.

He continued his work with the MFA and became a full-time member of the curatorial staff in 1987 and his formal relationship with the museum continued through 2011.

Prior to joining the Harvard faculty in 2010, Manuelian taught at Tufts University for 10 years.

His research interests include ancient Egyptian history, archaeology, epigraphy, the development of mortuary architecture and the iconographic nature of Egyptian language and culture. He has also researched New Kingdom temples at Luxor (Epigraphic Survey, Oriental Institute, University of Chicago) and the Predynastic site of Naqada.

“I don’t know of another civilization that so beautifully blends art and writing, writing and art together into a seamless expression of the entire culture. And to last four millennia or more, well that means you’re doing something right,” he said.

While Manuelian’s job is to document and make sense of the distant past, he is attentive to the future of the field and utilizes current technologies to uncover and document this rich past and share this information with others. “As director of Harvard’s Semitic Museum, I have set in motion plans for a new Egyptian gallery and we are currently seeking the funds to build an exciting, state-of-the-art display that will wow both our students and the general public as well,” said Manuelian.

One of the significant contributions Manuelian has made to the field has been his ongoing work as the founding director of the Giza Archives. After 40 years excavating 23 different sites in Egypt and Nubia (ancient Sudan), the joint Harvard University and MFA Expedition had amassed a huge archaeological archive of tens of thousands of glass plate excavation negatives, notes, plans, drawings, manuscripts and diaries, as well as actual artifacts themselves.

“In the case of the Giza Pyramids, just west of modern Cairo,” said Manuelian, “this priceless archive allows scholars to study the site in ways

no longer possible even at Giza itself.” He added, “Imagine how much more preservation a 1904 photo of a painted tomb wall scene or hieroglyphic inscription will show you than one taken in 2013.”

A collection this large called for an efficient method of organizing and record-keeping. According to Manuelian, the expedition archive struggled with the weight of its own scale and the difficulty of “finding what you need.”

This was a case where ancient history required the help of present-day technology. “When I worked at the MFA, we had the good fortune to secure more than \$3 million in support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to digitize and cross-reference online all the Giza materials.”

Thanks to the Mellon funding and the work of more than 500 students, docents, volunteers and supervising Egyptologists, anyone can view the materials today at <http://www.gizapyramids.org>.

The Giza Project is an ongoing international collaboration. Manuelian explained, “Our aim is to become the central repository for this most famous archaeological site in the world. We hope to recreate that historic collaboration between Harvard and the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, two great institutions that share a unique archaeological legacy.”

The project has also teamed with Dassault Systèmes of Paris and Waltham and adopted immersive 3D computer technologies for modeling of the Giza Pyramids, tombs and temples. These elaborate models and teaching tools can be viewed at <http://giza.3ds.com>.

“This is ‘publishing’ in the widest sense of the word. But it is expensive, and this project, too, is in need of continuous support,” he noted.

While there is a wealth of information and interest in Egyptology, popularity brings its fair

share of misconceptions. The most common ones, according to Manuelian, are: the notion that “Hebrew slaves – or better yet, aliens! – built the pyramids,” the misconception that Egyptian hieroglyphs are just pictures, not a grammatical language and that “there is a curse of the pharaohs, thanks to King Tut. Oh, and archaeologists tend not to carry around guns and whips, unlike Indiana Jones.”

When he is not researching or teaching, Manuelian enjoys simple pleasures such as guitar music, cats, architecture and graphic design, and admits he has an “unholy addiction” to Apple products.

Manuelian approaches his work with enthusiasm and a sense of humor, always keeping the issue of accessibility in mind.

He has contributed to several academic journals, including the *Journal of Egyptian Archaeology* and the *Journal of the American Research Center in Egypt*. As far as other publications, Manuelian noted, “My books have long, boring names, such as *Slab Stelae of the Giza Necropolis*; *Studies in the Reign of Amenophis II*; *Mastabas of Nucleus Cemetery G 2100*; and *Living in the Past: Studies in the Archaism of the Egyptian Twenty-sixth Dynasty* [...] My children’s books, such as *Hieroglyphs from A to Z*, might be a bit more fun.”

Manuelian is currently working on a biography of his predecessor, Reisner, and various projects related to his work at the Giza Pyramids. He is also producing a short introduction to his field called “The 30-Second Ancient Egypt,” he noted, “for those who don’t have a lot of time!”

From a fourth grader with a blossoming interest in history to Harvard’s first professor of Egyptology in more than 60 years, Manuelian exudes the same passion for his field and hopes

to preserve history and share it with the public.

“I hope archaeological legacies all over the world, whether in Armenia, in Egypt or elsewhere, will receive the care and preservation they deserve, through both the good times and the challenging ones,” said Manuelian.

## ADAA Arts Panel and Paul Awards at WGA Beverly Hills on November 8

BEVERLY HILLS – The Armenian Dramatic Arts Alliance (ADAA) will present a panel discussion on November 8, 7 p.m. at the Writers’ Guild Theater in Beverly Hills, titled “Make the Connection: Linking Armenians in the Entertainment Industry.”

The panel will discuss relevant topics for Armenians in the entertainment industry, including those who are just starting their careers. This event will address issues that artists are faced with today and feature a conversation on how Armenian artists can overcome challenges and maneuver their professional journey in the industry.

On the same evening, ADAA will be awarding its fourth Biennial Paul Screenwriting Award, with its \$10,000 grand prize for a screenplay on an Armenian theme. The prize is administered by ADAA with a grant from Varnum and Lillian Paul via the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church, under the auspices of Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Primate.

A wine and cheese reception will follow at the Writers’ Guild.

# CALENDAR

## MASSACHUSETTS

**AUGUST 4-10 – PACE [Parent and Child Experience]**, Craigville Retreat Center, Cape Cod. Private accommodations in Craigville’s historic Inn with privileges to newly renovated beach club with access to private ocean beach, tennis lessons, courts, evening concerts, and more. Babies, grandparents, teens and all in between welcome! Contact [familycampvacation@yahoo.com](mailto:familycampvacation@yahoo.com)

**SEPTEMBER 8 – Sayat Nova Dance Company** performs at Peabody International Festival with favorite dances from their repertoire; 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Members of the Dance Company manning dessert booth featuring homemade delicacies; Peabody Square on Lowell Street. For details, call Peabody Town Hall.

**SEPTEMBER 8 – Picnic Festival, St. Gregory Armenian Church**, 158 Main St., North Andover, 12:30-5:30 p.m., featuring Armenian music by Leon Janikian, Jason Naroian, Joe Kouyoumjian, John Arzigian, along with Siroun Dance Group; Armenian food and pastries. For more info, visit [www.saintgregory.org](http://www.saintgregory.org).

**OCTOBER 19 – Hye Kef 5** featuring Leon Janikian, Joe Kouyoumjian, Greg Takvorian, Ken Kalajian, Bob Raphaelian and Jay Baronian, Haverhill, MA, 7:30 p.m., Michael’s Function Hall-12 Alpha Street, Tickets: \$40.00 Each Students \$30, includes individually-served mezza platters. Proceeds to benefit all Armenian churches in Merrimack Valley and New Hampshire. Call either John Arzigian, 603-560-3826; Sandy Boroyan, 978-251-8687; Scott Sahagian, 617-699-3581, or Peter Gulezian, 978-375-1616. Organized by Armenian Friends’ of America.

## NEW YORK

**NOVEMBER 23-24 – TCA Mher Megerdchian Theatrical Group** celebrates 15th Anniversary with production of Hagop Baronian’s “The Perils of Politeness” (Kaghakavaroutyan Vnasneruh) directed by Gagik Karapetyan from Armenia; Dwight Englewood High School, 315 E. Palisade Ave., Englewood, NJ. Nov. 23, Saturday at 8 p.m. and Nov. 24, Sunday at 4 p.m. For tickets; \$50, \$35, \$25; call Marie Zokian (201)745-8850 or Missak Boghosian at (212)819-0097 or (347)365-6985.



**On September 8, Sayat Nova Dance Company will perform at the Peabody International Festival on Lowell Street in Peabody Square with favorite dances from their repertoire from 11-5 p.m. Members of the Dance Company will also be manning a dessert booth featuring homemade delicacies. For details on the Festival, contact Peabody Town Hall.**

## Free Calendar Submissions

The *Mirror-Spectator* accepts calendar submissions free of charge. Calendar entries of a maximum of five lines can be submitted to [mirrorads@aol.com](mailto:mirrorads@aol.com); entries exceeding five lines will be subject to charge. We encourage readers and community members to submit their events so that we may provide readers with a comprehensive calendar of events.

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## COMMENTARY

THE ARMENIAN  
**Mirror-Spectator**

Established 1932

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## COMMENTARY

## Fate of Armenia in the Balance

By Edmond Y. Azadian

Ever since Armenia's independence, Turkey and Azerbaijan have been engaged in a war of attrition against Armenia by blockading the latter and by forcing upon it an arms race. Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev only recently remarked cynically that Armenia's population was dwindling rapidly and pretty soon the country would be ripe for takeover.

Following Azerbaijan's disastrous defeat in 1994, the Baku government seemed willing to settle the conflict with the return of seven Azeri regions around Karabagh, kept under Armenian military control for security reasons. As Azerbaijan's petrodollars began flooding the country, the government's arrogance rose commensurately and the Baku leadership began demanding the return of the entire territory of Nagorno Karabagh itself. Adding insult to injury, President Aliyev's ambitions reached a new high by demanding the entire territory of Armenia as "historic Azeri" land.

Azerbaijan's arrogance is fed by the indifference – or, rather the encouragement – of the international community. All ceasefire violations by the Azeri forces are routinely ignored by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) representatives, who, during their seasonal visits to the region do nothing but spin their wheels. Their respective governments – France, the US and Russia – issue annual declarations insisting that the status quo is no longer tolerable, but the status quo continues to remain exactly that, year after year, because those declarations are not backed by any meaningful actions. This all means that Azerbaijan uses its petrodollars to buy sophisticated armaments and political influence, shielding its authoritarian rule from any outside criticism.

Recently 317 delegates from 42 US states went on a junket bankrolled by the Baku government. The delegation included 11 sitting members of Congress and 75 state representatives. An article by Larry Luxner in the *Washington Advocate*, describing the trip, stated: "Plouffe, Messina and Gibbs were all called out in a Washington Post story that was published at the height of our trip. The article, 'For Obama's Ex-aides, It's Time to Cash in on Experience,' said all three were given five-figure checks to speak at the forum as part of Azerbaijan's charm offensive to woo Americans."

After such large-scale and blatant bribing, is there any other explanation as to why the Obama administration continues to grant dispensation of the Freedom Support Act whose Section 907 refers to penalties on Azerbaijani misbehavior?

Azerbaijan is on a media offensive to portray Armenia as aggressor by forcing or begging countries to blame Armenia as a "perpetrator of Genocide" in Khojaly. The last victim of that propaganda was the largest Moslem country of Indonesia, whose recent past is tainted with the murder of 500,000 ethnic Chinese and crimes against the people of East Timor.

Azerbaijan, pushing the envelope further, was recently engaged in war games with Turkish armed forces using the Azeri mainland and the exclave of Nakhichevan. According to the Turkish daily *Milliyet*, that was Ankara's tacit response to Aghvan Hovsepian, Armenia's prosecutor general who recently made a reference, during a conference of jurists, about Armenia's territorial claims from Turkey.

On the heels of all these developments Azerbaijan's defense minister contributed his share of tension, reiterating Aliyev's claims: "Azerbaijan has no other way but to liberate the occupied territory by strengthening its army," said Safar Abiyev during the visit of a Korean parliamentary delegation to Baku on July 12.

Against all these odds, Armenians were lulled to believe that they enjoy some security thanks to a strategic alliance with Moscow. But that guarantee proved hollow as Moscow began arming Azerbaijan. Moscow's actions will do nothing except to escalate the tension in an already-volatile region.

Should war break out, it will be an existential conflict for Armenia.

In view of the growing dangers, one would think that Armenians themselves should sober up and raise the level of their defenses. But unfortunately, over there people are engaged in self-flagellation, concocting scandals and sapping the vitality of the nation. Electronic media in Armenia, employing locals, is mostly financed by self-serving outside sources who can only add more fuel to the existing tinder. Some people are alarmed but the majority is indifferent. The dangerous trend of depopulation continues and everybody blames someone else, but that does not add a single number to the statistics nor does it tackle ways to keep the population at home and happy, i.e. jobs, housing, rule of law, etc.

It looks like Armenians are infected with the rare disease of self-destruction.

Historic precedents do not inspire much hope, since in the middle of the 11th century Armenians voluntarily surrendered the bustling metropolis of Ani to Byzantium. In 1375, they were so engaged in court intrigues and internecine quarrels that the Cilician Kingdom fell easily to the Mamluks and in 1920 the infighting was so intense and senseless that the independent republic was taken over by the Soviets.

But then again, one thing we are good at, is creating heart-wrenching songs about freedom and independence and singing them nostalgically for six centuries.

Is it time to be sarcastic or to sober up to face the impending war?

## LETTERS

### A Lesson in Humility Learned in Oklahoma

To the Editor:

I came from Edgecomb, Maine, as a disaster mental health worker for the Red Cross to help in the Oklahoma tornadoes' relief.

Upon my arrival on May 27, the damage witnessed was more than one could have imagined. Miles and miles of devastation: homes, businesses, schools, and even a hospital, all destroyed or damaged beyond belief. Homes, cars, trucks and trees were left as piles of rubble and debris in every direction.

My deployment began in Shawnee as a team member going out in the community to help homeowners and citizens in their environment. Shortly thereafter, I was assigned to West Moore High School (WMHS) in Moore.

Moore is the community that was ambushed by the EF-5 tornado on May 20, suffering major devastation. The high school became the Multiple Agency Resource Center (MARC). The MARC was one of four resources in Oklahoma helping people to recover and begin to heal from their losses. Losses included loved ones: spouses, children, relatives, neighbors and pets. Losses also included homes, cars and possessions of all kind, ranging from sacred items to every belonging owned.

While there, we experienced four more tornadoes from May 28 through May 31. Volunteers were exposed to the threat of destruction and physical harm from winds over 200 miles, massive thunder and lightning, plus six inches of rain which only served to hamper movement and created emotional crisis, anxiety and fear for volunteers and

storm survivors alike.

Our work at the MARC was the process to helping victims begin their recovery by assisting from the initial registration and progressing through exploration of the various resources at their disposal. On average 25 agencies provided services to these needy victims: Red Cross, FEMA, Catholic Charities, Southern Baptist Ministries, Salvation Army, Veteran Administration, Vet Centers, Oklahoma Housing Authority, local counseling agencies, food banks, shelters and local churches of all denominations. A formal process of assistance was established from identification of the person, validation of their losses, and then assignment of assistance. Tornado survivors received help from the various agencies. Agencies offered funds, temporary housing, food, clothing, medical services, prescriptions, legal services and the like. Throughout my time at WMHS approximately 500 victims were helped everyday by some 100 volunteers and paid staff from all the resources present. My role was to be a supportive mental health worker available to provide support, encouragement, grief counseling and healing for the trauma victim's experienced.

What was most amazing as I worked with these people, men, women, children of all ethnic backgrounds, faiths, cultures and beliefs, was that they thanked me "For being there from Maine to help us". What I experienced was a sense of humility, caring and love from people who suffered and lost everything including their children, relatives, loved ones, pets and possessions. They were spiritual, religious, giving people who demonstrated tolerance, stamina, strong resiliency and spirit for their survival through a belief system that was

so needed.

The tornado survivors treated me with the utmost respect and kindness whenever we talked or counseled over their issues, needs and future plans to recover including where to live, with the goal of returning to work and a sense of normalcy. Their goal was to take control and once again live their lives and reclaim the many roles they had to assume.

In their time of need, these wonderful Oklahomans offered tremendous spirit, love, caring and humility. They were an example of resiliency, stamina and belief that was both inspirational and meaningful to this private individual and professional in midst of their environment. I went to Oklahoma as a Red Cross Volunteer and returned home having witnessed humility, caring and strength that I could not imagine.

To these wonderful people of Oklahoma I owe tremendous thanks. In essence, they gave me hope and belief in people and an understanding of the "Oklahoma Standard" which made them strong and resourceful in their belief in people, caring, love and God. They make Oklahoma strong, viable and able to begin their recovery and healing.

May we all learn from the humility and humanity witnessed and experienced in Moore. I pray this humility and humanity affects all of us throughout this wonderful country of ours. As a result of my Red Cross deployment, I grew as a person and came home with a "lesson in humility" as taught by these fine Oklahoma people to whom I am so indebted.

– Jack Sarmanian, EdD, LCSW  
Edgecomb, Maine



## COMMENTARY



**My Turn**  
By Harut Sassounian

## In Major Policy Shift, Armenia Demands Lands from Turkey

Ever since independence in 1991, Armenia's leaders have been reluctant to make any concrete demands from Turkey beyond recognition of the Armenian Genocide.

Only in recent years, Armenian officials have begun to speak about "the elimination of the consequences of the genocide," without specifying the "consequences" and the means for their "elimination."

Earlier this month, however, a major shift was announced in Armenia's foreign policy vis-à-vis Turkey, when Aghvan Hovsepyan, the Prosecutor General of Armenia, called for the return of historic Armenian territories at an international conference of Armenian lawyers in Yerevan. This is the first time that a high-ranking Armenian government official has made such a public demand from Turkey.

In a lengthy and comprehensive speech, Hovsepyan stated that the recognition of the Armenian Genocide by various countries is simply a moral and emotional issue. Calling for a switch to "the legal field," the Prosecutor General indicated that "to eliminate the consequences of the Armenian Genocide" Turkey must "pay compensation to heirs of the Armenian Genocide, return to the Armenian

Church the miraculously still standing Armenian churches and properties in Turkey, and give back the 'lost territories' to the Republic of Armenia."

Prosecutor General Hovsepyan insisted that unless Armenians adopt this bold approach, they will not accomplish any concrete results in the next 100 years, just as they did not in the last 100 years. He proposed a thorough legal review of all international agreements regulating Armenia-Turkey relations, from the Berlin Treaty of 1878 to the signed but not ratified protocols of 2009. He also declared that the region of Nakhichevan is "an inseparable part of Armenia, albeit occupied by Azerbaijan." Hovsepyan urged the assembled lawyers from around the world to prepare the legal case for territorial demands from Azerbaijan and Turkey and present it to the Armenian government for eventual submission to the International Court of Justice (World Court).

Statements made by a prosecutor general usually do not carry much weight in international affairs, if it were not for the fact that several other high-ranking officials, including President Serge Sargsisian, President of the Constitutional Court Gagik Haroutyunyan, Minister of Diaspora Hranush Hakobyan, Armenia's Minister of Justice Hrair Tovmasyan and Minister of Justice of Artsakh (Karabagh) Ararat Tanielyan, also made remarks on restitutive justice at the lawyers' conference. It was clear that the Prosecutor General was the designated spokesman of the Armenian government to articulate its new tougher line toward Turkey in advance of the Genocide Centennial.

Using more circumspect language than the Prosecutor General, told the lawyers' conclave: "The international recognition and condemnation of the Armenian Genocide, and elimination of its consequences will always remain a salient issue. As long as the Armenian State is in existence, all efforts to deny and send into oblivion this historical real-

ity will be doomed. This greatest crime against humanity must be recognized and condemned once and for all, and first of all, by Turkey itself."

In keeping with the government's new policy orientation, Constitutional Court President Gagik Haroutyunyan announced that a special committee will be formed to prepare the legal documentation necessary for the pursuit of Armenian Genocide claims.

At the conclusion of the conference, the participants issued a joint statement asserting that the priority for Armenian lawyers is not proving the self-evident facts of the Genocide, but preparing a comprehensive legal document "to remedy the consequences of the Armenian Genocide."

This is a welcome development in terms of arriving at a consensus between the Armenian government and the Diaspora on the objectives to be pursued for the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

However, in order to move beyond mere emotionally inspiring statements, the Armenian leaders must take two immediate steps:

1) Withdraw the Armenian government's signature from the counter-productive Armenia-Turkey Protocols. On the eve of the Genocide Centennial, it would be inconceivable to move forward with fruitless efforts to improve relations with Turkey, while preparing to file a lawsuit for restitution.

2) Form a team of international law experts to begin structuring the legal case against Turkey in the World Court and/or the European Court of Human Rights.

While skeptics may not take seriously the recent policy pronouncements of the Armenian authorities, the Turkish Foreign Ministry has no such doubts. Last week, Ankara denounced the Armenian territorial demands, announcing angrily that "nobody can dare to claim territory from Turkey!"

# How Azerbaijan Is Like 'The Godfather'

By Michael Weiss

Few developments speak so well of how far Caucasian dictatorships have come since the grey days of the Soviet Union as the fabulously wealthy and incredibly investment-savvy 15-year-old male heir of Azerbaijan's ruling family.

When he was a mere 11 years old, Heydar Aliyev, the son of Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev, purchased \$44 million in luxury mansions on Palm Jumeirah, the elite artificial archipelago built by Dubai and known for housing both holidaying British soccer players and thieving Russian tax officials.

In the words of the *Washington Post's* Andrew Higgins, who broke the story in 2010, \$44 million is "roughly 10,000 years worth of salary for the average citizen of Azerbaijan."

But young Heydar wasn't the only member of his family engaged in Gulf property speculation. His two older sisters, Leyla and Arzu, were also listed as owners in Dubai's Land Department registry. Together, the three Aliyev children invested in \$75 million in Dubai real estate, which certainly is impressive considering that their father's official annual income as a public servant is just \$228,000. When asked for comment by Higgins, who showed how the date of birth and name for the listed Dubai owner was the same as Ilham's dauphin, Aliyev's spokesman Azer Gasimov replied: "I have no comment on anything. I am stopping this talk. Goodbye."

The reader will therefore understand why I didn't bother to try to reach Gasimov to explain Heydar's other high-profile but low-recognition investment. Now 15, the Aliyev son and likely heir to Azerbaijan's political dynasty has also got himself a sideline in commercial banking, judging from corporate filings I've obtained. These documents show that he controls a parent company that owns, through an offshore subsidiary, almost half of Russian mega-bank VTB's Azerbaijani subsidiary.

Nothing wrong with that, you say. It's a fine idea to give a pubescent a solid education in the credit industry, what with all global shenanigans that have taken place in the last five years.

There are only two problems.

The first is that VTB, which is the second-largest bank in Russia and is 75 percent-owned by the Russian government, is also one of the fastest-growing financial institutions on the

planet, with retail, commercial and investment arms in 19 countries, including the United States. It has been, and continues to be, dogged by civil lawsuits filed in multiple jurisdictions because of its issuance of loans that have led High Court justices to wonder "what, if any, due diligence" was carried out beforehand. VTB has been accused to being little more than a vehicle for the enrichment of its executives and for the Kremlin's "economic diplomacy" in luring foreign direct investment to Russia – a Putinist Lehman Brothers. In 2011, it took in about \$712 million in German and French pensioner deposits, and earlier this year, it featured prominently and unflatteringly in the Cyprus credit implosion, given the \$13.8 billion in assets it had tied up in the Mediterranean country long rumored to be a money-laundering haven.

Embattled Russian opposition leader Alexey Navalny is particularly fond of exposing VTB's dodgy history; in September 2012, his Foundation for Fighting Corruption published a comprehensive report examining some of the highlights (full disclosure: I edited it).

The second problem is that in May of this year, Azerbaijan's sovereign wealth fund invested \$500 million in VTB's secondary public offering (SPO). It was joined by Qatar's and Norway's sovereign wealth funds and, collectively, all three gobbled up 55 percent of the SPO. According to Herbert Moos, VTB's chief financial officer, "We have been working with the [Azerbaijani sovereign wealth fund] on a real estate investment in Moscow, their first investment, and they have a 20 percent allocation to Russia so they made a strategic decision to invest in us and become a business partner."

Good thing Heydar has ample real estate experience, otherwise his father's regime might have balked at the prospect of throwing a cool half a billion into a bank heavily owned by the baby of the Aliyev family.

Here's what we can prove from open-source financial filings and Panama's surprisingly helpful corporate registry. On November 9, 2009, Ataholding, an open joint-stock company that manages AtaBank, one of the biggest commercial banks in Azerbaijan, purchased 48.99 percent of VTB's Azerbaijani subsidiary. The remaining 51 percent is owned by VTB and thus mostly owned by the Russian government. As of December 31, 2009, AtaBank's investment was valued at 10,887,310 Azerbaijani manats, which at today's exchange rate is around \$13.8 million.

Ataholding is 51-percent owned by a Panama-registered shell company called Hughson Management, Inc., of which, as the Ataholding financial statement for 2009 informs us, Heydar Aliyev has the controlling interest. At least that's in the iteration of the statement I received.

Curiously, and perhaps owing to the diligent spadework of Andrew Higgins, the Ataholding statement currently hosted on the company's website does not include the notes section of the earlier copy, which features this disclosure:

The group's immediate parent is Hughson Management Inc., tax resident of Republic of Panama (2008: Hughson Management Inc., tax resident of Republic of Panama). The group is ultimately controlled by Mr. Heidar Aliyev (2008: Mr. Heidar Aliyev).

Hughson Management is still currently listed as the majority owner of AtaBank.

Now, there have been exactly two prominent Heydar Aliyevs in Azerbaijan's recent history. The first was a KGB chief turned Communist ruler of the Soviet autonomous region (1969-1982) and was the kind of Stalinoid satrap-cum-mafia kingpin who found it necessary to bribe

Leonid Brezhnev in order to remain in power. Gorbachev's rise in Moscow coincided with this Heydar's eclipse in Baku. He subsequently became first the de facto head of the republic, as the USSR was falling apart, and then the first president of post-Soviet Azerbaijan in 1993. Heydar ruled until 2003, which is the year he died. That would have made it difficult – though probably not impossible given that Azerbaijan one of the world's most corrupt countries – for him to be found owning banks five years later. The elder Heydar was immediately succeeded by his son Ilham, the State Department's Michael/Sonny metaphor whose own "election" in 2003 Human Rights Watch characterized as the rotten fruit of "bureaucratic interference and political intimidation against the opposition [which made] a free and fair pre-election campaign environment impossible." Terms limits for presidents were abolished in 2009, the same year the regime clamped down on domestic press freedoms and took the BBC, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty and Voice of America off the air.

Here's how the US embassy in Baku described Ilham Aliyev in 2009: "Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev utilizes distinctly different approaches to foreign and domestic policies. He typically devises the former with pragmatism, restraint see GODFATHER, page 16

## Christopher Walker Responds to Article in *New Internationalist*

British Historian and author Christopher Walker sent the following letter to the *New Internationalist* in response to an article titled "Reintroducing Serge Sargsisian," which appeared in the June issue. The letter by Walker appears in the July/August issue of the *New Internationalist*.

Re: "Reintroducing Serzh Sargsyan," NI 463, The Armenian population "vulnerable to Islamophobic manipulation?" The Armenians are not vulnerable to any manipulation, least of all Islamophobic: they have good connections with Iran (where they have an established community), as well as Lebanon, Syria (even now), Egypt and Jordan. Their problem with Turkey lies in the planned mass killing of 1915, which amounted to genocide against them. This was only peripherally "Islamic;" the organisers of the killings (which took place in the old Ottoman Empire) were professed atheists.

Nor did Armenia seize Nagorno Karabagh from Azerbaijan in 1994. The majority people of the enclave were and are Armenian, and they had demonstrated and voted for separation from Azerbaijan since 1988. When Azeri forces intervened to shut them up, local Karabagh self-defence force threw them out (as imperialist aggressors). Armenia itself, so recently independent, had no army to speak of at the time. That of the Azeris simply collapsed in June 1993. The separation of Nagorno Karabagh from Azerbaijan should be hailed as a victory for independence, liberty and self-determination, against alien aggression, cultural chauvinism and imperial bossiness.

– Chris Walker



# How Azerbaijan Is Like 'The Godfather'

GODFATHER, from page 15

and a helpful bias toward integration with the West, yet at home his policies have become increasingly authoritarian and hostile to diversity of political views. This divergence of approaches, combined with his father's continuing omnipresence, has led some observers to compare the Aliyevs with the fictional 'Corleones' of Godfather fame, with the current president described alternately as a mix of 'Michael' and 'Sonny.' Either way, this Michael/Sonny dichotomy complicates our approach to Baku and has the unfortunate effect of framing what should be a strategically valuable relationship as a choice between US interests and US values."

What else do we know about Hughson Management, the parent company of Ataholding? Well, the president and treasurer of it are, respectively, little Heydar's older sisters, Arzu (now aged 24) and Leyla (who just turned 28 last week).

Arzu and Leyla were linked to a highly lucrative Azerbaijani telecom company called Azerfon in a much-discussed piece of investigative journalism conducted by Khadija Ismayilova of RFE/RL in June 2011. Ismayilova found that Azerfon was owned by three Panama-registered entities, another company registered in a Caribbean tax haven jurisdiction, and Azerbaijan's state-owned Aztelekom company. The three Panama-registered companies each owned a 24 percent stake: one of these was Hughson Management. And although Ismayilova cited the governance structure of Hughson in her article, she did not disclose that the owner was Heydar Aliyev, which adds telecom mogul to his real estate and banking portfolio. (Just wait till he gets to college.)

She did, however, connect Hughson to a mysterious third party, a Swiss financier and art collector named Olivier Mestelan, who owns the Kicik QalArt gallery in Baku and founded the Art ex East Foundation. He was profiled prominently in the Moscow-published "style magazine" Baku, the editor-in-chief of which is none other than Leyla Aliyeva, who is very style-conscious indeed. The Mestelan profile stated that the Swiss national owns property in Azerbaijan and visits the country several times a year. But

he evidently does a bit more than that. In August 2011, this State Department cable named Mestelan as one of the "top Azerbaijani officials...of particular interest" to the US government owing to these officials' cozy relationships with Baku's first family, chiefly President Ilham and his wife Mehriban Aliyeva.

These are not relationships that Aliyevs wish to see explored by muckraking journalists. Following her exclusive, Ismayilova was targeted by a particularly nasty campaign of state harassment, which included her being sent an envelope filled with "pictures of a personal nature" and a message reading: "whore, behave, or you will be defamed." These images were later published in Azerbaijani newspapers associated with the ruling New Azerbaijan Party, of which President Aliyev is also the chairman. Ismayilova later discovered and documented

surveillance wires that had been installed in the walls and ceilings of her home kitchen, bathroom and bedroom, apparently while she was out of the country just days after RFE/RL published her piece. The government's "investigation" of the tapping of Ismayilova's residence was a whitewash.

Of further interest is the fact that, according to Hughson's more recent governance filings, Olivier Mestelan left the company as secretary in April 2012, about a month before second RFE/RL report — this one co-written by Ismayilova — demonstrated how the Aliyev regime had assigned the Azerbaijani International Mineral Resources Operating Company, Ltd (AIMROC) the right to develop a gold mine valued at \$2.5 billion in Chovdar, a mountainous village in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, which was ravaged by

years of war with Armenia. AIMROC, widely thought by angry Chovdar residents to be a British company, is in fact owned by four separate shells, only one of which (Globex International) is British. RFE/RL found that Globex International was itself owned by three Panama-registered companies, each of which listed Leyla and Arzu Aliyeva and Olivier Mestelan as senior managers. As of this writing, Mestelan is also listed as a member of the "supervisory board" of Ataholding, the company that owns AtaBank and half of VTB's Azerbaijani subsidiary.

I'll do the State Department a favor and cast Mestelan as the "Tom Hayden" of the Aliyev family.

(This article originally ran in the *Atlantic* in its July issue.)

## Armenian Diocese in Canada in Disarray

CANADA, from page 1

and fed by Bagrat *Serpazan* and his collaborators.

This year was the regularly scheduled election or re-election time of the Primate in Canada. Bagrat *Serpazan* did not obtain the majority of votes; therefore, according to the universally accepted system in the Armenian Apostolic Church, he is now to be replaced.

This is not an unusual event by any means. Like in any other election in a civilized community, the loser congratulates the winner and continues his journey without leaving destruction behind him.

Archbishops Aris Shirvanian, Sion Manoogian and others lost elections, and they acted gracefully. They moved back to Echmiadzin and eventually were reassigned other positions.

Why did Bagrat *Serpazan* choose instead to instigate a violent and vicious social media and Internet campaign, slinging mud and slanderous accusations left and right? Why did he instigate, and still continues to feed, this communi-

ty destroying action?

It is being said that on the Internet thousands are asking him not to leave. A good number of the latter are genuine in the expression of their feelings, but ignorant of the causes that led Bagrat *Serpazan* to lose the elections. A number of others bear grudges and find this to be a convenient opportunity to get at the dedicated pastors and at the prominent architects of our community who have impeccable track records.

Canadians must realize that a very large number of the Facebook writers are from any place on the planet such as Russia, Israel, Australia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, and quite a few use fake names.

In previous statements, we asked that the comments by the two sides stop in order to stop the issue from expanding further.

However, insults, lies and incriminations continued to be spread. So-called interviews by unknown individuals continue to spread poison in our community. They have to be stopped.

Therefore, the community must now know that Bagrat *Serpazan* had two very different types of conduct in this community.

He was, and could indeed be, friendly when and where he wanted. He could be a very pleasant dinner companion, travel and concert organizer, a very close family friend for some. Those who have been exposed to this side of him are understandably quite upset by his departure. But they should not hope for his return.

Indeed *Serpazan's* other type of conduct is known only to those who have been involved in the pursuit of the serious daily business of the diocese.

He has been arrogant and bullying with his subordinates; he was equally arrogant and uncommunicative with those who would normally be his colleagues. You could either agree with him or be classified in his book as an enemy.

His judgment in serious matters of governance of the community have been proven to be wrong or even worse, very costly and catastrophic, and yet he would turn down any and all advice in those very serious matters, when advice was given to him beforehand.

Our community must know that due to his unwise but stubborn actions, where he found a few willing accomplices, this community came to the brink of losing for good our beautiful St. Gregory the Illuminator Cathedral. Do his "admirers" realize what that means?

Indeed, he has driven secretly and illegally according to our bylaws, together with his accomplices, the financial negotiation to mortgage this church. The prepared documents of this transaction, bearing the names of the participants, with the Chomedey Caisse Populaire are available. It was stopped only because of the prompt action of a few conscientious parishioners who asked for an extraordinary general meeting where the illegal plot led by Bagrat *Serpazan* was exposed and stopped.

The above mortgaging plot was actually prompted by Bagrat *Serpazan* trying awkwardly to bring his kind of fast "remedy" or cover up to an even bigger financial blunder in the Laval project.

Unknown to many, he actually was, as usual,

ordering those around him to get into a succession of incomprehensible actions leading to the waste of several hundreds of thousands of dollars from funds raised at the expense of well-meaning parishioners of the Laval Holy Cross church. When out of funds, he arranged and forced to make loans left and right. The church now is under the burden of over \$1 million in debt.

A detailed accounting was given at the joint meeting of the Laval Parish Council with the Diocesan Council and the Board of Trustees. Our readers should ask for the official reports.

It was only one year ago that those involved in the daily operations of the Laval project have sounded a desperate alarm to intervene and stop the senseless actions in the Laval project which were led by the insistent permanent bullying of Bagrat *Serpazan*, even though he, as a Primate, actually should have stayed entirely out of such primarily financial and legal issues which are outside his domain.

To cite only one of these actions, it was revealed that Bagrat *Serpazan* had pushed at one point, the financially desperate parish, to accept a \$100,000 loan that he personally had arranged at an extravagant interest rate of 36 percent. This is unheard of! A few months later, he told them to not pay that outrageous interest. How about the consequences...? Nothing, as far as he is concerned...! In his judgment such things are "small" matters. Those who find this hard to believe should ask for the details from the Laval Parish authorities.

How do *Serpazan's* admirers feel about such behavior?

Should one still talk also about a recently discovered performing artists promoting private company, registered in Quebec, of which Bagrat *Serpazan*, as vice chairman, is one of the main officers? Was that part of his religious mission as Primate of Canada?

In conclusion, Bagrat *Serpazan's* failure to be elected is the normal result of all of the above and many more of his acts, nothing else. No personal vendetta, no political party intervention, none of the latter; those are convenient labels to cover up his very serious problems.

Legally-elected delegates have legally voted him down because of his very serious actions that are only partially exposed above.

It is sincerely wished that he learns from his mistakes in order to serve the Armenian Church elsewhere in a more responsible way in the future.

Coming back to our community, it is now known that given the incredible and highly-disturbing turmoil that has been created in our diocese, *Vehapar* is taking the appropriate extraordinary pontifical measures to bring remedy to our community. The legally elected Primate Arën Jebejian does not deserve to be exposed to the hostile atmosphere.

In spite of all of the above, the primary interest of our community now is to heal the wounds and get back to constructive work, all together.

We appeal once more to all to stop further exchanges on this matter. Let us get together to repair what is broken and continue to work to the benefit of our outstanding Canadian community.

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