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is banking on the  
people

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Yerevan's  
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Eastern U.S. Edition

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# the armenian reporter



President Serge Sargsian addresses the leaders of over 50 political parties, as Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian looks on. He made a case for an agreement on bilateral relations negotiated with Turkey.  
Photo: Hayk Badalyan/Photolure.

## President consults political parties on Turkey relations

See story on page 1

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**HD**

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## National

### Sen. Menendez to receive ANCA-Eastern Region Freedom Award

The Armenian National Committee of America Eastern Region will honor United States Senator Robert Menendez with its Freedom Award at the Third Annual ANCA

Eastern Region Banquet hosted by the Armenian Cultural Association of America on Saturday, October 3, 2009 at Espace in New York City.

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## Commentary

### Taner Akçam: The decision will be made by politicians, not historians

In an interview with Turkey's *Taraf* daily, Professor Taner Akcam discusses the agreement initialed by Armenia and Turkey on the normalization of bilateral relations.

He rejects the notion that a commission could determine whether the events of 1915 constituted genocide – a matter that is settled.

See story on page 23

## Community

### Little hearts: Two Armenian-Americans create documentary about child protection in Armenia

Two high-school students from Connecticut went to Armenia to volunteer at the Child Protection Center,

and make a documentary about it. They look back at the experience.

See story on page 18

## Community



Hakob Hakobyan's *Spring Day*.

### Armenian Radio N.J. and Hovnanian School sponsor "Art in Fall"

The Armenian Radio Hour of N.J. and the Hovnanian School are planning an art exhibit, "Art in Fall," for Saturday, October 17, at the Hovnanian School Auditorium. The works

of well-known artists – Hakob Hakobyan, Vagharshag Elibekian, Robert Elibekian, and Arek Elibekian – will be on display for sale.

See story on page 7

## International

### Founder Yervant Zorian discusses the launch of AGBU's Armenian Virtual College

The AGBU Armenian Virtual College (AVC) went online earlier this year for a summer trial session that attracted hundreds of eager students from every corner of the world. AVC

founder Yervant Zorian speaks about what the trial session showed and about his vision for the college.

See story on page 19

## Arts

### Exhibition of rare Armenian postcards opens in Yerevan

An exhibition titled, "My Dear Brother, Armenians in Turkey 100 Years Ago," opened on September 15 at the Moscow Theater in Yerevan. Through the initiative of the Civilitas Foundation and Turkish historian Osman Köker's publishing house Birzamanlar, this

exhibition, which was brought to Armenia from Istanbul, represents the substantial presence of Armenians in dozens of cities and villages within the Ottoman Empire.

See story on page 16



The leaders of over 50 political parties convened to hear President Serge Sargsian make his case for an agreement on bilateral relations negotiated with Turkey. Photo: Hayk Badalyan/Photolure.

## President consults political parties on Turkey relations

### But protocols "aren't subject to change"

### From the opposition, only ARF participates

by Tatul Hakobyan

YEREVAN – As members of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation continued a hunger strike in front of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and a sit-in in front of the government building to protest the concessions agreed to by the Armenian government in exchange for an end

to the Turkish blockade of Armenia, President **Serge Sargsian** on September 17 invited the leaders of dozens of political parties to discuss the latest developments in Armenia-Turkey relations.

"By inviting Turkey's president to Armenia [in 2008] and initiating this whole process, I intended to open a window of possibility to normalize relations between Armenia and Turkey and to demonstrate that a people who have suffered genocide – the Armenian nation . . . in reality has enough power to be the first to extend a hand," Mr. Sargsian said.

Earlier, Foreign Minister **Edward Nalbandian** had emphasized that it was not possible to make any changes or amendments to the agreements that had been negotiated, and that they would be signed as is.

"It is not possible to imagine that the parliament of any country conducts negotiations and makes changes based on the proposals presented by members of parliament," Mr. Nalbandian said from the podium of the National Assembly in response to a question addressed to him by the ARF's **Vahan Hovhannesian**. "If that were the case, then no negotiation process would have a conclusion, and we would not achieve anything. The protocols have been presented for public study, discussion. Members of parliament will have the opportunity to express their opinions during the discussions for ratification, and if the majority of the parliament agrees

Continued on page 20

## IMF sees renewed growth in Armenia

by Emil Danielyan

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) – The International Monetary Fund remains satisfied with the Armenian authorities' response to the global economic downturn and expects Armenia's economy to resume its growth next year, a senior IMF official said on September 16.

**Mark Lewis**, head of a visiting IMF mission, said that the economy would significantly benefit from a possible reopening of the Turkish-Armenian border. He argued that an open frontier with Turkey would open a new and lucrative market to Armenian exporters, reduce the cost of imports to the landlocked South Caucasus state, and fostering regional economic integration.

"So, in sum, we would see higher growth, higher exports and investment, and improved standards of living of the Armenian population," Mr. Lewis told a news conference in Yerevan.

The mission headed by him spent the past two weeks meeting top Armenian government and Central Bank officials to discuss their anti-crisis measures, which are supported by an IMF loan approved in March. The fund raised the total amount of the standby arrangement by more than half, to \$823 million, in June, citing the sharper-than-anticipated impact of the global recession on



Mark Lewis, head of a visiting IMF mission. Photo: Tigran Tadevosyan/Photolure.

the country. About \$158 million of the extra funding was immediately made available to the Armenian authorities.

Mr. Lewis indicated that his talks in Yerevan paved the way for the disbursement next month of an

other installment of the loan worth about \$60 million. He praised the authorities for their "very good performance" in taking steps that the IMF believes are necessary for

Continued on page 3

## NATIONAL



by Emil Sanamyan

### Armenian-American groups split on Turkey protocols

The protocols on the establishments of bilateral relations and diplomatic relations that Armenia and Turkey are expected to sign on October 13 continue to be debated by Armenian-Americans.

The traditional political parties – the Armenian Revolutionary Federation (Dashnaks), the Social Democratic Hunchakian Party, and the Armenian Democratic Liberal Party (Ramkavars) – have opposed the initiative, while the Armenian Assembly of America (AAA) and the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) have issued conditional endorsements.

In a September 9 letter addressed to President **Barack Obama**, leaders of the AAA and AGBU and the primates of the Eastern and Western Dioceses of the Armenian Church referred to the protocols and said they “look[ed] forward to a positive outcome” and the normalization of relations.

At the same time, they expressed concern with Turkey’s efforts to link talks with Armenia to the Karabakh peace process and warned that “if this normalization process is used as a smokescreen for not reaffirming the Armenian Genocide and the U.S. record, it will be a blow to the rapprochement process.”

Meanwhile, in Southern California, the protocols’ opponents have organized a series of public protests and public meetings to denounce the deal as compromising Armenian interests. Much of the criticism has focused on the impact the protocols would have on efforts to win international condemnation of the Armenian Genocide and address its consequences.

## Washington briefing

In Washington, the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA) will organize two town hall-style meetings to discuss the protocols on September 24 and 26.

### U.S. scraps European missile defense plan, launches fresh Iran diplomacy

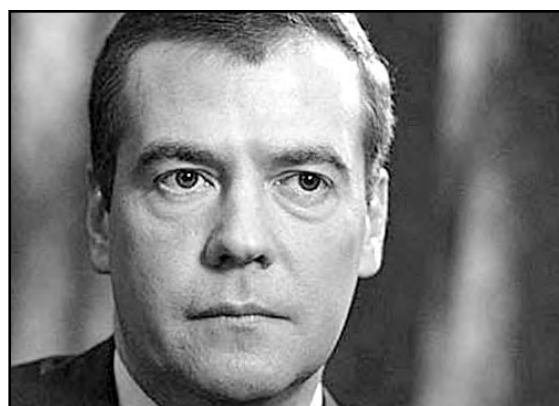
The Obama administration decided to cancel the former president’s plan to place missile interceptors and radars in Poland and the Czech Republic, officials were quoted as saying on September 17.

The Bush administration had said it wanted the new military installations to counter a potential missile threat from Iran. But the plan was strongly opposed by Russian leaders, who saw it as undermining their country’s nuclear weapons deterrent.

The decision this week to scrap the plan was welcomed by Russia



Tigran Sarkisian speaking on Sept. 16. Photo: Armenian government.



Russia’s President Dmitry Medvedev

as well as several European officials. Russia’s President **Dmitry Medvedev** called the decision a “responsible approach” and said he looked forward to dialogue with the United States during meetings at the United Nations next week.

Also next week, President Obama will become the first American president to chair a United Nations Security Council session. According to *Politico* newspaper, the United States will introduce a new resolution that would make the pursuit of peaceful nuclear energy contingent on countries’ not being in violation of the nuclear nonproliferation treaty. Commentators see the initiative as aimed at building an international consensus against Iran’s nuclear program.

The resolution would also include a pledge by nuclear-armed countries not to use nuclear weapons against countries that don’t have such weapons.

Officials from the five permanent Security Council member states (which include Russia) plus Germany are due to hold talks with Iran on October 1.

### Turkey seeks upgraded missile defense shield

The Turkish government is considering proposals on ways to

improve its missile defense capabilities, including a potential \$7.8 billion deal with U.S. companies, news media reported.

On September 11, the Obama administration notified Congress of the possible sale, involving Raytheon and Lockheed Martin, two of the largest U.S. weapons’ manufacturers, which have also long lobbied for Turkish interests in the United States.

Reacting to the U.S. announcement, the Turkish Defense Ministry noted that as part of a request for proposals unveiled last April, Ankara was considering offers from the United States, Russia, and China for the purchase of missile defense systems, with no final decisions yet made.

According to *Zaman*, Turkey’s

defense budget amounted to \$11 billion in 2008, but the country’s weapons acquisition is believed to be covered from non-budget sources that are not fully disclosed. In recent years, Turkey has increasingly been buying weapons from non-U.S. sources.

If it goes through, the deal would become part of a U.S. effort to deter Iran by establishing what U.S. Secretary of State **Hillary Clinton** described last July as a “defense umbrella” for America’s Middle East allies.

Iran already has the capability to launch missiles at any part of Turkey’s territory.

### Coming up: Armenia’s Prime Minister to visit U.S.

A visit of Prime Minister **Tigran Sarkisian** to the United States is in the works, Armenia’s Ministry of Economy revealed in a statement on September 11.

Specific dates for the visit have not yet been made public, but Mr. Sarkisian’s visit last year was timed to coincide with board meetings of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund that are held in Washington every year. This year’s meetings are planned on October 6 and 7.

The visit is also likely to include the regular meeting of the bilateral U.S.-Armenia Task Force on economic issues.

### Internship opportunity

The *Armenian Reporter’s* Washington office is taking interns. Send a statement of interest, a cv, and a 1,000-word writing sample to [emil.sanamyan@reporter.am](mailto:emil.sanamyan@reporter.am). ☞



U.S.-made Patriot missile defense systems used by the German military. The U.S. seeks to sell similar systems to Turkey. Photo: Wikipedia.

## Armenian-American seeks Virginia congressional seat

### Charles Diradour challenges No. 2 House Republican Eric Cantor

WASHINGTON – **Charles Diradour**, a Richmond real estate developer, will challenge incumbent Rep. **Eric Cantor** (R.-Va.) in the 2010 congressional elections, Mr. Diradour’s campaign reported on September 15.

A third-generation Richmond resident, Mr. Diradour has been active in the local Armenian community and the city’s politics. But local media reports suggest he will have

a challenging run against a prominent incumbent in a district that has historically favored Republican candidates.

Last year, Rep. Cantor was elected Republican Whip in the House of Representatives, the number-two position in the GOP congressional hierarchy just below minority leader.

In office since 2001, Mr. Cantor is a member of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues. He has co-sponsored resolutions on the Armenian Genocide, with the exception of the 2007 resolution, which was blocked by the Republican administration and congressional leadership.

Prior to his election to Congress and while a member of Virginia

General Assembly, Mr. Cantor helped win recognition of the Armenian Genocide by the state. In April 2002 he was selected to chair the Genocide commemorative event in Virginia.

Mr. Diradour is the fourth Armenian-American known to have announced a 2010 campaign.

**Natalie (Manoogian) Mosher** and **David Krikorian** are also seeking the Democratic Party’s nomination in House races in Michigan and Ohio, respectively. And Republican **Danny Tarkanian** is challenging Senate Majority Leader **Harry Reid**, a Democrat, in Nevada. ☞

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Charles Diradour.

## INTERNATIONAL

## David Krikorian is banking on the people

Says he's  
"underwhelmed"  
with Armenian-  
American support so  
far

by Emil Sanamyan

WASHINGTON – David Krikorian, who ran a strong third-party/independent campaign in Ohio's 2nd congressional district in 2008, is now seeking the Democratic Party's nomination for the 2010 elections. Building on about 60,000 votes he received in 2008, Mr. Krikorian would need to more than double that support base to win in 2010.

Mr. Krikorian is also involved in a legal battle with the incumbent Republican representative, **Jean Schmidt**. Ms. Schmidt filed a complaint with the Ohio Elections Commission, claiming that Mr. Krikorian knowingly made false statements when he said during the 2008 campaign that Ms. Schmidt took money from the Turkish government. Ms. Schmidt opposes the Armenian-American agenda and has received strong support from Turkish-American groups. After its initial hearing on September 3, the Elections Commission is set to resume proceedings on October 1.

Mr. Krikorian spoke with our Washington Editor **Emil Sanamyan** by phone on August 27 about the complaint and the campaign.

### The Genocide complaint

**Armenian Reporter:** From the political perspective, what is the purpose of Rep. Schmidt's complaint against you? It almost seems counterintuitive that an incumbent would do something that brings all this added attention to her challenger.

**David Krikorian:** I think she vastly underestimated me and if she had to do this all over again, she never would have done it.

And you have to remember who is really pulling the strings. Do you think Jean Schmidt just thought of this one day? Or do you think it was the Turkish lobby that came to her and said, Hey, let's do this!

When you look at the pattern of what [attorney] **Bruce Fein**, the Turkish Coalition, and Turkish American Legal Defense Fund are doing across the country [launching legal challenges intended to undermine Armenian Genocide affirmation], it fits that pattern.

To think that [Rep. Schmidt] hatched this plan by herself in my opinion is not accurate. She is just not the brightest bulb on the tree.

And the Turks of course could care less about [Rep. Schmidt]; they are thinking about furthering their agenda in the United States and she is a willing tool for them to use.

**AR:** And the objective of these



David Krikorian holding the video record of Sibel Edmonds' deposition. Photo: Armenian Reporter.

legal challenges, you believe, is to intimidate those engaged in the discussion of the Armenian Genocide on the political level?

**DK:** Of course, as I am sure you are well aware. Everyone used to say, Oh, the Armenian Genocide, it's not a big issue today, it happened so many years ago. . . .

But if you watched the [former FBI Turkish-language translator] **Sibel Edmonds'** deposition, you could see how far the Turkish lobby was willing to go to prevent a simple resolution concerning what happened under Ottoman rule so long ago.

If it was not directly related to my ancestry, I would probably just think of it as silly. It makes absolutely no sense, this Turkish government opposition. Every time [the resolution is discussed] it gets more and more attention. It is self-defeating and the Turkish government needs to move on.

Turkey may fear demands for reparations, but I have to also say that they should be made to pay for what they did and they should not be allowed to get away with interfering in congressional deliberations, buying off or blackmailing members of Congress.

**AR:** On the substance of the complaint, what do you expect the commission to do?

**DK:** My own personal feeling is that none of [the five complaints] against me will be upheld, for a va-

riety of different reasons, including the fact that it is my First Amendment right to say whatever the heck I want to.

What, I can't call [the funds Rep. Schmidt received from Turkish interests], some \$29,500, "blood money"? Of course it is "blood money"!

You have got a representative who is taking money from a foreign lobby. Schmidt said in her deposition that she had no idea why she was the largest recipient of money from the Turkish lobby. Just think how stupid that sounds.

She claims she doesn't know if she ever received gifts from the Turkish government and never took a position on the Armenian Genocide resolution. When asked, she couldn't even define what is *genocide*.

At the end of the day, what the commission needs to determine is if I *willfully* made false statements. And I strongly feel that I did no such thing. I strongly believe that the Turkish government is behind those contributions and it is my right to feel that way and it is my right to say so.

It is also my right to say that Turkey is responsible for U.S. troops' deaths in Iraq, considering Turkey's opposition to the northern front against Saddam Hussein [and Turkey's subsequent interference in Iraq.]

But what this complaint has exposed is that Schmidt is bought and paid for by the Turkish lobby

and people don't like it when their representatives sell out like that.

My goal at the end of this is to make elected officials think twice before taking [Turkish lobby] money. And winning both the case and the election is the best way to do this.

### Primary fight

**AR:** How is the complaint affecting your position vis-à-vis the local Democratic Party? Obviously, winning the primary and the nomination is your most immediate challenge.

**DK:** I will have a primary challenger [term-limited Ohio State Representative **Todd Book**] who is a [Democratic] Party insider. I am of course a [Democratic] Party outsider. There are some benefits that he has as a result, and some benefits that I have.

What is to be kept in mind is that ours is a conservative district and a Democrat hasn't won here since 1980. And I don't believe that my primary opponent has any chance whatsoever to win in the general election, and a lot of people feel that way. I have been told that [this election] is just a name-recognition exercise for him and he just wants to run for another office later.

Frankly, some of the Democratic leaders here don't like it that the Armenian Genocide has been made an issue. They don't think it's important. Well, if their grandparents were survivors, you damn well bet they would think it's important.

I am banking on the people, not the party. And for someone to go out and get 18 percent of the vote [in 2008] without any party backing, that is remarkable and the best result for any such candidate in the United States [in 2008 elections]. That means I have the rapport with the people.

Having said that, we do have some support from among Democratic Party insiders.

But at the end of the day, we need to start electing leaders in this country, not just party-trained politicians. As far as I am concerned, my opponent, having been a member of Ohio legislature leadership, shares responsibility for our state's economic problems. How does that qualify him for a promotion?

I am a business owner and entrepreneur and I know how to solve problems. And I will not simply do what the party tells me to do, I will not be anybody's lapdog, and this guy is basically a poodle.

I am coming across as a fighter and I am not going to take any shit from anyone. And I think people in

my district want to see someone who is smart and tough that will put their interests ahead of the party's.

In 2008, 55 percent of this district voted against Jean Schmidt, and that means that our district does not want her. She just has to meet the right challenger.

### Where is the Armenian support?

**AR:** Have you received substantial support from Armenian-Americans?

**DK:** One of the things that decides who wins is how much money you raise. And one of the things that Schmidt has done by getting me involved in this complaint is taking a tremendous amount of my time and focus away from fundraising.

It also caused me to spend tens of thousands of dollars to defend myself in the Armenian Genocide case. And frankly speaking, the Armenian-American community is my best asset and they can't be shy about donating to my campaign.

And frankly, they need to start to donate to my campaign, because I have been very underwhelmed with the support that I have received from Armenians around the country. It has been rather ridiculous, with all this money pouring in from the Turks, and Armenians not doing a damn thing.

Where is the support? Where are the checks? It is really disappointing for someone who comes from the community, who is involved in this fight with national and international repercussions, yet every day I go to my mailbox and there are no checks, no online contributions from Armenians.

Frankly, if we lose, the Armenian-American community is partially to blame. What is it going to take these guys to write checks? I have been to the Armenian Assembly of America function - lot of people with a lot of money. Where are they? You can go down the list of top ten people in the Assembly - they haven't given me a thin red dime.

And that needs to be written about.

I know that people are asked for support for a variety of important things. But we keep fighting the same stupid congressional battles, year after year, on aid to Armenia, on ambassadorial appointments, on the Armenian Genocide.

But you know what? We'll continue to fight those battles until we get some of our own Armenian-Americans into the U.S. Congress. ☞

## IMF sees renewed growth in Armenia

Continued from page 1

coping with the crisis.

"In terms of the broader question of managing the crisis, we also think that the authorities have done a very good job," he said. "The global economic environment is very difficult and almost all countries have had to confront this crisis."

The IMF official pointed out that the Armenian government has been "very effective" in attracting more than \$1.5 billion in emergency loans from external sources that have al-

lowed it avoid major spending cuts, despite a serious shortfall in tax revenues. He also commended the Central Bank for seeking to spur bank credit to Armenian firms while maintaining the relative stability of the country's financial system.

According to Mr. Lewis, the IMF anticipates that these and other anti-crisis policies will help the Armenian economy expand by 1.2 percent in 2010. He said the growth will be primarily driven by rising international prices of nonferrous metals (Armenia's number-one ex-

port item) as well as domestic services and agriculture.

Armenia's gross domestic product plummeted by as much as 18.5 percent year-on-year in the first seven months of 2009, mainly because of a dramatic slump in the construction sector.

"For the remainder of year we see construction activity stabilizing and some small improvement in other areas," said Mr. Lewis. That is why, he added, the IMF expects the full-year GDP contraction to ease to 15.6 percent. ☞

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### Correction

Contrary to the caption for the photograph on the wrapper of our Sept. 12 issue, the winner of the women's 50-meter dash at the AYF Olympics was Angela Soor-

ikian of Philadelphia. Greater Boston's Araxi Krafiyan, misidentified as the winner of that race, in fact won the 200-meter dash. We regret the error.

## International

DOCUMENT

# Sibel Edmonds' testimony

### Part 4

Over the last three weeks, we published in installments the testimony of Sibel Edmonds in a case being considered by the Ohio Elections Commission. What follows is a fourth and final installment of edited excerpts.

The full text is available at [http://newsdemocrat.com/SiteImages/FileGallery/Sibel\\_transcript\\_393.pdf](http://newsdemocrat.com/SiteImages/FileGallery/Sibel_transcript_393.pdf)

The commission is considering the matter of **Jean Schmidt**, Plaintiff, v. **David Krikorian**, Defendant. Ms. Schmidt is a Republican member of the Ohio delegation in the U.S. House of Representatives. Mr. Krikorian challenged her as an independent in the 2008 election and is running for the Democratic Party's nomination for the 2010 election.

Ms. Schmidt is accusing Mr. Krikorian of making "false statements" that she took "blood money" from Turkish interests to oppose a congressional resolution on the Armenian Genocide. By summoning Ms. Edmonds, Mr. Krikorian sought to establish a pattern of efforts on the part of the Turkish government and affiliated entities to induce U.S. policy makers into opposing the genocide resolution.

The deposition was held on August 8 at the National Whistleblowers Center, located at 3238 P Street, N.W., Suite 690, Washington, D.C. Present on behalf of the plaintiff was attorney **Bruce Fein** of the Turkish American Legal Defense Fund. Present on behalf of the defendant was attorney **Dan Marino** of Luque, Geragos & Marino, LLP. Present on behalf of Ms. Edmonds was attorney **Michael D. Kohn** of Kohn, Kohn & Colapinto, LLP.

**MARINO:** Let me give you a hypothetical and just get your understanding of what might be going on because it's particularly relevant to our case.

You have a hypothetical Congresswoman from State X. Her district has no Turkish population to speak of or Armenian population to speak of. She's the largest recipient of Turkish PAC money in the 2008 election cycle. All right?

She meets with Livingston and Rogers or Livingston Group when they're escorting members of the Turkish parliament to a reception. She receives fact sheets from the Livingston Group talking about Turkish relations; goes to luncheons in honor of the Turkish Foreign Minister, and she opposes Armenian genocide resolution and, in fact, refuses to even recognize the genocide as a historical fact.

What's your sense? What does it tell you is going on there [...]

**EDMONDS:** Based on several that I personally know about in terms of how they conduct and how they behave, those elected officials who are serving the foreign government's interest, I would say that's modus operandi that you describe. It's a classic fit of how individuals who happen to owe their position and favors to a foreign government, in this particular case Turkey, behave at and the kinds of people they associate with. That modus operandi classically matches of the individuals I know who were serving Turkish government's and other Turkish entities' interest.

**MARINO:** And your view, based on what you know, would it be a reasonable statement to say that that Congresswoman is taking money from Turkish interest in part for denying the existence of the Armenian genocide? [...]

**EDMONDS:** Say based on my knowledge, my experience, and what I know, that money – those Turkish entities' lobby organization will not give a penny to anyone

unless they have a prior pact with that person. This is what you're going to do for us, and that has been the case at least up till 2002. [...]

**MARINO:** I understand that you executed an affidavit or a declaration actually in this case on August 5, 2009. [...] In Paragraph 3 of your declaration, you say, "I also obtained evidence that the government of Turkey had engaged in practices and policies that were inimical to American interests and had, in fact, resulted in both the direct and indirect loss of American lives." Do you recall saying that in your declaration?

**EDMONDS:** Yes.

**MARINO:** Can you tell me what practices and policies that you were referring to that were inimical to American interests?

**EDMONDS:** There's several. One is practices and operations implemented from mid-1990s at least until towards end of 2001 in Central Asia and Caucasus, and these operations and practices included Islamization of certain segments of those Turkic nations, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan. There are so many of them in that – in that area, and setting up madrasahs and bringing in, helping bringing – at the time they were not referred to as al-Qaeda until 2001, September 11th. They were referred to as mujahideens from Afghanistan and Pakistan into Central Asia, then to Turkey to give them passports, and then funnel them in 1997, 1998 to certain Eastern European countries and the Balkans. [...]

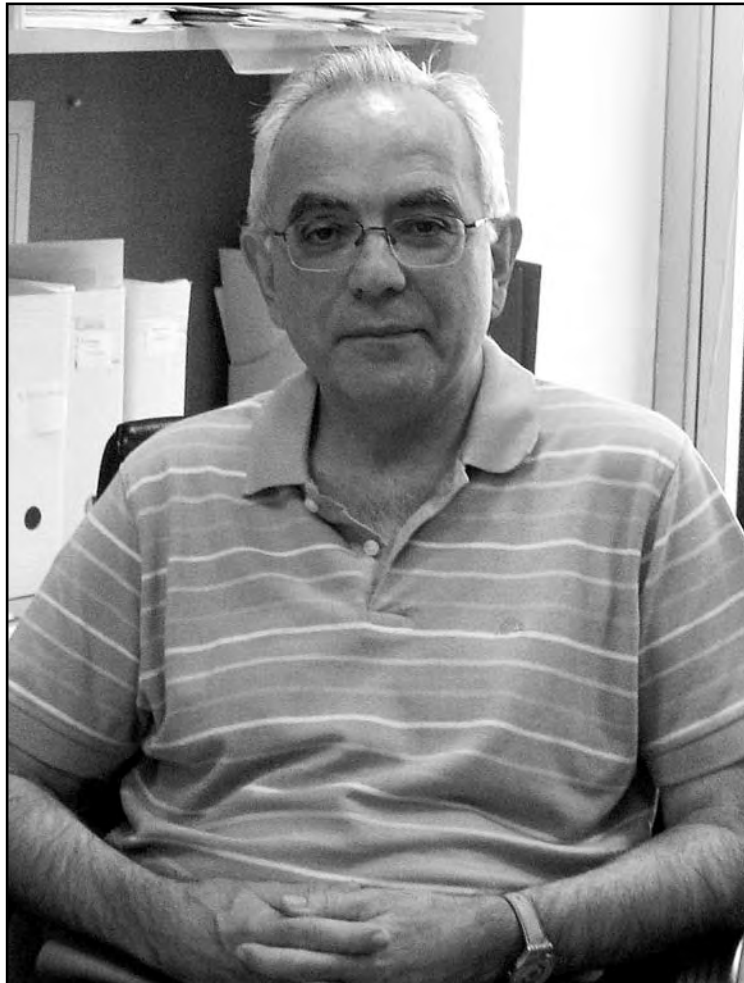
Those operations when until – at least until September 2001, and again, for those operations, they corroborated and worked with certain U.S. persons who were involved in these operations. [...]

**The "Turkish entities' lobby organization will not give a penny to anyone unless they have a prior pact with that person. This is what you're going to do for us...."**

[Another aspect was] helping these individuals from Azerbaijan, the Turkey entities that served the mujahideen groups starting from 1995, 1996. They were given Turkish passports. In some cases they were given Azerbaijani passports, and they – Turkey played a very active and important role in taking these people and moving them into Europe and some of those people actually ended up in the United States.

[Yet another] category that involved narcotics activities and that was, at least until I left, these Turkish people, and some of them are directly connected to Turkish intelligence and Turkish military in the United States, they played a very significant role in bringing in heroin from source from Afghanistan to Turkey, but from Turkey into both United States, but also directly to Belgium, large quantity, very, very large quantity of heroin.

**MARINO:** All right. So if I were to say that – if I were a Congress person and I'm taking money from the Turkish government either directly or indirectly, would it be a fair statement that I'm taking money from a government that has engaged in policies and practices that cost American lives?



Former Georgetown professor Sabri Sayari is now with Sabanci University in Istanbul.

**EDMONDS:** Correct. [...] [Following a lunch break]

**FEIN:** What were the work place arrangements for you to perform your work? Did you go to a fixed office at the FBI? Were you given opportunity to choose where you wanted to listen to tapes? How did that work?

**EDMONDS:** I can't give you details because of the area, but it was combination. As far as my main work that I was asked to do because it was top priority outside counterterrorism, it was only Washington field office, and that was where from other field offices they would send information related to Turkish related area and I would translate.

But for certain counterterrorism tasks I had to go to Philadelphia or New Jersey to the Special Agents. In some cases I had to interrogate 9/11 detainees that were shackled in rooms who didn't speak English and they spoke either Turkish or Farsi. It was a combination of different tasks.

**FEIN:** So your tasks included not only listening to tapes, but doing interrogation of detainees?

**EDMONDS:** I can't say tapes or not tapes, but in addition to audio, it was written. Also it included live interviews, going to various field offices, and translate interrogation results.

**FEIN:** You would translate an answer, but you wouldn't be the one making up the questions for the detainees or is that inaccurate?

**EDMONDS:** It depended because after September 11th, some of the FBI agents, they didn't know anything, and they were very nice and good to know that they didn't know anything. So they would defer to my expertise to ask the right questions from detainees and some of the immigrants they had rounded up.

In some cases there were certain Kurdish individuals, and even the Special Agent in Charge would take me out and say, "What kind of questions do you think needs to be asked?" and I would tell them this and this, and because of the region this person from Turkey had come, it's not a very religious city. So – or this person seems to be from the

They're very convoluted. I mean, I feel like you're just making an argument and then asking the witness a question which is unintelligible, and it seems like you're defending the government of Turkey and not cross-examining. [...]

**FEIN:** I'm just saying a government, a Turkish government sponsored PAC prior to 2002 – I think that was the time frame you were referring to – meant in your understanding that the government of Turkey gave money to the PAC in order to give to members of Congress. [...]

**EDMONDS:** Right, and they did so overtly and covertly. For example, sometimes the money in the form of a suitcase of cash would go to a certain person or business entity, and from that business person/entity, would be divided to ten people in order to not trace the origin of that money to that particular Turkish government agent or Turkish government group. So they did it in steps. So it just depends.

**FEIN:** So it would be like you would use or they would use the middle men. All right. It has come – the origin of the money is the government of Turkey. They give till it looks like a private business or entity, and they tell them you then turn around and maybe give it to another middle man so that there is some kind of chain of custody that separates the government of Turkey directly from the end user, but the origin of the money is from Turkey.

**EDMONDS:** Or a government entity associated with the ...

**FEIN:** A government owned corporation or enterprise of some type.

**EDMONDS:** Or it can be an entity, let's say. Let's say it can be a military attache person that is doing that, that the Turkish military attache and that person is – you know, that military attache person is employed by the Turkish government, and suddenly he says, "Okay. I have a suitcase of \$45,000, and how are we going to distribute that?" Unless they have a candidate in mind, there are ways they did it, and that would be – one way would be to give some of that cash. They get the citizens, Turkish people who are citizens here. You know, they give them cash, and they have each one of those citizens write some amount like under \$200, let's say, to a particular candidate.

Even though that money didn't come from those U.S. citizens, the money came from Turkish Embassy, and as long as it was under 200, they can get 500 Turkish people. Each one write \$200. So that's one of the ways they do it. [...]

**MARINO:** To your knowledge, do you have any information about the Turkish government sponsoring chairs at universities, like Princeton, University of Utah, and other places?

**EDMONDS:** Georgetown University, and not only that. Some of these academic experts also are recruited agents who actually steal U.S. military and intelligence related information because they have security clearances and they have obtained position in high level institutions, and one good example would be RAND Corporation, and Professor Sabri Sayari in Georgetown University who has stole tens of millions of dollars worth of secrets by actually recruiting people there that has been identified to him by his superiors, handlers, and he does it currently in – was doing it in 2002 with RAND Corporation, one of the individuals. That's an example of academic expert that they recruit. [...]

**FEIN:** So you did not mean the government of Turkey in the sense that there was an official government of Turkey policy that involved bribery. You meant that these could have been rogue elements that weren't operating under the aegis of the Prime Minister's office and doing this on their own for their own personal greed or pecuniary benefit. [...]

**KOHN:** Excuse me. The problem, the perception is when the President of the United States does something illegal, the government has done something illegal, and so I think it is difficult to try to pull them apart.

You're asking this individual to speak on behalf of actions taken on behalf of the government or taken on behalf of the representatives of the government, and I believe it's beyond her capacity to give you the specific answer you're looking for.

**MARINO:** I think these questions are very argumentative.

area and a family background that is ultra nationalist. So they would ask me to actually draft the questions to trick the detainees and get the right answers.

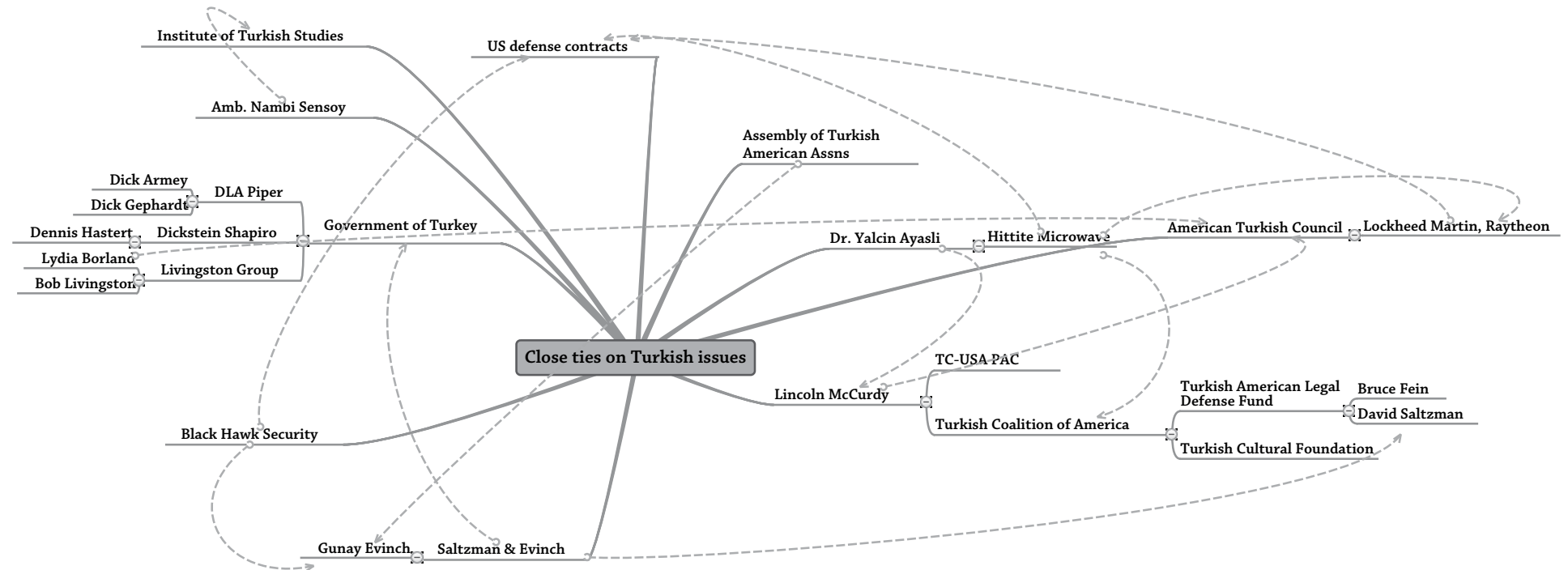
So, yes, in fact the Special Agents in Charge deferred to me to draft questions because they didn't know where Turkey even was. [...]

**FEIN:** When you testified earlier that the government of Turkey was corrupting the U.S. Congress and the executive branch officials by money, bribes, and blackmail, what did you mean by "the government of Turkey"?

**EDMONDS:** Individuals and certain individuals and operatives with official capacity, and that official capacity being the employees and members of Turkish government.

**The FBI "Special Agents in Charge deferred to me to draft questions because they didn't know where Turkey even was."**

## International



# Defense contractors join Turkish lobbying effort in pursuit of arms deals

by Luke Rosiak

The following article appeared on The Sunlight Foundation's Real Time Investigations blog at <http://realtime.sunlightprojects.org/> on September 16 and is reproduced here with permission.

The Defense Department's request last week for congressional approval of the sale of \$8 billion worth of PAC-3 missiles to Turkey was the latest victory for a disparate group of interests including defense contractors, finance and energy corporations, trade groups, the Turkish government, and a well-financed network of domestic advocacy groups. Intersecting interests have led them to join forces and lobby on a number of issues, including the characterization of distant historical events.

Turkey and the domestic advocacy groups that promote the interests of Turkish-Americans did so to protect the Turkey's image, while U.S. companies sought to bolster their own bottom lines. The efforts appear to have been successful for all the parties.

The Turkish government has consistently lavished millions each year on well-connected Washington lobbying firms - including those employing former House leaders - which contacted offices of the lower chamber 1,468 times, according to an analysis of data from Foreign Lobbying Influence Tracker of disclosures filed in 2008 by firms under the Foreign Agent Registration Act - nearly twice that of the second-highest country, Libya.

Turkey's efforts have now been augmented by a domestic effort

Luke Rosiak is a reporter at the Sunlight Foundation.

launched by a Turkish-American entrepreneur. **Yalcin Ayasli** founded Hittite Microwave in 1985 as a one-man company with a grant from the U.S. Air Force, and built the electronics company into a firm worth \$1.2 billion, with half of its products sold overseas, according to a company presentation. The company had \$180 million in revenue in 2008, according to SEC filings.

Since 2004 Hittite Microwave has received roughly \$30 million in contracts directly from the government - mostly to sponsor research and development - and has also done business with Lockheed Martin and other prime contractors, many of whom use Hittite electronics in their jets and other equipment, sold to both the U.S. military and Turkey.

### The Turkish Coalition of America

In 2007 Ayasli transferred \$30 million in stock to fund a new endeavor, the nonprofit Turkish Coalition of America. The organization is headquartered in a Washington suite that has also been listed as the address for the Turkish Coalition USA PAC, the lobbying firm of **Lydia Borland** (who has represented the Turkish government), and the law firm of Bruce Fein and Associates. (**Bruce Fein** comprises half of the Turkish American Legal Defense Fund).

The family of Hittite founder Ayasli contributed nearly half a million dollars to federal politics in 2007-2008, donating near the maximum amount to the House campaign committees for both parties, but largely neglecting the Senate.

TCA is headed by **Lincoln McCurdy**, who served as a U.S. diplo-

mat in Istanbul from 1980 to 1984, and also functions as treasurer of the political action committee; he draws an additional retainer as Ayasli's "personal advisor" on "political matters," in his own words. From 1989 to 2004, McCurdy led the American Turkish Council, a lobbying organization funded by membership dues from defense and energy companies with an interest in Turkey, and whose executive ranks include Borland.

In addition to the advocacy done through the ATC (which also funds trips to Turkey for congressional staff), a handful of its members - Citigroup, BAE Systems, Northrop Grumman, Chevron, Textron, United Technologies, Lockheed Martin, and Raytheon, which spent a combined \$80 million lobbying Washington last year - lobbied Congress directly on the genocide resolution and other issues important to Turkey; the Aerospace Industries Association, a trade group, helped coordinate the effort.

### A matter of historical record

For Turkey and its allies, perception has been everything when it comes to the nearly century-old killings that left more than a million Armenians dead as the Ottoman Empire collapsed. The country has lobbied House and Senate and the executive branch to oppose congressional resolutions to label the incidents genocide, and funded academic programs that bolster the country's image and downplay the role of the government in the killings.

Those programs include the Institute for Turkish Studies at Georgetown University, which received an initial \$3 million disbursement from Turkey in 1982 and contin-

ues to draw annual financial support from the government, and is chaired by **Nabi Sensoy**, Turkey's ambassador to the United States. In 2006, a board member, **Donald Quataert**, resigned from the institute, claiming that after he acknowledged in an academic review that the Armenian killings met the definition of genocide, Sensoy told him Turkish authorities had threatened to revoke the institute's funding. Sensoy disputed the allegations. [See Lou Ann Matossian's story, "Institute of Turkish Studies chair was ousted for acknowledging Genocide" (*Armenian Reporter*, May 31, 2008) and her investigative report, "Politics, scholarship, and the Armenian Genocide" (*Armenian Reporter*, July 19, 2008. - Editor)]

The Turkish American Legal Defense Fund, financed by TCA, aggressively pursues those who threaten the country's reputation, including suing the Southern Poverty Law Center and **David Holthouse**, a journalist who prepared a report for the nonprofit, for upward of \$8 million on behalf of an academic. In that case, the Foreign Agents Registration Act is at issue. Holthouse suggested that, as part of a group of professors who have enjoyed endowed positions at universities financed directly by the government of Turkey and who have expressed views on the killings outside of the academic mainstream, he was acting as a foreign agent. If true, the academic would be required to file detailed disclosures with the U.S. Justice Department.

### Courting Ankara

Since the beginning of the war in Iraq in 2003, the U.S. government has been especially wary of riling Turkey, which shares a border

with the war-torn country. Despite widespread support for the resolution labeling the Armenian killings genocide, lawmakers have consistently kept it from a floor vote - even in 2007, when House Speaker **Nancy Pelosi** expressed her preference for a vote.

Few members have been as vocal as opposing the resolution as Rep. **Dan Burton** (R.-Ind.), who sits on the House Foreign Affairs committee and is a top recipient of Turkish Coalition USA PAC money.

More quietly, U.S. companies with interests in Turkey have lobbied on the resolution. For U.S. defense contractors, the Turkish armed forces are a multibillion dollar market - Lockheed Martin and Raytheon would benefit from the latest proposed missile sale. Chevron is constructing a pipeline that passes through Turkey. CitiGroup, which has funded development projects in Turkey since 1975, acquired a 20 percent stake in the country's largest private bank in 2006, and acquired an investment brokerage in 2007.

By itself, Turkey boasts a formidable army of Washington lobbyists. The government has employed the Livingston Group, which boasts **Bob Livingston**, who'd served as chair of the House Appropriations Committee in the 1990s; Dickstein Shapiro LLP, which has former House Speaker **Dennis Hastert** on its payroll; DLA Piper, which employed former House majority leader **Dick Armev**, and the Gephardt Group, led by former House minority leader and Democratic presidential candidate **Richard Gephardt**. With the addition of corporate interests and its network of domestic supporters, it has built a formidable influence operation - one that can prevent legislation from coming to a vote. ■■

## "The Armenian Genocide and International Law" conference wraps up in Lebanon

**BEIRUT** - A two-day international conference organized by Haigazian University and the Armenian National Committee (ANC) office of the Middle East titled, "The Armenian Genocide and International Law," wrapped up in Beirut on September 4.

Historians, international law experts, and respected Genocide specialists from the United Kingdom, Egypt, Switzerland, Turkey, Ireland, Lebanon, Armenia, the United States, and Canada took

part in the conference.

More than a hundred people, including representatives of ANC offices, political scientists, sociologists, history professors, political activists, members of the clergy, intellectuals, educators, and members of the Lebanese-Armenian community were present.

The panelists discussed the recognition and denial of the Armenian Genocide; the current process of the international recognition

of the Genocide and political obstacles thereto; the role of Turkish nationalism in the policy of denial; and the problems of restitution and reparations, including the protection of cultural heritage.

Organizers said the discussions brought to the surface new prospects for restitution and reparations, and made clear that further and wider academic and legal study of the economic, social, and psychological ramifications of the Genocide is necessary.

At the conclusion of the conference, the president of Haigazian University, Dr. **Paul Haidostian**, said that he hoped that the conference proceedings would be published in the coming year. He expressed his thanks and gratitude to all the speakers, participants, and supporters of the conference.

Over the course of the conference, three public events also took place. A public lecture, "The Experience of International Law on solv-

ing 20th Century Genocides," with the participation of **Roger Smith**, **William Shabbas**, **Alfred de Zayas**, and **Henry Theriault** took place on September 3.

On September 4, **Ugur Ungor** from the University of Sheffield presented a lecture, "The Economic Ramifications of the Armenian Genocide in the Region of Dyarbakir."

On September 8, **Richard Hovannisian** gave a talk, "Thoughts on Western Armenia and Cilicia." ■■

## Community

# AGBU responds to Armenia-Turkey agreement with a call for “wisdom,” “unity,” and “collaboration with the government”



President Serge Sargsian with AGBU president Berge Setrakian, Yerevan, Sept. 4, 2009. Photo: Presidential Press Service.

by Armenian Reporter staff

**NEW YORK** — After a meeting on September 4 between President **Serge Sargsian** of Armenia and **Berge Setrakian**, president of the Armenian General Benevolent Union, Armenia's presidential press service announced that Mr. Setrakian had told the president, “the AGBU supports the latest Protocols on normalization of the relations between Armenia and Turkey and attaches importance to the fact that they do not contain any pre-conditions.”

On Friday, September 11, the Central Board of Directors of the AGBU issued its own statement on the agreement between the governments of Armenia and Turkey that had been unveiled on August 31. After outlining a case for “a pragmatic policy with regard to Turkey,” the board stated: “We understand the importance for the Republic of Armenia to have normal diplomatic relations with neighboring states, including Turkey. We also believe that justice for the sacred Armenian Case and

the international recognition of the Armenian Genocide should transcend and not be sacrificed for any immediate diplomatic consideration.”

The board's statement argued that Turkey would be under scrutiny and “must show that it is ready to move forward in earnest.”

“We also believe the government of Armenia shares our serious concerns about the sincerity of Turkey, given its historic anti-Armenian policy that has continued to the present time,” the statement continued. “We commend their initiative and lend our support in their efforts to find a just and fair outcome in the building of good neighborly relations between Armenia and Turkey, while safeguarding the historic claims and rights of the Armenian People.”

In its conclusion, the AGBU Central Board of Directors appealed “to all Armenians to face the challenges of this historical moment, in collaboration with the government of the Republic of Armenia, with wisdom, national unity and the spirit of cooperation among our people.” It did not elaborate. ☞

## Garbis Kortian, 70, co-founder of the Zoryan Institute

**VIENNA** — Garbis Kortian, one of the founders of the Zoryan Institute, recently died in Vienna. He was 70 years old.

“We are saddened by the loss of a colleague and a friend,” said **K.M. Greg Sarkissian**, president of the Zoryan Institute. “Garbis was a visionary, and as a co-founder of Zoryan, was one of the main conceptualizers of the institute's mission. His hallmark was to always challenge conventional thinking on any subject.”

Kortian received a Ph.D. in philosophy from the University of Vienna in 1966. He was a professor of philosophy at the University of Montreal from 1968 to 1995; he then moved to Paris and taught periodically at the University of Vi-

enna until his death. His specialty was the work of Jürgen Habermas and that of other modern philosophers and theorists, such as Theodor Adorno. He was the author of two major studies on metacritique and on Kant, both published by Cambridge University Press. He also wrote and edited several other books, one of them on the art of Arto Tchakmakchian.

“Garbis achieved a truly trans-Atlantic reputation,” said **Khachig Tölölyan**, professor of comparative literature at Wesleyan University and editor of *Diaspora: A Journal of Transnational Studies*. “His *Metacritique* was translated into French and many of his essays into German, and his lectures were heard everywhere, from Johns Hopkins

to Vienna. He served as a bridge and a catalyst for relations between French, German, and Anglophone philosophers. And always he worried that Armenians and Armenia lacked interest in philosophy.”

At Zoryan's seminal first colloquium, held in Cambridge, Mass., in 1984, Kortian opened the subject of “What Is To Be Asked?” with an extended philosophical discussion on what questions are of “real existential concern and interest.” He wanted to update “the notion of the intellectual” and of “modernity” to advance the diaspora's self-understanding. His conclusion: “What characterizes the intellectual in contemporary times is one trait above all others: critique . . . in the name of truth.” ☞



Garbis Kortian at “What Is To Be Asked” in 1984.

## St. Leon's to welcome author of *The Knock at the Door*

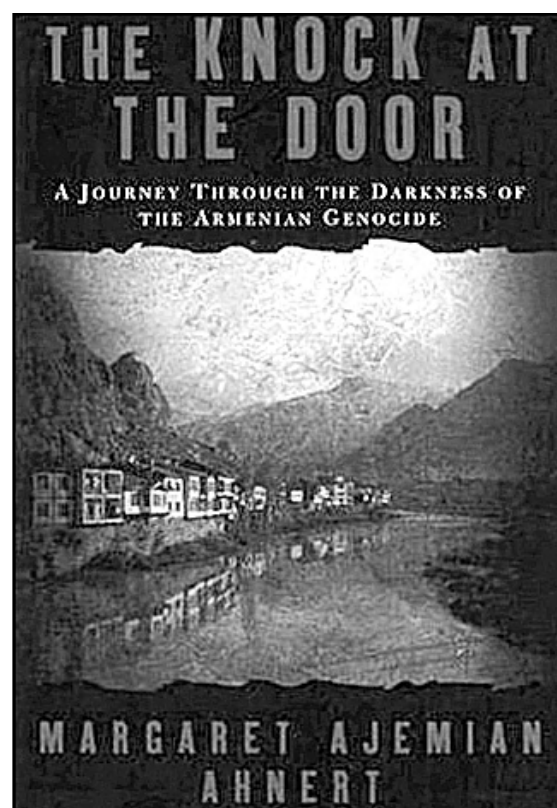
**FAIR LAWN, N.J.** — Author Margaret Ajemian-Ahnert will present her book, *The Knock at the Door: A Journey Through the Darkness of the Armenian Genocide*, on Friday, October 2, at St. Leon's Armenian Church.

This event, which begins at 7:30 p.m. in Abajian Hall, is sponsored by the St. Leon's Parish Council for the greater New York and New Jersey Armenian community. Refreshments will be served.

Organizers promise a lively and fascinating presentation by Mrs. Ajemian-Ahnert. The author has traveled worldwide since the debut of her book, building legions of fans in the process.

The story is a searing testimony of her mother Ester's bittersweet memories growing up in the village of Amasia, and the subsequent horrors she struggles to survive during the tragedy that befell most Ottoman Armenians, with the violence and chaos of World War I as backdrop.

Ester's formidable will, religious faith, and sense of humor pervade the narrative. The author layers her own childhood memories with her mother's clear recollections of her youth to create an intimate mother-daughter memoir.



Copies of *The Knock at the Door* may be pre-ordered from the church for the author to sign at the event. ☞

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Cover of the *The Knock at the Door: A Journey Through the Darkness of the Armenian Genocide*.



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## Community

# Armenian Radio N.J. and Hovnanian School sponsor "Art in Fall"

**NEW MILFORD, N.J.** – The Armenian Radio Hour of N.J. and the Hovnanian School are planning an art exhibit, "Art in Fall," for Saturday, October 17, at the Hovnanian School Auditorium. The works of well-known artists – **Hakob Hakobyan, Vagharshag Elibekian, Robert Elibekian, and Arek Elibekian** – will be on display for sale. They also plan to have chefs from the metropolitan area display their culinary talents with live Armenian music in the background.

"It is an ambitious project, the likes of which we have not seen in N.J. for some time. The project is already a success because the way in which volunteers of the radio and school unite their abilities and are committed to make it the success it deserves to be," said **Adi Abdo**, board member of the Armenian Radio Hour of N.J.

**Hakob Hakobyan** was born in 1923 in Alexandria, Egypt, the third child of Armenian parents who survived the genocide of 1915. As a child, Hakobyan attended the Melkonian School in Cyprus, a school for children of expatriate Armenians in which both Armenian history and studio art were required studies.

Hakobyan's art studies continued as a young adult at the Institute of Fine Arts in Cairo. From 1952 to 1954, he received a scholarship to study in Paris at the Academie de



Robert Elibekian with his colorful work.

la Grande Chaumiere. During this time he studied with French Cubist painter Andre Lhote as well as other compatriot painters.

After his time in Europe, Hakobyan returned to Egypt with an ever-increasing desire to live in Armenia. Finally, in 1962 at the age of forty, Hakobyan and his family emigrated to Armenia. Five years later, the Hakobyan family settled in the capital city of Yervan where his artistic recognition continued to flourish. In 1977, Hakobyan was

awarded the State Prize of Armenia and was given the title of People's Artist of Armenia. In 1986, he won the coveted State Prize of USSR and was elected a member of the Academy of Arts of the USSR.

Today, Hakobyan still produces paintings with the same technical precision that is found in his early works. Hakobyan continues to be exhibited internationally and his work can be found in public and private collections in Europe, Russia, Armenia, and the United States.

**Vagharshag Elibekian** was born in Tbilisi, Georgia, in 1910. Vagharshag, who died in 1994, was a primitive, and like all primitive artists, he was careful about details. Whether landscape, building, people, or animals, a precise representation was rendered with all the details clearly defined. He reproduced his memories on Tiflis, painting lighthearted scenes of daily events and rejoicing in bright colors and exacting outlines, representing such events as parties, circuses, street vendors, marching bands, storefronts, street scenes, flowing landscapes, all cheerful scenes and happenings with all the colors of the spectrum. His images bring the cities and streets alive, with animals and humans in their costumes.

The life of the "guidos" in Tbilisi reflects their happy-go-lucky character; their main purpose in life was to have a life of ease and fun, enjoyment and amusement. These scenes are always populated by people in traditional attire, usually very colorful, and the settings are meticulously reproduced in all the details. Every painting is a complete episode and collectively, we can have a clear insight of the life in Tbilisi at a certain time. Hardly bigger than a commemorative postage stamp sheet, these images are large in concept, capturing the fleeting poetic moments that punctuate the event and are the most elegant

distillations of a certain rural and urban experience.

**Robert Elibekian** was born in April 1941 in Tbilisi. In 1960 he moved to Armenia and settled in Yerevan. The same year he entered the Yerevan Arts and Theater Institute. In 1965, after graduating from the institute, he started his fruitful creative biography actively participating in various national and union exhibitions.

Elibekian has been a member of the Union of Artists of Armenia since 1970. For many years he was involved in stage-design for theatres in Armenia and overseas. Simultaneously he worked as a designer and producer of a number of films shot at the ArmenFilm Studio.

The artist's saturated creative life was reflected in numerous personal exhibitions organized not only in Armenia, Moscow, Vilnius, and other cities of the Soviet Union, but also in major centers of Europe and America.

Elibekian's canvases are exhibited at famous museums and private collections such as the Tretyakov Gallery and the Museum of Oriental Arts in Moscow. Alex Manoojian Museum in Detroit, Elyseum Palace in Paris, the White House in Washington, and Zimerli Museum in New Jersey. In 1981 Robert Elibekian received a State Prize of Armenia and in 2001 was granted the Movses Khorenatsi Medal in the field of the national culture. 𐌌

## Calendar of Events

### NEW YORK

**SEPTEMBER 26** - "Evening Under the Stars" at St. Nersess Seminary - 150 Stratton Road, New Rochelle, NY. Join in for this cocktail and hors d'oeuvres benefit reception at \$100 per person. A great opportunity to learn about and support the most important institution for the future of the Armenian Church in North America. RSVP at stnersess.edu.

**SEPTEMBER 26** - The Friends of HMADS presents lobster and steak dinner with live entertainment at the Armenian Church of the Holy Martyrs Kalustyan Hall at 7:30 p.m. Donation \$ 50, children's menu for 12 and under: \$ 20. For reservations, please call Hovsep Minassian : (718) 225 2515 or the school office (718) 225 4826.

**OCTOBER 24** - The Friends of HMADS presents a comedy evening with Kev Orkian. Flushing Town Hall, 137-35 Northern Blvd., Flushing, NY 11354. Tickets \$40 & \$30. For reservations, please call Hilda Nisanyan (718) 224-4736 or the school office (718) 225-4826.

**OCTOBER 24** - AGBU NY Special Events Committee presents - AGBU PERFORMING ARTISTS IN CONCERT - Benefit for the AGBU Performing Arts Fellowship, showcasing the talents of 12 AGBU scholarship recipients. Curtain time 8:30pm. Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, 154 W. 57 St., New York City. Tickets \$65. For tickets & info, call (212) 319-6383 ext.124 or visit www.carnegiehall.org.

**NOVEMBER 6**, Cocktail reception at the New York Stock Exchange to benefit AAHPO, the Armenian Eye Care Project and Voskevan Clinic in Armenia. Details to follow. Save the date!

### NEW JERSEY

**OCTOBER 1** - Sts. Vartanantz Church 7th Annual Golf Outing. River Vale, NJ Country Club. Lunch, Dinner, Golf and More.

Shotgun start at 1:00pm. For reservations or more info please call : Mark Alashaian 201-483-3200, Sarkis Shirinian 201-307-0825 or the Church Office 201- 943-2950.

**OCTOBER 2** - St. Leon Armenian Church in Fairlawn, N.J. welcomes debut author Margaret Ajemian Ahnert on Friday, October 2nd @ 7:30 P.M. in Abajian Hall for a lively presentation of her book, The Knock at the Door: A Journey Through the Darkness of the Armenian Genocide. Free Admission, refreshments. To pre-order her book for signing, call Linda @ 201-445-8167

**OCTOBER 7** - "CHRISTMAS IN OCTOBER" organized by AMAA Summer Camp/Christmas Committee to bring Joy Packages to children in Armenia and Karabagh, Wednesday 11:30 am at Seasons - Washington Township, NJ. Donation: \$50. RSVP: Liz Aynilian (201.444.8122), Lily Babigian (201.934.5484), Ida Gueyikian (732.946.2730), Louisa at AMAA (201.265.2607)

**OCTOBER 10** - TCA Mher Megerdchian Theatrical Group Presents "Who Killed The Eastern Dentist?" A Masquerade Party in Baronian's 1860's Istanbul. A Murder Mystery Dinner Theater prepared by Harout Chatmajian. Assyrian Orthodox Church, 644 Paramus Road, Paramus, NJ. Saturday, October 10th, 8:00 PM. Donation: \$60. BYOB. Dress Code (Optional): 1860's Attire & Mask. For Tickets, call Marie Zokian (201) 745-8850, Noushig Atamian (718) 894-5878 Maro Hajakian (201) 934-3427 or Misak Boghosian (212) 819-0097.

**NOVEMBER 15** - "ONE NATION, ONE CULTURE" A Cultural Festival Under the Auspices of Dr. Hranush Hakobyan, Republic of Armenia Minister of Diaspora, Organized by Hamazkayin Eastern USA Regional Executive, Featuring Alla Levonian from Armenia and Babin Boghosian from Los Angeles, With the participation of Antranik Dance Ensemble of AGBU,

Akh'tamar Dance Ensemble of St. Thomas Armenian Church, Yeraz Dance Ensemble of St. Sarkis Church, NJ Hamazkayin Nayiri Dance Group & Arekag Children's Choir & Dhol Group. SUNDAY, Nov. 15., 4pm. Felician College, 262 S. Main St., Lodi, NJ. Donation: \$75, \$50, \$35, \$25. For more information or tickets please contact: Hamazkayin @ 201-945-8992 or Paradon2009@gmail.com

**NOVEMBER 22** - Free Diabetic Education Seminar, 1:30pm at the Hovnanian School in New Milford, NJ, sponsored by AAHPO

**DECEMBER 6** - AAHPO's Christmas Brunch, in Tenafly, NJ. Details to follow. Save the Date!

### FLORIDA

#### ACAA ARMENIAN HERITAGE CRUISE XIII - 2010

FT. LAUDERDALE, FL - Join Armenians worldwide on the ARMENIAN HERITAGE CRUISE XIII 2010. Sailing on Saturday, January 16-23, 2010. To San Juan, PR, St. Thomas and Grand Caicos Islands on the Costa Atlantica. Prices start at \$679.00 per person. Contact TravelGroup International 1-866-447-0750, ext 102 or 108. Westcoast: Mary Papazian 818-407-140; Eastcoast: Antranik Boudakian 718-575-0142

### NATIONAL

**NOVEMBER 1** - Sunday, sponsored by "Kach Nazar" Magazine 10th Anniversary Nationwide Telethon to benefit: Christmas Fund for Armenian Orphans and Disabled Children and the Restoration of Children's Home. Please make your donations to this fund: Christmas Fund for Armenian O.D.C.R.C.H Wells Fargo Account Number 1736834043 or send your donations to: PO Box 250038, Glendale, CA 91225. fourourkids@gmail.com. Tax ID# 26-3208049. For more information call: 818.246.0125, 818.246.2070, 818.239.6880 or 818.606.2070.

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## Community

# AGBU NYSEC presents performing artists in concert at Carnegie Hall Oct. 24

**NEW YORK** – The AGBU New York Special Events Committee (NYSEC) will present the second AGBU Performing Artists in Concert, showcasing the talents of young Armenian musicians, to be held at New York's Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall (154 West 57th Street) on Saturday, October 24, 2009 at 8:30 p.m.

Like the inaugural concert held in 2008, this AGBU NYSEC event will applaud the achievements of talented Armenian youth who have benefitted from AGBU's scholarship assistance toward their studies in performing arts, including piano, strings, wind, percussion, and voice. The artists hail from distinguished conservatories and universities worldwide, such as the Juilliard School, Manhattan School of Music, Komitas State Conservatory, Yale University, Mannes College of Music, Boston Conservatory, State University of New York at Stony Brook, and the Royal College of Music.

Supporting youth studying in the performing arts has always been a priority for AGBU. Twelve



2008 Debut Concert performers on the stage of Carnegie Hall.

performers, under the artistic direction of brothers **Hrant** and **Kevork Parsamian**, are collaborating to prepare a repertoire of music celebrating Armenian and classical composers, such as Babajanian, Khachaturian, Schosta-

kovich, and Schumann. Of special note will be the U.S. premiere of 19-year-old **Gevork Badalian's** composition based on five folk songs from the Armenian Genocide.

The performing artists include three violinists, **Monika Chamasyan** (Va.),

**Nazig Tchakarian** (N.Y.), and **Viktoria Tchertchian** (Mass.); two cellists, Hrant and Kevork Parsamian (N.Y.); two violists, **Alex Nazaryan** (N.Y.) and **Anoush Simonian** (N.J.); two pianists, **Marina Chamasyan** (Va.) and **Varta Tchakarian** (N.Y.);

a flutist, **Stepan Dadourian** (N.Y.); a marimbist, **Sylvie Zakarian** (Mass.); and an opera singer, soprano **Natalie Aroyan** (N.Y. via Australia).

For decades, AGBU grants have been awarded to hundreds of talented and qualified students of Armenian descent studying in the performing arts who have demonstrated excellence in their chosen fields. These awards enable recipients to achieve their potential, laying the foundation for their future as they celebrate their heritage and identity. In 2008, the AGBU NYSEC proudly presented "A Debut Concert" featuring some of the AGBU Scholarship Program's Performing Arts grant recipients. Proceeds from the concert contributed to future AGBU's Performing Arts grants.

The 2009 concert will showcase the talents of a new selection of grant recipients and will benefit the newly established AGBU Performing Arts Fellowship Program. ☞

connect:  
AGBU 1-212-319-6383 ext. 124

## HMADS to present a comedy evening with Kev Orkian

by Jennifer Chelebi

**QUEENS, N.Y.** – The Friends of Holy Martyrs Armenian Day School (HMADS) will present a performance by acclaimed Armenian comedian Kev Orkian at New York's Flushing Town Hall (137-35 Northern Blvd., corner of Linden Place) in Flushing, Queens, on Saturday, October 24, at 7:30 p.m.

Kev Orkian's unique blend of modern humor and cultural satire has made him a crowd favorite and a comedic legend in both British and Armenian circles. This pianist extraordinaire has a revamped musical-comedy repertoire that is sure to earn plenty of laughs from young and old alike.

Mr. Orkian honed his skills and perfected his comedic timing at Brunel University where he studied drama and music and trained for a two-year National Diploma in Performing Arts. He made his West End debut in *Fame* and was in the original production of *Happy Days*, the musical.

He has taken his one-man piano comedy show to sold-out performances around the world, includ-



Kev Orkian.

ing Los Angeles as host of the Armenian Music Awards, on the "Hye seas" aboard the Armenian Heritage Cruise, and to the world down under for performances in Australia. ☞

connect:  
kev-orkian.com  
Hilda Nisanyan (718) 224-4736  
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## Community

# Sen. Menendez to receive ANCA-Eastern Region Freedom Award

**NEW YORK** – The Armenian National Committee of America Eastern Region will honor United States Senator Robert Menendez with its Freedom Award at the Third Annual ANCA Eastern Region Banquet hosted by the Armenian Cultural Association of America on Saturday, October 3, 2009 at Espace in New York City.

“We are proud to be honoring Senator Menendez,” said ACAA Board Member **George Aghjayan**. “The senator from New Jersey acted with distinction when he placed a hold on **Richard Hoagland**’s nomination and has repeatedly demonstrated his commitment to the Armenian-American community.”

For over 16 years, Robert Menendez has been an ardent advocate of Armenian-American concerns in the state of New Jersey and nationally. From ensuring that the United States honestly addresses the issue of the Armenian Genocide to speaking out on the right of self-determination for the people of Nagorno-Karabakh, Senator Menendez has championed truth, justice, and the principles of freedom so cherished by the Armenian-American community.

During the 109th Congress [2005-2006], Senator Menendez received nationwide attention after placing a “hold” on the confirmation of Richard Hoagland as the next U.S. ambassador to Armenia. Armenian-Americans had expressed concern regarding Mr. Hoagland’s testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in which he raised questions about whether the extermination of the Armenian people in 1915-17 qualified as genocide. The nomination of Mr. Hoagland had come after the recall of Ambassador **John M. Evans**, who had acknowledged the Armenian Genocide during public



Senator Robert Menendez will accept the Eastern Diocese’s “Friend of the Armenians” award during the Diocesan Assembly banquet at Philadelphia’s National Constitution Center, on Friday, May 1.

appearances in the United States. In a campaign initiated by the Editorial Page of the *Armenian Reporter*, many Armenian-Americans opposed the confirmation of a replacement as long as the administration refused to acknowledge the Armenian Genocide.

When the 110th Congress convened in January 2007, then-President **George W. Bush** once again nominated Mr. Hoagland to serve as ambassador to Armenia. The very next day, Senator Menendez placed a second “hold” on the nomination. On August 3, 2007, President Bush withdrew the Hoagland nomination. When asked about his motivation for blocking confirmation, Senator Menendez stated, “I

believe that the United States, Armenia, and all who are committed to human rights should support an ambassador to Armenia who recognizes the genocide that took place there more than 90 years ago.”

In a statement released when he first blocked the confirmation, Senator Menendez said, “The State Department and the Bush administration are just flat-out wrong in their refusal to recognize the Armenian Genocide. It is well past time for American diplomacy to drop the euphemisms, the wink-wink, nod-nod brand of foreign policy that overlooks heinous atrocities committed around the world. If there is any sincerity behind the Bush administration’s rhetoric about ‘lib-

erty on the march’ - if ‘never again’ is to be more than a bumper sticker slogan - then American diplomacy should consist of nothing less than unvarnished honesty with our friends and enemies alike. And we must call genocide by its name.”

In June 2008, Senator Menendez questioned the administration’s next nominee as ambassador to Armenia, **Marie Yovanovitch**. Senator Menendez asked numerous questions concerning the Armenian Genocide, Turkey and Azerbaijan’s blockades of Armenia, Nagorno-Karabakh, and foreign aid to Armenia. Several months later, in September 2008, Sen. Menendez addressed questions about the Armenian Genocide to **James Jeffrey**, the administration’s nominee to serve as U.S. ambassador to Turkey.

Most recently, in January 2009, Sen. Menendez questioned **Hillary Clinton**, during her confirmation hearings for the position of secretary of state. During the nationally televised hearing, Sen. Menendez stated that he hoped she would continue “the support that you gave while you were a senator to the question of the Armenian Genocide, that the president-elect has himself supported, recognition of that. You know, if we are to say ‘never again,’ part of that is ultimately the recognition of what has happened so that we can move forward. And I hope that you will be an advocate of having us get off of where we have been and move forward to a recognition of that part of history that is universally recognized so that we can move forward in that respect.”

Robert Menendez grew up the son of Cuban immigrants in Union City, New Jersey. He has served as a school board member, a mayor, and a state legislator. In 1992, he was elected to the United States House of Representatives. Mr. Menendez cosponsored every Armenian Genocide resolution introduced in Congress since his arrival in 1993. He served on the House International Relations Committee, where he twice voted for passage of the Armenian Genocide resolution in 2000 and 2005. He became the highest-ranking Hispanic in Congressional history and the third-highest ranking Democrat in the House of Representa-

tives when his colleagues elected him the chairperson of the House Democratic Caucus in 2002. While serving as a representative, Mr. Menendez repeatedly offered remarks on the floor of the House in commemoration of the Armenian Genocide.

Mr. Menendez was appointed to the United States Senate by New Jersey Governor **Jon Corzine** and sworn in on January 18, 2006. In November of that year, he was elected by the people of New Jersey to serve a full six-year term as United States senator. He currently serves on the Senate Committees on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs; Energy and Natural Resources; Budget; Finance; and Foreign Relations. Senator Menendez is also the chairperson of the Subcommittee on International Development and Foreign Assistance, Economic Affairs, and International Environmental Protection of the Committee on Foreign Relations.

As a mark of his longstanding bond with the Armenian American community, in 2005 then-Representative Menendez joined hundreds of Armenian-Americans at a reception in New Jersey honoring **Aram I**, Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia. In April 2008, Senator Menendez met with Archbishop **Oshagan Cholyan**, Prelate of the Eastern Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church of America. For his outstanding commitment to the community, Senator Menendez was honored in 2007 by the Armenian Revolutionary Federation Dro Gomideh of New Jersey and the ANC Western Region, and most recently in 2009, by the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern).

Every year, close to 400 Armenian American community members and leaders join prominent Members of Congress, statewide officials, and state legislators for the ANCA Eastern Region Annual Banquet. The 2009 Banquet will begin at 6:30 p.m. with a cocktail reception and silent auction, with the formal program beginning at 8:00 p.m. ☞

connect:  
Nairree Hagopian at (312) 615-7698  
acaainc.org/banquet

## “Jazz Nights @ ALMA” returns to stage October 2 with Armen Donelian Trio

**WATERTOWN, Mass.** – The Armenian Library and Museum of America (ALMA) is set to finish its 2009 Jazz Nights @ ALMA concert series with a performance that features Armenian jazz musicians on the first Friday of every month for the remainder of the year. Each concert starts at 8 p.m. in the Museum’s Contemporary Art Gallery, a venue where jazz enthusiasts can enjoy a collision of live music and intriguing ethnic art. Museum doors will open at 7:30 p.m. to give patrons the opportunity to see ALMA’s latest exhibits free of charge.

The **Armen Donelian** Trio will kick-start the series’ return from its summer hiatus on October 2. Called “a pianist with a crystalline touch, but a penchant for avant gardism” (*New York Times*), Armen Donelian will play a versatile set of original compositions with **David Clark** (bass) and **George Schuller** (drums).

Donelian recently made his musical mark in Greece where he taught and performed as a 2009 Fulbright Senior Specialist at Ionian University in Corfu and Nakas Conservatory in Athens. He has also taught and performed in Switzerland, Austria, Holland, and Israel since the start of the year. Donelian’s astounding career also includes collaborations with jazz legends such as **Sonny Rollins**, **Chet Baker**, **Paquito D’Rivera**,



Armen Donelian Trio.

**Mongo Santamaria**, and **Billy Harper**.

On November 6, **Steve Tashjian**’s Classic Groove will take the stage to play renditions of jazz ballads and standards. Classic Groove features Tashjian (woodwinds), **Paul Dillon** (drums), **Lee Lundy** (bass), **Gretchen Bostrom** (vocals), **Kevin Magarian** (guitar), and **Face** (keyboards). Their upcoming performance will make the group’s third appearance in the Jazz Nights series.

The **Yulia Musayelyan Quartet** will conclude the 2009 series on December 4 with a combination of original compositions and arrangements, using folk rhythms from Argentina, Arme-

nia, and other cultures.

“Part of the repertoire of this group evolved from the exploration of my Armenian heritage,” says Musayelyan. “When I first heard the sound of Armenian folk music, I found to my surprise that this spirit was also coming from within; I began to transcribe folk tunes and playing them on the flute.” Her performance with **Franco Pinna** (drum), **Fernando Huergo** (bass), and a pianist will showcase the constant evolution of new sounds generated from a combination of original melodies, jazz improvisation, and extended techniques. ☞

connect:  
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# sculpture



Above left: Barry Flanagan's *Hare on Bell* is installed in Tamanyan Sculpture Park. Above: Fernando Botero's *Roman Warrior* is lowered onto its new pedestal. Left: People sit on newly installed benches, joining Lynn Chadwick's *Sitting Figures*, in Tamanyan Sculpture Park, part of the Cafesjian Center for the Arts in Yerevan.

## Yerevan's Tamanyan Park is a sculpture garden

YEREVAN – Tamanyan Park, which spans the two city blocks leading to Yerevan's monumental Cascade, has been transformed into a sculpture garden, an integral part of Cafesjian Center for the Arts.

Yerevan residents and visitors have noticed that Fernando Botero's *Roman Warrior* has been moved from another part of the center to the sculpture park. Likewise, Lynn Chadwick's *Sitting Figures* and Barry Flanagan's *Hare on Bell* have been relocated to the park.

Unobstructed walkways, long vistas, and formal garden areas are elements of the design of Tamanyan Sculpture Park to provide a modern setting for large-scale sculpture by internationally recognized artists.

In an effort to connect the entire Yerevan community with art and culture, Tamanyan Sculpture Park provides people with access to contemporary art beyond the traditional museum experience.

"The quality of contemporary sculpture presented in Ta-

manyan Sculpture Park is unparalleled," said **Michael De Marsche**, executive director of the Cafesjian Center for the Arts. "I am sure this unique area will be experienced and enjoyed by thousands of visitors each year as a permanent addition to the city of Yerevan. There are few cities in the world with a sculpture park of this quality," he added.

The grand opening of the Cafesjian Center for the Arts is scheduled for November 2009, and construction at the Cascade is continuing in anticipation of

this event. The center will offer a wide variety of exhibitions from **Gerard L. Cafesjian's** private collection of contemporary art. A diverse program of visiting

lecturers, classic films, musical concerts, and numerous educational programs will augment the center's vigorous exhibition schedule. ■

### Barry Flanagan, 68, sculptor of hares

The British sculptor Barry Flanagan, whose work *Hare on Bell* is on display at the Cafesjian Center for the Arts in Yerevan, died on August 31 in Ibiza, Spain. The *New York Times* wrote that he had "abandoned the idiosyncratic arrangements of common materials that characterized Postminimal sculpture to make sly if relatively traditional bronzes of exuberant, loose-limbed hares." ■

# dance

## Roudolf Kharatian to lead National Ballet of Armenia

WASHINGTON - Roudolf Kharatian, choreographer and ballet teacher, is returning to his native Armenia, where he has been appointed artistic director of the National Ballet of Armenia. Since 1991, when he was invited to join the faculty of the Kirov Academy of Ballet, he has resided in Washington.

Trained at the Armenian National Ballet School in Yerevan, Kharatian also studied at the Vaganova Academy in St. Petersburg under the legendary Alexander Pushkin. He began his professional career as principal dancer with the National Ballet of Armenia, performing the great male roles in *Giselle*, *Swan Lake*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Spartacus* and other famous works. Kharatian enjoyed a very successful performing career spanning 25 years and was adored by audiences and critics alike. He also starred in films and toured the world with Stars of Soviet Ballet.

A prolific choreographer, in 1979 he founded the Chamber

Ballet of Armenia, which presented contemporary works and allowed for greater experimentation and innovation. The company of 26 dancers was televised regularly and also toured widely throughout Europe, the Middle East, and Asia.

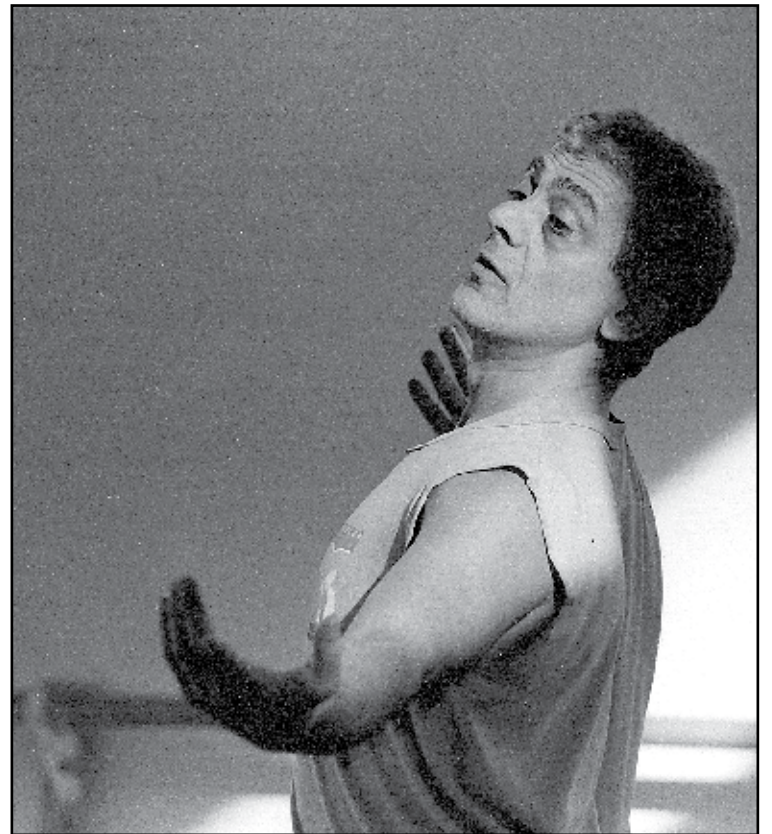
Kharatian has been honored with many awards and medals in his career as dancer, choreographer and teacher. He also holds a master's degree in choreography and stage production from the Moscow Institute of Theatre Arts (GITIS).

Since his arrival in the nation's capital, Kharatian has been a respected and much-loved teacher and coach, producing many medalists and world-class dancers. He has been on the faculty of the Kirov Academy and the School of the Washington Ballet. He has guest taught and lectured throughout North America and has taught such companies as American Ballet Theatre, Boston Ballet, and the Kirov Maryinsky Ballet.

Washington-area audiences

will have multiple opportunities to see Kharatian's work in the coming months. The duet *Dialogue* will be one of the featured works during the Dance Metro DC Awards Presentation at the Kennedy Center's Terrace Theatre on Monday September 14. Kharatian will be the featured guest at the March 3, 2010, installment of "Happenings at the Harman" at the Harman Theatre. And a retrospective of Kharatian's work is planned for March 7, 2010, at the brand-new Performing Arts Center in Silver Spring, Maryland, as part of the "Three Dancers" program.

Kharatian will take up the post of Artistic director of the National Ballet of Armenia at the end of September 2009. Says Kharatian: "The National Ballet of Armenia is a high-level company of very well-trained dancers. However their worldview has been limited to the Russian and Soviet experience. I hope to broaden their horizon by introducing the best works of both



Roudolf Kharatian. Photo: German Avakian.

past and present from around the world. More importantly, Armenia has a rich and unique tradition in dance and the arts, which I look forward to presenting to the world." ❧

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### Early Registration Order Form

~~Order before August 31th for early registration prices~~

Early registration extended until October 1st

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Angela Sarafyan starring in *A Beautiful Life*.

## Angela Sarafyan to star in *A Beautiful Life* Oct. 2

NEW YORK – In *A Beautiful Life*, which opens in New York City on October 2, Maggie (**Angela Sarafyan**) is a teenage runaway fleeing her family; David (**Jesse Garcia**) is a teenage illegal immigrant in search of his. When their paths cross, both are alone in the City of Angels, a place where some come to dream and others to hide.

A bus drops off Maggie in downtown Los Angeles late one night. She is unsure of where she's going; she only knows that she's not going back home. After wandering the dangerous streets for hours, she finally falls asleep in the one place that seems safe – the garbage dump behind a strip club. It's there that she's discovered by David, who works as a janitor at the club. He brings her in to let her use the bathroom and a kind stripper, Esther (**Bai Ling**), takes pity on Maggie, cleaning her up and begging David to take her home that night so she has a warm place to sleep.

Maggie and David at first are suspicious of each other, but soon find they have more in common than they think and realize that their only chance of survival in the city may be if they stick together. In spite of themselves, they fall in love and together they struggle to

find the courage to dream and hope again. Their blossoming love eventually lowers their defenses, allowing them to reveal their painful pasts to each other.

Along the way they encounter hunger, desperation, and danger. However, they also find kindness in a local librarian, Susan (**Debi Mazar**), and the family they never had with Esther.

But when Maggie seeks out her mother's (**Dana Delany**) help, the truth catches up and she has to decide to face her past or keep running.

*A Beautiful Life* reminds us that a life is not just the singular story of one person. Rather, it is the story of all the lives that intersect with our own and enrich it.

Angela's interest in movies and acting began very early. She says:

"Ever since I was four years old, I loved movies. This may sound ridiculous, but some of the very first films that had a profound affect on me were *The Terminator*, *Terminator 2*, and *Robocop*. I remember watching Arnold Schwarzenegger die and thinking, 'that's where I want to be, in a different world, in this other life, even if I must die for it.'

"My father told me it wasn't real, but I wouldn't believe him. I *did* see Arnold die *with blood*. But the next thing you know, he is playing Danny DeVito's twin. I tried to convince my father that he must have done the movie before *The Terminator*; but eventually I believed my dad. And decided that I wanted to be an actor.

"My father was an actor, and he did not take me seriously – I

also wanted to be a ballerina, a truck driver, a teacher, doctor, a store clerk, mother, a pediatrician, a mechanic, a cook, an astronaut, a scientist, an angel, a smurf (I liked where the smurfs live).

"I loved all the cartoons – *Tom and Jerry*, certainly Tom was my favorite – and I wanted to be a part of that family. Maybe Tom could be my cat, and I could be Donald Duck's girl-

friend; I loved Donald from the Disney Cartoons, and the Looney Tunes.

"So, now you can understand the mind of a four year old, or maybe just my mind, and why my dad didn't take me seriously. But you see, through acting I could live these lives. OK, maybe not Donald Duck's girlfriend, but it's always fun to live in my imagination." ❏

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# book fair

## Armenia wins prestigious awards at the 22nd International Book Fair in Moscow

The Armenian pavilion at the 22nd International Book Fair in Moscow, September 1-7, presented over 250 books, representing a wide array of different genres including historical, scientific, cultural and children's literature. The pavilion also featured charts and posters dedicated to the 500th anniversary of Armenian literary publication.

Eduard Militonyan, head of the Publishing Work agency affiliated to Armenia's Culture Ministry at a press conference said that the Armenian pavilion drew a lot of attention because of the great variety of multi-genre and high-quality books. The albums presenting the cultural heritage of Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh were especially prominent, he said.

"The exhibition is a great opportunity for Armenian publishers to begin cooperation and engage in negotiations with publishing companies of different countries, as well as displaying the best published books," he said.



Opening ceremony.

Representatives from Tigran Mets, Antares, Arevik, Edit Print and other publishing houses were involved in the Armenian delegation. Many of the presented books were sold.

Within the framework of the exhibition, Armenia won two awards, one for the 6th International Award for Art Books and another for Books Published in the CIS. Van Khachatour's

"The Color of Armenian Architecture. 4-19 Centuries" album published by Tigran Mets won the first-class award in the nomination Art Book, and Gagik Baghdasaryan's "Yerevan" won the main award in the nomination Books Published in the CIS. The Armenian pavilion was awarded with a certificate by the Exhibition Committee-Staff for their annual participation. ¶

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## Vahé Berberian comes to Armenia

### First international performance of *Sagayn* kicks off in Yerevan

Armenian painter, author, playwright and actor Vahé Berberian brings a unique perspective about all things Armenian to the stage, the written page and the canvass. Born in Beirut, Lebanon, Vahé was surrounded by and absorbed a very intellectual milieu, thanks to his parents whose home was a meeting place open to friends from the world of theater, literature and the arts.

He has come to be known for his deadpan humor, which usually has his audience in stitches. More importantly, he has his finger on the pulse of Armenians struggling in the weird and wonderful reality of the Diaspora. He has received critical acclaim for his performances in the United States, Canada and the Middle East.

His most recent play entitled *Baron Garbis* just concluded its North American Tour; "In the Name of the Father and the Son," a novel Berberian wrote in 1998, has been translated into several languages, including French, Arabic and Turkish.

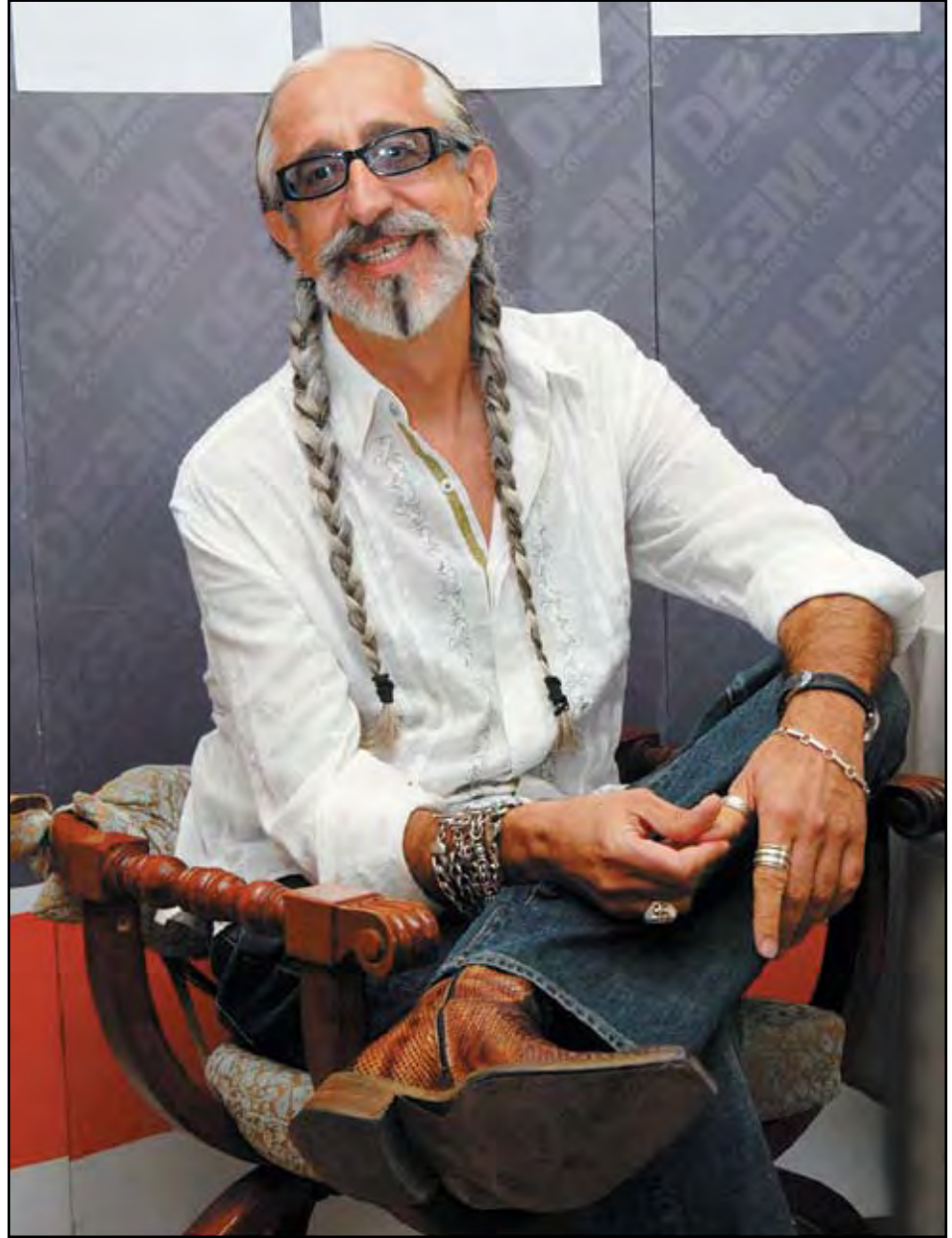
His latest monologue, *Sagayn* premiered in Los Angeles in May 2009 and ran through August 2009.

The first international performance of *Sagayn* kicked off in Yerevan, Armenia. The inspiration for *Sagayn* came from Vahé's Armenian roots and self-awareness - the community, the family, the Diaspora, the Republic, depicting Armenians in their day-to-day life.

While Vahé Berberian has been to Armenia before and had been on stage in 2006 for a limited audience, this two-day show, organized by Deem Communications was his first performance in Armenia.

On Thursday, September 17, Vahé presented his one-man show at the Moscow Cinema in Yerevan to a sold-out crowd.

On Friday, September 18, a more exclusive show took place at 32 Comedy Club, attended by a variety of guests, including influential Armenian artists and business representatives as well as many prominent Armenian Diasporans and foreign visitors. After the main performance by Berberian, a local jazz band, Nooz, took the stage to play some ambient jazz music while the guests mingled and personally met with Vahé.



Vahé Berberian.  
Photo: Mkhitar Khachatryan/Photolure.

## Brazil's Stepan Nercessian



Stepan Nercessian:

### A country where many soap operas are born

Those who follow Brazilian soap operas undoubtedly know Stepan Nercessian very well. Recently Armenia TV aired a Brazilian soap opera starring this well-known Latin actor who was in Yerevan recently. One could say that his visit was an official one as he came upon the invitation of the Brazilian Embassy in Armenia to help strengthen Armenian-Brazilian friendship. But in reality what brought him here was the desire to see his historic homeland.

And when people in Yerevan saw the 55 year-old Stepan Nercessian in person, they couldn't help being taken by his star quality. He was smiling at everyone, willingly have his photo taken with each and every person who wanted to and when necessary spoke Portuguese, the language that had become so intimate to him while starring in soap operas.

**Question:** Mr. Nercessian, does having an Armenian name in Brazil's movie industry help

or hinder you in your career as an actor?

**Stepan Nercessian:** It's not about helping or hindering. It is simply that my first and last name is not common and is difficult to remember. For this reason, it was even suggested that I change my name initially; however I said that I am not ready to give up my name. It became clear that having an Armenian name did not hurt me in any way in achieving success.

**Q:** If you had, perhaps your father wouldn't have forgiven you...perhaps even your mother...

**SN:** No, my mother is Brazilian. My parents met in the city of Koyaz, where my father had ended with a group of orphans from the Armenian Genocide.

**Q:** Usually actors enter the film industry as a result of good luck. Was that what happened in your case?

**SN:** Yes, my first role happened completely by surprise. At the age of 14 I tried out for a part in the film, "South of Marselon." Over 200 boys were trying to get cast in the lead role for the film. I tried out as a joke and surprisingly they chose me.

The film was very successful.

**Q:** Can you tell us how many films you have appeared in?

**SN:** I have appeared in 54 movies. Those are only the films [one of those films "Dance Hall" was shown in Yerevan recently], not counting a number of soap operas.

**Q:** One has to assume that actors are so loved and respected in Brazil that they also have the opportunity to get involved in politics.

**SN:** Yes, but not everyone is successful. People don't only vote for you because you are an actor; politics is a very serious game. [Stepan Nercessian is a member of Brazil's social democratic party and is deputy chair of Rio des Janeiro's city council. On his initiative, a resolution has been presented to Brazil's parliament to have April 24 recognized as the official day to commemorate the victims of the Armenian Genocide].

**Q:** Perhaps one day a film will be made about the Armenians?

**SN:** I think that it's worthwhile to think about that because Armenians have a lot of stories to tell.

# music legend

## Composer and pianist Michel Legrand in Armenia

### Performs in his first-ever gala concert in the homeland

World famous Michel Legrand, composer, conductor and pianist of Armenian descent was in Armenia this past week where he received the presidential Medal of Honor and performed in a sold-out concert in Yerevan.

Stating that "Armenian music is in my blood," Michel Legrand had a special meeting with President Serge Sargsian, where he received the esteemed Medal of Honor for his contribution to world music.

According to the presidential press office, Serge Sargsian stated that he was honored to meet with the renowned musician. "For me it is a great honor to meet you – one of the beloved sons of our nation, who has a great investment in the world music of the second half of the 20th century. It is thanks to bright individuals like you that our nation becomes more recognized in the world. Armenians love you and are proud of you," the president said.

For his part, Legrand said, "Every time when there is an occasion to visit Armenia, it seems I return to my ethnic roots. Armenian music is close to my heart and it flows in my veins." During their meeting, President Sargsian and Michel Legrand touched upon issues of importance to the Armenian people.

On September 15, a gala concert organized by City Light Productions, Malkhas Jazz Club and sponsored by the Armenian Culture Ministry and the Embassy of Armenia in Moscow, took place in the Aram Khachaturyan Opera House featuring Michel Legrand.

Taking part in the 90-minute concert was the Armenian State Youth Orchestra, under the leadership of conductor Sergey Smbatyan. Also performing was Michel Legrand's wife, renowned harpist Catherine Michel and the composer's sister, soprano Christian Legrand who was the soloist with the Swingle Singers vocal ensemble.

Levon Malkhasian of Malkhas Jazz Club told reporters that while Legrand has performed in Armenia before in a collective concert, this was his first solo concert in Yerevan. He performed soundtracks from famous films and concert arias with the vocalist. "One can't but note the influence his music had on the musicians of the whole world," Malkhasian said.

Legrand has written the



Michel Legrand on stage in Yerevan. Photos: Tigran Tadevosyan/Photolure.



Michel Legrand performing with his sister, soprano Christian Legrand.



Legrand and his wife Catherine Michel meeting with President Serge Sargsian.

scores for more than 200 films, a number of musicals, and has recorded more than 100 albums. He is a three-time Oscar and five-time Grammy winner. His first album, "I Love Paris" has become a bestseller. Mr. Legrand has worked with Edith Piaf, Charles Aznavour, Liza Minelli, Catherine Deneuve and other renowned artists.

The world famous composer is the son of Armenian pianist Haykuhi Marsel Ter-Mikaelian. His grandfather – Sargis Ter-Mikaelian came to France in 1917.

"He was a true Armenian very emotional and lavish," Legrand said of his grandfather. "I lived with my mother six years in his house. When my sister and I visited Armenia for the first time and stayed in Yerevan for a week we found our relatives. It was very surprising to touch our roots."

Michel Legrand will soon start

shooting a movie, "Blind Love" in India. "The genre is misunderstood in the world. Notre Dame

de Paris, for instance, is not a musical, but just a collection of songs. Everybody is shooting

movie these days, so I thought a musician could also direct a movie," he noted.

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		21 September MONDAY	22 September TUESDAY	23 September WEDNESDAY	24 September THURSDAY	25 September FRIDAY	26 September SATURDAY	27 September SUNDAY
EST	PST							Unlucky Happiness
09:30 PM	12:30 AM	Kyanqi Gine	Bari Gisher hayer	Bari Gisher Hayer	Bari Gisher Hayer	Bari Gisher Hayer	Yere1	
10:00 PM	1:00 AM		Kyanqi Gine - Repeat 1	Kyanqi Gine - Repeat 2	Kyanqi Gine - Repeat 3	Kyanqi Gine - Repeat 4	Kyanqi gine - Repeat 5	
10:30 PM	1:30 AM		Unlucky Happiness-Repeat 1	Unlucky Happines-Repeat 2	Unlucky Happiness-Repeat 3	Unlucky Happiness-Repeat 4	Unlucky Happiness-Repeat 5	
11:00 PM	2:00 AM		News	News	News	News	News	Sassounian Commentary
11:30 PM	2:30 AM		Khohanotz	Khohanotz	Khohanotz	Khohanotz	Khohanotz	Unlucky Happiness
12:00 AM	3:00 AM	2 Yeres	2 Yeres	2 Yeres	2 Yeres	2 Yeres	2 Yeres	
12:30 AM	3:30 AM	Repeat	Repeat	Repeat	Repeat	Repeat	Repeat	
1:00 AM	4:00 AM	Sassounian Commentary	News	News	News	News	News	Sassounian Commentary
1:30 AM	4:30 AM	Unlucky Happiness	Hamerg	Harsaniq	Harsaniq	Harsaniq	HAYTNUTYUN	Yere1
2:00 AM	5:00 AM	Repeat		Mer Lezun, Mer Xosqe	Mer lezun, Mer Xosqe	Kargin Haghordum		Blef
2:30 AM	5:30 AM		Mer Lezun, Mer Xosqe	Los Armenios	Kargin haghordum	Blef	Harsaniq	
3:00 AM	6:00 AM		News	News	News	News	News	
3:30 AM	6:30 AM	Bari Louys Hayer	Bari Gisher Hayer	Bari Gisher Hayer	Bari Gisher Hayer	Bari Gisher Hayer	Bari Gisher Hayer	Sassounian Commentary
4:00 AM	7:00 AM							Hot Line
4:30 AM	7:30 AM							Mi Katil Mrghr
5:00 AM	8:00 AM	2 Yeres	2 Yeres	2 Yeres	2 Yeres	2 Yeres	2 Yeres	2 Yeres
5:30 AM	8:30 AM	Repeat 6	1 Repeat	2 Repeat	3 Repeat	4 Repeat	5 Repeat	6 Repeat
6:00 AM	9:00 AM	Yere1	Blef	Mi Katil Meghr	Los Armenios	Mi Katil Meghr	Kargin Haghordum	Hayfilm
6:30 AM	9:30 AM	Sassounian Commentary	News	News	News	News	News	Sassounian Commentary
7:00 AM	10:00 AM	Hamerg	Unlucky Happiness	Unlucky Happiness	Unlucky Happiness	Unlucky Happiness	Unlucky Happiness	Mi katil Meghr
7:30 AM	10:30 AM		Repeat 1	Repeat 2	Repeat 3	Repeat 4	Repeat 5	Los Armenios
8:00 AM	11:00 AM		Mi Katil Meghr	Los Armenios	Kargin Haghordum	Blef		Kargin haghordum
8:30 AM	11:30 AM	Fort Boyatd-HAYER	Kyanqi Gine	Kyanqi Gine	Kyanqi Gine	Kyanqi Gine	Kyanqi Gine	Fort Boyard-Hayer
9:00 AM	12:00 AM		Repeat 1	Repeat 2	Repeat 3	Repeat 4	Repeat 5	
9:30 AM	12:30 PM	Film	Imigrants	Imigrants	Imigrants	Imigrants	Imigrants	Imigrants
10:00 AM	01:00 PM		1	2	3	1	2	3
10:30 AM	01:30 AM		Bari Luys Hayer	Bari Luys Hayer	Bari Luys Hayer	Bari Luys Hayer	Bari Luys Hayer	
11:00 AM	02:00 PM							Blef
11:30 AM	02:30 PM	Americayi dzayn						Yere1
12:00 PM	03:00 PM	Mer Lezun, Mer Xosqe	Mi Katil Meghr		Mi Katil Meghr	Mer Lezun, Mer xosqe	Arajnordaran	Arajnordaran
12:30 PM	03:30 PM	Khohanotz	Khohanotz		Khohanotz	Khohanotz	Gor	
01:00 PM	04:00 PM	YO YO	YO YO	YO YO	Aybenaran	Aybenaran	Vardanyan	Armenian Teletime
01:30 PM	04:30 PM	News	News	News	News	News	Sassounian Commentary	
02:00 PM	05:00 PM	2 Yeres	2 Yeres	2 Yeres	2 Yeres	2 Yeres	2 Yeres	
02:30 PM	05:30 PM	1 original	2 original	3 original	4 original	5 original	6 original	
03:00 PM	06:00 PM		Harsaniq	Harsaniq	Harsaniq	Harsaniq	Harsaniq	Class Prof.
03:30 AM	06:30 AM	Yere1	Mi Katil Meghr	Mer Lezun, Mer xosqe	Kargin Haghordum	Kargin Haghordum	Hot Line	Hot Line
04:00 AM	07:00 AM	Blef		Los Armenios	Mi Katril Meghr	Mi Katril Meghr	HayFilm	Hamerg
04:30 AM	07:30 AM	News	News	News	News	News	Sassounian Commentary	Sassounian Commentary
05:00 PM	08:00 PM	Unlucky Happiness	Unlucky Happiness	Unlucky Happiness	Unlucky Happiness	Unlucky Happiness	Mi katil Meghr	Hamerg
05:30 PM	08:30 PM	Original 1	2 Original	3 Original	4 Original	5 Original	Los Armenios	
06:00 PM	09:00 PM	Mi Katil Meghr	Los Armenios	Kargin Haghordum	Blef		Kargin Haghordum	Fort Boyard-HAYER
06:30 PM	09:30 PM	Kyanqi Gine	Kyanqi Gine	Kyanqi Gine	Kyanqi Gine	Kyanqi Gine	Fort Boyard-HAYER	
07:00 PM	10:00 PM	Original 1	Original 2	Original 3	Original 4	Original 5		Film
07:30 PM	10:30 PM	Imigrants	Imigrants	Imigrants	Imigrants	Imigrants	Imigrants	
08:00 PM	11:00 PM	1	2	3	1	2	3	
08:30 PM	11:30 PM	Bari Gisher Hayer	Bari Gisher Hayer	Bari Gisher Hayer	Bari Gisher Hayer	Bari Gisher hayer		
09:00 PM	12:00 AM							Yere1

## Exhibition of rare Armenian postcards opens in Yerevan

The opening of an exhibition entitled, "My Dear Brother, Armenians in Turkey 100 Years Ago," took place on September 15 at the Moscow Theater in Yerevan.

Through the initiative of the Civilitas Foundation and Turkish historian Osman Köker's publishing house Birzamanlar, this exhibition, which was brought to Armenia from Istanbul, represents the substantial presence of Armenians in dozens of cities and villages within the Ottoman Empire.

The collection of Orlando Calumenó's postcards includes those published from 1900-1910, which tell the story of the lives of Armenians, the Armenian Church, schools, the many factories, restaurants, hotels and other establishments owned by Armenians during those years.

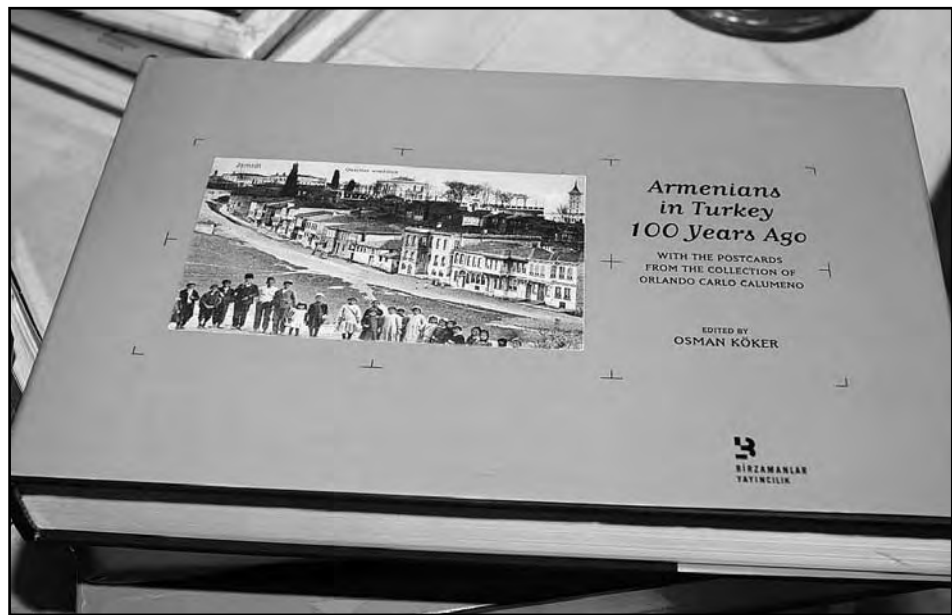
The collection of more than 4000 posted postcards and envelopes include those from Aintab, Marash, Seytoun, Kessaria, Moush, Van, Erzerum, Kars and many other cities and villages. They depict the daily existence and preoccupation of the Armenians, including the many charitable works undertaken by missions of international organizations in Armenian neighborhoods, historical sites and events of the day.

Five hundred of the postcards were exhibited for the first time in June, 2005 in Istanbul at an exhibition entitled, "My Dear

Brother," through the efforts of historian and publisher Osman Köker. Subsequently, the exhibition then traveled to Valencia, Munich, Frankfurt, Cologne, and Geneva. Mr. Korker has published a four hundred-page book of the postcard collection.

At the opening of the exhibition, Osman Köker said that in Turkey, history is presented from a Turkish point of view. "This is fundamentally noteworthy from the point of view of the history of cities. Starting from grade 3, the history of the city is part of the school curriculum. Here they are taught that this city was founded by the Turks, or the meaning of another city's name originated from the Turks; legends are woven around a city's Turkishness. For example, they tie the origin of the name of the city of Tokat with the Tokats of the race of Turan. No importance at all is placed, that this opinion is contrary to basic information, because the Turks came to Anatolia only in the 11th century and when they came, those cities had been long established," Osman Köker said in his speech at the opening of the exhibition.

He said that the reason he wrote a book and organized this exhibition was to try and stop this incorrect concept of history. "As a result of endless efforts, my book, 'Armenians in



Left: Cover of Osman Köker's *Armenians in Turkey 100 Years Ago*. Below: Osman Köker. Photos: Hayk Badalyan/Photolure.

Turkey 100 Years Ago,' was published and the exhibition 'My Dear Brother' opened in Istanbul. The 11-day exhibition had more than 7000 visitors. That is the highest number of visitors to an exhibition in Turkey in recent years," said Mr. Köker. "Both Turks and Armenians expressed interest in the exhibition."

It is interesting to note, that Osman Köker couldn't find a publisher in Turkey who was willing to publish a book that documented the existence of the Armenians in the Ottoman Empire. For this reason, he opened his own publishing house specifically to have his book published.

Haypost was the sponsor of



this exhibition and the director of Civilitas, Salpi Ghazarian welcomed their participation. Of the more than 4000 postcards, 500 were chosen to be

part of this exhibition and as Ms. Ghazarian noted, it was a valuable exhibition in its con-

Continued on page 17

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# Satellite Broadcast Program Grid 21 - 27 September

21 September			22 September			23 September			24 September			25 September			26 September			27 September		
MONDAY			TUESDAY			WEDNESDAY			THURSDAY			FRIDAY			SATURDAY			SUNDAY		
EST	PST		EST	PST		EST	PST		EST	PST		EST	PST		EST	PST		EST	PST	
4:30	7:30	News in Armenian	4:30	7:30	News in Armenian	4:30	7:30	News in Armenian	4:30	7:30	News in Armenian	4:30	7:30	News in Armenian	4:30	7:30	News in Armenian	4:30	7:30	News in Armenian
5:00	8:00	Unhappy Happiness-Serial	5:00	8:00	Unhappy Happiness-Serial	5:00	8:00	Unhappy Happiness-Serial	5:00	8:00	Unhappy Happiness-Serial	5:00	8:00	Unhappy Happiness-Serial						
6:00	9:00	Yere1	6:00	9:00	Los-Armenos	6:00	9:00	Los-Armenos	6:00	9:00	Cool Program	6:00	9:00	Yere1	6:00	9:00	Blef	5:00	8:00	A Drop of Honey
6:30	9:30	Cost of life-Serial	6:30	9:30	Cost of life-Serial	6:30	9:30	Cost of life-Serial	6:30	9:30	Cost of life-Serial	6:30	9:30	Cost of life-Serial	6:30	9:30	Cost of life-Serial	5:30	8:30	Hello, it's me
7:30	10:30	Immigrants-New Film	7:30	10:30	Immigrants-New Film	7:30	10:30	Immigrants-New Film	7:30	10:30	Immigrants-New Film	7:30	10:30	Immigrants-New Film	7:30	10:30	Immigrants-New Film	6:00	9:00	Cool Program
8:00	11:00	Good Night,Armenians	8:00	11:00	Good Night,Armenians	8:00	11:00	Good Night,Armenians	8:00	11:00	Good Night,Armenians	8:00	11:00	Good Night,Armenians	8:00	11:00	Good Night,Armenians	6:30	9:30	Fort Boyard
9:30	12:30	Cost of life-Serial	9:30	12:30	Cost of life-Serial	9:30	12:30	Cost of life-Serial	9:30	12:30	Cost of life-Serial	9:30	12:30	Cost of life-Serial	9:30	12:30	Cost of life-Serial	7:30	10:30	Nostalgia
10:15	13:15	Immigrants-New Film	10:15	13:15	Immigrants-New Film	10:15	13:15	Immigrants-New Film	10:15	13:15	Immigrants-New Film	10:15	13:15	Immigrants-New Film	9:00	12:00	For Adults	9:00	12:00	The Armenian Film
11:00	14:00	News in Armenian	11:00	14:00	News in Armenian	11:00	14:00	News in Armenian	11:00	14:00	News in Armenian	11:00	14:00	News in Armenian	11:00	14:00	News in Armenian	9:00	12:00	For Adults
11:30	14:30	Unhappy Happiness-Serial	11:30	14:30	Unhappy Happiness-Serial	11:30	14:30	Unhappy Happiness-Serial	11:30	14:30	Unhappy Happiness-Serial	11:30	14:30	Unhappy Happiness-Serial	11:30	14:30	Unhappy Happiness-Serial	9:00	12:00	Cost of life-Serial
12:10	15:10	Telekitchen	12:10	15:10	Telekitchen	12:10	15:10	Telekitchen	12:10	15:10	Telekitchen	12:10	15:10	Telekitchen	12:10	15:10	Telekitchen	12:00	15:00	Unhappy Happiness-Serial
12:40	15:40	My Big, Fat Armenian Wedding	12:40	15:40	My Big, Fat Armenian Wedding	12:40	15:40	My Big, Fat Armenian Wedding	12:40	15:40	My Big, Fat Armenian Wedding	12:40	15:40	My Big, Fat Armenian Wedding	12:40	15:40	My Big, Fat Armenian Wedding	13:00	16:00	VOA(The Voice of America)
13:00	16:00	News in Armenian	13:00	16:00	News in Armenian	13:00	16:00	News in Armenian	13:00	16:00	News in Armenian	13:00	16:00	News in Armenian	13:00	16:00	News in Armenian	13:30	16:30	Yo-Yo
14:00	17:00	Blef	13:30	16:30	Yere1	13:30	16:30	Los-Armenos	13:30	16:30	Yere1	13:30	16:30	Cool Program	14:00	17:00	Our Language,Our Speech	14:00	17:00	Unhappy Happiness-Serial
14:30	17:30	Our Language,Our Speech	14:00	17:00	A Drop of Honey	14:00	17:00	A Drop of Honey	14:00	17:00	A Drop of Honey	14:00	17:00	A Drop of Honey	14:30	17:30	Blef	19:00	22:00	News in Armenian
15:00	18:00	News in Armenian	14:30	17:30	Our Language,Our Speech	14:30	17:30	Our Language,Our Speech	15:00	18:00	News in Armenian	15:00	18:00	News in Armenian	15:00	18:00	News in Armenian	19:30	22:30	Good Morning,Armenians
15:30	18:30	Yere1	15:00	18:00	News in Armenian	15:00	18:00	News in Armenian	15:30	18:30	Cool Program	15:30	18:30	Yere1	15:30	18:30	Yere1	21:00	0:00	News in Armenian
16:00	19:00	Two Faces-Serial	15:30	18:30	Los-Armenos	15:30	18:30	Los-Armenos	16:00	19:00	Celebrity-New Serial	16:00	19:00	Celebrity-New Serial	16:00	19:00	Celebrity-New Serial	21:30	0:30	Celebrity-New Serial
16:40	19:40	My Big, Fat Armenian Wedding	16:00	19:00	Celebrity-New Serial	16:00	19:00	Celebrity-New Serial	16:40	19:40	My Big, Fat Armenian Wedding	16:40	19:40	My Big, Fat Armenian Wedding	16:40	19:40	My Big, Fat Armenian Wedding	17:00	20:00	Celebrity-New Serial
17:10	20:10	Unhappy Happiness-Serial	16:40	19:40	My Big, Fat Armenian Wedding	16:40	19:40	My Big, Fat Armenian Wedding	17:10	20:10	Unhappy Happiness-Serial	17:10	20:10	Unhappy Happiness-Serial	17:10	20:10	Unhappy Happiness-Serial	18:00	21:00	A Drop of Honey
17:45	20:45	Immigrants-New Film	17:10	20:10	Unhappy Happiness-Serial	17:10	20:10	Unhappy Happiness-Serial	17:45	20:45	Immigrants-New Film	17:45	20:45	Immigrants-New Film	17:45	20:45	Immigrants-New Film	18:50	21:50	Our Language,Our Speech
18:15	21:15	Cost of life-Serial	17:45	20:45	Immigrants-New Film	17:45	20:45	Immigrants-New Film	18:15	21:15	Cost of life-Serial	18:15	21:15	Cost of life-Serial	18:15	21:15	Cost of life-Serial	19:30	22:30	The Armenian Film
19:00	22:00	News in Armenian	18:15	21:15	Cost of life-Serial	18:15	21:15	Cost of life-Serial	19:00	22:00	News in Armenian	19:00	22:00	News in Armenian	19:00	22:00	News in Armenian	22:20	1:20	Telekitchen
19:30	22:30	Good Morning,Armenians	19:00	22:00	News in Armenian	19:00	22:00	News in Armenian	19:30	22:30	Good Morning,Armenians	19:30	22:30	Good Morning,Armenians	19:30	22:30	Good Morning,Armenians	23:10	2:10	Our Alphabet
21:00	0:00	News in Armenian	19:30	22:30	Good Morning,Armenians	19:30	22:30	Good Morning,Armenians	21:00	0:00	News in Armenian	21:00	0:00	News in Armenian	21:00	0:00	News in Armenian	23:30	2:30	A Drop of Honey
21:30	0:30	Celebrity-New Serial	21:00	0:00	News in Armenian	21:00	0:00	News in Armenian	21:30	0:30	Celebrity-New Serial	21:30	0:30	Celebrity-New Serial	21:30	0:30	Celebrity-New Serial	0:45	3:45	Hello, it's me
22:20	1:20	Telekitchen	21:30	0:30	Two Faces-Serial	21:30	0:30	Two Faces-Serial	22:20	1:20	Telekitchen	22:20	1:20	Telekitchen	22:20	1:20	Telekitchen	1:30	4:30	News in Armenian
23:00	2:00	Unhappy Happiness-Serial	22:20	1:20	Celebrity-New Serial	22:20	1:20	Celebrity-New Serial	23:00	2:00	Unhappy Happiness-Serial	23:00	2:00	Unhappy Happiness-Serial	23:00	2:00	Unhappy Happiness-Serial	2:00	5:00	Our Language,Our Speech
0:00	3:00	Cost of life-Serial	23:00	2:00	Unhappy Happiness-Serial	23:00	2:00	Unhappy Happiness-Serial	0:00	3:00	Cost of life-Serial	0:00	3:00	Cost of life-Serial	0:00	3:00	Cost of life-Serial	2:30	5:30	Blef
0:45	3:45	Immigrants-New Film	0:00	3:00	Cost of life-Serial	0:00	3:00	Cost of life-Serial	0:45	3:45	Immigrants-New Film	0:45	3:45	Immigrants-New Film	0:45	3:45	Immigrants-New Film	3:00	6:00	Celebrity-New Serial
1:30	4:30	News in Armenian	0:45	3:45	Immigrants-New Film	0:45	3:45	Immigrants-New Film	1:30	4:30	News in Armenian	1:30	4:30	News in Armenian	1:30	4:30	News in Armenian	4:00	7:00	My Big, Fat Armenian Wedding
2:00	5:00	My Big, Fat Armenian Wedding	1:30	4:30	News in Armenian	1:30	4:30	News in Armenian	2:00	5:00	My Big, Fat Armenian Wedding	2:00	5:00	My Big, Fat Armenian Wedding	2:00	5:00	My Big, Fat Armenian Wedding	4:00	7:00	My Big, Fat Armenian Wedding
2:30	5:30	Yere1	2:00	5:00	My Big, Fat Armenian Wedding	2:00	5:00	My Big, Fat Armenian Wedding	2:30	5:30	Yere1	2:30	5:30	Yere1	2:30	5:30	Yere1	3:00	6:00	Celebrity-New Serial
3:00	6:00	Celebrity-New Serial	2:30	5:30	Los-Armenos	2:30	5:30	Los-Armenos	3:00	6:00	Celebrity-New Serial	3:00	6:00	Celebrity-New Serial	3:00	6:00	Celebrity-New Serial	3:20	6:20	Nostalgia
4:00	7:00	My Big, Fat Armenian Wedding	3:00	6:00	Celebrity-New Serial	3:00	6:00	Celebrity-New Serial	4:00	7:00	My Big, Fat Armenian Wedding	4:00	7:00	My Big, Fat Armenian Wedding	4:00	7:00	My Big, Fat Armenian Wedding	3:20	6:20	Nostalgia

## Exhibition of rare Armenian postcards opens in Yerevan


Continued from page 16

tent and for the fact that it was done by a Turkish publisher based on a Turkish collection.

"Librarians and scientists know very well that publications, which are not books but rather postcards, posters, brochures, stamps are the most valuable evidence of the life of any society. It is possible to consider these postcards a social history. It is possible to view these postcards with tears, pride or political awareness. We have to understand our common history to build a peaceful future in our region," said Salpi Ghazarian. "These postcards illustrate our history; they prove the lost presence of the Armenians in the Ottoman Empire. I don't want to say that this is only our loss, for it is a loss of an entire existence for world history."

The exhibition will run till September 28.

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## Community

# George Keverian memorial video launched on YouTube

**EVERETT, Mass.** — A memorial service was held on August 16 for George Keverian, the former Speaker of the Massachusetts House of Representatives. The memorial service began at Glenwood Cemetery in Everett, with a prayer, and then continued at Anthony's of Malden. Over 150 family, friends, and associates attended this event, paying tribute to the memory of a devoted public servant.

George's brother, Dr. **Jack Keverian**, unveiled a video that chronicled his life. Jack identified those factors that led to George's core beliefs and how those beliefs guided him throughout his life. Dr. Keverian put forth this proposition:

"George's life story can change the lives of young people who are willing to understand, not only what he accomplished, but what guided

him to the heights he reached," said Dr. Keverian.

George grew up in Everett, the city to which he would dedicate his life's work. The elementary school he attended as a youth was renamed as the George Keverian School in 2002. He was the valedictorian of his Everett High School Class of 1949, where he defined his basic beliefs at the early age of 18:

"We, who desire this democracy above all things, must take it seriously. We can help its growth by our knowledge of it, and above all, by our service to it."

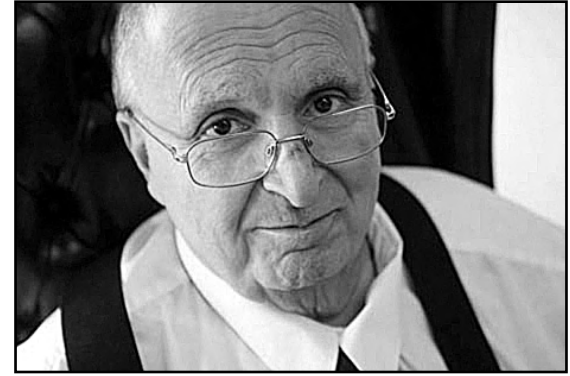
In this same speech he revealed another early conviction:

"Service should not be rendered as a favor conferred, or as a debt, but as a simple, natural devotion to our fellow man."

George carried and practiced those beliefs throughout his life.

He was state representative from Everett for 24 years, serving as Speaker of the House from 1985 through 1990 for a period of six years. During his life he helped countless constituents many who became part of his extended family.

George Keverian was a true public servant. He was selfless. He put aside personal gain as a politician, and focused on solving those issues that confronted the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. As Speaker in 1988, he brought fiscal balance to the commonwealth during the financial and political crisis of that era, without the use of autocratic rule and without causing undue injury to the truly vulnerable citizens of the commonwealth. George became known as the "Speaker who Believed in Democracy."



**George Keverian.**  
Photo: Boston Globe.

The video shown at this memorial service was produced as a collaborative effort with Everett Cable. It can be seen at <http://www.youtube.com/>. In the Search Box type "Speaker George Keverian." The entire video is 17 minutes long and is presented in three scenarios. George's brother is re-

questing everyone who watches this video to forward a link to their friends and family. He is asking for comments and suggestions to be sent to: [jkeverian@alum.mit.edu](mailto:jkeverian@alum.mit.edu).

"George; Rest in Peace." concluded his brother Jack. "You have accomplished your life's mission." ❧

# Little hearts: Two Armenian-Americans create documentary about child protection in Armenia

by **Simone Paklaian and Alexa Sapah-Gulian**

**NEW YORK** — We are both high school students who live in Connecticut and spend the summers on Cape Cod, where we work at Eulindas, a local ice cream shop. But this summer wasn't like the past ten we've spent at the Cape. This summer we made the decision to go to Armenia during a portion of our break, work at the Child Protection Center, and then create a documentary about it to develop global awareness.

When we first heard about the Child Protection Center, which is run by the Fund for Armenian Relief (FAR), we felt that the work being accomplished was very important and we decided to get involved.

Through our research, we learned that this was a one-of-a-kind center in Armenia, which is responsible for protecting abused children on a short-term basis until long-term plans can be set. It is a program that originated in conjunction with the Yerevan Police Department, which, in earlier days, routinely picked up abandoned children off the streets and placed them in facilities — facilities that didn't address the long-term needs of the children.

This Child Protection Center pro-



Although Alexa and Simone fell in love with all the children, they formed a very close bond with these two young sisters. They promised to make sure that they have them as two godmothers from America always watching over them through the rest of their lives.

gram fills that void by not only providing for the physical needs of the children, but also by addressing their psychological issues and long-term prospects. Instead of placing them in orphanages, the Center looks to reunite them with their families, where and when appropriate, or to a loving foster home as a better solution.

Since this program first started more than 10 years ago, it had grown to the point that the Center's Hotline and National Referral Network has brought in more children that are in desperate need

of a second chance than the original police efforts did. Since the program was started, it has helped over 6,000 children, most of whom are between 4 and 16 years old.

So when the time came, we boarded the plane in New York that was bound for Armenia, unaware of what to expect. Though we had been thoroughly briefed on paper, neither of us could have been prepared for what we would experience. We were picked up from the airport in Yerevan by **Garnik Nanagoulian**, FAR's executive director, and

some of the in-country staff. We were told that we would be going to the Child Protection Center for our first day of work the next day.

The following morning we drove through the streets of Yerevan in awe of our surroundings. We had never been to Armenia and it was different from anything we had pictured. Both of us could not wait to arrive at the Center. Though nervous, we walked into the building confident. We were greeted by executive director of the Child Protection Center, Dr. **Mira Antonyan**, and we began our day.

Her enthusiasm and passion for the Center instantly calmed our nerves and she began to give us a tour of the facility. Initially it was difficult for us to communicate with the children because of our inability to speak fluent Armenian. They soon understood, however, and began to work with us and accepted our lack of perfect verbal communication. But what we did realize is that communication comes in different forms. A laugh, hug, high-five, or smile were all evident, and made us connect with the children on a level that speaking would not be able to reach. We soon found ourselves anxious to return to the Center and be with the children that we came to know so well after a day.

Once we knew the children a little better, and had become familiar with how the Center was run, we were able to interview a few of them and hear more of their stories for our documentary. In addition to their individual stories, we were able to accompany the FAR case workers around the country as they conducted follow-up interviews with families who had already benefited from the Center.

We also got involved as children were brought into the Center, and initially evaluated for admission. In one case, we were heartbroken to see two young brothers, five and eight years old, brought in by the police because they had been wandering the streets for the last week after being abandoned by their mother.

Although that was shocking, what surprised us even more was their quick rebound. After being admitted to the Center, they were cleaned up, given new clothes, and within a few hours were already involved in playing with the other children.

While the psychological wounds of being separated from their mother will probably take a great deal of

time to heal, at least outwardly it was a step in the right direction.

During all of these interactions, we were both concerned that their life stories were too personal to share, and that they would hold back. But we were surprised to find that they were more than willing to share their background with others.

These children and families told their stories with sincerity. Everyone in the room could tell how comfortable the children felt around us because even though we came off as adults, we have the hearts of children as they do. We both found the stories of their broken families and difficult childhoods devastating, but it showed us how much the Child Protection Center had really changed their lives for the better. They all seemed truly happy there and we were so thankful that we could experience a portion of their lives with them.

As the days went on, we grew more attached to each child and developed a personal connection with each of them. We knew them all by name, and they knew us, too. Whether it involved working in the kitchen and serving them their meals, letting them act out by painting, singing or dancing, or by just simple play, we were always greeted with ample amounts of hugs and kisses everyday. It was nearly impossible for us to leave. Our final day, they followed our car out of the facility and would have come with us if we had let them.

When we spoke to Mira the next day, she told us they were asking for us. This made our departure from Armenia bittersweet and more difficult than we both anticipated.

We boarded the plane home with a very different mindset. We both had bags full of pictures and gifts from the children and these would serve as constant reminders of the small things that make them happy in life.

This experience made us realize that we take everything we have for granted, and the simplicity of a laugh or a smile should be able to fulfill our needs, as it did for these little boys and girls. We will both have their smiling faces etched in our memories. Though they will grow up and find happiness on their own, we hope we changed their lives as much as they changed ours, even if they did only know us for a short amount of time. We could not have asked for a better experience in Armenia, and though the pictures will fade, our memories will last a lifetime. ❧

## Peter Balakian to lecture at Bergen Community College Oct. 8



**Peter Balakian.**

**PARAMUS, N.J.** — Noted author and Teaneck, N.J., native Peter Balakian, who has written extensively about the Armenian experience, will speak at Bergen Community College on Thursday, October 8, at 6 p.m.

Mr. Balakian's visit, arranged by the college's Peace, Justice and Reconciliation Center and the Center for the Study of Intercultural Understanding, brings the nationally recognized author and scholar to Bergen to discuss the struggle of the Armenian people in the late 19th and early 20th centuries as well as their history, poetry, and literature.

Mr. Balakian serves as the Donald M. and Constance H. Rebar Professor of the Humanities and director of creative writing in Colgate University's English depart-

ment. He was also the university's first director of its Center for Ethics and World Societies.

Mr. Balakian won the PEN/ALbrand Prize for his memoir, *Black Dog of Fate*, which earned *New York Times* Notable Book honors. He was the recipient of a 1999 Guggenheim Fellowship, a 2004 National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship, and the 2005 Raphael Lemkin Prize for his book, *The Burning Tigris: The Armenian Genocide and America's Response*.

His address will take place in the Moses Family Meeting and Training Center (Technology Education Center room 128) at the College, 400 Paramus Road. ❧

connect:  
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1-201-447-9232

## Community

# Founder Yervant Zorian discusses the launch of AGBU's Armenian Virtual College

**NEW YORK** – The AGBU Armenian Virtual College (AVC) (<http://www.avc-agbu.org/>) went online earlier this year for a summer trial session that attracted hundreds of eager students from every corner of the world. They logged on to learn more about this innovative Internet-based accredited distance-learning program that provides courses in Armenian history, language, and culture, while allowing students to choose from six languages of instruction: Western and Eastern Armenian, English, Russian, French, and Spanish.

The driving force behind this groundbreaking Armenian school is AGBU Board Member and AVC founder, Yervant Zorian. Zorian is the vice-president and chief scientist of Virage Logic, an IT company operating both in Armenia and the United States. He was elected to the AGBU Central Board of Directors last year during the organization's 85th General Assembly. He serves as a trustee of the American University of Armenia and chairperson of AGBU Silicon Valley, and was recently elected to be a Foreign Member of Armenia's National Academy of Sciences.

His passion and vision for AVC has ensured that the original idea continues to grow as the school and students work together to develop a system that can revolutionize the way Armenians preserve and promote their cultural heritage.

On September 22, AVC will formally launch its first full semester, so we spoke to Zorian about AVC and its potential for the future of Armenian education.

### A full-scale academic institution

**AGBU:** Now that the first trial session of AGBU's Armenian Virtual College has concluded, how would you gauge the outcome?

**YZ:** The first term of AVC successfully attracted approximately 150 e-learners through courses in Eastern Armenian, Western Armenian, and Armenian History. One of the purposes of this term was to evaluate the e-learning method at the heart of the college.

At its core, the AVC is aimed to become not merely a library of individual electronic courses, but a full-scale academic institution, with fully equipped virtual classrooms, effective student-teacher communication, peer-to-peer collaboration, and an authentic university environment. The success of our first trial term confirmed not only the academic quality of the courses' content but also the effectiveness of our overall online learning methodology. In fact, this term helped us realize the extent to which the two complement each other in order to create the optimal learning experience for Armenian education.

**AGBU:** What has been the response of the students involved in this inaugural session?

**YZ:** Upon the conclusion of the first term, every student completed three surveys, each assessing a key component of the AVC: the content and methodology, the technical quality and ease of use, and the online instructors. The overwhelming majority of students were satisfied with their learning experience with AVC and plan to continue taking courses through the program in the future. Moreover, all survey respondents expressed their intent to recommend AVC to others. The majority of students highly appreciated the opportunity to interact with one another and found this peer-to-peer collaboration to be beneficial for their learning experience, especially for those participating in the Armenian history courses. Students were satisfied with the technical aspects of the program and were impressed by the professional level of the multimedia components. Furthermore, they appreciated the enthusiasm, approachability, and responsiveness of the online instructors, who helped create engaging classroom environments. While the students in each of the six language groups – Eastern Armenian, Western Armenian, Russian, English, French, and Spanish – varied greatly in their background and their style of online interaction, they all shared an appreciation for the mission of the AVC and its role in the global Armenian community.

### Surprising demographics

**AGBU:** Have there been any surprises?

**YZ:** Throughout the first term, we continuously adapted the college's features and our learning methodology in order to address the unanticipated challenges and surprises that arose. Even during the earliest stage of the term – the registration period – we were surprised by the demographics of the student body. The number of learners registering for each course far surpassed our expectations. Moreover, we were amazed by the span of their ages and their backgrounds. We were quite pleased to find that despite this wide range, learners of all ages were eager to communicate with one another through the discussion forums and peer-to-peer collaboration activities. Moreover, the variety in students' academic background and prior knowledge actually enhanced the level of classroom discussion and allowed for a richer experience for all. As the term progressed, we were impressed by the number of hours students spent on the lessons per week, which surpassed our expectations. In fact, students often viewed the multimedia lessons multiple times each week and the level of online activity on the AVC portal necessitated repeatedly increasing our bandwidth on the host server throughout the term.



Yervant Zorian speaks to an Armenian audience in Istanbul about the newly launched AGBU Armenian Virtual College.

**AGBU:** How do you view AVC fitting into AGBU's larger educational mission?

**YZ:** AGBU's lifelong dedication to Armenian education is a well-known reality. As we all know, throughout the past century, AGBU has supported Armenian educational programs primarily through traditional schools and universities in Armenia and in the diaspora. Through the Armenian Virtual College, its newest teaching institute, AGBU will further its mission to promote education in the globally dispersed Armenian communities, using an entirely innovative approach. Through online education, the AVC provides learners around the world the opportunity to receive the same full-fledged Armenian education, regardless of their age, country of residence, or knowledge level. In this sense, the AVC not only reinforces the educational objectives of AGBU, but also widens their reach. Though unprecedented in its scope, the AVC neither replaces the traditional Armenian school system, nor serves as an alternative to the educational institutions AGBU has supported in the past. On the contrary, the new virtual learning community bridges the gaps in the current system – both bringing Armenian education to those in the diaspora who do not have access to traditional schools and complementing the curriculum of existing Armenian schools through multimedia resources. In fact, several day schools and Saturday schools, including some from the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Argentina, and Uruguay, have already expressed interest in using AVC courses to supplement their current curriculum.

### A college diploma

**AGBU:** When does the AVC team expect course accreditations to begin so that students can receive credit from their local colleges and universities for their work?

**YZ:** AVC learners can choose to earn credits for each course that they complete, ultimately leading to a diploma from the AGBU Armenian Virtual College by completing 24 courses. Alternately, students can earn a minor in a subject domain by completing 8 courses from a single department.

Since the courseware has been developed by the higher educational institutes in Armenia, we have already obtained full accreditation from the Academic Council of the Yerevan State University for the course developed so far.

Currently, we are actively pursuing the next level of accreditation from recognized educational institutions in North America and Europe. Such accreditation will help students transfer course credits from AVC to their corresponding universities and learning institutions across the world or obtain credit as Advanced Placement courses in their corresponding high school programs.

Alternately, AVC learners may also choose to participate in the program as an extension or continuing-education course with less rigorous requirements and no credits. Based on the demographics of our recently completed Summer Term, we have noticed that the number of these auditors is typically in the range of a third in each of our AVC virtual classrooms.

### The possibilities are endless

**AGBU:** What is your dream for AVC? How do you see it changing in the future?


**YZ:** While the success of our first academic term is very promising, there is still much work to be done before the AVC reaches

its full potential. In order to reach a wider range of learners in the global village, we will undoubtedly increase the number of languages in which our courses are offered. Over the past several weeks, I have already received requests to expand our six currently adopted teaching languages, by adding German, Turkish, and Polish, among others. By the very nature of the college's design, the scope of the AVC is unlimited, and we will continue to widen its reach until Armenian education becomes available to every Armenian across the globe.

In addition to expanding the community it serves, the AVC will advance in the education it offers. By widening the range of courses in the AVC curriculum, we can ensure that our e-learners have the chance to obtain the most comprehensive Armenian education. We are in the process of discussing a number of subject domains to add to our current curriculum.

Due to the virtual nature of the institute, the possibilities of advancing the features available to students are endless. We are fully engaged in the global community of online learning and are collaborating with world-renowned online pedagogues and technology experts. We are willing to leverage the experiences obtained by the network of institutions in this community.

As the college thus evolves into a thriving virtual learning community, I foresee that it will foster both the cultural education and social communication otherwise out of the reach of most Armenians, and in so doing, will become the premier learning institute of the global Armenian community. #



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## ARMENIA

# ARF launches protest in Yerevan

ARF members in Yerevan protest the concessions agreed to by the Armenian government in the protocols on the establishment of bilateral relations with Turkey. Photo: Hayk Badalyan/Photolure.



The Supreme Council of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation launched a month-long protest on September 15 against the concessions agreed to by the Armenian government in the protocols on the development of relations between Armenia and Turkey.

The ARF's protest involves a rotating 48-hour hunger strike in front of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and a sit-in in front of the government building, both in Republic Square. The party is also collecting signatures for a petition against the protocols and has stated that it will continue with its protest until amendments are made to the protocols. A list of proposed amendments has been published by the party and is being circulated.

The party is criticizing two key points in the agreement. The first is the point "Confirming the

mutual recognition of the existing border between the two countries as defined by the relevant treaties of international law." The party contends that the provision is unnecessary and forecloses the possibility of raising legitimate claims in the future.

The second is the establishment of an intergovernmental commission whose task will be to "implement a dialogue on the historical dimension with the aim to restore mutual confidence between the two nations, including an impartial scientific examination of the historical records and archives to define existing problems and formulate recommendations." The party argues that the establishment of such a commission would cast doubt on the veracity of the Genocide and postpone acknowledgement of the Genocide by various countries. ☐

## U.S. Ambassador and Armenian officials visit MCA-Armenia program sites in Kotayk and Aragatston

KARBI, Aragatsotn Province, Armenia - U.S. Ambassador **Marie L. Yovanovitch**, Armenia's Deputy Prime Minister **Armen Gevorgyan**, Minister of Agriculture **Gerasim Alaverdyan**, Aragatsotn Governor **Sargis Sahakyan**, Kotayk Governor **Kovalenko Shahgeldyan**, and other Armenian and U.S. delegation members on September 16 visited the Arzni-Shamiram main canal section rehabilitated under the MCA-Armenia Program.

The project site represents a test area used to determine engineering and construction best practices to be used during subsequent main canal rehabilitation works. More than 30 communities and 60,000 people in both provinces are to benefit from improvements in this canal.

The Arzni-Shamiram canal is one of six main canals within the Armenian main canal network that will be rehabilitated under the MCA-Armenia Program's Ir-

rigated Agriculture Project (IAP). Rehabilitation and construction works are contracted to a consortium led by the French company SADE and its Armenian subcontractor SHMSH-23 of Vayots Dzor. Rehabilitation and reconstruction works focus on canal sections and water-management structures that are in poor to very poor condition.

The delegation traveled to the community of Karbi in Aragatsotn for an informative tour of the new

agricultural technologies being utilized by a farmer who underwent water-management training. MCA-Armenia funded the installation of a drip irrigation system, which has allowed the farmer to transition to more efficient and cost-effective irrigation practices.

This is only one of many demonstration sites where technical equipment funded by the MCA-Armenia Program is explained to the farmers. Visits to these sites complement in-class training sessions,

providing farmers with hands-on evidence of how the new approaches taught to them work in practice.

To date, over 30,000 farmers in more than 300 communities in Armenia have received training in water-management technologies and higher-value agriculture within the Agriculture project of the program. This includes around 5,000 farmers in 60 communities of Kotayk and Aragatsotn provinces. ☐

connect: [www.mca.am](http://www.mca.am)

## From Armenia, in brief

### Edward Nalbandian to take part in 64th session of UN General Assembly

Armenia's Foreign Minister **Edward Nalbandian** will be taking part in the United Nations General Assembly, the ministry's press office announced. The visit will be held September 26-29.

**Yuri Merzliakov**, the Russian co-chair of the OSCE's Minsk Group has said that the Armenian and Azerbaijani foreign ministers would be

meeting in New York to discuss the scheduled meeting of the two countries' presidents in Kishinev, Moldova, in October. The Foreign Ministry would not confirm the report.

### Senior minister of Singapore visits Armenia

Senior Minister of Singapore **Lee Kuan Yew** was in Armenia for a three-day visit September 17-19 on the invitation of President **Serge Sargsian**. The visit was held under the auspices of the National Com-

petitiveness Council of Armenia.

During the visit, Lee Kuan Yew met with the president, Catholicos **Karekin II**, Prime Minister **Tigran Sarkisian**, and with Armenian businesspeople.

—M.T.

### Armenian parliamentary inquiry justifies 2008 crackdown

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) - After an inquiry that took more than a

year, on September 16 a special commission of Armenia's parliament defended the use of force on March 1-2 against opposition protesters demanding a re-run of the February 2008 presidential election. Clashes on those days left 10 people dead.

In a 138-page report submitted to the National Assembly, the commission, which was boycotted by opposition politicians and was thus dominated by pro-government lawmakers, concluded that security forces were right to break up massive postelection demonstrations

organized in Yerevan by failed presidential candidate and former president **Levon Ter-Petrosian**. It said that there were only isolated instances of excessive force used by law-enforcement officers.

The commission also said it was unable to shed more light on the circumstances in which eight civilians and two police personnel were killed in fierce clashes that broke out late on March 1, 2008. It urged law-enforcement authorities to do more to track down and prosecute individuals responsible for those deaths. ☐

## President invites discussions, yet protocols not subject to change

Continued from page 1

with you, then they will not ratify," he concluded.

On the grounds that consultations are meaningless if the protocols are not subject to amendment, the opposition Armenian National Congress and Heritage Party declined to participate in the meeting convened by the president. The ARF did participate, as did the Ramgavar Party of Armenia. The Hunchakian Party refused to take part.

In the last several days, supporters of Armenia's first president, **Levon Ter-Petrosian**, and some of the leaders of the ARF and Heritage Party publicly stated that the protocols were most likely forced upon Armenia. Former Foreign Minister **Vartan Oskanian** said that if they had not been forced to sign, then he would have great difficulty imagining any Armenian diplomat signing such documents.

"During the course of the last few days I have become acquainted, in detail, with public statements expressing the most different opinions," President Sargsian said during his opening remarks to the leaders of over 50 political parties. "I have heard positive, encouraging statements. I have heard criticism, and sometimes serious criticism; I have also heard concerns. Of course, I also see the risks. I, too, have concerns," he said.

Except for the president's opening remarks, the discussions, which lasted almost five hours, were closed to the media. Toward the end, reporters were allowed to come back in to listen to comments being made by some of the representatives of the political parties.

"Where are we going?" Mr. Sargsian asked. "Personally, I am moving toward resolving issues. Many people have been asking questions: What is your minimal and maximal

plan? I don't consider establishing diplomatic relations with Turkey and opening the borders a minimal or maximal plan. I see the conclusion of this process only as a way of securing the minimal atmosphere to ensure the possibility of beginning a dialogue with the Turks. We have a lot of issues to resolve regarding Armenian-Turkish relations - from economic, to political and historical."

Following the discussion, **Armen Rustamian**, a member of the ARF's Supreme Council, said that the party's concerns regarding the Armenian-Turkish protocols did not dissipate. The ARF has said repeatedly that the public negotiation process and the agreements reached are in Turkey's favor alone and very dangerous for Armenia.

The leader of the New Times Party, **Aram Karapetian**, was present at the discussion - even though his party is part of the Armenian National

Congress. He said, "the authorities needed to have this discussion."

"There are two issues that are causing grave concern for the majority of political parties: the Genocide and Nagorno-Karabakh. Serge Sargsian's opening remarks and his remarks at the conclusion of the discussion were different in their content. In the first one it seemed that they had made no mistakes, that there were no changes necessary, and it was done on their initiative. In the second speech, he shared all the concerns and said that there was certainly pressure, the issues are all interconnected, and he had serious concerns about whether they can sustain this," Mr. Karapetian said.

The ruling Republican Party, as it has in the past, continues to present the protocols as a victory for President Sargsian and Armenia's foreign policy. ☐

On October 1, the parliamentary Commission on Foreign Relations is organizing parliamentary hearings about Armenian-Turkish relations.

Turkish media are reporting that the protocols will be signed on October 14, prior to the Turkey-Armenia soccer match. If that happens, then the Armenian authorities will find themselves under a torrent of new criticism, because October 13 was that the day in 1921 when Soviet Armenia signed a document in Kars affirming the current border with Turkey.

After the signing of the protocols, they are subject to ratification by the parliaments of the two countries. Two months after they are ratified, if they are ratified, Turkey would be obligated to open the border with Armenia. Or, in the euphemistic phrase used in the protocols, the countries will have to open their common border. ☐

## COMMENTARY

# From opening to Armenia to the opening of the memory

by Ayse Hur

*The Turkish original of the following article appeared in Taraf on September 6. We present an English translation by Arutun Maranci with the kind permission of the author.*

While the wave of excitement for the steps taken by the government for a “Kurdish Opening” continues, an “Armenian Opening” initiative has started. In my view the most interesting headline concerning these two protocols, neither of which is yet in force, are the plans for the establishment of a historical commission. The commission is supposed to investigate claims of genocide, which are called “alleged” by the newspapers. We read in *Taraf* on September 4, 2009, **Taner Akçam’s** views concerning this subject. Answering **Yildiray Oğur’s** questions, Mr. Akçam said that it is necessary to separate normalization of the relations from “reconciliation.”

### The historical commission

In the same article, Mr. Akçam recalled that for 90 years, “Turkey claimed that there were no Kurds, and that these people were really Turks who happened to live in the mountains. Telling Kurds today, ‘Let’s form a commission and study the problem scientifically, and if the commission determines that Kurds do exist, we’ll move forward from there,’ makes about as much sense as saying, ‘We will accept the decision of a commission formed for the purpose of making a decision on the events of 1915.’”

Mr. Akçam also argues that scholars already know the answer to the question. Scholars may already “know”; nevertheless I want to add my views about this historical commission that has yet to be established. In these pages in the summer of 2008, I had presented a summary of Turkish-Armenian relations from the 1900s through 1990. I continue here where I had left off.



From the beginning of the republic to this day, history has been disseminated as a project to develop national identity, and the authoritarian state model was understood to be in a natural relationship with that national identity, constituting a logical extension of it. The first requirement for the dissemination of history was that it be a “clean and honorable” history. For that purpose, the myth was created of a Turkish race that has remained pure throughout Anatolian history – despite the wholesale assimilation of other races. However, on this subject there were two different periods. Before 1975–85, before ASALA terrorism and parliamentary genocide resolutions, the schoolbooks would briefly mention Armenians as subjects in the distant past, without making disparaging remarks.

### Owning Anatolia

For example, the capture by the Seljuks of Ani, the capital city of the Armenian Bagratid Kingdom, and the wars between the Seljuks and the Armenian Kingdom of Cilicia, which existed in the Adana region during the 12th to 14th centuries, was sometimes presented in belittling terms, sometimes ignored, and sometimes treated as if there had been no conflict. In some cases these kingdoms were portrayed as tiny, and in others, the territory of the kingdom was made ambiguous. In some cases, the territories were stated to be lying outside of Anatolia, and in others, the lands where the Armenians lived were said to have been inhabited earlier by Oguz, Pechenek, and Kipchak tribes. In this way it was implied that the Armenians had no historical claims in Anatolia.

An interesting phenomenon that shows the cohesive force of the Armenian taboo among the intellectual class was the “Blue Anatolia” movement led by Sabahattin Eyuboglu, Azra Erhat, and “The Fisher of Hali-carnassus” Cevat Shakir. A new breath was given by the movement to the slogan “Anatolia is ours, not because we conquered it, but it is ours because it was ours” and thereby

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the pagan, Christian, and Muslim history of Anatolia was offered as a continuum. Accordingly, Turkish was the final stage of the 72 languages spoken earlier, and Turkishness was a version of humanistic thought.

However, the name of Armenians was absent among these people and civilizations that constituted us at present. (The same tendency was shown by Yashar Kemal in 1992. In a speech about Cilicia, he discusses the Hittite and Byzantine past of the city of Anavarza but omits its Armenian past, whereas Anavarza was the capital city of the Armenian Kingdom of Cilicia from 1100s to 1375 and it is impossible that Yashar Kemal did not know this.)

### What is peculiar about the Turkish identity is that it is able to exist only by denying the events of 1915–17.

### Esat Uras’s book

Beginning with 1980, a radical change took place, and the subject of the Armenian Question entered the schoolbooks. The text was based on a 1953 book, *The Armenian Question: Nine questions, Nine Answers*, by Ahmet Esat Uras, who had participated in the Unionist movement and had played an active role in the 1915 deportations. The book had been of great interest to the Foreign Ministry upon its publication; it had been reprinted several times and had been translated into foreign languages. According to the book, Armenians, who had merged with Turkish culture and had lived a “happy” life in the Ottoman period, had suddenly taken a hostile attitude to the Turks. After offering the 1894–1896 Urfa and Sasoun and the 1909 Adana events as examples of this enmity, the Armenian deportations of 1915–17 were characterized to be in defense to these events. Later, the views of Esat Uras inspired other writers and new books were published. Finally the “official view” was put in history books.

### An essay contest

On June 14, 2002, the Training and Education Committee of the Ministry of National Education decided to train teachers on how to address these matters in the schools. The decision was announced in the newspapers in August 9, 2002, under the heading, “The position of the state regarding the allegations of an Armenian Genocide, the establishment of a Pontus Greek State, and the Genocide of Christian Assyrians will be given in school books.” The implementation of the decision was to begin in the 2002–2003 school year.

Later, the same committee published a curriculum for teachers. The important point in the curriculum was the requirement for all the students in the country to compete in an essay on “The Armenian Revolt and the Activities of the Armenians during the First World War.” The apparent purpose of the competition was to have the students recount the atrocities perpetrated by the Armenians against Turks. The especially sad part of the initiative was that Armenian students living in Turkey were also required to write the essay.

### Acknowledging the Genocide is a crime

Another important development in this field came in the form of Article 305 of the Turkish Criminal Code, passed by the Parliament on September 26, 2004, as part of a required framework by the European Union. Hailed by several European Union leaders as an important step toward Union membership, this article specified a 10-year prison sentence for “acting against the interests of the State and thereby directly or indirectly obtain aid from foreign individuals or foundations.” In the justification section of this article, the examples given for acting contrary to national interests are, “To demand the withdrawal of Turkish forces from Cyprus” and to “assert the occurrence of the Armenian Genocide during the First World War.” Despite pressure

from the European Union, this article is yet to be changed.

### The Blue Book

On March 1, 2005, the Republican People’s Party (CHP) started a campaign under the heading, “Genocide Attack.” In a letter prepared to be sent to the members of the British Parliament and House of Lords, they asked that the book titled, *The Treatment of Armenians in the Ottoman Empire, 1915–16*, prepared by the British War Propaganda Bureau based in Wellington House during the First World War, be declared propaganda material, and that the British acknowledge that the information therein is without foundation and unreliable. The letter was signed by the Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, the Head of CHP, Deniz Baykal in the General Committee Room of the Turkish Parliament and was mailed to the recipients.

However, the aftermath was never learned, because all the newspapers that had greeted the campaign with headlines (except *Zaman*) of “Avenging the 90 Years,” “International Attack against the Blue Book,” and “Challenge to the Genocide,” did not feel the need to report the response given to the letter. The claims made in the letter were discussed in the Human Rights Group of the British Parliament and were answered in a letter signed by 32 members of Parliament. The response begins with the statement, “The central thesis of the Blue Book was the argument that starting in 1915 Armenians were subjected to a policy of mass annihilation in the Ottoman Empire,” and after explaining why the Blue Book was a reliable document, it invites the Turkish members of parliament to a round table discussion with academic consultants, and expresses the hope that from this exercise a joint declaration on the historical facts could result. In the light of this response, it finishes by calling the withdrawal of the letter sent to the British Parliament. Of course, our representatives who were sure of their thesis saw no need to accept the invitation to a round table.

### The Ministry of National Education in 2002 required all the students in Turkey to write an essay on atrocities allegedly perpetrated by Armenians against Turks in World War I.

### The myth of backstabbing

A conference organized by a group of scholars for May 25, 2006, titled, “Ottoman Armenians during the Collapse of the Empire: Scientific Responsibility and Questions of Democracy,” was canceled when the Minister of Justice, Cemil Cicek, characterized the organizers as having “stabbed us in the back.” With this, the insincerity of the calls to “leave the subject to the historians” was demonstrated.

There is a resemblance between the blaming of the intellectuals by the minister and the blaming of a handful of Marxists and Jewish politicians for the defeat of Germany in the First World War. In the period following the 1919 Versailles Treaty, they were called “internal enemies” and the “myth of backstabbing” (*Dochstosslegende*) was created. Actually, in the official Turkish history this term was frequently used as “the Arabs stabbed us in the back” to characterize Arab nationalists which had joined the British during the First World War in their struggle for independence; however, the way it was used by the minister of justice was so filled with hatred as to cause shivers in many. Later, similar expressions were frequently used to describe those saying, “Turkey needs to face history”; those wanting to promote relations with the European Union; and those asking for compliance with international standards. Especially, the “debating of allegations of Armenian Genocide” by intellectuals, without citing the examples of crimes committed by France in Algeria, by the United States in

Vietnam, Afghanistan, and Iraq, and by Italy in Africa, was sufficient reason for them to be labeled “enemies of the homeland and the nation.”

### Armenians, the “absolute other” of the Turks

What do all these things mean? We know that the processes of “remembering” and “forgetting” play an important role in the formation of a national identity. What is peculiar about the Turkish identity is that it is able to exist only by denying the events of 1915–17. It is known that the Ottoman Empire, spreading over three continents, had in its last 150 years entered a period of decline. Unending wars, defeats, and large number of human losses had created serious concerns about the future of the empire.

During this period when every initiative ended with failure, the leading elite was inclined to blame the imperialist powers and the “minorities” that collaborated with them. During those years, the governing class of the empire believed that they were being pushed out from the historical narrative being developed by the West and becoming nobodies, and that they were facing the total destruction of the empire. Only by thinking that this condition had come about principally because of the treachery of the nations they were lorded helped them find a measure of consolation.

### The example of the Emerald Phoenix

The perpetrators, who during the National Struggle period felt themselves freed from the pressure of international public opinion, proceeded to finish their unfinished business. Kemalist Turkish nationalists allied with Kurds, who were considered to be “less other” because of their shared Islamic religion, expelled the remainder of the “real other,” the Christian Armenians and Greeks, to the remotest places in Anatolia, and then started dealing with the Kurds. The extremely bloody nature of this action helped to provide a good opportunity to erase from communal memory what was done to the Armenians. (What was done to the Greeks had almost acquired legitimacy because of the errors committed by Greece.) During this period, not only the Kemalist elites who were organizationally or ideologically related to the Unionists but also all those who had looted the properties of deported Armenians, had adopted or become foster parents to Armenian children, local prominent or common people who had added Armenian girls to their harems, the commercial bourgeoisie whose capital was formed from confiscated Armenian wealth, the craftspeople for whom a market was created in the fields emptied of Armenians needed to wipe clean their memory. As a result a consensus arose among different segments of the society: first to forget what was done to the Armenians and then actually to forget them.

The leaders of the new republican order, to create a Turkish identity, attempted to differentiate themselves from their Ottoman past, which represented the “old,” the “superstitious,” and the “East,” and by characterizing the old Ottoman subjects as “cosmopolitan,” “mixed,” and “murky,” launched an initiative to free itself from the Ottoman identity, to bring about a “citizenry” that is “ethnically pure” and in its worldview “secular.” During this nation-building period, Armenian identity became a perfect “other” for the nationalists as well as for the left, for the religious and the secular, for the intellectual and the ordinary people, for being a “barbarian” and “terrorist” people, fanatically religious non-Moslems, and for being a diaspora group rooted in the international arena.

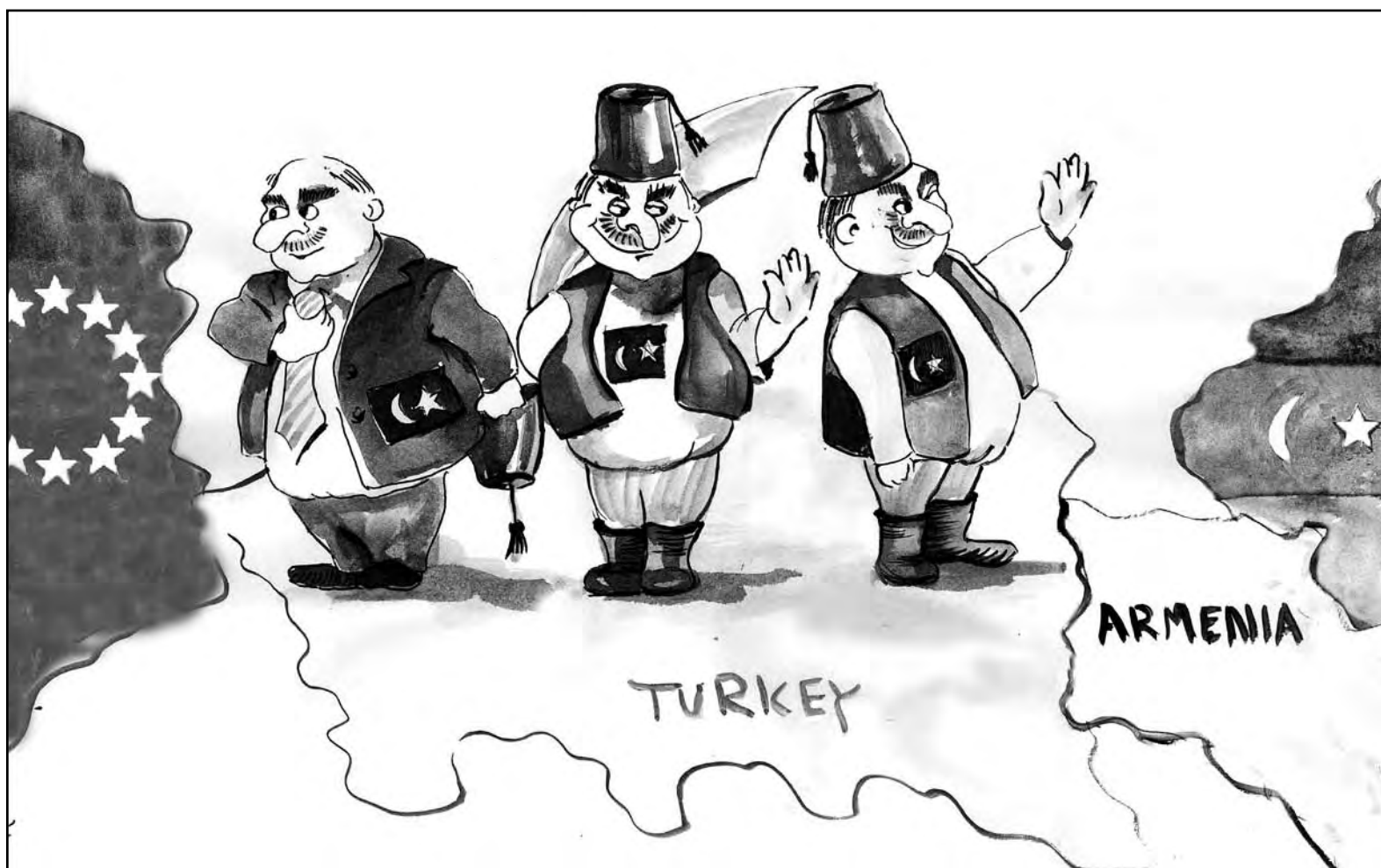
### “Internal enemy” more dangerous than the external enemy

During this period of “otherness,” the attribution of the slogan “internal enemy” to Armenians naturally required an “external enemy.” However, in the mind of Turkish nationalism, the entity defined as “internal

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# Editorial

the armenian  
reporter



## The many faces of Turkish diplomacy.

Illustration: Nareh Balian  
for the Armenian Reporter.  
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# Will the real Turkey please stand up?

The Turkish government this week once again showed that it has no intention of ending Turkey's 16-year-old blockade of Armenia and establishing diplomatic relations with its eastern neighbor.

And if it doesn't mean to go through with the agreements it has initialed and has committed itself to signing in mid-October, then the whole process is a farce. It is a farce intended to extract concessions from Armenia, while demonstrating to the West a nonexistent commitment to good-neighborly sentiments.

What happened this week is simple. Turkey's Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu assured the leaders of opposition parties in his country, "We won't take a step which will sadden our Azerbaijani brothers." He added, "They are being informed of the entire process imminently and it will go on as before."

The promise remains: The entire process "will go on as before."

In Istanbul on April 6, President Barack Obama said talks between Armenia and Turkey could "bear fruit very quickly very soon." In response, Turkey's President Abdullah Gül said a breakthrough was *not* imminent, noting that "issues between Armenia and Azerbaijan"

must first be resolved.

On April 19 Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan reiterated that point. He said, "A decision to open the border gate with Armenia will depend on the Nagorno-Karabakh issue being solved. If the Armenian occupation of Azeri territory continues, Turkey will not open its border gate." He repeated the promise more than once after that.

So what are we to believe? The officials, who say they won't open the border, or the protocols initialed by the same officials, which say that Turkey will open the border? The protocols will not come into effect without parliamentary ratification, so the statements and the protocols can be reconciled in one way: if ratification is withheld because Armenia won't capitulate in Karabakh.

Turkey seeks to get Armenia's National Assembly unilaterally to ratify an agreement in which Armenia agrees to concessions, while Turkey itself has no intention of ratifying the agreement or opening the illegally closed border.

The international community should not be credulous enough to take the signature of Turkish officials at face value.

# From opening to Armenia to the opening of the memory

## Continued from page 21

enemy" was seen as an insidious element that ate away at the social structure, and compared to the relatively visible "external enemy," it was much more dangerous. Especially if this enemy had resulted from a great many elements who were the "other" of the Muslim-Turkish identity. Consequently, the struggle against Armenians continued without a break. The success of the project to neutralize Armenians as "the other" from the community and world opinion depended on the close cooperation of the state and society. This cooperation was guaranteed in large measure by tyrannical policies.

At the end, people came to believe that it was their duty to accept the historical

narrative imposed on them by the state. During this period the state became an instrument for shaping ideology and also its guarantor. To make its guarantor role quickly acceptable, it was necessary for the state to underscore the dangers "facing society." In this respect, theories of plots against the state like "the resuscitation of Sèvres," "the establishment of Pontus," "the revival of Byzantium in the Fenar district," and "land purchase of Israel in the Southeastern Anatolia Project (GAP) area" were put forward. At the same time the idea was put forth that the Armenian diaspora with its 3R strategy (Recognition of genocide, Restitution of property and land, and finally Reconciliation) would revive the plans of imperialist powers to divide Turkey.

## Fear of the return of confiscated property

An attempt was made to persuade people that "a people who 90 years ago were able to break up a huge empire, given the present-day relations between nations, could certainly break up Turkey, which was small." However, the real worry was not the breakup of the country, or Turks being labeled "genocidal." It was the fear of demands for the return of or compensation for the confiscated wealth of the deported Armenians. Clues that this was the reason are shown by the strict prohibition placed on access to the records of property deeds from the Ottoman era and by the criticism and obstructionism shown during the enactment of the February 2008 Law of Foundations.

As a matter of fact we could have continued this unhealthy spiritual condition, except for the persistence of the Armenians and because the 20th century has become an era of apologizing by individuals and states, commercial enterprises, and religious organizations for political, economic, cultural, and social faults. In our days facing history has become almost a "moral norm." There are some exceptions and questionable cases; however, this approach, which can be summarized as "societies that do not face their history do not have the right to be a member of the international community," may help close the schizophrenic split created in the Turkish society by 1915. In this respect "opening to Armenia" appears to be very important. Provided the opening is in accord with universal norms of jurisprudence and ethics.

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## Commentary

# Taner Akçam: The decision will be made by politicians, not historians

by **Taner Akçam**

In an interview with Turkey's "Taraf" daily, Professor Taner Akçam discusses the agreement initialed by Armenia and Turkey on the normalization of bilateral relations. He rejects the notion that a commission could determine whether the events of 1915 constituted genocide – a matter that is settled.

The daily *Taraf*, dubbed by *Spiegel* as "Turkey's most courageous newspaper," on September 4 published an interview with **Taner Akçam**, who holds the chair in Armenian Genocide Studies at Clark University. Professor Akçam, author of *A Shameful Act: The Armenian Genocide and the Question of Turkish Responsibility*, spoke to **Yildiray Ogur** about the protocols on the establishment of relations between Armenia and Turkey, which were unveiled on August 31. The following translation, by **Fatima Sakarya**, is published by the *Armenian Reporter* with Professor Akçam's permission.

### Normalization vs. reconciliation

**Taraf:** How do you define the issue between Turkey and Armenia?

**Taner Akçam:** There are two separate problems between Turkey and Armenia. You could define the first as the normalization of relations and the second as the problem of reconciliation as a result of what occurred in history. These two problems should be dealt with entirely separately, and normalization of relations should be achieved immediately, without any precondition. There are some steps being taken right now in this direction, and this should be strongly encouraged.

The establishment of diplomatic relations should follow the opening of the borders. Azerbaijan should be made to understand that its objections are unjustified and that the normalization of relations between Turkey and Armenia is in its own interest also.

Whenever the discussion turned to the problems related to history, the late **Hrant Dink** would say, "The real problem is the normalization of relations and the opening of borders. Without that, you can't solve any problem."

The steps taken toward the normalization of relations won't solve the problems associated with history, but they prepare the groundwork for doing so. The establishment of peace is another issue altogether and should be taken up on its own.

### An absurd question

**Taraf:** The establishment of a joint commission on research of the genocide claims is on the agenda. Through the efforts of certain civic organizations on this subject, some conferences were organized in Switzerland. What are your thoughts and recommendations regarding this commission and what it can achieve?

**TA:** If there is a problem between the two sides, and they want to find a resolution, of course the formation of a commission is appropriate. What is important is that they understand why the commission is being formed and for what purpose.

I don't believe that either Armenia or international circles will accept the formation of a commission based upon the recommendation of the Turkish government to "research the claims of genocide." It will be impossible to establish a commission for the purpose of coming to a conclusion on the question of, "Were the events of 1915 a genocide?" I think we need to put that idea completely out of our heads.

This idea is based on some false presumptions. First of all is a presumption that operates from an idea that there is an unknown out there, and that if historians were to get together and publish what they knew, this unknown would disappear. In fact, this is not the case, either for the Armenians or for the international academic world.

What we have before us is Turkey's policy of denial.

The subject bears a close resemblance to the Kurdish issue. For 90 years, Turkey claimed that there were no Kurds, and that



Taner Akçam.

these people were really Turks who happened to live in the mountains. Telling Kurds today, "Let's form a commission and study the problem scientifically, and if the commission determines that Kurds do exist, we'll move forward from there," makes about as much sense as saying, "We will accept the decision of a commission formed for the purpose of making a decision on the events of 1915."

### Any commission would lack authority

Secondly, this belief rests on a false presumption that if the commission were formed and a conclusion were reached, everyone would agree and accept that conclusion. Neither Armenians nor the interested academic world expects or needs this.

Also, if a commission were formed with "the authority to make a decision regarding what happened in 1915," it would be disbanded the moment it was formed. Historians do not possess final authority to make definitive pronouncements on history.

One could claim that what we have is more of a legal issue than a historical one. Here's the question: Legally, can a definition that was created in 1948 be used to define an event from 1915? The separate sides could approach an [international] judicial institution and request a legal conclusion. An action like this has absolutely nothing to do with the idea of a historians' commission.

If the judicial institution were approached and it did not immediately dismiss the application for lack of jurisdiction, it is obvious what its conclusion would be. In accordance with accepted legal principle that a law cannot be retroactively applied, even if the events of 1915 were determined to fit the definition of genocide in the 1948 UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, it could not be applied retroactively.

### Retroactive application of international law

In fact, the Turkish Armenian Reconciliation Commission, which was formed in 2001, made just such an application to an organization named the ICTJ (International Center for Transitional Justice) in 2003, and asked for the issuance of its opinion. The ICTJ issued an opinion that the events of 1915 fit within the definition of genocide given in the 1948 UN Convention; however, the definition [legal judgment] could not [legally] be applied retroactively.

Still, even if we are to accept this legal principle, in no way does this provide a balm to heal our wounds, because this isn't the real problem. For example, the principle of non-retroactive application for past crimes could be used in the Jewish Holocaust. The 1948 Convention was issued after the Jews were annihilated in Europe. And what is generally not known is that in none of the prosecutions that followed, including the Nuremberg trials, did a single Nazi ever get convicted of the crime of genocide. Now, in the face of these

legal arguments, are we going to state that the Jews were not targeted for genocide?

The conclusion is obvious. There is no issue regarding the decision-making, and the notion of historians coming to conclusions on what happened in history is nonsense. Unless that person is an official with the state government, you will never find a historian who will state, "I'm going to tell you what happened in 1915, and you're just going to have to accept that."

### Opening state archives

**Taraf:** There's talk about opening up the archives. Are there archives in Turkey that are closed and which, if opened, would provide enlightening information about history? Are there closed archives in Armenia? What is your opinion about Turkey's position regarding the archives?

**TA:** On this subject, there are two important archives in Turkey. One is the Ottoman Archive in Istanbul and the other is the General Staff Archive [in Ankara]. The Ottoman Archive is open to researchers. We know what records have been presented to researchers there.

In other words, you don't need to form a commission to gain access to the existing records in the Ottoman Archive. If there are records that have been held back, they can be made available without resorting to the formation of a commission.

If someone says those records won't be revealed unless a commission is formed, then yes, a commission could be formed for this special purpose. You could call it the Commission to Publish the Hitherto Secret Records.

The General Staff archive (ATASE for short) is truly closed. There isn't even an application form to request research there. That source should be opened to researchers. If the ATASE has records that do not appear in the eight-volume work that they published, [those records] can be published without resorting to the formation of a commission, or a commission could be formed for the organization of those documents.

There are no archives on this subject matter in Armenia because the state of Armenia was formed in 1918, and for that reason there is nothing about the events of 1915 in the Armenian State archives.

### Private archives

The Dashnak Party archives in Boston are closed to researchers. There was an announcement, however, in 2009, that a digital transcription of the records is being worked on with great haste, and that the records will be opened once that is completed. It would be a great service if this archive were opened. It is not simply that keeping them closed is wrong; it is because [opening the archive] will confirm to everyone that it does not contain information that will change any of our [general] knowledge about what occurred.

Another archive that is closed belongs to the Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem. An important source of the records of military tribunal prosecutions of members of the Union and Progress Party for the events of 1915 that took place in Istanbul between 1919 and 1921 are found there. The archives are closed to researchers, but **Vahakn Dadrian** possesses copies of a large number of those records, and much of his research has been also supported by those records. It would be a great service if this archive were also opened to researchers.

Of course, it goes without saying that if there are records that have not been revealed in these archives, records that have not been presented to researchers, they should be made accessible immediately; there is much to be gained from their availability to researchers. There could be ad hoc commissions formed for the purpose of getting these records published, or for example, on specific subjects, like population figures, but these efforts should not be conditioned on the reconciliation of both societies or the resolution of the problems arising from their history.

I should add that none of these archives holds information that will change what we already know about 1915. It is wrong to think that a heretofore unknown record exists

within these archives which will unlock the question of whether or not a genocide took place. Besides, during the 1919 prosecutions it was revealed that documents that would have provided clear and definite evidence were destroyed. Nevertheless, the documents that remain are sufficient for us to come to a conclusion about what happened.

### An open-ended process

We should mention the archives of other countries like Germany, America, and Austria. As someone who is for the most part familiar with what is contained in those archives, I can say without hesitation that all of the information in these archives supports a common theme. Besides, the academic world has for the most part formed its opinion about 1915 based upon the information that was brought to light from those records. That is, that the Union and Progress Party intended to destroy the Armenians, and that it put forth policies that would ensure this would occur.

In summary, of course, we can draw details from these archives that will fill out this general framework. But this kind of information isn't just lying there in archival records; it resides in private places that have not yet seen the light of day: in unpublished memoirs and other like sources. As new material is discovered and new analysis is presented, the research and debates around 1915 will continue as an open-ended process. This process, however, has nothing to do with the process of reconciliation between Turks and Armenians. If I say that studies about the Holocaust are the most developed of all genocide studies, I think it is understood what I am trying to say.

**Taraf:** If the job of examining the archives is given to a future commission or commissions, isn't there a danger that finding a solution to the problem gets postponed even further, to a time after this examination?

**TA:** This is in fact a very possible risk. The now 90-year-long Turkish policy of denial is in reality, a strategy of buying time. This strategy is what is behind pouring millions of dollars into Washington lobbyists. Every time the question is on the agenda, what's been said is, "Let's get past this headache one more time. We'll pay any price now and think about it later." If Turkey tries to link the resolution of the problem to research conclusions of the commission or commissions to be formed, then it falls right into this "buying time" playbook.

### Overcoming a legacy of lies

The resolution of the problem has nothing to do with any archival research or conclusions that will be drawn by a commission.

**Taraf:** Couldn't different commissions be formed on the subject?

**TA:** You need to clarify what it is that you need to achieve. The enlightenment of Turkish society is a priority; to help people who have been spoon-fed lies for over 90 years learn the truth. Society's lack of information and the need to address that is a priority. In order to do that, you need candid and free discourse on the subject. I have my doubts that this can be achieved without rescinding Article 301 of the Turkish Criminal Code. There are intellectuals among us who are still being prosecuted and punished for using the word "genocide." Before you start forming commissions, you need to remove the obstacles that prevent an honest and open discourse.

Of course you can form commissions. Those commissions could be bestowed with the duty of creating the kind of atmosphere that will lay the groundwork for a positive reception, by each country's public opinion, to a resolution. The most fundamental problem is the creation of trust. The commissions should really be formed not to come to a conclusion about history but to create trust between the two countries. Starting with the parliaments of each respective country, commissions that would oversee various organizations should be formed on the civil society level, and these commissions should endeavor to promote mutual understanding and growing trust between these societies.



High School Pasadena (Pasadena, CA, USA)



Tarouhy-Hovagimian School (Beirut, Lebanon)

# Congratulations to AGBU 2009 Graduates & Heritage Scholars

For over a century, the world's largest Armenian non-profit organization has educated hundreds of thousands of young Armenians imparting to them a sense of identity, and helping preserve and cultivate our heritage. Today, with 32 day and Saturday schools in 28 cities, we continue our mission. In 2009, over 250 bright, competitive and promising college bound students received their diplomas from AGBU high schools in Southfield MI, Pasadena and Canoga Park CA, Montevideo, Uruguay, Buenos Aires, Argentina, Beirut, Lebanon, and Aleppo, Syria.



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## What is an AGBU Heritage Scholar?

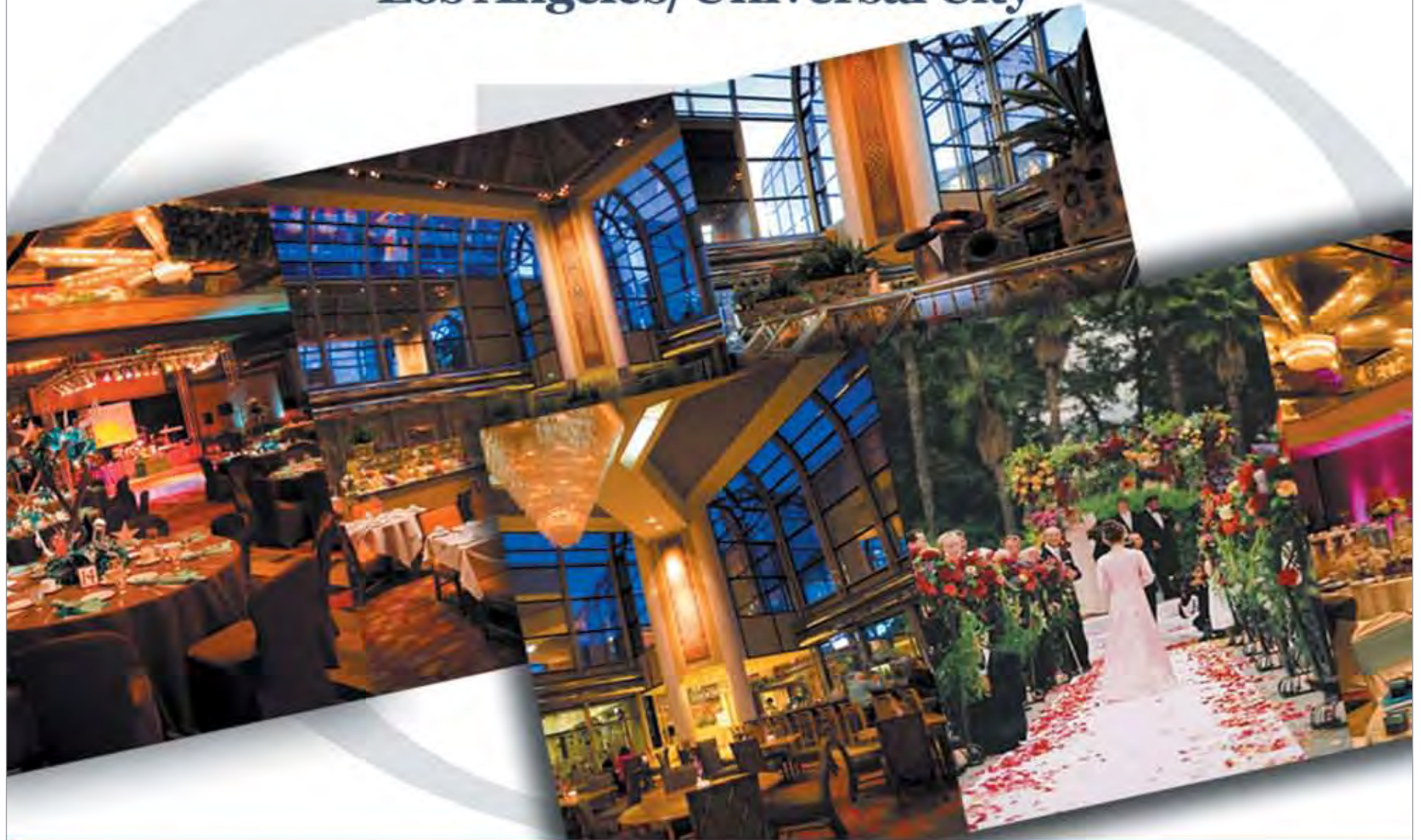
Established in 2009, the AGBU Heritage Scholar Grant is awarded to college-bound high school seniors graduating from AGBU High schools. Eligible candidates are nominated by the principal and faculty members of their school. Awardees are selected based on their display of academic excellence, school spirit, and community service, with particular attention to their contribution to the Armenian community. This year's five recipients were from the Southfield, Pasadena, and Canoga Park high schools.

For queries about AGBU Schools, please email [education@agbu.org](mailto:education@agbu.org).



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**Angela Sarafyan stars in  
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