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ABA Insurance Services logo with 30th Anniversary text and contact information: 818 500-9585, BMaronian@AOL.com

Advertisement for 'HAI-TAD' insurance services in Armenian, including the phone number 818 500-9585 and address 805 E. Broadway, Glendale, CA 91205.



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ՔՈՕՏԵՄ ԸՈՒՆՆՈՒ

Advertisement for the 50th anniversary of the Armenian National Assembly. Includes the text 'ՅՈՒՐՏՆԱԿԱՆ ՀԱՆԴԻՍՈՒԹԻՒՆ' and '50 ԱՄԵԱԿԻՆ'. It lists the assembly's achievements and future goals, and provides contact information for the assembly's office in Burbank, California.







# Massis Weekly

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## U.S. Negotiators Say Peace Talks Stall But Not Dead

YEREVAN -- A senior American diplomat believes there is still an opportunity for Armenia and Azerbaijan to make a breakthrough in the Karabakh settlement process.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Daniel Fried said in Yerevan last Thursday that he is convinced that negotiations can be continued despite the lack of progress at the latest round of high-level talks at Rambouillet.

"Both governments express their countries' interests and take the Karabakh settlement process seriously," Fried said, sharing with the media his impressions of the meetings with officials in Baku and Yerevan.

Fried, who had visited Azerbaijan and Georgia, said the goal of his trip was to study the situation in the region after the Rambouillet meeting between the presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan, as well as to discuss a number of issues pertaining to the future of the region, including energy security.

OSCE Minsk Group Cochairman



from the United States Steven Mann, who accompanied the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs in his tour, said: "It is a difficult fact that we did not move ahead at Rambouillet. But the two countries' presidents are willing to move forward."

On Wednesday, Fried and Mann had dinner with a dozen politicians representing Armenia's pro-government and opposition forces.

Fried said the U.S. Government is also interested in the democratic situation in Armenia.

## International Crisis Group Warns Of New Wars In The Caucasus

BRUSSELS -- To guarantee its own security, the EU must become more engaged in resolving the conflicts in the South Caucasus lest they ignite into full-fledged wars in Europe's neighbourhood, according to the latest report from the International Crisis Group, which examines the EU's efforts to address tensions over Nagorno-Karabakh, Abkhazia and South Ossetia, and points out how the EU can do more.

"Greater engagement is a challenge Brussels has only just begun to address", says Sabine Freizer, Crisis Group's Caucasus Project Director. "There have been a few promising steps, but there is a long way to go".

Thus far, others have taken the lead in promoting conflict settlement in the region, but over a decade of negotiations led by the UN in Abkhazia, and the Organisation for Security and Coopera-

tion in Europe (OSCE) in Nagorno-Karabakh and South Ossetia, have not produced comprehensive peace agreements. With its reputation as an "honest broker", access to a range of soft and hard power tools, and the lure of greater integration into Europe, the EU has a greater role to play, and offers added value to compliment the UN and the OSCE.

"The EU is trying to define its role in a new neighbourhood which is neither at war nor at peace", says Nicholas Whyte, Director of Crisis Group's Europe Program. "If the EU fails to implement its strategic vision for a secure neighbourhood, its credibility in the region, and generally vis-à-vis Russia and the U.S., will suffer. More troublingly, if the South Caucasus conflicts continue to deteriorate, the EU may find itself unprepared for responding to wars among its neighbours".

## Akhalkalaki Residents Want Armenian As Official Language

Akhalkalaki-based Virk and Javakhk organizations have requested the Georgian authorities to announce Armenian as the second official language in the Samtskhe-Javakheti region, which is predominantly populated by ethnic Armenians.

At a news conference on March 16 representatives of these organizations said that they have already sent an appeal to those four parliamentarians, who represent Armenian community, and asked them to push the issue in the Georgian legislative body.

A group of non-governmental organizations based in Samtskhe-Javakheti region requested last September the Georgian leadership to consider possibility of granting the region autonomy with "broad authority for self-governance, including the right to hold elections for all bodies of governance."

## KOCE-TV To Air The "The Armenian Genocide"

HUNTINGTON BEACH -- KOCE-TV, Orange County's local PBS station, is taking a moral stand as the only station in the Southland, including Los Angeles to air the highly-publicized program, "The Armenian Genocide." The acclaimed program, which shares the under-reported story of the Ottoman Turks' brutal slaying of more than one million Armenians during one of the largest genocides in history, will premiere on KOCE-TV Wednesday, April 26, 2006 at 9:00 p.m.

To date, despite overwhelming evidence and against the opinion of the overwhelming majority of historians, the Turkish government denies an Armenian genocide ever took place. However, in the face of this adversity, KOCE-TV has taken a moral stance by airing the documentary and recognizing the opinion of the overwhelming majority of historians that genocide did indeed take place.

"KOCE-TV is proud to be recognized as the only station in the Southland, including Los Angeles to air 'The Armenian Genocide,'" said Mel Rogers, president and general manager of KOCE-TV. "This film and its topic are significant, and KOCE-TV feels it is important that the genocide suffered by the Armenians not be forgotten, denied or glossed over. It is part of the mission of public television to stimulate responsible discussion



and illuminate complex issues. Since most Americans do not fully understand the issue in all its complexity, we are committed to offering the program which we sincerely hope will help viewers better understand this chapter in world history."

"The Armenian Genocide" is the unprecedented and powerful complete story of the first genocide of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

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## Ilham Aliyev Warns Armenia On Karabakh Negotiations

BAKU -- Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev has warned Armenia over delaying a negotiated solution to the Nagorno-Karabakh dispute.

Addressing a world congress of Azeris in Baku, Aliyev threatened to leave the negotiation table unless progress is reached in peace talks.

"We have been holding peace talks for the last 12 years. For 12 years, we've had a cease-fire and held talks with the hope that they would bear fruit," Aliyev said. "But how long is it going to last? This process cannot last forever and the patience of the Azerbaijani people and of the Azerbaijani government is running out."

Mediators mandated by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) to help Armenia and Azerbaijan peacefully settle their dispute have expressed hope progress could be reached this year as neither country has an election planned any time soon.

## Chuck Pochigian Unopposed For Republican Attorney General Nod

SACRAMENTO -- Filing closed for Attorney General last week and Senator Chuck Pochigian cleared the field to emerge unopposed as the Republican Nominee.

It's not a coincidence that Pochigian captured the Republican Nomination for California's second most powerful office unopposed. Beginning early, he amassed substantial support and funding to create a pre-emptive consensus position as the strongest candidate.

Pochigian earned universal support from his colleagues and Republican leaders by gaining the early endorsement of former Governors Wilson and Deukmejian and every single GOP state legislator. It's a testimony to the esteem in which Chuck is held by all who have had the opportunity to work with him as well as his impressive record as a widely respected public official.

The momentum behind Pochigian's campaign is also a reflection of his fundraising prowess. As of the most recent reporting period, December 31<sup>st</sup> — almost a year before the gen-



eral election — Chuck Pochigian had not only raised more in contributions than any other GOP statewide down-ballot candidate for the 2006 election cycle, but he also raised more than any GOP down-ballot candidate did for the entire 2002 election cycle.

Pochigian will be facing the winner of Democrat primary between Edmund Jerry Brown and Rocky Delgadillo

## Armenia's First Ombudswoman Presents Her Special Report



Panelists during the roundtable discussion

YEREVAN -- The National Citizens' Initiative (NCI) has convened a roundtable on "What Armenia's Citizens Gained and Lost in 2005." The meeting brought together political and social activists, human rights advocates, analysts, experts, and media representatives.

NCI coordinator Hovsep Khurshudian welcomed the audience with opening remarks, "The authorities had declared the constitutional referendum of 2005 as a crucial step toward the establishment of democracy and legitimacy in Armenia. However, after the immediate 'passing' of the constitutional amendments, human and civil rights not only deteriorated, but repression including unlawful arrests against politically active citizens continued, followed by similar violations, this time against political parties. A vivid illustration of this is the illegal closure of the Heritage Party's headquarters. Moreover, the first Ombudswoman of the Republic of Armenia Larisa Alaverdian was dismissed for performing her designated duty."

Prior to discussing her special report, Larisa Alaverdian expressed dismay that the public had lost the ability to read and comprehend written texts of political or legal nature. Subsequently, she briefly presented her 20-page special account on the situation of human rights in Armenia in the year past. Unfortunately, she was

not allowed to present this report to the National Assembly. "I would like to call this report also 'An Infringement Upon the Right of Effective Legal Protection,' an entitlement set forth by Article 13 of the European Convention," Alaverdian noted. With respect to the large-scale encroachment upon the property rights of the residents of the Northern Avenue and Biuzand Street in downtown Yerevan, Mrs. Alaverdian observed that in democratic countries, for the sake of state interests, private assets of people at times are alienated, but with proper compensation. Yet in this case, compensation was not only unforthcoming, but people through the courts were forced to sign purchase agreements and on top be subjected to state and income taxes. Larisa Alaverdian had made an appeal to President Robert Kocharian and Prime Minister Andranik Margarian concerning this matter. She had even addressed a formal letter to the President with respect to the widespread violation of human rights. Yet, she received a response in which she was charged for breaching Section 5 of Armenia's Constitution, that is for misusing her official power.

The next speaker, Heritage Party's political secretary Vardan Khachatryan, gave his assessments of the constitutional

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## Pope Benedict Greets Armenian Patriarch



VATICAN CITY (AP) -- Pope Benedict XVI recalled the "terrible persecution" Armenians suffered under Turkish rule 90 years ago during an audience Monday with head of Armenian Catholic Church.

Speaking to Patriarch Nerses Bedros XIX Tarmouni about the Armenian people over the centuries, the pope singled out the "sufferings which they underwent in the name of the Christian faith in the years of the terrible persecution that went down in history with the sadly meaningful name 'metz yeghern,' the great evil."

Pope Benedict did not use the term "genocide" in his official remarks. His predecessor, Pope John Paul II, called the deaths genocide but did not declare any party responsible.

## Global Security And Counter-Terrorism Discussed In Brussels

### Armen Sarkissian Speaks At Worldwide Security Conference

BRUSSELS -- More than 400 civic leaders, policymakers, experts and delegates from around the world gathered in Brussels during the last week of February for the annual Worldwide Security Conference, organized by the East West Institute in partnership with the Russian Foreign Ministry and the World Customs Organization.

Speakers and panels focused on a host of critical issues facing the world today - from global responses to international terrorism, to security infrastructures, the role of technology in security and protection mechanisms, to prevention, civil protection, and energy security.

Conference speakers included the President of European Commission Jose Manuel Barroso, former Prime Minister of Canada Kim Campbell, Secretary General of World Customs Organization Michel Danet, Head of Anti-Terrorist Cen-



Armen Sarkissian addressing the conference

tre of CIS Boris Mylnikov, Russian

President's Special Representative Anatoly Safonov, Chinese Foreign Ministry Director General for Security Gao ioejs Jian, Russian Camber of Commerce and Industry President Evgeny Primakov, US Ambassador to the European Union C. Boyden Gray, and many other leading figures in government and world security issues.



Armen Sarkissian, former Prime Minister of Armenia and currently advisor to global energy and telecom corporations, spoke at the three-day conference and chaired a panel on energy security. The panel discussed several key issues, including ways of balancing supply and demand on the one hand and protection and security of infrastructure on the other; the role of China and India and the various scenarios of cooperation with these

"The era of easy oil has indeed ended", said Sarkissian. He explained that economic developments in India and China have led to an increased demand for oil and contributed to the upward trend of prices. Whereas in 1990 China accounted for only 3.5 percent of the world's crude oil demand, in 2004 it had increased to 9 percent. Sarkissian underlined that in the last five years, the oil demand of the two most populous countries in the world has grown at 8.8 percent in China and 4.5 percent in India. He contrasted these rates with growth in the world in the same period which stood at 1.6 percent.

One obvious trend in the world is that certain oil producing countries in the past are becoming consumers themselves. China, which has become a net oil importer since 1993, is currently the second largest consumer of oil, after the US.

## KOCE-TV To Air The "The Armenian Genocide"

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The one-hour documentary which features extensive never-before-seen historical footage explores the ongoing controversy of the Armenian genocide and explains why the Turkish government denies the events ever took place. The documentary, written, directed and produced by Emmy Award-winning producer Andrew Goldberg is narrated by Julianna Margulies, Ed Harris, Natalie Portman, Laura Linney and Orlando Bloom.

Filmed in the United States, France, Germany, Belgium, Turkey and Syria, the

program features discussions with leading experts in the field including Pulitzer Prize-winning author Samantha Power, and *New York Times* best-selling author Peter Balakian, and Kurdish and Turkish citizens in modern-day Turkey who speak openly about the stories told to them by their parents and grandparents.

"As Turkey seeks to join the European Union, 90 years later, this film can give people a much better understanding of why this issue is such an important and current part of the international conversation about Turkey's role in the world today," said Goldberg.

Instability in the South Caucasus is a threat to European Union (EU) security. Geographic proximity, energy resources, pipelines and the challenges of international crime and trafficking make stability in the region a clear EU interest. Yet, the unresolved Nagorno-Karabakh, Abkhazian and South Ossetian conflicts have the potential to ignite into full-fledged wars in Europe's neighbourhood. To guarantee its own security, the EU should become more engaged in efforts to resolve the three disputes. It can do so by strengthening the conflict resolution dimension of the instruments it applies. As the EU is unlikely to offer membership to Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan even in the medium term, it must identify innovative means to impose conditionality on its aid and demonstrate influence. This is a challenge that Brussels has only begun to address.

Since 2003 the EU has become more of a security actor in the South Caucasus, particularly in Georgia. It has appointed a Special Representative for the South Caucasus, launched a European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) mission, and employed the Commission's Rapid Reaction Mechanism to support post "Rose Revolution" democratisation processes. It has included Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia in the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) and started Action Plan negotiations due to end mid-2006. The Commission has allocated some €32 million for economic development confidence building programs in Georgia, and it has cooperated closely with the UN and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

Nevertheless, the EU can do more to help resolve conflict in the region, in particular through the Action Plans currently being negotiated with each country. For the EU, these are a chance to enhance and reposition itself in the South Caucasus if they can be tied to conflict resolution and include specific democratisation, governance and human rights benchmarks. For the region they may be an opportunity to map out the reform process concretely. But there is a long way to go. The EU's relations are not strong with either Azerbaijan or, to a lesser extent, Armenia. It does not participate directly in negotiations on Nagorno-Karabakh, Abkhazia or South Ossetia. In and around Nagorno-Karabakh, it has done little for conflict resolution. It has rarely raised the South Caucasus conflicts in its high-level discussions with partners and has employed few sanctions or incentives to advance peace.

To become more effective, the EU must increase its political visibility. Compared with Russia, the U.S., the UN and the OSCE, its financial and political engagement in the region has been minimal. However, as it gives more aid through new and old instruments, its ability to provide incentives and apply conditionality should grow. Compared with other actors, the EU can offer added value, with its image as an "honest broker" free from traditional US/Russia rivalries; access to a range of soft and hard-power tools; and the lure of greater integration into Europe.

The arrival of a new Special Representative (EUSR) is an opportune moment for the EU to strengthen its political presence. The EUSR should try to become an observer in the three conflict negotiation forums. In South Ossetia and Abkhazia, where the Commission has already allocated significant funding, efficient and well-targeted assistance can give weight

## Conflict Resolution in the South Caucasus: The EU's Role Executive Summary And Recommendations

and credibility to the EU's diplomatic and political efforts.

In Nagorno-Karabakh, rather than wait for an agreement on the principles of resolution mediated by the OSCE Minsk Group, the EU should begin contingency planning to assist peace implementation now. Sending military and civilian assessment missions to the region could give new impetus to a negotiation process which seems to be dangerously running out of steam. Whether or not a peace agreement is eventually signed, the EU should be prepared to implement confidence building programs or – in a worst case – to consider a range of options in case of an outbreak of fighting. Otherwise, having remained out of Nagorno-Karabakh and the adjacent occupied districts for over a decade, either war or peace will find it struggling to catch up in its own neighbourhood.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

To the European Union and its Member States:

#### To increase the EU's visibility and effectiveness as a political actor

1. Open fully-staffed European Commission Delegations in Baku and Yerevan.

2. Strengthen the EUSR's regional presence by at a minimum appointing a EUSR political analyst in each of the three South Caucasus capitals.

3. Start a public awareness campaign in the region about the EU, its values, institutions, programs and conflict resolution capabilities.

#### To take full advantage of the negotiating process for European Neighbourhood Policy Action Plans

4. Define the peaceful resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict as an Action Plan priority for Armenia and Azerbaijan, with the Plan aimed specifically at ensuring that:

(a) Azerbaijan and Armenia should commit to resolving the conflict through peaceful negotiations without delay, defining the principles of an agreement as renunciation of the use of force to settle disputes; incremental withdrawal of occupied districts; return of displaced persons; opening of transport and trade routes; and determination of the final status of Nagorno-Karabakh through a referendum;

(b) Armenia should pledge to encourage the de facto Nagorno-Karabakh au-

thorities to agree to a peace settlement according to the principles defined above; and

(c) both states should commit to foster reconciliation, confidence building and mutual understanding through governmental and non-governmental channels.

5. Action Plan elements should include clear benchmarking to measure progress in the development of genuine democracy, good governance, respect for human rights, the rule of law and free and fair elections; and the establishment of a comprehensive monitoring mechanism, whose reports are made public.

6. Increase public ownership and awareness by engaging civil society in Action Plan preparation and monitoring (particularly in Azerbaijan), organising conferences, seminars, and media events, and strengthening the involvement of parliaments and local authorities.

7. Coordinate with other bilateral and multilateral players to ensure consistency between the Action Plans and the commitments made to the Council of Europe (CoE), the OSCE, NATO and the UN.

#### To increase the impact of crisis management and conflict prevention actions

8. Strengthen the capacity of Commission staff in the region to carry out post-conflict rehabilitation by offering training in security sector reform, mediation and reconciliation, confidence building, and demobilisation, disarmament and reintegration (DDR).

9. Develop more initiatives focused on confidence building across ceasefire lines and the soft side of conflict-resolution, such as working with civil society, media, women, youth and former combatants, and apply community participation to project planning, implementation, monitoring and follow-up.

10. Increase engagement with non-recognized entities (Abkhazia, South Ossetia and Nagorno-Karabakh) and promote democratisation, civil society development and the rule of law, not as recognition of status but as a means to break their isolation, build confidence and avoid exclusion from broad EU integration processes.

11. Promote European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) funding opportunities, especially in Azerbaijan, and develop an interim mechanism to distribute funds to local civil society groups, possibly through a member

state embassy or the Europa House, before an EU delegation opens in Baku.

12. Support new regional programs in particular for students, teachers, professors and other professional groups including police, judges, lawyers and journalists.

#### To prepare for an eventual Nagorno-Karabakh peace settlement and encourage the parties to compromise

13. Seek agreement for the EUSR to participate in the OSCE Minsk Group as an observer.

14. In the case of the Commission, carry out a needs assessment study of Nagorno-Karabakh and the adjacent occupied territories (including places where IDPs have settled) even before a framework agreement on the principles of a settlement is agreed between Azerbaijan and Armenia.

15. In the case of the Council, request the Secretariat to develop ESDP options in support of peace implementation, send assessment missions in close cooperation with the OSCE and begin contingency planning so as to prepare for:

(a) deployment of peacekeepers around Nagorno-Karabakh; and

(b) deployment of a civilian crisis management advisory team to engage in DDR, security sector reform, mediation, political affairs, human rights and media issues in and around Nagorno-Karabakh.

#### To support the peaceful resolution of the Georgian-South Ossetian and Georgian-Abkhazian conflicts

16. Expand the Commission's role in addressing the Georgian-South Ossetian conflict and finance another tranche of aid to support projects identified in the OSCE needs assessment.

17. Once Georgia passes the appropriate law and designates a budget line for its implementation, make funding available to its new property commission and property restitution fund.

18. Agree a Joint Action to provide financial support for the Joint Control Commission (JCC) mechanism in April 2006.

19. Request the JCC and the parties to the Geneva process to invite the EUSR to observe their meetings and activities.

20. Raise the Georgian-South Ossetian and Georgian-Abkhazia conflicts at EU-Russia summits and other high-level dialogue forums.

21. Continue the border management assistance mission and facilitate communication and cooperation between Georgian and Russian border guards.

22. Agree a Joint Action to support a Georgian-South Ossetian Special Coordination Centre and joint policing.

*The Armenian Athletic Association  
(Homenmen-Glendale)  
invites you to laugh and dine on*

**COMEDY NIGHT**

@

**Gordon Biersch, Burbank**  
145 S. San Fernando Rd.\*Burbank, 91502

*w/ Comedian Lori Tatouljian*

**Sunday Evening, March 26**

**Starting at 6PM**

**Tickets \$35 Donation \* (818)590-2824**



## Craft and Folk Art Museum US Premier of Acclaimed Armenian Painter Hagop Hagopian

LOS ANGELES -- The Craft and Folk Art Museum is pleased to announce the U.S. premier exhibition of Armenia's venerated painter Hagop Hagopian. The exhibition "Homeland: Visions of Armenia", opens on April 30, 2006 in conjunction with *Armenian Genocide Commemoration Month* and runs until July 2, 2006.

This exhibition features Hagopian's

explicit in theme and subject matter, closely related to deeply felt personal experiences, executed with an extraordinary control and discipline of the medium.

Hagopian's images are mainly still-lives and landscapes. His signature unpopulated landscapes are designed to evoke and reflect an anguished mood, with ravages of decay, barks of gnarled



early and middle works painted during his forced estrangement from Armenia. Hagopian belongs to a generation of Armenians who, as an aftermath of the 1915 genocide, grew up and matured away from their homeland. The art (mostly still-lives and landscapes) from this early period reflects the despondency of a people without a firm grounding, people who live

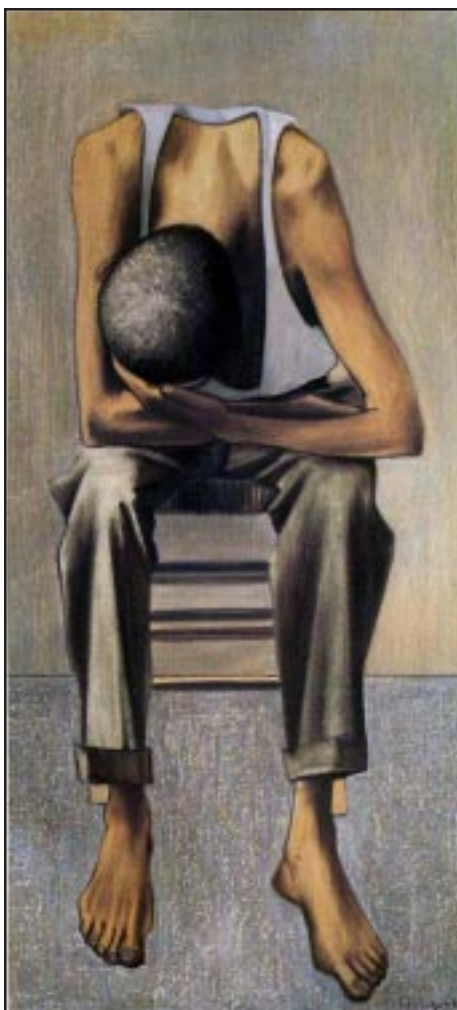
trees, dried leave and brush; an agonized landscape conveying a sense of loneliness and inner torment. Often the artist incorporates an occasional budding or blooming tree as a sign of awakening, rebirth, hope and struggle for survival. The detailed nature of his style is a vehicle for his hallucinatory imagery and his almost anecdotal explorations into abnormal psychological states.

At 83, Hagopian is still producing works with incredible technical precision, a variety of gloomy landscapes and metaphysical images combining the monumental and the ephemeral.

Hagop Hagopian's artworks can be found in some of the most prominent public and private art collections in Armenia, Russia, Europe and the United States. His artistic contributions have brought him various official recognitions including the honorary title of People's Artist of Armenia and the State Prize of Armenia.

This US premier museum exhibition opens on Sunday April 30th at the Craft and Folk Art Museum and runs through July 2, 2006. Shahen Khachaturian, retired director of the National Gallery of Armenia and author of several books about Armenian artists will be in Los Angeles to introduce this historical exhibition. An opening reception for members and VIPs will be held on Saturday April 29th between 6:00pm – 9:00 pm and will feature a live musical performance.

This exhibition is partially funded by the City Of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs.



amongst strangers in a unfamiliar land, refugees who never feel completely at home in a foreign country.

A visitor of Hagopian's retrospective exhibition in Moscow in 1990 wrote, "this painter's art has absorbed the pain and the wisdom of all of Armenia." Born in 1923 in Alexandria, Egypt, Hagopian lived in Cyprus, Cairo and Paris before settling in his ethnic homeland of Armenia in 1962. By the time Hagopian settled in Soviet-Armenia, he was already an accomplished painter. His paintings are ex-

## New Release Element Band Presents Armenian CD *Yev O Phe*

**Band incorporates sounds of Europe and the Mediterranean, while maintaining purity of original compositions**

Titled *Yev O Phe*, Element Band's first Armenian CD brings a refreshing and long-awaited sound to Armenian music by partnering distinct vocals with colorful, warm and exotic arrangements.

While the sounds of Europe and the Mediterranean come to life through the use of classical guitar, violin, bass, accordion, bouzouki, mandolin, and keyboard, *Yev O Phe* remains free to be distinctively Armenian.

The band takes great pains to keep the Armenian songs pure, but uses bold arrangements and genuine sounds of instruments to introduce exciting twists and compositions of traditional songs.

Element Band first captured the attention of audiences with their performance at the John Anson Ford Theatre in May 2005, as the opening act for the French gypsy band Bratsch. They later opened for the legendary Demis Roussos at the Kodak Theater in November 2005.

Element Band members include Ara Dabandjian (arrangements, keyboards, classical guitar, accordion, string instruments), Saro Koujakian (songwriter, vocals and guitar), Gars Sherbedjian (vocals), Shant Mahserjian (violin), Jeremy



photo by Mher Vahakn

Millado (bass).

### **Yev O Phe**

During the Middle Ages, as a result of greater and more enduring contact between Armenia and the West, the 36-letter Armenian alphabet incorporated two additional letters, o and phe, to better reproduce the sounds of European tongues—all the while, needless to say, remaining utterly Armenian. As a result, the modern Armenian alphabet can almost perfectly replicate the pronunciations of various languages.

So it is with Element's Armenian compositions that incorporate the sounds of Europe and the Mediterranean, while remaining untethered, simply free... to be Armenian—uniquely.

*Yev O Phe* will be available on March 19 at:

www.cdrama.com, www.amazon.com, www.cdbaby.com, and at a store near you.

## Armenia's First Ombudswoman Presents Her Special Report

Continued from page 2

referendum of 2005. According to him, "As a result of the ruling clique's methods of 'passing' the constitution and 'establishing' democracy, the notions of 'state,' 'constitution,' and 'democracy' have been discredited in the eyes of the majority of the people who draw a perfect parallel between the current authorities and the unlawfulness which is reigning in the country." Khachatrian pointed that the way out of this situation is carrying out a fundamental transformation, but not ruling out the prospect for a peaceful revolution.

The remainder of the session was devoted to exchanges of views and policy recommendations among the public figures and policy specialists in attendance. Also noteworthy were interventions by Rafael Ghazarian and Vahan Shirkhanian from the Forum of Intellectuals of Armenia; MPs Tatul Manaserian, Manuk Gasparian, Hrant Khachatrian, and Arshak Sadoyan; deputy chairman of the National Unity Party Gagik Tadevosian; chairman of the Democratic Motherland Party Petros Makeyan; "18+1" election observers' mission chief Vahagn Khachatrian; Republic Party member Rafik Mkrtchian; deputy chairman of the National Rebirth Party Armen Mkrtchian; deputy chairman of the Liberal Progressive Party Edward Antinian; director of the Heritage Party's main office Gevorg Kalenchian; chairman of the Social-Ecological Party Armen Dovlatian; deputy chairman of the "Victims of State Needs" NGO Sedrak Baghdasarian; and many others.

Manuk Gasparian called upon the participants to work together in getting at least one or two television channels to reopen so that people can come out of the informational blockade and be informed of the illegalities of the ruling powers and what is happening in the country. Avetik Ishkhanian of the Helsinki Committee was in concurrence with Mr. Gasparian and added that the public's apathy was due to the suppression of freedom of speech and that our citizens' first real defeat came when A1+ and Noyan Tapan were closed down.

Gagik Tadevosian's question as to the validity of the conclusion that the falsification of the constitutional amendments had resulted in more illegalities by the government was answered in the affirmative by Mrs. Alaverdian. She agreed that the ruling administration's declaration according to which 93 percent had said "Yes" to the new constitution was a disgrace and that the very same powers were very much aware of this fact.

In his turn, Avetik Ishkhanian stated that in line with confidential information ascertained from fairly high state echelons, with the exception of military servicemen, only 7 percent of eligible voters had actually cast ballots in the constitutional referendum. About Vardan Khachatrian added that he had received information about mere 6.5 percent voter turnout.

In his closing remarks, NCI coordinator Hovsep Khurshudian noted the fact that Armenia's public elite calls attention to ideological discussions and the search for roots of and solutions to the problems facing the country.

### **Museum Information:**

Craft and Folk Art Museum, 5814 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90036

Information:

323-937-4230 / [www.cafam.org](http://www.cafam.org)

Museum Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 11 am – 5 pm  
Thursday 11 am – 7 pm  
Saturday and Sunday 12 – 6 pm

Museum Admission: General \$5.00 / Students and Seniors 3.00 / Members and Children under 12 Free / Free 1st Wednesday of month





ՀՐԸՄ-ի ԵՐԿՐՈՐԴԱԿԱՆ ՎԱՐԺԱՐԱՆ ՓԱՍՏԻՆԱՅԻ ՄԷՋ



Միրով հրաւիրուած էք

ԾՐԱԳՐԻ ՆԵՐԿԱՅԱՑՄԱՆ ՀԱՆԴԻՊՈՒՄԻ  
Շաբաթ, 8 Ապրիլ, 2006, կ.ա. 10:00

ԴԱՍԸՆԹԱՑՔՆԵՐԸ ԿԸ ՍԿՍԻՆ ՍԵՊՏԵՄԲԵՐ 2006-ին

- Իններորդ Կարգ
  - Տասներորդ Կարգ
  - Տասընմէկերորդ Կարգ

*Կը ծրագրուի նաեւ երկրորդականի նախապատրաստական դասարան*

Փաստփինայի ՀՐԸՄ Երկրորդական Վարժարանը պիտի ապահովէ

- Բարձրագոյն ուսման պատրաստող ուսումնական ծրագիր՝ ապահով, հոգածու եւ բաջալերող միջավայրի մը մէջ
- Յառաջացեալ մակարդակի դասընթացքներ յառաջդէմ աշակերտներու համար
- Հայերէն լեզուի, պատմութեան եւ մշակոյթի ուսուցում
- Փոքրաթիւ աշակերտներով դասարաններ
- Արհեստավարժ կրթական խորհրդապուրուօրէն
- Մաքչելի թոշակ եւ նիւթական օժանդակութիւն

ՀՐԸՄ-ը ՄԵՐ ԳԱՂՈՒԹԻՆ ԿԸ ԲԵՐԷ ԿՐԹԱԿԱՆ ՄԱՐԶԷՆ ՆԵՐՍ ՀԱՐԻՒՐԱՄԵԱՅ ՓՈՐՁԱՌՈՒԹԻՒՆ, ՂԵԿԱՎԱՐՈՒԹԻՒՆ ԵՒ ՏԵՍԻԼՔ

Տեղեկանալու համար թէ ՓԱՍՏԻՆԱՅԻ ՀՐԸՄ ԵՐԿՐՈՐԴԱԿԱՆ ՎԱՐԺԱՐԱՆԸ ինչպէս կրնայ օգտակար ըլլալ ձեր վաւակին, միացէք մեզի 8 Ապրիլին:

Հանդիպումը տեղի պիտի ունենայ  
ՀՐԸՄ ԱԼԵՔ ՄԱՆՈՒԿԵԱՆ ԿԵՂՈՆ

2495 E. Mountain Avenue  
Pasadena, CA 91107

(Մաունթընի եւ Ալթադենայի անկիւնը)

Յաւելեալ տեղեկութեանց եւ ձեր ներկայութիւնը հաստատելու համար հեռաձայնել **626.794.0363**

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ՍՄՏԻ ՓԱՌԹԹՈՆ

ԳԵՂԱՐՈՒՄԻ ՍԱՅՄԱՐՆԱԿՆԸ

Գործը 3-ԵՑՏՕ

Կատարելագործելու 2 Կարգ

Քննարկել ԳԵՂԱՐՈՒՄԻ ՍԱՅՄԱՐՆԱԿՆԸ

Շաբաթ, Մարտ 18, Կիրակի, Մարտ 19,  
 Շաբաթ, Մարտ 25, Կիրակի, Մարտ 26,  
 Շաբաթ, Ապրիլ 1, Կիրակի, Ապրիլ 2

Շաբաթ օրերը՝ երեկոյեան ժամը 8:00-ին  
 Կիրակի օրերը՝ երեկոյեան ժամը 6:00-ին

**Կիրակի, Ապրիլ 9, Orange County**

ՀԲԸՄ Ալեք Մանուկեան  
Կեդրոնի Տիկնանց Վարչութիւն

# ՄԻՋԻՆՔԻ ԾԱՅԿԵՐՈՅԹ

Կիրակի 19 Մարտ, 2006, կ.ե. ժամը 1:30-ին

Գեղարուեստական Ցայտագիր  
Համադամ Ճաշեր

Ջեռնարկին հասոյթը պիտի յատկացուի Կեդրոնիս  
բարեգարդման

Մուտքի գումար՝ 25 սողար, Փոքրեր (12 տարեկանէն վար) 15 սողար

Ջեր տեղերը ապահովելու համար հեռաձայնեցէք (626) 794-7942

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Program and registration is available at [www.agbu.org/hyegeen](http://www.agbu.org/hyegeen), (323) 343-5879.

ՀԲԸՄ ՓԱՍԱՏԻՆԱՅԻ

# «ԱԿՈՒՄԲԻ ՕՐ»

Ուրբաթ, Մարտ 24, 2006

Ընտանեկան երեկոյ ժամը 7:30-էն սկսեալ Փասատինայի  
Ալեք Մանուկեան Կեդրոնին մէջ, 2495 East Mountain Street.

Մանուկներու մասնաւոր յայտագիր

Տեղերը ապահովելու համար դիմել Հ.Բ.Ը.Մ.  
Փասատինայի Ալեք Մանուկեան Կեդրոն հեռ. (626) 794 7942

Հայկական Բարեգործական Ընդհանուր Միութեան  
Հայ Կին Վարչութեան Գախաձեռնութեամբ

# «Հոս Ամերիկա Է»

Ընտանեկան հարցերու վերաբերեալ սեմինար  
Ներկայացնող՝ Շաքէ Եկաւեան, MFT

Ուրբաթ, Մարտ 17, 2006, Երեկոյեան ժամը 6:30-7:30

ՀԲԸՄ Ալեք Մանուկեան Կեդրոնի մէջ  
AGBU Alex Manogian Center, 2495 East Mountain Street, Pasadena, CA 91104  
Մանրամասնութեանց համար հեռախոսել՝  
ՀԲԸՄ (626) 794-7942, Կլբժ (818) 416-1511, Կաթնժ (818) 687-5175

# ՀՈԳԵՀԱՆԳԻՍ

Ի Յիշատակ ՀԲԸՄի բոլոր Հաատատու Անդամներուն

Ապրիլ 23, 2006

## REQUIEM

In Memory of Devoted Members of the AGBU  
April 23, 2006

# 100 ԱՄԵՆԱԿԻ ՏՕՆԱԿԱՏԱՐՈՒԹԻՒՆ

Կիրակի, 7 Մայիս, 2006  
 ՀԲԸՄ Ալեք Մանուկեան Կեդրոնի Հանդիսասրահին մէջ  
 Մանրամասնութիւնները յաջորդիւ