

ՄԵԾԱՐԱՆՔԻ ԵՐԵԿՈՅԻ Ի ՊԱՏԻՒ 25 ՎԱՍՏԱԿԱԾԱՏ ԸՆԿԵՐՆԵՐՈՒՄ

Տարութակուածէջ1-էն

տիւ հանդիսութեան:

Հրաւիրեալներու շարքին կը գտնուէին Ս.Դ.Հ.Կ. Կեղրոնական վարչութեան ատենապետ՝ ընկ. Սեղրակ Աճէմեան, ինչպէս նաեւ կեղրոնի հին ու նոր անդամներ, շրջանի վարիչ Մարմինն ու յարակից կառուցներու պատախանատուներ:

Հնչակեան կուսակցութեան քայլերգի ունկնդրութենէն ետք՝ օրուան հանդիսավար՝ Ս.Դ.Հ.Կ.

Արեւմտեան Աճերիկացի Վարիչ Մարմինի անդամ ընկ. Թոփմաս էթարեան բարի գալուստի ջերմ խօսքերով ողջունեց ներկայ հիւրերն ու յատկապէս մեծարեալ ընկեր-ընկերուհիները: Այս վերջիններուն անդրադառնալով ան բարձր գնահատեց անոնց կուսակցանուէր ծառայասիրութիւնն ու անսակարկ ներդրումը ընկերային եւ ազանուէր առաջադրանքներու իրազործումին:

Ընկերուհի Լենա Մանուկեան կարդաց կուսակցութեան 50-ամեակին առթիւ «Հնչակ»ի մէջ լոյս տեսած վահան Զուգասպեանի մէկ զրութիւնը, որուն գաղափարախօսական բնույթը պահած է իր այժմէականութիւնը:

Ս.Դ.Հ.Կ.ի կեդր. Վարչութեան նախկին անդամներէն ընկ. Տիգրան Մարաֆեան, որպէս օրուան պատգամաբեր նախ հակիրճ կերպով բնույթագրեց Հնչակեան կուսակցութեան գոյառման պատճառն ու ազանուէր առաջերդութիւնը,

մեր գոյապայքարին մէջ ծառացած հիմնահարցերու իրականացման համար: Ապա անդրադարձաւ մէծարար ընկերուհի առաջարկութեան մէծարար ընկերութիւնը, մէծապէս սատարելով իրենց պատկանած կառուցներու վերելքին ու յառաջդիմութեան: Ընկ. Տիգրան Մարաֆեան շնորհաւորելէ ետք մեծարեալները անոնց



ընկ. Տիգրան Մարաֆեան

մաղթեց քաջառողջութիւն եւ վերանորոգ կենսունակութիւն, շարունակելու իրենց հետեւողական աշխատանքը ի փառս հայ ժողովուրդին:

Այսուհետեւ բեմ հրաւիրուեցան շրջանիս Վարիչ Մարմին ատե-

նապետ՝ ընկ. Վազգէն Խոտանեան ներքին դիւանի պատասխանատու ընկ. Կիւրեղ Մանկրեան յանձնելու համար մեծարեալներու պա-

մարք երիտասարդ, քանի որ հոգիով երիտասարդ ենք եւ... պիտի տանք որքան որ կրնանք»:

Սոյն անմոռանալի երեկոն



տուոյ զիրերը: Երբ մեծարեալները բեմ կը բարձրանալին, ընկ. Տիգրան Մարաֆեան մէկ առ մէկ թուեց անոնց անունները, բնութագրելով իւրաքանչիւրի ծառայական վաստակը, արժանանալով ներկաներու երկարատեւ ծափահարութիւններուն:

25 մեծարեալ ընկեր-ընկերուհիներու անունով խօսք առաւ ընկերուհի խօսք Պարսութեան եւ ըստաւ. «..Այս օրը անմոռանալի կը մնայ բոլորիս համար: Հպարտութիւն է ըլլալ Հնչակեան: Պիտի

վերջ զտաւ «Տուր Ձեռքդ Ընկեր» մալթերգով, որուն յաջորդեց ընկերացին ճոխ հիւրասիրութիւն մը, զիրար շնորհաւորող հաճոյալի մթնոլորտի մէջ:

Արդարեւ, երկար ժամանակէ ի վեր այսքան մեծ թիւով կուսակցականներ մեծարանքի չէին արժանացած:

«Պատիւս արժանաւորին» Յարատեւութիւն եւ նորանոր յաջորդութիւններ կը մաղթենք:

Գ.Մ.

ՊԵՅՐՈՒԹԻ ՔԱՂԱՔԱՊԵՏԸ Կ'ԱՅՑԵԼԵ ՀԱՅԿԱԿԱՆ ԹԱՂԱՄԱՍԵՐԸ

Պէյրութի արարձանները կատարած իր շրջագայութիւններուն ծիրին մէջ, Պէյրութի քաղաքապետ Պիլալ Համետ այցելեց Մըտառար:

Շաբաթ, 14 Մայիս 2011-ի կէսօրին Պէյրութի քաղաքապետ Պիլալ Համետը գոյանութիւնը ներու ընկ կ երած կ ցութեամ ը բարձր այցելութիւն մը տուաւ նոր Համետը թաղամասը:

Քաղաքապետին կ'ընկերակցէր Պէյրութի քաղաքապետութեան անդամ Արած Մաթեան:

Պիլալ Համետի պատիրակութիւնը նոր Համերն թաղամասին մէջ ջերմէ:

Ան ծանօթացաւ շրջանի ընակիչներուն, ՀԿԲՄ-ի դարձանատան գործունէութեան, Ս.Գէորգ եկեղեցւոյ թաղականութենէն եւ ժողովուրդէն լսեց



անոնց կարիքները եւ պահանջները: Քաղաքապետը խոստացաւ մօտէն հետապնդել եւ օգոստակար դառնալ շրջանի ընակիչներուն կարիքներուն: Մըտառարի շրջանը ացցելութիւնը աւարտելէ ետք, քաղաքապետը այցելեց Ռատիօ Սեւան եւ ծանօթացաւ Ռատիօ Սեւանի գործունէութեան:

ՀԱՅԿԱԿԱՆ ԽՐԱՄԱՅԻՆ ԶՈՒՄ

Կազմակերպութեամբ
ԿԼԻՆՏԵՅԼԻ ԱՐՍԵՆ ԿԻՏՈՒՐ
ՄԱՍՆԱԾԻՒՂԻ

Շաբաթ, 4 Յունիս 2011

երեկոյեան ժամը 8:00-էն սկսեալ

1060 North Allen Avenue
Pasadena, CA 91104



Տոմսերու համար դիմել՝ (626) 797-7680

ՄՈՒՏՏՔԻ ՆՈՒԷՐ՝ \$20.00

**Հ.Ս.Մ.ի Տիկնանց Վարշութեանը
ՆՇԵՑ ՄԱՅՐԵՐՈՒ ՕՐԸ ՓԱՍԱՏԻՆԱՅԻ ՄԵԶ**



Հ.Ս.Մ.ի Տիկնանց Վարչութեանը այս տարի եւս նշեց իր աւանդական դարձած Մայրերու օրը՝ որ տեղի ունեցաւ Կիրակի, Մայիսի 8ին, 2011, Փասատինայի «612 Palm» (Նախկին «Աթլանթիս») ճաշարանին մէջ:

Մայիսի լեցուն էր համակիրներով, տարբեր կառույցներու պատասխանատուներով եւ անդամունքներով: Մթնոլորտը տօնական էր: Բոլորն ալ իրենց ընտանիքներով եկած էին յարգելու սիրասուն մայրերը, մէծ մայրերն ու տիկինները, որոնք իրենց կեանքը դուաբերելով անուն սիրով փարած էին իրենց ընտանիքին ու մեր ազգային աւանդութեանց պահպանումին:

Տիկնանց վարչութեան ասենապետուհի Քնարիկ Պողարեան իր բացման խօսքին մէջ շնորհաւորեց ներկայ բոլոր մայրերն ու մէծ մայրերը: Ան բարձր գնահատեց հայ կնոջ գոհողութիւններն ու նուիրուածութիւնը մեր սուրբ օճախի պահպանումին եւ նոր սերունդի տոհմիկ դաստիարակութեան վսեմ գործին մէջ:

Միութեան պատասխանատու դեկավարներէն Ծովիկ Քէօրողիան խօսք առնելով հանգամանօրէն արտայացուեցաւ իգական սեռի համաշխարհային շարժումին եւ յատկապէս Մայրերու Օրուան տօնակատարութեան երկրէ երկիր տարբեր թուականներուն եւ հանգրուանային շրջաններու մէջ եղած հանդիսաւթեանց մասին: Արդարեւ, աշխարհի զանազան երկիրներու մէջ, տարուան տարբեր ժամանակներուն կը նշուի այս տօնը՝ Մարտ, Ապրիլ կամ Մայիս ամիս-

ներուն: Միացեալ նահանգները Մայրերու օրը սկսած է նշել մօտ 150 տարիներէ ի վեր: Անսա ժարվէսի օրով սկսած այս տօնը ներկայիս կը նշուի ամէն տարուան Մայիսի երկրորդ կիրակին, դառնալով այս օրերի ամենաժողովրդական տօներէն մին:

Մայրերու նուիրուած ներբողական ելոյթ մը ունեցաւ Լենա Մանուկեան:

Երեկոյի գեղարուեստական յայտագրին իրենց մասնակցութիւնը բերին արհեստական պարողներու գոյգ մը, որոնք ներկայացուցին արժանինեան թանկօմը: Այնուհետեւ ելոյթ ունեցաւ Հալէպահայ Հսթրատային երգիչ Սագօն, որ իր նուագախումբի ընկերակցութեամբ մթնուրուր իանդավառեց հայկական եւ արաբական պարեղանակներով, բեմահարթակը լեցուն պահելով պարող գոյցերով:

Սոյն միջոցառումի ընթացքին տեղի ունեցան նաեւ սրտաբուխ նուիրատութիւններ: Իսկ վիճակահանութեան պէսպիսուն նուէրներով ուրախացան բազմաթիւ բախտաւորներ:

Մայրերու օրուան ճաշկերոյթին լաւագոյն տապաւորութիւններով իրենց տունները վերադարձան մեր յարգարժան մայրերը, հետերնինը տանելով իրենց լամբակներուն վրայ ամրացուած մայրութեան խորհրդանիշ կարծիր մեխակները:

Մեր շնորհաւորութիւնները Հ.Ս.Մ.ի Տիկնանց Վարչութեան այս միջարժան միջոցառումին համար:

ՎԱՐՉՈՒ ՏՈՒՆ

PALM SPRINGS ԱՐՁԱԿՈՒՐԴԻ ԳՆԱՑՈՂ
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Փալմ Սփրինկս գեղատեսիլ եւ կից լեօնային շրջանին, վարձու է տրուում լրիւ կահաւորուած մէկ ննջարան, մեծ նստասենեակ, խոհանոց բոլոր յարմարութիւններով, մինչեւ 5-6 հոգի գիշերելու տարողութեամբ Condo: Ունի մեծ լողաւազան, ջաքուզի, թենիսի խաղադաշտ, կանաչազարդ փիքնիքի տարածք, իր յատուկ կրակարաններով եւ 24-ժամեայ ապահովութեան սիստեմ:

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Saturday, MAY 21, 2011

International Atomic Energy Agency Experts Inspecting Armenian Nuclear Plant



Metsamor nuclear power station

YEREVAN -- The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) began a two-week inspection of the nuclear power station at Metsamor on Monday amid renewed domestic and international concerns about its safety fueled by the recent nuclear disaster in Japan.

Armenia's Ministry of Energy and Natural Resource said a team of IAEA experts from nine countries will closely examine Metsamor's reactor and other facilities and assess their operational safety in a special report.

It said the inspection will be conducted under the Vienna-based nuclear watchdog's Operational Safety Re-

view Team (OSART) program, which is designed to help countries guard against nuclear emergencies.

The Armenian NPP plant was built to withstand up to a 9-magnitude earthquake and at present, it meets the IAEA safety standards. However, in the wake of Japan's 2011 Fukushima nuclear crisis, the combination of the design and location of the Armenian NPP has been claimed to make it among the most dangerous nuclear plants in the world. The Fukushima disaster has caused EU member states to think of

Continued on page 2

SDHP Members Honored for Their Service and Dedication



With the leadership of the Social Democrat Hunchakian Party Western United States Executive Committee, three Southern California branches of the SDHP; "Paramaz," "Sapah-Gul" and "Arsen Gidur" chapters on Friday May 13th, jointly organized a night to honor individual members who have pioneered in service and dedication not only to the SDHP, but to the entire Armenian community.

The event which took place at the Armenian Educational Benevolent Union's "Garo Soghanalian" Hall, was attended by various past and present members of the SDHP Central Committee, headed by Central Committee

Chairman Mr. Setrak Ajemian, members of the Western U.S. Executive Committee, party leaders, community leaders, party members, friends and family. The master of ceremonies for the evening was SDHP Executive Committee member Thomas Yeterian who led the audience with the Party anthem and conveyed the Executive Committee's welcoming remarks, thanking the organizers of the event, those in attendance and those being honored for their assiduous and selfless work towards the party, the Armenian nation and community.

Continued on page 2

European Union Praises "Positive Political Developments" in Armenia

The European Union has described as "positive political developments" the Armenian government's recent concessions to the opposition and called for the release of all opposition members remaining in prison.

In a statement issued late on Thursday, the EU praised the authorities in Yerevan for formally allowing the main opposition Armenian National Congress (HAK) to hold a rally in a key square in the Armenian capital for the first time since the 2008 post-election unrest. The rally took place on April 28.

"We hope that future requests to hold rallies will be handled in the same way," reads the statement circulated by the 27-nation bloc at the Vienna headquarters of the Organization for

Security and Cooperation in Europe. It says respect for freedom of assembly will take on "particular importance" ahead of Armenia's next parliamentary elections due in May 2012.

The EU also welcomed President Serzh Sarksian's decision to order a renewed investigation of the 2008 violence and the recent release of three HAK activists who were controversially imprisoned in connection with those events.

"We call on the Armenian authorities to release all the activists that remain in detention soon," it said. "The EU believes that a thorough investigation of the violent events of March

Continued on page 3

Amnesty International Criticizes Armenian Authorities' Human Rights Record

Amnesty International criticized the Armenian authorities' human rights record on Friday, singling out what it sees as their failure to combat police brutality and domestic violence and to introduce "genuine" civilian service.

"Perpetrators of human rights violations continued to enjoy impunity," the London-based human rights group said in its annual report.

"Following its visit to Armenia in September, the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention expressed concern about ill-treatment and beatings of detainees and prisoners," says the report. "It also expressed concern over detainees being pressured in order to extract confessions."

Amnesty International pointed to

the April 2010 death of a man in the central Armenian town of Charentsavan shortly after his arrest on suspicion of theft. Armenian law-enforcement authorities say Vahan Khalafian committed suicide after being beaten up by local police officers.

One of those officers was sentenced to eight years in prison last November. Another Charentsavan policeman got off with a suspended prison sentence.

Khalafian's family strongly disputes the official version of events, saying that the 24-year-old was beaten to death by his interrogators and that not all of them were prosecuted. The

Continued on page 3

Armenia to Raise Military Draft Age



YEREVAN -- The Armenian parliament approved on Monday government plans to raise the military draft age to 19 years because of changes in the national education system.

Male citizens of the country have until now been drafted to the Armenian Armed Forces at the age of 18. Young

men enrolled in state-run universities are called up after graduation, while those deemed unfit for two-year compulsory military service on medical and other grounds are exempt from it altogether.

Continued on page 3

4 Killed In Yerevan Car Collision



YEREVAN -- Four people were killed and nine others injured late on Tuesday in what was one of the deadliest traffic accidents in Yerevan in years.

A minibus packed with commuters collided with a car in unclear circumstances that are investigated by police.

Eyewitnesses said both vehicles instantly caught fire and burned down as a result. Their drivers died in the accident. The two other victims were minibus passengers.

Another passenger, a 7-year-old boy, was hospitalized and remained in a critical condition on Wednesday. He suffered severe burns which a hospital doctor said damaged 25 percent of his skin.

The boy's 21-year-old uncle, Gegham Gabrielian, was also treated in a Yerevan hospital. "I immediately got out [of the minibus]," he told RFE/RL's Armenian service. "Then I got out my wife and sister's child. I don't remem-

ber what happened next."

The Armenian police were quick to launch a criminal investigation into the deadly accident. Police officials avoided blaming anyone for it on Wednesday.

But Henrik Navasardian, head of the transport department at the Yerevan municipality, said the 24-year-old driver of the Mercedes car that rammed the minibus is most probably to blame for the crash.

Speaking to RFE/RL's Armenian service, Navasardian disputed suggestions that the possibly faulty liquefied gas system of the Russian-made Gazel minibus was responsible for the rapid fire and the resulting loss of life.

Gazels and other minibuses, virtually all of them privately owned, have been the principal means of public transportation in the Armenian capital since the mid-1990s. Their technical condition has long raised questions.

IAEA Inspecting Armenian Nuclear Plant

Continued from page 1

measures towards raising their nuclear safety standards to a higher level.

The Soviet-built Metsamor plant, which meets about 40 percent of Armenia's energy needs, has long prompted concerns from local environment protection groups and Western governments. The Fukushima disaster

has cast a fresh spotlight on its safety, with senior European Union officials discussing the matter with Armenian leaders during recent visits to Yerevan.

Armenian government officials and nuclear experts say that Metsamor's reactor cooling system is different from Fukushima's and that the facility is reliable enough to withstand a powerful earthquake.

SDHP Members Honored

Continued from page 1

SDHP Executive Committee member Lena Manoukian recited a passage written by the late Vahan Shoukasian for the Party's 50th anniversary special publication of "Hunchak." The passage conveyed the meaning and the need to keep alive the Hunchak ideology, and the sacrifice it entails towards the betterment of the community.

Former Central Committee member Mr. Dikran Sarafian continued with the night's theme and expressed his admiration for the countless sacrifices the members of the party have made towards safe guarding not only the party ideology, but the Armenian culture and identity within Armenia as well as in the Diaspora.

Accompanied by SDHP Western US Executive Committee Chairman

Mr. Vasken Khodanian and Committee member Mr. Guregh Mangerian, Mr. Sarafian presented a brief biography as the honorees were bestowed with a certificate and Party medal in appreciation for their respective devotion and service to the Party and the Armenian community.

On behalf of the 25 honorees, Mrs. Eugene Barsoumian, stated that "This day is memorable for us all, we are proud to be Hunchakian members, and will continue to make sacrifices towards the betterment of our community as a true Hunchak does, for as much as we can, for as long as we can. After all, we remain young, seeing as we are young at heart."

The nights events concluded with the honorees singing Armenian patriotic song "Dour Tzerket Enger", followed by a reception.

Residential Building Evacuated in Meghri

MEGHRI -- Local officials have evacuated tenants of building number 15 on Paramaz street, Meghri, located in the southern Syunik region of Armenia. The evacuation came as officials fear damage caused to the reinforced concrete building might cause the nine-story building, which was constructed in 1987, to collapse. The building has 36 apartments with 130 residents.

RA Ministry of Emergency Situations, at a press conference informed the media that the building's iron-concrete columns show extensive deterioration causing the Mayor of Meghri, S.



Hayrapetyan, along with local emergency personnel to order an immediate evacuation of the building's 125 residents, with 5 residents refusing to evacuate. At present, the building is under continuous surveillance by local fire, rescue and police officials, and prohibited entry by the general public.

Secret Execution of an Armenian-Jewish Couple in Tehran Confirmed

The unconfirmed media reports of an Armenian-Jewish couple along with one woman and two other men secretly executed on Monday March 14, 2011, as was initially reported by Massis Post, were recently confirmed by the Human Rights Activists News Agency.

The Human Rights Activists News Agency reported that Varoujan and Kalimia Petrosian were hanged on March 14 at Evin Prison, a facility for political prisoners in northwest Iran. It identified Varoujan Petrosian, an Iranian of Armenian decent and his wife Mrs. Kalimia Petrosian, born in Jerusalem in 1956 to an Iranian-Jewish family. It is reported that both held U.S. citizenship.

The agency quoted sources

U.S. Ambassador Urges Greater Role for Armenian Women



YEREVAN -- U.S. Ambassador Marie Yovanovitch made a case for a greater involvement of women in Armenia's political life on Wednesday, saying that is a necessary condition for democratization and the rule of law.

Yovanovitch said political and economic reforms in the country will not produce desired results as long as Armenian women remain underrepresented in all branches of government and political structures. "Political systems in which women take leadership roles in politics and in government have lower levels of corruption," she said.

The diplomat was speaking at a conference on women's role in Arme-

nian politics that was organized in Yerevan by the U.S. National Democratic Institute. The two-day forum brought together representatives of women's organizations and some of the few women holding high-level positions in Armenian state institutions, notably Culture Minister Hasmik Poghosian.

Yovanovitch complained that throughout her three-year diplomatic work in the traditionally male-dominated country she has frequently heard views that a woman should primarily look after her husband and children, instead of engaging in political activities. She said failure to use women's intellectual potential is a "crime."

It's About Time to Recognize the Armenian Genocide

By Rabbi Albert Gabbai

What would you say if the world denied that the Holocaust ever happened? Or that something like it may have occurred, but on a very small scale, and as an understandable byproduct of a war that was raging simultaneously? Or that it's being exaggerated and exploited today to create an undeserved sense of sympathy?

That is what people of Armenian descent feel in regard to their genocide, what they call the "tseghasbanootyoun". The term is used to describe the events of 1915, when, during World War I, members of the Turkish majority, abetted by minority Kurds, murdered up to 1.5 million Armenian Christians, all fellow citizens of the Ottoman Empire.

Turkey has not only refused to admit that the Armenian genocide even occurred, but it has pressured other countries, educational institutions, movie studios — even Jewish organizations — not to broach the subject.

Many people, Jews included, are ignorant about this topic, one of which Armenian Americans are all too starkly aware, often because their ancestors were killed or were survivors. The Armenian genocide is generally not taught in schools and rarely touched upon by major media sources.

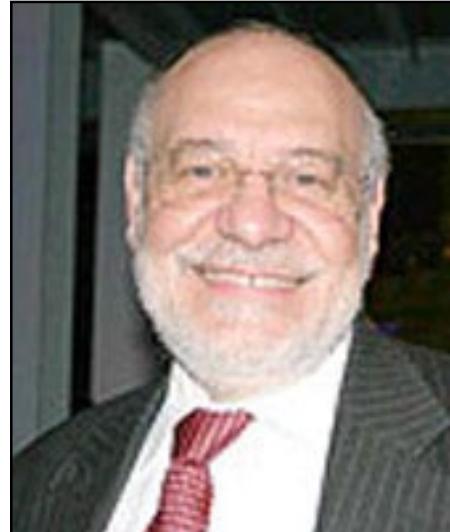
Until recently, I had never raised the subject of the Armenian genocide during Shabbat remarks at Congregation Mikveh Israel, despite the fact that, having grown up in Cairo, I had numerous Armenian friends in the high school I attended.

We Jews are very sensitive about the use of the term "Holocaust," and have reason to deplore its trivialization. Still, Armenian Americans are justified when they compare their genocide to our Shoah.

By the end of 1915, Armenians had been ethnically cleansed from the western half, the ancestral heart, of their homeland of several thousand years. Long loyal citizens of the Ottoman Empire, they were caught by surprise, when 250 of the most prominent Armenian male citizens were arrested and massacred in Constantinople on April 24, 1915.

Unlike German officials, who have admitted and apologized for their country's actions against the Jews, representatives of the Turkish government claim that there was no will by the Ottoman government to exterminate the Armenian population, and that the 1915 massacres were simply the consequences of war.

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu condemned President Barack Obama's recent statement



marking the 96th anniversary of the April 24 massacre (a statement that stopped short of calling it genocide). Davutoglu said he wished that the president could share the Turks' pain from the World War I era, adding that a "one-sided statement is not sufficient" considering the historical events.

Unfortunately, the State of Israel, as well as some major Jewish organizations, have a regrettable record on officially recognizing the Armenian genocide. In contrast to 22 nations (and 43 individual states, including Pennsylvania), Israel and the United States have to date not recognized the events of 1915 as a genocide.

Israel's position on this issue has been complicated by the fact that Turkey was, in 1949, the first Muslim state to recognize Israel. Israel has had a much more cooperative relationship with Turkey than with other Muslim countries, although this relationship has lately deteriorated.

This deterioration became obvious in late May 2010, when Israeli forces raided a Turkish aid flotilla aiming to violate Israel's blockade of the Gaza Strip, claiming nine lives. Turkish officials described the event as an act of "state terror" on Israel's part. Prior to that, some Jewish and pro-Israel organizations had failed to recognize the 1915 massacres as genocide, due to concern for Israel-Turkey relations and the Jews still in Turkey.

But it is important for people to become more informed about the Armenian genocide. We Jews know what persecution and living in a Diaspora mean. We aim to be a "light to the nations." Therefore, we have a duty to reach out to Armenian Americans and offer our solidarity in their struggle to receive the kind of recognition for their genocide that we receive (and have every right to expect) for our own Holocaust.

Rabbi Albert Gabbai leads Congregation Mikveh Israel in Center City, Pennsylvania.

European Union Praises

Continued from page 1

2008 and the release of all those in custody in relation to those events will help Armenia to truly move on."

Sarkisian hinted late last month that all jailed oppositionists regarded by the HAK as political prisoners will be set free soon. There are currently

five such individuals.

Their release would mean that the Armenian leader has met the three key demands voiced by HAK leader Levon Ter-Petrosian earlier this year. That would in turn pave the way for a potentially far-reaching dialogue between the country's government and largest opposition force.

AGMI Presents Armenian Genocide Exhibition in Paris

On May 14, the opening of the temporary exhibition "The Armenian Genocide—Front Page Coverage in Foreign Media" took place in Phrnjian Hall of the Armenian Apostolic Church of Paris, France. The exhibition had been organized by the cooperative efforts of the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute and the Armenian Apostolic

Church of Paris. The representatives of the French Armenian community, mayors of Clamart and Arnouville and Vigen Chitechian, RA Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to France were present at the opening ceremony.

This selection of 19th and early 20th century foreign newspapers, which is part of the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute collection, has been acquired thanks to the generous support of Tigran Kalaydjian from Cyprus.

Archbishop Norvan Zakarian, Primate of the French Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church, Patrice Djololian, the leader of the French Diocese, and AGMI Director Hayk Demoyan gave their opening speeches. In his speech Hayk Demoyan stated the following: "This exhibition is exclusive as it does not need any additional commentary. The materials presented once again prove the historical fact of the Armenian Genocide, at the same time affirming the necessity that the country which committed the genocide and denies its fact must be condemned by the laws of humanity and



civilization."

Representatives of the Armenian community of Paris and French guests who participated in the opening ceremony of the exhibition spoke positively about the opening of such an exhibition strengthening its importance from the point of view of raising the awareness about the Genocide in foreign countries.

At the opening ceremony the director of the AGMI Hayk Demoyan handed Patrice Djololian the Chairman of the French diocese AGMI's "Golden Medal" as a sign of gratitude to Djololian Family for giving the Museum unique documents and valuable exhibits.

With this exhibition the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute presents the opening of a number of traveling exhibitions with different titles in a number of cities abroad. On the initiative of AGMI and with the joint efforts of the local Armenian Communities and friends of the Museum throughout 2011 traveling exhibitions with different titles will be opened in Buenos Aires, Los Angeles, Oslo, Copenhagen and Stockholm.

Amnesty International Criticizes Armenia

Continued from page 1

sentenced officer, Ashot Harutiunian, also insisted during his trial that Khalafian did not commit suicide.

The Amnesty report says that no independent investigation has been conducted yet into the March 2008 use of deadly force against opposition protesters in Yerevan. It notes the fact that nobody has been brought to justice in connection with the deaths of eight protesters and two police personnel in those clashes.

Violence against Armenian women and girls is another major highlight of the report. The rights watchdog said that despite setting up an interagency body tasked with combat-

ting the practice, the Armenian government made no progress in 2010 on "enacting legislation specifically addressing violence against women and the setting up of shelters."

Amnesty International also reiterated its concerns about the continuing imprisonment of Armenian men refusing military service and a civilian alternative to it offered by the state on religious grounds.

The Amnesty report mentions in that context a November ruling by the European Court of Human Rights that rejected an appeal filed by an Armenian conscientious objector. The Strasbourg court upheld an earlier verdict saying that the European Convention on Human Rights does not guarantee the right of conscientious objection.

Armenia to Raise Military Draft Age

Continued from page 1

Over the past decade Armenia has gradually switched to a 12-year education cycle, replacing former system of 10-year schooling, that will produce first school graduates next year. This means that thousands of male students will turn 18 and be subject to the draft before passing graduation exams. Under existing legislation, they would also be unable to

pursue higher education and qualify for service deferments.

The Armenian government believes that they should be able to finish high school before being drafted. Hence, its proposal to raise draft age by one year.

The National Assembly unanimously approved, in the first reading, a corresponding amendment to an Armenian law on military service. Its passage in the second and final reading appears a mere formality.

Hundreds Gather to Help Preserve Historic Armenian Church

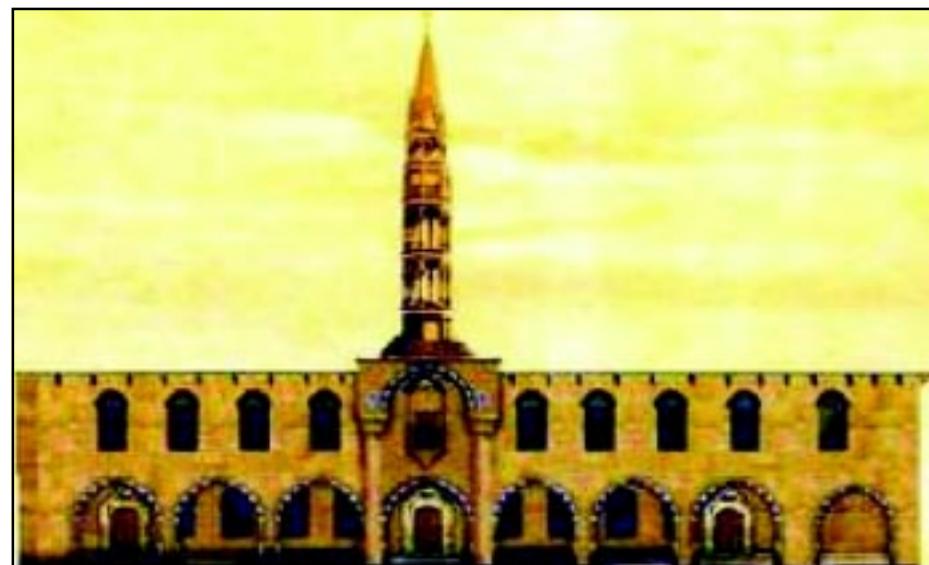
By Taleen Babayan

Though thousands of miles away from the St. Giragos Armenian Church in Dikranagerd, Turkey, Armenians from the tri-state area filled the Hovnanian Armenian School Banquet Hall in New Milford, NJ, to capacity on Saturday evening, May 14 to learn more about this historic church and raise money for its renovation project.

The benefit night - under the auspices of His Eminence Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern) with the participation of His Eminence Archbishop Aram Atesian, Vicar General of the Patriarchate of Constantinople, and organized by the St. Giragos Armenian Church Restoration Committee (Eastern USA) – served as an opportunity to familiarize attendees with this symbolic church and stress its need for restoration.

After a warm welcome by masters of ceremonies and member of the St. Giragos Armenian Church Restoration Committee (Eastern USA) Hirant Gulian, Archbishop Khajag Barsamian delivered inspiring remarks, emphasizing that historic Armenian churches have to be rebuilt so Armenian life can continue, citing the recent renovations of the Holy Cross Armenian Church on the island of Akh'tamar and St. Krikor Church in Kesaria.

"It is important for us to announce to the world that Armenian



Christians lived on those lands," said the Primate. "And we believe in the future, Christians can again live on those lands, because those are Armenian lands."

Well-known journalist and historian Osman Köker — who travelled from Istanbul to attend the event — took the time to present postcard images of Armenians in Diyarbekir 100 years ago. The vignettes were part of a collection of postcards included in his book, "Armenians in Turkey 100 Years Ago," which were on display at an exhibition in Yerevan in 2009 and are currently on view at the Armenian Library Museum of America in Watertown, MA.

Also travelling from afar to be present was Vartkes Ergun Ayik, Parish Council Chairman of St. Giragos

mittee in appreciation of his dedication to the church's reconstruction efforts.

Empowering the audience, His Eminence Archbishop Vicken Aykazian, Diocesan Legate, who also delivered the evening's invocation, stressed the importance of raising money to save the St. Giragos Armenian Church.

"You need to invest in preserving your heritage," said Archbishop Aykazian. He noted that the money raised will go to restoring the sacred architecture of the St. Giragos Armenian Church, from the altar to the baptismal font.

In his remarks, Archbishop Atesian said that there are 70 families in Dikranagerd who are Armenian and that many more from nearby cities will benefit from the restoration. He noted that a number of Armenians in the area are reluctant to openly acknowledge



Guests gathered in the Hovnanian Armenian School Banquet Hall

the total construction cost at close to \$3 million dollars, he said half of the construction costs were already raised but more was needed to reach the fundraising goal. St. Giragos Armenian Church - the first church in Anatolia to be restored by Armenians - will remain in possession of the Armenian community, under the jurisdiction of the Patriarchate of Constantinople.

"This is not a project for Dikranagerdzi Armenians or Armenians in Turkey," said Ayik, while images of the interior and exterior of

their Christian identity, but provided hope by saying that with enough guidance and encouragement, they will embrace their heritage.

"These people need to realize that their fathers and their grandfathers were Armenian," said Archbishop Atesian. "But they need priests, someone to help them return to their roots and to their church."

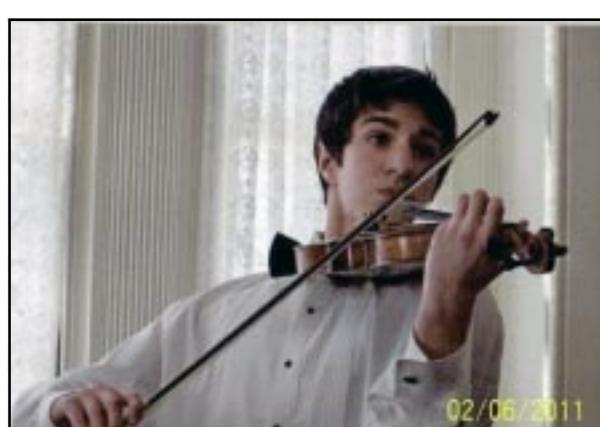
Following a "Dikranagerd"-style dinner, guests enjoyed music by renowned Armenian singer Onnik Dinkjian and his band.



Onnik Dinkjian performing with his band

the St. Giragos Armenian Church flashed behind him on a screen. "This is a project for all Armenians spread all over the world." Following his remarks, Archbishop Atesian presented Ayik with a golden medal of Dikran the Great, a gift from the organizing com-

By Rev. Fr. V. Kalayjian,
Pastor Emeritus



virtuoso performance enchanted the standing room crowded audience. The program selections were demanding and the 15 year old master met the challenge head on, with confidence and masterful handling the works of Beethoven, Edouard Bagdasarian, Edouard Lalo, Komitas Vartabed, and Fritz Kreisler.

It was a revelation indeed; one that brought the crowded hall to a standing ovation.

On the same day was the opening exhibition of his father: painter, printmaker, and sculptor Levon Jamgochian, an accomplished artist, who had 200 of his recent creations on display.

The day was a triumph of a father and son artistic team. The triumph rightfully may be shared also by Arec's mother, Mariam, a native of Armenia.

We are sure that we will be hearing Arec's music and about his future accomplishments yet to come. Thank you Arec.

Since the age of 8 he has gathered an impressive number of 1st prizes and scholarships and continued to study at the Levine School of Music, Washington, DC, that enabled him to perform with prestigious symphonies and symphonettes such as the Waterford Concert Series "Next Generation" Concert in Luckett, VA. In some of the orchestras, Arec was seated as principal 2nd violin for Young Artists and Symphony. He has studied as part of Master Classes with world-renowned violinists: Vadim Repin, Jonathan Carney, and Igor Yuzenovich. As part of his Levine School scholarship he was granted as a special privilege the use of 1912 Joseph Gorretelli Grade 3 copy of Stradivarius.

On February 6, at the Glenview Mansion conservatory, within the historic Rockville Civic Center in Maryland, Arec made a solo appearance with that same violin. The regional paper, The Gazette, accurately put it: "The violin and the student made a good team." And indeed they were. With Irina Kats on piano, a dazzling

To learn more about how to contribute towards the reconstruction of St. Giragos Armenian Church, please call the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern), which is handling all donations, at 212.686.0710.

