

ԲԱՏԱՌԻԿ ՀԱՐՑԱԶՐՈՅՑ HAYNEWS.AM-ԻՆ

ԽՕՍՈՒՄ Է ԹՈՒՐՔԻԱՅԻ ԱՄԵՆԱՐԱՅԱՏԵԱՑ ԿԱԶՄԱԿԵՐՊՈՒԹԵԱՆ ԴԵԿԱՎԱՐԾ

Իմ գրառումներում, որոնք կարող եք գտնել HayNews.am-ում - Թուրքագիտական բլոգում, ես բազմիցս անդրադարձել եմ այսպէս կոչուած «Անհիմն հայկական պնդումների դեմ պայքարի միութեան» կամ թրքերէնով կարճ ասած ԱՍԻՄ ԴԵՐ (ASIM DER)-ի տարբեր հականայ գործողութիւններին ու արշաւներին: Մի քանի տարուայ իմ փորձը թոյլ է տալիս ԱՍԻՄ ԴԵՐ (ASIM DER)-ը համարել վերջին տարիների ամենակտիւ հականայ կազմակերպութիւնը թուրքիայում կամ առնվազն ամենաերացողն ու ուշադրութիւն գրաւողը:

Մէկը միւսին յաջորդող հայատեաց արշաւներ, գործողութիւններ, ցուցադրութիւններ, բեմականացում, քարոզ, բացարձակ ատրպէջանամէտ դիրքորշում... ինչեւէ, այսօր խոստանում եմ հնարաւորինս ծանօթացնել այս կազմակերպութեան հետ՝ ներկայացնելով նաեւ նրա ղեկավար Գիորքի Գիւլբեկի հետ բացառիկ հարցադրուցը:

«Անհիմն հայկական պնդումների դեմ պայքարի միութիւն» կազմակերպութիւնը հիմնուել է իգդիրում: Նրանց, մեղմ ասած, ոչ ամնքան յաջող կայքում գործողութիւնների սկիզբ է նշուած է 2005 թուրականը:

Յաճախ հենց այդպէս էլ կոչուած է՝ իգդիրի ԱՍԻՄ ԴԵՐ: Կազմակերպութեան գործողութիւնը, որի ամբողջ նպատակը դրուած է անուան մէջ, հիմնականում կենտրոնացած է Հայաստանի սահմանամերձ հասուածում, որտեղ մեծ թիւ են կազմում ատրպէջանցիները:

Սակայն իր հականայ քարոզչութիւնը կազմակերպութիւնն իրականացնում է նաեւ Կարսի, էրզրումի, Վանի, իգդիրի նահանգներից հեռու՝ Ստամբուլում եւ Անքարայում, այլ թրքական քաղաքներում, ինչպէս նաեւ արտասահմանում, այդ թևում, բնականաբար, Ատրպէջանում, ինչպէս նաեւ Ռուսաստանում, Վրաստանում, Արեւ ելյան եւրոպայում:

Կազմակերպութեան ղեկավարն է 39-ամեայ Գիորքի Գիւլբեկը, ով մեզ հետ զրոյցում պնդում էր իր մաքուր թուրք լինելը եւ որ ծնուել է իգդիրում:

Նոյն Գիուլբեկի փոխանցմամբ, իր հիմնադրած կազմակերպութեան անդամների թիւը կազմում է 120 մարդ, որոնք ներկայացնում են թուրքիայի տարբեր շրջանները:

Մեր այն հարցին, թէ ինչ քաղաքական ուղղուածութիւն ունեն, ԱՍԻՄ ԴԵՐ-ի նախագահը նշեց, թէ «իրենք որեւէ քաղաքական ուժի չեն հարում», իսկ կազմակերպութեան անդամները, տարբեր քաղաքական հայեացքներ ունեն: Աւելորդ չէր լինի նշել, որ 2011 թուականի խորհրդարանական ընտրութիւններում «Ազգայնական շարժում» կուսակցութիւնը թուրքիայի 81 նահանգներից յաղթանակ տարաւ միամն իգդիրում:

Տրամաբանօրէն յաջորդ հարցն այն է, թէ արդեօք կազմակերպութիւնն օգնութիւն է տանում պետութիւնից, ինչին Գիորքի պատասխանեց, որ «իրենք բացարձակ անկախ» են:

Յիշեցնելով, որ վերջերս մամուլում շատ էր խօսւում պաշտօնական Պաքուից իրենց

ֆինանսաւորման մասին՝ Գիորքի լրատական նեղացած տոնով նշեց, թէ «իրենք ոչ մի պետութիւնից էլ օգնութիւն չեն ատանում»:

Ամէն դէպքում, տեղին կը լինէր յիշեցնել, որ շատ յաճախ ԱՍԻՄ ԴԵՐ-ը յիշում է Խոջալուն, Ռամիլ Սաֆարովին՝ «Հերոսացրած», «բռնազաւթուած» Արցախը, երթերն ու ցոյցերն անցնում են ատրպէջանական դրոշների մշտական ուղեկցութեամբ, որոնք յաճախ գերազանցում են թրքականների քանակն եւ չափը:

Կազմակերպութեան տարատիպ ակցիաները մշտապէս թրքական առաջատար մամուլի էջերում են: Վանի Սուրբ Խաչ եկեղեցու բացում, Կարսի Սարդկութեան յուշարձանի քանդում, Սաֆարով, Սարկոզի... ցանկացած իրադարձութիւնից յետոյ ԱՍԻՄ ԴԵՐ-ը կազմ-պատրաստ է:

Յիշենք, օրինակ, թէ ինչպէս



Էին Սարքոզիի խրտուիլակը կապել իգդիրի բարձրայարկ շէնքերից մէկին կամ էլ Խոջալու «իրադարձութիւնները» վերածել բեմականացման՝ հային ներկայացնելով «Հրեշի» կերպարում...

«Պարոն Գիուլբեկը, իսկ Դուք

չայաստանում եղե՞լ էք, հայ ծանօթներ ունէ՞ք», -հարցում եմ նրան:

«Ոչ, չեմ եղել, սակայն եթէ ձեր պետութիւնն իմ անվտանգութիւնը կազմակերպում...

«Պարոն Գիուլբեկը, իսկ Դուք



Կազմակերպութեամբ
ԱՐՍԵՆ ԿԻՏՈՒՐ ՄԱՍՆԱՇԻՒՂԻ

Շաբաթ, Դեկտեմբեր 31, 2011

երեկոյեան ժամը 8:00-էն սկսեալ

Հ.Ա.Մ.-ի «Կարօ Սողանալեան» սրահին մէջ

Presented by

ARSEN GIDOUR CHAPTER

Saturday, December 31, 2011

Starting at 8:00 p.m.

HMM Garo Soghanalian Hall

1060 N. Allen Ave., Pasadena



Live Entertainment & DJ with a special visit from Santa Clause

Մուտքի նույն / Admission: \$60.00 • Children 6-12: \$30.00 • 5 & Under Free
Տոմսերու համար դիմել / For Reservations Call: Garo Bekarian (818) 913-4024

ՕԾՈՒՄ ՍԻՎԹՅԱՆ ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԻՑ ԱՌԱՋԵԼԱԿԱՆ ԵԿԵՂԵՑԻՈՅ



Թեմակալ Առաջնորդ՝ Գերշ. Տ. Յովնան Արքեպիսկոպոս Տէրտէրեան ծամնակցութեամբ Ծուրի Հոգեւոր Հովհեւ Արժ. Տ. Եղիա Քհնյ. Խայեանի, Սարկաւագաց եւ Դպրաց Դասերու, Շաբաթ, Յունուար 14ին, 2012 կէսօրէ իստոյ ժամը 1:30ին, օծումը պիտի կատարէ Սիաթըլի Հայց. Եկեղեցւոյ: Պիտի ընթերցէ այս առթիւ Ն.Ս.Օ.Տ.Տ. Գարեգին Բ. Ամենայն Հայոց Կաթողիկոսին Օրհնութեան Կոնդակը, ապա պիտի տայ իր Հոգեւոր պատգամը:

Եկեղեցւոյ հասցէն է 11505 Redmond-Woodinville Road, Redmond, WA 98042.

Արարողութեան աւարտին, երեկոյեան ժամը 6:00ին, Grand

Reception Hall-ի մէջ տեղի պիտի ունենայ պաշտօնական ճաշկերոյթ, հասցէն 10120 SE 260th St. Kent, WA 98030:

ՀԱԿԻՐՃ ՊԱՏՄԱԿԱՆ ՀԱՅԱԹԸԼԻ ՀԱՅՑ ԵԿԵՂԵՑԻՈՅ
Սիաթըլի Հայց. Առաքելական Եկեղեցին հիմնուած է 1981ին՝ օրուան Առաջնորդ Գերշ. Տ. Վաչէ Արքեպիսկոպոս Յովսէփեանի կողմէ: Առաջին Սուրբ Պատարագը Վաչէ Սրբազնի կողմէ մատուցուած է 1980 թուի Մաղկազարդին՝ Սուրբ Պողոս Եպիսկոպոսական Եկեղեցւոյ մէջ: Սկզբնական տարիներուն ամիսը

Տար. էջ 18

ՓԱՍԱՏԻՆԱՅԻ Ս. ԳՐԻԳՈՐ ԼՈՒԱՒԻՐԻՉ ԵԿԵՂԵՑԻՅ ՇԱԲԱԹՈՐԵԱՅ ԴՊՐՈՑԻ ԱԶԱԿԵՐՏՏԵՐԸ ՇԱՂՈՐԴՈՒԹԻՒՆ ՍՏԱՑԱՆ



Նոր Տարուայ եւ Ս. Ծննդեան կրկնակ տօներու իբրեւ նախապատրաստութիւն, 10 Դեկտեմբեր 2011, Շաբաթ առոտու, Փասատինայի Ս. Գրիգոր Լուսաւորիչ Եկեղեցւոյ շաբաթօրեայ դպրոցի քառասուներկու աշակերտները, իրենց ուսուցիչներու եւ ծնողներու առաջնորդութեամբ ուղղուեցան Եկեղեցի՝ առանալու համար Ս. Հաղորդութիւն:

Անոնք Տ. Սարգիս Աւ. Քհնյ. Պետույնանէն լսեցին քրիստոնէական հաւատքի հիմունքներու մասին պարզ քարոզ մը, որ ներգրաւեց բոլոր մանուկները իր դիւրածատելի եւ պատկերացից լեզուով: Ապա աշակերտները խորան բարձրացան եւ անօրէն նորայր Տատուրեանի ղեկավարութեամբ միաբերան երգեցին «Մարմին

Տէրունական»ը եւ «Սուրբ Աստուած»ը: Վերջաւորութեան, աշակերտները մօտեցան Ս. Սեղան եւ ստացան Հաղորդութիւն:

Շաբաթօրեայ դպրոցը իր հինգ դասարաններով կը ծառացէ Հարաւային Քալիֆորնիոյ Ս. Կապրիէլ Հովհիսի այն հայ մանուկներուն, որոնք հնարաւորութիւնը չունին հայկական դպրոց երթալու: Դպրոց կը յաճախեն վեց տարեկանէն մինչեւ տասներկու տարեկաններ: Անոնք լեզուական գիտելիքներու առընթեր կը սորվին նաեւ հայ Եկեղեցւոյ Հոգեւոր եւ պատմածակութային արժէքները: Շրջանաւարտ աշակերտները յաճախ կը միանան դպրոցական շրջանակին մէջ ու կամաւորապէս կը ծառացն իբրեւ օժանդակ ուսուցիչներ:

ԱԼՖՐԵՏ ԵՒ ՄԱՐԿՈՒԹ ՅՈՎՍԵՓԵԱՆ ՎԱՐԺԱՐԱՆԻ ԿԱՂԱՆԴԻ ԵՒ ՍՈՒՐԲ ԾՆՈՒՆԴԻ ՀԱՆԴԵՍԸ



Ուրբաթ, Դեկտեմբեր 16ին, Փասատինայի Յովսէփեան Վարժարանի աշակերտութիւնը ներկայացուց Սուրբ Ծննդեան նուիրուած ճոխ յայտագիր մը երգերով եւ պարերով: Բացման խօսքը կատարեց Նախամանկապարտէզի Վարիչ՝ Տիկին Քրիսթինա Մովսէսեան:

Հանդէսի աւարտին Առաջնորդ Սրբազն Հայրը իր շնորհաւորական խօսքին մէջ ըստ: «Երախաներու ըրմներով բարեմաղթութիւնները

աղօթք են, որոնք մէր հոգիները կը լեցնեն աստուածացին սիրով: Թող Աստուած պահէ եւ պահապահէ մեր մանուկները, օրհնէ դաստիարակ ուսուցիչները, որոնք իրենց պաշտօնի համբերութեամբ նաեւ ծնողներ են»:

Հանդէսութիւնը փակուեցաւ Եկեղեցւոյ Հոգեւոր Հովհեւ Արժ. Տ. Սարգիս Աւագ Քհնյ. Փեթոյեանի խօսքին մէջ ըստ: «Երախաներու ըրմներով բարեմաղթութիւնները

ՀԱՅ-ԱՄԵՐԻԿԵԱՆ ՍՈՒՐԲ ԾՆՍԴԻ ԲԱՐԵԳՈՐԾԱԿԱՆ ՀԻՄԱԿԱՐԱՄԻ ԱՍԱՆՈՐԻ ՄԻԶՈՑԱՌՈՒՄԵՐԸ

Հայ-Ամերիկեան ծնողազուրկ եւ հաշմանդամ երեխանների Սուրբ Ծննդի բարեգործական հիմնադրամը, որ 12 տարի առաջ ստեղծել եւ ղեկավարում է Լոս Անձելլսի երեւելի մտաւորական, «Քաջ Նազար» ամսագրի գլխաւոր խմբագիր Յովհաննէս Բալայեանը, մայր Հայրենիքում 12-րդ անգամ անցէ կացնում Ամանորի եւ Սուրբ Ծննդի միջոցառումներ:

Նախորդ տարիններին աւելի քան 150,000 փոքրիկներ համերգասրահներում, մանկաստներում, մանկապարտէզներում եւ դպրոցներում մասնակցել են ուրախ եւ հետաքրքիր տօնահանդէսների, ստացել նուէրներ, երգել, պարել ու գուարճացել:

Նոր 2012 թուականը, փոնտի բարի աւանդութների շարունա-

կութիւնն է: Գեղարքունիքի, Շիրակի, Լոռու, Երեւանի մանկատների փոքրիկները հնարաւորութիւն կ'ունենան իրենց օճախում ընդունել ամանորեաց շքեղ ներկայացումներ, ստանալ յատուկ նուէրներ:

Տօնի եղրափակիչ հանդիսութիւնները կ'աւարտուեն Երեւանում՝ Արամ Խաչատրեանի մեծ համերգասրահում, ուր արդէն հաւերներ են ստացել հազարաւոր կարիքաւոր եւ հաշմանդամ երեխաններ, անապահով մանուկներ:

Եւ բոլորը չնորհաւորելով սփիւրքահայ Ամանորն ու Սուրբ Ծնունդը, ցանկանում են, որ հեռաւոր Ամերիկայում ապրող մէր հայրենակիցները բարի ցնակութիւնները իրականանան նաեւ գալիք բոլոր տարիններին:

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Sarkozy: Turkey Cannot Teach France Any “Lessons”

Turkey Reacts Angrily After Passage of Armenian Genocide Bill



PARIS -- France's lower house of parliament passed a bill making it a crime to deny the Armenian genocide.

The motion was backed in a voice vote and now moves to the Senate which hasn't set a timetable to debate it.

The vote followed a four-hour debate broadcast live through the Internet and watched by members of France's influential Armenian community as well as thousands of Turks demonstrating outside the parliament.

Under the adopted legislation, anyone in France publicly denying the Armenian Genocide could face a year in jail and a fine of 45,000 euros (\$58,000).

The main author of the bill, UMP deputy Valerie Boyer, dismissed critics' claims that it will infringe on freedom of expression and discourage debate on one of the darkest episodes of Turkey's history.

"Freedom of speech and state propaganda are very different things," Boyer said in an apparent reference to successive Turkish governments' vehement genocide denial.

Another UMP parliamentarian, Patrice Calmejane, drew parallels between criminalizing public denial of the Jewish Holocaust and the Armenian genocide. "Recognition of the Shoah has not prevented historians from doing their job," he said.

The law would punish denial of any genocide recognized by French law with as long as a year in prison and a 45,000-euro (\$59,000) fine. The measure, presented by a member of President Nicolas Sarkozy's party, has been rewritten to remove direct references to Turkey and Armenians. The French parliament voted in 2001 to recognize the World War I massacres of Armenians as genocide. In 2006, the lower house voted to criminalize its denial, though the bill later failed in the Senate.

Almost all the lawmakers who spoke in the debate mentioned the wartime killings of Armenians and criticized Turkey. A member of Sarkozy's Union for a Popular Movement Renaud Muselier, who represented the party in the debate, stated that it is not aimed at Turkey but rather the motion "is a law

that allows us to fight denial."

Turkey Recalls Ambassador

Turkey responded to the unprecedented measure by recalling its ambassador in Paris and imposing a raft of political and military sanctions on France. Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan said the bill's passage will open "very grave and irreparable wounds" in Turkish-French relations. "From now on we are revising our relations with France," he said.

The AFP news agency also quoted Erdogan as saying that Ankara will suspend mutual political visits as well as joint military projects with its NATO ally. Turkey will now decide on a case-by-case basis every military demand made by EU member France to use Turkish airspace and military bases, he said, and will from now on reject any French demand for its military vessels to dock at Turkish ports.

"France has trampled on the principles of its own revolution: Liberty, equality and fraternity," Erdogan declared, according to the DPA news agency. "I ask you: Is there freedom of thought and freedom of expression in France? The answer is, 'No.' France has abolished the spirit of free discussion," he charged.

Furthermore, Erdogan accused France of committing genocide in its former colony Algeria and launched a personal attack on Sarkozy. "In Algeria from 1945, an estimated 15 percent of the population was massacred by the French. This is a genocide," Erdogan said on live television, according to Reuters.

AFP reported that France's For-

Armenian Genocide Bill Sponsor Reports Death Threats



PARIS -- The main author of the French bill criminalizing the denial of the Armenian Genocide claimed to have received death threats after her website was apparently hacked by angry Turkish nationalists on Sunday.

Meanwhile, the leader of the Socialist majority in the French Senate reportedly demanded that President Nicolas Sarkozy's government submit the bill to the upper house of parliament "as soon as possible."

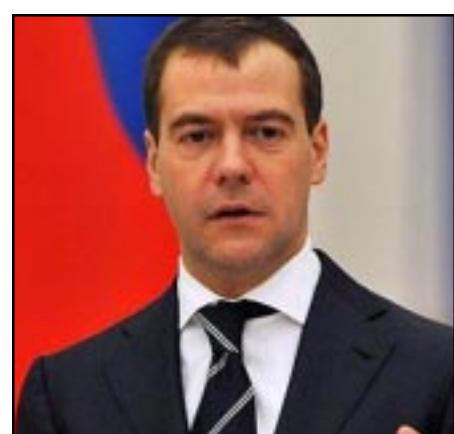
Valerie Boyer, a deputy from Sarkozy's Union for the Popular Movement (UMP) party, was the main sponsor of the measure approved by the National Assembly and strongly condemned by the Turkish government late last week.

Boyer told the BFMTV station that she, her children and parents have received "extremely grave" threats since then. "It's totally paradoxical to

Continued on page 4

Continued on page 4

Dmitry Medvedev: Karabakh Peace ‘Still Possible’ For Russia



BAKU -- The Nagorno-Karabakh conflict may still be resolved in the near future despite the current impasse in Armenian-Azerbaijani peace talks, Russian President Dmitry Medvedev said over the weekend.

"In the last several years a lot has been done to bring the parties' positions closer to one another," Medvedev told Azerbaijani state television in an interview. "There are definitely prospects for reaching an agreement."

"In my view, this is perhaps the only conflict in the post-Soviet space that can be settled at the moment," he said.

"Everything depends on the good will of the parties, on their ability to listen to each other's arguments, and, let's face it, there are no simple decisions. An agreement can be reached only on the basis of compromise," he added.

Medvedev has been personally involved in the Karabakh peace process, having organized about a dozen trilateral meetings with the presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan in the last three years.

The two sides came close to

Continued on page 4

\$31 Million Raised for Armenia & Artsakh

MOSCOW -- Fundraising for Armenia Fund Telethon 2011 concluded Wednesday evening with an announcement of \$18.6 million pledged during Armenia Fund's annual Moscow Gala.

The funds raised will be combined with the \$12.3 million pledged during last month's Thanksgiving Day Telethon, bringing the total money raised during this year's telethon to \$31 million.

These figures also include the 12th European fundraising phonathon held earlier in France by the All-Armenian Fund which received a promise of 1.3 million Euros (\$1.7 million).

Major donors from Armenia included Vallex Group (\$200,000), Zangezur Copper Molybdenum Factory (\$500,000) and another \$200,000



was promised by businessman MP Samvel Alexanian. The largest commitment at the Moscow Gala came from Argentinian-Armenian businessman Eduardo Eurnekian, who pledged to donate \$11 million.

The bulk of the money will be used for improving drinking water supplies to more Karabakh villages and implementing similar rural infrastructure projects in Armenia.

Interview With ACE Chairman Kevork Satchlian: Armenian Council of Europe Commends the French Parliament



French Parliamentarian René Rouquet and Mr. Kevork Satchlian

On Thursday, France's lower house of parliament approved a motion making it a crime to deny the Armenian Genocide. Specifically the motion "reprehends the contesters of genocides accepted by law" including the Armenian Genocide which the French parliament voted in 2001 to recognize the World War I massacres of Armenians as genocide.

France's 400,000 strong ethnic Armenian communities comprise mostly of decedents of those who survived the Armenian Genocide committed by the Turkish Ottoman Empire. These communities have established churches, schools, cultural organizations, sports clubs, and political

organizations. The following is an interview with Mr. Kevork Satchlian, Chairman of the Social Democrat Hunchakian Party's Armenian Council of Europe after France's lower house of parliament passed the law on Genocides.

Massis Post: Mr. Satchlian, can you explain your feelings on today's proceedings?

I am very pleased and thank the Parliamentarians who helped push this motion through the lower house. Yet we have a lot work to be done, the struggle is not over, rather this once again is just the beginning process to make this law into reality.

Massis Post: Mr. Satchlian,

how instrumental was your organization, the Armenian Council of Europe in obtaining this victory?

In all honesty, this is not a victory that any one Armenian organization can take credit for. Rather this is a culmination of our collective activities to push the passage of this motion in the lower house of parliament.

I can tell you, as part of that effort, the ACE along with all of the Hunchakian affiliated organizations pressed on our membership, families, Armenian and non Armenian friends and even elected officials to contact and urge their members of parliament to pass this bill. We also, as an organization, directly advocated Parliamentarians. This was evident at our recent meetings with Parliamentarians; André Santini a leading member of Nouveau Centre party (the new right-of-center party in the French Parliament) and René Rouquet a leading member of France's Socialist Party, we expressed the importance of this motion's passage to our organization as well as France's Armenian community.

Massis Post: Mr. Satchlian, you mentioned that a lot more must be done for this to become actual law, can you elaborate?

Armenians must not forget that we have gone through this process once before, when in 2006, the lower



house voted to criminalize the denial, yet the bill later failed in the Senate. Once again we face the same dilemma, it passed France's lower house, yet it is not scheduled for a vote in the French Senate. After February 2012 the Parliament will be at a standstill for the May Presidential elections and the Parliamentary election that are to follow. Consequently, if the motion does not pass the French Senate by February 2012 it will virtually be impossible for it to become law.

On the positive side, all of the French political forces, including President Sarkozy and his soon to be Presidential opponent Francois Hollande of the Socialist Party have articulated their will to make this motion into law. This is significant in particular because France's Socialist Party in 2011 won control of the Senate for the first time in more than fifty years.

Therefore, ACE commends the French Parliament, but we also realize that our work is far from over.

Armenian and Greek Clergymen clash at Bethlehem



BETHLEHEM -- The annual cleaning of one of Christianity's holiest churches deteriorated into a brawl between rival clergy Wednesday, as dozens of monks feuding over sacred space at the Church of the Nativity battled each other with brooms until police intervened.

The ancient church, built over the traditional site of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem, is shared by three Christian denominations — Roman Catholics, Armenians and Greek Orthodox. Wednesday's fight erupted between Greek and Armenian clergy, with both sides accusing each other of encroaching on parts of the church to which they lay claim.

The monks were tidying up the church ahead of Orthodox Christmas celebrations in early January, following celebrations by Western Christians on Dec. 25. The fight erupted between

monks along the border of their respective areas. Some shouted and hurled brooms.

Palestinian security forces rushed in to break up the melee, and no serious injuries were reported. A Palestinian police spokesman would not immediately comment.

A fragile status quo governs relations among the denominations at the ancient church, and to repair or clean a part of the structure is to own it, according to accepted practice. That means that letting other sects clean part of the church could allow one to gain ground at another's expense. Similar fights have taken place during the same late-December cleaning effort in the past.

Tensions between rival clergy at the church have been a fact of life there for centuries and have often been caught up in international politics.

Armenia and Iran Sign Cooperation Agreements on Energy and Communications

YEREVAN-- The presidents of Armenia and Iran pledged on Friday to further expand "high-level relations" between their nations and, in particular, give new impetus to the implementation of joint energy projects that have fallen behind schedule.

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad arrived in Yerevan on Friday for an official one-day visit during which he signed agreements strengthening energy and communication relations between Armenia and its southern neighbor.

Sarkisian and Ahmadinejad also called for a "diplomatic" solution to Iran's nuclear standoff with the West, saying after talks in Yerevan that it should uphold Tehran's right to the "peaceful use of atomic energy."

In a joint communiqué issued at the end of Ahmadinejad's one-day visit to Armenia, the two leaders said that they "reaffirmed their determination to further develop bilateral friendly and mutually beneficial relations."

"We have had very good negotiations with Mr. President," Ahmadinejad told Armenian and Iranian officials



Sarkisian and Ahmadinejad

after a one-on-one conversation with his Armenian counterpart. "I said that nobody in the world can change the map between Armenia and Iran."

"Historically we have always had good relations and they are being preserved today," he said.

According to Sarkisian, they specifically agreed to speed up the ongoing construction of a third transmission line connecting the Armenian and Iranian power grids and accelerate other commercial projects.

Those include the construction of two hydroelectric plants on the Arax river marking the Armenian-Iranian border and a pipeline that will ship Iranian fuel to Armenia. Work on these facilities was due to start this year but has been delayed for unclear reasons.

Compassionate Expressionism in Seeroon Yeretzian's Paintings

By Sahag Toutjian

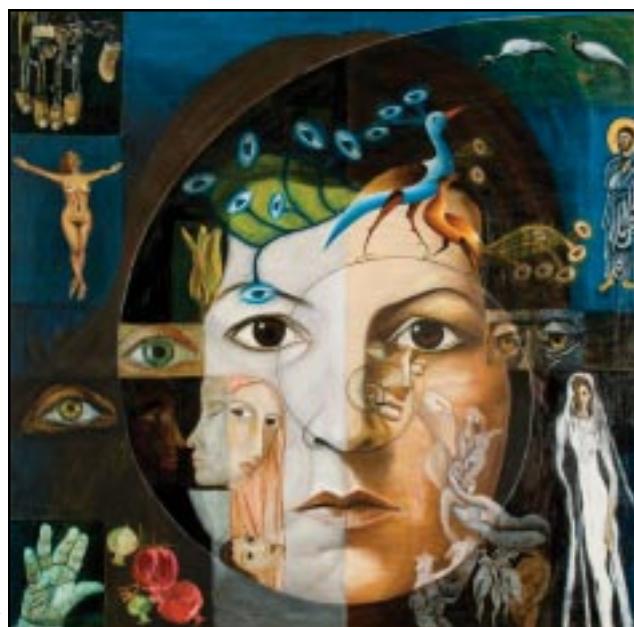
Long overdue, the first, high quality album of the prominent Armenian-American painter Seeroon Yeretzian has just been published by Abril Publishing, 415 E Broadway, Suite 102, Glendale, California (Telephone 818/243-4112) in December 2011. Seeroon is one of the most talented avant-garde Armenian painters of contemporary Diaspora, and the present album of 200 pages of reproductions in authentic colors compiles the best of her creative art to date. We firmly believe that she promises to surprise her national and international admirers with ever more consummate new masterpieces of her unique art style. The following essay is an amendment of the author's review in 1991 covering Seeroon Yeretzian's pioneer exhibition of paintings in April 1999.

At the first glance upon entering the exhibition hall, your senses are stirred with perplexity. You pass in front of the canvases. At first indistinctly, then more clearly, your self-assurance begins to falter. Your thoughts refuse to take refuge in their deceptive initial equanimity. The accepted formulations on art become rather irrelevant and superfluous. Here we are dealing with the real world: rough, brute and merciless. Here, also, we are dealing with a specific art of painting that arcs itself over the world, with love and compassion, to portray it with a genuine expression of feelings and experience.

First and foremost, one is impressed by the audacity Seeroon Yeretzian displays in the selection of themes and the diversity of aesthetic experimentation. She scrutinizes, she probes, and she questions hardened "realities." She explores personal, novel parallels of depth and form. She tries to speak entirely new idioms of the artistic language – albeit maintaining creative authenticity and truthfulness.

With her, this simple aesthetic principle is once more confirmed: The common denominator of all authentic artistic creation, regardless of the different modes of styles and expressions, is the distinctly individual expressive innovation, or, to use a popular term, an inimitable self-stamped "signature." This means that it is possible to accomplish genuine artistic formulation of the self same given reality in both figurative and abstract execution.

The stylizations of painterly expression are numerous and diverse. It is possible to communicate in the limited 'tongue' of duplication or replication, more or less reminiscent of photography. It is possible to offer the essence of appearances in sharp abstraction. But it is also possible – as in Seeroon Yeretsian's case – to lead the process of abstraction not to its su-



Autopartrait, 1980-2005

preme or utmost level, but only to the point necessary for expressive forcefulness, while at the same time maintaining a meaningful communion and immediate interaction with the outside world. Both of these two components are equally important for best appreciating her art. On the one hand, certain stylistic leverages of abstract art assist immensely in her expressive consummation. On the other hand, her communion with the real world helps her express in a dynamic intimation truths that are commonly deprived of their civil rights.

Seeroon Yeretzian's works display a responsible and healthy stance toward unhealthy human and public situations. The injustice, ugliness and deformities of social life are her themes – and the object of her "silent" indignation. Her canvases tend to be artistic constructs hoisted against them.

The theme of "women's rights" is the most immediate motivating force of her creative efforts. But this leads her not to feminist repudiation, but to the inclusive attitude of humanism. In numerous works this horrible social condition is underlined – both woman's and man's concurrent exploitation and crucifixion, the inequality of them both, which is a result of the same prevalent inhumane conditions. She raises this issue through all the palettes she employs in her canvases. The crucified woman, her helpless male mate, relegated to the background in his muscular absurdity, the two other females or "thieves" crucified on the flanks – or, in another instance, the two children who animate the frontal plan – all join together on the modernized symbolic cross.

The second important theme dominating the canvases is human suffering and deprivation, man's humiliation by man and man's inhumanity towards man. Here, manifested are the Armenian Genocide on the one side, and the American homeless on the other.

The works dedicated to the Armenian Genocide are expressions of profound tragedy, powerful emotions. These clay skulls have been brought to the canvas with such infinite tenderness! Bodiless heads. Headless bodies. Otherworldly faces, hollowed eyes and bones. The canvas frame is unable to contain so much inhumanity – so that within the picture a special frame is

provided, wherefrom overflow the torrents of tragedy, with the heaviness of dark blue, the eruptions of scorching red, the outburst of a sad green reminiscent of death rather than life. In another part of the canvas, the contents of the inner frame and the space outside it dissolve into each other to become one.

In numerous works, the bleak, shameful themes of the homeless tower up like an immense question mark against the sneaking self-alienation of American democracy. The series of contorted canvases depicting an old woman dragging life's vanity, turned into an unbearable leaden burden, along cold sidewalk pavements, is a pointed indictment of this modern grotesque fiction called civilization. (With bitter irony, the old, old phrase "to grow old gracefully" comes to mind.) Rough and deadly are the cobblestones where the figure of a youth or the blunt juxtaposition of the lively colors of two exquisite dolls is spread like a lifeless gray lump of flesh. This depravity is a betrayal of man's rationality against man. "Home, Sweet Home.", 1983, is an inscription under the extremely poignant, shocking image of a desperate homeless person.

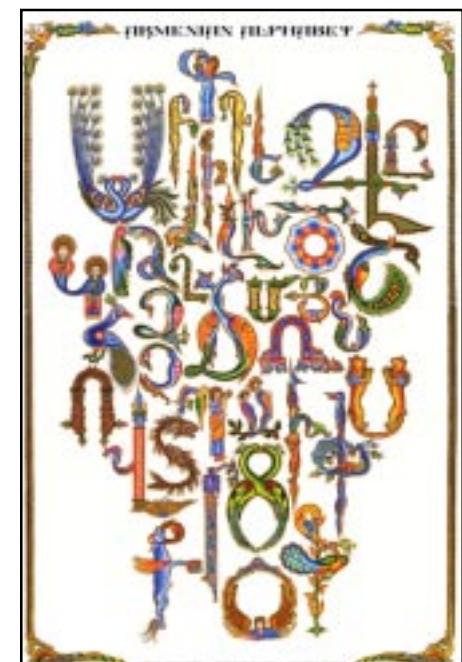
In the string of themes brought to the canvas, prominent importance has been allocated to social vices: deceit (masks, masks, masks), the social humiliation of women, the enervating claws of a deceptive civilization (and the annihilation of refreshing childlike



Home Sweet Home, 1983

spontaneity by the tie-clad gray establishment), Armenian and non-Armenian contemporary scenes, the all-pervading melancholy and the wingless hope hardly stirring at times, and finally, the oblique solace offered by the creative passion of art.

At the focus of Seeroon Yeretzian's oil paintings, one often finds the fiery trinity of red-orange-yellow, whose tense dynamism is counterbalanced by the thick black of the background. Besides this, the occasional white renders the theme more salient, as with the white faces of the three women which are contrasted to the neon colors wrapping their up-for-



Splendor of Aypupen, 1989

sale bodies. On a second plane one notices the hues of rust and especially an unwholesome green which so aptly imparts meaning to the given moment. A gray or black gloom, which expresses the dark tragedy in leaden hues, comes to further enhance the impressions. Brown, gray and black are commonly dominant in the case of acrylics. These, however, are at times mellowed down by the light white of the background, and in some instances, blaze up with the glitter of gay shards of rainbow colors.

The harmonious symbiosis of colors and hues find their culmination in the gouaches. In this connection, it is worth to note the ornamental letters of the Armenian alphabet, which invoke the authentic colors and hues of our miniature art heritage.

We should not forget the pencil and pen drawings which animate objects and situations.

Seeroon Yeretzian creates under the immediate stimulation of her psyche, conceptions and fantasy. Honesty renders to her forms of expression a fresh immediacy and a keen emphasis which best illuminates the inner spiritual vistas of the artist. The series of chilly masks, in eloquent yet restrained communicativeness, symbolizes her unequivocal stance against personal hypocrisy and social deceit.

One can attribute the essential aesthetic qualities of Seeroon Yeretzian's paintings to the influence of the best traditions of German expressionism – specifically, the potency of emphatic and bold black or dark lines, the employment of color generally as a means to display emotional states; the preponderance of heavy colors (black, brown, etc.) for expressing emotionally and authentically the harsh mercilessness of life. Her creations exhibit the keen perception of the uncertain fate of contemporary aimless man, the profound grasp of inner human aspirations, and the robust dynamism of unyielding audacity of modern thinking in search of answers.

June-July 1991
English translation by the
author 10 October 2010

Prof. Richard G. Hovannisian to Speak in Belmont on Armenian Kars & Ani



BELMONT, MA -- The First Armenian Church of Belmont, MA, and the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) will sponsor "An Illustrated Journey to Kars and Ani" by Prof. Richard G. Hovannisian, on Friday, January 20, 2012, at 8:00 p.m. at the Nahigian Fellowship Hall at First Armenian Church, 380 Concord Ave., Belmont, MA.

A book signing of Hovannisian's newest edited volume Armenian Kars and Ani will immediately follow the lecture. There will then be a reception and refreshments at the NAASR Center, across the street from First Armenian Church, at 395 Concord Ave. The lecture and reception are free and open to the public.

Richard Hovannisian traveled through Historic Armenia in spring 2011 as the historian-guide for a NAASR Armenian Heritage Tour led by Armen Aroyan, providing him with the opportunity to visit and reflect on these cities and regions that he has so often written about as a scholar.

Armenian Kars and Ani is the tenth volume of proceedings from the UCLA conference series "Historic Armenian Cities and Provinces." This present volume represents a departure from its predecessors that have focused on historic Western Armenian areas, whereas Kars and Ani were very much a part of Eastern or Russian Armenia.

Hovannisian is the author of Armenia on the Road to Independence, the four-volume history The Republic of Armenia, and has edited and contributed to more than twenty-five books including The Armenian Genocide in Perspective; The Armenian People from Ancient to Modern Times; Remembrance and Denial; Looking Backward, Moving Forward; and The Armenian Genocide: Cultural and Ethical Legacies.

For more information about this event contact NAASR at 617-489-1610 or hq@naasr.org or First Armenian Church at 617-484-4779 or office@facbelmont.org.

Karabakh Peace 'Still Possible' For Russia

Continuedfrompage1

agreeing on the basic principles of a peaceful settlement proposed by Russia, the United States and France at the most recent Armenian-Azerbaijani summit held in the Russian city of Kazan last June. They failed to overcome their differences, however, raising more questions about the future of the peace talks.

Presidents Serzh Sarkisian and Ilham Aliyev said through their foreign ministers earlier this month that they are ready to meet again "in the near future." But there are still no concrete plans for such a meeting.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Monday that Moscow will continue to make "active efforts" at Karabakh peace. "Support for the prevention and resolution of conflicts and crises has traditionally been among our foreign policy priorities," he told the Interfax news agency.

Sergei Minasian, a senior analyst at the Yerevan-based Caucasus Institute, suggested that Moscow's chief concern now is to prevent another Armenian-

Azerbaijani war. "If hostilities resume Russia will have to make a very difficult choice: either to help its strategic ally and fellow CSTO member Armenia ... and lose Azerbaijan or not to help Armenia," he told RFE/RL's Armenian service (Azatutyun.am).

"In the latter case, Russia will lose Armenia because Russian military presence in its territory makes sense to Armenia only if the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is not resolved. And in case of losing Armenia Russia will eventually lose Azerbaijan as well," he said.

Arman Melikian, a Yerevan-based former Nagorno-Karabakh foreign minister opposed to the basic principles, claimed that the Russians are ready to impose an "unacceptable" peace deal on the Armenian side if Azerbaijan agrees to give them much greater control over exports of Azerbaijani oil and gas.

Melikian said that even if Baku agrees to the Russian terms they will be rejected by the Karabakh Armenians and public opinion in Armenia. "Given this Russia will fail to sit on two chairs simultaneously," he said.

Sarkozy: Turkey Cannot Teach France Any "Lessons"

Continuedfrompage1

eign Minister Alain Juppe called on Turkey not to "overreact" to a bill that he insisted was a parliamentary initiative, and not a project of Sarkozy's government.

"We have been accused of genocide! How could we not overreact?" the Turkish ambassador to France, Tahsin Burcuoglu, said before taking a flight home. "Turkey will never recognize this story of an Armenian genocide."

Turkey Cannot Teach France Any "Lessons"

France's President Nicolas Sarkozy dismissed on Friday Turkey's furious reaction to the passage of a French bill criminalizing the denial of the Armenian Genocide, saying that Ankara cannot teach his country any "lessons."

"I respect the views of our Turkish friends — it's a great country, a great civilization — and they must respect ours," the AFP news agency quoted Sarkozy as saying in Prague where he attended the funeral of late Czech President Vaclav Havel.

"France is not giving lessons to anyone but does not want them either," he said.

"Under all circumstances, we must remain calm ... France does not ask for permission, France has its convictions, human rights, and respect for memory," added Sarkozy.

In remarks aired by French tele-

vision, Sarkozy also cited that in 2001 the French parliament had recognized the Armenian Genocide.

"Ten years ago France adopted a law recognizing the Armenian genocide, the massacre of 1.5 million Armenians," he said. "Now the question for the parliament was to know whether the recognition of this genocide should mean that those disputing it can be held accountable."

"This is what was decided by the National Assembly. You see, France has principles."

Armenia Thanks France

Armenia on Friday again thanked France for the Genocide bill adopted by the parliament. In a letter to his French counterpart Nicolas Sarkozy, President Serzh Sarkisian said the French National Assembly demonstrated France's devotion to "universal human values" when it approved a corresponding bill on Thursday.

According to the presidential press office, Sarkisian said the vote also testifies to Sarkozy's personal commitment to strengthening "Armenian-French friendship," eliminating "division lines" and "reconciling peoples" in the region.

Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian also thanked France in a statement issued immediately after the National Assembly in Paris voted to pass the bill criminalizing the denial of the Armenian and other genocides.

Armenian Genocide Bill Sponsor Reports Death Threats

Continuedfrompage2

be the author and the rapporteur of a text which speaks of human rights, human dignity, recognition and protection of the weak, and legislate under threat, be threatened by a foreign state and then be subjected to extremely grave personal threats," she said.

"Death threats, threats of rape and threats of destruction, name-calling and insults. I find this very shocking."

Boyer added that she will lodge a "complaint" with relevant French authorities but is undaunted by the threats. "This process can only strengthen us in both our beliefs and our resolve," she said.

The lawmaker, who is also the deputy head of French parliamentary caucus promoting ties with Armenia, spoke to the French news channel following a hacker attack on her website.

Visitors to www.valerie-boyer.fr were automatically redirected on Sunday to another website purportedly owned by a Turkish hacker group presenting itself as GrayHatz. It displayed the Turkish national flag and contained a message to the French government and France's 500,000-strong Armenian community.

"You, the diaspora Armenians, are such cowards that you don't

have guts to open up the Armenian archives and face the truth," read the message posted in Turkish and English. "You, the French people, are so pitiful and pathetic that you are disregarding the truths for votes."

The latter accusation was in tune with the Turkish government's claims that Sarkozy engineered the bill's passage to gain the support of French-Armenian voters in next year's presidential election. Ankara has also denounced the legislation as an infringement of freedom of speech and academic debate.

"Freedom of speech and state propaganda are very different things," Boyer told the French lower house last Thursday in a clear reference to Turkey's vehement denial of a government policy to annihilate the Armenian population of the Ottoman Empire during World War One.

The Paris-based Armenews.com news service reported on Monday that the Senate majority leader, Francois Rebsamen, has demanded that the government include it on the Senate agenda "as soon as possible."

"Even if this text carries electoral suspicions, nothing would be worse today than to bury it, thereby creating misunderstanding and disappointment of the Armenian community, having raised the indignation and anger of the Turkish community," Rebsamen said in a statement.

