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President Sarkisian Signals Readiness for Dialogue with Raffi Hovannisian

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) -- Armenian President Serzh Sarkisian has agreed, in principle, to start a dialogue with Raffi Hovannisian based on the proposals the opposition leader sent him last week to end the post-election standoff, but refused to meet in a public square in Yerevan.

In comments made available to the media on Wednesday Armen Arzumanian, a spokesman for the Armenian president, stressed that Sarkisian had always been 'patient and constructive in his steps' and still considered his earlier proposals to Hovannisian about ending his hunger strike and engaging in talks to be valid. But he warned that "the language of ungrounded ultimatums being spoken in the square is reducing their relevance by the hour."

At a Friday rally attended by thou-

sands of his supporters Hovannisian demanded at least snap parliamentary elections and other serious government concessions in what he described as his last compromise offer to Sarkisian.

Hovannisian, in particular, offered to recognize the incumbent's continued 'de-facto' presidency in exchange for a promise of preterm legislative polls to be held by the end of this year, as well as sweeping electoral reforms and several key government positions to be held by people named by him.

The former candidate, who has been on a hunger strike in Yerevan's Liberty Square since March 10, said it was his ultimate proposal to settle the dispute and warned that he was ready

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International Mediators Visit Karabakh and Armenia to Discuss Peace Process

YEREVAN -- U.S., Russian and French mediators have visited Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia and met with top government officials there in a fresh round of shuttle diplomacy aimed at kick-starting the Armenian-Azerbaijani peace process.

The three diplomats co-chairing the OSCE Minsk Group began the tour with meetings with Karabakh Armenian leaders in Stepanakert on Tuesday. They met with President Serzh Sarkisian and Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian in Yerevan on Thursday. The troika is due to travel to Azerbaijan early next month.

"We don't have results. We are still talking. "We are exchanging ideas at this point," Ian Kelly, the recently appointed U.S. co-chair, told RFE/RL's Armenian service (Azatutyun.am) after the meeting with Nalbandian.

The mediators announced plans to again tour the region after meeting separately with Nalbandian and Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov in Paris early this month. In a joint statement issued in the French capital, they "repeated their concerns" regarding Armenian plans to launch commercial flights to Karabakh and Azerbaijan's threats to forcibly prevent them. They also expressed concern at the continuing ceasefire violations in the conflict zone.

The flight controversy was apparently high on the agenda of the troika's talks in Stepanakert. "Rest assured that we keep working in that direction and have concrete proposals which we are discussing with the parties," Jacques Faure, the French co-chair, told journalists in the Karabakh capital. He did not elaborate.

Richard Hovannisian Receives Narekatsi Medal



Glendale City Council candidates Chahe Keuroghelian, Laura Friedman and Ara Najarian

GLENDALE, CA -- Over 40 members and affiliates of the Armenian Council of America (ACA) came together to welcome Glendale City Council candidates Ara Najarian, Laura Friedman and Chahe Keuroghelian on March 22nd at the Khodanian residence.

A diverse group of attendees made up of students, community activists, leaders, educators and small business owners came together to voice their concerns about issues they felt strongly about in Glendale, as well as to hear the goals and mission of the candidates in the upcoming April 2nd municipal elections.

Councilmember Ara Najarian spoke about the importance of getting the youth involved in civic affairs, including having parents in the Armenian-American community encourage their children to pursue careers in local government while Councilmember Laura Friedman stated that she was honored to be endorsed by the ACA even though she is not of Armenian

descent. She also encouraged everyone to get more Armenians involved in city while Chahe Keuroghelian talked about his post-election plans for the community.

"The event drew a large crowd and was a great success," said Jirair Guiragossian, ACA Board Member. "Our members had an opportunity to mingle, share and exchange ideas with these three hard-working candidates which we are proudly supporting. We anticipate to have many more meet and greet events like this in the future, as we prepare the next generation of community leaders and activists in Glendale and beyond."

The Armenian Council of America is dedicated to educating the Armenian-American community in local political affairs, as well as actively pursuing Armenian-American participation in their respective local governments, to support political candidates who share the values of the Armenian American community.



Professor Richard Hovannisian receiving the Narekatsi Medal from Dr. Hasmig Baran, president of the Friends of UCLA Armenian Language and Culture Studies. Hovannisian is flanked, from left, Gia Aivazian, Professor Peter Cowe, and Banquet Co-chair Ani Aivazian.

LOS ANGELES -- Professor Richard Hovannisian has been named the 2013 recipient of the Narekatsi Medal of Achievement. The award was formally presented to him by the Friends of the UCLA Armenian Language and Culture Studies on Saturday, March 16, during the Friends' 11th annual banquet, at the Armenian Society of Los Angeles Hall, in Glendale.

Over 300 guests, representing a cross section of the Armenian community, attended the jubilant event, which celebrated the life and accomplishments of Richard Hovannisian as a teacher, historian, author, and human-rights activist.

The banquet featured a rich and multifaceted program. Remarks delivered by a distinguished roster of speakers, comprising scholars and community leaders, were interspersed with the screening of two short documentaries as well as musical performances.

Dignitaries and prominent community members in attendance included Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Primate of Western Diocese; the Very Rev. Fr. Muron Aznikian, representing Archbishop Moushegh Mardirossian; representatives of the Armenian Educational Foundation.

In his remarks the Primate said the following about the honoree: "An honorary night for the esteemed and distinguished Professor Richard Hovannisian is much appreciated. The eloquent speeches extended to Professor Hovannisian clearly define his outstanding personality and outline his invaluable contributions as a community leader, an authentic historian, a visionary scholar, whose legacy will continue to inspire many generations to come."

The evening's keynote speaker,

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Armenian Genocide Studies in USA at Cross Roads According to Akcam and Dekmejian



By Rozalin Madoyan

On Friday, March 22 at 8:00pm, the Organization of Istanbul Armenians welcomed two distinguished, very well known scholars: Professor Taner Akcam, Director of Clark University Armenian Genocide studies, and Professor Richard Hravir Dekmejian, Director of the institute of Armenian Studies, University of Southern California.

On behalf of the OIA, Mrs. Talin Sarafoglu welcomed the guests. In her welcoming remark she said, "our focus tonight is Armenian Genocide Research and Study Programs in the United States. How far have we progressed and in what direction?" After Mrs. Sarafoglu's warm greetings, Executive Committee President Mr. Kurken Berksanlar came to the stage. He said, "even though there are non-Armenian guests in the room, I would like to make part of my speech in Armenian. I cannot talk about the Armenian genocide without expressing myself in my mother tongue since there is an important symbolism when I speak in my native language. Speaking Armenian in a packed hall discussing anything related to the Armenian Genocide is an indication that, although they tried they did not succeed in their ultimate call. we are still here as Armenians and we will continue to strive"

Mr. Berksanlar also extended his gratitude to the generous donor who has supported OIA's calling with a donation of 125,000 dollars by establishing a scholarship fund at Clark University for the Armenian Genocide Studies. He also added that, our major donor sets an example by his humility who prefers to stay anonymous.

As Mr. Berksanlar left us with his profound words and brief introduction of both speakers, Professor Akcam took the stage. His speech delved into the deep history and the sought after future of the struggle for recognition of the genocide. After giving a brief summary about the history, Prof. Akcam pointed out that the Turkish Government is becoming more sophisticated in their attempt to sway the American public opinion. He explained that during the last three years, they have made a change in their tactics, as opposed to blatantly denying the genocide; they now challenge the Armenian point of view in a more civilized manner.

The argument is not so much weighed down by the notion that, "no

such thing happened: we did not kill you, you killed us, and we had to protect ourselves," anymore but now they have a different and a more sophisticated approach. They don't deny the genocide anymore, but instead argue that factuality of the genocide is one of the opinions among many others, mainly the fact that "what happened to Armenians in 1915 is not necessarily can be considered a genocide" and they just want to have their opinions heard and considered in the name of a different, the other sides point of view as well.

They have been spending more funds than previously, just to create doubts about the events of 1915. They sue academic institutions and intellectuals for organizing seminars to inform the public about the genocide while denying the other side to be heard. They are coming out with more determination, and are willing to invest more funds, time and effort to achieve their goal.

"Are we prepared to face this challenge" Akcam asked? According to Prof. Akcam, the answer is a resounding "NO." Currently, we do not have many scholars studying the genocide. We will not have a sufficient number of intellectuals who will conduct more research and become more knowledgeable about the subject in the next generation, because there has not been enough support to raise young scholars.

There are Turkish students, he said, who apply to study the Armenian genocide to become the experts of the subject. He had to turn them down, because of the lack of available funding. Fortunately, there are more people nowadays who risk their lives to change racist policies of their government. These groups are dedicated to democratic ideals and human rights for all the non-Turkish citizens in Turkey and realize that recognizing the Armenian genocide would be a giant step forward in their struggle. Prof. Akcam ended his speech with a plea: "please don't leave me alone in this struggle!".

The discussant of the evening was, Prof. Richard Dekmejian a well known Armenian American scholar. He spoke about ways in which we can develop a sophisticated argument regarding the genocide. He stressed the need to incorporate the events of 1915 with previous history, economy, cognitive and social psychology, sociology and various other

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Western Diocese Armenian Church Delegation Congratulate Newly Elected Officials



Western Diocese delegation with Assemblymember Mike Gatto



Western Diocese delegation with Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian

SACRAMENTO, CA -- Western Diocese Armenian Church delegation congratulated the newly elected Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian (46th district, Van Nuys, D) and Assemblymember Jim Patterson (23rd district, Fresno, R). Reverend Fr. Asoghig Jamgochian (Parish Priest of St. James Armenian Church of Sacramento), Deacon Daniel Aydenian (Holy Cross Armenian Church Turlock), Yereskin Sona Jamgochian, Manoug Guederian, Nelson Afian and Karuna Koppula visited the State Capitol.

The delegates also paid a visit to some other assemblymembers such as Assemblymember Mike Gatto (43rd dis-

trict, Los Angeles, D), Assemblymember Connie Conway (35th district, Visalia, R), Assemblymember Katcho Achadjian (35th district, San Luis Obispo, R) and Senator Tom Berryhill (14th Senate district, Modesto, R).

All the assemblymembers and the Senator welcomed the Armenian delegates with open arms. Reverend Fr. Asoghig and Deacon Daniel gave the hosts a book on behalf of His Eminence Archbishop Hovnan Dederian. The delegates then left each office after getting the promise of the assemblymembers and Senator to support the Armenian community in any way they can.

The Armenian Genocide & Psychological After-Effects

GLENDALE, CA -- On Thursday, April 11, 2013 at 7pm in the Glendale Central Library a group of therapists from Didi Hirsch Mental Health Services ARMUNITY program will discuss The Armenian Genocide & Psychological After-Effects. The speakers will use various movie clips and book readings to emphasize and illustrate the psychological and intergenerational effects of the Genocide. The Glendale Central Library is located at 222 East Harvard Street in Glendale. The presentation is in English. Admission is free; seating is limited. Library visitors receive 3 hours FREE parking across the street at The Market Place parking structure with validation at the Loan Desk.

Didi Hirsch Mental Health Services With more than 70 years of experience, Didi Hirsch Mental Health Services transforms lives by providing quality mental health care and sub-

stance abuse services in communities where stigma or poverty limit access. From 11 locations and 65 schools throughout Los Angeles and Orange Counties, Didi Hirsch helps more than 74,000 children and adults each year, offering services that range from community education to outpatient care to residential treatment. Its Suicide Prevention Center was the first in the nation.

ARMUNITY is an integrated healthcare model incorporating mental health, physical health, substance abuse and alternative medicine. This program is funded by a grant from the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health. The idea is to provide holistic care and wellness to the underserved Armenian community of Glendale and neighboring cities.

The program is sponsored by the Library, Arts & Culture Department.

11th Armenian Medical World Congress Welcomes Internationally Prominent Infectious Disease Experts

Infectious diseases remain the leading cause of death in developing countries, killing one in three people worldwide. Prevention and treatment can vary from simple, cost-effective measures like an insecticide-treated bednet or a vaccine to life-long anti-viral treatment for HIV/AIDS.

In the case of HIV/AIDS, the African continent has the highest disease burden since Africa currently has two-thirds of all people living with HIV worldwide.

Malaria, an age-old mosquito-borne scourge, kills approximately 660,000 people each year, primarily children under the age of five. About 90 percent of malaria deaths occur in Africa, followed by South East Asia and the Eastern Mediterranean. Despite recent strides in malaria prevention and treatment, anti-malarial drug resistance is a growing problem.

Other global threats to child survival include upper respiratory infection and diarrhea as well as dengue fever, a mosquito-borne virus.

At the other end of the spectrum, adult deaths due to respiratory infections can be mitigated by new and improved vaccines as well as diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis, but the rising global tide of antibiotic-resistant bacteria is creating new challenges.

"With the globalization of economies and the escalation of commercial travel, the interaction among people of different origins has increased, and with that the potential for the transmission of old and new infectious diseases," says Alex Jawharjian, PharmD, MPH, Scientific Committee member and co-chair of the Pharmacy Programs at the 11th Armenian Medical World Congress.

Daniel Stamboulian, MD, Professor Emeritus of Infectious Diseases at Universidad de Ciencias Empresariales y Sociales (UCES, University of Social and Entrepreneurial Sciences); Voluntary Professor of Medicine at the University of Miami; and Honorary Professor at Instituto Universitario CEMIC, will be presenting on "New Facts in the Prevention and Treatment of Adulthood Infectious Diseases," at the 11th Armenian Medical World Congress in Los Angeles on July 4, 2013.

"Adulthood vaccinations, espe-

cially against influenza and pneumococcal infections, are extremely important and effective in preventing infectious diseases," says Dr. Stamboulian.

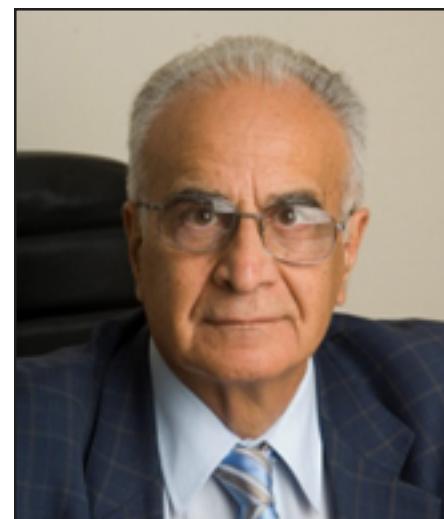
Dr. Stamboulian received his medical degree and his specialty degree in Pediatrics from the University of Buenos Aires, Argentina. After completing a postdoctoral training in infectious diseases at USC, he returned to Buenos Aires to begin his practice in the field of infectious diseases and played a leading role in research and teaching activities at different hospitals and institutions there.

Dr. Stamboulian is the founder of the Pan-American Association of Infectious Diseases (API) and co-founder of the Argentine Society of Infectious Diseases (SADI). In addition, Dr. Stamboulian is the founder and Chairman of the non-profit research and education organization FUNCEI (Fundación Centro de Estudios Infectológicos) in Buenos Aires. Within FUNCEI, he has led numerous academic, research and teaching programs, including the Post-Residency Fellowship Program in Infectious Diseases. In 2001, he founded FIDEC (Fighting Infectious Diseases in Emerging Countries), a non-profit organization based in the United States, that aims at promoting a regional and multidisciplinary approach for the prevention and management of infectious diseases.

Throughout his career, Dr. Stamboulian has received numerous awards. He was twice awarded the "Bicentennial Medal," both as a prominent member of the Armenian Community in Argentina and in recognition of his work as a medical consultant for the Ministry of Health of the City of Buenos Aires. In 2011, he was pronounced "Prominent Figure of Science" by the Legislature of the City of Buenos Aires.

Claire Panosian Dunavan, MD, FIDSA, DTM&H(London), Past-President of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene is Professor of Medicine and Infectious Diseases at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. She will be discussing the "Global Health Equity in Infectious Diseases: the Case of Malaria," at the July 4th symposium.

"Malaria not only kills, it holds back human and economic development," states Dr. Panosian Dunavan.



"Tackling this disease is now an international imperative."

Dr. Panosian Dunavan received her education at Stanford University, Northwestern University School of Medicine, Tufts-New England Medical Center, and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. In the 1980s, she became Chief of Infectious Diseases at LA County-Olive View Medical Center and later moved to UCLA's main medical campus, founding UCLA's Travel and Tropical Medicine Program and later co-founding UCLA's Program in Global Health. Throughout her career, she has been a clinician, a global health policy consultant, and a popular professor on the main UCLA campus. In addition, she has frequently worked in developing countries as a consultant or visiting faculty member.

Panosian Dunavan's second career as a print and broadcast journalist includes six years as a national editor,



reporter, and co-anchor for Lifetime Television. In 1997, her interview with a dying physician won an international "Freddie" Award. In 2000, with her husband Patrick Dunavan – an 8-time Emmy Award-winning documentary filmmaker – she produced a television program on hepatitis B which has reached 300 million international viewers. In recent years, she has written regularly for the Los Angeles Times, New York Times, Washington Post, Baltimore Sun, Discover magazine, and Scientific American among other popular publications. Since 2009, she has also written a weekly syndicated column called "The Infection Files" which currently runs in print and online in multiple southern California newspapers, reaching an estimated audience of 1.5 million.

For more information or to register for the 11th Armenian Medical World Congress, visit our website at www.aamsc.com/congress.

President Sarkisian Signals Readiness for Dialogue

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to continue his protests at least until April 9 when Sarkisian is due to be officially sworn in for a second five-year term as president.

In a letter addressed to Hovannisian on Monday the president said the proposals, no matter how contrary they were to "the ideas of a proper formation of state authorities" and were directly against the "constitutional regulations", still could help kick-start an effective dialogue.

Sarkisian also hailed the readiness of his challenger to assume "serious control functions" as an opposition. At the same time, he urged him to quit his hunger strike for the sake of starting the dialogue.

"I am sure that if we start working purposefully, relying on our shared ideas, then we will certainly be able to

achieve the result," said the president, according to his press office. "My appeal to you is, please, stop your hunger strike, recover and within one or two days both of us will take up pens and paper and start serious work, without any fuss, without making a show out of it, even assuming your very raw writing as a basis."

Sarkisian and Hovannisian already were in talks early on during the current post-election crisis. The two political leaders met at the presidential compound on February 21 and Hovannisian then, too, urged Sarkisian to call fresh legislative polls. The president rejected the idea and offered to appoint Hovannisian as head of a special state commission that would be tasked with drafting sweeping amendments to the Armenian Constitution, a proposal later dismissed by Hovannisian and his Zharangutun (Heritage) party.

Armenian Genocide Studies in USA at Cross Roads

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areas. He believes that we have to teach the Armenian genocide concurrently with other genocides by making comparisons and emphasizing the similarities. We have to study the psychological profiles of the union and progress leaders and more research has to be done about the economical reasons.

After Mr. Dekmejian's speech, there was a session of questions and answers following which award presentation took place. This was soon followed by the friendly atmosphere of a gathering, during which wine and

Richard Hovannisian Receives Narekatsi Medal

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was Professor S. Peter Cowe, head of UCLA's Narekatsi Chair in Armenian Studies, who in a riveting speech that contextualized the evolution of Armenian history as a field of study in American academia, initially against the backdrops of superpower politics and intracommunity partisanship, Cowe described Hovannisian's crucial role in not only the establishment of Armenian Studies as an academic discipline in the US, but its growth as a dynamic, globally relevant hub for scholarly discourse and political action alike.

The Narekatsi Medal was con-

firmed on Hovannisian in recognition of his extraordinary academic achievements and his roles as a genocide researcher and defender of the Armenian cause against denial.

Now a Professor Emeritus, Hovannisian has lectured at UCLA for 50 years, beginning in 1962. He was the first holder of the university's Armenian Educational Foundation Endowed Chair in Modern Armenian History, which he held from 1987 until his retirement in 2011. The chair has since been renamed the Richard Hovannisian Chair in Modern Armenian History (established by the Armenian Educational Foundation), and is currently held by Prof. Sebouh Aslanian.

an assorted platters were enjoyed amidst discussions of the preceding forum.

I left the OIA building with questions that will bother me for times to come: will our next generation have the knowledge, sophistication and determination to see this struggle through? Will we be able to give them the support they need? Having dedicated the majority of my life to spreading knowledge and awareness concerning the Armenian cause, I am hoping to find students with the level of devotion presented by the speakers of the night. For the sake of our ancestors, I certainly hope so...

The Archbishop Hovnan Derderian Scholarship Fund Kick Off Dinner Attracts Sold Out Crowd



PASADENA -- "Lighting the Path to the Future" was the theme at a kick-off dinner for The Archbishop Hovnan Derderian Scholarship Fund Friday, March 15 at the Rococo Room in Pasadena. Under the auspices of the Western Diocese, parents, friends, principals, administrators, donors and clergy indeed paved the way to enrich the lives of Armenian students in Armenian schools by joining together to share in the Scholarship Fund mission and purpose of financially assisting students in their secondary education. An enthusiastic, sold out crowd of attendees enjoyed an evening of song, dance, camaraderie and commitment. Performance by Artur Mr. X whose operatic voice entertained and charmed the attendees, highlighted the evening.

"We are extremely pleased that the Archbishop Hovnan Derderian Scholarship Fund has received such positive response," said Alice Chakrian, chair of the Committee. "Parents and the community realize that there is a need to fulfill unmet financial obligations of students who wish to pursue an education in our Armenian schools."

Principals of the many Armenian Schools who shared the same vision as Archbishop Derderian and the Scholarship Fund Committee were enthused by the many aspects of assistance qualified students would receive. As one parent put it, "The Archbishop Scholar-

ship Fund is a noble gesture toward a noble cause." Students vying for the scholarships would have to demonstrate academic commitment; show their volunteer efforts in church and or community, and show financial need.

Archbishop Hovnan Derderian stated that he "was touched by the display of interest in a scholarship to assist young men and women of Armenian heritage." He said, "There is a need out there to make sure that no child is denied an education he/she deserves. The success of this event is yet another aspect of our community understanding the need and taking an active role in preparing our future generation of leaders to light the path for others to follow."

Parents whose children had already experienced the benefit of attending Armenian schools felt privileged to be a part of the event. "It is our civic responsibility and moral obligation to contribute to such a cause and give others an equal chance at attending our Armenian schools," said Angela Parseghian, parent and co-chair of the Archbishop Hovnan Derderian Scholarship Fund Committee.

The committee is comprised of representatives and members from the Armenian schools of the Greater Los Angeles area and the Western Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church of North America.

Art Exhibit to Raise Funds for Syrian Armenians

BURBANK, CA -- Thirty (30) artists will participate in a fundraising exhibit to help raise funds for Syrian Armenians on Thursday, April 11, 2013, from 7 to 10 p.m., at the Zorayan Museum, Western Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America, 3325 N. Glenoaks Blvd., Burbank, CA 91504.

This event is sponsored by H.E. Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, the Primate of Western Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America. The Armenian Musicians & Artists Center Inc., Tapan II TV, Organization of Istanbul Armenians, and Syrian Armenian Relief Fund (SARF) are jointly organizing the exhibit. The works of 30 artists will be available for purchase, the proceeds of which will be entirely donated to assist Syrian Armenians through SARF.

The following artists will be presented: Vladimir Atanyan, Volodya Babayan, Perchui(Berjouhi) Bayramian, Vahe Berberian, Raffi Boyajian, Galust Geudel, Lianna Goroyan, Maral



Danielyan, Seeroon Yeritsyan, Evrika Zatikyan, Grigor Zakaryan, Samvel Zoumyan, Armine Teymourian, Ashot Khodaverdian, Samvel Hallajian, Minas Hallajian, Vazgen Matyan, Zareh Mkrtichyan, Sarkis Mouradian, Ashot Minassian, Hilda Shagarian, Michael Jihanian, Razmik Samvelts, Ella Sargsyan, Mkrtich Sargsyan, Rafael Vaghsharkyan, Henrik Vardeniktsy, Ara Tevkants, Emil Kazaz and Gagik Fahradian.

Zaven Khanjian, Chairperson of

AMAA and Lark Musical Society Present "Music For The Soul"



PASADENA -- The Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) and the Lark Musical Society have a long history of collaboration bringing sacred music concerts of very high caliber to the Armenian Communities of Southern California. These concerts usually take place during the Lenten season and this year was no exception. On March 2 at 7:30 p.m., the First United Methodist Church of Pasadena was filled with over 500 people in attendance anxious to hear the sacred music program presented by the Lark Musical Society under the auspices of the AMAA. The beautiful church with its grand architecture harked back to the European cathedrals where the musical pieces in the program saw their World Premieres centuries ago.

The program started with words of welcome by Dr. Nazareth Darakjian, Chairman of the Concert Committee, followed by the invocation given by Rev. Ron Tovmassian.

The first piece to be performed was by J.S. Bach, his famous Toccata and Fugue in D Minor, usually played on the organ, was instead performed by the members of the brass quintet "Satin Brass," shedding an interesting and new light upon this epic work. This was followed by Bach's Motet #5 (BWV. 229), "Komm Jesu Komm" an indescribably complex and awe-inspiring tour de force of counterpoint handled with great confidence and strength by Maestro Vatsche Barsoumian and the select group of singers who make up the Lark Geghart Choir.

Next on the program was W.A. Mozart's Motet "Exsultate, Jubilate" KV 165, written for soprano and orchestra, performed by the young soprano Shoushik Barsoumian. Shoushik's per-

the Executive Committee of the Syrian Armenian Relief Fund, praised the artists for initiating the program, thanked Tapan II TV and the Organization of Istanbul Armenians, for organizing the event, the Western Diocese for sponsoring the event, and added, "We hope that the art-appreciating public will not miss this opportunity to enjoy the works and support our brothers and sisters in Syria."

The following churches, charities and organizations came together to form the Syrian Armenian Relief

formance was nothing short of the highest caliber of singing. Her beautiful voice, exquisite coloratura, masterful technique and radiant presence mesmerized the audience, and the applause came long and hard. There was no question Shoushik was the darling of the audience and the star of the evening.

Next came one of Bach's most famous concertos, the Double Violin Concerto in D Minor (BWV 1043). The soloists were none other than the world famous violinists, husband and wife duo, Movses Pogossian and Varty Manouelian, who were able to bring out all the melodic pleasantries of the concerto without sacrificing its deeper rhythm of devotion which permeates all of Bach's works.

After the intermission, the stage had been set for the piece that was surely the least known among those which had permeated the walls of the church earlier. Verdi's Quattro Pezzi Sacri (Four Sacred Pieces) filled the sacred space to its brink by the colossal set of singers and musicians guided by the vigorous hands of Vatsche Barsoumian. Two of the pieces were sung a capella and even though these were subdued and humble pieces yet they were extremely beautiful. As for the Stabat Mater and the Te Deum they were accompanied with the large and powerful orchestra and one could easily identify in them Verdi the composer of grand opera. These were some very inspiring as well as uplifting "sacred pieces" that brought the audience to their feet and left them with an indelible impression.

Why Sacred Music, to quote Maestro Barsoumian, it is "the need to renew our love and bond towards God the Creator and Savior."

Fund: Armenian Catholic Eparchy in North America; Armenian Evangelical Union of North America; Western Diocese of the Armenian Church; Western Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church of America; Armenian General Benevolent Union; Armenian Missionary Association of America; Armenian Relief Society of Western U.S.A.; Armenian Democratic Liberal Party; Armenian Revolutionary Federation-Western U.S.A.; and Social Democrat Hunchakian Party-Western U.S.A. The web site address follows: www.SyrianArmenianReliefFund.org.



ARMENIAN COUNCIL OF AMERICA

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ON TUESDAY, APRIL 2ND VOTE FOR Ապրիլ 2-ին քվարկեք



Chahe Keuroghelian
City Council



Laura Friedman
City Council



Ara J. Najarian
City Council



Dr. Armina Gharpetian
GUSD School Board



Greg Krikorian
GUSD School Board



Joylene Wagner
GUSD School Board

- Proven and effective leaders
- Long-time friends and advocates for the Armenian community
- Problem solvers interested in the progress of the City of Glendale
- Համայնքի երկարամյա ու հաւատարիմ բարեկամներ
- Գլենդեյլ քաղաքի առաջխաղացման ջատագովներ
- Գլենդեյլ քաղաքի փորձված ղեկավարներ

OUR FRIENDS WHO HAVE SUPPORTED THE ARMENIAN-AMERICAN
COMMUNITY'S INTERESTS FOR MANY YEARS.



PROGRESS

INTEGRITY

LEADERSHIP

