

massis Weekly

Volume 34, No. 16

Saturday, May 3, 2014

Rep. Schiff Announces White House Will Display Armenian Orphan Rug

Ghazir Rug Will Be Displayed As Early as This Fall

WASHINGTON, DC -- Today, Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA) announced that the White House has agreed to exhibit the "Armenian Orphan Rug" in the near future, likely this fall. The rug, woven by orphans of the Armenian Genocide in 1920, was presented to President Calvin Coolidge in 1925 as a symbol of gratitude for American aid and generosity for U.S. assistance during the genocide. The Armenian Orphan Rug, which measures 11'7" x 18'5", has over 4,000,000 hand-tied knots and took the Armenian girls in the Ghazir Orphanage of the Near East Relief Society 10 months to weave.

President Coolidge noted that, "The rug has a place of honor in the White House where it will be a daily symbol of goodwill on earth." The rug – which has been in storage at the White House for decades – was supposed to be released for exhibition in a Smithsonian event for the launch of Hagop Martin Deranian's new book "President Calvin Coolidge and the Armenian Orphan Rug." Unfortunately, the rug was not able to be displayed at that time.

"Since first raising this issue with the Administration, I have worked



diligently with the White House to find a way for the Ghazir rug to be sensitively and appropriately displayed," said Rep. Schiff. "Today, I'm pleased to be able to say that planning is underway for the Armenian Orphan Rug to be displayed as early as this fall. I have

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Gallup Poll: Majority of Armenians are Pro-Russian

YEREVAN -- A new survey conducted by the Gallup International Association in Yerevan and across the regions of Armenia has found that most of the country's population approves of Crimea's return to Russia as a result of a recent referendum.

The study reveals that 92% of Armenians are aware of the developments in Ukraine. Thus, 77% of the respondents negatively assess the events in Kiev. At the same time 70% back Crimea's secession from Ukraine, and 77% welcome its unification with Russia. Seventy percent said they back Russia's actions.

Seventy-three percent of respondents is confident Armenia should recognize Crimea as part of the Russian Federation. The majority (65%) believe there are no preconditions for the reoccurrence of the Ukrainian scenario in our country.

The revolutionary minority (25%) expects different developments in Armenia – from repetition of "Maidan" to the change of power, military actions on the part of Azerbaijan and Turkey, recurrence of the March 1 events, heavy economic conditions and split of the country following Ukraine's example.

The 99th Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide

Brings Out Thousands to Times Square

By Taleen Babayan

From the proclamations of staunch support by high-ranking U.S. politicians to the touching lyrics of a talented Armenian-American rapper's tribute to the millions of lives lost, the 99th commemoration of the Armenian Genocide in Times Square paid homage to the victims of 1915 and sent a resounding message that denial will not be tolerated as the centennial memorial approaches.

An all-encompassing event organized by the Knights of Vartan for the past quarter of a century in one of the world's most visible and attractive locations, an impressive crowd gathered at this year's commemoration. While the missing survivors in the audience were a stark reminder that witnesses are succumbing to history, this year's sizeable group of Armenian youth, from the disciplined Homenetmen Scouts who proudly held the Armenian flag throughout the duration of the program to the members of the Areni Choir and the Higher Brass Band to those draped in Armenian flags, an emphatic statement was made that the 1.5 million victims will not be forgotten and the fight for genocide recognition will continue through new blood.

Appearing faithfully year after year, key U.S. politicians took to the stage once again to reaffirm their commitment

Erdogan Again Denies Armenian Genocide



Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan has denied the World War I killings of Armenians under the Ottoman Empire amounted to genocide, just days after his government offered condolences over the massacres for the first time.

During an interview on Bloomberg TV's Charlie Rose show, Erdogan was asked if it would be possible for him to describe the deaths of Armenians as a genocide, to which he replied. "This is not possible because if such a genocide had been the case, would there have been Armenians living in this country?" Erdogan told US broadcaster PBS on Monday.

"We are a people who think geno-

cide is a crime against humanity and we would never turn a blind eye to such action," he added.

On Tuesday Erdogan said his nation was ready to "confront" the nation's history of killing ethnic Armenians nearly a century ago. In a weekly speech in Parliament addressing his ruling party's legislators, Erdogan reiterated a call for Armenia and Armenians living abroad to participate in research with Turkey to document precisely what happened.

In the same speech, Erdogan also criticized German President Joachim Gauck, who raised human rights concerns during his visit to Turkey this week.



to the Armenian cause and did not fail the community in expressing their firm support of genocide recognition, most recently in the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee, which this month passed Resolution 410, demanding that Turkey acknowledge the Armenian massacres in 1915 as "genocide."

Chairman of the committee, Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ) said the resolution was passed in "undisputed terms" and described the Armenian Genocide as "one of the darkest events in human history."

Commending the Armenians for building a strong community in America, Senator Chuck Schumer (D-NY), recalled the founder of the Armenian Genocide Times Square commemoration,

Sam Azadian, who introduced the senator to the history of the Armenian Genocide when he was a newly elected assemblyman.

Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ) praised the Armenians on their relentless efforts towards Armenian Genocide recognition and noted the movement's success worldwide and in Turkey, where scholars and human rights advocates are opening sincere dialogue about the Armenian Genocide.

Traveling straight from Armenia where he attended Armenian Genocide commemorations there, Congressman Eliot Engel (D-NY) said that Turkey needs to publicly accept the atrocities

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Armenia Keeps Up Cooperation With NATO

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) — Armenia has indicated no plans for any suspension of cooperation with NATO that has been announced by the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), a Russian-led military alliance of which it is a member.

"We will stop for now all efforts to forge links aimed at launching joint activities with NATO given the position adopted by NATO on the crisis in Ukraine," the CSTO's Russian secretary general, Nikolay Bordyuzha, said on Thursday. According to Russian news agencies, he accused NATO of "blackmailing" the CSTO member states as part of the West's deepening standoff with Russia.

The Foreign Ministry in Yerevan commented cautiously on Bordyuzha's statement on Monday. "Armenia and NATO have their formats of cooperation and that cooperation is going on at the moment," Tigran Balayan, the ministry spokesman, told RFE/RL's Armenian service (Azatutyun.am).

Armenian Defense Ministry spokesman Artsrun Hovannisian likewise implied late last week that Yerevan will not freeze ties with NATO. "The issue was commented on at the ministerial level yesterday," 168.am quoted him as saying.

Hovannisian referred to Defense Minister Seyran Ohanian's remarks made on Wednesday after talks with his visiting Lithuanian counterpart Juozas Olekas. "Our relations with NATO are continuous," Ohanian said. "We remain committed to cooperation in the agreed areas. We will take those measures in full."

It is not clear whether Bordyuzha's statement was based on a



decision officially taken by the CSTO's governing bodies. The spokesman for the Russian-led security bloc, Vladimir Zaynetdinov, could not be reached for comment on Monday.

Artur Bagdasarian, the outgoing secretary of Armenia's National Security Council, was in Russia on April 21-23 to attend a regular meeting with his opposite numbers from the five other CSTO member states: Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. Bagdasarian insisted on Friday they did not discuss the suspension of ties with NATO.

NATO's ties with Yerevan have been developing in accordance with an Individual Partnership Action Plan repeatedly updated in recent years. The cooperation framework envisages, among other things, Armenia's participation in NATO-led multinational missions and sweeping reforms of its armed forces. Ohanian's first deputy, Davit Tonoyan, briefed members NATO's Political and Partnership Committee on those reforms at a meeting in Brussels held on April 14.

Stepan Grigorian, a political analyst, suggested that Yerevan realizes that severing ties with NATO would seriously damage Armenia's relations with the West and jeopardize continued Armenian control over Nagorno-Karabakh.

Religious Leader of Armenian Jews Criticizes Israel for Failure to Recognize the Armenian Genocide

YEREVAN (Lilit Muradyan, Public Radio of Armenia) — April 28 is a day of mourning in Israel. People all over the world pay tribute to the memory of the 6 million victims of the Holocaust today.

In 1959, the Knesset passed a law officially establishing Holocaust Memorial Day in law and sanctioning official ceremonies throughout the country as well as a two-minute moment of silence, indicated by sirens.

On April 24 we were commemorating the 99th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide and paying tribute to the memory of the 1.5 million victims. On this day 69 years ago the crime against humanity recurred, claiming the lives of six million Jews.

"We must not keep silent, we must not forget; otherwise such crimes will repeat in the future," the religious leader of Armenian Jews, Rabbi Gershon Meir Burstein, said today after lighting six candles for six million victims.

"Years have passed after those events, and it seems time had to have

made us forget the crime. Should the Armenian Genocide, which we commemorated a few days ago, or the Holocaust, the Jewish nation has been mourning for more than 60 years now, be forgotten? No, this cannot be forgotten, and the memory of the victims never fades," he said.

Armenia is the land where Jews have lived for 1,500 years, Armenians are the nation that do not suffer from anti-Semitism, the religious leader said.

"I condemn the Israeli Government for the failure to recognize the Armenian Genocide. When Israel's Chief Rabbi Yona Metzger visited Armenia, he said there was a great difference between morality and politics," Rabbi Gershon Meir Burstein said, adding that "political interests should never be put above morals."

Head of the Jewish community of Armenia Rimma Varzhapetyan said "the number of the victims of the Armenian Genocide and the Holocaust is more than 1.5 and 6 million respectively." "The generations of all victims that could be born, were not born," she said.

Pasadena Community Commemorated the 99th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide



PASADENA, CA — The Pasadena Community commemorated the 99th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide on April 24, bringing elected officials, community leaders, youth activists, and supporters to the steps of City Hall. The program, sponsored by the City of Pasadena and the Armenian Community Coalition, featured musical tributes and poems, as well as U.S. Congresswoman Judy Chu, D-Pasadena, and Dr. Harry Sarafian, Social Democrat Hunchakian Party Central Committee Secretary.

The event began with a Color Guard ceremony by the A.G.B.U. Pasadena scouts, followed by opening remarks by Levon Keshishian, who also presided as master of ceremonies for the event. "They massacred a million and a half of us, yet today we stand as over 11 million worldwide. For 99 years we have proven we are a people that can survive this. By all difficulties we are a people who adapt to all situations. We are survivors," said Levon Keshishian. "Today is not a day of mourning; it is a day of remembrance and rededication to the cause, which is unsolved."

Rep. Judy Chu, D-Pasadena, reminded the audience that there are currently people in the world experiencing hardships and horrors similar to the Armenians in the Ottoman Empire. "We have a duty to recognize the Armenian Genocide and the tragedy in Kessab (Syria) and remind the world that horror and destruction will not be ignored," Chu said, stressing her commitment to push for a congressional resolution reaffirming the Armenian Genocide.

Alec Eginli Aginian stressed the need to educate the Turkish populace on their own history and the truth of the Armenian Genocide. Father Andon Atamian, of St. Gregory Armenian Catholic Church, gave a forceful speech emphasizing the Armenian nation's unrelenting continued pursuit for justice, and the responsibility of civilized nations to contribute in that pursuit.

Pasadena City Councilman John Kennedy presented Armenian leaders

"We are grateful to Germany, because they demonstrated humanism by recognizing this tragedy. They did everything for the Jews to survive, to continue to live. I want to wish the

with a certificate of recognition from Mayor Bill Bogaard, who did not attend the event, recognizing the occasion. "I don't speak Armenian, but justice is one language," Kennedy said, "and we are all speaking that language today."

Community member Martin Gordon also spoke at the event, calling on the city's teachers to better educate children about the Armenian Genocide, as well as all injustices, past and present. "This is not just an Armenian thing. It's a human rights thing, it's an American thing, it's a Pasadena thing. Let us not forget the sad road of America: slavery, the Native Americans, internment camps, just to name a few," Gordon said. "We must remember and teach our history, as knowing our history is the best way of not repeating it."

Dr. Harry Sarafian stressed the enormous amount of time and resources Armenians have in pursuit of recognition, yet have done little toward establishing the legal framework upon which demands for compensation and reparation will be based. "Recognition by Turkey without reparation will be meaningless. The Turkish government is well aware of this and that is why it is doing everything in its power to keep us stuck at the recognition phase." Dr. Sarafian said "The time has come to get beyond recognition and start work on the next phase, which will require far more extensive resources and expertise."

Dignitaries in attendance included Reverend Fr. Sarkis Petoyan of St. Gregory Armenian Apostolic Church of Pasadena, Rabbi Joshua Levine Grater of the Pasadena Jewish Temple, Pasadena City Councilmembers Tina Williams, Noreen Sullivan, and Steve Madison, Pasadena Unified School District Superintendent Jon Gundry, Altadena Town Councilmember Okorie Ezieme, Pasadena Police Chief Philip Sanchez, Captain John Benedict, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. Solemn performances included the Marshal Fundamental School Orchestra, AGBU Vatche & Tamar Manoukian High School choir, and the AGBU Pasadena scouts.

same to Armenians, I wish that the whole world, and first of all Turkey recognize the Armenian Genocide. The Jewish community is doing its best to make this happen," she said.

The Time Has Come to Get Beyond Recognition



Dr. Harry Sarafian, Social Democrat Hunchakian Party Central Committee Secretary, took part in commemorating the 99th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide in Pasadena California. The following is his speech in its entirety:

As Armenians across the globe commemorate the 99th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, I am sure each and every one of us has their sights set on April 24, 2015, the centennial of the first Genocide of the 20th century. Confidentially, that date also represents the 50th anniversary of the day when the Armenian nation refused to continue to be the sorrowful and grief-stricken group of people who simply mourned the victims of the genocide and instead embarked upon the quest for worldwide recognition of the Armenian Genocide and restoration of justice.

Indeed, the past five decades have been a mixture of achievements and disappointments. To date, 21 countries have formally recognized the Armenian Genocide and here in the US, 43 states have passed resolutions or issued proclamations in reference to the Genocide. Unfortunately, year after year, facing immense pressure and relenting to threats made by the Turkish government, every president since Ronald Reagan in 1981 when issuing a statement on April 24th has danced around the word genocide by using every available euphemism in the English dictionary. This year was no exception and as citizens of this great country of ours we are disappointed that our own government cannot muster the courage to do the right thing and once and for all recognize the Armenian genocide.

As we look ahead to the centennial anniversary and beyond, we realize that there is much work left to be done. While we have succeeded in making the Armenian Genocide an internationally accepted fact, successive Turkish governments have not only steadfastly denied the genocide but also have led a shameful campaign of distortion, obfuscation and outright lies cleansing their history books of any reference to the darkest passages of their recent history or turning the facts upside down by making the victim into a villain. In the past decade, any brave soul who dared to question the official version of events, most prominently our beloved Hrant Dink, was charged with the infamous article 301 of the Turkish penal code for "insulting Turkishness".

More recently, the Turkish gov-

ernment seems to have adopted a new approach regarding the genocide issue. During his visit to Yerevan in December of last year, the Turkish foreign minister Ahmet Davutoglu called the deportation of the Armenians in 1915 as inhumane. Had he stopped there, it would have been considered a tiny step forward. Unfortunately he went on to say that Armenians in their "collective consciousness" had mischaracterized the deportations as genocide, thus rendering his whole statement meaningless.

Yesterday, the prime minister of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan issued a statement offering condolences to the grandchildren of Armenians who, in his words, lost their lives "in the context of the early twentieth century" implying that Armenians were not systematically massacred but were just casualties of WW I just like other citizens of the Ottoman Empire. This woefully inadequate and misleading statement once again shows that the Turkish government is far from being ready to honestly confront its own history and is nothing more than a reaffirmation of the Turkish policy of denial presented in a more nuanced way. Their calls for reconciliation and dialogue sound hollow when they have unilaterally sealed their border with Armenia and continue to deny the Genocide.

Neither Mr. Erdogan nor Mr. Davutoglu seem to realize that the time for half truths and distorted facts has passed. It is indeed a shame that instead of using both occasions to make meaningful and constructive statements, they chose to engage in pure demagoguery.

As we approach the centennial, we need to be mindful of the challenges that lie ahead.

In our pursuit of Genocide recognition we have spent enormous amount of time and resources and yet have done little toward establishing the legal framework upon which our demands for compensation and reparation will be based. Recognition by Turkey without reparation will be meaningless. The Turkish government is well aware of this and that is why it is doing everything in its power to keep us stuck at the recognition phase. I believe the time has come to get beyond recognition and start work on the

USC Shoah Foundation Receives 400 Digitized Genocide Testimonies from Armenian Film Foundation

LOS ANGELES (PR Newswire)

— The Armenian Film Foundation presented a collection of 400 testimonies from survivors and witnesses of the Armenian genocide to USC Shoah Foundation – The Institute for History and Visual Education on April 21, 2014. The testimonies will be integrated into the Institute's Visual History Archive (VHA) with the support of funding from the Armenian Film Foundation, the USC Shoah Foundation as well as the USC Institute of Armenian Studies; whose ongoing supporters presented the final \$405,000 gift on April 10 that will allow the videos to be fully accessible to VHA users.

The 400 testimonies represent the largest collection of filmed interviews of the first genocide of the twentieth century. The testimonies were taken in 10 countries, in 10 languages, with survivors and witnesses who were between the ages of eight and 29 at the time of the genocide. USC Shoah Foundation will begin indexing each interview so they can begin to be integrated into the Visual History Archive by April 24, 2015, the centennial of the historic event.

When integrated into the Visual

History Archive, the Armenian testimonies will join the archive's existing Holocaust, Rwandan Tutsi Genocide and Nanjing Massacre collections.

Most of the collection was the work of the late Dr. J. Michael Hagopian (photo), an Armenian genocide survivor who filmed the interviews between 1972 and 2009. Dr. Hagopian wrote, directed and produced more than 70 educational and documentary films about the Armenian Genocide and founded the Armenian Film Foundation, with whom the USC Shoah Foundation first partnered in 2010 to bring the Armenian testimonies into the Visual History Archive.

The first phase of the project undertaken by the Armenian Film Foundation involved transferring the interviews that were originally taken in 16mm film to preservation-quality digital files (motion JPEG 2000).

The current phase of the project is to digitally preserve in perpetuity these files, create broadcast-quality and internet-quality versions of each interview, subtitle non-English language testimonies and begin integrating and indexing each interview into the Visual History Archive.

The 99th Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide

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passersby waved peace signs in the air to the lyrics of his song, "Open Wounds."

Archbishop Oshagan Choloyan, Prelate of Armenian Church of America (Eastern), gave the invocation and Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern), delivered the benediction. Other clergy in attendance included Very Reverend Thomas Garabedian of the Armenian Catholic Eparchy of the United States and Canada and Reverend Haig Kherlopian of the Armenian Evangelical Church of New York.

Susan Rosenblatt from the Jewish Press delivered remarks as well as Lisa Kradjian, Grand Matron of the Daughters of Vartan. Delivering remarks on behalf of the co-sponsors of the commemoration were Kim Yacoubian (AGBU), Alex Karapetian (Armenian Assembly), Hagop Ajemian (Hunchakian Party), Dr. Vagheenag Tarpinian (ADL), and Anahid Urguluyan (ANCA).

The Areni Choir, under the direction of Dr. Armine Vardanian, sang the national anthems of the United States and Armenia, as well as "God Bless America" while the Higher Brass Band, under the direction of Samuel Nersesian, accompanied the singers.

Dr. Mary Papazian, President of Southern Connecticut State University and Armen McOmber, New Jersey attorney, served as MCs.

and the challenge is great we remain optimistic and resolute, because despite the passage of time, the fading memories and only a handful of Genocide survivors remaining, the struggle for the Armenian Cause has been ingrained in our nation's DNA and is seamlessly passing from one generation to the other, thus giving us hope to believe that our future generations will carry on with the fight until justice prevails.

Although our task is enormous

Lecture on Armenians and Assyrians in Iran's Urmia Region at Ararat-Eskijian-Museum

MISSION HILLS, CA — On Sunday, May 4th, Dr. Nicholas Al-Jeloo will give a lecture entitled, "Armenian and Assyrian Cooperation and Co-Habitation in Iran's Urmia Region," beginning at 4:00 p.m. at Ararat-Eskijian Museum-Sheen Chapel 15105 Mission Hills Road, Mission Hills Ca, 91345

Dr. Al-Jeloo's illustrated lecture represents an all-too-rare opportunity to learn about the inter-twined history of the Armenians and Assyrians of the Urmia region. A great deal of information and research has enlightened our understanding of Armenians from Isfahan, Iran; however, little information exists in English about Armenians living in other parts of Iran, including Armenians in Tabriz, a prosperous and important urban community. Much of the information about Armenians on the Urmia plain comes from Assyrian memoirs and histories.

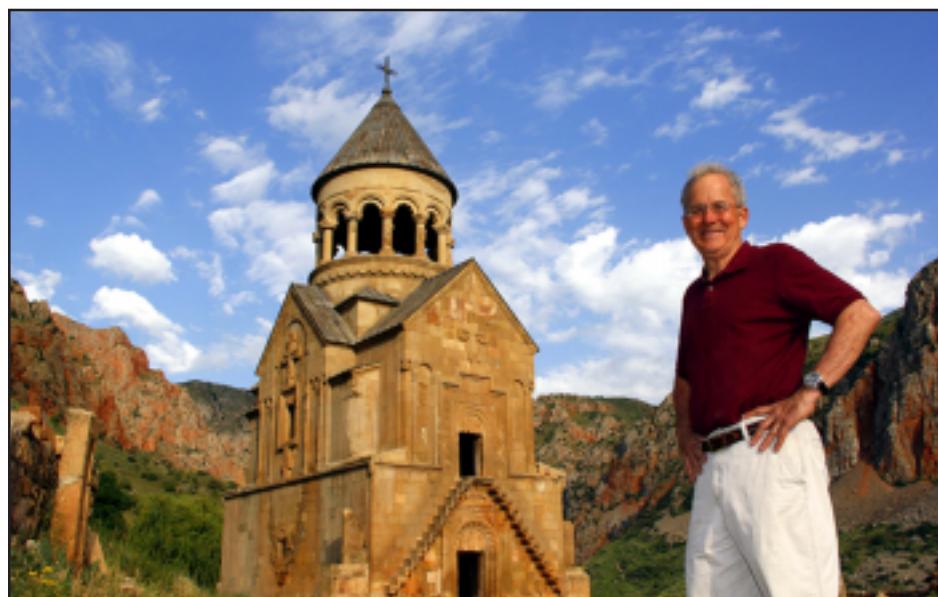
Like the Assyrians, who were largely based in villages throughout the Middle East, the Armenians of the Urmia plain led agrarian lives for much of the 19th century. While the church institutions remained separate and the communities maintained separate lan-



guages, there was considerable inter-marriage, dual language understanding, and cooperation on many fronts—commercial as well as political. The Minassian family, for example, who held the wheat wholesale market, married into an Assyrian family from Golphashan, one of the richest towns of the Urmia plain.

Dr. Nicholas Al-Jeloo is an Australian-Assyrian whose high-quality photographs have been used in art and history books about the Middle East, such as in Christoph Baumer's *The Church of the East: An Illustrated History of Assyrian Christianity* (I.B. Tauris, 2006). He received his Ph.D. in Assyrian/Syriac studies from the University of Sydney this year and holds an MA from Leiden University.

World Premier Screening of Digging Into the Future –Armenia Directed by Joseph Rosendo



GLENDALE, CA On Friday, May 16, 2014, at 7 pm, Emmy award winning director Joseph Rosendo will screen *Digging Into the Future –Armenia* at the Glendale Central Library Auditorium, 222 East Harvard Street in Glendale. The presentation is in English. Admission is free. Library visitors receive 3 hours FREE parking across the street at The Market Place parking structure with validation at the Loan Desk.

Digging into the Future-Armenia is an archeological expedition to Armenia. It turns viewers on to the thrill of discovery while making genuine human connections with a people's past and the present. Armenia is the first journey of a new proposed PBS series that merges archeology's science and humanity into an hour-long entertaining, educational and cultural adventure that spans the globe. For this adventure Rosendo joins archeologists from UCLA's Cotsen Institute, which is dedicated to the creation, dissemination, and conservation of archaeologi-

cal knowledge and heritage. Charles Stanish is the institute's director and Gregory Areshian is the director of the institute's Armenia program. Rosendo crisscrosses Armenia to ancient sites where some of the world's oldest artifacts have been discovered.

Joseph Rosendo's Travelscope Emmy-award winning director Joseph Rosendo has been a travel, food and wine journalist and a travel broadcaster for more than 30 years. Since 2007, he has hosted, directed and written Joseph Rosendo's Travelscope, the award-winning travel television series. Rosendo's first travel story appeared in The Los Angeles Times in 1980. He has been published in countless publications worldwide and was the Consulting Editor for DK Eyewitness Travel Guides as well as the author of an Insider's Guide to Los Angeles. For twenty-four years, as the creator and host of Travelscope Radio, he created features for numerous electronic media outlets including Discovery Channel Radio and the Associated Press.

Anahid Award Ceremony Celebrates Armenian-American Writers



NEW YORK -- Five writers of Armenian descent were honored at the Anahid Literary Awards ceremony in an event hosted by the Armenian Center at Columbia University and held on Friday, April 4, 2014 at Faculty House in New York.

Welcoming remarks were made by master of ceremonies Peter Balakian, Rebar Professor of Humanities, Colgate University, who touched on the significance of the Anahid Literary Prize, which was established 25 years ago by an anonymous donor who valued the literary tradition in relation to the continuity of Armenian culture and history.

"[The donor] must have had a sense that Armenian-American culture in the 20th century was a force of revitalization after the catastrophic events of genocide, dispersion, exile, and resettlement," said Balakian, Chair of the Anahid Award Committee and the award-winning author of many books, including his memoir *Black Dog of Fate*.

He spoke about novels by Armenian-American writers during the mid-century, as well as a new generation of Armenian-American writers who emerged after World War II, including novelist Laura Kalpakian, who was the first writer to receive the Anahid Award.

"The Anahid Award continues to be an occasion for the Armenian community to be self-aware, to take note of the works of literature that are being written now, to ingest those works, and to make them part of a culture's vitality and legacy," said Balakian.

This year's recipients, including Aris Janigian, Arthur Nersesian, Patricia Sarafian Ward, Lydia Peelle

(in absentia) and Michael Zadoorian, were introduced by Balakian and author Nancy Kricorian, both of whom are prior recipients of the Anahid Literary Award. Each of the authors, who are writers of novels or short fiction, read selections of their works, including *The Bullet Collection*, by Sarrafian Ward, who was born and raised in Beirut and is of American-Armenian-Danish heritage; Nersesian, a native New Yorker who is the author of nine novels, including *The Swing Voter of Staten Island*, *Suicide Casanova*, *Manhattan*, and the cult-classic *The Fuck-Up*; Janigian, who was born in Fresno, California and is the author of two novels *Bloodvine* and *Riverbig* and co-author of *Something From Nothing*; and Zadoorian, born in Detroit, Michigan and is the author of *Second Hand* and *The Lost Tiki Palaces of Detroit*. Balakian read excerpts from Lydia Peelle's *Mule Killers* and *Reasons for and Advantages of Breathing*.

A reception and book-signing followed, where guests had the opportunity to meet with the prize-winners.

"The Armenian Center is very proud to host the winners of the Anahid Literary Award," said Mark Momjian, Esq. (CC'83, L '86), Chair of the Armenian Center at Columbia University. "Columbia University is a place that celebrates poetry and literature, and the list of Columbia alumni is quite remarkable—Garcia Lorca, Welty, Kerouac, Ginsberg, Wouk, as well as two Columbians who served as U.S. Poet Laureate (Louise Gluck and the late Anthony Hecht). The Armenian Center is honored to play a role in recognizing writers of Armenian ancestry who build on this tradition."

White House Will Display Armenian Orphan Rug

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worked out with the White House that the display will take place in a venue that is open to the general public, and I appreciate their willingness to place this significant artifact on display for all to see."

Schiff and Rep. David Valadao (R-CA) sent a letter, along with 31 other Members, to President Obama last year urging the Administration to allow exhibition of the rug. The full letter is below, and can be found here, and in the letter they stated: "The Armenian Orphan Rug is a piece of American history and it belongs to

the American people. For over a decade, Armenian American organizations have sought the public display of the rug and have requested the White House and the State Department grant their request on numerous occasions. Unfortunately, Armenian Americans have yet to have their requests granted. We urge you to release this American treasure for exhibition."

Since sending the letter, Schiff has worked with the White House to find a way for the rug to be sensitively and appropriately displayed. Details of the future exhibition will be released as they come available.

