



## The Armenian Army, the Only Victorious in South Caucasus, Marks its 22nd Birthday



**On January 28 Armenian leadership paid tribute at Yerablur Memorial. See p.p.4-5**

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## No Progress Reported In Armenian-Azeri Talks

International mediators and the foreign ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan reported no progress towards a resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict after fresh talks held by them in Paris late on Friday.

Official Baku and Yerevan exchanged barbs, while the U.S., Russian and French mediators co-heading the OSCE Minsk Group warned that increased truce violations in the conflict zone are reducing chances of a breakthrough in the long-running negotiation process.

"The Co-Chairs expressed their deep concern over continued violence in the region, and stressed that recent incidents undermine negotiations and diminish the prospects for peace. They called on the sides to fully and unconditionally respect the terms of the ceasefire agreement," read a statement released by the troika.

"We need a greater political commitment from all parties to find a peaceful settlement for Nagorno-Karabakh. Status quo should be unacceptable," James Warlick, the Minsk Group's U.S. co-chair," wrote on his Tweeter account separately.

Armenian Foreign Ministry spokesman Tigran Balayan was quick to leave the following comment there: "We need to force Azerbaijan to stop provocations and irresponsible actions and hate propaganda," he

said.

Foreign Ministers Edward Nalbandian of Armenia and Elmar Mammadyarov met in Paris for a second round of talks aimed at building on progress that was reportedly made at the most recent Armenian-Azerbaijani summit held in Vienna last November. The mediators said earlier that Nalbandian and Mammadyarov will try to "prepare for the next summit."

The co-chairs' statement on the Paris talks made no mention of the next meeting of the Armenian and Azerbaijani presidents. It said instead that Warlick, Russia's Igor Popov and France's Jacques Faure will again visit the conflict zone soon to "continue talks with the Presidents."

The Paris meeting was overshadowed by an upsurge in skirmishes on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border and "the line of contact" around Karabakh. The Armenian side says it resulted from a Azerbaijani commando raid on a Karabakh army outpost on January 19. Azerbaijan denies such an attack and blames the Armenians for the ceasefire violations.

According to a statement by the Armenian Foreign Ministry, Nalbandian accused Baku of escalating tensions, making fresh bellicose statements and voicing territorial claims to Armenia when he met

with Mammadyarov and the mediators. He called that a "serious blow to the negotiation process."

For his part, Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry spokesman Elman Abdullayev quoted Mammadyarov as saying in the French capital that the conflict will be resolved "as soon as Armenia's armed forces liberate Azerbaijan's occupied territories." "Restoration of Azerbaijan's territorial integrity is the basis of negotiations between Azerbaijan and Armenia," Abdullayev said in a statement cited by the Trend news agency.

Balayan dismissed the statement, saying that it "does not correspond to the content of the negotiations." "One gets the impression that the Azerbaijani side has negotiated with itself," he wrote on his Facebook page.



## Azerbaijan should realize there is no alternative to negotiations, Armenian DM says

"The situation at the border is under control. We have always dictated the situation at the border, and have punished the rival if necessary," Armenian Defense Minister Seyran



Ohanayn told a press conference today. An evidence of this was the repelling of the attack of Azerbaijani subversive groups a few days ago, he added.

Minister Ohanyan said escalation of the situation at the border ahead of any important political event is already a tradition. He ascribes the tension of the past few days to the so-called "Black January" in Azerbaijan.

"The international structures should give an adequate response to all this, and Azerbaijan should realize that there is no alternative to negotiations," he stated.

Speaking ahead of the Armenian Army Day (January 28), the Defense Minister assessed 2013 as another year of achievements and victories for the Armenian army.

According to the Defense Minister, the peacekeeping activity of the Armenian armed forces received a high appraisal in 2013. He said the cooperation with the CSTO was also successful.

The Defense Minister said the Armenian side is doing its best to return Armenian POW Hakob Injighulyan. "We are working with international organizations to return our captive," the Minister said, adding, however, that the absence of direct contacts with Azerbaijan hampers the process.



## Giro Manoyan: High time for Karabakh to join the talks



"It's high time for the Nagorno Karabakh Republic to join the negotiations," Giro Manoyan, Head of the Armenian Revolutionary

Federation Bureau's Hay Dat and Political Affairs Office, told a press conference on January 27. He added that Armenia should take steps towards the international recognition of NKR.

According to Manoyan, the "balanced approach" of the West makes it an accomplice in Azerbaijan's policy.

"Although Azerbaijan does not want to start war, the threat of resumption of military actions increases because of the ceasefire violations at the line of contact," Manoyan said. He considers Azerbaijan aims to foil the talks as the country is dissatisfied with the process of negotiations. Meanwhile, he believes the international community has come to understand over the past 14-15 years that the return of Nagorno Karabakh under Azerbaijan's jurisdiction is impossible.

According to Giro Manoyan, our diplomacy should be more initiating, and steps should be taken towards international recognition of Nagorno Karabakh. At the same time, the international community has to take up the responsibility to force Azerbaijan accept the reality.

## Azerbaijan violated the ceasefire over 1,500 times in the past week

Early this week the Azerbaijani side undertook simultaneous subversive attacks in the northeastern and southeastern parts of the line of contact between the armed forces of Nagorno Karabakh and Azerbaijan, but retreated after facing a strong resistance from the Armenian side.

"With this provocative actions Azerbaijan is trying to show that it disagrees with the geopolitical situation established in the region after the ceasefire agreement concluded in May 1994. Second, it expresses the discontent with the peaceful settlement process," the NKR Ministry of Defense said in a statement.

"However, contrary to Azerbaijan, all regional players declared on most different levels that there is no alternative to the peaceful resolution of the Karabakh issue, and the tension and provocative actions at the frontline are a blow to regional security and stability. They urged the parties to search for a solution at the negotiating table," the statement reads.

From January 19 to 25 the Azerbaijani side violated the ceasefire regime about 1,500 times, firing more than 14,000 shots in the direction of the Armenian positions.

The front divisions of the NKR Defense Army mostly remained committed to the maintenance of the ceasefire regime and returned fire only in cases of extreme necessity.

## UK worried about the recent border incidents



UK Ambassador to Armenia Jonathan Aves has expressed his concern about the recent incidents in the Karabakh conflict zone.

"We are following the events very carefully. And we are worried about the various reports of clashes on the frontline. We regret the death of servicemen, who've been involved in these clashes," the Ambassador said.

"The British Government supports the Minsk Group process, and we are looking forward to hearing the results of the meeting between the Foreign Ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan in Paris," he added.

The British Ambassador welcomed the continuation of cooperation between Armenia and the European Union, especially

in light of Armenia's decision to join the Customs union.

"The EU and the Armenian Government have expressed interest in taking forward their relationship and developing it in the future. In that context the Armenian Government has specifically said they're interested in taking forward the political reforms," Ambassador Aves said.

Referring to the events in Ukraine, the Ambassador said the British government is worried about a number of laws adopted in Ukraine, which contradict the country's earlier commitments before the European structures. According to him, the parties should refrain from any actions of violence and solve all issues through negotiations.

## Serzh Sargsyan: "The Armenian Army was Formed by All the Parts of Our People"

**DM Seyran Ohanyan ensures the Army ready to withstand any aggression and declares war to hooliganism in the Armed Forces**



By **Gourgen James Khazhakian**  
Chief Correspondent

On January 28 Armenia as well as Armenians in all over the world celebrate The Army Day of the Republic of Armenia.

...Let us start with an extract from a Presidential decree:

*"For exceptional bravery and personal courage revealed when defending the Motherland's borders, high professionalism as well as revealed personal devotion when performing service duty under conditions of the threat to life, to award:*

*With Medal "For Services Contributed to the Motherland" of the 1st rank - Sergeant Armen Levoni Hovannisyanyan (posthumously) "...*

On 28 January during the solemn ceremony held at the Presidential Palace President of the Republic of Armenia, Supreme Commander-in-Chief **Serzh A. Sargsyan** handed the Award to the parents of THE FALLEN HERO.

(Many thanks to you from all of us the Armenians, Mr and Mrs Hovannisyanyan, for shaping such a son!-Armen's commemoration liturgies and events were held also in the largest Armenian communities abroad, in Russia, France, United States. *"We need to stand together with our young soldiers. We want to honor the memory of this young soldier. Armen Hovhannisyanyan's death causes us great sorrow. With this step we wish to express our condolences to his family, friends, and comrades-in-arms,"* specifically noted members of the three Armenian associations of Valence, France.)

And six comrades-in-arms of Armen who crashed and thrown back four time bigger commando squad specially trained in Baku which attacked NKR Defence Army positions in 19/20 January night, were also awarded with the high state awards.

In his congratulatory address President Serzh Sargsyan said in particular:

*"... All parts of our people together formed our Army at the battlefield. The Armenian Army proved and proves that the boasting of the adversary is worth nothing because the trained and alert Armenian Soldier stands at the border. We will stand as long as it is necessary..."*

*... The Armenian Armed Forces and*

*the Nagorno-Karabakh [ or Artsakh,] Defense Army said one simple thing to the adversary and to all: Artsakh's freedom is above everything else. We realize that no one will award us freedom, but we are ready to fight, and we triumphed.*

*...We look ahead with confidence because we have a reliable Defender, the*



*Armenian Army. I wish peace and prosperity to us all."*

As usual, the country's leadership paid a visit to the Yerablur (The Three Hills) Military Pantheon to lay wreathes to the graves of those who sacrificed their lives in the name of FREEDOM OF THE MOTHERLAND, - within various periods of our history.

This year's "feature" was they also put red roses to a fresh grave, of ARMEN...

... In reply to a question from The Highlights correspondent on the **war restart probability** which, naturally, could be considered No.1 issue for all the nation asked the Armenian Defence Minister **Seyran M. Ohanyan** at the Minister's traditional annual news conference held at 24 January, Mr Ohanyan said that, despite the tension growth on the contact line of the Armenian and Azerbaijani troops (peak of which could be considered an aforementioned sabotage action at the NKR/Azerbaijani contact line held on 19/20 Jan. by an Azeri 30 member-strong commando group especially trained in Baku but crashed by 9 Armenians of a regular blockpost detachment - see The Highlights previous issue), all the same, he considered the resumption of Azerbaijan's large-scale military actions less likely.

*"I find it less likely as the Azerbaijani leadership has had one more chance to see Armenian militaries' invincibility and to clearly understand that Armenian Armed Forces are always ready to meet, as it befits, the challenges we face",* Minister Ohanyan said.

He said **the threat of war always exists, and the Armenian side is ready for it.**

Let's remind that just a few days earlier, during his visit to the RA Labor and Social Affairs Ministry, in his reply to a question, President Sargsyan said the following on this matter: *"I still do not see*



*military operation in foreseeable future, but we will have to fight if we are imposed".*

According to Seyran Ohanyan, Azerbaijan's provocations increase especially during important political events or talks days.

*"They attempt to practice provocations on the border. After getting an adequate response and having big losses, they start irregular firing,-as a result of panic-stricke. We don't respond to such firings; we respond only to the sniper firing",* Seyran Ohanyan said.

The Minister stated that the Armenian Armed Forces give more severe response to the adversary whenever there are casualties from the Armenian side.

According to Mr Ohanyan, Armenia has always been proposing to conduct a joint investigation of incidents happening on the border, but Azerbaijan refuses it permanently.

In spite such a stance of the Azeri authority, the Armenian side conduct a unilateral investigation by informing the international structures about those incidents and presenting relevant evidence, the Armenian Defence Minister informed mass media numerous reps.

In the words of Minister Seyran Ohanyan, Armenia and the international community are doing their best to resolve the Karabakh conflict peacefully.

Minister Ohanyan added that the conflict was once solved by military means: we managed to defend ourselves in an imposed war.

Asked about the recent attempt of the



act of sabotage by Azerbaijan, Minister Ohanyan said the research shows the escalation of situation is always related to certain dates or meetings. The Minister believes the recent escalation is connected with "Black January" marked in Azerbaijan.

"They do it not realizing that in those days the real black days and genocide was perpetrated against the Armenian nation," Mr Ohanyan stressed.

"International bodies must influence the situation. Azerbaijani leadership must realize there is no alternative to peace talks," he added.

As to the **upgrading the arsenal of the Armenian Armed Forces**, Mr Ohanyan informed the journalists that Armenia will continue to buy long-range precision-guided weapon from Armenia's strategic ally Russia, within the frames of the existing agreements.

"The agreements on buying up-to-date interoperable arms, military equipment and long-range precision-guided weapon allow us to improve our defense control mechanisms", Minister Ohanyan said.

He added that the agreement on setting up a joint anti-aircraft defense system with Russia is currently being worked out.

As to **peacekeeping missions**, Minister Seyran Ohanyan said that Armenia will not only continue peacekeeping operations in Afghanistan but negotiate on the number of Armenian peacekeepers to be sent to Lebanon as well.

"Peacekeeping is one of the most important areas of our international strategic cooperation which is to prove that Armenia is able to take part in the processes ensuring international peace and stability", Minister Ohanyan said.

As to the **Armenian POW Hakob Injighulyan**, (born in 1991) who found himself in the territory under the control of Azerbaijan on August 8, 2013, RA DM Seyran Ohanyan said: "The work cannot go faster due to lack of direct contacts between the states, but, together with international agencies, we continue efforts to return Hakob Injighulyan".

Minister Ohanyan commented also on the remark that the **NATO participation in the NK peace process** was discussed during the recent meeting of Azerbaijani leader Ilham Aliyev with Alliance's Secretary General.

The Minister recalled that both Armenia and Azerbaijan cooperate with NATO.

"I think NATO leadership stands for peaceful resolution of regional conflicts. I am confident that NATO is not a supporter of adventurous actions. The reports are untrue," he said.

The Armenian side supports **OSCE Minsk Group** efforts, the Minister noted, adding that scarcely without MG it

would be possible to maintain within 20 years even existing ceasefire.

Speaking on the **discipline in the Armed Forces**, RA DM Seyran M. Ohanyan informed the journalists that they registered 32% decrease in terms of accidents in the army connected with the so-called inter-personal relationship.

Minister Ohanyan declared 2014 the year of fighting the so-called "street moral" in the army.

"I promise that the Army, as a structure having a relevant discipline level, will have a function of a filter: we'll have the best conscripts and will return them to the society more educated and trained".



As to **recruitment**, Mr Ohanyan said that due to formation of contractual sergeant system and increasing of the number of contractual servicemen they create a grounds to turn to **professional army** after a Peace Treaty signing.

As to the currently existing conscription, DM Ohanyan noted that their novelty, a lottery draw for coscript to get own service location excludes protectionism and other negative things.

Mr Ohanyan touched upon the issues of **education, medical service and social conditions improvement**.

...As Defence Minister Seyran Ohanyan said at January 27 ceremonial session held at the Ministry compound, Armenian army became a guarantor of peace and stability in the South Caucasus,

with Armenian soldiers serving in peacekeeping missions in Kosovo, Afghanistan, Iraq.

(The London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies, IISS accessed Armenia's combat readiness level by the following: "Armenian army is quite qualified and has clear-set objectives. Parallel to this, the Armed Forces of Armenia saw a steadily growing number of professional soldiers serving on a contract basis, although a call for military service remains...")

"Today, our Army enjoys the respect and high esteem all over the world," Armenian Defense Minister said. In his words, 20 years ago the victorious ceasefire was achieved through unity and courage of Armenian people in the face of many hardships. "Glory and honor to our fallen heroes, those who fought till the end, those the killed or the missing! A memory of them will shine in our hearts to be passed on to generations. It is through their sacrifice that we won and created a strong army, in parallel with the fighting in the War", Defence Minister of the Republic of Armenia, a Karabakh war veteran Commander (who returned to the battelfields mere in a couple of months just after the heaviest injury) himself, Hero of Artsakh, Colonel General Seyran Ohanyan said.

...It's DIFFICULT not to cry when meeting Mothers of the FALLEN HEROES at the Yerablur Memorial Cemetry dressed in black, again and again, and ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE when seeing Mother of THE NOWADAY HERO SERGEANT ARMEN LEVONI HOVANNISYAN, - let the All-Mighty Lord bless his soul, but, all the same, this is THE HOLIDAY, and, first of all, for them who fought in the name of FREEDOM of MER HAYRENIQ (Our Homeland) and their families.

And also this is THE HOLIDAY for all of us the Armenians - it was THE GREAT HAPPINESS for your author when mere a couple of year-old neighbor girl, looking to yours truly rushing to Yerablur Military Pantheon under heavy rain, said: "Shnorhavor Banaki Or!" ("Congratulations on the occasion of the Army Day!").

Probably, this kid realizes already a proverb which fits Armenia best: "Those who do not feed their own army, will feed an invader army".

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US Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Armenia, **John A. Heffern**, on Tuesday congratulated the Armenian Army Day (by way of Twitter).

"Happy Army Day! Thank you for your sacrifice and service!", Ambassador Heffern tweeted on the occasion of the 22nd anniversary of the Armenian Armed Forces.

Thank you, Your Excellency.

## Armenian Pension Reform Suspended By Court

The Constitutional Court suspended on January 24 the controversial reform of the national pension system pending a ruling on an appeal lodged by Armenia's leading opposition parties.

The four parties appealed to the court last month after failing to scuttle the passage of a corresponding government bill by the Armenian parliament. The bill, which came into effect on January 1, requires Armenians born after 1973 to pay social security taxes equivalent to between 5 and 10 percent of their monthly wages, in addition to contributions made by their employers.

The reform has sparked vehement objections from young and relatively well-paid professionals. Thousands of them as well as other disgruntled Armenians took to the streets of Yerevan last Saturday to protest against what they see as an unfair and unconstitutional measure.

Representatives of the opposition minority in the National Assembly also joined the protest. They claim that the pension reform breaches, among



other things, citizens' property rights guaranteed by the Armenian constitution.

The Constitutional Court announced that it will open hearings on the opposition appeal on March 28. In a statement, the court said the reform will be suspended at least until it hands down a ruling.

Meanwhile, President Serzh Sargsyan again defended the controversial reform, saying that it will bear fruit and be recog-

nized as "historic" in the future. Visiting the Ministry of Labor and Social Reforms, Sargsyan instructed officials there to do a better job of explaining its merits to affected citizens. "You should mobilize not only the entire ministry staff but also various experts, people, our supporters so that they explain in detail the essence, significance and purpose of the reform," he said.

## Moscow 'Surprised' With Yerevan's Customs Union Enthusiasm

Russia remains pleasantly surprised by the speed with which President Serzh Sargsyan's administration is trying to make Armenia part of the Russian-led Customs Union, a senior diplomat said on January 27.

"I can tell you that Armenia is moving forward by leaps and bounds. Many did not expect that Armenia will be moving towards the Customs Union so fast," Ivan Volynkin, the Russian ambassador in Yerevan, told journalists.

Russian President Vladimir Putin made a similar comment during his December 2 official visit to Armenia. "We are struggling to keep up with our Armenian partners," Putin said, commenting on Yerevan's accession talks with the union.

The talks began shortly after Serzh Sargsyan unexpectedly decided in August to join the Russian-led bloc at the expense of an Association Agreement with the European Union. Official Yerevan does not seem to have sought major commercial or other concessions from Moscow in the process. This has fuelled speculation that the Armenian for-



eign policy U-turn resulted not only from Russian pressure but Sargsyan's desire to strengthen his hold on power, which can presumably be threatened by the Kremlin.

Shortly after the announcement of Sargsyan's decision, the Armenian government set up two dozen working groups tasked with preparing for Armenia's entry into the Customs Union of Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan. The

government approved last week a timetable for the implementation of a membership "roadmap" that was agreed with the three member states in December.

Yerevan appears to be keen to complete the accession process by May. Volynkin sounded cautious in that regard, saying that it is still not clear just when Armenia will become a full member of the union.



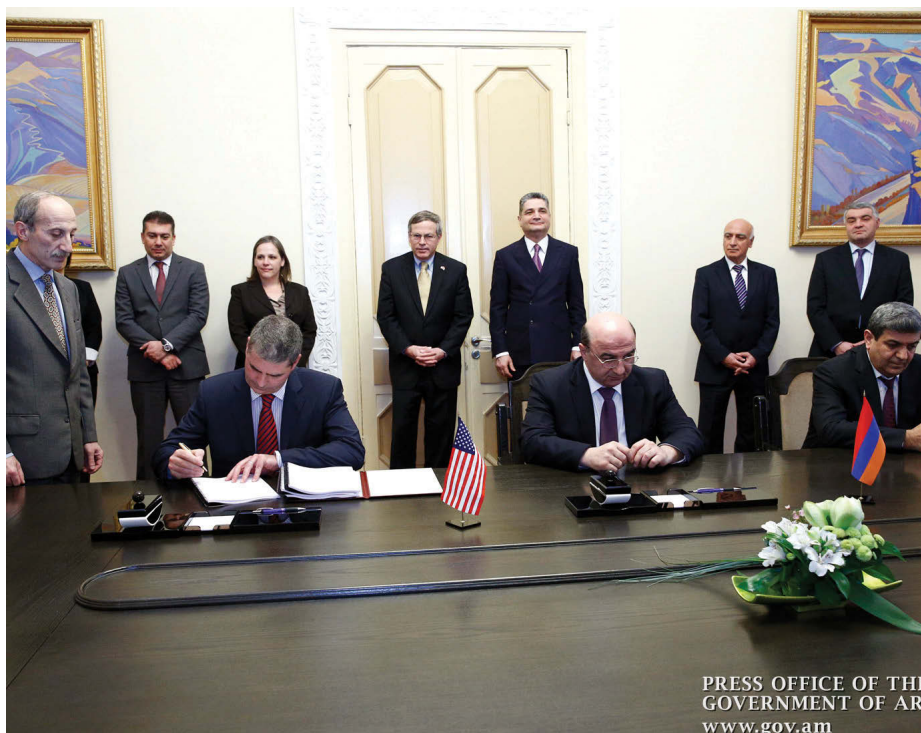
## \$180 million deal signed for Armenian Vorotan Hydro Cascade

ContourGlobal and the Government of Armenia announced today that they have signed an agreement for ContourGlobal to purchase and modernize the Vorotan Hydro Cascade, a series of three hydroelectric power plants totaling 405 MW on the Vorotan River in southern Armenia, for a purchase price of \$180 million USD. The cascade is one of the largest and most flexible power generating facilities in Armenia and the Caucasus.

This acquisition represents the largest single U.S. private investment in Armenia's history and the first U.S. investment in Armenia's energy sector. The Vorotan Hydro Cascade accounts for roughly 15 percent of the installed capacity of Armenia's electricity system and provides sufficient energy to power 250,000 homes.

Under the terms of the agreement, ContourGlobal Hydro Cascade, a direct and wholly owned subsidiary of ContourGlobal, will own and operate the three hydroelectric facilities located on the Vorotan river and will supply power to the Armenian grid under a long-term power purchase agreement. ContourGlobal will also invest \$70 million over the next six years in a refurbishment program to modernize the plants and improve their operational performance, safety, reliability, and efficiency. ContourGlobal expects the modernization to create 150 near-term jobs in addition to the 150 long-term technicians employed at the plants.

"Our signing of this agreement is the culmination of approximately two years of fruitful collaboration with the Government of Armenia and its agencies," said Mr. Joseph C. Brandt, ContourGlobal's President and Chief Executive Officer. "We are thrilled to have the opportunity to play an integral role in the Armenian power system and to make a significant and lasting contribution to a key part of the country's infrastructure. I look forward to working together with the Government of Armenia towards a successful conclusion of this transaction."



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The acquisition will add to ContourGlobal's growing presence in Eastern Europe, where it owns power generation facilities in Bulgaria, Ukraine, Romania, and Poland, and will contribute to ContourGlobal's renewable energy portfolio, which currently comprises approximately 1000 MW of hydro, wind, solar and biogas production in Latin America, Europe and Africa.

Mr. Armen Movsisyan, the Armenian Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, stated, "We are pleased to enter into this agreement with ContourGlobal, a proven and experienced owner and operator of power generating facilities around the world. We are confident that ContourGlobal will successfully own, maintain, and operate this important power complex and are gratified by ContourGlobal's planned investment, which will improve the stability, security, and performance of the Armenian power system for many years to come."

Mr. Garry Levesley, Executive Vice President and Regional CEO for ContourGlobal Eastern Europe, stated: "I am delighted to be signing this

transaction on behalf of ContourGlobal today. I look forward to working closely with the Government of Armenia and its State Agencies on this critical project in the coming years. ContourGlobal has extensive knowledge and experience in operating in the region and looks forward to adding these significant power plants into our portfolio and making further improvements and investments in them."

ContourGlobal is a New York based international power-generation company with approximately 3500 MW in operations or under construction in 17 countries and on four continents. ContourGlobal's 1650 employees manage, own and operate a portfolio of 33 power plants utilizing a wide range of fuel types and technologies including renewable energy production based upon Hydro, wind, solar and biomass, as well as an extensive fleet of conventionally powered thermal power plants. In the wider Eastern Europe area, ContourGlobal currently owns and operates approximately 1100 MW of power generation businesses in Bulgaria, Ukraine, Romania, and Poland and eagerly anticipates adding the plants in Armenia to this portfolio.

## AGBU Scholarship Program distributes over \$1.1 million in 2013-2014 academic year

As the fall semester comes to a close, university students worldwide are enjoying the benefits of the AGBU scholarships that help to make their educations possible. For the 2013-2014 academic year, the AGBU Scholarship Program distributed more than \$1.1 million internationally, of which \$400,000 was awarded to 100 students studying in the U.S. These scholarships are supporting over 400 undergraduate and graduate students at top-ranking schools in nearly 35 countries, including those focusing on performing arts and religious studies.

An AGBU scholarship provides students with more than financial assistance. It signals they are part of a global community that recognizes their talents. For Monika Manisak, a Turkish citizen in her senior year at Zmir's Ege University, this is especially significant. She noted, "What I appreciate most is that AGBU awards aid to all Armenians irrespective of their nationality. With my scholarship, I can put aside funds to take summer courses at the Armenian Association for Academic Partnership and Support in Yerevan and collaborate with academics from around the globe who share my passion for our cultural identity." After obtaining her B.A. in American Culture and Literature, Manisak hopes to teach at her alma mater, the Getronagan Armenian High School in Istanbul.

Manisak is one of many AGBU International Scholarship recipients charting a career path. Rima Karapetyan, an LL.M. student at Leiden University in the Netherlands, intends to join Armenia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs after she completes her Public International Law Program. Karapetyan was accepted to the program in 2012, but was forced to decline due to financial constraints. This year, with her AGBU scholarship, she was able to take advantage of the opportunity. Next year, she, along with a select few graduates of the Diplomatic School of Armenia, plans to begin working at the Ministry.

As some students prepare to enter public service, recipients of the AGBU Performing Arts Fellowship are finding themselves in the spotlight. Aram



Ohanian, an opera singer studying at the Bern University of Arts in Switzerland, will soon perform with the renowned vocal ensemble La Cetra in the city of Basel, as well as in Amsterdam. Ohanian began collaborating with the group two years ago at the Schola Cantorum Basiliensis, where he first received AGBU funding. Producing and singing in operas "requires a great degree of discipline and a very strict and organized schedule," Ohanian noted. "If I didn't have my AGBU scholarship, I don't know how I would meet those demands. With AGBU's assistance, I'm able to pursue my M.A. in Specialized Music Performance while making a name for myself in this field."

On the other side of the globe, Vardan Gasparyan, a Yerevan native and student at The Colburn Conservatory in California, is another rising artist who has caught the attention of industry leaders. For two consecutive summers, Gasparyan has attended the Kneisel Hall Music Festival in Maine, which is led by teachers from the Juilliard School. At those festivals, and others, he plays the cello that the Conservatory has loaned him while he saves to purchase his own instrument—something he says he could never do without AGBU's assistance. In 2012, the young cellist joined fellow AGBU scholarship recipients on stage

at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall for the AGBU New York Special Events Committee's Annual Performing Artists in Concert, which benefits performing arts initiatives.

Whether AGBU is supporting their work on stage or on the silver screen, all scholarship recipients are committed to keeping the Armenian culture alive. Martiros Vartanov, a Film & Television M.F.A. student at the University of California, Los Angeles, is currently producing a short documentary in Armenian, a rarity in his department. His AGBU scholarship allows him to focus more deeply on his studies and immediately had a positive impact on the quality of his projects. In recent years, Vartanov organized a tribute to William Saroyan at the Beverly Hills Film Festival in California, and curated the world's first joint retrospective of Armenian masters Sergei Parajanov and Mikhail Vartanov at Korea's Busan International Film Festival, the largest in Asia.

Award-winning composer Arpine Kalinina is also introducing Armenian artists to diverse audiences. Now a master's student at the London Royal Academy of Music, for several years Kalinina was the Artistic Director of the classical ensemble she founded, Kantegh, which performs within and outside of Armenia. During that time,

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## "The Armenian Highland" in the virtual world

By *Armine Gevorgyan*

The AGBU Armenian Virtual College (AVC) unveiled the very first multimedia e-book "The Armenian Highland" today as part of the AVC's series of electronic books on Armenian culture and history.

The Virtual College was established in 2009 to help overcome the educational obstacles the Armenian Diaspora had long been concerned about. It provides broad opportunities to students, who cannot study at traditional Armenian educational establishments. Today the College has more than 3,000 students from 65 countries of the world. It offers programs in six languages: Eastern and Western Armenians, French, English, Spanish, Russian and Turkish.

Through photos, music, videos, maps and 3D images the e-book presents the Armenian Highland's centuries-old history, culture, natural environment and administrative divisions.

Readers are offered to assess their progress through optional quizzes, identify key events on timelines, and refer to the extensive glossary developed especially for this resource.



"The materials included in the e-book have been taken from academic journals, historic documents and educational materials used in universities," Yervand Zoryan, Founding President of Armenian Virtual College (AVC) and Central Board Member of Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) told reporters today.

The next e-book will tell about Armenian history, economy, pop-art, tourism and music.

AVC multimedia e-book series can be downloaded free of charge. The iBook version will be available this March for iPads and Mac computers and the browser version will be available for additional mobile devices and PCs.

## AGBU Scholarship Program ...

*from page 8*

she earned a number of honors, notably the Russian Federation's "Triumph" award for highest achievement in art. This year, many of Kalinina's compositions will premiere across London, including a choir piece inspired by the Armenian poet Yeghishe Charents.

The AGBU Scholarship Program, along with other institutions, has played a critical role in allowing Kalinina to showcase her work. "For the past two years, I was offered a spot at the Academy but didn't have the financial means to attend," she remarks. "Now, I am training under world-renowned professionals and honing my skills in conducting and orchestration, as well as compositions rooted in traditional Armenian music."

While Kalinina preserves Armenia's musical heritage, religious studies students are examining ways the Christian Armenian faith has endured throughout history. AGBU Religious Studies Fellowship recipient Donna Rizk is a Ph.D. candidate at the King's College

London Department of Theology & Religious Studies. She is studying a Christian text that has been dated to the 10th century, but which she believes is actually from as early as the 5th century and has influenced the Armenian creed. Rizk has her sights set on using her AGBU scholarship to conduct future research at the St. Nersess Armenian Seminary in New York.

Rizk would be able to share ideas with a number of AGBU scholarship recipients who are already enrolled at St. Nersess. They are the future leaders of the Armenian Church, though for now they are enjoying their studies and expressing gratitude to those who have contributed to the AGBU Scholarship Program. Kathryn Ashbahian, who is working toward her M.A. in Theology and Youth Ministry, reflected, "I feel fortunate every day because I can focus exclusively on my studies and my work at the Diocese [of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern)] without worrying about how I will cover tuition and support myself. The individuals who so

graciously give these financial gifts have lifted a huge weight off my shoulders. The generosity of the AGBU community, and the Armenian American community as a whole, is a blessing-one that is simply unparalleled."

For almost a century, the AGBU Scholarship Program has championed the higher education of thousands of promising young Armenians enrolled in leading college and universities around the world. Financed through endowment funds established by generous AGBU donors since the 1920s, the AGBU Scholarship Program has proudly contributed to the academic achievements of gifted young Armenians, offering financial assistance to full-time students of Armenian descent from close to 40 countries across six continents. Today, through its AGBU U.S. Fellowship Program and added focus on specialized fields of study, such as the performing arts and religious studies, the AGBU Scholarship Program offers financial assistance to a broader range of Armenian students across the globe.

## Mikayel Tariverdiev is Back in His Ancestors' Homeland after Six Years: a Beautiful Concert in Memory of One of the Most Popular Soviet Composers

### Alexey Goribol: "The First Lady of Armenia is a very charming, bright person and a gifted musician"



By **Gourgen James Khazhakian**  
Chief Correspondent

January 27 evening saw a really nice, we even would not avoid to say - a unique concert held in "Aram Khachaturian" Concert Hall by State Youth Orchestra of Armenia (Founding Artistic Director and Principal Conductor **Sergey Smbatyan**), with participation guest stars from Russia, dedicated to famous Soviet/Russian composer of the Armenian origin Mikayel L. Tariverdiev (Tarverdyan, 1931-1996).

Maestro Tariverdiev authored more than 130 movie soundtracks, concertos, operas, ballets, romances, etc.

Numerous legendary films like "Seventeen Moments of Spring" (1973), "The Irony of Fate, or With Good Steam" (1976) and many others are remembered till today mostly thanks to melodies created by Tariverdiev. The soloists of the evening were one of the most known Russian cinema/theatre actor, People's Artist of Russian **Dmitry Pevtsov**, **Alexey Goribol** (piano, Russia), **Gevorg Dabaghyan** (duduk, Armenia), **Gevorg Hakobyan** (baritone, Armenia), **Hayk Kazazian** (violin, Russia):

The concert moderated by **Vera G. Tariverdieva**, the widow of M. L. Tariverdiev, was organized by joint efforts of the Ministry of Culture of RF, Ministry of Culture of RA and the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia.

However, before sharing impressions from the concert with The Highlights readers, we'd like to present highlights of a news conference by the organizers/performers of the concert.

According to Vera G. Tariverdieva, the widow of Mikayel Tariverdiev who is heading Mikayel Tariverdiev Foundation, "This is not our first concert in Yerevan. In 2008 we organized in Yerevan Opera Theatre a big concert with participation of musicians arrived from Russia and Philharmonic Orchestra. And now we are holding a concert with the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia headed and conducted by Maestro **Sergey Smbatyan**, who I know for a long time already, so I've had a great desire to work with Maestro **Smbatyan**."

Mrs Tariverdieva said she knew for a quite long also dudukist **Gevorg Dabaghyan**; the latter participated in their concert held in Kremlin where he performed for the first time a universally beloved masterpiece by Tariverdiev, "Seventeen Moments of Spring" arranged for duduk by **Vache Sharafyan**.

Mrs Tariverdieva noted thankfully that

few years ago the First Lady of Armenia Mrs **Rita A. Sargsyan**, a big fan of music by Mikayel Tariverdiev, organized a concert dedicated to the prominent composer in the City of Shushi, Nagorno-Karabakh Republic.

As **Sergey Smbatyan**, SYOA Founding Artistic Director and Principal Conductor said, it was not mere a coincidence that all the concert tickets were sold out yet 4-5 days ago. "We the Orchestra realize all the responsibility to play for the first time in Armenia Violin Concerto by our outstanding compatriot, so we've been doing our very best to be prepared well for it", Maestro Smbatyan added.

As Vera Tariverdieva informed the journalists, in various cities of Russia there



are musical schools named after Mikayel Tariverdiev, and, naturally, it would be a very proper and pleasant thing for her to see such a school here in Armenia which is Composer's historical Motherland.

Pianist **Alexey Goribol** agreed with her, stating that opening of such a school in Armenia was just a necessity: "*Tariverdiev School should be opened first of all in Armenia, as the Composer have had a native ties with the Armenian people and its culture; he was the most known student of the Great **Aram Ilyich Khachaturian**, and such a school would contribute significantly in keeping unforgettable both the Composer's name and his beautiful works*".

After a rehearsal with SYOA held a day before, a world-known guest pianist evaluated professional level of the SYOA musicians as "very high".

...Here for your author it would be absolutely impossible not to share with The Highlights readers an interesting story told by Mr Goribol.

He said: "*In 2008, our concert in Yerevan Moscow House was attended by the First Lady of Armenia Mrs **Rita Sargsyan**.*

*...You know, Tariverdiev's music creates a special atmosphere, the one of sincerity and mutual trust...So after the concert **Rita Aleksandrovna** came to us the*

*artists in an absolutely unofficial manner and invited for a glass of cognac. "Is everything O.K. in your hotel, how is the breakfast there?", she asked me unexpectedly. "Everything is fine, **Rita Aleksandrovna**, thank you, but first of all we've liked very much really fantastic Armenian tomatoes which is impossible to find in Moscow...*

*Next day we played in Opera, Mrs **Sargsyan** was present there, we talked to her a bit, thanked and say "Goodbye", and...Before my depart to Moscow they brought to me a parcel from **Rita Aleksandrova** herself - a big box with...right, Armenian tomatoes, carefully packed...*

*Please write on this and pass via your newspaper our best regards and wishes to*

*this very charming and bright person, and, probably these features of Armenia's First Lady are helping significantly to resolve any questions in, let's say, inter-ethnic relations, culture, music...By the way, **Rita Aleksandrovna** is a gifted professional musician...*"

Well-known Russian actor, Russian Federation People's Artist **Dmitry Pevtsov** said he "fell in love" with music by Tariverdiev. "*So every time when I have an opportunity to participate in such a joint concert, I am enjoying it*", he said and added that if his Mom who knew Mikayel Tariverdiev yet from Tbilisi, would got knew he was in Yerevan, definitely, she would "envy" her son.

... As to the concert itself, its first part included a brilliant performance of Tariverdiev's Violin Concerto as well as Suite from Ballet "A Girl and the Death", and the second part was featured by universally beloved movie soundtracks which were sung, beside those on the stage, by those in jam-packed Hall, and its box - naturally, First Lady **Rita Sargsyan** was there, accompanied by PM's spouse **Gohar P. Sargsyan**, i.e. the audience who reacted to what they've seen and listened that night by a long ovation, with non-stop "Bravo!!!"-s and even tears in the eyes...

*Photos by Hayer.com*



## Adam Schiff: Necessary to combine efforts ahead of 2015 to reach recognition of the Armenian Genocide

By *Lilit Sedrakyan*

Fourteen months before the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide it's necessary to combine efforts to reach recognition, Rep. Adam Schiff said in an interview with Public Radio of Armenia. Adoption of the Armenian Genocide bill, the support to Christians of Syria, ensuring US assistance to Armenia and Artsakh and a number of other Armenia-related issues will be on the Congressman's agenda in 2014.

The first thing Schiff plans to do in 2014 is to organize the display of the Armenian Orphan Rug. In 1925, a group of Armenian orphans who had been relocated to Ghazir, now in Lebanon, wove a rug, now known as the 'orphan rug,' and gave it as a gift to US President Calvin Coolidge. The rug is now kept at the White House.

Adam Schiff's earlier request to display the rug was turned down by the Obama Administration. According to the Congressman, the rug is a good means to draw attention to the Armenian Genocide.

"The White House is now considering our proposal. We have made it clear that we want to work with them to organize the display of the rug, and their refusal is unacceptable. I hope they will agree. If not we have a different solution. There is an Armenian Orphan Sister Rug, which we'll display at the event," the Congressman said.

It's necessary to mobilize efforts ahead of the 100th anniversary of the Armenian

Genocide and urge to recognize it, Adam Schiff said, voicing hope that the US President will do and say more than has done as a presidential candidate and as a Senator. He noted that after the by-elections it will become clear whether the Genocide bill enjoys the support of the majority of Congressmen or not. At the same time, he stressed that they will maintain the pressure on both the House of Representatives and the Obama Administration.

Asked about the main obstacles to realization of the plans, Schiff said: "The main reason is the active opposition of the well-funded Turkish lobby. Another factor is the resistance of the most American and Turkish leaders." He explained that many former Secretaries of State and Defense Secretaries also followed the policy of preventing the recognition of the Armenian Genocide, and they do not want the current administration to change the position. "The Turkish lobby and money is working against us today. Supporting us we have the Armenian Diaspora, the eyewitnesses of the Genocide and their relatives," Schiff said.

Among the priorities in the Congress is the assistance to the Armenians and other Christian communities in Syria. "The religious minorities in Syria face a serious danger of being killed, tortured, kidnapped, forced to change the religion, which resembles the medieval times. Undoubtedly, this is the greatest humanitarian crisis in the world. There is no answer as to why the

Congress does not make efforts to end this humanitarian disaster. We provide a huge material assistance to Syrian refugees in Turkey, Jordan, Armenia and elsewhere, but taking efforts to end the conflict is quite a different thing, and this should be a priority for us," Schiff said.

Rep. Schiff denounced the subversive attacks at the Line of Contact, which claimed the life of an Armenian soldier. "The death of the Armenian soldier is a tragic loss and another manifestation of the dangerous and bloody actions of the Azeri forces, which should be condemned by the world," he said.

"Unfortunately far from creating an environment where a peaceful resolution of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict could be reached, President Aliyev and his administration continue to support the incidents at the border," he said, adding that for resolving the conflict the leaders of the three countries – Armenia, Artsakh and Azerbaijan – should prepare their peoples to a peaceful resolution. "Instead, the Azerbaijani leaders are preaching hatred towards Armenians and encouraging the use of violence," he said.

"What's happening on the Armenian side is not happening on the Azerbaijani side. The Azerbaijani people must be prepared for a peaceful settlement, while the leadership is taking no steps in that direction," the Congressman concluded.



## Syrian President Finally Recognizes The Armenian Genocide



By Harut  
Sassounian

Publisher, The  
California Courier

In a lengthy interview last week with Agence France Presse (AFP) on the tragic situation in Syria, Pres. Bashar al-Assad made an unexpected reference to the massacres of 1.5 million Armenians. This is the first time that any Syrian head of state has acknowledged the Armenian mass murders and identified the perpetrator as Ottoman Turkey.

During the interview, Pres. Assad compared the Armenian Genocide of 1915 to the brutal killings of civilians by foreign fighters nowadays in Syria: "The degree of savagery and inhumanity that the terrorists have reached reminds us of what happened in the Middle Ages in Europe over 500 years ago. In more recent modern times, it reminds us of the massacres perpetrated by the Ottomans against the Armenians when they killed a million and a half Armenians and half a million Orthodox Syrians in Syria and in Turkish territory."

Not surprisingly, two days later, Bashar Jaafari, Syria's Ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva, made a similar remark: "How about the Armenian Genocide where 1.5 million people were killed?"

The only other high ranking Syrian official who has acknowledged the Armenian Genocide was Abd al-Qader Qaddura, Speaker of the Syrian Parliament, when he inscribed a poignant statement in the Book of Remembrance of the Armenian Genocide Monument and Museum in Yerevan on July 16, 2001: "As we visit the Memorial and Museum of the Genocide that the Armenian nation suffered in 1915, we stand in full admiration and respect in front of those heroes that faced death with courage and heroism. Their children and grandchildren continued after them to immortalize their courage and struggle... With great respect we bow our heads in memory of the martyrs of the Armenian nation -- our friends -- and hail their ability for resoluteness and triumph. We will work together to liberate every human being from aggression and oppression."

While the Parliament Speaker's 2001 statement was a candid and heartfelt mes-

sage with no political overtones, the same cannot be said about Pres. Assad's words on the Armenian Genocide as he clearly intended to lash back at the Turkish government's hostile actions against the Syrian regime. It is well known that Turkey has played a major role in the concerted international effort to topple Pres. Assad, by dispatching heavy weapons and arranging the infiltration of foreign radical Islamist fighters into Syria.

Relations between Syria and Turkey were not always hostile. Before the start of the Syrian crisis in 2011, the two countries were such close political and economic allies that the Assad regime banned the sale of books on the Armenian Genocide, and did not permit foreign film crews to visit Der Zor, the killing fields of thousands of Armenians during the Genocide. Mindful of possible Turkish backlash, Pres. Assad's staff cancelled my courtesy meeting with the President in 2009 after they discovered on the internet my countless critical articles on Turkey. Moreover, during the honeymoon period between the Syrian and Turkish governments, Pres. Assad advised the visiting Catholicos Aram I that Armenians should maintain good relations with Turkey and not dwell on the past!

In his recent interview with AFP, Pres. Assad also complained about the failure of Western leaders to comprehend developments in the Middle East: "They are always very late in realizing things, sometimes even after the situation has been overtaken by a new reality that is



completely different." Frankly, one could make the same criticism about Pres. Assad for realizing at his own detriment only too late the dishonesty and duplicity of Turkey's leadership.

Regrettably, the Syrian President is not the only head of state who has failed to decipher the scheming mindset of Turkey's rulers. Countless Middle Eastern, European, and American leaders have made the same mistake, trusting Turkey's feigned friendship, only to be let down when the time came for Turkey to keep its end of the bargain.

In recent months, with the increasing dissatisfaction of the international community with Prime Minister Erdogan's autocratic policies and belligerent statements, it has become crystal clear that no one knows the true face of Turkey better than Armenians, Assyrians, Greeks and Kurds, who have suffered countless brutalities, massacres and even genocide under despot Turkish rule.

Despite Pres. Assad's political motivations, Armenians should welcome his belated statement on the Armenian Genocide. After refraining from acknowledging the Genocide for all the wrong reasons for so long, at least now the Syrian President is on record telling the truth about past and present Turkish atrocities!

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# Last farewell to Aram Gharabekian



The public funeral service for renowned conductor Aram Gharabekian was held at the Aram Khachaturian Concert Hall today. The ceremony was attended by Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan.

Aram Gharabekian, who passed away on January 10, was laid to rest at the City Pantheon in Yerevan.

Born in 1955, he graduated from the New England Conservatory with a Master's degree in Composition, and continued his postgraduate studies in Musical Phenomenology at Mainz University in Germany. He studied conducting with Franco Ferrara in Italy, and was one of a few pupils of the legendary conductor Sergiu Celibidache. He was also granted a fellowship to study composition and conducting under Jacob Druckman and Leonard Bernstein at Tanglewood Music Center.

From 1997 until 2010 Mr. Gharabekian served as Music Director of the National Chamber Orchestra of Armenia, leading this acclaimed ensemble on tours to Greece, the United Arab Emirates, Cyprus, Switzerland, England, Russia, Lebanon, Georgia, Germany, France, Canada and the U.S.

Mr. Gharabekian was formerly the Principal Guest Conductor of the Ukrainian

Radio & Television Symphony Orchestra in Kiev. Following a critically acclaimed guest appearance with the Ukrainian National Symphony Orchestra in 1991, Mr. Gharabekian was invited by the Ukrainian Minister of Culture to assume the position



of Artistic Advisor and Conductor.

During his tenure with that orchestra he conducted performances in Kiev and on tour throughout Ukraine, and successfully regenerated its artistic and organizational capacity. During his eight years as Music Director of Boston's SinfoNova Orchestra, Mr. Gharabekian won national recognition

for his innovative and enterprising programming, as well as his critically acclaimed performances in major American venues, including Carnegie Hall, the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion and Boston's Symphony Hall and Jordan Hall.

As a guest conductor, Mr. Gharabekian has been the Principal Guest Conductor of the Zagreb Philharmonic, and appeared with the Sinfonietta München in Germany and Italy. He has also led the Ukrainian National Symphony, the Ukrainian State Opera and Ballet of Kiev, the West Ukrainian Philharmonic in Lvov, the Armenian Philharmonic, and returned to America to conduct the Shreveport Symphony and the Fresno Philharmonic.

Mr. Gharabekian's concert recordings have been broadcast on National Public Radio, and he has made numerous record-

ings for Ukrainian, Croatian and Armenian Radio and Television, Boston's WBZ-Television, WBUR, WGBH and WCRB FM radio stations in Boston, WNYC FM in New York, the Voice of America in Washington, and Bayerischer Rundfunk in Munich. The recipient of the 1989 Lucien Wulsin Performance Award for the best concert performance aired on America's National Public Radio, Mr. Gharabekian was also awarded the 1988 American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) Award for Adventuresome Programming. He was twice honored by the Harvard Musical Association's "Best Performance Award" and his performances have been singled out as "Best of 1985, 1989, 1990 and 1991" by the Boston Globe. He is the recipient of the Presidential Medal for his contributions to the arts in Armenia.



## The story of how Armenia entered the Winter Olympics

"He still has never set foot in Armenia, under whose red, blue and orange flag he proudly competed in the 1994 Winter Olympics in Lillehammer, Norway. Westford resident Joe Almasian hopes to visit his ancestral homeland someday," reads an article published by the Lowell Sun.

"It's on my bucket list," says the 46-year-old father of three and youth soccer coach who plays in an Over-the-Hill Soccer League on Sunday mornings in the fall.

Never on his bucket list was driving a two-man bobsled for any country in the Winter Olympics. But their spirit of adventure and deep respect for their Armenian heritage pulled Almasian, a mechanical engineer who grew up in Sherborn, Mass.

Joe Almasian and his brakeman Kenny Topalian, who ran an auto repair shop in Pawtucket, R.I., to Lillehammer 20 years ago to establish an Olympic foothold for a newly independent Armenia. They did so with a second-hand bobsled rented from the American Samoans for \$1,500.

Both were athletic. Almasian, 26 at the time, had played soccer and run track for the University of New Hampshire. Topalian, then 30, had been a hurdler in high school. They grew up participating in athletic and cultural activities within the Providence chapter of the Armenian Youth Federation (AYF).

Their talents were known to Paul Varadian, a former Providence AYF member and U.S. bobsledder with strong Olympic connections, determined to plant Armenia's flag on the Olympic stage after independence was secured with the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991.

"The quickest entry was through the sport of bobsledding, which I was familiar with," says Varadian, 60, who lives in Newton. "I reached out to them because they were both athletes and both nearby and they were willing to give it a shot."

Almasian remembers being at work at EMD Millipore in Bedford (where he still works) when Varadian called sometime around Thanksgiving 1992 with his Olympic idea.

"While I appreciate sports and athletics, and very much love participating in them, I can honestly say it was never my dream to become an Olympic bobsledder," says Almasian with a smile.

Not long after that phone call, Almasian

was speeding down a bobsled run at a beginners' camp in Calgary, where he and Topalian became properly licensed. "Because you actually need a license to drive these," says Almasian.

In the beginning, they started each run from halfway up the track, reaching 50 miles per hour, about 30 mph slower than competition speed.

"We didn't die, so we agreed we'd give (the Olympic quest) a try," says Almasian.

Every Friday night thereafter during the winter of 1992-93, Almasian and Topalian drove six hours to Lake Placid, N.Y. They stayed at a motel or at the Olympic Training Center. The bobsled run was open three hours each morning on Saturday and Sunday. They borrowed 1960s-vintage sleds which they welded back together after each bumpy learning run.

They eventually hired a coach, Jim Hickey, a former U.S. bobsledder who lived in the Lake Placid area. Hickey would remain their coach through the 1994 Olympics. Almasian and Topalian shared Hickey with the Greek and American Samoan teams to spread the costs. They spent nearly \$20,000 of their own money on their Olympic adventure.

"We say we had two sponsors," says Almasian. "I sponsored Kenny, and Kenny sponsored me."

There were no guarantees their investment would all pay off. The Olympic dream Almasian never dreamed still seemed a wild dream.

To meet Olympic qualification standards, Almasian and Topalian needed to obtain Armenian citizenship and compete in at least five international races on three different tracks over two seasons. The only two tracks in North America at that time were in Lake Placid and Calgary. So for their final qualification step they raced in St. Moritz, Switzerland not long before the Olympics.

"I think we gained one World Cup point for finishing last," says Almasian.

Varadian handled the politicking to secure temporary Armenian citizenship for the bobsledders, which required a decree by Armenia's then-president Levon Ter-Petrosyan. Almasian recalls it being 2 1/2 weeks before the Opening Ceremonies in Lillehammer when they got the green light.

They were nearly joined on that first-ever Armenia Olympic team by one other

athlete. Arsen Harutyunyan, an Alpine skier from Armenia, fell short on a qualification technicality but carried his country's flag at the 1994 Opening Ceremonies and skied in two future Olympics.

Marching in Lillehammer

An eight-member Armenia Olympic delegation, featuring Almasian and Topalian as its only participating athletes, marched at the Opening Ceremonies in Lillehammer. "It was held in the ski-jump area. It was freezing cold. The stands held only about 3,000 people," recalls Varadian. "I remember Kenny saying, 'Gee whiz, this is no big deal.'"

So Varadian pointed to a nearby television camera. "See that," he told the two bobsledders, "that is one billion people."

They marched not far behind "America" (countries march in alphabetically, according to the host country's native tongue), so a glimpse of the Armenian flag was seen on CBS' telecast to the United States.

"The sad part is we had everybody back home pumped up to watch us," says Almasian. "I think my boot enters the screen, and then they cut away to something else."

An Armenian reporter, serving as the team's press attaché, arranged a press day for any reporters who might want to interview Almasian and Topalian.

"We figured at least a couple of guys would be there," says Almasian.

The two were shocked to arrive to a room packed with media.

"We were happy to sit there and take questions," says Almasian. "Come to find out later, though, just randomly through a scheduling process, our press conference was between Tonya Harding's and the Italian skier Alberto Tomba's. Those who had their front-row seats for Tonya Harding wanted to keep them for Tomba."

But Almasian and Topalian were a story. The New York Times' Ira Berkow wrote about the two hoping someone in Armenia, "where the electricity and gas aren't working and people are cold in their homes and food is scarce," knew of what they were doing and felt proud.

What began for Almasian as a quest to honor his grandparents, who escaped their homeland following the 1915 Armenian Genocide perpetrated by the Turkish gov-

*continued on page 15*



**From page 14**

ernment (which has denied it occurred), gained a competitive edge.

"There was the Armenian-spirit side of me, for sure," says Almasian. "But the athlete in me wanted to be as competitive as possible within our knowledge of the sport."

They weren't last

In Lillehammer, Almasian and Topalian successfully completed their four bobsled runs over two days. They finished 36th, an aggregate nine minutes behind the gold medal-winning Swiss but ahead of seven other sleds. The Jamaicans, inspiration for the movie "Cool Runnings" released the year before, finished last, disqualified for an overweight sled.

"My boss had told me he'd let me take a leave of absence to go to the Olympics, but 'you'll have to beat the Jamaicans,'" says Almasian with a smile. "In fact, we did beat the Jamaicans ... but with an asterisk."

In the blink of an eye, as they crossed the finish line on their first run, Almasian and Topalian noticed two Armenian flags being waved above them by a group of proud Norwegian-Armenians. Almasian's wife Kim, his fiancée at the time, flew over to Lillehammer to surprise him. Almasian's only regret is that the return flight he booked brought him home before the Closing Ceremonies.

He has not been in a bobsled since Lillehammer 1994.

Armenia has sent teams to every Olympic Games since Almasian and Topalian paved the way. The country has won 12 medals at the Summer Games, none yet in the Winter Games.

Almasian has never received any official acknowledgment from Armenia for his Olympic service. He and Topalian after returning from Lillehammer were presented with Olympic rings made by a jeweler of Armenian descent living in Canada. Almasian kept his racing helmet and suit. He brings them out on occasion when speaking at church and civic-group functions. He also has the medallion given to all the participants in Lillehammer (along with a silver cheese slicer with the Olympic logo).

And he is proud to have been an Olympian.

"It's fun to tell the story to people who know me, but don't know that part of my history," says Almasian, who has lived in Westford for 10 years. "For me, it was a proud moment."

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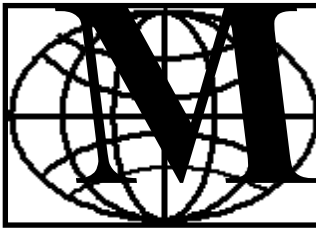
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- ♦ 1357. Pushkin street, 8/6 floor, 77 sq.m., 2 rooms, newly built, furniture, techniques. Price 165000\$

### 3 ROOMS

- ♦ 2682 Aram Str. 13/6 187sq.m, newly built, 4 rooms, 3 bedrooms, drywall, buckle, 2 open balconies, beautiful view, 2 garages, view to garden. Price: 1sq.m 574 000 AMD
- ♦ 2676 Amiryam Str. 16/12 259 sq.m, 4 rooms, 3 bedrooms, N-3 meters, capitally euro repaired, view to yard, concrete floor, heating system, water, gas, AC, underground parking, separate furnished kitchen Price: 550.000 AMD % included
- ♦ 2674 Qeru Str, 17/3 103 sq.m, 3 rooms, 2 bedrooms, N-3U meters, elite building, 2 bathrooms, swimming-pool, tennis court, parking (not included in the price) heating, gas, water, AC, sold with and without furniture Price: without furniture 160000 USD with furniture 175000 USD
- ♦ 2747 Northern Ave., 9/8 150 sq m, 3 rooms, 2 bedrooms, living-room, open balcony, 2 bathrooms, one with a jacuzzi, furnished, parking. Preliminary Price: 520.000 USD

- ♦ 2474. Koryun Street. 5/3, 100 sq.m., 3 turned into 4, euro repair , euro windows, permanent gas, balcony, 2 AC, opportunity. Price 160.000 USD
- ♦ 2453. Koryun str., 6/4, 100sqm, 4 rooms, euro repaired, 2 lavatories. Price negotiable
- ♦ 2429. Ekmalyan street, 10/9, 178sqm, 3bedrooms, 3lavatories, capitally repaired, AC, parking. Price-360.000USD
- ♦ 2393. Moskovyan street, 5/3. 110 sq.m., euro repair, logha balcony 17 sq.m., permanent hot and cold water, cube 700 l, electric heating system, natural gas, Ariston, 2AC, satellite. Price: 400 000 USD
- ♦ 2335. Mashtots Avenue. 4/4, 95 sq.m., 3 rooms, 2 bedrooms, stone building, euro repaire, euro doors and windows, open balcony, permanent hot and cold water, concrete cover, beech parquetry, h 3 m, closed attic. Price 125000 USD
- ♦ 2348. Abovyan Street, 4/2, 177.8 sq/m, euro repaired, conreted, laminate furniture in the bedroom, cupboards in the kitchen, tiled, Baxi system, Price: 250000 USD preliminary
- ♦ 2395. North Avenue. 130 sq.m., newly built, h-3 m, a view to Abovyan street. Price: 1 sq.m.-1600 USD

### PREMISES

- ♦ 1710. Sayat - Nova str., 1st floor, 420sqm, 2 rooms, 2 lavatories, entrance from street. Price 1.000.000USD
- ♦ 1727. Baghranyan str., 2 storied, 230sqm, capitally repaired, entrance from street, garage. Price 350.000USD
- ♦ 1725. Hanrapetutyam str, 1storied, 171sqm, 2 entrances, capitally repaired, permanent hot and cold water. Price 500.000USD
- ♦ 1703. Northern Avenue, 9/7, 66sqm, capitally repaired, heating, lavatory, 30000AMD service rent, view to Teryan street. Price 220,000USD
- ♦ 1553. Kasyan street. 170sq.m., working fashion saloon, large windows, facade-15m, 1room+foye, h=2.80 m, cellar 30 sq.m. Price 500 000 USD preliminary
- ♦ 1598. Nairy Zaryan street, 180 sq.m., 1st floor, a working restaurant, hall-100 sq.m. 1st line, repaired, tonir. Price: negotiable
- ♦ 1383. Nalbandian St, cellar + 1 story, 30 sq. m. cellar, 90 sq. m. story, Euro repair, hall, kitchen, lavatory, 24-hour hot and cols water, gas supply, suitable for a bar or restaurant. Price: 512.000USD
- ♦ 1603. North avenue, 159 sq.m., 1st floor. Entrance on ground floor also, construction is in process, suitable for a shop. Price: 1 sq.m. 10 000 USD
- ♦ 1588. Tigran Mec street, 256 sq.m, 5/1.2, trade area, stone building, euro repair, 1st floor trade area - 210 sq.m., 2nd floor 46 sq.m. residential Area. Price: 600 000 USD

### LANDS

- ♦ 1756 H. Qochar str. 1000 sq m, 2-storey brick building - 1200 sq m, old repaired. Price: 1.200.000 preliminary
- ♦ 2122. Davitashen, 1800sqm, water, gas, electricity, possible to sell separately 600sqm, 1200sqm. Price-150USD per sqm.
- ♦ 1869. Cascade. 720 sq.m. 1st line, permission for construction, suitable for a new building or a business. Price: negotiable
- ♦ 2121. Centre, land-1338sqm, 1100 sqm has permission for building. Price-2million USD
- ♦ 2107 Monument, 2400sqm, permission for building, 2 projects to build 3 storied building, possibility of water, gas, electricity, beautiful view of city and Ararat. Price-500USD per sqm.
- ♦ 1939. Kotayk region, Aghavnadzor district. Land 5000 sq.m., suitable for building a resort place. Price negotiable
- ♦ 2011. Proshyan street. Land 400 sq.m. for building a house, privatized, 2nd line/ near the garden/. Price 1 sq.m. beginning from 700 USD

- ♦ 2013. Cascade. Land 1000 sq.m. For public construction needs, First line, gas, water and electricity possibilities. Price for 1 sq.m. 580 USD
- ♦ 2028. District of Erebuni, Arin-Berd street. Land 2 acr. With a 2 storied partially built building, water, electricity plastered.h=4.20m. Price 1 sq.m, 50 USD
- ♦ 1402. Hr. Kochar St, 1,100 sq. m, personal plot, front -25 m, privatized, empty, possibility for building communications. Price negotiable.
- ♦ 1351. Monument, 2,000 sq. m, privatized, front - 17 m, APZ permission, for social purposes: suitable for a restaurant, hotel. Price negotiable.

### PRIVATE HOUSES

- ♦ 2725. Nork-Marash, building - 733.25sqm, land-620sqm, semi-basement +2floors, euro repaired, semi-basement is sport room, sauna, summer room, pool, fireplace, 1st floor- sitting room, 1 bedroom, cabinet, kitchen, lavatory, 2nd floor - 4 bedrooms, permanent hot and cold water, gas, Spanish tiles, 2 AC. Price - 500.000 USD
- ♦ 3348. Blur, Barbyusi. 3 floors, land - 800 sq.m, building-700 sq.m, capitally repaired, climate control. Price: 1.5 million USD
- ♦ 3059. Vahagni community, total-1500sqm, building-280sqm, 2.5 storied, newly built, not lived in, 1st floor-living room-44sqm, kitchen, family room-24sqm, 2nd floor-3bedrooms, 3 lavatories, garage for 2 cars, cellar, security system, possible to sell with furniture. Price 490.000\$.
- ♦ 3210 Aygestan community. 2 stories, land: 480 sq.m, building: 310 sq.m, 1st floor is not repaired, garage, 2nd floor: repaired, kitchen, lavatory-tiled, permanent hot and cold water, Baxi system, a place for barbeque, garden, trees Price: 270.000 USD
- ♦ 3292. Arabkir, 2 floors, land - 1200 sq.m, building - 340 sq.m, 4 rooms, newly built, repaired, euro windows and doors, sauna, 2 swimming-pools, 5 bathrooms, permanent hot and cold water, heating system, Jacuzzi, fireplace, laundry room, cameras, 2 satellites, garage for 2 cars, basement, fruitful garden, brick fence. Price: 1.2 million USD
- ♦ 3313 Blur, H. Emin, 3 floors, land - 550 sq.m, building - 450 sq.m, capitally repaired, furnished, 6 bedrooms. Price: 1 600 000 USD
- ♦ 2916. Ashtarak highway, village Nazrvan. 3 storied building. Land 3500 sq.m., building 760 sq.m., euro repair, 3 tiled lavatories, a sauna, billiard, permanent hot and cold water, gas, heating system, garden, pool, garage. The building is ramparted. Price 50000 USD

### NEWLY BUILT

- ♦ 74. Cascade, Verin Antarayin. electricity, water, gas, euro window, drywall, no exploitation fees, parking - 15.000 USD. 136-315 sq.m. 1 sq m - 1200 USD
- ♦ 107. Monument, Verin Antarayin. inhabited, 8th floor cockloft, gas, window, street view -1 sq m -1000 USD, city looking - 1 sq m -1500 USD, parking - 4 million preliminary. price: started from 40 sq m
- ♦ 100. Leo str. half basement parking, 1st floor - shops, 2nd floor - office spaces, elevator, equipped kitchen, central heating, water, height - 2.80 m, beautiful view, will be ready to for use at the end of 2013. 60-300 sq m. 16 floors
- ♦ 87. Sayat-Nova street, newly built building Given to the operation in December 2012. Climate control, gas, the fasad sector has 3 bedrooms-188 sq.m, 199 sq.m, 1 sq.m- 1900 USD, 2 bedrooms have a beautiful sight- 117 sq.m, 120 sq.m, 124 sq.m, 1 sq.m-1700 USD Price: 1 sq.m- 1900-1700 USD
- ♦ 93. Kievyan street, newly built building Given to the operation in October 2011, gajats, windows, exterior doors, h -3, 15 m, gas supply, the second floor has a parking lot, parking is possible for sale. Price 12 000 USD possible with mortgage, for 13 years term
- ♦ 94. Masiv. Newly built, , coupling, 8 flats, in each cot-



tege 4 flats, total-2000 sq.m, each flat has 2 stories, 3 bedrooms, 210 sq.m., parking: 80 sq.m. Price: 160 000 USD

### FOR RENT

#### 1 ROOMS

- ♦ 1005. Lalayanc str., 11/5, 1room changed into 2, euro repaired, furniture, permanent hot and cold water, gas, AC, spanish tiles, technique. Price 600USD per month, 40USD per day
- ♦ 853. Amiryran street, 10/7. 1 turned into 2, 50 sq.m., euro repair, Italian furniture, bed, utensil, techniques, permanent water, gas, antenna, Baxy system. Price 700 USD, 50 USD per day

#### 2 ROOMS

- ♦ 2037. Baghramyan str., 5/2, 60sqm, 1 bedroom, euro repaired, modern furniture, spanish tiles, permanent hot and cold water, gas, baxi, AC, technique. Price 100USD per day
- ♦ 2189 Vardanants str, 24/12, 1 bedroom, newly built, 90 sqm, repaired, furnished, with elevator. Price: 450 000 AMD
- ♦ 1961. Tumanian street, 4/2, 86sq.m., 1 bedroom, Euro repair, Euro windows, Furnished, permanent hot and cold water. Price: 1200 USD, 1day: 70USD
- ♦ 2186 Buzand str, 7th floor, 2 rooms, newly built, euro repaired, furnished, equipped, internet, security system, permanent hot and cold water, gas, heating system, underground parking, beautiful view. Price: 900 USD, 20 000 AMD per day.
- ♦ 2099. Sayat-Nova Ave., 12/6, 2 rooms, all the conveniences, repaired, furnished, water, gas, Baxi heating system, AC, washing machine. Price: 220.000 AMD, per day - 50\$

#### 3 ROOMS AND MORE

- ♦ 2087 Norhen Ave., 9.5, 3 rooms, 2 bedrooms, newly built, 120 sq.m, capitally repaired, , 2200 USD
- ♦ 2021 Teryan Str, building 8, 9/8,9 4 bedrooms, newly built, 245 sq.m, capitally repaired, euro doors and windows, not inhabited,3 bathrooms, 2 halls, heating system.Preliminary price: 3500 USD
- ♦ 2043 Saryan Str., 24 appt 8/2 3 bedrooms,147 sq.m, 2 bathrooms, tiled floors, AC, heating system. Price: 1200 USD
- ♦ 2005. Northern Ave., 8/8, 3 bedrooms, newly built, 130 sq.m, repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2200 USD
- ♦ 1998 Buzand Str., 9/6 3 bedrooms, newly built, 130 sq.m, repaired, furnished, equipped, AC, water, gas, heating, view to Republic Square, parking, no service fee. Price: 2500 USD
- ♦ 2008 Komitas, Vagharshyan Str., 7/3, 3 bedrooms, newly built, capitally repaired, furnished, heating, 2 bathrooms. Price: 2000 USD
- ♦ 1739. Pushkin str. 6/5, 3 bedrooms, newly built, capitally repaired,2 bathrooms, parking, price: 1600 USD
- ♦ 1723. Northern Ave. 8/4. 3 bedrooms, 170 sq.m., 3 bedrooms,3 bathrooms, newly built, repaired, furnished, open kitchen, Falkon system. Price: 2000 USD
- ♦ 1942. Teryan str., 4/2. 3 bedrooms, 120 sq.m, repaired, furnished kitchen, washing machine, AC, 2 bathrooms, open balcony. Price: 1200 USD
- ♦ 942. Teryan str. 4/3. 2 bedrooms, 130 sq.m, concrete, Hgt. 3.50, loggia-2, tile/ital., renovation. Price: 1500 USD
- ♦ 1969. Amiryran str, 12/11. 3 bedrooms, newly built, 180 sq.m, capitally repaired, furnished, 2 bathrooms, Baxi heating system installed, climate control. Price: 1700 USD
- ♦ 1967. Pushkin str., 8/6. 2 bedrooms, newly built, 130 sq.m, capitally repaired, furnished. Price: 2000 USD
- ♦ 1966. Ekmalyan str., 10/5. 3 bedrooms, newly built, 170 sq.m, capitally repaired, furnished, 2 bathrooms, Baxi heating system installed. Price: 1300 USD
- ♦ 1951. Buzand/Mashtots crossroad. /13. 2 bedrooms, newly built, 122 sq.m, capitally repaired, 2 bathrooms, furnished, heating system, climate control, usage fee included. Price: 2000 USD
- ♦ 1950. Buzand/Mashtots crossroad. /8. 2 bedrooms, newly built, 163 sq.m, capitally repaired, 2 bathrooms, furnished, heating system, climate control, open bal-

cony, view to the garden, usage fee included. Price: 2500 USD

- ♦ 1981. Vardanants Str., 14/14, 3 bedrooms, newly built, 140 sq m, recently capitally repaired, furnished, equipped, AC, 2 bathrooms, 3 open balconies, heating system, beautiful view, parking. Price: 1700 USD
- ♦ 1681 Northern Ave., 6/2 2 bedrooms, 130 sq m, repaired, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, euro windows, AC, permanent hot and cold water, gas, parking. Price: 2000 USD
- ♦ 1793. Teryan street. 260 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 3 lavatories, capital repair, climat control, parking, unfurnished (possible to furnish), newly built Price: 3500 USD
- ♦ 1564. Tumanyan street, 7/4. 110 sq.m., euro repaire, 2 lavatories, Spanish tyles, permanent hot and cold water, gas, Baxi system, satellite, modern furniture, techniques, garage. Price 1200 USD.
- ♦ 1720. Amiryan Street., 18/10, 2 bedrooms, 190 sq/m, newly built, euro windows, permanent hot and cold water, gas, central heating, 2 open balcony, nice view to the city, possible with or without furniture, parking for 3 cars. Price 3000USD per month negotiable, for long term - 6 months and more.

### PRIVATE HOUSES

- ♦ 1191 Aygestan, 2 floors, land 350-400 sqm, building - 270 sqm, 1st floor - living-room, kitchen, study. 2-nd floor - 4 bedrooms, bathroom, storage room, partly furnished, summer garden, garage, swimming- pool. Starting Price: 3500 USD.
- ♦ 1248 Aygedzor, 3 floors, land - 1021 sq m , building - 501 sq m, built in 2008. 1st floor - garage, bathroom, boiler room, 2nd floor - living-room, kitchen, bathroom, 1 bedroom with a bathroom, big hall, balcony, 3rd floor - 4 bedrooms one of which is with a bathroom, balcony. Garden - summer kitchen, swimming pool - half-repaired, entrance from 2 sides, alarming system, security system, gas, central heating, AC, garden house. Price: 8000 USD
- ♦ 1218. Cascade, freeway. 3700 sq m, 3 floors brick building - 1490 sq m, capitally repaired, walls - otto chento, 5 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, heating, gas, Price: 12.00 USD
- ♦ 999. Aygedzor 1st lane, Land -1000 sqm, basement + 2 floors- 310 sqm, capitally repaired, 4 bedrooms, living room, hall, 4 bathrooms, new furniture, equipped, 3 AC, Baxi, sauna, swimming-pool, house garden, barbeque equipment. Starting Price: 5000 USD
- ♦ 1094. Noy block, 2 storied building - 400sqm, garden, permanent hot and cold water, furniture, technique, 1 lavatory, gas. Price 2000USD
- ♦ 1095. Aygestan, 1 storied building - 105sqm, 3bedrooms newly built repaired, furniture, technique 1 lavatory, garden. Price 1000USD per month, 100USD per day.
- ♦ 1096. Blur, 4 storied building, each floor-160sqm, total-400sqm, euro repaired, 1st floor- garage, sport room, swimming pool, 4 bedrooms, summer kitchen, 3 lavatories, capitally repaired, furnished, gas, permanent hot and cold water. Price 4000USD
- ♦ 1152. Baghramyan, 3 floors, land - 800 sq.m, each floor - 200 sq.m, 10 rooms, 7 bathrooms, newly capitally repaired, furnished, equipped, AC, 3 TV, heating system, garage. Price: 3000 USD
- ♦ 1197. Blur str, 2 floors, land -779 sqm, building-720 sqm, first floor from the yard, basement on the street side, swimming-pool, sauna, living room, 1st floor - hall, study, dining room, 2 bathrooms, 2nd floor -4 bedrooms, 1 study, 4 bathrooms, barn, no furniture. Price 8000 USD
- ♦ 1096. Blur, Qeru, 5 floors, each floor 160 sqm, land-400 sqm, euro repaired,1st floor-gym, garage, 3rd floor-4 bedrooms, open balcony, nice view, summer kitchen, fireplace, swimming-pool, 5 bathrooms, Jacuzzi. Price: 4000 USD
- ♦ 674. Antarayin Str., newly built, 4 floors,320 sq m, euro repaired, 4 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, shower cabin, heating system, furnished. Price: 4000 USD
- ♦ 721. Blur Qery street, land 150 sq.m., 2 stories+ a cellar, 200 sq.m., newly built, telephone, refrigerator, washing machine, 3 bedrooms, garage, 2 lavatories, a pool, camin, permanent hot and cold water, a cellar is used as a sport hall. Price : 3000 USD
- ♦ 1117. Aygestan, land-420 sq.m., building 646 sq.m., 3 storied, 4 bedrooms, open kitchen, euro repair, new tiles, furnished, techniques. Price" 5000 USD
- ♦ 1195. Nork, Armenakyan str, 4 floors, land - 2000 sqm, building-520 sqm, capitally repaired, furnished,

- basement, 1st floor-1 living room, study, kitchen, bath-room, living room, swimming-pool, sauna, 2nd floor - 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3rd floor - open balcony, 1 bedroom, bathroom, gym, garden. Price: negotiable
- ♦ 1142. Dirvej, Bagrevand community. 3 storied, land-1000 sq.m., building-700 sq.m., 1st floor-cellar, pantry, playing room, kitchen, lavatory, 2nd floor- a big hall, kitchen, dining room, 4 bedrooms, 3rd floor- resting room, 1 bedroom repaired, each bedroom has its lavatory, no furniture/ can be furnished, if necessary/garage for 2 cars, parquet, Spanish tiles. Price: 4 000 USD.
- ♦ 1114. Gulakyan Str. in parallel with Baghramyan Str. 3 storied building 500 sq.m., euro repair, 1st floor: sauna, a pool, kitchen, 2nd floor: kitchen, dining room, 3rd floor 3 bedrooms, lavatories in each floor. Price: 3300 USD
- ♦ 1190. Aygestan str, 3 floors, capitally repaired, furnished. Starting Price: 5000 USD
- ♦ 1203. Blur, H. Emin str, 3 floors, land - 550 sqm, building-450 sqm, capitally repaired, furnished. Starting Price: 6000 USD.
- ♦ 1219. Monument, Aram Cholakyan str, 3 floors, land - 800 sqm, building - 300 sqm, newly capitally repaired, partly furnished, euro windows and doors, 1st floor - 2 rooms, garage, 2nd floor - 1 bedroom, 2 rooms, 2 kitchens, 2 bathroom, 3rd floor- 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, water, gas, heating system. Starting Price: 5000 USD
- ♦ 1085. Aygestan district. 2 storied stone building, land 500 sq.m., each floor 12 X 14, 3 bedrooms, a cabinet, 3 lavatories, a cellar, a sauna, kitchen with cupboards, Baxi system, AC. Price 3000 USD
- ♦ 1139. Komitas, Sundukyan street, 2 stories, stone building, land : 700 sq.m, each floor 185 sq.m, 4 bedrooms, cellar 185 sq.m. , capital repair, Baxi system, swimming pool, a place for barbeque, 2 lavatories, garden, 1 cabinet. Price: 3000 USD
- ♦ 333. Nork, 3 storied, 250sq.m, euro repair, 4 bedrooms,7 lavatory, permanent hot and cold water, central heating, natural gas, garden, pool. Price negotiable.
- ♦ 1014. Norq Marsh district. 2 storied, a cellar, capitally repaired, land 567sq.m., building 551 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 1 cabinet, furnished, a heating system. Price 2500 USD primary.
- ♦ 1076. Nork, 2 storied, 220 sq.m., euro repair, in the 1st floor 2 rooms, kitchen, lavatory, in the second floor, separate entrance, open kitchen, 3 bedrooms, lavatory, furnished, view to city, garage, garden. Price: 2000USD
- ♦ 990. In Monument, Papazian street, 2 storied stone building + half-cellar, has mansard,5bedrooms, 2 kitchens, 2bathrooms, laundry, permanent hot and cold water, gas, plot of land 250sq.m, the size of whole construction is 370 sq.m. Price 2500USD

### PREMISES

- ♦ 1694. Komitas, H. Qochar str, newly built, vitrines, front 20 m, 196 sq m, Price: 3500 USD
- ♦ 1693. Malatia-Sebastia, 4th floor., repaired, stone building, 2 entries, no artificial walls separating the territory, dimate control, 2 elevators, storage space at the ground floor, parking, two-sided parking in the street. 1200 sq.m. Price: 10.000 USD
- ♦ 1525. Hamrapetutyran street, 1st floor, 3steps up, h-3.20m, repaired, 1 large hall+3 rooms, 2 entrances, kithen, lavatory. Price 1400USD per month, negotiable.
- ♦ 1526. Byuzand street, 5/semi-basement, 170sqm, 4-5 step down. cellar-50sqm, has 6 rooms, the largest is 30sqm. 2 entrances, 2 lavatories, 6 windows from street side. Price 2000USD per month, negotiable.
- ♦ 1528. North Avenue, 9/1, 2 floors, total area 159sqm, 1st floor-66sqm, 2nd floor 93sqm, newly built, euro repaired, has the entrance from the street, security system, heating system. Price 7500USD per month.
- ♦ 1482. North Avenue, 210 sq.m., 1st floor, with 2 floors, h=8m. Price 10.000 USD
- ♦ 1408. Zarobyan street, parallel to Baghramyan, 2 storied, 300sq.m.construction, 600 sq.m. land, in a first floor hall and kitchen, in a second floor 5 rooms, bathroom, open balcony, capital euro repair, gas, baxi system, permanent hot and cold water, telephone, garage, fruit garden. Price: Negotiable.
- ♦ 1438. Komitas, 6 floors, cellar, mansard. Each floor is 120 sq.m., hasa need for cosmetic repair, walls are plastered, floor is leveled, hanging ceilings, permanent hot and cold water, gas, parking for 15 cars. Price: Negotiable
- ♦ 1462. Teryan street, 3 storied, capital repaired, AC, capital repaired, parking, 800sq. Price: 10.000USD

## Zodiac Weekly Forecast

**Aries (Mar. 20--Apr. 19) :**

You are thinking fast and the wheels are rolling forward in your love and personal life. Last week's adjustment may have been just what the doctor ordered. Others like your ideas and want to help you manifest them. This is a good time to study any material because your thoughts are flowing.

**Taurus (Apr. 20--May 19) :**

Now is a good time to take a creative look at your life. You have a desire to experience that which is beautiful. Perhaps you would like to paint, write, play music, or enjoy another endeavor. Words and prose flow like a stream. Give some time to the muse who is encouraging you to relax and allow the creative juices to flow.

**Gemini (May 20 -- June 20) :**

This is not your smoothest week. Details may nag your mind and your time like pecking ducks. You and significant others are not having the best of communications right now. You may be in the mood to nit-pick others. Probably you will feel generally better if you work alone.

**Cancer (June 21--Jul y 21) :**

You may be dealing with issues concerning your estate. Something is pressuring you to decide upon what to leave to your children or others. The conflicts are concerned with feelings versus what you believe to be "right". You want to plan distribution with equity, yet you have other, more sentimental, factors that challenge the brew. Take your time.

**Leo (July 22 --Aug. 21) :**

You may feel out of sorts this week. Your feelings are in conflict with your ideal self and your values. You want to put your best foot forward, but circumstances do not feel quite right. If the conflict is deep, it is usually best to wait and not yield to whatever pressure is around you. You will sort it all out if you give yourself some time.

**Virgo (Aug 22--Sep. 22) :**

Your power of concentration is deep at this time. It is important that you use it for the good in your life rather than in self-criticism and obstructive thinking. If you cannot stop the negative self-talk, then focus on something else that is totally neutral. Walk the dog. Wash

dishes. Move your body in order to shift away from negative thoughts.

**Libra (Sep. 23--Oct. 22) :**

This is a particularly creative time for you. The muse is at your side. Words or things of beauty flow freely to your consciousness. Children and lovers are also pleasurable. There may be so many free flowing "goodies" around that it is a challenge to know which to pick. Writing or journaling is particularly recommended.

**Scorpio (Oct. 23--Nov. 21) :**

A creative idea has recently occurred to you. It may have to do with going backward and starting over in some area of your history. If you need resources to help, they may be available, particularly from family members. Children may be a pleasure this week, especially around the 24th.

**Sagittarius (Nov. 22 --Dec. 20) :**

You are likely working toward a major project to be unveiled within the next couple of weeks. It is truly important that your objective is good for many and serves a spiritual purpose of some kind that is greater than the mundane materialization of money or expansion of someone's ego. Otherwise it is may be foiled.

**Capricorn ( Dec 21 -- Jan 19) :**

This is a good week to concentrate on a challenging mental project. It will work better for you if you are revising, editing, or itemizing details. If you are producing a creative work, you are likely to be overly critical of the outcome. The Critic may advise, but it should not be allowed to condemn your efforts.

**Aquarius (Jan. 20--Feb. 17) :**

The sun returned "home" to your sign last week. Now is the time to focus on new plans for this next year of your life. Take a fresh look at where you want to direct your energy. There are green lights around education, philosophy, publishing, and legal matters.

**Pisces (Feb. 18--Mar. 19) :**

This is a week to continue with your recently begun creative work. You are bringing a manifestation of the spirit into the world of the material and this requires concentration of much of your energy. Don't let up now.

## ARMENIAN POETRY

**Mihran Damadian  
(1863 - 1945)****THE IMPRISONED REVOLUTIONIST.**

REJOICE! Another revolutionist,  
Turk, you have caught and in your prison pent.  
I too have fallen a victim to your wrath;  
But know, O tyrant, that I am content.  
This is that dungeon, terrible and dark,  
To which in bonds your cruel hand, blood red,  
Brought many another like me; but of them  
Even the awful prison stood in dread.  
Their hearts were dauntless and their wills of iron,  
Their souls invincible by any foes.  
You swallowed them, but straightway from their  
bones  
Against you new avengers there arose.  
Into this dungeon Greeks and Servians  
Entered, and divers torments they passed through,  
And Montenegrins, poor Bulgarians—  
But now with pride they all boast over you.  
I kiss this rusty chain, with which you bound  
Those heroes, who defied your utmost powers;  
Whole nations have been ransomed by their blood.  
Tremble, O tyrant! Future days are ours.  
From the black clouds the lightning flashes out;  
Even the cold flint gives forth fire; at mom  
In the dark heavens the glorious sun doth rise;  
And from his mother's pangs the child is born.  
So shall the future's joy and melody  
Come from our present sighs and tears and pains.  
Against you a whole nation shall arise,  
Roused by the clanking of our bloody chains.  
I enter prison gladly, kiss my chains,  
Embrace the darkness with its chilling breath.  
Better the gallows is than your base yoke,  
And revolutionists can sport with death.  
But you, O tyrant, wherefore do you quake,  
You, brave and mighty? Are you terrified  
Lest you should not forget my death? Why fear  
When you have thrust your sword into my side?  
But no—methinks that you at last have felt  
Your persecutions will be futile all;  
And that, despite your efforts, in the end  
The Armenian nation will be freed from thrall.  
Then what to me is prison, torture, chains?  
"Long live Armenia!" my last sigh shall be.  
What care I even for death? By this my death  
The martyr nation shall at last be free!



# WHAT? WHEN? WHERE?

## Enjoy your leisure

### 30 January

19:00 It Doesn't Matter With Whom. Original "Butterflies Are Free" by Leonard Gershe. Director Lusine Yernjakyan Yerevan State Chamber Theatre  
 21:00 Jazz Trio (Soloist Aghvan) Malkhas Jazz Club  
 21:00 Forsh & friends Stop Music Club

### 31 January

19:00 Armenian National song and dance open night. Karin folk ensemble

Naregatsi Art Institute  
 19:00 It Doesn't Matter With Whom. Original "Butterflies Are Free" by Leonard Gershe. Director Lusine Yernjakyan Yerevan State Chamber Theatre  
 20:00 Carahunge 80's Pub  
 21:00 Vostan Hayots Stop Music Club

### 1 February

19:00 Ah, Anna, Anna, or Passion Sunday, Marc Camoletti. Romantic comedy in 2 acts H. Ghaplanyan Drama Theatre  
 19:00 Aunt from Paris. Comedy H. Tumanyan State Puppet Theatre

21:00 Group Fiesta (Soloist Sona) Malkhas Jazz Club

### 2 February

19:00 The Last Clown. B. Slade. Comedy in 2 acts H. Ghaplanyan Drama Theatre  
 21:00 Vahagn Hayrapetyan Jazz Trio Malkhas Jazz Club

### 3 February

21:00 Group Remino and Forsh Malkhas Jazz Club

### 4 February

21:00 Jazz quartet (Soloist Zara) Malkhas Jazz Club

### 5 February

21:00 Crossroads Blues Band (Soloist Amiryan Misho) Malkhas Jazz Club

### 6 February

21:00 Jazz Trio (Soloist Aghvan) Malkhas Jazz Club

### 7 February

19:00 On the 44 degree. A. Simonyan (Based on T. Hayrapetyan story) Hamazgayin Theatre  
 19:00 Musical Love Bridge. Art Team and Sharm Holding H. Paronyan State Theatre of Musical Comedy

### 8 February

19:00 On the 44 degree. A. Simonyan (Based on T. Hayrapetyan story) Hamazgayin Theatre  
 19:00 Mama Mia. K. Ludwig. Comedy in 2 act H. Ghaplanyan Drama Theatre  
 19:00 Cherchez la femme. By Aldo Nikolai H. Tumanyan State Puppet Theatre  
 19:00 Musical Love Bridge. Art Team and Sharm Holding H. Paronyan State Theatre of Musical Comedy  
 21:00 Group Fiesta (Soloist Sona) Malkhas Jazz Club  
 Vahagn Hayrapetyan Jazz Trio Malkhas Jazz Club

ՓԱՌԱՏՈՐԸ ԱՆՅԿԱՅՎՈՒՄ Է ՀՀ ՆԱԽԱԳԱՀ ՍԵՐՃ ՍԱՐԳՍՅԱՆԻ ԲԱՐՁՐ ՀՈՎԱՆՈՒ ՆԵՐՈՒ  
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**YEREVAN PERSPECTIVES**  
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 ARTISTIC DIRECTOR/COMPOSER  
 STEPAN ROSTOMYAN

ՀՀ ԱՆՍՏՈՒՅՈՒՆ ԱՆՔՆԱԿՈՒՅԻՆ  
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**2**  
 ՓԵՏՐՎԱՐԻ  
**FEBRUARY**  
**19:30**  
 ԱՐԱՄ ԽԱՇԱՏՐՅԱՆ  
 ՀԱՄԵՐԳԱՄԱՐԿ  
 ARAM KHACHATURIAN  
 CONCERT HALL

ՄԵՆԱՀԱՄԵՐԳ / RECITAL  
**YELENA BASHKIROVA**  
 ԵԼԵՆԱ ԲԱՇԿԻՐՈՎԱ  
 PIANO  
 ԴԱՇԵՆԱՍՈՐԻ

IN PROGRAM:  
 ՇՐՈՎՈՒՄ

<b>F. LISZT</b> Vallee D'Obermann from "Années de pèlerinage"	<b>F. LISZT</b> 2 Légendes S. 175 (Légende 1)	<b>I. ALBÉNIZ</b> Cantos de España op. 232	<b>G. ÜSTWOLSKAYA</b> Sonata for piano No 5	<b>P. TSCHAIKOVSKY</b> "The Seasons" op. 37 b
<b>S. LHUS</b> «Օրերմանի դասակարգ» «Ուլեսանդայուսյան արիներ» արիից	<b>S. LHUS</b> 2 (Եգինդ 178 (Եգինդ 1)	<b>Ի. ԱԼԵՆԻՆ</b> «Ուրալեյի երգեր», օֆ. 232	<b>Գ. ՈՍՏՎՈՆՍԿԱՅԱ</b> «Սոնատ դասամուրի համար» քիվ 5	<b>Պ. ՉԱՅԿՈՎՍԿԻ</b> «Տարվա եղանակներ» օֆ. 37 բ

ROYAL TULIP  
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