

massis Weekly

Volume 34, No. 6

Saturday, February 22, 2014

NKR President: Settlement Impossible Without Artsakh's Participation in all Stages of Talks



STEPANAKERT -- On 19 February President of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic Bako Sahakyan visited the NKR Foreign Ministry and partook in a consultation summing up the activities of the structure in 2013 and outlining the 2014 action plan.

Foreign Minister Karen Mirzoyan, representatives of the Ministry's different departments delivered corresponding reports.

The President noted in his speech that Artsakh Republic would further conduct comprehensive, balanced foreign policy based on complementarity with influential states and power centers.

According to Bako Sahakyan the destructive policy of Baku is the biggest hindrance on the way of the Azerbaijani-Karabakh conflict settlement, which also threatens maintenance of regional peace and stability.

Referring to the peaceful settlement process, President Sahakyan underlined that the NKR would be consis-

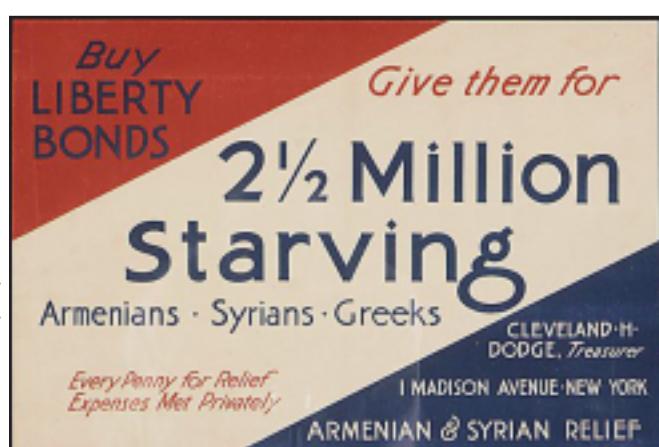
tent in activities towards restoring the full-fledged negotiation format, making it clear that comprehensive settlement of the Azerbaijani-Karabakh conflict would be impossible to achieve without full participation of the official Stepanakert at all stages of the negotiations.

Touching upon the international recognition process of the Artsakh Republic the President noted there positive developments, adding that it's both inspiring and binding. It's inspiring because it demonstrates that recognition process of Artsakh Republic is moving forward and testifying that Artsakh is a full-fledged democratic state and at the same time laying foundations for the republic's international recognition. It's binding because the positive dynamics needs to be maintained in the future.

President Sahakyan gave corresponding instructions for the efficient organization of activities, elimination of shortcomings inside the foreign ministry, adding that the state in its turn would do

Rep. Schiff to Host Capitol Hill Event Honoring America's Relief Efforts to Victims of Armenian Genocide

WASHINGTON, DC -- On March 3, Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA), a lead sponsor of the Armenian Genocide Truth and Justice Resolution (H.Res.227), will host a Capitol Hill event honoring America's relief efforts to the victims of the Armenian Genocide, a campaign that helped launch a century of unparalleled U.S. leadership in meeting humanitarian needs around the world. This event will serve to educate Capitol Hill lawmakers, staff and the community about America's efforts to help Armenians after they were targeted for genocide, and the continuing need to provide relief to those suffering around the globe.



compassion for the victims of the Armenian Genocide is perhaps best symbolized by the Armenian Orphan Rug, a work of art crafted by young survivors and gifted to the White House by the Near East Relief – a charitable organization inspired by President Wil-

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Turkish FM Denies Possible Opening of Armenia Border

BAKU -- Turkey's foreign minister has ruled out the possibility of opening his country's border with Armenia, citing the unresolved Nagorno-Karabakh conflict as a major impediment to such a move.

Ahmet Davutoglu dismissed the reports about a progress in the Turkey-Armenia relations at a news conference held after the meeting with his Georgian and Azerbaijani counterparts in Baku, the APA News Agency reported.

"Turkey's position is clear; there is no change. The border with Armenia will not open unless the Karabakh conflict is resolved," he was quoted as saying.

Frozen conflicts are an obstacle to establishment of peace in the Caucasus, Turkish Foreign Minister

Ahmet Davutoglu said to reporters.

He said that all parties must do their utmost to resolve the frozen conflicts.

Meanwhile, political analyst Mubariz Ahmedoglu slammed the OSCE Minsk Group mediation efforts, with 4 fundamental documents for peaceful settlement as the only merit of their 22 years of work, Novost-Azerbaijan reported.

"Currently, the Co-chairs are unable to either offer a new concept for peaceful settlement or even defend the ones offered by their more successful predecessors," Ahmedoglu said.

He went on to criticize the activity of the U.S. Co-chair James Warlick as "unbalanced and stupid," with the latter "having taken no effort to study the history of the conflict."

Remembering Gurgen Margaryan: 10 Years After the Brutal Murder



YEREVAN -- Armenian Defense Minister Seyran Ohanyan and other High-ranking military officials paid tribute today to the memory of Armenian Officer Gurgen Margaryan, who was brutally killed by Azerbaijani Ramil Safarov during NATO-sponsored English language courses in Budapest.

"Ten years have passed, and we have come here to pay tribute to the Armenian Officer. He was killed only for being Armenian, and the murderer has confessed he had been prepared to kill an Armenian," Seyran Ohanyan said.

The Defense Minister also visited Yerablur Pantheon and laid flowers at Gurgen Margaryan's grave. Later he visited Margaryan's family and talked to his parents.

On this occasion the "Azerbaijan: Crime and Racism without Borders" video-footage in Russian and English has been released as part of the "Common Genocide" project."

The film presents the story of the brutal murder, the axe-killer's extradition to Azerbaijan and his glorification. The Hungarian version of the video

will be posted on the web in the near future. The "Common Genocide" project is being realized by the Public Relations and Information Department of the President's Staff.

On February 19, 2004 Lieutenant of the Armenian Armed Forces Gurgen Margaryan was hacked to death, while asleep, by a fellow Azerbaijani participant, Lieutenant Ramil Safarov, in Budapest during a three-month English language course in the framework of NATO-sponsored Partnership for Peace program.

In 2006, Safarov was sentenced to life imprisonment in Hungary with a minimum incarceration period of 30 years. He was extradited on August 31, 2012 to Azerbaijan where he was greeted as a hero, pardoned by Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev despite contrary assurances made to Hungary, promoted to the rank of major and given an apartment and over eight years of back pay.

Following Safarov's pardon, Armenia severed diplomatic relations with Hungary.

Armenia to Open Consulate General in Erbil



BAGHDAD -- Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian has paid an official visit to Iraq on February 16-17.

During the official visit, Minister Nalbandian met with Iraq's Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki and his Iraqi counterpart Hoshiar Zebari..

Greeting the Armenian Foreign Minister, the PM said his country was interested in the deepening of cooperation with Armenia in all possible domains. Minister Nalbandian, in turn, hailed the centuries-old relations between the two friendly nations and states and added that his visit was aimed at the further development of ties.

The interlocutors discussed issues related to the expansion of the legal framework, promotion of coop-

eration in the fields of trade, education, healthcare, agriculture and others, establishment of direct air communication between Armenia and Iraq and the activity of the Inter-Governmental Commission.

The Armenian Foreign Minister informed the Iraqi PM about the intention to open the Consulate General of Armenia in the city of Erbil. He also presented the Armenian Government's decision to ease visa requirements for Iraqi citizens, voicing hope that it will help intensify the business ties.

Speaking about the Armenian community of Iraq, the Prime Minister said: "Armenians have worked and created here for centuries. Despite the hard conditions, the Iraqi Armenians continue to work for the sake of Iraq's prosperity."

Armenian MOD: Azerbaijan Violates Olympic Truce

YEREVAN (Armradio.am) -- "The subdivisions of the Azerbaijani armed forces continue firing in the direction of the Armenian positions and settlements, ignoring the calls of the international community and particularly the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs to observe the ceasefire, especially during the Winter Olympics in Sochi," the Armenian Ministry of Defense said in a statement.

"This gives ground to conclude that the actions of the Azerbaijani armed forces are either not controlled by the command, or this provocation is targeted at destabilizing the situation at the line of contact," the statement reads.

The Azerbaijani side has violated

the ceasefire a number of times over the past days, opening irregular fire mostly at the line of contact with NKR forces, the Ministry said. "The Armenian armed forces confidently control the situation all along the line of contact, strictly observing the ceasefire regime and will take response actions only in case of targeted shots on the part of the rival."

As for the allegations of the Azerbaijani propaganda machine, claiming that the Armenian side violates the ceasefire regime at different parts of the line of contact, the ministry said "the dissemination of misinformation is a nasty attempt to mislead the international community and its own people."

Armenian Church Opposes Recent ECHR Ruling on Genocide Denial Case

His Holiness Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, has sent his written concerns regarding the unacceptable ruling issued on December 17, 2013, by the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) on the lawsuit of Dogu Perinçek v. Switzerland. Perinçek, a Turkish political activist, was convicted under Switzerland's hate speech law for publicly challenging the legal characterization of the Armenian genocide, calling it "an international lie" and had lost all appeals in Switzerland, eventually appealing to the ECHR.

His Holiness has dispatched a

letter to Mr. Dider Bulkarter, President of the Swiss Confederation, expressing rejection of the decision, on behalf of the Armenian Church and all Armenians dispersed throughout the world, in response to the shocking ruling by the ECHR. His Holiness conveyed that the ruling was a threat against establishing justice in the case of genocide crimes, and creating peace and mutual respect among nations. Supporting universal rejection on this matter, the Catholicos of All Armenians has addressed and exhorted the Swiss Government, particularly the Ministry of Justice, to make an appeal

SARF Lecture on the Syrian Armenian Crisis at Diocese Raises \$30,000



BURBANK -- The Executive Committee of the Syrian Armenian Relief Fund (SARF) provided an opportunity to the public to learn about the situation facing the Syrian Armenians by taking advantage of visits by Bishop Armash Nalbandian from Damascus and Dr. Krikor Adanalian from Aleppo. The lecture was held on February 10, 2014, at the Western Diocese Kalaydjian Hall in Burbank, California.

The event, emceed by Executive Committee Secretary Sona Madarian, started with a slide show depicting the deteriorating living conditions of the Armenian community due to the ongoing destruction in Aleppo. The background music "Der Vogormia" (God Beseech Us) set the somber mood.

Dr. Krikor Adanalian from Aleppo presented an analytical evaluation of the history of the ancient Armenian community in Syria, the role of politics in the ongoing chaotic situation and the socio-economic hardships being endured by the community. He praised the unity, perseverance, and resilience of the Armenian community under the capable and bold leadership of the Prelate, Archbishop Shahan Sarkissian. Dr. Adanalian praised the Diaspora communities for extending a hand and concluded his message with optimism for the future.

The Primate of the Armenian Church Diocese of Damascus, Bishop Armash Nalbandian gave a general overview of the current situation and the medical, educational, and financial assistance being provided by Armenian churches, political parties, and humanitarian organizations working together through the Syrian Armenian Committee for Urgent Relief and Rehabilitation, which disperses the assistance received from the Diaspora in an integrated fashion. His Grace reported the number of Armenian casualties, injuries, and damage to churches and national institutions, in addition to thanking the Diaspora communities for their support. Bishop Nalbandian had accompanied leaders of

against this case. His Holiness Karekin II has urged all the people and nations of good will to express their positions regarding this case against Genocide denial for eradicating discrimination and intolerance and preventing crimes against humanity.

The Catholicos of All Armenians has also sent an official letter to Rev. Dr. Olve Fyske Tveit, General Secre-

Catholic, Coptic and Syriac Churches to Washington DC, where he met with US Senators to discuss the crisis faced by Christian minorities in Syria.

SARF Executive Committee Chairperson Zaven Khanjian called on the Armenian people to collectively continue their assistance and aid to Syrian Armenians, to sustain the survival of the "Mother Diaspora" community.

Prelate Archbp. Moushegh Mardirossian thanked the organizing committee and commended the keynote speakers. Recalling his recent visit to Lebanon to meetings at the Catholicosate presided over by His Holiness Aram I, the Prelate noted that great emphasis was given to the crisis in Syria and that meeting participants directly communicated with Arch. Shahan Sarkissian, Prelate of Aleppo, to receive first hand information on the situation. The Prelate stated that after hearing the reports of the evening's speakers, and witnessing the Syrian-Armenian community's spirit of determination and strong faith, "we leave here hopeful and renewed in our commitment to continue our ongoing support."

Diocesan Primate Archbp. Hovnan Derderian, who had envisioned the program and graciously provided the facilities for the event, called upon the faithful to act according to the teachings of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and to extend a helping hand to Armenians in dire need. "Let us heed to our sacred Christian values and give to those who seek food and shelter," said His Eminence. "Let our Christian spirit be reflected through our generosity," he added.

The clergy, which included representatives of the Minister to the Union, Rev. Joseph D. Matossian of the Armenian Evangelical Union, and representatives of the Armenian Catholic Eparchy and Apostolic Churches, collectively prayed and blessed the gathering.

The program moved so many hearts that over \$30,000 was raised. A delightful reception, organized by St. Leon Armenian Cathedral's Ladies Guild, was held after the event.

tary of the World Council of Churches, detailing the facts and legal analysis of the case, and encouraging the member Churches to raise their voices against this unfortunate decision, lending their support in encouraging Switzerland to appeal this decision. His Holiness additionally sent a letter to Bishop Markus Büchel, President of the Conference of Bishops of Switzerland.

"Armenia, Auschwitz and Beyond" at American Jewish University



BEL AIR -- Recognizing the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, and in conjunction with the 44th Annual Scholars' Conference on the Holocaust and the Churches, a special program, Armenia, Auschwitz and Beyond, will be presented Monday evening, March 10, 2014, on the Familian Campus of the American Jewish University, 15600 Mulholland Drive, in Bel Air. The Program begins at 7:30 p.m. and is open to the Public, with the entire community invited. Admission is free but reservations are required – please call 310/440.1279. The Program will be held at the Gindi Auditorium in the Main Building (Ziegler Administration Building) with adjacent complimentary parking available using the Lot 1 entrance.

The Program's featured speakers are Professor Richard Hovannisian, University of California, Los Angeles, Stephen Smith, University of Southern California, and Professor Michael Berenbaum, American Jewish University. Dr. Richard Hovannisian is Professor of Modern Armenian History, a past holder of the Armenian Educational Foundation Chair at UCLA and currently Chancellor's Fellow at Chapman University in Orange County. The recent recipient of the UCLA Alumni Association's "Most Inspiring Teacher" award, he is internationally acclaimed for his advancement of Armenian Studies. His extensive scholarly publications have placed the Armenian Genocide into broader Near Eastern, Europeans and Russian contexts.

Dr. Stephen Smith, is the Executive Director of the USC Shoah Foundation – The Institute for Visual History and Education, as well as the UNESCO Chair on Genocide Education. A theologian by training, he continues to be involved in memorial projects around the world and lectures widely on issues relating to the history and collective response to the Holocaust, genocide and crimes against humanity. He recently presented the

keynote speech at the United Nations on Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Michael Berenbaum, a world authority on the History of the Holocaust, is Professor of Jewish Studies at the American Jewish University and Executive Director of the Sigi Zering Institute, a think tank exploring the ethical and religious implications of the Holocaust. He was involved with the creation of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. and, as Project Director, played a major role in its permanent exhibit; he has subsequently consulted on and designed museums on three continents. He is also an award-winning producer and historical consultant for numerous acclaimed films on the Holocaust.

About the Annual Scholars Conference:

Founded by Franklin H. Littell and Hubert G. Locke in 1970, The Annual Scholars' Conference on the Holocaust and the Churches (<http://ascconf.org/>) is an interdisciplinary, international, interfaith, intergenerational conference. It provides a forum for scholars to report the latest findings in Holocaust research, ensuring the valuable lessons of the Holocaust remain relevant for today's world.

The Conference is hosted by different educational institutions around the country. This year, the American Jewish University is the Host Institution, with President Robert Wexler serving as the Honorary Chairman. Dr. Berenbaum is the 2014 Conference Chairman.

The Annual Scholars' Conference is supported in part by individual donors, along with grants from the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany and Verbe et Lumière.

For more information, contact Marcia Sachs Littell, Vice President of the Annual Scholars Conference, at scholarsconf@aol.com or 610.667.5437 or 610/952.3314.

New Documentary on the Armenian Church of Gagkashen in Ani

A new film prepared by the Research on Armenian Architecture NGO tells about the Armenian Church of Saint Gregory of Gagkashen in Ani, the replica of Zvartnots Temple – the masterpiece of Armenian architecture. The Church has been under the threat of destruction for about 900 years now. The film will premiere tomorrow at the Union of Architects.

It is thought that King Gagik (who reigned from the year 990 to 1020) chose the architect Trdat (the

man who designed the cathedral of Ani) to build his "millennium" church, and it was probably erected between the years 1001 and 1005.

The structure was never very stable, and in 1013 strengthening had to be carried out – including the addition of a substantial amount of extra masonry around the middle two columns of each apse, converting them into piers. These consolidations were unsuccessful and the church collapsed shortly afterwards.

In the 13th century houses were

Italy's Last Survivor of the Armenian Genocide Passed Away



Armenian community of the village Nor Arax near Bari (Italy)

On Saturday, February 16, Sergio(Sarkis) Musceghian, the last survivor of the Armenian Genocide in Cerchiara di Calabria Italy, died aged 98, Jean Eckian informs from Paris.

Born on November 4, 1916, Sergio was taken and raised by Italian missionaries in an institute in Rhodes while walking in the streets of Constantinople at the age of four. He lived much of his life between Puglia and Calabria where he ended his days.

In his eulogy to Sarkis, Cerchiara Mayor Antonio Carlomagno paid tribute to the man "of great dignity and moral rectitude."

"Community of Cerchiara di Calabria had the pleasure and honor of

meeting during memorial moments of this great tragedy of the Armenian people, still waiting for justice in history. We were honored to meet with him and the history of his people," said Mayor Antonio Carlomagno.

In the last years of his life, Sarkis Musceghian, devoted much of his time to discuss the fate of the Armenian people, especially during the commemorations of the 24th April. "I can not miss an opportunity to speak of the fate of my people," he used to say.

A monument (khatkar) in tribute to the memory of the victims of the genocide of Armenians of 1915 was erected in Musceghian's native village Nor Arax (Bari) in January 2013

Rep. Schiff to Host Capitol Hill Event

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son and chartered by an Act of Congress. Regrettably, this symbol of American generosity has yet to be released for display by the White House, which caused the cancellation of a planned Smithsonian Institution exhibit of the Rug in December of 2013. It is our hope that the White House will agree to provide the rug for this event, but in the absence of a commitment, the event will go forward nonetheless.

"America's role in helping Armenian survivors of the first genocide of the 20th Century is a story worth telling and remembering," said Rep. Adam Schiff. "It's also important to remind policymakers of the significant role the United States played in assisting the victims of the Ottoman Empire during the dark days of World War I. The Armenian Genocide, which occurred almost 100 years ago, was an event of such catastrophic significance that all nations have a duty to educate their citizens on what took place. Events like this – highlighting America's important humanitarian role – can only help to convince my colleagues of the importance of finally recognizing the Armenian Genocide."

In a letter to the President last year urging the display of the rug, Schiff and 32 other Members of Congress wrote: "The Armenian Orphan Rug is a piece of American history and it belongs to the American people. For over a decade, Armenian American

built around and over the ruins, using some of the fallen church's masonry. Later the ruin site became covered with earth, and at the end of the 19th century all that was visible were some walls on a tall mound.

The ruins were excavated in 1906 by Nikoli Marr. His excavations revealed

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

The Armenian Orphan Rug measures 11' 7" x 18' 5" and is comprised of 4,404,206 individual knots. It took Armenian girls in the Ghazir Orphanage of Near East Relief 10 months to weave. The rug was delivered to President Coolidge on December 4, 1925, in time for Christmas, with a label on the back of the rug, which reads "IN GOLDEN RULE GRATITUDE TO PRESIDENT COOLIDGE." According to Missak Kelechian, an expert on this topic, the gift of the Armenian Orphan Rug was widely covered in U.S. media, including in the New York Times in 1925 and the Washington Post in 1926. Additional information about the history of the Armenian Orphan Rug is available in Dr. Hagop Martin Deranian's book, "President Coolidge and the Armenian Orphan Rug," published on October 20, 2013, by the Armenian Cultural Foundation.

More information about the speakers and event will be available in coming weeks, and it is currently scheduled for Monday, March 3rd at 5:00 pm in 2103 Rayburn House Office Building (subject to change).

the plan of the church and recovered many objects of worship, including a bronze candlestick and a chandelier.

Asked whether there is need to built the replica of the Temple of Zvartnots today, expert of monuments Samvel Karapetyan said "We have not reached that level yet."

AESA Science Olympiad

GLENDALE -- The Science Olympiad Committee of Armenian Engineers and Scientists of America (AESA) is excited to announce that the 13th AESA Science Olympiad will be held at the Grand Salon of California State University Northridge (CSUN) on Sunday March 23, 2014.

The committee which is comprised of volunteers supporters, professional engineers, scientists, judges, mentors, community sponsors and endowment donors, all working together for one ultimate goal to increase interest, and passion in sciences and engineering among young Armenian students from Armenian, public and other private schools. The Olympiad provides interscholastic academic competition in the fields of Physical Sciences and Life Sciences for two grade levels, middle school (grades 6-8) and high school (grades 9-12).

"We are actively seeking community's support in encouraging family members in grades 6 to 12 to participate with a prepared science project and spend a fun day of science with their peers" stated AESA President Vasken Yاردemian. The Science Olympiad follows the California State Science Fair rules and regulations. During the evaluation and interview process, the judges provide constructive feedback to all students for future improvements of their projects and

presentation skills leading them to prepare for the county and state competitions. The Olympiad each year also invites a professional speaker to present a unique scientific topic exposing students and inspiring them to a variety of career paths opportunities.

Cash prizes are awarded - 1st place \$500, 2nd Place \$250, 3rd Place \$100, and Honorable Mention \$50 in addition each prize is accompanied with an obsidian medallion made in Armenia. The road to 13th AESA Science Olympiad has three requirements: A filled out application by the deadline of March 14, 2014, a \$25 application fee per project to be included with the application (check to be written in order of AESA Science Olympiad) and the poster is to be dropped off at a designated location no later than March 19, 2014. Application can be downloaded at www.aesa.org/

Committees/ScienceOlympiad.
Established in 1983 in Glendale, California, AESA is a non-partisan and non-sectarian philanthropic organization focused primarily on addressing the professional, technical and scientific needs of fellow Armenian engineers, scientists, industrialists and architects throughout the world. For more information, check AESA's website at www.aesa.org, or contact (818)547-3372, e-mail: contact@aesa.org

Seven Sahag-Mesrob Students Receive Top Honors at ACSI Spelling Bee Contest



ALTADENA -- On Friday, January 17, 2014 Sahag-Mesrob Armenian Christian School students participated in the annual ACSI (Association of Christian Schools International) Spelling Bee in Anaheim. The ACSI Spelling Bee is a highly competitive event for which students must spend many weeks in preparation. Fifteen Sahag-Mesrob students from grades 1-8 took part in the competition against top spellers from 16 other area schools. At the end of the day, the results were very promising, with a total of seven Sahag-Mesrob students finishing in the top four in their respective grade levels. In all, three students received first place blue ribbons, one student received a second place red ribbon, and three students received fourth place yellow ribbons. The students were

very pleased with the remarkable results and vowed to come back next year to compete again and win more awards for their school. Mr. Hovsep Injejkian, Sahag-Mesrob's principal, congratulated the winners and expressed his pride in all the spellers for their hard work and discipline. "I congratulate the students, their parents, and their teachers for being a part of this educational experience and I look forward to seeing Sahag-Mesrob's strong presence in future spelling bee competitions. I encourage more students to participate in such events in order to share their knowledge and talents with others," he said. Mr. Injejkian also thanked Mrs. Aylin Baharian, the Sahag-Mesrob Spelling Bee coordinator, for her leadership and support.

Dilijan Concert Series - Romantic Gems



GLENDALE -- The Dilijan Chamber Music Series welcomes two renowned musicians (and new Angeleños) in their Series' debut at the February 23rd concert at Zipper Hall. Former cellist of the great Tokyo Quartet and currently distinguished Colburn School faculty, cellist Clive Greensmith and the newly appointed Professor of Piano at UCLA Inna Faliks are joined by Dilijan favorites violist Paul Coletti, violinist Varty Manouelian, and Artistic Director Movses Pogossian. The Program includes the World premiere of a Violin Sonata by Vartan Adjeman (Dilijan's 25th commission), and two masterpieces of the romantic repertoire: Felix Mendelssohn's String Quartet in A minor, Op. 13 no.2, and Robert Schumann's magical Trio No. 1 in D minor.

The current season of the Dilijan Series is dedicated to the 75th birthday anniversary of Armenia's foremost composer Tigran Mansurian, renowned

around the world through the extensive catalog of award winning recordings on the ECM label. Continuing its mission of bringing new works to life, the Dilijan Series will present three world premieres from Paul Chihara, Artashes Kartalyan, and Vartan Adjeman, bringing the total of its commissions to 26. Among the distinguished instrumentalists appearing this season are clarinetist Michele Zukovsky, guitarist David Starobin, violinist Guillaume Sutre, violists Carrie Dennis and Richard O'Neill, cellists Clive Greensmith, Ronald Leonard, Robert deMaine, pianists Svetlana Navassardian and Inna Faliks, and many other artists of international acclaim.

Dilijan Chamber Music Series, 2013-14 Season, Concert 5 Sunday, February 23, 2014, 3:00 PM at Zipper Concert Hall, 200 S. Grand Ave.

Tickets are available by calling (818) 500-9997, at the door, and also online here.

Merdinian School Annual Banquet on March 9, 2014

The Board of Directors of Charlotte & Elise Merdinian Armenian Evangelical School cordially invites the participation and support of the community to its 32nd annual banquet, which will take place on Sunday, March 9, 2014 at Brandview Ballroom, 109 East Harvard Street, Glendale, CA, at 5:30 pm. Banquet Chairlady, Dee Chorlian, with the Board of Directors, Women's Auxiliary, and School PTO are enthusiastically moving forward with the preparations for this big event.

During the Banquet, Koko Balian and Juliette Abdulian (Board members), Azniv Ghazanian (PTO Chair) and Mary Meguerditchian (Teacher of the Year) will be recognized for their valuable services to the school. The Program will also include musical entertainment by Mr. X (Arthur Hakopyan) and performance by some of the students of the school.

Admission is \$100 per person. Tax-deductible donations at all levels are highly appreciated. Donations and banquet reservations may be mailed to the school's address. For additional information and reservations, please contact the school office at (818) 907-8149. RSVP by March 1, 2014.

Established in 1982, WASC accredited C. & E. Merdinian Armenian Evangelical School in Sherman Oaks, CA (www.merdinianschool.com) is dedicated to provide its students an academically rich, spiritually invigorating and morally based Christian education. Merdinian School prepares its graduates to be responsible Armenian citizens and future leaders, who are firm in their Christian beliefs and proud of their Armenian heritage. Merdinian School is a non-profit organization and welcomes all tax-deductible donations for the proper use and support of the school.

Armenia Climbs to Record 30th Place in FIFA Ranking

ZURICH -- Armenia has advanced eight spots in the new International Federation of Association Football (FIFA) World Ranking to the 30th position. The standing is the highest achieved by the nation since it joined international soccer in the mid-1990s.

Even though Armenia have not played any games recently, their points have climbed from 716 to 771 in the new World Ranking.

There are no changes in the top 25. Current World and Euro champion Spain retained their No. 1 places with 1507 points. They were followed by Germany and Argentina as no. 2 and no.3 respectively. Other two at top 5 were Colombia at No. 4 and Portugal at No. 5.

