

ARMENIANS TODAY

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Economy



Lebanon President bestows order on VivaCell-MTS General Manager

2011-04-11

Mr. Yirikian got the order in recognition of the exceptional achievements in business and management, particularly for significant contribution in adding humanitarian approach to the business management, and introducing and fostering a new Management Culture, VivaCell-MTS press office reported.

Ralph Yirikian is the first Lebanese Armenian working in Armenia, who receives this high reward from the Lebanon’s President.

Politics



Armenian Assembly requests \$10 million U.S. aid to Karabakh

2011-04-16

This key panel, which decides assistance levels to Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh, held hearings on April 13 and 14 for Members of Congress and "outside groups" to testify with respect to important funding and policy before

the committee's jurisdiction.

Reinforcing in person testimony by Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues Co-Chair, Congressman Frank Pallone Jr. (D-NJ), the Assembly requested "not less than" \$60 million in aid to Armenia and \$10 million in aid to Nagorno Karabakh. Regarding military assistance, Pallone and the Assembly requested \$8 million in Foreign Military Financing and \$2 million in International Military Education Training.

"The Armenian Assembly welcomes Congressman Pallone's testimony before the Subcommittee," said Kadian-Dodov. "We look forward to working with the Members to ensure continued and robust funding to Armenia and Artsakh. Given the ongoing Azerbaijani war rhetoric and their recent announcement about a sniper school, we also urge the Subcommittee to cease any military funding to Azerbaijan and to fully reinstate Section 907 of the Freedom Support Act," Kadian-Dodov added.

In addition to funding requests, Kadian-Dodov underscored the plight of Christian minorities in the Middle East, noting there are "significant communities living in that region" whose "population has diminished because of war and other pressures." The Assembly emphasized the ongoing danger of Turkey's actions, including last year's threats of the deportation of over 100,000 Armenians living in Turkey.

In its testimony, the Assembly also stated: "We strongly urge President Barack Obama to fulfill his campaign promise and expand upon his statement last year, wherein he used the Armenian term - "metz yeghern" - to describe the Armenian Genocide, and for this year, use the proper English term: Armenian Genocide."



Armenian Genocide survivors welcomed in Massachusetts House chambers

2011-04-16

Governor Deval Patrick declared "Armenian Martyrs Day" and handed out proclamations to 12 survivors

of the Armenian Genocide, in the House Chambers.

"We must not allow the world to forget as well," said Robert Deleo, House speaker. "That's why it's so important that we come together each year to reflect upon this tragedy and honor the memory of those lost in the genocide."

Turkey to this day has denied the Armenian Genocide and the U.S. has distanced itself from any official recognition.



Sen. Boxer once again calls on U.S. President to recognize Armenian Genocide

2011-04-15

In her address, Ms. Boxer said, "Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the 96th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide—a tragedy that has left a dark stain on the collective conscience of mankind. What has made this tragedy even more painful—particularly for the Armenian people—is the failure of successive U.S. administrations to acknowledge the deliberate massacre of the Armenians by its rightful name—genocide. So today, I also rise to reiterate my call to President Barack Obama to finally right this terrible wrong."

In 2008, then-Senator Obama said: . . . the Armenian Genocide is not an allegation, a personal opinion, or a point of view, but rather a widely documented fact supported by an overwhelming body of historical evidence.

"Every day that goes by without full acknowledgement of these undeniable facts by the United States prolongs the pain felt by descendants of the victims, as well as the entire Armenian community," she stressed, adding, "Yet, successive U.S. administrations continue only to refer to the genocide by such terms as "annihilation," "massacre," and "murder." This is not only an affront to the memory of the victims and to their descendants, but it does a disservice to the United States as it seeks to stand up to those who are perpetrating violence today."



Ardouny urges Congressmen to help further genocide affirmation and prevention

2011-04-14

Ardouny reviewed a range of subjects with the Congressman, including funding to Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh, security issues and Azerbaijan's ongoing war rhetoric, U.S. affirmation of the Armenian Genocide and this year's Armenian Genocide Observance on Capitol Hill, reported the Assembly.

Congressman Sherman reiterated his strong support for Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh, as well as U.S. affirmation of the Armenian Genocide. Sherman also confirmed his plans to speak at the Capitol Hill Armenian Genocide Commemoration taking place in the Kennedy Caucus Room of the Senate Russell Office Building on the evening of April 13.

"We appreciate Congressman Sherman's commitment to further strengthen U.S.-Armenia and U.S.-Karabakh relations, and his steadfast commitment to U.S. affirmation of the Armenian Genocide," stated Ardouny.

With respect to tonight's Armenian Genocide Observance, Ardouny added, "the Armenian Assembly strongly urges all Members of Congress to attend and in so doing, help further the cause of genocide affirmation and prevention."

Now serving in his 8th term in office, Sherman, who represents California's 27th Congressional District with a large Armenian population in the San Fernando Valley, is a member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs (HCFA) and the House Committee on Financial Services.

During the 2010 HCFA mark-up of H.Res. 252, the Armenian Genocide Resolution, Congressman Sherman stated: "...we cannot be cowered into denying the first genocide of the twentieth century. Because genocide denial is not just the last step of the genocide, it is the first step in the next genocide. And that is why Hitler when faced with some wavering compatriots was able to say, we can get away with the Holocaust, after all who today speaks of the annihilation of the Armenians?"

RA Ministry of Diaspora



RA Minister of Diaspora Hranush Hakobyan received Georgian Ambassador to Armenia Tengiz Sharmanashvili

2011-04-12

Welcoming the guest, Minister Hakobyan introduced the activities and upcoming programs of the RA Ministry of Diaspora. Hakobyan also presented the Georgian-Armenians' issues with which they address the RA Ministry of Diaspora.

Ambassador T. Sharmanashvili asked to support the upcoming business forum in Tbilisi. During the forum, the businessmen will discuss investment projects in Samtskhe-Javakhk.

The sides also exchanged views on issues of bilateral interest.



Armenian Minister: if media are fourth power, bloggers are fifth power

2011-04-12

“If media are fourth power, then bloggers are fifth power,” said Hranush Hakobyan.

However, the Minister said she is not going to open her personal blog yet.

“We opened Pan-Armenian Youth Parliament group at Facebook and received over 200 comments and questions. This is a good way to communicate with people online, to receive questions and answer them,” noted Hakobyan.

Speaking about high technologies, the Minister said she would like nanotechnologies to be introduced in Armenia.

Bloggers noticed that the website of the Ministry of Diaspora is in 3 languages, but it is not updated regularly.

Hakobyan welcomed similar comments: “We will consider your suggestions and do our utmost to improve the website.”

She added that the Ministry plans to create an online library and online map of the Armenian Diaspora.



Key educational issues facing the Russian-Armenian community were discussed

2011-04-11

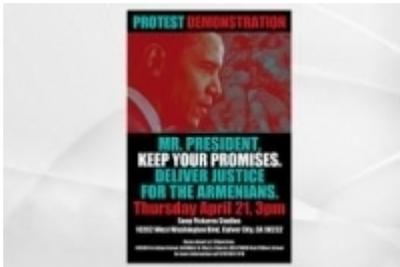
Minister Hakobyan presented the activities and upcoming events of the RA Ministry of Diaspora.

The sides discussed key educational issues facing the Russian-Armenian community. They particularly addressed issues on supporting Armenian schools and creating contemporary Armenian language textbooks for Russian-speaking Armenians with the purpose of teaching Armenian and making the language more accessible to Armenian citizens of Russia.

Y. Zoryan and S. Kabakian presented details regarding the activities of the AGBU Armenian Virtual University and the “Depi Hayk” Foundation.

The sides also discussed the opportunities for further active participation of the Russian-Armenian community in youth programs implemented by the RA Ministry of Diaspora. The participants of the meeting expressed willingness to support the ministry’s programs aimed at consolidating the potential of all Armenians in the Diaspora.

Diaspora News



Culver City to host protest calling on Obama to recognize Armenian Genocide

2011-04-15

“President Obama will be visiting the Los Angeles area as part of his re-election campaign just three

days prior to April 24th. He must hear our community’s profound disappointment with his failure to honor his campaign promise that as President, he would recognize the Armenian Genocide and deliver justice to the Armenian people. Being the largest Armenian community in the Diaspora, we must turn

out en masse to send our message loud and clear not only to him, but to all of the national press that will be assembled there,” the statement says.

Buses will transport protestors starting at 1:30 p.m. from St. Mary’s Church in Glendale, Rose & Alex Pilibos School in Hollywood and Ferrahian High School in Encino, Asbarez reports.



ACA attends Armenian Genocide Commemoration Ceremony in State Capitol

2011-04-15

The ceremony led by Majority Leader Charles Calderon (D-Montebello), Assemblyman Mike Gatto (D-Los Angeles), Katcho Atchadjian (R-San Luis Obispo), and Anthony Portantino (D-Pasadena), was held on April 14.

To mark the special occasion, at the request of Assemblyman Gatto, His Eminence Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Primate of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church, offered the Invocation at the beginning of the Assembly’s commemoration ceremony.

“Today we pray especially for the victims of the first Genocide of the 20th century premeditated and executed by the Ottoman Turks in 1915,” said Archbishop Derderian. “The recognition of the Armenian Genocide by the State of California Assembly encourages the Armenian community as we continue to pay homage to the memory of the victims. Above all, the noble act gives us the spiritual strength to hold firm the essence of our Christian faith as devoted citizens of this blessed country of the United States of America.”

During the session, AJR 7, unanimously passed, marking the week of April 18 to 24, 2011 as “California Week of Remembrance for the Armenian Genocide of 1915-1923.” The joint resolutions urge Congress and the President to observe the week of remembrance.

“It is truly commendable of the California Legislature to acknowledge the importance and gravity of the Armenian Genocide and the weight it carries for

their Armenian-American constituency as well as Armenians world-wide,” said Sevak Khatchadourian, Board Member of the ACA. “It is my hope, that the Federal government, as well as the Turkish government will come to terms with historical reality, and finally recognize the Armenian Genocide.

The ACA delegation, along with other Armenian-American community leaders met with various legislators to discuss issues of concern to the community, including Senator Joe Simitian (D-Palo Alto), Assembly Majority Leader Charles Calderon, Assemblyman Tom Berryhill (D-Modesto), Assemblyman Mike Gatto, Katcho Atchadjian, and Anthony Portantino, ACA said in a press release.



Richard Hovannisian to be Honored as Most Distinguished Teacher

2011-04-12

The Award is a revival of the My Last Lecture series held at UCLA in 1955, featuring speeches from the university’s greatest and most inspiring minds, such as Coach John Wooden, Professor of Philosophy Abraham Kaplan, and Professor of Chemistry Kenneth Trueblood.

Great minds have struggles, triumphs, and breakthroughs in their respective studies, and also in their own lives. Sharing those experiences and imparting the knowledge they have gathered throughout their lives does more than give comfort and advice to students. It further enriches the intellectual discourse and adds depth in the relationship between teacher and student.

Dr. Hovannisian is professor of Armenian and Near Eastern History and Holder of the Armenian Educational Foundation (AEF) Chair in Modern Armenian History at UCLA. A member of the UCLA faculty since 1962, he has organized both the undergraduate and graduate programs in Armenian history at the university and has guided a number of students to graduate degrees in Armenian history. Professor Hovannisian is a Guggenheim Fellow and has received many honors for his scholarship, civic activities, and advancement of Armenian studies.

After receiving the award, Dr. Hovannisian will reflect on a half-century of teaching at UCLA, discussing issues of identity, acculturation, and attainment. He will share what he has learned from his students, and how he has strived for the highest standards of teaching and scholarship.

Event Details: Monday, April 18, 6:30 p.m. at Moore Hall (Room 100), UCLA
 Tickets required for entry. Available at the UCLA Central Ticket Office for \$15 to the public. Admission free to students with Bruin Card.



ANCA joins broad based human rights coalition

2011-04-12

The attendees at the March 31st Capitol Hill reception praised Caucus founders, Representatives Trent Franks (R-AZ) and Emanuel Cleaver (D-MO), for keeping Congress informed about religious freedom issues and serving as a key networking hub between non-profit advocacy groups and policymakers through briefings on domestic and international religious freedom issues. Participants also welcomed the leadership of incoming Caucus Co-Chair Heather Shuler (D-NC), who will be taking over Rep. Cleaver's responsibilities in the 112th Congress.

In addition to remarks by the Caucus Co-Chairs, the reception featured keynote speeches by Dr. Habib Malek, the son of Charles Malik, the author of Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; and Farzad Kamalabadi, who shared a moving account of the continued imprisonment of his sister, Fariba Kamalabadi, and repression of the Baha'is in Iran.



American Armenians will no longer be duped by false campaign promises

2011-04-12

Last October, when he traveled to Los Angeles and Glendale, not a single Armenian confronted him at his public appearances, Harut Sassounian, the publisher of The California Courier, writes in the article he titled "Armenians Should Confront Pres. Obama During his California Visit Next Week."

"To make up for their negligence, Armenians in California have a golden

opportunity to show that they are deeply troubled when the highest official of the land does not keep his pledge on the Armenian Genocide,” the article says. “Pres. Obama will be in San Francisco on April 20 and in Los Angeles on April 21 – three days before the 96th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide – to launch his reelection campaign with major fundraisers publicized as “Obama Victory Fund 2012.”

The article continues: “During the next 18 months, Armenian-Americans should hold demonstrations at every one of the President’s campaign stops throughout the country until the November 2012 presidential election. This is an opportune moment to highlight the President’s lack of credibility, at a time when he is most vulnerable due to his low ratings, as he launches his reelection campaign.”

“Armenians do not need to beg the President to utter the words Armenian Genocide. A more popular head of state – Pres. Ronald Reagan – used those words on April 22, 1981, almost 30 years to the day of Pres. Obama’s visit to Los Angeles! The only reason to protest Obama’s visit would be to let him know that Armenians will no longer be duped when politicians make false campaign promises to gain their support, and ignore them after the election! The Armenian slogan for the 2012 presidential election should be: “Not one vote and not one penny for Obama!” it concludes.



Voices of 70000-member Armenian population won’t affect outcome of elections in Turkey

2011-04-12

As Alexander Iskandaryan told a PanARMENIAN.Net reporter, if elected, the parliamentarians of Armenian origin would join some party. “The voices of the Armenian community, listing 70000 members, in a country with a 70-million population might hardly affect the outcome of the elections. This is why there’s no special need for Armenian parliamentarians,” the political expert noted.

On April 11, the parties participating in Turkey’s parliamentary elections had to submit the lists of their candidates. According to media reports, no list contained names of ethnic Armenians.

Earlier, representatives of ruling and oppositional CHP parties mentioned their intention to nominate the candidatures of Armenians.

Armenian Genocide remembrance concert to be played in Hague

2011-04-11

The event will take place at Deutsche Evangelische Kirche. Admission is free. The program includes works by Komitas, Babadjanian, Bach and others.

Vahram Shemmassian to give lecture on Armenian Refugee Camp at Port Said in 1915

2011-04-11

Abstract One of the least examined aspects of the Armenian Genocide is the refugee camp in Port Said, Egypt. Although concentration camps existed in greater Syria for the final liquidation of Armenian deportees, the “Tent City” of Port Said was the only safe haven for Armenian survivors in the Near East, while the atrocities and forced marches were still taking place. More specifically, the camp was established in mid-September 1915 to accommodate the Musa Dagh Armenians, who had resisted the genocide and fought the Turkish army for forty days before being transported to Egypt, aboard French warships and one British aircraft carrier. French and British efforts to relocate them to a Mediterranean island, a north African colony, or even Russian (Eastern) Armenia notwithstanding, the refugees stayed in the camp for four years, through the fall of 1919. This lecture, to be delivered in Armenian, will shed light on the details of the camp’s establishment until the end of 1915. As such, it will touch upon the following issues: camp setup and administration, first reactions on the part of the Egyptian Armenians, other locals, and foreigners by way of the press, relief measures, and visitations, food, health, industries, church, school, cultural activity.

Vahram Shemmassian holds a Ph.D. in History from UCLA. He is an Associate Professor and the Director of the Armenian Studies Program at the California State University, Northridge. His areas of study are the Armenians of Musa Dagh and survivors of the Armenian Genocide. He is the leading authority on Musa Dagh. In the summer of 2010 he received the “William Saroyan Medal” from the Minister of Diaspora of the Republic of Armenia, Ms. Hranoush

Hagopyan, for his contributions to the field, as well as the dissemination of Armenian culture in the Diaspora in general.



Jerusalem to host symposium on Armenian Genocide

2011-04-11

The event to be held on the initiative of Prof. M.E. Stone will be attended by His Beatitude Torkom II, Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem, MK Zeev Elkin, H.E. Mr. Tsolag Momjian, Honorary Consul of the Republic of Armenia and Prof. Reuven Amitai Dean of the Faculty of Humanities.

Main speakers are Prof. Israel Charny with "The Memorial of a People's Genocide is for all Humanity" report, Prof. Elihu D. Richter (From Memory to Prevention: A Doctor's Perspective) and Mrs. Josa Bivin (Mark of Genocide in My Family History).

The commemorative evening will also feature Armenian music and poetry.

Society



Massachusetts Governor named as "Friend of the Armenians" for 2011

2011-04-15

"We are what we are because of our willingness to face horrors like the Armenian Genocide - and to use them as reminders of the best of what we are. And the best of what we want to be is founded in tolerance and understanding." The words were those of Patrick at the ceremonial groundbreaking and blessing of "Armenian Heritage Park" along the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway, on September 9, 2010.

More than 1,000 people - Armenians from the Greater Boston area, leaders of the Armenian Church and national Armenian organizations, distinguished civic and municipal figures and elected officers - had turned out for the ceremony.

In 2006 came his election as Massachusetts governor, and Patrick again overcame obstacles — political and economic - to make his strong positive mark on the Commonwealth's educational and scientific establishments, while

accomplishing major reforms that had eluded elected leaders for decades.

For the local Armenian community, Patrick emerged as an insightful and courageous supporter and as an outspoken advocate for the recognition of the Armenian Genocide.

Patrick was re-elected to a second term as governor in November 2010, The Armenian Mirror-Spectator reports.

Culture



Rome to host Charles Aznavour concert April 13

2011-04-12

According to Musical news, the concert will take place in Parco della Musica concert hall, within the Santa Cecilia It's Wonderful series of events.

A French singer, songwriter and film actor of Armenian origins, Charles Aznavour (the stage name of Shahnour Vaghinagh Aznavourian) was born in Paris on 22 May 1924. Also known by the nickname “Charles Aznavoice” and as “the Frank Sinatra of France”, Aznavour sings in six languages and has performed almost everywhere in the world. He has brought great prestige to France, which awarded him the Legion d’Onore. He has served as the Armenian ambassador to Switzerland since 12 February 2009. His parents (Armenian immigrants) launched him into the Paris theater world when he was still very young; in fact, he was only nine when he began performing, already using the alias Aznavour. His big stroke of luck came when he was discovered by Edith Piaf, who took him on tour in France and the United States.

Most of the more than 1,000 songs he has written in his long career are about love. Being able to sing them in French, English, Italian, Spanish, German and Russian has allowed him to become famous the world over. He has sung in Carnegie Hall and in all the other major theaters in the world. He has also sung duets with international stars of the caliber of Liza Minelli, Compay Segundo and Celine Dion.

The 1970’s was the era of Aznavour’s greatest success, especially in the United

Kingdom, where he soared all the way to first place on the hit parade. In 1988, together with his brother-in-law and co-writer Georges Garvarentz, he wrote "Pour toi Armenie", a song dedicated to victims of the earthquake in Armenia; it stayed at the top of the charts for thirteen weeks. Many of his songs have also been interpreted by other great singers such as Fred Astaire, Bing Crosby, Ray Charles and Liza Minnelli.

Armenian writers of California to commemorate Genocide

2011-04-11

The writers will recite literary works of the martyred writers. The word of the martyrs will resound. The Armenian Community is invited, AWAOC press service reported.



Moscow to host Armenia Music Awards 2011 ceremony April 16

2011-04-11

This year, the event is having a new name. In 2006 it was called Anelik, in 2007-2010 it was known as Tashir Music Awards, which is now a separate award ceremony.

Sport



Vic Darchinyan: my whole team will commemorate Genocide victims on April 24

2011-04-14

“I’m changing my style again. I’m going to knock out everyone in front of me. This time it’s Yonnyh Perez. He’s a good fighter, it’s nothing personal, I’m just coming to knock him out. People talk about when I moved to bantamweight and say I’m not as powerful as I was at 115 pounds? You will see how powerful I am at bantamweight,” Darchinyan said during a media conference call.

“On the other side of the world, in Armenia, April 24 is Armenian Genocide victims commemoration day. I want everyone to see this fight and see how motivated I am for this fight. All my team is going to come and commemorate 1915 Genocide victims,” the boxer stressed, according to fightnews.com.



Nalbandian retains 19th position in ATP rankings

2011-04-11

Spaniard Rafael Nadal continues to top the rankings, followed by Roger Federer (Switzerland) and Novak Djokovic (Serbia).

Nalbandian had double surgery to his left leg on March 11 that put him out of action for six to eight weeks. The Argentine-Armenian, who also had a back operation last year, was suffering from a hernia in his left groin and a torn lower leg muscle. The 29-year-old aggravated the groin strain during the Buenos Aires Open in February and this was responsible for the muscle tear when he played in Argentina's Davis Cup tie against Romania. His recovery will take six to eight weeks so it is estimated he could be fit to play the claycourt Masters 1000s in Madrid and Rome ahead of the (French Open) tournament at Roland Garros.

Announcements



Young leaders summer school

2011-04-14