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MACLUSA motion 2025 to explore 30 years of historical disputes, GALF NEWS

Nordic Monitor’s 29th annual report, 30 years of historical disputes, GALF NEWS

Nordic Monitor” 29th annual report, the 30th year of historical disputes, GALF NEWS
"The Age of Surveillance Capitalism": The Fight for a Human Future at the New Frontier of Power

"The Great Transformation"
2nd Annual Armenian American Museum Gala Set for December 8

The 2nd Annual Armenian American Museum Gala is sold out heading into the signature event of the year on Sunday, December 8, 2019 at The Beverly Hilton in Beverly Hills, California. Hundreds of supporters, community leaders, and public officials are expected to attend the Gala. The event will celebrate and support the landmark project as it approaches its historic groundbreaking year.

“We are excited to join our supporters and friends for a memorable evening in support of the Armenian American Museum and we look forward to celebrating our distinguished honorees for the evening who inspire us through their work and contributions,” stated Executive Chairman Berdj Karapetian. “The 2nd Annual Gala will mark a special occasion as we approach our historic groundbreaking year.”

The distinguished honorees of the 2nd Annual Gala include former U.S. Secretary of Navy and Assistant Secretary of Defense Paul R. Ignatius; Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger; and Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck Senior Partner Kenneth L. Khaichigian.

Award-winning television personality and Emmy nominated travel host Laura McKenzie will serve as the Master of Ceremonies for the evening.

Major sponsors include Bank of America, Mr. & Mrs. Vartanian and Janet Bansoumian, Dickranian Foundation, GASKA Alliance Foundation, Glumac, JHF Charitable Foundation, Mr. & Mrs. Timmy and Seda Mandrossian, Massis Kabob, Megriblian Center for Human Rights, New York Life Southern Californi, Mr. & Mrs. Bedros and Anna Grun-caciel, and Mr. Chris Pogosyan.

ARMENIAN AMERICAN MUSEUM SELECTS MATT CONSTRUCTION AS PRE-CONSTRUCTION GENERAL CONTRACTOR

Glendale, CA (November 26, 2019) – The Armenian American Museum and Cultural Center of California has announced the selection of award-winning and industry-leading MATT Construction as the project’s pre-construction general contractor.

“We are truly inspired by the vision for the Armenian American Museum and we are proud to be part of the team that will help bring this incredibly important, valuable, and timely cultural and educational center to fruition,” stated MATT Construction Vice President Joe Healy.

MATT Construction is a family and employee-owned general contractor that has built some of the most memorable buildings in California. The firm prides itself on helping museums build on-budget and on-schedule structures that align with their missions and celebrate their collections and programs. The award-winning firm has received numerous recognitions in the industry including AIA Los Angeles’ Building Team of the Year Award and President’s Award.

MATT Construction’s notable museum and cultural projects include The Broad, Petersen Automotive Museum, Music Center Plaza, Skirball Cultural Center, LACMA, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, Museum of Tolerance, Academy Museum of Motion Pictures, Kidspace Museum, Gagosian Gallery, Ahmanson Theatre, and more.

“MATT Construction’s unparalleled experience with iconic museum and cultural centers makes them an invaluable partner for the Armenian American Museum as we prepare the project for our historic groundbreaking year,” stated Executive Chairman Berdj Karapetian.

The Armenian American Museum is currently in the pre-construction phase of the project with plans to begin construction in 2020.

MATT Construction will be guiding and supporting the design team and museum leadership on construction planning, estimating, constructability, value engineering, and project scheduling during the pre-construction phase.

Soviet spy who foiled Nazi plot to kill allied leaders dies aged 93

An Armenian woman who became a Soviet spy and helped foil a Nazi plot to assassinate Stalin, Churchill and Roosevelt in 1943 has died aged 93.

Goar Vartanian, who with her husband, Gevork, worked as a secret agent on numerous missions, died on Monday. She will be buried in Moscow’s prestigious Troyekurovskoe cemetery, said Sergei Ivanov, a spokesman for Russia’s SVR intelligence service.

Vartanian helped thwart Operation Long Jump – a Nazi plot to assassinate the Allied leaders at their first meeting in Tehran in November 1943.

Born on 25 January 1926 in Gyumri, in what was then Soviet Armenia, she moved with her family to Iran in the early 1930s. She joined an anti-fascist group at the age of 16 and worked with Gevork to expose German agents.

When Hitler ordered the plot to kill the “Big Three” at a conference in Tehran, their group reportedly followed Nazi agents and exposed the plan.

The couple moved to the Soviet Union in 1951 and had a long career as secret agents. The SVR – one of the successor agencies to the Soviet-era KGB – said they were involved in active intelligence work in “extreme conditions in many countries” but did not provide further details.

Gevork, who was decorated with the Hero of the Soviet Union award, died in 2012 aged 87. “Gevork used to say that of the five rays of his Hero Star, at least two belonged to his beloved Goar,” Ivanov said.

In June 2017, Vladimir Putin – himself a former KGB agent – visited SVR headquarters and praised secret agents including the Vartanians. “They are modest people, they don’t like to be called heroes,” said the Russian president.

Goar retired in 1986 but continued to train young agents.

The former Soviet spy Mikhail Lyubimov said he doubted that Russia would reveal further details of the couple’s operations “so as not to cause political scandals in the countries they worked”.

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Following the historic and overwhelming bipartisan passage of the Armenian Genocide resolution in the U.S. House of Representatives, the District of Columbia Council approved a resolution affirming the Armenian Genocide, reported the Armenian Assembly of America.

The resolution is “to recognize and reflect on the 104th anniversary of the 1915 Armenian Genocide and on the importance of educating District of Columbia residents on the Armenian Genocide.”

“The Armenian Assembly of America welcomes the passage of this resolution, and especially applauds the emphasis on the importance of education,” Executive Director Bryan Andourany stated.

For a complete list of U.S. states that issued resolutions and proclamations recognizing the Armenian Genocide, visit the Armenian National Institute’s website at www.armenian-genocide.org.
Turkish lobbying efforts to influence U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham

By Ian Lynch

On Nov. 13, senior Republican Senator Lindsey Graham announced his con- sent vote on a U.S. Senate Resolution recognising the Armenian genocide immediately following an Oval Office meeting with Pres- ident Recep Tayyip Erdogan arranged by President Donald Trump. The Turkish govern- ment has paid U.S. lobbying firms mil- lions to defeat similar resolutions in the past.

In comparison, the Armenian govern- ment has invested little in U.S. lobbying, last paying a firm to lobby the U.S. in 1999. Lobbying in favour of the Armenian genocide resolution is spearheaded by U.S.-based non-profit organisations, including the Armenian Assembly of America (AAA) and the Ar- menian National Committee of America (ANCA).

According to the most recent IRS re- turns, the AAA raised nearly $2 million in 2017, however, as a 501(c)(3) non-profit group it is not permitted to spend a substan- tial amount of its budget on lobbying. Ac- cording to disclosures reported by the Lobbying Disclosure Act (LDA), the AAA spent $89,000 on lobbying activities in 2018 and $80,000 so far in 2019.

The ANCA is registered as a 501(c)(4) non-profit, meaning it can spend the majority of its budget on lobbying. Its total revenue in 2017 was nearly $650,000, but the organiza- tion only spent $120,000 on lobbying in each of the past two years, according to LDA dis- closures.

After the U.S. House passed a bipartisan resolution to recognise the Armenian geno- cide and a sanctions package to reprimand Turkey for its intervention in Syria, the Turk- ish-American National Steering Committee (TASC) issued a call to action, labelling the bills a “racist regime of anti-Turkish legisla- tion.”

TASC’s leadership and their associates have direct connections to Erdogan’s inner circle and a recent history of making individ- ual political contributions to Graham. A review of FEC documents using the Center for Responsive Politics’ donor look- up tool shows that although some leaders of the AAA and ANCA do make individual politi- cal contributions, there are no clear patterns of coordination like there are among the lead- ers of Turkish-American organisations like TASC.

TASC’s co-chairman, Dr. Halil Mutlu, is a cousin of Erdogan. He and his wife donated a total of $10,000 to Graham Company Inc., the senator’s re-election campaign for Senate in 2020, on Aug. 8, 2016. The individual con- tributions of $5,000 each are the maximum an individual can give to a political campaign in the U.S. per election cycle.

Mutlu’s employer, Baptist Medical Cen- ter in Massachusetts, is one of Team Gra- ham’s biggest sources of donations. In the current election cycle, the hospital’s employ- ees have contributed $21,600 to the senator’s 2020 campaign.

Nimocks Organizers are another top 20 source of contributions for Team Gra- ham, providing a total of $14,260 in individ- ual donations this cycle. Nimocks is a product line of Natural Foods Group based in Penn- sylvania, which imports foods products from Turkey. The company’s CEO, Murat Güzels, is also the treasurer of TASC.

The Güzels family donated a total of $8,300 to Graham’s presidential election campaign in 2016, despite the fact individual contribu- tions of $5,000 each are the maximum an individual can give to a political campaign in the U.S. per election cycle.

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Tekeyan Convention in Watertown Is Both Forward and Productive Looking

WAERTOWN, MA - The Tekeyan Cultural Association (TCA) of the United States held its 33rd annual convention at its almost fully renovated Baikar headquarters on November 23 with a full agenda of events, culminating in a dinner program with various awards and performances. Delegates from various Tekeyan centers and TCA Central Board members were hosted by the new reformed TCA Boston chapter.

Prior to the formal meeting, delegates met for dinner November 22. The next morning they went to pay their respects to a group of Armenian families, residing at the grave of Dr. Nubar Berberian in Mt. Feake Cemetery of Watertown, with a ceremony officiated by Fr. Arakel Al- jalan of St. James Armenian Church of Watertown. Dr. Berberian, aside from his decades of service to the Armenian Dem- ocratic Liberal Party, was a founding member of TCA in North America and served as the secretary of the Central Board until the last days of his life.

The group then went to the Baikar Building, where they were welcomed by TCA Boston chair Dr. Arda Yavshian, Central Board president Edmond Y. Azazi- dian, and TCA secretary-writer John Maramian. He noted that there was a resurgence in Tekeyan activities in recent years, and that its mission of pro- moting Armenian culture is as important as ever in the diaspora, as well as in Armenia. In turn, TCA Executive Direc- tor Aram Arkan said that the convention was an opportunity for exchanging in- formation and new ideas among dele- gates and direct communication with Central Board members.

As the Central Board Treasurer Maro Bedrosian was unable to be pres- ent, Assistant Treasurer Vekork Marash- lian reported in her stead. He revealed the healthy state of the TCA portfolio, which provided both growth and income for activities over the past four years. The organization has met all its fiduciary re- sponsibilities.

Marashlian also spoke about the Sponsor a Teacher program’s successes in Armenia and Artsakh and encouraged chapters to create opportunities for their communities to learn about this ex- tremely helpful program which has helped staff and teachers of five key schools for several decades.

Central Board member Arto Maraskian from Montreal explained how TCA has renovated many class- rooms of the Tekeyan school in Bendzor, Artsakh, which lies at a very strategic point in the Lachin or Kashatagh corrid- or linking Artsakh to Armenia. Manoukian said that visitors who see the concrete results become so enthusiastic that they too often decide to join as spon- sors and have the opportunity to name a classroom there.

Central Board Secretary Hagop Varti- varian told the group about the publica- tions program of TCA, which is an important means for Armenian-language writers, as well as English-language nov- elists, to have their works made available to readers. He spoke about 12 recent books in the TCA series, of which 8 were published in Armenia, 3 in Los Angeles and 1 in Lebanon. TCA financially helped some additional authors, he said. The various TCA chapters presented their reports, along with Greater NY TCA’s Mher Megerdchian Theatrical Group. TCA representative in Armenia Gayane Muradyan sent her report, which was read in absentia. Muradyan oversees TCA programs in Armenia, which are ex- ceptional. In particular, the TCA annual lit- erary and cultural awards are major events in Yerevan.

Elections were held for the three non- permanent positions on the TCA Central Board. Diana Darianian had been the Nominating Committee. Kevork Keusharian of Pasadena and Arto Manoukian of Montreal were reelected to their seats, while a new board member, Carl Bardakian, who is the chair of the new Metro Los Angeles chapter, and great-grand-nephew of the famous Ar- menian Democratic Liberal leader Hratch Vervart, was added to the board. Bardakian, a dean of the Armenian Church, is a former member of the Dou- sani Council of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church of America as well as former Head Men’s Basketball Coach of the Armenian National Basketball Team (of the Republic of Armenia). It was announced that the West Coast will soon have an executive secretary, in the person of experienced administrator Mayda Kuredjian Keleshian, who will help local chapters and expand TCA ac- tivities in the region.

The Convention Committee, headed by Vekork Keusharian, praised the work of the Central Board and the effi- ciency of the Sponsor a Teacher program. It voted to give the Duncan Simianor Troph- ey to the TCA Detroit chapter as most active chapter in 2018. Though a small chapter in numbers, compared to the Los Angeles or New York chapters, Keush- cian said, it does a great deal of signifi- cant cultural, social and fundraising work.

After a brief break, the convention moved to the newly renovated Baikar hall downstairs in the evening for a bar- queue and brief program. Arken served as master of ceremonies and after pointing out the historical and emotional impor- tance of the building to the community, introduced some local guest, the Central Board members, and delegates. TCA Boston Secretary Vatche Der Torosian welcomed the guests on behalf of the local chapter.

Fr. Norayr Kazarian, a member of the St. James Brotherhood of Jerusalem who moved to New York within the last year, performed the invocation. He will most likely become an official member of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of American shortly. He attended the Vahan Tekeyan School in Beirut, but left at age 12 for the monastery in Jerusalem where he remained for over 30 years.

The Detroit TCA delegation pre- sented the gift of a new painting by William Terian, the poet Vahan Tekeyan to the Baikar center. Terian has worked 3½ years for the Internal Rev- enue Service as an illustrator and previ- ously worked five years at the Detroit News. The painting was received with great applause and will be placed in the TCA headquarters.

Edmond Azadian spoke about the many people who worked and had im- portant experiences connected with the Baikar Center, and hoped that this will continue in the future after its renovation and after the successful and enjoyable convention this year. He praised the TCA Boston chapter’s efforts in hosting the delegates, Central Board members and guests.

TCA Central Board Secretary Hagop Vartivarian formally gave the Simianor Trophy to the Detroit delegation, praising their activities.

Arken presented special trophies to Apr Khachikian and archivist Norair Ker- loipan who were inscribed in recogni- tion and profound appreciation of their tireless service and dedication in the ren- ovation of the Baikar Building from the Tekeyan Cultural Association of the United States and Canada, and dated November 23, 2019. Torosian, Arkan said, would come even at the earliest hours during the week before the convention to open the doors of the center to various workers, and supervise their work closely. He thanked Torosian for the early stages of the renovations because of his great experience. Kherloipan took over and planned and executed the final stages of the renovation with great timing. He took great time to find various teams of workers to carry out his design as an ar- chitect for the hall and the upstairs. He too would come mornings and nights, Arkan said, to make sure the work con- tinued.

An told the audience that this was not an official opening for the renovated Baikar Center but rather the continuation of the TCA convention. When the build- ing will be completed a formal reception will be held for the friends of Tekeyan and the Armenian Mirror-Spec- tator who have been so supportive in the past.

Montreal violinist Dr. Nune Melik performed several solo pieces, which en- traigned the audience and led to a request of an encore. Arkan said, the friends of Tekeyan should accept. Melik, who was born in Siberia and studied in Montreal, began playing the violin at the age of five and moved to Montreal in 2009. In 2010 she began the Hidden Treasure International Project to explore and promote rarely heard music, including that of Armenia. She had her solo debut in Carnegie Hall’s Stern Au- ditorium in 2016 and in 2019 even shared the stage with Jimmy Buffett. She is also the author of poetry and has a doctorate from McGill University.

An unexpected talent turned up in the audience, interestingly again from Montreal. A talented young medical stu- dent Chloe Balian, though not prepared to perform, was spontaneously con- vinced to sing for the friendly audience, and so winningly performed an Armenian song that she too was asked for an en- core. 25-year-old Balian has sung and danced in the eastern show for 3 years old. She is also a pianist with vocal training by a McGill University music professor. She has performed in several plays with Montreal’s Tekeyan HayPerafter group and in many other shows. She can sing in four languages (Armenian, Eng- lish, French and Spanish). Balian holds a master’s degree in pathology, and is in medical school at the University of Mon- treal.

The final element of the cultural pro- gram was a heartfelt recitation of two of his own rhythmically inspired poems by TCA Boston executive member Sargis Kasdalian.

The entire evening was made all the more enjoyable by the culinary talent of caterer and longtime Tekeyan supporter Sarkis Arzoumanian.

While the convention ended late that night, the Tekeyan Central Board held a meeting to discuss their future and forthcoming projects. Edmond Azadian was elected president, Dr. Arshaliv Gundjian vice president, Hagop Vartiv- arian secretary, Artsakh Mher Arakan trea- surer and Vekork Marashlian assistant treasurer, while Dr. Haroutunian Arzou- manian, Carl Bardakian, Hilda Hartounian, and Arman Kuredjian were added to Manoukian, Vatche Sermordjian and Hratch Torjian serve as board members.
International Conference: "The Rescue of Armenians in the Middle East 1915-1923"

Yerevan, Armenia – On November 8-9, the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute (AGMI), sponsored by the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA), and with support of the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin, organized a two-day International Conference titled "The Rescue of Armenians in the Middle East 1915-1923." The Conference officially opened at the AGMI Conference Hall. Father Asoghik Karapetyan, a Representa- tive of the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin and the Director of Museums and Archives, conveyed greetings from His Holiness Karkeni II, Catholics of All Armenians. "We should always raise the question that humanity and self-sacrifice have been a guiding principle for Armenians in our lives today and at all times as an important assurance of national existence. Although our people have been brutal- ly massacred in their Homeland, they were able with their unique ability of resurrection to continue to create and to build, and the role of the devotees is great in that process."

In his remarks, AGMI Director Harutyun Marutyan mentioned that the idea of this Conference was born out of a bilateral collaboration between the AGMI and the AMAA. “The purpose of this Conference is to present the fate of those displaced due to the Armenian Genocide, and to highlight the activities of Armenian and interna- tional organizations and individuals who played a great role of rescuing Armenian refugees, particularly children and women.

"Why in 2019?" questioned Mr. Marutyan. "Because exactly 100 years ago the One Armenian, One Cold movement started, when thousands of Armenian orphans were in captivity and on the brink of Islamization. Ar- menian orphan children by the Ochibor of the future of the Ar- menian nation is greatly dependent on those orphans and they need to do everything possible to save these children who will become the citizens of tomorrow's Armenia.

AMAA Executive Director/CEO Zaven Khajayan wel- come Conference participants with a video message where he said: "It is the irony of history that we are ex- periencing today. While we are here at the opening of this Conference, for the last seven years we have been wit- nesses new atrocities in Syria by the same brutal power whose victims today are the progeny of those rescued in the post Genocide era. The perpetrator and the crime have not rested. It is necessary to be watchful and to ex- pert evil. Therefore, as a nation we must be ready for the task of salvage."

Samvel Karakebayan, Advisor to the RA Ministry of Education and Science, and Raymond Harutyun Kevekyan, Chairman of the AGMI Foundation Board of Trustees, also welcomed participants to the Conference.

On the first day of the Conference, the Exhibition ti- tled "From National Unity to Revival," exclusively fea- tured Armenian contributions to the salvation of Genocide survivors. AGMI Academic Secretary Dr. Narine Margaryan considered this Exhibition unique and the success of various operations organized for the rescue of Armenian orphans was conditioned by their national and ideological unity. "In this work there were apostles, men who clearly understood the seriousness of the moment and were steadfast in their work. Some came in the form of donations, others gathered Armenians from the wilder- ness, and others took care of them in orphanages," she said inviting the audience to be acquainted with the ma- terials about these people and organizations.

Other themes throughout the Exhibition included the activities of Armenian religious institutions and other or- ganizations – the Armenian General Benevolent Union, Armenian National Union, Armenian Orphans Care of Egypt, Armenian Organization of Mesopotamia, Arm- enian Red Cross, the works of Armenian Evangelicals and Catholics, as well as orphanages from the governments of the Republic of Armenia and the Armenian SSR. The Exhibition also included unique archival materials, such as documents, photos and exhibits mainly from the col- lections of the AGMI, and collections from the National Archives of Armenia, Yerevan History Museum and AGMI staff member Mihran Minassyan. Orphanage memories, which included photos, migration routes, or- phanage items and handwork items from the orphans, which until now were never seen, proved very interesting to those in attendance.

Director of the Armenian Studies Program in Modern and Classical Languages and Literature at the University of California, Northridge Dr. Vahram Shemmassian de- livered a report about the pro-Armenian activities of Rev. Aharon Shirijan who forcibly rescued kidnapped Ar- menian women and children in Syria during the Armen- ian Genocide. Rev. Shirijan had been the Superintendent of the Karen Epiphany Church of Britain's Friends of Ar- menian Organization and he continued the work of that organization beginning in 1922. Until 1933, Rev. Shirijan and his wife assisted women and girls who survived the massacres. As time and circumstances dictated, they gave the orphaned children new names, opened a school for them to learn languages, receive religious education and be re-Armenianized. They also took great responsibility to help the girls get married. They carefully chose suit- able mates for them to form happy families and have good Armenian children.

The theme of AGMI Academic Secretary Dr. Narine Margaryan’s presentation was “The Armenian Orphan- age in Aleppo from 1915 to 1924.”

Dr. Margaryan presented the history of the Armenian Orphanage, launched in July 1915, and the role of the insti- tution in rescuing orphans. She detailed the activities of the Orphanage in the areas of education, health, fi- nance, artisanship, caregiving, as well as the issues the Orphanage faced and how they were resolved. Dr. Mar- garyan also touched upon the regional political events of this period which had a direct impact on the Orphanage.

"The Armenian Orphanage in Aleppo started its ac- tivities on July 31, 1915 under the leadership of Rev. Aharon Shirijan who was born in Marash. He received his education at Central Turkey College in Aintab and at- tended the Marash Theological Seminary. In 1912 he went to Edinburgh to continue his theological studies. He wit- nessed the brutal politics of the Hamidian, Young Turk and Kemalist periods. He came to Aleppo after he was deported from Marash, where he founded the Orphan- age. This was the period when the Ottoman Empire con- sistently pursued the policy of exterminating the Armenians. Doctor Assaadour Altounian and his daughter, Nora Altounian, played an important role in the estab- lishment of the Orphanage. They used their personal con- nections and tried to solve the health and wellbeing issues of the orphans."

Director of the Center for Armenian Diaspora Studies of Haigazian University in Beirut Dr. Antranik Dakasian’s theme was “Navigation Between Dreams, Competing Postures, and New Life: HAYASDANI GOCHNAG 1919- 1929.”

In January 1919, the 20-year-old GOCHNAG was re- named HAYASDANI GOCHNAG. This renaming was related to the mission of the proclamation of the Repub- lic of Armenia, the belief in the emergence of a new Ar- menia, and the mission of the newspaper to summon Ar- menian pilgrims to Armenia. The articles, reports and call for Armenian national sentiments published in HAYAS- DANI GOCHNAG gave their results. As a way of public advice, the GOCHNAG’s mission was to inspire Armeni- ans with new vigor, new faith and dreams. In his report, Dr. Dakeesian summarized editorials from the 1919 GOCHNAGS (over 150 editorials) and their main opin- ions.

Following the first session of the Conference, partici- pants visited the Armenian Genocide Monument of Dzidzoragaport and laid flowers near the eternal flames.

The second day of the Conference was held at the KAREKIN I Educational Center of Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin. Twenty-three scholars from Armenia, France, Germany, Lebanon and the United States ad- dressed details of the rescue missions for those who sur- vived the Genocide.

Researcher at Yerevan State University, Genocide Scholar Dr. Hrillar Kaiser’s report, “Religious Activities of the Protestants in the Ottoman Fourth Army from 1915 to 1917,” touched upon Evangelical figures such as Kuondakjian, Mhaidan, Haidostian, and Reis, Ekkidjian and Shirijan, who undertook the task of rescuing those displaced by the Armenian Genocide in Hama and Aleppo. During these rescue missions, Evangelicals also suffered casualties.

Dr. Kaiser particularly remembered Arakaya Ibejian and Beatrice Royer and was the only reporter who also touched upon Turkish individuals who opposed the mas- sacres and helped the displaced. In particular, he pre- sented the charitable actions and assistance provided to Armenians by the Ottoman Fourth Army. He told a notew- orthy story of an Ottoman person who oversaw one of Altounian’s shelters. At the beginning of World War I, he ex- pressed a desire to become a Christian and after the end of the War, he left the Army and Turkey with an Armen- ian woman and eventually lived in Syria in an Evangelical community.

Other participants of the Conference also presented the fates of the displaced, as a result of the Armenian Genocide, highlighting activities of additional Armenian and international organizations and individuals involved in the rescue mission of Armenian refugees, children and women.

At the conclusion of the Conference, Director of the AGMI Foundation Harutyun Marutyan summarized the work done and highly appreciated the fact that "if until now we have always emphasized the role of the foreign- ers in the rescue mission of the Armenians, this two-day Conference emphasized the role of Armenians in the res- cue mission. Moreover, these Armenians were both indi- viduals and large and small organizations, which in today's terminology have taken on the role of the Min- istry of Refugees and have accomplished great organiza- tional work."

The Conference also revealed many issues that still need to be researched. "The second century of the Ar- menian Genocide Study is commencing, and old ques- tions require new answers. There are also new questions that require timely answers," said Mr. Marutyan. He also mentioned that three international conferences and two exhibitions are planned for next year. "I would like to thank the AMAA and in particular Executive Direc- tor/CEO Zaven Khajayan and the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin for their support of this two-day Confer- ence," said Mr. Marutyan, who expressed hope that they would be ready to support their further plans.
Gala
2ND ANNUAL

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2019
4:30PM Reception | 6:00PM Dinner & Program
The Beverly Hilton | Beverly Hills, California

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Former U.S. Secretary of Navy &
U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defense

Kathryn Barger
Los Angeles County Supervisor
5th District

Kenneth L. Khachigian
Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck
Senior Partner

Hundreds of supporters, community leaders, and
public officials are expected to attend the
2nd Annual Armenian American Museum Gala on
Sunday, December 8, 2019. The signature event
of the year will celebrate and support the
landmark project as it approaches its
historic groundbreaking year.

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