



# AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Friday, November 6, 2009

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## **TRANSLATIONS FROM YEREVAN NEWSPAPERS AND OTHER NEWS AGENCIES**

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### **AGBU NEWS**

1. **Emil Kazaz: The Mystic Painter And Sculptor**  
*AGBU Honors The Great Artist In Pasadena* [Azg, 11/06/09]

Highly assessing the unique talent and undeniable contribution of the artist in spreading Armenian culture in foreign circles the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) Southern California District Committee will be honoring Emil Kazaz at a special event at the Pasadena Alex Manoogian Center on November 6. The tribute event will be featuring Shahen Khachatrian, art historian and author from Armenia, Joe Lewis, artist, educator and author from New York, Vache Mankerian (piano) and Bakur Kalantarian (tenor).



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The event will also feature a three-day exhibition of Kazaz's works. The featured artwork at the AGBU Kazaz Tribute Exhibition is provided by the Airian Dome of Fine Art, Inc, home of the largest Emil Kazaz collection, through its founder and president, Monet Airian, who represents the artist worldwide.

Emanuel Kazazian was born in 1953 in Gyumri, Armenia. His father Aram Kazazian was a cobbler, his mother Satik Kazazian, a seamstress at a local theater and music school. Emanuel has two sisters Asia and Elbis. Emil has a daughter, Sate, born in 1979. At the age of 12 Emil attended the Mercurio Art School in Leninakan. In 1968 he entered the Terlemezian Art College and finished it in 1972, continuing his education at the University of Fine Arts and Theater, from which he graduated in 1978 with honors. Emil moved to Los Angeles, California in 1980, where he lives and works up to now. He has participated in exhibitions in Europe, Asia, Russia, North and South America, Canada and throughout the United States. He has received international critical recognition including the prestigious Lorenzo Medici medal from the Florence Biennale in 2003 and Grande Lorenzo il Magnifico (Medici) Prize in Sculpture from Florence Biennale 2007.

As an artist he undoubtedly maintains the atmosphere and coloring of one of the oldest Armenian towns – Gyumri – which he professionally combines with the modern variety of Los Angeles. Kazaz credits his mother as the primary source of his artistic influence. Emil started to sculpt at the age of 7. During the years he created bronze sculptures, oil paintings and mixed media and drawings establishing relations with the biggest and most famous museums and art galleries of the world.

Founder of the contemporary art museum of Yerevan, famous artist Henrik Igition, who passed away years ago, told once, *"Emil is usually asked, 'who do you consider yourself to be, what medium do you prefer?'"* The answer is simple, *"I equally cherish all visual arts. It's like asking whether one prefers air, water or earth. I'm a painter when I paint, a draftsman when I draw and a sculptor when I sculpt"*. *"Emil once said to me that he's got everything he has ever dreamed of and that he's got nothing to ask for from God"*, said Igition.

About two months ago "Academia" Gallery of Yerevan presented the exhibition of the new era of works of Emil Kazaz and it was a huge success.

Kazaz is a man of bright imagination full of drama and colorful vision. But there's always something dark and mysterious in his creations, which pursue the audience. You cannot stay indifferent watching the works of Kazaz, you will want to go deep and discover every nuance and every symbol.

Monet Airian, founder and president of the Airian Dome of Fine Arts, said about Emil, *"Emil Kazaz thinks with his senses, feels with his mind, puts vision into words of his brush and sculpts his poems into bronze. His art is the result of a vision beyond the frontiers of international art, looking back to not only Renaissance or towards rapidly evolving artistic languages, but the very heart of humanity"*.

## POLITICS

### **2. Charles Aznavour speaks about Armenian lands [Noyan Tapan, 11/04/09]**

World-famous French Armenian singer Charles Aznavour in a TV program of RAI 3 Italian TV company spoke about the Armenian-Turkish protocols, his origin, and Armenian lands. Azg reported this. "In 1924 when I was born they had promised to return the lands to the Armenians. I cannot wait for another 85 years. In 1924 Stalin promised to return to the Armenians Erzurum, Yeznka, Aghr, Svas, Elazegh (Kharberd), Diarbekir (Tigranakert), Bitlis, Siirt, Mush, Van, and Hakkari. By the Treaty of Sevres Wilson Armenia was to include the provinces of Trapizon, Erzurum, Van, and Bitlis," C. Aznavour said.

### **3. RA President's two-day state visit to Kuwait finishes [Hayastani Hanrapetutiun, 11/04/09]**

RA President Serzh Sargsyan's two-day state visit to Kuwait finished on November 4 with negotiations with Chairman of Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ali Mohammad Thunian al-Ghanimi.

The same day, straight after a meeting with Kuwait Emir, Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al Sabah Armenia's delegation left for the airport and returned to Armenia.

It should be mentioned that members of the delegation headed by S. Sargsyan were: Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian, Minister of Finance Tigran Sargsian, Minister of Diaspora Hranush Hakobian, Minister of Culture Hasmik Poghosian, Minister of Education and Science Armen Ashotian, Chairman of the NA Armenia-Kuwait deputy friendship group Vahan Hovhannisian, Chairman of the Union of Manufacturers and Businessmen of Armenia Arsen Ghazarian, Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Martin Sargsian.



#### **4. Working visit of the delegation headed by Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan to USA kicks off [Armenpress, 11/05/09]**

The delegation headed by the Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan departed for USA on a working visit to participate in the "ArmTech 2009" business conference.

Governmental press service told Armenpress that on the first day of the visit Tigran Sargsyan met in Los Angeles with the president of "Lincy" Foundation Jay Rakouin and first vice president Harout Sassounyan. The interlocutors discussed issues on cooperation between Armenia and the Foundation.

The "ArmTech 2009" congress will take place in San Jose – center of the "Silicone Valley". The delegation headed by the prime minister consists of head of the government's staff David Sargsyan, Economy Minister Nerses Yeritsyan and other officials.

#### **5. Superpowers consider non-constructive approach of conditioning Armenian-Turkish relations by Nagorno Karabakh problem [Noyan Tapan, 11/05/09]**

As a result of the normalization process of Armenian-Turkish relations the international community has started to view the Nagorno Karabakh problem in a new way. Manvel Sargsian, a senior expert of the Armenian Center for National and International Studies, expressed such an opinion at a November 5 discussion. In his words, the fact that the Turkish side links normalization of relations between Armenia and Turkey with Azerbaijan's interests in the Nagorno Karabakh conflict hinders the normalization of relations today. According to M. Sargsian, superpowers do not like it at all and consider such approach of Turkey non-constructive. The political scientist reminded the statement of Ambassador of RF to Turkey Vladimir Ivanovski, according to which connecting the Nagorno Karabakh conflict and normalization of Armenian-Turkish relations is "absolutely wrong." "It was the first time Russia voiced such a harsh estimation," M. Sargsian said.

In his words, today Turkey is faced by a difficult choice: the geopolitical situation to be formed in the South Caucasian region depends on that choice. On the one hand, according to M. Sargsian, the Turks do not wish to offend their Azeri "brothers" and on the other hand, the danger of recognition of the Armenian Genocide by the U.S. Senate is a sword of Damocles for Turkey and makes it not delay the ratification of the Armenian-Turkish protocols. As to the Armenian side, according to political scientist's prediction, in the near future it will make stricter its position in the Nagorno Karabakh issue.

#### **6. DPA Chairman: At present Armenia is not going to make territorial concessions [Noyan Tapan, 11/05/09]**

The proposal of the Democratic Party of Armenia (DPA) to the National Assembly to adopt a special memorandum is as actual as ever today. Reporting it at a November 5 press conference DPA Chairman Aram Sargsian added that issues regarding non-overcome consequences of the Genocide should be fixed in that memorandum. According to him, NA should take advantage of the current pause in the Armenian-Turkish dialogue and exactly formulate the reservations RA President's last address contained. "I do not say: no relations with Turkey, but on the other hand, I am not for embracing the Turks," A. Sargsian said.

According to the DPA leader, Turkey itself has entered into a big game and is not able to come out of it. In his words, the U.S. is very much interested in ratification of the Armenian-Turkish protocols and raised the issue of recognition of the Genocide in Senate to intimidate Turkey. And Armenia, A. Sargsian is convinced, can still wait. "I do not understand the apprehension that we will be made to make concessions in the issue of Nagorno Karabakh," he noted. According to the DPA leader, the fact that lately President Serzh Sargsyan has personally participated in exercises held by Azerbaijan's characterization, in "occupied" Aghdam, implies that Armenia is not going to make territorial concessions at the moment.

#### **7. Istanbul Armenian editors positively estimate Armenian-Turkish conciliation process [Noyan Tapan, 11/05/09]**

After the wave of disagreements following the signing of the Armenian-Turkish conciliation protocols the sides seem to have taken a time-out, Ara Gochunian, editor-in-chief of the Zhamanak daily published in Turkey said in his interview to Radio Liberty.



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According to Gochunian, "at this stage the two sides mainly look at the opposite side's position and wait to see what step the other will undertake with the willingness to again test the opponent's political will and to balance society's mutually contradictory moods as far as possible."

Besides, according to Zhamanak newspaper's editor-in-chief, the two sides attentively keep up with the international events, process of rearrangement of forces.

According to the observation of Aris Nalci, editor of the Agos Turkish-Armenian bilingual newspaper of Istanbul, the process of Armenian-Turkish conciliation had a positive influence in the respect that the two countries' communities, peoples got to know each other better.

According to Aris Nalci, the Armenian community of Turkey treats positively the launched processes, therefore the Armenian community should be involved in it "because it is a community that knows the views of both the Turkish and Armenian peoples."

Part of Diasporan Armenians is categorically against creation of a subcommission on historic dimension envisaged by the Armenian-Turkish protocols. In Ara Gochunian's opinion, however, discussion of the issue in the commission "does not cast a doubt on the fact of the genocide."

"Turkey is looking for some platform, on which it should just be able to discuss this subject with the Armenian side. In any case, we should consider an achievement that the two sides have readiness to discuss the issue with one another at this stage. There are important preconditions today to bring closer those opposite approaches a little," Gochunian said.

Alis Nalci, in his turn, mentioned that commission's activity can have positive significance: "I think it will not be so easy but after all in several years people should get in touch with their history."

## BUSINESS

### **8. 53 Companies to take part in the "Country of Talking Stones 2009" 9<sup>th</sup> international tourism exhibition in Yerevan [Armenpress, 11/05/09]**

About 53 companies will take part in the "Country of Talking Stones 2009" 9<sup>th</sup> international tourism exhibition which will take place in Yerevan November 6-7 organized by the "Armenian Union of Tourist Agents".

Coordinator of the exhibition Lusine Stepanyan told Armenpress that besides Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh the participants will present Belgium, Georgia, Israel, Greece, Finland. The exhibition will have 30 pavilions. Representatives of tourism agencies, airlines, tour-operators, hotel complexes, rest houses, leading brandy producers will take part in the event.

L. Stepanyan said that the exhibition will give an opportunity to exchange useful information and experience, establish business ties as well as present products and services.

Armenian Economy Ministry supports the organization of the exhibition the conduction of which is funded by USAID's CAPS.

### **9. Ararat Ghukasyan elected the chairman of the Union of Armenian Banks [Aravot, 11/05/09]**

In the extraordinary session of the Union of Armenian Banks held November 4 Ararat Ghukasyan has been unanimously elected the chairman of the union.

An official from the union told Armenpress that in this office A. Ghukasyan will replace the chairman of "Prometey Bank" administration Emil Soghomonian who was holding this post from August 2007.

## ARTS

### **10. As part of "Bibliobus" program 2693 books to be donated to the libraries of Nagorno Karabakh [Armenpress, 11/05/09]**

As part of "Bibliobus" program implemented on the initiative of Armenian Culture Ministry and Armenian National Library 2693 books will be donated tomorrow to the libraries of Nagorno Karabakh.

Chief specialist of the Cultural Heritage Department of the Armenian Culture Ministry Luiza Berberyan told Armenpress that book exhibition is expected to be conducted and separate professional classes will be held for the Karabakh library employees.

Within the framework of the program 3396 books have already been distributed.



**11. The fourth republican festival of young theatrical producing will be held in Yerevan November 8-18 [Armenpress, 11/05/09]**

The fourth republican festival of young theatrical producing will be held in Yerevan November 8-18 initiated and being for the fourth time carried out by the Union of Armenian Theatrical Figures.

An official from the festival's organization committee told Armenpress that theatres from Yerevan and provinces are participating in the event. By the way two years ago the festival was conducted in Gyumri. International experts from different countries will be present.

The main goal of the festival is to present the works of young directors, reveal new names in the theatrical sphere. Fourteen works against 11 of the past year have been presented this time.

Within the framework of the festival after each performance discussions are being held.

**12. Exhibition of Sergei Parajanov's works opens in Slovak Republic [Noyan Tapan, 11/05/09]**

The opening ceremony of a photo exhibition of Sergei Parajanov's works took place at the hall of the Slovak Ministry of Culture on October 28. According to the RA MFA Press and Information Department, the agreement on holding the exhibition was reached during the visit of Armenian Minister of Culture Hasmik Poghosian to the Slovak Republic in July.

The exhibition was organized by joint efforts of the ministries of culture of the two countries, the Armenian embassy in Vienna, and the Sergei Parajanov Museum.

**13. Armenian director's film about Henry Morgenthau to be demonstrated in Germany and at Endicott College in New York [Noyan Tapan, 11/05/09]**

A film about Henry Morgenthau made by Abo Torosian, a director of Armenian descent, will be demonstrated at Endicott College in New York and broadcast by the state television channel of Germany. Azat Or wrote that in this connection Abo Torosian sent a letter to Boston Globe, giving the details of the film's screening in Athens last year.

The film dedicated to H. Morgenthau was also demonstrated at the international conference of genocide scholars held in Arlington last June. Among attendees was the famous Armenian American writer Peter Balakian.

**14. French Armenian conductor Alain Altinoglu to lead orchestra of Opera Bastille [Noyan Tapan, 11/05/09]**

The French Armenian conductor Alain Altinogly will lead the orchestra of Opera Bastille (Paris) during the performance of "Salome" opera by Richard Strauss from November 7 to December 1. Born to a family of Istanbul-based Armenians, this young yet famous conductor with oriental roots will add some original tones to the oriental melodies of this opera, Marmara daily wrote.

## RELIGION

**15. Construction of Armenian Savior's Church is intended to be finished next year [Armenpress, 11/05/09]**

The construction of Armenian Savior's Church is intended to be finished next year in autumn. Armenians living in Nizhniy Novgorod greatly support the church-construction works through their charitable actions.

"Yerkramas" newspaper reports that the income of the concert held in the town at the end of October has been extended to the construction of the church, too. Six hundred rubles have been received from the concert which was held with the participation of different music groups from Armenia and Nizhniy Novgorod.

The outline of this Armenian church has been drafted in Armenia. Construction works have started since February of this year. The complex will be comprised of two parts – of the church itself and of an administrative department, where a library and a Sunday school will open for Armenian pupils.



## SOCIAL

### **16. “Orange Armenia” mobile communication company announced today the launch of its activity in Armenia [Armenpress, 11/05/09]**

“Orange Armenia” mobile communication company announced today the launch of its activity in Armenia. About 500 towns and villages of Armenia are involved in the network of services of “Orange”, will make use of its mobile phone communication, 2G, 3G and 3G+ services. From Thirteen shops of “Orange”, 3000 sale-points and 30 shops of franchising companies will open and function from today.

Seventy thousand numbers have been registered via web site of the company and may be activated from the next week in a month period.

Director of the Armenian company of “Orange” Bruno Dutua said today at a press conference that Armenia becomes the 31<sup>st</sup> country in the family of “Orange”. The 300 new jobs created in Armenia add to the 183,000 jobs created by the company in the whole world. “Orange Armenia” company has made 100 million euros’ investment in the country and according to the director each investment is directed toward establishment of a value not only for investor but for the country where it will operate.

“We are becoming new role-maker in Armenia with our values, created jobs. We are aimed at transiting the telecommunication market and becoming the most preferred operator and brand. Armenia and France are united by special relations. With our entrance we will also serve to the big Armenian community of France,” the director said.

The top five main principles of the activity of “Orange” in Armenia he considered the ensuring of extra-quick Internet, suggestion of innovative products and services, best tariffs, providing very good services and apply of extra-quick mobile internet.

The company considers “Beeline” and “VivaCell” as serious competitors and respects their work. Bruno Dutua also expressed gratitude to the Armenian authorities for support.

The marketing director of the company Aram Mkrtychyan presented the services of “Orange Armenia”.

### **17. Workshop on Adana history to be held in Istanbul [Noyan Tapan, 11/05/09]**

A workshop titled Adana 1909: History, Memory and Identity from a Hundred Year Perspective will take place on November 6-7 on the premises of Sabanci University with participants from Europe and North America. The co-sponsors are Sabanci University, Istanbul Bilgi University History Department, the International Hrant Dink Foundation, and Bogazici University History Department.

According to Groong, Gomidas Institute Director Ara Sarafian mentioned that originally they had planned to organize such a meeting in London but it was rescheduled for Istanbul as Turkish colleagues expressed interest in hosting a bigger meeting in Turkey.

To recap, earlier this month, Gomidas Institute co-sponsored a special multi-media event, Remembering Adana, in Glendale, California with a special month-long photographic exhibition.

### **18. The American corners to ensure factual, correct and open information about USA [Armenpress, 11/06/09]**

“Armenian American Corners” non-governmental organization every week in November is planning to organize film showing about Armenia and USA.

Coordinator of the NGO Ella Asmaryan told Armenpress that during the last week of the month a workshop will also be conducted dedicated to the activity of Armenians, Japanese, and Americans during the Second World War.

The American corners are aimed at boosting cooperation through the cooperation of US embassy in Armenia and Armenian libraries between the United States and Armenia, ensuring factual, correct and open information about USA.

The American corners are original libraries which help to expand mutual understanding between Armenia and USA.

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*Established in 1906, AGBU ([www.agbu.org](http://www.agbu.org)) is the world's largest non-profit Armenian organization. Headquartered in New York City with an annual budget of \$36 million, AGBU preserves and promotes the Armenian identity and heritage through educational, cultural and humanitarian programs, annually touching the lives of some 400,000 Armenians on six continents.*