

AND WE REPEAT HERE THE FOND HOPE OF ALL HAIRENIK READERS OF OUR DAY THAT, SOMEDAY, THE HAIRENIK WILL BE PRINTED IN OUR HAIRENIK.

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TOVMAZ CHARSHAFJIAN,
HAIRENIK'S FOUNDING EDITOR



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The Armenian Weekly

DECEMBER 2019



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ON THE COVER The first issue of the Hairenik, published in New York City on May 1, 1899. The quote that appears is the conclusion to an essay written by Hairenik's founding editor Tovmas Charshafjian about the establishment of the newspaper.

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The Armenian Weekly

The Armenian Weekly
December 2019



UPS identification statement
546-280



**Armenian
Revolutionary
Federation**
Eastern Region USA

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THE ARMENIAN WEEKLY

(ISSN 0004-2374)
is published weekly by the
Hairenik Association, Inc.,
80 Bigelow Ave,
Watertown, MA 02472.

Periodical postage paid in
Boston, MA and additional
mailing offices.

This special publication has a
print run of 10,000 copies.

The opinions expressed in this
newspaper, other than in the
editorial column, do not neces-
sarily reflect the views of THE
ARMENIAN WEEKLY.

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National Association for Armenian Studies and Research



The NAASR Board of Directors congratulates the Hairenik on its 120th anniversary and for its pioneering and enduring contributions to the Armenian-American community. We are grateful to the Hairenik Association for its recent generous donation of materials to NAASR's Mardigian Library, and we look forward to future collaborations and to welcoming all to our new Vartan Gregorian Building in Belmont, Mass.



George Aghjayan is the Director of the Armenian Historical Archives and the chair of the ARF Central Committee of the Eastern U.S. Aghjayan graduated with honors from Worcester Polytechnic Institute in 1988 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Actuarial Mathematics. He achieved Fellowship in the Society of Actuaries in 1996.

After a career in both insurance and structured finance, Aghjayan retired in 2014 to concentrate on Armenian related research and projects. His primary area of focus is the demographics and geography of western Armenia as well as a keen interest in the hidden Armenians living there today. Other topics he has written and lectured on include Armenian genealogy and genocide denial. He is a board member of the National Association of Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR), a frequent contributor to the Armenian Weekly and Houshamadyan.org, and the creator and curator westarmenia.weebly.com, a website dedicated to the preservation of Armenian culture in Western Armenia.



Leeza Arakelian has been serving as assistant editor of the Armenian Weekly since Sept. 2018. She is a southern California native and a formally trained broadcast news writer and multimedia storyteller.

In 2010, she graduated from UCLA with a communications degree and then traveled to

Boston to live with her maternal grandmother while attending Emerson College's journalism graduate program. Since 2012, Leeza has written and produced for several local and network television news programs including Boston 25. In 2013, she headed to Washington, D.C., where she became the associate producer for Al Jazeera America's flagship program America Tonight. Leeza lives in Sudbury, Mass. with her husband Sebouh, their son Alik, and dog Penny.



Rupen Janbazian is the editor of Hamazkayin's online platform h-pem. He previously served as the assistant editor (2014–2016) then editor (2016–2018) of the Armenian Weekly.

Janbazian's writings primarily focus on community, language, literature, and Armenian culture. He has reported from Armenia, Artsakh,

Turkey, Canada, the U.S, and Western Armenia. He has served on the local and national executives of the Armenian Youth Federation (AYF) of Canada and Hamazkayin Toronto, and served as the administrator of the Armenian National Committee of Toronto. He has also taught Armenian History and Creative Writing at the ARS Armenian Private School of Toronto and the St. Stephen's Armenian Saturday School of Watertown, Mass.

Janbazian's Western Armenian translation of William Saroyan's short stories was published by Sosé & Allen's Legacy Foundation in 2016, while his English translation of Andranik Tzarukian's *Letter to Yerevan*, which he completed in collaboration with Tatul Sonentz Papazian, was published by Hairenik Press in 2018.



Matthew Karanian is a lawyer, the author of several books about Armenia, and a longtime contributor to the Armenian Weekly.

He first traveled to the Republic of Armenia in 1995 and then to the historic lands of Western Armenia two years later. This book is the product of the author's numerous research trips

to Western Armenia since 1997.

Karanian lived in Armenia's capital city of Yerevan during the early days of Armenian independence and served as an advocate for Armenia's non-governmental organizations. As a legal scholar, he later served as Associate Dean of the law school at the American University of Armenia, where he taught international law and founded the Armenian Law Review.

He is the 2016 recipient of the Arshile Gorky Medal from the Republic of Armenia in recognition of his contributions to the arts and for his role in helping to build bridges between Armenia and its worldwide Diaspora.

The Armenian Highland: Western Armenia and the First Armenian Republic of 1918 is Karanian's latest publication. It is the first and only historical guide to the Armenian nation in Western Armenia and in the now-overrun territories of the First Armenian Republic of 1918.



Antranig Kasbarian Antranig Kasbarian is a former editor of the Armenian Weekly (1987–1992) and has been active in Armenian affairs for most of his life. Over the past 20 years, he has been a lecturer, activist, and community leader in the Eastern U.S. He has also worked regularly as a journalist, activist, and researcher

in Artsakh and has held various positions within the ARF. He holds a PhD in Geography from Rutgers University. His doctoral dissertation dealt with the geography of nationalism during the 1988–1994 war in Nagorno-Karabakh, based largely on his own experiences on the ground. He has published widely on Artsakh in both academic journals and the press. He joined the Tufenkian Foundation in 2003, launching its program in Artsakh focusing on economic recovery and refugee resettlement, and now serves as its Director of Development.



Michael G. Mensoian (Ph.D., J.D., MAJ, U.S. Army, Retired) is Professor Emeritus Middle East and Political Geography, at the University of Massachusetts, Boston, where he was the former Chair of the Department of Regional Studies and Director of the Armenian Studies Program. Dr. Mensoian created the curriculum and served

as Director of the Graduate Program for Teachers in the American Schools in Brazil. He has served as a Consulting Geography editor for the Catholic Textbook Division of Doubleday and Company and contributor to World Book Encyclopedia. Dr. Mensoian has co-authored many textbooks, including *The Arab World-New Africa*, *People of Africa and Asia*, *People of the Middle East and North Africa*, and *Manual for Physical Geography*, and also served as contributing author for *Arab World-New Africa-Oriental World*, a William Sadlier series on World Culture Groups. He writes regularly for The Armenian Weekly.



Georgi-Ann Oshagan is a former editor of the Armenian Weekly (1982–1984). She was vice-chair and chair of the Armenian Relief Society (ARS) Eastern U.S. Board of Regional Directors from 2001 to 2005 and vice-chair of the ARS Central Executive Board from 2005 to 2008.

Georgi-Ann graduated from Emerson College with a degree in Mass Communications/Journalism. Her first journalism job was at the Armenian Weekly and her first by-line was published in the Weekly when she was chapter reporter for the Armenian Youth Federation (AYF-YOARF) Providence Varantian Juniors.

Today Georgi-Ann is an administrator for the UAW-FCA-Ford-General Motors Legal Services Plan. Prior to that appointment, she had been an associate general counsel for the International Union, UAW in Detroit since 1995.



Muriel "Mimi" Parseghian served as editor of the Armenian Weekly from June 1984 to June 1989. Mimi immigrated to the U.S. from her birthplace, Marseille, France, in 1963. She was educated in the Lowell, Mass. public school system and received her BA in History from Northeastern University in 1976. Prior to her

tenure at the Armenian Weekly, Mimi spent nine months in Beirut attending the Nishan Palandjian Jemaran's Armenian Studies Program.

Mimi has been an active member of the ARF since 1977 and the Armenian Relief Society (ARS) since 1979. She has previously served on the ARS Eastern U.S. Board of Directors.

After leaving the Hairenik Publications, she joined the private sector in the field of sales and marketing.

Editor's Desk

A Hairenik Away from Home

By Rupen Janbazian, Editor, The Armenian Weekly (2016–2018)

The first time I walked through the doors of the Hairenik headquarters in Watertown almost a decade ago, the unfamiliar building and its dedicated occupants felt strangely familiar. I almost instantly fell in love...

After our tour of the building, I asked a dear friend to snap a photo of me pointing at the "Hairenik" sign atop the side entrance of 80 Bigelow Ave. and uploaded it onto Facebook for the world to see. I captioned the photo, "If I had a choice, this would probably be my home."

As fate would have it, years later, the Hairenik became exactly that: my home. It was there where folks who I only knew as names on paper and screen quickly became colleagues, dear friends, and mentors; where days turned into nights, where nights turned into days, and where I spent more time than at my own apartment; where I was able to make my dream of translating and publishing my favorite piece of Armenian literature into reality; and where I learned about our people's storied history as much as I learned about myself.

And although I officially stepped down from my position at the Armenian Weekly well over a year ago, the Hairenik is the sort of institution one can't simply leave or forget. It's a family which spans generations and defies geography.

The Hairenik and its publications have reported on practically every major event in modern Armenian history since 1899. For many Armenians fleeing the Ottoman Empire before and during the Armenian Genocide, the publication became a lifeline to the homeland and even functioned as a bulletin board for those seeking information about loved ones lost amidst the massacres. It continued its mission through two World Wars, reporting on the establishment of the First Republic of Armenia and its Sovietization, the Artsakh Liberation War, the catastrophic 1988 earthquake, the second independence of the Republic, and so many metamorphic moments of our collective story with such legendary names as Arshak Vramian (1900–1907), Siamanto (1909–1911), Simon Vratsian (1911–1914), and Rouben Darbinian (1922–1968) at its helm.

Today, 120 years after the establishment of the Hairenik and 85 years since the launch of its English-language counterpart, it is imperative to understand the significant place this storied institution occupies in the illustrious history of the Armenian nation.

Through this issue, you will be transported to 1899 and learn about how the Hairenik came to life from its founding editor (page 8); you will read about the impact of the Hairenik publications on the greater Armenian community from two longtime contributors (page 20 and 33); you will get an inside look at the personal experiences of former editors of the Armenian Weekly during the tumultuous years of the Armenian armed struggle movement (page 29) and Armenia's devastating earthquake of 1988 (page 37); you will learn about the Hairenik Newspaper Digitization Project, through which the entire archive of the Hairenik newspapers (Armenian and English) will eventually be made available to the public (page 40); and hear from another former editor, who starts important conversations about the future of our media (page 46).

Readers will also get a behind-the-scenes look at how the newspapers were put together seven decades ago, through an exclusive reprint of four fascinating photographs (page 25) and read about the experiences of a current editor (page 44). Finally, for the first time in English translation, the 1934 Hairenik editorial announcing the creation of the English language newspaper and outlining its purpose (page 20) is published in these pages.

Surely you noticed the quotation used on this issue's cover page. Years after he passed the proverbial torch to other editors, Hairenik's founding editor, Tovmas Charshafian, was asked to recall the story of the founding of the newspaper for the publication's monthly periodical. He concluded his account with the hope that the Hairenik would one day "be printed in our Hairenik (the homeland)" and return "home."

That hope remains the same for many of us dreamers.

Until that glorious day, the Hairenik publications will continuously offer that piece of home, that piece of the homeland, and, with your loyalty, remain unhampered by the threats that may confront it. □

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The Hairenik publications are made possible by contributions from the following endowment funds:

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TRIAL AND TRIUMPH *the* Hairenik was born

By Tovmas Charshafjian
Hairenik's Founding Editor (1899–1900)

Do you know how the Hairenik was born into this world? Let me recall what I can of that nativity. Along about the 1890s, H. Eginian, the father of Armenian journalism in America, a member of the then tiny Armenian community of New York City and northern New Jersey, produced in succession his pioneering *Arekag*, *Sourhantag* and *Azadoutiun* newspapers. These publications lasted only for brief periods of time.

When Hagop Baronian, the immortal Armenian humorist, saw a copy of the first issue *Arekag*, he commented that “this sheet ought to vanish over the horizon.” It was as if Eginian heeded this sentiment. One after another, his three newspapers in fact “vanished over the horizon.”

Another early editor was a certain Arvadian. His publication was called *Ararat*.

Almost concurrently, Dr. Kaprielian opened publication in New York City of a colorless personal venture masted *Hayk*. For a time, this editor ascended public stages and “growled for Vasbourakan

the Lion... Where prithee is Portukalian?” But the day after the Bank Ottoman incident, he growled “long live the bomb.” So the press run of his paper achieved the lofty figure of 300. But soon, it had no more than 75 to 80 subscribers—and it succumbed.

Meanwhile, in Worcester, the Capital City of Armenian America, two friends, (S.) Shagholian and Boyaiian, as if it were their principal objective to insult the immortal Mesrop Mashtots, tried without any success whatsoever to publish an Armenian newspaper.

These failures did not change the situation in America one iota. The existence of a vigorous press is important both to a small community of people and to political parties. The lack of a press presence was sorely felt, but it was also felt that it would take an impossible miracle to establish a responsible, scientific and literary newspaper for Armenians in this country. For, as it was widely accepted, the first prerequisite towards the establishment of a paper is to find an editor.

In those days, about 30,000 Armenians were scattered over the broad face of America.



Hairenik staff, spring 1911, at the 7 Bennet Street, Boston location. Haroutioun Hovanes Chakmakjian (Hairenik editor 1909–1911) is seen working (far right), with Siamanto (Hairenik editor 1909–1911) seated behind him.

A professor of chemistry at Tufts University, Chakmakjian wrote numerous books in several languages. His notable publications included an English-Armenian dictionary—an enduring work of Armenian lexicography, which remains regularly used today—as well as a 700-page history of Armenia. He was also the father of famed American composer Alan Hovhanness.

Poet Siamanto (born Atom Varjanian) is considered one of the most influential Armenian writers of the late 19th century and early 20th century. He was killed by the Ottoman authorities in 1915 during the Armenian Genocide. (Photo: Hairenik Archives)

These people were usually out of contact with one another and totally out of reach of the Motherland. There were on the scene only two organs issued by political parties abroad which, now and then, printed somber news of events abroad . . . meant for members of those parties.

One night, during a severe New York rainstorm, I bumped into Eginian while walking up 3rd Avenue. Seeking shelter, we ran to Ghoomrigian's tailor shop on 41st Street.

An Armenian tailor shop could always be found in those days in any large community of Armenians in the United States—also an Armenian barber, a grocer and a baker. These stores served as forums of the Armenian community, for “hot-stove” discussions on the community's affairs, on matters relating to Armenian political party, national, and religious business. All helpful or harmful movements were either first conceived in these centers, or else were outrightly born there. In New York,

tailor Ghoomrigian's store, especially its back rooms, had for a long time been a gathering place for Armenian personages, for the swapping of visits or ideas. Ghoomrigian's had achieved a reputation for being a community hotbed. Certain conservatives had dubbed it the new “Oven of Galata.”

This broken down, wooden one-story structure was not one of the boasts of wealthy and beautiful New York. Ghoomrigian would needle out his livelihood in the front of the store while, in the black nest that represented the place's rear, alas, the “nationalists” were totally unable to make a living out of their incessant chatter and pen-pushing.

One corner of the back of that store was closed off by a curtain hiding a decrepit bedstead, on which many of New York's penniless (now people with quite a few pennies) would spend half-sleepless nights. Near this opaque cave were heaped one to two piles of coal. To some, the fuel was there simply to filter out the air of the place.

There was also a row of tailoring benches, which, during the day, served the purpose for which they were exactly meant, while at night, they served another purpose—to provide luxurious beds on which many of us slept on many occasions. And right in the middle of all this there stood a stove with its belly red hot summer and winter in order to heat up the pressing irons of this master tradesman.

It was near that stove that Eginian and I sat that night and began discussing the eternal issue—the publication of a newspaper.

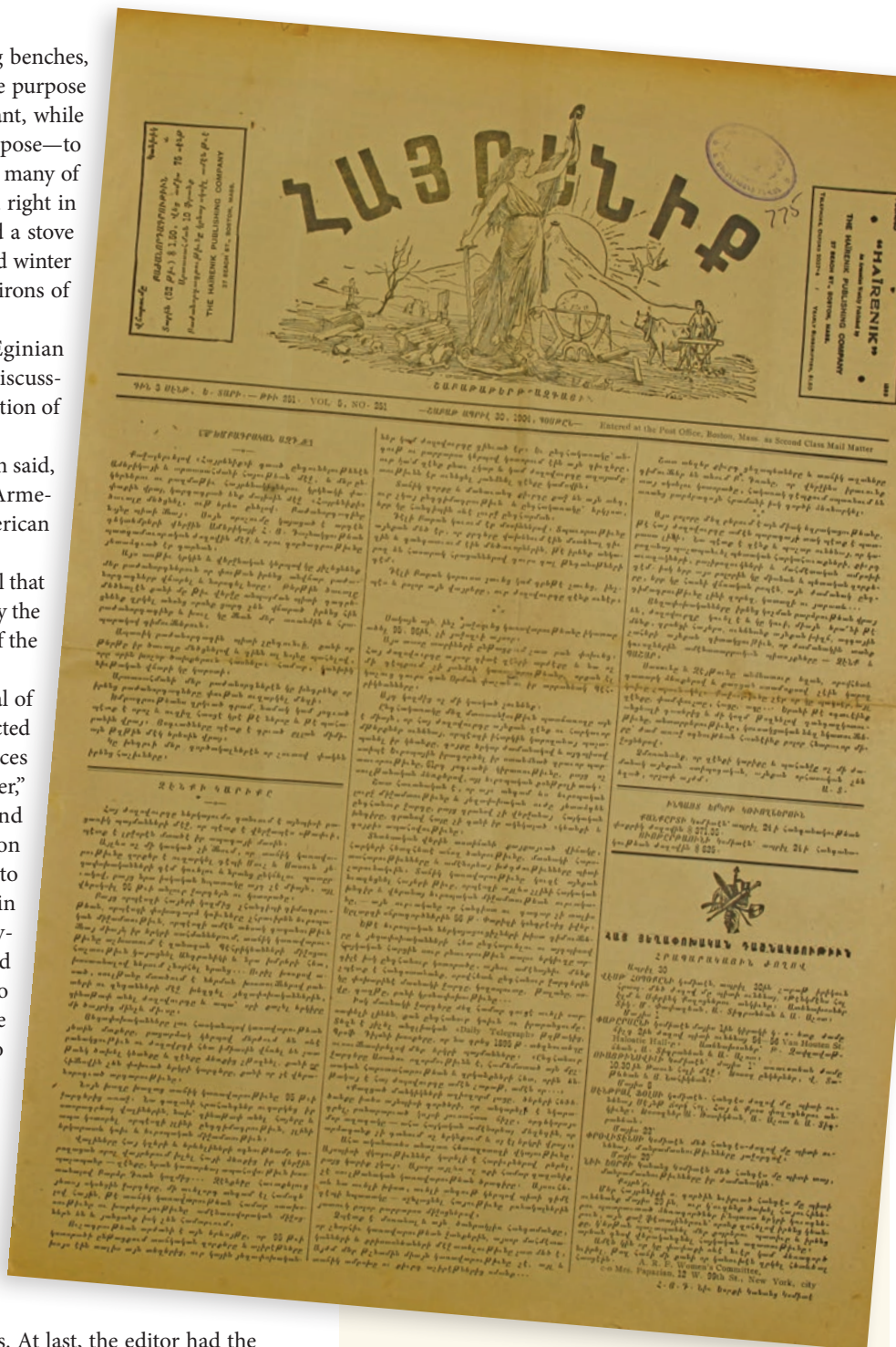
"I've already told you," Eginian said, "that the 'mother' matrices for Armenian type are available at an American foundry."

"Then," said Ghoomrigian, "all that is needed is a sum of money to buy the Armenian type—the 'daughter' of the 'mother'—and get to work!"

A few days later, with a capital of only about \$300—which we extracted from a few personal acquaintances we named Ghoomrigian "treasurer," and Eginian editor, servant, and typesetter and started publication of our *Tigris*. We produced two to three copies of this publication in Ghoomrigian's other equally cavernous store on 42nd Street, and then transferred our operations to the rear of the now historic store on 41st Street which, then, was to become the manager of Armenian-American journalism—the birthplace of the *Hairenik*.

We distributed 2,000 fliers among the Armenian communities announcing our publication. If we did not receive in return 2,000 "green sheets," we succeeded in drawing to us a solid army of freeloading readers. At last, the editor had the satisfaction of reading his own newspaper into which he had inserted the enormous reams of world and local news he had so solicitously provided . . .

The newspaper *Yevrad* wholly dried up before the exuberant disaster that was to be *Tigris*. In suspending publication of his own organ, *Hayk's* Sactor announced that "my publication will be resumed in April." But the newspaper had had its cycle. It never appeared again.



The editorial on the front page of the April 30, 1904 issue of the *Hairenik* announces the expansion of the newspaper from six to eight pages on the occasion of the publication's fifth anniversary.

There were many who were quite satisfied with all this. But there were a few—members of political parties—who had begun to mull the matter of the newspaper. They envisioned a party organ which would serve as a sort of half-official “mouthpiece” of the party. Using my position as a pretext, the *Dashnaksakans* started submitting ARF propaganda articles and even “*Droshakakan* poetry” to the editor of *Tigris*. On their own parts, the *Hunchaks*, regarding Eginian as their open sesame, started sending in *anti-Dashnaksakan* encyclicals to us. And thus, one day the tumult reached that point when the unforgettable A. Levonian “started drawing up the four corners of the curtain on A. Arpiarian’s treacheries.” It was inevitable, of course, that K. Chitjian and G. Papazian “pulled down the four corners of the same curtain” in the next issue of *Tigris*.

A remedy had to be found to all this.

One day, the late and lamented ARF fieldworker, D. Vahanian, who was then in Worcester, sent A. Levonian to me bearing the Western ARF Bureau’s unfavorable answer to a petition we had rendered the organization (for assistance). Levonian told us that our fellow *Dashnaksakans* abroad would not aid us financially, but would send us a shipment of type should we start publishing a semi-official newspaper in America.

At this, the incomparable Levonian coursed from Boston to Worcester, Lawrence, Lynn, Haverhill, and thereabouts. In New York, New Jersey and Providence, politically minded ARF members “huddled head to head,” and, one day—a beautiful spring day—in Providence, a few “selected” members heard Marcus Der Manuelian read to them the first editorial of the *Hairenik*. Although the newspaper was not yet in existence, its first “editorial” had been pre-published!

The first issue of the *Hairenik* saw the light of day on May 1, 1899. It is totally necessary to say that that first historic issue was produced in the rear of Ghoomrigian’s store.

There was an editorial, but there was no editor. There was a newspaper, but there was no money.

The New York Committee of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation must be given the honor of being recognized as the earliest initiator of the *Hairenik*—that is, all glory to Vart Manoushag, the industrious M. Minasian, M. Ferahian, Baghdasar Yeghpayr (Hagi), the “melancholic” Mr. Chakour, the spirited D. Kiupelian, as well as to such sympathizers as the Ghoomrigians and K. H. Tashjian, of Philadelphia. All glory to such as Providence’s Marcus Der Manuelian, T. Jelalian, Dzaghig and the late Aslan; to Caro of Haverhill and K. Kaloustian of Lawrence; to Alipounarian, Kelemkarian, Boyajian, the Barsamian brothers and Berberian, all of New

Jersey; and to H. Chakmakjian of Stamford, Connecticut, and others whose names we have unfortunately forgotten. All these individuals participated financially and morally in the birth of the *Hairenik*.

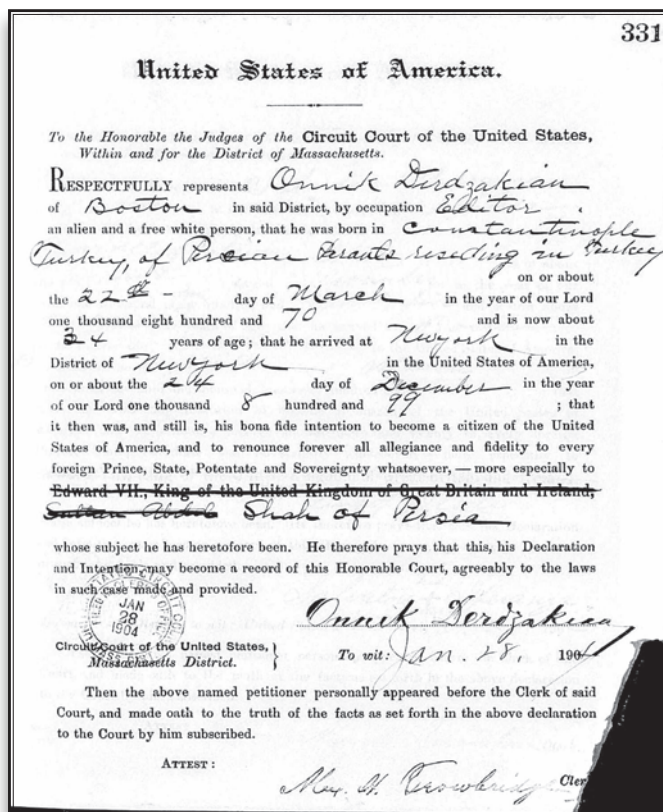
Through the efforts and sacrifices of members and friends, the ARF Convention, held that year in Boston, discussed the issue of the *Hairenik* and directed the Central Committee to buy a \$100 share in the company. And so the capital assets of the company stood at a figure over \$200!

One night, we attended a meeting of members and sympathizers in Marcus Der Manuelian’s room in Providence. We found that we had to provide an official editor to the fledgling newspaper. I was elected to that servitude. And so I returned to New York endowed with the following offices—editor, publisher, senior typesetter, secretary for all important and impossible pieces of correspondence, proofreader, compositor, folder of over

1,500 copies of each issue, addressor and transporter of copies of each issue to the post office for mailing. Also, I was to perform the miracle of meeting expenses, balance the books for a short while, and, in the long run, pay salaries, etc.

And so it was that on May 1, 1899, on a very historic day, the first issue of the new *Hairenik* came off the press.

Within a period of four to five weeks, we had won many friends among the reading public. The liberal minded youth especially rallied to the publication and helped it root itself. At the same time, we were honored by the opposition. Almost the entire adversary



***Hairenik* editor Arshak Vramian’s (born Onnik Derdzakian) United States naturalization record. Vramian came to the U.S. as a fieldworker in 1899. He penned his first editorial for the *Hairenik* in the Feb. 17, 1900 issue. (Document: *Hairenik* Archives)**

“fraternity,” including the cowed and hooded clergy, as well as the *Hunchaks* and the Reconstructed, started railing at us.

One evening, Archbishop Mousegh, in addressing a meeting called in New York to elect a church trustee board, fulminated that the editor of the *Hairenik* and his cohorts were unbelievers—were not worthy of taking a hand in spiritual and church matters. One Tavshanjian, the chairman of that meeting, offered his friend, the Archbishop, by glossing over the matter, for he knew that otherwise the Armenian community of New York would be subjected to internecine quarrels which could very well approach bloodletting.

The clerics were growling because the *Hairenik* was publishing translations of Ingersoll's writings. Professor Mangasarian was sending these translations to us.

The Reconstructed were furious at us for daring to criticize Minas Cheraz for printing, in his *Armenia* organ, lengthy disquisitions informing foreign circles of Arpiarian's “filthy intrigues” during the period of the existence of the United Association. We found it simply odd and harmful that Cheraz had found it suitable to introduce this purely internal Armenian matter in French for the reading of the French. We suggested that he terminate this series written in a foreign language and for him to say what he had to say in the *Hairenik*.

The zealous bards of stygian darkness openly detested the newspaper too because a handful of about a half a dozen women were working for the *Hairenik*. A certain woman, who described herself as an exponent of “Armenian Life,” even opened a public quarrel with a “common” woman.

The *Hairenik* had scarcely published two to three weekly issues when news arrived of the terrible events in Vasbourakan (Van).

The newspaper immediately called for financial assistance of the people of the stricken area and, within two weeks, the more heavily populated Armenian communities in the United States held fundraising meetings benefiting Van, and respectable sums were raised to that purpose.

If my memory does not deceive me, the fifth number *Hairenik* was devoted to the Van appeal.

I remember this event even more clearly because it was the occasion for a quite unusual request made of me by the valued Tovmas Jelalian of Providence.

“Adash,” my namesake wrote me, “I saw on the front page *Hairenik* pictures of [Khrimian] Hairik, Aghtamar, and *Aikestan*, but now please print some material telling us what to do. Send that paper to me as soon as possible so that I will be able to read what you have to say before our general meeting on the Van appeal to be held here in Providence this Saturday at Exchange Place. I would rather read to the people your directions than deliver a speech.”

In a hurry, with great difficulty, in the short time that I had, I was able to meet Tovmas' request. We had devoted so much time and effort to finding the pictures we had used and making cuts of them for publication, that we had either forgotten or had

not had the time to write a supporting editorial. I remember that incident very well. Then I saw that the forms of the next issue had to be bound within two hours, that printing had to take place, and that all the copies of the issue had to be taken to the post office on Thursday evening, if I were to meet Tovmas' request.

Our beleaguered mind finally conceived the headline “Vasbourakan is Hungry” and its supporting subhead, “The Hearts of All Armenians are with Vasbourakan at This Time...”

After reading what we had printed at the meeting, Tovmas sent us his thanks and sentiments of esteem.

We had achieved an encouraging moral victory. We had won a little army of cash-on-the-line subscribers. But our financial future hung on the goodwill of those who were credit subscribers.

We started receiving from here or there small remittances, trusting each day that the postman would bring us letters containing other sums of money. We would with great anticipation each day open letters. Lo, one dollar would emerge from one envelope, two dollars from another...how happy we were, how complete our *kef* (joy) when we saw that once again the costs of producing still another issue had been realized!

But the soul-rending number of small back-due debts continued to plague us. . . until one day we received an evangelical letter from A. Levonian, which read:

“The first issue of the Hairenik saw the light of day on May 1, 1899. It is totally necessary to say that that first historic issue was produced in the rear of Ghoomrigian's store. There was an editorial, but there was no editor. There was a newspaper, but there was no money.”

Our joy at this news was unbounded. We could now stand before Ghoomrigian with our belts fastened and feed him sums of five to ten dollars (against our debt to him). We stood there now in such a state of confidence, not inexperience, even by the European nations in the World War I period when they expected receipts of money promised them by the United States.

But fond hope! We waited and waited for the promised \$75 to arrive. Our discouragement grew daily until, one day, we received a note from Levonian chiding us for not having acknowledged his letter which had contained a \$75 money order!

It was clear that the sum of money had been sent to us but had somehow become lost in the mail. It was not until two months later that we received the money order through the post office—but what hardships we experienced until that money was in our hands!

Every time Ghoomrigian would bring up the issue of the debts owed him, we would answer, “Well, what's the big deal? We too have monies owed us, especially since what we are owed is from the government of the United States, behind which stands

the United States army and navy, which in turn guarantees the collection of just debts!”

And so, the day came when it was absolutely necessary for the Hairenik to find a somewhat capable typesetter. Such a man was found, but the fellow had the gall to ask a salary of nine dollars per week. We were able to revel in his presence, however for only a few weeks when, one day (an evil day for the editor because the tasks of editor and typesetter was to fall back on his shoulders) it suddenly dawned on us that Hairenik was the only paper under the sun which paid its editor four dollars less than its typesetter. We were forced to rectify this injustice. Its solution emerged from the ranks of the ARF in the person of Harutune Deveyan, who performed for a time, with great devotion I might add, the onerous duties of typesetter.

Deveyan told me that he had accepted the job because, “I felt the crisis so deeply. I thought that instead of expecting a fully healthy man to sacrifice himself at this job, I should rather sacrifice myself.”

Later, that poor lad, while on his way back to the Old Country, was to find his grave in Marseille...

Somehow or other, the Hairenik *was* able to carry on until one bad day it received its most telling blow. It was a Wednesday morning. On the previous evening, Harutune had all but put the next issue to bed, although some proofreading had to be accomplished.

We were due to write and typeset the editorial that morning, and twined forms would have to be sent to the printing shop that afternoon without fail so that distribution could start that same evening.

That morning, while walking to the office, I saw Harutune running towards me. He alarmingly told me that Ghoomrigian's store had caught fire that night from a neighboring store and that he had seen with his own eyes our precious forms scattered around the water and debris.

Elbowing my way through the firefighters, I ran into the store and saw that the Hairenik had burned down in the intense conflagration.

I had quieted down when I found among what papers were left our \$300 insurance policy. You can imagine the composure of the distant fellow members, especially of A. Levonian, when they heard of the fire.

Our insurance policy had just been taken out. I first struck off a wire to Providence and ran off to see K. Chitjian and Hagopian, who were at that time editing *Tigris*. I bumped into them in the elevator of their building and asked them to announce in their next issue what had happened to us.

Hagopian demanded payment for such an announcement, but Chitjian promised to place the news on the back page of the next issue.

Soon tidings of the fire reached all our friends. Our type had been damaged, and publication was suspended. There was, however, hope of new funding. We received \$240 from the insurance company.

But often, benefits emerge from adversity. We were able to find a six by eight foot room in a building on 23rd Street, and there we recommenced operations—in “larger” quarters and with better type.

It was the logical conviction of most members of the party that the Hairenik ought to be moved to a place representing the center of the Armenian community of the United States. Boston came closest to answering that description. It was the center of a large concentration of party people and was the heart of the large New England Armenian community.

Mihran Minasian was named temporary editor of the publication, but the most suitable man to edit the organ arrived in the United States almost at that moment. He was Arshak Vramian who, right off the ship, was spirited by me to the ARF Convention held that year in Providence.

We were thrilled that O.K.T. (Vramian), the able editor of Constantinople's Hairenik, would take over the paper for us very soon.

And so the Hairenik went to Boston and became the official organ of the ARF in America. It was to become America's leading Armenian journal under Vramian's guidance.

Through the succeeding years, Hairenik went from a weekly to a daily publication; and later, it was to add a great monthly periodical to the Hairenik operation.

And we repeat here the fond hope of all Hairenik readers of our day that, someday, the Hairenik will be printed in our Hairenik (the fatherland). □

The English translation of Charshafjian's piece was originally published in the Armenian Review (May 1979, Vol. 32, No.1-125).



Tovmas Charshafjian was the founding editor of the Hairenik. He was born in Dikgran-agerd in 1872. He first attended the local school, then the Berberian College of Constantinople, as well as Roberts College, from which he did not graduate. Instead, he left for London to pursue a degree as a medical doctor. Because of financial difficulties, he halted his studies and in 1895, found himself in America, where a large number of Armenians from Western Armenia had settled.

After his arrival in the U.S., he sought out a newspaper, for which he could work as a contributor. The father of Armenian journalism Haygag Eginian, who published a series of newspapers, including *Arekag*, *Sourhantag*, and *Azadoutiun*. Another was *Tigris*, for which Charshafjian worked for a time; but as with others of Eginian's newspapers, for Charshafjian it too was bland and dull.

Consequently, Charshafjian and others felt the deep need for a paper such as the *Hairenik*. Charshafjian served as the first editor of the *Hairenik*, from May 1, 1899, to March 30, 1900.

During the last decade of his life, Charshafjian lived in illness. He passed away on Jan. 1, 1954, in Fresno, Calif.

THE Legacy OF THE Hairenik AND THE Armenian Weekly

*Vital Institutions
for a Community in Exile*

By Michael G. Mensoian

Professor Emeritus; Longtime Contributor

The Armenian Diaspora was forming long before the genocide perpetrated by the Ottoman Empire nearly decimated our nation. Its beginnings were the entrepreneurs, traders, students, and the adventuresome who settled beyond their homeland—some permanently and others for varying periods of time. The process was accelerated when the survivors of the genocide were mercilessly cast adrift from their ancestral land. Where they went to rebuild their shattered lives was more a matter of chance, than by design. For many, humanitarian organizations determined their final destination.

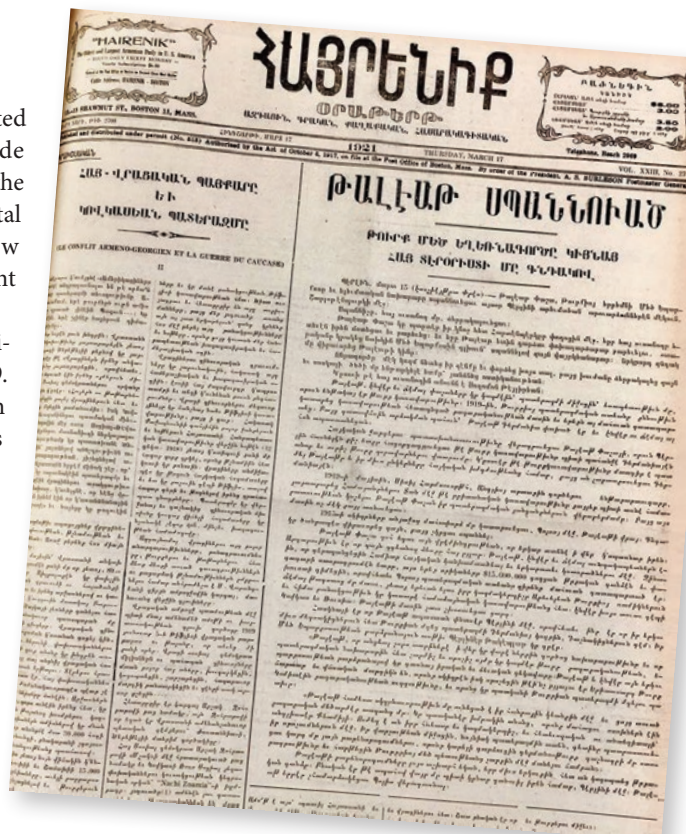
One country that had attracted Armenians before the genocide was the United States, especially the northeastern region, where coastal cities such as Philadelphia, New York and Boston were important points of entry.

It was in New York that the Hairenik was first published in 1899. Although that city can claim birth rights to the Hairenik, its offices were moved to Boston the following year. In 1986 the Hairenik relocated to a newly constructed building in Watertown, a suburb of Boston, where it remains to this day.

It is not possible to appreciate how traumatized these survivors were. Thrust into a new environment, separated from family members and lifelong friends, their world suddenly shattered. Few, if any, ties to the past remained. Their future was a blank slate. Only time could tell what would be recorded. For most, there was little understanding as to why such a calamity had fallen upon them. Many were haunted by unspeakable experiences they had endured which they re-lived over and over again during the quiet of the evenings. Could it have been any worse? Not likely. Yet their greatest concern was not about self, but about the fate of missing family members and friends.

As the first wave of survivors reached the U.S., the Hairenik had already become a well-established publication. The fact that an Armenian language newspaper was being published in this foreign land could not help but buoy the spirits of the survivors. The Hairenik served as a vivid reminder that they were neither “lost” nor “forgotten.” Rumors were rife and information was scarce. This was a transformative period not only in their personal lives, but in the life of the nation. So much had happened so quickly. The mass killings of some 1.5 million of their people; the Treaty of Sevres, which was beneficial for Armenia, was replaced by the Treaty of Lausanne that favored the perpetrators of the genocide; and the first free and independent Armenian Republic was quickly subverted by the Bolsheviks who had seized power in Russia. It was through the pages of the Hairenik that some sense could be made of their world that was being rapidly reshaped.

The Hairenik connected them to other Armenians, if not actually, then symbolically. It was a good feeling. It helped assuage the emotional and psychological burden carried by the survivors as they adapted to a new country and the task of rebuilding their lives. The Hairenik was one of the few tangible links many of the survivors had that not only connected them to their roots, but reinforced their determination to succeed. Given its wide readership, the Hairenik was a valuable medium for survivors seeking information about their loved ones.



“As the first wave of survivors reached the U.S., the Hairenik had already become a well-established publication. The fact that an Armenian language newspaper was being published in this foreign land could not help but buoy the spirits of the survivors.” The front page of the March 17, 1921 issue of the Hairenik, which broke the news to Armenian-Americans about the former Grand Vizier of the Ottoman Empire and the principal architect of the Armenian Genocide, Talaat Pasha’s assassination in Berlin at the hands of 24-year-old Soghomon Tehlirian.

During this celebratory year during which we recognize the 120th anniversary of the Hairenik and the 85th anniversary of its English-language sister publication The Armenian Weekly, we should remind ourselves that a newspaper is nothing more than paper and ink.

What makes a newspaper vital and its longevity noteworthy are the editors, men and women, who give life and credibility to its printed pages. Both the Hairenik and the Armenian Weekly have been fortunate to have had a succession of men and women appointed as editors who were dedicated and intellectually equipped for the task.

Two editors of the Hairenik need to be mentioned, not because they overshadow the others, but because of the unique circumstances associated with their tenure as editors.

Atom Yardjianian (well known by his pen name Siamanto) was at the helm of the Hairenik for only a short period of time (1909–1911). He was sent to the U.S. by the Armenian Revolutionary Federation (ARF) to serve as editor of the Hairenik. He was a young man who had achieved prominence as a poet. It was unfortunate that he decided to return to Constantinople in 1911. He was among the first of the Armenian intellectuals from that city to be surreptitiously rounded up by the Ottoman Turkish authorities to be tortured and then murdered. His death and that of other Armenian intellectuals was the prelude to the mass killings and deportations that took the lives of some 1.5 million Armenians. His untimely death at the age of 37 was a tragic loss for the nation. His appointment typifies the caliber of men that were called upon to serve as editors.

Artashes Chilingarian (better known as Ruben Darbinian, a name taken years earlier in Germany to hide his true identity from authorities) has the distinction of being the longest serving editor of the Hairenik (1922–1968). Darbinian had served in the government of the first free and independent Armenian Republic and had considerable experience as editor of various ARF publications before assuming the position at the Hairenik.

His tenure witnessed the maturation of the Diaspora. It was during the post-World War II years that Armenians came into their own. No longer “survivors” they had successfully adapted to their

new environment and, with their children, were active contributors to their adopted country. The demographic composition was also changing as their children were slowly becoming the majority.

It was under his watch that a column in English was included in the Armenian language Hairenik. It was so well received by readers that what began as an experiment in 1932 became a full-fledged English language publication in 1934 to join the Hairenik as a sister publication. James Mandalian was appointed as the first editor of the new publication whose masthead read, Hairenik Weekly. In 1969, its name was changed to the Armenian Weekly.

The Weekly was an instant success. Its readers were drawn from an ever expanding pool of Armenians who were more comfortable with English than Armenian. It was the language learned in school and constantly heard outside the home. The content of the Weekly was eclectic. It included original works by Armenian writers, political analyses of events relevant to the takeover of the first free and independent Armenian Republic by the Bolsheviks and the post-genocide period. Later it contained articles reflecting the ARF's position with respect to Turkey and communist Russia. Local news



Artashes Chilingarian (better known as Ruben Darbinian) has the distinction of being the longest serving editor of the Hairenik (1922-1968). Darbinian had served in the government of the first free and independent Armenian Republic and had considerable experience as editor of various ARF publications before assuming the position at the Hairenik. (Photo: Hairenik Archives)

was also an important component, especially the activities of the youth.

It should be noted that the Hairenik and the Armenian Weekly are "not-for-profit" publications of the ARF. These publications were significant factors in the acclimatization of the survivors to their new environment. The ARF was a respected entity. Its activist agenda in Anatolia and the Caucasus not only was known to the survivors, but the position

of the ARF on major issues resonated with many of the survivors. The party was a proponent of Armenian nationalism and ideologically supported a greater Armenia (that included Wilsonian Armenia). Its socio-economic philosophy was egalitarian. As Armenian nationalists they were avowed anti-communists. And, in the aftermath of the genocide and the favorable treatment of Turkey by England and France (Treaty of Lausanne) at the expense of Armenians and

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Armenia, the ARF became the principal adversary on the world stage of the Turkish government's policy of denial and historical revisionism with respect to the genocide and its consequences. It is not hyperbole to say that reading the pages of the Hairenik or the Weekly was reassuring and even inspiring at a time when the past was too painful to remember and the future was in doubt.

In 1991 when the second free and independent Armenian Republic was declared, the Hairenik and the Armenian Weekly were seasoned publications. They fulfilled a vital role in introducing Armenia to a diasporan population that knew little about the country of their heritage. Quite frankly, there had been little interest in knowing about a country that had been under Russian communist control for some 70 years. During much of this time the world was in the throes of the Cold War when Russia was considered a threat to the countries of the free world.

Once again, the Hairenik (now with its sister publication, the Armenian Weekly) filled the breach. They introduced generations born in the Diaspora to their motherland as well as being instrumental in nurturing an interest in Armenian affairs. Readers were kept informed through reports, analyses and commentary that encompassed all relevant aspects of life in the newly established second free and independent Armenian Republic.

A few years later, in 1994, a ceasefire ended a war waged by Azerbaijan against the Armenians of Nagorno Karabakh (Artsakh) who had voted unanimously to declare their independence. Diasporans knew very little about the new state, its creation or its geopolitical importance. Again, it was the Hairenik and The Armenian Weekly that ably and reliably introduced their readers to the land and people of Artsakh.

The Armenian Weekly has become an important source of information concerning all aspects of the Armenian homeland. It is also a very important venue for the exchange of ideas concerning contemporary issues facing diasporan communities, Armenia and the newly created de facto state of Artsakh. The editors are committed to publishing positions that are thought provoking and do not necessarily support accepted orthodoxy. It has become a valuable medium for budding journalists, seasoned writers and academicians to express



The front page of the June 15, 1968 issue of the Hairenik breaks the news of the passing of the "esteemed Chief Editor of the Haireniks and veteran comrade R. Darbinian."

themselves on issues and problems confronting Armenia and the diaspora.

The introduction of an online edition has given the Armenian Weekly a worldwide readership. The newly launched podcast pilot, which will hopefully soon blossom into a weekly program, can provide a platform for relevant content for the new generation. The published commentary offered in response to articles indicates a readership that is knowledgeable, conversant with contemporary issues, and acutely concerned with conditions in Armenia and Artsakh. It is also a testament to the loyal following that

the Armenian Weekly has developed and become a place of real participation.

Both the Hairenik and The Armenian Weekly have become vital institutions in the Armenian community. Nurturing interest supported by information creates a knowledgeable readership. That noble purpose has become the hallmark of these newspapers. However, we should never forget that this achievement belongs to the succession of exceptional men and women editors appointed by the ARF who labored selflessly for the benefit of our people and a free and independent Armenia. □



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Entered as Second Class Mail Matter August 22, 1908 at the Post Office at Boston

ԴՊ Տարի, Թիւ 6619, Կիրակի, Փետրուար 11, 1934

ՊԱՌԱԿՏՈՒԱԾ ԳԱԼԹԱՇԽԱՐՀԸ

Ղեռնող Արք. Դուրեանի սպանութեան առթիւ եզկալտասի մեր պաշտօնակիցը՝ «Յուսարթը» գրած է ընդարձակ եւ շահեկան խմբա-
րական մը (յունուար 19), որով հերքելի յեռոյ կարգ մը սուտեր,
որ այդ սպանութեան կապակցութեամբ տարածած են արտասահ-
մանեան կարգ մը թերթեր, կը քննէ եւ այն խառնակ վիճակը, որ ըս-
տեղծուեցաւ անցնող վեց ամիսներու ընթացքին եւ որուն հետեւեցաւ
անոր Դուրեանի սպանութիւնը: Խմբագրականը ամբողջութեամբ կու-
տանք իբրեւ կարծիքն ու տեսութիւնը պաշտօնակցի մը՝ որ հեռուէն
հետեւած է մեր գաղութը փառորկող վէճերուն:

Դեկտ. 24-ին Նիւ Եորքի հայ ե-
կեղեցիին մէջ զաւոյնի հարուած-
ներով ապանուեցաւ ամերիկա-
հայոց նախկին Սոսնորդը, Ղե-
ւոնդ արքեպ. Գուրեան:

Հակասական լուրերում, տեղա-
տարակին տակ անկարելի եղաւ
մեզ համարումիւնը զատել յե-
րկուսիցս: 20 | THE ARMENIAN WEEKLY |

բով նաեւ իր Հանգանակութիւնը
«յօդուտ իջմիածնի»... Ի զլին քա-
նի մը դահեկանի, Թարմ դիակի
մը վրայ, նորանոր գրգռութիւն-
ներ սերմանելու եւ ատելութիւն-
ներ կուտակելու Համար:

Դրած է միայն, թէ դեռևս
չաժ յօրերեանի մատչն խորհրդա-
նահեռացած մատանին
December 2019
դողցած է... Դաշնակցականնե-
ն էր կուտակելու

ՏՈՄՄԵՐ

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Կարծես մարդիկ կազմել են պարոստովը սպառախելի յարմար առիթին՝ դուրս տալու համար իրենց մեքսը կուտակուած բոլորը եւ, երբ առիթը չէր ներկայանար, ստեղծեցին զանա, ամեն մեծով անկէ օգտուելու յետին նպատակով:

Բայց ինչպէս միւս, այս անգամ ալ սպառնակութար իրենց դաւերն ու դատարարութիւնները պիտի տան հակառակ արդիւմբ:

Այս անգամ սակայն իբրեւ քէ նոր սի-
 շոց մը, գիւտ մը գտեր են ու սկսեր են
 պաշտօնապէս կիրարկել: Պոյ՛նք:

Բայց տեղեկե՛ք ե՛ւն մե՛ք է՛լ:
Ազգային հարցով հետադիմադրող ամեն
անհատ գիտե՛, թե մեր հակաակադրողները
իրենց գոյությունը ամբողջ ընթացիկ
անվտանգությունը անպաշտոն կերպով
անվտանգ միջոցներով անպաշտոն կերպով
արդեն պոչոչով են քարկռում են միջ-
ազգայնագրական ամեն ձեռնարկի և շար-
ժում՝ Բջնամիկ նման ֆայլ առ ֆայ-
լի հոսիսով և վարկարկելի ջանքով:

Խոզիկը եւ վարկարարի վրայ
Խոզիկը ամենայն հանդարտութեամբ կը
բնիլ է բսել, բէ գեղին դահիճները մ
դատին այնքան չին վնասած գէր արտ
սահմանի մէջ, որքան այս հայ ան
Երեւանի գեղերը:

HA

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«Հայրենիք» Ընկերակցութ
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Հանդէպ մեր նոր սերունդի ցոյ
նէն, եւ աւելի լայն կերպով ըն
անոր ազգային դաստիարակու
ռաջկիւղի մարտ 1-էն սկսած, ս
նիք» օրաթերթի եւ ամսագրի
թերթ մը HAIRENIK WEEKLY

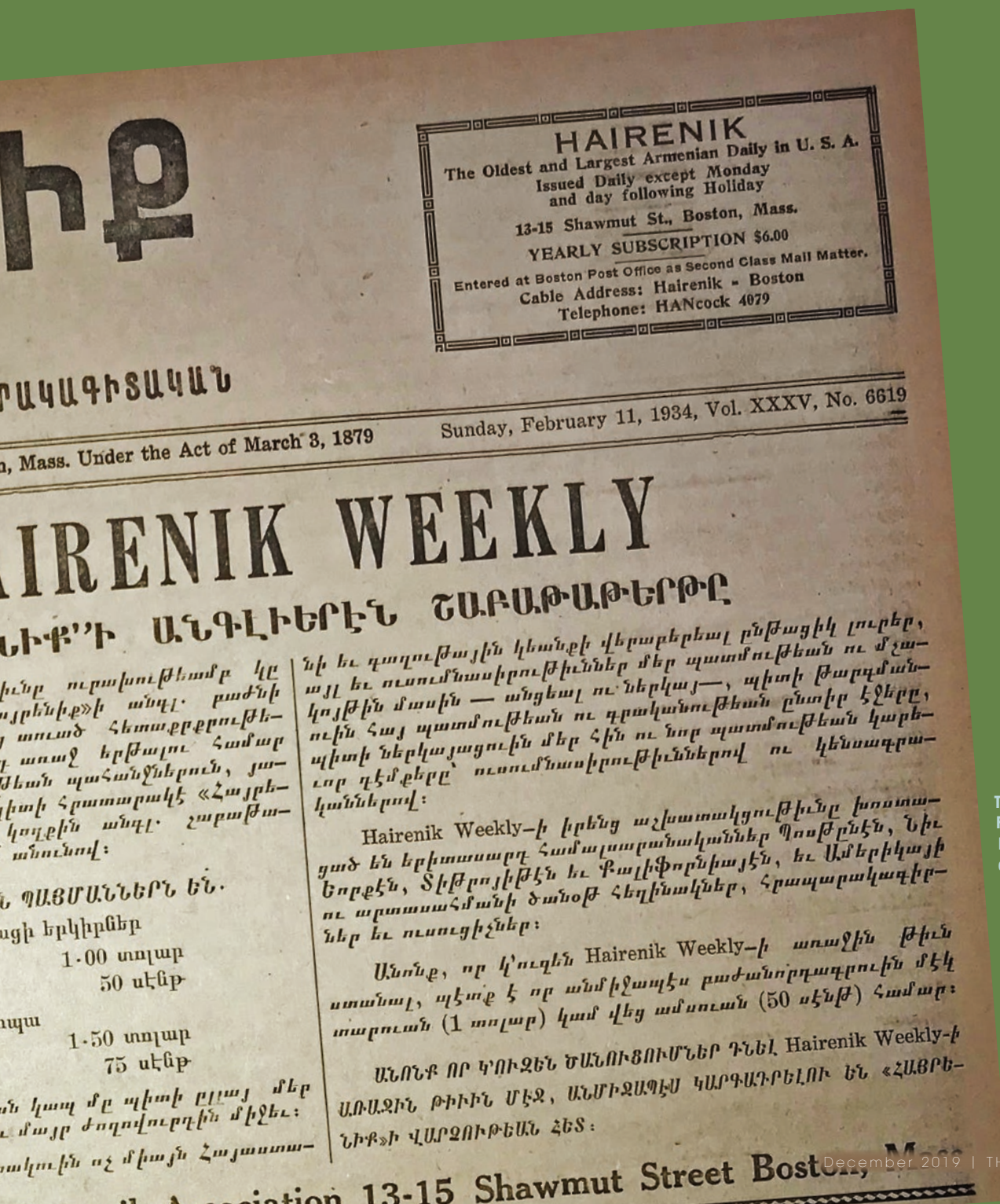
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ՏԱՐԵԿԱՆ՝
ՎԵՑԱՄՍԵԱՅ՝

Hairenik Weekly-ն հոդեկը
անդլիախօս նոր սերունդին
Անոր մէջ պիտի հրատարակուի

The following is the English translation of one of the two editorials that appeared in the Hairenik on Feb. 13, 1934. Entitled «Մեր անգլիերէն շաբաթաթերթը» ("Our English Weekly") and likely penned by then-editor Reuben Darbinian (born Artashes Stepan Chilingarian; Minister of Justice during the First Republic of Armenia), this editorial explains the importance of publishing a dedicated English-language newspaper and defines its purpose.



The front page of the Feb. 11, 1934 issue of the Hairenik Daily (Armenian) announces the creation of the English-language Hairenik Weekly (later called the Armenian Weekly).

«ՉԿԱՅ ԱԻԷԼԻ ՄԷԾ ԶԳԱՅՈՒՄ՝ ՄԱՐԴԿԱՅԻՆ ՀՈԳԻՒ
ՍՏԷՆԾԱԳՈՐԾ ՀԱՆՃԱՐԻՆ ԹՈՒՉՔ ՈՒ ԹԱՓ ՏՈՒՈՂ
ԶԳԱՅՈՒՄ, ԲԱՆ ԱՅՆ ԶԳԱՅՈՒՄԸ, ՈՐ ԿԸ ՆԿԱՏԷՍ,
ԹԷ ԷՐԲ ԿԸ ՀԱՐՈՒԱԾԷՍ, ԲԱԶՈՒԿԻՒ ՀԷՏ ԿԸ
ՀԱՐՈՒԱԾԷՆ ՏԱՍՆԷԱԿ ՀԱԶԱՐՆԵՐ...»

ԸՆԿԵՐ ՍԱՐԳԻՍ ԶԷՅԹԼԷԱՆ

“There is no greater feeling—a feeling that gives
flight and impetus to the creative genius of the
human spirit—than knowing that when you strike,
tens of thousands of fists are striking with you...”

Unger Sarkis Zeitlian

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AYF-YOARF EASTERN REGION USA





How Things Have Changed

Publishing the Weekly in 1948

If you were to take a moment to think about how technology has transformed the newspaper industry, the internet would probably be what first comes to mind, right? What you probably didn't think about were the enormous, revolutionary changes that took place before the rise of cyberspace: the pre-digital era of putting a newspaper together.

Nowadays, all an editor needs to publish the Hairenik or the Armenian Weekly is a computer and an internet connection. But there was a time—thankfully well before my tenure—when it

involved several human hours of work, using heavy machinery to turn text into custom metal type.

To give readers an idea of what it was putting the paper together seven decades ago, we've decided to republish four photographs, along with their original captions, which appeared in the Feb. 26, 1948 commemorative issue of the Hairenik Weekly (later the Armenian Weekly), celebrating the English-language newspaper's 15th anniversary.

—Rupen Janbazian,
Guest Editor

Pictorial Story Of How The Weekly Is Printed And Mailed To Subscribers 52 Times A Year

STEP 1

Dickran Demirjian, veteran Hairenik linotyper, sets the material submitted to the print shop by the editors. Working in the background (far rear) are Hampartzoum Khazarian and San Haidostian (head and shoulders showing) the two other Hairenik linotypers. Absolute deadline for material is Tuesday morning.



STEP 2

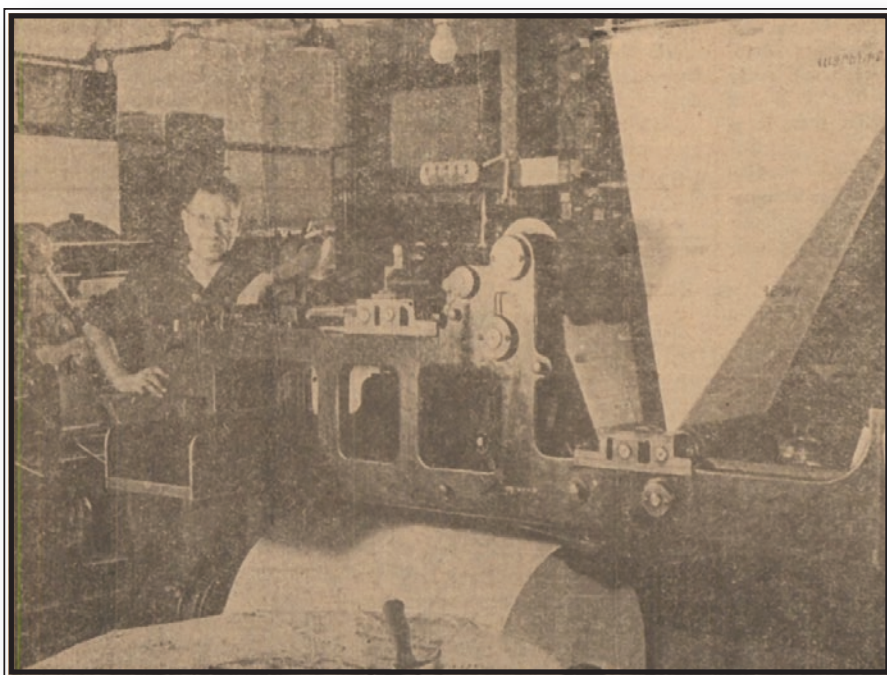
Mr. Mugurditch Der Avedisian, printing plant foreman, starts work on setting the linotype material into page form following a “dummy” submitted by the editors. Mr. Der Avedisian has been with the Hairenik for 26 years. He is a skilled worker. Forms are usually locked up late Wednesday night.



THE WEEKLY IS PRINTED AND MAILED OUT — (Steps 1 and 2 on p. 1)

STEP 3

The locked forms are taken down to the presses in the basement of the building, where Haig Bondjookian sets them on the flat-bed presses and prints. This takes place every Thursday afternoon. In this picture, Bondjookian stands by his press during printing of a “Daily” issue.



STEP 4

The printed Weeklies then go to the mailing department, where they are folded, stenciled, put into mail bags and sent out to the local post office. Calust Eynatian (right) is shown passing the Weeklies through his automatic stenciller. The late Kevork Berberian is shown filling a bag with Weeklies.





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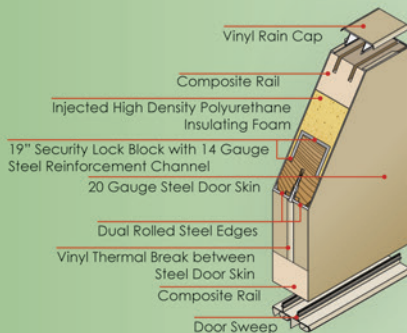
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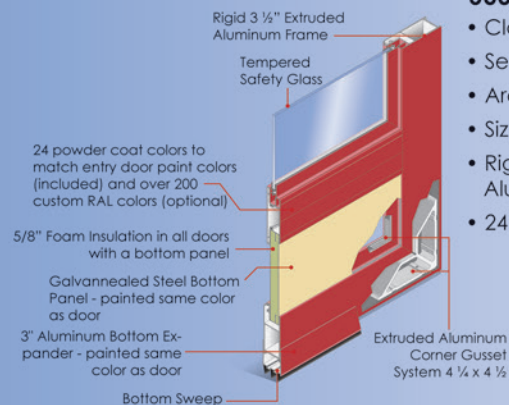
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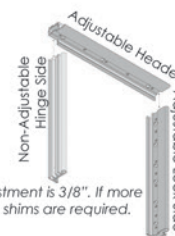
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Reflections on the Weekly and the Armenian Armed Struggle Movement: **1982–1984**

By Georgi-Ann Oshagan

Editor, the Armenian Weekly (1982–1984)

The Armenian Weekly's 85th anniversary commemoration is an opportunity to celebrate the perseverance of this essential English-language Armenian Revolutionary Federation (ARF) publication and its ability to survive and thrive in a world that has too often wrongly predicted her demise. The paper's milestone also gives me a chance to reflect on my short, but intense tenure as the Weekly's editor from Sept. 1982 to May 1984.

PREVIOUS PAGE: A photo of General Garegin Njdeh at the newspaper office at the old Hairenik building at 212 Stuart Street (Boston, Mass.). Njdeh was an Armenian statesman and military strategist who, as a member of the ARF, was instrumental in the national liberation struggle and revolutionary activities during the First Balkan War and WWI. Njdeh is considered was one of the key political and military leaders of the First Republic of Armenia (1918–1921), and is widely admired as a charismatic national hero by Armenians. This photograph was likely taken sometime between 1933 and 1934 during Njdeh’s time in the U.S. when he helped establish the Tseghagron movement, which later became the AYF-YOARF. (Photo: Kenneth Martin)

I walked into the position as an Armenian Youth Federation (AYF-YOARF) and ARF member with a year-old journalism degree and clipbook in hand. I had a lot to learn, but I thought I understood the gravity of the assignment and the importance of getting it as right as possible for the good of the community, the party and the publication’s reputation. What I did not fully appreciate was the import of that moment at a time when our eastern region communities were grappling with news and reaction to the worldwide Armenian armed struggle movement that started in 1973 and ended around 1986, and whose actions were occurring increasingly in the United States.

Remembering the names today of those engaged in that struggle yesterday—whether they lived or died—recalls what was at stake journalistically at the time: to convey the unfolding deep and delicate stories of sacrifice and violence in a manner that gave our readers full context for the actions, coupled with an understanding that our community’s identity and understanding of itself were also jolted by each assassination and bombing.

The month I started working at the Weekly, the Justice Commandos of the Armenian Genocide (JCAG) took responsibility for the Sept. 9, 1982 assassination of a Turkish administrative attaché in Bulgaria. This was followed by the Oct. 22, 1982 arrest of Steven Dadaian, 20, at Boston’s Logan Airport and Karnig Sarkissian, 29; Viken Yacoubian, 19; Viken Hovsepian, 22; and Dikran Berberian, 29 in Los Angeles for bombings of various Turkish targets in southern California.

An Oct. 24, 1982 New York Times story characterized the Justice Commandos as a

“foreign-based terrorist organization in Beirut, Lebanon.” Here’s how the paper contextualized the reason for the actions that led to the arrests:

“Armenian radicals say the Turks slaughtered 1.5 million Armenians in 1915 and drove hundreds of thousands into exile. They want the Turkish government to acknowledge the actions and to make reparations.”

In those pre-internet days, I remember trying to gather as much information as possible from various print and electronic media sources and going to the Boston federal district courthouse where a hearing for Dadaian was scheduled shortly after he was arrested to add to the story.

On March 9, 1983, Harutyun Levonian, 23, and Raffi Elbekyan, 21, assassinated the Turkish ambassador to Yugoslavia in Belgrade. On July 14, 1983, a Turkish administrative attaché was assassinated in Brussels in an action claimed by various Armenian militant groups. Less than two weeks later, Setrak Adjemian, 19; Sarkis Aprahamian, 21; Vatche Daghlilian, 19; Ara Kerdjelian, 20; and Simon Yahneian, 21 embarked on an operation to take over



ARF founder Simon Zavarian looks over the newspaper office at the old Hairenik building at 212 Stuart Street (Boston, Mass.). The portrait is the work of famed Armenian painter and designer Arshak Fetvadjan, who is perhaps best known for his watercolor paintings of the architectural monuments of the medieval Armenian city of Ani and for designing the currency and postage stamps of the first Republic of Armenia (1918–1920). With the fall of the first republic, Fetvadjan moved to the U.S. in 1922 and lived there for the remainder of his years. He continued to paint and was inducted to the art societies of the universities of Harvard, Columbia, and Chicago. He died in Medford, Mass. in 1947. (Photo: Kenneth Martin)

the Turkish Embassy in Lisbon, Portugal. One was shot and killed before entering the embassy and the other four died when their explosives were detonated. The wife of a Turkish embassy official and a Portuguese police officer died along with them.

In the aftermath of these events, the atmosphere of the community would be tense, righteous, conflicted and vigilant. The ARF Eastern U.S. Central Committee's policy regarding reaction to casualties resulting from armed strikes was not to condone the actions, but to understand the reasons that they were taking place.

Each event unfolded in the Weekly. We published articles reporting the establishment of letter-writing campaigns and legal defense funds to morally and financially support those arrested. We honored the dead as martyrs; each single-column-wide front-page photo resembled a tombstone for the very young man pictured.

Accompanying those photos was factual reporting framed by the unadulterated reasons the core action had occurred in the first place. Because for the Weekly (and its Armenian-language counterpart, the Hairenik), it wasn't only about the who, what, when and where. It was also—and most critically for these stories—about “the why.”

That's because the whole point for the armed actions was to amplify “the why” domestically and globally. The Weekly had the obligation and authority to fully articulate—in our press, in our voice—the reasons why Steve, Karnig, Viken, Dikran, Harutyun, Raffi, Setrak, Sarkis, Vatche, Ara, Simon and others had taken such extreme risks: to elevate the demand for Armenian Genocide recognition and reparations by the Ottoman government successor Turkish government and place that demand firmly on national and international political and human rights platforms for overdue resolution.

The Weekly's readers weren't the only ones being informed by its content. Those who had always surveilled the paper were also influenced.

A classified Sept. 1984 paper by the CIA's Directorate of Intelligence, approved for release on April 22, 2009, focused on the armed operations of the JCAG and other groups and individuals and analyzed the dynamics to explain the bombings and assassinations against Turkish government agents and other targets.

Writing of the Armenian-American community's reaction to the “terrorism” it was investigating, the CIA relied on “various open sources” to conclude that “while most Armenians recognize that terrorism alone can never solve the Armenian questions and gain justice for the Armenian cause, many Armenians have become convinced that if it had not been for the use of violence, no one would be aware of the Armenian grievances.”

We know that one of the “open sources” used to reach that conclusion was the Weekly because selected reprints from the paper are included in the report to support its assessments.

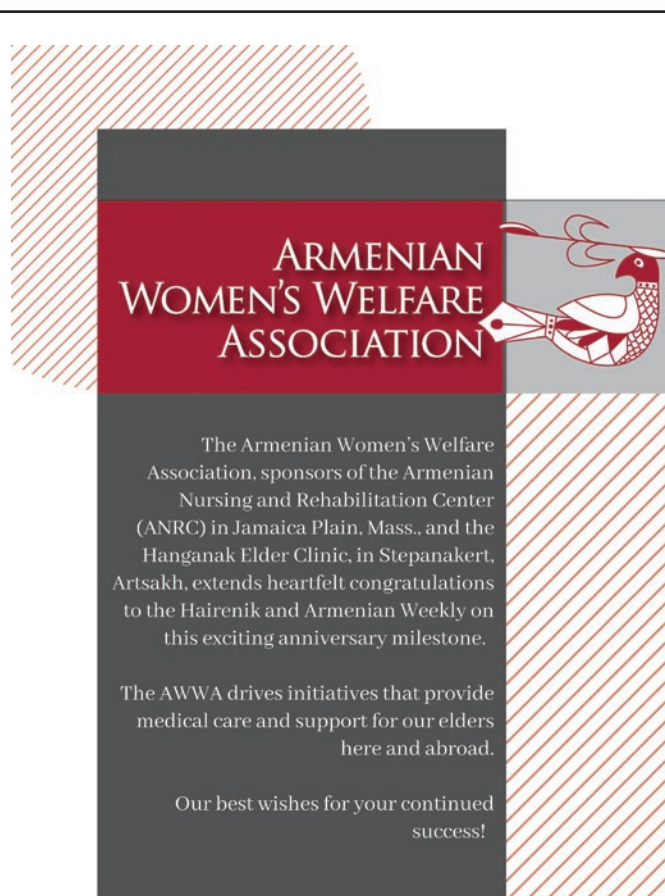
Each militant action pushed the Weekly and the community it was writing for to imagine a bolder narrative and image that theretofore had been informed by the glorious past of our shared heritage, the shattering planned extermination of the 1.5 million, and the rise and fall of the first Republic of Armenia, even as we were lifted by the political and moral ambition to restore a free, united and independent homeland.

While our political efforts for justice in the pre-armed struggle era were maturing, the advent of that movement put our collective political self-reliance on steroids. In 1984, the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA) Washington, D.C. office was established to better coordinate a national *Hai Tahd* agenda that would have the capacity to leverage untapped political influence. In 1988, we witnessed the eruption of Artsakh's armed and unarmed struggle for self-determination and Armenia's march toward regained independence.

How long would our diasporan fires have burned without the armed actions that transfixed and transformed our community in all its discomfort and hushed (and not-so-hushed) pride? That struggle challenged the Weekly and its readers to question who we needed to be in that moment so that we could better understand how to become who we deserved to be. And our efforts to pose and answer those and other questions to that end reverberated through the Weekly's pages then, as they do now.

The stories that appeared in the Weekly when I was editor are today's history. What went before me and came after me in the work done and overseen by a long chain of editors forms the foundation for a community publication that now reaches tens of thousands of readers through its online platforms.

May the Weekly continue to be a source and resource that strives to meet its own and our community's challenges as the times dictate. May it continue to document and assess tomorrow's history from our corner of the Armenian Diaspora. And may her obituary never be written. □





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The Armenian Revolutionary Federation Providence Kristapor Gomideyutiun congratulates the Hairenik for its 120 years of service to the Armenian Community.

We thank all past and current members of the Hairenik staff for ensuring that the first Armenian Newspaper of the united states continues to provide news coverage for the Armenian Diaspora.

We wish you success for your endeavors and ongoing projects.

Connected for a Century with the Hairenik and the Armenian Weekly

By Matthew Karanian

*Author, the Armenian Highland: Western Armenia
and the First Armenian Republic of 1918*

When Ardemis arrived in New Britain, Conn., as a 15-year-old orphan of the Armenian Genocide, she immediately set about putting her life in order. The Hairenik, a prominent newspaper that served the newly-arrived Armenian community of the US, helped.



Ardemis was a mature woman, aged beyond her 15 years. And she had the maturity to understand that she wanted to remain grounded in her culture. So she read the Hairenik.

The Hairenik was an Armenian-language daily newspaper in the 1920s when Ardemis first started to read it. And the paper remained a daily for all but a few years of her long life. Today it is published weekly.

For Ardemis' entire life, the Hairenik was her lifeline to the past. The paper was delivered by mail to her home. And each paper filled Ardemis' life and helped her connect to the Armenian community.

I know this because I saw it with my own eyes, years after Ardemis had grown old and had become my grandmother.

My childhood home was just three miles from the home of Grandma Ardemis in New Britain. I used to ride my bicycle to visit her—once I was old enough and brave enough to venture such a great distance on two wheels.

And so, as a 10-year-old, I would sometimes arrive unannounced at Grandma's home on a summer afternoon. I recall being ushered into the kitchen—the heart and nerve center of her home. There I caught a glimpse of Grandma Ardemis' secret life.

This secret life, I discovered, involved preparing Armenian food. There was always something cooking on the stove, or baking in the oven, or ripening on the counter.

One day, Grandma Ardemis was stuffing grape leaves with meat. The next, she was rolling dough for *baklava*. And on occasion, the whole house would be turned into a tomato cannery.

Today when I recall Grandma Ardemis, I also recall the smell of *anush apur* (sweet pudding) simmering on her stove, that delightful sweet soup of apricots, prunes and raisins. And I recall that as the *anush apur* was simmering or as the *baklava* was baking, Grandma Ardemis would inevitably be poring over the Hairenik.

The Hairenik was a huge broadsheet newspaper back then. Ardemis would fold it open so that it covered the entire kitchen table as if it were a tablecloth.

And that's where the paper would stay all day.

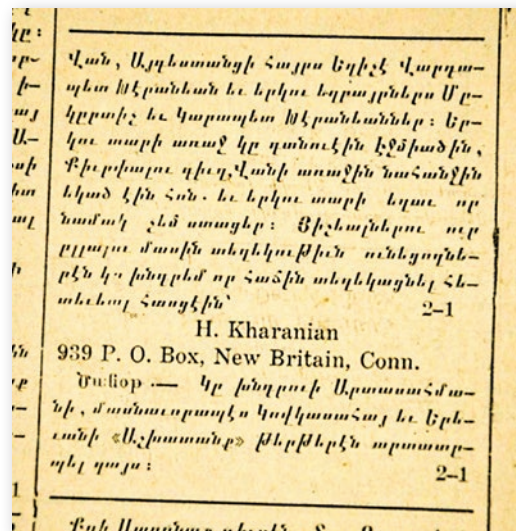
Ardemis did not read the Hairenik casually.

No, she would lean in, her eyes just inches from that huge page of gray type. And she didn't rush the paper, either. Ardemis turned the page only after she had read every line. By evening, when she had finished reading and after her eyes had grown weary, she would fold up the paper and wait for the next day's news.

Fifty years earlier, if she had read the April 22, 1919 edition of the Hairenik—and it's reasonable to expect that she did—she would have seen a classified advertisement from a teenaged boy from Van named Hovhannes Kharanian (Karanian). This advertisement, like so many others in the Hairenik at the time, sought information about family members who had been "lost" during the genocide. She and



Agnes Karanian, reading *The Armenian Highland*, a historical guide to ancient Armenia that was recently published by her son Matthew Karanian. (Photo: Matthew Karanian)



Classified advertisement from the April 22, 1919 edition of the Hairenik newspaper. The notice seeks information about family members of Hovhannes Kharanian (Karanian) who were "lost" during the genocide.

Hovhannes would marry soon afterward.

I shared these memories with my mother recently.

My mom was born Agnes Barsoian in Pawtucket, Rhode Island nearly a century ago.

Shortly after World War II, she got married, and in quick succession, she changed her name to Agnes Barsoian Karanian and moved to New Britain, Conn. to start a family. And right about the same time, she also started a subscription to the English language newspaper that is today known as the Armenian Weekly—the English language counterpart of the Hairenik. She's been a reader of the Weekly her entire adult life.

The Weekly is a tabloid, and not a broadsheet. So Mom reads the paper while sitting in her favorite chair, instead of at the kitchen table.

It occurred to me recently while sitting with my Mom as she read the freshly delivered edition of the Armenian Weekly, that she might be the owner of the oldest and longest uninterrupted subscription of the paper.

"Mom," I asked, "how long have you subscribed to the Weekly?"

"I don't know. I've always subscribed," she told me.

"Do you recall ever not subscribing?"

"Well, I don't think I subscribed before I was married."

My parents were married after the war in 1948.

By my best estimate, my mom has subscribed to the Weekly continuously since then—for about 70 years. She's been a subscriber for so long, that even the Weekly has lost or deleted the records.

The assistant editor of the Weekly told me recently that yes, Agnes Karanian is a subscriber. When did she start, I asked. The Weekly's records don't go back that far, I was told. Between Agnes and her mother-in-law—my Grandma Ardemis—these two matriarchs have subscribed without interruption for a century.

Mom enjoys reading coverage of local Armenian events—community news that is a specialty of the Weekly. To this day, she particularly enjoys reading about the annual sporting event hosted each year on Labor Day weekend by the Armenian Youth Federation (AYF-YOARF), an event that is known as the AYF Olympics. Never mind that Agnes hasn't attended one of those events since, well, a long time.

In 1946, Mom had been a spectator at the AYF Olympics in New Britain. She was young. She was single. She and her girlfriends had traveled from Pawtucket for the event, but only after they had each enlisted the support of chaperones and had secured special permission from their parents. While at the Olympics, Agnes met a young man from New Britain named Henry Karanian.

Henry had a camera—the same camera he had with him while he was stationed in Shanghai during the war. Now that he was home, he spent time in his dark room, processing those photographs. Photography was an uncommon hobby at the time. This proved to be an asset to Henry. His camera and his outgoing personality introduced Henry to many new Armenian friends. At the Olympics, he photographed the spectators, including Agnes. As he had done with each of the other portraits he took, he offered to mail the photograph to her. All Agnes needed to do was give Henry her name and address.



Henry Karanian with a group of children in Shanghai during WWII. Henry served in the US Army Air Force and enjoyed making photographs whenever he could. A child appears to be reaching for his camera. (Photo courtesy of Matthew Karanian)

They were married less than two years later.

Agnes recalls these events frequently, especially during the annual release of the special AYF Olympics Issue.

Lately, my mom has been receiving two copies of the Weekly in the mail. One is English, the second is in Armenian.

My mom delights in the bonus issue. "Have you noticed that they've started sending me the paper in Armenian, too?" she asked me. "How do they know that I can read Armenian?"

Indeed, I agree. How do they know? Perhaps this is more proof that the Armenian Weekly knows a great deal about our community. □



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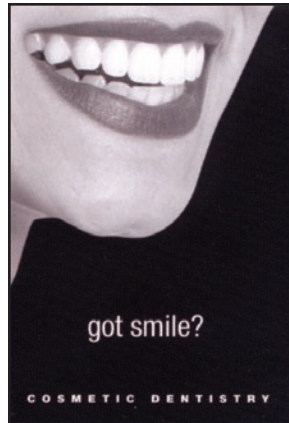
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FOLLOWING THEIR EXAMPLE My Experiences

at the Weekly During
a Revolutionary Time
in Armenia



By Muriel Parseghian
Editor, the Armenian Weekly
(1984-1989)

Armenian Weekly editor Muriel "Mimi" Parseghian at her desk at the then-newly opened Hairenik building in Watertown, Mass. "It was a revolutionary time in Armenia; the seeds were being planted for the establishment of the independent republic. In addition to the political upheaval, Armenia suffered one of its worst natural disasters in the modern era: the earthquake."

When I look back at the years that I served as editor of the Armenian Weekly, I deeply appreciate the historical significance of that era. But it was my Hairenik colleagues, our supporters, readers, and visitors that impacted me the most.

It was a revolutionary time in Armenia; the seeds were being planted for the establishment of the independent republic. In addition to the political upheaval, Armenia suffered one of its worst natural disasters in the modern era: the earthquake of 1988. It was also a transitional period for the Hairenik Association. The iconic building at 212 Stuart Street, Boston, was sold. A new, modern Hairenik Building was constructed in the heart of Watertown's Armenian cultural, religious and commercial neighborhood.

For us, it was also a time of new technology that would upend not only how newspapers are produced, but the entire business model itself.

I recall receiving news reports of the activities of the Karabakh Movement, but it was the photographs of unprecedented public gatherings and demonstrations that helped relay the news. Here in the United States, we had a series of demonstrations that galvanized our community. Participating in those activities and reporting on them was personally rewarding.

However, the event that had the most impact on me has to be the 1988 earthquake. The radio was always on in our office. When we heard the word "Armenia," we all stopped and listened. Once we realized what had happened, we all broke down and cried. But within a week, the Hairenik was abuzz with activities. A major fundraising effort was underway. The building was open about 16 hours a day to accommodate everyone who wanted to assist. In Jan. 1990, 14 months after the quake, I was in Gyumri. The place was sad, somber and shattered. A few years ago, I went back. The city is so alive and is finally making its way back to its original beauty.

I was the last editor of the Armenian Weekly that worked at 212 Stuart Street. For the generations that never knew the building, it was the home of the Hairenik Publications, including the printing press, and the headquarters of all the organizations that now call 80 Bigelow home. For decades it was the lifeline to the Armenian Revolutionary Federation (ARF) family of organizations in the U.S. Among the many rooms and offices, it had this beautiful ornate hall on the second floor where so many conventions, dances, and banquets had taken place. But as we approached the end of the 20th century, it was evident that the community needed a new type of organizational center.

There were many reasons to move on; no parking, no elevators, the requirement of major renovation, and clean-up of the printing rooms. But the move was highly emotional, nevertheless. It was decided to take the portion of the façade that had the Hairenik etched on it to the new building, and today, those who walk by



Watertown, Mass.

A group of Hairenik staff working on the Weekly at the then-newly opened Hairenik building in Watertown, Mass. (Photo: Hairenik Archives)

on the Nichols Avenue side see the piece of 212 Stuart Street that moved with us.

When we left Boston in 1985, the new building was not yet complete. So we were temporarily housed at the St. Stephen's Church parish house. It was a little bit crowded, but we did not mind. We made it work. A few months later, we packed again and literally pushed our machines down Bigelow Avenue to the Hairenik.

The atmosphere in the new building was enhanced by the daily visitors who came by to pick up their copy of the Armenian language paper and those

who just stopped by to discuss current events, whether it was to give us their strong opinion or pass on a piece of information they may have heard. The location was ideal with a parking lot, and you were sure to get a good cup of Armenian coffee. It was a learning experience in so many ways.

I was fortunate to work with two other editors who were highly knowledgeable in Armenian history, literature, and the Western Armenian language: Minas Tololyan and Kevork Donabedian. Now looking back on it, I regret not being a better student. What a wonderful opportunity I had to become fluent in Armenian under their tutelage, and I did not take advantage of it. *Apsos*.

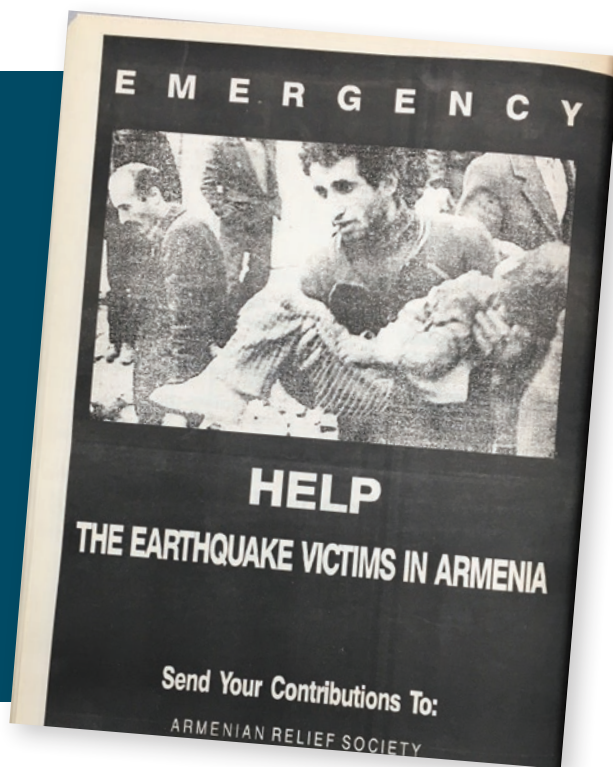
As I had mentioned, my years at the Hairenik saw a major transition on the production side of the newspaper industry including the Hairenik Publications. When I joined the newspaper staff, we

"For us, it was also a time of new technology that would upend not only how newspapers are produced, but the entire business model itself."

had these two large print setting machines: one for the Armenian language and one for the English language. They performed like typewriters, but on quality print or special paper. They also allowed you to change the font type and size as well as dictate the width of the column. If you had a typo, you would retype the word, sentence or section you wanted to correct and then surgically paste over your article prior to laying out the copy.

Somewhere in the middle of my tenure, we upgraded to personal computers and a page setting computer. You still had to type every article submitted, but at least you were able to do some of

“The event that had the most impact on me has to be the 1988 earthquake. The radio was always on in our office. When we heard the word “Armenia,” we all stopped and listened. Once we realized what had happened, we all broke down and cried. But within a week, the Hairenik was abuzz with activities. A major fundraising effort was underway. The building was open about 16 hours a day to accommodate everyone who wanted to assist.”



the corrections prior to printing the article. We still had to lay out the paper by hand.

Most articles submitted to us came by mail or sometimes by FedEx. It was not unusual for someone to dictate over the phone, which was a challenge. I do recall the day we had a fax machine installed. At the beginning when we heard the machine spewing out a paper, we rushed to see what it was. Needless to say, that novelty wore off quickly.

As I was getting ready to leave the Weekly in May of 1989, an acquaintance who was familiar with computers was trying to explain to me the concept of computer servers, the web, and e-mail and how they will revolutionize the newspaper industry. He strongly urged me to look into it for the Hairenik. I did not understand what he was trying to tell me, but he was so right.

Most of the news we published was at least a couple of weeks old, most of the time older. The delay was not that significant when you printed community news that already had taken place, but sometimes when you included articles about coming events, it would reach the readers after the event took place. We mailed the newspaper out in bulk rate, so if you lived in the midwest, let's say, it would take a good week for the newspaper to reach you. Those days are long gone and probably forgotten by most.

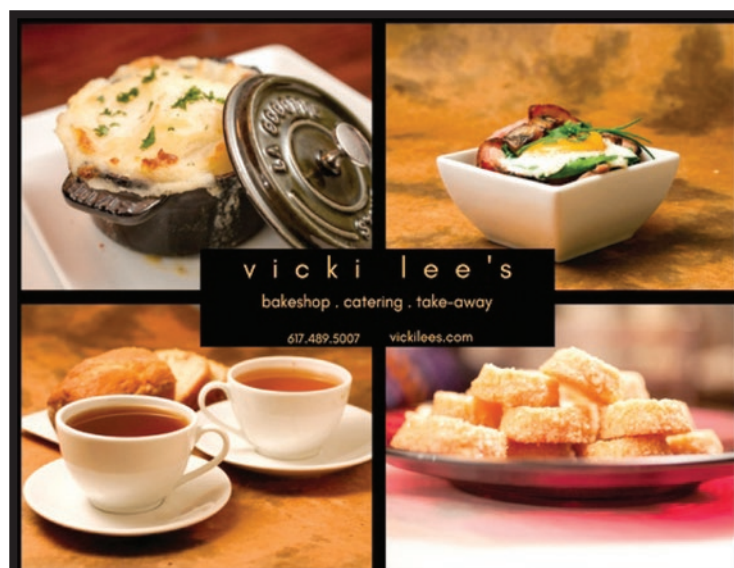
Throughout the years, there were so many people who helped me put the paper out every week including regular contributors and co-workers. The newspaper staff was very limited. We did not get an assistant editor until the last year I was there; prior to that, I was assigned young Armenian-Americans who served as interns. I lucked out with six interns who worked with me at different times. Thirty years later, they are still active and serving our community.

I would not have done the job for five years if it had not been for the late Tom Vartabedian and the late Leo Sarkisian. I could not have asked for better mentors: both good men, good Armenians and good ARF members. They were always ready to assist me, give me direction, answer questions, provide positive critique and most of all, continually

A fundraising plea in the Armenian Weekly's Dec. 10, 1988 issue, published just three days after the devastating earthquake that rattled Armenia. "...The event that had the most impact on me has to be the 1988 earthquake. The radio was always on in our office. When we heard the word "Armenia," we all stopped and listened. Once we realized what had happened, we all broke down and cried. But within a week, the Hairenik was abuzz with activities. A major fundraising effort was underway. The building was open about 16 hours a day to accommodate everyone who wanted to assist."

encourage me. In my personal and professional life, I have tried to follow their example.

Although at times it was not easy, I look back on those years at the Weekly with fondness and personal satisfaction. I know I benefited personally and professionally from those years at the Hairenik. It is gratifying to be included in a group of dedicated men and women. □





The storied history of the Hairenik is not just as a witness to the history of the Armenian people over the last 120 years, but as a participant. This is not hyperbole. The Hairenik has served as a community newspaper in its core definition of local engagement. However, it has surpassed that humble objective through the extent of its content for more than a century.

The birth of the Armenian press in America was a result of growing immigration to the United States. As the number of Armenians reached a critical mass and the community became more permanent with the arrival of women, the publication of newspapers was to be expected, particularly by political parties that had the network to supply news from the homeland. Outside of local business advertising, much of the initial content was international in focus and specific to the plight of Armenians from whence they had come versus where they had arrived.

Even before a single issue of the Hairenik was ever printed, the first editorial was read by Margos Der Manuelian to a small group in Providence, R.I. That year, the Armenian Revolutionary Federation (ARF) convention allocated \$100 toward the publication of the newspaper. Der Manuelian would later become an editor of the Hairenik as well as secretary to the ARF Central Committee.

The Hairenik newspaper was born May 1, 1899, in the backroom of Hagop Goomrigian's tailor shop at the corner of 3rd Avenue and E 41st Street in New York City. The original building has long been replaced, but the Hairenik is now the oldest continuously operated Armenian newspaper in the United States.

"This broken down, wooden structure of one story was not one of the boasts of wealthy and beautiful New York ... was to become the manager of Armenian American journalism—the birthplace of the Hairenik."

—Thomas Charshafjian

Understanding the Responsibility of Carrying on a Tradition

By George Aghjayan

Director of the Armenian Historical Archives and the chair of the ARF Eastern U.S. Central Committee

The original masthead of the Hairenik is signed with the initials A. M. Sh. in English. The image contains Mother Armenia, chains and shackles, skulls and swords and burning books with the sign of the cross. The name of the illustrator is unknown to me. This masthead was used for the first two years when a

slightly altered one began without attribution.

The first issue lists a price of three cents. The paper was published weekly on Saturday and a yearly subscription could be had for \$1.50. These prices would stay in place for a decade, though the imagery of Mother Armenia on the original masthead had been replaced by simple text years earlier.

Before the first month of publication was complete, there arose a need to financially assist the Armenians of Van. The Hairenik published its first images toward that end.

The front page of the May 27, 1899 issue contained four photographs of Van city, the Van fortress, Lake Van with Mt. Sipan in the background and a gathering on Khach Street in Van. The four photographs surrounded the image of Khrimian Hayrik, at the time Catholicos of All Armenians and previously the Prelate of Van.

The Hairenik slowly began to take shape with the arrival of Arshag Vramian (born Onnik Derdzakian), who managed to take on nearly every responsibility: editor, manager, secretary, accountant, proofreader, paper-folder, and typesetter. According to the 1900 U.S. census, Vramian arrived in July 1899 and immediately began work for the Hairenik.

To all those who have worked at the Hairenik or been fortunately privy to those efforts, such dedication and sacrifice should be of little surprise. He would remain in the U.S. until 1907.

After returning to the Ottoman Empire, Vramian became a deputy in the parliament representing the region of Van. As a leader of the ARF in Van, Turkish officials at the outset of the genocide targeted Vramian for assassination. Vramian was last seen after having been summoned to a meeting with Cevdet Bey. He was murdered soon thereafter.

ՀԱՅՐԵՆԻՔ

THE HAYRENİK.
An Armenian Weekly.
Published every Saturday.

HAYRENİK PUBL. CO.,
PUBLISHERS,
628 THIRD AVENUE,
NEW YORK CITY.

Yearly Subscription - \$150.



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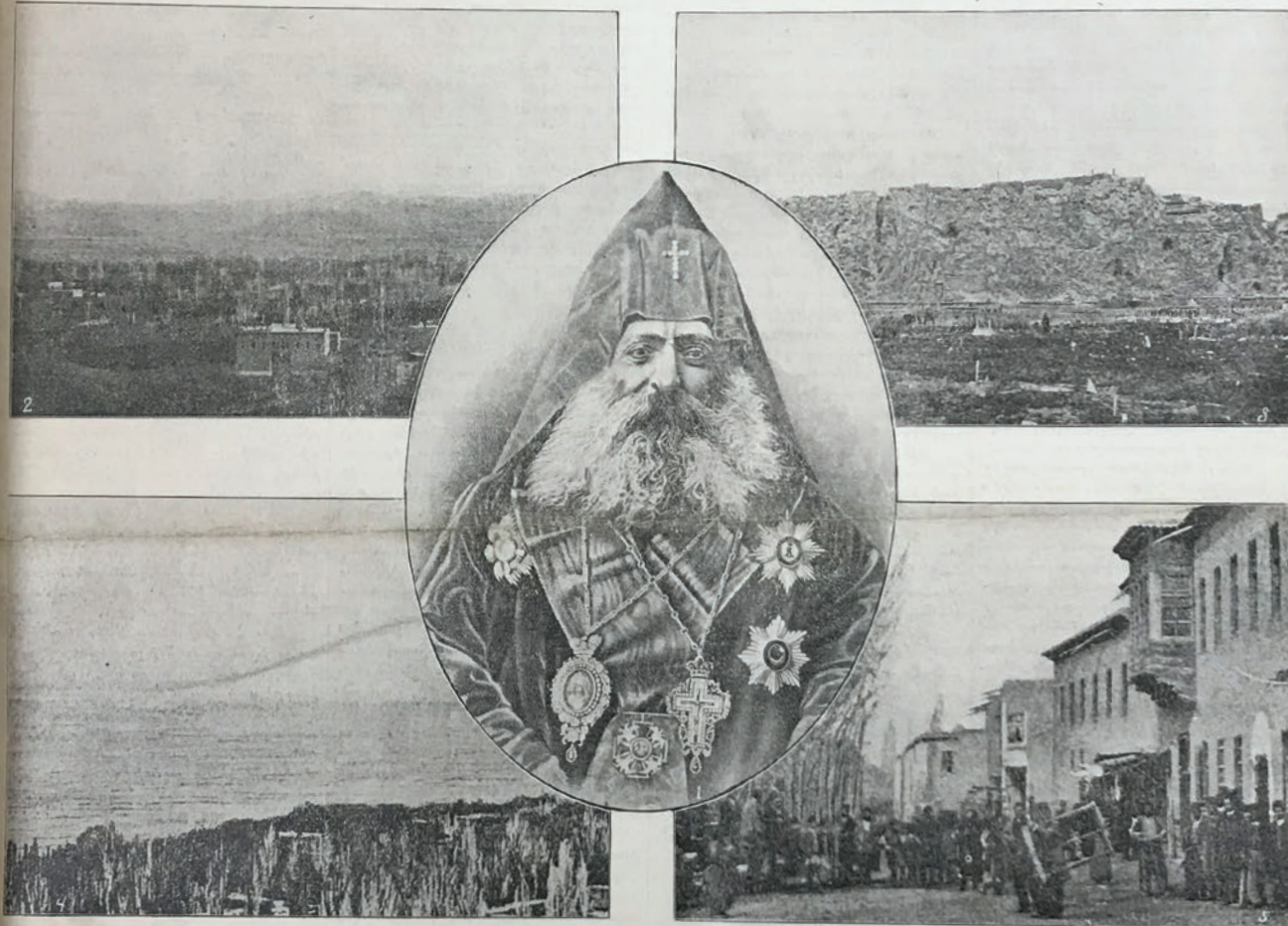
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Խմբագրութեան
ուղղութեամբ գրութիւններ
ևս չեն գարծուիր:

Ա. ՏԱՐԻ, ԹԻՒ 5.

ՆԻՒ ԵՈՐԲ, ՇԱՐԱՔ, ՄԱՅԻՍ 27, 1899.

ԳԻՆ 3 ՍԷՆՔ.



1. ԽՐԻՄԵԱՆ ՀԱՅՐԻԿ. 2. ՎԱՆ 3. ՎԱՆԻ ԲԵՐԴԷ. 4. ՎԱՆԻ ԾՈՒՂ ԵՒ ՍԵՓԱՆԱՅ ԼԵՌԷ. 5. ՎԱՆԻ ԽԱՅ ՓՈՂՈՑԸ.

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Նիւ Եօրքի Հայ Գաղթականութեան Համար այս Երեկոյ «ԵՐԵՐ ԶԵՐԱՅ» Երեկոն է: Միացեալ Նահանգաց ամենէն բազմամարդ, ամենէն զարգացած և ամենէն հարուստ այս գաղթականութիւնը, հանրային ամեն բարենպաստի գործերու նախաձեռնարկողը և առաջնորդողը պէտք էր ըլլար: Զեյթուն և Վասպուրական սով կայ: Նիւ Եօրքի Հայութիւնը պէտք էր ոտքի կանգնէր ու մէկ մարմին, մէկ հոգի, հազարներ հանգանակէր ու առաջնորդէր միւս Հայ գաղթականներն ալ իրենց պարտականութիւնները կատարելու: Մասին անցելու մէջ այսպէս եղած չէ զօրադարար, առաջնորդը հետևորդի դերը կատարած է: Որքերու և Զեյթունի հանգանակութիւնները միւս գաղթականները անհնգին, Նիւ Եօրքը գաղթականութեան հետևորդը:

Ոչ, Փրովիտէնի հազար տղարի շափ հանգանակող Հայերը իրաւունքով պիտի պախարակեն մեզ, քանքորաքի երկու տասնեակ Հայերը պիտի խնդան մեր վրայ, Պոսթօն, Լիւն, Լօրէնս, Մանչէսթըր, Ուսթըր մեզմէ շատ՝ առելի զործական աղջտէր Հայ գաղթականներ պիտի ըլլան: Եթէ մեր միլիոնաւոր, կիսամիլիոնաւոր, բարեկեցիկ Հայ անգամներ ունեցող բազմաշաղկապ գաղթականութիւնը Փրովիտէնի գործարաններուն մէջ արիւն քրտնելով օրապահիլը հարող Հայերուն շափ չօգնէ Վասպուրականի սովաւորներուն, մեզ ի՞նչ պիտի բեն նոյն իսկ իրենք անօթիները:

Քաղաքիս երկտասարդութեան Դերասանական Խումբը, քաջակրօնած քանի մը աղջիկ և աղջկեցիկ անձնաւորութեանց կողմէն, Այս Երեկոյ Ազգայն Երկրորդի ողերգութիւնը պիտի ներկայացնէ ինչպստ մեր սովաւոր եղբայրներուն: Ուստի այս երեկոյ անհրաժեշտ է որ լեցնենք Գրանէկի Հայտիւնը և փրկենք Նիւ Եօրքի պատիւը:

Ստանալի գովազդականութեամբ այսօր ՀԱՐԱՐԱՐԱՐՈՒՄԻ ամսական կրօնային շաբաթիկը:

Before the first month of publication was complete, there arose a need to financially assist the Armenians of Van. The Hairenik published its first images toward that end. The front page of the May 27, 1899 issue contained four photographs of Van city, the Van fortress, Lake Van with Mt. Sipan in the background and a gathering on Khach Street in Van. The four photographs surrounded the image of Khrimian Hayrik, at the time Catholicos of All Armenians and previously the Prelate of Van.



Siamanto (born Adom Yarjanian) sitting at his desk at the Hairenik in 1910. (Photo: Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute Foundation)



The famed Armenian poet Siamanto (born Adom Yarjanian) arrived in the U.S. on November 12, 1909, aboard the infamous SS Lusitania. He would spend less than two years at the Hairenik. Siamanto returned to the Ottoman Empire and suffered a similar fate as Aram-Ashod. He was arrested on April 24, imprisoned at Ayash and ultimately murdered. Photographed is the Lusitania at the end of the first leg of her maiden voyage, New York City, Sept. 1907. (Document: Hairenik Archives)

LIST OR MANIFEST OF ALIEN PASSENGERS FOR THE UNITED STATES
The regulations of the Secretary of Commerce and Labor of the United States, under Act of Congress approved February 20, 1907, to be delivered sailing from

No.	Name	Age	Sex	Nationality	Country of birth	Place of birth	Port of origin	Destination
1	John	25	M	English	England	London	London	London
2	William	23	M	English	England	London	London	London
3	Robert	20	M	English	England	London	London	London
4	Charles	18	M	English	England	London	London	London
5	Edward	15	M	English	England	London	London	London
6	John	12	M	English	England	London	London	London
7	William	10	M	English	England	London	London	London
8	Robert	8	M	English	England	London	London	London
9	Charles	6	M	English	England	London	London	London
10	Edward	4	M	English	England	London	London	London
11	John	2	M	English	England	London	London	London
12	William	1	M	English	England	London	London	London
13	Robert	1	M	English	England	London	London	London
14	Charles	1	M	English	England	London	London	London
15	Edward	1	M	English	England	London	London	London
16	John	1	M	English	England	London	London	London
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18	Robert	1	M	English	England	London	London	London
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20	Edward	1	M	English	England	London	London	London
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24	Charles	1	M	English	England	London	London	London
25	Edward	1	M	English	England	London	London	London
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86	John	1	M	English	England	London	London	London
87	William	1	M	English	England	London	London	London
88	Robert	1	M	English	England	London	London	London
89	Charles	1	M	English	England	London	London	London
90	Edward	1	M	English	England	London	London	London
91	John	1	M	English	England	London	London	London
92	William	1	M	English	England	London	London	London
93	Robert	1	M	English	England	London	London	London
94	Charles	1	M	English	England	London	London	London
95	Edward	1	M	English	England	London	London	London
96	John	1	M	English	England	London	London	London
97	William	1	M	English	England	London	London	London
98	Robert	1	M	English	England	London	London	London
99	Charles	1	M	English	England	London	London	London
100	Edward	1	M	English	England	London	London	London

Yarjanian, Adom 3/4 14 Clerk Turkish Armenian France Paris (Credited) Dr. M. S. (Black) de Pantheon, 2180 Boulevard, 1st floor, New York (Credited) 1907 West 27th Street, New York

Vramian was not the only editor of the Hairenik to be murdered during the genocide. In fact, in a further testament to the quality of editorship in these early days and its wider influence within Armenian society, four Hairenik editors, as well as others associated with the production of the newspaper, returned to the Ottoman Empire only to be murdered as part of the genocidal plan of the Turkish authorities.

Aram-Ashod (born Sarkis Minasian) was another early editor of the Hairenik. While in

the U.S. only for a short time, nonetheless Aram-Ashod made his mark. He also would return to the Ottoman Empire and was arrested on April 24. He would spend time in the Ayash prison before being murdered during transport to Diyarbakir.

The famed Armenian poet Siamanto (born Adom Yarjanian) arrived in the U.S. on November 12, 1909, aboard the infamous SS Lusitania. The sinking of the Lusitania in

1915 would shift public opinion in the U.S. in regards to involvement in World War I. Siamanto's arrival was soon after the April 1909 Adana massacres which had impacted him so emotionally. He would spend less than two years at the Hairenik. Siamanto returned to the Ottoman Empire and suffered a similar fate as Aram-Ashod. He was arrested on April 24, imprisoned at Ayash and ultimately murdered.

During these days, through the work of such a pantheon of Armenian journalism and revolutionary spirit, the quality, quantity and importance of the output by the



Hairenik were nothing short of miraculous given the limited financial and human resources available. The high standard thus set, future contributors raised the prestige of the Hairenik to even greater heights with the addition of the Hairenik Amsagir, the Armenian Weekly (originally the Hairenik Weekly) and the Armenian Review.

Understanding the tremendous legacy of the Hairenik, Vigen Der Manuelian, a relative of the previously mentioned Margos Der Manuelian and whose family had shown tremendous loyalty and sacrifice for its numerous publications over its entire existence, approached Rupen Janbazian, then editor of the Armenian Weekly, about a project to digitize the archives.

Over the course of the next few months, Rupen and I met numerous times with Vigen, whose idea crystallized and gained momentum. In his great generosity and commitment to the Hairenik, Vigen put up the seed money for the project.

The project was not insignificant, and it took a trained hand to perform the time consuming and delicate task of digitizing the newspapers that had been printed largely on acidic paper and were in a crumbling state. In truth, if the job had not begun soon, the opportunity to do so may have passed forever. As good fortune would have it, the right person for the job existed in our community in the person of Berge Panosyan. In fact, Berge had proposed the project a number of years earlier, but the opportunity had not existed.

The next challenge to overcome was what newspapers would be used for the process.

The Hairenik slowly began to take shape with the arrival of Arshag Vramian (born Onnik Derdzakian), who managed to take on nearly every responsibility: editor, manager, secretary, accountant, proofreader, paper-folder, and typesetter. (Photo: Hairenik Archives)

At the Hairenik, we have an original complete set of the newspapers. But it is a collection we would be hard-pressed to part with, even for this noble effort. Fortunately, reflecting again on the wisdom and far-sightedness of those who came before us, stored in a trailer at AYF Camp Haiastan was a large collection of unbound newspapers, perfect for our purpose of scanning.

Over the last 18 months, Berge and his team have been tirelessly digitizing and creating searchable documents from the duplicate newspapers. So far, 1905 to 1920 and 1938 to present have mostly been complete for both the Armenian and English versions of the newspaper. Unfortunately, the web infrastructure has not progressed as smoothly or quickly enough to allow access to the digitized copies yet. But we are committed to making them available for a nominal annual fee.

The next batch of newspapers will include from inception in 1899 through 1905, thus completing the first 20 years of publication. The difficult years will be from 1921 to 1937 as we only have a single bound copy for these years. A decision will need to be made on whether to jeopardize these copies



for digitization if a duplicate copy cannot be acquired.

The good news is that we do not plan to stop there. Once the newspapers are complete, the digitization of the Hairenik Amsagir will soon follow. I can envision the digitization of other Hairenik publications as well.

From the very beginning, the Hairenik operations employed the most state of the art technology available. Today, we continue to carry that tradition. The digitization is only one aspect of this. The print versions of the newspapers still reflect the willingness to evolve. As the renovation of the Hairenik fourth floor nears completion, we will begin work on a multimedia room. Video and audio recording, not just for the newspapers but also for our family of organizations, will be made possible in the state of the art studio.

The ARF Eastern U.S. Central Committee and all of the employees, contributors and supporters of the Hairenik understand the proud legacy of the past 120 years and the responsibility to carry that tradition to a bright future. □

A Commitment to Future Generations

Reflections from the Armenian Weekly's Assistant Editor

By Leeza Arakelian

Assistant Editor, the Armenian Weekly

With New England's autumn sun beaming into the corner office of the historic Hairenik building in Watertown, Mass., I share with you, dear reader, my quiet sentiments in helping bring to life each week the newspaper that has, well before my time, continuously been propelled by dozens of selfless editors and assistant editors. I am in good company as I sit here marveling at the success of this small, but mighty news source, saluting those who have come before me with gratitude and wondering what's next for her—on this, the 85th anniversary of our respected Armenian Weekly.

This office space is mere steps away from a dark room that was unlocked for me just last August. I was a new mother and a formally trained journalist eager to re-enter the industry after spending merciless hours scrambling in and out of control rooms, obeying rundowns and monitoring countdown clocks to the second. I wanted to serve a new audience—the loyal kind that waits impatiently for the delivery of their newspaper every Saturday; the proud kind that looks for their grandchild in a story about the Armenian Youth Federation (AYF-YOARF) so that they can clip it

on their refrigerator; the impassioned kind that engages and writes letters to the editor when a news story or an opinion piece has hit a nerve; and the supportive kind that uplifts its fellow community members and appreciates its deeply-rooted traditions, heritage, and culture. That's the Armenian Weekly audience in a nutshell . . .

Admittedly, tears welled up in my eyes that morning as George Aghjayan (Chairman, Armenian Revolutionary Federation Central Committee Eastern Region U.S.) elaborated on the amount of history enveloping me in that small room—shelves of bound Hairenik and Armenian Weekly newspapers dating back more than a century, rich with articles authored by editorial and literary giants, revolutionaries, journalists, analysts, historians, and spirited Diasporan Armenians who had a way with words.

As a native Californian, I have to say that my service to the Armenian Weekly during my short tenure so far has been mutually beneficial. I have realized that this 85-year-old publication has made me care deeply about a community I was never a part of; a community that has



An Armenian-language Olympia brand typewriter, circa 1956, is one of many relics kept at the Hairenik building in Watertown, Mass. (Photo: Hairenik)

welcomed me and my ideas to document our important stories beyond the written word.

Armed with the same camcorder I used to capture my son's first steps, I used my video storytelling skills to document hardworking women volunteers fold *manteh* for the upcoming church bazaar. I took my camera to Harvard Square so that viewers everywhere could see and hear the ardent pleas of our Armenian youth on the eve of the Armenian Genocide's anniversary commemoration. There has also been recorded footage of hallmark occasions, like the book presentation of the Hairenik Association's latest publication—the lauded English translation of Andranik Tzarukian's *Letter to Yerevan*. These multimedia extensions of our legendary print have been recognized as an opportunity for growth and change. Three floors up from this very office, there will be, in due time, an exciting new addition to the Hairenik building—a media lab, which will inspire me, and I hope others as well, to produce a more enriching and engaging multimedia platform for our readership.

What has been most invigorating for me, however, is my relationship with the youth, or as our “In Sight”

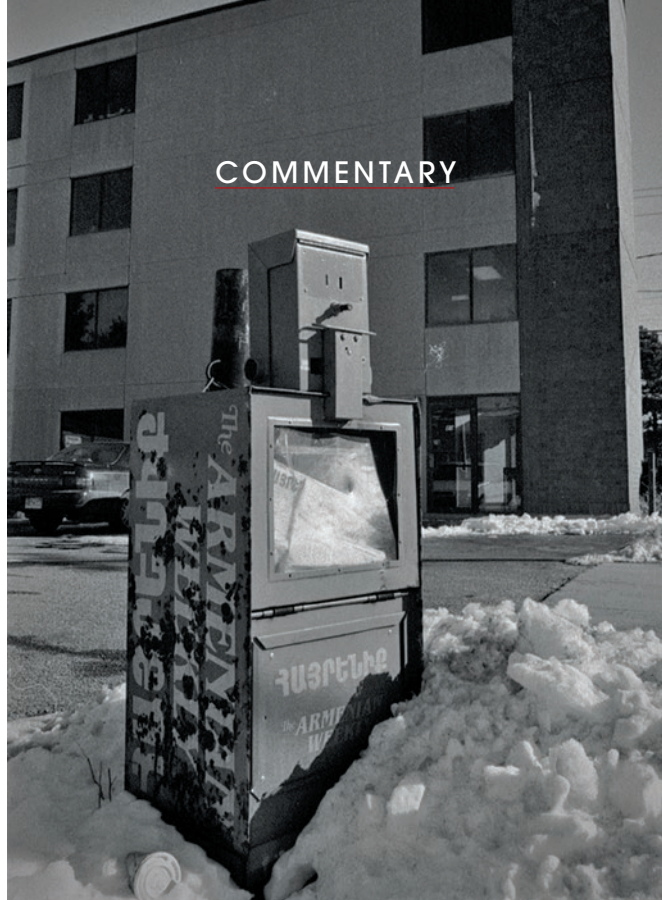
columnist Stepan Piligian calls them...the emerging generation. My mom always told me if I weren't a journalist, I would have been a teacher. It seems that, since this past May, I have been adopting tenets from each of these arenas on this crusade to arm AYF members with not only the ability to write, but the understanding that they have a story to tell, that they have a voice. I believe this group is the future of this community newspaper; these bright and insightful young people will be working with me to take back the page that was once theirs in the 1980s and early '90s. I'll be helping them in leading journalism workshops and inviting chapters throughout the region to join through video conferencing. The enthusiasm and spirit of the Diasporan youth are refreshing and encouraging; I look forward to collaborating with them.

With its limitless potential, its dedicated staff, and its unwavering support from the Diasporan Armenian community, I remain hopeful and optimistic that the Armenian Weekly will continue to thrive for generations to come. I wholeheartedly offer my commitment to its continued success, and I thank you for joining us on this journey. □

COMMENTARY

Just outside the Hairenik headquarters in Watertown, Mass., the Hairenik/Armenian Weekly newspaper box makes its last stand on the eve of the age of digital media.

(Photo: Arsineh Valladian, 1999)



CHALLENGES FACING OUR MEDIA

Looking Back, Looking Ahead

By Antranig Kasbarian

Editor, The Armenian Weekly (1987–1992)

As we mark the dual anniversaries of the Hairenik and the Armenian Weekly, perhaps we can use this occasion not only to celebrate, but to assess our situation and chart our path forward. It's important to do so, I think, especially given the fluid, transitional times we live in. Indeed, as Armenian life rapidly changes, both here and abroad, fresh approaches are required if our media are to remain vibrant and relevant in our communities.

My comments here are not meant to be exhaustive. Rather, I've selected some salient issues that require thinking through, in hopes of generating a broader critique and discussion. I should add that most of the issues below are not "media-centric," but rather broader topics for discussion, in which media policy and practices are an integral part.

From a reading public to... a viewing public?

Over the years, our media have played diverse roles in shaping community life—be it through news reporting, sports and entertainment, culture and education, political commentary, or features on current and historical affairs. One common thread is its *in-depth coverage*, providing food for thought, discussion, and analysis. But in today's world, with shortened attention spans, emphasis on visual appeal, and frequent interruptions of content by ads and infomercials—this thread is in serious peril. How can the media adapt to these conditions, remaining relevant to modern audiences while transmitting material of sufficient depth and complexity?

- In terms of orientation, the old divisions of the Cold War-era—Armenian Revolutionary Federation (ARF)/Ramgavar (ADL), Diocese/Prelacy, Armenian Relief Society (ARS)/Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU)—are gradually melting, in favor of a more diverse community landscape including many smaller, tightly focused organizations. For example, we may cite professional associations (Armenian Bar Association, Armenian Engineers and Scientists of America —AESA, etc.), private foundations (Children of Armenia Fund—COAF, Armenia Tree Project, etc.), and project-based initiatives (Armenian DNA project, Armenian Wounded Heroes Fund, etc.).
- In terms of focus, our communities are challenged more than ever to balance their time and resources between local, national, and international concerns—with today's Armenia occupying an increasing share of attention.

How do we embrace such changes, while remaining true to core principles and approaches?

In the age of social media and instant messaging,
we must acknowledge that our very way of
communicating has changed. Longer, compound
sentences are often replaced by soundbites.
Thoughtful analyses are often replaced by
marketing talk or cheerleading.

From communities to... ?

Traditionally, our media have served communities that are definable—geographically, demographically, and in outlook—regarding Armenian issues and priorities. Today our communities, while still definable, have become much more diverse and amorphous. Thus,

- Communities are more spread out, not just physically, but *virtually*. For example, meetings and gatherings increasingly occur online or through conference calls, rather than in *agoumps* (social clubs) or community centers. Indeed, the term "community" may require re-evaluation, as people living in disparate locations may often share and communicate more than those who live in close physical proximity.
- Demographically, the bedrock of our communities has long been the descendants of genocide survivors, with cultural roots found largely in Western Armenia. Today, that bedrock still exists, but is accompanied increasingly by more recent arrivals from Armenia and the former Soviet sphere.

The need for real communication

In the age of social media and instant messaging, we must acknowledge that our very way of communicating has changed. Longer, compound sentences are often replaced by soundbites. Thoughtful analyses are often replaced by marketing talk or cheerleading. Information is often transmitted and processed rapidly, leading writers to focus on brevity, in order to save time and to grab a reader's attention before he/she moves on. How do we adapt, cope, or resist such tendencies in order to communicate more fully and deeply, thereby maintaining our cohesion as a community?

In lieu of a conclusion

The above questions do not have ready answers. But they urgently require our attention, lest we fall behind the very readers we seek to guide. While answers may not come right away, I believe the search for answers, in itself, will generate positive energies and renewed approaches to our national life. Such approaches, in turn, will likely invigorate our media moving forward. □



Congratulations
Hairenik & Armenian Weekly
on the celebration of these special milestone years!

Wishing you continued success

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