

## Biographical Profiles of our 2010 Lenten Lecture Series Speakers

**Michael Bobelian** is a lawyer and freelance journalist based in New York. His recent book *Children of Armenia: A Forgotten Genocide and the Century Long Struggle for Justice* is the first book to chronicle the aftermath of the Armenian Genocide, recounting the Armenian struggle for justice in the face of a century of silence and denial. A flyer with more information on the book is included.

**Dr. Aram Arkun** is a historian specializing in modern Armenian history. For many years, he was the Assistant Director and then co-Director of the Krikor and Clara Zohrab Information Center of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern). Dr. Arkun was the editor of the quarterly magazine, *Ararat*, from the end of 2003 until 2008, and has held leadership positions in a number of Armenian organizations, including the Armenian Center at Columbia University, and on several awards committees of the Armenian Students Association. He has degrees from Princeton, the University of Pennsylvania, and UCLA (C.Phil.), has taught courses in several universities, and has published articles and annotated translations in scholarly journals, encyclopedias, and books.

**Dr. Anie Sanentz-Kalayjian** is a Professor of Psychology at Fordham University and the Founder and Co-Director of the Association for Trauma Outreach and Prevention. Recognized as an international expert on the psychological effect of trauma in disaster victims, she is a pioneering therapist, educator, director and author, who has devoted her life to bringing healing to those who have survived the devastation of disaster, whether man-made or natural. During this past decade, Dr. Kalayjian has been on a journey of healing and forgiveness. Her most recent publication is *Forgiveness and Reconciliation: Psychological Pathways to Conflict Transformation and Peace Building*, which she co-edited.

**Tom Mooradian** is an award-winning journalist from Detroit, Michigan, who, upon graduation from high school, was part of a group of 151 American-Armenians who repatriated to Soviet Armenia. There, he graduated from the Institute of Physical Culture and Sports with a bachelor's degree, coached junior basketball teams, and became a legendary basketball player for Soviet Armenia. After spending 13 years trying to return to his homeland, he was granted an exit visa by the Soviet government, attended and graduated from Wayne State University with a major in journalism, and worked for Detroit suburban newspapers until his retirement in 2003. Mooradian's book, *The Repatriate: Love, Basketball and the KGB*, recounts the events of his time behind the iron curtain, during the final years of Stalin, providing a first-hand account of what the Soviet world was really like from 1947-1960.

**Rev. Fr. Hakob Gevorgyan** is the new Pastor of our sister parish, Holy Trinity Armenian Church in Cheltenham. He is a graduate of both the Vaskenian Theological Seminary of Lake Sevan and the Gevorkian Theological Seminary in Holy Etchmiadzin. Ordained a Deacon in 2001, Fr. Hakob worked in the Catholicosate for three years, prior to spending a year in Germany in 2004. In 2005, he returned to Holy Etchmiadzin, serving as the Catholicos' assistant and overseeing the parishes of Khor Virab and Etchmiadzin. In 2007, he was ordained a priest and in 2008, at the invitation of Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern), Fr. Gevorgyan arrived in the U.S. and began his internship at St. Gregory the Enlightener Armenian Church of White Plains, NY under the direction of the Rev. Fr. Karekin Kasparian, during which he took English classes at local colleges and completed a Clinical Pastoral Education program at Westchester Medical Center in Valhalla, NY. Fr. Hakob is married to Anna Nikoghosyan and they have a son named Narek.

**Shant Mardirossian** is the Chair of the Near East Foundation, previously known as Near East Relief, which was the response to Ambassador Henry Morgenthau's urgent plea for assistance to save victims of the Armenian Genocide. A U.S. international NGO, the Foundation builds and supports civil society organizations in African and Middle Eastern communities experiencing deep poverty, conflict, migration and climate change. Its 100-plus field staff (primarily comprised of locals who know the culture and language) mobilize "communities in peril" to find homegrown solutions to agriculture, education, health care and job creation, working hand-in-hand with them, at a grass-roots level, as equal partners in making our shared world better. The Foundation's successes have become the model for the U.S. government's international aid program and for nearly all current development organizations. On an annual budget of approximately \$7 million, the NEF maintains offices and programs in Palestine, Morocco, Egypt, Jordan, Mali and the Sudan. Its New York staff of six professionals supports these activities with administration, development and program management. Mr. Mardirossian will share a special DVD presentation of the Near East Foundation's work in Armenia and throughout the world.