

Scholars to speak on Armenian genocide OCC board to interview candidates

The Armenian genocide of 1915 will be discussed by scholars Yair Auron and Agop Jack Hacikyan at a remembrance rally at 5 p.m. Sunday, April 27, at Flandreau Hall in Temple Beth El at 14 Mile Road and Telegraph in Bloomfield Township.

Auron has made it his life's work to bring attention to the genocide. Armenians say that 1.5 million of their fellow Armenians were killed by the Turks.

"I will continue my struggle for the recognition of the Armenian genocide by Israel and the world," Auron said at the "Pro Armenian Conference" held earlier this year in Paris.

Auron specified Israel in his comment because he is a sen-

ior lecturer on contemporary Judaism and genocide at the Open University of Israel.

Auron is the author of several books on the Holocaust and the Armenian genocide. He said his talk at Temple Beth El will focus "on the historical response to the Jewish people of the Armenian genocide." Auron contends that the Israeli government has refused to confront its "Turkish" ally for assisting the genocide during World War I, which was a forerunner of the Nazi Holocaust.

Hacikyan is professor emeritus of literature at the Royal Military College of Canada in Montreal. He is a graduate of the American University in Istanbul and is working on a three-volume of Armenian lit-

erature in English. He has written 28 books.

Hacikyan's address at the Detroit remembrance rally will focus on the causes of the Armenian genocide. Auron has written numerous essays on the impact of the Holocaust on Jewish identity in Israel and Europe.

He is completing work on a new book *The Banality of Death: Israel and Europe*.

Auron said the motivation for his work comes from "an obligation to myself as a human being and in my obligation as a Jew and as an Israeli." Armenian activists Hagop Alexanian of the Armenian Democratic League and Ned Anjigian of the Detroit United Committee are co-chairmen of the rally.

The Oakland Community College Board of Trustees will interview four candidates as potential successors to Chancellor Richard T. Thompson, who is retiring June 30.

All four candidates currently serve as presidents of community colleges from across the country. The field is:

- Brian K. Blanchard, president of Vincennes Community College in Vincennes, Ind. since 2001.
- Daniel C. Krezenski, president of Westmoreland Community College in Youngblood, Pa. since 1986.
- Richard J. Papp, president of Lake Michigan College in Benton Harbor, since 1994.
- Mary S. Spangler, president of Los Angeles City College in California since 1997.

The four were drawn from a field of 19 applicants, which was narrowed to 11 potential candidates by consultants hired earlier by the board to assist in the chancellor search. An advisory committee reduced the field to the four candidates whose names were presented to the board for consideration at its April 21 meeting.

The candidates will be invited to individual interview sessions with the board starting in May. All meetings will be open to the public.

Oakland Community College is the largest community college in Michigan and the 14th largest in the United States. It has five campuses located throughout Oakland County and offers degrees and certificates in more than 125 career fields, as well as university transfer degrees in business, science and the liberal arts.

SEMCOG releases new land use study

A combination of demographic and economic factors contributed to a 17 percent increase in developed land in southeast Michigan during the 1990-2000 decade, according to *Land Use Change in Southeast Michigan: Causes and Consequences*, a report released by SEMCOG, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments.

"It has been said that our region isn't growing... that the people who are here are just moving to new development farther away from the region's core," said Paul Thai, SEMCOG executive director. "Our analysis of land use in the region shows that this is not an accurate assessment. This report documents fresh facts to add perspective to current land use issues."

Southeast Michigan's population grew modestly in the 1990s, adding 243,000 more people - 5 percent growth. Population growth was a primary factor for 27 percent of land developed between 1990-2000.

Other contributing factors were a 9 percent increase in households, 14 percent growth in employment and 16 percent growth in real per capita income.

This increase in wealth has increased our appetite for bigger

homes with more amenities on larger parcels of land. Lower-density residential development accounted for 43 percent of the land developed from 1990 to 2000.

Previous to 1990, 2.84 homes were built on one acre of land in Southeast Michigan. From 1990-2000, that changed dramatically. Now, there is an average of 1.26 homes per acre.

The approval of individual finances also supported the higher rate of household formation. More households and higher incomes also produced more stores, restaurants, other businesses and golf courses - all causing more land to be developed. Nonresidential development accounted for 24 percent of the additional land developed.

The 17 percent increase in developed land from 1990-2000 amounted to 159,000 acres - the equivalent of seven townships. This change brought the region from 33 percent developed in 1990 to 37 percent developed in 2000.

SEMOG's 2000-2030 forecast of 12 percent population growth, plus 22 percent more households, plus 16 percent more jobs implies that there will be at least a 36 percent increase in developed land. By 2030, Southeast Michigan will be 50 percent developed, assuming recent development patterns.

SEMOG's analysis of land use change yields these conclusions:

- Because it is demographic and economic growth that primarily drives land development, the issue is not stopping sprawl. It is how we can grow with less sprawl, while effectively accommodating growth and ensuring high quality of life as growth proceeds. Future land development will use land at least as fast as in the recent past. This will result in shortages of land that can be developed, will push up housing prices as land becomes scarcer and will require major expansions of infrastructure.
- Redevelopment and infill will be both necessary and a more attractive option to meet housing demand as growth expands outward.
- State policies and legislation must be modified to support the needs of both growing and older communities - to give them tools and support to maintain and improve their quality of life. This process also includes an important role for local governments.

Land Use Change in Southeast Michigan is available in PDF format on SEMCOG's Web site, www.semcog.org. Printed copies are available from SEMCOG Information Services (313) 961-4266 for \$20 each.

INKWELL

■ **Cadle scholarship**
Christopher Jordan of Farmington was awarded the Chick Evans Cadle Scholarship for the 2003-04 academic year.

The award is given by the Evans Scholars Foundation providing full tuition and housing.

■ **Top soloist**
Jessica Palmieri, a senior at Walsted Lake Western High School, was recently named as one of the top 100 soloists in the State of Michigan by the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association.

Palmieri has played oboe for nine years and piano for 12. She studies with Dr. Nancy King, professor of oboe at the University of Michigan, and has performed with the Detroit Symphony Civic Orchestra.

■ **Merit Scholarship finalists**
The following Mercy High School students have become finalists for the 2003 National Merit Scholarship Awards:
Jenna Berns, Erin Biebuyck,

Monica Boomer, Ellen Cappo, Emily Gruber, Megan Messana, Francine Shammami and Caryn Smith.

To become a finalist, semifinalists must have a record of very high academic performance, be endorsed and recommended by Mercy's principal, Carolyn White and earn SAT scores that confirm their earlier qualifying test performance.

■ **Scholar Athlete**
Jeffrey Tosioan of Farmington High School, was recently recognized by Michigan McDonald's and WXYZ Channel 7 as the High School Scholar Athlete of the Week.

The program was designed to identify students who excel in the classroom and in their sport.

Tosioan was introduced in March during Action News at 11 p.m. and was also interviewed during Sports Update which airs at 11:30 p.m. every Sunday night.

■ **All American Scholar**

The United States Achievement Academy recently announced that Zara Staples Kay, from Warner Middle School, was named an All-American Scholar.

To be an All-American Scholar recipient must earn a 3.3, or higher, grade point average.

Only scholars selected by a school instructor, counselor or other qualified sponsors are accepted.

■ **Girls State delegates**
The American Legion Auxiliary Groves-Walker Unit #246 will send the following delegates to Girls State in June held at Michigan State University:
Sophie Besl, Catherine Munaco, Dayna Warheit, Rachel Tuhman, Jessica Simpik, Rachel Burton, Shant'l Raines, Cynthia Okochukwu, Dawn Hill, Sami Guillou and Traci Gagarin.

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