TRIPLE EVENTS IN LATE AUGUST

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Keghart.com Report, 23 August 2014

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The commemoration-requiem, officiated by Father Bogdan Mironovich of the St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church, was attended by close to 100 people, mostly Ukrainians. Unlike the Turkish phony commemoration of Turkish internees a month earlier, the Ukrainian gathering was a dignified spiritual event. And unlike the Turkish shindig, which had succumbed to sleazy political propaganda and falsehood, the Ukrainian requiem was non-political and respectful of the dead.

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Father Bogdan was joined in the ceremony by Father Vartan Tashjian of the Armenian church in nearby Cambridge. In addition to praying in Armenian for the souls of the Ukrainian dead, Father Tashjian reminded the congregation of the Armenian martyrs of 1915.

But the "keynote speaker" was award-winning writer Marsha Skrypuch who delivered a short but powerful speech about the injustices done to the Ukrainians and to the Armenians. She pointed out that it was a "sad irony that people (Alevis, Armenians, Assyrians) who had fled the oppressive Ottoman regime" were labeled 'Turks' by the Canadian government and interned for that false identification. She said the same verdict was meted to Ukrainians who had left the oppressive Austro-Hungarian Empire but were interned for having come from that state. Ms. Skrypuch, who has

written five books on the Armenian Genocide, unveiled her latest book—"Dance of the Banished"—after the ceremonies. The book--a love story based in Dersim--is distributed in Canada by UTP Distribution and in the US by Orca Book Publishers.

The gathering also heard speeches by the local Member of Parliament Hon. Phil McColeman and Member of the Provincial Legislature Hon. Dave Levac. Brantford City Mayor Chris Friel, a controversial figure who was instrumental in the erection of a Turkish "Muslim" gravestone for the fake Turkish internees at the nearby Mount Hope Cemetery, was not invited to the requiem.

Following the ceremony, Ms. Skrypuch autographed her book and met her many fans. After that, it was time to indulge in Ukrainian delicacies.

A day earlier, Keghart.com and the Toronto chapter of the AGBU unveiled ("kinetson") Katia Peltekian's "The Times of Armenian Genocide: Reports in the British Press 1914-1923" at the AGBU hall. The result of 12 years of research, the two-volumes include press reports, Parliamentary debates, letters from readers, and petitions to raise funds for the Armenian victims.

Ms. Peltekian was introduced by Keghart Editor Jirair Tutunjian. In a Power-point presentation, the author screened significant excerpts from debates at Westminster regarding the plight of the Armenians. She also underlined that while the British government seemed to be pro-Armenian during the war, it abandoned the Armenians soon after the war.

In introducing Ms. Peltekian, Mr. Tutunjian pointed out that the author researched, scanned, compiled, published the book, and financed the vital project with her personal savings, because after her experience with her previous book about the coverage of the Genocide in the Canadian press (1894-1922), she did not wish to waste time uselessly waiting for an Armenian organization or institution to show interest.

About 70 people attended the gathering. Following her speech, Ms. Peltekian took questions from the audience and later autographed her remarkable 950 page, two-volume testimonial to the Genocide.

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