

Armenian Interests

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News & Events of the Armenian Community

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PAREV-TV interviews Marie Lou Papazian, Founding CEO of TUMO



On Tuesday, July 14, 2026, PAREV-TV had an interview with Marie Lou Papazian, the founding Chief Executive Officer of TUMO Center for Creative Technologies.

TUMO was the vision of Sam Simonian and his wife Silva Simonian, who invested not only their resources but also their faith in education as the key to a stronger future.

Over the past 15 years, TUMO has grown into a



household name - not only in Armenia - but around the world. More than an educational institution, TUMO has become a movement—one that is transforming the way young people learn, create, and prepare for the future.

Within the walls for TUMO

Armenia's future is being incubated.

TUMO's mission is as ambitious as it is simple : to provide world-class educational opportunities to the younger generation in Armenia and, increasingly, in many countries across the globe.

As TUMO celebrates its 15th anniversary, preparations are underway for a special Gala that will take place on September 20, 2026, at Vibiana in Los Angeles. This year's

Gala will bring together supporters, partners, and friends from around the world to celebrate TUMO's remarkable achievements and its vision for the future.

Mary Lou Papazian is the person whose leadership, determination, vision and innovative spirit helped make TUMO's extraordinary journey possible. The interview ends with comments in Armenian. Watch interview [here](#).



Headline News



Armenian Interests

TUMO marks 15 years with 25 centers across 15 countries



**Marie Lou Papazian,
Founding CEO of TUMO**

Fifteen years after opening its first centre in Yerevan, the TUMO Center for Creative Technologies has grown into an international educational network, now operating in countries around the world and continuing to expand. With 25 centres across 15 countries, TUMO's founders believe their greatest achievement is not the number of centres, programmes or students, but the learning environment that teaches young people to think independently, educate themselves and create.

In an interview with Armenpress, Marie Lou Papazian, Chief Executive Officer of TUMO, reflected on the organisation's journey, discussed the new educational challenges posed by the age of artificial intelligence, TUMO's upcoming initiatives and its vision for the next 15 years.

-TUMO marks its 15th anniversary this year. Looking back over these 15 years, which achievements stand out as the most important?

-Over the past 15 years, TUMO has achieved many measurable results: tens of thousands of students, centres in different countries, and graduates who now work for leading companies or

launch their own projects. But if I had to single out one achievement, it would be the educational environment we succeeded in creating.

From the very beginning, our goal was never simply to teach technology or design. We wanted to build a system where young people would learn to work independently, take responsibility for their own learning, not be afraid to experiment, and discover the joy of learning and self-discovery. Today, when we meet our graduates, we see that these are precisely the skills that help them succeed at university, in the workplace and in their own initiatives.

Another important achievement is that TUMO expanded beyond Armenia and proved that this model can work in different countries and cultural environments. What began as a single centre in Yerevan has become an international educational network.

For me, however, the greatest achievement remains the people—the young people whose lives have been transformed by TUMO. Everything else is ultimately a consequence of that.

-When TUMO was founded in 2011, what goal did you set for yourselves, and how has that vision evolved over the years?

-When TUMO was founded in 2011, we were trying to answer a simple question: how do we prepare young people for a world that is changing so rapidly that education often struggles to keep pace?

Even then, it was clear that traditional



education alone would not be enough. What was needed was an environment where teenagers could simultaneously develop technical, creative and self-directed learning skills. That idea became the foundation of TUMO.

Over the years, the scale and the tools have changed. What began as a single centre in Yerevan has grown into an international network that, by the end of this year, will comprise 25 centres across 15 countries. Alongside its creative technologies programmes, TUMO has introduced artificial intelligence education, adult learning initiatives, TUMO Labs and TUMO Studios.

Yet the core idea has remained the same: helping people become independent learners. Technologies change, professions evolve, but the ability to learn and develop independently remains one of the most important skills. That principle continues to define TUMO today.

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TUMO

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-Today, tens of thousands of teenagers study at TUMO in Armenia and around the world. What do you consider to be TUMO's greatest impact on their lives?

-I believe TUMO's greatest impact is not that young people learn programming, animation or any other specific skill. It is that they learn how to learn independently and gain confidence in their own abilities.

The world is changing faster than ever before, and many of the professions young people are preparing for today may look completely different just a few years from now. In such an environment, the most valuable skill is the ability to learn quickly, adapt to change and think creatively.

We also see this reflected in the stories of our graduates. Many continue their studies at leading universities around the world, work in technology, creative industries and science, or launch their own ventures. But what is equally important to me is that they become more proactive, more self-confident and more engaged in their communities.

If I had to summarise it in one sentence, I would say that TUMO gives young people not only skills, but also the confidence that they can learn, create and succeed in any changing environment.

-TUMO now operates successfully both in some of the world's leading educational and technology hubs and in developing countries. In your view, what makes the TUMO model so universal and adaptable across such different environments?

I think TUMO's greatest strength is that we have created an educational model that can work equally effectively in very different environments—from small towns to some of the world's largest capitals.

Educational programmes are usually difficult to scale without compromising

quality. With TUMO, however, we have built a system that combines personalised learning and creative freedom while making the same educational experience accessible to thousands of young people.

I also believe that one reason countries are interested in TUMO is that it is more than an educational programme. It is also, in many ways, a community and development initiative. It helps young people acquire modern skills while strengthening local communities and creating new opportunities for regions.

It is probably this combination of quality, scalability, accessibility and real impact that makes TUMO relevant and attractive in countries around the world.

-Today TUMO operates in countries across the world, and its network continues to grow. Where do you see TUMO in the next 15 years?

-I believe the biggest question over the next 15 years will not be how many centres TUMO has, but what role education will play in a world where artificial intelligence is transforming almost every profession.

If the first 15 years were about proving that it is possible to create a new type of educational model, the next 15 years will be about continually rethinking that model. We will need to constantly reassess what young people learn, how they learn, and what skills they need.

I would like TUMO to be recognised not only as a successful educational network, but also as an institution that can respond to change in time and help education keep pace with technological progress. In that sense, our goal is not simply to open more centres. Our goal is to play a leading role in shaping the future of education.

-“The next 15 years” is this year's anniversary theme. What does it represent for TUMO's future?

-For us, “The next 15 years” is much more than an anniversary slogan. It is a question we ask ourselves every day: if

technology, the labour market and even the ways people learn are changing so rapidly, what kind of education should we offer tomorrow's young people?

Over the next 15 years, TUMO will place even greater emphasis on artificial intelligence, self-directed learning and lifelong education. At the same time, we will continue expanding our presence both in Armenia and internationally so that more young people can benefit from these opportunities.

-If you had to describe TUMO's goal for the next 15 years in a single sentence, what would it be?

-To help as many people as possible become independent super-learners, creators and active agents of change, regardless of where they live.

-Artificial intelligence is rapidly transforming the world. How is TUMO preparing young people for this new reality?

-We recognised long ago that artificial intelligence is not simply another new technology, but a tool that will transform almost every profession. That is why our goal is not only to make AI a separate field of study, but to integrate it across different learning areas.

Today, TUMO students not only learn how AI systems work, but also use them in programming, design, animation, music and other projects. In addition, we have developed new AI learning programmes, for which we received the WISE Prize for Education last year.

For us, it is essential that young people not only know how to use AI tools, but also understand their capabilities and limitations, think critically and work creatively with them. These are among the skills that will be most in demand in the years ahead.

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TUMO

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-How has TUMO's educational content evolved over the past 15 years?

-If we look at TUMO's core learning areas, they have not changed significantly. Programming, animation, game development, filmmaking, design and other creative and technology-related disciplines remain at the heart of TUMO's educational model.

The biggest change in recent years has been the emergence of artificial intelligence. Whereas AI was once a separate and highly specialised topic, today it has become part of almost every field. That is why we have not only introduced new AI-focused learning programmes, but also started integrating AI tools and methods into different areas of study—from programming and game development to design and content creation.

In other words, it is not so much the disciplines that have changed, but the tools and technologies students use. TUMO's approach has always been the same: to respond as quickly as possible to technological change and make it a natural part of education.

-TUMO now also offers educational programmes for adults. Why was it important to expand in that direction?

-Expanding into adult education was a natural step for us. Over the years, we realised that the same challenges we prepare teenagers for also apply to adults. Technology, professions and the labour market are evolving rapidly, and many people need new knowledge and

skills at different stages of their careers.

That is why the TUMO ecosystem has expanded in recent years. Today we have TUMO Labs, where people work on real technology projects, 42 Yerevan, an innovative tuition-free programming school, and TUMO Studios, which create new opportunities for professional growth in the creative industries.

-The TUMO centres in Masis, Armavir and Vanadzor will soon join the Armenian network. What does nationwide accessibility mean to you?

-This has been one of our key goals from the very beginning. We never wanted TUMO to be accessible only to children living in Yerevan.

Every teenager in Armenia—whether they live in the capital, a border village or a small town—should have the same opportunity to learn, create and develop their potential.

The opening of the centres in Masis, Armavir and Vanadzor is another important step towards that goal. Every new centre is much more than a building or an educational programme. It creates new opportunities for the entire community and enables more young people to build their future in their own hometowns.

-When TUMO celebrates its 30th anniversary, what would you like people to say about it?

-I would like people to say that TUMO not only changed the way people think about education, but also helped millions of people discover their potential and confidently build their future. And that what began in Armenia continued to make a positive impact on communities around the world without ever losing its values or its mission.

-What message would you like to share with TUMO students, graduates and everyone who has been part of TUMO's journey over the past 15 years?



-For us, TUMO's 15th anniversary is not only an opportunity to reflect on the journey so far. It is also a chance to understand what can happen when thousands of people believe in an idea and work consistently to bring it to life over many years.

Over these 15 years, TUMO has become part of the stories of many people: students who discovered their interests and gained confidence in themselves; graduates who now work around the world or build their own projects; and partners, coaches, parents and supporters who helped turn this idea into reality.

The next 15 years will be even more ambitious. More countries, more opportunities and more people whose lives can be transformed through education.

And if there is one message I would like to leave everyone with, it is this: continue to be part of this story. Because TUMO's greatest achievements have never been its buildings, programmes or numbers. They have always been its people.

Ultimately, TUMO's future will be shaped not only by what TUMO itself does, but also by what the people who have been through it create, change and accomplish. And I am convinced that the most exciting achievements are still ahead.

Poetry presented by Mrs. Zarmine Boghosian

Մեր Քրական Աշխարհի Օտկաստանէն
 ♥♥♥ *Through the Orchards of the Armenian Language & Poetry* ♥♥♥
 Presented by: Zarmine Boghosian
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 ❤️ 💙 🧡

Մեծ առաւելութիւն է եւ հոգեկան մեծ
 բարձրացում եւ խոր վայելք անշո՛ւշտ, երբ
 մարդ տէրն է իր երկրին, իր ժողովուրդին, իր
 գոյութեան ու բախտին, որմէ գուրկ ենք մենք:
ԼԵՒՈՆ ՇԱՆՔ

Լեզուի իմացութիւնը, վստահաբար, գնահատելի է,
 սակայն, այդ մէկը մարդու զարգացման մակարդակի
 չափանիշ չի կրնար դառնալ: Մայրենին որպէս սայթաքում
 ու նուաստութիւն նկատող երիտասարդ մը՝ իր այդ
 արարքով իսկ իր ոչ-զարգացած ըլլալը կը փաստէ: Մեր
 երիտասարդութիւնը մեր ապա-գան է... սակայն, մաղթենք,
 որ մեր իրակա-նութենէն հեռու մնան նման երիտասարդներ,
 որովհետեւ այդպիսիները սեփականը կոր-ծանելէ բացի բան
 չեն կրնար կատարել:



Յակոբ Զոլաքեանի էջէն –
անպայման կարդալ

Ամերիկա ծնած, հոն ապրող
 ուսանողուհի **ՆԱՐՈՏ ԱՐԻՍԵԱՆ**ի հա-
 յերէնին ծանօթ եմ, ահա՛ւասիկ, բայց մեր երկու
 գրական հայերէններուն այս բա-
 նաստեղծական գնահատականը զիս
 զարմացուցած է:

Այո "Լեզուն սեղան է, ուր բոլոր վտարուած
 բառերը կրնան հաց կիսել":

ԵՐԿՈՒ ՀԱՅԵՐԵՆԻ ՍԷՐԸ

ՆԱՐՈՏ ԱՐԻՍԵԱՆ

Դուն կ'ըսես՝ «սիրում եմ», ես կ'ըսեմ՝
«կը սիրեմ»:

Մէկ տառ կը փոխուի, բայց երբեմն անոր մէջ
ամբողջ աշխարհ մը կը բացուի:

Քու լեզուդ լեռներու պէս կը հնչէ, քարի,
 աղբիւրի, Երեւանի փողոցներու շունչով:
Իմ լեզուս ծովու պէս կը դառնայ, Պէրութի
 պատշգամներէն, Հալեպի բակերէն, Պոլսոյ մութ
 իշողութենէն:

Մենք իրար կը սիրենք նոյն այբուբենով,
 բայց ոչ միշտ նոյն վերքով:

Քու բառերուդ ետին հայրենիքի ծանրու-
 թիւնը կայ:

Իմ բառերուս ետին՝

ցրուած տան մը յամառութիւնը:
 Երբեմն դուն կը սրբագրես զիս

առանց ուզելու,
 կարծես իմ հայերէնս պակաս

տուն ըլլայ:
 Երբեմն ես կը պաշտպանեմ

ձայներս շատ արագ,
 կարծես ամէն շտկում աքսորի

նոր սահման ըլլայ:
Մեր միջեւ միայն քերականութիւն չէ:

Կայ նաեւ պատմութիւն,
 կայ իշխանութիւն,

կայ այն լուռ կարծիքը որ մէկ հայերէնը
 կեդրոն է:միւսը՝ ծայրամաս:

Բայց զիշերները, **երբ աշխարհի մեծ**
քարտէսները կը լռեն, մենք կը նստինք
 սեղանի մը շուրջ եւ կը փորձենք մեր սեփական
 լեզուն շինել:

Քու «**ո՞նց ես**»-իդ մէջ ես կը լսեմ կարօտ:

Իմ «**ինչպէ՞ս ես**»-իս մէջ

դուն կը գտնես վերադարձ:
 Դուն կ'ըսես՝ «**արի**», ես կ'ըսեմ՝ «**եկուր**»:

Եւ երկուքն ալ նոյն ձեռքը կը մեկնեն:

Մերը մեզ չի ստիպեր մէկ լեզու ընտրել: **Մերը կը**
սորվեցնէ երկու լեզուներու միջեւ չիշխել,
չլռեցնել, չանունափոխել:

Մենք չենք ուզեր մէկս միւսին հայրենիք
 դառնալ իշխանութեան պէս:

Կ'ուզենք դառնալ ապաստան՝
 ուր քու շէշտդ չ'ամչնար,

իմ բառս չի նահանջեր,
 եւ մեր ապագայ գաւակները չեն հարցներու

«Ո՞ր հայերէնն է աւելի ճիշդ»:
 Թող անոնք գիտնան՝ լեզուն գահ չէ,

որուն վրայ մէկը կը նստի:
Լեզուն սեղան է, ուր բոլոր վտարուած

բառերը կրնան հաց կիսել:

Ու երբ դուն դարձեալ ըսես՝ «**սիրում եմ**»,
 ես պիտի պատասխանեմ՝ «**կը սիրեմ**»:

Ոչ իբրեւ թարգմանութիւն,
 ոչ իբրեւ հակառակութիւն,

այլ իբրեւ կամուրջ՝ երկու ափերու միջեւ,
ուր վերջապէս մեր ձայները իրար չեն
յաղթեր, այլ միասին տուն կը շինեն:



We Armenia



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Current News from Around the World



Armenian Interests

EU foreign ministers to approve new mission for Armenia to counter hybrid threats, Kallas says



EU foreign ministers are expected to approve a new partnership mission for Armenia aimed at countering hybrid threats and foreign information manipulation and interference.

EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Kaja Kallas made the announcement ahead of a

meeting of EU foreign ministers in Brussels.

“We are also going to agree on a new Partnership Mission for Armenia to counter the hybrid threats and foreign information manipulation and interference that the country is facing,” Kallas said.

Knesset vote on Armenian Genocide recognition suspended, JNS reports



A vote on a resolution to recognise the Armenian Genocide has been suspended in Israel’s parliament, the Knesset. JNS reported the development, citing an Israeli official. In late June, the Israeli government unanimously approved a proposal to officially recognise the Armenian

Genocide. The proposal was subsequently due to be submitted to the Knesset for approval. According to JNS, the vote was suspended during a diplomatically sensitive period amid renewed tensions in the region. The publication noted that relations between Israel and Türkiye have deteriorated in recent months over the war in Gaza and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan’s sharp criticism of Israel. Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar, who presented the recognition proposal to the government, previously described it as the right decision and a matter of historical justice. According

to the Associated Press, the Israeli government also justified the decision by citing Türkiye’s policy of denying and downplaying historical facts. Türkiye described the Israeli government’s decision as politically motivated. According to JNS, the decision to suspend the parliamentary vote may be seen as part of international efforts to ease tensions between Israel and Türkiye. JNS also reported that Azerbaijani authorities had condemned the Israeli government’s decision last month and called for it to be reversed. The publication noted that Azerbaijan maintains longstanding ties with both Türkiye and Israel and has long sought to play a mediating role between the two countries. The Knesset is scheduled to begin its summer recess later this week and, according to JNS,

Alex Manoogian (1901-1996)



Dedicated to the memory of a great Armenian philanthropist, Alex Manoogian, who passed away exactly 30 years ago, on July 10, 1996 at the age of 95 in Detroit. Alex Manoogian legacy of dignified giving and supporting those in need should never be forgotten.

Alex Manoogian was born in 1901 in the town of Kasaba, near Izmir. He received his primary and secondary education in local Armenian schools.

In 1920, two years before the destruction of Smyrna, he immigrated to the United States. Arriving through Ellis Island with only \$50 in his pocket, he spoke five languages—but English was not one of them. Later, his family joined him in America.

In 1924, Manoogian settled in Detroit. He worked in an auto parts manufacturing plant to gain valuable experience before founding his own company in 1929. That company would grow into the multinational Masco Corporation. Despite the hardships of the Great Depression, by 1936 his company had become successful enough to be listed on the stock exchange—the first Armenian-owned company to achieve this distinction.

In 1931, he married Marie Tatian in New York. Together they raised two children, Louise and Richard.

Marie Manoogian was a devoted partner and constant source of support throughout her husband's active and industrious life until her passing in 1992.

During the 1930s, Manoogian became actively involved in the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) and the Knights of Vartan. In 1940, he was elected Avak Sbarabed (National Commander) of the Knights of Vartan, and in 1953 he was elected to the Central Board of Directors of the AGBU. That same year, he was elected International President of the AGBU, a position he held with distinction for 36 years.

A grateful citizen of the United States, Alex Manoogian generously supported hospitals, museums, libraries, universities, schools, and numerous charitable and cultural organizations. Among his many gifts was the donation of his former mansion to the City of Detroit to serve as the official residence of the Mayor.

Throughout his lifetime, Manoogian contributed more than \$90 million to charitable, religious, cultural, and educational causes.

When asked about his remarkable generosity, he replied:

"My father brought us up to recognize that if you are fortunate to do well in this world, then you have an obligation to share that good fortune with those who are less fortunate. Giving is part of our family tradition."

Reflecting on his lifelong devotion to his heritage, he said:

"That Armenia has survived all these years is a miracle. That's why I love our nation and we do all we can to perpetuate it. If you ask me if I was born again what nationality I would choose, I would like to be born Armenian again."

Alex Manoogian's life stands as a

testament to the American dream, entrepreneurial vision, selfless philanthropy, and unwavering dedication to the Armenian people. His legacy continues to inspire generations through the institutions he built, the communities he strengthened, and the countless lives he touched through his generosity.

You are tuned in to the Armenian Radio Hour of Nj on WSOU 89.5 F.M.. Today's program is dedicated to the memory of a great Armenian philanthropist Alex Manoogian who passed away exactly 30 years ago today, in Detroit. Alex Manoogian legacy of dignified giving and supporting those in need should never be forgotten.

Manoogian was born in the town of Kasaba, near Izmir, in 1901. He received his primary and secondary education in local Armenian schools.

In 1920, two years before the destruction of Smyrna, by the Turks, he came to America. He passed through Ellis Island with only \$50 in his pocket; he was able to speak five languages, but English was not one of them.

Later his family joined him in America

In 1924 he settled in Detroit. He worked in an auto parts manufacturing plant to gain experience, and then founded his own company in 1929, which was to grow into the multi-national Masco Corporation.

Although the depression years were hard, by 1936, Manoogian's company was large enough to be listed on the stock exchange, a first for an Armenian-owned company.

Continued on next page

Alex Manoogian

Continued from previous page

In 1931 he married Marie Tatian in New York, and soon they had two children—Louise and Richard. The late Marie Manoogian was a constant companion and helpmate to her active and industrious husband, until her death in 1992.

Manoogian joined the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) and the Knights of Vartan in the 1930s. By 1940 he was elected Avak Sbarabed (National Commander) of the Knights, and in 1953 he was elected to the Central Board of Directors of the AGBU.

In 1953 Alex Manoogian was elected international president of the AGBU, a

post which he occupied with honor for 36 years.

As a grateful citizen of the United States, Manoogian contributed generously to American hospitals, museums, libraries, universities, schools and other charitable and cultural organizations. He donated his former mansion to the City of Detroit to be used as an official residence of the Mayor.

Throughout his life, Manoogian contributed over 90 million dollars to charitable, religious, cultural and educational causes.

Asked about his extraordinary

generosity, Manoogian told a reporter: “My father brought us up to recognize that if you are fortunate to do well in this world then you have an obligation to share that good fortune with those who are less fortunate. Giving is part of our family tradition.”

As for his dedication to his people and nation, he explained: “That Armenia has survived all these years is a miracle. That’s why I love our nation and we do all we can to perpetuate it. If you ask me if I was born again what nationality I would choose, I would like to be born Armenian again.”

UAE businesses explore opportunities to import fresh vegetables, flowers and mineral water from Armenia



Armenian Deputy Minister of Economy Arman Khojayan met with a delegation of business representatives from the United Arab Emirates on July 16 to discuss expanding trade cooperation.

According to Armenia’s Ministry of Economy, the meeting focused on opportunities to export fresh vegetables and flowers from Armenia to the UAE market.

The sides also discussed the organisation of export procedures, logistics routes and phytosanitary requirements.

Khojayan outlined the Armenian

government’s key export promotion policies, highlighting the importance of expanding cooperation with the Gulf countries and increasing exports of Armenian fresh vegetables and flowers.

He also presented the potential of Armenia’s greenhouse sector, the range of fresh vegetables and flowers produced in the country, their quality advantages and existing export opportunities. He additionally proposed exploring the possibility of exporting Armenian mineral water to the UAE. Representatives of companies producing flowers and fresh vegetables, as well as logistics service providers, also took part in the meeting.

They presented their main areas of activity, product portfolios, export experience and cooperation opportunities, while discussing supply arrangements and compliance with market requirements.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the parties agreed to continue cooperation, maintain business contacts and



exchange information to develop practical areas of future collaboration, with the aim of expanding trade and economic ties between Armenia and the United Arab Emirates.

On July 17, Deputy Minister Arman Khojayan, UAE Ambassador to Armenia Nariman Al Mulla and members of the business delegation visited several greenhouse facilities in Armenia to assess production and export capacities, as well as packaging, cold storage and logistics infrastructure.

US State Department: Border and Customs Operations Along TRIPP Route Will Remain Under Armenian Control



All border security and customs operations along the TRIPP route will remain under Armenia's control, the U.S. Department of State said in response to questions from RFE/RL's Armenian Service regarding the application of Eurasian Economic Union regulations to the route.

Armenia's deputy foreign minister recently said that TRIPP, which is expected to connect Azerbaijan with Nakhichevan through Armenia's Syunik Province, would operate in accordance with EAEU transit regulations.

RFE/RL asked the State Department whether the United States, as a participant in TRIPP, had agreed that the transit route would operate under

the EAEU regulatory framework. It also asked whether customs transit procedures under TRIPP would be governed by EAEU regulations and, if so, whether Armenia and the United States had already reached an understanding or agreement on the issue.

The State Department responded briefly:

"TRIPP preserves Armenia's sovereignty, territorial integrity and jurisdiction. All border security and customs operations will remain under Armenian control. Armenian authorities will exercise oversight and make key decisions."

Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan previously did not rule out the possibility that direct services for travelers using the route, including face-to-face interactions, could be delegated to an operator from a third country. Such personnel could collect documents for inspection and receive transit payments.

The State Department did not answer another question from RFE/RL about whether the United States planned to introduce changes to the existing regulatory framework or establish separate transit rules for TRIPP.

Asked whether Washington had discussed the matter with the Armenian and Azerbaijani authorities, a State Department spokesperson said only that the United States continued to work with the Azerbaijani government on the priorities outlined in their strategic partnership document.

Those priorities include regional connectivity, economic investment, energy, security cooperation and artificial intelligence.

Washington also declined to disclose how much funding the United States has allocated to the TRIPP project to date. The spokesperson said that no additional details could be provided at this time.

The Guardian: Russia-born investor appointed by the State Department to head the TRIPP fund: he also invested in Armenia

Konstantin Sokolov, a Russia-born private equity investor from Chicago, has been appointed chairman of a new U.S. State Department enterprise fund that will oversee the spending of more than \$200 million intended to develop a trade corridor in Central Asia. The funds will be directed toward investments in transport, energy infrastructure, and the extraction of critical minerals. The Guardian

reports this. The State Department confirmed his appointment.

Sokolov is one of 36 donors — including 21 corporations and 15 individuals and family foundations — who, according to Donald Trump, contributed more than \$350 million to the White House "ballroom" construction project.



DIRECTORY

The following are addresses where Armenian gatherings are frequently held
This is NOT a list of Armenian organizations or churches
We will be glad to list additional addresses

AGBU

55 East 59th Street
New York, NY 10022
212-319-6383
Email: agbuny@agbu.org
www.agbu.org

Diocese of the Armenian Church

630 Second Avenue
New York, NY 10016
212-686-0710

Prelacy of the Armenian Church

138 East 39th Street,
New York, NY 10016
212-689-7810

Saint Illuminator Armenian Cathedral

221 East 27th. Street,
New York, NY 10016
212-689-5880

Armenian Presbyterian Church

140 Forest Avenue,
Paramus, NJ 07652
201-265-8585

St. Leon Armenian Church

12-61 Saddle River Rd
Fair Lawn, NJ 07410
201-791-2862

Sts Vartanantz Armenian Church

461 Bergen Boulevard
Ridgefield, NJ 07657
201-943-2950

St Stepanos Armenian Apostolic Church

1184 Ocean Avenue
Elberon, New Jersey 07740
Phone 732-229-3661 Fax 732-229-3857

Holy Cross Armenian Church

318 27th Street,
Union City, NJ 07087
201-864-2480

Hovnanian School

817 River Road
New Milford, NJ 07646
201-967-5940
www.hovnanianschools.org

Sacred Heart Armenian Catholic Church

155 Long Hill Road
Little Falls, NJ 07424
Tel: 973-890-0447

St. Thomas Armenian Church

Route 9W-E Clinton Avenue
Tenafly, NJ 07670
201-567-5446

St. Mary Armenian Church

200 W. Mt. Pleasant Avenue
Livingston, NJ 07039
973-533-9794

St. Sarkis Armenian Apostolic Church

38-65 234 Street
Douglaston, NY 11363
718-224-2275

Ararat Youth and Conference Center

6944 S.R. 32
Greenville, NY 12083
212-686-0710, x120
www.araratcener.org

St. Nersess Armenian Seminary

486 Bedford Road
Armonk, NY 10504
914-273-0200
info@stnersess.edu www.stnersess.edu

Armenian Network of America-NY Region

P.O. Box 205
Bible School Park, NY 13737
(617) 688-2741
newyorkregion@armnet.org www.armnet.org

Armenian Church of the Holy Martyrs

209-15 Horace Harding Expressway
Bayside, New York 11364
718-225-0235
www.holy-martyrs.org

Armenian Evangelical Church of New York

152 E 34th St.
New York, NY 10016
Tel: (212) 685-3177

St. Vartan Armenian Cathedral

630 2nd Ave
New York, NY 10016
(212) 686-0710

St. Gregory the Enlightener Armenian Church

1131 North Street
White Plains, NY 10605
Tel. (914) 428-2595

Tekayan Cultural Association-Greater NY

560 Sylvan Avenue
Englewood Cliffs, NJ 07632
Email: tekeyannjny@gmail.com

Calendar of Events



Armenian Interests

To be included in our Calendar of Events,
please provide us with your non-profit organization's event, date and
location along with a contact name and telephone number

Please e-mail your submissions to:

Talin Kupelian - TalinKupelian@gmail.com

or

Vartan Abdo - VartanAbdo@optonline.net

We reserve the right to accept or reject submissions
not in accordance with our service

We also reserve the right to edit and modify all copies submitted

*****Armenian Interests & Armenian Radio Policy*****

Due to the heavy volume of flyers/announcements we receive weekly, our policy is:

- ◆ Flyers will be posted NO EARLIER than 3 months prior to event date
- ◆ Announcements on the radio program will be made NO EARLIER than 3 months prior to event date
- ◆ Prior to the 3 month limit, your event will be listed in the "Save the Date" section of our events page with a link to your website/email for 6 months (9 months total)
- ◆ The only exception to this policy are cruises and travel (we will post those in our "Save the Date" section up to 12 months in advance, with flyers posted 6 months prior to departure & announcements made 6 months prior to departure)

*The Armenian Radio and Armenian Interests newsletter mission is to promote
Armenian cultural/educational/social functions run by non-profit organizations*

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ [August 16, 2026 - St. Vartanantz Church annual picnic](#)
- ◆ [September 22, 2026 - AMAA childcare benefit evening](#)
- ◆ [September 27, 2026 - Tekeyan Cultural Association - Masterpieces for Piano Trio](#)

SAVE THE DATE FOR FUTURE EVENTS

- ◆ [January 16, 2027 - Armenian Heritage Cruise](#)
- ◆ [April 10, 2027 - Hovnanian School's 50th anniversary gala](#)

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Armenian Radio Hour of NJ

Sundays 2:00 - 4:00 P.M. WSOU 89.5 F.M.

STS. VARTANANTZ CHURCH ANNUAL PICNIC

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STS. VARTANANTZ CHURCH AND A.R.F. "DRO" GOMIDEH

Sunday, August 16, 2026

1:00 - 5:00PM

Join us for an afternoon of delicious
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For reservations contact the church office
sts.vartanantz@verizon.net or call



201-943-2950



Sts. Vartanantz Armenian Apostolic Church
451 Bergen Boulevard, Ridgefield, NJ 07657
In case of rain join us in the large hall

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(Sundays 2:00 - 4:00 P.M.)

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More Details To Follow



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GABRIELIAN**
piano



**ANI
KALAYJIAN**
cello



**ERIC
SILBERGER**
violin

Sunday, September 27, 2026

4PM

West Side Presbyterian Church
6 S Monroe St, Ridgewood, NJ 07450

Tickets \$75, \$50, \$40



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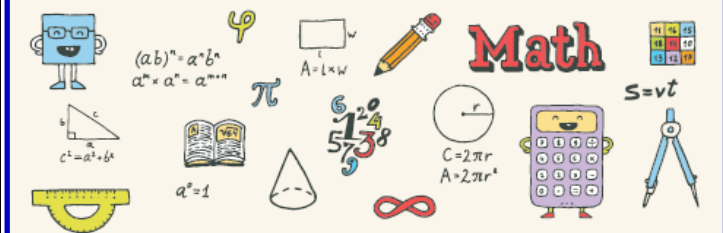
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Armenian Interests e-newsletter serves all Armenian non-profit organizations and churches. We gladly post all flyers and press releases submitted by officers of the organization. Information makes us all a better and healthier community.

We request that the information be sent to us two weeks in advance, so that we can serve the community better.
(Please read our policy in the [Calendar of Events](#) section)

Please email all submissions to:
TalinKupelian@gmail.com

Thank you!

This newsletter was prepared with the highest attention to accuracy and detail
We apologize for any unintentional omission or accidental misprint

We thank all our readers for their continuous support and contribution to *Armenian Interests*

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