

Armenian Interests

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News & Events of the Armenian Community

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SAYAT NOVA 'Hunter of Songs' (1712 - 1785)



Sayat Nova remains one of the greatest troubadours ever to emerge from the Caucasus. Although he composed and performed in Armenian, Georgian, Azerbaijani (Azeri), and Persian, there is ample historical evidence that he was Armenian by birth. His baptismal name was Haroutune Sayadian and his extraordinary gift was his ability to speak to the hearts of many different peoples, transcending language and culture.

He lived during the eighteenth century, when much of the Caucasus was influenced or ruled by the Persian Empire. This was long before the Soviet era and before the modern national conflicts that have shaped the region. In that world, cultures, languages, and traditions were deeply intertwined, allowing a gifted poet and musician like Sayat Nova to become beloved across ethnic and religious boundaries.

What made Sayat Nova so unique? It was more than his beautiful melodies. His songs combined haunting music with deeply poetic verses about love, longing, faith, and the human condition. Some of the best known songs are:

Doonen Kelkhen Imastoon Is -
You are a Wise man

Kani Voor Jan Im - Since I am
in love

Kemancha-Kemancha

Tamam Ashkhar Bedouyn Eka -
I wondered all over the world

Ashkharus Mi Panjara Eh - My
world is a window.

Accompanied by traditional Caucasian instruments, his performances reached into the depths of the human heart. Even today, the emotional power of his music remains unmistakable.

Modern musicians continue to reinterpret his works, arranging them with contemporary instruments and styles. Yet from the very first notes, the spirit of Sayat Nova is instantly recognizable. One of his best-known songs "Yes Qo Ghimetn Chim Gidi," was beautifully performed by Charles Aznavour together with his daughter, Seta Aznavour, introducing yet another generation to Sayat Nova's timeless artistry.

The meaning of his name has long been discussed. A commonly accepted interpretation is that Sayat means "hunter" and Nova means "song" or "melody," giving rise to the poetic title "Hunter of Songs." While scholars continue to debate the exact linguistic origins of the name, this interpretation has become widely associated with him.

Why are historians confident that Sayat Nova was Armenian? Contemporary records and later historical accounts identify him as an Armenian. In the final years of his turbulent life, Sayat Nova withdrew to the Armenian monastery of Haghpate, where he lived as a monk. Earlier in life Sayat Nova was in love with princess Ana, the sister of King Erekle the second of Georgia. At the time, Ana was engaged to a Georgian prince.

During the Persian invasion led by Agha Mohammad Khan in 1795, Sayat Nova was martyred after refusing to renounce his Christian faith. His grave today rests beside the Cathedral of St. George in Tbilisi, Georgia, where it continues to be visited by admirers from many countries.

Much has been written about Sayat Nova's life, poetry, and music. Yet no book or biography can fully capture his genius. To truly understand him, one must become immersed in the cultures, languages, and musical traditions of the Caucasus. Only then does one begin to appreciate why, more than two centuries later, Sayat Nova continues to enchant listeners and remains a shared cultural treasure of the entire region.

For listeners who are interested and want to explore more about the life of Sayat Nova, there is an Opera, entitled Sayat Nova, in three acts, by Alexander Grigor Aratunian recorded in 1978.

Headline News



Armenian Interests

Parev TV interviewed Tina Demirdjian Glendale's Poet Laureate



Tina believes in strengthening communities through poetry and finding common ground. She believes everyone can write a poem. Of course, any project has to start with 'dipping my toes in first'.

"I write everyday; even for 10 minutes. Consistent and timely writing is the golden thread that binds my work, and builds a collective memory to continue the process of editing, rewriting and opening up to new work. I am a poet; a woman, and of Armenian origin. Through this journey I've discovered the stories of my ancestors", says Tina

The unedited video of the interview may be watched [here](#).

On Saturday, July 25, Parev TV interviewed Tina Demirdjian who was recently appointed Glendale's Poet Laureate.

Tina is a daughter of immigrants who grew up in New Jersey, later moved to Washington, D.C., for her first job out of college, and now - for more than 30 years - lives in California with her family.

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Second International Conference Held at St. Nersess Seminary Brings Scholars Together from Around the World



Armonk, New York - On June 3, scholars from across the world began to converge on the campus of St. Nersess Seminary in Armonk, New York, for the start of a three-day hybrid, international conference entitled “Sitting as a Stranger: Evagrius in the Desert and Beyond,” devoted to the life and influence of the revered 4th-century monastic thinker, writer, and spiritual father, Evagrius of Pontus. From his ascetic cell in the Egyptian desert, Evagrius’ teachings spread across the known world, shaping the thought, discipline and aspirations of monks from the Middle East to the Caucasus mountains and eastward to China, as well as westward to Europe and eventually to the New World.

The conference opened on the morning of June 4 with words of welcome from Bishop Mesrop Parsamyan, Primate of the Eastern Diocese, Fr. Mardiros Chevian, Dean of St. Nersess Seminary, and Dr. Roberta Ervine, seminary Director of Studies and co-organizer of the conference. Throughout the three days of the conference twenty-three speakers in eleven panels discussed Evagrius’s many roles and wide-reaching influence.

The first morning’s sessions were dedicated to Evagrius in Armenia. Archbishop Anoushavan Tanielian, Prelate of the Eastern Prelacy, offered a paper on “Evagrius in Nerses Lambronatsi’s Commentary on the Psalms,” followed by Profs. Robin Darling Young (emerita, Catholic University of America) on the Armenian and Syriac translations of Evagrius’ *Gnostikos* and Peter Cowe (Distinguished Narekatsi Professor of Armenian Studies at UCLA) on “Evagrius’ Place in the Curriculum of the



Northern Vardapets”. After a brief break, Dr. Jesse Arlen, presented on “Evagrian works in the Curriculum of Armenian Monastic Academies,” while Fr. Hovsep Karapetyan (Washington D.C.), spoke about the “Armenian reception of Evagrius’ Ban Khratu”.

Other presenters touched on Evagrius as a spiritual guide, metaphysician, philosopher, and contemplative theologian, as well as his presence in Syriac, Latin and Buddhist writings. For Panel Five: Evagrius in the Arabic and Chinese Worlds, Fr. Alexander Treiger, joined the Zoom Webinar from Halifax, Canada, and presented “Evagrius in The Noetic Paradise” followed by Fr. Francis Tiso, traveling from Isernia, Italy, offered an engaging paper on “Evagrius in China: The Book on Profound and Mysterious Blessedness (Zhixuan anle jing)”.

Evagrius’ thinking on time and corruption, space and geometric structure, the life of the soul, spiritual progress and spiritual practice, and the importance of physical location to the exercise of prayer were all touched on, as were his place in orthodox and miaphysite thought, and the modern applicability of his teaching on thoughts and sin. (For a full program flyer and booklet [CLICK HERE](#).)

A special moment on the last day of the conference was an online interview with Coptic monks Abunas Pistavros Elmacari and Abuna Makar El Baramousy from Wadi El Natrun, Egypt. They presented the practice of spiritual life in the Egyptian desert today.

The conference organizers were especially gratified to welcome Archbishop Boghos Levon Zekian from Venice, Italy, Prof. Alexandru Ionuț Tudorie, dean of St.



Vladimir’s Orthodox Theological Seminary, and Prof. Peter Bouteneff as panel respondents.

Finally, the keynote address by Stephen J. Davis, Woolsey Professor of Religious Studies and Professor of History at Yale University, “Evagrius Ponticus in the Coptic Orthodox Church: A Modern Origenist Controversy and the Contested Legacy of a Monastic Saint,” closed the conference with an integrative rich keynote address connecting the double meaning of the conference theme of “Sitting as Strangers” and offered an exegetical reading of a Coptic illumination of Evagrius and his teacher Origen.

In addition to the many thought-provoking presentations, the shared meals and on-campus accommodations made it possible for speakers and attendees to meet, mingle, connect ideas and inspire new projects. Many of the participants arrived as strangers and departed as friends and colleagues. We look forward to seeing the fruits of this conference for years to come.

To access a full recording of the conference sessions, please visit:

[Day 1](#)

[Day 2](#)

[Day 3](#)

Poetry presented by Mrs. Zarmine Boghosian



*Մեր զրական Աշխարհի
Ծաղկաստանէն*
♥♥♥ *Through the Orchards
of Armenian Language & Po-
etry ♥♥♥ August -1-2-2026*
Presented by: Zarmine Boghosian
Ա Բ Գ

ՊԱՏԳԱՍ՝ ԿԱՐԷՆ ՏԵՄԻՐՃԵԱՆԷՆ

Օգոստոս ամիսը վերամուտի դոֆաններով կը
լեցուի քիչ մը ամենուրեք- կ'արժէ խորհրդածել
մեծն **Կարեն Տեմիրճեանի** խօսքերով

Դպրոցէն երեխան պէտք է դուրս գայ
կրթութեամբ, բարեկիրթ, եթէ կ'ուզէք գրագիտութիւն
ստիպելէն ետք ամենամեծ եւ ամենաբարդ խնդիրը
բարեկիրթ երեխայ դաստիարակելն է:

Ահա խնդրանքս այս է որ, որպէսզի
բարեկիրթ, գրագետ երեխաներ դուրս գան
դպրոցներէն, յոյսովն մտածեցէք այդ մասին:
Իւրաքանչիւր դպրոց պէտք է **մարդ** դաստիարակէ,
բարեկիրթ երեխայ պատ-րաստէ, որպէսզի
երեխան մինչեւ իր կեանքի վերջը դրականը կապէ
իր դպրոցին հետ: **Դպրոցը ամբողջ աշխարհի
ձեւա-ւորումն իսկ է**, անոր համար, երբ ես կը
խօսիմ կամ կը մտածեմ մանկավարժներու մասին,
կ'ըսեմ թէ մանկավարժին աշխատանքը
նարտարապետի աշխատանք չէ, գրողի
աշխատանք չէ, անկախ բարդ, բայց միաժամանակ
ամէնէն անհրաժեշտ աշխատանք է:
Մանկավարժին աշխատանքը տքնութիւն է, անոր
համար ալ մանկա-վարժներուն կ'անուանենք
մշակներ, **մարդ կերտողներ:**

Հետեւաբար դաստիարակութեան
հարցերուն պէտք է ամենայն ուշադրութիւն
դարձնենք, իսկ որպէսզի դաստիարակը կարենայ
դաստիարակել, **ինքը պէտք է** դաստիարակուած
ըլլայ, **ինքը պէտք է բարեկիրթ ըլլայ:**

Ա Բ Գ

ՃՕՐՃ ՊԱՅՐԸՆ ԸՍԱԾ Է

Եթէ կ'ուզես հպարտանալ,
Հպարտացիր խալտերէնով:
Եթէ կ'ուզես հրամայել,
Հրամայէ գերմաներէնով:
Եթէ կ'ուզես սէր խոստովանիլ,
Խոստովանիր ֆրանսերէնով:
Եթէ կ'ուզես հայիոյել,
Հայիոյէ թուրքերէնով:
Եթէ կ'ուզես արեւելքը զգալ,
Կարդա՛ր պարսկերէն:
Իսկ եթէ կ'ուզես աղօթել,
Աղօթէ միմիայն հայերէն լեզուով:

Միմիայն հայերէ՛ն:
Հայերէնը Աստուծոյ հետ խօսելու
Միակ լեզուն է...

Ա Բ Գ

ՀԻԻՂԸ ---Միսաք Մեծարեւոյ

Դաշտի ճամբու մը վրայ,
կամ ըստորոտը լերան,
ուղեւորին ժամանման
ըսպասող հիւղն ըլլայի:

Ու գգուանքիս կանչէի
ես ճամբորդներն անժաման.
ու ճամբուն վրայ մենաւոր,
ու ճամբուն վրայ ոսկեման,
եկուորներուն դիմաւոր՝
ծրխանիս ծուխն ամպէի:

Ու գրգանքիս կանչէի
ուղեւորներ պարտասուն,
ու բարեւի մը փոխան
հազար բարիք ես տայի:

Հազար բարիք ես տայի,
գոյը կրակին ճարճատուն
կուրծքը բերրի դաշտերուն,
բոլոր միրգերն աշունի,
ու մեղր ու կաթ ու գինի...

Ու լսէի ես ցայգուն,
քովը կրակին ճարճատուն,
երգն իրիկուան եկուորին.
ու ջամբէի ես ցայգուն
երազներով պատարուն
նինջ՝ իրիկուան եկուորին:

Ու լսէի ես այգուն,
սրտապատար ու տրոփուն
գովքն իրիկուան եկուորին.
ու դիտէի ես այգուն,
ու խոկայի օրն ի բուն
երթն իրիկուան եկուորին...:

Ու ձմեռներն ալ համբուն,
հըրաւիրակ զըւարթուն,
կանգնէի քովը ճամբուն.
ու ձիւնապատ հէք մարդուն
ես հայրօրէն, լայնաբաց
երկու թելերս պարզէի.
մի՛շտ քաղցրագին, նիւթացած
հըրաւէրն ես ըլլայի:

Ա՛հ, ըլլայի՛, ըլլայի՛,
դաշտի ճամբու մը վրայ,
կամ ըստորոտը լերան,
ուղեւորին ժամանման
ըսպասող հիւղն ըլլայի: Ա Բ Գ

We Armenia



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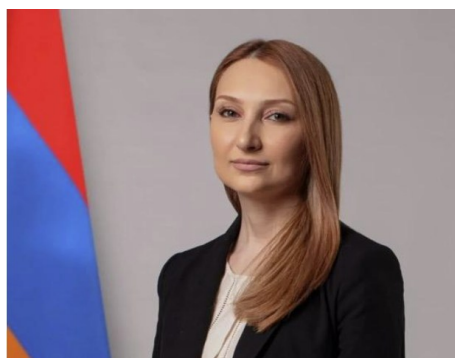
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Current News from Around the World



Armenian Interests

Lilit Makunts to be appointed Chief of Staff to Prime Minister Pashinyan



Lilit Makunts will be appointed Chief of Staff to the Prime Minister of Armenia, Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan announced during a briefing with reporters.

“Lilit Makunts will be appointed Chief of Staff to the Prime Minister,” Pashinyan said.

Makunts has served as the Prime Minister’s Chief Adviser since August 29, 2025. From 2021 to 2025, she was

Armenia’s Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the United States.

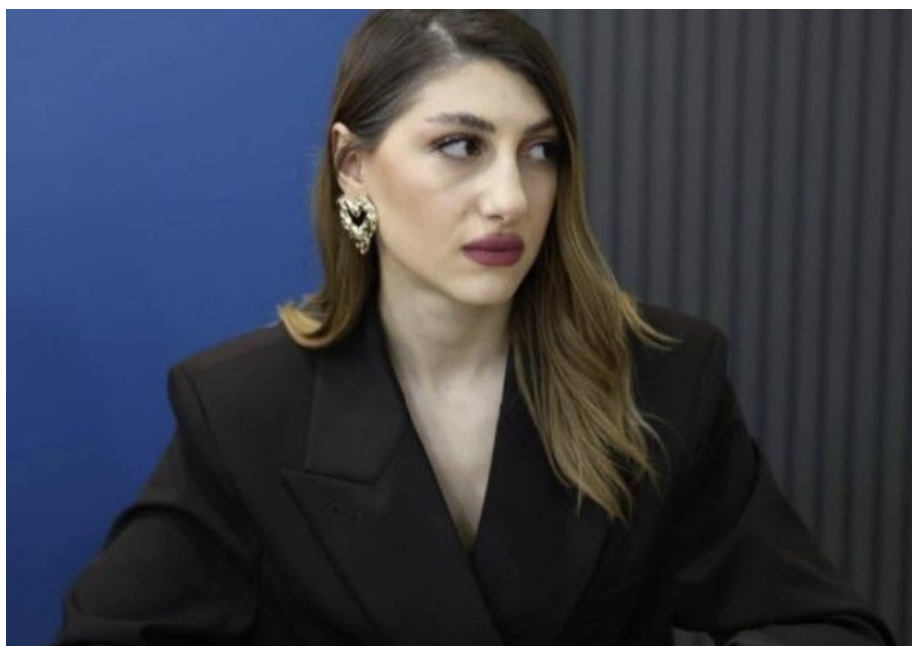
Previously, Makunts also served as Minister of Culture and as a member of the National Assembly.

The post of Chief of Staff to the Prime Minister is currently held by Arayik Harutyunyan, who was appointed to the position on July 1, 2021.

Pashinyan names new spokesperson

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan has said that Melania Harutyunyan, the secretary of the Civil Contract party’s youth organization council, will be appointed as his spokesperson, replacing Nazeli Baghdasaryan, who has been elected as a member of parliament.

“As you know, Ms. Baghdasaryan is stepping down from her role as the prime minister’s press secretary. I would like to thank her and take this opportunity to inform you that Melania Harutyunyan will be appointed as the prime minister’s press secretary,” Pashinyan said at a press briefing, introducing Harutyunyan to reporters.



Business in step with politics: Armenian and Turkish business forum to reconvene in Yerevan in September



As political negotiations on the normalization of relations between Armenia and Türkiye continue, business communities in the two countries have also launched an active dialogue.

Although the Armenia-Türkiye border, which was unilaterally closed by Türkiye in 1993, remains closed, business representatives are seeking avenues for cooperation, taking into account the agreements reached in the normalization process and the ongoing negotiations on their implementation.

As part of the Armenia-Türkiye normalization process, and with the support of the governments of the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Türkiye, representatives of Armenia's business community crossed the Armenia-Türkiye land border on June 2 and traveled to Kars to meet with representatives of Türkiye's business community.

The information released by the two sides following the meeting was limited. It only stated that the participants represented the food, beverages, bottled water, juice, fruit, tobacco, construction, tourism, floriculture and other sectors. They emphasized the considerable potential for trade cooperation between Armenia and Türkiye and exchanged views on prospects for future cooperation.

The participants welcomed the completion in Türkiye of the administrative procedures required to launch direct trade between Armenia and Türkiye. As a result, goods transported between the two countries via the territory of a third country can now officially indicate "Armenia/Türkiye" as the country of origin or final

destination, and vice versa. They also underscored the importance of granting Armenian goods access to the Akhalkalaki (Georgia)-Kars (Türkiye) railway, which would create new opportunities for bilateral and regional trade.

However, no information was released on any specific agreements reached at the meeting or on whether the meetings would continue on a regular basis.

It was precisely these questions that journalists visiting Türkiye from Armenia under an exchange program sought to answer. An Armenpress correspondent was among them.

The journalists participating in the exchange program were received by Kadir Bozan, Chairman of the Board of the Kars Chamber of Commerce and Industry, who had also taken part in the June 2 meeting in Kars.

Bozan said 57 business representatives from Armenia had attended the meeting, representing the textile, construction, food, beverage and floriculture sectors.

"We had very productive discussions. Many of our companies are still in negotiations," he said.

According to Bozan, following the meeting in Kars, the two sides have continued negotiations in several areas, and further developments may be announced in the near future.

He also said that the second Armenia-Türkiye Business Forum is scheduled to take place in September, this time in Yerevan. In Bozan's view, the Yerevan forum could have a significant economic impact not only on Kars, but also on Igdir, Ardahan, and possibly Van.

The Chairman of the Board of the Kars Chamber of Commerce and Industry added that he had set two preconditions for participating in the meeting and had informed the foreign ministries of both Armenia and Türkiye accordingly.

The first precondition is that there should

be no limit on the number of business representatives from Kars wishing to attend the meeting. The second is that the Kars business delegation should cross the border through the Akyaka and Akhurik border crossing points as a symbolic gesture.

It should be recalled that the Armenia-Türkiye border has previously been opened several times for short periods for humanitarian purposes. However, those openings took place through the Margara and Alican border crossing points.

Bozan also addressed the prospects for opening the Armenia-Türkiye border in response to a question on whether the authorities of Kars Province raise the issue with Türkiye's central government and whether they have noticed any recent changes in Ankara's position.

He said that active work is currently underway on the eastern border with Armenia, particularly with regard to the railway and the road connection.

"The railway will open first," he said, referring to the Gyumri-Kars railway. "There is information that the eastern border will subsequently also be opened for road transport. Of course, these are not official reports but information we have heard from the authorities. I hope we will see results in the near future, and I believe this will be highly beneficial for our region."

Bozan was unable to say whether Armenia currently exports or imports goods via the Akhalkalaki-Kars railway. He only noted that freight traffic on the railway line has increased by 400 percent in recent months.

It should be recalled that in May 2026, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan announced that the Akhalkalaki-Kars railway had been opened for exports from Armenia and imports into Armenia, thanking partners in Georgia and Türkiye.

Gyumri-Kars railway project moves onto the rails: Türkiye begins restoration of Akyaka-Gyumri section



One of the key items on the agenda of the Armenia-Türkiye normalization process is the reopening of the Gyumri-Kars railway.

Armenia and Türkiye reached an agreement on reopening the railway as early as September 2025, when Serdar Kılıç, Türkiye's Special Representative for the normalization process, visited Armenia.

Following the meeting between Kılıç and Ruben Rubinyan, who was then Armenia's Special Representative for the normalization process, the Armenian Foreign Ministry announced that the special representatives had agreed that the relevant authorities of the two countries would carry out the necessary technical assessments for the restoration and reopening of the Gyumri-Kars railway and the electricity transmission line.

On April 28, 2026, Kars hosted a meeting of the Armenia-Türkiye Joint Working Group on the restoration and reopening of the Gyumri-Kars railway. In the context of expanding regional transport connectivity, the two sides emphasized the importance of reopening the railway as soon as possible.

On May 7, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan told reporters that technical assessment work was underway to reopen the Kars-Gyumri railway.

As part of the journalists' exchange program, the group of Armenian journalists visiting Türkiye had the opportunity to see firsthand what work is underway on the Turkish side to prepare the railway for operation.

The Armenian journalists traveled by train from Kars to Akyaka. The journey of about 57 kilometers took around 50 minutes. From Akyaka railway station to Gyumri is just 18 to 20 kilometers by rail, a distance that could be covered in 30 to 40 minutes. However, with the border still closed, it is currently impossible to travel from Akyaka to Gyumri.

Speaking to Armenpress, Ergüder Toptaş, Mayor of Akyaka, said he remains optimistic about the normalization of Armenia-Türkiye relations.

According to Toptaş, once relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan are normalized, they expect there will be no obstacles to opening the Armenia-Türkiye border.

He said that, under the instructions of the President of Türkiye and coordinated by the Ministry of Transport, work has already begun to prepare the border crossing points and railway infrastructure for the opening of the border.

Apart from the closed border, which currently remains the main obstacle to reopening the railway, the infrastructure itself also requires rehabilitation. The mayor explained that construction is already underway to restore the railway infrastructure along the Akyaka-Gyumri section, adding that the work is expected to be completed within two to three months. Restoration work is in progress, and public tenders have already been announced for the construction.

"Construction has already begun, and the work is underway," the mayor said, once again stressing that the ongoing construction is part of the preparations for opening the Armenia-Türkiye border.

But that is not all. A tender has also been announced for the construction of the road linking Akyaka and Gyumri.

"The tender for the road from Akyaka to Gyumri has already been announced, and we expect work there to begin as



well. This is part of our governments' policy aimed at promoting good-neighborly and friendly relations," Ergüder Toptaş said.

The mayor believes that both countries stand to benefit economically from the opening of the Armenia-Türkiye border. According to him, there is broad potential for cooperation in agriculture and industry.

"When our President and Armenia's leader make the right decisions regarding state policy, we are convinced that this region will benefit. I firmly believe that both Armenia and Türkiye will greatly benefit from the opening of the border and from the economic cooperation that will follow. Once the border is opened, Türkiye will gain another route to the Caucasus, while Armenia will have the opportunity to connect to the Middle East through Türkiye," Toptaş stressed.

It was also important to hear the views of residents of the Turkish communities bordering Armenia on the possible opening of the border and what they expect from it. Armenpress therefore also spoke with a group of residents of Akyaka. Most of them expressed hope that the border would reopen as soon as possible, saying it would create new economic opportunities, particularly for the Turkish communities located along the Armenian border.

Published by Armenpress, original at <https://armenpress.am/en/article/1256550>

Ani: Preserving a centuries-old legacy and a global cultural treasure



The preservation of Ani, once a powerful center of medieval Armenia, has become not only a matter of architectural conservation but also a key issue in safeguarding global cultural heritage.

The Cathedral of Ani, in particular, is an exceptional monument of medieval architecture and one of the most important examples of the Armenian architectural tradition. It holds not only historical significance but also outstanding universal cultural value.

Restoration efforts are currently underway at this remarkable cultural monument, now located in modern-day Türkiye. The main goal of the project is to reinforce the structure with metal supports to ensure its preservation for future generations. Restoration work is also being carried out on other surviving monuments of the once-powerful city of Ani.

In addition, archaeological research continues at the site of Ani, which bears traces of various civilizations throughout the centuries. The excavations are being conducted by a specialized team from the University of the Caucasus.

Ani has been included on the UNESCO World Heritage List since 2016. Prior to that, it was also placed on the World Monuments Fund's list of endangered heritage sites. These two international designations provide additional recognition and support for preservation efforts.

Armenpress spoke with art historian

and cultural researcher Ibrahim Suleymanoglu about Ani's history, the architectural significance of the Cathedral of Ani, and the ongoing restoration work.

The interview with the expert took place during a visit to Ani by a group of Armenian journalists participating in an exchange program in Türkiye.

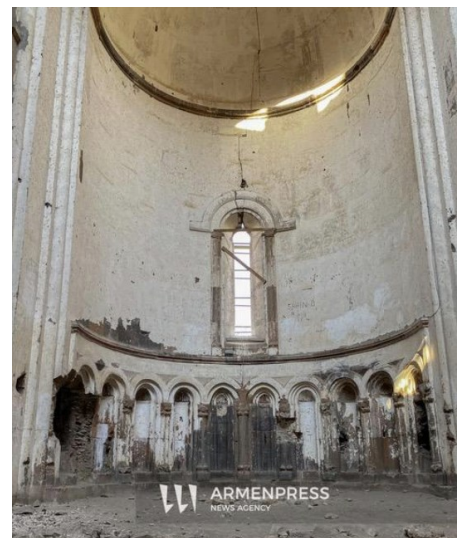
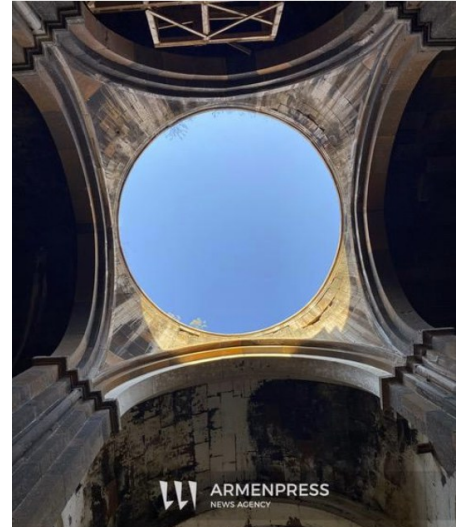
Speaking about the history of Ani, once known as the “city of a thousand and one churches,” Suleymanoglu noted that its story is not limited to a single historical period. The city came under the rule of different states throughout various eras. The Cathedral of Ani was built during the reign of the Armenian Bagratuni dynasty; it later came under Byzantine and then Seljuk rule and was later used as a mosque for a period of time.

According to him, all of these historical layers are part of the monument's history and should be viewed within a broader historical context.

“It cannot be ignored that this area is connected to the period of the Bagratuni dynasty. However, Ani's history is much broader. It has passed through different eras, and each period has left its mark on this site,” he said.

Speaking about the ongoing restoration work, Ibrahim Suleymanoglu noted that the projects are based on the studies, drawings, and photographs of renowned Armenian architect Toros Toramanian and archaeologist Nikolay Marr.

Toros Toramanian was one of the most important researchers of medieval Armenian architecture. He began studying Ani's monuments in 1903, carrying out detailed measurements, photographic documentation, and architectural reconstructions of the Cathedral of Ani and other structures. His work played a significant role in the scholarly study and preservation of Ani's architectural heritage.



Nikolay Marr was a Russian orientalist, linguist, and archaeologist who led the first major scientific archaeological expeditions at Ani. Under his leadership, extensive excavations were carried out between 1892 and 1917, during which the city's structures, churches, urban environment, and numerous artifacts were studied. Marr's expedition laid the foundation for systematic archaeological research at Ani, involving various specialists, including Toros Toramanian.

Continued on next page

Ani

Continued from previous page

“The goal is not complete reconstruction, but rather the careful and scientifically justified restoration of parts that have been lost over time,” Suleymanoglu said.

According to him, the restoration of the dome of the Cathedral of Ani is particularly challenging. In the medieval period, it was built without modern construction materials such as concrete, cement, or metal frameworks. Applying such materials today could place additional stress on the structure and potentially compromise its stability. Therefore, specialists prefer structural

reinforcement rather than complete reconstruction.

He also noted that relevant scientific institutions in Armenia are carrying out three-dimensional modeling of Ani’s monuments, describing it as an important step. However, creating a digital model and conducting actual restoration are entirely different processes, with restoration requiring far more complex engineering solutions.

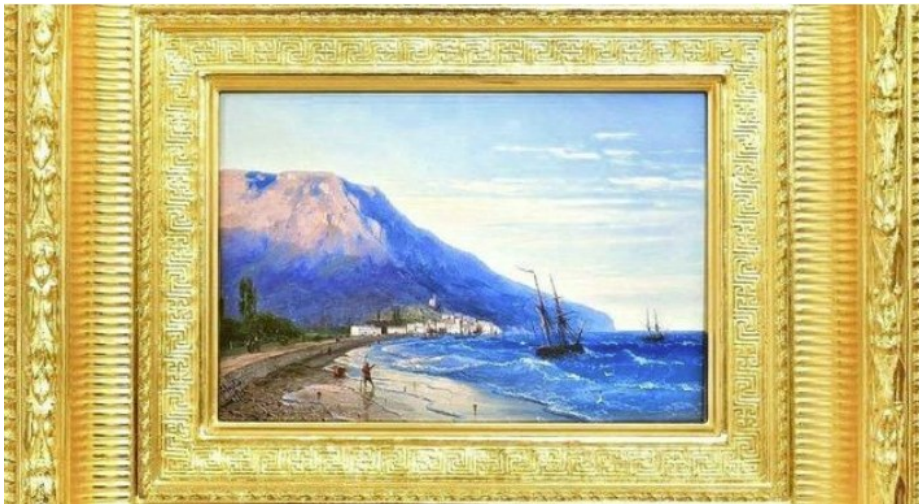
Suleymanoglu also dismissed reports occasionally circulated in the media claiming that the Cathedral of Ani has been destroyed or altered. According to

him, Ani should be treated as an exceptional monument of global cultural heritage rather than as a subject of political or ideological interpretations.

Suleymanoglu also spoke about ongoing archaeological studies at the site of Ani.

He emphasized that the research does not concern an “underground city,” as it is sometimes described, but rather the natural terrain, ravines, and passages formed between them, which are being studied as part of archaeological work.

Aivazovsky’s On the Shores of Yalta to Be Auctioned in Moscow



Works by Hovhannes Aivazovsky, Nicholas Roerich, and several other prominent artists will be offered at an auction in Moscow on July 26, with a combined estimated value of approximately 1 billion rubles.

According to the Moscow Auction House website, collectors will have an opportunity to bid on Aivazovsky’s painting *On the Shores of Yalta*. The auction will reveal how much bidders are prepared to pay for the work, which has been valued at \$420,000.

The painting depicts the seashore, the city, and the outlines of the surrounding mountains, with the Church of St. John Chrysostom standing out against the landscape.

Another major lot is Nicholas Roerich’s *The Place of Idols*, which is estimated at 18 million rubles. Experts say the pastel work is of museum-level significance.

Other works offered at the auction include Mikhail Nesterov’s *Near the Monastery*, valued at \$200,000; Kuzma Petrov-Vodkin’s *Reclining Nude Woman and Model*, estimated at 2.2 million rubles; Pyotr Konchalovsky’s *Pine Trees in Autumn*, valued at 16 million rubles; and Konstantin Makovsky’s *Portrait of Raisova*, estimated at 7 million rubles.

DIRECTORY

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This is NOT a list of Armenian organizations or churches
We will be glad to list additional addresses

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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

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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

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Livingston, NJ 07039
973-533-9794

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Douglaston, NY 11363
718-224-2275

Ararat Youth and Conference Center

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www.araratcener.org

St. Nersess Armenian Seminary

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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
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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,
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location along with a contact name and telephone number

Please e-mail your submissions to:

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or

Vartan Abdo - VartanAbdo@optonline.net

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*****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 12, 2026 - Holy Martyrs Armenian Festival](#)
- ◆ [September 12, 2026 - Kirikian Armenian School opening day](#)
- ◆ [September 12, 2026 - Kirikian Armenian School Toddler Program](#)
- ◆ [September 22, 2026 - AMAA childcare benefit evening](#)
- ◆ [September 25, 2026 - St. Thomas Cultural Committee present Steak & Cigar Night](#)
- ◆ [September 27, 2026 - Tekeyan Cultural Association - Masterpieces for Piano Trio](#)
- ◆ [November 6, 2026 - Baikar Newspaper 10th anniversary celebration at St. Leon Church](#)

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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STS. VARTANANTZ CHURCH ANNUAL PICNIC

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1:00 - 5:00PM

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- ✓ Children's Game Room
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For reservations contact the church office
sts.vartanantz@verizon.net or call



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CONTACTS

Ani@lacapan.com or
Talar@sarafian1.com

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More Details To Follow



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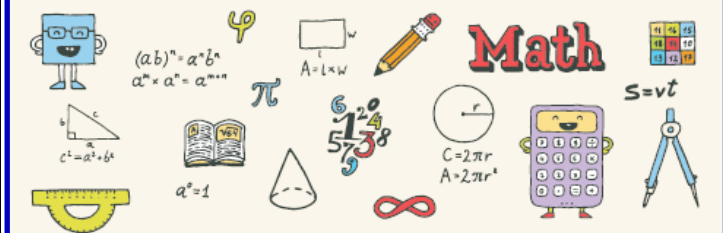
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Armenian Interests e-newsletter serves all Armenian non-profit organizations and churches. We gladly post all flyers and press releases submitted by officers of the organization. Information makes us all a better and healthier community.

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:
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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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