

Armenian Interests

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News & Events of the Armenian Community

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Outstanding Armenian intellectual Reteos Berberian (1848 - 1907)



Among the distinguished Armenian schools of Istanbul, names such as Getronagan, Hintlian, and Berberian are frequently associated with generations of outstanding Armenian intellectuals. Yet the story of the Berberian School is, above all, the story of its remarkable founder, **Reteos Berberian** (1848 - 1907)

Berberian was far more than an educator. He was a visionary who believed that education could transform not only individuals but an entire community. Through his close relationships with his students, he was able to identify exceptionally gifted young Armenians and nurture their talents. Working closely with Patriarch Malachia

Ormanian, he helped secure financial support for many of these promising students, enabling them to continue their studies at some of Europe's finest universities.

Berberian's achievement extended well beyond the classroom. 'this one man with his own meager resources, educated more impoverished children than all other rich sponsors put together.'

Berberian recognized that the Armenian community of Constantinople (Istanbul) needed a new generation of highly educated professionals, physicians, and intellectuals who could bring back the latest ideas and knowledge from Europe. While it may be an overstatement to attribute this transformation solely to him, his influence was undoubtedly instrumental in introducing European intellectual currents and encouraging the spread of the ideals of liberty, equality, and fraternity among the city's Armenian minority.

This educational vision required more than identifying talented students. It depended on the generosity of wealthy benefactors within the Armenian community who

were willing to finance years of expensive education abroad. Convincing families was often an equally formidable challenge. Many parents were understandably reluctant to send their sons—far fewer daughters in those days—to distant countries such as France or Switzerland. They feared not only the separation but also the possibility that their children might never return or might marry outside the Armenian community.

The educated individual had a duty to serve the people, to tend to, to advance and to protect the public interest. In the Armenian case education served to create a cadre capable of leading and revolutionizing life in the backward oppressive and stifling Ottoman Empire. Education and with it art and literature was the means to secure: 'the death of ignorance, the annihilation of superstition, the elimination of inequality, the end of deprivation, the empowerment of the dispossessed and an end to the suffering of the weak'.

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Reteos Berberian

Continued from previous page

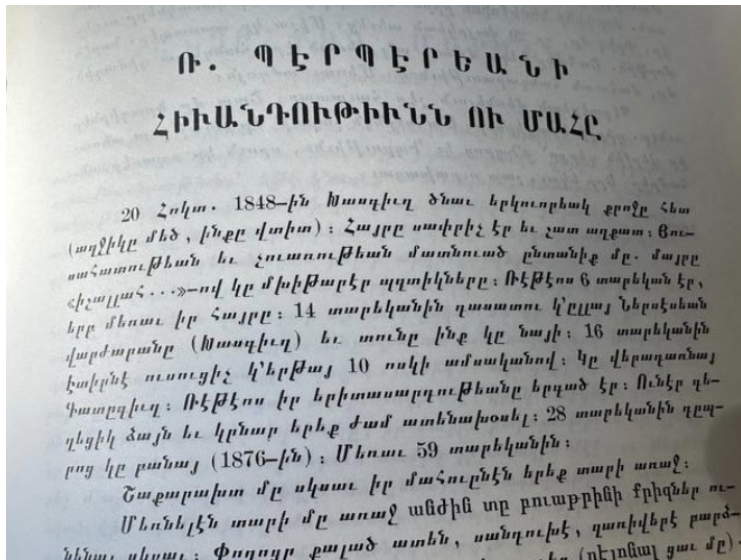
Despite these obstacles, Berberian's efforts produced extraordinary results. Many of his students distinguished themselves in Europe before returning to make lasting contributions to Armenian intellectual and cultural life. One notable example was Roupen Sevag, who earned his medical degree from the University of Lausanne and married a German woman, Janni

Apel. His life illustrates both the opportunities and the personal transformations that often accompanied a European education.

The true legacy of Reteos Berberian lies not simply in founding a respected school but in creating a system that recognized talent, connected it with financial patronage, and opened the

doors of Europe's leading universities to young Armenians. In doing so, he helped shape a generation of intellectuals whose influence extended far beyond the walls of the Berberian School and left a lasting imprint on the Armenian community of Istanbul.

The Illness and Death of Reteos Berberian



he had a beautiful voice and could give an address lasting three hours. In 1876, at the age of 28, he opened a school. He passed away at the age of 59.

Berberian was afflicted with diabetes three years prior to his death.

day long on an article and we got together in the evening. Then he went to bed, Mannig covered him. He had woken up early Sunday morning (April 7, 1907) and had an attack which quickly subsided. He asked for some coffee, drank it and began to sing, as he did every morning instead of praying. Suddenly he had a second attack which was extremely severe. Commotion ensued, Shahan was startled from his sleep. We roused Mannig out of bed, Reteos was terribly colorless. The doctors came and gave him an injection of morphine, because he was experiencing acute pain. He called for his children. He suffered an attack which lasted 20 minutes. The pain was constant; again he received a shot of morphine. Shahan entered his room; Alas! He had already passed away. His was a peaceful countenance with the calmness of death. He died pallid.

Berberian didn't believe he would die. He had many projects in the works, including outlines and notes for various books. A week prior to his death, his last book School of Education was published, which he had awaited impatiently. When it arrived, he was very happy.

Lausanne 1907

By Roupen Sevag

Reteos Berberian was born in Has-keui, a suburb of Constantinople, on October 20, 1848, the frail twin brother of a big baby sister. His father was a poor barber. The Berberian family was in an indigent and wretched state; his mother would comfort the children with the phrase "inshallah" (God willing).

Reteos was 6 years old when his father died. At the age of 14, he became a teacher at the Nersesian School (Has-Keui) and the family's breadwinner. When he was 16, he went to Adrine (Adrianopolis) as a teacher, earning 10 gold pieces a month. Subsequently he moved back to Has-Keui. During his youth, Reteos had done some singing;

A year before his death, he began to have enigma attacks. While walking in the street, he would turn yellow when climbing steps or going uphill, and he would have specific heart pains. He would inhale nitrite d'mail initially once every few months, then once a week until he had to stay in bed. Eventually he got better. We expected that he would go somewhere during the spring. The diabetes had disappeared.

Generally speaking he didn't fast often, he always liked sweets.

His doctors ordered him to rest but he didn't want to do so.

Reteos had an argument with Mesrob Noubarian over a point in classical Armenian. Saturday was a holiday and the school was closed; he worked all

Headline News

Armenian Interests

Statement of Bishop Mesrop Parsamyan, Primate, and the Diocesan Council of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America



As the Primate and Diocesan Council of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, we express our profound concern regarding the Armenian Government's decision to bring criminal proceedings against His Holiness Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, in connection with a matter of internal ecclesiastical governance of the Armenian Apostolic Church.

We offer this statement in a spirit of respect for both the Republic of Armenia and the Armenian Apostolic Church, recognizing each as an indispensable pillar of our national life. We respect the authority of Armenia's duly elected government and the responsibilities entrusted to

its public institutions. At the same time, His Holiness Karekin II is the duly elected and consecrated spiritual leader of the worldwide Armenian Church, whose life and governance are defined by its Holy Canons and its own established ecclesiastical processes.

The Constitution of the Republic of Armenia recognizes the Armenian Apostolic Church as the National Church and affirms its right to self-governance. For this reason, questions concerning the governance, discipline, and leadership of the Church properly belong within the orbit of the Church's own canonical order. We believe that bringing matters of ecclesiastical governance before the civil courts is inconsistent with centuries of precedence and the constitutional

recognition of the Armenian Church's right to self-governance.

At a time when Armenia faces significant regional and national challenges, our people are best served when the State and the Church are each able to fulfill their distinct responsibilities with mutual respect and a renewed sense of cooperation. The strength of our nation has always depended on the strength and integrity of both institutions.

We therefore call upon all concerned to exercise wisdom, restraint, and a renewed commitment to dialogue. It is our sincere prayer that this matter will be resolved in a manner that upholds the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia, honors the canonical traditions of the Armenian Apostolic Church, preserves the dignity of all involved, and strengthens the unity of our people throughout Armenia and the Diaspora.

The Primate and Diocesan Council of the

Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern)

New York City

August 5, 2026

AGBU Statement on the Indictment of the Catholicos of All Armenians



The Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) is deeply concerned about the persecution of the leadership of the Armenian Church. The Government of Armenia's criminal indictment of His Holiness Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, and six other bishops—arising from an internal ecclesiastical matter concerning the

leadership of a diocese—raises serious questions about religious freedom and respect for the rule of law.

AGBU respectfully calls for the withdrawal of this indictment, which we believe has no basis in law or in our historical traditions. As it has done in the past, AGBU stands ready to play a constructive role in resolving this situation, if called upon.

Under its Constitution and national laws, the Republic of Armenia recognizes the Armenian Apostolic Church as the National Church, acknowledges its right to self-governance, and protects religious freedom. Accordingly, questions

concerning the suitability of bishops for ecclesiastical office are appropriately addressed through Canon Law and the established processes of the Church.

AGBU respects Armenia's democratically elected government, its political authority, and the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Armenia. At the same time, AGBU remains steadfast in its respect for our Armenian Church and its leadership, as elected in accordance with Canon Law and ecclesiastical authority, and for the Church's enduring role in preserving Armenian identity around the world.

Court case involving His Holiness Karekin II Presiding judge recused himself



Judge, Hakob Manukyan

In the case involving His Holiness Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians, the presiding judge, Hakob Manukyan, recused himself from the proceedings minutes after it began. Taking into account that this could raise questions about impartiality, he recused himself.

A new hearing will be scheduled after another judge is appointed. At the opening of the hearing, Judge Manukyan announced that the proceedings would be closed to the public at this stage because they involved matters relating to personal privacy.

Also present at the hearing was the sole recognized victim in the case, Arman Saroyan, formerly Bishop Gevorg Saroyan.

Karekin II has been charged with obstructing the enforcement of a judicial act. The same case also involves criminal charges against six senior clergymen of the Armenian Church.



The case stems from the dispute involving Saroyan, one of ten bishops who joined Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan's campaign against the



Catholicos. Although the Catholicos had removed Saroyan from office, a court later ordered that he be reinstated. The Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin refused to restore him to his ecclesiastical position and instead defrocked him, maintaining that such matters fall outside the jurisdiction of the civil courts and that judicial intervention constitutes interference in the internal autonomy of the Armenian Apostolic Church. Investigators subsequently characterized that decision as obstruction of the enforcement of a court ruling.

108th Annual Grand Convocation of the Knights and Daughters of Vartan 2026 Woman of the Year Vicki Shoghag Hovanessian



The 108th Annual Grand Convocation of the Knights and Daughters of Vartan took place at the elegant Hilton Penn's Landing in Philadelphia from Friday July 31 - Aug 2, bringing together delegates and members from across the country. The weekend featured strategic planning sessions, training workshops, annual reports, and special recognitions honoring exceptional service and contributions.

There was enjoyable entertainment featuring live music by Shant & Raffi Massoyan and Stevie Vosbikian, along with DJ Rob Barone. The dance floor energized all night long.

The weekend was an opportunity to reconnecting with friends, meeting new faces, or simply celebrating Armenian heritage - bringing everyone together in the spirit of fellowship and service.

Wednesday was arrival day and 'what a wonderful beginning it was, exploring both historic Old City and vibrant downtown Philadelphia, the Liberty Bell, proudly spotted the Armenian flag flying among the flags of the world, climbed the iconic Rocky Steps, and visited the inspiring Young



Meher sculpture by renowned Armenian-American sculptor Khoren Der Harootian. Surrounded by boulders brought from every region of Armenia and Artsakh, it stands as a powerful symbol of the resilience, faith, unity, and enduring spirit of the Armenian people.'

Need to build an Armenian cultural center in Chicago? Save a seminary facing closure? Raise millions for humanitarian relief? Expand medical education in Armenia? Need to have an Armenian Exhibit at Metropolitan Museum? How about elevating Armenian artists on the world stage? When a community needed a champion, a cause needed a leader, or a challenge seemed insurmountable—they called Vicki Shoghag Hovanessian. For decades, Vicki has stepped forward where others hesitated. Guided by her mantra—"There is no 'can't' in my dictionary; if I believe in something, consider it done!"—she has transformed bold visions into lasting realities. Her journey began in Beirut, Lebanon, where she was raised with a deep commitment to education and service. She received her bachelor's degree in

1965 from Beirut College for Women (now LAU) and was elected May Queen of her college. Vicki's leadership is defined by three pillars: Culture, Education, and Humanitarianism. As a leader in the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU), Vicki spearheaded the creation of Chicago's AGBU Onnig M. Norehad Cultural Center and the Sissag H. Varjabedian Saturday School, realizing a 70-year-old dream. Vicki is renowned for her exceptional leadership, poise, and efficiency during times of crisis, making her a sought-after advisor for religious and benevolent organizations. When a devastating earthquake struck Armenia in 1988, Vicki mobilized donors and volunteers, helping raise millions for relief efforts. During later humanitarian crises, she again rallied support and coordinated the delivery of critical aid to Armenians in need through the US Government Services. Vicki helped secure the future of St. Nersess Armenian Seminar by successfully raising \$1 million to replenish the endowment fund used for renovation and an additional \$500,000 through the Garabed Charles Fund from Trustee Arsen Hanamirian, Esq. Moreover, she raised over \$2 million for Morgan Park Academy's "Salute to Excellence," resulting in a named chair in her honor. Furthermore, she established the FAR Dr. Raffy Hovanessian Continuing Medical Education program to advance medical training for physicians in Armenia.

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Knights and Daughters of Vartan
Continued from previous page



L- R Mr. & Mrs. Nishan Atinizian,
David Galovich and Avak
Sbarabed Robert Avakian

A passionate advocate for the arts, Vicki has championed Armenian artists on the worldstage, from the Venice Biennale to her own contemporary art gallery. She achieved a remarkable feat by securing Arshile Gorky's "The Artist

and His Mother" for St. Vartan Cathedral's 40th Anniversary, which was procured at no cost. Additionally, she achieved what had seemed impossible. Her pivotal role in the Metropolitan Museum's Armenia exhibit turned a 20-year ambition into a reality, successfully drawing half a million visitors. The many honors Vicki has received—including the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, Religious Medals from His Holiness Catholicos Karekin I, Catholicos Karekin II of Holy See of Etchmiadzin and His Holiness Catholicos Aram of Holy See Cilicia, and two Congressional Mentions (1991 and 1998) by Congressman Peter Visclosky of Indiana—reflect the respect she has earned throughout a lifetime of service. Today, Vicki serves as Cultural Advisor to the Embassy of the Republic of

Armenia in the United States and to Armenia's Permanent Mission to the United Nations. She also chairs the Cultural Committee of St. Vartan Cathedral, where she continues to weave art, music, and culture into the life of the Church. Her true legacy will be more than buildings, programs, and organizations; she leaves opportunities, connections, and communities that continue to flourish because she cared enough to act. All selflessly Pro Bono. Time and again, when people needed someone to get things done, they called Vicki. And God bless her, she always answered. She always gives thanks to her parents, to Raffy, and to America.

Kirikian Armenian School of St. Thomas Hantes Held June 14



By Madlen E. Setian

The Kirikian Armenian School of St. Thomas proved once again this year that it is healthy and thriving with its vibrant Hantes and Graduation which was held on June 14, 2026. All enrolled students had an opportunity to participate in an impressive and rich cultural program.

The Kirikian Armenian School is one of the best organized diocesan schools

in the NY-NJ area as evidenced by the strong enrollment of 83 students. Even more significant is the high number of students who complete the program and graduate with

a strong knowledge of the Armenian language and culture.

This is achieved by providing a rich program to meet the needs of both the Armenian-speaking and non-Armenian Speaking students. In addition, special subject areas are taught by specialized teachers who teach dance, singing, art, music, religion and church hymns. In addition to the regular classroom teachers, this year a specialized

teacher will also provide weekly Armenian conversation instruction

This year's Hantes showcased the knowledge the students have gained at Kirikian as demonstrated by their beautiful Armenian dances, recitations, chorus signing and the singing of church liturgy hymns. The two dedicated co-principals, Mrs. Ani Capan and Mrs. Talar Sesetyan Sarafian, along with a large of capable teaching staff, diligently taught and prepared the students all year, as always with warmth and affection. Their efforts bore fruit as were displayed by all the students through their accomplished performances. Parents, grandparents and teachers watched the performances with pride and joy and were delighted to see that the Armenian language and culture is strong and alive in their children.

Continued on next page

Kirikian

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The Kirikian Armenian School hosts special events such as holiday festivities, enrichment activities, and commemorations of important events in our history and faith.



Graduation diplomas were awarded to each student by V. Rev. Fr. Papken Dz. V. Anoushian, Esq., Pastor of St. Thomas while Mrs. Sarafian proudly announced each name. Students were also presented with meaningful graduation gifts by their teacher on behalf of the school. Students who excelled in various areas received awards or trophies depending on their individual area of excellence.

During her remarks, Mrs. Sarafian especially extended her heartfelt thanks to all the teaching staff for their dedication to their students and the school. She thanked the PTO committee for their help throughout the year, The Executive Committee for their work and generosity and all the generous donors, she also recognized the long-term leadership, and dedication of Ms. Ani Capan as principal and presented her with flowers. Mrs. Capan similarly recognized Mrs. Sarafian's hard work

and many contributions and also presented her with flowers.

In his address, Fr. Papken recognized the wonderful work done by Co- Principals Ani Capan and Talar Sesetyan Sarafian, and the teaching staff. He noted that

the high level of excellence and the extensive curriculum utilized by the school which has contributed to the Kirikian Armenian School having one of the highest enrollment levels for a



The Kirikian Armenian School has been running continuously for approximately sixty years and continues to do so under the strong leadership of V. Rev. Fr. Papken Dz. V. Anoushian, Esq., Pastor of St. Thomas, Mrs. Ani Capan, Mrs. Talar Sesetyan Sarafian, Co-Principals, and an able Executive Board. They believe as this year's Hantes program states, "Parents, please speak Armenian with your children. Conversation starts at home!" The Armenian people will survive only by continuing to use the Armenian language in our homes and by keeping the Armenian Culture alive.

The Kirikian Armenian School staff looks forward to welcoming new and returning students to another successful year of "Hye Tbrots" starting on September 12, 2026!



Poetry presented by Mrs. Zarmine Boghosian

Մեր Գրական Աշխարհի Ծաղկաստանին
♥♥♥ *Through the Orchards of Armenian*
Language & Poetry ♥♥♥ Aug /7-8/2026
Presented by: Zarmine Boghosian

Ա Բ Գ

Տագնապներ

Դաիթ Յովհաննեսին

Ես-Հայ՝ եմ... Ես այն ցեղն եմ ԱՆԻՇԵԱԼ,
ում կեանքն անդադրում – ՏԱՌԱՊԱՆՔ է լոկ, եւ
իմ ՆԵՐԿԱՅԻՑ-գնում եմ ԱՆՑԵԱԼ
եւ գնում ԳԱԼԻՔ – բայց տառապելով,
եւ ՉԵ՛Մ ՎԵՐԱՆՈՒՄ ԵՐԿՐԻ ԵՐԵՄԻՑ –
իմ չարչարանաց ուղի-պատմութեամբ:
- Եւ ՅՈՂՆԵՅՐԵ՛Ն եմ Աստծուն, երեւի,
բայց ԻՆՔՍ ԻՆՁՆԻՑ ՉԵՄ ՅՈՂՆԵԼ:

Ու կա՛մ:

Հայաստան աշխարհ, Երկիր Դրախտավայր,

որ դարձել ես հիմա – Աղէտի Գօտի...

- Բայց մի՛ թէ ԱՂԵՏ չի՛ եղել անծայր

քո ՊԱՏՄՈՒԹԻՒՆԸ... Երբ դեռ ստորոտին-

Արարատ լեռան-Նոյեան նաւը կանգնեց, եւ

Առաջին Հայր իր ԲՆԻԿ երկրում իւր աչքը բացեց
-այնժամ Աղէտը Մեծ սկսուեց մեզ համար, եւ **ՉԻ՛**

ՎԵՐՋԱՆՈՒՄ:

Ահա նա, օրէնքի ԱՊՕՐԻՆԻ ՈՐԴԻՆ,

որ ՕՐԵՆՔԻ ՏԱՌՆ է դարձրել կռուան,

բայց չի՛ հասկացել նոյն օրէնքի ՈԳԻՆ,

որովհետեւ օրէնք – պետք չէ՛ նրան...

- Օրէնքի անունից նա կոչուած է ԽԱԲԵԼ

միլիոնատ՝ ը ՄԱՐԴԿԱՆՑ ՀԱԻՍՏԱԻՈՐ,

սակայն ո՛չ մի պատիժ չի կրել դեռ...

- Չէ՛ որ հենց ի՛նքն է նաեւ ԴԱՏԱԻՈ՛Ր: ***

Մեր այս ԼՈՒՍԱԻՈՐ 20-երորդ դարում,

ՍԵՒ ՏԱՐԻՆԵՐՆ ԵՆ նորից եկել...

- Ո՛վ կը կարծէր,

թէ՛ այս ՆՈՐ ԱՇԽԱՐՀՈՒՄ թուրքը չի փոխուել,
չի՛ փոխուի երբեք, եւ արդարու-թեան դիմաց –
նոյն ո՛ խն է նրա ձեռքին միշտ դառնում
եաթաղան...

- Բայց մտածում եմ. հա՛յն էլ չի՛ փոխուել
իր պահանջներում-

ՍԱՀՄԱՆԱԴՐԱԿԱՆ

- Ինչպէ՛ս եղաւ, որ մեզ ԽԱԲԵՑԻՆ...

- Թէ՛ մենք ԽԱԲՈՒԵՑԻՆՔ ՅՕԺԱՐԱԿԱՄ:

... Լենինից սկսած մինչեւ Ելցին –

գնում ենք դեպի “ՊԱՅԾԱՌ ԱՊԱԳԱՆ”,

բայց տեղ ՉԵՆՔ ՀԱՄԱՆՈՒՄ:

- Հորիզոնի պէս

ԱՊԱԳԱՅԻ ԳԻՇԸ ՓԱՆՉՈՒՄ Է ՄԵՋՆԻՑ,

սակայն ՄԵՆՔ ՆՈՐԻՑ ԽԱԲՈՒՄ ԵՆՔ ՄԵՋ, Թէ՛

ԵԿՈՂԸ ԼԱ՛ԻՆ Է ... ԳՆԱՅՈՂԻ՛Ց:

Ա Բ Գ

ՈՎ ԵՄ ԵՄ – ՈՎ ԵՄ ԴՈՒ *

Վահան Տէրեան

Քո աչքերի դէմ իմ աչքերը՝ կոյր

Քո աչքերի դէմ իմ աչքերը՝ կոյր,

Կայ քո հոգու մէջ անթափանց մի մութ,

Քո մութ հայեացքում կայ մի քնքոյշ սուտ՝

Քեզ միշտ թաքցնող մի նուրբ վարագոյր..

Փակ են քո սրտի հեռուններն իմ դէմ,

Յաւետ քեզ կապուած՝ քեզ օտար եմ ես.

Երբ խենթ խնդրութեամբ փայփայում եմ քեզ՝

Եւ սիրում եմ քեզ, եւ՝ քեզ չըզիտեմ:

Փակ են քո սրտի հեռուններն իմ դէմ,

Քո աչքերի դէմ իմ աչքերը՝ կոյր.

Քո հոգու վրայ կայ մի վարագոյր,

Ո՛վ ես դու, ո՛վ եմ ես,- բնաւ չըզիտեմ...

Ա Բ Գ

ՅԻՇԵՆՔ ՇԱՀԱՆ ՇԱՀՆՈՒՐԸ

Բուն անունով՝ Շահնուր Քերեսթեճեան, Օգոստ. 3,

1903, Սկյուտար, Պոլիս,

Օգոստ. 20, 1974, Ֆրանսա

«Եղան հայեր, որոնք իրենց մորթը փրկե-լու համար
վճարեցին ոսկի, եղան ա-նոնք, որոնք լքեցին տուն,
տեղ, երկինք, եղան դեռ վատեր, որոնք ուրացան
ազգ ու լեզու եւ հերոսներ, որոնք տուին արին,
կեանք, օր ու արեւ:

Իսկ մենք կը վճարենք իբրեւ վեր-ջին
փրկագին այն, որ պիտի գայ: Իբրեւ վերջին
փրկագին՝ մանուկներ, որոնք կրնային մեծնալ,
ապագայի սերունդներ, որոնք մեզմէ վերջ պիտի
գային: Որովհետեւ այն, որ պիտի գայ, **պիտի ըլլայ
օտար բանիւ եւ գործով...**», - ֆրանսահայ գրող
Շահնուրի նախատեսութիւնը մեր օրերու սերունդին:

Ա Բ Գ

We Armenia



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Armenian Interests

We See a Threat and Try to Find a Solution; You Choose to Exploit It, Rubinyan Says



“Our threats come from Azerbaijan because the peace has not yet become irreversible,” National Assembly Speaker Ruben Rubinyan said during the legislature’s August 5 session.

“Our threats come from Azerbaijan because we do not have peace with Azerbaijan—or, more precisely, we have peace, but that peace is not yet irreversible or fully institutionalized,” Rubinyan said. “A peace with Azerbaijan that has not yet become irreversible is clearly and

unequivocally a threat to the Republic of Armenia.”

“We also face a threat from Turkey,” he continued. “Having a direct neighbor while maintaining a closed border with that neighbor is, at the very least, an economic threat. The absence of established diplomatic relations is, at the very least, a diplomatic threat.”

According to Rubinyan, Armenia faces other threats as well, including insufficiently diversified economic and security relations, energy sources and transit routes.

Addressing members of the opposition Hayastan Alliance, Rubinyan asked what distinguished the government from the opposition.

“We see a threat and want to eliminate or neutralize it,” he said. “We see that

there is no irreversible peace with Azerbaijan, and we want to make that peace irreversible. We see that it has not yet been fully institutionalized, and we want to institutionalize it.”

“With Turkey, we see the closed border and recognize that it is a threat to businesses,” Rubinyan continued. “We are negotiating to reach a solution, and we are also moving forward step by step during that process.”

“That is the difference between us and you,” he said. “We see a threat and try to find a solution. You see a threat and decide to exploit it. The history of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation, beginning in 1920, is a history of exploiting threats.”

AGBU President Sam Simonian Honored for Lifelong Service to Armenia

Armenian President Vahagn Khachaturyan received Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) President and philanthropist Sam Simonian and presented him with one of the country’s highest state honors.

Simonian was awarded the First Class Order for Services to the Homeland on the occasion of Armenia’s Republic Day. The honor recognizes his significant contributions to the

development of education, science, culture, and the economy, as well as his longstanding efforts to preserve Armenian identity and heritage.

President Khachaturyan congratulated Simonian on receiving the distinguished award and praised his many years of dedicated service to the Armenian people. He wished Simonian good health, continued success, and many more years of productive activity.



Relations between EAEU members and third partners should not be seen as zero-sum game



One of the fundamental principles of the Eurasian Economic Union is ensuring the free movement of goods, services, capital, and labor.

Unfortunately, in practice these principles are not being fully implemented.



The Prime Minister's remarks at the Eurasian Economic Union

Dear Heads of Government,

Distinguished participants of the meeting,

First of all, allow me to sincerely thank the Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic, Adylbek Kasymaliev, for the traditionally warm hospitality and for the high-level organization of the meeting of the Eurasian Intergovernmental Council.

I would also like to welcome the distinguished representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of Uzbekistan, and the Republic of Cuba.

For the Republic of Armenia, strengthening cooperation with the member states of the Eurasian Economic Union continues to be one of the priorities of our foreign policy and foreign economic policy.

This approach will also be reflected in the program of the new Government, the leadership of which has been entrusted to me.

At the same time, I would like to emphasize that Armenia consistently advocates adherence to the principles underlying the Eurasian Economic Union.

Certain restrictions and administrative measures continue to impede the full functioning of the common market, reducing the predictability of the business environment and the effectiveness of integration processes.

The Republic of Armenia consistently ensures the most favorable, equal, and non-discriminatory conditions possible for the activities of economic operators from all EAEU member states. We consistently proceed from the principle that the same approach should be applied throughout the entire territory of the Eurasian Economic Union.

For precisely this reason, we consider it fundamentally important that any measure capable of affecting the access of the goods and services of member states to the common market be adopted exclusively in accordance with EAEU law, on the basis of agreed procedures, and within the framework of constructive cooperation among the competent authorities.

Ignoring such issues may not only hinder the further development of the Eurasian Economic Union but may also negatively affect the attitude of our countries' citizens and the business community toward it.

Ultimately, such issues cease to be the problems of an individual member state. They become the common problem of the Union as a whole.

For precisely this reason, we need to eliminate emerging obstacles in a timely manner, prevent the deterioration of trade and economic relations within the EAEU, minimize business risks related to reputation, and consistently strengthen mutual trust.

It must also be acknowledged that, in a number of areas, the strategic objectives set by the EAEU have not yet been fully achieved. This means that today we need to focus not only on discussing new initiatives but also on the practical implementation of decisions already adopted, accelerating coordination procedures, and improving the effectiveness of the EAEU institutions.

Dear colleagues,

I would also like to address the objective economic indicators, which convincingly demonstrate that the Republic of Armenia's participation in the Eurasian Economic Union is based on the fulfillment of mutual obligations rather than on obtaining unilateral advantages.

In 2025, Armenia transferred approximately USD 319 million to the common budget of EAEU import customs duties, while the amount allocated in Armenia's favor totaled approximately USD 175 million.

Continued on next page

EAEU

Continued from previous page



Thus, Armenia contributed significantly more resources to the Union's common budget than it received, which is direct confirmation of our responsible position and the conscientious fulfillment of our obligations within the framework of the EAEU.

The dynamics of mutual trade are no less telling.

According to the results of 2025, imports from the EAEU member states amounted to approximately USD 5 billion, while exports of Armenian products to the Union's market during the same period amounted to approximately USD 3.2 billion.

These figures show that the Republic of Armenia is not only a participant in the EAEU common market but also an important consumer of the goods produced and services provided in the Union's member states.

Dear colleagues,

The Republic of Armenia has taken note of the statement of the leaders of the four EAEU member states of May 29, 2026, which expressed support for the idea of holding a referendum in Armenia on accession to the European Union.

As you know, in 2025 Armenia adopted the Law "On Launching the Process of the Republic of Armenia's Accession to the European Union." The

strategic objective of adopting such a law is to create an alternative for our country.

We understand that simultaneous membership in the Eurasian Economic Union and the European Union is impossible.

However, the very fact of adopting the above-mentioned law does not in itself mean that

Armenia has the opportunity to become an EU member today. Even when Armenia is qualitatively ready for EU accession in the future, this likewise will not mean that our country will automatically become a member of the EU. This will still require the agreement of the EU member states and the approval of the citizens of Armenia.

On the other hand, it is obvious that it is impossible to submit this issue to the decision of the citizens of Armenia without first carrying out institutional preparatory work. And even after that, it will be necessary to submit an official application to the EU for accession to the European Union.

After that, it will also be necessary to obtain the status of a candidate country for accession to the EU.

Without passing through at least the greater part of the stages listed above, holding a referendum on this issue would be devoid of substance and would mean that we expect our citizens to answer a question that simply does not exist at this stage.

This would mean that we expect the citizens of Armenia to make a choice between two alternatives, one of which does not exist.

This would be disrespectful toward our people and, in practical terms, illegitimate. I thank my colleagues in the EAEU for recognizing the legitimate right of Armenia, as well as

of any other EAEU country, to develop relations with different partners and to create alternative trade and economic opportunities for its own country.

Moreover, I consider such an approach beneficial for the EAEU, because the existence of possible alternatives is a factor that will contribute to enhancing the competitiveness and attractiveness of the EAEU.

And I believe that no one will deny that in this respect we have work to do within the EAEU. We are ready and propose to work in that direction.

On the other hand, I should note that in the current relations between Armenia and the European Union there are no legal, economic, or political obligations that contradict the status of our relations within and in the framework of the EAEU.

Dear colleagues,

The Republic of Armenia proceeds from the principle that the Eurasian Economic Union should not be viewed as a space of restrictions. We are convinced that cooperation between the EAEU member states and third partners should not be perceived as a zero-sum game.

The Republic of Armenia consistently advocates preserving the fundamental principles of the Treaty on the Eurasian Economic Union, the equality of the member states, and the further development of practical, mutually beneficial cooperation.

The EAEU will be more attractive the more consistently we uphold our own agreements and respect each other's sovereign rights.

It is precisely in this that we see the foundation of trust, stability, and long-term success.

Thank you for your attention,"

President Vahagn Khachaturyan Issues Decree Forming Armenia's New Government



By decree of President Vahagn Khachaturyan, Mher Grigoryan and Tigran Khachatryan have been reappointed as deputy prime ministers.

The composition of the government

has remained largely unchanged.

Under the presidential decree, Arsen Torosyan was reappointed minister of labor and social affairs; Anahit Avanesyan, minister of health; Srбуhi Galyan, minister of justice; Ararat Mirzoyan, minister of foreign affairs; Zhanna

Andreasyan, minister of education, science, culture and sports; Arpine Sargsyan, minister of internal affairs; Hambardzum Matevosyan, minister of environment; Suren Papikyan, minister of defense; and Davit

Khudatyan, minister of territorial administration and infrastructure.

Vahe Hovhannisyan was reappointed minister of finance, while Gevorg Papoyan was reappointed minister of economy.

The only change was made at the Ministry of High-Tech Industry, where Davit Tadevosyan replaced Mkhitar Hayrapetyan.

On August 2, in accordance with Article 158 of the Constitution, the government submitted its resignation to the president on the opening day of the first session of the ninth National Assembly.

United States Doubles TRIPP Project Funding to \$402 Million



The United States government has doubled the funding allocated to the TRIPP+ Enterprise Fund, increasing it from \$201 million to \$402 million.

According to Armenpress, the information was published in the U.S. government's official spending database, USAspending.gov, which identifies Armenia as the primary location where the funds will be used.

The financing is connected to the

transport corridor.

According to the published information, the U.S. State Department's Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs awarded a \$201 million grant to the TRIPP+ Enterprise Fund on January 30, 2026. The grant period was scheduled to continue through December 31, 2036.

An amendment made to the grant agreement on July 16 increased the

Trump Route for International Peace and Prosperity, or TRIPP, a transportation initiative intended to develop a route through southern Armenia and connect the South Caucasus with the Trans-Caspian

U.S. funding commitment to \$402 million without changing the project's completion date.

The TRIPP+ Enterprise Fund was established on January 26, 2026, two weeks after Armenian Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan met with U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio in Washington.

Following the meeting, the two sides released a document announcing plans to establish the TRIPP Development Company, which will be responsible for developing and implementing infrastructure for the TRIPP route through southern Armenia.

The Republic of Armenia will hold a 26 percent stake in the company, while the United States will own the remaining 74 percent.

Six Jewish Extremists Spit at Armenian Monastery Entrance and Throw Stones in Jerusalem

Six Jewish individuals attacked the entrance of the St. James Monastery in Jerusalem's Armenian Quarter, according to journalist Gegham Balyan.

Balyan reported the incident in a post on X and shared video footage.

"They took turns spitting at the entrance of the monastery. When they noticed an Armenian woman filming the incident from her home, they threw stones at her window while shouting insults," he wrote.

Israeli police were called to the scene and arrested the suspects. The Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem filed a formal complaint.

According to official police information, restraining orders were issued against three of the suspects,



barring them from entering Jerusalem's Old City for 15 days.

"The investigation is continuing. Further updates will be provided as they become available," Balyan wrote.

Kyrgyzstan hosts Eurasian Economic Union Meeting



Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan traveled Kyrgyzstan to participate in the Eurasian Economic Union meeting of prime ministers.

The meeting, known as the Eurasian

Intergovernmental Council session, included a narrow-format meeting on August 6 and an enlarged-format meeting on August 7.

The Prime Minister was welcomed at Issyk-Kul International Airport by Erlist Akunbekov, Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers.

At the meeting Pashinyan shared a video showing the start of the meeting in a narrow format.



The Prime Ministers of Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Belarus are also participated in the meeting. Chairman of the Board of the Eurasian Economic Commission Bakytzhan Sagintayev also attended.

Professor Bedross Der Matossian Appointed Director of Genocide Research at the Zoryan Institute



The Board of Directors of the Zoryan Institute has unanimously appointed Professor Bedross Der Matossian as Director of Genocide Research, succeeding the late Professor Vahakn N. Dadrian, who led the Institute's Genocide Research Program for more than a decade and left an enduring scholarly legacy.

Born and raised in the Old City of Jerusalem, Bedross Der Matossian is Professor of Modern Middle East History and the Hymen Rosenberg Professor in Judaic Studies at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He received his Ph.D. from Columbia

University in 2008 and has taught at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and the University of Chicago. In 2026, he was awarded the prestigious Guggenheim Fellowship in recognition of his pioneering research on mass violence.

An internationally recognized scholar of the Armenian Genocide, the late Ottoman Empire, and modern Middle Eastern history, Professor Der Matossian is the author of several acclaimed books, including *Shattered Dreams of Revolution: From Liberty to Violence in the Late Ottoman Empire* and *The Horrors of Adana: Revolution and Violence in the Early Twentieth Century*. He is also the editor of *Denial of Genocides in the Twenty-First Century* and *Shattered Truths: Denial of Genocide in the Digital Age*, and the co-editor, with Edita Gzoyan, of *The Concentration Camps of the Armenian Genocide*.

Upon his appointment, Professor Der Matossian stated:

"I am deeply honored and humbled by

the confidence the Board of the Zoryan Institute has placed in me. To follow in the footsteps of Professor Vahakn N. Dadrian is both an extraordinary privilege and a profound responsibility. His scholarship transformed the field of genocide studies and set a standard of intellectual rigor and moral courage that continues to inspire generations of researchers. His are truly monumental shoes to fill, and I accept this role with humility and with a steadfast commitment to advancing the Institute's mission through rigorous scholarship, meaningful collaboration, and the pursuit of historical truth."

Professor Der Matossian's appointment marks a new chapter in the Institute's longstanding commitment to advancing the study of genocide through rigorous scholarship, international collaboration, and public education, while building upon the distinguished legacy established by Professor Dadrian.

Lebanese-American author, professor Nassim Nicholas Taleb declines Azerbaijan visit, citing former Karabakh official's imprisonment



Nassim Nicholas Taleb is a Lebanese-American author, professor, and former derivatives

trader, known for his work on randomness, probability, and uncertainty, has rejected an invitation to deliver a lecture in Azerbaijan, saying he will not "set foot" in the country as long as former Karabakh

State Minister Ruben Vardanyan remains jailed there.

"I was asked to go to Azerbaijan for a lecture. I declined (they upped their offer, not understanding my ethics, thinking it would make a difference). I will not set foot in Azerbaijan with Reuben Vardanyan jailed there," Nassim Nicholas Taleb said on X.

Taleb's first non-technical book, *Fooled by Randomness*, was published in 2001 and was selected by *Fortune* as one of the 75 smartest books known.

His second non-technical book, *The Black Swan*, about unpredictable events, was published in 2007. It spent 36 weeks on *The New York Times* bestseller list. *Antifragile: Things That Gain from Disorder* was published in November 2012, and *Skin in the Game: Hidden Asymmetries in Daily Life* was published in February 2018.

The renowned economist visited Armenia in 2023.

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 13, 2026 - Celebrating Armenian Writers](#)
- ◆ [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](#)
- ◆ [October 14, 2026 - St. Mary Armenian Church Women's Guild Tricky Tray Dinner](#)
- ◆ [November 6, 2026 - Baikar Newspaper 10th anniversary celebration at St. Leon Church](#)
- ◆ [November 22, 2026 - Lilit Pipoyan live in concert at St. Mary Armenian Church](#)

SAVE THE DATE FOR FUTURE EVENTS

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

Armenian Radio Hour of NJ

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

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TalinKupelian@gmail.com

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sts.vartanantz@verizon.net or call

 **201-943-2950**



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In case of rain join us in the large hall

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ONLINE PAYMENT

venmo@kirikianarmenianschool
(last 4 of cell - 3203)

CONTACTS

Ani@lacapan.com or
Talar@sarafian1.com

SOCIAL MEDIA

[https://www.facebook/
kirikianarmenianschool](https://www.facebook.com/kirikianarmenianschool)

www.armenianschoolstthomas.com

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INFO CONTACTS

Ani Capan at ani@lacapan.com or
Talar Sarafian at talar@sarafian1.com

<https://www.facebook/kirikianarmenianschool>
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SAVE THE DATE

SEPTEMBER 22, 2026

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An evening dedicated to restoring
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More Details To Follow



St. Thomas Armenian Church

Cultural Committee presents the
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STEAK & CIGAR NIGHT

September 25, 2026
7:30 pm

Donation \$125 pp by Sept.15th,
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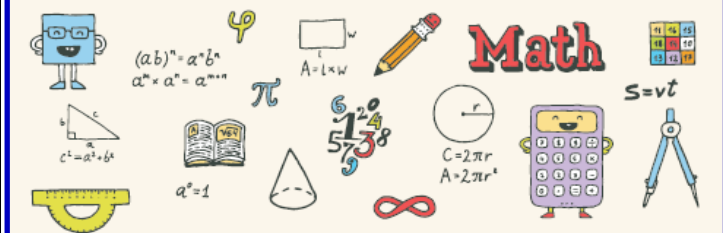
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We request that the information be sent to us two weeks in advance, so that we can serve the community better.
(Please read our policy in the [Calendar of Events](#) section)

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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