

# Armenian Interests

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## News & Events of the Armenian Community

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### The Armenian Church and the Republic: Beyond the Present Confrontation — From Preservation to Statehood



Armenia is facing a difficult moment. The relationship between the Republic and the Armenian Apostolic Church has become a serious source of disagreement. The debate involves faith, national identity, political authority, and Armenia's future.

This should not be reduced to a question of supporting or opposing the present government, or supporting or opposing the Catholicos. The larger question is this: How can a modern Armenian state and an ancient Armenian institution coexist in a way that protects the dignity of both and serves Armenians everywhere?

For centuries, Armenians lived under different empires and in different countries. Armenians in Russia, Iran, France, the Ottoman Empire, and elsewhere developed

different histories and experiences. They shared language, religion, and culture, but they did not form one political community.

When there was no Armenian state, the Armenian Apostolic Church became a vital institution for preserving faith, language, education, culture, and identity.

That historic role cannot be overstated.

But Armenian independence in 1991 created a new reality: Armenians once again had a sovereign state.

This changed the relationship between the Church and Armenian national life.

A modern republic is much more than a government that provides security and collects taxes. It creates permanent public institutions

responsible for the many areas that allow a society to develop and preserve itself. Ministries and public institutions for education, culture, science, economic development, social welfare, and other areas of national life can build schools and universities, support scientific research, preserve archives and historic sites, operate museums and cultural centers, develop libraries and learning institutions, protect the Armenian language, and document and teach the history and culture of the Armenian people. They also create the economic and social conditions that allow families and communities to remain in the country and build their future.

These are functions that the Church could not have carried out on this scale when Armenia had no state. The Church preserved what existed; a modern state has the capacity to develop, expand, organize, and transmit that heritage through national institutions from one generation to the next.

These responsibilities were never exclusively those of the Church.

*Continued on next page*

*Armenian Church & the Republic*  
*Continued from previous page*



By K. M. GREG SARKISSIAN

The Church helped preserve Armenian identity when Armenia had no state. The Republic now has the responsibility to develop and protect that identity through the institutions of a modern state.

This does not diminish the Church. It gives the Church the opportunity to concentrate on what a spiritual institution does best: faith, spirituality, moral values, and religious tradition.

The title “Catholicos of All Armenians” has deep historical and spiritual meaning. The Catholicos is the spiritual leader of the Armenian Apostolic Church and its faithful throughout the world.

But spiritual leadership is not political leadership.

The Catholicos can be the spiritual leader of Armenians belonging to the Armenian Apostolic Church worldwide

without becoming the political leader of every Armenian.

Likewise, Armenia’s Prime Minister is the elected head of the government of the Republic. He represents the state within its constitutional system, but he is not the political leader of Armenians living in other countries.

Most importantly, we must separate the person from the institution. Disagreement with a Catholicos is not disagreement with God, Christianity or with the Church. Defending the independence of the Church is not opposition to Armenia. Defending the constitutional authority of the Republic is not opposition to the Church.

A mature society must be able to make these distinctions.

The Church must be accountable. Its finances should be transparent, and clergy should be subject to the law like every other citizen.

But accountability is not political control.

If a Church leader is accused of breaking the law, there must be evidence, due process, and independent legal procedures. The government should not decide who leads the Church.

At the same time, religious independence cannot mean immunity from legitimate public scrutiny.

The Church must not become a state within the state, and the state must not become the governing authority of the Church.

This principle must apply regardless of who is Catholicos or Prime Minister.

The present confrontation should not become a struggle over who defeats whom. Armenia needs a lasting institutional understanding, not a temporary political victory.

If the present leadership can reach such an understanding, that would be the best outcome. If it cannot, a dignified change in Church leadership may eventually become necessary—but only through a legitimate ecclesiastical and legal process.

The goal should not be to weaken the Church or the Republic.

Armenia needs both.

The Church preserved Armenian identity when there was no Armenian state. Now the Republic has the responsibility to ensure that Armenian culture, language, education, history, and national life can flourish within a sovereign country.

The future requires both institutions to respect their distinct responsibilities.

The Church should remain a strong spiritual home for Armenians everywhere. The Republic should remain a strong, independent homeland for generations to come.

That is the challenge of moving from preservation to statehood.

*M. Greg Sarkissian is Cofounder and President of the Zoryan Institute*

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# Headline News



*Armenian Interests*

## **AGBU Central Board Letter to Ruben Rubinyan, President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia and Members of the National Assembly**

August 25, 2026

Dear Mr. Rubinyan,  
The 2026-2031 Program of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, submitted to the National Assembly on August 20, 2026 for consideration and approval, included a comprehensive series of initiatives that the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) recognizes is not our role to comment on.

Where we continue to have strong concern is with the provisions involving the Armenian Apostolic Church, which for centuries has kept alive the Christian faith around the

globe, preserved the Armenian identity, and maintained the unity of Armenians worldwide. With the vast majority of its faithful living outside the borders of the Republic of Armenia, the Church has always maintained its independent self-governance.

In line with this history, as well as the Republic of Armenia's own Constitution and Laws, international protections of religious freedom and Canon Law, the Church-related elements in the Government's Program, specifically those relating to the retirement or election of the Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians and the adoption of the

Charter of the Church, are not matters to be dictated by any political authority. This centuries-old principle of self-governance reflects the global nature and role of the Armenian Apostolic Church.

We respectfully ask that the National Assembly decline the government's request to intervene on this issue and respect the established and time-honored principles of Church governance.

Respectfully yours,  
AGBU Central Board

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# Poetry presented by Mrs. Zarmine Boghosian

*Մեր Գրական Աշխարհի Ծաղկաստանն*  
 ♥♥♥ **Through the Orchards of Armenian**  
**Language & Poetry** ♥♥♥ Aug /29-30/2026  
 Presented by: Zarmine Boghosian

Ա Բ Գ

Վերամուտի դողանքը մեր ականջներ-բուն՝ բարեւ  
 մը ըսենք մեր դպրոցական-ներուն Մարմարայի  
 խմբագրապետ անմոռանալի Ռոպեր  
 Հատտեճեանի սա մէջբերումով ապահով կեանք  
 մաղթելու-

**ԱՇԽԱՐՀ ԱՌԱՅՑ ՉԷՆՔԻ-**

Ռ. Հատտեճեան

"Ամէն երկրի իշխանութիւնը իր քաղաքացիներուն  
 կ'ըսէ **«Չէք մի գործածէր»:**  
 Ատոր փոխարէն ոչ մէկ իշխանութիւն զէնք  
 արտադրող գործարանին կ'ըսէ **«Չէք մի**  
**արտադրէր»:** Հակասական բան մը չկա՞յ այդ  
 գործընթացին մէջ:

**Եզրակացութիւն: Կրնա՞նք երեւակայել աշխարհ**  
**մը ուր աշխատող զէնք չարտադրուիր: Հիներն ալ**  
**աղբանոց նետուին:"**

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Օգոստոսի վերջին օրերուն ենք: Չենք կրնար  
 ցտեսութիւն ըսել առանց յիշելու  
 բանաստեղծութեան մայր իշխանուհին՝ **ՍԻԼՎԱ**  
**ԿԱՊՈՒՏԻԿԵԱՆՆ** ու Ամերիկա-հայ գրող  
**ՌԻԻԼԵԱՍ ՍԱՐՈՅԵԱՆԸ** որ իր աճիւն-հոգիին  
 կէտը թաղել տուաւ հայրենի Պանթեոնին մէջ:

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**Ո՞Վ Է ՏԵՍԵԼ.--** Սիլվա Կապուտիկեան

Ո՞վ է տեսել, որ քարտեզը  
 Կոկորդ սեղմող մի ձեռք լինի,  
 Կապոյտ-կանաչ-դեղին գոյնը  
 Աչքիդ՝ կարմիր մի վերք լինի.  
 Ճշմարիտը ստիպումով  
 Հազար հանդերձ առնի վրան,  
 Մուտը՝ այսքան երեսպատած,  
 Այսքան լկտի ու մերկ լինի:

Ա Բ Գ

**ԳՈՒ ՀԵՌԱՅԱՐ... Ս. Կապուտիկեան**

Բայց ես գիտեմ, ես գիտեմ,  
 Ու՛ր էլ գնաս, ես քեզ հետ եմ, ես կգամ.  
 Քո հոգու մէջ ես այնքան շատ կամ արդեն,  
 Որ էլ այնտեղ ուրիշներին տեղ չկա...  
 Հազար աչքեր հուրհրան քո առաջին՝  
 Ե՛ս կնայեմ աչքից ամեն աղջկա.  
 Ո՞վ էլ խոսի՝ քեզ հետ իմ ձայնը կգա,  
 Իմ շշու՛նջը կփարվի քո ականջին:

Էլեկտրավար փողոցներով երբ քայլես՝  
 Իմ հայացքը քեզ կցոլա լամպից լամպ.  
 Ծառերի թափ թափիչները դիպչեն քեզ՝  
 Հոգնած դեմքդ կշոյեն ի՛մ քնքշութեամբ:  
 Տուն գաս նորից, քո գրքերի մէջ սուզվես՝  
 Թղթերիդ մէջ ե՛ս կերևամ վերստին,  
 Ծխախոտի ծուխ կդառնամ քո շուրթին,  
 Լուսամուտից զեփյուռի հետ կգամ ներս:  
 Լուսամուտդ փակես՝ մորի՛կ կլինեմ,  
 Հո՛ղմ կլինեմ ու կփշրեմ ապակիդ,  
 Ու սենյա՛կդ ու աշխա՛րհդ կխուժեմ,  
 Ու կխառնեմ թղթերդ, կյա՛նքդ, հոգի՛դ...  
 Ո՛չ, չե՛ս կարող, ինձ չե՛ս կարող մոռնալ...

Ա Բ Գ

**ՌԻԻԼԵԱՍ ՍԱՐՈՅԵԱՆԻ** խօսքերէն -  
**Թէեւ անգլերէն կը գրեմ ու հակառակ անոր, որ**  
**ծնունդով ամերիկացի մըն եմ, ինքզինքս կը**  
**նկատեմ **ՀԱՅ ԳՐՈՂ:****

The role of art to make a world better which can be tol-  
 erated- Արուեստի դերը աշխարհը աւելի լաւ եւ  
 հանդուրժելի դարձնելու մէջ է:

- Գործածած բառերս անգլերէն են: Միջա-վայրը,  
 որո՞ւ մասին կը գրեմ, ամերիկեան է: Ոգին, որ կը  
 ստիպէ ինձի գրել, սակայն,

**ՀԱՅ Է: Ուրեմն՝ ՀԱՅ գրող մըն եմ:**

Ա Բ Գ

**Իգնա Սարգսյանէն**

Սիրեցի առանց կէտի  
 Առանց ստորակէտի  
 Նոր տող ըսին - ոչ ըսի  
 Տողադարձ - չակերտ ըսին - ոչ ըսի  
 Առանց գործադուլի  
 Առանց դադարի սիրեցի  
 Մէրս անսկիզբ տող  
 Մէրս անսպառ մելան

Մէրս անվերջ նամակ  
 Մինչ ես գինովցած  
 Նամակին տակ  
 Ստորագրութիւնս չորի  
 Սիրեցի առանց կէտի  
 Առանց ստորակէտի  
 Մէրը յաւերժութիւն էր միթէ  
 Թէ յաւերժութիւնը սէր - չգիտցայ:

Ա Բ Գ

**ԿԱՐՕՏ-**

Ամէն մարդ կեանքում մի օջախ ունի  
 Իր նուիրական ճամփէքի վրայ  
 Եւ ուր էլ գնայ, ուր էլ որ լինի,  
 Բորբոք է պահում կրակը նրա:

Համօ Սահեան **Ա.Բ.Գ**

# We Armenia



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# Current News from Around the World



*Armenian Interests*

## **Pashinyan: Enclave/exclave issue will become routine as Armenia-Azerbaijan border delimitation continues**



Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan has said that when the border delimitation process between Armenia and Azerbaijan continues on the ground, the issue of enclaves and exclaves will become a very ordinary working issue.

“Regarding the issues of enclaves and border delimitation, we have situations where we may lose access to roads, but Azerbaijan has similar situations as well,” he said at a press briefing.

“We constantly look at things from our own perspective, and it seems to us that they do not have the same problems. They have similar problems too. In general, let me tell you, in this regard, purely in terms of settlements, our situation, including in terms of the decisions we have made and infrastructure programs in recent years, is much better than Azerbaijan’s. My task is to take the tension out of this issue for both societies and governments, so that when we continue carrying out border delimitation on the ground, we can calmly discuss it with each other and with the people as well. Previously, there were no negotiations on this issue; there had been exchanges of

views and border delimitation scenarios—how we should move forward, what we should do about the issue of enclaves. I am glad that we have been able to reduce the tension over this issue to zero. Now both Armenia and Azerbaijan will solve the problem that concerns everyone. This will become an ordinary working issue, which, I am convinced, will be resolved in the best possible way, because Azerbaijan has problems too, we have problems too, and we simply need to sit down and calmly discuss these problems with each other,” the Prime Minister said.

The Prime Minister recalled his previous statement that Armenia’s internationally recognized territory is 29,743 square kilometers, and that this figure does not include Azerbaijan’s three enclave territories, but does include Armenia’s exclave of Artsvashen.

“If we do not face up to this, it means we are saying that Armenia’s internationally recognized territory is not 29,743 square kilometers, but, for example, 29,755 square kilometers. This means indirectly declaring war on Azerbaijan. Why am I saying all this, while receiving your reproachful looks, criticism, and the opposition’s repeated claims of treason and surrendering land? Why am I doing this, am I a masochist? No, I am doing this not to manage the danger, but to neutralize it, because I see that there are internal and external forces thinking about how to collapse the established peace. I see that there are several points whose sensitivity is being exploited in an

attempt to undermine peace and introduce escalation. I am taking the tension out of this issue so that it becomes impossible to build an escalation around it,” the Prime Minister said.

He said that there are currently no discussions with Azerbaijan on the issue of enclaves and exclaves, but there is a general border delimitation issue.

Pashinyan addressed criticism over why he calls the settlement of Tigranashen by the Azerbaijani name Karki.

“If we do not say Karki today, it means that we are renouncing the occupied territories of Jermuk, because a principle emerges according to which whatever someone has captured is already theirs. That is a conflict-generating principle. The issue of enclaves and exclaves was the last one around which it was possible to build a plan to collapse peace, but now that this tension has been removed, there is no way to undermine peace,” Pashinyan said.

According to him, there is one fundamental thing: it is the regulation on the joint activities of the border delimitation commissions of Armenia and Azerbaijan, which has been ratified in both countries and according to which there must be mutually acceptable concessions.

## Pashinyan Says He Is Ready to Discuss Armenian Church Reform Agenda with Catholicos Karekin II



Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said he is prepared to meet with Catholicos Karekin II to discuss an agenda for reforming the Armenian Apostolic Church if the Catholicos accepts such an agenda.

Pashinyan made the remarks during a speech in the National Assembly.

“If Karekin II, or Ktrij Nersissian, accepts an agenda for reforming the Armenian Apostolic Church, I solemnly declare from this podium

that I will sit down with him and discuss that agenda with the utmost respect,” Pashinyan said.

“I have never said that there are people who are ‘ours’ and others who are ‘not ours,’ with some permitted to follow

standards of integrity and others not. The agenda for reforming the Armenian Apostolic Church has been clearly defined: standards of integrity and clear mechanisms for ensuring compliance with those standards,” he continued.

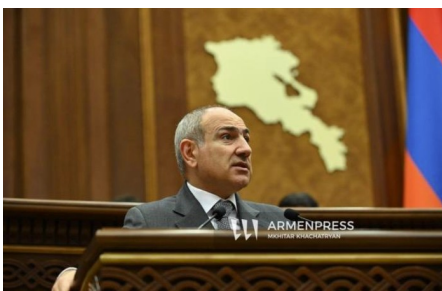
“How can we tolerate it when what is sacred to us has been compromised? Let us put everything else aside—whether you want to call him His Holiness, Karekin II or Ktrij

Nersissian. Beyond all of that, there are facts known to every citizen of the Republic of Armenia and every believer,” Pashinyan said.

Addressing a statement by Strong Armenia parliamentary faction leader Narek Karapetyan that 97 percent of Armenian citizens trust the Church, Pashinyan said:

“An opposition representative says that 97 percent of the citizens of the Republic of Armenia believe in the Church. Of course they do. That is precisely the problem: 97 percent of Armenia’s citizens believe, while the head of the Church does not believe in God at all. He has no spiritual life; he has renounced his covenant with God, and the consequences of that breach have been placed on all of us. I am not prepared to bear responsibility for that breach of covenant,” Pashinyan said.

## Pashinyan says he would be happy if CSTO expelled Armenia



Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan has reiterated that Yerevan will not unfreeze its activities in the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), saying that it no longer has any interest in the organization.

Prime Minister Pashinyan addressed

the issue during parliamentary discussions on the government’s 2026-2031 program.

Addressing a question about the possibility of Armenia withdrawing from the CSTO over the next five years, the prime minister said that the organization has provided no answers to the questions raised by Armenia and, consequently, Armenia’s interest in the CSTO has been exhausted.

“It is clearly stated in our program that we have no plans to return to the CSTO over the next five years. I can say with certainty that we will not step up our activities in the CSTO. I know

that there are discussions in the CSTO and that they may expel our country from the organization. I would be very happy if the organization decided to expel Armenia from the CSTO. It would free us from the dilemma of whether or not to withdraw,” Pashinyan said.

The CSTO is a military alliance of several former Soviet states, namely Armenia, Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. Armenia has frozen its participation in the CSTO since early 2024, citing the bloc’s failure to fulfill its security commitments.

## Former President Robert Kocharyan and his eldest son, Sedrak, have been arrested



Former President Robert Kocharyan and his eldest son, Sedrak, have

been arrested as part of an ongoing criminal investigation, the Anti-Corruption Committee has said.

Earlier on August 25, the Anti-Corruption Committee of Armenia said that searches and other procedural actions were being carried out at several dozen addresses belonging to Armenia's second President Robert Kocharyan and members of his family.

Bagrat Mikoyan, head of Kocharyan's office, said that the former president

had been taken to the Anti-Corruption Committee on the morning of August 25.

It was also reported that law enforcement officers had entered the apartments of Kocharyan's sons, Levon and Sedrak.

## Kocharyan's eldest son placed in pre-trial detention



A court has approved a motion by investigators to place Sedrak Kocharyan, the eldest son of former

President Robert Kocharyan, in two-month pre-trial detention following his arrest on corruption and money laundering charges, his lawyer Alexander Kochubayev has said.

He said the court also imposed restrictions on visits, excluding his wife and children.

The ex-president, who ruled Armenia from 1998 to 2008, and his eldest son, Sedrak, were arrested on August 25 as part of a criminal investigation into major alleged corruption-related

offenses committed while Robert Kocharyan was in office, including the transfer of state-owned property to himself and his associates. Six suspects in total have been arrested. Prosecutors are seeking pre-trial detention for all of them. The ex-president is expected to be brought before the court for a hearing on the measure of restraint after undergoing a medical checkup following a deterioration in his health while being taken into custody.

## Armenia to make residency requirement mandatory for citizenship applicants



Armenia will introduce a mandatory residency requirement for citizenship

applicants as part of a broader overhaul of the procedures for granting and terminating citizenship, Minister of Internal Affairs Arpine Sargsyan has said.

Sargsyan made the announcement during a meeting at the Migration and

Citizenship Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

"We are reassessing the procedures for granting and terminating citizenship and are introducing a new logic to state-citizen relations. The core of our common understanding, around which we will build all other solutions, is that we need to achieve a new quality in state-citizen relations," Sargsyan said.

The minister also emphasized that, as part of the reassessment of state-citizen relations, a residency requirement will be mandatory, and a number of other changes will also be introduced.

Earlier, Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs Armen Ghazaryan said that they will soon come forward with a legislative initiative to address the issues in the regulations governing the granting and termination of Armenian citizenship.

## Speaker Rubinyan rejects Russian criticism, says Armenia is not seeking to worsen ties



Armenian Parliament Speaker Ruben Rubinyan has rejected Russian criticism of Armenia's policy toward the EU, saying Yerevan has always been transparent with Moscow and is not taking steps to worsen bilateral relations.

Speaking at a press briefing, Rubinyan said Armenia has always been sincere with Moscow.

He was asked to respond to a statement by Russian State Duma Speaker Vyacheslav Volodin, who called on Yerevan to be "sincere with Russia," accused Armenia of pursuing a "fake policy" and seeking to join the EU while at the same time benefiting from its EAEU membership.

"We are extremely sincere with Russia, and we have always been

sincere. It is not us who are doing anything to worsen relations with the Russian Federation. On the contrary, we have done and continue to do everything to have normal, good-neighborly and friendly relations," Rubinyan said.

He added that in this context, the unfair and unnecessary restrictions imposed by Russia on Armenian businesses do not correspond either to the spirit of Armenia-Russia relations or, especially, to the rules of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU).

"I want to remind you that the whole meaning of the EAEU's existence is the free movement of goods, whereas in this case we do not have that freedom, at least *de facto*," Rubinyan emphasized.

Rubinyan also addressed the question of whether there are clear deadlines for when Armenia plans to officially apply for EU membership, given that Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan has already announced this.

Ruben Rubinyan said it is a well-known fact that it is precisely the

EAEU partners who are seeking for Armenia to submit an official application to join the European Union, as they repeatedly say that Armenia should hold a referendum on choosing between the European Union and the EAEU.

"But a referendum on the issue of joining the European Union can only be held when that question has been formulated and the circumstances arising from that question are known. That is, it is not possible to hold a referendum simply on whether we want to become a member of the European Union if the related actions have not been taken. Therefore, the referendum will only be possible after we apply for EU membership, receive an appropriate positive response, and obtain appropriate clarity regarding the steps and timeframes. At that point, it will be possible to hold a referendum," the Speaker said.

PM Nikol Pashinyan said earlier this week that Armenia will soon start the process of applying for EU membership.

## Direct Sofia–Yerevan–Sofia flights to resume on November 7



The Embassy of Bulgaria in Armenia has announced that the direct Sofia–Yerevan–Sofia flight route will resume on 7 November 2026.

"The launch of the route is the result of the efforts of Ambassador Nikola Nikolov and the exceptional assistance of Captain Yanko Ivanov, representing GullivAir airline," the embassy said in a press release.

"The route creates new opportunities for direct contact between the citizens of Bulgaria and Armenia, as well as for the development of bilateral cooperation in the fields of business, culture, sport, tourism and a range of other initiatives and projects of mutual

interest. Ambassador Nikolov expresses his sincere gratitude to the Bulgarian institutions for their understanding and support in revitalising bilateral relations with the Republic of Armenia. The resumption of the direct Sofia–Yerevan–Sofia air link is an important step towards deepening contacts between the two nations and opens up new opportunities for developing and building on bilateral dialogue," the embassy added.

## Marjorie Housepian Dobkin—author/professor - a markable Armenian-American woman of the twentieth century



The late Marjorie Housepian Dobkin—was not simply an author or professor, but one of the remarkable Armenian-American women of the twentieth century whose intellect, scholarship, and determination opened doors for generations to come.

Marjorie was born in New York City on November 21, 1922, into a family whose history was intimately bound to the tragedy of Smyrna. Her parents, Dr. Moses Housepian and Makrouhie Housepian, were Armenian immigrants. Her brother, Dr. Edgar M. Housepian was an American neurosurgeon at New York Presbyterian Hospital, and a Professor in the Department of Neurology at Columbia University Medical School.

Marjorie Housepian Dobkin was born only two and a half months after her grandfather was killed during the destruction of Smyrna, while her grandmother survived and fled as a refugee. In a very profound sense, the history that she would one day document was part of her family's own story.

She grew up in New York and attended Barnard College, graduating in 1944. She went on to build an impressive academic career at the very institution where she had been a student. Beginning in 1957, she taught English literature and writing at Barnard, eventually becoming a professor of English and serving as Associate Dean of Studies from 1976 until 1993. She later became Professor Emerita.

But Marjorie Housepian Dobkin's importance reaches far beyond her academic titles.

She was an intellectual in the fullest sense of the word—curious, independent,

disciplined, and unafraid to pursue difficult questions. At a time when the voices of Armenian women were still too often confined to the margins of public and intellectual life, she established herself in one of America's great academic institutions through the force of her own scholarship and intellect.

And then came the book that would define her legacy: *Smyrna 1922: The Destruction of a City*.

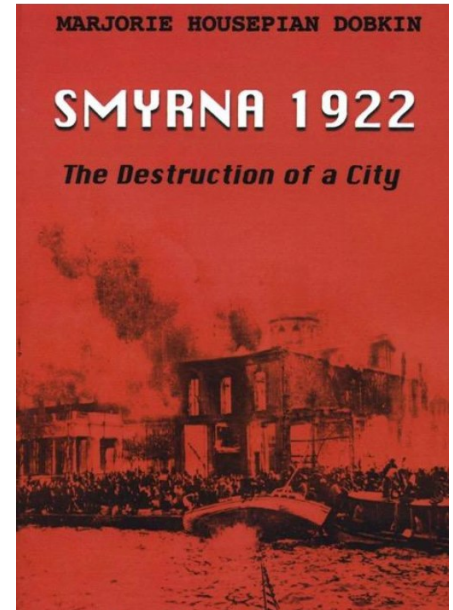
Originally published in 1971 under the title *The Smyrna Affair*, the book was the product of painstaking research. She examined historical records, sought out witnesses and survivors, and investigated accounts from people who had experienced the catastrophe firsthand. Her work brought scholarly attention to an event that had too often been forgotten or obscured. Contemporary Armenian publications described the book as authoritative scholarship and emphasized the breadth of her research.

What makes her achievement particularly remarkable is that she did not approach history as a detached academic exercise. The destruction of Smyrna was connected to her own family history, yet she brought to her work the discipline of a historian and the sensitivity of a writer.

She also demonstrated that an Armenian woman could occupy a place of intellectual authority on the largest stage—not by abandoning her Armenian identity, but by bringing that identity, and the history associated with it, into the world of serious scholarship.

Her achievements were recognized beyond the Armenian community. She received the Anania Shirakatsi Prize from the Academy of Sciences of Soviet Armenia and an honorary doctorate from Wilson College.

For Armenian women in particular, Marjorie Housepian Dobkin deserves to be remembered as a pioneer. She belonged to a generation that inherited the wounds of genocide, displacement, and immigration, yet she transformed that inheritance into education, scholarship, and literature.



She showed that the Armenian woman could be a scholar, a professor, an administrator, an author, and an intellectual of international stature.

Her life was not only a personal success. It was a quiet breakthrough.

Marjorie Housepian Dobkin passed away on February 8, 2013, at the age of 90. She left behind three sons, a distinguished academic career, several books and numerous articles—but, above all, a legacy of intellectual courage.

When we remember her today, we should remember more than the author of *Smyrna 1922*. We should remember the woman who insisted that history must be investigated, that forgotten voices must be heard, and that an Armenian woman could stand confidently among the intellectual leaders of her time.

Marjorie Housepian Dobkin opened a door. And through that door came generations of Armenian women who would understand that scholarship, literature, and intellectual achievement were not distant possibilities—they were places where they, too, belonged.

# 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](mailto:agbuny@agbu.org)  
[www.agbu.org](http://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](http://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](http://www.araratcener.org)

**St. Nersess Armenian Seminary**

486 Bedford Road  
Armonk, NY 10504  
914-273-0200  
[info@stnersess.edu](mailto:info@stnersess.edu) [www.stnersess.edu](http://www.stnersess.edu)

**Armenian Network of America-NY Region**

P.O. Box 205  
Bible School Park, NY 13737  
(617) 688-2741  
[newyorkregion@armnet.org](mailto:newyorkregion@armnet.org) [www.armnet.org](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:TalinKupelian@gmail.com)

or

Vartan Abdo - [VartanAbdo@optonline.net](mailto: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

- ◆ [September 4-6, 2026 - AYF Olympic games](#)
- ◆ [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](#)
- ◆ [October 24, 2026 - ARS Parisian night](#)
- ◆ [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](#)
- ◆ November 6, 2027 - Shushi Dance Ensemble's 35th anniversary celebration. Details to follow

### Armenian Radio Hour of NJ

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

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# 92ND ANNUAL AYF OLYMPIC GAMES

HOSTED BY THE NEW JERSEY "ARSEN" CHAPTER



## FRIDAY September 4<sup>TH</sup>

### GOLF

MEADOWS GOLF CLUB  
79 TWO BRIDGES ROAD,  
LINCOLN PARK, NJ 07035

**7:30AM** BREAKFAST

**8:30AM** START TIME

### TENNIS

TENAFLY RACQUET CLUB  
195 COUNTRY ROAD, TENAFLY  
NJ 07670

**8AM - 5PM**

### SWIMMING

ROCKLAND COMMUNITY CLUB  
145 COLLEGE ROAD, SUFFERN,  
NY 10901

**3PM - 7PM**

## SATURDAY September 5<sup>TH</sup>

### SOFTBALL

RIVERSIDE COUNTY PARK -  
SOUTH  
RIVER ROAD & JAUNCEY AVE,  
NORTH ARLINGTON, NJ 07031

**8AM - 5PM**

## SUNDAY September 6<sup>TH</sup>

### TRACK & FIELD

GEORGE W. HODGINS  
STADIUM  
PARAMUS HIGH SCHOOL, 99 E  
CENTURY ROAD, PARAMUS, NJ  
07652

**8AM - 5PM**

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**FRIDAY - \$70**

**SATURDAY - \$85**

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### FRIDAY September 4<sup>TH</sup>

#### ALUMNI DANCE

AYF ALUMNI BAND  
TEANECK MARRIOT - GRAND  
BALLROOM

**7:00PM**

#### AYF DANCE

HAROUT BEDROSSIAN &  
BAND

TEANECK MARRIOT -  
GRAND BALLROOM

**10:30PM**

### SATURDAY September 5<sup>TH</sup>

#### SATURDAY NIGHT

ELIE BERBERIAN  
TEANECK MARRIOT - GRAND  
BALLROOM

**DOORS OPEN 8PM**

**9:00PM**

#### DJ GLO

TEANECK MARRIOT - GRAND  
BALLROOM

### SUNDAY September 6<sup>TH</sup>

#### AYF OLYMPIC GRAND BALL

AYF OLYMPIC ALL STARS  
TEANECK MARRIOT - GRAND  
BALLROOM

**DOORS OPEN 7:45PM**

**8:30PM**

#### DJ GLO

TEANECK MARRIOT - GRAND  
BALLROOM



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT [AYFOLYMPICS.ORG](http://AYFOLYMPICS.ORG)

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# Armenia Way FESTIVAL

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12PM - 7PM RAIN OR SHINE



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**RUBEN  
VOSKANIAN**

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PERFORMANCES**

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*Armenian*  
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209-15 Horace Harding Expwy  
Bayside, NY 11364

**HOLY-MARTYRS.ORG 718-225-0235**



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**ARMENIAN SATURDAY SCHOOL**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup>, 9:00 AM**

**School Hours 9:00 AM - 1:15 PM**

**Toddlers, Nursery to 7th Grade, Ages 2 ½ - 12**

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**ONLINE PAYMENT**

**[venmo@kirikianarmenianschool](mailto:venmo@kirikianarmenianschool)  
(last 4 of cell - 3203)**

**CONTACTS**

**[Ani@lacapan.com](mailto:Ani@lacapan.com) or  
[Talar@sarafian1.com](mailto:Talar@sarafian1.com)**

**SOCIAL MEDIA**

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

**[www.armenianschoolstthomas.com](http://www.armenianschoolstthomas.com)**

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Special Toddler Program, Armenian Conversation  
½ Hour Each Saturday, Chess

**SPECIAL EVENTS**

Armenia's Independence, Armenian Genocide, Easter Communion & Breakfast, Armenian Christmas, *Paregentahn* Party & Fair, *Hantes* & Graduation

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St. Thomas Armenian Church's  
KIRIKIAN ARMENIAN SATURDAY SCHOOL

# TODDLER PROGRAM

FOR **2½** YEAR-OLDS BY SEPTEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup>



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Indoor &  
outdoor play



Developmentally  
appropriate  
curriculum



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learning



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Dual Language • Two Adult Armenian & English-Speaking Teachers • Strengthen Armenian Sense of Identity • Intro to Armenian Culture Through Play • Develop Sense of Belonging • Grow Up with Armenian Friends • Warm Nurturing Atmosphere In Small Groups

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## INFO CONTACTS

Ani Capan at [ani@lacapan.com](mailto:ani@lacapan.com) or  
Talar Sarafian at [talar@sarafian1.com](mailto:talar@sarafian1.com)

<https://www.facebook/kirikianarmenianschool>  
[www.armenianschoolstthomas.com](http://www.armenianschoolstthomas.com)

174 Essex Drive | Corner of 9W & E. Clinton Avenue | Tenafly, NJ 07670 | (201) 567-5446



SAVE THE DATE

SEPTEMBER 22, 2026

AMAA NY/NJ Child Care Committee  
Cordially Invites You to Join Us

CHILDCARE BENEFIT  
EVENING

Dinner | Guest Speaker | Silent Auction

An evening dedicated to restoring  
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FEATURING SPECIAL GUEST

John Bilezikian, M.D.

World Renowned Endocrinologist  
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Sanzari's New Bridge Inn  
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More Details To Follow



St. Thomas Armenian Church

Cultural Committee presents the  
6th annual

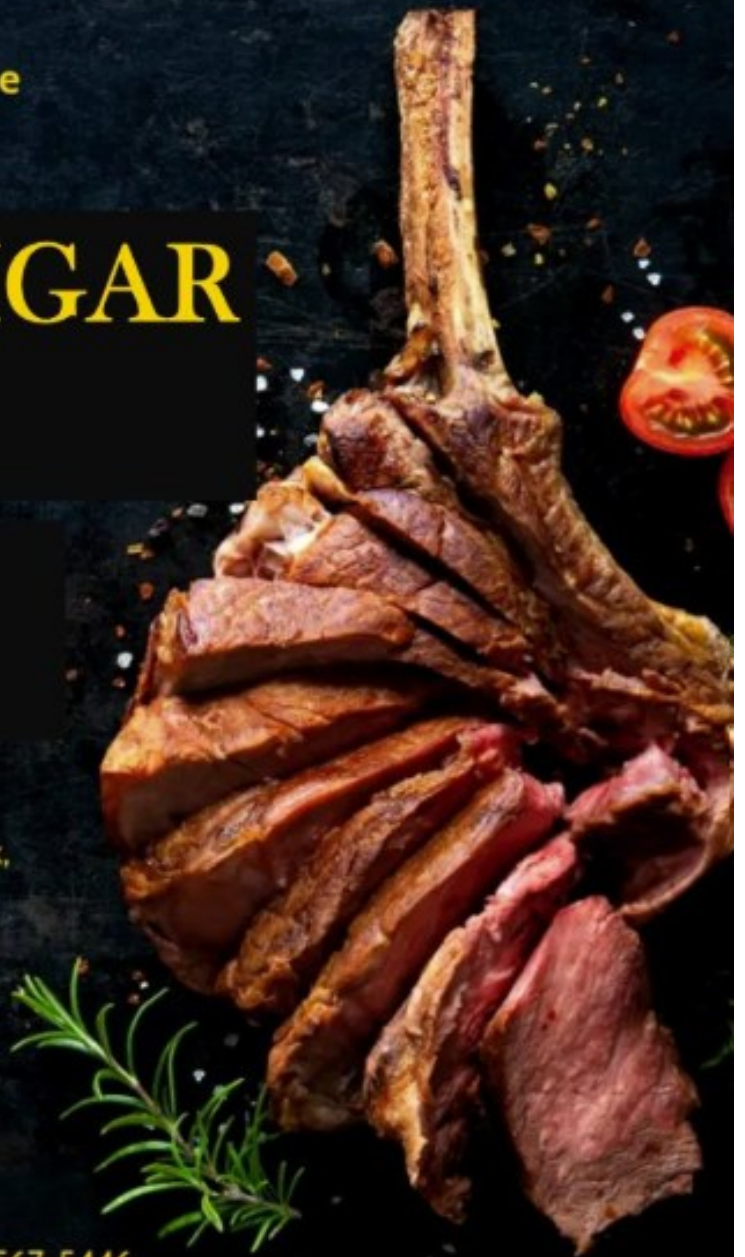
# STEAK & CIGAR NIGHT

September 25, 2026  
7:30 pm

Donation \$125 pp by Sept.15th,  
\$140 pp After Sept. 15th.  
Includes Succulent Boneless Rib-Eye Steak,  
Steakhouse Sides, and Cigars.  
Cash Bar. No Walk-Ins.

For more info contact  
Talar Sarafian at 201-240-8541 or  
Diana Bourghol at 201-805-6721 or  
visit the church's website:  
[www.stthomasarmenianchurch.com](http://www.stthomasarmenianchurch.com)

174 Essex Drive, Tenafly, NJ 07675 | 201-567-5446



SCAN ME

Tekeyan Cultural Association Greater New York  
in collaboration with the Armenian Radio Hour  
of New Jersey presents



# ROMANTIC SOUL: MASTERPIECES FOR PIANO TRIO

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and others*



**TANYA  
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



Please send any information related to  
*Armenian Interests*  
e-newsletter to:

[TalinKupelian@gmail.com](mailto:TalinKupelian@gmail.com)



ST. MARY  
ARMENIAN CHURCH

WOMEN'S GUILD  
TRICKY TRAY DINNER

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2026  
6 – 9 PM

Il Tulipano  
1131 Pompton Avenue  
Cedar Grove, NJ 07009

PLEASE RSVP TO  
*Barbara*  
at [shishkabarb@optonline.net](mailto:shishkabarb@optonline.net)  
by October 7

*Please join us in supporting our parish fundraiser  
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For questions, please contact Church Office  
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([rrpan2003@yahoo.com](mailto:rrpan2003@yahoo.com)) or Angelica  
([angledl2010@gmail.com](mailto:angledl2010@gmail.com))



AR.S Agnoui, Bergen County Armenouhi &  
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*A Parisian Night with an Armenian Heart*

Admission \$85  
Children 12 &  
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Delicious  
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A French-Armenian Musical Sensation Comes to  
New Jersey for the First Time

**Saturday, October 24, 2026 7:00 PM**

Sts. Vartanantz Armenian Church  
461 Bergen Blvd. Ridgefield, N.J. 07657

Special Performance by Hamazkayin Nayiri Dance Ensemble

[arsnjshakeh@gmail.com](mailto:arsnjshakeh@gmail.com)



BAIKAR WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

SAVE *the* DATE

10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
CELEBRATION



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2026



ST LEON CHURCH HALL  
FAIRLAWN, NEW JERSEY

*Details to follow!*

THANK YOU FOR 10 YEARS OF  
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# LILIT PIROYAN

Armenian Singer/Songwriter

## LIVE IN CONCERT

*A Special Afternoon of  
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 Sunday, November 22, 2026,  
at 1 PM

 Saint Mary Armenian Church  
Toufayan Hall  
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Livingston, NJ 07039

 Ticket: \$40

 Hospitality

For tickets, please call  
the Church Office at  
**(973) 533-9794**



Please send any information related to  
*Armenian Interests*  
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[TalinKupelian@gmail.com](mailto:TalinKupelian@gmail.com)



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JANUARY 16-23, 2027

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**Nersik & Arabo Ispiryan**  
ARMENIA



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SAVE *the* DATE

APRIL 10, 2027

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**Math Center of South Orange**

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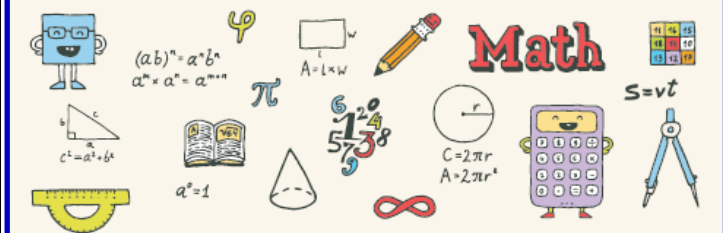
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We request that the information be sent to us two weeks in advance, so that we can serve the community better.  
(Please read our policy in the [Calendar of Events](#) section)

Please email all submissions to:  
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**Thank you!**

This newsletter was prepared with the highest attention to accuracy and detail  
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We thank all our readers for their continuous support and contribution to *Armenian Interests*

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