

Armenian Interests

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News & Events of the Armenian Community

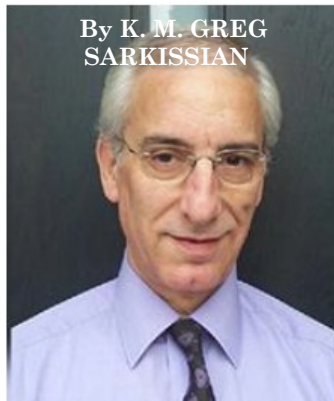
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The Armenian Church and the Republic: Beyond the Present Confrontation — From Preservation to Statehood

By K. M. GREG
SARKISSIAN



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.

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.

Continued on next page

The Armenian Church and the Republic
Continued from previous page



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

A Renewal for Generations to Come



By Stephan S. Nigohosian

For nearly six decades, the blessed sanctuary of St. Vartan Armenian Cathedral has echoed with the prayers, hymns and sacred melodies of the Armenian Church. On Sunday, August 30, 2026, those familiar sounds took on a special poignancy as the faithful gathered for one final Episcopal Badarak before the Cathedral begins a comprehensive interior restoration.

Yet this was not a farewell.

It was a morning filled with gratitude for all that has taken place within these walls since the Cathedral's consecration in 1968 and, even more importantly, with hope for everything still to come.

Diocesan Primate Bishop Mesrop Parsamyan celebrated the Divine Liturgy before the faithful gathered in the sanctuary and a worldwide congregation joining through the Diocese's livestream broadcast. Throughout the service, Bishop Mesrop's gestures and words conveyed the profound emotion and spiritual significance of the occasion.

The Divine Liturgy unfolded in all the timeless beauty of Armenian Christian

worship. Incense rose before the altar as the angelic voices of the St. Vartan Cathedral Choir, directed by Hasmik Mekanejian and accompanied by organist Kris Kalfayan, soared into the Cathedral's great dome and reverberated through the sanctuary.

Assisting Bishop Mesrop was Fr. Davit Karamyan, Vicar of St. Vartan Cathedral, as well as Fr. Voskan Hovhannisyan, of St. Mary Church in Livingston, NJ—along with a large contingent of deacons and altar servers.

It was a scene that has been repeated countless times over the past 60 years—and one that made the significance of this particular Sunday all the more palpable.

Since 1968, St. Vartan Cathedral has occupied a distinctive place in the landscape of New York City: an unmistakably Armenian Christian presence in the heart of America's largest city. Its walls have witnessed countless celebrations of the Badarak, baptisms and weddings, ordinations and funerals, national and ecclesiastical milestones, and moments of both great joy and profound sorrow.

Bishop Mesrop acknowledged those emotions in his homily.

"The word 'last' can sound sad," he said. "But in the language of faith, a last moment is often the beginning of something new. We are not closing a chapter because the story is finished. We are turning the page—because God is still writing our story."

Drawing on the Biblical Book of Ezra, the Primate recalled the Israelites rebuilding the Temple after exile, when

the rejoicing of some mingled with the weeping of those who remembered what had come before.

"I believe that is the sound in St. Vartan Cathedral today," he reflected. "It is the sound of gratitude and longing. And to God, both sounds are holy."

But Bishop Mesrop also challenged the faithful to see the coming renovation in more personal, spiritual terms.

As skilled hands repair what time has weakened, strengthen the Cathedral and renew its sacred spaces, he asked whether the faithful might allow Christ to undertake a similar renovation within themselves.

"Let the workers strengthen these walls. Let Christ strengthen our spirits," he said. "Let them renew this sanctuary. Let Christ renew our hearts."

After nearly six decades of continual use, that physical renewal has become necessary. The first phase of the Cathedral restoration addressed its exterior and was completed December 2024. Now, the revitalization moves inside. The comprehensive interior restoration will renew the Cathedral's essential systems and sacred spaces, including the creation of a new choir balcony that will become home to a magnificent pipe organ built especially for St. Vartan Cathedral.

Continued on next page



Kavookjian at the Cathedral's groundbreaking more than six decades ago was discovered in the Treasury Room. Bishop Mesrop brought that shovel forward and presented it with a blessing to members of the Building Committee—Haig Buchakjian,

The work is intended not simply to preserve a distinguished building, but to prepare a living church for the worship, ministry, and community life that will fill it for decades to come.

And while the Cathedral building will temporarily close, its worshipping community most certainly will not. "The cathedral building may close, but the Church will never close," Bishop Mesrop reminded the faithful.

Beginning September 13, the St. Vartan Cathedral congregation will celebrate Sunday Divine Liturgy at the nearby Catholic Church of Our Saviour on Park Avenue in Manhattan, while the Diocesan Center continues its ministries throughout the renovation period.

Following the Badarak came a moment that vividly connected St. Vartan's past with its future. While preparing the Cathedral for renovation, the original shovel used by Dadour Dadourian and Haik

Karl Anoushian, Kevin Lichten, and Nicholas Nazarian—whose leadership, commitment and vision have helped bring the renovation project to this moment.

When that shovel first broke the earth, St. Vartan Cathedral existed only as a vision. The people who held it could not yet see the sanctuary that would rise or know the generations that would worship there. They simply believed the future was worth building for.

"Sixty years ago, faithful hands broke this ground and began to build," Bishop Mesrop said. "Today, the shovel passes to us."

Following the ceremony, the faithful gathered downstairs for a special reception offering a detailed presentation of the work ahead, along with a musical program featuring violinist Sami Merdinian.

When St. Vartan Cathedral's doors

open again, projected for Spring 2028, the Cathedral will be approaching the 60th anniversary of its consecration. It will carry forward everything accumulated within its walls since 1968 while standing renewed and strengthened for generations still to come.

Bishop Mesrop offered a glimpse of that future: the choir once again singing the Badarak, incense rising beneath the restored vaults and the new pipe organ filling the Cathedral with music. There will be children yet to be baptized there, couples who will one day stand before its altar in marriage, future clergy to be ordained and people whose names are not yet known who will enter its doors searching for hope.

"The greatest chapter of its ministry may still be ahead of us," the Primate said joyously.

On this historic Sunday, the Cathedral community did not simply look back at nearly 60 years of memories. It looked forward.

The prayers were offered. The shovel was passed. And with gratitude for the generations that built St. Vartan and faith in those who will follow, the great work of renewal begins.

The online broadcast was directed by Yervant Keshishian, with Chris Zakian providing the narration. Mano Baghajian and Ani Villalba manned the handheld camera and social media. Harout Barsoumian photographed the service inside the sanctuary.

Armenian Radio Hour of NJ

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Bishop Mesrop Parsamyan, Primate of the Armenian Diocese of America, on a pilgrimage to The Cathedral of the Holy Cross on Aghtamar Island in Turkey's Lake Van



Pilgrims with Mount Ararat in the background

A group of 80 Armenians from all over New York, New Jersey Boston, Philly, Niagara Falls, Chicago and others communities are on a pilgrimage to The Cathedral of the Holy Cross on Aghtamar Island in Turkey's Lake Van. The group is led by Bishop

Mesrop Parsamyan, Primate of the Armenian Diocese of America, and two other clergy - Der Mardiros Chevian and Der Armash Bagdassarian.

The group is visiting the eastern region of Turkey and will travel to Kars,

Erzurum, Ani, Van, Kara, Dogubayazit, Mush, Lake Van, Urfa, Gaziantep, Adana, Tarsus, Antakya and Istanbul.

Primate Parsamyan is going to celebrate badarak at Aghtamar at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross (Soorp Khach) on Sunday September 6, 2026.

The Cathedral of the Holy Cross on Aghtamar Island in Turkey's Lake Van is opened to worship once a year, on the first Sunday of September, with the special permission of Turkey's Ministry of Culture and Tourism.

The Cathedral was built by King Gagik I in 915-921 and is of great importance for Armenians worldwide. Restoration of the Holy Cross Church began in 2005 and since 2007, the Cathedral has been open to visitors as a museum. Beginning in 2010, the church has opened once a year for liturgy, typically on the first Sunday in September.

Armenian Radio Hour of NJ

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

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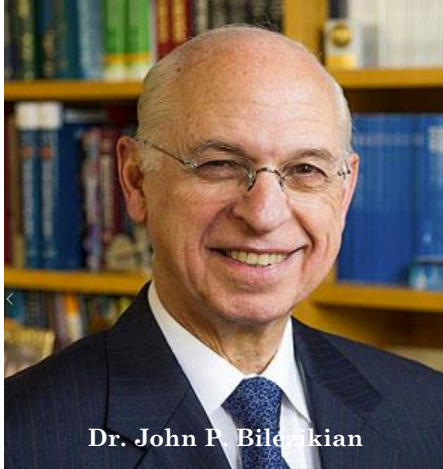
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AMAA NY/NJ Child Care Committee to Host Annual Child Care Benefit Evening Supporting Children in Armenia

September 22, 2026 | Sanzari's New Bridge Inn | New Milford, NJ

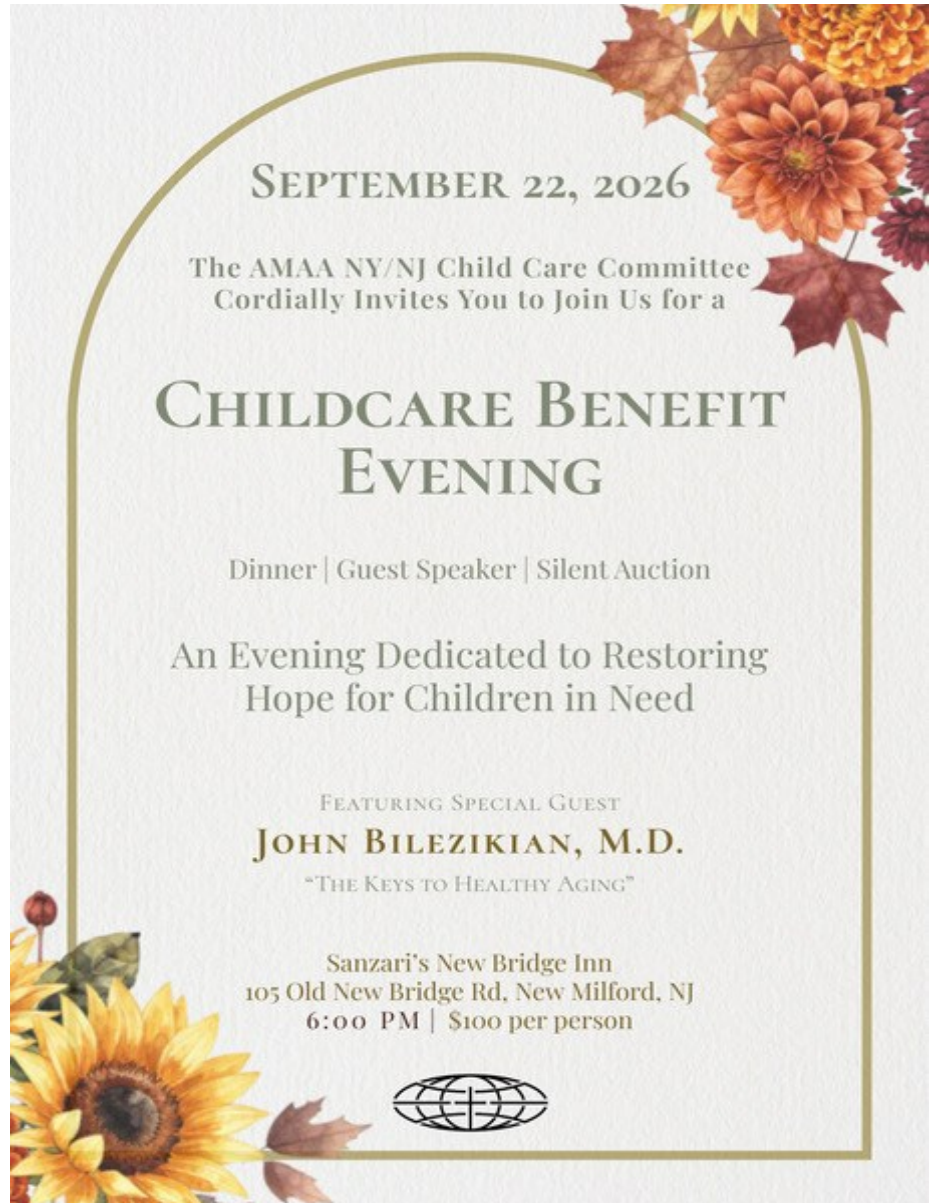


Dr. John P. Bilezikian

Paramus, NJ – The AMAA NY/NJ Child Care Committee will host its Child Care Benefit Evening on September 22, 2026, at 6:00 PM at Sanzari's New Bridge Inn in New Milford, New Jersey. The evening will bring together supporters and friends of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) for dinner, fellowship, a special presentation, and a silent auction—all in support of AMAA's Child Care Programs in Armenia.

Dedicated to restoring hope for children in need, the event will help support AMAA's ongoing efforts to provide care and opportunities for children in Armenia.

The evening will feature special guest speaker John P. Bilezikian, M.D., a world-renowned endocrinologist, who will present "The Keys to Healthy Aging." Dr. Bilezikian is Professor of Medicine and Pharmacology at Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons and one of the world's leading experts in osteoporosis and metabolic bone disease. He has authored more than 900 scientific publications and 10 books, received numerous international honors, and dedicated more than 50 years to advancing research and patient care. His work in Armenia has helped establish



osteoporosis diagnostic and treatment programs while training more than 100 physicians.

The event will be held at Sanzari's New Bridge Inn, 105 Old New Bridge Rd, New Milford, NJ. Tickets are \$100 per person, and proceeds will benefit AMAA's Child Care Programs in Armenia. Guests are asked to RSVP by September 14, 2026. To purchase tickets, please call AMAA at 201-265-

2607, ext. 117, or visit <https://amaa.org/nynjchildcarebenefit2026/>.

The AMAA NY/NJ Child Care Committee invites the community to join us for an evening of fellowship and support as we work together to make a meaningful difference in the lives of children in Armenia.

Poetry presented by Mrs. Zarmine Boghosian

Մեր Գրական Աշխարհի Ծաղկաստանին
♥♥♥ **Through the Orchards of Armenian**
Language & Poetry ♥♥♥ Sept. /5-6/2026
Presented by: Zarmine Boghosian

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ԱՀԱ ԵԿԱԻ ՍԵՊՏԵՄԲԵՐ

Երբ սեպտեմբեր եկաւ
Մենք պայուսակ բռնեցինք
Արձակուրդն աւարտուած
Դէպի դպրոց վազեցինք,

Երգ ու ծիծաղ միացան
Զանգի անուշ ղողանջին,
Արեւի պէս մեզ ժպտաց
Մեր ուսուցիչն առաջին:

Ա Բ Գ

ԿԱՐԷՆ ՏԵՄԻՐՃԵԱՆ

Դպրոցէն երեխան պէտք է դուրս գայ կրթուած,
բարեկիրթ, եթէ կ'ուզէք իմանալ՝ գրագիտութիւն
սորվեցնելէն յետոյ ամէն-նամեծ եւ ամենաբարդ
խնդիրը՝ բարեկիրթ երեխայ դաստիարակելն է:
Իւրաքանչիւր դպրոց պէտք է իւրովի մարդ
դաստիարակի, բարեկիրթ երեխայ դուրս բերի,
որպէսզի երեխան մինչեւ իր կեանքի վերջը
դրականը կապէ իր դպրոցի հետ, իսկ մենք դա
չենք անում, իսկ եթէ դա չենք անում՝ դպրոց չկայ:

Ա Բ Գ

ՀԱՅ ԳԵՂՋԿՈՒՀԻՆ -Խաչիկ Դաշտենց

Երբ թշնամին արշաւել է մեր երկիր,
Կործանելով ամէն գիր ու սրբութիւն,
Քո զաւակի թաթիկներից բռնելով
Դու տարել ես նրան հայոց վարժատուն:
Երբ երիկրդ դարձել է խեղճ տարագիր,
Ու լուսաստղը շփոթուել է տանիքիդ,
Դու շալակով ցախ ես կրել լուռ ու մունջ,
Որ վառ պահես ծուխը գեղջուկ տնակիդ:
Ու մտազբաղ, աչքը դատարկ պատերիդ,
Գլխաշորը տաք արցունքիդ քսելով,
Շտապել ես հարեւանիդ օգնութեան՝
Քո տաշտակի վերջին հացը կիսելով:

Դու ես պահել հնամենի մեր լեզուն
Քո սրտի մէջ ու խրճիթում շինական,
Ամէն բառը քո շուրթերին եփելով
Ինչպէս կարմիր գաթաները թոնրատան:

Առաւօտ վաղ, աքաղաղը չկանչած,
Դու ես հարել մեծ խնոցին՝ երգելով,
Եւ քո արդար բազուկներով մութի մէջ
Արշալոյսը կրծքիդ վրա ձեռքելով:

Ինչպէս հսկայ խաչերկաթը ջրդեղած
Տոկացել ես ամէն տեսակ կրակի,
Դու մայր ակիշ մեր անթեղած յոյսերի,
Անմար կանթեղ մեր լուսեղէն հաւատի:

Հիմա նորից հայրենիքում մեր նորոգ
Եւ օտարի այն հեռաւոր լուսնի տակ,
Դու ես պահում պատիւը հայ օջախի,
Տան խորշի մէջ դարեր վառուող սուրբ ճրագ:

Ա Բ Գ

ՀՈԳԵԽԱՌՈՆ ԶՕՆ ԾԵՐՈՒԹԵԱՆԸ

Միրվա Կապուտիկեան

Ինչ լա՛ւ է լինել ՈՒԹՍՈՒՆ տարեկան,
Հանդարտ գննել անցեալն ու ներկան,
Կեանքից լողալ դուրս ու կանգնել ափին,
Հեռացած նայել քո անցած ճամփին:

Ամէն ինչի հետ՝ սէր, խանդ ու արկած
Անդարձ, հիմնովին հաշիւը փակած,
Անցած սէրերիդ ժպիտով նայել,
Ինքդ քեզ գթալ, ինքդ քեզ ծաղրել,
Որ տառապել ես փուշ մարդկանց համար,
Եղել միամիտ, եղել ես յիմար,
Հաւատացել ես սուտ գաղափարին,
Ինքդ էլ չես ջոկել քո չարն ու բարին:

Ինչ լա՛ւ է՝ պարպուած սիրելու բեռից՝
Զնկատել իսկ հակառակ սեռին,
Զգացմունքներից խօսել հեզմանքով,
Դինջ, անմասնակից ու երրորդ դէմքով,

Ապրել հենց այնպէս, ազատ, անփական,–
Ինչ լա՛ւ է լինել ՈՒԹՍՈՒՆ տարեկան:

Ինչ լա՛ւ է լինել ՈՒԹՍՈՒՆ տարեկան,
Վերանալ հողից ու քեզնի՛ց անգամ,
Լինել մի ծերուկ, մի պարզուկ պառաւ,
Քեզանով չափել աշխարհը արար,

Գլխացաւանքից քեզ հեռու պահել,
Միշտ տրտնջալու իրաւունք չահել,
Լինել մի քիչ խուլ, խռովկան մի քիչ.
Գլուխ չհանել նոր ժամանակից

Ու կամաց-կամաց հասկանալ, զգալ,
Որ նայում են քեզ՝ որպէս մի մանկան,
Որ արդէն տալիք-առնելիք չունես,
Որ կեանքում արդէն անելիք չունես,

Որ լաւ կը լինի ինքդ քեզ յարգես,
Ինքդ քո ձեռքով իրերդ կապես,
Ճանապարհ ընկնես հաշտ ու ինքնակամ...

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We Armenia



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Armenian Interests

EU Parliament committee approves trade liberalization measures for Armenian products



The European Parliament's Committee on International Trade (INTA) has approved the temporary removal of tariffs on a wide range of goods imported into the European Union from Armenia, amid the situation created by trade restrictions imposed by Russia on Armenian exports.

Armenpress Brussels reporter said the proposal presented by the European Commission was adopted without amendments on September 3, with 35 votes in favor, 2 against, and 3 abstentions.

Under the proposal, the European Union plans to remove tariffs on a number of Armenian products for a period of two years.

At the same time, tariff-free import quotas are to be established for eight types of Armenian agricultural products. These include grapes, apricots, cherries, peaches, and cucumbers.

The measure is prompted by restrictions imposed by Russia since May 2026 on a number of key Armenian export products. These concern, in particular, alcoholic beverages, mineral water, fruits and vegetables, as well as their transit through Russia.

According to the European Commission, these restrictions have disrupted Armenia's traditional supply chains and significantly limited the country's access to traditional export markets. The situation has had a particularly severe impact on small and medium-sized enterprises, as well as agricultural producers, while also creating challenges for Armenia's economic resilience.

The EU views the initiative as a temporary measure to support the Armenian economy and create additional opportunities for exporters to access the EU market.

The Council of the EU earlier this week agreed to introduce temporary trade-liberalization measures for Armenian products to support Armenia's economy following trade restrictions recently imposed by Russia.

These measures will liberalize around 80% of Armenian exports to the EU, the Council said in a press release ahead of submitting it to the INTA.

This preferential arrangement comes with certain conditions and also includes safeguard measures to protect the EU market if imports adversely affect EU producers.

The Council endorsed the Commission proposal without changes, clearing the way for the regulation to be swiftly adopted after the European Parliament is also expected to approve the proposal without amendments.

"Europe stands with Armenia and its people, who have chosen a clear path for reform and closer cooperation with the European Union. Today's decision sends a clear message: when faced with economic coercion, the EU will respond. We will

create new opportunities and stand with our partners," said Helen McEntee, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade of Ireland.

The regulation introduces a temporary suspension of import duties for a broad range of Armenian products, including selected agricultural products subject to tariff-rate quotas. The measures will apply for two years from the regulation's entry into force and will cover almost 99% of Armenia's exports of fresh fruit, vegetables and plants to Russia and more than 91% of beverages and spirits.

The proposed regulation is intended to support Armenia after trade restrictions imposed by Russia have disrupted Armenian exports and transit routes. It also aims to strengthen EU-Armenia trade relations in line with the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA).

The preferential arrangements remain conditional on Armenia complying with the applicable rules of origin, engaging in administrative cooperation with the EU, refraining from introducing new trade restrictions on EU imports and respecting the essential elements of the CEPA, including democratic principles, the rule of law and human rights.

The European Parliament is expected to adopt its position without amendments during its September plenary session. Once that position is formally adopted, the Council will approve it and the regulation will be adopted, entering into force on the day following its publication in the Official journal of the EU.

Pashinyan: Armenia will not object if Russia decides to pull out military base



Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan has stated that Armenia will not object if Russia decides to withdraw its military base from Armenia.

Pashinyan made the statement at a press briefing when asked to comment on Russian President Vladimir Putin's latest remarks.

Putin said Russia is ready to withdraw its military base from Gyumri "even tomorrow" if Armenia decides it no longer needs it, while saying Moscow would remain if the Armenian people want its military presence.

"We have not raised the issue of the Russian military base even once during this period, and it is not the case that we consider the presence of the

Russian 102nd Military Base on the territory of Armenia to be a vital necessity," Pashinyan said.

"If Russia decides to withdraw the military base from Armenia, we will not object, but if they express a desire to remain, we are also ready to discuss that. But during this period, we have never raised these issues," Pashinyan added.

Russia's 102nd Military Base is located in Gyumri, Armenia.

Putin: Russia Could Withdraw Its Military Base from Gyumri "As Early as Tomorrow" If Armenia No Longer Wants It



Russian President Vladimir Putin said that Russia could withdraw its military base from Gyumri as early as tomorrow if Armenia decides that it no longer needs the Russian military presence.

"If Armenia believes that it does not need the Russian base in Gyumri, we will leave even tomorrow," Putin said during a press briefing.

"Is Armenia ready for that? We are

not going to impose anything on anyone. But if the Armenian people want some form of Russian military presence, we will stay," the Russian president said.

Putin also said that Russia and Armenia have agreed to conduct discussions concerning the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) and the European Union in a calm and constructive manner. He added that he had invited Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan to Moscow so that they could "sit down and go through the various issues point by point."

Among the issues to be addressed in the bilateral talks, Putin mentioned Yerevan's choice between the EAEU and the EU, as well as matters related to Armenia's railway system.

The Russian president noted that

Armenia receives significant benefits from its membership in the EAEU, stressing that these advantages extend beyond favorable energy prices.

"We are connected with the Armenian people by historic bonds of friendship—and even more than friendship. Our relations with Armenians, with the Armenian people as a whole, have very deep roots, including in this region of the world," Putin said.

"However, it is simply impossible to be part of both organizations at the same time. Phytosanitary regulations, technical standards and many other requirements are, as things stand today, incompatible," he added.

Armenian-Turkish Business Forum Opens in Yerevan



A two-day forum bringing together representatives of the Armenian and Turkish business communities has opened in Yerevan.

The event was organized by the Union of Manufacturers and Businessmen of Armenia as part of the EU-funded program “Support to Armenia-Turkey Normalization: Strengthening Cross-Border Relations.”

The forum aims to bring together representatives of the business



communities and government institutions of Armenia and Turkey to discuss opportunities for economic cooperation, identify new areas and formats for collaboration, and promote the establishment of new business ties and partnerships.

The event will feature discussions and meetings focusing on the potential for bilateral economic cooperation, the development of business ties and opportunities for cross-border collaboration.



Research findings on opportunities and existing obstacles to road transportation between Armenia and Turkey will also be presented. Participants will discuss the next steps in Armenian-Turkish economic cooperation.

In addition, bilateral business-to-business (B2B) meetings will bring together representatives of the information technology and tourism sectors from the two countries.

PM Pashinyan appoints new Tourism Committee chief

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan has appointed Deputy Minister of Economy Anushik Avetyan as the new chair of the Tourism Committee, replacing Lusine Gevorgyan.

Gevorgyan left the position on August 29.

Avetyan has served as Deputy Minister of Economy since April 2025. Before that, she was executive director of the American Chamber of Commerce in Armenia (AmCham).

The decrees on her dismissal as deputy minister and appointment as Tourism Committee chair were posted online on Wednesday.



EU Council backs temporary trade-liberalization measures for Armenian products



The Council of the EU today agreed to introduce temporary trade-liberalization measures for Armenian products to support Armenia's economy following trade restrictions recently imposed by Russia.

These measures will liberalize around 80% of Armenian exports to the EU, the Council said in a press release.

This preferential arrangement comes with certain conditions and also includes safeguard measures to protect the EU market if imports adversely affect EU producers.

The Council endorsed the Commission proposal without changes, clearing the

way for the regulation to be swiftly adopted after the European Parliament is also expected to approve the proposal without amendments.

“Europe stands with Armenia and its people, who have chosen a clear path for reform and closer cooperation with the European Union. Today's decision sends a clear message: when faced with economic coercion, the EU will respond. We will create new opportunities and stand with our partners,” said Helen McEntee, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade of Ireland.

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The proposed regulation is intended to support Armenia after trade

restrictions imposed by Russia have disrupted Armenian exports and transit routes. It also aims to strengthen EU-Armenia trade relations in line with the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA).

The preferential arrangements remain conditional on Armenia complying with the applicable rules of origin, engaging in administrative cooperation with the EU, refraining from introducing new trade restrictions on EU imports and respecting the essential elements of the CEPA, including democratic principles, the rule of law and human rights.

The European Parliament is expected to adopt its position without amendments during its September plenary session. Once that position is formally adopted, the Council will approve it and the regulation will be adopted, entering into force on the day following its publication in the Official journal of the EU.

Armenian, Pakistani FM's discuss bilateral agenda

Armenian Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan had an exchange with his Pakistani counterpart and Deputy PM Mohammad Ishaq Dar in Bishkek on the sidelines of the SCO summit.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Ani Badalyan said the sides discussed expanding the bilateral agenda and touched upon regional developments.

Foreign Minister Mirzoyan is part of PM Nikol Pashinyan's delegation to Bishkek. The Armenian Prime Minister is participating in the SCO Plus meeting held as part of the SCO summit.



We are interested in further developing and deepening our relations with Russia – Pashinyan at meeting with Putin in Bishkek



Armenia is interested in further developing and deepening its relations with Russia.

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said this during a meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Bishkek on September 1.

“We are interested in further

developing and deepening our relations with Russia. But it should also be noted that in recent years the situation in our region, around Armenia, has changed, and it seems to us that the situation should be viewed from this perspective, because in a conflict situation relations between Armenia and Russia had a different meaning, whereas now, when peace has been established in the region, it seems to us that the situation should be looked at with a fresh perspective.

“I believe this will contribute to the development of our relations. We mean the deepening and development of our relations. And this is very important.”

In a video posted on his Facebook page, Pashinyan said:

“I had a very good meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin. We agreed to continue our frank and constructive conversation during my upcoming visit to Moscow. It should be noted that Armenia-Russia relations are extremely important for both countries, and we treat these relations with great care. The Russian Federation, under President Putin’s leadership, also treats them with great care.

“But it should also be noted that, in the new environment and under the new conditions, there is a need to redefine these relations, and as a result of this redefinition, I am convinced that the relations will be better, more constructive, more mutually beneficial and warmer.”

Armenian-Turkish business forum and Armenia Expo 2026 to be held in Yerevan



A two-day forum involving representatives of the Armenian and Turkish business communities will be held in Yerevan from September 3 to 4. It is being organised by the Union of Manufacturers and Businessmen of Armenia within the framework of the EU-funded programme “Support to the Normalisation of Armenia-Türkiye Relations: Strengthening Cross-Border

Links”, according to a press release issued by the Union.

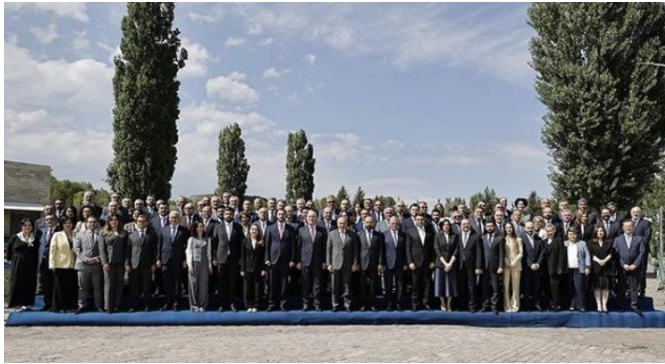
The aim of the forum is to bring together representatives of the business communities and state institutions of Armenia and Türkiye on one platform to discuss opportunities for economic cooperation between the two countries, identify new areas and formats for cooperation, and promote the establishment of new business ties and partnerships.

The event will include discussions and meetings on the potential for bilateral economic cooperation, the development of business ties and opportunities for cross-border cooperation.

In particular, the results of a study on the opportunities and existing obstacles related to Armenia-Türkiye transport links will be presented. A panel discussion will also be held on the next steps in Armenian-Turkish economic cooperation, while bilateral business-to-business (B2B) meetings between representatives of the two countries are expected to include contacts between representatives of the IT and tourism sectors.

Armenia Expo 2026 will also be held on September 4 at the Karen Demirchyan Sports and Concerts Complex, where the Armenian-Turkish business forum will continue.

Prime Minister and President Meet Foreign



Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and President Vahagn Khachaturyan met in Gyumri with senior officials of Armenia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and heads of the country's diplomatic missions abroad who are participating in the ministry's annual workshop.

The meeting was also attended by National Assembly Speaker Ruben Rubinyan, Deputy Prime Minister Mher Grigoryan, Prime Minister's Chief of Staff Lilit Makunts, Security Council Secretary Alen Simonyan.

Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan, and other representatives of Armenia's legislative and executive branches.

Pashinyan delivered remarks highlighting the decision to rename the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as the Ministry of

Foreign Affairs and International Trade. He noted that similar models exist in various countries and said the main purpose of the change is to give greater prominence to the economic dimension and function of Armenia's international relations.

In his remarks, Pashinyan also addressed the government's balanced and balancing foreign policy, the fundamental directions of Armenia's foreign policy, efforts aimed at diversifying the economy, the country's



priorities in international relations, and upcoming initiatives.

The prime minister's remarks were followed by discussions on key issues on Armenia's foreign policy agenda.

Around 33,000 first-graders registered for school in Armenia this academic year

According to data currently available in the Education Management Information System, around 415,000 students are enrolled in schools in Armenia. As of August 31, around 33,000 of them had been registered to attend first grade this year.

The Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport said the registration process is still ongoing.

“The first bell has rung at around 1,390 schools operating in Armenia. The data on first-graders and students

attending general education schools this academic year will be compiled after September 5," the ministry said in a statement on September 1.

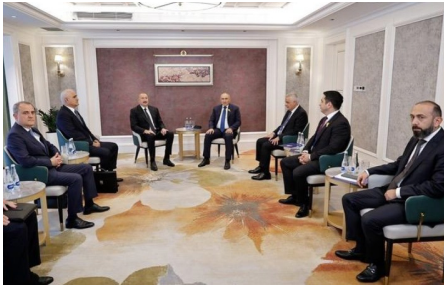
This academic year has been declared the Year of Reading in general education schools, with a number of initiatives planned throughout the year to encourage students to read.

The Year of Reading will launch on September 4 as part of the ninth International Book Festival.



Each month of the academic year will be dedicated to a particular literary genre or trend. The theme for September is the epic “Daredevils of Sassoun.”

Nikol Pashinyan met Ilham Aliyev at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit in Bishkek on August 31, 2026



Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan met with President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev on the margins of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit in Bishkek on August 31, 2026.

The leaders highlighted the historic significance of the Washington Peace Summit of 8 August 2025. Also, the export of Azerbaijani petroleum products to Armenia, the transit through the territory of Azerbaijan to Armenia of grain and other goods originating from third countries, as well as the establishment of trade relations between the two countries

were highlighted as important practical manifestations of the dividends of peace.

The leaders also welcomed contacts between the business communities and exchanged views on opportunities for further expanding mutually beneficial economic, trade and energy cooperation. The sides noted the important role of the respective state commissions on the delimitation of the state border between Armenia and Azerbaijan and emphasized the importance of continuing their work in accordance with the agreements reached between the two countries.

The leaders discussed further practical steps related to the implementation of the Trump Route for International Peace and Prosperity (TRIPP), one of the important outcomes of the Washington Peace Summit, and underlined the significance of connectivity projects along the TRIPP. The leaders positively assessed confidence-building contacts involving



parliamentarians and representatives of civil society, noting their contribution to strengthening mutual trust and supporting the broader peace agenda.

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and President Ilham Aliyev agreed, through direct bilateral engagement, to continue the steps to further consolidate lasting peace, advance the normalization of interstate relations, and strengthen connectivity.

30 minutes outside Yerevan, stands world's tallest statue of Jesus Chris

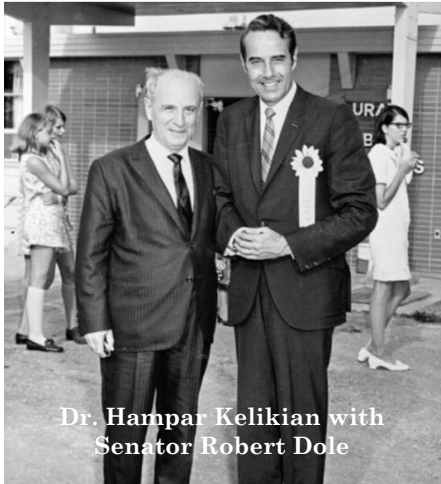


30 minutes outside Yerevan, stands what may become the world's tallest statue of Jesus Christ, what is becoming one of Armenia's most curious attractions, marked on Google Maps as 'Statue de Jesus Christ en construction'.

The project is the brainchild of former armwrestling champion turned businessman and politician Gagik Tsarukyan.

At a combined height of 77 metres (253ft), the completed structure would surpass Brazil's Christ the Redeemer and overtake existing record-holding Christ monuments in Poland and Indonesia.

Dr. Hampar Kelikian: An Armenian Genocide Survivor Who Became an American Healer (1899 - 1983)



Dr. Hampar Kelikian with
Senator Robert Dole

Dr. Hampar Kelikian was a pioneering orthopedic surgeon whose remarkable life connected the Armenian Genocide, American medicine, World War II, Armenian culture, and one of the most enduring friendships in American political history.

Hampar Kelikian was born Hamparzoom Keklikian on January 17, 1899, in Hadjin, then part of the Ottoman Empire. Raised in a strongly Armenian household, he inherited from his father, Yeghishe Gakvonts, a deep sense of discipline, determination, and Armenian identity.

The Armenian Genocide forever marked his life. Three of his sisters were killed. As a young man, Hampar escaped the violence and came to the United States in 1920. He arrived in Chicago with only two dollars in his pocket and a rug from his homeland. From those humble beginnings, he built an extraordinary life.

Kelikian studied at the University of Chicago and Rush Medical College and trained at Cook County Hospital. He became a distinguished orthopedic surgeon and a pioneer in reconstructive surgery, helping restore limbs severely damaged by injury or disease.

During World War II, he served as chief orthopedic surgeon and

lieutenant colonel at the 297th General Hospital, treating wounded American servicemen and developing techniques to restore function to severely damaged limbs.

Among his patients was a young Army officer named Bob Dole.

Dole had been gravely wounded in Italy in 1945 while serving with the 10th Mountain Division. His right shoulder and arm were devastated, threatening his future. After years of treatment, he came to Chicago seeking Kelikian's help.

Between 1947 and 1953, Kelikian operated on Dole seven times, performing complex reconstructive procedures to restore movement and function to his injured arm.

But Kelikian gave Dole more than surgery. He gave him a way forward.

Dole later said that Kelikian's influence on his life was second only to that of his family. The surgeon taught him to focus on what he still had and what he could still accomplish, rather than being consumed by what he had lost.

There was also a deeply personal reason Kelikian refused payment. His brother Siragan had been killed in Italy during the war, and Kelikian had a special compassion for wounded veterans. Dole repeatedly recalled that the surgeon never accepted a penny for his seven operations.

The relationship between surgeon and patient became a lifelong friendship.

When Kelikian died in Chicago on July 24, 1983, at the age of eighty-four, Senator Bob Dole rose in the United States Senate to honor him. Dole remembered not simply a great surgeon, but a man who had changed his life.

He recalled the Armenian immigrant who had arrived in Chicago with two

dollars and a rug from his homeland. He remembered Kelikian's wartime service and his extraordinary surgical skill. Most importantly, he remembered the philosophy Kelikian had given him: after terrible loss, a person must focus on what remains and make the most of it.

Kelikian understood suffering because he had experienced it himself. He had escaped the violence that destroyed his childhood, lost three sisters, crossed an ocean, and built a new life in America. He understood that healing was not merely mechanical. It meant recognizing the human being behind the injury.

His life also extended far beyond medicine.

Kelikian was deeply devoted to Armenian culture and literature. He loved Armenian writers and poets, including Yeghishe Charents, Avetik Isahakian, and Hovhannes Shiraz. He wrote about literature and maintained a lifelong connection to Armenian intellectual life.

In his essay "The Mentor I Missed," about the Armenian writer and critic Hagop Oshagan, Kelikian expressed his regret at never having been Oshagan's student and praised his extraordinary contribution to Armenian literature.

For Kelikian, medicine and Armenian culture were not separate worlds. Both reflected his concern for human dignity, suffering, memory, and the ability to create meaning from difficult lives.

He also visited Soviet Armenia in 1937. For a survivor of the Genocide, the experience was complicated and painful. He viewed the events of that year as another great tragedy for the Armenian people, with 1915 being the first.

Continued on next page

Dr. Hampar Kelikian
Continued from previous page

This reveals something fundamental about Kelikian's identity.

For him, being Armenian was not simply ancestry or birthplace. It was memory and responsibility. It was family, language, literature, suffering, survival, and service to others.

Perhaps that is why his medical career became so meaningful. He had seen people lose almost everything, and he devoted his life to helping people recover something: the use of a limb, a child's ability to walk, a wounded soldier's independence, or simply a patient's dignity.

Even at eighty, Kelikian was performing approximately ten operations a week. He became an emeritus associate professor of orthopedic surgery and wrote important works on hand, ankle, and foot surgery. He also continued writing about Armenian poetry and modern literature.

His reputation extended beyond the Armenian community. William

Saroyan admired him not only as a brilliant surgeon but as a compassionate human being—someone equally comfortable with a child in a hospital or a poet at a dinner table.

Kelikian's family continued his legacy. His son Armen became a surgeon, while his daughters Alice and Virginia carried forward his memory. He was married to Ovsanna, née Kupelian.

The story of Hampar Kelikian is therefore much larger than the story of a surgeon.

It is the story of an Armenian survivor who escaped genocide, lost members of his family, crossed an ocean, and built a life of extraordinary service in America.

It is the story of a physician who treated wounded soldiers and children with severe injuries and deformities. It is the story of an Armenian intellectual who never abandoned his language, literature, or cultural identity. And it is the story of a friendship that profoundly influenced the life of Bob

Dole.

That friendship also had consequences beyond their personal relationship. Decades later, Dole became a prominent advocate for Armenia and for official recognition of the Armenian Genocide. Kelikian's influence was an important part of that evolution.

Kelikian never forgot the Armenian people, the sisters he lost, the brother he lost, or the homeland from which he had escaped.

And he never stopped believing in healing.

His hands repaired broken bodies. His knowledge restored movement where others saw permanent disability. His compassion helped wounded people understand that their lives were not over simply because their bodies had been changed forever.

Armenian Poets Celebrated in National Literary Magazine

HANGING LOOSE 119



Eleven Armenian writers from around the globe are featured in a specially curated section of the current issue of Hanging Loose, the

oldest independent literary journal in the country.

Every semi-annual issue—roughly a hundred pages of work by American and international writers—turns over about twenty percent of the magazine to a guest editor, who selects poets and

poems for that special section, sometimes with a particular theme.

In this issue—Hanging Loose number 119, just out—distinguished Armenian-American poet Alan Semerdjian is guest editor. In the introduction to his selection of work by Armenian and Armenian-American poets, titled *Through the Darkest Corridors*, he says this:

Wherever we are, there is Armenia. And wherever Armenia is, there is the ghost of the Genocide hovering near it, inextricably tied. May we all learn from that which haunts us, and may it become our greatest folio of instruction.

Thus the section focuses on the continuing impact of the Armenian Genocide, as it affects contemporary writers' lives, memories, and art. All the poems are in English, though some are translations from Armenian. For those, the original Armenian language versions appear on facing pages—a proud first for Hanging Loose.

Poets and translators featured in the magazine include Diana Arterian, Peter Balakian, Lory Bedikian, Tamar Marie Boyadjian, Tatev Chakhian, Gregory Djanikian, Sarah Giragosian, Silva Kaputikyan, Karén Karslyan, Margarit Ordukhanyan, and Marine Petrossian.

Renowned Composer and Conductor Loris Tjeknavorian Granted Armenian Citizenship



YEREVAN — Renowned composer and conductor Loris Tjeknavorian has been granted citizenship of the Republic of Armenia, formalizing a connection with the country that has defined much of his life and career.

For decades, Tjeknavorian belonged to Armenia, and Armenia regarded him as one of its own. He worked extensively in the country, composed music about Armenia and dedicated much of his creative life to it. Yet one contradiction remained: despite his deep ties to Armenia, his legal status did not reflect that connection, as he was not an Armenian citizen.

That circumstance had long been one of the more notable aspects of the celebrated composer and conductor's life.

Born in Borujerd, Iran, and educated in Vienna, Salzburg and Michigan,

Tjeknavorian went on to work and compose in London and New York. He could have built his career entirely on some of the world's most prestigious stages, but beginning in 1989, his path led him back to Armenia.

"My father raised me with a strong sense of patriotism, and it was always my dream to come to Armenia," Tjeknavorian recalled. "Although I had a major career abroad, when the earthquake happened, I forgot everything and came to my homeland. I began my work on the path toward saying 'Yes to Independence.' The national anthem of our republic, the tricolor and the coat of arms were sacred to me."

For the maestro, citizenship and identity have always been two distinct concepts. Citizenship represents a lasting legal bond with a state, while being Armenian is a matter of identity.

"Although the people have accepted me, I thought it would be good to also have the passport of my homeland. I applied, and thank God, my dream came true," he said.

"It was very emotional for me because when the national anthem was played and I saw the flag and the coat of arms, I remembered that I had once fought

for those very symbols in the National Assembly, presenting them to the people and defending them. And today, under those same symbols, I myself took an oath to my homeland to remain faithful to it."

Years later, Tjeknavorian is now officially a citizen of the Republic of Armenia.

The bond that for decades existed through his music, work and identity has now also been recognized legally. If for many years he considered Armenia his own, that sense of belonging has now been formally affirmed.

"I grew up an orphan. Strangely, I never really had a country," Tjeknavorian said. "In Persia I was Armenian, in Armenia I was Persian, and in foreign countries I was a foreigner. I never understood what it meant to have a country. I did not have one."

"I always felt that I belonged to Armenia, and when I left here, it was a great loss for me. I truly felt orphaned."

"For the past week, I have felt that I finally have a country. And for that, I am grateful."

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of our readers...
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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

- ◆ [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 18, 2026 - A Taste of Armenian Heritage](#)
- ◆ [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](#)
- ◆ [December 12, 2026 - 23rd annual COAF event](#)

UPCOMING AGBU EVENTS

1. From Within: Strings & Voices
Pegasus: The Orchestra 10th Anniversary Season
 1. Saturday, September 26th at 7:00pm at the DiMenna Center
 2. Ticket Link: <https://secure.givelively.org/event/pegasus-the-orchestra-inc/from-within-strings-voices>
2. Pegasus: The Orchestra presents Brilliance in Motion
 1. Saturday, October 24th at 7:30pm at Kaufman Music Center
 2. Ticket Link: <https://www.kaufmanmusiccenter.org/mch/event/PegasusBrilliance/>
3. AGBU 94th General Assembly
 1. Thursday, October 15th – Saturday, October 17th in Montreal, Canada
 2. Event Page : <https://agbu.org/general-assembly>
4. Armenians in Film at Lincoln Center 2026
 1. *This event can be shared as a save the date listing.*
 2. Tuesday, December 15th at 8:00pm at Film at Lincoln Center
 3. Event Page Link: <https://agbu.org/armenians-film-lincoln-center-2026-2026>

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](#)

92ND ANNUAL AYF OLYMPIC GAMES

HOSTED BY THE NEW JERSEY "ARSEN" CHAPTER



FRIDAY September 4TH

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 5TH

SOFTBALL

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

8AM - 5PM

SUNDAY September 6TH

TRACK & FIELD

GEORGE W. HODGINS
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8AM - 5PM

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\$75.00

6 & under are free!

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Access to all four
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INDIVIDUAL TICKET PRICING

THURSDAY - \$25

FRIDAY - \$70

SATURDAY - \$85

SUNDAY - \$80

WE'LL SEE YOU ON THE DANCE FLOOR!

FRIDAY September 4TH

ALUMNI DANCE

AYF ALUMNI BAND
TEANECK MARRIOT - GRAND
BALLROOM

7:00PM

AYF DANCE

HAROUT BEDROSSIAN &
BAND

TEANECK MARRIOT -
GRAND BALLROOM

10:30PM

SATURDAY September 5TH

SATURDAY NIGHT

ELIE BERBERIAN
TEANECK MARRIOT - GRAND
BALLROOM

DOORS OPEN 8PM

9:00PM

DJ GLO

TEANECK MARRIOT - GRAND
BALLROOM

SUNDAY September 6TH

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

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12PM - 7PM **RAIN OR SHINE**



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Kirikian
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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH, 9:00 AM

School Hours 9:00 AM - 1:15 PM

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CONTACTS

**Ani@lacapan.com or
Talar@sarafian1.com**

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Armenian Reading, Writing, Conversation, Literature, History, Geography for Upper Grades, Religion, Dance, Badarak Hymns, Folk Songs, Arts & Crafts, Parties & Talent Shows

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

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FOR **2½** YEAR-OLDS BY SEPTEMBER 1ST



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2 ½ Year-Olds By September 1st • Optional Flexible Schedule • Rich Curriculum Includes Musical Instruments, Lots of Leg and Body Movement with Armenian Music, Blowing Bubbles and Much More • Singing • Fun Activities and Holiday Parties

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INFO CONTACTS

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

<https://www.facebook/kirikianarmenianschool>
www.armenianschoolstthomas.com

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The AMAA NY/NJ Child Care Committee
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Sanzari's New Bridge Inn
105 Old New Bridge Rd, New Milford, NJ
6:00 PM | \$100 per person



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

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



SCAN ME

Tekeyan Cultural Association Greater New York
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of New Jersey presents



ROMANTIC SOUL: MASTERPIECES FOR PIANO TRIO

Featuring works by
*Khachaturian, Mendelssohn,
Naregatsi, Babajanian
and others*



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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

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
by October 7

*Please join us in supporting our parish fundraiser
by purchasing an event ticket and Tricky Tray raffle tickets
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*Your support helps strengthen our parish
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For questions, please contact Church Office
at (973) 533-9794 or email to Roxanne
(rrpan2003@yahoo.com) or Angelica
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A TASTE OF ARMENIAN HERITAGE

SUNDAY OCT. 18 | TUTAK HALL

PLEASE JOIN US AFTER COFFEE HOUR ♦ 12:30pm

Cooking with Mari | Adults \$20 | Students \$10 | Kids 12&u Free
Learn to prepare traditional dishes and the history behind them



Hosted by St. Gregory Cultural Committee

Kindly RSVP by Oct. 11th to stgregoryculturalcommittee@gmail.com



MARI FIRKATIAN is a Professor of History and Chair of the Hillyer Humanities Department at the University of Hartford. Having lived and traveled extensively throughout Southeast Europe, the Levant, and the former Soviet Union, Prof. Firkatian brings a unique perspective that combines historical scholarship with a passion for preserving and sharing cultural traditions through food. **JOIN US!**

St. Gregory the Enlightener Armenian Church, 1131 North St. White Plains, NY 10605 | 914-428-2595



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arsnjshakeh@gmail.com



BAIKAR WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

SAVE *the* DATE

10TH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2026



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Details to follow!

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23RD ANNUAL COAF HOLIDAY GALA

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SAVE *the* DATE

APRIL 10, 2027

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ANNIVERSARY

Shushi

Armenian Dance Ensemble

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SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 6, 2027



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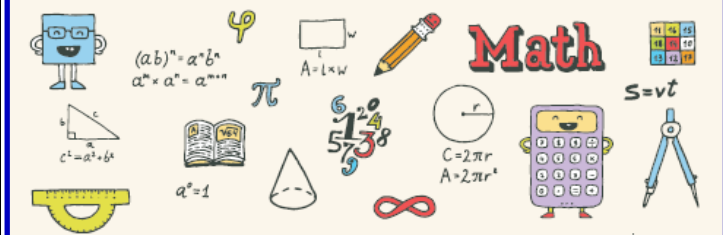
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Armenian Interests e-newsletter serves all Armenian non-profit organizations and churches. We gladly post all flyers and press releases submitted by officers of the organization. Information makes us all a better and healthier community.

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

Please email all submissions to:
TalinKupelian@gmail.com

Thank you!

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

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

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