

Armenian Interests

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News & Events of the Armenian Community

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Armenian Interests
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Signing and Ratifying Peace Agreement Should Be Among Government's Priorities, Pashinyan Says



The Armenian government should translate public confidence in peace into a final outcome through the signing and ratification of a peace agreement, Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said during a Cabinet meeting on October 1.

According to Pashinyan, economic activity and indicators in the real estate market reflect optimism among Armenian citizens.

The prime minister said the economy is closely linked to people's expectations and public sentiment. He argued

that current economic indicators demonstrate confidence in peace despite what he described as alarmist assessments circulating in the media.

Pashinyan said that peace is already a reality but has not yet been fully institutionalized. According to him, the government must meet public expectations and bring the process to completion.

"We have reached an intermediate stage. But it is an intermediate stage, not the final destination. We must move toward the final

destination," Pashinyan said.

In discussing the need to sign and ratify a peace agreement, Pashinyan also referred to the TRIPP project, border delimitation, the opening of regional communications, the normalization process with Turkey, the North-South highway, and the "Crossroads of Peace" initiative.

He urged members of the government to shape their political messages and strategies around these priorities, while focusing on practical issues affecting people's daily lives and on concrete solutions.

According to Pashinyan, the government should not allow the daily flow of information and political noise to distract it from its principal objectives.

Headline News



Armenian Interests

In Memoriam: Richard Manoogian (1936-2026)



With deep sorrow, the Eastern Diocese mourns the passing of Richard A. Manoogian, the renowned American business leader, philanthropist, patron of the arts, and devoted benefactor of the Armenian Church and people. He passed away on September 25, at age 90.

For five decades, Manoogian was the guiding force behind Masco Corporation, the company founded by his father, Alex Manoogian. Joining Masco in 1958, Richard conceived an ambitious plan of expansion while still a young man, and went on to transform an already successful family enterprise into a global leader in the home improvement and building products industries. He became Masco's president and chief operating officer in 1968, and later served as chairman and chief executive officer.

The son of legendary Armenian American benefactors Alex and Marie Manoogian, and brother of the late AGBU president Louise Manoogian Simone, Richard inherited an extraordinary family tradition of service to the Armenian Church and people. But he expressed that legacy in a distinctive way, bringing to it his own gifts of leadership, judgment, generosity, and quiet dependability.

Throughout his life, Richard Manoogian was a faithful friend of the Eastern Diocese, the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin, the Armenian General Benevolent Union, and his home parish of St. John Armenian Church in Southfield, MI. Armenian Church leaders—including catholicos, patriarchs, and Diocesan primates—valued not only his generous support, but also his wise and candid counsel.

On numerous occasions, he placed the resources of Masco at the service of the church. During pontifical visits he provided company aircraft for the Catholicos of All Armenians, and graciously welcomed church leaders and dignitaries to Michigan. In 2003, during the Eastern Diocese's 101st Diocesan Assembly, he hosted a memorable reception for clergy and delegates at Masco headquarters.

"Richard understood that the blessings we receive in life come with a responsibility to others," said Diocesan Primate Bishop Mesrop Parsamyan. "He was entrusted with an honored family name and added his own distinction to it. He inherited from Alex and Marie a love for the Armenian Church and people, and expressed that inheritance in his own way. Through it all, he earned the

trust of others—and what is more: he proved himself worthy of that trust."

Richard's generosity extended beyond the Armenian community. He and his dear wife, Jane, supported educational, cultural, civic, and charitable institutions throughout Michigan and beyond. Together they also assembled one of the country's outstanding private collections of American art. Richard served the Detroit Institute of Arts for decades, while his devotion to the natural and historic beauty of Michigan found expression in many years of service to the Mackinac Island State Park Commission. In these pursuits, the couple shared a love of beauty and a compassionate vision of how their blessings could be used to enrich the world around them.

Richard Manoogian's passing marks the loss of the last surviving child of Alex and Marie Manoogian—an extraordinary Armenian American family whose service has touched generations. Yet Richard's own life and accomplishments stand as a remarkable legacy in their own right: in American business and civic life, in the cultural institutions he strengthened, and in the Armenian Church and community he faithfully served.

To his wife, to the entire Manoogian family, and to all who mourn his passing, we convey our deepest condolences and prayers. May our risen Lord Jesus receive His servant into His kingdom; may He reunite Richard with the beloved souls who have gone before him; and may the memory of Richard Manoogian remain always blessed.

AMAA NY-NJ Childcare event in support of children



Paramus, NJ – The AMAA NY/NJ Child Care Committee of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) welcomed guests to Sanzari's New Bridge Inn in New Milford, New Jersey, on Tuesday, September 22, 2026 for its annual Child Care Benefit Evening. The event, which was attended to capacity, brought together longtime supporters and new friends for an evening of fellowship, dinner, a silent auction, and a shared commitment to caring for children and



providing them with opportunities for a brighter future.

AMAA NY/NJ Child Care Committee Chair Seta Nalbandian welcomed guests and encouraged them to visit the Child Sponsorship Table and Giving Tree, where each ornament represented a child, a story, and an opportunity to make a meaningful difference in that child's life. She also thanked the evening's sponsors, donors, committee members, volunteers, and AMAA staff for their contributions to the event. Committee member Lorraine Marootian then offered the opening prayer.

AMAA CEO/Executive Director Serge D. Buchakjian spoke about the impact of AMAA's Child Care Programs and the many forms that care can take –

from a warm meal and a safe place after school to educational support, summer camp, and opportunities that can change the course of a young person's life. Today, more than 3,000 children across the communities AMAA serves throughout Armenia receive sustained financial and educational support through its Sponsorship and Child Care Programs.

Underscoring the individual lives behind that impact, Mr. Buchakjian told guests, "Behind every number is a child. Behind every child is a family. And behind every opportunity are people like you." He emphasized that generosity toward Child Care not only addresses a child's needs today, but creates opportunities



that can shape a lifetime.

Following his remarks, Mr. Buchakjian introduced a brief video offering a glimpse into the scope of AMAA's work in Armenia, including education and scholarships, health care, humanitarian assistance, and programs supporting children and families.

Committee member Dr. Celeste Telfeyan Helvacian then invited guests to participate in the evening's silent auction and learn more about Child Sponsorship opportunities before introducing the evening's guest speaker,

John P. Bilezikian, M.D.

Dr. Bilezikian presented "The Keys to Healthy Aging," focusing on osteoporosis, its impact on health and independence as people age, and the importance of prevention and early detection. He discussed the serious consequences of osteoporosis-related fractures while emphasizing that osteoporosis can be diagnosed before a fracture occurs and treated to reduce fracture risk. Despite the seriousness of the subject, Dr. Bilezikian brought warmth and humor to his presentation, engaging guests as he shared both his expertise and



practical guidance for protecting bone health throughout life. His presentation was followed by a question-and-answer session moderated by Dr. Helvacian.

Throughout the evening, guests enjoyed dinner and fellowship while participating in a silent auction benefiting AMAA's Child Care Programs. Guests were also invited to visit the Child Sponsorship Table and Giving Tree, where they could learn more about AMAA's one-on-one Child Sponsorship Program and opportunities to make a lasting difference in the life of a child.

Committee member Anita Buchakjian thanked Dr. Bilezikian and the evening's guests for their participation and support. Committee member Lucienne Aynilian then delivered the closing remarks. The evening reflected the generosity and community spirit that sustain AMAA's Child Care Programs, giving children care today and hope and opportunity for a brighter future.

AMAA to Hold 107th Annual Meeting Banquet Honoring Two Distinguished Leaders

Paramus, NJ –The Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) will host its 107th Annual Meeting Banquet on Saturday, October 17, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at the Teaneck Marriott at Glenpointe, Teaneck, NJ.

The evening's theme, "**Celebrating Our Lasting Impact on Generations**," reflects the AMAA's enduring commitment to serving the Armenian community through Evangelism, Education, and Humanitarianism.

"Our theme, *Celebrating Our Lasting Impact on Generations*, reflects the mission of the AMAA and the lives of this year's honorees," said Serge D. Buchakjian, AMAA CEO/Executive Director. "Their dedication has touched countless lives and will continue to inspire future generations."

The Banquet will be Co-Chaired by Lucienne Aynilian and Anita Buchakjian, whose dedication and leadership have helped to make this evening a meaningful celebration of faithful service and lasting impact.

The Banquet will honor two distinguished individuals whose decades of dedicated and faithful service have significantly strengthened the Armenian community:

Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian, former Executive Director of the Armenian Evangelical World Council.

Nurhan Helvacian Ph.D., former Treasurer of the Armenian Missionary Association of America.

"As we gather for our 107th Annual Meeting Banquet in October, we are honored to recognize two exceptional individuals whose faithful leadership and unwavering commitment have strengthened the Armenian Evangelical community for decades," said Gary R. Phillips, Esq., President of the AMAA. "The honorees, Rev. Dr. Tootikian and Dr. Helvacian have each left an enduring legacy through their service, and we are privileged to celebrate their remarkable contributions."

Honoree Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian of Royal Oak, MI, served as

Executive Director of the Armenian Evangelical World Council for more than 25 years. A respected Armenian-American scholar, theologian, author, and church leader, he has devoted his life to ministry, theological education, and Armenian Christian literature.

Rev. Dr. Tootikian is a graduate of the Near East School of Theology and the American University of Beirut. He pursued advanced graduate studies at Hartford Seminary, Harvard Divinity School, and Andover Newton Theological Seminary, earning two master's degrees and a Doctor of Ministry degree cum laude.

He served as Pastor of Armenian Evangelical churches in Syria and Egypt before continuing his pastoral ministry in several Armenian Evangelical churches throughout the United States. He is the author of over 50 books and currently is the Minister Emeritus of the Armenian Congregational Church of Greater Detroit.

Rev. Dr. Tootikian is married to Rosette Tootikian and has three married children, six grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Honoree Nurhan Helvacian, Ph.D. of Englewood Cliffs, NJ, has faithfully served as Treasurer of the AMAA for the past 10 years. Throughout his distinguished professional career, he has combined expertise in economics, research, and financial management with dedicated service to the Armenian Evangelical community.

Dr. Helvacian earned a Bachelor of Business Administration, cum laude, from Bernard M. Baruch College of the City University of New York and a Ph.D. in Economics from The Graduate Center of the City University of New York.

His professional experience includes serving as Adjunct Professor of Economics at the New Jersey Institute of Technology, Principal of MNH Consulting, Director of Research and Chief Economist for the National Council on Compensation Insurance, Manager of Economics at IBM Corporation, and leadership positions involving economic consulting and

statistical analysis. He has authored numerous publications in economics and related professional fields.

In addition to his service as AMAA Treasurer, Dr. Helvacian has served the Association as Chairman of the Budget and Finance Committee and as a member of the Investment, Personnel, and Scholarship Committees. He also served on the AMAA Board of Directors from 2006 to 2025. His broader church service includes serving as Treasurer of the Armenian Evangelical World Council and Treasurer of the Telfeyan Evangelical Fund. He is a member of the Armenian Presbyterian Church of Paramus, NJ.

Dr. Helvacian is married to Dr. Celeste Telfeyan Helvacian, and together they have two daughters and three grandchildren.

Adding to the evening's celebration, guests will also enjoy a special performance by **Zulal**, the acclaimed New York-based Armenian-American a cappella trio featuring **Teni Apelian, Yeraz Markarian, and Anaïs Tekerian**.

"Planning this year's Banquet has been both a privilege and a joy," said Banquet Co-Chairs Lucienne Aynilian and Anita Buchakjian. "We look forward to welcoming members, friends, and supporters for an evening of fellowship as we honor two outstanding leaders whose faith, vision, and service have made a lasting difference in our community."

The AMAA warmly invites members, friends, and supporters to join this memorable evening of fellowship, recognition, and inspiration as it celebrates the faithful service and enduring legacy of these two distinguished leaders.

For additional information about the 107th Annual Meeting Banquet, please contact the AMAA Headquarters in Paramus, NJ at 201.265.2607 or visit amaa.org/events.

Flyer on next page



THE ARMENIAN MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO ITS

107th

ANNUAL MEETING BANQUET

— HONORING —

REV. DR. VAHAN H. TOOTIKIAN

FORMER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
THE ARMENIAN EVANGELICAL WORLD COUNCIL

&

NURHAN HELVACIAN, PH.D.

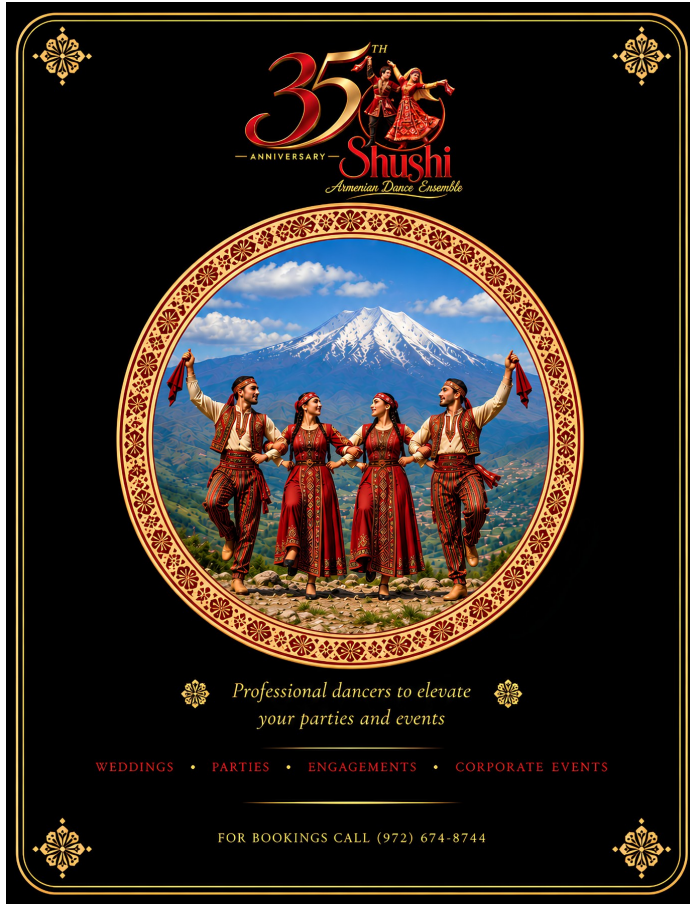
FORMER TREASURER OF AMAA

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2026 | 6:00PM

TEANECK MARRIOTT AT GLENPOINTE

TEANECK, NEW JERSEY 07666

Two Exciting New Offerings from Shushi Dance Ensemble



We're excited to share two new offerings from Shushi Armenian Dance Ensemble as we begin our 35th anniversary season, celebrate Armenian culture, bring our community together, and share the joy of dance!

Adult Dance Classes

We're opening the dance floor to adults! Whether you have dance experience or have never danced before, these classes are a fun way to stay active, have fun, connect with others, and celebrate our culture.

Classes will be held on select Mondays from 6:30–8:00 PM at the

Church of Atonement in Tenaflly, NJ.

Dates: October 12 & 26 • November 2, 16 & 30 • December 14

Cost: \$60 for all 6 sessions
No experience necessary!

We encourage our Shushi parents, alumni, friends, and community members to join us—and please spread the word!

Bring Shushi to Your Next Special Event!

You can now bring the energy, beauty, and tradition of Shushi Armenian Dance Ensemble to your

own celebration!

Our professional dancers are available to perform at weddings, engagements, parties, corporate events, and other special occasions. Add an unforgettable Armenian cultural experience to your event with a performance by Shushi.

For information about either offering, please call 972-674-8744.

We look forward to dancing, celebrating, and growing our Shushi community together!

Welcoming New Seminarians for the 2026–27 Academic Year



Armonk, NY - The 2026–27 academic year is underway at St. Nersess Armenian Seminary and St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary. "We are happy to welcome back our seven returning full-time students and three new students who are preparing for service in the Armenian Church," shared Fr. Mardiros Chevian, Dean.

This fall, St. Nersess welcomes three new seminarians: Dn. Arman Avedyan, Dn. Johnathan Dergazarian, and Dn. Boghos Keleshian. They join returning students Dn. Armen Bandikian, Dn. Karo Boyadzhyan, Sdn. Serge Demirbacak, Dn. Sargis Ginosyan, Dn. Shane Janian, Sdn. Vrej Pilavdjian, and Dn. Thomas Toghramadjian. In addition, the Seminary welcomes six hybrid part-time students (including two applicants for 2027 fall semester), all preparing for various forms of service in the Armenian Church.

Dn. Boghos Keleshian

Born in Aleppo, Syria, Dn. Boghos Keleshian resides in Sydney, Australia, where he serves at the Armenian Apostolic Church of Holy Resurrection. He holds a Bachelor of Medical Sciences and a Master of Teaching in Early Childhood and Primary Education, both completed in Sydney.

"I believe that through serving the

congregation, we serve God and express our love for Him. I am here to learn how to become a faithful servant of the Church as I grow in faith, emotional maturity, and spiritual life. My hope is to return to Australia and continue offering my humble service to my beloved congregation. I am grateful to St. Nersess Armenian Seminary and my fellow seminarians for this humbling experience."

Dn. Arman Avedyan

Originally from Boca Raton, FL, Dn. Arman Avedyan previously served at St. David Armenian Church. He studied classical voice and opera at the Komitas State Conservatory in Yerevan, Armenia. Over the years, his love for liturgical music drew him closer to the Armenian Church and became an integral part of his service.

Before coming to St. Nersess, Dn. Arman built a career in sales and marketing in the specialty food industry. His journey to seminary reflects a calling that has continued to unfold over many years."

"My path to seminary was not a straight one, but rather an answer to a calling that has followed me for many years. Taking this step with my wife, Gohar, and our son, Matteos, has made this journey that much more meaningful."



Dn. Johnathan Dergazarian

Dn. Johnathan Dergazarian is from Pasadena, CA, where he has served at St. Gregory Armenian Church for more than 10 years. He earned his degree in political science and religion from the University of California, San Diego. In 2023, he was ordained to the diaconate by His Eminence Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Primate of the Western Diocese.

"Since I was eight years old, I knew that one day I would come to seminary. Every month, my Sunday School class would observe the Badarak from the balcony. My first Badarak on the altar was on Easter Eve, and that day marked the beginning of my service to the Armenian Church."

St. Nersess Seminary provides tuition-free education to all new and returning seminarians. This is made possible through the generosity of supporters who believe in preparing priests and lay leaders who will guide the Armenian Church for generations to come. Donations can be made at stnersess.edu/support.

Onnik Dinkjian: The Voice That Carries a People's Memory



To present **Onnik Dinkjian** as a giant of the Armenian community—and as one of its most beloved cultural figures—is to understand the extraordinary power of music. It is the power of song to preserve memory, the power of a voice to connect generations, and the power of culture to survive even when almost everything else has been taken away.

For Armenians, that story cannot be separated from the Armenian Genocide of 1915. When an entire people were subjected to destruction, displacement, and the loss of their ancestral homeland, preserving Armenian identity became an act of extraordinary resilience. Food, faith, language, customs, dance—and especially music—became vessels carrying the memory of a people from one generation to the next.

Among the historic Armenian cities devastated during that period, **Dikranagerd**, known today as Diyarbakir, holds a particularly powerful place in the hearts of its descendants. Its Armenian community had deep roots, a strong Christian faith, and traditions shaped by generations of life in the region. Even after catastrophe and displacement, descendants carried those traditions with them: their food, their customs, their dances, their stories—and their music.

This is where Onnik Dinkjian's importance becomes difficult to overstate.

The music associated with

Dikranagerd has a character all its own. It is earthy, direct, rhythmic, and deeply connected to ordinary life. It does not feel like music created for a concert hall. It feels like music created by people for people—to dance to, to celebrate with, to remember with, and sometimes simply to survive with.

There is toughness in it, but there is also joy.

More than a century after the Genocide, very little can provide such an immediate emotional connection to that vanished Armenian world as these songs. And few people have embodied that connection as completely as Onnik.

There is something almost magical about Onnik's music. It is in the melodies, in the rhythms, in the traditional instruments, and above all in the voice of a man who does not merely perform these songs. He seems to carry them within him. That authenticity is what allows the music to cross generations.

Put Onnik Dinkjian on a stage at an Armenian gathering, and something remarkable can happen. At the first notes of his voice, hundreds of people can rise from their seats and rush to the dance floor. People who moments earlier were sitting quietly suddenly become part of something much larger than themselves. They dance, they circle, they twirl with an abandon that can resemble the whirling of dervishes.

For those moments, generations disappear. Grandchildren dance alongside grandparents. People born in America move to melodies their ancestors knew. The immigrant generation and those born decades later share the same rhythm. And the old homeland—lost more than a century ago—seems, however briefly, to become alive again. That may be one of Onnik's greatest gifts.

His music does not require an

explanation of Armenian history. It does not require a lecture about cultural preservation. The history is already there—in the melody, in the words, in the rhythm, and in the response of the people listening.

Imagine an Armenian dance in 2026. Put Onnik Dinkjian's name on the flyer, and there is an immediate sense of anticipation. His name carries memories of dances, weddings, celebrations, community gatherings, and countless nights when Armenians came together simply to enjoy being Armenian.

There are, of course, many talented Armenian singers. Artists from Armenia, and across the diaspora, have built devoted audiences and introduced new generations to Armenian music through contemporary interpretations. Their talent and popularity are unquestionable.

But Onnik represents something different. He represents continuity.

His importance is not simply that he is a gifted singer. It is that his voice provides a direct emotional connection to an Armenian world that disappeared from its homeland more than a century ago.

That distinction matters.

Onnik was born Jean-Joseph Miliyan in Paris in 1929, to Garabed and Zorah, Armenian refugees from Dikranagerd who had fled the Genocide. His father died when Jean-Joseph was less than a year old. He and his older sister were subsequently adopted by their godparents, Nishan and Oghida Dinkjian, who were also from Dikranagerd. He grew up in Paris speaking both French and Armenian.

Eventually, the name Dinkjian became inseparable from the voice that would carry Armenian songs across the diaspora.

Onnik Dinkjian

Continued from previous page

His story is, in many ways, the story of the Armenian diaspora itself: a child of survivors, raised far from his parents' ancestral homeland, who inherited a culture that had already endured extraordinary loss—and then devoted his life to keeping part of that culture alive.

Now in his nineties and living a quieter life, Onnik remains a remarkable figure. The smile remains. The warmth remains. And when the occasion calls, so does the willingness to step onto a stage and give his people what he has given them for so many decades.

Yet perhaps Onnik's greatest quality is not his voice.

It is his humanity.

His greatness can be found in his simplicity, his kindness, and the unassuming way he has lived his life as an Armenian. He does not seem burdened by the knowledge of what he has accomplished. There is no sense

that he considers himself larger than the songs he sings.

He simply knows that he has done his part.

And he has.

He has brought joy to generations of Armenians. He has helped preserve songs that might otherwise have disappeared. He has given people a reason to celebrate, to dance, to laugh, and to remember.

Most importantly, he has created moments in which Armenian identity is not something that has to be explained intellectually. It is something that is **felt**. It is felt in the music. It is felt in the dance. It is felt in the laughter of a crowded room.

It is felt when an elderly Armenian recognizes a melody from childhood, when a young person discovers a song their grandparents loved, and when an entire dance floor moves together to music that has traveled across oceans

and generations.

That is the extraordinary thing about cultural survival.

It does not happen only through books, museums, monuments, archives, or historical studies. Sometimes culture survives because one person remembers a song. Sometimes it survives because another person sings it. And sometimes, miraculously, that singer carries the song with such authenticity and passion that an entire room of Armenians rises to dance.

That is the gift of Onnik Dinkjian.

He has not merely entertained Armenians. He has helped Armenians remember who they are.

And for a people whose history includes an attempt to erase them from their ancestral homeland, there may be no greater gift than memory—and no more beautiful way to preserve it than through song.

Armenian Radio Hour of NJ

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

WSOU 89.5 FM

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You're on the go and we're going with you!
WSOU 89.5 FM is here to keep you company
on your commute, in the office, at school, the gym, or wherever.

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Poetry presented by Mrs. Zarmine Boghosian

Մեր Գրական Աշխարհի Ծաղկաստանէն
♥♥♥ *Through the Orchards of Armenian*
Language & Poetry ♥♥♥ Oct. /2-3/2026
Presented by: Zarmine Boghosian

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ՀՈԿՏԵՄԲԵՐ՝ Հայ Մշակույթի Ամսուան
առաջին **շաբաթը**- այս օրը-րուն անգամ մը եւս
յիշենք **Ռուսէր Հատտէճեանի** սա խօսքը թէ՛
«...Այսօր աշխարհի իւրաքանչիւր կէտին վրայ,
ուր հայկական դպրոց մը կայ, աշակերտ մը
Մեսրոպեան տառերով մկրտուած կ'ըլլայ ա՛յն
պահուն երբ իր մատը կը դնէ Այբուբենին վրայ
եւ կ'ըսէ- **ԱՍԻԿԱ ԱՅՔ Է.....եւ ասիկա Հայ**
Քրիստոնէայ տղուն երկրորդ մկրտութիւնն է
Ս. Մեսրոպ Մաշտոցին կողմէ օրհնուած
Միւռնով»:

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ՀԱՅՈՑ ԼԵՁՈՒԻՆ-Երան Գ.

Բնօրրանէդ արմատախիլ
Օտար ու խորթ մայրերուն ցուրտ
Տառապեցար լեզու քաղցրիկ
Համ ու հոտդ պահպանելու....
Դաժան հողմ էր, քառս՝ շուրջդ
Իսկ դուն տաքուկ գիրկ մայրական
Զոր միշտ տենչաց կարօտ սիրտս
Զերթ ջուրը հողն արեւախանձ....
Շատեր մեռած քեզ կը կարծեն
Կ'ողբան մահդ կանխահաս
Բայց դուն կ'ապրիս, կը շնչես դեռ
Հողմերուն դէմ բիրտ ու վայրագ...
Ինչպէ՛ս մեռնիս, երբ սիրտեր կան
Հոգիներ բիւր քեզմով ապրող
Վառ սիրովդ յար տոչորող
Սրտիդ զարկին ականջ դրած....
Հողէն հեռու, դուն մեր հողն ես
Զուրն ես, օդն ես մեր հարազատ
Արեան կանչ ու հոգիի ձայն
Խորին խորհուրդ էութիւն ես....
Բիւր արեւներ լոյս են տուած
Բիւր գարուններ՝ աւիշ կենաց

Բիւր բիւր սիրտեր՝ հուրքը իրենց
Որ դուն ապրիս դար ու դարեր...
Թէ քեզ լքենք, անհոգի իր
Կ'ըլլանք տխուր ու մոլորուն
Կորսնցուցած անցեալն անհուն
Ինչպէս ներկան, մթին գալիքն...
Ժիր մանուկներ դեռ պիտի գան
Շրթունքն իրենց պիտի օծեն
Բարբառովդ բուրումնաւտ
Որպէս միւռն անմահական...

Ա Բ Գ

Մեր սրբադասուած նահատակ
գրողներէն հանճարեղ՝ **ԳՐԻԳՈՐ ԶՕՀՐԱՊ** հայ
գիրի ու Տպագրութեան Յօրէլեաններուն առթիւ
իր ելոյթին ընթացքին այսպէս կը պատգամէ-

«Թագաւորութիւնները կ'իյնան,
ազատութիւնները կը ջնջուին, յաղթա-
նակները յաճախ պարտութիւններու կը
փոխուին, **բայց լեզուն կը մնայ, ազգի մը**
ճակատագրին պէս անջնջելի... Մեր ազգին
ճակատագրին մէջ գոյութիւն ունեցող
հակասութեան պատճառը ա՛յն է, որ հայը
կազմուած է երեք գլխաւոր ցեղերէ,

1- Ասիայի Արարատցիները, որ իրենց
խաղաղ հոգին եւ ժայռի պէս տոկուն
նկարագիրը ձգած են մեզի...

2- Խայերը կամ՝ Խաթերը, որ իբր
փիւնիկեան ազգ իրենց առեւտուրի հնարիմաց
միտքը ժառանգ թողուցած են: Եւ...

3- Արմէնները, որոնք Եւրոպայէն
գալով իրենց միտքի նրբութիւնն ու ճաշակը
տուած են մեզի»:

Եզրափակելով Մշակույթի ամսուայ այս
խորհրդածութիւնները կը մէջբերեմ նաեւ

ԻՆՏԻՄ-ի Տիրան Զրաք-եանի սա խօսքերը-

«**ՀԱՅ տառերուն մէջ ազգին իմաստն է,**
որ կը խտանայ, ահա թէ ինչո՛ւ, նոյն իսկ
առանց քննադատութեան ու
խորհրդածութեան կը սիրենք մեր այբուբենը,
մեր ճշմարտախօս, մեր հարազատ, մեր իրօք
սեփական այբուբենը»:

Անդրանիկ Զօրավարի ըսած է- «Ամէն օր ձեր
գլուխը բարձին դնելէ եւ քնանալէ առաջ, յիշեցէք,
թէ այդ օրը ի՞նչ էք ըրած ձեր ազգին համար:»

Ա Գ

We Armenia



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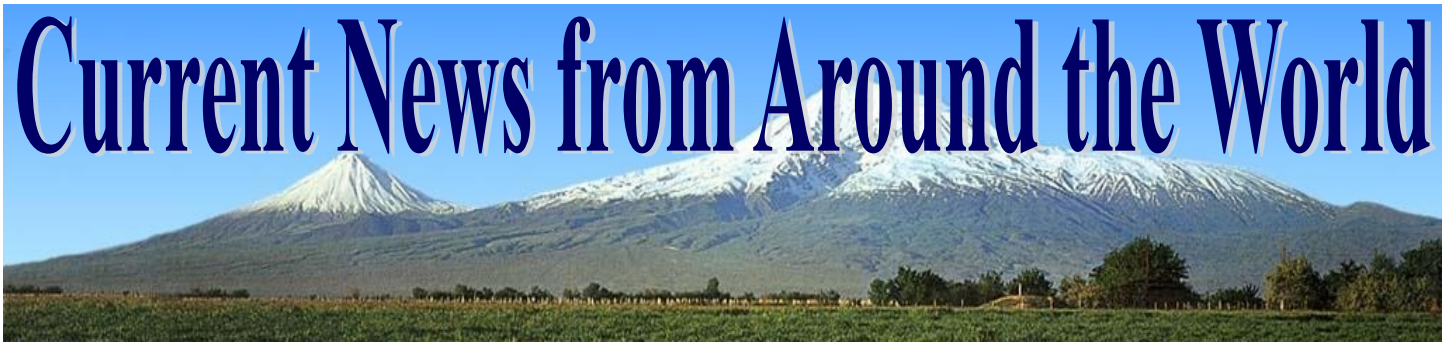
We invite you to watch videos produced by PAREV-TV which cover current Armenian life. These videos are unique and serve to inform and educate the Armenian public. You may find our entire collection of videos archived at www.ArmenianRadioNJ.net

Go to our [Parev-TV channel](#) on YouTube to watch all our videos

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Current News from Around the World



Armenian Interests

Pashinyan, Eurnekian Discuss Development Plans for Zvartnots and Shirak Airports



Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and Corporación América

Airports Executive Director Martin Eurnekian have discussed investment programs aimed at modernizing and expanding the capacity of Yerevan's Zvartnots International Airport and Gyumri's Shirak Airport.

Pashinyan emphasized the importance of the company's activities in Armenia and said the government is interested in developing and expanding mutually



beneficial cooperation.

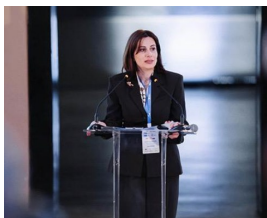
Eurnekian briefed the prime minister on the progress of Corporación América's projects in Armenia and the prospects for their expansion. The discussions focused in particular on the development of Zvartnots and Shirak

airports, which are under the company's concession management, as well as infrastructure improvements and other investment projects.

The two sides discussed several issues related to implementing the projects, including measures expected to contribute to the development of Armenia's aviation market, accommodate growing passenger traffic alongside the expansion of tourism, increase airport capacity and improve the quality of services.

The parties agreed to continue discussions on the next steps.

Life Expectancy in Armenia Continues to Rise, Reaching 78.9 Years in 2025



A two-year European Union-funded Twinning project, titled "Support to the

Implementation of the Universal Health Insurance Reform in Armenia," was officially launched on September 30.

The project aims to support the effective implementation of universal health insurance in Armenia by strengthening institutional capacity, improving healthcare financing

mechanisms, and developing the country's legal and institutional frameworks.

Health Minister Anahit Avanesyan emphasized that the introduction of universal health insurance marks the beginning of a new stage in the development of Armenia's healthcare system.

"Our main goal is to ensure that every citizen, when faced with a health problem, can receive the necessary medical care in a timely and effective manner. We must reach a point where no family is forced to sell its home or sacrifice its ability to meet basic needs

because of a health problem," Avanesyan said.

The minister also highlighted the impact of healthcare reforms on public health indicators.

"Life expectancy in Armenia continues to rise. In 2024, it reached 78.6 years for the first time, and in 2025 it reached 78.9 years," Avanesyan said.

The project is being implemented through cooperation among the European Union, the Republic of Croatia, the Republic of Slovenia, and Armenia's Ministry of Health.

AGBU First-Ever Global Run/Walk Goes the Distance to Support Camp Nairi



AGBU concluded its inaugural Global Run/Walk, held in 22 cities to raise funds for AGBU Camp Nairi, a free therapeutic sleep-away camp in Armenia for children traumatized by war, displacement, and uncertainty. Each year, AGBU reaches 1,000 children and mothers through this program.

More than 1,500 participants and 2,500 donors raised over \$500,000, reaching AGBU's ambitious goal to help sustain and expand its capacity to meet the special needs of these vulnerable campers and their families.

The worldwide event began in Yerevan on Sunday, September 13, with 200 participants. The remaining 21 cities held their runs and walks on Sunday, September 20: Barcelona, Beirut, Boston, Brussels, Geneva, Greater Los Angeles Area, London, Melbourne, Moscow, New York, Nice, Northern California, Paris, Philadelphia, São Paulo, Shanghai, Sydney, Tokyo, Toronto, Valence, and Zurich.

Beirut drew the largest turnout, with

Yerevan, Greater Los Angeles, and Toronto also seeing strong participation. Several routes passed well-known local landmarks, including the Sydney Opera House, Griffith Park in Los Angeles, the Imperial Palace in Tokyo, and the zoo in Zurich. Local communities also built events around the run, including a Los Angeles Special Event Committee (LASEC) fundraising concert the night before, a post-Run luncheon at the Center in Melbourne and post-event brunches in several other cities.

A Global Movement, Led Locally

AGBU's Global Run/Walk reached well beyond AGBU's established community. Armenians and non-Armenians ran together in Tokyo and Shanghai, where the Global Run/Walk was the first event of its kind for the small local Armenian community. In cities without an official AGBU presence, individual runners joined on their own, including in Tbilisi. Special guests included His Grace Bishop Hovakim Manukyan, Primate of the Armenian Diocese of Great Britain and Ireland, and adventurer, mountaineer and former alumnus of AGBU Yervant Demirjian School alumnus Ara

Khatchadourian, in Los Angeles.

Star Violinist Astrid Poghosyan from Shanghai remarked: "AGBU has been part of almost my entire adult life, and while we have organized a concert here before, this was our first event of this kind. Our Armenian community in Shanghai is small, and we are still finding the best way to bring everyone together, Armenians and friends of Armenia alike. It was a meaningful first step and a strong beginning for more events to come."

The event attracted participants of all ages. Sixteen were 12 years old or younger. Such a wide reach was made possible by 46 AGBU entities worldwide, including Chapters, Young Professionals groups, AGBU schools, and regional offices. Fifty scouts from AGBU AYA Armenia took part in Yerevan, and AGBU AYA Beirut helped drive that city's strong turnout. In Greater Los Angeles, participating groups included AGBU ASBEDS, the AGBU LA Choir, AGBU Manoogian-Demirdjian School, AGBU Orange County Saturday School, the AGBU Pasadena Glendale Chapter, AGBU Pasadena Glendale Scouts, and the AGBU PG Young Ladies Committee.

Leadership and Recognition

The Global Run/Walk was spearheaded by AGBU Central Board Member Vartkess Knadjian of Switzerland. His lifelong connection to running inspired the initiative. Knadjian grew up in Ethiopia, where running is deeply woven into the culture. In 1997, he ran the Antwerp Marathon and raised more than \$50,000 for AGBU Soup Kitchens.

Continued on next page

AGBU

Continued from previous page

When reflecting on the success of the AGBU Global Run/Walk, Knadjian noted: "Beyond fundraising, the Run provided a wonderful opportunity to bring people of all ages together, strengthen their connection to AGBU, and engage diverse communities around a shared purpose. It was particularly inspiring to see cities like Tokyo and Shanghai participate. I look forward to seeing an event like this grow year after year, supporting our youth programs while fostering a sense of unity and belonging across our global community."

AGBU Central Board Member Ani Manoukian served as an ad-hoc ambassador for the event, bringing exceptional energy, encouragement, and outreach from the AGBU Global headquarters in New York. "As AGBU marks 120 years, the first Global Run/Walk proved that our community's commitment is as strong as ever," she

said. "Seeing people unite across 22 cities worldwide, all for the children of Camp Nairi, was deeply moving. Every step taken and every donation made will help them find safety, healing, and hope."

As for the runners and walkers, donors, city hosts, organizers and volunteers on the ground, the personal satisfaction was clearly evident, not only for raising funds for a cause but lifting spirits and confidence, proving that, by working together, anything can be accomplished. Lead sponsor Unibank and other generous corporate sponsors helped give AGBU the momentum to reach the finish line.

About AGBU Camp Nairi

Established in 2021 in response to the trauma of the 2020 Artsakh war, AGBU Camp Nairi, located in Armenia's Hankavan region, combines

recreational activities with therapeutic sessions led by licensed psychologists. Since 2024, it has also offered weekend family retreats with art and music therapy for children and mothers. The Global Run/Walk will help Camp Nairi grow, with proceeds directed to recreational programming, mental health care, and expanded capacity.

"We set out to create a run that every AGBU community could make its own, and we hoped people would join us. We could not have imagined thousands of people taking steps together across the globe, all raising funds through one shared initiative for the same children. That is what true global AGBU unity looks like," shared Karen Papazian, AGBU Director of Development and Outreach.

A branch of the Juventus Academy has opened in Yerevan



A branch of the Juventus (Turin) academy has opened in the Avan administrative district of Yerevan. The opening ceremony was attended by UEFA General Secretary Theodore Theodoridis, Juventus FC Commercial Director Peter Silverstone, club legend and Italian champion Fabrizio Ravanelli, Georgian Football Federation President and former footballer Levan Kobiashvili, Football Federation of Armenia President Armen Melikbekyan, Yerevan Mayor

Tigran Avinyan, and Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport Zhanna Andreasyan.

The guests of honor and football legends toured the sports complex, inspected the facilities and infrastructure, and watched children's training sessions.

"We are pleasantly surprised and proud of what we see. The founders' achievements in such a short time are truly impressive. This further underscores the friendly relations between Armenia and Italy. Juventus is one of the world's greatest clubs, and the opening of its licensed academy in Armenia serves as a powerful stimulus and evokes great excitement in everyone. It is worth noting that 600 to 700 children are already training at the academy, following Juventus's methodology and program.



We have around 100 such academies and projects worldwide, but the base in Armenia has become exceptional," noted Peter Silverstone.

On the evening of September 30, Freedom Arena, which meets UEFA Category 2 standards and serves as the third training facility for the Armenian branch of Juventus will open near Hrazdan Stadium.

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*

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Armenian Dance Ensemble



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UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ [October 12-December 14, 2026 - Shushi Dance Ensemble Adult Dance Classes](#)
- ◆ [October 14, 2026 - St. Mary Armenian Church Women's Guild Tricky Tray Dinner](#)
- ◆ [October 17, 2026 - AGBU One-Night-Only All-Star Entertainment Event in Montreal](#)
- ◆ [October 17, 2026 - AMAA annual meeting banquet](#)
- ◆ [October 18, 2026 - A Taste of Armenian Heritage](#)
- ◆ [October 24, 2026 - ARS Parisian night](#)
- ◆ [October 25, 2026 - St. Thomas Church Fall Food Festival](#)
- ◆ [November 8, 2026 - Armenian Lunch hosted by Friends of Hovnanian School](#)
- ◆ [November 13, 2026 - AMAA evening supporting the Khoren & Shooshanig Avedisian School](#)
- ◆ [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](#)
- ◆ [Summer 2027 - AGBU Global Leadership Program](#)
- ◆ [November 6, 2027 - Shushi Dance Ensemble's 35th anniversary celebration. Details to follow](#)



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Necessary!*



DATES

10/12 | 10/26 | 11/2
11/16 | 11/30 | 12/14



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6:30 PM - 8:00 PM



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Tenafly, NJ 07670

6 SESSIONS FOR \$60



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CALL **972-674-8744**

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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
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For questions, please contact Church Office
at (973) 533-9794 or email to Roxanne
(rrpan2003@yahoo.com) or Angelica
(angledl2010@gmail.com)



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107th

ANNUAL MEETING BANQUET

— HONORING —

REV. DR. VAHAN H. TOOTIKIAN

FORMER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
THE ARMENIAN EVANGELICAL WORLD COUNCIL

&

NURHAN HELVACIAN, PH.D.

FORMER TREASURER OF AMAA

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2026 | 6:00PM

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TEANECK, NEW JERSEY 07666

A TASTE OF ARMENIAN HERITAGE

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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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Presents an

ARMENIAN BRUNCH

**ALL THE TASTES OF HOME
PLEASE JOIN US**

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2026
12:30 - 3:30**

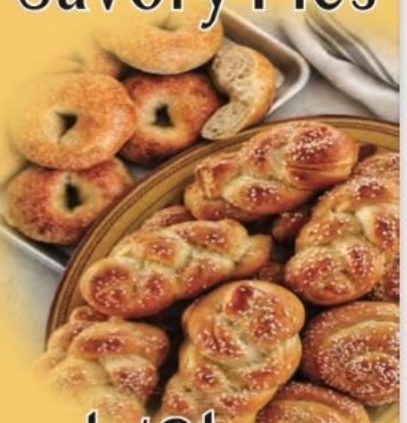
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NEW MILFORD, NJ**

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**ADULTS: \$40.00
CHILDREN (5-12) \$20.00**

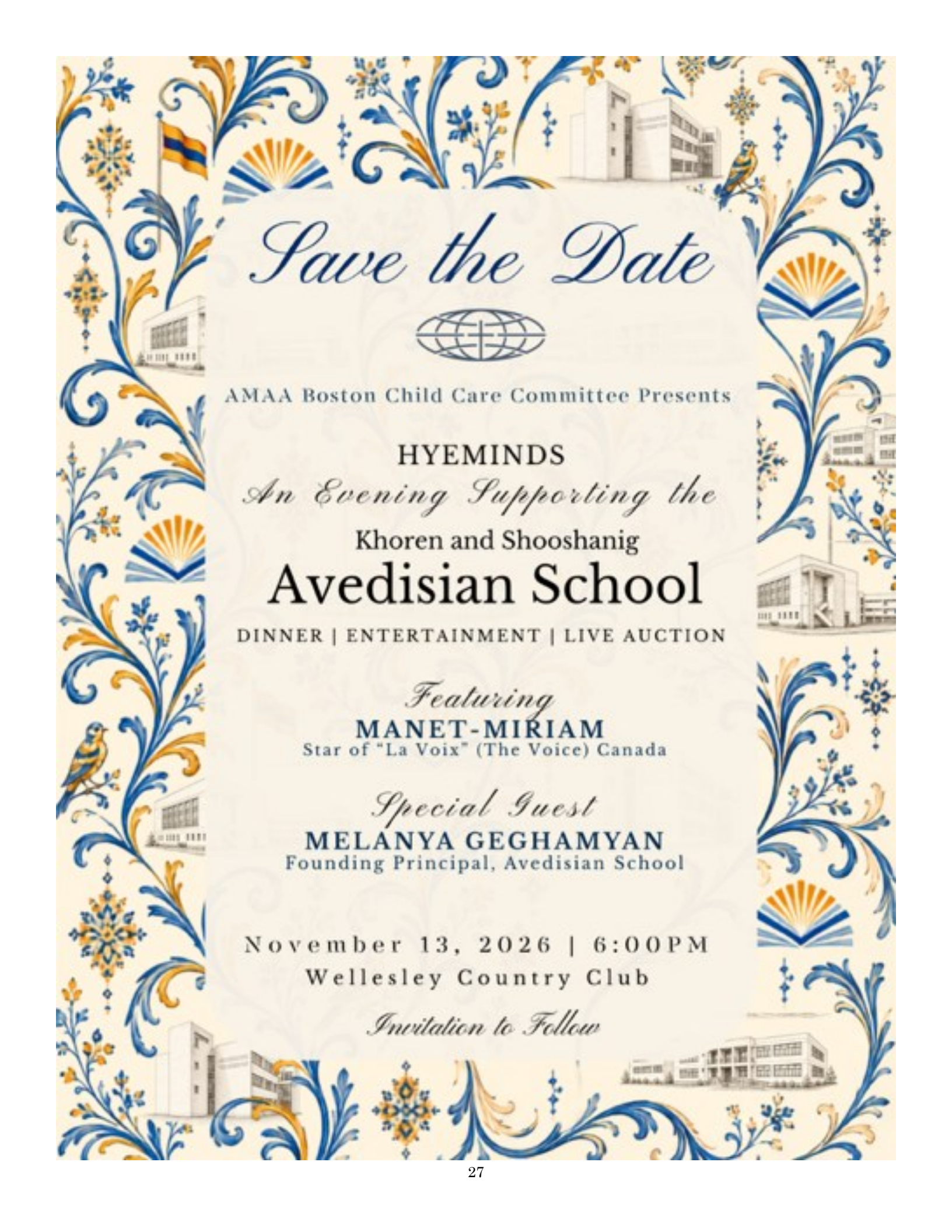
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Bagels/Choreg

**For reservations please contact:
Tamar Haroutunian
(201) 669-7226
zth0824@aol.com**

**Please RSVP By:
Friday, October 23rd**



Save the Date



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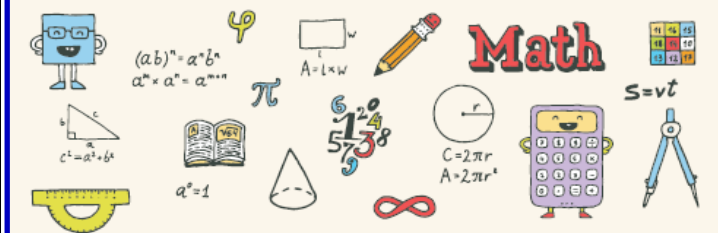
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We request that the information be sent to us two weeks in advance, so that we can serve the community better.
(Please read our policy in the [Calendar of Events](#) section)

**Please email all submissions to:
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Thank you!

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

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

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