Armenian Interests

October 18, 2026 Issue #931

News & Events of the Armenian Community

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Yerevan will host COP17 on October 19–30, bringing together delegations from countries around the world - UN Secretary-General António Guterres will attend the Conference





Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan visited the Meridian Expo Center in Yerevan, where preparations for the upcoming 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP17) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) are in their final stages.

The Prime Minister emphasized the importance of holding COP17 to a high standard through effective interagency cooperation.

The 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP17) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) will take place in Yerevan from October 19 to 30, 2026. Yerevan is scheduled to host the Leaders' Summit on October 16.

A solemn ceremony to raise the United Nations and Armenian flags was held at the Meridian Expo Center ahead of the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP17). Raising of the UN flag symbolizes an important milestone in advancing the international agenda for biodiversity conservation.



The Conference will bring together delegations from countries around the world, representatives of international organizations, and civil society to assess progress in biodiversity conservation and discuss further joint action.

On Thursday morning, the Secretary-General António Guterres arrived in the Armenian capital Yerevan, to attend the Leaders' Summit.

During his stay in the country, the Secretary-General will have bilateral meetings with the President of the Republic of Armenia, Vahagn Khachaturyan, and the Prime Minister of Armenia, Nikol Pashinyan. Later in the day, the Secretary-General will attend the official opening ceremony of the Leaders' Summit, and he will also participate in the media launch of the State of Biodiversity Action Report.

Continued on next page

COP17
Continued from previous page







On Friday, he will deliver remarks at the opening and plenary session of the Leaders' Summit. In his remarks, he is expected to warn that right now our world is being rocked by conflict, shocked by climate change, and famished by food insecurity. He also will say that biodiversity is not a separate challenge.

He is expected to underscore that progress on all these crises depends on progress on the others, and the window to act is closing. Calling on governments and financial leadership, he will urge all to act with the urgency this moment demands for our future, for our children, and for all life on Earth. The Secretary-General will also meet and engage in discussions with civil society groups, including groups of young people.

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TCA Greater New York Celebrates Armenian Musical Heritage Through "Romantic Soul"



The Tekeyan Cultural Association (TCA) Greater New York Chapter, in collaboration with the Armenian Radio Hour of New Jersey, brought Armenian musical heritage to the forefront with "Romantic Soul: Masterpieces for Piano Trio," presented on Sunday, September 27, at West Side Presbyterian Church in Ridgewood, New Jersey. The concert honored the enduring richness of Armenian music while placing it in dialogue with the broader Western classical tradition.

Hilda Hartounian, Chair of the TCA Greater New York Chapter, warmly welcomed the guests and spoke about the importance of preserving Armenian cultural heritage through music and the arts.

The concert featured Ani Kalayjian on cello, Tanya Gabrielian on piano, and Eric Silberger on violin.

The program included a composition by Gayane Chebodarian, a medieval Armenian chant by Krikor Naregatsi, a piano piece by Armenian composer Tigran Hamasyan, and three compositions by Arno Babajanian.

Following the intermission, the trio performed Felix Mendelssohn's Piano Trio No. 1 in D minor, Op. 49. The audience was mesmerized by the expressive artistry of the performers, creating a memorable afternoon that celebrated Armenian musical heritage alongside the Western classical tradition.

Follow the Tekeyan Cultural Association Greater New York Chapter on Facebook @tekeyangreaternewyork and Instagram @tekeyangreaterny for news of upcoming cultural programs and events.

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Armenian Radio Hour of NJ

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Poetry presented by Mrs. Zarmine Boghosian

Մեր Գրական Աշխարհի Ծաղկաստանէն
♥ ♥ ♥ ***Through the Orchards of Armenian Language & Poetry*** ♥ ♥ ♥ **Oct. /17-18/2026**
Presented by: Zarminé Boghosian

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Հայ Մշակոյթի Ամիս-3-րդ Շաբաթ

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Վահան Տէրեան

Մի՛ խառնէք մեզ ձեր վայրի,
արջի ցեղերին,—
Մեր երկիրը աւերուած,
բայց սուրբ է եւ հին.
Որպէս լեռն է մեր պայծառ տեսել հազար ձիւն,
Այնպէս նոր չեն մեզ համար
դաւ ու դառնութիւն:
Բաբելոնն է եղել մեր ախոյեանը՝ տե՛ս—
Անհետ կորել, անցել է - չար մշուշի պէս:
Ասորիքն է եղել մեր թշնամին - ահա՛
Դաշտ է տեղը եւ չըկայ քար քարի վրայ:
Ամրակուռ է մեր հոգին - դարերի զաւակ՝
Շատ է տեսել մեր սիրտը աւեր ու կրակ:
Շատ է տեսել երկիրն իմ ցաւ ու արհաւիրք,
Լաց է այնտեղ ամէն երգ եւ ողբ ամէն գիրք:
Գերուած ենք մենք, ո՛չ ստրուկ-
գերուած մի արծիւ,
Չարութեան դէմ վեհսիրտ միշտ,
վատի դէմ ազնիւ:
Բարբարոսներ շատ կը գան
ու կ՛անցնեն անհետ,
Արքայական խօսքը մեր կը մնայ յաւէտ:
Չի հասկանայ ձեր հոգին եւ ծոյլ, եւ օտար,
Տաճար է մեր երկիրը՝ սուրբ է ամէն քար:
Եգիպտական բուրգերը փոշի կը դառնան,
Արեւի պէս, երկի՛ր իմ,
կը վառուես վառման:
Որպէս Փիւնիկ կրակից կ՛ելնես, կ՛ելնես նոր
Գեղեցկութեամբ ու փառքով
վառ ու լուսաւոր:
Արիացի՛ր, սի՛րտ իմ,
ե՛լ հաւատով տոկուն,
Կանգնի՛ր հպարտ որպէս
լոյս լեռն է մեր կանգուն:

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Դանիէլ Վարուժան Հեճինեան

Այդքան էլ բաւ է, որ իմանան,
թէ աշխարհում կայ մի երկիր,
որ բարձր է բոլոր երկրներից,
որ արարիչը ինքն իր ձեռքով
նկարել է արեւներով,
քանդակել է կուռ լեռներով,
զովացրել պաղ ջրերով:
Հայաստան:
Այդքան էլ բաւ է, որ իմանան,
թէ աշխարհում կայ մի լեզու,
որ չի կարող լինել երկու,
աստուածային մի սուրբ լեզու,
որ թէ գիր է, թէ մեղեդի,
թէ աղօթք է, եւ թէ սփոփանք:
Բոլոր կորած եւ գտնուած լեզուների
անզուգական մի բանալի:
Հայաստան:
Յոյսի փարոսը մարդկութեան,
իր գութանով, հորովելով,
Լուսաւորչի, սուրբ կանթեղով,
ամէն ձորի բեռնում բացուած
Վարդանման իր վանքերով:
Հայաստան:
Այդքան էլ բաւ է, որ իմանան,
Թէ աշխարհում կայ մի ազգ,
էպոսածին մի ժողովուրդ,
որ արդար է արեւի պէս ու մնայուն,
որ կարող է անձայն մեռնել
ու անշըշուկ վերածնուել,
ոտքի կանգնել,
ու թշնամու կողը մղուել:
Հայաստան: Այդքանն էլ բաւ է:

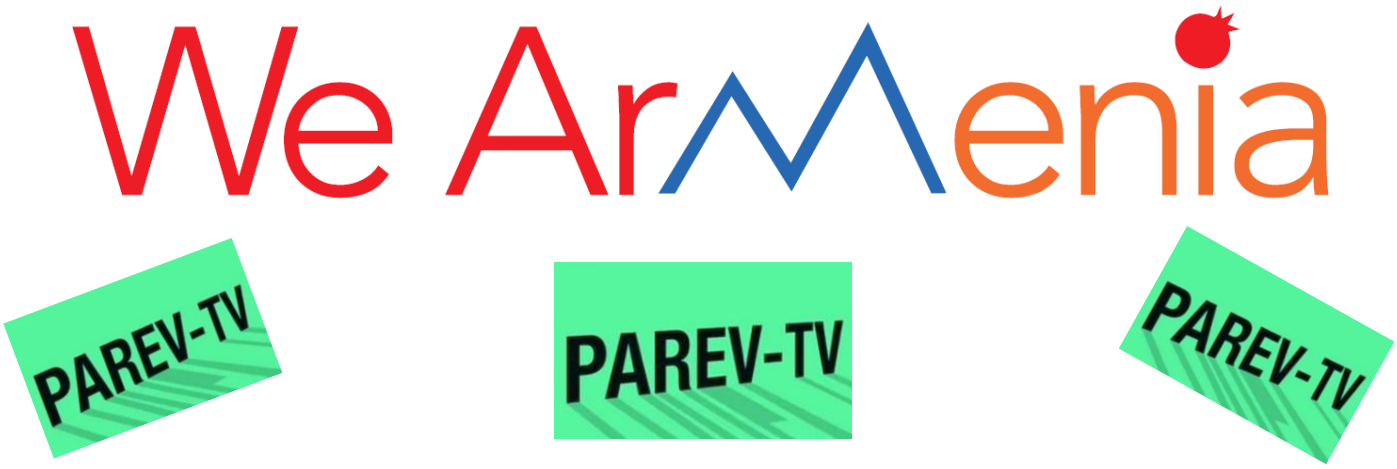
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ԱՔԱՍԻԱՆԵՐՈՒ ՇՈՒՔԻՆ ՏԱԿ

Միսաք Մեծարենց

Ծաղիկներէն յուշիկ թերթեր կը թափէ
Բուրումներով օծուն հովիկն իրիկուան,
Հոգիներուն կ'իջնէ երազ մը բուրեան,
Ի՜նչ հեշտին է մըթնշաղն այս սատափէ:
Աքասիաներ, գինով լոյսէ ու տապէ,
Օրօրուելով մաքուր շունչ մը կը հեւան.
Մինչ կը ձիւնէ ծաղիկն իրենց հոտեւան՝
Չոր խօլաբար հովը գրկել կը շտապէ:
Ու լոյսն անոնց, անխօս հուրի՛ դիւթական
Հըմայագեղ ու վարսքերով արծաթէ,
Շատրուանին կ'իջնէ գուռին մէջ կաթէ:
Ջուրը ցայտքէն ծաղիկ ծաղիկ կը կաթէ.
Վըճիտ, ինչպէս լոյսէ արցունքը մանկան,
Նըւագն անոր կը հեծեծէ հեշտական:
Ծաղիկներէն հովը թերթեր կը թափէ...:

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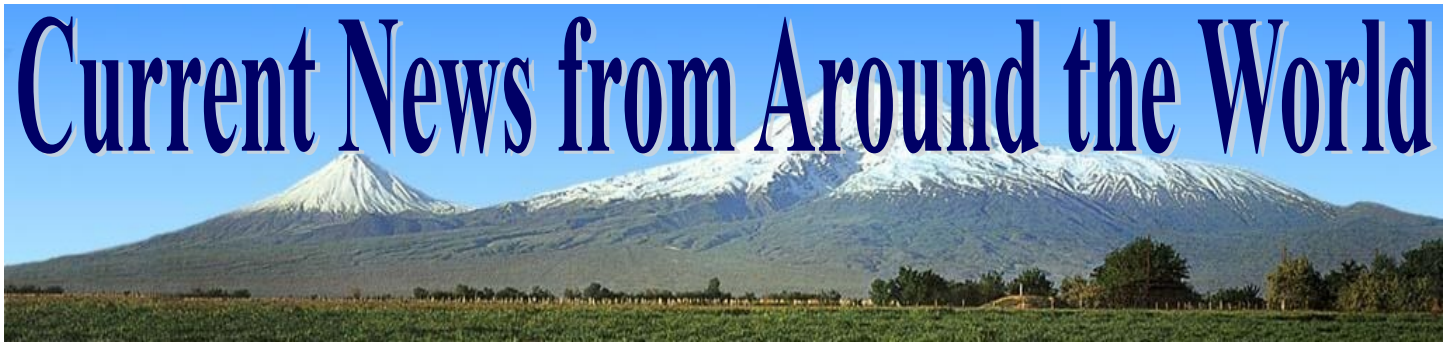
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Current News from Around the World



Armenia Not Yet Ready for EU Membership, Pashinyan Says, While Advocating Balanced Relations with Russia



Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan has stated that Armenia is not currently ready to join the European Union, emphasizing that significant reforms are still needed to meet EU membership standards.

In an interview with Radio France Internationale (RFI), Pashinyan also stressed that Armenia has no intention of severing or worsening relations with Russia. Instead, he said, the government seeks to strengthen those ties while pursuing a more balanced foreign policy and diversifying its economic partnerships.

Responding to a question about Armenia's efforts to reduce its economic dependence on Russia, Pashinyan explained that Armenian-Russian relations cannot remain exactly as they were in the past because the regional political environment has changed.

He pointed to the peace process with Azerbaijan as one of the developments requiring a reassessment of Armenia's foreign relations.

"Our goal is to strengthen, consolidate, and develop our independence. That is why we have adopted a balanced and balancing foreign policy," Pashinyan said.

The prime minister emphasized the importance of creating alternative import and export opportunities for Armenian businesses to reduce the country's vulnerability to external economic disruptions.

As an example, he cited the diversification of Armenia's petroleum import market. Previously dominated by a small number of suppliers, the sector now includes dozens of importing companies.

According to Pashinyan, this diversification has helped Armenia withstand disruptions in international petroleum markets, including supply problems experienced in Russia following Ukrainian military operations.

Addressing the possibility of a referendum on withdrawing from the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), Pashinyan said such a decision would require Armenia to have at least submitted an application for EU membership.

He acknowledged that Armenia is not yet prepared to become an EU member and must undertake substantial institutional and economic reforms to meet European standards.

"Our objective is to ensure that the people of Armenia can decide whether the country should remain a member of the Eurasian Economic Union, join the European Union, or belong to neither," Pashinyan said.

He emphasized that regardless of the eventual decision, Armenia would continue implementing reforms aimed at aligning the country with EU standards.

The prime minister added that even if Armenia becomes fully prepared for EU membership, accession would depend on two essential factors: the European Union's willingness to admit Armenia and the Armenian people's approval through a democratic vote.

Pashinyan reiterated that the government's priority is to strengthen Armenia's sovereignty, expand its economic options, and maintain constructive international partnerships while allowing citizens to determine the country's long-term integration path.

Armenia's nature saved the country in hard times, now it is our duty to protect it, says Pashinyan





Armenia's government and citizens have a debt to repay to the state, Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said in his opening remarks at the COP17 Leaders' Summit in Yerevan.

"This is a special topic for the Government of the Republic of Armenia, and we feel a special responsibility toward our nature. During difficult times for Armenia, our nature saved us, and we had the misfortune of abusing it. In the 1990s, the country found itself under blockade; there was insufficient electricity, gas or coal, and people heated their homes mainly with wood. Under these conditions, mass deforestation began in Armenia's forests, becoming one of the profitable businesses amid the near-total absence of normal economic activity. Thus, thousands of hectares of forests and green areas were cut down in Armenia, and poaching became widespread, causing severe damage to our nature and biodiversity. A similar situation arose at Lake Sevan: in the early 1990s, when import and production chains had broken down and there were daily food shortages in Armenia, the fish stocks of Lake Sevan came to our rescue," the Prime Minister said at the summit held under the "Leaders for Nature" motto.

Pashinyan noted that after becoming Prime Minister as a result of the 2018 revolution, one of his first instructions was to halt illegal logging.

"Protests began in my birthplace, Tavush, because many people were making a living through illegal logging, continuing the practices of the 1990s. On this occasion, I visited the village of Haghartsin, my father's village. People were very aggressive, and I tried to explain to them that preserving the forest could earn them much more than logging. One or two years later, many people engaged in illegal logging changed their line of work. Using the same vehicles they had used to transport wood to markets, they began transporting tourists into forests and mountains to show them the wildlife," Pashinyan said.

The Prime Minister of Armenia emphasized that significant work had also been carried out to preserve biodiversity.

"Over the past 10 years, the total stock of whitefish in Lake Sevan has increased more than tenfold, reaching over 4,500 tons after having been on the verge of extinction. The Caucasian leopard was considered an endangered species in Armenia; today, its population in the country is estimated at 6–7 individuals, and two cubs were also recorded in 2024," the Prime Minister said.

Pashinyan noted that it was a great honor for Armenia to host the Leaders' Summit and the COP17 conference. The Prime Minister expressed hope that the event would be effective and contribute to protecting the biodiversity of planet Earth.

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Pashinyan Calls for Transparency Over Former Officials' Wealth, Defends Political Climate in Armenia



Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan has called for greater transparency regarding the wealth accumulated by former senior Armenian officials, arguing that the public deserves to know how individuals who held high government positions acquired substantial fortunes.

In an interview with Radio France Internationale (RFI), Pashinyan also rejected suggestions that Armenia's political situation remains unusually tense, maintaining that vigorous political competition and public debate are essential features of democracy.

"Political tensions exist in all, or at least most, European Union countries, often to an extreme degree," Pashinyan said. "In democratic countries, political competition and debate are always intense. The tensions you describe are themselves important evidence of democracy."

Addressing questions concerning businessman Samvel Karapetyan, Pashinyan referred to a criminal case involving him in France and questioned whether such proceedings should automatically be interpreted as political persecution.

Turning to former President Robert Kocharyan, the prime minister noted that criminal proceedings related to the March 1, 2008, events have been ongoing for years. He also referred to a recent European Court of Human Rights ruling concerning those events, saying it identified the state authorities of that period as responsible for the killings.

Pashinyan then questioned how Kocharyan, who served as Armenia's president for a decade, could have accumulated what he described as assets worth several hundred million dollars.

"Kocharyan spent his entire career as a public official, including ten years as president of Armenia. How could someone holding such a position accumulate several hundred million dollars?" Pashinyan asked.

He contrasted Kocharyan's alleged wealth with his own financial circumstances, saying that despite serving as prime minister for more than eight years, he had not become a millionaire.

Referring to businessman and political figure Gagik Tsarukyan, Pashinyan argued that the 2018 Velvet Revolution was driven partly by public demands for accountability over alleged corruption and the misuse of state resources during the administrations of Kocharyan and former President Serzh Sargsyan.

He accused former officials and their associates of benefiting from unlawful external protection and entrenched corruption within Armenia's judicial system, which he said had prevented accountability.

According to Pashinyan, Armenian voters have repeatedly expressed their expectation that the promises of the 2018 revolution, particularly justice, accountability, and the rule of law, must be fulfilled.

"The people of Armenia must know how former high-ranking officials accumulated their millions," he emphasized.

The prime minister also highlighted Armenia's existing system for confiscating illegally acquired assets, saying that properties allegedly obtained unlawfully from the state or local communities are being recovered and returned to public ownership.

Pashinyan presented these efforts as part of the government's broader commitment to combating corruption and ensuring accountability among former officials.

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Pashinyan and Russian Railways Chief Agree to Establish Joint Working Group



Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan received a delegation headed by Oleg Belozyorov, CEO and Chairman of the Management Board of Russian Railways.

Pashinyan emphasized that, in light of emerging opportunities to reopen regional transportation routes, the Armenian government's objective is to make the country's railway system more competitive and integrate it into the railway networks of neighboring countries and the broader international transportation system.

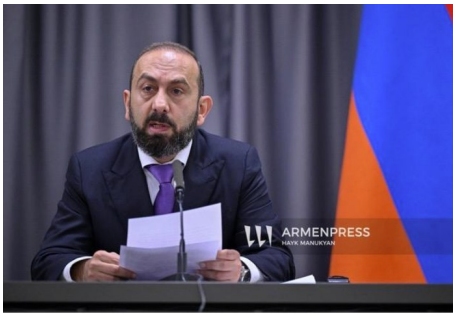
The two sides discussed opportunities arising from regional developments and steps needed to improve the competitiveness of Armenia's railways and strengthen their integration into international transportation corridors.

Particular attention was given to proposed railway reconstruction projects along the Gyumri–Akhurik–Turkish border and Yeraskh–Nakhichevan sections, as well as the economic and transportation opportunities these projects could create.

The discussions also addressed infrastructure development undertaken during the concession management of Armenia's railway network by South Caucasus Railway, including management efficiency, existing challenges, and potential solutions.

The parties agreed to establish a joint working group to examine the identified issues within a short timeframe, explore possible solutions, and determine the next steps.

Armenia-Türkiye process has matured to the point where final normalization could be achieved any day: FM



The Armenia-Türkiye normalization process has matured to such an extent that a final and complete normalization could be achieved any day, Armenian Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Ararat Mirzoyan has said.

Mirzoyan made the remarks during a joint press conference with OSCE Chairperson-in-Office and Swiss Foreign Minister Ignazio Cassis, responding to a question about the appointment of a new Armenian envoy to the normalization process.

Mirzoyan said it remained unclear whether a new envoy would be needed at all, adding that the Armenia-Türkiye border could open before the issue of appointing a new envoy was even discussed.

"The Armenia-Türkiye normalization process has matured to such an extent that a final and complete settlement could be achieved any day. Armenia and Türkiye are in contact almost daily, and negotiations are ongoing. To be honest, the question is whether a new envoy will be needed at all. It could happen that the opening of the Armenia-Türkiye border takes place before the issue of discussing a candidate for the new envoy," Mirzoyan said.

The foreign minister also said that the next Armenian-Turkish business forum scheduled to take place in Armenia might be held with broader participation.

Armenia and Türkiye launched the normalization process in 2022. Armenia's envoy was then Deputy Speaker of Parliament Ruben Rubinyan, while Türkiye's representative was diplomat Serdar Kılıç. Rubinyan was elected Speaker of Parliament on August 3, 2026, after which he announced that he would no longer serve as Armenia's envoy to the normalization process. Armenia has not appointed a new envoy so far.

Armenia to have military attaché in Canada



The Armenian government has approved the establishment of a military attaché position at Armenia's embassy in Canada. The position will be combined with that of Armenia's military attaché to the United States to develop defense cooperation with both countries.

The decision was adopted at the Cabinet meeting on Thursday, October 15.

According to the justification for the draft decision prepared by the Ministry of Defense, the military attaché is expected to assume duties on January 1, 2027, once the Canadian side has been notified of the appointment, the accreditation procedure has been completed, and the relevant approval has been obtained.

The attaché will establish official contacts between the defense ministries of the two countries and deepen their ties, monitor the implementation of cooperation programs, and assist in organizing visits by delegations from the Ministry of Defense and the armed forces.

The attaché will also ensure Armenia's official representation at military parades, exercises, maneuvers, and exhibitions of weapons and military equipment held at the invitation of the Canadian defense authorities. The attaché will also visit military educational institutions and defense industry enterprises.

"At the current stage, cooperation in the defense sector may cover instructor training, joint participation in international peacekeeping missions, the protection of the rights of female servicemembers, and civilian oversight of the armed forces, as well as the exchange of experience in introducing internal audit and anti-corruption mechanisms," the Ministry of Defense said.

At a later stage, cooperation may also include bilateral military-political consultations, military education, combat training for professional non-commissioned officers and personnel, military medicine, and the exchange of experience in other specialized areas.

The Ministry of Defense also considers the development of ties with Canada important in the context of Armenia-NATO cooperation.

The military attaché will support the consistent implementation of activities in Canada under the Individual Partnership Action Plan and submit proposals for developing bilateral cooperation.

UN Secretary-General António Guterres visits the Matenadaran with Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management Movses Abelian







Guterres urges countries to close gap between biodiversity commitments and action



The gap between countries' ambitions and actual actions to protect biodiversity persists, UN Secretary-General António Guterres warned at a press conference in Yerevan on the State of Biodiversity Action report, the first global report on collective progress in implementing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), held ahead of COP17.

The UN Secretary-General called for increased funding for nature conservation, the elimination of harmful incentives and subsidies, and the integration of biodiversity protection into government decision-making.

Presenting the global progress report on biodiversity, Guterres addressed the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. He recalled that the framework, agreed upon four years ago, sets out 23 targets to halt biodiversity loss and reduce pressures on natural systems.

The UN Secretary-General welcomed the fact that nearly 90% of the parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity have set national targets. Local communities, Indigenous peoples, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector are also participating in the process.

At the same time, he said, the progress recorded is still insufficient to achieve the established goals.

"The war against nature is not over yet. And we are still seeing the very serious consequences of the three global crises: climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. They are all interconnected," Guterres noted.

He stressed that greater financial resources must be mobilized and relevant capacities developed, particularly in developing countries. Countries must fulfill their commitments, and governments must review economic incentives that harm nature.

Guterres called for an end to harmful



subsidies, stronger social protection measures, and the allocation of spending to programs that deliver positive outcomes for nature. He also emphasized the importance of cooperation with businesses to establish clear commitments and identify existing opportunities.

According to the UN Secretary-General, biodiversity conservation must be taken into account in policymaking, governance, and budgetary decisions.

He also addressed the drivers of biodiversity loss: climate change, the spread of invasive alien species, pollution, and the direct exploitation of natural resources, emphasizing that combating them requires interconnected action.

Istanbul faces more rain as flood searches continue

Istanbul prepared for renewed heavy rain on Oct. 16 as teams searched for five missing people following deadly floods that submerged homes, swept away vehicles and disrupted transport.

There were three deaths from electrocution and drowning in the city late on Oct. 15.

Another person was missing in neighboring Kocaeli, bringing the number being sought across the two provinces to six.

Fatal accidents were also reported during repair and drainage work.



More Than 45,000 Displaced Artsakh Armenians Have Received Armenian Citizenship, Deputy Minister Says



More than 45,000 Armenians displaced from Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh) have been granted citizenship of the Republic of Armenia, Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs Armen Ghazaryan announced during a briefing at the National Assembly.

According to Ghazaryan, displaced Artsakh Armenians have submitted more than 53,000 citizenship applications, of which over 45,000 have already been approved.

Addressing documentation challenges, particularly the absence of birth certificates, the deputy minister explained that such documents are legally required for citizenship applications. To avoid lengthy court proceedings, authorities have introduced a simplified notarial procedure for establishing the necessary facts.

"A citizenship application cannot be processed without a birth certificate. This is a legal requirement established under citizenship legislation," Ghazaryan said.

He explained that the Ministry of Justice has proposed a notarial mechanism that is already being implemented. Authorities are also considering exemptions from certain fees to ease the financial burden on applicants.

Regarding possible delays in processing citizenship applications, Ghazaryan clarified that the maximum period established by law is 90 working days from the official start of administrative proceedings. He emphasized that violations of this deadline are rare.

According to the deputy minister, some misunderstandings arise because applicants consider the document collection stage to be the beginning of the process. However, official proceedings commence only after the required documents have been submitted to the relevant administrative authority and their authenticity has been verified.

Ghazaryan added that the necessary administrative and digital systems are already in place. The current priority is to raise public awareness of the simplified notarial procedures so that more displaced Armenians can take advantage of them.

Armenia Shifts from Country of Emigration to Destination for Immigration and Transit, Interior Minister Says



Armenia is undergoing a significant transformation in its migration patterns, shifting from a country primarily associated with emigration to a destination for immigration and transit, according to Minister of Internal Affairs Arpine Sargsyan.

The minister made the remarks during a meeting devoted to the principal objectives of Armenia's strategic program on migration and citizenship.

Sargsyan emphasized that substantial changes in migration flows require new management approaches and more effective administrative mechanisms.

According to the minister, in 2025, for the first time since Armenia gained independence, border-crossing statistics for Armenian citizens recorded a positive migration balance. The positive trend continued during the first half of 2026.

She stressed the importance of clearly defining the country's strategic migration policies and adopting the relevant policy document before the end of the year.

The meeting also addressed efforts to reassess the significance and legal framework of Armenian citizenship. Following extensive discussions, a legislative initiative has already been drafted and is undergoing active review.

Participants further emphasized the need to establish a more institutionalized and coordinated visa policy as part of Armenia's broader migration management strategy.

The proposed measures are intended to adapt Armenia's migration and citizenship policies to changing demographic and mobility patterns while improving the effectiveness of government administration.

Gagik Tsarukian went on trial

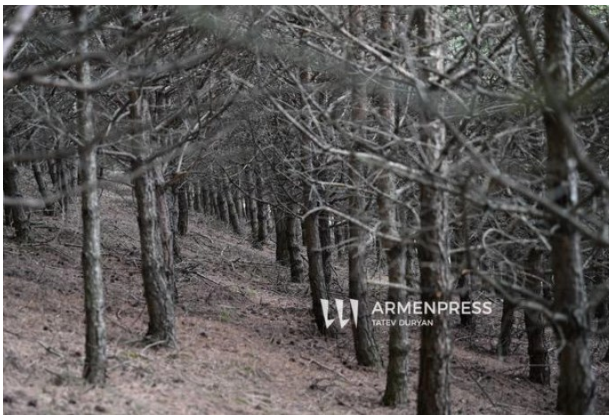
Businessman and opposition leader Gagik Tsarukian again denied fraud charges leveled against him as he went on trial on Thursday more than three months after his post-election arrest promised by Prime Minister Nikol Pashinian.

Also standing trial are eight other individuals, including Sedrak Arustamian, the former chairman of Tsarukian's Multi Group holding company.



A forest dedicated to the memory of the late Hrant Dink





A forest dedicated to the memory of the late Hrant Dink, editor-in-chief of Istanbul-based Agos weekly, is home to 53,000 trees. The forest is located near the Vanadzor-Dilijan highway.

The 11-hectare reforestation project was implemented by the Armenia Tree Project charitable foundation. Vahe Matsakyan, the foundation's Forestry Program Manager, said that the reforestation work began in 2007.

The Hrant Dink Memorial Forest was established following the murder of Hrant Dink, editor-in-chief of the Agos newspaper, who was shot dead outside his Istanbul office in 2007.

According to Matsakyan, the land belongs to the community of Fioletovo. It was previously degraded pastureland with surface water flows."Thanks to the work carried out over the years, we now have an established forested area. The forest is planted mainly with pines, as well as broadleaf tree species, including wild pear and apple trees. The Armenia Tree Project foundation not only carried out the planting but also organized the forest's maintenance. Maintenance work is currently being carried out to protect the area. This year, thinning is also planned as part of the maintenance work. Undergrown and damaged trees will be cut down, and the resulting timber will be provided to residents of Fioletovo. The purpose of the thinning is to increase the productivity of the forest," Matsakyan said.

He said that in 2027, the forested area will officially be handed over to the Fioletovo community, while the foundation intends to continue working with the community in the future by providing professional advice on proper forest management.

"Measures are also planned to change the species composition and promote natural regeneration. This is the first forest we are handing over as a forested area," Vahe Matsakyan said, adding that similar areas are planned to be handed over to the communities of Spitak, Koghes and Tashir in the coming years.

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
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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
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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
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914-273-0200
info@stnersess.edu www.stnersess.edu

Armenian Network of America-NY Region
P.O. Box 205
Bible School Park, NY 13737
(617) 688-2741
newyorkregion@armnet.org www.armnet.org

Armenian Church of the Holy Martyrs
209-15 Horace Harding Expressway
Bayside, New York 11364
718-225-0235
www.holy-martyrs.org

Armenian Evangelical Church of New York
152 E 34th St.
New York, NY 10016
Tel: (212) 685-3177

St. Vartan Armenian Cathedral
630 2nd Ave
New York, NY 10016
(212) 686-0710

St. Gregory the Enlightener Armenian Church
1131 North Street
White Plains, NY 10605
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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UPCOMING EVENTS

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- **October 17, 2026 - AAHPO 8th annual 5K run**
- **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**
- **October 30, 2026 - St. Thomas Church Oktoberfest Beer Festival**
- **November 7, 2026 - Knights of Vartan Musical Gala at St. Leon Armenian Church**
- **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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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!

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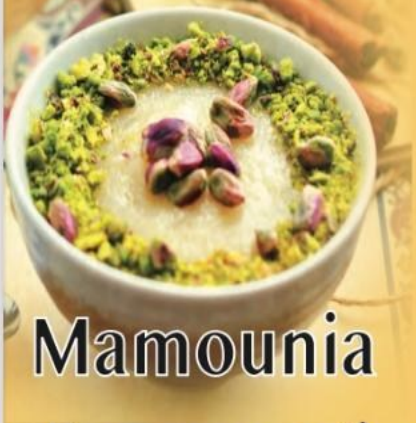
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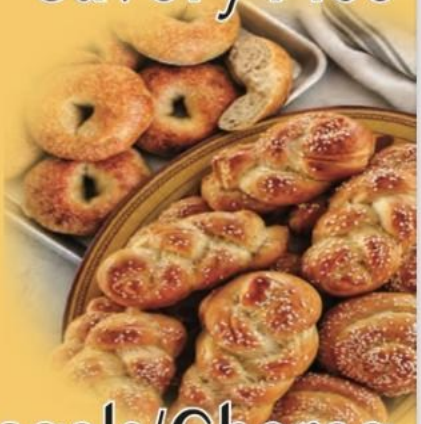
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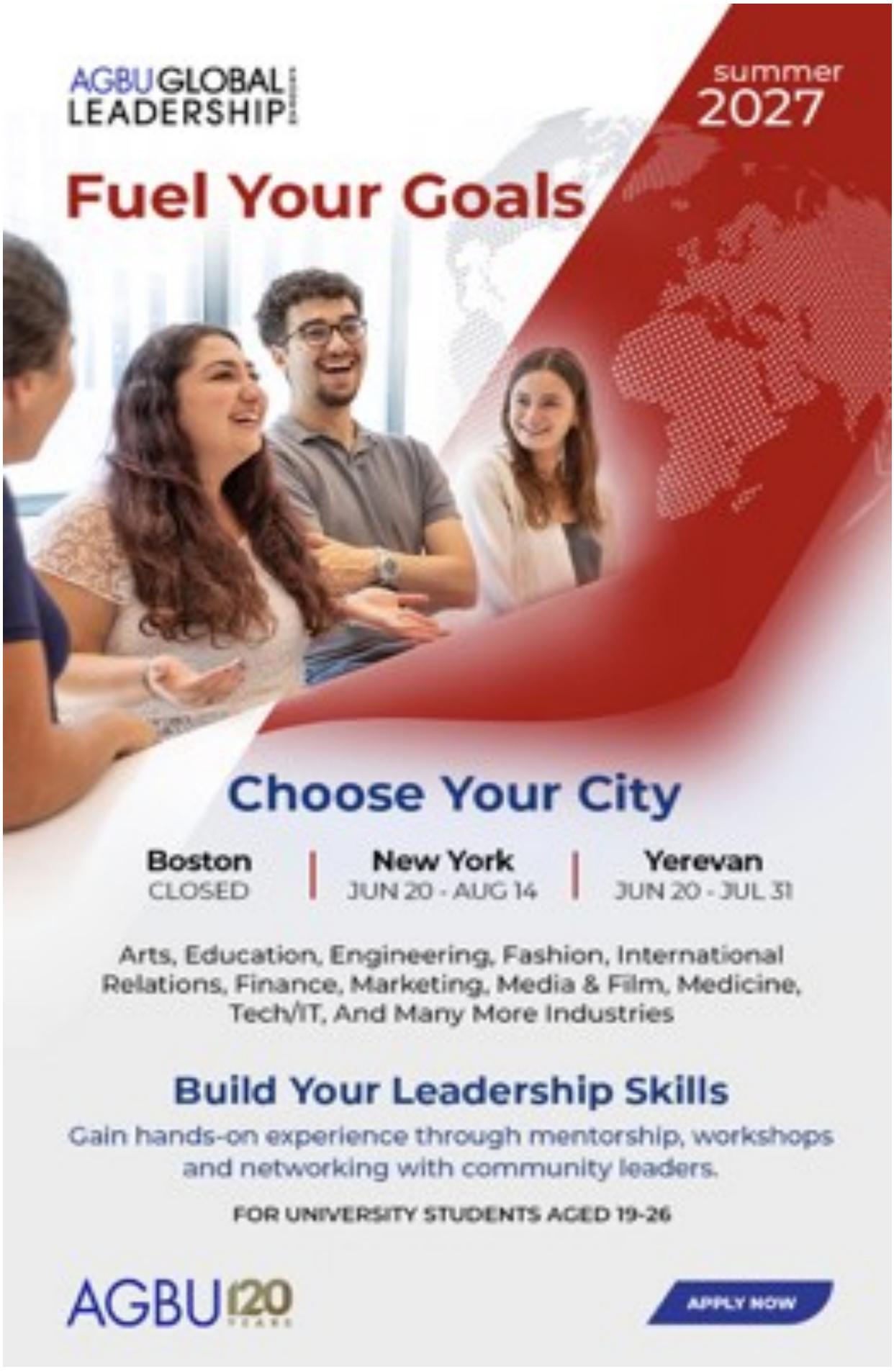
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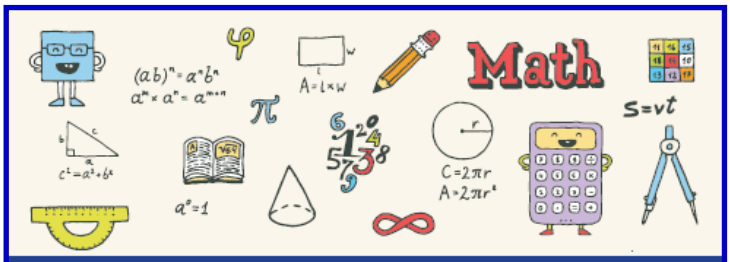
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Armenian Interests **e-newsletter serves all Armenian non-profit organizations and churches. We gladly post all flyers and press releases submitted by officers of the organization. Information makes us all a better and healthier community.**

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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