Armenian Interests

October 25, 2026 Issue #932

News & Events of the Armenian Community

The Passing of Two Giants: A Profound Loss for the Armenian Community

MISSAK HAIGENTZ
1937 - 2026



Born Missak Kupelian on August 19, 1937, he lost his father, Haig, at a young age, an experience that shaped his lifelong sense of responsibility, perseverance, and devotion to family. As a writer, he adopted the pen name Haigentz in honor of his father and his Armenian heritage, later making it his legal surname.

The first member of his family to immigrate to the United States, Haigentz dedicated his life to education, scholarship, and service. As editor of Nor Or, a leading Armenian-language newspaper, and through decades of leadership and service with the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU), he helped preserve and promote Armenian culture, history, literature, and identity throughout the diaspora.

As a Trustee of the Dolores Zohrab Liebmann Fund, he oversaw the publication of more than one hundred books devoted to Armenian history, culture, and literature. Following a distinguished career in community service, he pursued a second career in law, fulfilling his lifelong commitment to learning.

Haigentz took great pride in his family and friends and found deep satisfaction in encouraging others, especially his son, to pursue education, leadership, and service. In later years, he especially enjoyed reading, writing, reflection, and time spent with those closest to him. He will be remembered for his intellect, integrity, generosity, and steadfast devotion to his heritage, family, and community.

He is survived by his son, Dr. Missak Haigentz, Jr., and daughter-in-law Madaline; his brother, Herair Kupelian, and wife, Nora; his sister, Aida Poladian.

He also leaves behind his cherished nieces and nephews:
Tamar Poladian Perron and husband, John, and their children, Grace, Jackson, and Faith; Haig Kupelian and wife, Talin, and their daughters, Katya and Lori; Arto Poladian and wife, Leticia, and their children, Nishelle and Noah; Artin Kupelian and wife, Rachelle, and their sons, Stallone and Nikolas.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to support cancer research at Rutgers Cancer Institute:
raise.rutgersfoundation.org/Haigentz

ŞAHAN ARZRUNI
1943 - 2026



Şahan Arzruni was an internationally acclaimed classical pianist, ethnomusicologist, scholar, composer, and devoted Armenian whose life was dedicated to music, education, and the preservation of Armenian cultural heritage.

Born in Istanbul, Arzruni demonstrated extraordinary musical talent from an early age, beginning piano lessons at four and performing publicly at five. In 1964, he moved to New York to pursue his musical education at The Juilliard School, later continuing his studies at New York University.

Throughout his distinguished career, he performed on prestigious international stages, appeared on major American television programs, and gave command performances at the White House and before European royal courts. Yet his greatest passion extended beyond performance to preserving the cultural heritage of his Armenian ancestors.

Through recordings, scholarly publications, lectures, and cultural projects, Arzruni helped preserve Armenian piano compositions, sacred music, traditional melodies, and ancient chants. His efforts to introduce Armenian prayers and spiritual music to children reflected his deep commitment to ensuring that future generations would inherit this precious legacy.

Arzruni maintained a profound connection to Armenia, returning frequently to perform, teach, mentor young musicians, and document historic monasteries. In recognition of his invaluable contributions to Armenian cultural development, he received numerous honors, including the Movses Khorenatsi Medal in 2015.

Passionate, curious, and unwavering in his mission, Şahan understood that preserving Armenian culture meant not simply honoring the past, but ensuring its continued vitality for generations to come.

With his passing, the Armenian nation loses a remarkable son, the musical world an extraordinary artist and scholar, and countless individuals a cherished friend and colleague. His music, scholarship, and enduring devotion to his heritage will continue to inspire Armenians around the world.

May his memory be eternal, and may the music and heritage he so dearly loved live on forever.

AGBU Condolence Letter - Missak Haigentz

ՀԲԸՄ 120 ՏԱՐԻ

20 Հոկտեմբեր 2026

Տոքթ. Միսաք Հայկենց
Սաութ Օրանճ, Նիւ Ճըրզի

Յարգելի Տոքթ. Հայկենց,

Ձեր հօր՝ ազգի եւ մշակոյթի նուիրեալ եւ վաստակաշատ գործիչին, Միսաք Հայկենցի մահուան առիթով, անձնապէս եւ Հայկական Բարեգործական Ընդհանուր Միութեան անունով, մեր խորագոյց ցաւակցութիւնները կը փոխանցենք Ձեզի:

Միսաք Հայկենցի մահով, մեր սիփիւռքահայ իրականութեան համայնքային, կազմակերպչական, մշակութային, ազգային քաղաքական, հրապարակագրական բեղուն եւ արգասաւոր կեանքի անցեալ ժամանակաշրջանի բծախնդիր եւ նուիրեալ վիմատրագրեալներէն փայլուն դէմք մը յաւերժ կը հեռանայ մեզմէ, իր հրայաստուկ դրոշմը ձգելով ետին:

Պատմական Եգիպտոսի, յատկապէս Աղեքսանդրիոյ համայնքային երբեմնի ազգային մշակութային աշխոյժ եւ կենսահոսդ մթնոլորտին մէջ ծնունդ առած, Տիգրան Երկայթ կազմակերպութեան շրջանակին մէջ թրծուած եւ հրապարակային իր հեղինակաւոր դէմքով եւ հեղինակութեամբ ճանաչումի արժանացած Միսաք Հայկենցի անունը սերտօրէն առնչուած է ՀԲԸՄ-ին հետ, նախ Ցկեանս Նախագահ Ալէքս Մանուկեանի իբր խորհրդական եւ ապա երկար տարիներ որպէս Միութեան Ընդհանուր Պատասխանատու Տնօրէնի իր պաշտօնավարութեամբ: Ժամանակաշրջան մը յատկապէս, երբ Միութեան աշխարհատարած շրջանակները կազմաւորումի, բարգաւաճումի եւ համայնքային կեդրոններու շինարարական եռուն ընթացք մը կ'ապրէին, Միսաք Հայկենց իր համակարգողի դերով եւ յաճախակի այցելութիւններով, ծանօթ եւ յարգուած դէմք մը կը հանդիսանար, յատկապէս այդ սերունդին համար ջերմ, մտերիմ եւ անջնջելի յիշատակներով:

Մեր սերունդին համար, Միսաք Հայկենց եղած էր ազգային եւ մշակութային նուիրեալ գործիչի օրինակելի դաստիարակիչ տիպար մը, որ յարգանքով եւ երախտագիտութեամբ պիտի յիշուի միշտ:

Յարգանք՝ իր բարի յիշատակին

Անկեղծ վշտակցութեամբ՝

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Պերճ Մեղրակեան
Պատուոյ Նախագահ

ARMENIAN GENERAL BENEVOLENT UNION ՀԱՅԿԱԿԱՆ ԲԱՐԵԳՈՐԾԱԿԱՆ ԸՆԴՀԱՆՈՒՐ ՄԻՈՒԹԻՒՆ
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Headline News

Armenian Interests

AMAA Celebrates 107th Annual Meeting Banquet Honors Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian and Dr. Nurhan Helvacian



Honoree Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian

By Louisa Janbazian, AMAA Public Relations / Communications Director

Paramus, NJ – The Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) held its 107th Annual Meeting Banquet on Saturday, October 17, 2026, at the Teaneck Marriott at Glenpointe in Teaneck, New Jersey. Bringing together friends of the AMAA and representatives of Armenian Evangelical churches and unions from around the world, the evening celebrated the theme "Our Lasting Impact on Generations" and honored two distinguished individuals whose decades of service have made lasting contributions to the organization and the Armenian Evangelical community: Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian, former Executive Director of the Armenian Evangelical World Council (AEWC) and former AMAA and AEUNA Board member, and Dr. Nurhan Helvacian, former AMAA Board member and Treasurer.

The evening began with a warm welcome from event Co-Chairs Lucienne Aynilian and Anita Buchakjian. Dr. Michael Voskian served as Master of Ceremonies, guiding the evening's program with warmth and grace. Greg and Garen Loshkajian performed the national anthems, followed by an invocation offered by Rev. Joseph Garabedian, Pastor of the Armenian Presbyterian Church in Paramus, New Jersey.

Following a video presentation, "The Transforming Impact of the AMAA," Serge D. Buchakjian, AMAA CEO/ Executive Director, welcomed the guests and reflected on the organization's enduring mission and the difference it continues to make in communities around the world. "Everything you just saw… Every child helped; Every student given an opportunity; Every church strengthened; Every life transformed… You are part of that story. This is your AMAA. Be proud of it. Help us tell its story. And together, with God's guidance, let us write the next chapter," Mr. Buchakjian said.

Mr. Buchakjian then introduced His Excellency Narek Mkrtchyan, Ambassador of the Republic of Armenia to the United States, who addressed the gathering. Ambassador Mkrtchyan expressed his appreciation for the AMAA's longstanding commitment to Armenia, highlighting its contributions to relief efforts and education in the aftermath of the devastating 1988 earthquake and its continued support for the rebuilding and development of the homeland.

Honoring Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian

The first honoree of the evening was Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian, whose decades of faithful leadership and dedicated service have left a profound mark on the Armenian Evangelical community.

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AMAA
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A scene from the Banquet room

Rev. Dr. Krikor Youmshajekian, current Executive Director of the AEWC, presented a tribute on behalf of the Council, while Rev. Hendrik Shanazarian, Minister to the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America (AEUNA), offered a tribute on behalf of the Union.

Reflecting on Rev. Dr. Tootikian's 23 years of leadership with the AEWC, Rev. Dr. Youmshajekian said: "Twenty -three years is a long time to devote yourself to this ministry. During those years, Rev. Tootikian poured his heart into this Council. He served with diligence, commitment, and genuine passion. This was never just a position for him—it was a calling. He carried the responsibilities of leadership with wisdom, humility, and integrity, always seeking what would best serve the churches and advance the work of God's Kingdom."

Rev. Shanazarian emphasized that the true measure of Rev. Dr. Tootikian's legacy extends far beyond his professional accomplishments. "What we celebrate most tonight is not the impressive list of positions, degrees, publications, or honors. We celebrate a life of faithful service, a lifetime devoted to teaching and communicating the Christian faith and our Armenian heritage," he said.

A special tribute video followed, featuring photographs of Rev. Dr. Tootikian throughout his life, from childhood to the present day. Representatives of the AEWC, AMAA, and AEUNA then presented him with special gifts in recognition of his many years of service and leadership.

In his heartfelt remarks, Rev. Dr. Tootikian expressed his sincere gratitude to the AMAA for organizing the celebration and recognizing his 67 years of service. He also gave thanks to God for the privilege of serving the Armenian Evangelical community and contributing to its spiritual growth and enduring mission.

Honoring Dr. Nurhan Helvacian

Following dinner, AMAA President Gary Phillips, Esq., introduced the evening's second honoree, Dr. Nurhan Helvacian, in recognition of his dedicated service as an AMAA Board member and Treasurer.

Mr. Phillips highlighted Dr. Helvacian's commitment to the organization, his faithful stewardship of its resources, and his valuable contributions to advancing the AMAA's mission. Quoting Saint Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians, he said, "'It is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.' Nurhan, you have proven more than faithful."

Following a special video presentation celebrating Dr. Helvacian's service and contributions to the AMAA, he was presented with a special gift in recognition of his many years of faithful service.

Accepting the honor, Dr. Helvacian expressed his gratitude for the recognition and reflected on the privilege of serving alongside so many dedicated individuals. "With heartfelt gratitude I accept this recognition of my service to the AMAA as its Treasurer. Over the years, I have had the privilege of working with so many devoted and faithful people. I thank the Lord for that opportunity. Indeed, it has been my honor and privilege to serve this wonderful organization that dedicates itself to doing God's work on earth," Dr. Helvacian said.

The tribute was followed by a musical presentation by Zulal, an a cappella trio known for its interpretations of Armenian folk music. The group delighted guests with three Armenian folk songs, adding a special musical touch to the evening's celebration.

In his closing remarks, Mr. Buchakjian expressed his sincere appreciation to the event Co-Chairs Lucienne Aynilian and Anita Buchakjian for their outstanding leadership, as well as to all committee members for their hard work and dedication. He also recognized the AMAA staff in New Jersey, California, Montreal and Yerevan for their efforts in making the evening a success. "Above all, my heartfelt thanks go to each and every one of you for being here tonight, for your generosity, and for your continued support of the AMAA and its mission. It is your commitment and friendship that make evenings like this so meaningful," Mr. Buchakjian said.

The banquet concluded with the singing of *Hayr Mer* ("The Lord's Prayer"), led by Greg Loshkajian, followed by the benediction offered by Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian, President of both the Armenian Evangelical World Council (AEWC) and Haigazian University.

The evening served as a meaningful reminder of the lasting impact that faithful service, Christian leadership, and a shared commitment to the Armenian Evangelical community can have across generations.

Armenian Evangelical World Council Convenes in New Jersey





Paramus, NJ – The Armenian Evangelical World Council (AEWC) held its regular meeting on October 15–16, 2026 at the headquarters of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) in Paramus, New Jersey, bringing together representatives of the five Armenian Evangelical Unions around the world, along with representatives of the AMAA and the Stephen Philibosian Foundation.

The meeting provided an important opportunity for Council members to review ongoing activities, reflect on the past year's accomplishments, strengthen collaboration among Armenian Evangelical institutions worldwide, and discuss priorities for the future of the global Armenian Evangelical community.

The President of the AEWC, Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian, welcomed the Council members and guests. He then invited the Executive Director, Rev. Dr. Krikor Youmshajekian, to lead a brief biblical meditation and offer the opening prayer, setting a spiritual tone for the deliberations and discussions that followed.

Following the presentation of written and oral reports by the Council's officers and representatives of the various church Unions and partner organizations, the Board reviewed the AEWC's activities and initiatives over the past year. Discussions focused on the progress made in fostering cooperation, strengthening relationships, and advancing shared goals among the Armenian Evangelical Unions, the AMAA, and related institutions around the world.

A significant part of the meeting was devoted to the worldwide celebrations marking the 180th anniversary of the Armenian Evangelical Church in 2026. Representatives shared updates on the commemorative events and activities organized by their respective Unions, highlighting the diverse ways in which Armenian Evangelical communities across the globe are honouring this historic milestone. The anniversary serves as an opportunity to celebrate the Church's rich spiritual heritage, reflect on its enduring mission, and renew its commitment to faith, service, and witness for generations to come.

A comprehensive report on the progress of the Digitization and Archiving Project was presented at the meeting. Recognizing the importance of this initiative, the council unanimously agreed to continue advancing the valuable project. Furthermore, the council approved and confirmed that the Worldwide Pastors' Conference will be held from 27 to 30 September 2027 at AMAA's Camp Hankavan in Armenia.

In another important decision, the Armenian Evangelical World Council unanimously voted to extend the term of its current President, Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian, for an additional year. The Council also approved a change to the length of future presidential terms, extending them from two years to three years. These decisions reflect the Council's commitment to continuity in leadership and to strengthening its governance and long-term effectiveness.

The meeting concluded with a renewed sense of shared purpose and commitment to the mission of the Armenian Evangelical Church worldwide. Through continued dialogue, cooperation, and mutual support, the Armenian Evangelical World Council seeks to strengthen the bonds uniting Armenian Evangelical communities across continents and to advance their common spiritual and institutional mission.

The Passing of Great Armenian Musician Şahan Arzruni (1943 - 2026)



Şahan Arzruni passed away on Wednesday, October 21, 2026

Search Şahan Arzruni from the comfort of your home, on a computer or a phone, and you will find an extraordinary amount of information about his life and accomplishments—more information than most of us would ever have the time to read, absorb, and fully appreciate.

But behind all those biographies, recordings, performances, academic papers, awards and honors was something much deeper: an Armenian man who devoted his life to music, to Armenian culture, and to the preservation of the heritage he loved so profoundly.

Şahan Arzruni was an internationally renowned Armenian classical pianist, ethnomusicologist, lecturer, composer, writer and producer. Born in Istanbul on June 8, 1943, he grew up in an Armenian family proud of its heritage and of the ancient Arzruni name. His father was Stepan Jirayr Arzruni and his mother, Maryam Kalpakyan. His maternal aunt, composer Sirvart Kalpakyan Karamanuk, recognized Şahan's musical gifts very early and encouraged him to study piano. He began playing at the age of four and appeared publicly when he was only five.

His education began in the Armenian schools of Istanbul, including the Esayan and Getronagan Lyceums, followed by studies at the Istanbul Municipal Conservatory.

In 1964, he moved to New York and continued his education at The Juilliard School. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in 1967 and his Master of Science degree in 1968, and later pursued doctoral studies at New York University.

Yet a list of degrees cannot explain the man.

His roots in the Armenian community were important to him throughout his life. Among his early and formative experiences was his work with the Gomidas Choir, where he served for many years as accompanist under distinguished choir directors, including Dr. Arthur Minassian, Isaiah Aprahamian, Ohanes Hepsen and others.

For Arzruni, Armenian music was never simply a subject to study. It was something to preserve, perform, teach and pass on.

He devoted enormous energy to Armenian musical heritage. He recorded and documented Armenian piano music, wrote scholarly works and articles, delivered lectures, organized symposia, and participated in projects that brought Armenian music to audiences around the world. His recordings include a major three-volume anthology of Armenian piano music, and his scholarship extended well beyond performance into the history and preservation of Armenian musical culture.

Perhaps even more important was his work with Armenian spiritual and traditional music and with the younger generation.

Among the projects close to his heart were collections and productions devoted to Armenian chants, prepared and annotated so that children could understand, learn and sing the prayers and sacred music of the Armenian Church. Such work involved collaboration with religious leaders and communities and, in some cases, the recording of children's voices in Armenia against the extraordinary backdrop of ancient Armenian monasteries.

This was the kind of work that required much more than musical talent. It required patience, scholarship, travel, organization, devotion and an almost limitless love for Armenia.

Few people in the Armenian world have been willing to undertake such work with the persistence and passion that Şahan Arzruni brought to it.

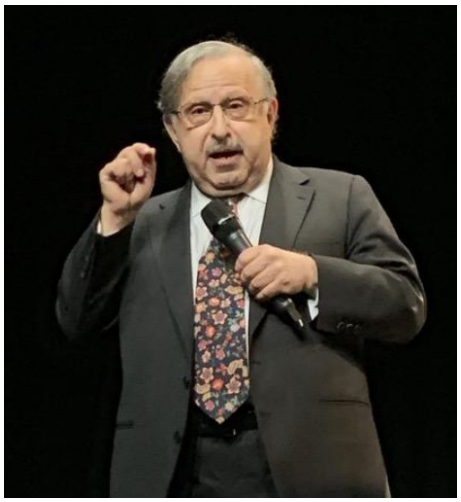
He repeatedly returned to Armenia, worked with young musicians, performed recitals and shared his knowledge. His travels also took him to remote and ancient monasteries, where he documented places and details that might otherwise have remained unknown to a wider audience. His photographs and observations became the basis for articles published in Paros in Istanbul.

His commitment was not limited to the concert hall.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, he curated the online "Together for Armenia" mini-concert series, using music as a means of helping Armenia during an extraordinarily difficult period.

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Şahan Arzruni
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And then there was the international career.

Arzruni performed on some of the world's most prominent stages and appeared on major American television and radio programs, including The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson and The Mike Douglas Show. He performed at the Royal Variety Show with Victor Borge, serving as Borge's straight man in their celebrated comic piano-duet performance of Liszt's Second Hungarian Rhapsody. He also gave command performances at the White House and before European royal courts.

These accomplishments alone would constitute a remarkable career. But Şahan was never satisfied with accomplishments for their own sake.

He believed deeply in Gomidas and in the continuing responsibility to preserve and develop Armenian music. He once expressed the view that there had not been a true successor to Gomidas, whether as composer or performer, in Armenia or the Diaspora.

That belief helps explain so much of what he did.

He was not simply performing the Armenian musical past. He was trying to make sure that it would have a future.

His contributions were recognized repeatedly. In 2008 he received an honorary professorship from the Yerevan Komitas State Conservatory. In 2015 he received the Movses Khorenatsi Medal of the Republic of Armenia for his contribution to cultural development. His many other honors and grants reflected a career that crossed the worlds of performance, scholarship, education and Armenian cultural preservation.

There were also sides of Şahan that no curriculum vitae could adequately describe.

He had a passion for food and cooking. He was curious about places, people, history and architecture. He was fascinated by monasteries—particularly those hidden away in Armenia and Eastern Turkey—and wanted to document the things he discovered.

And he had one more dream.

He wanted to bring the story of his life and work together in a book—a biography that would exist in both Armenian and English. He wanted his many accomplishments, experiences, recordings, writings, encounters and journeys to be gathered in one place so that future generations could know not only what he had accomplished, but why it mattered.

He was working on that book. Sadly, that dream remains unfinished.

Şahan is remembered not simply as a pianist who played Armenian music, but as a man who spent a lifetime searching for it, documenting it, studying it, teaching it and bringing it to others.

In the final days of his life, he reportedly spoke about how much remained unfinished. The sentiment is heartbreaking because it reveals something fundamental about Şahan Arzruni: even after a lifetime of extraordinary accomplishment, he still believed there was more to do for Armenian music and Armenian culture.

That was Şahan. He loved Armenians. He loved Armenian music. He loved Armenian history and culture. And he believed that these treasures had to be preserved—not only for those of us who already knew them, but for children and generations yet unborn.

The Armenian nation has lost a remarkable son.

The Armenian musical world has lost a gifted pianist, scholar, teacher, historian and advocate.

And many people who knew him personally have lost a friend, a colleague, a mentor and a remarkable human being.

His music will remain. His recordings will remain. His scholarship will remain. The monasteries he photographed, the music he documented, the children he taught, the young musicians he encouraged, and the Armenian heritage he spent his life carrying into the world will remain.

Perhaps that is the greatest tribute we can offer him.

Şahan Arzruni leaves behind unfinished work—but also an extraordinary body of work that will continue to speak.

May his memory be eternal. May his music continue to be heard. And may the Armenian cultural heritage he loved so dearly continue to live through the generations that follow.

Rest in peace, Şahan. You will be deeply missed.

Poetry presented by Mrs. Zarmine Boghosian

Մեր Գրական Աշխարհի Ծաղկաստանէն
♥ ♥ ♥ ***Through the Orchards of Armenian Language & Poetry*** ♥ ♥ ♥ **Oct. /24-25/2026**
Presented by: Zarminé Boghosian

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Ռազմիկ Դաւոյեան

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Անցան օրեր զոյգ-զոյգ,
Ճաշակեցինք եւ՛ սէր,
Ե՛ւ տառապանք, եւ՛ սուգ:
Յոգնեցրին ինձ արդէն - Օրերը լայն ու նեղ,
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Յոգնեցրին ինձ արդեն
Տխրութիւնն այս ցանցառ
Եւ կարօտներն այս խեղճ.-
Դէ բաց կեղեւդ, ծա՛ռ,
Ա՛ռ ինձ կեղեւիդ մէջ: Ա՛ռ ինձ կեղեւիդ մէջ.-
Այս անծաղիկ դարում
Ես կը ձուլուեմ քեզ հետ՝
Որպէս փոքրիկ գարուն:
Որպէս թաքուն թախիծ,
Տերեւներիդ խորքում
Ես կը փայլեմ տխուր
Ու կը մտնեմ խոր քուն:
Ու հողմերը թէ գան՝
Ինձ խլեն քո ձեռքից,
Ես կ՛արթնանամ, ծա՛ռ իմ,
Կը որոտանք մէկից:
Ես կը ձգուեմ քեզ հետ, Ես կը ճկուեմ քեզ հետ-- Ու հողմերի ձեռքից
Ես կը փրկուեմ քեզ հետ:
Ու մի թաքուն գիշեր,
Երբ բոլորը քնեն,
Ես քեզ կախարդական
Բառեր կը կրկընեմ.-
Կ՛ելնենք թաքու՛ն-թաքու՛ն,
Կ՛երթանք կամա՛ց-կամա՛ց, Ու քնի մէջ նրան կը դարձընենք անքուն:
Նրա երազի մէջ Կախարդական մի ծառ
Մարդկային ձեւ կառնի,
Կը շնչշնկայ կամաց, Եւ մարդկային լեզուով,
Որպէս լեգենդ պայծառ,
Կը բարբառի նրան
Անհու՛ն, կորած մի սէր
Եւ մի կարօտ անծայր:
Յետոյ կամաց-կամաց,
Ցաւով մեր շողշողուն,
Որպէս կորած տեսիլք,
Մենք կը թաղուենք հողում:

Ա Բ Գ

ՀԱՅՈՑ ԼԵԶՈՒԻՆ ՀՐԱՇՔԸ

Գրեց՝ Շահանդուխտ
Նուէր՝ Հայ Մանուկներուն

Շողերուն հետ այգաբացի
Հիւրեր եկան մեր տուն այցի
Անծանօթներ էին, սակայն
Կը ժպտէին զերթ բարեկամ:
Առաքեալներն ենք Մաշտոցի՝
Խորենացի ու Կողբացի,
Մեր հետ բերինք տառերն հայոց՝
Հայոց ազգի ամուր ամրոց:
Լեզուն է մեր լոյս տաղարան,
Ոչ ոք ունի անոր նման,
Գիւտն այս հրաշք ու ոսկետառ
Կերտեց հայոց փա՛ռք ոսկեդար:
Սրտիդ թելին շարէ, որդի,
Այբուբենը Սուրբ Մեսրոպի
Գոհարի պէս թող միշտ փայլին,
Աչքերուդ մէջ արեւածին:
Այբուբենի մատեանն անգին՝
Իբրեւ կտակ մեզ յանձնեցին
Թարգմանիչներ մեր սրբազան,
Երազի պէս լո՛ւռ հեռացան:

Ա Բ Գ

Շնորհաւոր Տօնդ Ուսուցիչ....

Գրեց՝ Եդուարդ Պօղոսեան

Փա՛ռք քեզ, ուսուցիչ, դու՝ Մարդ մեծատառ,
Քերթութեան դպիր, բարի՛, հոգատա՛ր,
Լոյսի սերմնացան, հաւատքի տաճար,
Խաւարը ցրող մարմնացած հանճար...
Փա՛ռք քեզ, ուսուցի՛չ, մեր թագ ու
Դու՝ Աստծոյ պարգեւ, երկրային բաղձանք,
Դու վառ գալիքը կերտող մի վարպետ,
Մեր անզուգական, մեր յոյսի ասպետ...
Փա՛ռք քեզ,ուսուցի՛չ, դու՝ մեր գիրք գրոց,
Դու մեր անգրաւ, անառիկ ամրոց,
Դու մեր առաջնորդ, ուղի ցոյց տուող,
Դու՝ մեր հարազատ, դու՝ մեր սրտի դող.. Փա՛ռք քեզ, ուսուցի՛չ, դու՝ միշտ պարտական, Եղել ես ու կաս դպրութեան արքան,
Ցաւերժութեան մէջ մեր լոյսի շողը,
Մեր զուլալ ջուրն ու...մեզ հաց տուո՛ղը:

Սանկտ-Պետերբուրգ-2010

We Armenia



WELCOME TO PAREV-TV

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

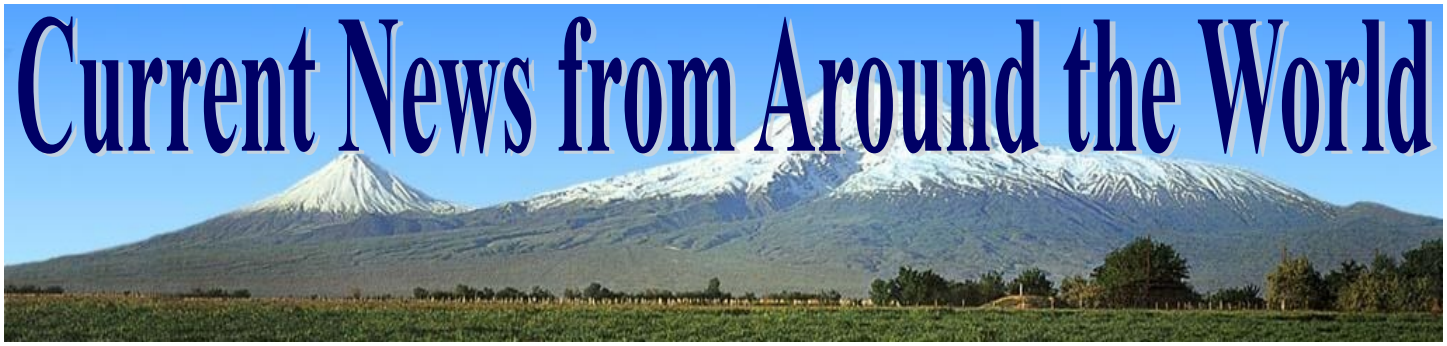
THANK YOU

To all our supporters of

Armenian Radio Hour of NJ

Armenian Interests E-Newsletter

Parev-TV



Armenian Interests

Kyrgyzstan President Sadyr Japarov official visit to Armenia





Kyrgyzstan President Sadyr Japarov was is on an official visit to Armenia hoping to develop friendly ties with Armenia based on mutual respect and a commitment to effective cooperation, said.

Japarov made the remarks in statements to the press following his meeting with Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan.

"I am confident that our meeting will give fresh impetus to strengthening friendly ties between our countries and further developing cooperation. I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Armenian side on successfully holding the leaders' summit on biodiversity. The event was organized to a high standard and has become an important platform for developing joint approaches to global environmental challenges. Kyrgyzstan is interested in developing friendly ties with Armenia based on mutual respect and a commitment to effective cooperation. I am pleased to note that political dialogue between our countries has become increasingly active in recent years," Japarov said.

"We see broad opportunities for cooperation in trade, agriculture, information technology, education and tourism. I am convinced that transport cooperation is a particularly important area, and transit opportunities and their expansion will be very important in this regard. I believe we will achieve concrete results in these areas. I would particularly like to highlight the document on cooperation to protect lakes Issyk-Kul and Sevan. These unique lakes are priceless natural treasures and an integral part of our peoples' national heritage, closely connected with their history, culture and lives. Preserving them and passing them on to future generations is our shared collective responsibility," Japarov concluded.

Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said, "We have every basis for giving these relations fresh substance and translating the existing potential for cooperation into practical results. During today's negotiations, we comprehensively discussed prospects for deepening political dialogue, expanding trade and economic ties, developing transport and logistics links, and cooperating in education, science, innovation and culture."

The Armenian prime minister and Kyrgyz president also discussed strengthening peace, stability and security in the South Caucasus and Central Asia.

"We are convinced that strengthening regional peace creates new opportunities for economic cooperation and the development of transport links," Pashinyan stressed. Education, science, technology and the development of young people's potential are also important areas of cooperation between the two countries.

The two leaders agreed to encourage exchanges of students, lecturers and researchers and develop joint educational programs and research initiatives, expanding direct links between their countries' educational and scientific institutions. We plan to organize Days of Culture in both countries in 2027 and 2028," Pashinyan said. "I am confident that the consistent implementation of today's agreements will deepen bilateral cooperation and strengthen the bonds of friendship between the peoples of Armenia and Kyrgyzstan," Pashinyan concluded.

Armenian parliament committee greenlights ratification of TRIPP agreement



The Armenian parliament's Foreign Relations Committee has approved the bill on ratifying the Framework Agreement between the Republic of Armenia and the United States of America on Strategic Cooperation Concerning the Trump Route for International Peace and Prosperity (TRIPP).

The bill was approved by the committee with four votes in favor and one against.

It will be discussed during the parliament's upcoming plenary session.

Armenian officials visit Syunik to discuss launch of TRIPP infrastructure work

Armenian government officials visited Syunik Province to discuss organizational issues related to the launch of TRIPP infrastructure design work and determine the next steps.

Armenian Deputy Prime Minister Mher Grigoryan, Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure Davit Khudatyan, Urban Development Committee Chairman Yeghiazar Vardanyan, and other officials made the visit on October 21, the government said.



Armenia, United States explore opportunities for deeper economic cooperation



This week, Caroline Vik, Chief Policy Officer of the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC), visited Armenia to explore opportunities for deeper U.S.-Armenian economic cooperation, the U.S. Embassy in Armenia said in a press release.

Discussions with government officials and business representatives focused on strengthening commercial ties, expanding private-sector investment, and creating new opportunities for American and Armenian businesses.

Czech-Made Military Aircraft Expected to Arrive in Armenia



Armenian Defense Minister Suren Papikyan has indicated that Czech-made military aircraft may soon arrive in Armenia, sharing a video from the Czech Republic that appears to feature an L-39NG Skyfox aircraft.

"These beauties will soon be flying in Armenia's skies," Papikyan wrote in the caption accompanying the video.

The L-39NG Skyfox is a modern, two-seat jet aircraft manufactured by the Czech company Aero Vodochody. Designed primarily for military pilot training and light combat operations, it represents the next generation of the L-39 Albatros trainer aircraft developed during the Soviet era.

Papikyan provided no additional details about the aircraft shown in the video, including the number Armenia might acquire or a possible delivery schedule.



The defense minister departed for an official visit to the Czech Republic on October 20.

The latest development suggests continued efforts to strengthen defense cooperation between Armenia and the Czech Republic.

Firebird AI Makes First Electricity Payment of Over 244 Million Drams to Armenia's Power Grid

Romanos Petrosyan, acting manager of the Electric Networks of Armenia (ENA), has announced that Firebird AI has made its first payment to the electricity distributor, paying more than 244 million drams (including VAT) for approximately 6 million kilowatt-hours of electricity consumed.

Petrosyan noted that the company is currently operating at only a small fraction of its planned production capacity.

"The simultaneous development of high-tech industries and the energy sector in our country is essential. The enormous direct and multiplier effects of Firebird's Hrazdan facility on various sectors of our economy are clear evidence of this," Petrosyan wrote.



He emphasized that the development of high-tech manufacturing and energy infrastructure must proceed together to support Armenia's economic growth.

Armenian Radio Hour of NJ

Sundays 2:00 - 4:00 P.M. WSOU 89.5 F.M.

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

35TH ANNIVERSARY

Shushi

Armenian Dance Ensemble



Professional dancers to elevate your parties and events

WEDDINGS • PARTIES • ENGAGEMENTS • CORPORATE EVENTS

FOR BOOKINGS CALL (972) 674-8744

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **October 12-Deeember 14, 2026 - Shushi Dance Ensemble Adult Dance Classes**
- **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 7, 2026 - Constantinople Rmenian Relief Society presents "The Fools Dinner"**
- **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**

35TH ANNIVERSARY

Shushi
Armenian Dance Ensemble

ADULT DANCE CLASSES

MOVE ✦ CONNECT ✦ CELEBRATE OUR CULTURE



Stay Active. Have Fun. Dance!

Boosts your physical health, reduces stress, builds community, and brings joy to your life!

No Experience Necessary!

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

MONDAYS
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

LOCATION
Church of Atonement
97 Highwood Ave
Tenafly, NJ 07670

6 SESSIONS FOR $60

FOR MORE INFORMATION
CALL 972-674-8744

TRADITION ✦ COMMUNITY ✦ LIFELONG MOVEMENT

ARS Agnouni, Bergen County Armenouhi &
NJ Shakeh Chapters invite you to

A Parisian Night with an Armenian Heart

Admission $85
Children 12 &
Under $40



HAKOB

Delicious
Mezza &
Cash Bar

A French-Armenian Musical Sensation Comes to
New Jersey for the First Time

Saturday, October 24, 2026 7:00 PM

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

Special Performance by Hamazkayin Nayiri Dance Ensemble

arsnjshakeh@gmail.com

ARMENIAN & MEDITERRANEAN FESTIVAL FOR EVERYONE

Fall

FOOD FESTIVAL

@ ST. THOMAS ARMENIAN CHURCH

Sunday OCTOBER 25

One Day Only · 12 Noon - 6:00 PM

EAT IN OR TAKE OUT · DJ MUSIC · KIDS BUBBLE SHOW · FACE PAINTING · COTTON CANDY · BALLOON TWISTING 1:30-3:30 PM VENDORS · RAFFLES · INDOORS · FREE PARKING & ADMISSION

DELICIOUS, HOMEMADE ARMENIAN & MEDITERRANEAN FOODS

SHISH-CHICKEN-LULEH KEBABS, DONER-GYRO, SOU BOREG, CHEESE BOREG, MANTI, KIBBEH, EETCH, PILAF, YALANCHEE, CHOREG, BAKLAVA, KATAYIF, BOORMA, KHURABIA, SIMIT, BEER, WINE, BAKED GOODS, MORE!



SCAN ME

TO PRE-ORDER BY 10/20 OR TO BE A FESTIVAL SPONSOR

Tel: (201) 567-5446 • 174 Essex Dr. • Cor. of Rt. 9W & E. Clinton Ave. • Tenafly, NJ 07670

Email: stthomasarmenianchurch@yahoo.com

www.stthomasarmenianchurch.com

St. Thomas Armenian Church

Cultural Committee
Presents

OKTOBERFEST

BEER FESTIVAL



FRIDAY, OCT. 30, 2026, 7 PM

- Donation $40, pp. includes: A tasting flight of 4 beers, featuring a variety of styles such as Lagers, IPAs, Hefeweizens, and more.
- Oktoberfest-inspired appetizers including sausage, soft pretzels and savory cheese dip.

For more info, please contact:
Talar Sarafian at 201-240-8541, talar@sarafian1.com or
Diana Bourghol at 201-805-6721, pdbourghol@yahoo.com.

174 Essex Dr., Corner of Rt. 9W & E. Clinton Ave.,Tenafly, NJ 07670
201-567-5446

KNIGHTS OF VARTAN (BAKRADOUNY LODGE - NON PROFIT) INVITES YOU TO A

MUSICAL GALA

MEZZES | BYOB

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7



FEATURING (MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT)

Michael Gostanian - Vocals/Kanoun
David Hoplamazian - Violin
Haig Buchakjian - Oud
Christopher Vosbikian - Dumbeg
Sevag Simonian - Guitar

OUR CAUSE

- ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM (ESP)
- BENEFITING ARMENIAN BUSINESSES
- SUPPORTING DISPLACED FAMILIES

Proceeds directly Benefit and empower Armenian businesses in Armenia, especially those displaced by the Artsakh War.

*SPONSORS WELCOME! CONTACT US TO PARTNER

LOCATION

Saint Leon's Church
12-61 Saddle River Rd #380
Fair Lawn, NJ 07410

ADMISSION

Adults $65
Students $20
Children under 12 Free

RSVP

BY NOVEMBER 5
RSVP via link

CONTACT

Peter Bonjuklian
peter.bonjuklian@outlook.com
201-264-4909

CONSTANTINOPLE ARMENIAN RELIEF SOCIETY

Presents

Francis Veber's

THE FOOLS DINNER

Ֆրանսիս Վեպեր

Ապուշների Ընթրիքը



A play performed by
Artashat Amo Kharazyan State Drama Theater
from Armenia

Directed by
VARTAN GARNIKI

Dedicated to the 100th Anniversary of C.A.R.S.

Saturday, November 7, 2026 at 6:00 pm
Fair Lawn Community Center
10-10 20th Street,
Fair Lawn, NJ 07410, USA

Sunday, November 8, 2026 at 4:30 pm
Queens Theatre
14 United Nations Avenue South
Flushing Meadows Corona Park
Queens, NY 11368, USA

Raffi Allaverdi
(201) 638-0062

Tamar Kayserian
(646) 220-9108

Friends of Hovnanian School

Presents an

ARMENIAN BRUNCH

ALL THE TASTES OF HOME

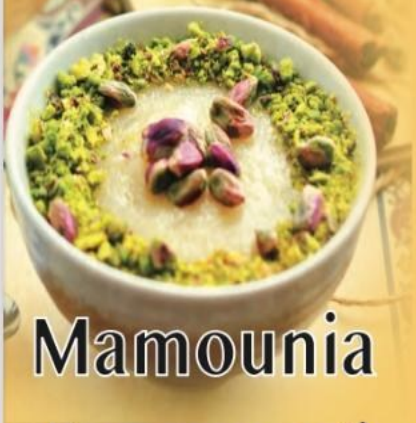
PLEASE JOIN US

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2026

12:30 - 3:30



Foul



Mamounia

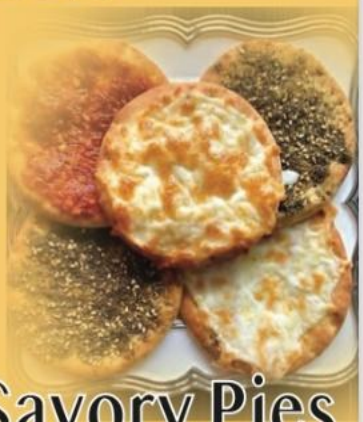
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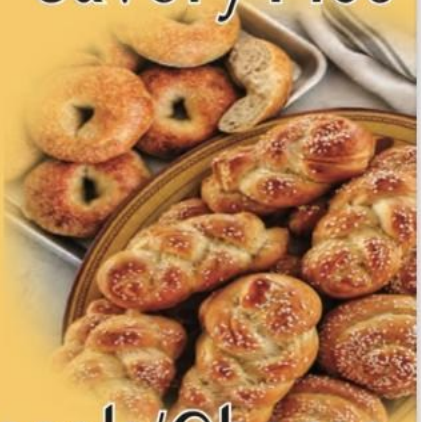
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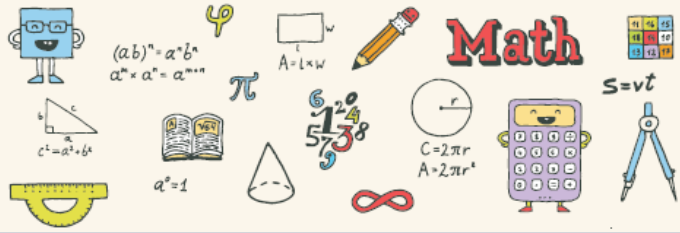
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We request that the information be sent to us two weeks in advance, so that we can serve the community better.
(Please read our policy in the Calendar of Events section)

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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