

Armenian Interests

March 29, 2026

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News & Events of the Armenian Community

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Armenian Heritage Walk to honor Armenian American legacy with Awards for Excellence at dedication April 24-25



By Melissa Selverian

The Armenian Heritage Walk, an historic winding pathway of Armenian art and culture next to the world-renowned Philadelphia Museum of Art, will be dedicated and its first phase unveiled Friday, April 24 and Saturday, April 25 in memory of the Armenian Genocide and in tribute to the contributions of countless Armenian Americans through the decades.

A series of jubilant festivities will mark the unveiling of Phase 1 and feature a restored 22-foot statue of the mythical Armenian figure Young Meher, the centerpiece of the parcel. First displayed on the 200th birthday of America in 1976, the statue continues to symbolize the courage and faith of the Armenian people 50 years later on the 250th birthday

of America. Work will continue in Phase 2 with the selection and installation of exquisite and meaningful lighted public artwork stations and natural elements of Armenian and American origin.

Hundreds of families and friends will gather to celebrate the landmark occasion in a series of events beginning with an inter-communal church service at Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul in Philadelphia on Friday, April 24, at 7 p.m. The walk will then be officially dedicated and Phase 1 unveiled on the parcel next to the Philadelphia Museum of Art on Saturday, April 25, at 11 a.m. Finally, the festivities will culminate in a spectacular Armenian Heritage Walk Gala at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia on Saturday, April 25, at 6 p.m. Tickets can be purchased and donations made

at www.armenianheritagewalk.org

The gala will honor the innumerable and outstanding contributions of Armenian Americans through the generations by turning attention to the following noteworthy honorees, gifting them with Awards for Excellence: Michael Aram, founder and designer of Michael Aram Inc.; Dr. James Philip Bagian, engineer, physician, and NASA astronaut; Mark Hoplamazian, chairman and CEO, Hyatt Hotels Corp.; Edele Hovnanian, president and CEO, H. Hovnanian Family Office; Major Gen. Stephen J. Maranian, two-time recipient of the Distinguished Service Medal; Katherine Sarafian, senior vice president of production, Pixar Animation Studios; and Peter Vosbikian, accomplished executive, household products industry. Sona Movsessian, author, podcaster, media personality, and former executive assistant of Conan O'Brien, will host the gala.

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Headline News



Armenian Interests

Pegasus Orchestra debut at St. Vartan Cathedral with “Armenian Voices, American Rhapsody”



Komitas’s *Armenian Dances*, featuring guest pianist Kiron Atom Tellian, alongside Hakobyan’s orchestral arrangements of Komitas’s works. This was followed by Haydn’s *Symphony No. 59 “Fire”*, which showcased Pegasus’s precision, clarity, and expressive range.

Pegasus Orchestra made its debut at St. Vartan Cathedral on Friday, March 20, at 7 p.m., with a program titled “*Armenian Voices, American Rhapsody*.” The concert was generously supported by the Dadourian Foundation and presented by the Cultural Committee of St. Vartan Cathedral under the auspices of Bishop Mesrop Parsamyan, Primate, Chairlady Vicki Shoghag Hovanessian, and Co-Chairlady Seta Paskalian Kantardjian.

Under the direction of Artistic Director and Principal Conductor Karén Hakobyan, the evening unfolded as a deeply personal artistic journey. Born in Armenia and now based in New York,

Hakobyan has shaped Pegasus around flexibility, clarity, and thoughtfully curated programming.

Each work performed on March 20 was presented in a new arrangement by Hakobyan for Pegasus’s eighteen-member ensemble, offering audiences a fresh and intimate perspective on beloved repertoire. For the more than 200 attendees, this historic evening celebrating Armenian talent will remain memorable for years to come. A particular highlight was *Rhapsody in Blue*, performed with Hakobyan both conducting and at the piano.

The program opened with selections from

Cellist Sergey Antonov, Pegasus Artist-in-Residence, joined the orchestra for Saint-Saëns’s *Cello Concerto No. 1* and Arutunian’s *Impromptu*, followed by Rachmaninoff’s *Vocalise*.

After intermission, the program continued with Komitas’s *Three Armenian Miniatures*, creating a graceful transition into a reprise of Rachmaninoff’s *Vocalise*, again featuring Antonov and the ensemble.

The concert culminated in a vibrant finale with Gershwin’s *Rhapsody in Blue*, capturing the spirit of American classical jazz, with Hakobyan leading from both the podium and the piano.

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NAASR NextGen Armenian Studies Program Opens Applications: Transformative Three-Week Summer Institute for High School Students



BELMONT, MA — 12 March 2026 — The National Association of Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) announces the launch of its NextGen Armenian Studies Program, an interactive summer institute for high school students and recent graduates. Applications to join the inaugural Summer 2026 cohort are open now and close 20 April 2026. Interested students are encouraged to visit the [program webpage](#) and apply early, as space is limited.

Program Overview

The three-week program, taking place 13–31 July 2026, was developed with innovative pedagogical methods that engage and inspire young students. “This is not a lecture series, and it’s not a camp. This is a project-driven intellectual lab where students investigate urgent questions about Armenian history, identity, memory, justice, and representation—and build something with real-world impact,” said Ara Araz, Chairperson of the Board at NAASR.

Students will be introduced to Armenian topics by world-class faculty from leading universities including Harvard, MIT, Cornell, and Columbia. In groups, students will develop a strategic digital campaign that responds to contemporary Armenian concerns. The program concludes with public presentations of student campaigns to a live audience at NAASR headquarters.

Curriculum Structure

Each week builds on the last, starting with deep historical roots and ending with urgent contemporary questions.

- **Week One: Civilization & Culture** Explores ancient origins, early Christianity, medieval manuscripts, and the cultural traditions that have inspired Armenian people through the centuries.
- **Week Two: Diaspora & Identity** Examines centuries of Armenian life under various empires and within global trade networks, emphasizing the connections maintained through the

press and other forms of media.

Week Three: Justice & the Present Engages directly with genocide testimony, post-genocide rebuilding, the loss of Artsakh, denial and disinformation, and ongoing advocacy efforts.

Target Participants

“The program invites intellectually curious students ready to engage critically with complex historical and contemporary issues,” said Lisa Gulesserian, Program Director and award-winning instructor. “Specifically, we seek to enroll learners who want to develop their reading, analysis, and communication skills in a dynamic, collaborative, and immersive learning environment. To help us fill our learning lab with promising students, we are seeking nominations from leaders in our community. If you work with a student—in a classroom, a church, a community organization, or other spaces—who is inquisitive, ready for a challenge, and would benefit from this experience, we want to hear from you by filling out [our nomination form](#).”

Program Details

Key Program Details:

- Dates: 13–31 July 2026
- Location: NAASR Vartan Gregorian Building, Belmont, MA
- Schedule: Morning until late afternoon, Monday–Friday

Continued on next page

JOIN US THIS SUMMER
NEXTGEN ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM
VARTAN GREGORIAN BUILDING, BELMONT, MA
JULY 13 - 31, 2026
FOR STUDENTS GRADES 10-12

BUILD SOMETHING REAL. LEAVE WITH SKILLS THAT MATTER.

NOT A LECTURE SERIES. NOT A CAMP.

The **NextGen Armenian Studies Program** is an innovative new immersive experience where high school students come together for three weeks of rigorous, project-driven study guided by world-class faculty from Harvard, MIT, Columbia, and beyond.

WEEK 1 CIVILIZATION & CULTURE
From ancient origins to medieval manuscripts and epic poetry, students explore the long sweep of Armenian history through primary sources, archival workshops, and site visits.

WEEK 2 DIASPORA & IDENTITY
Students trace how Armenians survived and stayed connected across empires and continents — examining communities under Ottoman, Persian, and Russian rule and visiting the offices of the century-old Armenian press.

WEEK 3 JUSTICE & THE PRESENT
Students engage directly with genocide testimony, the loss of Artsakh, and the science of denial — then present their own social media campaigns to a live audience.

BUILD CONNECTIONS AND SKILLS THAT LAST, INCLUDING:

- AI literacy
- Digital content creation
- Persuasive writing
- Social media strategy
- Critical thinking
- Public speaking

SPACE IS LIMITED
APPLY BY APRIL 20, 2026
NAASR.ORG

- Experience presenting before professional audiences
- Cross-disciplinary understandings of Armenian topics and issues
- Familiarity with uses and limitations of AI tools

A meaningful addition to college applications

“Our new summer program helps students gain skills to shape the future in an informed and engaged way,” says Henry Theriault, Vice-Chairperson of the Board at NAASR. Brian Ansbikian, a member of NAASR’s Executive Committee, agrees: “We’re equipping students with the tools to navigate complex narratives and make a real difference.”

Apply Now:

To learn more and apply, visit naasr.org/pages/summerprograms.

Nominations for promising students can be submitted by community leaders at <https://airtable.com/appukDCT2i6HBP9mp/pagp0SqQonVvJ9ixo/form>.

About NAASR

Founded in 1955, the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) is an independent non-profit membership organization, and one of the world’s leading Armenian Studies centers and research libraries on Armenian and related subjects. Based in Belmont, Massachusetts, NAASR advances Armenian Studies through research and scholarship, offers high-quality educational public programming, and supports and connects scholars of Armenian Studies worldwide with each other and a broad general public to build a global community, expand horizons, and preserve and enrich Armenian culture, history, and identity for future generations.

Participant Outcomes

By the end of the program, students will have gained:

- A portfolio-ready digital campaign
- Reading, writing, collaboration, and analysis skills

- Eligibility: Open to rising high school juniors, rising high school seniors, and 2026 high school graduates

- Cost: \$2,500 with generous need-based financial aid available

Application Deadline: 20 April 2026

Annual Armenian Genocide Remembrance Program sponsored by CHHANGE

Garó Paylan, renowned human rights defender and former Turkish Parliament member, will be the guest speaker for this year's program on Thursday, April 23, 2026 at Brookdale Community College.

Mr. Paylan is internationally recognized for his courage and effectiveness in addressing the Armenian Genocide, often at great personal risk. He is a two-time Nobel Peace Prize nominee. The Armenian community is incredibly fortunate to have him share his insights with the community.

Under the leadership of its Executive Director Dr. Asya Darbinyan, CHHANGE continues to bring speakers of the highest caliber to our community. Following the tremendous success and high attendance of last year's event, we look forward to another profound evening of commemoration, discussion, and community solidarity.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE REMEMBRANCE DAY

SPEAKING TRUTH TO POWER

GARO PAYLAN

Date
Thursday
April 23, 2026
Time
6:30-8:30 p.m.

Join us for this free in-person event:
Brookdale Community College
Lincroft Campus

Garó Paylan is a former member of the Turkish Parliament, human rights advocate, and Visiting Scholar at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, as well as a 2025 Yale World Fellow. In this talk, he reflects on his personal journey growing up Armenian in Turkey, his path into public life and Parliament, and his advocacy for the recognition of the Armenian Genocide and justice. One of the leading Armenian voices promoting reconciliation between Armenia, Turkey, and Azerbaijan, Paylan draws on lived experience to explore memory, identity, and moral courage, including his historic role in introducing the first bill on Armenian Genocide recognition in the Turkish Parliament.

Refreshments will be provided.

Attendees MUST register.
More details will be provided after you register.

Register by scanning the QR code or visiting chchange.org

chchange
Center for Holocaust, Human Rights & Genocide Education
AT BROOKDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

In Memory of Arsene B. Haroutunian

Armenian Radio Hour of NJ

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

ARMENIAN CULTURAL TOUR OF THE HOLY LAND **JERUSALEM**

AUGUST 27 - SEPTEMBER 5, 2026

TEL AVIV, JAFFA, HAIFA, NAZARETH,
LEBANESE BORDER, ACRE, DEAD SEA,
MASADA, JERICHO, SEA OF GALILEE,
RIVER JORDAN, TEMPLE MOUNT, THE
CHURCH OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE,
CAPERNAUM, CAESAREA, ARMENIAN
QUARTER, BETHLEHEM, JERUSALEM,
HOLOCAUST MUSEUM, MOUNT

CARMEL

INCLUDES BIBLICAL SITES:

INFO : VARTANABDO@OPTONLINE.NET



We Armenia



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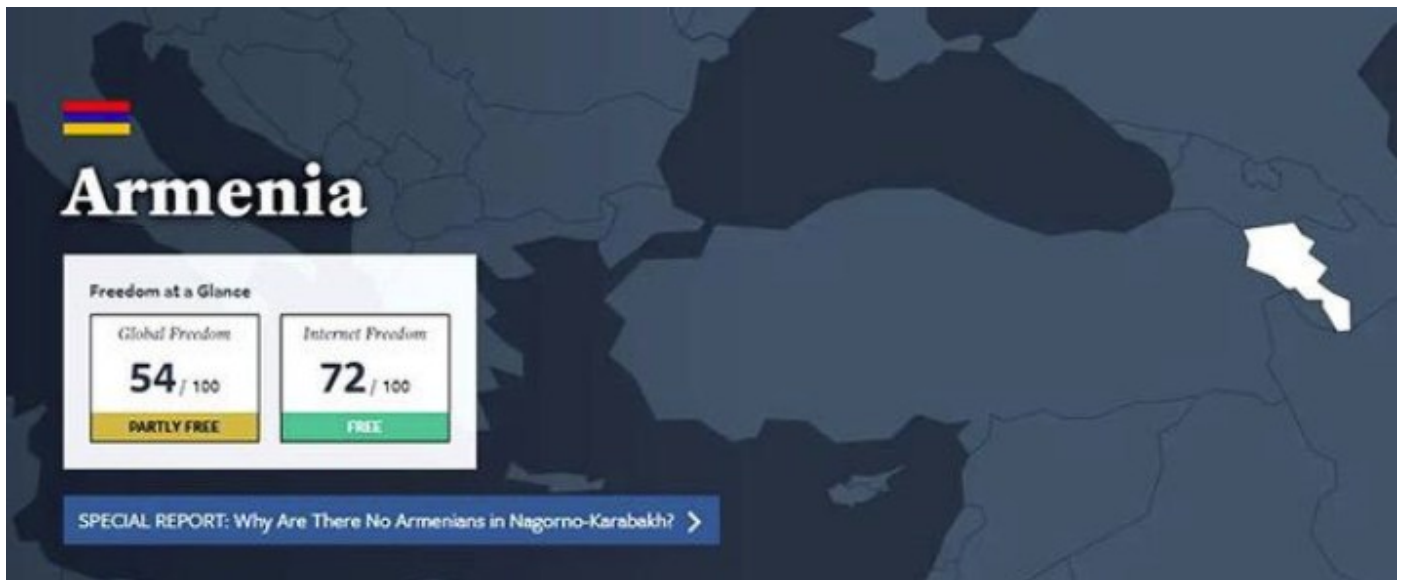
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Current News from Around the World



Armenian Interests

Armenia Leads South Caucasus in Freedom House Rankings



Armenia continues to hold a leading position in the South Caucasus in terms of human rights, although no significant progress has been recorded in recent years, according to a report by the Washington-based human rights organization Freedom House. Updated data from the report were published last Friday.

Armenia scored 54 out of a possible 100 points in the global freedom ranking. The country's score has remained unchanged since 2023, when it declined by one point from 55. Freedom House rated Armenia's political rights at 23 out of 40 and civil liberties at 31 out of 60, classifying the country as "partly free."

For the first time, Armenia has surpassed its northern neighbor

Georgia, which received a score of 51 this year, down from 58 two years ago. Analysts and local opposition groups attribute Georgia's decline to democratic backsliding.

Among other countries in the region, Turkey scored 32 points and was classified as "not free." Azerbaijan received just 6 points, ranking among the lowest globally—10th from the bottom among sovereign states—and placing it alongside countries such as Syria and Afghanistan. Iran scored slightly higher, with 10 points. Notably, the lowest-ranked country still classified as "free" is Lesotho, with 67 points.

In a separate Freedom House report on internet freedom, Armenia scored 72

points last year and was classified as "free."

The human rights situation in Armenia was also assessed by Human Rights Watch, which noted mixed progress. While the organization positively evaluated government efforts to combat corruption and implement legal reforms, it expressed concern over ineffective investigations into police violence, the misuse of pretrial detention, and limited progress in addressing domestic violence.

Pashinyan: Forces Led by Kocharyan, Karapetyan, and Tsarukyan Are Opening the Door to War



Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan stated that political forces led by Robert Kocharyan, Samvel Karapetyan, and Gagik Tsarukyan are pursuing policies that could lead to war by seeking to revise the established peace between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

In a statement published on his Facebook page, Pashinyan said:

“It has been clearly recorded that the forces led by Kocharyan, Karapetyan, and Tsarukyan have adopted a policy

of revising the established peace between Armenia and Azerbaijan. This means they are moving toward opening the door to war.”

He added that these forces are advocating for renegotiating and even imposing peace terms, including through the use of force.

“This clearly and unequivocally means not only opening the door to war but making it inevitable,” Pashinyan emphasized.

The Prime Minister warned that revising existing agreements could lead to a complete collapse of the negotiation process and renewed escalation.

“That is why we say this crossroads is historic. Peace between Armenia and Azerbaijan has been established—we have closed the door to war.”

He argued that the opposition’s rhetoric could also pave the way for the introduction of external “peacekeepers” into the region, which he suggested could have negative consequences based on past experience.

Pashinyan stressed that the current peace was achieved through heavy losses and must be preserved through Armenia’s own efforts, not external guarantees.

“We have entered a new historical stage, where the survival agenda has been replaced by a development agenda,” he said.

He concluded by expressing confidence that Armenian voters would support peace in the 2026 parliamentary elections.

Government to showcase new military equipment in Yerevan in ‘report to citizens,’ says Pashinyan



The Armenian government will showcase the military equipment acquired over the past few years during a May 28 Republic Day event in central Yerevan, Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan announced on Thursday.

Pashinyan had earlier said that his government was considering displaying the armaments acquired

during its term.

Asked at a press briefing whether a final decision had been made, he said:

“Yes, we have a final decision. On May 28, Republic Day, an event will be held at Republic Square in Yerevan that will be less of a military parade and more of a report to the citizens of Armenia. I want to say that we have been working—and continue to work—on this issue with our international partners. A military parade is, in general, a very sensitive event and could create the impression of deviating from—or even abandoning—the peace agenda. We are working and will continue to work with our partners in the international community, including the countries of the region, so that they do not interpret it in any way

as a rejection of the peace agenda,” the Prime Minister said.

He recalled that at one point, citizens were invited to register to see the purchased military equipment; however, so many people signed up that carrying it out is no longer realistic.

According to the Prime Minister, the participation of such a large number of citizens would also lead to the spread of “distorted” information about the military equipment.

“I believe that the display of this military equipment will be an impressive sight for the citizens of Armenia,” the Prime Minister concluded.

Ursula von der Leyen and António Costa to Attend Armenia–EU Summit in Yerevan



The first-ever Armenia–EU summit will take place in Yerevan on May 4–5. Armenia will be represented by Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, while the European Union will be represented by European Council President António Costa and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen.

Ahead of the summit, Costa and von der Leyen will also participate in the 8th European Political Community summit, scheduled to take place in Yerevan on May 4.

The Armenia–EU summit will focus on strengthening bilateral relations, particularly in the areas of economy, energy, transport, digital development, and people-to-people contacts.

Leaders will also discuss progress toward ensuring peace, security, connectivity, and prosperity in the South Caucasus, as well as ongoing global challenges.

The summit reflects unprecedented

momentum in Armenia–EU relations in recent years. The partnership is based on the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA), which entered into force in 2021, and the Armenia–EU Partnership Agenda adopted in December 2025 with the participation of Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan, EU High Representative Kaja Kallas, and EU Commissioner for Enlargement Marta Kos.

The European Union remains a key partner for Armenia in advancing reforms, as well as in trade and investment.

Armenia aims to boost annual tourist numbers to match population



The Government of Armenia plans to implement measures over the next five years to increase the annual number of tourists visiting the country to

match its population. According to the latest census conducted in 2023, Armenia’s permanent population is 2,928,914.

Congratulating the Hungarian airline Wizz Air on increasing its flights from Armenia, Tourism Committee Chairperson Lusine Gevorgyan emphasized that the expansion of routes, the development of civil aviation in Armenia, and the growth of tourist numbers are part of the government’s five-year plan.

“We know that the availability of direct and affordable flights has a direct impact on tourist visits. Over the next five years, we will take measures to ensure that the annual number of tourists visiting our country reaches the country’s population. By the end of the next decade, we believe this number could reach five million per year. We are positioning Armenia as a sustainable and responsible tourist destination,” Lusine Gevorgyan stated.

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Armenian Diaspora fellowship program drives high repatriation, organizers say



More than 70% of participants in the iGorts program have ultimately repatriated to Armenia, organizers told Armenpress.

iGorts invites Diaspora Armenian professionals to work in Armenia's public sector and government. The program is run by the Office of the High Commissioner for Diaspora Affairs.

Since its launch in 2020, more than 300 Diaspora Armenians have participated, said iGorts project leader Anna Mheryan.

The program offers Diaspora professionals a unique opportunity to engage in Armenia's public administration system and contribute their expertise.

"The 7th round of the program will launch in September this year. From January 26 to March 13, we received around 200 applications from 30 countries. Participants who pass the first stage will be invited to interviews, after which

selected candidates will begin work in Armenia's public sector starting September 1," Mheryan said on the Armenpress Podcast.

Participants are selected based on the needs identified by government agencies, with 35 candidates to be chosen this year. Applicants must also have higher education and at least five years of professional experience.

Selected specialists work in the public sector for one year, applying their expertise to help improve key sectors and contribute to policy and program development.

Mheryan highlighted the program's high repatriation rate as one of its main achievements.

"Since 2020, around 300 participants have taken part in the program, 73% of whom have repatriated. Some have returned with their families and continued working in state institutions after passing civil service exams. Others

have launched businesses and now cooperate with the Office of the High Commissioner for Diaspora Affairs and other institutions," she said.

She added that many participants have relocated with their families and are now building their lives in Armenia, while others have even formed new families and settled in the country through the program.

Mheryan noted strong interest in the initiative, pointing out that participants often take part in multiple programs run by the office, including "Step Toward Home," "Diaspora Youth Ambassador," and "iGorts."

"The main goal of the High Commissioner's Office is repatriation, and all our programs are designed with that objective in mind. While participants are in Armenia, we introduce them to the country, its landmarks, and opportunities in higher education and the job market, encouraging engagement across different age groups," she said.

According to Mheryan, participants are primarily motivated by patriotism, as well as a desire to understand Armenia's public system from within and contribute to its development.

Participants in the iGorts program receive health insurance, round-trip airfare, and a monthly stipend of 336,000 AMD to cover living expenses throughout the fellowship.

H. Hovnanian Family Foundation Awards \$240,000 to Advance Youth Empowerment Across Armenia



Across Armenia, young people are increasingly stepping forward as leaders in their communities, launching local initiatives, exploring careers in science, and building networks that promote healthy lifestyles and civic engagement. Supporting this momentum, the H. Hovnanian Family Foundation has awarded \$240,000 in grants to eight initiatives through its fourth-quarter 2025 Youth Empowerment Armenian grant cycle.

These projects will expand opportunities for youth across Armenia in three areas: science, sports and healthy lifestyles, and civic awareness and activism.

“Interest in this grant cycle was strong. We are encouraged by the diversity of this round’s applicants and awardees, both in geographic representation and fields of focus,” said Anahit Hakobyan, (Grants) Program Manager at the H. Hovnanian Family Foundation. “The eight selected projects span across Armenia and cover activities from math and physics olympiads to GIS mapping, hiking, and civic preparedness.”

The PhysMath Friends Charitable Foundation will expand Armenia’s mathematics and physics Olympiad model to the regions. The project will revise Olympiad curricula, train eight regional instructors to help run newly established Olympiad clubs in Lori, Shirak, Kotayk, and Armavir. Approximately 180 high school students will gain access to advanced instruction and mentorship to prepare them for national and international competitions.

Hyphen4 Lab will implement a seven-month mapping program in six communities, combining civic learning with practical digital and spatial skills. The project will train university students as fellows to work with TUMO students aged 12-18 conducting community mapping workshops. Together, participants will collect and refine open-access GIS datasets on infrastructure, public spaces, and other local assets, strengthening youth digital literacy while also supporting more informed local planning and dialogue with municipalities.

In Lori the Resilient Stepanavan Foundation will support the development of the Stepanavan

Community Sports School, which currently serves 174 youth through wrestling, football, table tennis, boxing, and chess clubs, and will also reach additional participants through amateur volleyball, basketball and table tennis activities. The municipality will continue to cover core operational costs, including maintenance and coaches’ salaries, helping to ensure long-term sustainability.

Girls of Armenia Leadership Sports (GOALS) will carry out a one-year program for 250 girls aged 11 to 15 across 20 communities. Combining intercommunity sports activities with educational workshops, hybrid sessions, and self-guided learning materials, the program is designed to strengthen leadership, teamwork, confidence, and civic awareness. It will culminate in the GOALS Girls Summit in Yerevan in fall 2026, bringing together participants from across Armenia for a national event centered on learning, exchange, and inspiration.

The Boon Scientific-Cultural Foundation (BoonTV), through its project ‘Through the Mountains,’ will engage more than 50 young people aged 16 to 35 in five guided hikes to lesser-known mountain and nature sites in Tavush and Vayots Dzor. Participants will receive training in outdoor safety and skills, while also learning about healthy lifestyles, teamwork, environmental responsibility, and local communities. Implemented in partnership with Armenian Geographic, a five-episode documentary series will be produced for national broadcast and online distribution.

Continued on next page

H. Hovnanian Family Foundation
Continued from previous page



mentorships, participants will design and implement 20 youth-led community initiatives. A Youth Advisory Council attached to the Vanadzor Municipality will be established to contribute to the co-development of a local youth policy and five-year development plan, helping to institutionalize youth participation at the local level.



The Azatazen Educational NGO will expand its youth programming beyond Yerevan through an initiative serving 300 young people aged 15-20, mostly in the Lori region. The program will provide practical training in first aid, physical and emergency preparedness, outdoor safety, and civic responsibility. By focusing on hands-on knowledge and community resilience, the initiative will equip participants with concrete skills to support personal safety and broader civic preparedness.\

The Information and Education Development Network (INEDNET) will implement a program in 5 to 7 communities to help young people take a more active role in local governance. The project will train 15 to 20 youth leaders aged 16-30 through a seven-day residential program focused on designing community initiatives. With mentorship and municipal

engagement, participants will refine their ideas and present them to the public for voting through participatory budgeting processes.

In Vanadzor and surrounding communities the NGO Center will run a civic engagement program directly involving 60 young people aged 16-30. Through these workshops, simulation games and

Taken together, the selected projects reflect a broad understanding of youth empowerment: one that includes academic opportunities, healthy, active lifestyles, and meaningful participation in community life. While the eight projects differ in format and geography, all aim to equip young people with stronger skills, broader networks, and greater confidence to contribute to Armenia's future.

Collection for Armenia

Help us send a container of humanitarian aid to needy families in Armenia



Deliver items in
OPEN CARDBOARD BOXES

Large Boxes
27 x 16 x 15

NO PLASTIC BAGS
Reusable Bags Accepted



Drop Off Details

St Leon Armenian Church
12-61 Saddle River Rd,
Fair Lawn, NJ 07410

Cottage (Left of Church)
Now Open for Drop Off

For Details Contact: Leo Manuelian (201-218-4058)

Full List of Requested Items on Page 2.

For a tax deductible donation towards shipping costs in Armenia,
please write a check to the Knights of Vartan

Sponsored by St Leon Church and Knights & Daughters of Vartan of NJ

REQUESTED NEW ITEMS:

MUST BE IN ORIGINAL PACKAGING/TAGS

New Clothing/Shoes:

- Underwear, Bras, Tights, Socks
- Hats, Scarves, Gloves
- Shoes, Boots, Sneakers, Slippers

Hygiene:

- Soap, Shampoo, Deodorant, Detergent
- Baby/Adult Diapers, Feminine Products
- Toothbrush, Toothpaste, Floss, Mouthwash

Beauty Supplies:

- Nail Clippers, Files, Polish, Combs
- Skin Care Items, Make-up, Perfume

Toys/Games:

- Toys (Without Batteries)
- Board Games, Puzzles, Legos

NEW OR GENTLY USED:

MUST BE WASHED BEFORE DONATING

Clothing:

- Clothing (Adult/Children/Baby)
- Belts, Handbags, Hair Accessories

Items for Sewing/Crafting:

- Yarn, Embroidery Thread, Craft Items
- Knitting and Crochet Needles
- Fabric, Felt, Notions, Buttons
- Thread, Sewing Needles

Art/Stationary:

- Art Supplies
- School & Office Supplies

NO LONGER ACCEPTING

- Suits, Ties, Dress shirts, Dress Pants
- Suitcases
- Home Goods
- Christmas decorations
- Medical Equipment
- Glassware

Support our work by donating online through our links @knightsofvartannj

Sponsored by St Leon Church and Knights & Daughters of Vartan of NJ

Plan Your Spring and Summer Ahead

An unforgettable journey for Armenian youth ages 15-18 that strengthens their bond to Armenia, builds lifelong friendships, and inspires purpose through cultural immersion and community service.



Ziplining



Eco-Clean Up



Aid Distribution



Cooking Classes

Service activities, cultural experiences, sightseeing, and more!

2026 DATES

Spring



Summer 1



Summer 2



BOOK YOUR SPOT!

agbu.org/discover-armenia



AGBU 20 YEARS

Armenian Radio Hour of NJ

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

WSOU 89.5 FM
Sounds Like What You Need Right Now

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.

Listen to us on



DIRECTORY

The following are addresses where Armenian gatherings are frequently held
This is NOT a list of Armenian organizations or churches
We will be glad to list additional addresses

AGBU

55 East 59th Street
New York, NY 10022
212-319-6383
Email: agbuny@agbu.org
www.agbu.org

Diocese of the Armenian Church

630 Second Avenue
New York, NY 10016
212-686-0710

Prelacy of the Armenian Church

138 East 39th Street,
New York, NY 10016
212-689-7810

Saint Illuminator Armenian Cathedral

221 East 27th. Street,
New York, NY 10016
212-689-5880

Armenian Presbyterian Church

140 Forest Avenue,
Paramus, NJ 07652
201-265-8585

St. Leon Armenian Church

12-61 Saddle River Rd
Fair Lawn, NJ 07410
201-791-2862

Sts Vartanantz Armenian Church

461 Bergen Boulevard
Ridgefield, NJ 07657
201-943-2950

St Stepanos Armenian Apostolic Church

1184 Ocean Avenue
Elberon, New Jersey 07740
Phone 732-229-3661 Fax 732-229-3857

Holy Cross Armenian Church

318 27th Street,
Union City, NJ 07087
201-864-2480

Hovnanian School

817 River Road
New Milford, NJ 07646
201-967-5940
www.hovnanianschools.org

Sacred Heart Armenian Catholic Church

155 Long Hill Road
Little Falls, NJ 07424
Tel: 973-890-0447

St. Thomas Armenian Church

Route 9W-E Clinton Avenue
Tenafly, NJ 07670
201-567-5446

St. Mary Armenian Church

200 W. Mt. Pleasant Avenue
Livingston, NJ 07039
973-533-9794

St. Sarkis Armenian Apostolic Church

38-65 234 Street
Douglaston, NY 11363
718-224-2275

Ararat Youth and Conference Center

6944 S.R. 32
Greenville, NY 12083
212-686-0710, x120
www.araratcener.org

St. Nersess Armenian Seminary

486 Bedford Road
Armonk, NY 10504
914-273-0200
info@stnersess.edu www.stnersess.edu

Armenian Network of America-NY Region

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

Armenian Church of the Holy Martyrs

209-15 Horace Harding Expressway
Bayside, New York 11364
718-225-0235
www.holy-martyrs.org

Armenian Evangelical Church of New York

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

St. Vartan Armenian Cathedral

630 2nd Ave
New York, NY 10016
(212) 686-0710

St. Gregory the Enlightener Armenian Church

1131 North Street
White Plains, NY 10605
Tel. (914) 428-2595

Tekayan Cultural Association-Greater NY

560 Sylvan Avenue
Englewood Cliffs, NJ 07632
Email: tekeyannjny@gmail.com

Calendar of Events



Armenian Interests

To be included in our Calendar of Events,
please provide us with your non-profit organization's event, date and
location along with a contact name and telephone number

Please e-mail your submissions to:

Talin Kupelian - TalinKupelian@gmail.com

or

Vartan Abdo - VartanAbdo@optonline.net

We reserve the right to accept or reject submissions
not in accordance with our service

We also reserve the right to edit and modify all copies submitted

*****Armenian Interests & Armenian Radio Policy*****

Due to the heavy volume of flyers/announcements we receive weekly, our policy is:

- ◆ Flyers will be posted NO EARLIER than 3 months prior to event date
- ◆ Announcements on the radio program will be made NO EARLIER than 3 months prior to event date
- ◆ Prior to the 3 month limit, your event will be listed in the "Save the Date" section of our events page with a link to your website/email for 6 months (9 months total)
- ◆ The only exception to this policy are cruises and travel (we will post those in our "Save the Date" section up to 12 months in advance, with flyers posted 6 months prior to departure & announcements made 6 months prior to departure)

The Armenian Radio and Armenian Interests newsletter mission is to promote Armenian cultural/educational/social functions run by non-profit organizations

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ [March 29, 2026 - St. Thomas Armenian Church Palm Sunday banquet](#)
- ◆ [April 11, 2026 - Armenian Relief Society anniversary gala dinner](#)
- ◆ [April 18, 2026—Armenian Genocide commemoration in Montvale, NJ](#)
- ◆ [April 19, 2026 - St. Gregory the Enlightener Church annual "Lionel Galstaun Memorial Concert"](#)
- ◆ [April 19, 2026 - The Cultural Committee of St. Thomas Armenian Church presents "Ojakh, On the Other Side of the Silence."](#)
- ◆ [April 22, 2026 - Program honoring the legacy of the Armenian Genocide](#) [Registration link](#)
- ◆ [April 23, 2026 - Speaking Truth to Power with Garo Paylan](#)
- ◆ [April 26, 2026 - Armenian Genocide remembrance at Times Square](#)
- ◆ [May 1, 2026 - St. Thomas Cultural Committee Presents Spring Mixer](#)
- ◆ [May 2, 2026 - A night of storytelling at the Armenian Church of the Holy Martyrs](#)
- ◆ [May 8, 2026 - AGBU Arts presents Musical Tapestry in Motion: A Celebration of Music, Dance & Poetry](#)
- ◆ [May 16-17, 2026 - St. Mary Armenian Church centennial celebration](#)
- ◆ [June 5 - St. Thomas Cultural Committee Presents Sip & Paint](#)
- ◆ [June 6, 2026 - Holy Martyrs Armenian Day School annual dinner dance gala](#)
- ◆ [June 14 - July 25, 2026 - AGBU Global Leadership Program in Yerevan](#)
- ◆ [August 27-September 7, 2026 - Trip to Jerusalem](#)

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of our readers...

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www.ArmenianRadioNJ.net

ST. THOMAS ARMENIAN CHURCH
V. REV. FR. PAPKEN DZ. V. ANOUSHIAN, ESQ., PASTOR

Palm Sunday

61ST ANNIVERSARY BANQUET

Sunday, March 29, 2026 - 1:00

HIS GRACE BISHOP MESROP PARSAMYAN, PRIMATE
Will Celebrate the Holy Divine Liturgy & Preside Over the Banquet

GREGORY AND MARY ANN SARAYDARIAN

Banquet Honorary Chairs and Sponsors in memory of:
MARTYRED ARMENIAN SOLDIERS DURING THE ARTSAKH WAR IN 2020

RAFFI JAMGOTCHIAN AND RAFFI MINASSIAN

Will Be Presented with the St. Thomas Armenian Church Award

ACYOA DAY

ADULTS \$60.00 | CHILDREN 11 & under \$30.00 | Under 3 FREE
PRE-PAY EARLY TO RESERVE SEATS; MAIL CHECK TO CHURCH PO BOX - ADDRESS
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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT REPS BELOW:

TALAR SARAFIAN (201) 240-8541 talar@sarafian1.com
SYLVA TOROSIAN (201) 755-5699 st8756@aol.com
NADYA GARIPIAN (201) 370-0358 nadyagaripian@gmail.com
CHURCH OFFICE ((201) 567-5446 stthomasarmenianchurch@yahoo.com

St. Thomas Armenian Church
Cor. of Rt. 9W & E. Clinton Ave., PO Box 53
174 Essex Drive, Tenafly, NJ 07670
Tel. (201) 567-5446 Fax (201) 567-5420
www.stthomasarmenianchurch.com



Armenian Relief Society
NJ Shakeh Chapter



111

Anniversary
Gala Dinner

Saturday, April 11, 2026
7:00 PM

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT BY
HAROUT BEDROSSIAN & BAND

The Graycliff
122 Moonachie Ave.
Moonachie, NJ



Cash Bar
Adults- \$150
Ages 12 & under- \$75

For reservations, contact;
Maral (201)289-6486
Aida (201) 835-0869
Sevana (818)288-0655

Zelle: arsnjshakeh@gmail.com
Checks payable to: ARS Shakeh Chapter

NJ-PAN ARMENIAN COMMUNITY EVENT

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE COMMEMORATION

Saturday, April 18, 2026 at 4 PM

Huff Pond, Memorial Drive, Montvale, NJ

Inclement Weather Location: Montvale Community Center at 1 Memorial Drive

Keynote Speaker: Nina Shahverdyan
Educator and Activist from Stepanakert, Artsakh

Under the Auspices of The Honorable Mike Ghassali, Mayor of Montvale

Invited Clergy

Sts. Vartanantz Armenian Apostolic Church
St. Leon Armenian Apostolic Church
Armenian Presbyterian Church

Invited Guests

Congressman Mike Lawler (NY)
Congressman Josh Gottheimer (NJ)
State Senator Holly T. Schepisi
Bergen County Commissioners Tracy Silna Zur & Thomas Sullivan

Musical Interlude

Oudist Ara Dinkjian

Emcee

Taleen Stephans

Anthems & Presentation of Flags

Niree Kaprielian
Homenetmen of New Jersey Scouts

Youth Speaker

Sarhad Melkonian



**SUPPORTED BY MEMBERS FROM THE MONTVALE BOROUGH COMMUNITY
ORGANIZED BY THE ARMENIAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF NJ**

ST. GREGORY CULTURAL COMMITTEE PRESENTS

23rd Annual Lionel Galstaun Memorial Concert

SUNDAY
APRIL 19, 2026



DIRECT FROM CARNEGIE HALL TO ST. GREGORY CHURCH

Angelina Tozlyan, violinist

Seiran Tozlian, pianist

Complimentary Luncheon following Church Service

Performance in the Sanctuary 1:30pm

RSVP 4/12 at stgregoryculturalcommittee@gmail.com or call at 914 428 2595

JOIN US TO SUPPORT OUR YOUNG ARMENIAN ARTISTS!

1131 North Street, White Plains, NY 10605



Keren Production
 The Cultural Committee of
 St. Thomas Armenian Church Presents



OJAKH

ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SILENCE

Sunday, April 19, at 2 pm

A film by Diana Mkrtchyan

Inspired by the journey of the Turkish photographer Erhan Arik

A 95 minute film in Armenian, French, Turkish and English subtitles.

DIRECTOR DIANA MKRTCHYAN WILL JOIN SCREENING EVENT VIA ZOOM



Admission is Free! Refreshments to follow.

For More Information Contact:

Talar Sarafian at (201) 240-8541 or talar@sarafian1.com

Diana Bourghol at (201) 805-6721 or pdbourghol@yahoo.com

Erhan Arik, a Turkish photographer, grew up in a house where Armenians once lived, driven out by the massacres in 1915. He had never been interested in this episode of history. In a dream, a voice asks him: "Why did you turn that room into a barn, where my wife used to make bread?" He wakes up with a jolt. The voice continues to haunt him. He then decides to set out to meet Armenians. This film tells the story of this journey. On the other side of the border, on the other side of the silence...

St. Thomas Armenian Church

174 Essex Drive · Tenafly NJ · 07670 · Tel: (201) 567-5446 · Fax (201) 567-5420

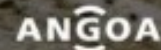
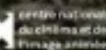
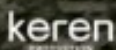
Keren Production: Samuel Moutel, Max Leneveu and Blandine Besnard - Image: Sargis Kharazian

Armenian shooting: Norayr Hovhannisyan - Sound: Harutiun Mengasaryan et Lilith Gulyan

Editing: Diana Mkrtchyan, assisted by Christophe Perray and Olivier Talouarn

Sound editing and mixing: Isaac Azoulay - Color grading: Julien Homo-Bavent

Photographs: Erhan Arik - Original score: Pierre David



Program to Honor Legacy of the Armenian Genocide

Wednesday, April 22, 2026 @ 6:00PM-8:30PM

Dolan Auditorium-Annunciation Center

Saint Elizabeth University Campus

2 Convent Road, Morristown



An evening of
traditional food, music and
discussion **will honor** those lost
in the Armenian Genocide.
Starting in 1915 one and a half million
Armenians were murdered.

The program will honor the breath
and beauty of Armenian culture
while remembering the legacy of the
Holy Martyrs of the Armenian Genocide.



- ❖ Doors open at 6 PM for a traditional Armenian dinner with music from the Maldjian Family
- ❖ Program to begin at 7 PM and feature author Chris Bohjalian and music from the Zulal Trio
- ❖ Hosted by Vartan Abdo of "The Armenian Radio Hour of New Jersey" on WSOU

Sponsored by *The Dadourian Foundation*
and the *Saint Elizabeth University Center*
for Holocaust and Genocide Education

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**Help us enlarge the circle
of our readers...**

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ARMENIAN GENOCIDE REMEMBRANCE DAY



Date
Thursday
April 23, 2026
Time
6:30-8:30 p.m.

Join us for this free in-person event:
Brookdale Community College
Lincroft Campus

Garo Paylan is a former member of the Turkish Parliament, human rights advocate, and Visiting Scholar at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, as well as a 2025 Yale World Fellow. In this talk, he reflects on his personal journey growing up Armenian in Turkey, his path into public life and Parliament, and his advocacy for the recognition of the Armenian Genocide and justice. One of the leading Armenian voices promoting reconciliation between Armenia, Turkey, and Azerbaijan, Paylan draws on lived experience to explore memory, identity, and moral courage, including his historic role in introducing the first bill on Armenian Genocide recognition in the Turkish Parliament.

SPEAKING TRUTH TO POWER

GARO PAYLAN



Refreshments will be provided.

Attendees MUST register.
More details will be provided
after you register.

Register by
scanning the QR
code or visiting
change.org



In Memory of Arsene B. Haroutunian

**NEW YORK CITY
ARMENIAN GENOCIDE COMMEMORATION**



**SUNDAY
APRIL 26, 2026
1:30PM
TIMES SQUARE
7TH AVE & 46TH STREET**



**A Night of Storytelling
at The
Armenian Church of the Holy Martyrs**

Saturday, May 2nd • 7:30PM • Church Auditorium

.....
Five performers share
their true, personal
Armenian stories!
.....

Hosted by
The
Armenian
Power Hour

Anoush



Aida



Spring MIXER

FEATURING
DJ SHANT



Friday, May 1st, 2026 at 7:30pm.

Come mingle and dance with old friends
and make some new ones!

Cocktail Party • Cash Bar • Grazing Table
Coffee & Dessert Included

Donation \$50pp.

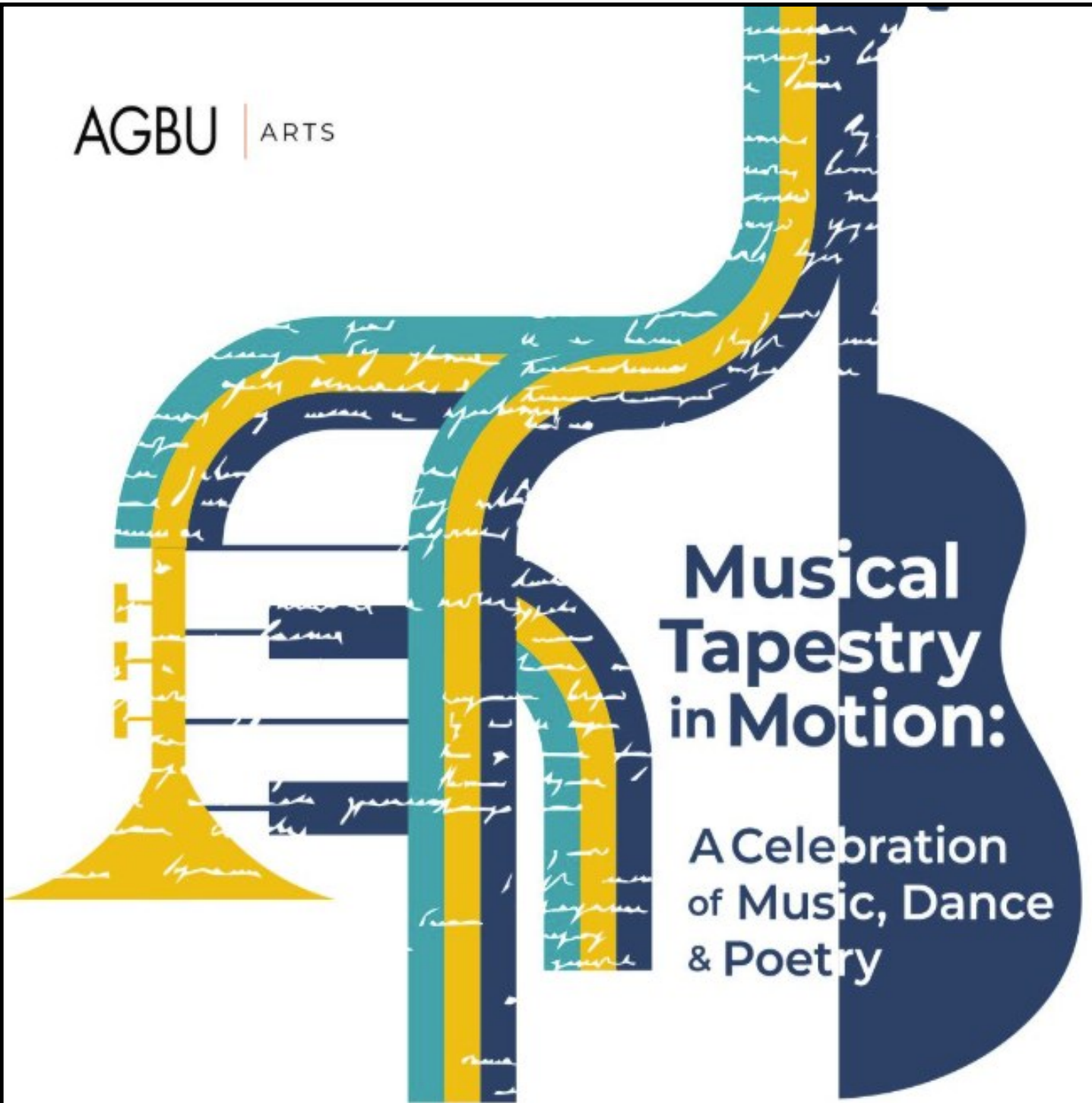
Reservations required by April 27th.

Jane Torigian
914-980-3611
jtorigian@yahoo.com

Aline Jamgotchian
201-694-5588
aline@jamgotchian.us

St. Thomas Armenian Church
174 Essex Dr. • Tenafly, NJ 07670

AGBU | ARTS



Musical Tapestry in Motion:

A Celebration
of Music, Dance
& Poetry

CARNEGIE HALL
154 West 57th Street, NYC

FRIDAY
05 . 08 . 2026 | 7:30 PM

AGBU **120**
YEARS

SAVE THE DATE



MAY 16TH - 17TH

DETAILS TO FOLLOW

St Thomas Cultural Committee
presents



Sip & Paint

Friday, June 5th, 2026 at 7:30pm

with Artistic Instructor
MHER KHACHATRYAN "The Smoke Artist"

Sip, Mingle & Create!

Couples, Singles, Friends...All Welcome! | Donation \$60 pp.
Includes All Materials. | Appetizers & Desserts Provided. | BYOB.
Reservations required by June 1st. | Groups of 4 or 8 Encouraged.

FOR RESERVATIONS CALL:

Jacklyn Baltaian 917-748-3723 baltaian@gmail.com

Jane Torigian 914-980-3611 jtorigian@yahoo.com



ST. THOMAS ARMENIAN CHURCH
174 Essex Drive · Tenafly NJ · 07670 ·

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FRIENDS OF HOLY MARTYRS ARMENIAN DAY SCHOOL

Gala

ANNUAL

Dinner Dance

North Hills Country Club

200 LIE NORTH SERVICE ROAD MANHASSET NY 11030

ENTERTAINMENT BY

MAYIS YESAYAN

FROM FRANCE

DJ HARRY * SHANT SIMONIAN

JUNE 6, 2026

COCKTAILS 7:30PM

DINNER 9:00PM

OPEN BAR

BLACK TIE OPTIONAL

DONATION \$200

FOR INFORMATION & RESERVATIONS PLEASE CALL

SCHOOL OFFICE (718) 225-4826

• NEG DAR ARUKIAN (718) 423-4813

MAILBOX@HMADS.ORG

AGBU GLOBAL
LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

AGBU 120
YEARS



Fuel Your Goals Empower Your Community

FOR COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AGED 19-26



Yerevan June 14 to July 25

ARMENIAN CULTURAL TOUR OF THE HOLY LAND **JERUSALEM**

AUGUST 27 - SEPTEMBER 5, 2026

TEL AVIV, JAFFA, HAIFA, NAZARETH,
LEBANESE BORDER, ACRE, DEAD SEA,
MASADA, JERICHO, SEA OF GALILEE,
RIVER JORDAN, TEMPLE MOUNT, THE
CHURCH OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE,
CAPERNAUM, CAESAREA, ARMENIAN
QUARTER, BETHLEHEM, JERUSALEM,
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INCLUDES BIBLICAL SITES:

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TalinKupelian@gmail.com 201.873.6226


DIRAN JEBEJIAN
PHOTOGRAPHY

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Editorial Board**



Vartan Abdo
Director



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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*

OUR DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS



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Founder & Director

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