

Armenian Interests

October 5, 2025

Issue #880

News & Events of the Armenian Community

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Armenian Parliament Adopts Declaration on Establishing Peace Between Armenia and Azerbaijan



With 64 votes in favor, 2 abstentions, and none against, the National Assembly of Armenia adopted the draft declaration “On Establishing Peace Between Armenia and Azerbaijan.”

The opposition did not participate in the debate or the vote, leaving the parliamentary chamber after calling for a 20-minute recess.

On October 2, the National Assembly convened an extraordinary session with the peace declaration on its agenda. The draft was presented from the parliamentary podium by Hayk Konjoryan, head of the “Civil Contract” faction. He stated that the ruling party believed the adoption of this declaration was necessary to support the peace established between Armenia and Azerbaijan and to call on all interested parties to strengthen and develop it. He then read the full text of the National Assembly’s declaration.

According to the declaration, the Armenian National Assembly:

- Reaffirms its commitment to Armenia’s sovereignty and territorial integrity, and highlights the importance of peaceful coexistence with all neighbors based on mutual recognition of sovereignty, territorial integrity, inviolability of internationally recognized borders, and political independence, as essential for

regional prosperity and progress.

- Emphasizes that peace is critical for Armenia’s development and survival, and recalls the necessity of ending past conflicts and establishing good-neighborly relations among peoples.
- Expresses support for the joint declaration signed on August 8, 2025, in Washington, D.C., following a trilateral meeting between U.S. President Donald Trump, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, and Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev.
- Welcomes the initialing of the peace and interstate relations agreement between Armenia and Azerbaijan on August 8, 2025, and the ongoing efforts toward its final signing.
- Stresses the importance of the agreement that the reopening of communications between Armenia and Azerbaijan will take place with full respect for state sovereignty and territorial integrity, aimed at promoting peace, stability, and prosperity in the region. These efforts include unhindered communication through Armenian territory between mainland Azerbaijan and the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic, while ensuring mutual benefits and international as well as domestic connectivity for Armenia.
- Highlights that Armenia will work with the United States and other mutually agreed partners to define the framework for implementing the “Trump Route for International Peace and

Prosperity” (TRIPP) communication program through Armenian territory.

- Encourages the peace process launched by the August 8, 2025 declaration, envisioning a brighter future not predetermined by past conflicts, and aligned with the UN Charter and the 1991 Alma-Ata Declaration.
- Reaffirms that, following a conflict that caused immense human suffering, conditions now exist for Armenia and Azerbaijan to begin good-neighborly relations based on the principles of inviolability of borders and the inadmissibility of using force to acquire territory.
- Expresses gratitude to U.S. President Donald Trump for his undeniable contribution to establishing peace between Armenia and Azerbaijan.
- Underscores that peace between Armenia and Azerbaijan opens new opportunities for economic prosperity and progress, that institutionalizing peace aligns with Armenia’s vital interests, and that efforts must continue to further consolidate the peace achieved.
- Concludes by calling on the public, political, expert, academic, and cultural circles of both Armenia and Azerbaijan to refrain from rhetoric or actions that symbolize, reinterpret, or inflame the conflict, in order to guarantee the sustainability and reliability of peace for the prosperity of the South Caucasus.

Headline News

Armenian Interests

Seton Hall University Armenian Club members interviewed by ARHNJ



On Sunday, September 28, 2025, Kayla Bajakejian and Isabel Vartanian were the in-studio guests of the Armenian Radio Hour of New Jersey. Both are freshman students



attending Seton Hall University (SHU) and members of the Armenian Club at SHU.

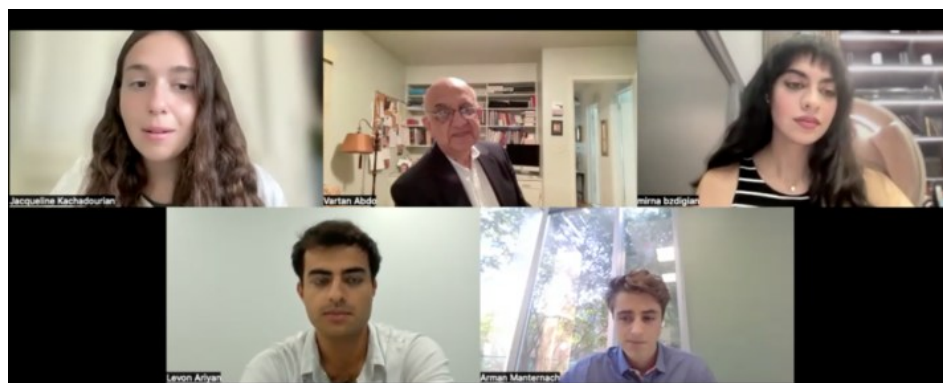
Kayla Bajakejian's major is the 3+3 business and law program and Isabel Vartanian is a freshman in a 3+3 Biology/Doctor of Physical Therapy program. Kayla and Isabel were interviewed by Mihran Maldjian who is the President of the Armenian Club at SHU and radio volunteer.

"I had a very fun experience both learning what goes on behind the scenes of the radio and honoring our culture and celebrating our identity as Armenians, on air," said Kayla.

AGBU Global Leadership Program

On Friday, October 3, 2025, Parev-TV had an interview with Jackie Khachadourian, coordinator of the AGBU Global Leadership Program and three young adults who participated in the leadership program -MirnaBzdigian, Arman Manternach, Levon Ariyan.

This special program connects diaspora youth to Armenia, helps promote networking among the younger generation from all over the world.



For more information check AGBU web site.

Armenian Radio Hour of NJ

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

Lilit Gizhlaryan: Rather than repeating the same narrative, visions for the future must replace cycles of grievance



On Saturday, September 27, 2025, Parev-TV has a zoom interview with researcher Lilit Gizhlaryan, who holds a Master's degree from the University of Michigan's Centre for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies. Her work focuses on governance, subnational dynamics, and centre-periphery relations in the South Caucasus, with broader interests in conflict and foreign policy.

A number of issues were raised during the interview, including the Washington declaration of August 8; the refugees of Karabagh; the 2026 elections in Armenia; how best to work for a peace and prosperity in the South Caucasus.

Important to note Lilit Gizhlaryan's opinions which were raised during the interview also appear in her article "Opinion | Political grandstanding won't bring peace — introspection might" which appeared in O-C Media.

Lilit wrote, "The Washington declarations are delicate and complex, leaving many issues unresolved....as we wait to see how reality unfolds over time....Some statements reflect legitimate concerns about the peace process, while others remain trapped in historical grievances, stereotypes, and animosity."

"Azerbaijan has yet to sign the agreement, and its rhetoric toward Armenians remains hostile. It continues to use language that Armenia opposes, such as the term 'Zangezur corridor', and is still pressuring Armenia to amend its constitution as a precondition for signing, making it even harder for Armenian society to trust the process."

How do we move forward? "The state cannot work alone to achieve the holistic peace desired for the region, nor is it possible to accomplish in a short time. The state, civil society, educational institutions, and the wider public must each play their roles, setting realistic goals and working to achieve them. This requires creative and critical thinking to break the patterns of constant mistrust, bloodshed, and displacement that have dominated the region in the last centuries. Breaking cycles is painful, yet possible. Change is difficult as it requires both sides to 'enter the dance' of trust building step by step, breaking destructive patterns of the past. If Armenia or Azerbaijan wait for the 'perfect time', that time will never come. Armenia now has the hard task to convince Azerbaijan that peace is mutually beneficial."

How to address displaced Nagorno-Karabakh Armenians? One gap, is

addressing the needs of displaced Nagorno-Karabakh Armenians who now face the painful reality that returning home is an unrealistic chapter, at least in the way they believe it could be or was possible before 2020. As painful as this is, and despite certain political and analytical communities claiming otherwise, Armenians unfortunately have to come to terms with this reality...politicising their pain for political gain only perpetuates their in-between-ness, preventing them from building a dignified life in new communities...Advocating for their rights in Armenia will help the displaced feel more valued, rather than feeding them unrealistic hopes that further alienate them from one another and eventually push them to emigrate from Armenia as their pressing needs remain unaddressed."

We should hold critical and inclusive debates about the past, present, and future where visions for the future replace cycles of grievance. Educational spaces should provide intellectually stimulating debate, based on mutual respect and the belief that knowledge is created through dialogue and listening to one another...Rather than repeating the same narrative that has dominated since the first clashes between the two peoples, that the other cannot be trusted and coexistence is impossible, and perpetuating stereotypes that deepen mistrust and obscure meaningful regional narratives, the internal discourse needs to catch up with the geopolitical and geo-economic processes shaping the region and the world. This time, it should seize the opportunity to provide a more dignified life for the people who will continue living in Armenia and to reimagine an integrated region, as romantic as it may sound."

Agopian Art Advisory listed among ARTnews Top Art World Professionals



Agopian Art Advisory, New York, has been listed among the top art industry companies in the United States. Aileen Agopian, founder and principal of AGOPIAN art advisory helps seasoned and new collectors build art collections of Post-War and Contemporary Art. Aileen has over 25 years of experience of the fine art market, establishing herself as a prominent figure in the world of Contemporary Art.

Aileen enjoyed a distinguished career at Sotheby's, and co-headed Contemporary Sales in Doha, Qatar. A key highlight of her tenure at Sotheby's was facilitating the acquisition of Andy Warhol's Liz #3 (1963) for \$32 million in November 2014.

Prior to Sotheby's, Aileen served as the Director of Contemporary Art Auctions at Phillips in New York for 10 years, and earlier in her career, she was Sales Director at White Cube Gallery in London.

A highly regarded auctioneer, Aileen has conducted auctions for both Sotheby's and Phillips, and continues to lead charity auctions worldwide. She is a frequent participant in panel discussions and lectures on the global

art market, most recently serving as a guest lecturer at the Graduate Center, CUNY.

Aileen holds a BA in Art History and French Literature from Tufts University, where she graduated Cum Laude, and a Master's degree in Post-War and Contemporary Art from Sotheby's Institute in London.

A graphic titled 'THE 145 TOP ART WORLD PROFESSIONALS'. Below the title, it states: 'The art industry comprises an incredibly diverse tapestry of experts in all sorts of professions. The ARTnews Top Art World Professionals list (alphabetical and not ranked) focuses on the leaders in 12 categories within United States, the largest single national market for art.' The graphic lists 145 professionals in 12 categories. The categories are: ADVISERS AND ADVISORY FIRMS, Fine Art Concepts, Elizabeth Fiore Art Advisory, Front Desk Apparatus, Gagosian Art Advisory, Patti Gilford Fine Arts, Goodman Taft, Gould Art Advisory, Adam Green Art Advisory, Hazen Art Advisory, Kim Heirston Art Advisory, Sandy Heller, Megan Fox Kelly Art Advisory, Lester Fine Art, Levin Art Group, LK Art Consultants, LSS Art Advisory, Mireille Mosler, Ouyang Art Consultancy, Palmieri Fine Art, Esthella Provas & Associates, Ruth | Catone | Goulding, Samuels Creative & Co., Schwartzman, Christie Shearman Art Advisory, Sokoloff Associates, Irina Stark, SZ Advisory, Elizabeth Szancer, Tanja Weingartner, Zlot Buell Associates, ALL-IN-ONE LOGISTICS, Accumen International, Atelier 4, Atthowe Fine Art Services, Crozier, Dietl International Services, Mana Fine Arts, SRI Fine Art Services, and UOVO.

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TalinKupelian@gmail.com

BERD Dance Ensemble Announces U.S. Tour with Performances in New York on November 16, 2025

The world-renowned BERD Dance Ensemble, Armenia's Honored National Dance Collective, is set to bring its artistry and cultural heritage to the United States this November with a series of live performances in Los Angeles, Chicago, and New York.

U.S. Tour Dates: Los Angeles – November 9, 2025 hyeticket.com

Chicago – November 14, 2025 | 7:00 PM at Christian Heritage Academy
Soon available ticketmicket.com

New York – November 16, 2025 | 5:00 PM at Oceana Theater

As BERD Dance Ensemble prepares to take the stage in the United States,



audiences can expect a breathtaking evening that embodies the spirit, resilience, and cultural pride of

Armenia and fosters a profound connection to the homeland from afar.

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



Poetry presented by Mrs. Zarmine Boghosian

Մեր Գրական Աշխարհի Ծաղկաստանէն

♥♥♥ **Through the Orchards of the Armenian Language & Poetry** ♥♥♥ Oct-4-5, 2025

Presented by: Zarmine Boghosian

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ՀԱՎՏԵՄԲԵՐ ♥♥♥ **ՀԱՅ ՄՇԱԿՈՅԹԻ ԱՄԻՍ**

ՀՐԱՇԱԼԻ ՄՏՔԵՐ Հանրաժանօթ մտաւորական Եզնիկ Բալայեանէն-

♥ Դառնալու համար իսկական Իշխան,
պէտք է նախ իշխես կիրքերուդ վրան:

♥ Համբաւով կրնաս շահիլ ոսկի թագ, իսկ
Նկարագրով՝ պատիւ ու յարգանք:

♥ Մոմը կը ցրուէ մոլոր սենեակին,
իսկ գրքի էջերն խաւարը մտքին:

♥ Բաներ կան որ չես կրնար ընել մինչեւ որ չտրվիս,
բաներ ալ կան, որ չես կրնար ստրվիլ մինչեւ որ չընես:

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Վահան Թէքէեան
Քե՛զ, Հայ Լեզո՛ւ, կը սիրեմ մրգաստանի մը նման...
Մեր անցեալին թանձրախիտ ստուերներուն

Մէջ-մէկ պտուղ՝ քու բոլոր բառերդ ինծի կ'երեւան,
Որոնց մէջէն կը քալեմ ու կը քաղեմ գանձեր ես:

Մրգաստանի մը նման կը սիրեմ քեզ, Հայ Լեզո՛ւ...
Մեր հայրենի պալատէն, պարտեզներէն մնացորդ՝
Դալարագեղ դուռն պուրակ, որ դիմացար դարերու
Եւ կը մնաս միշտ առողջ, հին աւիշով կենսայորդ:

Ծառերուդ մէջ հովանուտ կ'երթամ
Խինդով մ'անսահման,
Արմատներուդ, ճիւղերուդ վրայ նայելով հիացիկ,
Չարմանալով, թէ ինչպէս դուն մընացիր,

Բամին քու շուրջդ փչեց եւ տապալեց ամեն բան:
Մէջ-մէկ պտուղ գոյնզգոյն բոլոր բառերդ ահա,
Հիւթեղ բառերդ, գոր որքան հասունցուցին

Բառե՛րդ, որքան այս պահուս շրթանցրս
Բառե՛րդ, որ քիմքըս կ'օծեն եւ կը սփոփեն
Երբ սաստիկ արեւներ,
Վրայ եմ բռներ,
Սիրտս հիմա...:

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ԿԱՅԾԵՐ ♥♥♥ Թադէոս Եսայեան

Քարը քարին քսեմ կ'ըսեմ՝
Կայծեր հանեմ, կրակ սարքեմ,
Գոնէ ոմանք ձմեռ օրով
Կը տաքանան իմ կրակով...
Իմ կրակին գուցէ ոմանք
Սառած սիրտով գան մօտենան,



Ե. 2022

Թող գան կ'ըսեմ, թող գան, թող գան,

Սառը հալի՝ սիրել գիտնան...
Չառնեն սակայն կրակ կայծէն
Կայծակնահար ամպի նման
Որ ախ չըսեն որոտածայն
Արցունք թափող ամպի նման...
Ես կ'ուզեի փոխան կայծքար՝
Մարդիկ միտքեր քսեն իրար,
Կայծով միտքին՝ լոյս տան
սիրտին՝

Սիրտի լոյսէն՝ ՄԷ՛Ր բոլորին: Թ.

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ԻՆՉ ԻՄԱՍՏ ՈՒՆԻ

Համօ Սահեան

Երբ որ նշան են բռնել թիկունքիդ,
Քո զգաստութիւնն էլ իմաստ չունի,
Երբ բարձրութեամբ են ծառ կոչում ծառին
Բնի հաստութիւնն էլ իմաստ չունի...

Այս եղած-չեղած, մեղաց աշխարհում,
Հնում իր ուղին շեղած աշխարհում,
Իմաստունների թիւն է այնքան է շատ,
Որ իմաստութիւնն էլ իմաստ չունի:

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Հոկտեմբեր Ամիս, Մշակութային Ամիս, Թարգմանչաց

Տօն- ահա թէ ինչ կը յուշէ մեզի այս ամիսը- **ՄԵՍՐՈՊ ՄԱՇՏՈՑԻՆ** հանճարը իր **Գիրքերու Գիտով**: Ի գուր չէ որ **ԱՅՔ ու ԲԵՆԻ** տառերը կը համարուին ամենէն ազդեցիկ ազգային ինքնապաշտպանութեան զենքն ու վահանը: Յիշենք թէ ինչպէս **Սահակ Պարթևի** բարոյական քաջալերանքով եւ **Վռամշապուհ Թագաւորի** նիւթական հովա-նաւորութեամբ **Մեսրոպ Մաշտոց** եւ իր աշա-կերտները ժաջանութեամբ լծուեցան թարգմանական աշխատանքի, ստեղծելով մշակութային եռուն կեանք մը, որ մեր պատմութեան մէջ ծանօթ է **«ՈՍԿԵՂԱՐ»** անունով: **Վռամշապուհը** պատմութեան մէջ արձանագրուած է որպէս **Գրոց Գիտի** Թագաւոր, որովհետեւ Ս. **Սահակի** եւ Ս. **Մեսրոպի** գիտը պիտի չունենար այն փայլուն յաջողութիւնը որ ունեցաւ:

Վռամշապուհի գանձանակէն ելած գումարներով բացուեցան դպրոցներ, քաջալերուեցան թարգմանիչներ: Պատմութեան մէջ կը յիշուի թէ **Վռամշապուհ առաջին թագաւորն** էր որ **ՀԱՅԵՐԷՆ** Ստորագրեց իր հրովարտականը: **Գրեմք, խօսինք, կարդանք ՀԱՅԵՐԷՆ**:



AGBU GLOBAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Welcoming all sophomore, junior, senior, or graduate students enrolled in universities for new professional opportunities and placements in stimulating work environments!

The AGBU Global Leadership Program (FKA Summer Internship Program) has been devoted to empowering young Armenians to achieve professional success by providing meaningful and purpose-driven professional opportunities and social engagement events. Expect to meet with industry professionals from leading organizations who will help you kickstart your career. The program also entails daily afterwork social and cultural activities to get to know the city and each other.

Find out more [here](https://www.agbu.org/global-leadership-program) and submit your application through our online portal at www.agbu.org/global-leadership-program.

Don't miss out on this unique opportunity, and apply by our first application deadline of October 20, 2025, to get a chance to be part of a once in a lifetime experience!

The poster features a group of four diverse young adults (three women and one man) sitting around a table, smiling and engaged in conversation. A large, stylized red globe graphic is positioned behind them, with the text 'summer 2026' in white. The AGBU Global Leadership Program logo is in the top left. The main headline 'Fuel Your Goals Empower Your Community' is in large blue font, followed by 'FOR COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AGED 19-26'. At the bottom, three locations are listed: Boston (JUN 7 - AUG 1), New York (JUN 14 - AUG 8), and Yerevan (JUN 14 - JUL 25), separated by vertical bars.

AGBU GLOBAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

summer 2026

**Fuel Your Goals
Empower Your Community**

FOR COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AGED 19-26

Boston
JUN 7 - AUG 1

New York
JUN 14 - AUG 8

Yerevan
JUN 14 - JUL 25



Join The Shushi Dance Ensemble



" Discipline is key to our success "

2025-2026 Season

Monday Classes - Starting September 8, 2025

Friday Classes - Starting September 12, 2025



MONDAYS

1. Ages 2-4, boys & girls - 4:15pm-4:50pm (*limited space available*)
"Take me to Shushi and dance with me"
2. Ages 5-9, boys & girls - 5:00pm-6:15pm

FRIDAYS

1. Ages 10-13 (girls) & ages 10-15 (boys) - 5:00pm-7:00pm
2. Ages 14 & up (girls) & ages 16 & up (boys) - 7:00pm-9:00pm

- ♦ Rehearsals are held at Church of Atonement, 97 Highwood Ave., Tenafly, NJ 07670
- ♦ Membership forms, rules & regulations are available on our website www.shushidance.org
- ♦ For additional information contact the director Seta Paskalian-Kantardjian at 201.747.3880

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Facebook.com/shushidanceNY

Instagram.com/shushidanceNY

Youtube.com/ShushiDanceEnsemble

We Armenia



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

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Current News from Around the World



Armenian Interests

Pashinyan delivers a message of peace and hope at UN General Assembly



Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan's delivered is message in

Armenian at the UNGA General Debate in New York on September 27.

“At the 81st session of the UN General Assembly I hope to report that the agreement on peace and the establishment of interstate relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan has been at least signed, the border between Armenia and Turkey has been opened, and a large part of the TRIPP route investment project has been implemented. The Republic of

Armenia reaffirms its commitment to the peace agenda and the achieved peace. I am convinced that with close dialogue with Azerbaijan, and the support of regional countries and the international community, we will never again deviate from the path of peace. Long live dialogue, long live diplomacy, long live peace.” Stated P.M. Pashinyan. “Unprecedented positive dialogue” has been established between Armenia and Türkiye in recent years. I have regular meetings with President Erdoğan, with a continuously growing level of trust. This is an achievement I greatly value, and I am confident it will yield positive results in the near future—namely, the establishment of diplomatic relations and the full opening of the international border



between Armenia and Türkiye,” Pashinyan said.

Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan met with United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres in New York. They also exchanged views on other matters of mutual interest.

Armenian PM, Azerbaijani President reaffirm readiness to further strengthen peace



The Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan and the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev met in Copenhagen, Denmark on 2 October

2025, on the margins of 7th Summit of the European Political Community.

“Both sides highlighted the significance of agreements reached during the Washington Peace Summit initiated by the U.S. President Donald J. Trump,” the Prime Minister’s Office said in a press release. “They reaffirmed readiness to work for further strengthening of peace between Armenia and Azerbaijan. The Prime Minister of Armenia and the President of Azerbaijan underscored the benefits of transport communications in the

region, discussed the current progress of infrastructure development in the territory of Azerbaijan, and TRIPP project in the territory of Armenia, exchanging views about the implementation of the Washington Declaration. In this regard, the sides welcomed the decision adopted unanimously on the closure of the OSCE Minsk Process and its related structures. Both sides highlighted the importance of further implementing Confidence-Building Measures and agreed to continue their contacts.”

European Court Demands Report from Baku on Armenian Prisoners



The European Court of Human Rights has demanded that Azerbaijan provide a report on the conditions and health status of 23 Armenian prisoners held in Baku's prisons, setting a deadline of November 4.

For nearly three months, Armenian prisoners held in Baku's prisons have been kept in complete isolation, with no visits from any independent international organizations. No information is available regarding their

detention conditions, health, or psychological state. Human rights defenders, however, citing the prisoners' relatives, have raised alarms about attempted suicides among the detainees.

The International Committee of the Red Cross, which last visited the Armenian prisoners in June, permanently suspended its activities in Azerbaijan last month at Baku's request.

Term "Zangezur Corridor" not mentioned in any document, says Pashinyan



Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan addressed the issue of reopening regional communications and responded to concerns over the term "Zangezur Corridor," which has been used by Azerbaijan.

During a Q&A session with Cabinet members in Parliament, MP Lilit Minasyan asked why the Prime Minister's positions on reopening regional communications appeared to

have hardened recently. Pashinyan emphasized that his positions have not changed. He stated that what was recorded in the Washington document reflects the government's policy and should be implemented as soon as possible.

Pashinyan explained the issue: The term "Zangezur Corridor." If we open and read the documents signed in Washington, is this phrase there? No. The initialed Agreement on the Establishment of Peace and Inter-State Relations-does it contain this wording? No. Have we ever adopted such a term in any document? We have not.

"In the case of Armenia, names are decided by Armenia; in the case of Azerbaijan, by Azerbaijan. This is recorded in the document because we have recognized each other's

sovereignty, territorial integrity, and inviolability of borders."

Pashinyan stressed that Armenia's position is unchanged. The country's goal remains to quickly initiate and implement infrastructure projects that will reopen regional communications, while adhering to five key principles: sovereignty, territorial integrity, inviolability of borders, jurisdiction, and reciprocity.

He emphasized that while simplifications in customs and border controls are possible to meet modern international standards, they must still respect the five principles: sovereignty, territorial integrity, inviolability of borders, jurisdiction, and reciprocity.

Armenian Radio Hour of NJ

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

Armenian interior minister meets UAE President

Armenian Minister of Internal Affairs, Arpine Sargsyan, during a visit to the United Arab Emirates, met with President of UAE Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.



Armenian Government Approves \$9.5 Billion Draft State Budget for 2026



The Government of Armenia has approved the draft state budget for 2026, which is projected to total approximately \$9.5 billion—an increase of more than 5% compared to this year. According to the proposal, government expenditures next year will reach 3.628 trillion drams.

The Ministry of Defense is set to receive 563 billion drams (about \$1.5 billion), which represents a decrease of roughly \$265 million in military spending compared to this year.

Presenting the budget, Minister of Finance Vahe Hovhannisyan stated that economic growth is projected at 5.4% for 2026. State revenues are expected to amount to 3.091 trillion drams, including 2.972 trillion drams in tax revenues.

The Ministry of Territorial Administration will see its budget increase by 37 billion drams, reaching over 325 billion drams (approximately \$850 million). Healthcare spending will also grow, with 211 billion drams (around \$550 million) allocated—an increase of about 45 billion drams compared to this year.

In contrast, the Ministry of Economy will face a reduction of 5 billion drams, bringing its 2026 budget to 74.5 billion drams (about \$195 million).

The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs will remain the largest

recipient of state funding, with 993 billion drams (about \$2.6 billion) allocated for 2026—an increase of about 90 billion drams over the current year. Of this, approximately 591 billion drams will go toward pensions.

Funding for assistance to displaced persons from Artsakh will also increase significantly, rising from 35 billion drams this year to 55 billion drams (over \$140 million) in 2026.

Additionally, the government will allocate more funds for managing Armenia's public debt, with over 423 billion drams (about \$1.1 billion) earmarked solely for interest payments.

The draft budget will now be sent to the National Assembly for further debate and detailed discussions by sector.

Armenia, Saudi Arabia sign MoU on Political Consultations

Foreign Minister of the Republic of Armenia Ararat Mirzoyan and Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Political Consultations



Archbishop Mikayel Ajapahyan sentenced to two years in prison



By the decision of the Yerevan Court of General Jurisdiction, Archbishop Mikayel Ajapahyan, Primate of the Shirak Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church, has been sentenced to two years in prison.

Judge Armine Meliksetyan announced the verdict, noting that the term will be calculated from the moment of his actual detention.

Public prosecutor had requested a prison sentence of two years and six months.

Ajapahyan was charged with making public calls aimed at usurping power, violating territorial integrity, renouncing sovereignty, or overthrowing the constitutional order by force. He was arrested on June 28.

Turkish Airlines to Launch Direct Flights to Yerevan



Turkey's largest national carrier, Turkish Airlines, has announced that it will begin operating regular direct flights to Yerevan.

The airline did not provide specific details, noting only that the flights will depend on available opportunities and market conditions. Ankara made this decision at a time when efforts to normalize relations with its neighbor

are intensifying after decades of hostility. The publication emphasized that Yerevan and Ankara have recently accelerated their push for improved relations, building on the peace agreement brokered by the United States between Armenia and Turkey's ally, Azerbaijan.

Following the Washington summit, Turkey's special envoy Serdar Kılıç visited Yerevan. As a result of the negotiations, it was announced that both sides agreed to carry out the necessary work to begin flights to various destinations starting in the summer of 2026.

Speaking at the Civil Contract Party convention, Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan mentioned the possibility of opening the border with Turkey in the near future: "Our active dialogue with Turkey gives us confidence that we will soon also have land transportation links with Turkey, and through it, with the European Union."

Currently, Armenian airline Flyone Armenia has suspended its flights to Turkey. At present, the only direct service between Yerevan and Istanbul is operated by Turkish low-cost carrier Pegasus Airlines.

Armenia to host Eurovision Young Musicians competition for the first time

The Union of European Broadcasters and Public Television of Armenia have announced that the Classical Eurovision Song Contest for Young Musicians will be held in Armenia on June 6, 2026.

The Public Television Company issued a statement: "We look forward to welcoming talented young musicians to our beautiful country and creating a celebration of classical music together."



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
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(617) 688-2741
newyorkregion@armnet.org www.armnet.org

Armenian Church of the Holy Martyrs

209-15 Horace Harding Expressway
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718-225-0235
www.holy-martyrs.org

Armenian Evangelical Church of New York

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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

- ◆ [October 4, 2025 - St. Vartan Armenian Cathedral Cultural Committee presents “Jazzical Komitas to Aznaour” classics with the National Chamber Orchestra of Armenia](#)
- ◆ [October 5, 2025 - Armenian Jewelers Association 25th anniversary gala](#)
- ◆ [October 8, 2025 - St. Mary Armenian Church Women’s Guild Tricky Tray dinner](#)
- ◆ [October 10, 2025 - Artsakh Art Exhibit at St. Illuminator’s Cathedral](#)
- ◆ [October 11, 2025 - Huyser & Friends 15th anniversary celebration concert at Queens Theater](#)
- ◆ [October 18, 2025 - St. Gregory Cultural Committee presents Jazz Up With Astghik Martirosyan & Ensemble](#)
- ◆ [October 19, 2025 - Cultural Committee of St. Thomas presents acclaimed photographer Hrair Hawk Khatcherian with the NJ launch of his new book “AGHTAMAR” The Armenian Architectural Masterpiece](#)
- ◆ [October 23, 2025 - AMAA Armenia presentation](#)
- ◆ [October 25, 2025 - Join the American University of Armenia \(AUA\) for its first major gala fundraiser in New York City](#)
- ◆ [October 26, 2025 - St. Thomas Church fall food festival](#)
- ◆ [October 26, 2025 - AESA 12th annual banquet](#)
- ◆ [November 1, 2025 - Homenetmen of NJ 50th anniversary gala](#)
- ◆ [November 8, 2025 - AAHPO’s 7th annual 5K run](#)
- ◆ [November 8, 2025 - Shushi Dance Ensemble dinner dance](#)
- ◆ [November 13-16, 2025 - Celebrations in honor of the 30th anniversary of the enthronement of His Holiness Catholicos Aram I](#)
- ◆ [December 3, 2025 - CHHANGE Fall Testimonial Dinner & Tribute Journal](#)
- ◆ [December 19, 2025 - St. Vartan Cathedral Christmas Concert](#)

SAVE THE DATE FOR FUTURE EVENTS

- ◆ [January 10-17, 2026 - Armenian Heritage Cruise](#)

ST. VARTAN CATHEDRAL  CULTURAL COMMITTEE
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KOMITAS
CLASSICAL
RENAVOUR

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*St. Mary Armenian Church
Women's Guild
Tricky Tray Dinner
Wednesday, October 8, 2025
Doors open at 6:00 pm*

*A Tulipano
1131 Pompton Avenue
Cedar Grove, New Jersey 07009*

*Please RSVP to Barbara
By October 1*

*Shishkabarb@optonline.net
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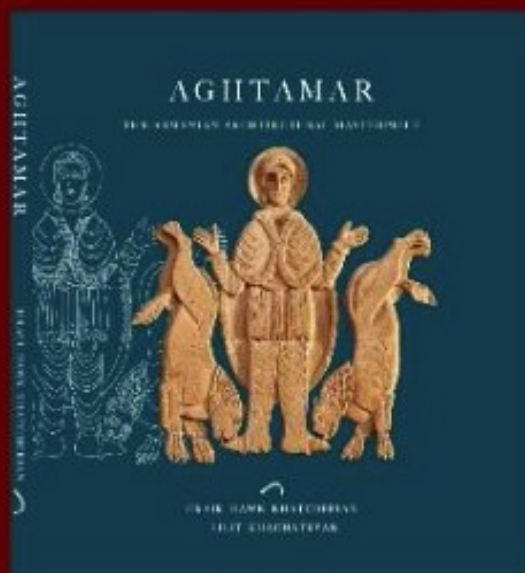
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Photographer

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AGHTAMAR

Sunday, October 19th at 2 pm



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For more info, please contact: Talar Sarafian at 201-240-8541,
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pdbourghol@yahoo.com.

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- ☉ Appetizers & Refreshments to follow

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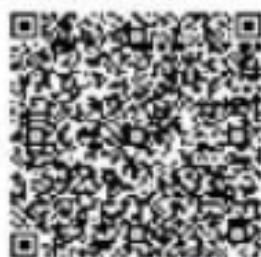
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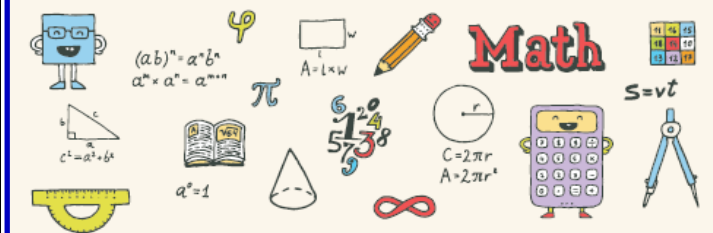
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