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PM Pashinyan Accuses Karapetyan and Others of Being ‘Foreign Agents’

By Arshaluys Barseghyan

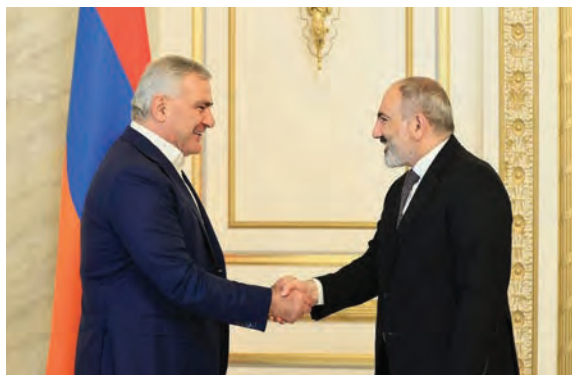
Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan has appeared to accuse his opponent, the detained Russian-Armenian tycoon Samvel Karapetyan, of being a “foreign agent,” claiming that the authorities have compiled a “thick file” of individuals they believe are acting in line with foreign agendas.

Pashinyan cited “assessment and data obtained” by state agencies indicating that a number of individuals were operating as “foreign agents” in Armenia.

He further stated that he maintains a list of such individuals, and clarified that his statements primarily referred to political figures.

“If those people are still at large, it means they have not yet crossed the line into espionage, but they are acting within that logic. Some individuals are very close to that line, walking along its edge. Once they cross it, there will be a response,” Pashinyan said.

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Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan (right) and now opposition Prime Minister candidate Samvel Karapetyan (left) shaking hands in July 2022, as the two met to discuss the course of investment projects by Karapetyan’s Tashir Group. Official photo.

Armenian Speaker Rebukes Turkey for Dragging Feet Over Border

YEREVAN (Azatutyun) — Turkey has taken no further steps to normalize relations with Armenia even after last August’s initialization of an Armenian-Azerbaijani peace treaty, parliament speaker Alen Simonyan complained over the weekend.

“Armenia is ready to open the [Turkish-Armenian] border, but Turkey is not taking any new steps,” Simonyan told reporters at the end of a visit to Istanbul during which he attended a session of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

“At first, they said that the border will not open until the Nagorno-Karabakh issue is resolved,” he said, according to the Turkish-Armenian newspaper Agos. “Then they said that the Karabakh issue is resolved. Then they brought up the Armenian-Azerbaijani peace agreement. We negotiated, agreed on 17 points, initiated it, shook hands, but nothing happened after that.”

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Armenia’s Elections and The Artsakh Armenians

By Marut Vanyan

Special to the Mirror-Spectator

YEREVAN — The Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh held their own elections there until 2023 and did not participate in the elections held in Armenia, although they were holders of the blue passports of the Republic of Armenia. No outside government recognized the results of the elections in Nagorno-Karabakh, nor the self-proclaimed Republic of Nagorno Karabakh as a state. Currently, the Armenian government considers these passports as “travel documents” and does not recognize the Karabakh Armenians as citizens of the Republic of Armenia. Thus, after the tragedy that occurred in Nagorno-Karabakh in 2023, when the entire population fled to Armenia, their status continues to remain unclear: are they internally displaced persons (IDP), real refugees, or citizens of Armenia — who are they? It seems strange, but with passports with code 070 they can travel to any country in the world, and everyone recognizes these passports, except in Armenia.

Instead, starting in 2023, Armenia issued them refugee certificates,



Election ads are everywhere (photo Marut Vanyan)

which bear the qualification “temporary refugee protection certificate.” Today, the Armenian government is offering the Karabakh Armenians the possibility of applying for a new passport, which implies becoming a real citizen of the Republic of Armenia. Karabakh Armenians mainly apply for citizenship in order to be able to take advantage of the state’s housing program, for which becom-

ing a citizen is a mandatory requirement.

Many considers this policy of the Armenian government unacceptable, complaining that they hold the same passports as all citizens of Armenia. If they are citizens of Armenia, what is the point of creating such an artificial bureaucracy and forcing people to wait in front of passport offices?

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From Perkins to Armenia with Mission of Inclusion

By Alin K. Gregorian

Mirror-Spectator Staff

WATERTOWN — The Perkins School for the Blind has long made an impact on the lives of children

in Massachusetts. The first school for the blind in the United States, it was founded in 1829 in Watertown and counts among its alumni Helen Keller.

But it is not just locally that the

school is making an impact. Internationally, it is helping educated children with complex disabilities. According to their website, the school is currently collaborating with 223 schools globally, training more than 54,000 educators in the process.

Among the countries in which Perkins helps children with disabilities is Armenia. Darija Udovicic, the Croatia-based director of Perkins’ Europe Eurasia Region, and several members from the Perkins organization spoke recently about the organization’s work toward inclusion of differently abled children in Armenia. Perkins first started working in Armenia in 2006.

Perkins spends its resources on teaching educators and providing tools that will help the children, rather than facilities.

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Art and sport activities for children with disabilities in Armenia with Perkins support

NEW YORK

Amnesty Says Azerbaijan Failed To Protect Conflict Victims

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GERMANY

Ofeliya Poghosyan Delights Opera Fans in Darmstadt

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STEPANAKERT

Second Church Razed in Stepanakert

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ARMENIA

NEWS from ARMENIA

Mayor Condemns Violence against Bus Drivers amid Fare Disputes

YEREVAN (Panorama.am) — Yerevan Mayor Tigran Avinyan clashed with opposition members during a heated municipal council session on April 21, warning that public transport drivers are increasingly vulnerable to harassment and violence over fare collection.

Avinyan said reforms introducing digital ticketing and contactless payments had been undermined by “thugs and hooligans” who assault drivers under the guise of boycotting fares. “Any drunk thug, a hooligan in the literal sense, can attack a driver and claim it is a boycott,” he declared.

Opposition councilor Hayk Grigoryan of the Mother Armenia faction accused the ruling Civil Contract party of mismanagement, criticizing the policy that obliges drivers to ensure passengers pay, which has led to violent incidents. He also blamed Avinyan for worsening congestion by approving construction permits in central Yerevan. Avinyan rejected the charge, insisting no new permits had been issued under his tenure and attributing gridlock to the annual addition of 12,000 vehicles. He argued that reforms would succeed only if the council were not obstructed by opposition members.

Government Loses To Tashir Capital Company in Court

YEREVAN (News.am) — The Administrative Court of Armenia has ruled in favor of the lawsuit of Tashir Capital CJSC against the Armenian government, recognizing the existence of the possibility of alienation of 70 percent of the shares of the Electric Networks of Armenia (ENA) CJSC by the plaintiff in accordance with the procedure agreed with the latter, based on the proposal of the Armenian government, suspending the three-month period during which the sale should be carried out until May 25. ENA is engaged in the distribution of electricity in Armenia based on a license issued by a decision of the Public Services Regulatory Commission of Armenia, and also in the guaranteed supply of electricity in Armenia based on a license issued by another decision.

Expert Warns of Increasing Dehumanization of Armenians in Azerbaijan

YEREVAN (Panorama.am) — Signs of increasing dehumanization of Armenians in Azerbaijan have become too pronounced to overlook, regional security expert Varuzhan Geghamyan said, warning that international assessments are growing less direct in labeling such actions.

Arman Tatoyan Addresses Letter to EU Envoy over Election Interference

YEREVAN — Former Armenian Ombudsman Arman Tatoyan, the prime ministerial candidate of the Wings of Unity party, has addressed a letter to Vassilis Maragos, head of the EU Delegation to Armenia, regarding concerns of foreign interference in Armenia’s democratic processes. The full text of the letter is provided below.

“We write to you in connection with the European Union’s commitment to countering disinformation and foreign interference in Armenia’s democratic processes.

The EU Mission has announced its commitment to addressing Russian influence on electoral integrity, and it is in that same spirit that we bring the following to your attention. An increasing pattern of foreign interference originating from Azerbaijan, which poses a direct threat to Armenia’s democratic processes and the security of its voters.

In recent months, there have been multiple documented instances of threats, coercive rhetoric, and coordinated informational pressure linked to actors in Baku. These actions appear designed to intimidate the Armenian population and shape the political environment during a sensitive electoral period. The examples below are illustrative rather than exhaustive, but they share a common pattern. Official and state-aligned Azerbaijani voices are directly addressing the outcome of Armenia’s elections, making explicit or thinly veiled threats about the consequences of a change in government.

Among the documented cases:

A member of parliament from Azerbaijan’s ruling party issued a public statement warning that an opposition victory in Armenia could prompt Azerbaijan to make formal territorial claims over Armenian territory.

A Presidential Administration-controlled newspaper suggested that a “revanchist” government in Armenia would have “nothing left to govern.”

A Defense Ministry-controlled outlet stated that it is “particularly important” that power in Armenia remains with forces aligned with Azerbaijan’s strategic objectives.

Taken together, these statements constitute a coordinated effort by state-affiliated actors in Baku to influence the outcome of Armenian elections through intimidation.

Novruz Aslan, member of parliament for Azerbaijan’s ruling New Azerbaijan Party, interview with Day.az, April 14, 2026, said, “Perhaps this may sound dramatic, but if Nikol Pashinyan is defeated in the elections, it will not be only the leader of ‘Civil Agreement’ who suffers a loss, but Armenia and the Armenian people as well. If the pro-Russian opposition comes to power, it is unlikely to amend the Constitution. In that case, Azerbaijan could take reciprocal steps by adding provisions to its Basic Law concerning what it considers historically Azerbaijani lands ... Our neighbors should not forget that they owe us a great deal for the thirty-year occupation and that they live on what we consider to be historically Azerbaijani lands. They should keep this in mind.”

“A Game of Survival: Between Peace and Escalation,” Bakinski Rabochi, March 25, 2026 (outlet under the control of Azerbaijan’s Presidential Administration). “In the event of such a war, the revanchists would have absolutely nothing left to govern, since even the outpost itself would cease to exist.”

“Where Does Armenia Begin?,” Caliber.az, outlet controlled by Azerbaijan’s Ministry of Defense. “It is particularly important that power in Armenia remains in

the hands of forces capable of bringing the ongoing process to its logical conclusion.”

Regrettably, the current Armenian government has not taken adequate steps to defend its citizens or the electoral system from these external pressures, leaving democratic institutions more vulnerable than they should be at this juncture. We also note with concern that certain government messaging has framed the prospect of political change as a path to war, a characterization that, regardless of intent, functions as pressure on voters during an active electoral period and warrants attention in any comprehensive assessment of the information environment.

In light of this, we respectfully urge the European Union Mission to Armenia to take the following actions:

Publicly denounce these statements and the broader pattern of interference as unlawful and unacceptable attempts to influence Armenia’s electoral process from abroad [Azerbaijan].

Expand the scope of existing mechanisms used to counter, as stated by the EU, Russian disinformation so that they also identify, expose, and counteract Azerbaijani interference efforts in a transparent and consistent manner. A principled stance against foreign interference cannot be selective about its origin.

We believe that consistency in defending democratic norms and values, regardless of which external actor is doing the interfering, is essential to maintaining the credibility of democratic institutions and protecting the rights of Armenian voters. We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you or your team to discuss this further and to present additional documentation in support of our concerns.”

Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II Meets with Youth

ECHMIADZIN — On April 12, Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, received at the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin approximately 650 young people who had arrived on pilgrimage from various dioceses of Armenia, accompanied by their spiritual pastors.

The meeting began with the Lord’s Prayer and the Patriarchal hymn. Then the spiritual inspector and Director of the Central Office of the World Youth Organization of the Armenian Church, the Rev. Fr. Tovma Khachatryan, presented the young pilgrims to the Catholicos, noting that the youth had come to the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin on the occasion of the Feast of the Resurrection of Christ to participate in the Divine Liturgy and to receive the fatherly blessing of the Catholicos of All Armenians.

On behalf of the clergy, Rev. Fr. Makar Galamdaryan (Shirak Diocese) delivered words of greeting and gratitude. Fr. Makar emphasized that the clergy responsible for youth unions organized this pilgrimage in response to the wishes of the young people, so that they might renew their vows, be strengthened in faith, and, having received the blessing of Holy Etchmiadzin, continue their lives as faithful children of the Mother Church.

On behalf of the youth, addresses were delivered by Yeretsgin Goharik Galtagyazyan of the Shirak Diocese, Naira

Davtyan (Aragatsotn Diocese), Maria Atanesyan (Syunik Diocese), Mane Mnat-sakanyan (Masyatsotn Diocese), and Sargis Galstyan (Gugark Diocese).

Thereafter, the Catholicos of All Armenians welcomed the young visitors and addressed the difficult straits in which the church now finds itself in Armenia.

In his speech, he said, in part, “Our soul rejoices that in these spiritually renewing days of Easter you have gathered at the Mother See, manifesting your filial love and devotion to the Armenian Church.

“Since Apostolic times, our Holy Church has been a radiant beacon in the life of our people, strengthening her children in faith and hope, and guiding them toward God, toward goodness and truth. Our Church has granted strength to her children in their striving to live and to create, in their aspirations for peace and justice.

“The Armenian Church is the spiritual home of our people, where every Armenian finds love, care, and pastoral concern, and is strengthened by heavenly gifts and blessings. Whoever desires to know the soul of the Armenian people must turn their gaze toward the Armenian Church.

“She has bestowed the strength to love the nation and the homeland, and, remaining faithful to her mission, has preserved and enriched our spiritual and cultural heritage, ever committed to the upbringing of the new generation in the spirit of Armenian traditions.

“Today, we again face an undesirable situation, when in our homeland the Church has become the target of attacks by representatives of the authorities.

“Over the past year, we have witnessed unprecedented pressure: unlawful arrests of bishops, artificial obstacles to the exercise of pastoral ministry, and attempts to seize our ancient monasteries and churches.

“With the apparent patronage of the authorities, an individual removed from the position of Primate of the Masyatsotn Diocese and defrocked continues to occupy the diocesan headquarters and, on the basis of unlawful court and enforcement decisions, acts in a secular capacity as a diocesan head.

“Recently, we also witnessed another unconstitutional step, when the ruling political force included unacceptable provisions concerning the Armenian Church in its electoral program. All this, as you well know, is accompanied by fabricated accusations, incitement of intolerance, and open threats.

“History, however, testifies that, with trust in God, our Church has always overcome trials. Today as well, the Armenian Church continues to serve zealously the national revival and remains a devoted advocate for the strengthening of our state and the deepening of social harmony. She will continue to defend our national rights, aspirations, and goals.”



ARMENIA

Armenia's Elections and the Artsakh Armenians

ELECTIONS, from page 1

In an interview with Sputnik Armenia, Nelly Davtyan, director of the Migration and Citizenship Service of the Ministry of the Interior of Armenia, was asked whether the process of granting Armenian citizenship to Karabakh Armenians is being deliberately delayed before the elections due to the political views of the latter being perceived as oppositional to the current Armenian government.

Nelly Davtyan responded: "Yes, there is a certain delay. However, this is naturally not due to the pre-election period, but to the fact that we launched a new program on January 1. Objectively, our system is severely overloaded. In four months, we have already received as many applications as we would process in a year. But we are already close to returning to the accelerated process, and I do not exclude that even if a displaced person decides to become an Armenian citizen today, he or she will have time to receive an Armenian passport and participate in the elections. Now the results of all cases under our jurisdiction will be received before the elections, and we have not registered any refusals."

According to Davtyan, 36,000 Karabakh Armenians have received new passports, 12,000 of whom are minors, and 6,700 applications are pending. This means that only 24,000 Karabakh Armenians, plus a few thousand people who will receive passports before the elections, will be able to vote.

But what about the remaining 70,000 or more adult who have Armenian passports but cannot vote? Additionally, according to official data from Armenia's National Security Service more than 15,000 Karabakh Armenians have left Armenia since 2023 forced mass exodus.

The campaign for the parliamentary elections to be held in Armenia this summer has long since begun. Political forces vying for power are touring cities and villages, each assuring that their program is the best. Rallies are being held in the capital Yerevan, promising peace, economic development, etc.

Who Would You Vote for if the Parliamentary Elections Were Held Tomorrow?

EVN Report has published the results of this survey, and this is what the picture looks like:

- 33.6 % Civil Contract (Nikol Pashinyan)
- 23.3 % Refuse to answer
- 13.7 % Don't know
- 11.4 % Strong Armenia (Narek Karapetyan)

petyan)

4.2 % Armenia Alliance (Robert Kocharyan)

3.3 % Prosperous Armenia (Gagik Tsarukyan)

2.7 % None

2.3 % Republic Party (Aram Sargsyan)

1.6 % Wings of Unity (Arman Tatoyan)



The flags of Artsakh and Armenia are seen in Armenia (photo Marut Vanyan)

4.0 % Other Parties (<1% each)

What Role Can Karabakh Armenians Play in This Process?

The *Armenian Mirror-Spectator* spoke with Yana Avanesyan, a lawyer from Nagorno-Karabakh/Artsakh.

She said: "For Artsakh Armenians, obtaining Armenian citizenship is a mandatory requirement to vote in the upcoming elections. Personally, I applied for Republic of Armenia (RA) citizenship in 2023, even though I was fundamentally opposed to the idea. I believe that since we already hold the same blue RA passports, discrimination based on the issuing authority code is unacceptable. However, anticipating future complications, I moved forward with

the application, and the process took four months. My parents applied a year ago, and in their case, it took only one and a half months."

However, she observed, "Meanwhile, I have friends who applied in October 2025 and are still waiting with no progress. They are among thousands of Artsakh Arme-

believe the current authorities are leading the country toward ruin under the pretext of a so-called 'peace.' In my view, the administration should have resigned following the tragic 2020 war... It is clear that the current authorities are already utilizing administrative resources, even before the official start of the election cycle."

Arsen Aghajanyan, a journalist from Stepanakert, told the *Mirror-Spectator*: "I have received Armenian citizenship and will participate in the upcoming elections, but I would not like to speak up which political force I will vote for. I think Artsakh Armenians can play a decisive role in the electoral process, but as far as I know, very few are Armenian citizens now, even though we hold the same blue passports as all Armenian citizens and are supposed to have the same rights as them."

Judging by the social media posts of Karabakh Armenians, it is becoming noticeable that most ordinary people are overburdened with socioeconomic problems, which do not leave room for any interest or involvement in the domestic politics of Armenia. One is looking for a doctor, another for a rented house, another for a job, and so on. It is safe to say that the involvement of Karabakh Armenians in the elections in Armenia will not play a decisive or influential role since the number of people who have the right to vote, having accepted Armenian citizenship, and who will go to the poll stations is very small.

Despite these facts, which suggest that the role of Karabakh Armenians will be insignificant in the electoral process, a report published by the Regional Center for Democracy and Security notes that hate speech against them has increased during the pre-election period.

This report specifies that "As expected, following the de facto start of the pre-election period, the volume of hate speech against Nagorno-Karabakh refugees has significantly increased. Hate speech is mainly disseminated by ruling or pro-government actors, as well as by media outlets controlled by the authorities. The targeting of refugees has a systematic character and is implemented through a clearly structured mechanism, whereby media outlets controlled by the ruling party simultaneously republish and disseminate the same social media posts targeting Nagorno-Karabakh refugees. At the same time, refugees are targeted for their views, regardless of their political affiliation. This behavior by both government and opposition actors creates obstacles to the integration of Nagorno-Karabakh refugees into Armenia's political and civic spheres.

Armenia Partners with Firebird AI on \$25M High-Performance Computing Project

YEREVAN (Public Radio of Armenia) — Armenia's Ministry of High-Tech Industry has signed a \$25 million agreement with Firebird AI to acquire high-performance computing (HPC) resources aimed at accelerating the country's artificial intelligence (AI) ecosystem and technological development.

Under the five-year agreement, the Armenian government will procure advanced computing capacity from Firebird AI, enabling expanded access to powerful infrastructure for research, innovation, and industry applications.

The agreement was signed by the Ministry's Secretary General Davit Gasparyan and Firebird AI founder and CEO Alexander Yesayan.

Minister of High-Tech Industry Mkhitar Hayrapetyan highlighted that the initiative

stems from strategic agreements between the governments of Armenia and the United States, as well as the active efforts of the company's founders.

"This is only the beginning of a long journey," Hayrapetyan said. "The project creates new opportunities in science, advanced technologies, and innovation, setting new benchmarks for development."

He emphasized that one of the key principles of the initiative is to ensure that the computing resources generated in Armenia primarily serve the local ecosystem. The Artificial Intelligence Virtual Institute (AIVI), established last year, will play a central role in providing access to these resources.

Hayrapetyan also described the project as a strong example of public-private partnership, expected to contribute to Arme-

nia's economic growth and strengthen its position on the global technology map.

Firebird AI CEO Alexander Yesayan noted that the collaboration is designed to reinforce Armenia's AI ecosystem and stimulate innovation.

"Artificial intelligence is transforming the world, and countries that make bold decisions today will define the rules tomorrow," Yesayan said. "This is a joint commitment by the state and private sector to provide scientists, researchers, students, and startups with the tools needed to harness AI for Armenia's development."

Rev Lebedian, Vice President of Omniverse and simulation technologies at NVIDIA, also underscored the project's significance, suggesting Armenia has the potential to emerge as a global technology leader.

According to Lebedian, the first phase of the project will bring Armenia's computing capacity to the level of Germany, while the second phase — expected to be completed by the end of the year — could place the country among the world's top five in terms of total AI computing power.

"The goal is to position the country at the forefront globally, leveraging the power of AI supercomputing," he said, adding that the infrastructure will provide Armenia with capabilities comparable to those of countries with populations in the billions.

The agreement marks a major step forward in developing Armenia's technological capabilities. It is expected to create the foundation for new AI solutions, expand research activity, and foster a more competitive, knowledge-based innovation ecosystem.

INTERNATIONAL

INTERNATIONAL

Electra Airways Announces Directs Flights to Yerevan

YEREVAN (Panorama.am) — The Bulgarian Electra Airways will start direct flights between Burgas and Yerevan from June 4. The plans were revealed during the “Euro-Bridge 2026” exhibition-forum of Armenian producers and entrepreneurs held in Burgas April 16-18.

The event brought together business communities from Armenia and several European countries, fostering partnerships and showcasing a diverse range of Armenian products and services.

The exhibition served as an important platform for promoting Armenian products internationally and strengthening Yerevan’s position as an attractive tourism and business destination.

2 Armenian GMs Qualify for FIDE Cup 2027

YEREVAN (Panorama.am) — Eighteen-year-old Ukrainian IM Roman Dehtiarov won the European Individual Chess Championship 2026 in Katowice, Poland.

Among the Armenian chess players, GM Robert Hovhannisyanyan and GM Haik Martirosyan qualified for the FIDE World Cup 2027. With 8 points each, they shared 5th-23rd places and ranked 9th and 13th respectively based on tiebreaks.

IM Arsen Davtyan also finished among the prize winners, placing 23rd with 8 points.

During the tournament, IM Arsen Davtyan fulfilled his first GM norm, while Tyhran Ambartsumian fulfilled his second IM norm.

Pashinyan, NATO Envoy Discuss Partnership

YEREVAN (Public Radio of Armenia) — Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan on April 21, received NATO Secretary General’s Special Representative for the Caucasus and Central Asia Kevin Hamilton to discuss Armenia–NATO cooperation and regional security issues.

The two discussed a number of issues related to the Armenia–NATO partnership agenda, including prospects for further cooperation and the effective implementation of joint programs in areas of mutual interest.

Pashinyan also presented the progress of democratic reforms being carried out by the Armenian government, emphasizing the importance of sustained cooperation with international partners to strengthen institutional capacity and enhance the country’s resilience.

The meeting also included an exchange of views on the regional security environment, existing challenges, and ongoing efforts aimed at ensuring peace and stability.

Kevin Hamilton, for his part, noted that NATO attaches importance to its partnership with Armenia and stands ready to continue cooperation in areas of mutual interest.

Trump Organization to Build 70-Story Trump Tower Tbilisi along with Local Partners

By Nate Ostiller

The Trump Organization has announced plans to construct Trump Tower Tbilisi, a 70-story skyscraper in the Georgian capital. The Organization, owned by US President Donald Trump, said the project will be a joint venture along with four Georgian companies — Archi Group, Biograpi Living, Blox Group and Finvest Georgia, as well as US developer and previous Trump Organization partner, the Sapir Organization.

If completed, Trump Tower Tbilisi would be the tallest skyscraper in the Caucasus by a long stretch, significantly higher than the current tallest building, the Baku Tower in Azerbaijan.

The Wall Street Journal first reported the plans on Saturday, April 18, which were later confirmed by the Trump Organization on social media.

The building will be a “mixed-use destination with luxury residences, retail, dining, and lifestyle amenities,” the Organization said.

“Trump Tower Tbilisi signals the city’s emergence as a key business hub and gateway to international business in Eastern Europe and Asia, as well as its growing profile among global buyers of luxury properties.”

The building is set to be constructed in the city’s Saburtalo district, “overlooking Central Park,” a currently dilapidated city park in the midst of long-running but uncompleted renovation. Several other high-profile developments are in the works there.

“The tower is poised to play a defining role in Tbilisi’s emergence as a hub for international investment, culture and elevated living at the crossroads of Eastern Europe and Asia,” the Organization wrote.

Eric Trump, Donald Trump’s second son and the executive vice president of the Trump Organization, said, “the Trump name is synonymous with some of the most luxurious real estate developments in the world, and Trump Tower Tbilisi stands as a continuation of that legacy.”

“We are proud to bring this globally recognized standard of excellence to Georgia and are especially pleased to collaborate with such respected and professional developers on this project.”

The Organization shared several other plaudits about Tbilisi and Georgia as a whole, describing the country as “particularly attractive to international investors and second-home buyers” and the city as “drawing comparisons to emerging luxury destinations such as Lisbon and early-stage Dubai as its hospitality and lifestyle offerings continue to expand.”

“Beyond its strong investment appeal, Georgia is defined by a rich cultural heritage and a centuries-old winemaking tradition, widely recognized as the birthplace of wine. Paired with its historic architecture, dynamic culinary scene, and rapidly evolving hospitality sector, the country is increasingly positioning itself as a city of the future.”

Trump Tower Tbilisi is not the first real estate project Trump has attempted to get off the ground in Georgia — he previous-

ly announced plans in 2012 to construct a similarly branded Trump Tower in Batumi. Construction was supposed to start the following year, but stalled, and the Trump Organization pulled out of the project in 2017 after his election, allegedly to avoid a conflict of interest. The project was then taken over by the Georgian Co-Investment Fund, backed by Georgian Dream founder Bidzina Ivanishvili, and rebranded as the Silk Tower. Construction is set to finish by the end of the decade.

Around the same time, the Trump Organization also became involved in the construction of a Trump-branded hotel in Baku, Azerbaijan, but ended its affiliation with the project in 2016, again after his election.

It is unclear how Trump Tower Tbilisi would differ in regards to the question of conflict of interest — although Trump nominally handed off ownership of the company in 2017, many questions remain about how he financially benefits personally from the Trump Organization.

The company has also faced a number of legal challenges in the US in recent years, including a \$355 million fine the company was ordered to pay in 2024 after a New York civil fraud trial. The payment was later lowered to \$175 million, but the ruling resulted in the Organization receiving what was deemed at the time as a “corporate death penalty.” The ability of the Trump Organization to do business in New York was sharply limited as a result.

(This article originally appeared on www.oc-media.org on April 19.)

Ruben Vardanyan Issues Message to Human Rights Defender of the Republic of Armenia

The website dedicated to Ruben Vardanyan and other Armenian prisoners in Azerbaijan, www.freearmenianprisoners.com, issued a statement on April 21, asking the Human Rights Defense of Armenia Anahit Manasyan to visit him and his fellow prisoners. The statement appears in full below:

“Dear Ms. Manasyan,

I am writing to you from detention, in connection with circumstances that, in my view, call for the active and sustained engagement of the institution you lead.

I recently had a meeting with the Ombudsman of Azerbaijan, Sabina Aliyeva. During that meeting, I raised a number of specific concerns — relating to everyday conditions, medical care, legal matters, humanitarian needs, and diplomatic issues — regarding the conditions of detention of myself and other Armenian prisoners. These are matters that directly affect the safety, health, and dignity of people held in custody. In the course of our conversation, it was also mentioned that the possibility of your visit to Baku had already been discussed, and that the Azerbaijani side had expressed readiness to facilitate such a visit. However, this initiative has not yet been acted upon.

Citizens of the Republic of Armenia have been held in Azerbaijani prisons for an extended period of time — without visits from their families and without independent monitoring, including by the ICRC. In these circumstances, the institution mandated to protect the rights of Armenian citizens has demonstrated a complete absence of initiative. Despite the lack of diplomatic relations between the two countries,

economic negotiations are currently taking place, with Armenian representatives physically present in Baku. Why, then, are questions of the life, health, and rights of prisoners not part of the official Yerevan agenda — and why has not a single member of any delegation ever visited the detainees?

In light of the above, I urge you to consider organizing a visit to Baku with your participation, and, under appropriate conditions, with the participation of relatives of Armenian prisoners as well. My wife, Veronika Zonabend, has expressed her readiness to take part in such a trip, as have, in all likelihood, representatives of other families. Any such delegation must have an institutional and consistent character, with the political backing of the Prime Minister of Armenia, who bears responsibility before the citizens of his country.

The issues I raised with the Azerbaijani Ombudsman require coordination between the ombudsmen of both countries. The absence of such coordination constitutes a de facto denial of the only available humanitarian channel.

In this regard, I ask you to provide a public response to the following questions.

1. Is there consideration being given to organizing an official visit to Baku by a delegation that includes relatives of Arme-



nian prisoners?

2. How does your institution plan to coordinate with the Azerbaijani Ombudsman on humanitarian matters concerning citizens of the Republic of Armenia?

3. What measures has your office already taken to protect the rights of Armenian prisoners since the time of their detention?

I believe that in the current situation it is critically important to urgently engage all available humanitarian and legal mechanisms. The failure of the Government of Armenia to act in the interests of its own citizens unlawfully held in Azerbaijan is incompatible with the obligations of the state towards its people.

Ruben Vardanyan”



INTERNATIONAL

Amnesty Says Azerbaijan Failed to Protect Conflict Victims

NEW YORK — Amnesty International, in its annual report published on April 21, highlighted violations of international humanitarian law by Azerbaijan.

The report states that Azerbaijani authorities failed to ensure accountability and protection for people affected by the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. In October 2025, the European Court of Human Rights obliged Azerbaijan to provide information on the detention and health conditions of 23 Armenian prisoners, eight of whom are former officials of Nagorno-Karabakh, Factor.am reports.

The report also notes that Azerbaijani authorities continued to suppress various forms of dissent, with hundreds of individuals held in detention on allegedly unfounded and politically motivated charges.

According to the findings, independent civil society organizations and groups faced severe restrictions, while peaceful protests were suppressed. Torture and ill-treatment, as well as the lack of accountability for

such abuses, remained widespread.

It further states that women and LGBT individuals continued to face discrimination, sexual violence, and harassment.

The report also addressed the media environment, noting that amendments made in 2022 to the “Law on Media” enabled authorities to restrict the activities of independent outlets and block websites.

It specifically mentions the suspension of the Azerbaijani service of the BBC and the Turan agency.

It was also reported that around 30 journalists remain in detention, while many journalists and activists have been banned from leaving the country.

The document criticizes prison conditions, stating that detainees are held in prolonged solitary confinement, subjected to threats, and deprived of medical care.

On August 8, during a trilateral meeting at the White House involving Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, U.S. President Donald Trump, and Azerbaijani President Ilham



Karabakh war victims

Aliyev, a joint declaration was signed on the outcomes of the talks. Armenian Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan and Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov

also initialed a peace agreement on establishing interstate relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan in the presence of the leaders.



PM Pashinyan Accuses Karapetyan and Others of Being ‘Foreign Agents’

AGENTS, from page 1

The comments came in response to a question about his earlier discussion of “foreign agents” in Armenia in parliament on April 15.

At the time, Pashinyan said that “those who want to undermine Armenian–Russian friendship and brotherhood are simply foreign agents” in response to remarks

by Karapetyan, who heads the opposition Strong Armenia party.

Earlier in April, Karapetyan claimed there would be an “economic war” with Russia in July if Pashinyan remained in power. The warning appeared to be a response to what has become a regular talking point by Pashinyan — that a victory by the opposition in the upcoming parliamentary

election would lead to war with Azerbaijan in September.

“Our deepest economic ties are with Russia. It is Russia that supplies us with cheap gas, gladly accepts our seasonal workers, and buys a significant portion of our agricultural products. And if all of that stops, what answer will you give to our people, who will become poorer,” Karapetyan said,

adding that he was “angry” about Pashinyan’s talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin earlier in April.

Russia appears to be exerting economic pressure on Armenia following the tense meeting between Pashinyan and Putin in Moscow, having announced “stricter requirements” on the import of Armenian products and reopened a criminal case regarding the Armenian major mineral water producer Jermuk.

During their meeting, Putin appeared to touch on Karapetyan’s arrest within the context of Armenia’s upcoming parliamentary elections on 7 June.

Despite the tensions, Pashinyan claimed on 15 April that the Armenian–Russian relations were at their “highest level,” adding that rumors of a fallout were aimed at provoking tensions with Russia and paralyzing the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU).

He also reiterated that Armenia had no intent to enter into conflict with Russia, either political or economic.

“A balanced policy implies that we must maintain good relations with Russia. And we are protecting those good relations,” Pashinyan said, citing his government’s foreign policy priorities.

In addition to defending his own record, Pashinyan also appeared to mock Karapetyan for seeking to renounce his Russian and Cypriot passports ahead of the elections; Armenian legislation stipulates that prime ministerial or MP candidates must be solely Armenian nationals and have lived in Armenia for the past four years.

“Those people are citizens of 60 countries, and they state that they have bravely started renouncing their citizenship. Before they renounce it, it could take up to 30 years, because there’s no country in the world whose citizens they are not. Those people, in the literal sense of the word, are foreign agents,” Pashinyan said at the time.

Karapetyan’s house arrest has also been extended by another three months, well past the upcoming parliamentary elections.

Public opinion surveys have indicated that Karapetyan is poised to be Pashinyan’s primary opponent in the June elections.

(This article originally appeared on the website www.oc-media.org on April 20.)

Armenian Speaker Rebukes Turkey for Dragging Feet Over Border

BORDER, from page 1

Turkish media reported late last year that Ankara is finally preparing to open the border for Armenian and Turkish diplomatic passport holders as well as citizens of third countries in line with a 2022 agreement with Yerevan. They said that this will likely happen in March, ahead of Armenia’s parliamentary elections slated for June.

Armenian analysts suggested that Ankara will thus hope to boost Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan’s reelection chances. Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan

mentioned the Armenian polls and praised Pashinyan in that context in January. Armenian opposition leaders decried what they called Fidan’s endorsement of Pashinyan.

In a sign of Yerevan’s frustration with the Turks, Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan skipped last week an annual diplomatic forum in the Turkish city of Antalya. Mirzoyan had attended the four previous conferences held there.

Simonyan, who held bilateral meetings with his Turkish and Azerbaijani counterparts in Istanbul, blamed Azerbaijan for the

Turkish side’s continuing reluctance to implement the 2022 agreement.

“On the one hand, Azerbaijan negotiates with us,” he said. “On the other, it does not allow Turkey to negotiate with us. This is a strange situation. Turkey has become a prisoner of these relations [with Azerbaijan.]”

Successive Turkish governments have for decades made the normalization of Turkish–Armenian relations conditional on a resolution of the Armenian–Azerbaijani conflict acceptable to Baku.



A view of the Armenian-Turkish border from the Khor Virap monastery, June 7, 2025

Community News

Generation AI Named Among Top 2 At ASU+GSV Education Innovation Showcase

SAN DIEGO — The Generation AI High School Project was named one of the top two innovations in the Impact category at the ASU+GSV Education Innovation Showcase, held April 12–15 in San Diego.

Implemented jointly by the Foundation for Armenian Science and Technology (FAST) and the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Armenia, the program is among the first in the world to integrate advanced AI education into a national public school system at scale.

Represented by Vagharshapat High School N5, the program's nationwide network had earlier been named among the competition's top 10 finalists. Selected from 110 entries worldwide, it made Armenia the only country outside the United States to be represented in the finals in the showcase's four-year history.

"Generation AI is one of those initiatives that bridges education and technology, transforming not only schools but the broader public education system," said Zhanna Andriasyan, Armenia's minister of education, science, culture and sports. "It is fascinating to see Armenia's progress in education gaining international recognition."

FAST Executive Director Suzanna Shamakhyan, who presented the program alongside FAST General Education Programs Head Anush Ayvazyan and student Hasmik Paytyan, emphasized the importance of embedding AI education within formal education.

"In most countries, advanced AI education remains a privilege," Shamakhyan said. "It is often limited to private schools, large cities or extra-curricular programs. In Armenia, we asked what it would mean to make advanced AI education accessible at scale. Thus, Generation AI was created as a national model to bring advanced AI education directly into public schools. It is free of charge, embedded in the system and designed to be globally competitive."

Launched in 2023 in 15 high schools across seven regions of Armenia, the program is now available in all regions, reaching 23 high schools nationwide. As part of their daily curriculum, students study advanced algebra, Python programming and AI, while also benefiting from career guidance, skills development programs, and competing in both international and local AI Olympiads and competitions.

One of those students is Hasmik Paytyan, a Generation AI student at Vagharshapat High School N5, who shared her experience on the ASU+GSV stage.

"When I was in middle school, I was interested in coding, but I did not have a strong foundation in math or Python," she said. "And because I came from a small regional town, see AI, page 7



Dr. Helen Evans displays images of Armenian khachkars on screens during her talk

Shahinian Lectures Strengthen Ties Between Catholic University and Armenians

By Haykaram Nahapetyan
Mirror-Spectator Video Correspondent

WASHINGTON — Several colleges across the United States offer Armenian studies, but only one in the nation's capital and its immediate vicinity provides such an opportunity: the Catholic University of America (CUA).

"Armenian studies have been at the center of this university from the very beginning. The first professor who came to CUA was a Roman Catholic priest who knew and studied Armenian," said Dr. Stephanos Alexopoulos, director of the Institute for the Study of Eastern Christianity, in an interview. He noted that Armenian studies have been part of the university's history "throughout the years" and have "always been present."

In recent years, several developments have further strengthened Armenian studies at the university. Among them is the arrival of Dr. Robin Darling Young, a specialist in Armenian studies who teaches Grabar, the classical Armenian language. Bishop Daniel Findikyan, former primate of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, has also joined as a research professor of Armenian liturgy.

"With the blessing of His Holiness the Catholicos of All Armenians, I conduct research on Armenian liturgy for CUA at the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin, where I also teach at the Gevorgian Theological Seminary," Bishop Findikyan said.

Support from community activist and local benefactor Dean Shahinian has further expanded ties between the Armenian community and the Catholic University of America. Named in honor of Shahinian's parents, the Grace and Paul Shahinian Annual Lecture Series provide scholars, students and visitors with an opportunity to learn about Armenian religion, culture and traditions.

"At St. Mary Armenian Church in Washington, D.C., we held monthly lectures on aspects of Armenian culture for nine years," Shahinian said, describing the origins of the initiative. "Those lectures drew large audiences." Seeking to expand their reach, he approached the university, which agreed to host an annual lecture on Armenian studies.

"The agreement was that the lectures would focus on Armenian Christian art and culture and be presented by a distinguished scholar," Shahinian said.

The lecture series has featured prominent academics. Last year's speaker was Dr. Sergio La Porta of California State University, who presented on Christian-Muslim relations in medieval Armenia. The previous year, Dr. Zara see LECTURE, page 7

Bedross Der Matossian Wins Guggenheim Fellowship

NEW YORK — The Board of Trustees of the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation last week announced the appointment of the 101st class of Guggenheim Fellows, honoring 223 exceptional individuals across 55 disciplines. Selected through a highly competitive application and peer review process from a pool of nearly 5,000 candidates, the 2026 fellows were chosen for both their records of achievement and their outstanding potential for future contributions.

The fellows' projects engage



Prof. Bedross Der Matossian

deeply with both enduring questions and urgent global challenges. Their work explores the promise and risks of artificial intelligence, advances transformative innovations in medical technology, examines the historical foundations of contemporary crises, and pioneers bold new directions in the arts.

Bedross Der Matossian, University of Nebraska–Lincoln, is among this year's recipients of a Guggenheim Fellowship. During his fellowship, Der Matossian will undertake a research project examining the history of mass violence in Eastern Anatolia and the Caucasus over the past two centuries, shedding new light on patterns of conflict, memory and historical interpretation.

Der Matossian said, "Receiving this fellowship is both humbling and inspiring. It not only affirms the work I have devoted myself to over the years, but also provides me with the time, resources and encouragement to continue pursuing ambitious projects that challenge me creatively and intellectually. I am profoundly grateful to the selection committee for this recognition, as well as to my family in Lincoln, Jerusalem, Los Angeles, Yerevan and Beirut; my friends and colleagues; and the scholars who wrote recommendation letters. Their support and guidance have been invaluable throughout my journey."



COMMUNITY NEWS

Congresswomen Judy Chu, Laura Friedman, and Journalist Ana Kasparian to Be Honored at Genocide Commemoration

GLENDALE — Truth And Accountability League (TAAL) will commemorate the 111th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide on April 24 in Glendale, honoring the memory of 1.5 million victims and recognizing distinguished leaders for their contributions to advancing human rights and combating discrimination.

The event is presented by Golden State Bank and underwritten by attorney and philanthropist Mark Geragos, who also serves on TAAL's board of directors. TAAL Remembrance & Honors: Armenian Genocide Commemoration & Awards will take place on Friday, April 24, from 7:30 p.m. to 9: p.m. at the Glendale Central Library Auditorium, 222 East Harvard St.

The commemoration is free and open to the public. It will include speeches by dignitaries, a pre-program reception, and an awards ceremony to recognize high-profile public figures who exemplify public service, visionary leadership, and empathy.

The honorees will be: Rep. Judy Chu (D-CA-28), Rep. Laura Friedman (D-CA-30), journalist Ana Kasparian, former West Hollywood Mayor Sepi Shyne and artist Arpi Jinbashian Krikorian.

"It is both tragic and unacceptable that, more than a century after the Armenian

Genocide, we continue to witness mass displacement, ethnic cleansing, and the erasure of indigenous peoples around the world," said Vic Gerami, founder and chair of TAAL. "The forced displacement of Armenians from Artsakh is not an isolated event, but part of a broader pattern of injustice that persists today. Once again, Armenians were left alone as their ancestral homeland was emptied, met with silence from much of the international community, including governments, NGOs, and the media."

"The Armenian Genocide claimed the lives of more than 1.5 million men, women, and children, and we are only able to understand the full weight of this atrocity through the testimonies of survivors -- many of whom rebuilt their lives in Southern California, including in Pasadena in my district, home to the country's oldest Armenian American community," said Chu. "That is why I fought so hard to pass the House resolution that finally acknowledged the Armenian Genocide, and why I stand with the Armenian people who continue to be displaced from their homeland. We owe it to those who were lost, their children, and their grandchildren, to honor their history with the dignity and recogni-

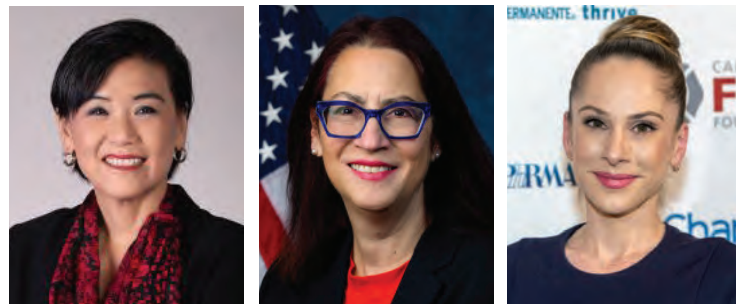
tion it deserves."

"I am honored to join the Armenian community in commemorating the 111th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide and celebrating the resilience of a people whose strength and culture continue to enrich our district and our nation. In an era of rampant disinformation and propaganda, organizations like TAAL are more vital than ever, fighting every day to combat the slander, erasure, and denial that the Armenian community continues to face. I am proud to stand with TAAL in that work and remain committed to ensuring the United States stands firmly on the side of truth, accountability, and the Armenian people," said Friedman.

"It is an honor to be recognized for shedding light on the modern-day atrocities and genocide perpetrated by the Israelis, who are attempting to erase the Palestinians much like the Ottoman Turks attempted to do to Armenians. But we are survivors. The

blood of brave Armenian guerilla fighters and fedayi women who courageously protected Armenian villages during Ottoman rule runs through us," said Kasparian.

"I'm deeply honored to be recognized by the Truth And Accountability League (TAAL). The pursuit of truth, justice, and



Rep. Judy Chu, Rep. Laura Friedman, Ana Kasparian

accountability for the Armenian people is not only a moral imperative, but part of the broader responsibility we all share to stand against crimes against humanity everywhere," said Shyne.

"As an Armenian artist, I carry the memory of our ancestors in everything I create. It is an honor to be part of this commemoration, where remembrance becomes a living act of truth, resilience, and love," added Krikorian.

Lectures Strengthen Ties Between Catholic University and Armenians

LECTURE, from page 6

Pogossian of the University of Florence spoke about women rulers in medieval Armenia. Art historian Dr. Christina Maranci also delivered a lecture in an earlier installment.

A hallmark of the event is the inclusion of Armenian cuisine following each lecture. At the March 26 event, guests sampled zhengyalov hats (herb-stuffed flatbread), basturma and Armenian wines, supplied by Yerevan Café of Washington, DC.

This year's lecture featured Dr. Helen Evans, curator at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. She earned her Ph.D. in medieval Armenian art from New York University in the 1980s and conducted research in Armenia when it was still part of the Soviet Union. At the Met, Evans contributed to the Armenian galleries and curated the landmark "Armenia!" exhibition in 2018.

"Under her direction, the brilliance of

Armenian art and culture was brought together at the Metropolitan Museum," Dr. Young said in introducing the speaker.

In a virtual presentation, Evans discussed Armenian architecture, book production, fine arts and travel accounts, with a particular focus on Cilicia. Drawing on her expertise in both Armenian and Byzantine history, she highlighted the region's historical significance.

"When the Byzantine Empire was in decline, Cilicia positioned itself as the next Christian Byzantine state in the East," Evans said.

She also noted that the kings of Cilician Armenia maintained extensive relations with Mongol rulers and that the medieval traveler Marco Polo departed for Mongolia from the Armenian Kingdom of Cilicia. As such, the Mediterranean Armenian kingdom served as a bridge between Western and Eastern civilizations.

Evans highlighted two medieval Armenian khachkars (cross-stones) located

in New York — one at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and another at the United Nations headquarters. The Met khachkar originates from the fortress of Lori and is among the museum's most notable objects. The second, from Geghard, was a gift from the Armenian government to the United Nations and was displayed at the Met during renovations at UN headquarters. Both date to the 12th–13th centuries.

Evans is expected to visit Washington later this year and may meet with members of the Armenian community, scholars and students, university officials said.

In recognition of her contributions to Armenian art and scholarship, the Armenian General Benevolent Union has established a scholarship in her name. Meanwhile, the LUA authorities, Dean Shahinian, and Washington Armenian community members consider the opportunities of further expansion of Armenian studies at LU. Bishop Findikyan will start teaching Ar-

menian studies at this notable college later this year.

It should be added that Dean Shahinian has recently made a generous donation of \$12,000 to the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State University (FSU) to support the establishment of the Grace and Paul Shahinian Armenian Christian Art Lecture Series at FSU.

An accompanying video report on the CUA Shahinian lectures may be found at mirrorspectator.com.

Generation AI Named Among Top 2 At ASU+GSV Innovation Showcase

AI, from page 6

I assumed AI was a field for other people, mostly boys, not someone like me. But when I joined the Generation AI program, everything changed. Step by step, I built a foundation in math, Python, neural networks and machine learning, which later helped me develop my own AI projects."

By the 2026-2027 academic year, the program will expand to up to 45 high schools, reaching over 85% of Armenian high school students.

The Foundation for Armenian Science and Technology (FAST) was founded in 2017 with the aim of creating a favorable ecosystem to promote technological innovation and scientific advancement in Armenia. FAST develops and pilots programs with the potential for a long-term, sustainable impact on Armenia's science, technology, and innovation ecosystem. Over its nine years of operation, the foundation has implemented 31 programs and impacted more than 27,000 direct and indirect beneficiaries.

Holy Trinity Armenian Church Elects New Parish Council

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — On April 16, the Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Cambridge Mass elected its 2026 Executive Committee as follows: Rev. Vazken Kouzouian, Chairman; Gregory Kolligian, Vice Chairman; Bill Melkonian, Secretary; Anoush O'Connor; Assistant Secretary Heather Surabian; Treasurer Stephen Hovnanian; Assistant Treasurer Paul Jamgotchian. Newly elected members were: Armina Manoukian, Heather Surabian, and Alexandra Tashjian.

Outgoing members were: Kevork Atinizian, Ara Der Movsesian, and Alla Balubekian. Above, the new Parish Council members, with Richard Diranian missing from photo.





OBITUARY

Harry Keyishian

Lead Plaintiff in Academic Freedom Case

By Richard Sandomir

NEW YORK (*New York Times*) — Harry Keyishian, one of five University of Buffalo faculty members who were dismissed in the early 1960s for refusing to sign a loyalty oath, a vestige of anti-Communist witch hunts, and whose legal challenge led to a Supreme Court decision that enshrined academic freedom with constitutional protection, died on April 4 in Morristown, N.J. He was 93.

His daughter Amy Keyishian confirmed the death in a hospital.

Professor Keyishian was in an early stage of his career when Buffalo hired him as an English instructor in 1961. After the school joined the State University of New York system a year later, staff members were required, under the state's Feinberg Law, to sign the loyalty oath, swearing that they were not Communists or any other type of political subversive.

When Professor Keyishian's contract was not renewed after he refused to sign the oath, he felt connected to Queens College faculty members he knew who had been fired in the 1950s for not answering questions about their Communist affiliations.

"What I still carried as a kind of burden into the '60s," Professor Keyishian later told the journalist Bill Moyers, "was a sense of frustration and impotence, to watch these very decent, these intellectually talented and dedicated teachers, vanishing from the system and being driven out and not being able to do anything about it."

In 1964, Professor Keyishian — along with four other faculty members, George Hochfield, Newton Garver, Ralph Maud and George Starbuck — sued the New York State Board of Regents, seeking to declare the 1949 Feinberg Law unconstitutional.

After a federal judge dismissed the complaint, the U.S. Court of Appeals revived it. But the three-judge panel that heard the

case, known as *Keyishian v. Board of Regents*, ruled for the state.

In 1967 the Supreme Court ruled, 5-4, that the Feinberg Law was unconstitutional. The court held that the government could only regulate the teachers' First Amendment rights with "narrow specificity," and that the Feinberg Law was overly broad and vague in prohibiting membership in the Communist Party without determining whether an employee agreed with illegal aims of the party.

"Our nation is deeply committed to safeguarding academic freedom, which is of transcendent value to all of us, and not merely to the teachers concerned," Justice William J. Brennan Jr. wrote in the majority opinion. "That freedom is therefore a special concern of the First Amendment, which does not tolerate laws that cast a pall of orthodoxy over the classroom."

Genevieve Lakier, a constitutional law scholar at the University of Chicago, said in an interview that *Keyishian v. Board of Regents* and *Sweezy v. New Hampshire*, a 1957 case, are two critical Supreme Court decisions "that recognize that the First Amendment protects academic freedom. Prior to *Sweezy* and *Keyishian*, academic freedom had largely been understood as a nonconstitutional right."

But, she added, though it is frequently cited, *Keyishian* was an imprecise, even uncertain decision that "avoided reaching any conclusion about how the First Amendment specifically protects academic freedom."

Harry Keyishian was born on April 9, 1932, in the Bronx and grew up in Flushing, Queens. His parents were Armenian immigrants; his father, John, imported and sold carpets, and his mother, Arax (Artinian) Keyishian, managed the home.

While attending Queens College, part of the City University of New York, he joined a committee to protest the firing of Vera Shlakman, an economics professor at the



school who had refused to tell the Senate Internal Security subcommittee if she had been a Communist Party member. Oscar Shaftel, a Queens College literature professor and adviser to the protesters, was also fired by the Board of Higher Education, CUNY's governing body.

Professor Keyishian, who had previously written a light column for the college newspaper, became a "puzzled and indignant member of the protest committee," Marjorie Heins wrote in the book *Priests of Our Democracy: The Supreme Court, Academic Freedom and the Anti-Communist Purge* (2013).

He graduated with a bachelor's degree in English literature in 1954, then earned a master's degree in English from New York University in 1956. He was called to active duty that year by the Navy Reserve and served until 1958.

After teaching English at N.Y.U., City College of New York and Bronx Community College, Keyishian was hired at the University of Buffalo.

In 1964, around the time that he was fired, Keyishian was one of many professors at the university who picketed hearings held in Buffalo by the House Un-American Activities Committee, which investigated suspected Communists.

"The effect of the committee on American life," he told *The Buffalo News*, "has

been to hamper free discussion and disrupt people's lives unnecessarily."

Keyishian didn't wait long to get another job. After completing his Ph.D. in English at N.Y.U. in 1965, he was hired that year at Fairleigh Dickinson University in New Jersey.

Sixty years later, he told *PEN America* in an interview: "I wish I could play the hero in this matter but I never feared I was giving up my academic career. I was just losing a job (in a very good cause)."

He spent the rest of his career at Fairleigh Dickinson's Madison, N.J., campus, building his reputation as a Shakespeare scholar; he also taught courses on politics in film. From 1976 to 2017, he was the director of the Fairleigh Dickinson University Press. He retired from teaching in 2010.

He wrote three books: *The Shapes of Revenge: Victimization, Vindictiveness and Vengeance in Shakespeare* (1996); *Screening Politics: The Politician in American Movies, 1931-2001* (2003) and a 1975 biography of Michael Arlen, a writer for the *New Yorker*. He also edited a collection of essays about the novelist and playwright William Saroyan, which was published in 1995.

In addition to his daughter Amy, Keyishian is survived by another daughter, Emily Keyishian; two stepdaughters, Sarah Keyishian and Elizabeth Keyishian Wilks, who regarded him as their father; seven grandchildren; and his brother, Paul. His wife, Marjorie (Deiter) Keyishian, a writer whom he met in 1965 at Fairleigh Dickinson, where she was an instructor, died in 2022.

In 1987, 20 years after Justice Brennan wrote the opinion in the *Keyishian* case, he watched Professor Keyishian's appearance on Mr. Moyers's PBS series, "In Search of the Constitution."

"It was fascinating," Justice Brennan said in a 1990 *New Yorker* profile, expressing admiration for the courage Professor Keyishian had shown. "It was the first time I had seen him. Of course, it's rare that I ever see the people in the cases we deal with."

111th Anniversary of the
Armenian Genocide

COMMEMORATE

SUNDAY, APRIL 26 3:30PM
ARMENIAN HERITAGE PARK, BOSTON, MA

Keynote Speaker
Nina Shahverdyan

<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">MC</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Raffi Barsamian</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Performances</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lia Sarkisyan and Arno Melkonyan Armenia Dance Studio</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Poem</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Anahid Melkonian</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Reflections</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Aspram Israyelyan Argine Harutyunyan</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Anthem Singer</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sevan Dulgarian</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Procession Led By</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Homenetmen Scouts</p>
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Bus Service provided by Knights of Vartan

- 2:00 PM Departure from ACEC
- 5:00 PM Departure from Heritage Park

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COMMUNITY NEWS

UCLA East Coast Lecture Series Examines Armenian Genocide Looted Art and Path to Restitution

LOS ANGELES — The Armenian Genocide Research Program (AGRP) of the Promise Armenian Institute (PAI) at UCLA is sponsoring an East Coast lecture series titled, “Nazi Looted Art Recovery as a Model for Recovery of AGLA: Armenian Genocide Looted Art,” to take place in early May.

This lecture series, featuring Dr. Taner Akçam and Prof. Michael Bazylar, will explore efforts to identify and recover Armenian art looted during the Armenian Genocide — and to establish “Armenian Genocide Looted Art” (AGLA) as both a term and a framework for justice.

The AGLA movement is part of a broader, decades-long international effort to secure the restitution of culturally significant objects stolen during historical atrocities. That movement found its footing with Nazi-looted art recovery, and leading Holocaust restitution advocate Ambassador Stuart Eizenstat has described the extension of these principles to other communities as “the ripple effect” — one driven by the pur-



Dr. Taner Akçam

suit of “a measure of justice.” AGLA seeks to bring Armenian victims of genocide into that same arc of accountability. Ambassador Eizenstat was the principal negotiator of the 1998 Washington Principles on Nazi-Confiscated Art with 44 countries, which contin-

ues to be a basis for recovery and compensation for Nazi-looted art and is the model for restitution of AGLA.

The program will touch on UCLA’s Armenian Genocide Looted Art Research Project (AGLARP), which brings together law

students and art students — many of them Armenian-Americans — to search museum and institutional collections for Armenian art objects, aiming to create a comprehensive list of all Armenian art in the United States and their provenances. The AGLARP specifically seeks to identify objects looted during or after the Armenian Genocide.

Law Professor Michael Bazylar of Chapman University will discuss how models of Nazi-looted art recovery can inform this work, highlighting the legal and historical dimensions of restitution efforts. AGRP Director Dr. Taner Akçam will provide additional context on the Armenian Genocide and the scholarly significance of this groundbreaking initiative.



Prof. Michael Bazylar

The lecture series will take place across three cities in early May. The first event is in New York City on Friday, May 1 at 6:30 PM ET, held in the Skylight Room at the CUNY Graduate Center (365 5th Ave). The second lecture takes place in Fair Lawn, NJ on Monday, May 4 at 7:30 PM at St. Leon Armenian Apostolic Church (12-61 Saddle River Rd). The series concludes in Boston, on Tuesday, May 5 at 7:30 PM at the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR), located at 395 Concord Avenue, Belmont.

This lecture series is co-sponsored by: The Armenian Bar Association, The Middle East and Middle Eastern American Center (MEMEAC) at the CUNY Graduate Center, The National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) / Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation Lecture Series on Contemporary Armenian Issues, NYC Times Square Armenian Genocide Committee, and St. Leon Armenian Church.

Tekeyan Cultural Association & UCLA Armenian Music Program's Vem Ensemble 2026 Tour



Prof. Movses Pogossian violin, Ally Cho violin, Damon Zavala viola, Niall Tarō Ferguson cello

Performing works of Komitas, Tzumajan, Suni, Gazarossian, Khachaturian, Saryan and Schubert

Boston

Sunday, May 3, 2:00 p.m.

Holy Trinity Armenian Church
145 Brattle St., Cambridge, MA

Free admission, freewill donations appreciated.
For more information email tcadirector@aol.com



Sponsor a Teacher Program

Any inquiries for information about the Sponsor a Teacher Program or donations should be henceforth directed to the central office of the Tekeyan Cultural Association at 755 Mount Auburn Street, Watertown MA 02472, or emailed to Aram Arkun at tcadirector@aol.com.



COMMUNITY NEWS

From Perkins to Armenia with Mission of Inclusion

PERKINS, from page 1

"We do not have a center. That is not how we work. We always work with local partners because we want them to own the knowledge we share so they can continue to grow and provide services," Udovicic said.

Daniela Gissara of Perkins' International Team, noted that the school serves in 42 countries, but that it only has that one physical plant.

"That is our center of excellence," she said. "We work together with governments local leaders and local schools to improve the quality of education they provide to children with disabilities. We help children with all kinds of disabilities, not only blindness. We want to improve access to quality and inclusive education so that they can learn with kids in mainstream schools," Daniela said. Among the children they help are those with Down Syndrome, autism and other more complex disabilities.

The local Perkins campus, located at 175 North Beacon St., Watertown, caters to children whose primary disability is visual impairment, though Gissara noted that many have additional disabilities.

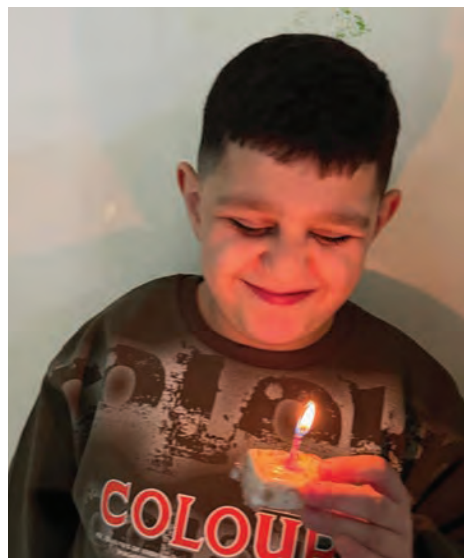
The school's budget for its international efforts is around \$6 million annually, for which the school regularly raises funds.

"The world is so big and the need is so great that we work across all regions of the world," Udovicic said. "Within those regions we have priority countries and Armenia is one of those countries."

The Perkins team in Armenia operates on an annual budget of \$180,000 and "we really do magic with that," Udovicic said.

"We work closely with local leaders in Armenia," she said.

According to Udovicic, with the Velvet Revolution, in Armenia, the government



Artur is happy he learned how to blow a candle, something he and his parents wanted the Perkins instructors to teach him.

mandated inclusion for all children. Previously, children with disabilities attended special schools and did not mix with non-disabled students.

"We do work on strengthening inclusion," she said. "They abandoned all the special schools and transformed them into support centers and all schools became inclusive."

There are a few exceptions that remain, including a special school for the blind, "which we are helping the government to transform it into a resource center that will serve all the visually impaired children in inclusive settings in the country," Udovicic explained.

She added that she and her team work on both regional and national levels. "

"The most impactful one on policy is ... when you have complex children with more additional needs, they are homeschooled.

They are not in the school," Udovicic explained.

When the term homeschooling is used in this context, they mean that for most children with complex disabilities, a teacher goes to the children's homes once a week. "But we want those children to be in the schools," Udovicic added.

She said they have piloted homeschool programs in Armenia. "We've created a curriculum for them, like what we have on the Perkins campus. We did a lot of training



with the staff. Together with the teachers in the pilot model classrooms we are writing the guidelines," she added.

"Now it's not really the case. It says inclusion but they [schools] are not equipped enough to provide the appropriate education," Udovicic said.

She added there are plans to advocate for fully inclusive education nationwide in the National Assembly.

"We see that as a challenge in Armenia and all the countries to implement at the school level what the policy sets," Gissara noted. "In Armenia, the policy is there but it is in the implementation where there are challenges. That is the gap that Perkins is filling in Armenia."

"They did not have the technical know-how how to do it," Udovicic said, concurring.

The three pilot classrooms in Armenia that are fully inclusive are in Yerevan, Gyumri and Ararat for a total of 16 children. They are the John Kirakosyan School #20, in the Kentron district of Yerevan, Basic School #100, public school in Ajapnyak administrative district of Yerevan and Basic school #15, in Shirak Region, Gyumri, where Udovicic and her team have implemented a program to "support the inclusion of children with multiple disabilities in inclusive classrooms."

"We equip the classrooms, we equip the teachers, we work with the teacher on each step and document it and put it in a guideline for other teachers. We coach them and work with them every two weeks, look at the videos. We also talk to the parents and do an assessment," Udovicic said. The idea is to take all the information and results and "scale up" from there.

Perkins has 16 local partners in this effort in Armenia. They are: Ararat Center Rays of Hope; Ararat Orphanage Kharberd; Ararat Support Center For You; Armavir School #7; Armavir Support Center Vagharshapat; Lori Support Center of Vanadzor; Shirak Gyumri School #15; Shirak Orphanage Gyumri; Shirak Support Center of Artik; Squniq Support Center of Sisian; Yerevan School #100; Yerevan School #20; Yerevan Republican Support Center; Yerevan School #14 -School for the Blind; Yerevan Support Center of Yerevan #3 and the Khachatur Abovian Armenian State

Pedagogical University.

The team in Armenia directly works with 4,308 children and more than 1,000 educators, Perkins' staff said.

"Indirectly, through the national initiatives, through training others, we serve 464,000 children," Gissara added. "The benefit of [finding ways to teach] children with disabilities helps with other kids who are delayed with literacy."

She added that the children without disabilities benefit from the program by learn-

ing about inclusion. "They learn about empathy and communication," Gissara added.

Society in Armenia can be generally less accepting of people with different abilities. "To be honest, I think yes. I've been going to Armenia from the beginning. I did notice a shift. We are really accepted widely," Udovicic said. For example, there is an inclusive art and sport project. "They all come together when they are coming together and adaptive sports where everyone can participate. They learn a lot but it did come from the need to show that it is in the community," she noted.

Gissara said that the school holds an international academy every year to closely teach a few instructors every year, while also offering webinars and other forms of online support.

"Almost every year we have someone from Armenia" visiting the Perkins campus for the program, Udovicic said.

Udovicic noted that Perkins started its

the family," Udovicic said.

"What is beautiful for me is we share this big reach ... and at the same time, we take care of Artur, so he is able to learn how to blow out the candle. That is not easy work, to be able to do this deep engagement and systemic change, and that's is the work Darija is leading," Gissara said

"Children and families are what drives us," Udovicic said.

Gissara credited with many segments of the Armenian diaspora with helping fund the Perkins Armenia budget.

Among those donors are the Karisma Foundation and the Bilezikian Family Foundation. Another supporter, Laurie Onanian, said she and her family had long supported the school. When they found out that the school helps in Armenia, they were even more delighted to continue their help.

Unfortunately, the demand for Perkins' services is here to stay. Said Gissara, "Two hundred and forty million children around

the world have disabilities. We still have a lot to do. Our goal across all the regions where we work, we want to transform the systems so everything Darja tells you becomes sustainable so it's not just one or two schools, but in all schools across the counties we work."

To find out more about Perkins and its many programs, visit www.perkins.org.



Activities for children with disabilities in Armenia with Perkins support

efforts in Armenia after the Gyumri orphanage reached out to them. "For some reason they reached out to us," she said. "There were only children with complex disabilities in the orphanage."

Now, the shift is to try to make the orphanages provide some programs to children with disabilities in the community to integrate them into the community.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Celebrate World Labyrinth Day at Armenian Heritage Park on May 2

BOSTON — The Armenian Heritage Park on the Greenway, Boston on Saturday, May 2 at 12:30 p.m., will host a gathering that highlights the shape-changing Abstract Sculpture and the Labyrinth's global connection.

Held annually on the first Saturday in May, the Park becomes Boston's connection to World Labyrinth Day: Walk as One at 1 p.m. This is a worldwide walk for peace and harmony that brings people together in cities across the globe from Boston, London, Paris, Chartres, Rome, Gyumri, Hong Kong, Tokyo and Buenos Aires walking together at the same moment in time.

At 12:45 p.m., all will gather in front of the Park's Abstract Sculpture, reconfigured annually to create a new sculptural form, symbolic of a new life. Its changing shape reflects renewal, adaptation and the ongoing journey of communities across generations.

At 1 p.m., following a brief welcome, all are invited to participate in World Labyrinth Day: Walking as One in Peace & Harmony joining all ages in cities worldwide. The Labyrinth invites visitors to walk a single contemplative path, symbolic of life's journey. Those who live and work nearby walk the Labyrinth daily joined by visitors from across the region and around the world.

Refreshments will follow.

In the heart of downtown Boston, Armenian Heritage Park on The Greenway is both a place of remembrance and a vibrant space for community, culture, and shared humanity. The art and landscape at the Park tell a story of heritage, resilience and the journeys that bring people to new shores.

Celebrate Public Art! is a program of the Friends of Armenian Heritage Park. For further information, email hello@armenianheritagepark.org



Walkers in 2023 commemorating World Labyrinth Day at the Armenian Heritage Park

NEW YORK CITY ARMENIAN GENOCIDE COMMEMORATION



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





Arts & Culture

Artist Zareh in The Spotlight

By Karine Armen

Special to the Mirror-Spectator

GLENDAL — Litavie Art Gallery recently presented “Where Motion Becomes Memory,” a new solo exhibition by artist Zareh, April 2 to 11.

At the opening night on April 2, artist Seta Injeyan welcomed everyone and gave a thorough analysis of Zareh’s work. Injeyan said, “Through every line, Zareh invites us to see not just with our eyes, but with our hearts.” She added, “Above all, what makes Zareh a true artist is not only his remarkable skill, but his humility. He listens — to his materials, to his subjects, to the world — and offers back images that are thoughtful, kind, and courageous.”

Zareh was born in 1956 in Aleppo, Syria. His family relocated to Beirut, Lebanon, in 1963, where he spent his formative years. Growing up in a region with a rich cultural tapestry, Zareh developed an early appreciation for art and heritage. However, the Lebanese Civil War profoundly impacted his life, prompting him to emigrate to the United States in 1983 to join his twin brother Hovig.

Zareh’s artistic journey is deeply intertwined with his identity and



Artist Seta Injeyan talking about Zareh’s art. (Karine Armen photo)



From left: Seta Injeyan, Zareh and art critic Peter Frank (Karine Armen photo)

experiences, as he explores themes of resilience, identity, and memory in his work. His unique style combines traditional and contemporary elements, emphasizing emotive storytelling through visual art.

Notable for his evocative paintings and drawings, Zareh has also ventured into performance art. Some of his prominent performances include “Turkish Soup Made with Armenian Bones,” “The Red Trees of the Armenian Genocide” and “Marry the Priest.” These works have been see ZAREH, page 13



Dr. Malatesta examines patient (Photo Nils Heck)

Ofeliya Poghosyan Delights Opera Fans in Darmstadt

By Muriel Mirak-Weissbach
Special to the Mirror-Spectator

DARMSTADT, Germany — “Thou shouldst not have been old till thou hadst been wise,” says the Fool to the ageing monarch in Shakespeare’s King Lear. The king has done the unthinkable: divided his kingdom, imperiling national unity and opening the way to civil strife and war. As often in times of crisis, it seems caprice, not reason, rules policy and stability is threatened by the arrogance and miscalculation of the grandiose self. In such historical moments, great art can exert an uplifting power, either through the catharsis of tragedy, or the relief of comedy. Parody, in its elevated form of comic opera, works to expose the follies of human behavior and invites careful self-reflection. Catharsis here comes in the form of laughter.

Gaetano Donizetti was a master of “opera buffa” — comic opera — and his “Don Pasquale,” which premiered at the Darmstadt State Theater on March 27, is a stunning example — even though the composer himself called it a “dramma buffo” and for good reason. Guest artists joined the Darmstadt ensemble and chorus in a cast that featured bass baritone Oliver Zwarg, baritone David Pichlmaier, tenor Theodore Browne, soprano Ofeliya Poghosyan, and bass baritone Pedro Ometto. It was a superb performance under director Geertje Boeden, dramatization by Frederike Prick-Hoffmann, chorus direction of Guillaume Fauchère and musical direction of Johannes Zahn.

Starring as Norina (“Sofronia”) was Armenian soprano Poghosyan, who joined the ensemble last year. The accomplished young artist began her musical education at the St. Petersburg State Conservatory under the guidance of Irina Bogacheva and Dmitry Karpov. Before coming to Darmstadt, she performed at the renowned Semperoper Dresden from 2021 to 2023, where she completed the Young Artists Program, and as a guest performer in 2023/2024. She was an ensemble member at the Hagen Theater in 2024/2025. In summer 2025, following her debut as Clorinda in Rossini’s “La Cenerentola” in Darmstadt, she was engaged as a soloist in the ensemble for the 2025/2027 season.

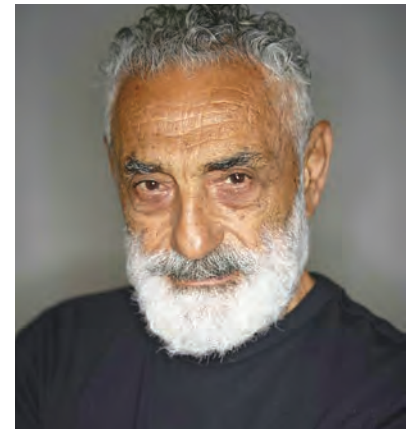
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Sofronia, Malatesta, Don Pasquale in garden. Photo Nils Heck

Zadik Zadikian To Represent Armenia at 61st Venice Biennale

VENICE, Italy — The Republic of Armenia presents “The Studio,” a solo project by artist Zadik Zadikian, for the Pavilion of the Republic of Armenia at the 61st International Art Exhibition at the Venice Biennale. The project is co-curated by legendary art dealer Tony Shafrazi, whose decades-long relationship and close collaboration with Zadikian shape the conceptual framework of the Pavilion, alongside Boston-based curator and cultural strategist Tina Chakarian, who has played a central role in advancing Armenia’s presence at



Zadik Zadikian

La Biennale di Venezia since 2015 as Commissioner and Development Director of the Armenian Pavilion.

On view from May 9 through November 22, the Pavilion reimagines the exhibition space as a living studio — an active site of production, transformation, and renewal that unfolds over the full duration of the festival.

This presentation marks the continuation of Shafrazi and Zadikian’s decades-long collaboration, which began in the late 1970s with Zadikian’s first solo exhibition in Tehran at Shafrazi’s then-new eponymous gallery, just weeks before the fall of Iran’s ruling shah and on the cusp of the profound political and social transformations that would follow. At that time, a young Zadikian observed laborers carefully stacking clay bricks to dry in the open air at a facility nearly 200 miles from Tehran. “I was completely taken by the way they were making sculptures without knowing what they were doing,” he recalls. Ever since, the brick has become a central material and conceptual anchor in his work, continuing to inform Zadikian’s sustained engagement with repetition, labor, and the transformation of basic forms into complex structures.

In Venice, Zadikian will operate a fully functioning studio, in which objects — principally plaster bricks of varying scales and pigments — are formed, cast, and assembled by the artist and his studio assistants over the course of the exhibition. Each composite form is built by stacking multiple individual bricks of different sizes that remain separate and movable, allowing the arrangement to change and develop over time. This emphasis on repetition and physical

see VENICE, page 16



ARTS & CULTURE

Ofeliya Poghosyan Delights Opera Fans in Darmstadt

from previous page

Poghosyan has performed leading roles in several operas, including Gran Sacerdotessa in “Aida,” First Nymph in “Rusalka,” La Voce dal Cielo in “Don Carlo,” Pamina in “Die Zauberflöte,” Lisa in “La Sonnambula,” Musetta in “La Bohème” and the Fifth Maid in “Elektra.” Her rendition of Norina, the leading lady and only female soloist in “Don Pasquale,” was outstanding. Both as singer and actor she brought the challenging role — or roles — to life; endowed with a rich, full soprano voice, her delivery was controlled and secure while at the same time astonishingly free. She seems to sing the most intricate passages and embellishments effortlessly and to enjoy every moment on stage.

Love, Marriage, ... and Money

The plot has standard opera buffa elements: a love story, disguise, intrigue and happy ending. Ernesto, a romantic young man, is in love with Norina, a young widow of slender means, not averse to remarrying. Ernesto’s wealthy but stingy uncle, aristocrat Don Pasquale, demands he marry a wealthy woman, or risk losing his inheritance. When Ernesto refuses, the ageing bachelor, played by internationally renowned bass baritone Oliver Zwarg, decides to take a wife himself and start a family. He seeks help from his friend Doctor Malatesta to find an appropriate bride. Malatesta, portrayed by baritone David Pichlmaier, hatches a plot: he will present as just the right candidate his alleged “sister” Sofronia, currently living in a convent, and recruits the intelligent and beautiful Norina to disguise herself as the fiancée. Don Pasquale should fall for the modest and charming Sofronia, marry her in a (fake) ceremony presided over by Malatesta’s cousin — a would-be “notary” played by bass baritone Pedro Ometto — and with a marriage contract ceding half his fortune

to his bride as well as total control over the household.

Ernesto, portrayed by lyrical tenor Theodore Browne, is utterly unaware of the plot and believes his friend Malatesta has betrayed him by finding a mate for his uncle. Desperately fearing he has lost Norina, he writes her a farewell letter, saying he is leaving the house and the country. Malatesta brings his would-be sister Sofronia to Don Pasquale, who, bowled over by her demure, chaste demeanor, agrees to the marriage, contract and all. No sooner has the ink dried than Sofronia unveils her true character as an imperious female, seizes command of the household, hires more servants, and organizes expensive home renovations, exasperating her baffled husband. Don Pasquale “discovers” a letter penned by his wife to a secret lover, which gives rise to Malatesta’s next ploy: to lie in wait in the garden and surprise the lovers in flagrante. By now recruited into the plot, Ernesto plays his role but flees in time. As Don Pasquale and Malatesta approach, Sofronia sheds her disguise, revealing her true identity as Norina, Ernesto’s beloved. Don Pasquale accepts defeat and even consents to the young pair’s marriage.

Virtuosity in Voice and Characterization

Poghosyan displays her versatility from the onset, expressing genuine sorrow and dismay when she receives Ernesto’s letter, then childlike excitement when Malatesta explains his plot and her role in it. “Pron-ta son, purch’io non manchi – Ready I am, provided that I don’t fail,” she sings with devilish delight. When Malatesta accompanies her disguised as Sofronia to Don Pasquale’s home, she enters with bashful hesitation, fully veiled and dressed in white, covering in feigned piety. Immediately after the mock ceremony, she flings off her bridal veils to reveal a “fashionable”

dress, blond curls, and a rash temper. The costumes designed by Anna Brandstätter are wonderful parodies; Sofronia’s chaste white bridal attire is as ornate as a Viennese frosted cake and her second outfit is a strapless dress with puff sleeves and puffy, bloomer-like mini skirt—all matching Don Pasquale’s suit.

Don Pasquale is helpless as Sofronia exerts dictatorial power over the household and her would-be husband. When he raises objections to her being chaperoned by Ernesto for an evening stroll, she spares the elderly gent no ridicule, singing, as if to a naughty child, “Via, caro sposino - Please, my dear little hubby...” Audiences may sympathize with Don Pasquale as the victim of a quasi-criminal intrigue, but none of the characters – least of all, Norina/Sofronia – show any concern.

The Moral of the Story

The finale of Malatesta’s scheme, in which the lovers are discovered, unfolds in an enchanted garden lush with gigantic yellow and purple crocuses 10 to 13 feet tall, and populated by oversized snails and other elegant creatures who gracefully dance, prance, or rhythmically inch across the stage — a sumptuously florid scene reminiscent of Alice in Wonderland — in which the quasi-tragic adventure of a foolish old man finds resolution in harmony with the natural world. The final quartet spells it out: “The moral in all this is quite easy to find.” To wit: He who takes a wife in advanced age is quite foolish.

Rather than have Don Pasquale stomp off the stage in an angry huff, Donizetti allows him to attain a certain moral stature, for he consents to the marriage of Ernesto and Norina. As the Darmstädter Echo newspaper commented, Oliver Zwarg, “endowed with an agile and finely nuanced baritone voice, plays the title role not as a

feeble-minded old man, but as one with dignity and a trace of sensitivity.”

The final set represents the culmination of a series of daring designs by Robert Schweer. It stands in sharp contrast to earlier sets, which ranged from the chintzy interior of Pasquale’s 1970s-style “suburban baroque” decorated in yellows/brown/orange-patterned fabrics (like his clothes) to the interiors renovated and redecorated by Sofronia, interiors constructed with a combination of empty frames defining spatial relations of rooms, with mobile upper and lower levels accessed at times by stairs. The garden is the paradise gained after escaping the cage-like structure of the old man’s residence.

The premiere was a resounding success. The capacity audience responded with loud enthusiasm and standing ovation, roaring with praise for leading lady Poghosyan. Some of the secrets to her success were revealed in a podcast/discussion with Oliver Zwarg. When she began singing at the age of 8, she had very supportive parents who helped accommodate her school duties with music rehearsals, which she believes contributed to her feeling at ease and relaxed on stage. As for her remarkable command of bel canto, which Zwarg rightly noted is a challenging technique requiring discipline, she said for her it was rather “a dream.” She also highlighted the congenial atmosphere among the cast: “I have very good colleagues,” she quipped. “It is important to have fun on stage!”

Don Pasquale will be performed five more times this season. That said, Poghosyan’s next premiere took place on April 18, when she appeared as Poppea in “The Coronation of Poppea” (in German) by Claudio Monteverdi. Other roles this season include Donna Elvira in “Don Giovanni” and Clorinda in “La Cenerentola.”



Tekeyan Cultural Association
Boston Chapter

Armenian Cooking Demonstration
Mortadella + Mushabak with Rita
Balyozian + Roubina Davidian

Thurs., April 30 Baikar Building
7 p.m.

755 Mt. Auburn St, Watertown
via Norseman Ave. door

\$30 includes reception

Series Coordinator
Rita Balyozian

RSVP Required @ Sossy
Yogurtian 617 281-1647 or
syogurtian@comcast.net

Pay cash or Venmo <https://venmo.com/u/Tekeyan-Boston>
ADD note CookingClass



Artist Zareh in the Spotlight

ZAREH, from page 12

critically acclaimed and featured in major U.S. media outlets such as the Los Angeles Times, La Opinión and KTLA.

In 2025, Armenian Arts published Zareh’s artwork in a hardcover book titled Zareh: A Visual Journey. The book includes a chapter by art critic Peter Frank and analysis by Gayane Ghazarian.

Sarkis Damargi, the administrator of the Litavie Art Gallery, said, “Zareh carries with him the layered memory of diaspora, movement, and identity.” He continued,

“Zareh’s journey is not only geographic but deeply psychological, and this inner passage becomes the foundation of his art.”

Zareh’s work is part of a group show titled “Convergence: Contemporary Artists of Armenian Descent” at the Glendale Forest Lawn Museum, where 30 Armenian artists’ work is on display until August 9. “Convergence” is curated by artists Alina Mnatsakanian and Kaloust Guedel, in collaboration with James Fishburne, Director of Forest Lawn Museum.



Zareh with the gallery owner and administrator, Sarkis Damargi (Karine Armen photo)



CALENDAR

OF EVENTS & PROGRAMS

CONNECTICUT

APRIL 25 — The Armenian Genocide Commemoration Committee of Connecticut will hold its annual program, on the 111th anniversary of the Genocide, on Saturday, at 10:30 am. Historic Connecticut House Chamber at the State Capitol, 210 Capitol Avenue, Hartford. The program will include the Martyrs' Service. Clergy from Armenian Churches in Connecticut will participate in the service. Keynote speaker will be Bryan Ardouny, Executive Director of the Armenian Assembly of America. A reception will follow. For questions call Melanie at 860-651-0629.

MASSACHUSETTS

DECEMBER 12-APRIL 26 —The Armenian Museum of America is proud to announce the opening of a landmark exhibition, "Arshile Gorky: Redrawing Community and Connections." This is the first exhibition of Arshile Gorky's work in an Armenian museum, and it caps off a series of programs initiated by the "100 Years of Arshile Gorky" Committee in the City of Watertown. Twenty-five works from lenders across the country including the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Housatonic Museum of Art, Yale University Art Gallery, and many private collections. The exhibition is curated by Kim S. Theriault. Sponsored by the JHM Charitable Foundation. Armenian Museum of America, 65 Main Street, Watertown. Hours: Thurs.-Sun., 12pm-6pm. Please visit <https://www.armenianmuseum.org/arshile-gorky> for more information.

APRIL 23 — Eldad Ben Aharon, "Israeli-Turkish Relations at the End of the Cold War: The Geopolitics of Denying the Armenian Genocide." 7.30 p.m. At the NAASR Vartan Gregorian Building, 395 Concord Ave., Belmont. Presented by the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) / Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation Lecture Series on Contemporary Armenian Issues. Hybrid event.

APRIL 26 — "Memories Flow Beneath It, From Valley to Quabbin," A film by Roger Hagopian in collaboration with author and historian, J.R.Greene. Local filmmaker Roger Hagopian presents his documentary film, tracing the displacement of people and the loss of a way of life in the Swift River Valley of western Massachusetts. 2-4 PM Brookline Public Library 361 Washington Street, Brookline Village.

APRIL 26 — The Global Community Engagement (GCE) program of COMPACT at Brandeis University invites you to a special screening of "Ojakh: On the Other Side of the Silence," a documentary by French-Armenian filmmaker Diana Mkrtchyan. The film follows Erhan Arik, a young Turkish photographer, who is unexpectedly confronted by the past when a voice in a dream calls him to reckon with the history of the home he inhabits—once belonging to Armenians displaced during the events of 1915. Join us for the screening followed by a discussion with the filmmaker and main character. 12:00 – 2:00 pm Wasserman Cinematheque, Sachar International Center, 415 South St, Waltham. Free parking is available at the nearby Theater Parking Lot. For questions contact Armine Avetisyan at arminkav@brandeis.edu.

APRIL 26 — The Armenian Genocide Commemorative Committee of Merrimack Valley hosts a commemoration. Celebration of Divine Liturgy by the combined Armenian Churches of Merrimack Valley, Saint Gregory Armenian Church, 158 Main St., North Andover, 10 a.m. Youth program during church services. Following Divine Liturgy, prayer service at Church's Martyr's Monument. Luncheon and Musical performance featuring violinist Haig Hovsepian and pianist Ani Hovsepian.

APRIL 26 — Armenian Genocide Commemoration at Armenian Heritage Park, at the Rose Kennedy Greenway, Boston, starts 2:30 pm. Program details to be announced. Organized by the Armenian Genocide Commemorative Committee of MA. Buses from Watertown will be available courtesy of the Knights of Vartan Ararat Lodge No. 1. The event is free and open to all. For more information, email bostonagcc@gmail.com.

APRIL 30 — The Tekeyan Cultural Association Boston Chapter will present an Armenian Cooking Demonstration Mortadella + Mushabak with Rita Balyozian and Roubina Davidian. Series coordinator Rita Balyozian. Thursday, Baikar Building, 755 Mount Auburn St., Watertown, 7 p.m. \$30 includes reception. RSVP Required @ Sossy Yogurtian, 617-281-1647 or syogurtian@comcast.net. Pay cash or Venmo <https://venmo.com/u/Tekeyan-Boston>. Add note: CookingClass

THROUGH APRIL 30 — Watertown, Mass.-based Project Save Photograph Archive, which collects and preserves pictures and ephemera from generations of Armenian families around the world, will have its first exhibition outside Massachusetts this winter. Sponsored by the University of Michigan Center for Armenian Studies in Ann Arbor, the exhibition highlights photographs from key moments in Armenian history, as well as photos collected from Michigan and other midwestern families. Hours vary. Center for Armenian Studies, University of Michigan Ann Arbor Weiser Hall 500 Church St., Ann Arbor. 734-647-4143. For more info visit projectsave.org.

MAY 2 — Annual Armenian Spring Food Festival 12-6 PM. Holy Archangels Armenian Church, St. Michael & St. Gabriel. Delicious Armenian Food! Chick-

en Kebab, Losh Kebab and Kheyma Dinners; Cuisine & Pastry Tables and Jingalov Hatz. Summer Baskets Raffle, 1280 Boston Rd., Haverhill, MA 01835. For additional information, call (978) 372-9227 or email admin@archangelsarmenianchurch.org

MAY 2 — CELEBRATE PUBLIC ART! ABSTRACT SCULPTURE PERMANENT & ALIVE & WORLD LABYRINTH DAY: WALK AS ONE. Saturday at 12:30 pm. ARMENIAN HERITAGE PARK ON THE GREENWAY, BOSTON Join people in cities & towns in 35 countries world-wide: Armenia (Gyumri), Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Columbia, Ecuador, England, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Mexico, South Africa, Spain, many more. Reception following.

MAY 3 — The Tekeyan Cultural Association, Boston's Holy Trinity Armenian Church, and UCLA's Armenian Music Program present a concert by the UCLA Vem Ensemble, led by Prof. Movses Pogossian, as part of its 2026 Tekeyan tour, including works of Komitas, Khachaturian, Toumajan, Suni, Gazarossian, Schubert and Saryan. Sunday, 2 p.m., Holy Trinity Armenian Church, 145 Brattle St., Cambridge. Free admission, freewill donations appreciated. For more info, email tcadirector@aol.com

MAY 3 — "Memories Flow Beneath It, From Valley to Quabbin," A film by Roger Hagopian in collaboration with author and historian, J.R.Greene. Local filmmaker Roger Hagopian presents his documentary film, tracing the displacement of people and the loss of a way of life in the Swift River Valley of western Massachusetts. 2-4 PM Wellesley Public Library 530 Washington Street, Wellesley.

MAY 5 — Dr. Taner Akçam and Michael Bazylar will speak on Nazi Looted Art Recovery as a Model for Recovery of AGLA: Armenian Genocide Looted Art. Tuesday, 7.30 p.m., NAASR, 395 Concord Ave., Belmont. Sponsored by the Armenian Genocide Research Program of the Promise Armenian Institute at UCLA, Armenian Bar Association, Middle East and Middle Eastern American Center at CUNY Graduation Center, NAASR/Gulbenkian Foundation Lecture Series on Contemporary Armenian Issues, NYC Times Square Armenian Genocide Committee and St. Leon Amrenian Church.

MAY 9 — In Her Embrace: A Mother's Day Concert. An evening of song & gratitude featuring Asatur Baljyan (baritone) and Nune Hakobyan (piano). Hosted by Holy Archangels Armenian Church, 1280 Boston Rd., Haverhill, MA 01830. For more information, call (978) 372-9227. A dream. A voice. A journey across silence and history.

MAY 17 — MCMA Presents "Voices From the Homeland," featuring violinist Haig Hovsepian, cellist Suren Bagratuni and pianist Karen Hakobyan. Follen Church, 755 Massachusetts Ave., Lexington, 7 p.m. Tickets \$15-\$30.

MAY 30 — The Armenian Friends of America will host a special spring Dinner Dance on Saturday, with 100% of proceeds benefiting Artsakh refugees. The evening will feature Mal Barsamian, Leon Janikian, Bobby Raphaelian, Ken Kalajian, and Jason Naroian, with vocals by Jason Naroian and John Arzigian. Their extraordinary talent and devotion to Armenian music promise an unforgettable night of culture, community, and celebration. Concert titled Helping Our Homeland – AFA Benefit for Artsakh Refugees, 6:00 PM – 11:30 PM, DoubleTree by Hilton, 123 Old River Road, Andover. Ticket Information (Advance Purchase Only) • \$100 per person, \$950 for a table of 10 (single check required). Tickets may be purchased online at www.ArmenianFriendsofAmerica.org, or by contacting any of the event organizers: Linda Doherty (603-760-8328), Mary Ann Janigian (603-770-3375), Kathy Geyer (978-902-3198), John Arzigian (603-560-3826), Lisa Apovian (508-662-8395), or Lu Sirmaian (978-314-1956)

SEPTEMBER 24, 2026 — Save the Date! Celebrating Contributions! Gala to benefit the Armenian Heritage Park at the InterContinental Boston.

MICHIGAN

MAY 9 — The Tekeyan Cultural Association, UCLA Armenian Music Program, Saint John Armenian Church and Music Guild of St. John Armenian Church present a concert by UCLA's Vem Ensemble as part of the latter's 2026 Tekeyan Tour, including works of Khachaturian, Komitas, Toumajan, Suni, Gazarossian, Schubert and Saryan. Vem members, led by founder Prof. Movses Pogossian on violin, include Ally Cho on violin, Damon Zavala on viola, Niall Tarō Ferguson on cello. There will be several guest speakers. Saturday, 7 p.m. St. John Armenian Church, 2001 Northwestern Hwy, Southfield. Free admission, freewill donations appreciated. For info, call Diana Alexanian 248-505-6159 or Madisen Lundquist 503-758-8805,

MAY 10 — The Tekeyan Cultural Association, UCLA Armenian Music Program, and University of Michigan Center for Armenian Studies present a concert by UCLA's Vem Ensemble as part of Vem's 2026 Tekeyan Tour, including works of Khachaturian, Komitas, Toumajan, Suni, Gazarossian, Schubert and Saryan. Vem includes founder Prof. Movses Pogossian on violin, Ally Cho on violin, Damon Zavala on viola/violin, Niall Tarō Ferguson cello. Guest speakers Melissa Bilal, Ronald Suny, Anoush Suny. Sunday, 3 to 5 p.m. Helmut Stern Auditorium at the University of Michigan Museum of Art, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. Free admission. For info, email armenianstudies@umich.edu



ARTS & CULTURE

A Musical Bridge Across Continents At KapanFest 2026 in Arlington, MA

ARLINGTON, Mass. — At the invitation of Amaras Art Alliance, a group of dedicated musicians from the Greater Boston area has come together to present a benefit concert on May 9, supporting a musical initiative taking place thousands of miles away.

Known as the Kaplan International Music Festival, the program was founded by cellist Sevak Avanesyan and takes place in the city of Kapan, the capital of Armenia's Syunik region.

The two-week festival brings together distinguished international musicians who travel to Kapan to perform for local audiences and offer master classes to young Armenian music students. Donating their time and talent, these artists help create a meaningful cultural and educational experience in a region where such opportunities are limited.

The Boston benefit concert will feature Avanesyan and will take place at the Armenian Cultural Foundation (441 Mystic St., Arlington) on Saturday, May 9 at 7 p.m. Proceeds will directly support the festival in Kapan, helping sustain its concerts, educational programs, and outreach efforts. Tickets and info available at www.AmarasOnline.com.

By bringing together audiences in Boston for a cause rooted in Armenia, this event highlights the enduring role of music as a unifying force across borders.



Cellist Sevak Avanesyan

Kef Time Los Angeles Dinner Dance – A Memorable Evening

ALTADENA, Calif. — On Saturday, April 11, the Tekeyan Cultural Association Metro Los Angeles Chapter organized the “Kef Time Los Angeles” dinner dance at the TCA Beshgeturian Center here. The band featured Antranig Kzirian (oud and vocals), Yervand Kalajian (violin), Mher Mnat-sakanyan (clarinet and duduk), Vik Momjian (bass) and George Bilezikjian (dumbeg). Those in attendance enjoyed the rhythmic sounds of the band with their dance-oriented style of Armenian



folk music. Among the featured dances were the Tamzara, Pam-pouri, Laz Bar and Sepasdia Bar, among many others.

The TCA Metro Los Angeles Chapter will welcome back the band to the TCA Beshgeturian Center for a Poon Paregentan dinner dance on Saturday, February 6, 2027.

Please email info@tekeyanla.org to be added to our email list or follow us on Instagram @tekeyanla.

CALENDAR

OF EVENTS & PROGRAMS

MONTREAL

MAY 8 — The Tekeyan Cultural Association and the UCLA Armenian Music Program present a concert by UCLA's Vem Ensemble as part of its 2026 Tekeyan Tour, including works of Khachaturian, Komitas, Toumajan, Suni, Gazarossian, Schubert and Saryan. Vem, led by founder Prof. Movses Pogossian on violin, includes Ally Cho on violin, Damon Zavala on viola, Niall Tarō Ferguson on cello. 8 p.m. Tekeyan Armenian Community Center, 825 Manoogian St., Ville Saint-Laurent, Québec. Ticket \$35, contact Tekeyan Center at 514 747-6680.

NEW JERSEY

MAY 4 — Dr. Taner Akçam and Michael Bazylar will speak on Nazi Looted Art Recovery as a Model for Recovery of AGLA: Armenian Genocide Looted Art. Tuesday, 7.30 p.m., St. Leon Armenian Church, 12-61 Saddle River Road, Fair Lawn. Sponsored by the Armenian Genocide Research Program of the Promise Armenian Institute at UCLA, Armenian Bar Association, Middle East and Middle Eastern American Center at CUNY Graduation Center, NAASR/Gulbenkian Foundation Lecutre Series on Contemporary Armenian Issues, NYC Times Square Armenian Genocide Committee and St. Leon Amrenian Church.

NEW YORK

MAY 1 — Dr. Taner Akçam and Michael Bazylar will speak on Nazi Looted Art Recovery as a Model for Recovery of AGLA: Armenian Genocide Looted Art. Tuesday, 6.30 p.m., the Graduate Center, City University of New York. Sponsored by the Armenian Genocide Research Program of the Promise Armenian Institute at UCLA, Armenian Bar Association, Middle East and Middle Eastern American Center at CUNY Graduation Center, NAASR/Gulbenkian Foundation Lecutre Series on Contemporary Armenian Issues, NYC Times Square Armenian Genocide Committee and St. Leon Amrenian Church.

PENNSYLVANIA

APRIL 24 — Intercommunal Church Service, 7:00 PM Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul, Philadelphia. This historic Service of Gratitude, Unity, and Commemoration, remembering the Holy Martyrs of the Armenian Genocide and honoring America250, will unite the Armenian community in faith. The service will be presided over by Bishop Mesrop Parsamyan, Archbishop Anoushavan, and Bishop Mikael Mouradian, with clergy from all five Armenian churches in the Greater Philadelphia area and an Armenian community choir. A special additional ceremony will follow in an adjacent garden. Transportation available.

APRIL 25 — Saturday, 11 a.m., Philadelphia Museum of Art. After eight years of dedicated work, the Armenian Heritage Walk is ready for dedication and the revitalized Young Meher statue is set to be unveiled. This event

marks the completion of Phase One, highlighted by the installation of a nearly 15,000 square foot garden and walkway. Philadelphia Museum of Art, North Entrance. The event will be followed by the Armenian Heritage Walk Gala at the National Constitution Center. This black-tie event will honor the completion of Phase One. \$515 per Ticket (includes credit card processing fee. Please note a ticket processing fee will be added at check out.) 6:00 PM Cocktail Reception, 7:30 PM Dinner and Program, 9:30 PM Post Reception. National Constitution Center, 525 Arch St, Philadelphia.

MAY 1 — The Tekeyan Cultural Association, UCLA Armenian Music Program, and Villanova Armenian Students' Organization present as part of the UCLA Vem Ensemble 2026 tour, a concert with works of Khachaturian, Komitas, Toumajan, Suni, Gazarossian, Schubert and Saryan. Vem members, led by Prof. Movses Pogossian on violin, include Ally Cho on violin, Damon Zavala on viola/violin, and Niall Tarō Ferguson on cello. Friday, 7:30 p.m. Cinema at Connelly Center, Villanova University. Tickets \$20. For more info/tickets call Vahe at 215-908-9502 or Sira at 267-902-0700

RHODE ISLAND

APRIL 25 — Armenian Genocide Remembrance Service and Concert. Sts. Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church, Providence, RI. 70 Jefferson St., Providence. Saturday, 7 p.m. Program includes Armenian Genocide Remembrance Service and Memorial Concert by Armenian Chorale of Rhode Island

APRIL 26 — The Armenian Martyr's Memorial Committee is presenting a program commemorating the 111th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. Sunday, North Burial Ground in Providence at 12.30 p.m. Featuring Special Guest Speaker Dr. Asya Darbinyan, the executive director of the Center for Holocaust, Human Rights and Genocide Education (CHHANGE) at Brookdale Community College in Lincroft, NJ. She also serves as vice president of the Society for Armenian Studies. In case of inclement weather, the program will be held at Armenian Evangelical Church Sanctuary, 180 Oaklawn Ave., Cranston.

MAY 3 — Concert “Jazzical Komitas”, features world-renowned pianist and composer Joel A. Martin with guest singer Anahit Zakaryan, laureate of international competitions. Sunday, 5:00 pm. @ Belcourt of Newport, 657 Bellevue Ave., Newport, Suggested donation: \$40. Advance tickets only (no tickets at the door): 401-272-7712. Presented by the Cultural Committee of St. Sahag & St. Mesrob Armenian Church in collaboration with Belcourt of Newport. Refreshments and complimentary wine to follow.

To send Calendar items email alin@mirrorspectator.com or alin.gregorian@gmail.com. You can also visit our website, www.mirrorspectator.com, and find the “calendar” section under the heading “More” or mail them to the *Armenian Mirror-Spectator*, 755 Mount Auburn St., Wattertown, MA 02472. All calendar entries must be received by noon on Monday before publication.



ARTS & CULTURE

Recipe Corner



by Christine
Vartanian Datian



A Unique Recipe For Bundt Cake With Pistachio and Moscato

EL CENTRO, CA —One of California Grown's newest recipes is for a bundt cake that is unlike any other bundt cake recipe you have ever tried. In fact, this just might be the easiest cake recipe you have ever baked. Just chop, mix, and bake. No need to ice this cake either; you can decorate and serve it with your favorite seasonal fruits and cut flowers.

The function of wine in cooking is to intensify, enhance, and accent the flavor and aroma of food — not to mask the flavor of what you are cooking. So, in the case of our Pistachio and Moscato Bundt Cake the Moscato in the batter is noticeable upon the first bite, but it immediately fades and allows the flavor of pistachio to take the lead — leaving you with a flavor profile that is perfectly balanced on the palate. While some cakes require icing or some kind of sweet drizzle before serving, this one does not. The pistachio pudding mix in the batter keeps the cake nice and moist for days without needing any help.

In the summer months, you can serve slices of this bundt cake with fresh stone fruit and citrus like we did here. But berries would be a delicious accompaniment to a slice of cake too. Various fresh and dried citrus wheels and wedges make for a stunning display. Don't skip on adding a few cut flowers like zinnias, marigolds, or basil blossoms. They make for a spectacular presentation.

What California wine pairs best with this Pistachio and Moscato Bundt Cake? Since this recipe for bundt cake calls for Moscato in the batter, you can bet that it is a perfect wine pairing to serve with a slice. Muscat wines, also known as Moscato, are made in still, sparkling and dessert styles. California vintners use Muscat grapes to produce wines in shades of white, pink and red, ranging from dry to intensely sweet. Many winemakers use the grape to produce low-alcohol, spritzy white wines.

EQUIPMENT:

1 bundt cake pan

INGREDIENTS:

3/4 cup pistachios chopped
1 package regular or gluten-free yellow or vanilla cake mix. You will need the package to be at least 13.5 ounces in weight. Nothing smaller.
1 (3.4 ounce) package pistachio pudding mix
3/4 cup Moscato wine
3/4 cup vegetable oil or melted butter
1 teaspoon orange extract
1/2 teaspoon ground cardamom
4 eggs

To decorate to serve: yellow peach, donut nectarine, fresh and dried orange wheels. Sliced basil leaves and blossoms, fresh cut zinnias, and marigold cuttings. Whole pistachios.

PREPARATION:

Preheat the oven to 350°F. Generously grease a Bundt pan then scatter 1/4 cup of the chopped pistachios into the bottom of the prepared pan. Set aside.

Combine the remaining chopped pistachios, cake mix, pudding mix, Moscato, vegetable oil, orange extract, cardamom, and eggs in the bowl of a stand mixer and mix thoroughly to combine. Mix at medium speed for 4-5 minutes then scrape down the sides of the bowl and mix again.

Pour the batter into the prepared Bundt cake pan, then bake for 50-55 minutes or until golden brown and cooked through. Allow the cake to cool on a wire rack for 5 minutes, then immediately turn the cake out of the pan onto a serving plate or cake stand. The cake can be served immediately or garnish as desired with seasonal fruit and cut flowers.

For this recipe, go to: <https://californiagrown.org/recipes/recipe-for-bundt-cake/>

For more recipes, go to: <https://californiagrown.org/>

The San Joaquin Valley is one of the best places for farming in California. It's surrounded on each side by hundreds of miles of contiguous mountain ranges. Over the last several thousand years, erosion from those mountains has enriched the valley's soils creating very fertile farmland. Add in a moderate, Mediterranean climate, a diverse population of skilled farmers and farmworkers, and a commitment to cutting-edge technology, and you've got a farming powerhouse that is unmatched anywhere else in the world. There are over 4,000 farms in this part of the Golden State, and over 90% are family owned. The San Joaquin Valley grows an incredible diversity of crops — about 250 — which comprises a third of the nation's fruits and vegetables. Discover citrus, sweet potatoes, table grapes, kiwis, figs, olives, wine grapes, prunes, nuts, cereal grains, hay, cotton, tomatoes and vegetables.

CA GROWN
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Zadik Zadikian to Represent Armenia at 61st Venice Biennale

VENICE, from page 12
from previous page

presence places the project in dialogue with early modernist and post-Minimalist sculpture, recalling the work of Richard Serra, Sol LeWitt and Carl Andre, and reflecting a shared inquiry by both Zadikian and Shafrazi into form and the experience of space.

Aptly titled "The Studio," the installation invites visitors to witness and engage directly with Zadikian's process and materials, allowing the work to unfold in real time. By making production visible, the project challenges the often ritualized and private conventions of the artist's studio, reframing it instead as a site of openness, exchange, and collective labor. In this way, The Studio recalls the legacy of Pop Art's factories and ateliers — most notably Andy Warhol's Factory — while emphasizing sustained, hands-on production over

spectacle. As critic Carlo McCormack observes, "The Studio, for Zadikian, is workshop, factory, and laboratory at once — a locus of constant production, invention, and reinvention, a place of infinite possibility where art is not simply what is made; it is the study of its creation, and what we make of it."

Furthermore, Chakarian's longstanding engagement with Armenia's cultural infrastructure — both within the Republic and across its global diaspora — inflects the Pavilion with a broader commitment to visibility, continuity and international dialogue. Since 2015, as Commissioner and Development Director of the Armenian Pavilion at La Biennale di Venezia, she has played a central role in shaping Armenia's sustained presence on this global stage, overseeing curatorial development, institutional partnerships, and strategic fundraising efforts. Her work bridges generations

of artists working in Yerevan and abroad, positioning Armenian contemporary art within an expansive transnational discourse while honoring its distinct historical and cultural narratives.

"The Studio" will be located within the Arsenale Militare, a vast complex of shipyards and armories that for over 900 years served as the heart of Venetian naval power. Over the course of La Biennale di Venezia, hundreds of plaster bricks will be cast, stacked, disassembled, and reassembled within the Pavilion, allowing the installation to evolve continuously through ongoing production. Here, process is neither theatricalized nor concealed. As McCormack states, "the act of making is not staged, but neither is it hidden."

The Venice presentation follows Zadikian's recent inclusion in a major group exhibition at the Brooklyn Museum, "Solid Gold" (November 16, 2024–July 6, 2025),

where his work "Path to Nine" (2024) took the form of a luminous wall composed of 999 gold leaf-covered bars, extending his long-standing engagement with modularity, material transformation, and symbolic value.

The Yerevan-born Zadikian has spent over five decades creating works that challenge both the materials and ideologies of contemporary art. A daring escape from the Soviet Union in his youth marked the beginning of an extraordinary journey, from his training under Benjamino Bufano to his longstanding friendship with Richard Serra. Zadikian's work, particularly his exploration of gilded forms, has established him as one of the leading sculptors in the realm of contemporary alchemy. His pieces, often crafted from gold leaf, suggest a transcendence of time and place, pushing boundaries while creating worlds that seem to belong to another realm entirely.



ARTS & CULTURE



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As of 3/31/2026

COMMENTARY

THE ARMENIAN
**MIRROR
SPECTATOR**
SINCE 1932



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Iran War Enters a New Phase

By Suren Sargsyan

Special to the Mirror-Spectator

The war against Iran has not ended; it is entering a new phase with several defining characteristics. Most notably, it may evolve into a war of attrition, with the United States potentially seeking to close the Strait of Hormuz and restrict Iran's oil exports, mirroring Iran's own disruptions to regional shipping. If executed strategically, such a blockade could have a measurable impact over time. However, Iran could retaliate by targeting the oil export infrastructure of neighboring countries, including Oman, further destabilizing global energy markets and driving up oil prices — including in the United States — an unfavorable scenario ahead of midterm elections. Iranian military officials have also warned that any US naval movement through the Strait of Hormuz could be met with direct attacks.

From the outset, both the trajectory and timing of this conflict have been unpredictable, and the same uncertainty applies to its outcome. Without structural change within Iran's political system, it remains difficult to assess what level of success the United States and Israel can realistically achieve. Even under significant economic pressure, Iran may be able to endure and continue resisting without a collapse of its governing system.

Diplomatic prospects remain equally uncertain. While multiple countries are attempting to mediate, no clear negotiation framework has emerged. What is certain, however, is that the Middle East will not be the same after this conflict. At the same time, it is far too early to speak of peace — particularly in the context of US-Iran relations. The recent two-week ceasefire briefly raised hopes, but the breakdown of negotiations has reinforced the fragility of any diplomatic progress. In the near term, the United States may carry out additional strikes on Iranian infrastructure, while continuing to reposition military assets across regional bases. A prolonged conflict risks spilling over beyond Iran, affecting neighboring states that are not directly involved.

Armenia is one such country facing growing risks. Recent statements by Armenia's foreign minister indicate limited progress on the Trump Route for International Peace and Prosperity (TRIPP) project, suggesting potential delays. This likely reflects

a cautious U.S. approach to maintaining a presence near Iran under current conditions. Importantly, TRIPP is not merely a transport corridor linking Azerbaijan to Nakhichevan; it is part of a broader regional strategy aimed at bypassing Iran. Delays in its implementation could create new geopolitical pressures. Azerbaijan, seeking rapid connectivity with Nakhichevan, may pursue alternative means to secure a corridor, citing instability in Iran as justification. This, in turn, could place additional strain on the already fragile Armenian-Azerbaijani peace process. Further delays in signing a peace agreement pose another challenge for Armenia, as the agreement and the TRIPP currently serve as the primary mechanism maintaining relative stability in the South Caucasus.

Another challenge for Armenia is the disruptions to regional airspace that are creating logistical and economic pressures. Many airlines, including Middle Eastern airlines previously relied on Iranian airspace to reach Armenia; with those routes now restricted, flights have become longer and more expensive. This not only affects connectivity but also threatens the growth of tourism. Zvartnots International Airport alone handled approximately 6 million passengers last year, underscoring the scale of potential impact.

Rising fuel costs and extended air routes are likely to place additional strain on Armenia's economy, directly linked to the broader conflict. The situation is further complicated by the potential decline in trade through the Armenia-Iran border and reduced cooperation in key sectors such as energy. Ultimately, this war is not only reshaping the balance of power in the Middle East and impacting the global economy. It is also placing

significant pressure on smaller regional states like Armenia, the economic resilience of which are far more limited.

(Suren Sargsyan is an expert on US foreign policy, researcher and author. He is a graduate of Yerevan State University, American University of Armenia and the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University. Suren Sargsyan is a founder of the Armenian Center for American Studies, a research center based in Yerevan.)



The Secret History of Kınalı, an Armenian Island off Constantinople

By Garo Gumusyan

(Notes from the book Istanbul Islands, published in 1962 – quite old, but when it comes to history, does it matter whether the Peloponnesian Wars are told in 1962 or 2022?)

Off the coast of Constantinople, there are four islands which were called “Princes Islands” during the Byzantine Empire, named for being a favorite destination to exile nobility fallen from favor.

They are Prinkepos, Halki, Antigone and Prote in Greek, Büyükkada, Heybeli, Burgaz, and our subject, Kınalı (full name Kınalıhada) in Turkish.

Why is Kınalı called the Armenian Island? While, ethnically, Buyukada is heavily Jewish and Turkish populated, Heybeli Turkish and Burgaz Greek, Kınalı has been heavily populated by Armenians for at least the last two centuries with an interesting history dating back to the Byzantium.

But, before delving into its history, let's take a brief look at the geological, geo-

graphical and climatic characteristics of the island. The first three islands have been blessed by pleasant, temperate climates, however, as we get to ours, being so close to the others, yet, it is cold and windy, not recommended for those with bronchitis. Geologically, rocky and pebbly. It is covered by bushes and scrubland. It serves as a tribute to us Armenians with our unique historic ability to settle at the wrong place and the wrong neighborhood wherever we've been throughout history. While the other pleasant islands are inhabited by Turks, Jews and Greeks, why would we pick the uninhabitable Kınalı? How could it be otherwise? Let's not forget, it was the preferred destination for exile by the Byzantines.

Speaking of exile, the island's history gets quite interesting.

Incredibly, towards the end of the 12th century, the mostly French Crusaders attacked and plundered the island. The French plundering Kınalı? I don't know, although I'm as much against looting and plundering as the next guy, as a born

and raised islander, I felt a secret sense of pride at being deemed worthy of being plundered by the French. What times those must have been! Immediately after the French leave, whatever was left were plundered by the Venetians, unbelievable, so flattering.

In 1352, the Genoese defeated the combined Venetian and Byzantine fleets off the coast of Kınalı, meaning an epic naval battle took place in the very waters where I was fishing. And then, in 1412, the Ottoman Navy lost a naval battle to Manuel Komnenos, the Byzantine Emperor, off the coast of the island.

Going further back in history, it starts getting far more interesting for us Armenians, whereas Armenian-Byzantine Emperors and Warriors start showing up on the Island.

A Byzantine nobleman-warrior named General Vartanios established the first monastery on the island in 803. Vartan, of course, was an Armenian, known for his extreme bravery and winning every single

continued on next page



COMMENTARY

Trump Must Call the Armenian Genocide By Its Name

By Stephan Pechdimaldji

With Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day on Friday, President Trump faces a decision that transcends mere historical housekeeping.

In the shadow of the escalating conflict in Iran and instability in the Middle East, the administration's annual statement on the Armenian genocide — traditionally a moment of rote commemoration — has been transformed into a high-stakes test of American moral leadership and strategic credibility.

For decades, the Armenian American community has sought a simple action from the White House: Officially recognize the 1915 systematic annihilation of 1.5 million Armenians by the Ottoman Empire as a genocide.

It is an event that the Turkish government continues to deny. Although Congress moved to recognize the genocide in 2019 and a formal presidential acknowledgment was made in 2021, the current administration has spent the past year retreating into the linguistic fog of “great calamity” and “historical tragedy” to describe this dark chapter in world history.

This rhetorical departure is no longer just a localized disappointment for a diaspora. Rather, it has become a liability for a nation currently engaged in a volatile and unpopular war.

The administration's conduct in the Iran war is under intense global scrutiny. With debates over the proportionality of strikes, including the attack on an Iranian school that killed more than 100 children, the United States is fighting a two-front war. One is on the physical battlefield, and the other is for the moral high ground.

Our leaders frequently invoke international norms and human rights to justify military actions, but those invocations ring hollow when those same officials refuse to apply the standards to the clear, documented facts of history.

More important, the president's choice this Friday will determine whether his administration is serious about orchestrating a lasting and sustainable peace in the South Caucasus. The region has become a key sound bite for Mr. Trump's foreign policy accomplishments.

A durable peace in the region cannot be built on a foundation of historical denial or strategic silence. By refusing to use the word genocide, the U.S. inadvertently signals to aggressive regional actors that historical revisionism is an acceptable tool of modern diplomacy. It emboldens those who view Armenian sovereignty as a negotiable commodity rather than a red line.

We have seen how silence about 1915 creates a vacuum that aggressive regional powers are all too happy to fill with modern-day threats against Armenian sovereignty. It is one of the reasons Azerbaijan was able to ethnically cleanse more than 120,000 Armenians from their ancestral homeland of Nagorno-Karabakh in 2023, making it the largest forced displacement of Armenians since the Armenian genocide.

If Mr. Trump wants to be the architect of a new deal for regional stability, then he must first recognize the fundamental crime that continues to haunt the region's underpinnings.

Recognition is the currency of credibility. If the president expects the international community to trust the American narrative regarding justice and stability in a postwar Middle East, then he cannot simultaneously cave to foreign pressure regarding the crimes of the past.

Despite his “America First” rhetoric and his reputation as a disruptive dealmaker who defies the Washington establishment, Mr. Trump has become the latest leader to allow foreign capitals to effectively ghostwrite American human rights policy while contradicting the sovereignty-first doctrine he champions.

As a grandson to survivors of the Armenian genocide, I know that for my family, this isn't about an abstract vocabulary choice. It's about whether the United States still possesses the moral clarity and fortitude to call evil by its proper name.

Mr. Trump has a chance to close that credibility gap. By using the word genocide, he can prove that his administration's commitment to international order is not a matter of convenience but rather a matter of conviction.

(Stephan Pechdimaldji is a communications strategist living in the San Francisco Bay Area. He is a first-generation Armenian American and the grandson of survivors of the Armenian genocide. His work has been featured in Newsweek and Foreign Policy. You can follow him on X: @spechdimaldji. This commentary originally appeared in the Washington Times on April 20.)

The Secret History of Kinalı, an Armenian Island off Constantinople

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battle he fought against the Arabs was a favorite son of the Empire. And that, as we all know, is not a good place to be in Byzantium. After various palace intrigues by his friends and enemies, his eyes were gouged out by Emperor Nikephoros, and died as a monk in a monastery he himself had built, located in the upper parts of the island.

Furthermore, it is believed that the tomb of the legendary Armenian Emperor Leo V (the Armenian Leo), who ruled Byzantium during 813-820, also known to be a rather cruel ruler himself, (to distinguish yourself as cruel among Byzantine Emperors is impressive), is also located near Vartan's monastery.

Now we get to the more recent history of the first Armenians settling on the island.

According to the author, the first settlers were Armenians from Anatolia and Constantinople who were converted to the Anglican-Protestant faith by the British between 1830 and 1850.

The author states that this was a British political plot, however, with no clear explanation as to why.

In all fairness, it was around this time that, American Missionaries started appearing in Turkey, established Robert College and countless schools in Anatolia, with the distinct purpose of converting the Muslims, failed to do so, but, along the way, succeeded in converting the Armenians.

Meanwhile, hard though it may be to believe, in the 1840s, the island was again plundered by pirates.

Around this time, according to the Ottoman archives, the first registered owner of the island was the Greek Orthodox Patriarch Joannicius III of Constantinople. It is unknown whether he purchased or inherit-

ed it. and then... here comes the best part, in the author's own words:

“But because the land registry records were either lost or didn't exist, a few shrewd Armenians, noticing this, quickly bought the lands from the Ottoman treasury.”

Easier said than done, I, personally, am impressed.

So, all in all, an interesting book on the Armenian history of the island, except that towards the end of the book, when

land for a while, but, that doesn't count, I think.

Anyway... The fact that not one noteworthy person came out from such a heavily Armenian populated place reminded me of my Godmother, a scary woman during the times when Armenian Godmothers instilled both God's and Mother's fear in you, years of observing a new generation of Armenians, smug in their ignorance, totally disconnected from their ancestors and their achievements....

Germany, had started a massive draft, my father, being caught in this hellish situation, was drafted to the army for the third time! They were living in Kinalı, and my mother had just given birth to my oldest sister, Nivart. Alone, all by herself in this hellish winter landscape of Kinalı. At that time, it so happens that historian Avram Galanti, people may google him, pretty famous in his own right, also lived in Kinalı. My mother, worried out of her mind, asks him what would happen with

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it comes to the section on famous people from the islands, I got a little depressed.

While there was a long list of notable, famous people from all three islands, none were Armenian.

How could this be? At a time of very notable Armenian Amiras, architects, writers, Nubar Pasha, Gulbenkian, Ottoman Foreign Minister Noradounkian, Finance Minister Kazazian, the Balyan architects, Hagop Baronian, Daniel Varoujan, Krikor Zohrab and even Komitas lived on the is-

land, looking straight into my eyes and saying, “Kinaliyen mart chellar!” The way she looked into my eyes when she said “mart chellar”... I was a little offended then, but, now I understand.

Footnote:

While thinking about whether or not any notable person came out of the island, a memory of my mother came to my mind. World War II had started, Turkey, fully expecting to be attacked by

the war. Galanti says “Don't worry Madame, the war will last only two weeks, the Soviets will collapse from within.” If Avram Galanti didn't make it onto the list of important people, I think I understand why after this prediction, especially considering my mother waited five years for those two weeks to end...

(Garo Gumusyan is a New York-based architect.)



Second Church Razed in Stepanakert

By Marut Vanyan

Special to the Mirror-Spectator

YEREVAN — Recently, the Armenian Mirror-Spectator reported that Stepanakert's St. Hakob Church was razed. Karabakh Armenians, upon learning of this, immediately began to express concern that the Holy Mother of God Cathedral (Sourp Asdvadzamor Hovanu maydajar), which was consecrated in December 2019, would also suffer the same fate. Unfortunately, their concern was not long in coming, and today, on April 21, reports have spread that the cathedral has been demolished.

By now, according to Artsakh Cultural Heritage Ombudsman Hovik Avanesov, more than 1,000 cases of vandalism have been recorded in Artsakh (Nagorno Karabakh).

The Artsakh Tourism and Cultural Development Agency issued a statement which states: "On the eve of the 111th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, we record that the Azerbaijani occupation administration has destroyed the Church of the Holy Mother of God in Stepanakert."

The agency goes on to write: "This is not just the demolition of a church. This is a continuation of the same policy that led to the Armenian Genocide a century ago. Today it manifests itself in new forms: as a cultural genocide and a planned process of erasure of the homeland, the goal of which is the final elimination of the Armenian historical memory, culture and spiritual presence in Artsakh. Not only buildings are being destroyed, but also the people's identity, past and right to the future."

The Azerbaijani media did not do this in a showy manner, as in the case of the par-



Worshippers at the Holy Mother of God Cathedral in Stepanakert in the recent past (photo Marut Vanyan)

liament building, when all the media outlets reported how they were demolishing evidence of what they called the separatist regime. In the case of the church, attentive Karabakh Armenians, who are familiar with all the buildings there, noticed that the videos distributed by the Azerbaijanis do not include the giant cathedral, which stood high in the center of the city and was visible from everywhere.

"We die while living. They demolished the Church of the Holy Mother of God," wrote one former Stepanakert resident on social media, like many others unable to contain the emotions this act caused.

The consecration of this church was a major event at the time. Everyone was happy that the city finally had a church where they could pray, attend services, get married, and be baptized. In the evenings, people simply strolled through the park next to the church, admiring its architecture.

But this was more than just a church, and during the wars of 2020 and 2023, when the city was mercilessly bombed, residents took refuge in its basement, relying more on God's protection than on the thick walls.

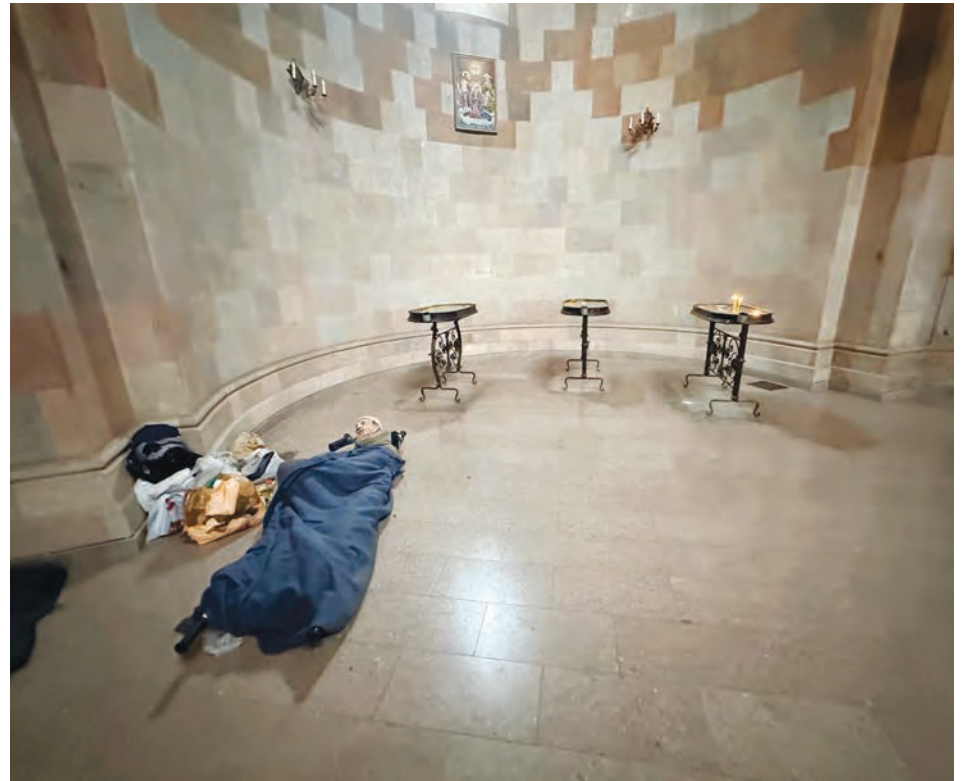
People's joy knew no bounds when someone delivered grapes to a starving city during the days of the blockade in

2023 and gave them to the locals in the churchyard. And when there wasn't bombing, the basement was turned into a movie theater and gallery, where locals watched religious films and famous photographers displayed their works.

During the 2023 blockade, it had become a more familiar place for people who had no more hope of redress from the UN, Europe, Russia, or Armenia. The only "court" left from which to demand justice was this church.

Next to the church was a military base and the National Security Service. One of my friends proudly said that she lived in the most protected neighborhood in the city. "Here is the church, which means God's protection, the military base and the National Security Service. I am triply protected," she exclaimed, proud of her neighborhood.

The Azerbaijani media loves to show new megaprojects in Nagorno-Karabakh and loves to show how Azerbaijan demolishes the parliament building, but why does it demolish churches in secret? Is it uncomfortable to show the world how bulldozers demolish a huge Christian church?



In 2023, when Stepanakert was being bombed, people who lived near the church came and took shelter in the basement of the church. Mrs. Rosa, on a stretcher, is one of them. (photo Marut Vanyan)

Tekeyan Cultural Association & UCLA Armenian Music Program's

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Prof. Movses Pogossian violin,
Ally Cho violin, Damon Zavala viola,
Niall Tarō Ferguson cello

Philadelphia
Friday, May 1, 7:30 p.m.

Co-sponsor Villanova Armenian Students' Organization
Cinema at Connelly Center
Villanova University
Tickets \$20. For more info/tickets call Vahe at 215-908-9502 or Sira at 267-902-0700

Boston
Sunday, May 3, 2 p.m.

Co-sponsor Holy Trinity Armenian Church
145 Brattle St., Cambridge, MA
Free admission.
For more info, email tcadirector@aol.com

Montreal
Friday, May 8, 8:30 p.m.

Tekeyan Armenian Community Center
825 Manoogian St.,
Ville Saint Laurent, Québec
Donation \$35, contact Tekeyan Center at 514 747-6680

Southfield, MI
Saturday, May 9, 7:00 p.m.

Co-sponsors: Saint John Armenian Church, Music Guild of St. John Armenian Church
St. John Armenian Church Cultural Hall
2001 Northwestern Hwy, Southfield, MI
Free admission. For info, email agop45@sbcglobal.net or call Diana Alexanian 248-505-6159 or Madisen Lundquist 503-758-8805

Ann Arbor, MI
Sunday, May 10, 3-5 p.m.

Co-sponsor University of Michigan Center for Armenian Studies
Helmut Stern Auditorium at the University of Michigan Museum of Art
525 S. State St., Ann Arbor, MI
Guest speakers: **Melissa Bilal, Ronald Suny, Anoush Suni.**
Free admission. For info, email armenianstudies@umich.edu

Altadena, CA
Sunday, May 17, 5 p.m.

TCA Beshgeturian Center
1901 N. Allen Ave.
Free admission. For info, email tcawestcoast@gmail.com