



ARMENIAN ASSEMBLY OF AMERICA

2022

Annual Report
Celebrating 50 Years



HEADQUARTERED IN WASHINGTON, DC, THE ARMENIAN ASSEMBLY OF AMERICA IS THE LARGEST, NON-PARTISAN ARMENIAN-AMERICAN ADVOCACY ORGANIZATION IN THE UNITED STATES.

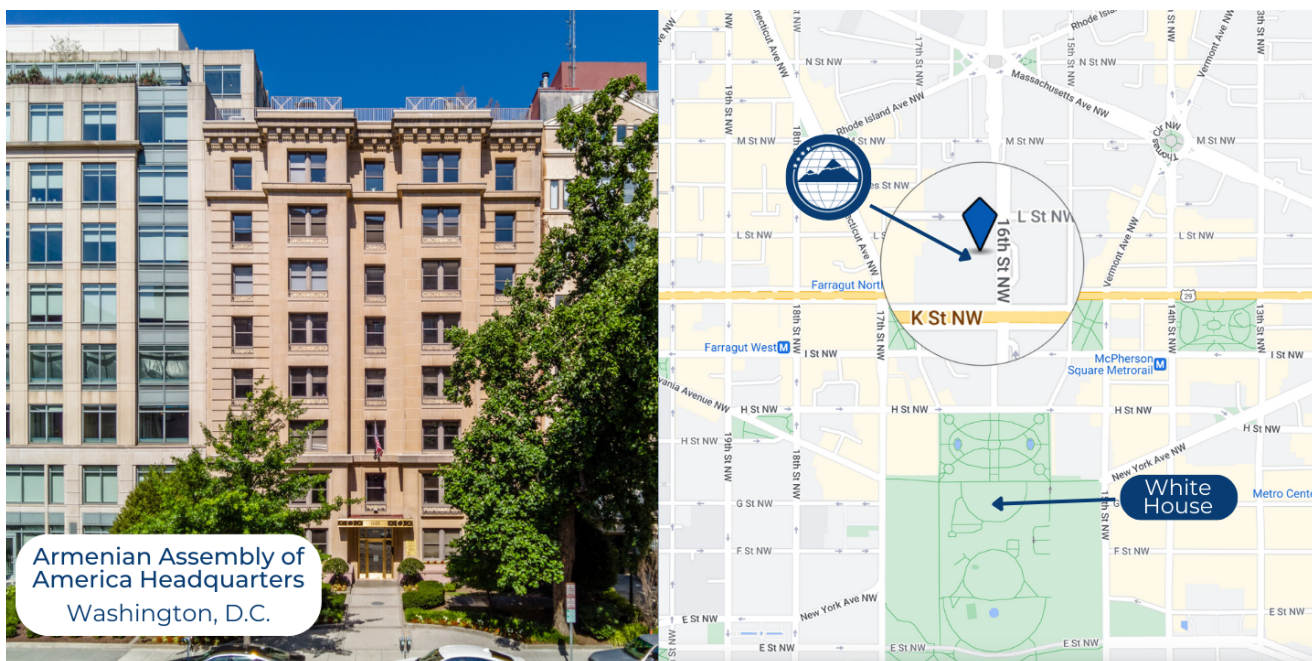
Since 1972, the Assembly promotes public awareness of Armenian issues, encourages Armenian-American participation in the American democratic process, and assists in humanitarian and development programs in Armenia and Artsakh, while strengthening the U.S.-Armenia and U.S.-Artsakh relationships.

MESSAGE FROM OUR CO-CHAIRS

The Armenian Assembly of America's milestone 50th anniversary was celebrated with memorable events organized throughout the year from coast to coast. During our gatherings, where we welcomed both new and longtime supporters, the Assembly reflected on the past five decades as the premier non-partisan voice in our nation's capital advancing key issues of concern for the Armenian people.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, we were excited to announce the acquisition of the new national headquarters for the Armenian Assembly of America at 1016 16th Street, NW, in Washington, DC, three blocks north of the White House. We hope you can visit as often as possible.

Our permanent headquarters will include space for the Armenian National Institute (ANI) and Armenian Genocide library collection, research and collaborative areas for the Assembly's and ANI's year-round interns and Terjenian-Thomas DC summer interns, meeting spaces, and office accommodations for staff, visiting members, and guests - including hosting the Legate of the Armenian Diocese and the Nagorno-Karabakh Representative.



MESSAGE FROM OUR CO-CHAIRS - CONTINUED

We thank you for your ongoing support of our important work. Advocacy, education, public awareness, and Genocide prevention - focused on Washington but reaching the world - are more critical now than ever. Together, we can all take pride in the historic passage of the Armenian Genocide Resolution in the House and Senate in 2019, followed by President Biden's April 24th statement regarding the Armenian Genocide. But we know too well the reality of the continuing threats of history repeating itself.

From our national advocacy conferences in Washington, DC, and our flagship internship programs in the nation's capital and Armenia, to our in-person and virtual events ranging from lecture series to educational panels to social events across the country, the Assembly's commitment to our mission and our work for the betterment of all Armenians remains steadfast.

Our history of results and professionalism is a point of pride for the Assembly family, and we look forward to ushering in another 50 years of dynamic work because the Armenian people need us to succeed.



Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anthony J. Barsamian".

Anthony J. Barsamian
Co-Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Van Z. Krikorian".

Van Z. Krikorian
Co-Chairman

FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Five decades ago, community leaders came together from across the United States to create an organization in Washington, D.C. to represent and address the concerns of the Armenian-American community. Fifty years later, the Armenian Assembly of America, the largest Washington-based non-partisan nationwide organization, continues to promote public understanding and awareness of Armenian issues.

The vibrant and storied history of the Assembly inspired us as we hosted events in Boston, Los Angeles, and Washington DC, bringing together our loyal supporters alongside the next generation of young and mid-career professionals who are dedicated to the Armenian cause and public service.

Our 50th anniversary was an occasion to reflect on the Assembly's achievements and aspirations, from our advocacy and our internships, to our grassroots initiatives, and media outreach.

As we look ahead to the next 50 years, the Assembly commits to building upon its impactful legacy while working alongside our community partners, and each and every one of you - our dedicated donors and supporters. Together, we will strive to continue our critical work for the benefit of the Armenian people.

BRYAN ARDOUNY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

The Armenian Assembly of America thanks each and every one of its donors who have contributed to the Assembly's mission and accomplishments over the past five decades.

During the Assembly's milestone anniversary year, the organization successfully hosted special events from Boston to Los Angeles to Washington, D.C., that brought the Armenian-American community together to reflect upon key historic moments, and lay the foundation for the future.



THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

50TH ANNIVERSARY SALUTE

WASHINGTON, D.C.

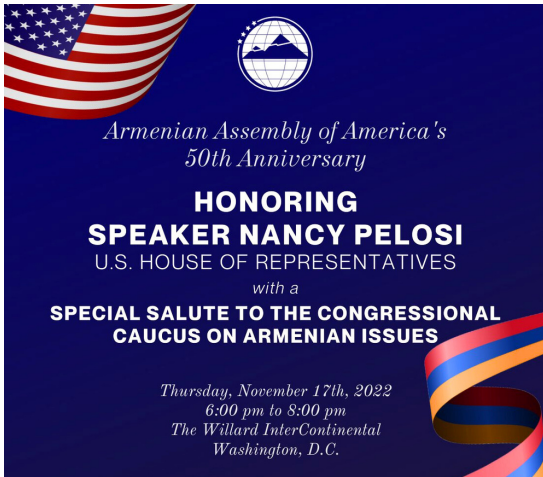


The Assembly's special event honored the **Speaker of the House of Representatives, Nancy Pelosi (D-CA)**, with the Assembly's Ambassador Henry Morgenthau Award for her strong support of and leadership on U.S. affirmation of the Armenian Genocide, as well as a salute to the bipartisan Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues, led by Reps. Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ), Gus Bilirakis (R-FL), Jackie Speier (D-CA), David Valadao (R-CA), and Adam Schiff (D-CA).

The event, which took place on Thursday, November 17, 2022, at the Willard Hotel in Washington, D.C., represented a cross-section of Armenian-American organizations and was filled with an impressive number of young and mid-career professionals.

Speaker Pelosi, who received multiple standing ovations throughout her remarks, expressed her gratitude to the Assembly for the "very distinguished honor" of receiving an award created in honor of an outstanding and heroic diplomat who courageously promoted human rights and helped save the Armenian people. Speaker Pelosi noted that it was a "privilege" to receive an award named after Ambassador Morgenthau, "who sounded the alarm on the Armenian Genocide unequivocally and without hesitation."

She thanked the Assembly Board for its "excellent leadership" and emphasized that the Assembly has been an "invaluable force for half a century in creating bonds between America and Armenia."



THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS
50TH ANNIVERSARY SALUTE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

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WITH ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FROM:

Garo Armen, Paula Boghossian, Samuel Gevorgyan, Nelli Gukasyan, and the Tufenkian Foundation.



THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

50TH ANNIVERSARY GALA LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA



The Assembly's 50th anniversary gala took place at the downtown Los Angeles Jonathan Club's outdoor "Great Lawn" on Sunday evening, June 5, 2022, where Professors Richard Hovannisian and Dennis Papazian, two prominent leaders of the Assembly, received the Distinguished Humanitarian Award, and Los Angeles's first Deputy Mayor of International Affairs, Ambassador Nina Hachigian, received the Assembly's Governor George Deukmejian Award for Public Service.

In his remarks, Dr. Hovannisian recalled the founding days of the Assembly, when he and a group of seven individuals "had a dream to bring together our very divided community, all of whom were dedicated, but none of whom knew each other."

He noted that when they all convened, they realized they had the same objectives and goals. They soon embarked on the "difficult task of bringing together our diverse community" and although there were obstacles from both inside and outside the community, such as battling genocide denial, he noted that their "objectives were furthered through the Assembly."



THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS
**50TH ANNIVERSARY GALA
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**



"What the Assembly brought to American politics was the inclusion of individuals who had never belonged to an Armenian political party or an Armenian organization, but who had done well personally and wanted to do something for the cause, without necessarily being activists themselves, but being satisfied that activists were moving on their behalf," he concluded.

In accepting his award, Dr. Papazian, who built the University of Michigan-Dearborn's Armenian Research Center's rich depository of documentation, publications, periodicals, audio-visual collections, and oral histories of Armenian Genocide survivors, where it now serves as an international center for scholars and students, looked back on his tenure as Director of the Assembly and noted that "a couple of months turned into three years," namely because of the "enthusiasm of the Steering Committee to make the organization work."

"What I discovered back then was if you want to be successful, you can't worry about who gets credit," he said. "By working together, we all succeed and can lead Armenians onto a more glorious future."



THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

50TH ANNIVERSARY GALA LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA



Ambassador Hachigian shared that her professional life and her Armenian identity merged in the last few years due to her current role as the City of Los Angeles' first Deputy Mayor of International Affairs, the tragic war in Artsakh, and the Armenian Assembly of America.

"The leadership at the Assembly made me realize I may be able to play a small role," she said.

"The American people elected a president who finally stated the truth about the Armenian Genocide and his staff remains deeply engaged in Armenia."

Ambassador Hachigian conveyed that multiple generations worked hard to establish a foundation for the Assembly and looked towards the future as Armenia continues to face its fair share of challenges.

"We should never take the existence of a homeland for granted," she noted. "The work of the diaspora is to strengthen the homeland as much as possible, and while the transition to democracy is not easy, the main task is to keep looking out for the future of our motherland, and no group is better placed to do that than the Armenian Assembly of America."





THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS
50TH ANNIVERSARY GALA
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

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 Gloria Deukmejian
 Vigen & Dr. Houry Ghazarian
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50TH ANNIVERSARY GALA
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA



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 Dr. Vahe & Dr. Armine Meghrouni
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THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS
HONORING GAIL TALANIAN O'REILLY
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS



The Assembly honored community leader and Assembly Board Member and Life Trustee, Gail Talanian O'Reilly, with its Distinguished Humanitarian Award on Thursday, May 19, 2022, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Peter Koutoujian, Sheriff of Middlesex County, Mass., and a former member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives served as master of ceremonies, while Judge Gabrielle Wolohojian, Associate Justice on the Massachusetts Appeals court, served as the guest speaker. She highlighted the Armenian Assembly of America's flagship Terjenian-Thomas Internship Program and how it provided her with the opportunity to participate in public service in Washington, D.C., and see how government agencies work.

O'Reilly expressed her appreciation for receiving the honor and thanked the audience for its support of the Assembly. She elaborated on her connection to Armenia, which began in 1991 during a trip to the homeland with the Assembly. She emphasized that the trip changed her life, giving her a vision and ideas on how to help create a thriving Armenia and support its people to succeed.



THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS
HONORING GAIL TALANIAN O'REILLY
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS



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 Gail Talanian O'Reilly & Richard O'Reilly
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 Peter & Irene Vosbikian*

*Edward & Susan Atamian
 Dr. Jirayr & Annie Balikian
 Dr. Ernest Barsamian & Sonig Kradjian
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 Deborah Talanian
 Anthony & Laurie Travia
 Kenneth Tutunjian
 Jacqui Mimo
 Florence Wolohojian
 Arthur and Stacey Waugh*

CONGRESSIONAL & ADVOCACY

01

Armenia

The final report language states that the "agreement includes not less than \$60,000,000 for Armenia, including programs to support economic development, private sector productivity, energy independence, democracy, and the rule of law."

02

Artsakh

The agreement provides \$2,000,000 for "humanitarian demining and unexploded ordnance clearance activities in areas affected" by the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

03

Conflict Resolution

The final report also endorsed the U.S. House of Representatives adopted language on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, which states in part: "The Committee remains concerned about the humanitarian impact of the conflict in the Nagorno-Karabakh and resulting challenges in the areas of housing, food security, water and sanitation, health care and other human needs."

04

National Defense Authorization Act

Condemns the "September violations of the November 9, 2020 ceasefire agreement between Armenia and Azerbaijan," and called for the return of all POWs and the "immediate release of all captured civilians." The NDAA requires a "report on Azerbaijan" which includes "an assessment of the use of United States weapons systems or controlled technology that were employed;" as well as "a description of the foreign actors" and efforts to "recruit" foreign fighters in the Fall 2020 war and "any violations" of the November 9, 2020 trilateral statement, including the "continued detention of prisoners of war."

CONGRESSIONAL & ADVOCACY HIGHLIGHTS



CONGRESSIONAL LETTERS TO ADMINISTRATION

LETTER TO ENSURE SECURITY OF ARTSAKH

Congressman Adam Schiff (D-CA), Vice-Chair of the Congressional Caucus for Armenian Issues, spearheaded a letter signed by 29 Members of Congress, requesting President Biden to break Azerbaijan's blockade of Artsakh, cut off U.S. assistance to Azerbaijan, and send U.S. humanitarian aid to Artsakh.

The letter condemns Azerbaijan's blockade of the Lachin Corridor, the lifeline connecting Artsakh to Armenia, and, by extension, to the outside world. The blockade was imposed by the Aliyev regime on December 12, 2022, and has affected 120,000 Armenians - including 30,000 children - who are without access to food, medical supplies, transport, and other essential goods, ultimately "depriving them of their right to free movement."

The letter emphasizes that "Azerbaijan is once again weaponizing basic human necessities to further degrade already strained living conditions for the Armenians living in Artsakh," and if the situation continues, "a humanitarian crisis with potentially tragic consequences is imminent."

In addition, Azerbaijan's actions are a "direct violation of the trilateral ceasefire agreement of November 9, 2020, which outlines an obligation to guarantee the secure movement of citizens, vehicles, and cargo in both directions through this route known as the Lachin Corridor."

The letter concluded: "We urge the United States to use all tools at its disposal to ensure the safety of the people of Artsakh, now and in the future, including cessation of financial support to Azerbaijan and imposition of sanctions. We cannot allow Azerbaijan's policy of aggression and intimidation to continue."

APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST LETTER

A bipartisan letter to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs, spearheaded by Congressional Armenian Caucus Co-Chair Rep. Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ) and cosigned by over 60 Members of Congress, called for a robust aid package to Artsakh and Armenia in the Fiscal Year 2023 House Appropriations Bill.

In the letter, the lawmakers call for \$100 million in security, economic, governance, and rule of law assistance to Armenia through State Department and USAID accounts, \$50 million for assistance to Artsakh, and the suspension of U.S. military aid to Azerbaijan.

The Assembly reinforced the Armenian Caucus request with congressional testimony, reiterating its strong support for a robust U.S. aid package to Artsakh and Armenia with \$50 million in humanitarian assistance to Artsakh, \$100 million to Armenia, and the suspension of U.S. military aid to Azerbaijan.

GENOCIDE EDUCATION

Representatives Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) and Gus Bilirakis (R-FL) introduced bipartisan legislation that would facilitate the Library of Congress to enhance education and awareness of the Armenian Genocide and allocate \$2 million per year for five years to enable this initiative.

The Armenian Genocide Education Act will provide for the development and national dissemination of accurate, relevant, and accessible resources to promote understanding of how and why the Armenian Genocide happened, including public access to digital resources.

CONGRESSIONAL & ADVOCACY HIGHLIGHTS

H. RES. 1400

Congresswoman Jackie Speier (D-CA) introduced H.Res.1400 with Reps. Adam Schiff (D-CA), Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ), and Anna Eshoo (D-CA) condemning the Republic of Azerbaijan's atrocities and war crimes on Armenia, Artsakh, and the Armenian people.

The Resolution states that the U.S. House of Representatives "condemns Azerbaijan's destabilizing actions, including the commission of war crimes, which undermine the international rule of law," and encourages the U.S. government and the global community to petition the International Court of Justice and the European Court of Human Rights "to take appropriate steps to investigate any and all war crimes committed by the Azerbaijani forces at the direction of President Ilham Aliyev." The Resolution also calls on Azerbaijan to "immediately investigate all grave violations of the Geneva Conventions perpetrated by Azerbaijani service members against Armenian service members and civilians," and "condemns the intentional or reckless destruction, vandalization, or desecration of all Armenian cultural and religious heritage sites."

S. RES. 797

The Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee (SFRC) Senator Bob Menendez (D-NJ) introduced bipartisan resolution S.Res.797 with SFRC Member Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL), condemning Azerbaijan's illegal and unprovoked assault on sovereign Armenia territory and ending security assistance to the Aliyev regime.

The Senators stated that Azerbaijan's "attack on Armenian territory and the Armenian people follows a long pattern of aggression, including during the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War," alongside Azerbaijan's continued holding of over 100 Armenian POWs and civilian prisoners hostage. The Resolution also urges Azerbaijan to uphold the territorial integrity of Armenia, calls upon the U.S. Department of State to fulfill all statutorily mandated reporting requirements for the evaluation of U.S. assistance to Azerbaijan, and promotes robust humanitarian assistance for populations impacted by Azerbaijan's aggressive actions.

H. RES. 1351

Congressman Adam Schiff (D-CA), along with Frank Pallone Jr. (D-NJ), Gus Bilirakis (R-FL), Jackie Speier (D-CA), and David Valadao (R-CA), introduced bipartisan legislation, H.Res.1351, calling for an "immediate and unconditional ceasefire," and for "all assistance to Azerbaijan to be immediately ceased."

"Azerbaijan's actions are in flagrant violation of Armenia's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and international law and represent a further escalation of the Azeri aggression, which has continued unabated since the November 2020 tripartite statement signed by Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Russia to end the Nagorno-Karabakh war," the Resolution stated. The U.S. House of Representatives "stands firmly in support of our democratic partner Armenia's sovereignty and territorial integrity and against Azerbaijan's military aggression and blatant violations of international laws and norms."

CONGRESSIONAL & ADVOCACY HIGHLIGHTS

GAO REPORT ON SECTION 907

Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ), Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, released a report by the Government Accounting Office (GAO) in March of 2022 which found that, “the State Department failed to comply with reporting requirements for reviewing U.S. assistance to the Government of Azerbaijan.”

Further, according to Chairman Menendez, the GAO report “found that over several years, the Department of State and Department of Defense failed to meet statutory reporting requirements to Congress on the impact of U.S. assistance on the military balance between Armenia and Azerbaijan.”

LETTER TO SECRETARIES OF STATE AND DEFENSE

A bipartisan letter, spearheaded by Congressional Armenian Caucus Co-Chairs Reps. Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ) and Gus Bilirakis (R-FL), addressed to Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin and Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken in February of 2022, rejecting the recent proposal by Turkey to purchase Block 70 F-16 fighter jets as well as mechanical upgrades to F-16s from the United States.

The letter states in part: "Approving this proposal would reward President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan for ignoring both Turkey's alliance commitments to the United States and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the vast human rights abuses his regime continues to commit at home and abroad."

ADVOCACY & GRASSROOTS

In July of 2022, Mariam Khaloyan, the Director of Congressional Relations, traveled to Artsakh to evaluate the region's requirements and circumstances following the 2020 war that inflicted grievous harm on the Armenian population.



The ICC engages with persecuted families during humanitarian crises and provide vital support.

Khaloyan met in Stepanakert with the International Christian Concern (ICC), a human rights organization that is helping families amidst the current humanitarian crisis. Khaloyan and ICC representatives discussed the importance of therapy for those who are trying to adjust after the brutal war that claimed the lives of soldiers and civilians, destroyed infrastructure, and displaced thousands of residents.

Khaloyan also met with The HALO Trust, where she was briefed on the current conditions of post-ceasefire challenges relative to unexploded ordnance and demining clearance operations in the remaining areas of Artsakh. A field visit to the Martuni province's Nengi village offered Khaloyan the chance to witness demining operations firsthand alongside HALO team members.



The HALO Trust focuses on clearing cluster munitions and other unexploded ordnance from densely populated areas, ensuring the safety of the remaining population and returning previously displaced families.

Khaloyan also met with Artsakh's Human Rights Ombudsman Gegham Stepanyan, covering an array of pressing matters central to the welfare of Armenians residing in Artsakh. The conversation encompassed the ongoing humanitarian crisis, resulting in the internal displacement of approximately 40,000 Armenians. Presently, diasporan organizations like the Hayastan All-Armenian Fund are gathering funds to ensure proper housing and offer assistance to those who have been displaced, especially school-aged children.

ADVOCACY & GRASSROOTS

Louisiana



In March, community leader Vasken Kaltakdjian held educational meetings on Armenia, Artsakh and U.S.-Armenia relations with Reps Graves and Scalise, and Senators Cassidy and Kennedy. Archbishop Vicken Aykazian, Bryan Ardouny, and Mihran Toumajan also briefed the Armenian community on the importance of grassroots advocacy across Louisiana at St. Garabed Armenian Church of Baton Rouge.

Arizona

In September, Karekin and Zhanet Kaprelian hosted Ardouny, Toumajan, and Assembly members for a briefing on Azerbaijan's unprovoked invasion of Syunik, Vayots Dzor, and Gegharkunik. A grassroots informational session was also hosted at St. Apkar Armenian Apostolic Church of Scottsdale, featuring representatives of the Melikian Center at Arizona State University.



Washington, D.C.



The "Salute to Artsakh" event marking Artsakh's independence took place on Capitol Hill in September. Remarks were delivered by Artsakh Foreign Minister, David Babayan, and Reps Pallone Jr., Schiff, Chu, Costa, and Cicilline. Prayers were led by Rev. Fr. Aktavoukian, pastor of the Soorp Khatch Church, and Rev. Fr. Karapetyan, pastor of the St. Mary's Armenian Church, with remarks from former Congressional staffer Tadeh Issakhanian.

Michigan

In November, Ardouny briefed Assembly members and friends in Michigan on the latest developments in Armenia, on U.S.-Armenia relations, and on the Assembly's assessment of the forthcoming 118th Congress. The meeting was hosted by the Hagopian family and held at Hagopian World of Rugs in Birmingham, Michigan.



Massachusetts



The Assembly hosted a Regional Meeting in Boston in November, featuring a conversation with Ambassador Edward Djerejian, Senior Fellow at Harvard Kennedy School's Middle East Initiative, and Assembly President Carolyn Mugar.

INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS

The Armenian Assembly's Financial Aid Directory, first produced in 1982, continues to serve as a resource for college students to identify scholarships and other forms of assistance. The Armenian Assembly remains committed to promoting education and encouraging Armenian youth to pursue higher learning.

The Assembly's flagship, annual Terjenian-Thomas Summer Internship Program in Washington, D.C., and its Armenia Internship Program in Yerevan, also offer scholarships to college students interested in these programs.

Both summer programs provide college students of Armenian descent an opportunity to experience the two nations' capitals and take part in a full schedule of educational, cultural, volunteering, networking, and social activities throughout the eight-week duration of their internships.

Students who are accepted into the Washington, D.C. program, currently in its 45th year, are assisted with internship placements in several occupations in congressional offices, think tanks, media organizations, and governmental agencies. Participants also have the opportunity to meet Members of Congress, noted academics, and other leaders through the Assembly's Capitol Ideas and Lecture Series programs.

Students admitted into the Yerevan Internship Program, presently in its 23rd year, have interned with Armenian governmental offices, NGOs, think tanks, museums, media outlets, medical centers, and law firms. Over the course of eight weeks, participants experience life in their ancestral homeland, tour historical sites in Armenia, meet with officials, and even volunteer over one weekend to help build a home in collaboration with Habitat for Humanity.

Further information about the Assembly's summer internship programs can be found on our website [**www.aaainc.org/students**](http://www.aaainc.org/students)

INTERN SPOTLIGHT

2022 TERJENIAN-THOMAS INTERNSHIP PROGRAM & ARMENIA INTERNSHIP PROGRAM



The Armenian Assembly of America marked another successful summer welcoming students from around the country for its Terjenian-Thomas Internship Program in Washington DC, where they participated in various high-profile placements, from governmental departments to embassies and federal legislative offices.

The Terjenian-Thomas Internship Program provides students a closer look into the way government functions, particularly on Capitol Hill.

"We learned about the importance of grassroots support for Armenian issues," said Bettina Saraydaroglu, who served as the Assembly's Summer Intern Coordinator. The George Washington University rising senior, who is studying International Affairs and Geography, noted the "impact" of being an advocate for Armenia and Artsakh.



INTERN SPOTLIGHT



The Assembly's flagship Terjenian-Thomas Internship Program, which marks its 45th year, along with its sister Yerevan Internship Program, is comprised of meetings with elected officials, as well as with leaders and experts who work in government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and the mass media. Over the last four decades, the Assembly has welcomed over 1,200 students and secured placements for them in high-profile roles, including with congressional offices, government departments, media outlets, think tanks, and nonprofit organizations in Washington DC, and Yerevan.

This year's intern class included: Louisa Bayburtian, Armenian Assembly of America; Peter Chelebian, Center for Immigration Studies; Jack Dunkerley, U.S. International Development Finance Corporation; Lucas Eskigian, Office of Senator Bill Cassidy (R-LA); Elen Hovhannisyan, Embassy of the Republic of Armenia; Gagik Hovhannisyan, Embassy of the Republic of Armenia; Lily Kalandjian, Office of Representative Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL); Lilia Karapetyan, Armenian Assembly of America; Elena Martinez, U.S. Department of Treasury; Bettina Saraydaroglu, Armenian Assembly of America; and Alis Tokatlioglu, Armenian American Cultural Association, Inc.

ARMENIAN NATIONAL INSTITUTE

For an institute dedicated to the study, research, and affirmation of the Armenian Genocide, the resurgent threat against the Armenian people, especially the population of Nagorno-Karabakh, was a reminder that the past contained lessons that could not be ignored in the present. The Armenian National Institute (ANI) had been created by the Armenian Assembly as an express statement of its commitment to securing the historical record through official acknowledgment by the United States. While that objective had finally been achieved, the reality of existential threats against the Armenian people remained current and the humanitarian crisis unfolding in Nagorno Karabakh was all too reminiscent of the preconditions that had paved the path toward genocide in 1915.

Just at the moment of seeming fulfillment of its mission, that very purpose was re-enforced by the necessity of continuing to preserve the historic record on the Armenian Genocide not just for its own reasons but as a continuing reminder that current developments in the Caucasus were the result of the exploitation of the same vulnerabilities that had imperiled the Armenian people at the beginning of the 20th century. The goal of education was always the obligation of prevention.



With that necessity in mind, ANI undertook a major expansion of its website, its primary interface with the public to sustain the currency of this significant resource for use by mainstream agencies as the site is continuously consulted globally by educators, scholars, parliamentarians and other officials, the media, and the general public. The site registered increased usage with 4.3 million hits in 2022 and has been visited over 75 million times since inception.

ARMENIAN NATIONAL INSTITUTE

As the freely accessible ANI site (www.armenian-genocide.org) remains the leading source of comprehensive information on the Armenian Genocide, with its 3,000 pages of data, the ANI website presently holds over 800 affirmation records from around the world, an inventory of 331 Armenian Genocide memorials across 45 countries, and identifies hundreds of relevant pioneering publications, multimedia resources and model curricula for human rights and genocide education.

The interactive online site, Armenian Genocide Museum of America (AGMA), that ANI also maintains, and whose galleries were enriched with additional visual records, continues to serve as another major resource, especially for educators, much as the Spanish, Turkish, and Arabic versions of the ANI site are tapped by population across the Americas and the Middle East. Thirty-three thousand viewers explored www.armeniangenocidemuseum.org, while 55,000 visited the translated sites in 2022 alone.



Parallel to the expansion of its online resources, ANI continues to collaborate with individuals and organizations dedicated to advancing public education on the Armenian Genocide. As pandemic-era restrictions eased, this has increasingly included in-person lectures and discussions. For example, Dr. Adalian was a featured presenter at the September 17, 2022, symposium at Georgetown University dedicated to the Centennial of the Burning of Smyrna where he addressed the topic of "American Witnesses in Peacetime and Wartime," and the symposium was given extensive coverage in the Greek and Greek-American media.

As the Armenian Assembly noted its 50th anniversary in 2022 in celebrations across the country, ANI also took stock of its 25 years of service by inviting newly elected members Archbishop Vicken Aykazian, Dr. Armen Baibourtian, and Mark Malkasian to join serving board members Van Z. Krikorian, chairman, Bianka Kadian Dodov, Carolyn Mugar, and Annie Simonian Totah, who guide the institute. Dr. Rouben Adalian continued as ANI director with Robert Arzoumanian as assistant to the director.

ARMENIA TREE PROJECT

Founded by Carolyn Mugar in 1994, with the help of generous supporters, a dedicated team of professionals, volunteers, and fellow environmentalists, ATP has successfully planted over 7 million trees and greened over 1,300 communities in Armenia and Artsakh, while employing thousands of people, including local villagers who are often seasonal workers.

ATP has made enormous strides on the environmental education front, teaching over 40,000 students and teachers about lessons on the environment, in-person and virtually. In the past two years, ATP has planted over 400,000 trees, harvested 2 million pounds of fruit, and distributed almost 10,000 fruit trees.

ATP is revitalizing and engaging communities as a result of its work, even though it lost 14 Community Tree Planting Sites in Artsakh during the war. The organization, however, has once again mobilized in Artsakh since the 44-day war and has developed a social and economic rehabilitation program for villagers from the hard-hit areas of Martuni and Askeran in Artsakh. They are providing rural villagers with small greenhouses since many villagers lost farmland during the war. ATP is partnering with Green Lane NGO, which trains farmers in growing, packaging, and marketing vegetables for sale in local marketplaces. ATP is also establishing a nursery in Stepanakert, which will be located on the grounds of the Stepanakert Botanical Gardens, where locals will be employed to run the nursery.



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LOOKING AHEAD

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Renew your membership, become a new member, or gift a membership to a friend by scanning the QR code with your mobile device now.

WHERE WILL YOUR GIFT GO?

Thanks to your membership, funds will go towards the Armenian Assembly of America's programs, advocacy efforts, awareness, and education.



Some examples include:

- Investing in the next generation with our summer internship programs in Washington, D.C. and Armenia
- Supporting U.S. assistance to Artsakh and Armenia
- Strengthening U.S.-Armenia and U.S.-Artsakh relations
- Promoting genocide prevention and education
- Advancing democracy-building assistance for Armenia
- Providing a comprehensive source of news and information through weekly circulation of www.Armenia360.com

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*We thank you for your continued support
of our efforts of advocacy and outreach.*

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The Armenian Assembly of America is independently audited and practices good governance principles.

