

2018 REVIEW



ARMENIAN ASSEMBLY OF AMERICA



HIGHLIGHTS

ARMENIA'S DEMOCRACY

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES CO-CHAIRS ANTHONY BARSAMIAN AND VAN KRIKORIAN

The Armenian Assembly of America's non-partisan approach and support for democracy was enhanced in 2018 as we witnessed a watershed moment in Armenia's history with the remarkable democratic transformation that took place. A democratic Armenia is something in which Armenians across the world take great pride. It is also a cornerstone of the Assembly's work in encouraging, supporting, and fostering the rule of law and good governance in Armenia – whether it was establishing an NGO civil society training center, partnering with the League of Women Voters to help train leaders, or holding educational lectures for university students.

RESULTS ON CAPITOL HILL

To encourage greater community activism, we held major events in Philadelphia and in Washington, D.C., along with local briefings across the country. Our Internship programs are as vibrant as ever and stand as a testament – 47 years strong – to the Assembly's commitment to train the next generation of leaders.

COMMUNITY & GRASSROOTS

Our strategy for more effective advocacy expanded the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues, exposed the undue and surreptitious influence of the Turkish and Azeri governments, and urged Members to withdraw from the Turkish and Azeri Caucuses. We also continue to hear great feedback, in particular about our National Advocacy Conference, which demonstrated our community's political strength and resolve. In one day, we had over 100 meetings on Capitol Hill, and delivered results with new Members on the Armenian Caucus, more co-sponsors on the Armenian Genocide resolution, and more visibility of our issues. We intend to build on that enthusiasm with more in the future.

ARMENIAN NATIONAL INSTITUTE

We recognize that this critically important work does not happen in a vacuum and would especially like to thank our growing national network of State Chairs, members, donors, and friends for your tireless efforts and generous support. Together, we achieved results. We know that 2019 will be no exception as we seek additional assistance for Armenia to solidify the gains made, as well as promote new opportunities for trade and investment, increase assistance for minority communities at risk, and defend the citizens of Artsakh, all while remembering and honoring the past through universal affirmation of the Armenian Genocide. As a new Congress begins in 2019, we are prioritizing passage of the Armenian Genocide Resolution to keep the record straight.

TURKISH & AZERI LOBBY EXPOSED

We look forward to meeting the challenges ahead and hope that we can count on you to make 2019 our best year yet.

SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS

ARMENIAN ASSEMBLY WELCOMES ARMENIA'S DEMOCRATIC TRANSFORMATION



"There was a remarkable change in Armenia and at the ballot box on December 9. The way Armenia conducts itself going forward has changed, and we have the Armenian citizens and their political will for a fully free, just, and equal nation to thank. The Parliamentary elections marked an important step forward towards establishing a stronger and more robust democratic framework for Armenia, which stands in sharp contrast to the bordering hostile nations of Azerbaijan and Turkey whose governments' corruption and unjust imprisonment of journalists worsen by the day. Armenia represents hope, and the Armenian Assembly of America will do everything in its capacity to foster this courageous optimism and work with the United States Government to strengthen not only the hope but the prosperity of Armenia."

Co-Chairmen Anthony Barsamian and Van Krikorian

This new democracy is ready for new responsibilities and new opportunities.

VELVET REVOLUTION

Demonstrations began in March 2018, but it wasn't until April 21 when as many as 50,000 people joined the protest movement in Yerevan, and spread across the country.

U.S. Ambassador to Armenia Richard Mills praised Armenian police as well as the protesters led by Nikol Pashinyan for avoiding bloodshed during their standoff that led to the resignation of Prime Minister Serzh Sargsyan.

Time Magazine named Pashinyan as one of its four "Crusaders Who Are Keeping the Dream of Democracy Alive."



PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS

Through free, fair, and transparent parliamentary elections, the citizens of Armenia consolidated gains secured through peaceful protests for change in April 2018. The people demonstrated democracy in action, as the world witnessed the successful transition of power culminating in December's "snap" elections.

According to election results, Nikol Pashinyan's My Step Alliance won 70.1% of the votes; the Prosperous Armenia Party won 8.2%; and Bright Armenia won 6.3%.



INTERNATIONAL PRAISE

United States President Donald Trump, the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Congress, and the U.S. Embassy in Armenia congratulated Armenia and its people over the freedom and equity of the December Parliamentary election.

"Democracy cannot proceed without trust, so I am pleased that broad public trust was the central characteristic of this election," said Peter Osusky, Special Coordinator and leader of the short-term Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) observer mission to Armenia.



RESULTS ON CAPITOL HILL



- More than **200** meetings on Capitol Hill in 2018, including many in-District discussions
- 36** additional Members join Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues during 115th Congress
- 20** Members from Turkish Caucus and **6** Members from Azerbaijani Caucus withdrew, retired, or did not win re-election by the end of the 115th Congress



President Trump signed the Iraq and Syria Genocide Emergency Relief and Accountability Act, providing emergency relief to survivors of genocide in Iraq and Syria and accountability for the perpetrators of these crimes; signing ceremony attended by Armenian Church of America (Eastern Diocese) Diocesan Legate Archbishop Vicken Aykazian



- 124** co-sponsors for H.Res.220, a resolution affirming the Armenian Genocide, introduced by Rep. Dave Trott (R-MI)

- Over **100** Members of Congress urged President Donald Trump to reaffirm the U.S. record on the Armenian Genocide

- U.S. Senators introduced a bill demanding Turkey end the unjust detention of an American citizen



- Members of Congress and Senators mourned the victims and commemorated the 103rd Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, the 30th anniversary of the Spitak Earthquake, and the 30th Anniversary of anti-Armenian pogroms in Sumgait, Azerbaijan

- Armenian Caucus Leaders urged U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to enhance the U.S.-Armenia Joint Economic Task Force (USATF)

- Armenian Genocide reaffirmation, Armenia's Democratic reforms, and Artsakh's safety among issues raised by Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ) and Senator Ed Markey (D-MA) to Ambassadorial nominees Lynne Tracy to Armenia and Earle Litzenberger to Azerbaijan

MAKING OUR VOICES HEARD

NATIONAL ADVOCACY CONFERENCE



Hundreds of guests hailing from across the U.S. attended the Armenian Assembly of America's National Advocacy Conference & Gala in our nation's capital.

The week kicked off with a reception for the sponsors at The Kreeger Museum, which featured Arshile Gorky paintings. The next day was the Conference, which featured a panel discussion on Christians at-risk in the Middle East with experts in the field, moderated by Archbishop Vicken Aykazian; a luncheon presentation on the results of the 2018 Smithsonian Folklife Festival; a featured presentation about American humanitarian intervention in Armenia's first republic; and an advocacy training and briefing.

The next day, Armenian American activists from 15 states held over 100 meetings on Capitol Hill, discussing key issues

of concern from the watershed democratic developments in Armenia and affirmation of the Armenian Genocide to Azerbaijan's incessant and deadly cease-fire violations and Turkey and Azerbaijan's dual blockades, among other issues.

As a result of these meetings, more Members joined the Armenian Caucus and co-sponsored a bipartisan resolution which affirms the Armenian Genocide. Additionally, several

Members withdrew from the Turkish and Azerbaijani Caucuses.

In the evening, everyone came together to honor Annie Simonian Totah for her 40 years of advocacy for the betterment of Armenia, Artsakh, and U.S.-Armenia relations. Former presidential speechwriter Aram Bakshian was the Master of Ceremonies, with a beautiful performance by Smithsonian dancer Milena Oganesyan. Special guests included Senator Edward J. Markey, Senator Chris Van Hollen, House Democratic Whip Rep. Steny Hoyer, Rep. Frank Pallone, Jr., and Rep. John Sarbanes.



ADVOCATING FOR ARMENIA AND ARTSAKH



The Assembly submitted testimony before the Senate and House Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee, which called for not less than \$40 million in economic assistance and not less than \$10 million in military assistance (Foreign Military Financing and International Military Education Training) to Armenia. The Assembly urged for enhanced

assistance to Christian and other minority communities in the Middle East. The testimony educated Members on the nearly 25,000 refugees settling

in Armenia and urged the allocation of \$20 million to support Armenia's efforts to serve as a regional safe haven for refugees. The Assembly also urged not less than \$8 million for Artsakh and \$4 million to implement enhanced monitoring of cease-fire violations along the line of contact.

COMMUNITY & GRASSROOTS

STATE CHAIRS

The Assembly has new State Chairs across the U.S.

Maryland - Armineh Ghazarian

New York - Narek Sevacheryan

New Jersey - Nicholas Testa and Samantha Testa

South Carolina - Richard "Dick" Harpootlian



ARMENIA 360

The Armenian Assembly launched the website "Armenia 360" (www.armenia360.com), a wide-ranging source of news and information, with lists of major institutions and foundations, to help meet a significant need for Armenians. The site highlights major news developments and relevant links. Weekly news articles are provided by email to Armenian Assembly members.



In partnership with St. Apkar Armenian Church of Scottsdale, Arizona, the Armenian Assembly was pleased to co-sponsor Scottsdale Community College's annual Genocide Awareness Week in 2018, during which former U.S. Ambassador to Armenia, John Evans, served as keynote speaker.

AWARDS IN 2018

- Annie Simonian Totah was honored with the Assembly's Distinguished Humanitarian Award at the 2018 National Advocacy Conference & Gala
- Peter and Irene Vosbikian were honored with the Assembly's Global Humanitarian Award at the Philadelphia Celebration
- Clara Andonian and Doris George were honored for their decades of hard work "In Appreciation of Extraordinary Commitment and Unwavering Support" of the Armenian Assembly
- Yeretsgin Anahid Kalayjian was awarded the Assembly's "Volunteer of the Year"



COMMUNITY & GRASSROOTS

ARMENIAN CULTURE SHOWCASED IN THE UNITED STATES

Americans from across the country experienced Armenian culture at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival featuring "Armenia: Creating Home" on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. and the "Armenial" Exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City.

2018 Smithsonian Folklife Festival

"It was clear that we had the largest attendance that we had in a couple of years," Smithsonian Folklife Festival Director Sabrina Lynn Motley told the Armenian Assembly. "With the Armenian Assembly of America, we had a wonderful partner and supporter who believed in the vision of the Folklife Festival," Motley added.



Assembly President Carolyn Mugar gave remarks during the Folklife Festival opening reception, which was sponsored by the Armenian Assembly and Armenia Tree Project (ATP). In conjunction with the Festival, chef Carrie Nahabedian created an Armenian-inspired dinner experience, which quickly sold out, with proceeds donated to ATP, part of the Armenian Assembly family.

Terjenian-Thomas Assembly Internship Program participant Tamar Barsamian interned at the Smithsonian Institution Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, where she worked on the participant staff team of the Festival.

Smithsonian Director of Special Projects Halle Butvin made a special presentation on the Folklife Festival during the National Advocacy Conference, where she shared insights and anecdotes. She presented an exclusive first-look video, comprised of interviews from the Armenian participants and guests.



ARMENIA TREE PROJECT

ATP was established in 1994 by Armenian Assembly President Carolyn Mugar as a project of the Assembly. Since then, ATP has made enormous strides in combating desertification in the biologically diverse but threatened Caucasus region. Over 5.7 million trees have been planted and restored in Armenia and Artsakh, and hundreds of jobs have been created for Armenians in seasonal tree-related programs.

In 2018, ATP planted 257,910 trees. As in previous years, participants of the Armenian Assembly's Summer Internship Program in Armenia toured ATP's Karin Nursery and planted seedlings, as seen in the photo.

The Met "Armenia!" Exhibition

The Met recorded over 250,000 visitors to the "Armenial" exhibit, with even more views on its website which has an interactive map of Armenians in the Medieval World (still accessible online).

The Assembly hosted a luncheon at The Met, which featured remarks by The Met's President and CEO Daniel H. Weiss, "Armenia!" exhibit curator Dr. Helen Evans, and Armenia's newly appointed Ambassador to the United States, the Honorable Varuzhan Nersesyan.



Following the luncheon, guests were given a special tour of the "Armenia!" exhibition by the catalogue contributor Dr. Rachel Goshgarian, who is also an intern alumna of the Terjenian-Thomas Assembly Internship Program.



ARMENIAN NATIONAL INSTITUTE

Founded in 1997, the Armenian National Institute (ANI) is a 501(c)(3) educational charity based in Washington, D.C., and is dedicated to the study, research, and affirmation of the Armenian Genocide. ANI's informational website is available in both English (www.armenian-genocide.org) and Turkish (www.turkish.armenian-genocide.org), and registered over **7.5 million unique hits in 2018**.

New Digital Exhibit

A 24-panel digital exhibit displays the role of the YMCA and American relief work during the first republic of Armenia. The digital exhibit focuses on John Elder and James O. Arroll who arrived in Yerevan in January 1918 to open a YMCA center, and provide much-needed humanitarian aid to Armenians. The exhibit was welcomed by the American YMCA.

The Armenian National Institute's YMCA exhibit was displayed in Yerevan in the summer of 2018. It also was displayed at the American Corner in Gyumri, and in Stepanakert, Artsakh.

To access the digital exhibit, visit:

www.armenian-genocide.org/files/american_relief.pdf



James O. Arroll (left) and John Elder (right)



"This exhibition captures the spirit of the American people's affinity for Armenia and the Armenian people. From those first YMCA volunteers to the more than 1,000 Peace Corps volunteers who have followed in their stead, the American people have been working side-by-side with the Armenian people to overcome turmoil and challenge in pursuit of continued peace and friendship between our two nations."

U.S. Ambassador to Armenia Richard M. Mills, Jr.



ANI Director Dr. Rouben Adalian presented the exhibit at the Armenian Assembly's 2018 National Advocacy Conference and provided details about the American volunteers' life-saving work throughout the past century in Armenia. Dr. Adalian shared with the attendees a never-before-seen gift to John Elder, just recently discovered and given by the Armenian people a hundred years ago.

Visit the online Armenian Genocide Museum and share it with a teacher or student
www.armeniangenocidemuseum.org

EXPOSED: TURKEY

As Armenia and Artsakh progress toward a stronger, more transparent democracy, the neighboring nations of Azerbaijan and Turkey are moving away from democratic norms, as their leaders demonstrate aggressive actions both within their respective countries and towards their neighbors.

Bloomberg identified both Erdogan and Aliyev as leaders making the world less democratic. The two countries continue to blockade Armenia and threaten its own citizens with basic freedoms and rights.

The media confirms what the Armenian Assembly has been telling Congress

for a long time. The news on Turkey and Azerbaijan this past year shed light on the true nature of the two nations and their surreptitious influence in the United States, as well as abroad, to whitewash their human rights abuses and rewrite history, putting Armenia and Artsakh even more at risk.

KEY CONCERNS

- Former U.S. National Security Advisor Michael Flynn charged for a secret lobbying campaign on behalf of the Turkish Government (see below)
 - Flynn's business associates indicted in Turkey Lobbying Case
 - President Trump confronts Erdogan and the U.S. Department of Treasury sanctions Turkish officials with leading roles in the unjust detention of American Pastor Andrew Brunson, and eventually his release from Turkish prison
 - Many Americans behind bars in Turkey
 - Erdogan strangles free press by shutting down critical media entities; continues to arrest journalists and activists
 - Pot calling the kettle black - Erdogan concerned over the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi, but silent on the assassination of Turkish Armenian newspaper editor Hrant Dink
 - Turkey's Christians are facing increasing persecution
 - Members of Congress from across the aisle fight to block the sale and delivery of the F-35 Lightning II fighter jet to Turkey amid major weapons deal with Russia

MICHAEL FLYNN & TURKEY

Erdogan accuses Fethullah Gulen of orchestrating the July 2016 Turkish coup, and requests his extradition from the United States. Michael Flynn wrote an op-ed in The Hill on Election Day 2016 defending Erdogan's criticism of Gulen.

It was revealed that the now-defunct Flynn Intel Group was paid \$530,000 by Inovo BV (ties with Turkish government) to produce a documentary to boost Turkey's image and conduct research on Gülen.

In March 2017, Flynn and his consulting firm retroactively registered as foreign agents working on behalf of Turkey.

In a December 2017 legal filing, Flynn admitted lying to the Justice Department, including falsely stating that the Flynn Intel Group did not know the extent to which the Turkish government was involved in the project and that the op-ed was written on his own initiative.

UNCOVERED: AZERBAIJAN



Attacking Artsakh & Armenia

Azerbaijan continues to violate the ceasefire agreement, while refusing to implement OSCE-monitored, advanced gunfire-locator systems and sound-ranging equipment to determine the source of attacks along the line of contact. Azerbaijani forces fired on the village of Chinariin Armenia's Tavush Province, hitting another kindergarten in 2018.



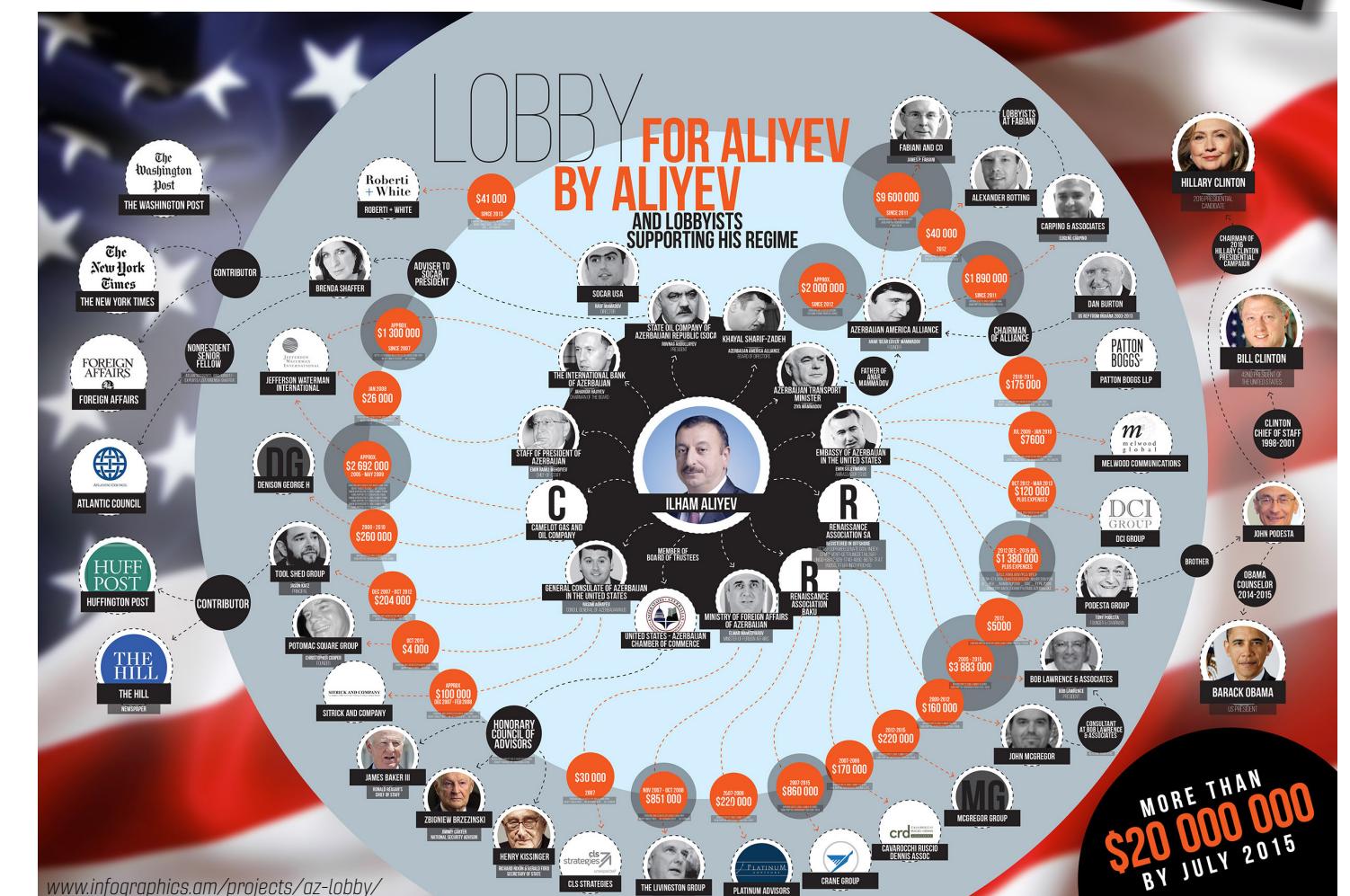
2013 Congressional Trip Investigation

The former president of a Texas-based non-profit, Kemal Oksuz, pleaded guilty of devising a scheme to falsify, conceal, and cover up material facts from the U.S. House Committee on Ethics for the 2013 Congressional trip to Azerbaijan funded by the Azerbaijani government.



The Azerbaijani Laundromat

"The Azerbaijani Laundromat" investigation extended beyond Europe and into the United States to advance the Azerbaijani government's political agenda and whitewash its international image, which had been rightly tainted due to grave human rights violations.



TERJENIAN-THOMAS ASSEMBLY INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

This year's 18 participants in the Terjenian-Thomas Assembly Internship Program in Washington, D.C. were fortunate to have experienced a rich array of extraordinary events throughout the summer. They interacted with Administration officials, policymakers, Senators, Members of the U.S. House of Representatives, local leaders from various disciplines and organizations, and internship program alumni, as well as with the President of Armenia, Armen Sarkissian, and Armenia's then First Deputy Prime Minister, Ararat Mirzoyan.



U.S. Senator Ed Markey (D-MA)

"As the summer comes to an end, so does my internship for Armenian Caucus Co-Vice Chair Representative Gus Bilirakis. This internship was invaluable and truly exceeded all of my expectations. I was able to learn so much being in a fast-paced environment with an office of Floridians, who made the office feel like home."

Mireille Samra, Florida
Congressman Gus Bilirakis (R-FL)

"The experience of working in Washington, D.C. this summer with the Armenian Assembly of America was truly unmatched. The opportunity to learn so much about U.S.-Armenia relations in the nation's capital through meeting with numerous prominent leaders and professionals was a very unique experience, especially right after the Velvet Revolution in Armenia. The Assembly provided us interns with unparalleled experiences that taught us so much."

Lena Richardson, Ohio
Armenian Assembly of America

"Working at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival was really touching and special to me. I had the opportunity to introduce Armenian culture to everybody, both Armenian and non-Armenian, who came to visit Washington, D.C. It was heartwarming to witness Americans learning about and appreciating Armenian culture."

Tamar Barsamian, Massachusetts
Smithsonian Institute's Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage

"Being interns at the Armenian Assembly of America, we are provided with many opportunities to get a close look at what is happening in our world today. We were also fortunate enough to visit the Library of Congress and attend the 22nd Vardanants Day Armenian Lecture Series. Opportunities like this one, which we would not have been given without the Armenian Assembly, occur once in a lifetime and are extremely valuable in building our future careers."

Tiffany Martirosian, Virginia & Colette Nishanian, California
Highschool Internship Pilot Program
Armenian Assembly of America

To learn more about the summer internship programs in Washington, D.C. and Armenia, visit our website at armenian-assembly.org/students



President of Armenia, Armen Sarkissian

SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM IN ARMENIA

The eight-week internship program based in Yerevan is packed with educational activities, including meetings with prominent individuals from civil society and political leaders, aimed at helping the participants better understand the socio-political situation in the region. This year's summer program had 9 participants who attended lectures and discussions with a wide range of officials, and toured around the homeland, in both Armenia and Artsakh.

"This program is worth checking out. You get the best of everything: you get autonomy, you get to pursue your own career goals and interests through the internship wherever they set you up and on the weekends, and you get to experience Armenia and the amazing things this country has to offer."

Justin Tramonti, Massachusetts
Matenadaran, Mesrop Mashtots Institute of Ancient Manuscripts

"I feel like this summer has energized my desire to come back to Armenia and live here and open my eyes to the ways that I can help Armenia, what the issues are, and what is needed. That was one of my main goals for coming here and I feel like I fulfilled that – which is great – thanks to this program. Come to Armenia and do this program!"

Lillian Avedian, California
Hetzq News Agency

"The Assembly gives you a platform and an outlet to really discover what Armenia is about, what it's like, and also puts yourself in a position where you are able to give back."

Raffi Barsamian, Massachusetts
ArmComedy

"What I really like about the Assembly internship is that it gives you both structure and freedom. There are events, things planned, meetings, and excursions, but there is also enough free time built in that you can explore Armenia for yourself."

Jivan Purutyan, Massachusetts
Eurasian Partnership Foundation



President of Artsakh Praises Armenian Assembly Internship Program

Republic of Artsakh President Bako Sahakyan praised the Armenian Assembly of America's (Assembly) Summer Internship Program in Armenia, and encouraged young Armenian Americans to take part in this unique and educational experience. Each year, Artsakh's leadership meets with the Assembly's summer internship class and discuss the latest developments impacting the lives of the people of Artsakh.



"The Armenian Assembly of America's Summer Internship Program offers our compatriots the unique opportunity to truly experience Armenia and Artsakh. Visiting Artsakh, the interns not only explore and discover our country's rich history and culture, they also meet with the people and various officials. That is one of my summer highlights as well – the opportunity to discuss our current issues with our next generation of leaders. I wholeheartedly support this program and its expansion and encourage young Armenian-Americans to engage in it."

Bako Sahakyan
President of Artsakh



The Armenian Assembly of America is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Your tax-deductible donation will provide the resources needed to:

- Strengthen United States- Armenia and United States-Artsakh relations
- Promote Armenia's and Artsakh's democratic development
- Foster Armenia's and Artsakh's economic prosperity
- Secure universal affirmation of the Armenian Genocide

WHAT'S NEXT?

Your confidence in the Armenian Assembly allows us to continue our mission to serve as a non-partisan advocate for the issues we all care so passionately about together.

While there are many successes in which we can all take pride, we cannot rest on our laurels. We must continue our collective efforts to support democracy in Armenia, and to defend the security of Artsakh in the face of Azerbaijan's continued aggression and cease-fire violations.

The Armenian Assembly is increasing its efforts until all our goals are achieved, until Armenia is fully prosperous and secure, until Artsakh is internationally recognized, and until the Armenian Genocide is fully recognized and its denial condemned worldwide. The work continues on all fronts and our members, supporters, and donors are the backbone of our ability to carry forth the mission and work of the Assembly.

Renew your membership, become a new member, or gift a membership to a friend by visiting our website at: www.aaainc.org/membership.



MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

- Affiliate: \$100-\$249
- Supporting Affiliate: \$250-\$499
- Contributing Affiliate: \$500-\$999
- Fellow Trustee: \$1,000-\$4,999
- Associate Trustee: \$5,000-\$19,999
- Trustee: \$20,000-\$199,999
- Life Trustee: \$200,000+

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

ABOUT Us

Headquartered in Washington, D.C., the Armenian Assembly of America is the largest, non-partisan Armenian-American advocacy organization in the United States. Since 1972, the Assembly continues to promote public awareness of Armenian issues, encourage greater Armenian American participation in the American democratic process, and assist in humanitarian and development programs in Armenia and Artsakh (Nagorno Karabakh) while strengthening the U.S.-Armenia and U.S.-Artsakh relationships.

