



Legacy in Stone:

55th Anniversary Gala

**Celebrating 55 years
of documenting and
preserving
Armenian
architectural and
cultural heritage**

Presented by

Research on Armenian Architecture



Event Program

Invocation

Welcoming Notes

Organizing Committee Chair

Introduction to RAA

Ellina Abovian

Intro Film of RAA Activities

Multi-Media Presentation

President's Message

Jora Manoucherian

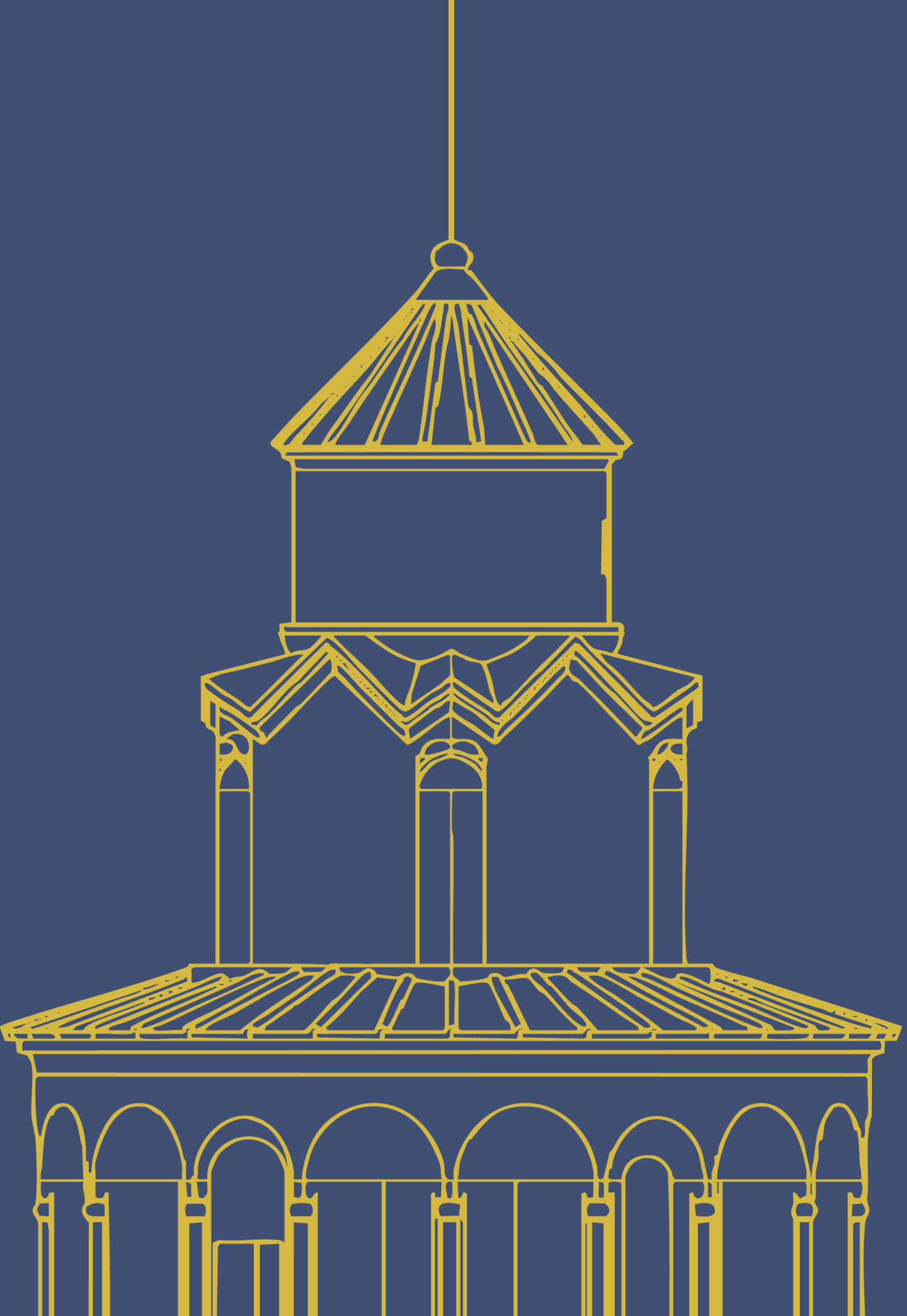
Presentation of Awards

President, Committee Chairs

*«Ես հիմա հասել եմ կյանքիս այն կետին,
որ արված գործերի հաշվետվությունն եմ
ներկայացնում: Ու եթե հանկարծ ինչ-ինչ
պատճառներով չկարողանամ այն մինչև վերջ
իրագործել, շարունակողները կան »:*

*"I have now reached the point in my life where
I present a report of the work done. And if for
some reason I am unable to complete it, there
are those who will continue."*

Samvel Karapetian (1961-2020)



Honoring

Our members

Dr. Marco Brambilla

Mr. Razmick Haroutunian

Mr. Armen Janian

The late Mr. Shahan Haroutunian

*“Մեր նպատակն է Հայաստանի Հանրապետությունից դուրս գտնուող
Հայկական ճարտարապետությունը գոնե թղթի վրայ փրկել.”*

*“Our goal is to preserve the Armenian architecture situated beyond
the borders of the Republic of Armenia, at least on paper.”*

Dr. Armen Hakhnazarian, Founder of RAA

Celebrating 55 Years of Preserving Armenian Heritage

It is with deep pride and heartfelt gratitude that we celebrate the **55th anniversary of the Research on Armenian Architecture (RAA) Foundation**—an organization born from the vision of **Dr. Armen Hakhnazarian**, whose words continue to guide and inspire our work.

For more than half a century, RAA has been devoted to **researching, documenting, and preserving** the architectural and cultural treasures of historical Armenia—safeguarding not only our monuments, but the collective memory and identity of our nation.

As our heritage continues to face the challenges of time, neglect, and destruction, RAA’s mission is more vital than ever. Guided by our dedicated **team in Yerevan** and strengthened by the generosity of our friends and supporters around the world, we carry this work forward with unwavering purpose and renewed inspiration.

We extend our deepest appreciation to the **RAA/USA Board of Directors** and the **Gala Organizing Committee** for their vision, leadership, and commitment in making this milestone celebration possible.

As we look to the future, we invite you—**our cherished friends and benefactors**—to continue standing with us through the **RAA Guardians Program** and our ongoing fundraising initiatives.

Together, we will ensure that Armenian architectural and cultural legacy endures—preserved, celebrated, and passed on with pride to generations yet to come.

Jora Manoucherian

RAA/USA, President

RAA Foundation, Chairman of Trustees Board

Celebrating the Legacy of Research on Armenian Architecture (RAA)

For fifty-five years, Research on Armenian Architecture (RAA) has championed the preservation of a civilization's soul—safeguarding Armenia's architectural treasures for the world and for generations to come.

Founded in 1969 by the visionary **Dr. Armen Hagnazarian**, RAA has devoted over half a century to uncovering, documenting, and preserving the architectural and cultural heritage that embodies the spirit of the Armenian people.

In 1989, the distinguished monument expert **Samvel Karapetyan** joined RAA, bringing with him profound knowledge, passion, and an unyielding commitment to truth and preservation. His tireless work breathed new energy into the organization, expanding its reach across Historical Armenia and Artsakh and ensuring that countless monuments were studied, recorded, and remembered for all time.

In 1996, RAA-USA was established under the inspired leadership of **Shahen Haroutunian**, together with co-founders **Razmick Haroutunian**, **Marco Brambilla**, and **Armen Janian**. Guided by their vision, generosity, and unwavering devotion, RAA-USA became a steadfast bridge—uniting RAA's mission in Armenia with a global community bound by love and pride in Armenian heritage.

Through 240 scientific expeditions, RAA has created an unparalleled archive of nearly 680,000 photographs, 4,000 architectural measurements, and extensive documentation—an enduring testament to Armenian history, etched both in stone and in collective memory. From sacred monasteries and masterfully carved khachkars to enduring bridges and ancient settlements, RAA's work reveals the soul of a people whose identity and culture are etched in every stone.

Beyond documentation, RAA leads preservation efforts through **restoration projects** in Armenia, Artsakh, Iran, and Syria; **3D digital reconstructions** of lost monuments; and **educational films** and **publications** that share Armenia's architectural legacy with the world. Its **monumental 36-volume series**, dedicated to the centennial of the Armenian Genocide, carves an eternal record of the history of every district of Historical Armenia—ensuring that the story of our people endures with dignity and resolute spirit.

RAA's mission also extends to **legal and international advocacy**, providing essential resources to protect Armenian heritage and secure its rightful place in the global cultural landscape.

As we celebrate **RAA's 55th Anniversary**, we honor all those—past and present—whose vision, scholarship, and devotion have sustained this extraordinary mission.

Tonight, we celebrate a legacy that transcends time: preserving the past, inspiring the present, and etching the future of Armenian heritage in enduring light.

Dr. Marco Brambilla

Architect, Architectural Historian, Preservation Specialist

Marco Brambilla is a distinguished architect, architectural historian, and preservation specialist, renowned for his expertise in the preservation of historic monuments, with a particular focus on medieval Islamic and Armenian architecture. His career blends rigorous academic research with hands-on practice, reflecting a lifelong commitment to safeguarding cultural heritage.

He has held teaching appointments at prestigious institutions, including Columbia University and UCLA in the United States, the National University of Iran, and the Universities of Rome and Calabria in Italy, while maintaining an active architectural practice that integrates contemporary design with historical understanding.

A defining moment in his career was his appointment to the Central Committee for the Preservation of Historic Monuments in Iran, where he helped shape national preservation policies and oversaw numerous heritage sites, including Armenian churches and monasteries. Through this role, he became a foundational supporter of **Research on Armenian Architecture (RAA)**, facilitating critical research, access to remote monuments, and fundraising efforts.

Following the Islamic Revolution, Brambilla played a pivotal role in assisting Dr. Haghnazarian and his successor, Samvel Karapetian, in managing RAA's operations in the Republic of Armenia, providing strategic guidance, tools, and photographic equipment for fieldwork. Later, he leveraged his personal connections across various organizations and sectors to support the RAA's financial sustainability.

He was instrumental in founding the **RAA/USA** sister organization in California and remains one of the organization's principal supporters.

As an internationally recognized lecturer and widely published author, Marco Brambilla has advanced global scholarship on Armenian and Ilkhanid architecture and has been a steadfast advocate for the study and preservation of Armenian heritage worldwide.

RAA/USA proudly celebrates **Dr. Marco Brambilla** — for his outstanding contributions as an architect, architectural historian, preservation specialist, and lifelong dedication to safeguarding Armenian cultural heritage.

Mr. Razmick Haroutunian

A Community Leader, Philanthropist, Businessman

We are deeply honored to recognize **Razmick Haroutunian**—a man whose life has embodied commitment, bridge-building, and service to the Armenian people.

Born in 1944 in Hamadan, Iran, Razmick pursued higher education at Tehran University's Literature Academy and later at the Industrial Management Institute, a Harvard-affiliated program. His education and leadership skills became lifelong tools for cultural preservation and community building.

Beginning his career with the **Mannesmann Group**, Razmick served in senior executive roles, culminating in the role of Managing Director/CEO, across Germany, Sweden, Turkey, Mexico, and Spain. Wherever life took him, he helped establish Armenian cultural centers—including the **Armenian Spanish Cultural Center**—ensuring that Armenians abroad had places to gather, learn, and celebrate their heritage.

After moving to Los Angeles in 1988, Razmick continued his legacy of service: chairing the committee to rewrite Armenian school textbooks, co-founding the **Armenian American Chamber of Commerce**, and launching multiple successful businesses that bridged international partnerships, including projects in Armenia.

A founding supporter of **RAA/USA** and trusted confidant of **Dr. Armen Hakhnazarian**, Razmick has guided RAA with wisdom, energy, and vision for nearly three decades. His unwavering dedication continues to inspire the organization's mission of preserving Armenian architectural and cultural heritage.

Respected and loved by all who know him, he is equal parts charismatic and full of heart. Razmick has led by example, with a deep-rooted knowledge of Armenian history, strong advocacy for cultural preservation, and unyielding love of country, continually giving to meaningful causes.

RAA/USA proudly celebrates **Razmick Haroutunian**—as a leader, philanthropist, and visionary whose life work stands as a true *architecture of the spirit of the spirit*, for his lifelong dedication to the preservation of Armenian cultural heritage.

Mr. Armen Janian

Attorney, Community Leader, Philanthropist

Mr. **Armen Janian**, is a distinguished attorney, devoted community leader, and lifelong advocate for service and philanthropist.

Born in Abadan, Iran, Mr. Janian came to the United States in 1970. After completing his studies in Electrical Engineering at USC, he went on to earn his law degree from California College of Law. He began his law practice in 1982, eventually establishing his own firm in Beverly Hills and later expanding to Dubai, specializing in estate planning, business, and international law. Though now retired from practice, his legacy in the legal field continues to inspire.

Beyond his professional achievements, Mr. Janian has dedicated much of his life to community service. He co-founded and currently serves as Chairman of the Armenian American Chamber of Commerce, and has held leadership roles in several prominent organizations, including the Glendale College Foundation, Adventist Health Glendale, and the Armenian Relief Center. He is also the co-founder of **Research on Armenian Architecture (RAA) USA**, an organization committed to preserving endangered Armenian monuments and churches worldwide. In 1996, Mr. Janian voluntarily prepared all legal documentation and oversaw the incorporation of RAA/USA as a nonprofit organization in California.

Mr. Janian's philanthropic reach extends internationally. Through the Armenia School Foundation, which he co-founded in 2003, he has worked tirelessly to provide proper school furnishings for children in Armenia and Artsakh, improving the daily lives of countless students.

For his outstanding service and achievements, Mr. Janian has been honored with multiple awards, including the **Crown and Eagle Medal of Honor in the Field of Law** and the **Gold Medal of Honor of Peter the Great**, bestowed by the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences.

Above all, Armen Janian is a man of humility, vision, and dedication to community. He and his wife, Roubina Der Sarkissian, are both deeply engaged in Armenian civic life, and together they take pride in their daughter Taleen.

RAA/USA proudly celebrates **Armen Janian**—for his vision, leadership, and lifelong dedication to the preservation of Armenian cultural heritage.

Honoring the Legacy of Shahan Haroutunian

Devoted Leader, Philanthropist, Guardian of Armenian Heritage

With profound respect and heartfelt gratitude, we pay tribute to Mr. Shahan Haroutunian—a visionary leader whose life was marked by humility, generosity, and unwavering dedication to his people and heritage.

Born in Iran and educated in Germany, where he earned a degree in Chemical Engineering, Mr. Haroutunian returned to establish **Hawilux Factory**—an enterprise that grew to become one of Iran’s largest paint manufacturers. But beyond his professional accomplishments, it was his enduring dedication to Armenian causes that truly defined his legacy.

After immigrating to the United States with his family, he continued his life’s work from Beverly Hills, California—quietly dedicating himself to the advancement of Armenian heritage and cultural preservation.

A close friend of Dr. Armen Hakhnazarian, founder of the **Research on Armenian Architecture (RAA)**, Mr. Haroutunian was among the organization’s earliest and most dedicated supporters. In the early 1990s, at Dr. Hakhnazarian’s request, he took the initiative to establish **RAA/USA**, creating a vital platform in the United States to support the preservation of endangered Armenian monuments around the world.

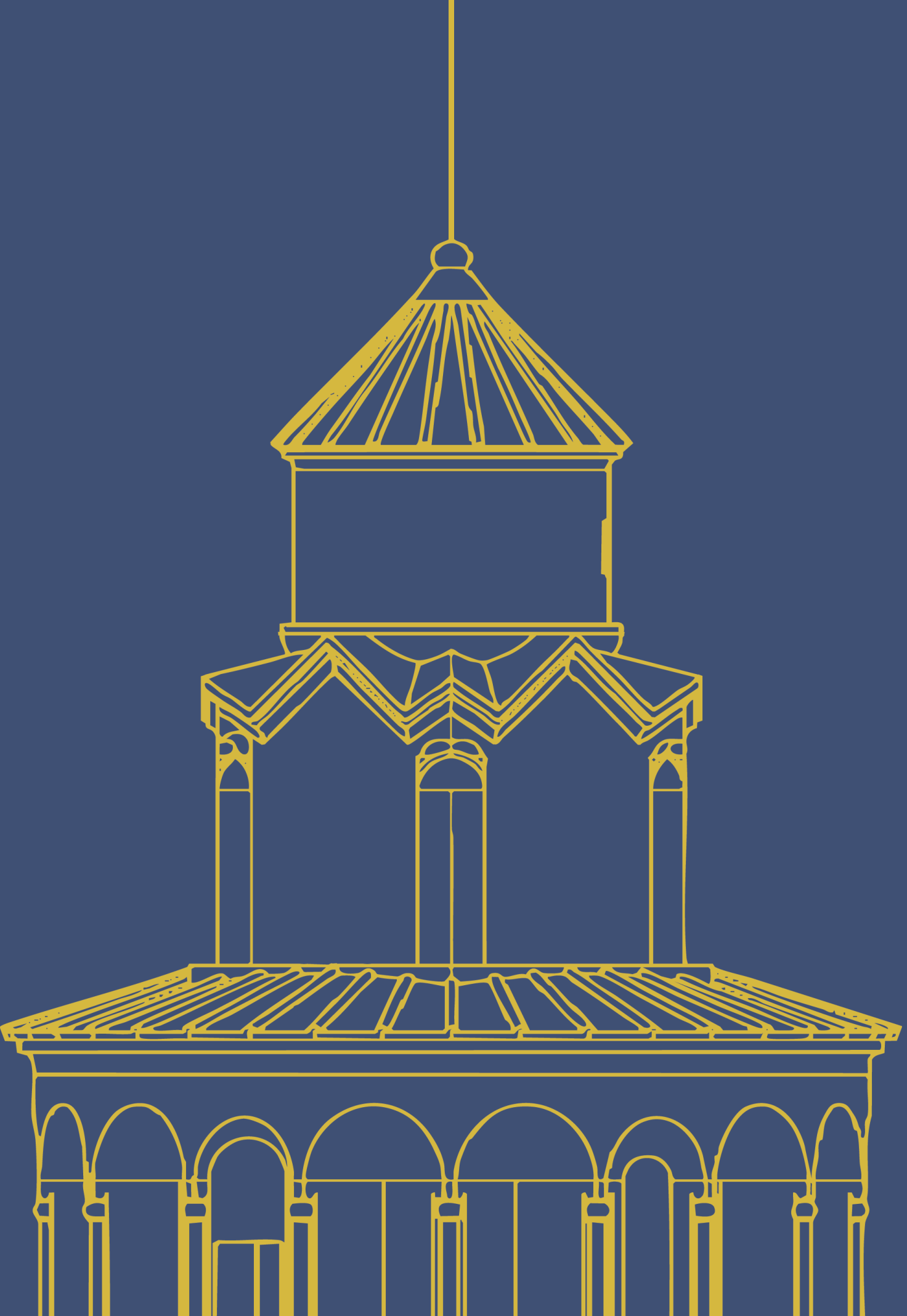
In 1996, he formally incorporated RAA/USA as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit in California and served as its founding President, guiding the organization with quiet resolve and unwavering purpose. His leadership extended beyond administration—he was the first major donor, contributing \$20,000 to launch the Building Fund, which would, years later, culminate in the purchase of RAA’s permanent headquarters in Yerevan in 2023.

In 2004, after over a decade of dedicated service, Mr. Haroutunian passed the torch to **Mr. Jora Manoucherian**, assuming the role of **Honorary Chairman**. Even in transition, his presence remained a steady and inspiring force behind the organization’s mission.

Together with his beloved wife, **Mrs. Martha Haroutunian**, he supported countless Armenian institutions and initiatives with generosity, grace, and unwavering purpose. Their philanthropy was not just financial—it was deeply personal, rooted in a love for Armenian identity, culture, and future.

To remember Mr. Haroutunian is to remember a man of great humility, deep faith, and extraordinary commitment. His legacy lives on in the monuments we protect, the heritage we preserve, and the values we uphold.

Tonight, we honor him not only for what he stood for, but for what he inspired—in all of us.



Congratulatory Messages



ԱՌԱՋՆՈՐԴԱՐԱՆ ՀԱՅՈՑ
ԱՄԵՐԻԿԱՅԻ ՄԻԱՑՆԵԱԼ ՆԱՀԱՆԳՆԵՐՈՒ ԱՐԵՒՄՏԵԱՆ ԹԵՄ
THE WESTERN PRELACY
OF THE ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH OF AMERICA
His Eminence Archbishop Kegham Khacherian, Prelate

ԱՌԱՋՆՈՐԴ ՍՐԲԱԶԱՆ ՀՕՐ ԳՆԱՀԱՍՏԱՆՔԻ ԵՒ ՕՐՀՆՈՒԹԵԱՆ ԽՕՍՔԸ

ՀՀՈՒ-Ի ՀԻՄՆԱԴՐՈՒԹԵԱՆ 55-ԱՄԵԱԿԻՆ ԱՌԻԹՈՎ

Քրիստոնեական սիրով եւ ազգային ապրումներով կ'ողջունենք Հայկական Ճարտարապետութիւնը Ուսումնասիրող (ՀՀՈՒ) կազմակերպութիւնը, որ 55 տարի է ի վեր կը գործէ հիմնարար առաքելութեամբ, նպատակ ունենալով՝ յայտնաբերել, չափազրել, ուսումնասիրել, փաստագրել, թուայնացնել, տպագրել, նաեւ՝ ըստ կարելւոյն, վերականգնել եւ անհետացումէ փրկել մեր ազգի պատմամշակութային ժառանգութիւնը, պատմական եւ ներկայ Հայաստանի, թէ Սփիւռքի հայկական գաղութներու տարածքին:

Հայկական Ճարտարապետութեան պատմական եւ ժամանակակից նմուշներ անցեալ դարերէ ի վեր սփռուած են աշխարհի տարածքին, յատկապէս բոլոր այն վայրերուն մէջ, ուր վաղեմի ժամանակներէ ի վեր հայկական ներկայութիւն եղած է: Շատ-շատ գաղութներ, որոնք բարգաւաճ էին անցեալին, այսօր կա՛մ չկան, կամ ալ շատ աղօտ ներկայութիւն են հայկական տեսադաշտի վրայ:

Սակայն, մեր նախնիներուն ձեռակերտ գեղեցկութիւններն ու ազգի հոգեւոր, մշակութային եւ հայրենասիրական կոթողները կը մասնա՛ իբրեւ հայկական ժամանակի վկայութիւն եւ ակնառու փաստ՝ հայ շինարար մտքի, հոգիի եւ ստեղծագործական տաղանդի, որուն բեկորները՝ երբեմն նոյնիսկ տարբեր երկինքներու տակ, RAA կազմակերպութեան շնորհիւ կ'ենթարկուին գիտական պեղումներու, կը չափազրուին ու կը համախմբուին յատուկ հրատարակութիւններու ծածկի տակ, կը թուայնացուին ու կը տպագրուին մեր դարուն ընձեռած կարելիութիւններով, ապա կը հրապարակուին գիտամշակութային նորօրեայ արժեալներու համահունչ՝ դառնալով հայ ոգիի հզօրագոյն ու ամենէն տիրական թարգմաններն ու ապացոյցները, որոնք հայ ցեղի դարաւոր գոյութեան մասին աշխարհի տարբեր լեզուներով բարձրագոյնս կը գոռան իրենց լռութեամբ, հնութեամբ եւ վաղեմութեամբ:

Ա՛յս շնորհակալ եւ ծանր աշխատանքն է, որ իր հիմնադրութեան առաջին իսկ օրէն կ'իրականացնէ RAA-ն՝ իբրեւ առաքելութիւն ու նպատակ, իսկ 1996-էն ի վեր, Ամերիկայի Միացեալ Նահանգներու մէջ, Շահէն Յարութիւնեանի նախագահութեամբ: Հիմնադրուած Գերմանիա, Հայկական Ճարտարապետութիւնը Ուսումնասիրող այս ընկերակցութիւնը

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(ՀՀՈՒ), 1991-ին, Հայաստանի մէջ սկսաւ գործել, իսկ 2011-էն ի վեր, հայրենիքի մէջ կը գործէ իբրեւ հիմնադրամ:

Ուրախադիրք է ըսել, որ սոյն կազմակերպութիւնը տասնամեակներու ընթացքին հաւաքագրած եւ չափագրած է 680 հազարէ աւելի փաստագրական լուսանկարներ, սահիկներ, զժազրեր, քարտէզներ, տեսերիզներ եւ այլատեսակ վաւերական տուեալներ, զորս Հիմնադրամը կը պահէ: Անոնք կը վկայեն հայ ժողովուրդի նախքրիստոնէական դարերէն մինչեւ օրս իրականացուցած ճարտարապետական ձեռագիրին ու անոր բազմազանութեան մասին, ինչպէս՝ հայկական նախաքրիստոնէական կառոյցներ ու շինուածքներ, կոթողներ եւ յուարձաններ, ապա գողտրիկ մատուռներ եւ նշանաւոր եկեղեցիներ, վանքեր, սրբատաշ խաչքարեր, քարեղէն տեսակ-տեսակ խորհրդանիշներ, եւ այլն՝ իբրեւ հայ ժողովուրդի բազմադարեան գոյութեան փաստ եւ Հայ Դատի անհերքելի ապացոյց:

Առ այդ, Ազգային հպարտութեամբ կը շնորհաւորենք RAA-ի հիմնադրութեան 55-ամեակը եւ կազմակերպութեան հաւատաւոր գործակիցներուն անկոտրում կամքը. այս առիթով, բոլորին կը մաղթենք անամպ երկինք, անսպառ կորով, աշխատելու յարատեւ կամք, ընդարձակուելու եւ աւելի եւս զօրանալու անսպառ կարելութիւններ, որոնք մեր ներկայ դարուն աւելի եւս կը նկատուին անհրաժեշտ, յատկապէս երբ նկատի ունենանք թշնամի պետութիւններ՝ ի մասնաւորի Թուրքիա եւ Ազրայէջան, որոնք իրենց վարած հայատեաց քաղաքականութեամբ, մեր ազգին ու հայրենիքին դէմ պետական ծրագրով կ'իրագործեն մշակութային ցեղասպանութիւն, հայոց հնագոյն բնակավայրերէն Արեւմտեան Հայաստանի ու Արցախի մէջ եւ օր ցերեկով կը փորձեն բնաջնջել անգամ հայկական քարեղէն ինքնութիւն ու յիշողութիւն, աշխարհի մարդկութեան աչքին առաջ:

Ազգային տեսիլքով տոգորուած ՀՀՈՒ-ի պատասխանատուներուն, կամաւոր ծառայողներուն եւ զօրակիցներուն կը մաղթենք առողջութիւն, անսպառ կորով եւ յարատեւ վերելք: Նորանոր յաջողութիւններ՝ RAA-ի ազգանպաստ բոլոր ծրագիրներուն:

Աղօթարար



Գերշ. Տ. Գեղամ Արք. Խաչերեան, Առաջնորդ

Ա. Ս. Նահանգներու Արեւմտեան Թեմի

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WESTERN DIOCESE OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA

Հայաստանեայց Կաթողիկոսական Եկեղեցւոյ Հիւսիսային Վերջինեայ Կրօնական Թեմ

HIS EMINENCE ARCHBISHOP HOVNAN DERDERIAN, PRIMATE
ԳԵՐԱՇՆՈՐՀ Տ. ՅՈՎՆԱՆ ԱՐԺԵՊՍ. ՏԵՐՏԵՐԵԱՆ, ԱՌԱՋՆՈՐԴ

ԱՌԱՋՆՈՐԴ ՍՐԲԱԶԱՆ ՀՕՐ ՇՆՈՐՀԱԻՈՐԱԳԻՐԸ
ՀԱՅԿԱԿԱՆ ՃԱՐՏԱՐԱԿԵՏՈՒԹԻՒՆԸ ՈՒՍՈՒՄՆԱՍԻՐՈՂ
ՀԻՄՆԱԴՐԱՍԻ ՀԻՄՆԱԴՐՈՒԹԵԱՆ 55 ԱՄԵԱԿԻՆ ԱՌԹԻԻ

Ուրախութեամբ եւ սրտի խոր գոհունակութեամբ տեղեկացանք, որ Հայկական Ճարտարապետութիւնը Ուսումնասիրող կազմակերպութեան հիմնադրամը արդէն թեւակոխած է իր հիմնադրութեան 55 ամեակը: Վստահ ենք, որ յոբելինական այս նշումը եզակի առիթ մը պիտի հանդիսանայ անգամ մը եւս արժեւորելու եւ լուսարձակի տակ առնելու կազմակերպութեան վաստակաշատ ծառայութիւնը, ի խնդիր պատմական եւ արդի Հայաստանի եւ սփիւռքի պատմամշակութային մեր ժառանգութիւններու փրկութեան:

Արդարեւ, Հայկական Ճարտարապետութիւնը Ուսումնասիրող կազմակերպութեան հիմնադրամը իր հիմնադրութեան առաջին իսկ օրէն իր առաքելութեան առանցքը դարձուց երեսն բերել, չափազրել, հետազօտել, փաստագրել եւ թուայնացնել Հայաստանի եւ արտերկրի բազմաթիւ պատմական յուշակոթողներ, որոնք հոգեւոր, ազգային, պատմական եւ մշակութային նշանակութիւն եւ արժէք ունին հայկական եւ բովանդակ մարդկութեան չափանիշերով:

Հայկական Ճարտարապետութիւնը Ուսումնասիրող կազմակերպութեան հիմնադրամի յարատեւ եւ նուիրեալ աշխատանքի շնորհիւ այսօր Հայաստանի մէջ պահպանուած են հազարաւոր փաստագրական լուսանկարներ, չափազրութիւններ, սահիկներ, գծագրեր, քարտեզներ, տեսաերիզներ, որոնք անվիճելի վաւերագրեր են Հայկական բարձրաւանդակի մեր ժողովուրդի բազմադարեան գոյութեան եւ կը ծառայեն որպէս Հայ Դատի հետապնդման թղթածրարի ամենէն վաւերական եւ խօսուն փաստաթուղթերը:

Հայկական Ճարտարապետութիւնը Ուսումնասիրող կազմակերպութեան հիմնադրամի հիմնադրութեան 55 ամեակին առիթով մեր բարձր գնահատանքը կը յայտնենք հիմնադիրներուն, գիտնականներուն եւ կազմակերպութեան առաքելութեան հաւատացող նուիրատուներուն, որոնք նիւթական եւ բարոյական օժանդակութիւն կը ցուցաբերեն հիմնադրամի աշխատանքներուն:

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WESTERN DIOCESE OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA

Հայաստանեայց Առաքելական Եկեղեցւոյ Հիւսիսային Ամերիկայի Արեւմտեան Թեմ

HIS EMINENCE ARCHBISHOP HOVNAN DERDERIAN, PRIMATE
ԳԵՐԱՇՆՈՐՀ Տ. ՅՈՎՆԱՆ ԱՐԴԵՐԻԱՍ. ՏԵՐՏԵՐԵԱՆ, ԱՌԱՋՆՈՐԴ

Այս առթիւ կ'օրհնենք հայկական պատմական ժառանգութիւններու պահպանման ի խնդիր բոլորի հաւաքական ճիգը, մասնագիտական ներդրումը եւ նուիրումը, աղօթելով Ամենաբարին Աստուծոյ, որ եզակի այս առաքելութիւնը ձեռք ձգէ նոր նուաճումներ, ի խնդիր պատմամշակութային մեր արժէքներու անսասանութեան:

Դէպի նոր ամեակներու վառ յոյսերով, այսու կը շնորհաւորենք Հայկական Ճարտարապետութիւնը Ուսումնասիրող կազմակերպութեան հիմնադրամի հիմնադրութեան 55 ամեակը, ծաղկուն ծառայութիւն, յարատեւ յաջողութիւն եւ մնայուն վերելք մաղթելով բոլորին:

Մեծայարգ Տիար Ժորա Մանուչարեան, նախագահ եւ խնամակալ մարմնի անդամներ, պատմական այս նշանակալից առիթով ի սրտէ կը շնորհաւորենք Ձեզ եւ կը մաղթենք առաւել եռանդ, որպէսզի Ձեր առաքելութեամբ ներշնչէք մեր երիտասարդ սերունդը:

Շնորհք Տեառն մերոյ Յիսուսի Քրիստոսի եղիցի ընդ Ձեզ եւ ընդ ամենեւեանդ. Ամէն:

Օրհնութեամբ՝

Յովնան Արք. Տերտերեան,

Առաջնորդ

ԱՄՆ Արեւմտեան Թեմին

Հոկտեմբեր 3, 2025

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Tel: 818.558.7474 • Fax: 818.558.6333 • E-Mail: info@wdaena.com • www.wdaena.com

Dear Friends and Members of RAA-USA,

Without your tireless support, RAA's research—journeys, analyses, documentation, publications, and lectures—would not have been possible on such a scale for over 55 years. The success of RAA belongs to our devoted colleagues and friends both in Armenia and the diaspora.

All his life, my husband, Dr. Armen Hakhnazarian, dedicated himself to the study and preservation of Armenian monuments. He was deeply troubled by the widespread destruction of monuments in Western Armenia and resolved to safeguard, at least on record, what testified to centuries of Armenian culture and presence. This conviction gave birth to the idea of Research on Armenian Architecture (RAA).

For years, Armen led expeditions across historic Armenia—from the heartland to Cilicia—documenting endangered monuments. When travel became unsafe, he sent trusted friends and scholars to continue the work. His lectures and photographs reached Armenian communities across the world, spreading awareness and pride in our architectural heritage.

Meanwhile, in Soviet Armenia, Samvel Karapetian, working independently, was conducting parallel research on Armenian monuments in the South Caucasus. Their meeting in 1984 in Yerevan marked the beginning of a deep collaboration between the diaspora and homeland. Together, they shared a unified vision: to preserve, record, and protect our architectural legacy for future generations.

Their efforts, later supported by Professor Vasken Parsegian of Rensselaer University, led to the publication of seven microfiche volumes containing over 60,000 images distributed to major universities worldwide.

In the United States, under the leadership of our dear friends Shahen and Martha Haroutunian, the RAA-USA chapter was established, and continues today with Jora and Helen Manoucherian at its helm.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all who have sustained RAA's mission, particularly those who helped secure our offices in Yerevan. Special thanks to Edele Hovnanian, whose generosity has supported RAA from its early restoration projects to recent fundraisers.

To all of you who continue to believe in and support this noble work—**Medz Shnorhagalutian!**

Margrit Hakhnazarian

RAA Co-Founder

Yerevan, October 21, 2025



SAVE ARMENIAN MONUMENTS

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Honorary Chairperson*

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*J. Antranig Kasbarian
Advisor*

*Simon Maghakyan
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*Prof. Christina Maranci
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*Raffi Tanielian
Advisor, Europe Liaison*

*Rev. Fr. Nareg Terterian
Advisor*

*Prof. Heghnar Watenpaugh
Advisor*

October 6, 2025

Jora Manoucherian
RAA/USA, President
Email: President@RAA-USA.org

Dear Jora:

Save Armenian Monuments LLC ("SAM") congratulates Research on Armenian Architecture ("RAA") on its 55 years of dedicated work archiving, preserving and restoring endangered Armenian architectural and cultural heritage.

Most recently SAM has been privileged to work with RAA to restore St. Hripsime Church as the first step on our bold and transformative strategy in the Khndzoresk region. We are grateful for the expertise and dedication RAA has brought to the work and look forward to continuing our collaboration.

Congratulations to RAA on achieving this important milestone.

Yours truly,

Virginia Davies

Virginia Davies
President

Save Armenian Monuments LLC
138 E. 39th St., New York, NY 10016-0914
www.savearmenianmonuments.com



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Technology

Exec Com-Armenia

M. Aghazarian, M.S.
Science, Technology

D. Babikian, Ph.D., MBA
Exec. Director, Armenia
Technology, Healthcare

M-H. Boghosian, Ph.D., MBA;
Technology

Dear Jora,

On behalf of the ARPA Institute, it gives me great pleasure to extend our heartfelt congratulations to Research on Armenian Architecture (RAA) on the celebratory occasion of its 55th Anniversary. This milestone is a remarkable testament to the dedication, perseverance, and vision that have guided RAA for more than half a century.

Your work in researching, archiving, and preserving the architectural and cultural treasures of historical Armenia has been nothing short of invaluable. The creation of such an extensive digitized archive, and your tireless efforts to safeguard endangered monuments and artifacts, have ensured that future generations will remain connected to their heritage and identity.

We at ARPA deeply admire and appreciate the important role RAA has played as both guardian and advocate for Armenia's cultural patrimony. Your contributions have not only advanced scholarly research but also enriched the global understanding of Armenia's legacy.

As you celebrate this significant anniversary, please know that the ARPA Institute stands with you in recognition of your extraordinary achievements and in support of your continuing mission. We look forward to many more years of collaboration and shared commitment to the preservation of Armenian heritage.

With warm regards and best wishes for continued success,

Sincerely,

Hagop Panossian, Ph.D.

ARPA Institute President



National Association for Armenian Studies and Research
Համազգային Հայագիտական Միություն

Founded and Incorporated in 1955

22 October 2025

Dear Colleagues:

Our heartfelt congratulations on the 55th anniversary of RAA.

The remarkable legacy of your organization is founded upon the vision and dedication of individuals who, from its inception, committed themselves to collecting, documenting, and preserving all that reflects our cultural identity and the traces that remained from the time of the Genocide. The founder of RAA, the late Dr. Armen Hakhnazarian, expressed this mission profoundly: "Our goal is to save Armenian architecture outside of Armenia, even on paper." These words became the cornerstone of the organization, defining its purpose and inspiring generations to continue this vital work.

With a deep understanding of both history and the contemporary moment, you have expanded your efforts across borders, ensuring that the story of our heritage would be safeguarded. Thanks to your tireless dedication, the cultural heritage of Artsakh has been documented, piece by piece. Along with others, the late Samvel Karapetyan and his extraordinary bravery and unwavering commitment, persevering in collecting and preserving these invaluable records would have been impossible.

It is a profound source of national pride that the work they began continues today, carried forward with unyielding faith, steadfast conviction, and a dedication that honors their vision and legacy.

We believe that your organization will endure for generations to come, and we extend our sincere wishes for continued strength and success in your invaluable mission.

Sincerely,

Ani Babaian

Director, Mardigian Library

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Armenian Engineers and Scientists Association(AESA)
213 N. Glendale Ave #1023
Glendale, CA 91206
www.aesa.org
contact@aes.org

Date: 10/21/2025

To:
Research on Armenian Architecture (RAA)

Dear Members of the Research on Armenian Architecture (RAA),

The Armenian Engineers and Scientists Association (AESA) congratulates Research on Armenian Architecture (RAA) on its 55th Anniversary.

For over five decades, RAA has preserved and shared Armenia's architectural heritage, safeguarding the legacy that connects our past to our future. Your dedication to research, documentation, and restoration continues to inspire generations committed to cultural preservation.

AESA honors RAA's enduring contributions and looks forward to continued collaboration in advancing knowledge, innovation, and heritage for years to come.

With admiration and warm regards,

Armenian Engineers and Scientists Association(AESA) Board



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ARMENIAN SOCIETY OF LOS ANGELES

117 S. Louise St. Glendale, CA 91205

Tel: (818) 241-1073 Fax: (818) 484-7435 e-mail:armeniansocietyofla@gmail.com

On behalf of the Armenian Society of Los Angeles, I extend my heartfelt appreciation and warmest congratulations to the Research on Armenian Architecture (RAA) Foundation on the occasion of its 55th Anniversary. For over five decades, RAA has played an invaluable role in documenting, preserving, and promoting the architectural and cultural heritage of the Armenian people - safeguarding the story of who we are and where we come from. Its work stands as a testament to devotion, scholarship, and love of nation, ensuring that future generations can continue to learn from and take pride in our enduring legacy.

We also pay tribute to RAA's founders, leaders, and supporters, past and present, whose vision and tireless commitment have turned an idea into a mission of global significance. Their efforts have not only preserved monuments and archives but have also fortified our collective identity.

The Armenian Society of Los Angeles applauds RAA's remarkable accomplishments and looks forward to its continued success in protecting and celebrating Armenian cultural heritage for many years to come.

Congratulations and best wishes on this momentous milestone.

Vrej Agajanian

Vrej Agajanian, P.E.
Chairman, Board of Trustees of ASLA

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October 5, 2025

Dear friends:

For more than half a century, RAA has served as an indispensable institution, systematically documenting endangered material memories and providing the foundation for countless scholars, myself included, to study Armenian heritage and examine questions of heritage and security through both forensic and theoretical lenses.

Thank you for your truly monumental work.

Happy 55th anniversary!

Kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon Maghakyan'.

Dr Simon Maghakyan
Associate Faculty Member, Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies
University of Oxford

Author of *Sovereign Heritage Crime: Security, Autocracy, and the Material Past* (Cambridge UP)

Web: www.ames.ox.ac.uk/people/simon-maghakyan

Email: simon.maghakyan@ames.ox.ac.uk

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6 September 2025

Dear Colleagues,

It is a pleasure and honor to congratulate Research on Armenian Architecture on 55 years of fieldwork, publications, education, and advocacy. RAA has done groundbreaking and backbreaking work over the past five decades, and I am grateful every day for their work. Whether considering their copious photographic documentation of monuments, beautiful line drawings, the painstaking transcriptions of engraved texts, or the village-by-village descriptions of Artsakh, RAA's work is essential to the history of Armenian culture and to its survival. I wish the organizers and everyone at the RAA a very happy anniversary and many more in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christina Maranci'.

Christina Maranci
Mashtots Professor of Armenian Studies
Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations/ History of Art and Architecture
Chair, Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations

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22 October, 2025

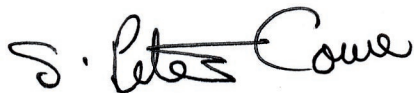
Dear Friends,

Since its inception over half-a-century ago RAA's activities have uncovered,

analyzed, documented, published, publicized, and more recently digitized records of countless examples of Armenian architecture all over the Diaspora, Armenia, and neighboring countries. The result has been the creation of an unparalleled database for heritage communities as well as scholarly inquiry, largely without state support.

I salute their past achievements and wish them continued success in meeting the challenges of sustaining the Armenian cultural heritage going forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. Peter Cowe". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "S." and last name "Cowe" clearly legible.

S. Peter Cowe

Distinguished Professor

Narekatsi Chair of Armenian Studies



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Armenian Studies Division, Head
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Universitätsplatz 1/1, 5020 Salzburg, Austria
jasmine.dum-tragut@plus.ac.at

LETTER OF CONGRATULATION 55TH ANNIVERSARY OF RESEARCH ON ARMENIAN ARCHITECTURE

It's a real honor and joy for me to congratulate „Research on Armenian Architecture“, RAA, as it celebrates its 55th anniversary

Over the past five decades, RAA has made huge contributions to researching, documenting, and indirectly, also, preserving Armenian cultural heritage. This includes sites both within today's Republic of Armenia and in historical Armenian areas of neighboring countries like Turkey, Georgia, Iran, and Azerbaijan. Thanks to the incredibly careful and precise research by Armen Haghazarian (who I was fortunate enough to know personally) and the Samvel Karapetyan, many monuments were documented just in time. They captured enough details for thorough analysis before later conflicts tragically led to their targeted destruction or complete disappearance. This extensive documentation by devoted scholars such as Karapetyan has become absolutely vital, especially in areas where cultural heritage is at risk from conflict. It reminds us of past times when architectural elements were reused in ways that erased culture instead of continuing it. This careful documentation often ends up being the only record left for sites affected by recent conflicts, like the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh war, where cultural erasure continues to threaten precious heritage.

As someone who actively researches Armenian cultural heritage and works in cultural property protection, RAA's 55 years of dedicated research into Armenian architecture is incredibly important. What's more, it's always been possible to access RAA's archives, documentations and photos, which has been invaluable for my own research and for other projects, like exhibitions on Armenian architectural monuments.

I'm truly grateful for all the amazing work RAA has done and I'm very optimistic that this crucial work will continue also in future. I am keen to see our ongoing collaboration continue, ensuring the documentation and safeguarding of Armenia's architectural heritage for all future generations.

Salzburg, October 20th, 2025

Blue Shield Austria, Board member
Interdisciplinary Armenian Cultural heritage studies,
RA NAS Inst. of Archaeology and Ethnography

October 20, 2025

On behalf of the USC Dornsife Institute of Armenian Studies, I extend heartfelt congratulations to Research on Armenian Architecture on its 55th anniversary. For decades, RAA has safeguarded the physical remnants of Armenia's past—its churches, bridges, khachkars, and monuments—ensuring that they remain part of our collective story. At the Institute, our mission is to study and amplify the contemporary Armenian experience across the diaspora and the Republic. Together, these complementary efforts affirm that Armenia's heritage is both historical and contemporary, rooted in enduring foundations yet continually reshaped by present realities.

RAA's unparalleled archive and preservation work are invaluable not only to scholars but to all who seek to understand Armenia's past as a guide for its future. As you celebrate this milestone, the Institute honors your achievements and looks forward to continued collaboration in ensuring that Armenian culture and experience—in all their diverse expressions—remain vital and visible across generations and geographies.

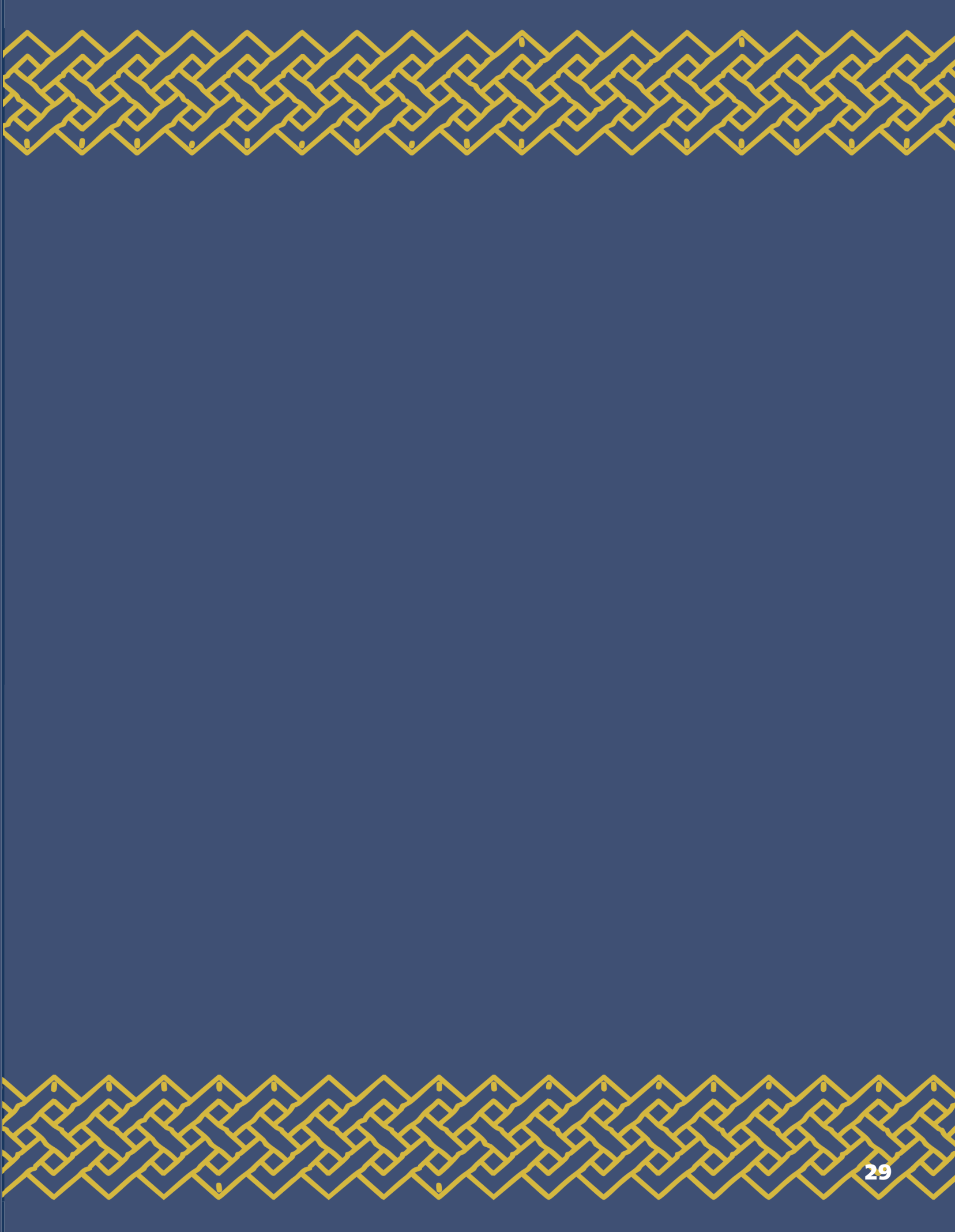
Shushan Karapetian

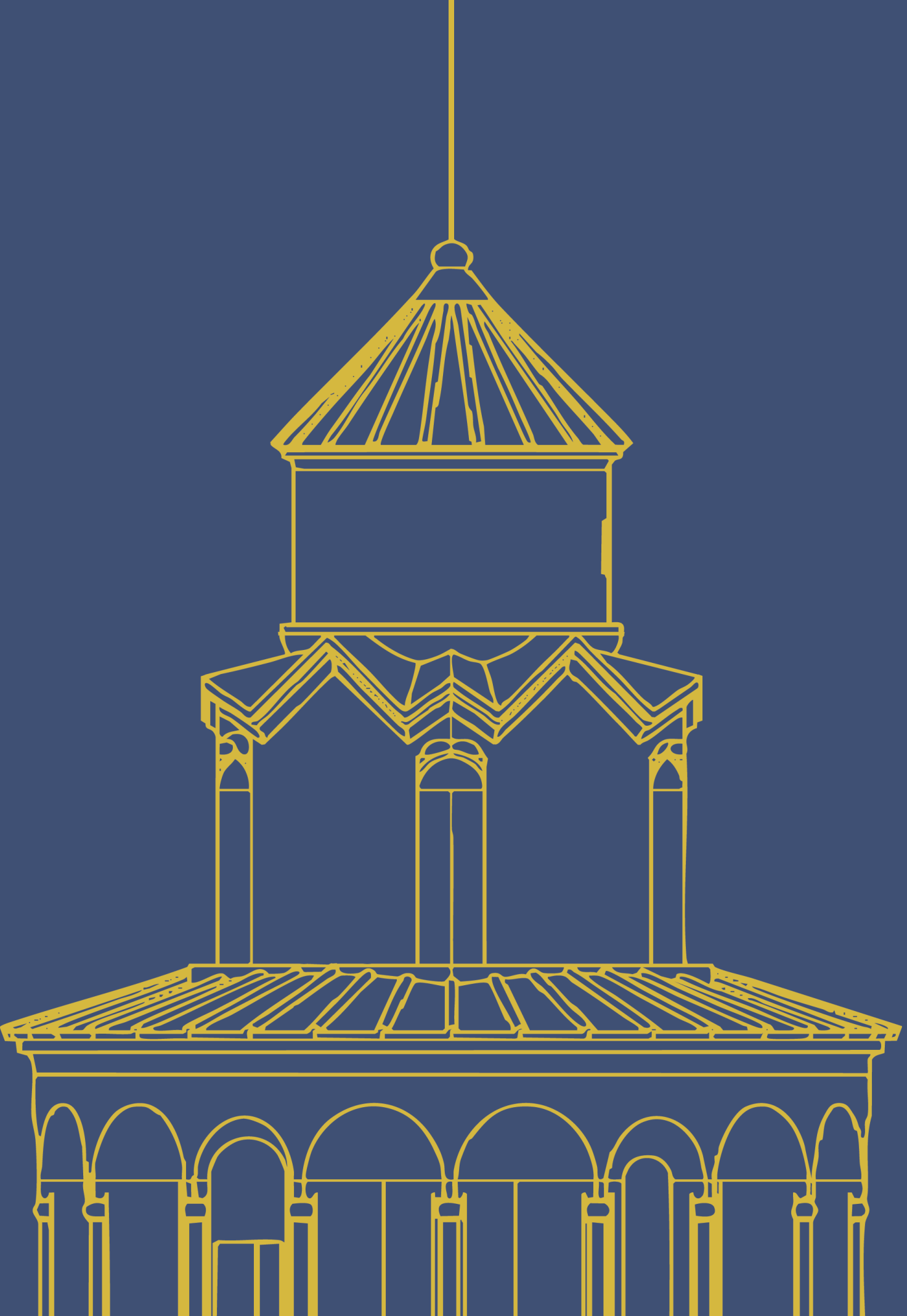
Dr. Shushan Karapetian
Director
USC Dornsife Institute of Armenian Studies

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A message from the Gala Organizing Committee Co-Chairs:

It is an absolute honor and privilege to serve as Co-Chairs for this milestone celebration — the 55th Anniversary Gala of RAA.

Coming together as a community to honor RAA's remarkable legacy and to support its enduring mission has been both meaningful and inspiring. We are filled with immense pride and joy as we commemorate 55 years of excellence, unity, and impact — and look ahead to an even brighter future.

Tonight's celebration is more than just a gala. It is a reflection of our shared commitment to education, heritage, and the continued growth of the RAA community. This anniversary marks not only a moment of reflection on all that has been achieved, but also a call to spark new possibilities for generations to come.

We extend our deepest gratitude to our dedicated committee members, visionary leadership, devoted volunteers, and generous sponsors. Your creativity, hard work, and generosity have made this celebration truly special.

To all our guests this evening, thank you for being part of this historic occasion, for believing in RAA's mission, and for standing with us as we continue to build upon this proud legacy for the next 55 years and beyond.

With heartfelt appreciation,

Talin Haroutunian,
RAA Board Member and Gala Chair

Ivy Manoucherian,
Co-Chair

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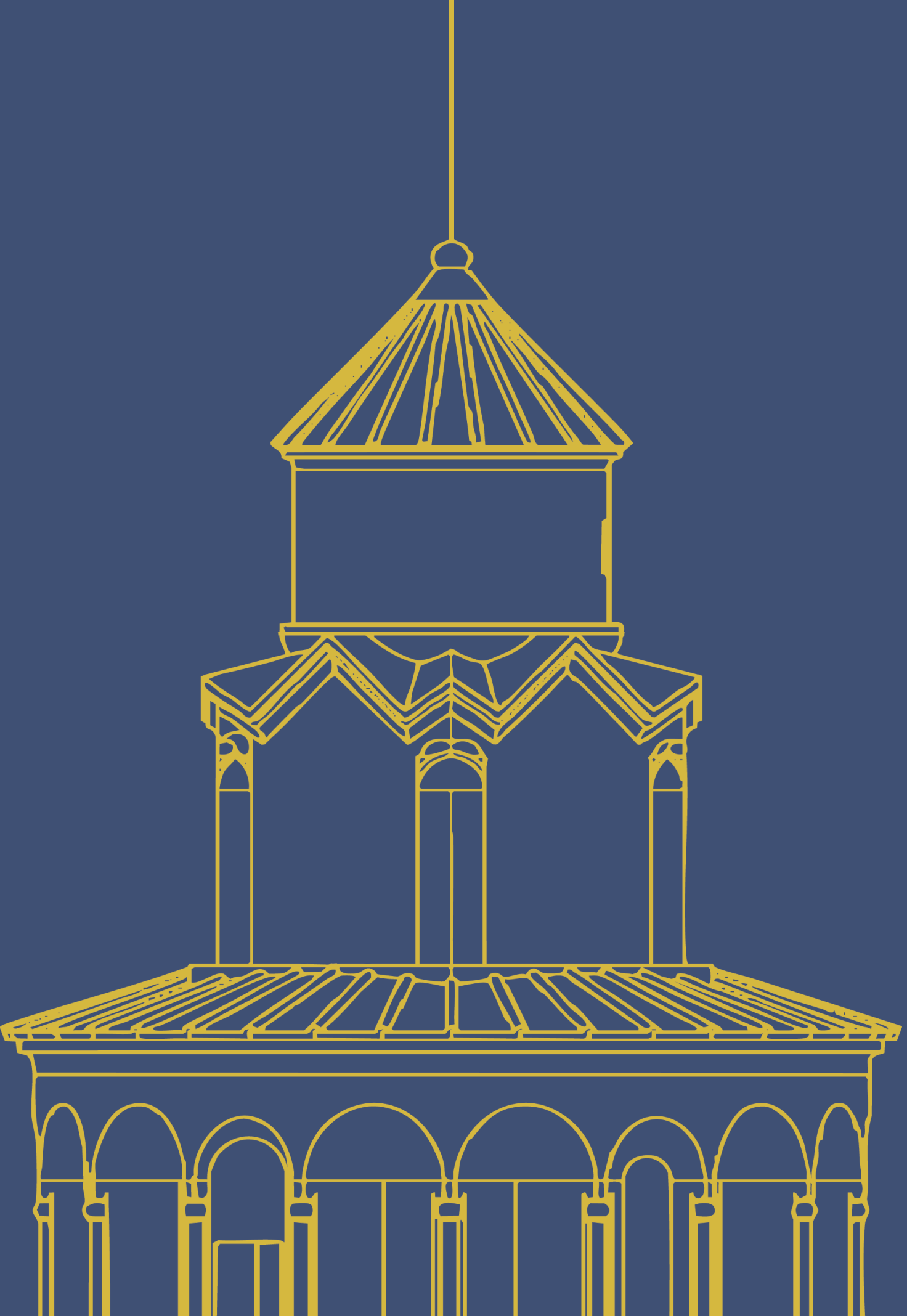
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Rebecca and Caro Minas

Congratulations to RAA on its 55th Anniversary,
and to this year's honorees for their tireless
commitment to preserving and honoring the
richness of Armenian heritage.

Mary Kanian

In loving memory
of
Our beloved parents and grandparents.

Mardiros and Marie Mardirossian

We are honored to support **RAA's** enduring mission to preserve our shared heritage—ensuring that the stories etched in stone, culture, and history continue to inspire generations to come.

We extend our deepest appreciation to the dedicated leadership and Board of RAA, whose vision and unwavering commitment make this vital work possible.

Dr. Mitchell Pelter
Mrs. Kohar Mardirossian Pelter
Dr. Megan Pelter



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Manoucherian Law congratulates Research on Armenian Architecture on 55 years of vital work documenting, preserving and digitizing Armenia's architectural and cultural heritage.

Your tireless efforts safeguard this legacy and ensure that it remains vibrant for our children and future generations. We are proud to support your mission and the crucial work that inspires the future.

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With deep admiration and gratitude, we celebrate 55 years of your invaluable dedication to preserving, documenting, and sharing the rich heritage of Armenian architecture across the world.

Your tireless efforts have safeguarded countless monuments and brought global recognition to the depth and beauty of Armenian cultural history.

Congratulations!

Arthur & Arlene Zenian



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Thank you for the magnificent work RAA is
doing to protect our culture.

Joe “Hovsep” and Lisa Dagdigian

Harvard, MA USA



Our best wishes for a successful event and
a lasting legacy in the years ahead.

Arthur & Eileen Hovsepian

Congratulations to RAA on its 55th Anniversary,
and to this year's honorees for their remarkable
dedication to preserving and promoting Armenia's
architectural and cultural legacy.

Dr. Shahan and Mrs. Adik Derboghossian



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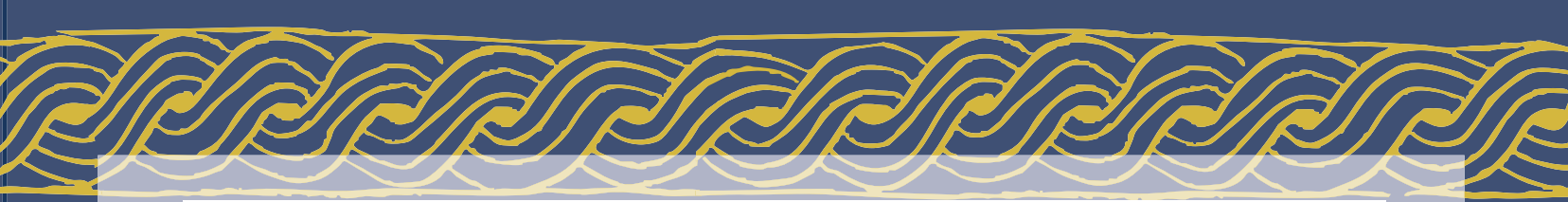


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Congratulations to RAA on 55 years of extraordinary dedication to cultural preservation, education, and community enrichment. Your unwavering commitment to celebrating heritage and inspiring future generations is truly commendable. We are proud to join in honoring this milestone and wish RAA continued success and prosperity in the years ahead.

Ray and Ani Hartoonian



Our heartfelt congratulations to RAA on its 55th Anniversary, and to the distinguished honorees for their enduring devotion to safeguarding and celebrating our Armenian cultural legacy.

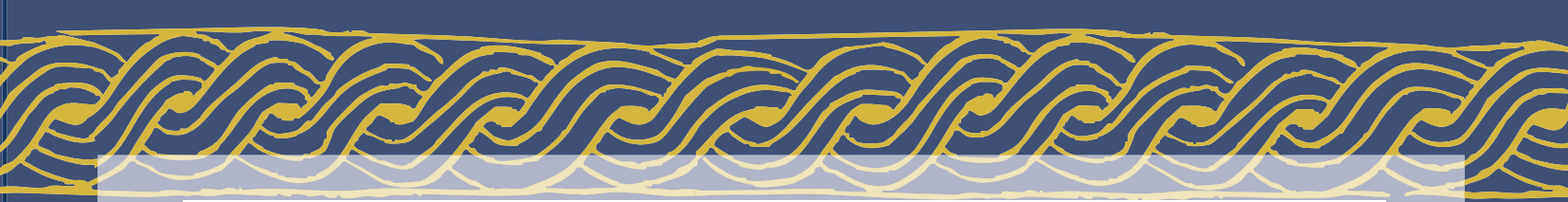
Elizabeth and Garnik Abrahamian

Congratulations to RAA on its 55th Anniversary and to this year's honorees for their lasting contributions to preserving Armenian cultural heritage.

George and Bella Issaiaans



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Congratulations to **RAA** on its 55th Anniversary,
and to this year's honorees for their steadfast dedication
to preserving Armenian cultural heritage.

We were privileged to be friends of the late
Dr. Armen Hakhnazarian, whose vision and legacy
continue to inspire us all.

Michael and Mari Sahakian

Congratulations to RAA on its 55th Anniversary,
and to this year's honorees for their outstanding
dedication to the preservation and celebration of
Armenian cultural heritage.

Souren Pirjanian

With heartfelt gratitude, we congratulate RAA on 55 years of achievements dedicated to the preservation of Armenian architecture and culture. Wishing RAA much continued success!

George and Mariam Bandarian



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Congratulations to RAA on 55 years of tireless dedication to Armenian cultural preservation. Through your vital efforts, you have memorialized Armenian architecture and heritage for our future generations—priceless work that ensures our continued existence. We are grateful for your ongoing contributions to safeguard our identity. May your mission continue to thrive, inspire and protect our legacy for many years to come.

Dr. Teny Haroutunian and Talin Haroutunian

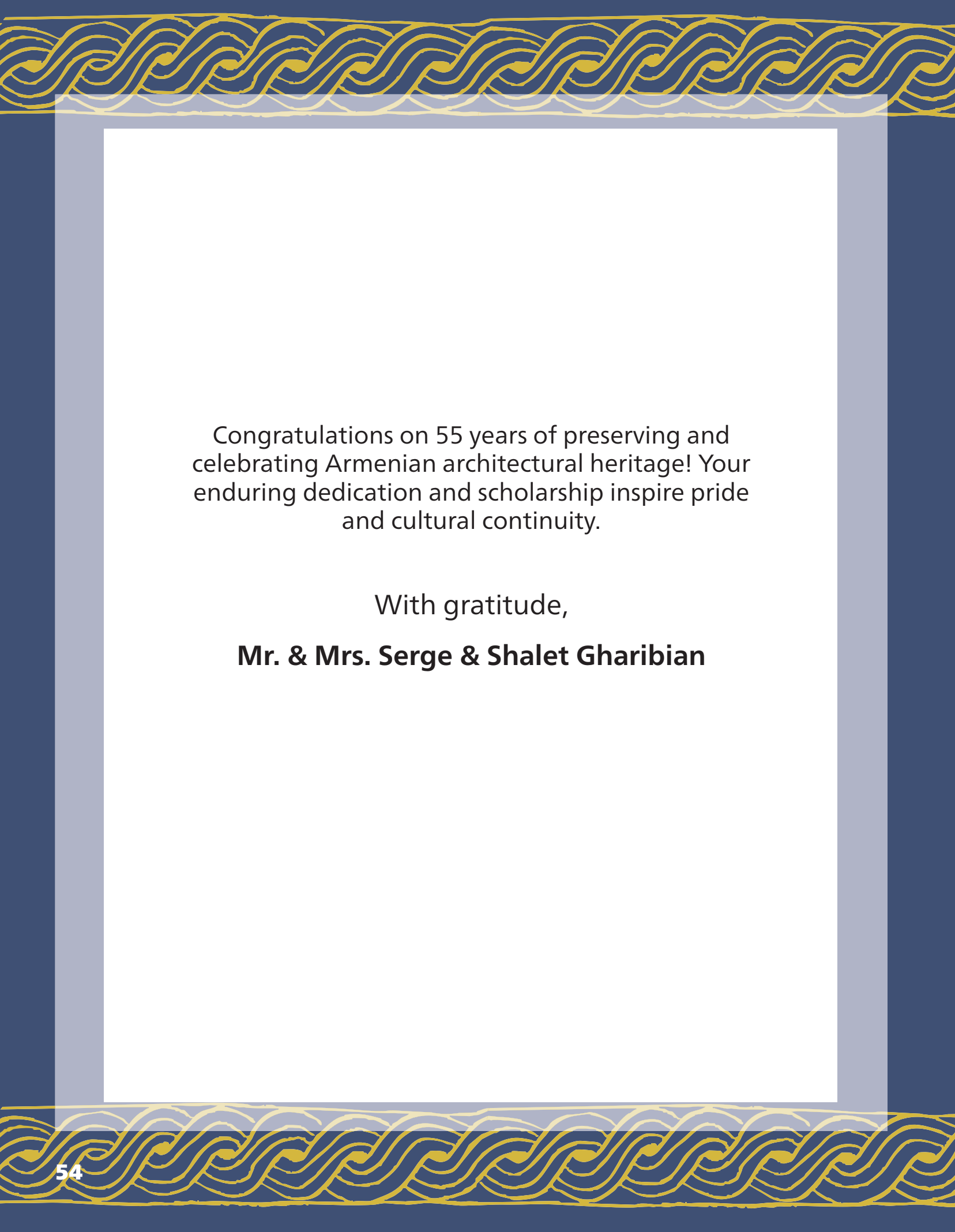
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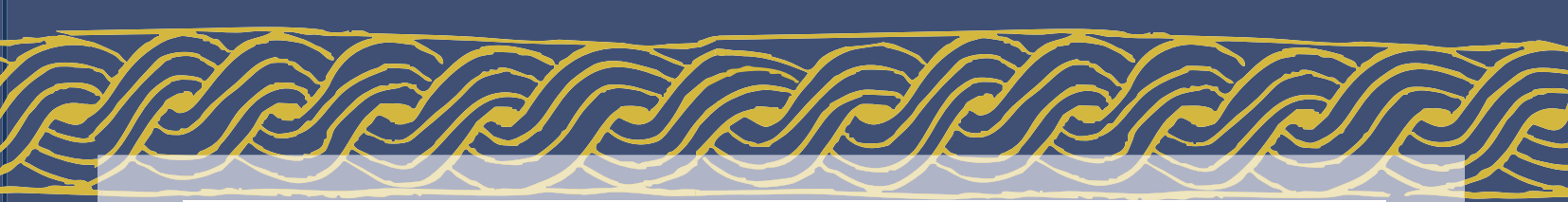
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Congratulations on 55 years of preserving and celebrating Armenian architectural heritage! Your enduring dedication and scholarship inspire pride and cultural continuity.

With gratitude,

Mr. & Mrs. Serge & Shalet Gharibian



Congratulations to RAA on its 55th Anniversary,
and to this year's honorees whose vision and dedication
continue to safeguard and celebrate our Armenian heritage.

Edmond and Armine Badmagharian


Congratulations to the RAA on this meaningful milestone.

It has been an honor to help your efforts towards
Armenian cultural preservation.

We wish you much success on your future endeavors
in the name of Armenians around the world.

Sincerely,

The Esrailian Family



Congratulations to RAA for the 55 anniversary
on its remarkable progress and achievement
to educate and unite our Armenian community.

With Best Wishes

Isaac and Frieda Vartanian

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We celebrate RAA's 55 years of enduring commitment to safeguarding Armenia's architectural treasures. May your remarkable work continue to educate and inspire future generations.

Drs. Saro and Christine Armenian

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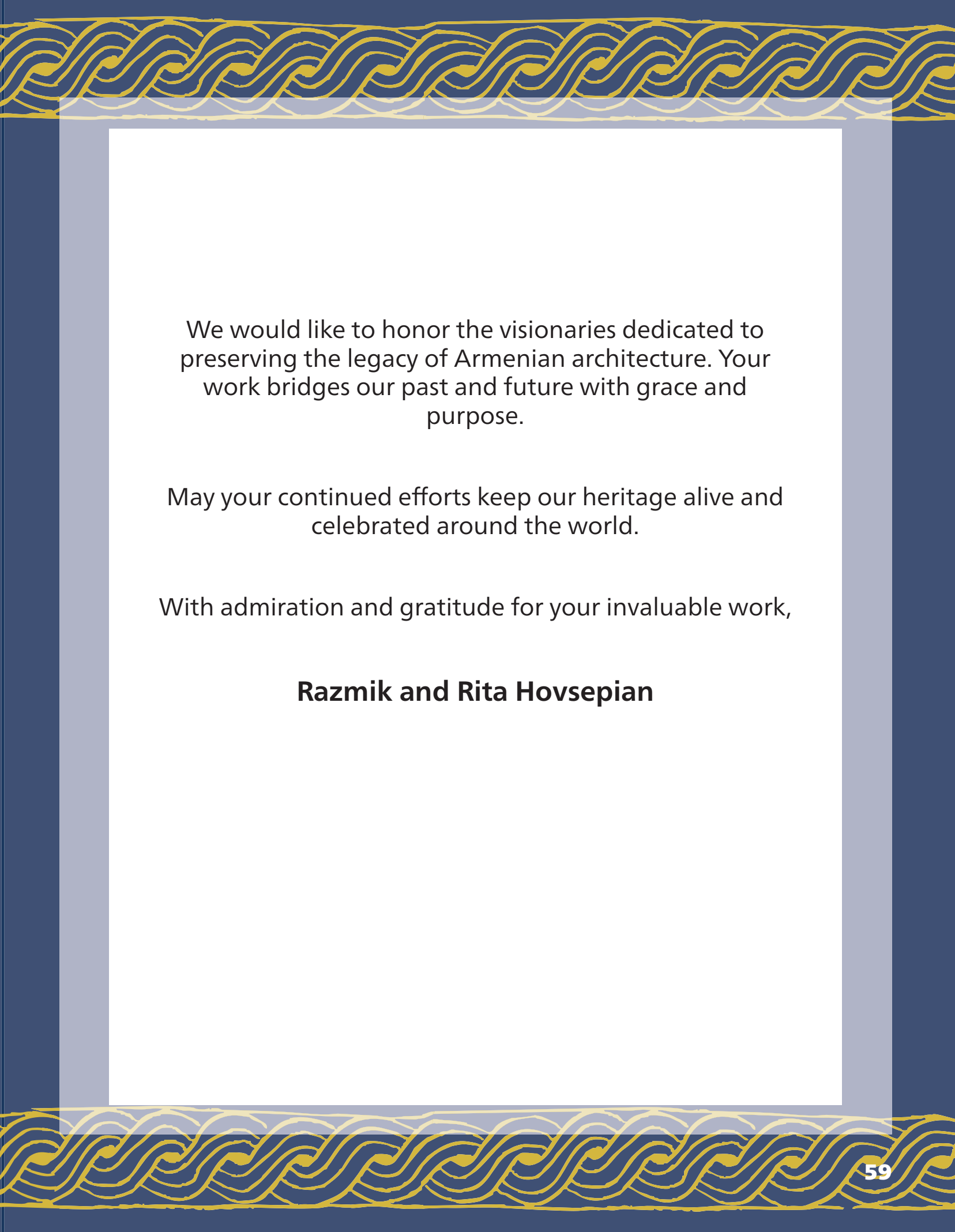
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We would like to honor the visionaries dedicated to preserving the legacy of Armenian architecture. Your work bridges our past and future with grace and purpose.

May your continued efforts keep our heritage alive and celebrated around the world.

With admiration and gratitude for your invaluable work,

Razmik and Rita Hovsepian



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Congratulations to RAA on 55 years of extraordinary dedication to researching, documenting, and preserving Armenian architectural heritage. Through your scholarship and advocacy, you have strengthened Armenian identity and inspired global appreciation of our heritage. We extend our heartfelt gratitude and best wishes for continued success in the years ahead.



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Congratulations to RAA
on its 55th Anniversary,
and to this year's honorees.

Janet Mirzaian



Congratulations for
55 years of research and
documentation of
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and Cultural Heritage.



Wishing RAA continued success and thank
you for all your dedication to preserve the
Armenian History.



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RAA Needs Your Continued Support

Thank you in advance for your continued generosity and guardianship of RAA's mission enabling RAA's extraordinary talented team, which include, among others, scientists, historians, architects, and engineers, to help research, document, archive, preserve, and present our cultural heritage for generations to come.

RAA guardian contributions will be allocated to support the activities of RAA researchers and the workforce in Yerevan, Armenia.

We invite you to join our Guardians Program by visiting the link at the bottom of the [RAA-USA.org](https://raa-usa.org) homepage



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RESEARCH ON ARMENIAN ARCHITECTURE U.S.A.