



ARMENIAN ASSEMBLY OF AMERICA

1140 19th STREET, NW • WASHINGTON, DC 20036-6608 • (202) 393-3434 • FAX: (202) 638-4904 • E-mail: info@aaainc.org

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Web: www.armenianassembly.org

CONTACT: Christine Kojoian

Phone: (202) 393-3434

E-mail: ckojoian@aaainc.org

ASSEMBLY'S FIRST-EVER YOUNG LEADERSHIP MISSION ARRIVES IN ARMENIA Assembly Leaders to Join Group

Yerevan, Armenia – After months of anticipation, the Assembly's Young Leadership Group has arrived in Yerevan for a 12-day excursion that will include tours of historical sites, briefings by Armenian government officials and several social events. Board of Directors Chairman Anthony Barsamian and Executive Director Bryan Ardouny will join the delegation which includes more than 50 young professionals, former Assembly interns and families with children.

“This is the first Assembly Mission of its kind and we are honored to give our young leaders this unique chance to experience their ancestral home and heritage,” said Barsamian. “This trip will allow us to see for ourselves the challenges facing Armenia and how each of us, no matter our age, can help ensure a brighter future for Armenia.”

While in Armenia, Mission participants will attend several briefings with Armenian government and U.S. Embassy officials, and also meet with His Holiness Karekin II. The group will visit several historical sites including Khor Virab, Holy Etchmiadzin, Garni, Geghard, Sardarabad, the Genocide Museum and Memorial, attend several musical concerts and performances in Yerevan and enjoy authentic Armenian cuisine at several area restaurants.

Children ages five through fifteen will have the opportunity to meet new friends in Armenia and tour the country in a safe and controlled environment through the Assembly's “Camp Yerevan” program. The program includes a series of age specific activities that will allow youngsters to truly enjoy Armenia's rich culture and heritage.

Sheryl Santerian, who is traveling with her parents ages 74 and 81, and her two teenage daughters, ages 17 and 19, says she's grateful the Assembly organized a trip to meet the various interests of her family.

“We appreciate that the Assembly recognized the need for families to make the trip to Armenia together, and designed this trip with that in mind,” said Santerian. “I'm already looking forward to making a return trip with my husband and son in a few years.”

Barsamian also added that later this year, the Assembly will return to Armenia with Board of Directors Member and Mission Chair Annie Totah who will be leading the 10th annual Trustees Mission to Armenia and Karabakh.

“Annie has done a terrific job in making the Mission a truly memorable experience for so many of our members and supporters throughout the years,” said Barsamian. “We commend her on this milestone anniversary and thank our supporters for the continued interest in these trips.”

The Trustees Mission to Armenia and Karabakh is scheduled for October 19 through November 1. For additional trip information or to make your reservations, please contact the Armenian Assembly at (202) 393-3434.

The Armenian Assembly of America is the largest Washington-based nationwide organization promoting public understanding and awareness of Armenian issues. It is a 501 (c) (3) tax-exempt membership organization.

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Photograph:



CAPTION: During their first full day in Armenia, the Assembly's Young Leadership Group Mission took a bus tour of Yerevan, stopping along the way to pose for a group picture on the steps of the Mother Armenia Statue overlooking the capital city.