TÊTE-À-TÊTE WITH KEGHART READERS - 2

Posted on May 25, 2025 by Keghart



Category: Opinions

Dear Reader,

In early 2024, I wrote, “In a few months, I shall be knocking at the door of the octogenarians’ club. It is my firm belief that a person at that age should not be in a leadership position, whether of a publication or a public-serving organization” (Tête-à-tête with Keghart Readers). At the time, we made clear *Keghart* would welcome a new publisher who would “oversee the periodical’s overall operation.”

Since then, several candidates’ names were considered as potential publishers. Armenia-based Lucy Deukmejian and Gevorg Yazichyan, both repatriates, and Minas Kojayan of Los Angeles, a long-time contributor, were welcomed with open arms to oversee the Armenian section. They fulfilled the task with professionalism and even recruited young contributors. Alas, the English section continued to remain without a publisher.

In North America, a solely Armenian-language periodical barely survives without the support of a cultural, political or religious organization. Being non-partisan and independent publication is *sine qua non* for *Keghart*. As such, it has been deprived of the support other Armenian media enjoy.

Given the outlined limitations, "Team Keghart" announces the cessation of the publication after eighteen years of operation. The website will remain online for at least another year.

We thank technologists Vako Nicolian and Nareg Khodanian for creating the website, maintaining its smooth performance, and neutralizing hackers, especially in the early years of the publication.

Razmig Mardigian, dedicated supporter of *Keghart* since its inception, managed the site's financial affairs. His advice and timely interventions kept the periodical afloat on several occasions. We are grateful to him.

We would be remiss not to mention Lucine Kasbarian, long-time contributor and coordinator of several projects, cartoonist Sevag and illustrator Chris Fernezian. We are indebted to them all.

Jirair Tutunjian’s role has been unique and more than praiseworthy. As the editor-in-chief for a decade (2008-2018), he rejuvenated *Keghart* by introducing journalistic discipline. His editorials, dealing not only with Armenian affairs, resonated with readers. In addition to editorials, he contributed hundreds of articles. Introducing satire in Armenian-English media was a novelty, and we hope he continues to produce such articles in the future.

Young editors Karen Mkrtchyan and Khajag Aghazarian, following Mr. Tutunjian’s tradition, acted as editors and Arusyak Karapetyan as publisher. Their contribution will be fondly remembered.

Without the contribution and encouragement of Viken Attarian, Artsvi Bakhchinyan, David Boyajian, Prof. Seta B. Dadoyan, David Davidian, Prof. Z. S. Andrew Demirdjian, Charles Garabed Der Kasbarian (aka C. K. Garabed, Uncle Garabed - deceased), Samvel Khalatyan (Deceased), Rev. Dr. Abel Hratch Manoukian, Katia Peltekian, Varouj Pogharian and Prof. Alan Whitehorn *Keghart* wouldn't have

enjoyed its current intellectual standing. We are grateful to them.

Last, but not least, we thank all article contributors, our thousands of readers, specially the 5,000 non-Armenian academics, and the occasional donors without whose support the periodical could not have lasted this long despite the absence of ad and subscription revenues.

Although “Team Keghart” is leaving the media circle, each *Keghart* contributor and "staffer" is acutely aware of the “to be or not to be” challenges that our nation and our homeland are facing. Each one of us will continue in her/his own way the struggle towards establishing a just, strong, sovereign, and democratic homeland that honors its past, especially the victims of the Genocide, and be worthy to the claim, “We are. We will be. And we will multiply!” (Gank. Bidi linenk. Ou ter shadananak).

Respectfully,

Dikran Abrahamian MD

Comments

S. Kupelian – 2025-06-01 23:01:17
Because intellectuals, think tanks, lobbyists, influencers, and the media contribute to the formation of public opinion and finally impact government policy, the English Armenian media in North America has a vital mission: to provide to non-Armenians information about our history, culture and challenges. Being a friend of Keghart's publisher, I am aware the periodical is made available to Arab, Kurd, Alevi, and Turk progressive intellectuals, in addition to more than five thousand non-Armenian North American academics. As such, Keghart has steadfastly remained faithful to its mission statement https://keghart.org/in-lieu-of-a-mission-statement/ I hope publisher Dikran Abrahamian's farsighted strategy is adopted by whoever becomes the next publisher of Keghart. S. Kupelian

Papken Boyadjian – 2025-05-31 15:25:25
Keghart has always been more than a platform, it has been a steadfast barricade in the uneven battle for the Armenian Cause, a voice of truth in the face of denial, and a beacon that reminded us to never give up. Through every article, every drawing, and every word, it held the line for our people's dignity. As Keghart enters a new chapter, may a new publisher rise to carry its torch, so that its righteous mission continues from generation to generation. The fight for justice must never waver. The pen must remain sharp, the voice loud, and the metaphorical gun held high: never bowed, never surrendered. With deepest respect and solidarity, Papken Boyadjian

Cassandra – 2025-05-29 23:23:23
Much as many criticized writer/translator Ara Baliozian for his bitterness, cynicism and misanthropy, we cannot argue with the reasons for his truth-telling. Our independent thinkers/journalists/publications are expected to fund themselves, work for free, do so uncomplainingly, be held to the highest standards possible, take the blame as the bringers of bad news, and more unsavory realities. If the global Armenian nation cannot "afford" to maintain even one independent media outlet, they don't deserve to have one. Now Armenia's authorities have hired Washington lobbying firms to meet Turkey and Azerbaijan's demands and spin a different "narrative" rather than collaborate with the Diaspora advocacy groups to promote an agenda in the collective Armenian national interest....something that has always been anathema to all three countries anyway.

H. Aharonian – 2025-05-27 16:28:11
Dear Dr. Abrahamian, My thanks and gratitude for your vision to establish Keghart eighteen years ago. խորին շնորհակալութիւն: I believe it is the only independent and unsponsored Armenian electronic publication available to readers. With dedicated volunteer editors and authors from all over the globe, Keghart provided Armenian history, culture, and unbiased political analysis. What achieved has called for dedication, knowledge, strategy, and patience. Discontinuing Keghart will leave a vacuum. Who will fill it? I call on Armenians everywhere to rise to the challenge and donate their time to continue the mission you launched eighteen years ago. They will surely be honored for their service to our Nation---a nation now without credible leaders.

Nicolai (Sr.) Romashuk – 2025-05-26 18:05:29
Dear Mr. Dikran Abrahamian, This sad news is a big tragedy, another black page for all the Armenian people. I am still optimistic that sooner or later the difficulties of Keghart will be solved. We have many optimistic Armenian proverbs, like for example, 'Asdvads meg toore gu page (kotse), myus toore ge pana'. 'Hope gives life'. Have a Blessed Day. Nicolai Romashuk Hairabedian

Armineh Abdalian – 2025-05-26 02:09:18
Dear all, Very sad to hear this news. I loved your newsletters, very well written articles that I read and passed along to many friends, some even to non-Armenian ones. Wish you all the best and hope somehow that you'll be able to continue. Thank you again.
Շնորհակալութիւններ Հարգանքներով Արմինէ Աբդալեան



Bedros Kojian – 2025-05-25 11:24:47

Dear Dikran and team. I am sorry to hear. You have all done an outstanding job. It is really sad, but as you say without support it's impossible to survive. You also write that each one of us should do "whatever we can" to support Armenia survive, but unfortunately most of us do nothing, or at most talk, wish, or pray, Even when we all know by doing these we have accomplished and will accomplish nothing. Today even when many of us think the survival of our our country is in question, our politicians and parties continue to fight each other instead of uniting and fighting our enemies. Mkhitar Hayrig has said: ժողովուրդ ինչի միս ուզում եք կերեք, միայն իրարու միսը մի ուտեք And Vazgen Sarkisyan has said: Տղերք աթոռի համար մի կռվեք, հողի համար կռվեք որ աթոռ դնելու տեղ ունենանք And finally my uneducated father born in Marash in 1896, who was orphaned at age one because my grandfather, a strong tall men while walking on a street, unbeknown to him a Turkish officer who had received a new sword approached from behind and struck his neck to find out if he could behead him in one stroke. Anyway my father survived the genocide and in 1919 he left Turkey from Istanbul. Therefore he had seen and experienced a lot during those 4 years. He used to say "this hammer and sickle should soar above our head for as long as possible," because if we become independent we will destroy ourselves, we will not need enemies. That surprised me but that is what we are doing today. My biggest regret, I didn't write his survival, because of several reasons but I won't elaborate. I call this blabber: Այրած սրտի մխիթարանք. in English a comfort to a heart on fire. Thanks to you and your team for your many years of excellent service. Sincerely, Bedros Kojian