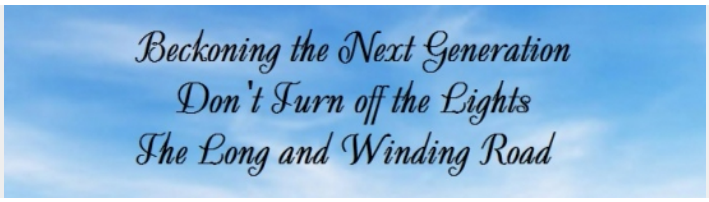
THE DREAM LIVES ON

Posted on April 30, 2017 by Keghart



Category: Opinions

April 29, 2017

Dear Reader,

For the past three years the Keghart editorial board was engaged in a project to recruit, train and retain a younger editorial team to take the helm of the website. On three occasions a breakthrough seemed to be close (early 2014, mid-2015 and in October 2016) but for reasons beyond our control these attempts failed. More recently a fourth individual tentatively agreed to take over Keghart's management but for personal reasons was unable to make a commitment for a start date.

After the remarkable effort of the website's readers—"Friends of Keghart"--to contribute to the financial security of the outlet, the board redoubled its efforts to meet the challenge of locating a new team. Concurrently, a not-for-profit entity was proposed. The latter's primary function was to explore and implement measures that would generate revenues so that the new editorial board could concentrate on its mission and not be burdened and distracted by other functions. A legal process was initiated to register the entity. Technical concerns were also addressed.

April 29, 2017

Dear Reader,

For the past three years the Keghart editorial board was engaged in a project to recruit, train and retain a younger editorial team to take the helm of the website. On three occasions a breakthrough seemed to be close (early 2014, mid-2015 and in October 2016) but for reasons beyond our control these attempts failed. More recently a fourth individual tentatively agreed to take over Keghart's management but for personal reasons was unable to make a commitment for a start date.

After the remarkable effort of the website's readers—"Friends of Keghart"--to contribute to the financial security of the outlet, the board redoubled its efforts to meet the challenge of locating a new team. Concurrently, a not-for-profit entity was proposed. The latter's primary function was to explore and implement measures that would generate revenues so that the new editorial board could concentrate on its mission and not be burdened and distracted by other functions. A legal process was initiated to register the entity. Technical concerns were also addressed.

Despite these efforts and the sizeable amount of pledged donations there remain significant challenges. So far no individual or group has emerged to conjoin and lead the various elements for a smooth transition from a personal website to a publicly-supported media outlet. The septuagenarians of the present board deserve a break to pursue their personal and financial needs and interests.

The second challenge is even more daunting. We live in market economies which impose a responsibility on every adult to safeguard her/his financial well-being. Even in the best dedication and voluntarism scenario it's not practical to expect individuals to devote, on a long term basis, a minimum of 50-60 hours per month for the noblest of missions. That's the least amount of time it takes to edit and publish the bimonthly, not including correspondence with writers and "office work". Without a broad public support it's quixotic to engage in a publication and expose it to a perpetual process of fund-raising. It reminds us of Yervant Odian's "kich muh pogh oughargek" (send a bit of money). Granted, the pledges amount to a respectable figure, but half of what has been pledged will take care of the legal and technical expenses while the remainder can cover eight to ten months of publication costs. What about next year and the year after? There is no guarantee that donations will continue and it's not prudent or ethical to fall back on the same donors. Launching annual donor campaigns takes time which our skeleton staff does not have.

While the above-described situation is heart-rending, we are confident that there are a good number of individuals who realize the importance and necessity of an independent Armenian media defined as not dependent on personal interests or hostage to political parties, advertising agencies and on conditional hand-outs from foreign interests. We are hopeful that a person or a group will emerge to meet the challenge. We wish them all the best. Meanwhile all efforts by this board will cease. Our lawyer has been already instructed to discontinue the registration process. Regretfully, it's time to say a **final** good-bye.

Thankfully,

Keghart Editorial Board