

Garó Hovhannessian

He was born in Beirut, Lebanon. He received his secondary education at AGBU's Hovagimian-Manoukian School. He graduated from the American University of Beirut in 1979, and got the Master of Sciences degree in agricultural economics. At the beginning of his career, he was the editor of "Aztag-Troshag" weekly, as well as the youth "Gaidzer" quarterly. He has taught as a lecturer at the Haigazian University, Beirut. He has been – and still is – a teacher in various Armenian and non-Armenian secondary schools in Lebanon, as well as in the seminary of the Great House of Cilicia (Bikfaya, Lebanon). He is the principal of Khatcher Kalousdian Pedagogical Formation Center in Antelias, Lebanon. He is the author of two books, has published several papers, edited more than 25 books, and signed numerous articles. He is married, and has two sons and a daughter.

Samvel Karapetian

Samvel Karapetian is an Armenian historian, researcher, author, and expert of medieval architecture, specializing in the study of the historical monuments of Armenia, Nagorno Karabakh and other regions of the Southern Caucasus. He has surveyed and catalogued thousands of artifacts of Armenian history and architecture during the course of more than two decades. Karapetian is currently head of the Yerevan branch of the NGO entitled Research on Armenian Architecture (RAA). Karapetian is also known as an outspoken critic of the treatment of Armenian monuments in neighboring countries. He argues that Turkish authorities have adopted a policy of intentional neglect and planned destruction. He has also presented evidence that accuses Georgia and Azerbaijan of deliberately destroying Armenian historical monuments. He presented his findings to the US Congress in 2007 and to the European Court of Human Rights in 2008.

In 2007 he won the Armenian Presidential Prize for his investments in humanitarian activities.

Tovmas Poghossian

Tovmas Poghossian was born in 1954, in the village of Sarchapet, Lori Province. He is a well-known artist in the Republic of Armenia, holder of “Moses of Khoren” Medal of Honor, professor at the “Gomidas” conservatory, director of the “Sayat Nova” cultural association, performer of folk and minstrel songs, as well as a pedagogue.

He studied at and graduated from the Armenian Intermediate School No. 10 in Tbilisi and later on at Gevorgian Religious Seminary of Ejmiatsin. He studied philology at the Pedagogical Institute of Vanadzor (Kirovakan), and the Armenian art of singing and folk instruments at “Komitas” State Conservatory of Yerevan. Since 1987 he works as text specialist and lecturer at the Armenian Musical Folklore Studies Chair of the abovementioned conservatory.

In 1992 he founded and directs until today “Sayat-Nova” Minstrel Song Ensemble of Public Radio and Television of Armenia. Moreover, in 1997 he has established the “Jivani” School of Minstrel Art.

Vartan Marshlian

Vartan Marshlian was born in Armenia. He has lived in Moscow for over 25 years. He has since moved back to Armenia in 2010, and lives in Yerevan with his wife and two children. Vartan Marshlyan has more than 18 years work experience in the public and private sectors. Before the establishment of RepatArmenia Foundation he was the Deputy Minister of Diaspora, and responsible for developing programs with Armenian communities in CIS countries, organizing pan-Armenian professional forums, creating programs to train young leaders and journalists of the Diaspora.

Marshlian also worked as Economic Advisor to the British Department for International Development and assistant to the Prime Minister of Armenia.

Marshlian is committed to the Armenian national cause. He was an active member of the Moscow Armenian community, board member of Moscow Armenian Young Professionals Organization (SIVAM) and advisory board member of the Armenian Students Association of Moscow State University.

Marshlian has graduated from the Financial Academy with a degree in International Economics in 1997. He received his PhD in Economics from Moscow State University in 2000.

Vahé Tachjian

Born in Lebanon, he received his Ph.D. in History and Civilization at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (EHESS) in Paris. He is the author of many academic articles and books. He is now the project director and the chief editor of the Houshamadyan website (based in Berlin) whose aim is to reconstruct the Ottoman Armenians' local history and the memory of their lives.

Elke Hartmann.

She has studied history and Middle Eastern/Islamic Studies at Freie Universitaet Berlin, Germany. Specializing in Ottoman and Western Armenian history of the 19th and early 20th century, she has done extensive research in the Ottoman State archives, adding to her use of a variety of Armenian sources. She is the chairman of the "Houshamdyan" association based in Berlin.