

**ARMENIAN  
INDEPENDENT  
CULTURAL  
ASSOCIATION of  
ATLANTA, INC.**

June 22, 1982

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian  
Primate Diocese of the Armenian Church of America  
630 Second Avenue  
New York, New York 10016

Dear Archbishop Manoogian:

I deeply apologize for not contacting you sooner. This was due to family difficulties and work schedule. Please accept my sincere congratulations for your election. I am confident our people are in capable hands.

The Armenian spirit is alive and well in Atlanta. We have incorporated into a non-profit organization and are working hard toward unifying the Armenians of the area. This year for the first time in Atlanta, the 24th of April, the day of the martyrs, was commemorated. It was a moving experience for all of us. We also started our first language class, teaching to the young and old alike. This was an eight week introductory course offered through our organization. Our other activities have included participating in international festivals in the area with our dance group and our cuisine prepared by several Armenian ladies and introducing the Armenian culinary art to the area. This has proven most successful in terms of acceptance by the Atlanta community and financial return for our organization. My biggest dream along with the rest of the community remains to have a community center for our people and eventually a church to feed our spiritual needs.

At the present time we are trying to promote the good southern living that Atlanta has to offer to the conscientious and hard working Armenians around the country, and in this manner increase our Armenian population in the area. In Atlanta we have a unified community and we have been able to cut through the political differences as well as the geographical differences among our people. I look at our community with a great deal of pride since very few communities can boast that they have achieved this much integration.

I had the opportunity to meet your friend, Dr. Garabedian on April 25th. I wish we could have had him for April 24th but the turn of events did not allow it. However, we had a very enjoyable visit. As I told him, we are looking forward to having you here at your earliest convenience. The members of the community would be overjoyed to have you here. If you allow us a few weeks notice, we will be able to entertain you in the most appropriate manner. I am looking forward to hearing from you.

Most sincerely,

*Armen Karapetian*  
Armen Karapetian  
President