

## **America the Beautiful**

*Contributor: Anne Marie Egigian*

On Sunday, November 9, 2025 members of the St. John Armenian Church Renovation Committee held a fundraiser in the St. Vartan Room turned art gallery. The event took place after church services and was well attended, considering the weather that day was quite questionable. Spearheaded by Ann Marie Egigian, the theme focused on our Armenian American Veterans in a quest to raise funds for the Armenian American Veterans Building. It was a befitting honor on the cusp of Veterans Day. Accompanying the event was a delicious spread from Westborn Market, graciously donated by Annrae and Tony Anusbigian.

Throughout the venue were displays, some showcasing artifacts of Armenians who immigrated to America, photographs of our Armenian men and women who proudly served in the military, and paintings by Ann Marie Egigian, with titles inspired by the lyrics of “America the Beautiful.”

A silent auction brought attention to creative works by Ani Garabedian, Levon Kafafian, Lillian Zamanian-Marinelli and Sue Carman-Vian. Also, to help raise funds for sale was an array of Mark Mardirosian’s bricolage art, Nayiri Misirliyan’s gnome ornaments and 3x5 outdoor American flags.

During the event there were a couple of short speeches, one of which highlighted Alexan Kazarian, whose Eagle Scout project is to design and complete an outdoor patio space for the Veterans Building. Marty Shoushanian made a brief speech and presented a very generous monetary donation on behalf of the Armenian American Veterans. Joy Callan accepted the kind donation made on behalf of the Veterans and has been deeply involved in garnering donations for the renovation project. Throughout the event, she kindly recorded additional generous contributions and sales.

Attendees were very impressed and supportive of the amount of work and attention given to that special day. A BIG thank you to the following individuals helping hands and contributors leading up to the success of the fundraising event:

**St. John Armenian Church Torchbearer**  
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