



Monthly Newsletter
NOVEMBER | 2024

Heartfelt Response to the “We are Our Mountains” Initiative

Two days ago, members of our organization discovered the flags of Armenia and Croatia under one of the trees of the newly created garden in Tatev.

We found out that the author of the "surprise" is Eva Kirchmayer Bilić, a renowned Croatian pianist, organist, professor at the Zagreb Music Academy, journalist and public figure. In the spring Eva participated in the ["Tree of Life"](#) initiative of the "We Are Our Mountains" Development Agency – the planting of 1,000 fruit trees in Tatev.

The new garden was laid out in honor of Ruben Vardanyan's significant contribution to the well-being and development of his people and homeland and in support of his charitable initiatives.



Eva Kirchmeier learned about the "Tree of Life" project on the Internet.

“As soon as I learned about this project, I decided to take part in it. And I secretly hope that one day I will see “my” tree, although it seems incredible to me,”
Eva shares her memories in a letter addressed to the “We Are Our Mountains” team.



Her connection with Armenia began in 2019 with a unique and unforgettable first visit.



“I have been following the situation in Armenia since 2019, studying its history, and what struck me most was that I never studied anything about Armenia at school, and even today my children do not study it either.”

Since 2020, Eva has been following the situation in Artsakh with concern, trying to help in every possible way. She recorded a [video](#) dedicated to Artsakh, participated in the "Artsakh Peace Festival", and began to study Armenian through the AGBU program.

In 2023 and 2024, Eva held concerts in Gyumri and Yerevan featuring Armenian and Croatian artists dedicated to fostering the Armenian-Croatian friendship. With her active participation, the Armenian-Croatian community was founded, and in April 2024, the first Armenian Cultural Days were organized in Zagreb. For the first time in the history of Croatia, a liturgy according to the Armenian Apostolic Church rite was held in Zagreb.



“On October 16, 2024, in the Church of St. Blaise in Zagreb, we prayed at the Holy Mass for Ruben Vardanyan. I sincerely hope that Mr. Ruben and his colleagues will be released soon. I really want to meet him,”
says Eva Kirchmeier.

In mid-October, Eva was a guest at the musical program “Harmonious Friendship. Croatia and Armenia” at the Cafesjian Center in Yerevan. After the concert, she immediately went to Tatev to fulfill her dream of seeing her tree. It was number 696 out of 1,000 newly planted trees.



“When I got off the cable car, I started looking... As soon as I saw the numbers on the boards, I realized that I was close and ran to look for my tree... I cannot describe the joy I felt when I saw it. When I saw the number 696, I started screaming, jumping, running... I decided to put flags next to the young tree... I started crying, hugging the tree... I thought about Mr. Ruben and all the people who initiated the planting of trees in this incredibly beautiful area of Tatev, near the monastery. I resolved that I would come back again and again to see how my tree grows and bring new flags. Now I have a small part of me and Croatia in Armenia. This feeling brought me closer to Armenia and I felt as if I was here... Thank you for your support, and I look forward to sharing music, history and hope with you all in Tatev in 2025.”

The flags left by Eva and the tree are significant symbols that carry a great message of unity, hope and shared cultural heritage.

If you also participated in the Tree of Life project, you can see your tree at this [link](#). Photos of trees will be updated every six months.

"We Are Our Mountains" organization implements programs aimed at supporting those forcibly displaced from Artsakh, preservation of Artsakh's cultural heritage, as well as development projects in the Syunik region of Armenia. [Learn more](#)

For more information, please contact: info@ourmountains.am.

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