ST. LEON WOMEN'S GUILD PRESENTS

When Turkish Wore Armenian Letters: What Language Remembers

A Public Lecture By Tamar Alexandra Purut Tonoyan

For centuries, Ottoman Armenians spoke Turkish as their daily tongue — yet when they wrote, they turned instead to the Armenian alphabet, forging a hybrid literary tradition that history has allowed to slip into obscurity:

Armeno-Turkish.

This lecture will unearth how this script came to be, why our predecessors chose to render the language of their rulers within the sanctuary of their own alphabet, and what that subtle, defiant act of translation reveals about endurance, memory, and identity preserved against erasure.

Tamar will trace the historiography of Armeno-Turkish from its Ottoman-era origins to its long exile from scholarly attention, illuminate surviving texts that bear witness to its remarkable reach, and unveil before the audience a private inheritance made public: an Armeno-Turkish Bible, carried across generations tracing back to her great-grandfather.

Come discover a lost tradition — one written by Armenians, for Armenians, in a script that has stood the test of time.

St. Leon Armenian Church

NOV. 10TH, 2026 - ABAJIAN HALL @ 7:30 PM

FOLLOWING WOMEN'S GUILD MEETING.
ALL PARISHIONERS ARE INVITED TO THIS LECTURE