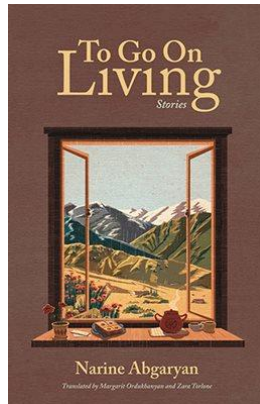


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
April 12, 2025

Armenian Cultural Foundation  
441 Mystic Street  
Arlington, MA 02474  
Contact: Ara Ghazarians  
Tel. 781-646-3090  
Email: [armeniancultural.fdn@gmail.com](mailto:armeniancultural.fdn@gmail.com)

### *To Go on Living*: Public Reading and Conversation with Narine Abgaryan



**Arlington, MA** - Of all the republics of the Soviet Union, Armenia had the most difficult birth. The devastating earthquake of 1988, followed by the Karabagh conflict and economic collapse, left a lasting scar on the psyche of the nation which continues to this day. The devastating impact of these calamities have left their mark and reflection on all aspects of people's lives, culture, arts and literature in particular.

*To Go on Living* by acclaimed writer, Narine Agbaryan is one such work. A fascinating collection of thirty-one linked short stories set in an Armenian mountain village immediately after the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan in the early 1990s, it captures the trials and tribulations of her compatriots during the early years of the fledgling homeland.

The book, traces the interconnected lives of villagers tending to their everyday tasks, engaging in quotidian squabbles, and celebrating small joys against a breathtaking landscape. Yet the setting, suspended in time and space,

believes unspeakable tragedy: every character contends with an unbearable burden of loss.

“Writing about war,” Abgaryan writes, “is like destroying your hope, like looking death in the face without looking away, because, if you do, you will betray yourself.” The war rages largely off the book’s pages, appearing only in fragmented flashbacks. Abgaryan’s stories focus on how, in the war’s aftermath, the survivors work, as individuals and as a community, to find a way forward. Written in Abgaryan’s style which weaves elements of Armenian folk tradition into her prose, these stories of community, courage, and resilience celebrate human life, where humor, love and hope prevail in unthinkable circumstances.

Writer, novelist and blogger, Narine Abgaryan was born in Berd, Tavush Province, Armenia. She is a graduate of Yerevan Brusov University of Languages, majoring in Russian language and literature teaching. One of her early works *Manuyunya*, an autobiographical novel, received The Manuscript of the Year Russian national literary award. A trilogy of *Manyunya* followed shortly after and was staged by SamArt Youth Theatre, Russia. In 2021, filming for a TV adaptation of *Manyunya* began, and in 2023, work began on an animated adaptation of *Manyunya* by Sarik Andreasyan.

In 2011, Abgaryan was nominated for Big Book and was the Laureate of Yasnaya Polyana Literary Award, Russia, in 2016. Her *Simeon Andreich, Manuscript in Scrawls*—illustrated by Victoria Kirdiy was published in 2012. In 2014, her *Chocolate Granddad*, the only book that she calls a children’s book, was published, co-authored with Valentin Postnikov. In August 2015, Abgaryan was called one of two laureates of the Alexander Grin Literature Award “for her outstanding contribution to the national literature development”.

In 2020 *The Guardian* named Abgaryan as “one of Europe’s most exciting authors”. She is the author of a dozen books, which have collectively sold over 1.35 million copies. Her book *Three Apples Fell From the Sky* (Oneworld, 2020) won the Leo Tolstoy Yasnaya Polyana Award and an English PEN Award, and has been translated into 27 languages.

Organized by the Armenian Cultural Foundation (ACF) and co-sponsored by Amaras Art Alliance, Armenian International Women’s Association (AIWA), National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) and the Plough Magazine, invites the Boston Armenian community, and literature enthusiasts to join for the book launch followed by a reception and meeting with Narine Abgaryan, on April 27 at 4:00 pm at the Armenian Cultural Foundation, 441

Mystic Street, Arlington MA, 02474. For more information and details contact the ACF at 781-646-3090 or via email [ArmenianCulturalFdn@gmail.com](mailto:ArmenianCulturalFdn@gmail.com)