



**Georgian Association  
in the United States**

## Newsletter

**May 2012**

### Advocacy Day on Capitol Hill

On the 25<sup>th</sup> of April the Georgian Association co-hosted the Advocacy Day for Central and East European Coalition (CEEC). The coalition unites 18 Diaspora organizations, representing more than 20 million Americans.

During the Advocacy Day the member organizations and constituencies shared with the United States Congress and Administration the issues of pressing priority for their communities and the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. The issues included support to Open Door Policy of NATO, Security in the region, Democracy, Human Rights and the Rule of Law, U.S. Assistance, Visa Waiver Program, the establishment of a national Black Ribbon Day to commemorate those who suffered under the ravages of the Soviet Communist and Nazi regimes.

The Advocacy Day included briefings, meetings with the members of the Congress and senior staff, and follow up meeting with the National Security Staff at White House on April 26. The April 25 program started with the meeting with the Georgian ambassador to the United States Mr. Temuri Yakobashvili. Later six groups of the CEEC community representatives held more than 25 meetings on Capitol Hill. The Georgian Association in the U.S. was actively involved in organization of the Advocacy Day and was represented at the meetings by Mamuka Tsereteli, the president of the association, Nino Japaridze, Member of the Board, Ia Meurmishvili, Executive Director, Nino Aduashvili, Tia Beritashvili Psarakis, Noel Brockett.



The major focus of the Georgian community representatives included security guarantees for Georgia, support to open door policy of NATO, maintaining US assistance to Georgia supporting democratic and economic development.

The next Advocacy Day for CEEC is planned for the Fall 2012. The Georgian Association in the United States will make sure that the issues important to the Georgian community are prominently covered in future advocacy events as well.



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in the United States of America**

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