



A VIEW FROM THE OUTSIDE: THE COLLECTION “THE CONTINUING PATHS OF LIFE” AS THE LIVING VOICE OF THE DIASPORA

The genre of publicism demands discipline and responsibility for the material that underpins the message conveyed, as it includes factual information and the author’s evaluation from a socio-political and ideological perspective, emphasizing proposals and the means and paths to achieve the set goal. In this context, particularly notable is the collection “The Continuing Paths of Life” (Yerevan, 2023, vol. 2, Edit Print Publishing House, 570 pages) by philologist, bibliographer, musicologist, and essayist Hovsep Nalbandian, which compiles the author’s diverse articles written between 2003 and 2022 and published in both the Republic of Armenia and the Armenian diaspora. The editor of the book is literary scholar Vano Yeghiazaryan. Pages 8–10 of the collection contain his comprehensive foreword. The first volume of this collection, which bears the same title, was published in 2015 in Los Angeles. (251 pages).

The main aim of the publication is to show the reader the path the author has taken, the national and social issues he has been concerned about, the worries he has had about the homeland and the Armenian people living there, as well as the perspective he has held from abroad regarding book publishing, culture, language, and other issues in Armenia.

The book compiles Hovsep Nalbandian’s unpublished and published legacy (pp. 14–475). A separate section consists of the author’s book reviews and speeches delivered during various events and book presentations (pp. 477–556). These are arranged in chronological order; the author has noted the location, the name of the newspaper, the year, and the number of the issue. As the author himself admits: “In the last twenty years, many things have changed in our nation – both in the Republic of Armenia and in the Diaspora... we have suffered a lot of losses, we have lost land... many national institutions have closed down... will we awaken? I have written and criticized impartially (p. 11).

The publication of Hovsep Nalbandian’s collection “The Continuing Paths of Life” is the result of long-term work. He is a publicist endowed with a diaspora consciousness, and, what is most noteworthy, in his review titled “Hrayr Jebejian’s New Volume,” while characterizing the important role of the publicist,

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he writes: “A good essayist is the person who always investigates the truth, keeps readers informed about national, local, and global developments. He defends the interests of unbiased press in addressing national and public issues, he is impartial and persistent. He interprets events and strives for what is good and virtuous” (p. 532).

The author has marked and brought to light extremely painful issues – national questions, the homeland, the closing of diaspora schools, the lack of Armenian upbringing, the dangers of assimilation in the Diaspora, the Armenian language, Armenian literature, etc. – offering numerous solutions to these problems.

These writings also serve, to some extent, the purpose of identifying and voicing both well-known and yet-unaddressed issues facing the Diaspora, since in them Nalbandian discusses the existential reality of the Diaspora in the present day, raises concerns related to Armenian preservation, national and social matters, and the Armenian language. He also offers and suggests solutions, such as the creation of a *United Armenian Foundation* or the establishment of *coordinating centers* in various countries (see “A Letter to Hranush Hakobyan,” pp. 100–102).

The articles included in the collection “The Continuing Paths of Life” are written in pure Classical Western Armenian orthography, allowing the reader to grasp the truly captivating articulation and sound of the language. The author’s voice – one that fights for the preservation of Western Armenian – is clear and resolute throughout.

All the pieces in the collection are composed with tightly structured logical coherence and present a fusion of publicistic style with occasional commentary and interpretation.


Hovsep Nalbandian’s style is precise. His writing is marked by a deep awareness of life, a strong sense of civic responsibility, stylistic diversity, and accessibility to a broad readership. He combines the traits of a public and political figure with rhetoric. Nalbandian maintains a clear and firm stance on issues related to Armenians and the Armenian identity, as well as Armenian-centered education and the preservation of the Armenian language in its purest form – the main merits of him as a essayist-critic and of this collection of articles.

The collection “The Continuing Paths of Life,” intended for a wide range of readers, can be useful for specialists in the Armenian language and literature, teachers and students of secondary and high schools across the Republic,

lecturers and students of Humanitarian colleges and Universities, journalists, and others. It can also hold great importance for those engaged in Armenian Diaspora literature by promoting research into the history of the Armenian diaspora.


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DOI: 10.54503/1829-4073-2025.2.205-207

* The article has been delivered on 22.07.2025, reviewed on 10.08.2025, accepted for publication on 29.08.2025.

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