Neopaganism in Armenia
The Arordiner Movement

Roubina Seropian
Armenian Paganism

• Nature worshipers
• Polytheism: major gods Aramazd, Anahit and Mihr
Armenian Neopaganism

- New religious movement
- Rose in the 20th century after the collapse of the Soviet Union
- Arordiner was created in 1991 by Slak Kakosyan
- Based on the ideologies of Karekin Njteh Tseghakron
Tseghakron

- Carrier of the race or race religion
- Promote national identity
- Awakening of nationalism and patriotism within the Armenian communities.
- The nation should be protected and praised at any price.
- an individual cannot exist outside of his own national group.
Arordiner or Children of Ara

- Polytheists
- Ara is the father god
- Anahit is the mother goddess
- Vahagn the son of Ara and Anahit
- Hetanos deriving from ethnos, nation.
- nature worshipers
Ukhtagirk

- Sacred book
- Put together by Slak Kakosyan
- Combination of Karekin Njteh’s ideologies, Armenian folk tales, sources of Armenian historic books.
- Has 7 parts: the Astvatsashoonch, the Tsakumnaran, Avetaran, Dzonaran, Veharan, Patgamaran and the Hymnergaran.
- The book is open for amendments at anytime
Sacred Monuments

- The temple of Garni
- Urartian Fortress in Erebuni
- Shengavit settlement
- Mount Aragats
- Mount Khustup
- Zorats Karer
Ceremonial practices and rituals

- New year birth of Vahagn March 21
- Trendez February 14th
- Zatik
- Hambartsum
- Vartavar
- Navasard
- Birth of Mihr