

ARMENIAN VOICE



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CENTRE FOR
ARMENIAN INFORMATION
AND ADVICE

NEWSLETTER FOR THE LONDON - ARMENIAN COMMUNITY. AUTUMN 2016 No. 68

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CAIA LAUNCHES UK ARMENIANS & WW1 PROJECT



The UK Armenians & WW1 project supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund was formally launched in May 2016 with a series of promotional events.

The first event was a talk by Katia M. Peltekian at *The Wiener Library* on 12 May 2016. (Photo below) Katia Peltekian is an archivist and journalist who was specially invited from Lebanon for the launch of the project because she has compiled 2 volume book, entitled *The Times of the Armenian Genocide*. Her talk at *The Wiener Library* presented and analysed various quotes, articles and reports from *The Times* and *The Manchester Guardian* from the beginning of the 20th century. Katia also shared her research skills at *Hayashen Armenian Youth Club* on 13 May 2016, explaining about how her own personal research into old newspapers resulted in the 2 volume book, a copy of which she kindly donated to

Left to right: Journalist/Educator Katia Peltekian, Rupa Huq MP for Ealing Central & Acton, Vanita Nichols Apprenticeship Manager at London Borough of Ealing, Tatevik Ayoazyan, CAIA's HLF Project Coordinator, Alyson Wharton-Durgaryan, University of Lincoln, School of History & Heritage, CAIA CEO Misak Ohanian, CAIA Member & Director of ADIAN Consulting Robert Gevorgiz, and Vice Chair of CAIA Vahe Paklayan

the *Hayashen* library. All present were also fascinated by Katia's personal journey of investigation that led her to *Hawarden, Wales*, where she found out about the chalice and a stained glass window that was presented to PM William Gladstone by the UK Armenians after he retired.



On 15 May 2016, the UK Armenians & WW1 project was formally launched at a reception in *Hayashen*, which brought together project contributors, volunteers, participants, and members of the general public as well guests such as Fr. Vram representing Diocese of the Armenian Church of the United Kingdom & Ireland and Ealing Central & Acton MP Dr Rupa Huq. (Group Photo above)

During the launch, Project coordinator, Tatevik Ayoazyan gave a PowerPoint presentation based on the project timeline and what it seeks to achieve.



On Sunday 19 June, 2016, CAIA was honoured to welcome Harold Takooshian, Professor of Psychology & Urban Studies and the Director of the Organisational Leadership Program from *Fordham University, New York*, who gave an overview about the Armenian community in USA, specifically those who lived and contributed to the social, economic and culture development of New York City over the decades. Prof. Takooshian also spoke briefly about fathers day and answered questions from those present. Prof. Takooshian was accompanied by his wife Anne and have been in London delivering a 4-week course at *Fordham University London* on Urban psychology.



On 19th August, Prof. Levon Chorbajian from Boston, USA, gave a lecture at *Hayashen* entitled "*Turkish Denial of the Armenian Genocide & Contemporary Implications*". Prof. Levon Chorbajian PhD, is a two-time *Fulbright* Senior lecturer about the Republic of Armenia and the Soviet Union. His research interests center around political sociology and comparative genocide studies, with an emphasis on the Armenian Genocide. Key concepts for Chorbajian are class, power, and inequality. He has written, translated and edited seven books including, *The Caucasian Knot*, *Armenia in Crisis*, *The Making of Nagorno-Karabakh*, *Studies in Comparative Genocide and Power: A Critical Reader*. He also serves as the United States Director of the *Zoryan Institute for Contemporary Armenian Research and Documentation*, which is considered the leading private Armenian think tank in North America. He also serves on the editorial board of the *Armenian Review*.



CAIA board members and staff had a very productive awayday at *Hilton London Syon Park* on 24 July 2016 to develop CAIA's new 3-Year Strategic plan. Many thanks to Ruby Chorbajian for acting as a facilitator and kindly offering to help us draft the new Plan.

TRUSTEES/DIRECTORS WELCOME

Charity Commission has reported that just 0.5% of trustees in England and Wales are aged between 18 and 24, compared with 12% of the population as a whole. It is safe to assume that within the UK Armenian Community the number of trustees between 18 and 24 is probably even less. This lack of diversity on charitable trustee boards restricts access to a broader range of skills, knowledge and experience, which can fundamentally impact a charity's performance, sustainability and discourages young people's interest and involvement in the community. CAIA seeks to address this diversity issue by training and enabling young people (18-35) to become more knowledgeable about the vital role charity trustees play so as to increase their involvement within the Armenian and wider community / charity sector. In addition we wish to give the opportunity to young people to attend and observe how CAIA's Management Committee/Board operates to gain confidence and learn more about the vital role of Trustees and its key responsibilities.

These include for example:

- Ensuring that CAIA operates within the terms of its Constitution, and complies with charity law, company law and other relevant legal requirements;
- Giving strategic direction to CAIA via Business plan and setting policy and procedures
- Applies sound financial management to ensure the stability and solvency of the charity
- Ensuring that CAIA complies with its legal responsibilities as an employer and overseeing the recruitment of staff members.
- Following through decisions and undertaking actions as agreed at Board meetings, where appropriate;
- Where opportunities arise, raising awareness of CAIA through external networking;

We welcome young people with

- A commitment to the values of CAIA
- An interest in the work of CAIA / or charities in general
- Willingness to devote sufficient time to attend monthly meetings / governance related workshops
- An understanding and acceptance of the legal responsibilities of trusteeship;
- Good and independent judgment and willingness to speak honestly and openly;
- Ability to think strategically and creatively;
- Ability to work effectively as part of a team;
- A commitment to equal opportunities.

For more information contact CAIA on info@caia.org.uk

CAIA WELCOMES THE NEW LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SOVEREIGN



On 3 August 2016, Mr Richard Kornicki CBE DL, the new Representative Deputy Lieutenant for the London Borough of Ealing, representing the Sovereign, visited Hayashen to explain about the role of the Greater London Lieutenancy and learn more about CAIA and the services it provides to Armenians and those connected to them. Mr Richard Kornicki CBE DL was welcomed by CAIA treasurer Diane John, CEO Misak Ohanian and other staff.



An all day family outing took place to Brighton on 17 August 2016 with over 50 young and old people enjoying the beach, the pier, fish & chips and warm weather.

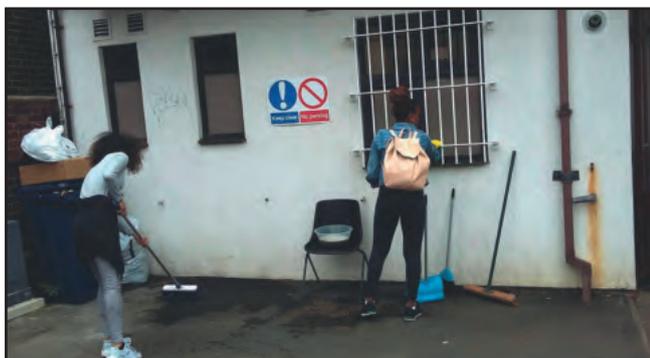


On 23 September 2016 representatives of the Artshat After School Center visited Hayashen where they met members of the CAIA as well as Bishop Hovakim, Primate of UK Armenians who was also visiting Hayashen at the same time. Please learn more about the excellent work of the Centre by visiting www.facebook.com/After-school-center-210238265790370/



Ken Goodman from the Felix Project, a charity working to reduce food waste delivering food to CAIA for the weekly Armenian Senior Citizens Club at Hayashen (Photo from Evening Standard Friday 7 October, 2016)

THANK YOU CHALLENGE NETWORK



On 14 August 2016 CAIA welcomed 20 school children from the Challenge Network (National Citizen Service) for their annual Hayashen 'Spring cleaning' session. (See Photo) NCS is a government-funded initiative that supports community engagement, social action and social mixing among young people.



Almost 100 people of all ages celebrated Easter Sunday at Hayashen on 27 March 2016

**FORTHCOMING EVENTS AT HAYASHEN
AN INTRODUCTION TO ARMENIAN HISTORY,
CULTURE & HERITAGE**

Sunday 12 February 2017
 Sunday 19 February 2017
 Sunday 26 February 2017
 Sunday 5 March 2017
 Sunday 12 March 2017
 Sunday 19 March 2017
 Light lunch/refreshments/networking from 1.30pm with formal talk starting at 2.00pm. Please register in advance.

ARMENIAN SENIOR CITIZENS

DEMENTIA AWARENESS WEEK 2016



During *Dementia Awareness Week 2016*, Mr Shahzad Akhtar, a trained *Dementia Friends Champion* delivered an interactive session for the benefit of Armenian Carers on 20 May at *Hayashen*. The main points of his talk were:

- Dementia is not a natural part of ageing
- Diseases of the brain cause it. The most common of these is Alzheimer's
- It's not just about losing your memory- it can affect thinking, communicating and doing everyday tasks
- It's possible to live well with dementia
- There's more to a person than the dementia

By the end of the one-hour long session the participants became aware of what is dementia and how to live with dementia. As a result all twelve present became *Dementia Friends*, an initiative funded by the *Cabinet office and Department of Health* and supported by *Alzheimer's Society*.

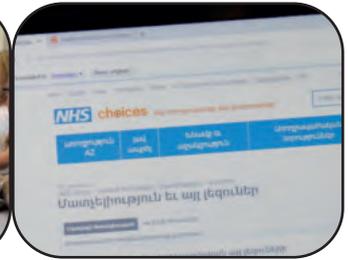
SUPPORTING ARMENIAN CARERS

On 24 May CAIA held a special event for Armenian Carers at the *CAN Mezzanine, Treaty Centre, Hounslow*. Following brief introductions, Jackie Batten from *Hounslow Community Partnership*, Mystica Burrige from *Healthwatch Hounslow* and Stephen Mortimer from *One You Hounslow* talked about

- What Support their organisations offer to Carers
- People's right under the 2014 *Carer's Act*
- Local initiatives to help people have a healthier life

During the 2-hour long meeting, the Carers had the opportunity to share their experiences and spoke about the challenges that they face such as lack of information, poor communication with service providers and the stress they are under while trying to help the person they care for. By the end of the meeting those present were better informed/knowledgeable about the role of *Healthwatch Hounslow* and their rights as Carers.

On 27 June, 8 Armenian Carers attended an interactive workshop at *Hayashen* to learn about on-line resources /information available to them. The workshop started with an introduction by CAIA's Care & Support Worker, Scarlet Sarksan, followed by Dr. Kusum Joshi from *Hounslow Healthwatch* who explained its role and how Carers/patients find/search information or share their experience via the *Healthwatch* website.



Following questions and answers, those present were shown how to use the *NHS Choices* website, *Carers Direct* helpline and *CarePlace* on line directory. Those present were pleasantly surprised to find out that they could read to *NHS Choice* website in the Armenian language (photo above) via the following link

<http://www.nhs.uk/pages/home.aspx>

This workshop and the session before increased the confidence of the Carers about how to make their voices heard to health/care professional and how to use the on line directories/resources.

CAIA is very grateful for *Hounslow Council* for supporting both these meetings/workshops and to all those who attended.



On 15 July 2016, Dr. Shahan Tamrazian led a workshop about anxiety and depression among Carers and Cared for at *Hayashen*. Dr Tamrazian spoke about common symptoms and what factors contribute to anxiety, depression and panic attacks. Those present asked questions about how to cope and demonstrated a high level of awareness about this sensitive subject which is not often discussed within the Armenian community.

On 5 August a special exercise session took place at *Hayashen* in partnership with "*StayActive4Life*". The *Ealing Strength & Balance* programme has been specifically designed to help reduce the number of older adults falling.



Retired General Practitioner and former *Yerevan State University* lecturer Julietta Melkonyan delivered a talk about Vitamins on 2 September 2016 at *Hayashen Seniors Club*. She used actual case studies explaining the negative effect of vitamin deficiency on physical and mental health and the ways of preventing this from happening. We received very good feedback from those in attendance and plan to organise further such talks in the future.

UK Older People's Day was marked on 30 September 2016 at *Hayashen Armenian Seniors Club*. Main purpose of the national day is for older people to help overcome loneliness. As part of this day, volunteer Lusine Hakobyan kindly delivered a session about relaxation techniques which benefited 25+ older people. ■

UK ARMENIAN & WW1 PROJECT

The publicity the project generated through the launch events as well as via social media resulted in a number of people coming forward to volunteer for this unique 20th month long project which involves undertaking delivering public talks, workshops, oral history interviews, a blog, film production, an exhibition and a website, which will be linked to the *British Library's* WW1 archives upon completion.

Much of Armenian history is recorded within personal memories and CAIA recognise the importance of collating and preserving a varied source of information such as personal testimonies, photographs and other media relating to this period for future generations.



In July 2016 the project progressed to its next phase, that of training volunteers.

On 3 July, Dr Roger Willoughby, (Photo below) a Senior Lecturer in Education Studies at *Newman University, Birmingham*, who has a particular interest in the question of identity and the First World War delivered a heritage research workshop. The two-hour session covered a number of practical steps and techniques for uncovering the Armenian stories from various British Military Archives. Dr. Willoughby also provide fascinating examples of some of the hidden stories so far unearthed via his own personal research and showed how to use some of the online genealogy databases. The discussions continued around the lunch table, with the 20 participants contributing many ideas and suggestions about the contribute to further research.



On 14 July 2016, Judith Garfield from the *Eastside Community Heritage* delivered a 4-hour workshop about how to conduct oral history interviews and record them.



This fascinating and interactive session led to those present gain better understanding of oral history, issues such as copyright procedure and law, using digital equipment, what to do in an oral history interview, keeping the results, etc.

Feedback from both training workshops revealed that participants were very grateful from these events and had become not only more knowledgeable but further motivated to contribute to the project. Further workshops are planned in the coming weeks so contact us now. You can follow the project via its Blog at

<https://ukarmeniansandww1.wordpress.com>

If you are interested in contributing to the project in any-way or share your personal family stories please contacts Tatevik at HLF_Project@caia.org.uk

**IT'S YOUR FAMILY HISTORY,
MAKE HISTORY! #yourfamily&WW1**



2 WAYS TO GET INVOLVED NOW:

- VOLUNTEERING (Research, Oral Interviews, Photography, Filming, Website, Social Media, etc. Training / expenses provided)
- SHARING YOUR STORY for posterity and have it recorded in the special British Library collection about WW1



**GET IN TOUCH WITH THE
UK ARMENIANS & WW1 PROJECT**
hlf_project@caia.org

We're on instagram now!

Follow us to stay updated about the **UK Armenians & WW1** project and to get involved!

<https://www.instagram.com/p/BEYMNrAJP-5/>





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THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT!

PLEASE KEEP SHARING
AND INVITING FRIENDS

ARMENIAN COMMUNITY PRE-SCHOOL GROUP



ACPG operates Monday and Thursdays each week from 10:00am-12:30pm and welcomes children under 5 years of age. The attendance fee is £3 per session payable on the day or £5 for two children from the same family inclusive of snacks.



During August 2016, the Armenian Community Pre-School Group organised its annual Summer Project. Activities were limited to six days this year due to lack of funds but nevertheless the project brought lots of joy and stimulations to the children via trips to *Gunnersbury Park*, *Acton Fire Station*, *Legoland* and a family seaside trip to Brighton.



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HAYASHEN YOUTH CLUB



On 18th March HAYC welcomed Ara Petrosyan to share his experiences living in *Karabakh* when the people of *Artsakh (Karabagh)* were struggling for their independence during the collapse of the former USSR in the early 1990's. Ara showed photos of the courage and sacrifices that were made by ordinary people during that extraordinary time. Ara himself was a volunteer soldier who revealed how tough life is during war and what it entails. Most importantly, he discussed the many moments of humanity during fighting. The talk was essential for the young people as it revealed the value of peace. Sadly a few weeks after Ara's talk fighting erupted again in the region which made this event even more poignant.



On 27 May 2016, HAYC welcomed Dr. Shahen Tamrazian to lead a workshop about anxiety and depression among young people. The discussion was very interesting because Dr Tamrazian spoke about common symptoms and what factors contribute to anxiety, such as stress during exam periods. During and after the discussion the young people asked questions about how to cope and demonstrated a high level of awareness about this sensitive subject. As an extra bonus, those present also watched a personal film made by a young British Armenian, Levon Marsland about Genocide Recognition and how this impacted his identity and family while growing up. On 10th June 2016 HAYC welcomed CAIA HLF Project Coordinator Tatevik Aivazyan to give a workshop on social media and blogging. The first part of the workshop involved a short presentation about the different social media websites/apps, and how they can benefit different



types of projects/interests. Throughout the presentation the young people asked questions and gave their input into which social media website/app was most user friendly. After the presentation the young people were divided into two groups and learned to use a free online web design/print service called "Canva", to create a poster. Both groups created excellent posters and therefore demonstrated very good aptitude to learn new digital skills. (Photo above)

After learning and celebrating so much during the session the young people shared several large pizzas and ate together, talking and watching this time the start of the *EURO Football championships* which kicked off same evening with a match between France & Romania.



On 24th June Dele Williams from the *National Institute for African Studies (NIAS)* gave an excellent presentation about leadership and how young people can develop skills in preparation for becoming committee members for boards in private companies or charities. The young people listened carefully as Dele explained what specific skills are needed to be such leaders and decision makers. This included good listening skills, confidence, team work, willingness to help.. etc. During the workshop Dele organised a 'memory test' with the youth being divided into pairs of two, where in one minute a young person would state things he/she would change to improve the *Hayashen Centre*, and the other group member would then have to reply back everything that was said. The young people really enjoyed themselves and demonstrated excellent memory skills as they expressed themselves with various suggestions. At the end of Dele's presentation all the young people present understood much more the importance of becoming leaders and the role of Board/Committee members. In appreciation, all the young people present were given goody bags as a "dividend" or reward for their contribution in the workshop. For more information about NIAS, visit www.nias.info ■



HAYC held a special workshop on 29 July 2016, as we welcomed Armenian "X Factor" contestant Razmik Aghajanyan to discuss his experience in the competition as well as showcasing his excellent guitar skills. He first discussed what it was like being young and quickly reaching the knockout rounds of the competition. He then began performing a variety of classic songs from bands like *Led Zeppelin*, then moving to more modern genres such as heavy metal. He also performed one of his own compositions which were very impressive. Then, audience members began asking him questions about the current music



scene in Armenia, and whether the guitar is becoming a popular instrument. The session was great because we had a Razmik demonstrate that with practice and determination, you can become a good musician on any instrument. 2016. (See above photo of Razmik helping Armenian/Iranian/Jamaican youth Shaynan Russell how to play electric guitar)



On 9 September 2016, our Youth Club was run by one of the club members, Gregory Barseghyan, (above) who loves solving maths and logical problems and wanted to share some of them with us. He presented a number of questions – from complicated probability theory problems to lighthearted wordplays. Everyone enjoyed the session and some of the questions generated a lively debate, especially the one about the game show. As always, the evening ended around the table, sharing food and impressions.



On 23 September, HAYC welcomed Razmik Sargsyan, a young and talented actor who came to share his experience in the industry with his peers. Razmik started drama



Atom Clark (left) & Anton Akopyan (right) became the latest young people nominated by HAYC for the prestigious *Jack Petchey Foundation Achievement Awards*. In due course they will receive their medallions at a public ceremony. ■

RAZMIK - A POSITIVE ROLE MODEL



Razmik Sargsyan, 18, born in Armenia and raised in London began to pursue acting from the age of 13, since then he has achieved various awards as well as performed in multiple shows.

After finishing GCSE in drama Razmik continued performing arts into college. Meanwhile as a member of *Stagecoach Kensington drama school* he performed in shows such as *Chicago*, *Alice in Wonderland* and *We Will Rock You*. As well as participating in these shows he also took part in LAMDA exams where he received a Gold Award.

His latest involvement within the industry was working with the amazing *Royal Court Theatre (Open Court)* where he performed in a show called *Drinking Concrete* which was inspired by *Kendrick Lamar's* album.

In the future Razmik sees himself improving as an actor and working alongside other successful actors and actresses with an eventual goal of winning a *Bafta*.

(Above photo of Razmik from a show called "American Blues" by Tennessee Williams performed in May 2016 at N7 Theatre in City and Islington College) ■

classes early on with *Stage Coach Drama School* and performed in several stage productions. After his GCSEs he went on to Drama College where he truly embraced and developed his drama career. Recently Razmik has been offered a leading role in a *Royal Court* production for which he worked hard rehearsing, learning his line and even losing weight for the part. By explaining his motivations, focus and hard work, Razmik gave an inspiring presentation of his acting career. We wish Razmik many successes and would like to thank him for sharing his love of acting.

During the same evening, we were pleased to welcome back former HAYC Youth Worker Anahit Galstyan who now works as Operations and Outreach Officer at *ONEArmenia* in Yerevan. Anahit spoke briefly about her work and developments in Armenia.

For more information about the great work of *ONEArmenia* contact Anahit via anahit@onearmenia.org or visit <https://onearmenia.org/campaign> ■

A TICK OFF THE BUCKET LIST-VOLUNTEERING IN ARMENIA - R. Malas

I was born to an Armenian mother and Palestinian father. During my teenage years I would question my identity and often enough, I would alternate between being Armenian and Palestinian. Integrating into contemporary English culture was straightforward, but my mother wished for me to improve my Armenian language skills, and with encouragement from my father, I became fully immersed in the London Armenian community.

Between 2011 to 2015, I had visited Armenia four times. It was in 2015, when participating for London in the 6th Pan-Armenian games, that I discovered another participant was volunteering. It dawned me that this is what I had always wanted to do, volunteer. Instead of going every year as a tourist, I should really be more productive and contribute by becoming part of Armenia's development process. Thankfully, I heard about the *Armenian Volunteer Corps (AVC)* who accepted volunteers over the age of 35. Back home in London I teach English, but I am also studying for my bachelors *BA in Environmental studies*. I am grateful to *AVC* for deciding to put me in two placements related to my field of study. The first placement was at the *Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural assets (FPWC)* who are an environmental conservation NGO based in Yerevan. There I helped with their research and application for organic certification and farming as well as editing promotional material on one of their main projects, the *Sunchild Eco* tours, based near the village of *Urtsadzor* in the Ararat region. It was there that I witnessed the importance of their work, which includes educating children from villages in the surrounding area about environmental conservation and management. I was also fortunate enough to see the lions that were saved from the internationally publicised makeshift "*Gyumri zoo*". My second placement was more labour intensive, at *Nairian cosmetics*, which was based at an Eco-farm in *Aragyuygh*, a village 25 kilometres North of Yerevan.



This is where I learned about organic farming and witnessed the production of cosmetic products made from herbs and plants grown on Armenian soil. It is also where I experienced rural life and enjoyed many memorable moments with humble local villagers. Indeed, it was humbling for myself to sit down every lunch time and enjoy food that was grown locally in the farm, with other members of staff who came from *Aragyugh* and nearby villages. I consider these people my friends and will fulfil my promise to see them again next summer. Some of the best moments of my trip were random ones. I particularly remember when I bumped into members of the *Homenetmen* scouts from *Vedi* village, which brought back memories; spending quality time with my cousins from Yerevan, as well as making new friends from Armenia and the diaspora, especially Germany and Belgium. I do, however, hold in high regard the volunteers who are not Armenian and it is particularly a small group of young French volunteers that will always have a place in my heart; and finally the wonderful and highly skilled *AVC* staff who went out of their way to make it an enjoyable experience. If I was asked, whether I would recommend volunteering in Armenia, my reply would be that it would be foolish not to. We all have a part to play in the development of Armenia, it is incumbent upon us to be a part of it. I would also encourage individuals not to feel that they have nothing to offer, because you do, we all do. We are all part of a collective and together we can, as the *AVC* motto states, come move mountains. ■

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BITESIZE COMMUNITY NEWS



On Sunday 18 July 2016, Armenians from all over the UK gathered outside *St. Sarkis Armenian Church* in Kensington/London for the 6th Armenian Street Festival to celebrate Armenian culture and heritage.

For over 8 hours several thousand people including many other local people enjoyed the various event features such as Armenian cuisine, live street entertainment, special guests, community stalls/vendors, and a concert at the church.

The Iverna Gardens in South Kensington had turned into a small Armenian district with traditional songs and dances throughout the day with performances by violinist Levon Chilingarian, the *Komitas choir*, the *Akhtamar Folk Ensemble* and others. Duduk player Gevorg Karapetyan and singer Iveta Mukuchyan were special guests at the festival. More festival photos: https://1drv.ms/f/s!A1XY4o_aapfDmEg1ArhJ2Q8ErK-N



Prof. Khatchatur Pilikian spoke and showed slides about the life and Art of *Zabel Boyadjian (1872-1957)* on 6 April 2016 at the *Marx Memorial Library, London*. A specially produced booklet covering much of the talk was circulated to those present in return for a small donation.



The mayors of *Bitlis (Pagheshi)* and *Mutki (Modgan)*, Huseyin Olan and Ozcan Birlik, visited London for the first time in September 2016. Both men have been cooperating with Ara Sarafian, the Director of *The Gomidas Institute* over the past few years on Armenian related issues. Both are well aware of the Armenian heritage of Turkey and the legacy of 1915.

While in London, they visited *St. Sarkis Armenian church* in Kensington and on 12 September 2016 they also participated in a

public forum entitled "*Armenians, Kurds and Turks: Towards a Peaceful Resolution of a Painful Past*" at House of Lords hosted by Lord Hylton.

Photographed outside *St Sarkis Church* from left to right: Huseyin Olan, Ara Sarafian, Ozcan Birlik, Erdelan Baran (*Kurdistan National Congress external relations*) and Misak Ohanian. ■

Three years ago the first inclusive dance company was established in Armenia giving the disabled people the skills and opportunity to fulfil their potential through art. This initiative has been made possible through joint efforts of the *British Council*, *Saint Sarkis Charity Trust* and the Armenian Diaspora members in the UK, British Embassy in Armenia and the Ministry of Culture in Armenia, as well as through the successful collaboration between the *NCA Small Theatre* in Armenia and the UK's *Candoco* inclusive dance company. In September, the first inclusive dance company performed at the *Tramway's Unlimited Festival* in *Glasgow*.



To celebrate this achievement, a special reception took place on 13 September 2016, at the London HQ of the *British Council*. Programme included welcoming speech by Dr Fiona Bartels-Ellis OBE, *Global Head of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, British Council*, Arevik Saribekyan, (photo above) Director of the *British Council Armenia*, and a presentation about Armenian culture, history and UK Diaspora by Dr. Susan Pattie, Senior Research Fellow, *University College London*. Others who also spoke included Jemima Hoadley, Choreographer, *Candoco Dance Company*; Vahan Badalyan, Artistic Director, *Small Theatre* actress/director Seta White, Andy Williams, Regional Director, *British Council* and Paul Gulbenkian, Chairman of the *St Sarkis Charty Trust*.

+

On 26 May 2016, the UK Premier of 1915 *The Movie* took place at the *Courthouse Hotel*, Great Marlborough Street, London. Following this brilliantly crafted and moving film Q&A took place with the Director/Producers.

+

The first major London exhibition in 30 years of portraits by renowned photographer *Yousuf Karsh (1908 - 2002)* will go on display at *Beetles + Huxley* between 20 September - 22 October 2016

The exhibition will include signed lifetime prints of twentieth century sitters from the realms of politics, film, royalty and art including Winston Churchill, George Bernard Shaw, Ernest Hemingway, Pablo Picasso, Georgia O'Keefe, Joan Miró, Audrey Hepburn, Albert Einstein, Fidel Castro and Martin Luther King. ■

ANNOUNCEMENT

WHERE ARE YOU?

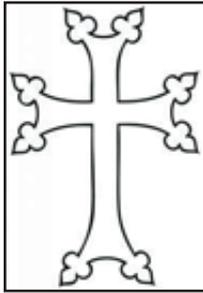
You are my father, but we don't know each other. You met my mother 1964 in London, a 20 year old Swiss girl named Heidi, who worked for an English family on Burghess Hill. Remember? Later she returned home, where I was born. I am 51 years old. I want to meet you. All I know: You were called Tony, you are Armenian, you must be around 75 years old by now, you sold carpets and for work you travelled around Europe. You lived with other Armenians in the North of London.

Please – contact me. Or who ever knows about my father.

Thank you. Susanne,

My Email: ederlezi@bluewin.ch, **Tel.** 0041 76 536 38 58.

CONDOLENCES



The CAIA extends its deepest condolences to the families and friends of its following members/service users who sadly passed away since the last issue of this newsletter.



+ **Mary Shekerdeman** 6 February 1921 - 22 July 2016, passed away aged 95 leaving behind loving memories to her children and grandchildren. On this sad occasion her children, Mano, Silva and Vartoug donated £100 to CAIA.



+ **Lucine Armenakian (née Sherbetdjian)** was born 1929 in *Khdr Beg*, in what is now southern Turkey, on the border with Syria.

In 1939, when Lucine was 10 years old, the family fled Ottoman Turkish oppression, and were resettled in *Anjar*, originally a refugee settlement in *Lebanon's Bekaa Valley*. Disease and malnutrition claimed many lives, but Lucine and her family were lucky enough to survive.

She came to England to marry *Dikran Armenakian (Elmadjian)* in 1957. Sadly, Lucine lost her sight many years ago, but bravely continued to enjoy life and people as much as possible. She died peacefully at home on 2nd August 2016, mourned and missed by her children, Arpy, Sosi and Vartan, and by her many loving family members and friends all over the world. The CAIA is grateful for the kind donations it received from friends and relatives in lieu of flowers in memory of the ever-cheerful Lucine.



+ **Azniv Nakashian** born 23 February 1927 passed away peacefully after a long illness on 24 September 2016.

Our condolences to her children, grand-children and all other members of her family. She will be missed by all those who knew and loved her.

(Last photo taken at her birthday.)

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR DONORS

CAIA is grateful to all the following for the kind donations of financial support as well as in kind such as books, CD's, DVD's, photographs since the last issue of *Armenian Voice*. Their generosity is highly appreciated and most welcome. If by error we have omitted anyone please accept our apologies and let us know to rectify in the next issue.

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BOOK REVIEWS

Mass Media and the Genocide of the Armenians - One Hundred Years of Uncertain Representation

- Published by Palgrave Macmillan UK
 Editors: S.Kappler, S.Kasparian, R. Godin, J. Chabot.
 ISBN 978-1-137-56401-6 - Hardcover



The role of the mass media in genocide is multifaceted with respect to the disclosure and flow of information. This volume investigates questions of responsibility, denial, victimisation and marginalisation through an analysis of the media representations of the Armenian genocide in different national contexts.

Final Solutions, Human Nature, Capitalism And Genocide by Sabby Sagall

ISBN: 9780745326535, 320pp Paperback



Final Solutions offers a groundbreaking and genuinely unique analysis of modern genocide. Sabby Sagall draws on the insights of the Frankfurt school and Wilhelm Reich to create an innovative combination of *Marxism* and psychoanalysis. He argues that genocide is a product of an 'irrational' destructiveness by social classes or communities that have suffered major historical defeats or similar forms of extreme stress.

Sagall shows how the denial of human needs and the ensuing feelings of isolation and powerlessness propel groups to project their impotent rage, hatred and destructiveness engendered by these defeats on to the 'outsider' and the 'other'.

The book applies this theoretical framework to four modern genocides – that of the Native Americans, the Armenians, the Jews and the Rwandan Tutsis. This is a truly pioneering contribution which adds to our understanding of some of the darkest hours of humanity – and how we can stop them from happening again.

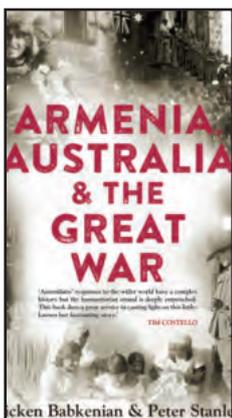
Sabby Sagall is a former senior lecturer in Sociology at the University of East London. He writes regularly for *Socialist Review*.

Armenia, Australia & the Great War

by Peter Stanley & Vicken Babkenian

Published by NewSouth Publishing, 2016 -illustrated

ISBN 1742233996, 9781742233994 - 336 pages Paperback

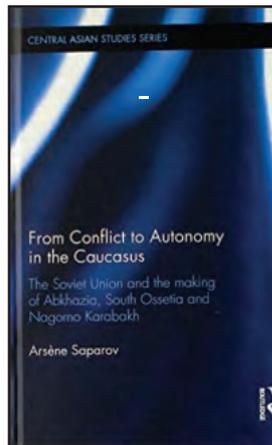


Australian civilians worked for decades supporting the survivors and orphans of the Armenian Genocide massacres. April 24, 1915 marks the beginning of two great epics of the First World War. It was the day the allied invasion forces set out for *Gallipoli*; and it marked the beginning of what became the Genocide of the Ottoman Empires Armenians. For the first time, this book tells the powerful, and until now neglected, story of how Australian humanitarians helped people they had barely heard of and never met, amid one of the twentieth century's most terrible human calamities

From Conflict to Autonomy in the Caucasus - The Soviet Union and the Making of Abkhazia, South Ossetia and Nagorno Karabakh

by Arsène Saparov Hardcover

Published by Routledge (Central Asian Studies)



This book is the first historical work to study the creation of ethnic autonomies in the Caucasus in the 1920s – the transitional period from Russian Empire to Soviet Union. Seventy years later these ethnic autonomies were to become the loci of violent ethno-political conflicts which have consistently been blamed on the policies of the Bolsheviks and Stalin. According to this view, the Soviet leadership deliberately set up ethnic autonomies within the republics, thereby giving Moscow unprecedented leverage against each republic.

From Conflict to Autonomy in the Caucasus questions this assumption by examining three case studies: *Abkhazia, South Ossetia and Nagorno Karabakh* are placed within the larger socio-political context of transformations taking place in this borderland region during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. It examines demographic, social and economic consequences of the Russian colonization and resulting replacement of traditional societies and identities with modern ones. Based on original Russian language sources and archival materials, the book brings together two periods that are usually studied separately – the period of the *Russian Civil War 1917–20* and the early Soviet period – in order to understand the roots of the *Bolshevik* decision-making policy when granting autonomies. It argues that rather than being the product of blatant political manipulation this was an attempt at conflict resolution. The institution of political autonomy, however, became a powerful tool for national mobilization during the Soviet era.

Contributing both to the general understanding of the early Soviet nationality policy and to our understanding of the conflicts that have engulfed the Caucasus region since the 1990s, this book will be of interest to scholars of Central Asian studies, Russian/Soviet history, ethnic conflict, security studies and International Relations.

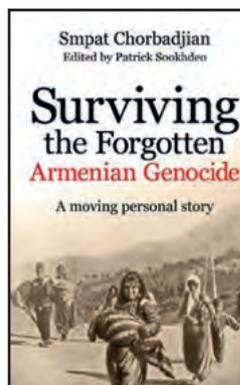
Surviving the Forgotten Armenian Genocide - A Moving Personal Story

by Smpat Chorbadian.

Edited by Patrick Sookhdeo, PH.D., D.D.

Published by ISAAC PUB - 136 pages Paperback

ISBN 0991614577, 9780991614578



A gripping eye witness account of the genocide perpetrated by the Ottoman Turkish government against its Armenian subjects during World War 1.

Smpat Chorbadian tells his story of the appalling hardships he suffered. It reveals his courage, endurance and will to survive, also recording his healing and restoration, after years of misery. This book makes a compelling narrative as it sheds light on the frequently forgotten experience of Turkey's Christians, against a background of global conflict. ■

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WELCOME TO ARMENIAN WINE



Armenian Wine Importers was formed by Charles Masraff with the purpose of importing wines from Armenia to sell in the UK both through the wholesale and retail market. Charles spent 5 years living in Yerevan from 2006-2011. There he ran a successful small restaurant and outside catering business. He also worked closely with USDA on a number of rural development projects. Initially we are importing 9 different wines from 4 wineries though it is expected that the number of Please visit our website www.armenianwines.co.uk if you would like to try our wines and watch out for **special Christmas box offers** which will appear later in the Autumn.

varieties will increase with time.

Armenia is one of the oldest wine-producing nations in the world and with the recent discovery of the Areni cave with its original Karas or wine making vessels dated at close to 6100 years old can justifiably claim to be the oldest on record. Recently there has been a complete renaissance with the emergence of a number of vineyards and wineries that have benefited from significant investment in the vineyards and in winemaking equipment combined with the expertise of

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By becoming a member of the Centre for Armenian Information and Advice (CAIA) you help support Armenian's in the UK and make a real difference to the lives of many. The CAIA is a registered charity in the UK No. 1088534. We:

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- Provide transportation and luncheon clubs for our elders
- Run regular youth clubs
- Run playgroups for preschool children and their parents
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- Provide Volunteering/work experience/work placement opportunities & training where required.

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