

ARMENIAN VOICE



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CENTRE FOR
ARMENIAN INFORMATION
AND ADVICE

NEWSLETTER FOR THE LONDON - ARMENIAN COMMUNITY. WINTER 2021 No.74

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THE WORK OF CAIA IS SUPPORTED BY VARIOUS CHARITIES, EALING & HOUNSLOW COUNCILS - NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED SINCE 1987

CAIA MARKS ITS 35th ANNIVERSARY



The celebration started with a welcoming message from the CAIA's Chair of the board of directors Vayik Keshishi recognising and thanking everyone who helped CAIA reach this momentous milestone, including all the staff, volunteers, trustees, funders and members throughout the years for supporting and sustaining CAIA for the benefit of the diverse members of the London Armenian community and beyond.



The celebration on 11th December 2021, lasted three hours included live Armenian music, singing and dancing, plenty of food and congratulatory messages from His Grace Bishop



Hovakim Manukyan, Primate of the Armenian Church of the UK and Republic of Ireland, Dr Rupa Huq, the local MP for Ealing Central and Acton and Ealing Cllr. Dr. Aysha Raza, and with personal attendance from other distinguished guests from local voluntary and community organisations. There were also 20 written congratulatory messages from various funders, past and present members and service users, trustees, and other Armenian and non-Armenian organisations (see message from Baroness C. Cox on page 4). A special 35th anniversary plaque was unveiled by the local MP, Dr Huq to mark this important milestone (left photo). In addition, CAIA's CEO and founding member Misak Ohanian who has worked tirelessly over the last 35 years was also recognised for his enterprise and dedication to CAIA with a special glass desk trophy.



In his address, Misak expressed his gratitude to the loyalty and the generosity of CAIA's members, funders including many charitable trusts and local authorities, such as Ealing and Hounslow, and finally personal donors, particularly most recently the late Lala Colton for her generous gift to CAIA in her will. In Lala's honour a beautiful special wall mural painted by the young Armenian artist Anayis Der Hakopian, was also unveiled (see above photo).

Misak also thanked all those he had the honour and privilege to collaborate with in the 35-year journey to make CAIA one of the cornerstones of the Armenian community. The function ended with a raffle draw, the proceeds of which was donated to HART (Humanitarian Aid Relief Trust) led by Baroness Cox, in recognition of her tireless and long-standing positive impact in Armenia and Artsakh. ■





EMPOWERING THE ARMENIAN COMMUNITY ONE PERSON AT THE TIME



CAIA not only provides quality marked advisory services to help people gain access to their statutory and legal rights about immigration, entitlements, housing but also pathways to empower them to improve employability prospects. A recent example of this was a three-part project supported by *Ealing Adult Services*.



Workshop titled 'How to Write a CV and Covering Letter' took place on 21st September 2021.



A second workshop held on 28th September 2021 about the 'Basics of Self-Employment'. The final workshop about 'Time Management' was held on 5th October 2021. All three sessions were delivered by Career Coach/Trainer Alison Shuttle and everyone who benefited were immensely grateful to her and CAIA for the opportunity to empower themselves.

HOW TO GET INTO THE IT INDUSTRY



Director and Business consultant Aram Andreasyan, gave an illustrated talk at *Hayashen* on 29th June 2021 about "How to get into the IT Industry".

Aram shared his extensive knowledge and experience in the IT industry which he had gained over several years the hard way. Following questions and answers those present networked informally over light refreshments.

INTRODUCTION TO APPRENTICESHIPS



Sukh Sahan, Apprenticeships and Kickstart Employer Engagement Coordinator from Ealing Council, gave a highly informative talk at *Hayashen* on 13 July 2021.

The presentation covered what an apprenticeship is, what sectors are hiring, where and how to apply, how apprentices are supported and the impact of COVID-19.

The presentation also set out apprenticeship routes, levels, progression opportunities, potential earnings, skills/qualities required and eligibility criteria.

LONDON LEGAL WALK OCTOBER 2021



Thank you very much to everyone who supported CAIA during the *London Legal Walk 2021* (see above photo). Special thanks to all those who walked for Team CAIA, including one of our own trustees, Vanita Nicolls who completed the walk in her home town of *Selsey*.

Thanks to large and small donations, £1000 was raised for CAIA and the walk has raised over £500,000 so far to assist various advisory agencies in London.

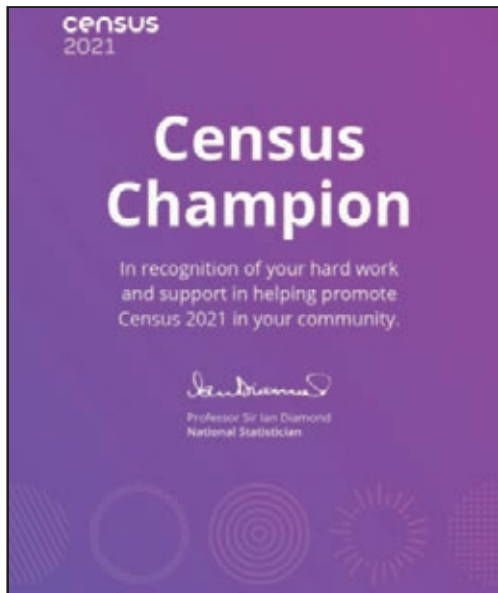
Much appreciation to the 'London Legal Support Trust' for organising this annual event.

THE UK ARMENIAN COMMUNITY & 44-DAY 2020 ARTSAKH WAR



On Sunday 19th September 2021, a reflective event took place at the CAIA's Monte Melkonian Hall, where those present shared their thoughts and feelings for two hours about the 44-day war waged against the Armenians of Artsakh during October-November 2020. This event concluded with *Hokejash* and networking.

2021 CENSUS CAIA RECOGNISED



CAIA helped 50+ visitors to *Hayashen* to complete the 2021 Census form to ensure that those with language and digital barriers were able to meet their obligations. As a result, CAIA's contribution was recognised with a *Census Champion Certificate* award (see above).

THANK YOU



We are very grateful to Chris, the owner and administrator of the *Totallydubbed* website for raising funds to CAIA.

CAROL KILBEY



It is with great sadness that longtime CAIA volunteer and dear colleague Carol Kilbey passed away unexpectedly in November 2021. Carol volunteered also for *Ealing Community Network*, *Ealing CVS* and *Ealing Volunteering Bureau*. Prior to her retirement, Carol was a successful TV producer for many years. She will be sorely missed by all those who knew and worked with her. ■

SEASIDE OUTING TO HASTINGS



On 17th August 2021, the CAIA organised a family day-out trip to the seaside town of *Hastings* enjoyed by 50+ people. The group travelled by coach in the morning and returned late tired but happy from all the walking.

BEFRIENDING PROJECT April 2021-March 2022

Lifestyle has changed a lot in the last few years, and with those changes in mind, CAIA initiated the delivery of a Befriending project to address the needs of Armenians who were experiencing isolation, loneliness or feeling helpless during COVID-19 challenging times.

During the period of April 2021 to March 2022, CAIA's Befriending worker, Melanie made and maintained contact with 74 people living throughout London to offer personalised confidential 1-2-1 support. A sympathetic listening ear and support was provided via regular phone-calls, digitally via *WhatsApp* and *Google Meet* video calls. A total of 7 home visits were also made once the lockdown was lifted by the Government.

The project also maintained demographic information about the project beneficiaries such as, age, status, etc. For example, 67 were female, while males 7.

Issues discussed included how to cope with anxiety, depression or dementia. Importance of COVID-19 vaccinations, caring challenges and the impact of having respite, attending the *Hayashen* Elders Club on Fridays. Where and when appropriate, some were referred to CAIA's other services. Each person was and continues to be treated as an individual.

The project was funded by *Voice4Change* England until end of September 2021 and has had a positive impact on those supported by Melanie who can be contacted by email at: befriending@caia.org.uk ■

LETTER FROM BARONESS COX



Mr Misak Ohanian
Centre for Armenian Information & Advice
105a Mill Hill Road
London, W3 8JF

23 February 2022

Dear Mr Ohanian and CAIA colleagues,

From everyone in Humanitarian Aid Relief Trust (HART), we wish to extend our warmest thanks to you for your donation of £350 and your continuing support, on behalf of our enterprising partners in some of the world's most challenging situations.

Our mission has always been to support remote communities who are suffering from protracted conflict, oppression, natural disasters and human rights abuses in areas with little or no international attention or outside aid. With this gift, you are helping HART's partners to deliver their emergency relief programmes in particularly difficult contexts.

One such context is the illegal military takeover in Burma, where people are experiencing increased human rights abuses and attacks on their homes and villages following the coup of February 2021. Amid the twin challenge of conflict and Covid-19, HART supports the Shan Women's Action Network (SWAN) to deliver life-saving healthcare services to mothers, infants and babies in remote regions of Burma.

In the conflicted and under-threat region of Nagorno Karabakh, your support helps HART to provide 40% of the annual running costs of the Lady Cox Disability Rehabilitation Centre. Our commitment to the Centre is more important than ever before as the demand on services has significantly increased following the 44-day war in 2020. With the influx of injured soldiers, the Centre has now reached its physical capacity and is reliant on supporting new patients via home visits.

When you donate to our general funds, you are helping HART to respond to urgent requests for support from our partners facing ongoing conflict and extreme weather events in Sudan and South Sudan; religious extremism in Nigeria; and the catastrophic impact of decade-long sanctions and war in Syria. Thank you for standing in solidarity with our partners as they tackle some of the most challenging humanitarian issues of our time.

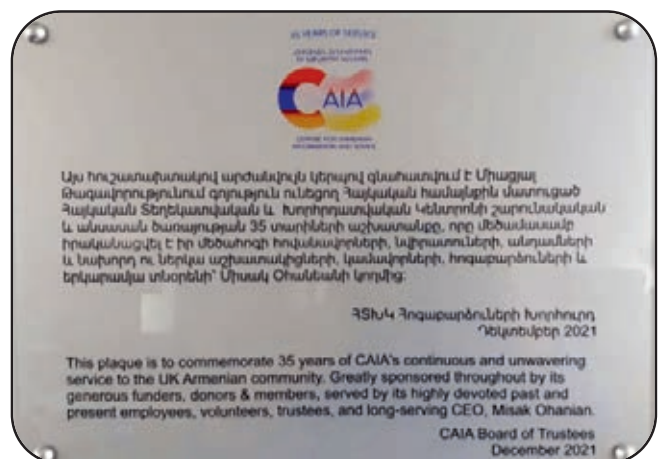
May I also take this opportunity to send my congratulations to everyone in the Centre for Armenian Information & Advice on the wonderful milestone of 35 years – what an achievement! If you wish to receive more information about the impact of this donation and the inspiring work of HART's partners, please do let me know.

Yours gratefully,

Caroline (Baroness) Cox
Founder President



CAIA founding member and CEO with his special award in recognition of his 35 years of service for the charity.

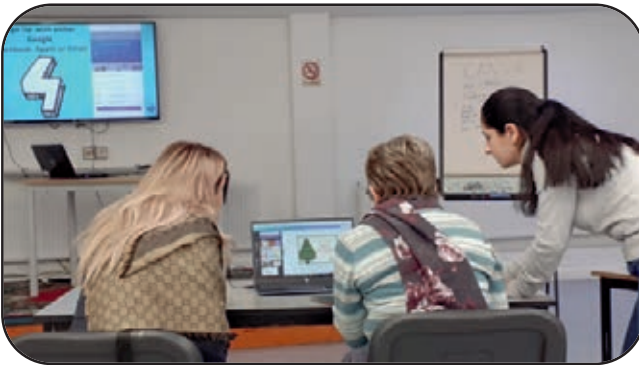


Details of the special 35th Anniversary plaque unveiled at the celebration held in Hayashen on 11th December 2021

DIGITAL INCLUSION PROJECT

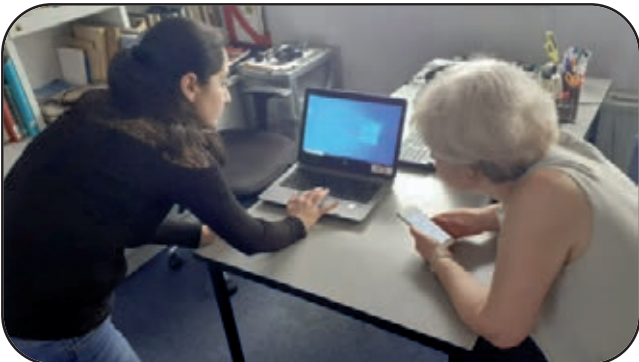


CAIA's Digital Champion Zarine, designed and delivered an excellent workshop about the graphic design tool *Canva* on 23rd November 2021 at *Hayashen*. Well done to everyone who attended (photographed with certificates).

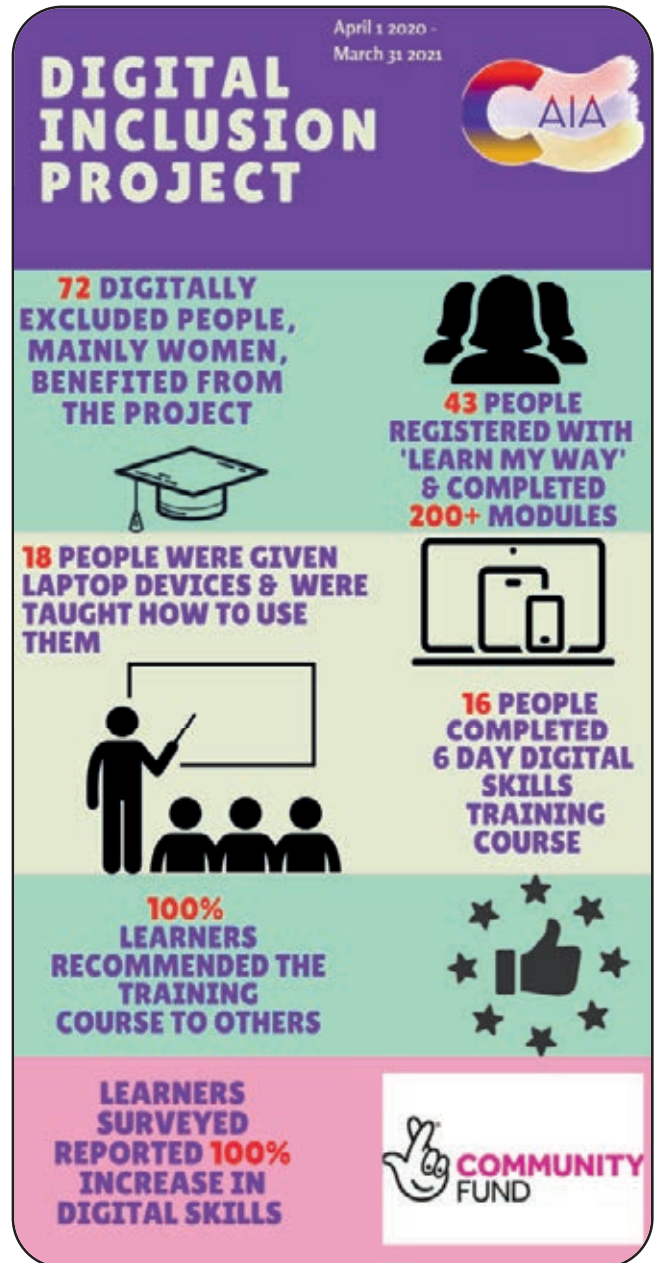


On 25th January 2022, CAIA's Digital Champion Zarine, organised an interactive workshop in *Hayashen* about how to use *eBay* and *Vinted*. During the three-hour workshop, Zarine explained what are *eBay* and *Vinted*, how to register and sell items as well as fees/charges. Zarine provided a practical example of how to sell various items to the 10 enthusiastic learners who asked lots of interesting questions throughout the workshop. All participants were awarded with certificates. They also enjoyed the opportunity to network with each other during lunch and refreshments. CAIA's *Digital Inclusion Project* is funded by the *National Lottery Community Fund* (see attached project Infograph).

1-2-1 SUPPORT



Zarine offers 1-2-1 digital learning by appointment three-days a week. For more information, please phone 020 89924621 or e-mail digitalchampion@caia.org.uk



Thanks to the cooperation between CAIA's *Digital Champion*, Zarine and Jane Medici, *Digital Capacity Building Support Officer* of Ealing & Hounslow CVS, CAIA received 7 refurbished laptops previously owned by Hounslow Council to distribute to Hounslow residents who don't have such devices to remove barriers to digital exclusion. Subsequently seven Armenians received the devices. For more information about the project please visit: <https://caia.org.uk/services/digital-inclusion/>

INTRODUCTION TO ARMENIAN HISTORY, CULTURE & HERITAGE 2021

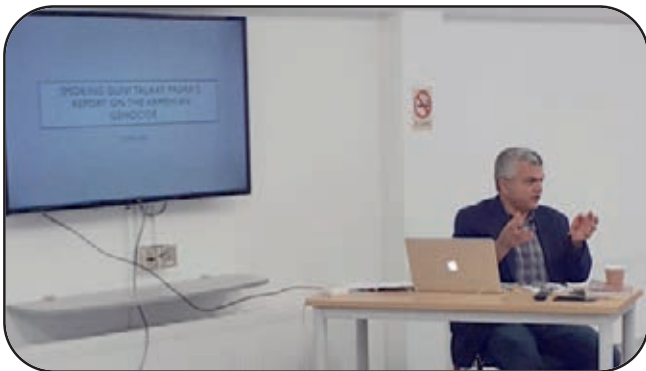
During February-March 2020, CAIA organised its annual *Introduction to Armenian History, Culture and Identity* course thanks to the support of Ealing Council.



Vicken Cheterian, respected journalist and political analyst from *Geneva* was the first speaker in the series on Sunday 2 May 2021 online due to COVID-19 restrictions. Vicken spoke about *The Second Karabakh War: Karabakh, Armenia, and the Armenian Diaspora*. This talk can be viewed on CAIA's YouTube Channel https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iGbTo3myJQs&list=PLtBo-rFazTDLV2s76wVQ5fT14_edOkF7j7



On Sunday 9 May 2021, Nicolas Tavitian (specialist of EU advocacy and of civil society organisations) travelled from Brussels to kindly speak about *The Armenian diaspora: accident, institution or project? Rethinking the "global Armenian nation" together*. This talk can be viewed on CAIA's YouTube Channel https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3UZxizIqB_A



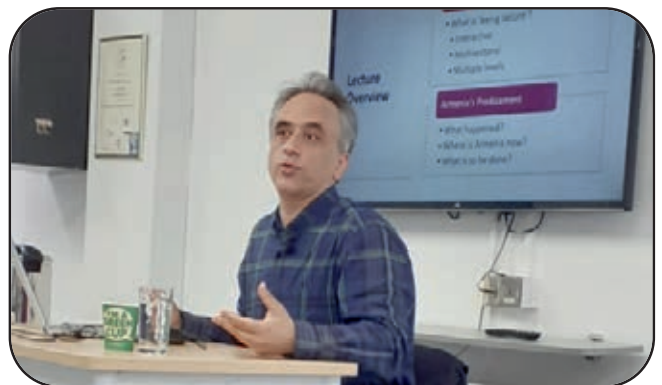
Historian Ara Sarafian gave a detailed talk on 16 May 2021 about *Talaat Pasha's Report on the Armenian Genocide* titled *A Smoking Gun*. This talk can be viewed on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XWXwfRE1AOI>



On 23 May 2021 Richard M. Anooshian (*above*) talked about the journey behind Leon Surmelian's memoir, *I Ask You, Ladies and Gentlemen* which was a major best seller when first published in 1945. The book was recently published again thanks to his effort by the *Armenian Institute*. Richard provided selected readings and some insights into the author's other works too. The presentation can be viewed via the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MasOyVb6o7Y&t=3s>



Reading Silences: Essays on Women and War in 20th Century Turkey was the title of the talk on 30 May 2021 by Suzan Meryem Rosita Kalayci (Co-Founder and Director of Oxford Network for Armenian Genocide Research (ONAGR)). The talk can be viewed via the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ZcYHzmy3Ho>



On 6 June 2021, Dr. Kevork Oskanian, Honorary Research Fellow at *University of Birmingham* and a lecturer in Political Science and International Studies was welcomed to make the final presentation in the series. Dr. Oskanian's talk was titled *Armenia at a Crossroads: Reviving the National Project after the Second Karabakh War*. The talk can be viewed via the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p28qY0RtHng&t=33s>

CAIA is grateful to *Hamaink TV* for recording all the talks for the benefit of those who were unable to attend. ■

SHAKESPEARE AT HAYASHEN



On 28th November 2021, CAIA hosted the Armenian Shakespeare Association (ASA) and guest speakers, distinguished academics Professor Lisa Hopkins and Professor Sheila Cavanagh. Introducing the guest speakers, ASA's founder Hasmik J. Seymour, revealed the volume of selected essays of the ASA's *Third International Shakespeare Conference* in Venice edited and published by the *Mekhitarist* scholars in a special edition of *Bazmavep*.

In her opening remarks, Hasmik J. Seymour mentioned that it was a privilege to have been endowed an entire volume of *Bazmavep*, the oldest Armenian-language periodical of Europe, launched in 1843 by the *Mekhitarist* scholars. It has enormously contributed to the safeguarding of the Armenian historical and literary heritage and the preservation of the classical language, *Grabar*.

ASA's third Shakespeare conference was held in the historic building of *Moorat-Raphael Seminary* in Venice by the kind invitation of Archbishop Levon Boghos Zekyan, and was dedicated to the 130th anniversary of legendary actor-director Vahram Papazian (1888-1968), who studied in this Seminary in the early 1900s. Some 30 Shakespeare scholars from around the world, Argentina, Brazil, Peru, USA, France, UK, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Italy, Sweden, Ireland, India, Taiwan, Republic of China (ROC) as well as Armenia, participated in this cross-cultural academic debate. Both Sheila Cavanagh and Lisa Hopkins were keynote speakers at the ASA's conferences in Yerevan in 2018 as well as in Venice in 2019, before the pandemic disrupted all face-to-face events. Presenting the speakers, Hasmik Seymour, mentioned that both speakers have been great friends of the ASA since its foundation in 2016. The captivating talk by American scholar Sheila Cavanagh introduced Shakespeare without words project by synetic theatre in Washington DC. This Georgian-American venture, founded a decade ago by Georgian directors, is inspired by Georgian folk dance and music, that has cultural and historic ties with the Armenian culture, endorsed the speaker.

The second guest speaker, Professor Lisa Hopkins (PhD from the University of Cambridge) for many years has been the Head of Research at the University of Sheffield Hallam, is a distinguished expert of the English Renaissance. Her fascinating presentation explored maps and historic documents on Armenia available to the English Renaissance authors such as Christopher Marlow and William Shakespeare. Hopkins argued that both playwrights knew not only about Armenians as the only indigenous people living in the plateau of the Mount Ararat from the Bible, or Tigranes the Great from Greco-Roman historians. From the groundbreaking maps of the last decades of the sixteenth century, they were aware that

Armenia, situated on the crossroads of civilisations, was hugely damaged by foreign invaders, including Tamburlaine (*Timur the Great*) and Turk-Ottomans, termed "tartar thieves" by Marlow, who had left "desert" and devastation behind.



At the end of the event, Hasmik Seymour briefly dwelt upon the Italian influences on the stage craft of Vahram Papazian, to whom the *Bazmavep* volume was dedicated. She defended that dramatic and cross-cultural legacy of Papazian certainly deserves more attention from international scholars and theatre professionals as the true symbol of East and West cultural alliance.

This diverse and enlightening discussion about Shakespeare and the Armenian civilization, resumed around drinks reception, where the *Hayashen* audience had the opportunity to converse with Shakespeare scholars in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere, which is characteristic for all CAIA events.

To order your copy of this exclusive *Bazmavep* volume dedicated to Shakespeare and Armenia, please e-mail: asassociation400@gmail.com

Armenian Shakespeare Association

www.armenianshakespeare.org

<https://www.facebook.com/armenianshakespeare>

<https://twitter.com/ArmShakespeare>

(+44) 7983022332



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Use above QR Code to visit CAIA's website
for the latest news

HAYASHEN YOUTH CLUB



On 4th September 2020, Hayashen Armenian Youth Club (HAYC) had the pleasure to learn about the musical achievements of Hovig Tchilingirian and hear him play the viola. Hovig has been accepted into the *National Children's Orchestra of GB* following auditions for the second year running. He is the only Armenian out of the 117 members across GB (photo above).

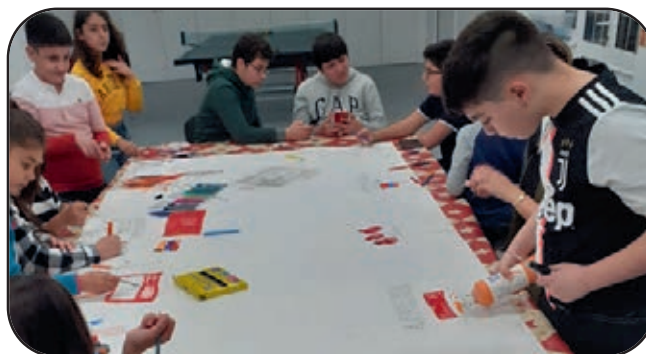
During the evening, HAYC members were very happy to award him the *J. Petchey Foundations Youth Achievements Award* in recognition of his talent, dedication and positive role model for our youth.



21-year old Anayis Der Hakopian, an alumni of HAYC, made a very entertaining presentation about *Animation* on 18th September 2020. The youth appreciated learning about the history and many types of animation as well as enjoyed viewing some of her award winning animations.



On 16th October 2020, HAYC welcomed Sonia who delivered an interactive workshop about photography. The youth learnt various techniques and uses of professional cameras. The young people asked a lot of questions and practiced using the camera with Sonia's supervision.



With the attack on the Armenian people of *Arstakh* taking place, young people came together on 30th October 2020 to discuss their thoughts and feelings about this. At the end of the talking, the youth were encouraged to express their thoughts and feelings through art and paint.



An exciting Christmas party took place on 4th December 2020 at HAYC just before the national lockdown caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.



A brilliant HAYC reunion took place on 15th January 2021. The theme of the evening workshop (photo above) was "*How to stay safe during the Pandemic*" which the youth followed and practiced when engaging with each other during various fun activities throughout the evening.



On 26th February 2021, experienced psychotherapist Ashkhen Virabyan (above right) led a *Mandala* workshop which enabled the youth to reflect and identify their personal characteristics via drawings.



On 17th April 2021, well-known British-Armenian Kev Orkian (*above*) provided a great evening of entertainment and inspirational talk enjoyed by 30+ youth which was livestreamed simultaneously on CAIA's YouTube channel.



On 8th May 2021, the British Pantomime Academy presented a special panto production of *Aladdin* at an unrecognisable *Hayashen*. Over 40 youth and children enjoyed the songs and jokes. The full performance can be viewed on CAIA's YouTube channel.

On 2nd July, Lusine Alaverdian delivered a videomaking workshop at HAYC. A short video produced by Lusine about HAYC can be viewed on CAIA's YouTube channel.



CAIA youth worker Venetia (*above*) shared her knowledge on 3rd September about an interesting free graphic design platform called CANVA which the youth learned how to create posters, invitation or business cards and much more whilst using professionally designed templates.



On 17th September, HAYC welcomed Arkadi Antonian who talked about how about the history of the *Accordion* and played some beautiful melodies for the youth.

Yeva Kebabdjian, who writes and edits her school magazine led a lively debate at HAYC on 1st October 2021 (*see photo below*). The youth enjoyed the discussion, expressing themselves positively and clearly even when they disagreed with each other.



On 22nd October 2021 HAYC organised a fun ghoulish Halloween Party with lots of dressing up and food (*below*).



There was an interactive Quiz on 26th November titled *How to save your pocket money* (*see photo below*).



An enjoyable youth christmas party took place on 3rd December 2021 at *Hayashen* with lots of food, games, music, gifts, jokes and laughter (*see photo above*).

HAYC GO KARTING FUN DAY 2020



On 27 October 2020, 36 young people enjoyed a great fun-day go karting at Brentwood Leisure Centre organised by CAIA's Hayashen Armenian Youth Club.

The day started from 9.00am with full of energy and excitement, travelling by coach with laughter and music. The Brentwood Leisure Centre staff greeted the youth on arrival and provided health and safety instructions before the youth wore their special driving uniforms and helmets. The youth competed against each other four times over four hours. At 1.00pm, the youth consumed a total of 16 large pizzas. By 4.00pm, the fastest (and safest) young drivers were announced to the delight of their friends and awarded various medals and trophies (see above and below). The coach arrived back at Hayashen by 6.00pm to the delight of their waiting parents.



HAYC GO KARTING FUN DAY 2021



CAIA encourages the voice of Armenian youth. Following the Go-Karting fun day of 26 October, 2021 when 44 young people enjoyed a great day at Brentwood Leisure Centre, 13-year old Lourdes Avakian wrote the following:



Usually, I'd would sleep in on half term but as I was so excited for the go karting, I made my self-wake up in the crucial early morning hours. Once I got ready and left, I felt my excitement escalate! As soon as we arrived at Centre for Armenian Information & Advice Hayashen we were all greeted by Misak and Venetia, and we hopped onto the coach. After that we had to wait on an hour and a half journey to get to Brentwood's go karting raceway. When I and the other 40+ youth jumped off the coach I had a strong feeling that it was going to be a day full of excitement. When it was my turn to do the go karting, I stepped into the kart and zoomed my way through the track, all of my friends did amazing! (Lara, Ara and Lucy!!) after that I watched as everyone race as if their life depended on it, until it was my turn again. When I did this race, I tried my best and ended up doing well! After that everyone had one more practice race. After the last practice race everyone had pizza. It was delicious. Then the finals came. When it was the finals, my heart was pounding but then the race started. I took first place and kept it while overtaking others, during this time my mum was encouraging me. Once the race ended it turned out I won! As I stood up on the podium and received my gold medal, I felt satisfied with my win. Once that was done, we took an amazing group photo and took the coach back to Hayashen. In the coach I and everyone took a well-deserved rest. Back at home I slept very well that night and woke up late the following morning as it was still half term! ■

**WATCH THE VIDEO OF 'DAY NO LIKE
OTHER' - GO-KARTING 2021**

QR CODE BELOW



ARMENIAN COMMUNITY PRE-SCHOOL GROUP



A fun *Halloween* party took place in October 2021 with parents and children dressed up enjoying themselves.



December 2021 ACPG Christmas party at *Hayashen*




PARENT'S & TODDLER'S GROUP

Hayashen

EVERY MONDAY & THURSDAY
10 AM - 12:30 PM

For children under 5's
to play & learn
together

Opportunity for parents
to socialise and support
each other



For more information:
Call CAIA: 020 8992 4621
or email: info@caia.org.uk





A group of 60+ young people and parents enjoyed a great day out at Thorpe Park on 31 August 2021 organised by the CAIA. A wonderful short film was produced of the day by a volunteer, which can be viewed on CAIA's *YouTube* via above *QR* code.

ARMENIAN SUMMER FESTIVAL



CAIA took part in the *Armenian Summer Festival* via its stall 5th September 2021. It was wonderful to be able to engage with some many Armenians and non-Armenians from across the UK and abroad. It was also a pleasure to catch up with local MP, Rupa Huq.

Below are the perceptions by one first time visitor to the festival who was born in Brazil.

Last Sunday I had a very nice experience to go in an Armenian event in London, something that was not part of my "things to do in London", and I could enjoy one of the things that I miss a lot from my country, and family, the Lehmejun, or Esfihas like we say in Brazil. These ones that I tried in the event are closer to Armenian style, which means that they are bigger, while in Brazil the pies are smaller, but the taste is very similar, and the Dough reminded of my grandmother.

Maybe it is interesting to say that I am 50% Armenian, my mother's parents came from Ottoman empire in a dramatic journey from Marash and Zeytun to São Paulo, and I was raised in the traditions of Armenian Katchen, to say the least, and my other half is nearby, from Lebanon.

Something that I did not want to miss was the wine booth, a big tradition from ancient times in Armenia, and I enjoy a very nice conversation with the owner about the winery and how to initiate with Armenian wines.

Lastly, in general, the event was lovely, many items about the Armenian culture and history, the sunny day was also a gift for the attendees and the team that organized it, very happy people, as always". Written by Claudio.

CONGRATULATIONS ANOOSH

Anoosh Chakelian is *Britain* editor at the *New Statesman* and co-host of the *New Statesman* Podcast. In 2021, we were delighted to learn that she won the *New Statesman* Writer of the Year at its end of year awards where she has worked for over five years.

Another is a credit to her family, our community and its supplementary schools including *Hayashen Armenian Preschool Group* and *K.Tahta Armenian Sunday School* which she attended.

She specialises in writing features about British politics, policy and social affairs, interviews high-profile public figures, co-presents the *New Statesman* weekly politics podcast, and runs the "Crumbling Britain" series on the impact of austerity. She has also worked as the *New Statesman's* Senior Writer, Deputy Editor of newstatesman.com, and editor of The Stagers Westminster politics blog. She was previously Deputy Editor of *Total Politics*.

During 2021, she wrote several insightful articles which reflected her own experience including 'My dad fled Lebanon for a new life. He found dry land, but others aren't so lucky'.

<https://www.newstatesman.com/author/anoosh-chakelian>

**CONGRATULATIONS OFFICER CADET
KARINE SARGSYAN**



In December 2021, Karine Sargsyan became the first Armenian female officer cadet to graduate *Sandhurst*.

REMEMBRANCE DAY - CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL KHACHKAR MONUMENT



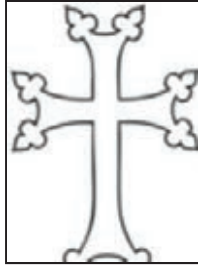
On 11th November 2021, Armenians and friends gathered at the *Khachkar* Monument at *Canterbury Cathedral's* War Memorial Garden to commemorate Remembrance Day for the men and women who gave up their lives for Great Britain during WWI. "Among their ranks," as British historian Ara Sarafian pointed out during the commemoration, "were many Armenians from Great Britain and the Commonwealth." Furthermore, "tens of thousands of other Armenians also fought and died in armies allied to Great Britain, especially those in Russia and France."

This gathering took place at the heart of the Anglican church, with the participation of the Dean of Canterbury Cathedral, Dr. Rev. Robert Willis. In his welcome address, he expressed his pleasure in seeing so many representatives of the Armenian community.



The plight of Armenian PoW's and citizens illegally held captive in Azerbaijan was not forgotten by UK's Armenian community throughout 2021 with regular protests in central London. ■

CONDOLENCES



Klara Gharapetian
1936 - 2021



It is with great sadness that Klara Gharapetian passed away on 31st July 2021 after a long illness. Klara was born in Iran in 1936 and from an early teen demonstrated her strong sense of responsibility and loyalty to her parents and siblings. She was an extraordinary person, a larger than life character, a born leader who led by example. A person who used her strength in a positive way to help others in any way she could. She made friends with everyone who crossed her path and treated them with respect.

After she got married she started her hairdressing business in early 1960s. She was the first Armenian hairdresser in her town.

Over the 30 years of running her successful hair dressing business, she used her unique status in the city for the benefit of not only her family but others who were less fortunate and who needed her help.

Her fame and status did not blind her to the fact that she had come from a humble background and up to the last breath of her life she was a humble and caring person.

When she moved to the UK, she put her people skills to good use in making new social circles and friends and was involved in several UK based charities, including *Anahid Association* (as a chair-lady) and a trustee at the *Centre for Armenian Information and Advice*. She took her responsibilities as a trustee seriously and was involved with the charities in any way she could. Her loyalty and commitment to the charities involved was exemplary.

Klara was laid to rest on 26th August 2021 and will be sorely missed by her family, friends and people she came across. She is survived by her sons Bosik and Sergik and granddaughter Lucy. RIP to a true human being.

Views expressed in articles and other announcements appearing in "Armenian Voice" are not necessarily that of the CAIA.

OBITUARY Krikor Giragos Vartoukian (1928 – 2021)



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Mr. Krikor Giragos Vartoukian, husband to Ani, and beloved father of Haigouhi, Rita, Sonia and Greg, was born in Larnaca, Cyprus in May 1928. A service was held at *St Yeghiche Armenian Church*, on 22nd July 2021, followed by burial at East Sheen Cemetery.

Mr Vartoukian was a long time member of CAIA and a respected member of various Armenian community organisations, best known as chairman and his positive stewardship of *Armenian House Trust* which was established in 1959 in Kensington.

Donations in lieu of flowers were made to the *Armenian Wounded Heroes Fund* - <https://armenianwoundedheroes.com>. CAIA is also grateful for the kind donation made by the Vartoukian family in memory of their beloved husband, father and grandfather.

IN LOVING MEMORY

The CAIA extends its deepest condolences to the families and friends of following who sadly passed away since the last issue of this newsletter. They are sorely missed by everyone who knew and loved them.

If we have omitted anyone from the list below, please forgive us.

- + **Susanna Ogannisjiana 1967-2021**
- + **Hakob Manushakian 1954-2021**
- + **Jenya Nercessian 1931-2021**
- + **Azad Makaradi 1939-2022**
- + **Andranik Stephen Johannes 1933-2022**
- + **Sonia Johannes 1939-2022**
- + **Yacoub Hanna 1939-2022**
- + **Abraham Khachadurian 1931-2022**
- + **Mari Darakjian 1930-2022**
- + **Frieda Batarseh 1952-2022**
- + **Marie Salibian (Best) 1933-2022**
- + **Manuel Atamian 1932-2022**

IN MEMORY

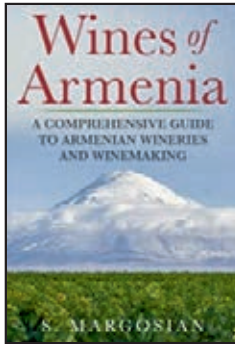
The CAIA is very grateful for the generous bequest of the late Lala Colton in her last will and testament. May she rest in peace.

+

The CAIA is very grateful for the kind donation from Mr Simon Sahakian in loving memory of his beloved late wife, Anahid Sahakian 1929 Isfahan - 2020 London.

BOOK REVIEWS

Wines of Armenia: A Comprehensive Guide to Armenian Wineries and Winemaking by S. Margosian; 150 pp, ISBN 978840934864-0, Published by Parentesi Quadra.



Wine has always been an integral part of Armenian culture and heritage, even before Christianity and into ancient times. Grapes and wine are embedded into the core of Armenia's national identity. Recent discoveries have shown us that the world's first production of wine began 6,100 years ago in the Areni Cave in Armenia.

With such a compelling history, deep traditions and a full heritage exist here in plenty. Yet, the world has limited knowledge about this richness. This book aims to close this knowledge gap and share the beauty and culture with the world. It is the first comprehensive guide about Armenian wineries and winemaking providing great detail about Armenian grapes, wine regions and wineries.



The Wrong Train: Notes on Armenia since the Counterrevolution by Markar Melkonian ; 186 pp, ISBN 9781949618-22-8 Published by Sardarabad.

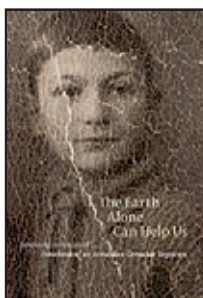
In a series of articles, Melkonian dismantles the neoliberal slogans and buzzwords that have dominated public discourse in the Republic of Armenia for decades. In the course of doing this, he introduces a very different vocabulary for describing the passing scene—a

more coherent, accurate, and open vocabulary, and one that is indispensable to the voiceless majority in countries like Armenia.

Armenians Beyond Diaspora: Making Lebanon Their Own (Alternative Histories) by Tsolin Nalbandian; 192 pp, Hardcover - Illustrated; Published by Edinburgh University Press - ISBN 978-1474458566



This book argues that Armenians around the world - in the face of the Genocide, and despite the absence of an independent nation-state after World War I - developed dynamic socio-political, cultural, ideological and ecclesiastical centres. And it focuses on one such centre, Beirut, in the post-colonial 1940s and 1950s. Tsolin Nalbandian explores Armenians' discursive re-positioning within the newly independent Lebanese nation-state; the political-cultural impact (in Lebanon as well as Syria) of the 1946-8 repatriation initiative to Soviet Armenia; the 1956 Catholicos election; and the 1957 Lebanese elections and 1958 mini-civil war. What emerges is a post-Genocide Armenian history of - principally - power, renewal and presence, rather than one of loss and absence.

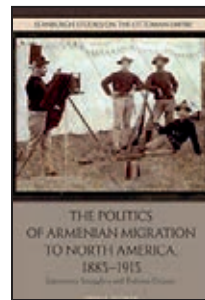


The Earth Alone Can Help Us: Notebook of an Armenian Genocide Deportee by Serpouhi Hovaghian; Paperback, 144 pages; Published by BNF - ISBN 978-2717728736

Having gathered dust for decades in an attic before being added to the collections of the *Bibliothèque nationale de France*, Serpouhi Hovaghian's note-

book is one of the few known contemporary witness accounts of a victim of the Armenian genocide. This present critical edition of the narrative it contains plunges us into one of the darkest periods of the twentieth century.

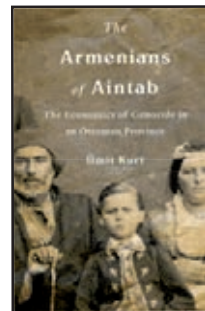
The Politics of Armenian Migration to North America, 1885-1915 by David Gutman; Paperback; 246 pages; Published by Edinburgh University Press; ISBN 978-1-4744-4525-2



This book tells the story of Armenian migration to North America in the late Ottoman period, and Istanbul's efforts to prevent it. It shows how, just as in the present, migrants in the late 19th and early 20th centuries were forced to travel through clandestine smuggling networks, frustrating the enforcement of the ban on migration. Further, migrants who attempted to return home from sojourns in North America risked

debarment at the border and deportation, while the return of migrants who had naturalized as US citizens generated friction between the United States and Ottoman governments. The author sheds light on the relationship between the imperial state and its Armenian populations in the decades leading up to the Armenian genocide. He also places the Ottoman Empire squarely in the middle of global debates on migration, border control and restriction in this period, adding to our understanding of the global historical origins of contemporary immigration politics and other issues of relevance today in the Middle East region, such as borders and frontiers, migrants and refugees, and ethno-religious minorities.

The Armenians of Aintab - The Economics of Genocide in an Ottoman Province by Ümit Kurt; 400 pages; Published by Harvard; ISBN 9780674247949



A Turk's discovery that Armenians once thrived in his hometown leads to a groundbreaking investigation into the local dynamics of genocide.

Ümit Kurt, born and raised in Gaziantep, Turkey, was astonished to learn that his hometown once had a large and active Armenian community. The Armenian presence in Aintab, the city's name during the Ottoman period, had not only been destroyed—it had been replaced. To every appearance, Gaziantep was a typical Turkish city. Kurt digs into the details of the Armenian dispossession that produced the homogeneously Turkish city in which he grew up. In particular, he examines the population that gained from ethnic cleansing. Records of land confiscation and population transfer demonstrate just how much new wealth became available when the prosperous Armenians—who were active in manufacturing, agricultural production, and trade—were ejected. Although the official rationale for the removal of the Armenians was that the group posed a threat of rebellion, Kurt shows that the prospect of material gain was a key motivator of support for the Armenian genocide among the local Muslim gentry and the Turkish public. Those who benefited most—provincial elites, wealthy landowners, state officials, and merchants who accumulated Armenian capital—in turn financed the nationalist movement that brought the modern Turkish republic into being. The economic elite of Aintab was thus reconstituted along both ethnic and political lines.

The book draws on primary sources from Armenian, Ottoman, Turkish, British, and French archives, as well as memoirs, personal papers, oral accounts, and newly discovered property-liquidation records. Together they provide an invaluable account of genocide at ground level.

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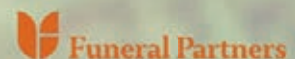
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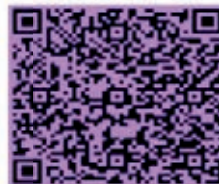


Make a difference and support your community by becoming a member of the Centre for Armenian Information and Advice (CAIA)

By becoming a member of the Centre for Armenian Information and Advice (CAIA) you help support Armenians 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:

- Provide independent confidential advisory services on a wide range of issues
- Provide transportation and luncheon clubs for our elders
- Run regular youth clubs
- Run preschool and school holiday activities for children
- Promote Armenian History, Culture and educational Events
- Provide training and learning opportunities for adults
- Maintain a comprehensive community library.
- Provide volunteering/work experience/work placement opportunities & training where required.



When you join you will receive:

Regular e-bulletins and information about events happening in our community.

- Armenian Voice Newsletter
- An Invitation to our Annual General Meeting (AGM)
- Reduced rates for CAIA activities/outings/workshops and priority booking.
- Along with your Family membership your children will have membership to our Youth Club.

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