

ARMENIAN VOICE



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CENTRE FOR
ARMENIAN INFORMATION
AND ADVICE

NEWSLETTER FOR THE LONDON-ARMENIAN COMMUNITY. WINTER 2022 No.75

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EDITORIAL

We don't normally write editorials but we will in this issue because we often write about what we do but don't always explain why we do these activities.

Firstly, we do what we do because we recognise that there are certain sections in our community in London and the wider UK who struggle to access their local rights due to their circumstances.

Secondly, we acknowledge that not everyone is the same. Some experience inequalities as a result of poverty, digital exclusion, disabilities, ageing, lack of educational opportunities, uncertainties when growing up, discrimination, domestic violence, unemployment, inadequate housing and rebuilding shattered lives as recently arrived refugees or migrants.

Coupled with such inequalities, we also recognise the various vulnerabilities Armenians experience as a dispersed global people are not always where they are by choice. Historical and current events combined systematically undermine their roots, identity and mental well-being as the links with friends and family become tenuous over time. To reverse or swim against this tide requires a great deal of effort, determination and sacrifice individually and collectively. Under the impact of such insecure circumstances and the weight of history outside their control, some become overwhelmed and give up the struggle for their rights be it local or national. Some live in the margins disenfranchised even though they operate, consume and produce in the economy and culture of British society. Some others view themselves as short-term visitors with little time to invest in a host society or in the local Armenian community. These include but are not limited to overseas students, temporary migrants or contract workers and refugees seeking sanctuary until circumstances back 'home' improve. Others accept their fate and live in ghettos physically or mentally due to various perceptions, circumstances, age or trauma. Another group embraces its fate by investing 100% through decoupling their identity, striving to be accepted and following the well-worn path of assimilation. Again, not always by choice. There are also large numbers of ordinary people who are just simply coping, getting by, preoccupied with their daily obligations and routines in order to safeguard their immediate needs and families, until they are in a position to support the local and wider Armenian community.

CAIA seeks to embrace all of them and their day-to-day challenges because as a charity it was born in the UK out of all the above.

This is why as a user-led, transparent and accountable organisation, CAIA has always striven to work alongside them, to strengthen our communities from the ground up.



+We do this by providing information which is the knowledge people require to make informed decisions about their living circumstances.

+We do this by providing advice which offers pathways for the actions which are needed to bring about improvements in their living conditions and the situations in which they find themselves.

+ We aim to be a central focal point of service, progress and empowerment for the most disadvantaged and those connected to them.

Hence our name, *Centre for Armenian Information and Advice*.

The CAIA wishes you, all your loved ones and everything you care about a Happy and Peaceful New Year and Christmas [or a Merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year].





STRENGTHENING THE COMMUNITY FROM THE GROUND UP



Thanks to a small grant from the Ealing Council *Household Winter Support Fund*, the CAIA expanded its weekly distribution of free food between January-March 2022. The grant awarded to *Ealing Council* via the DWP (*Department for Work and Pensions*) enabled CAIA to make small payments towards the energy and water bills of 50 vulnerable Armenian households and families with children in the borough totalling £5,000. Additionally, during the same period, CAIA delivered and provided weekly food boxes to a further 20 households such as older people and those with disabilities in the borough that subsist on low income. Many thanks to the *The Felix Project* and *City Harvest London* for providing much of the food as well as to our staff and volunteers who did the heavy lifting. During the same time CAIA collaborated with *Hounslow Council* about the wellbeing of its residents by undertaking a survey with contribution by over 30 local Armenians.

UNIVERSAL CREDIT EXPLAINED



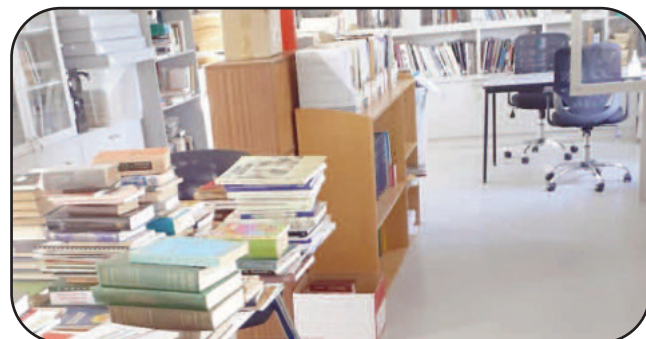
On 24th May 2022, CAIA's Advice Worker Arthur Manouk Cahill LLP delivered a three-hour workshop at Hayashen about *Universal Credit* to 10 participants. The aim was to increase their knowledge and confidence in using this online benefit.

CAIA's ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022



The Annual General Meeting of the *Centre for Armenian Information & Advice* took place at Hayashen on 14th May 2022. The agenda included reports from the Board of Directors delivered by the Chairperson Vayik Keshishi, operational report by the CEO, Misak Ohanian and financial report by Treasurer Flora Mansurian. Following the election of two new Directors, the AGM ended with light refreshments and lunch.

REFURBISHING HAYASHEN CONTINUES



The CAIA continues to improve the Hayashen Centre to make it more welcoming and secure to visitors. Following the recent installation of a new video entry system we replaced the outworn carpets in the first and second floors with a much brighter lino flooring (see photograph of the library floor).

EMPLOYABILITY PROJECT



The CAIA thanks to a small grant from *Ealing Adult Learning* organised two workshops and one-to-one job search advice sessions during September and October 2022 with the aim to help improve the job prospects of London Armenians.

The project was delivered by experienced trainer and career guidance advisor Alison Shuttle. The workshop topics included 'What is a CV and why is it important?' and 'Developing your confidence for job interviews'. Over 30 people benefited from the project and everyone were very grateful for the support they received from the CAIA in general and Alison in particular. ■

HONOURING THE UNITED EFFORT

'Ealing Together' is a collaboration between local community and voluntary groups, *Ealing Council*, resident association, civic associations and concerned individuals. On 15th October 2022, an afternoon tea and cultural event took place at Greenford Hall organised by 'Ealing Together' to honour and recognise the contribution of the joint community effort in supporting residents of Ealing through the COVID-19 pandemic. The Centre for Armenian Information & Advice was pleased to be invited and to have been part of this enjoyable event.



BHCAC MARKS 25th ANNIVERSARY

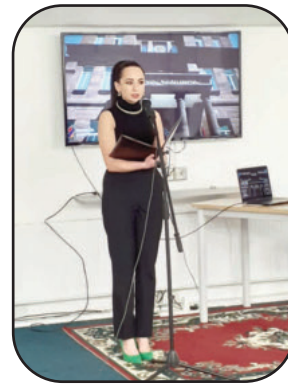


The Bosnia and Herzegovina Community Advice Centre (BHCAC) marked its 25th anniversary on 12th March 2022, at the new Brent Civic Centre in Wembley. The CAIA was honoured to have been invited to this major milestone. The programme included a short film about BHCAC's history, speeches from various dignitaries. The CAIA and the BHCAC have collaborated over the years, delivered joint projects, shared their experiences, knowledge and advocated together for the rights of all refugee communities in London.

The CAIA, along with several other charities, funders and local groups were given various awards in recognition of their contribution to BHCAC's 25th anniversary. Following the event, Sadida Trozic, the long-time tireless Manager of BHCAC kindly wrote to thank CAIA CEO, Misak Ohanian for his presence. "Thank you for your kind words about exemplary community organisation, knowing from whom that is coming, means a lot to me. I have always had huge respect for you and your work in the community. Thank you Misak." Likewise and well done Sadida and BHCAC.

YOUTH SUPPER EVENING AT HAYASHEN

It was a pleasure for the Centre for Armenian Information & Advice to welcome so many socially conscious youth to Hayashen for a fundraising supper evening on 2nd April 2022 organised with Noemi Stepan-Sarkissian, the Diaspora Youth Ambassador GB/ Միլլուքի երիտասարդ դեսպան Մեծ Բրիտանիայում.



The evening started with a welcoming drink and networking opportunities between the youth followed by a brief presentation and video about the support needed by Armenian veterans. This was followed by a delicious healthy Mediterranean meal kindly produced by Jakobs Restaurant and several volunteers. There were several surprises during the evening including an entertaining interactive quiz competition specially produced by Stephan Gasparian. The evening culminated with a raffle draw which all those attending were free to enter.

Thank you to everyone who attended or made donations even when they could not attend. 100% of the £1000 proceeding has been transferred to two charities providing practical support to Armenian veterans - Armenian Wounded Heroes Fund and Հինգրի Տուն Վերականգնողական Կենտրոն/ Zinori Tun Rehabilitation Center. Anyone who missed the event can make donations directly to these funds via

<https://armenianwoundedheroes.com/donate-awhf/>
<https://www.helpheroes.am/index.php?m=order>

We hope to organise a similar event for young adults again for another worthy Armenian cause. ■

SEASIDE OUTING TO BRIGHTON



On 26th July 2022, CAIA organised a seaside outing by coach to Brighton for Armenian families and friends, including seniors and carers. Everyone enjoyed themselves walking in the sunshine, visiting various tourist sites, drinking coffee at the cafes, eating fish and chips, ice cream, swimming, sunbathing, shopping and making new friends.

SUPPORTING UKRAINIAN ARMENIAN REFUGEES



There are anything between 100,000 to 300,000 Armenians living in Ukraine. Many are caught up in the hardships and sufferings taking place in that country. Many have become refugees, some for a second time following the 1990 Armenian pogroms in Azerbaijan and the 2020 invasion of *Artsakh*. Many Armenians in Russia have become nervous and insecure too about the situation. We have also heard about some negative sentiments against Russian speakers in the UK, irrespective of their ethnicity.

The CAIA has been working very hard to welcome Ukrainian-Armenian refugees, helping them find sanctuary in UK from the war. We have provided advice and practical support to those calling us from abroad as well as those who have arrived, cooperating with their friends and families as well as those without any links. We are grateful of the cooperations of organisations such as *Refugees at Home* and the *Welsh government*.

THE STORY OF ONE FAMILY



On 6th August 2022, CAIA welcomed and helped settle another Ukrainian-Armenian family to the UK (see above photo). The family, composed of a mother with her two daughters had travelled for 5 days across Europe by land to reach London after CAIA arranged their visa and registered them to stay in Wales.

Staff, members and volunteers at *Hayashen* made the family feel very welcome which also included providing free phone and data SIM cards to enable essential communications (see bottom right photo).

They were kindly put up overnight at the *London Visitors Hotel* and our thanks goes to the generosity of proprietor Steve Mouradian (see bottom left of above photo).

The following day CAIA's adviser Arthur M Cahill accompanied the family to *St Pancras International* station for their onward journey to Wales which was arranged with *Cymru Cenedl Noddfa: Wcráin* (Wales Nation of Sanctuary: Ukraine). While at *St Pancras International* station, Arthur met the Manager of "Welcome Hub" which opened in April with the aim of helping arriving Ukrainian refugees. ■

CAIA Support for Ukrainian Armenians



- ✓ We've helped 43 people who are already in the UK
- ✓ We are currently helping 28 people to come to the UK
- ✓ 25 people are still in Ukraine waiting for a sponsor. 3 families have now been matched with a UK sponsor.

 We have accommodated 5 people in London and 9 in Wales.

 14 have been accommodated through their sponsors

➤ The following types of support provided by CAIA to those in the UK:



Claim National Insurance Number



Found work through community network/ CAIA contacts



Enrolled children to schools / adults to study English language



Provided free SIM cards to communicate



Claim child benefit



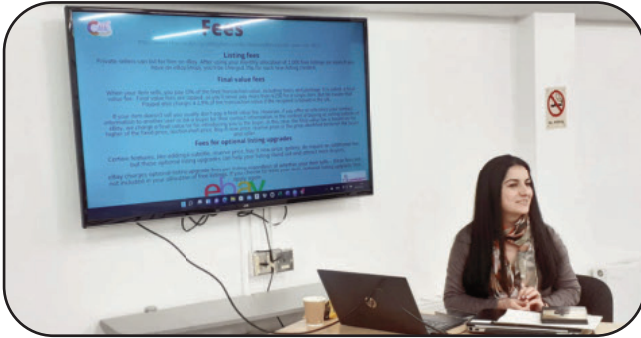
Offered childcare and emotional support, as families have been divided with men not being allowed to travel outside Ukraine

(as of 25/10/2022)



Ukrainian-Armenian children were treated by CAIA during summer school holidays at Chessington World of Adventures.

DIGITAL INCLUSION PROJECT



Zarine Avagimyan, CAIA's Digital Champion organised two very successful interactive workshops in 2022. The first on 25th January 2022 was about how to use *eBay* and *Vinted* online platforms. 10 people benefited from the three-hour course which explained what are *eBay* and *Vinted*, how to register and sell items as well as their fees/charges. During the workshop, Zarine demonstrated a practical example of how to sell an item. Participants asked lots of interesting questions throughout the session and were awarded attendance certificates. They also enjoyed the opportunity to network with each other during lunch and refreshments.



Congratulations also to all the learners who took part in the 'Google workshop' training at Hayashen on 26th April. This event introduced how to use the many free Google apps such as Google Docs, Meet, Forms, Calendar, Maps, etc.



During 2022, Zarine continued to meet members of the community 1-2-1 to enable them to get online so as to become more self-reliant, confident to access information and generally improve their digital communication skills, for both personal and professional use such as finding work. Since March 2022, Zarine has also launched and organised weekly online *Digital Coffee Morning* via Google Meet during which time participants are able to raise any technical or digital related issues. For more information contact Zarine via the following e-mail: digitalchampion@caia.org.uk

The impact of CAIA's Digital Inclusion project 2021/22

- 65** People benefited from the project 
- 6** Digitally excluded people were gifted refurbished laptops by Ealing & Hounslow CVS 
- 130** Sessions were delivered including 1-2-1, Group & online 
- 15** People learned to use their mobile phones/tablets 
- 7** People downloaded and started using the NHS app 
- 12** People received help to open an email account 
- 4** Workshops were delivered 
- 100%** Of our learners would recommend the course 



FREE COMPUTERS TO QUALIFYING SCHOOL CHILDREN



Thanks to the *Raspberry Pi Foundation*, CAIA has provided 22 PCs to low income Armenian school children 6-18 years of age to help with their homework between July and November 2022. It was heartwarming to receive photographs, videos and emails, from the grateful children and parents. The computers have enabled the school children to start using platforms such as *BBC Bitesize*, *MyMaths*, *Times Table Rockstars*, etc. We still have a few more PCs to give should anyone else qualifying contact Zarine at CAIA.

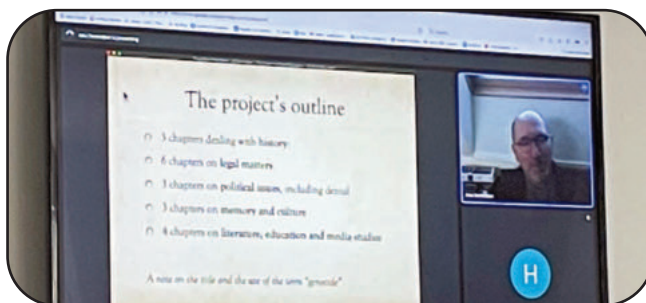
INTRODUCTION TO ARMENIAN HISTORY, CULTURE & HERITAGE 2022

During February-March 2022, CAIA organised its annual *Introduction to Armenian History, Culture and Identity* course at Hayashen thanks to the support of Ealing Council and A2Dominion Black History 365 Fund. Over 40 people benefited from the series, with many expressing their profound appreciation for the opportunity.

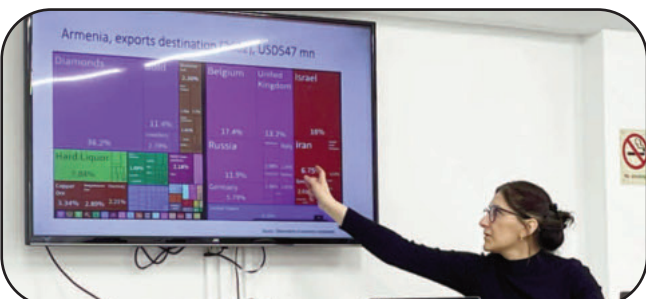


Five of the talks can be viewed via the adjacent QR codes.

The first speaker was Katherine Pagonis on 20 February 2022 about the *History of Armenian Queens of Jerusalem* based on her book with the same title.



Alexis Demirdjian, a Canadian attorney, currently serving as a Trial Lawyer for the Office of the Prosecutor at the International Criminal Court in The Hague since 2015, spoke on 27 February 2022 online followed by a lively questions and answers. The talk was based on the book *"The Armenian Genocide Legacy"* (Palgrave Macmillan 2015) edited and co-authored by Mr Demirdjian. This talk is available on CAIA's YouTube Channel via the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/user/CAIAHayashen>



Ms. Lilit Gevorgyan is a Senior Economist at IHS Global Insight, a UK-based business intelligence company. She specialises in political, economic and sovereign risk issues in Russia and former Soviet states, including Armenia. Ms. Gevorgyan spoke about Armenia's path to catastrophic war, security crisis and ways out of it.



Tigrane Yeghavian has a Masters in Comparative Politics from the Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris (Sciences Po) and a BA in Arabic from the Institute of Oriental Languages and Civilizations (INALCO). He is a freelance journalist and researcher at the French Intelligence Research Center (CF2R). He works in particular on Portugal and the Portuguese-speaking world, the Armenian diaspora and the Christian diasporas of the East. He published in January 2022 his last book *"Géopolitique de l'Arménie"* (Bibliomonde, 2021). One of his books *'Minorities of the Orient, the Forgotten Ones of History'* has been translated into Armenian in 2021.



Dr. David Zakarian spoke about *'Women and the Armenian Church through the Centuries'* at Hayashen on 20th March 2022

On Sunday 27 March 2022, the last speaker of the series was Dr Scarlet Sarkis who explored the life journey of Armenians in London based on the findings of her PhD thesis submitted to the New School of Psychotherapy and Counselling and Middlesex University Psychology Department.



Some of the feedback from participants following the end of the series included:

"I felt more connected to Armenian history as well as seeing people once again since the lockdown which is so important for mental health".

"Good range of topics as ever. I thoroughly enjoyed the lectures on more recent thought provoking events."



ARMENIAN COMMUNITY PRE-SCHOOL GROUP



EASTER EGG HUNT AT HAYASHEN



Over 20 children had lots of fun on April 11th 2022 inside and outside *Hayashen* searching for chocolate eggs.

VISIT TO ACTON FIRE STATION



A great visit took place to *Acton Fire Station* on 25th August 2022 as part of CAIA's school holiday activities. The parents and the children learned a lot thanks to the brave firefighters.



Please scan above QR code to view the Easter Egg Hunt at *Hayashen* on 11th April 2022.



Please scan above QR code to view the day out at *Chessington* at on 30th August 2022.



A group of 60+ young people and parents enjoyed a great day out at *Chessington World of Adventure* on 30 August 2022 organised by the CAIA. A wonderful short film was produced of the day, which can be viewed on CAIA's YouTube via above QR code.

HAYASHEN YOUTH CLUB

CONGRATULATIONS TO YEVA



On 21st January 2022, the Hayashen Armenian Youth Club (HAYC) presented 16-year-old Yeva Kebabdjian with the J. Petchey Young Achievers Award for her outstanding skills in writing and leadership.

Yeva is the editor of her school magazine and a skilled writer who during the second Artsakh war, wrote an excellent awareness raising article in her school magazine entitled "Nagorno-Karabakh conflict- is what you think you know, the truth?" Copy available on request.

Below is another example of Yeva's writing skills.

'This Friday's workshop was centred around Lego-building and using our imagination to create and build together. It was touching to see our bright generation of young Armenians working together, patiently passing pieces along and coming up with different models and shapes using both a guide and their wild, vast imaginations. However, the most wonderful part of the workshop was that there was always something for everyone to do. If you didn't feel like building, you could draw some radiant illustrations or paint beautiful butterflies with watercolours. If you didn't feel like drawing you could have participated in an animated and competitive ping-pong tournament!'

It's so important to allow the youth to have independence and choice because that's the way which we learn who we are, what we love, what we enjoy. It's also a fantastic opportunity to make new friends, who share our interests. With lively Armenian music and plenty of delicious snacks to go around, the atmosphere of the workshop was warm, fun and vibrant. And, no matter which activities you decided to participate in, we all gathered around the table and shared some scrumptious pizzas, fresh out of the oven, laughing, chatting and catching up. Especially because we were all so eager to find out who finally won the ping-pong tournament.

Thank you to our incredible hosts Misak and Venetia who never cease to make our youth club meetings exciting and enjoyable. It's something we always look forward to and they simply wouldn't be possible without them!



55 young people some accompanied with their parents enjoyed the excellent show *Frozen - The Musical* at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane on 3 February 2022 organised by CAIA's HAYC and supported by the BBC Children In Need.



A very enjoyable HAYC session took place on 18th February with young people cooking and eating together. Leading the cooking were siblings Armen and Yeva Kebabdjian (above photo) who brought the culinary skills they had learned from their parents who operate *Jakobs* restaurant at 20 Gloucester Road, London SW7 4RB.

Many thanks and well done for everyone who contributed, including those who only ate!

A short video of the session can be viewed on CAIA's YouTube Channel <http://bit.ly/3FcrX8>



On 4th March, youth worker Venetia, led an interactive workshop entitled "How to Manage your Emotions" enabling to some interesting discussions between the youth.



Congratulations to Armen Kebabdjian one of three young people gaining Jack Petchey Foundation Achievement Awards in 2022 at HAYC. If you know of other deserving youth, please write to - info@caia.org.uk



On 25th March 2022 HAYC organised an interactive team building and games activities which the youth enjoyed (photos above and below).



Ben Hughes, a young English student from Waltham Forest College has produced a short documentary on the Armenian Genocide as part of his Creative Media Production final module project. Ben was kind enough to attend the HAYC on 1st July 2022 where the documentary was shown and followed by a Q & A with the youth.



Ben explained that one of the reasons why he chose this subject was that it's not very well-known or taught in UK schools unlike other genocides. He also confessed that the first he learned about the Armenian Genocide was from the rock group *System Of Down*. The documentary includes two London Armenians speaking about how the genocide over 100 years later still affected them and their families lives.



On 2nd September, the youth challenged themselves by taking part in a contemporary dance workshop led by Mari Petrusian who used to run her own dance studio in Ukraine. Thanks to her, after a few short warm ups, the youth grew in confidence and had lots of fun (photo above).

On 7th October 2022, HAYC operated a fun Table Tennis competition which some of the youth enjoyed enormously. We also welcomed Garo Boyadjian from a local lawn Tennis Club to encourage the youth to take up the sport.



HAYC organised a fun and enjoyable Halloween Party for the benefit of teenagers on 21st October 2022, many of whom came dressed up (photos below).



Young people listened attentively to an excellent illustrative presentation by Talin Altounian Clark at the HAYC on 18th November 2022. Talin explained patiently the charitable work of *Books for Hope* which supports the educational progress of children living in the border villages of Armenia (see below photo of some of the children benefiting).



At the end of the presentation, Talin conducted a general knowledge quiz about Armenia which the youth participated enthusiastically. To support the work of 'Books for Hope', please contact Talin at ambbookshope@gmail.com ■



JACK PETCHEY FOUNDATION ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS



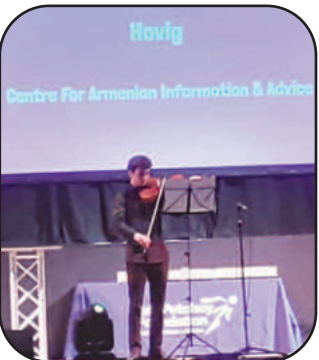
Four young people from the CAIA's Hayashen Armenian Youth Club (HAYC) received the prestigious Jack Petchey Foundation Achievement Awards at Ealing Town Hall on 23rd March 2022.

They were Yeva Kebabdjian, Garik Markarian, Olga Telalyan and Hovig Tchillingirian who also stunned the 300+ audience into silence with his masterful viola performance. All four youths were nominated by the HAYC for their various outstanding achievements by CAIA.



These events are held locally each year throughout the country but had been suspended during the COVID-19 pandemic, therefore it was a pleasure to be part of the exciting ceremony attend by 18 local schools and youth clubs based in the London Borough of Ealing.

CAIA's Youth Worker, Venetia Abrahamian was also recognised with an award for her outstanding leadership in operating the HAYC.



Congratulations to everyone who received awards last night from Councillor Munir Ahmed, the Worshipful Mayor of LBE and a big thank you to the Jack Petchey Foundation.

Another such event is also planned in early 2023 when we hope to see three more young Armenian achievers honoured. If you know anyone who deserves nomination, please write to info@caia.org.uk

HAYC GO KARTING



On 25th October 2022, forty young people enjoyed a great Go karting fun day at Brentwood Leisure Centre organised by CAIA's Hayashen Armenian Youth Club. The energised youth travelled by coach early in the morning from Hayashen and on arrival were greeted by the excellent staff who conveyed the health and safety instructions which



the youth respected. The young people aged 8 to 18 competed against each other four times over four hours. At 1.00pm, the youth consumed a total of 20 large pizzas. By 4.00pm, the fastest (and safest) three drivers from the four teams were announced and awarded medals (see photos above and below).



The youth arrived back at Hayashen at 6.00pm where they were greeted by thier waiting parents tired but happy from the challenge they had overcome.



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

COMMUNITY NEWS



Several years ago with the support of *Ealing Council*, a symbolic *Apricot tree* was planted on the green between High Street and Bond Street in Ealing. The substantial Armenian community of West London meets at the tree annually alongside politicians and religious figures to commemorate the Armenian genocide. The tree provides a meeting point for the community and the plaque by it acts as a reminder to the wider public about the 1.5 million victims of the 1915 Armenian Genocide. During the hot summer, the ground parched with the leaves dropped off the branches causing two to break. Despite the personal efforts of individual volunteers from both the local and Armenian communities the tree needs further care and attention. Local Armenian residents as well as CAIA have written to *Ealing Council* bringing this unacceptable matter to its attention.



Congratulations to Joan George (*above*) who reached 100 years of age in September 2022. Joan's detailed research of the UK Armenians is one of the most important sources for the community in the UK. She is the author of two books: "*Merchants in Exile: The Armenians in Manchester, England, 1835-1935*" and "*Merchants to Magnates, Intrigue and Survival: Armenians in London, 1900 – 2000.*"

Her mother Marie-Nevarte Manoukian was an Armenian living in Manchester, married to an Englishman, Roger Chorlton. As Manchester was the primary destination for the first wave of Armenian immigrants, it has always had a sizable and influential Armenian community. Armenians ran numerous businesses there (predominantly textile) and the first Armenian church in Great Britain was built there in 1871. Joan George has always been interested in her Armenian roots and her publications are a great testament to this. Many happy returns Joan. Love from CAIA.

On 17 June 2022 ACCUK Executive Committee held wine tasting and a presentation on Armenian wines and wine manufacturers at *Hayashen* in West London. Regardless of the extreme hot weather in London, *Hayashen* was rapidly filled with visitors who tasted smooth, cold white *Stork (Արագիլ)* wine by *Cascara* and

traditional Armenian snacks straight from Armenia! The speaker of the evening was Mrs. Syuneh Barseganyan, co-founder of *Cascara LLC*, one of the most recent wine makers in Armenia. Her company participated in the Armenian pavilion during the prestigious *London Wine Fair 2022* alongside 13 different wine producers at Olympia, London 7 to 9 June 2022, showcasing several magnificent wines produced from grape varieties native to Armenia. ■



An Armenian Students Careers Fair took place at *King's College London* on 15th October 2022 organised by the *The Yesai and Maria Mazmanian Foundation*, in partnership with *King's College Armenian Society*, *Warwick University Armenian Society* & *London School of Economics Armenian Society*.



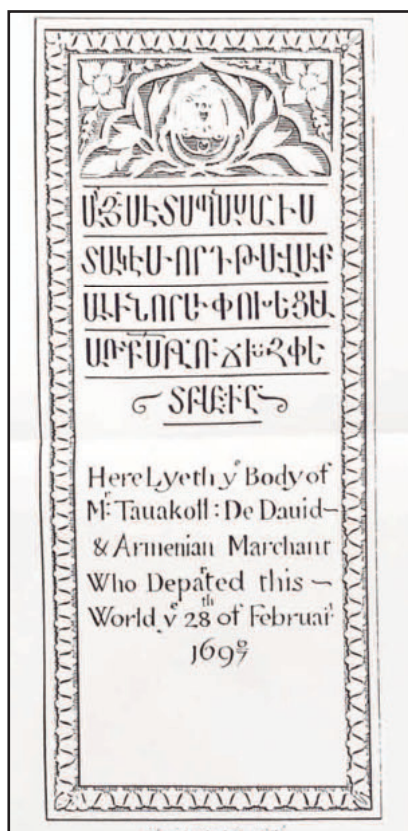
The *British Armenian Humanitarian Group* continues to campaign for the release of Armenian POWs and civilians imprisoned by the Azerbaijani regime. Members photographed with Baroness Caroline Cox from a protest held in November 2022 outside the *House of Commons* in Westminster demanding the *UK Parliament* to condemn and sanction Aliyev's corrupt dictatorship! For more information about the BAHG visit: <https://www.facebook.com/BritishArmenian/> ■



WHO IS THE ARMENIAN BURIED IN THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. AUGUSTINE WATLING STREET OR OLD CHANGE

In 2005 I was called upon to assist in the preparation of an archaeological assessment was proposed by St. Paul's Cathedral School to improve the garden area and playground. The south part of the school incorporates the site of the medieval and Christopher Wren parish church of St. Augustine on Watling street or Old Change. The church rebuilt by Wren after the Great Fire of 1666, but now it is part of the St. Paul's Choir School.

The Church of St Augustine is named after the missionary saint sent by Pope Gregory I to Britain in the year 596. It was first recorded in 1148. The Wren Church of 1682-95 was largely destroyed in the Second World War. The Wren tower of 1695-6 has been restored and survives on the site. Its design has been attributed to Hawksmoor, an assistant to Wren.



In 1809 during excavation a grave in the south aisle, either cut into stone or possibly a brass, with an elaborate inscription, in Armenian and English was found. The Armenian inscription reads:

«Այս է տապանս Արիստակէս Որդ(ի) Թավաքալին Նորաւ Փոխեցաւ առ Ք(րիստոս)ս Թվ(ին) ՌՃԽԶ (1146) Փետրուար ԻԸ (28)»

English translation :

"Here Lyethy Body of Mr: Tauakoll: De David
& Armenian Merchant
Who Departed this – World y 28th of Februari 1697"

My translation provided differs from the English rendering

"This is the grave of Aristakes son of David T'avak'ali,
Newly departed to Christ in the years 1146 (= 1697 AD),
February 28th"

Notes: In the Armenian the first name of the departed in given as being *Aristakes*. The 'de' in the name stands for 'son' in Venetian documents. The statement that the deceased was an "Armenian merchant" does not appear in the Armenian so also the word "this world". The date provided in according to the 'Great Armenian era' to which is added the figure 551 in converting the Armenian era into the modern calendar.

«Թավաքալի» - dialectical adjective meaning "unorganised".

Mesrop Seth in his study *Armenians in India* (Calcutta 1983,p.93) provides the inscription of a tombstone from Agra that reads

"It is to the memory of one Sookias, the son of Thariguleh, from the great city of Vagharshapet[modern Etchmiadzin] in the district of Erivan in Armenia.

Bibliography :

Paul Jeffrey, *The city churches of Sir Christoher Wren*, London, 1966,

John Schofield, *St. Paul's Cathedral School Garden. An archaeological assessment*, 2005

Written by Rev. Dr. Nerses(Vrej) Nersessian -
London 15th September, 2022

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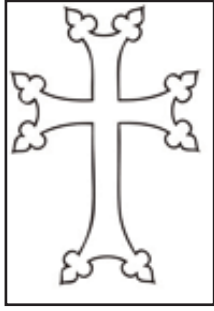


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CONDOLENCES



The CAIA extends its deepest condolences to the families and friends of following who sadly passed away in 2022. They are sorely missed by everyone who knew and loved them.

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

+ **Heros Avetoom**
+ **Lucine Ketchedjian**
+ **Jeannette David**
+ **Ida Khudaverian**
+ **Sarkis Karimi**
+ **Mary Salibian Best**
+ **Sev Dadourian**

IN LOVING MEMORY

Hovhaness Avakyan
3rd Februry 1957 - 10th June 2022



Hovannes was born in Istanbul, Turkey, a spirited and very proud Armenian, he had exceptional knowledge of Armenian history and as a little boy loved attending his Armenian school.

He came to England in the mid-70s and studied engineering, he joined Armenian groups and made many friends. He did amateur dramatics with them. He was a keen photographer, developing his own pictures.

Hovannes was a hard working person who ran his business for 38 years in Hammersmith and loved his work. In recent year working with his son, watching him learn and progress that made him very proud. Hovannes was a master craftsman and his work can be found all over London and Europe.

Hovannes will be missed by his family, friends and everybody who knew him, including many of his CAIA friends.

OBITUARY

Harootune Dikran Daghljian
1930 – 2022



Born in *Baghdad, Iraq*, 1930 and died in *St Albans*, September 2022 aged 92. His parents Yeranouhi Tutunjan and Dikran Asadoor Daghljian were teenage survivors of the long march which took them from villages in Turkey to Baghdad, his grandparents were slaughtered in the genocide.

He grew up speaking Armenian, Arabic, Turkish and some Chaldean. The family was very poor, two adults and eight children sharing one room in a house of refugees. From 1945-50 he attended *Baghdad College*, a mission school and he excelled in science and languages including English. Eventually he won a government scholarship to study electrical engineering in the UK and he arrived in London in 1953. Fifty relatives saw him off on his journey which meant crossing the desert from Baghdad to Beirut via Damascus to catch a plane to Paris and then London.

In 1954 whilst a student at *Nottingham University* he met Josephine Brenda Taylor, later to become his wife. They had four children together – Karen Yeranoochi, Adrienne Sally, John Dikran and Nuritza Helen, he was also stepfather to Suzanne. After graduating, Haroot returned to Iraq where he served in the army and then travelled back and forth to the UK until this became impossible after the 1958 revolution, he was forced to flee Baghdad on the pretext of a trip to the Holyland and was never able to return.

His work as an engineer took him across the middle East and as a young engineer he supervised the electrification of Abu Dhabi. He had many fascinating stories of meetings with Sheikhs in the then undeveloped Gulf States and he even met with the Shah of Iran.

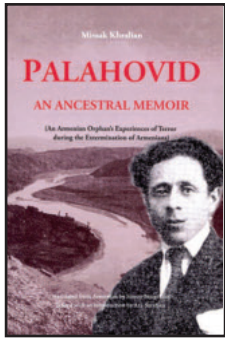
Harootune's life in the UK went from Nottingham to Loughborough, Glasgow and then St Albans. His family and his faith were the most important things to him and he always helped his siblings and the extended family scattered across the globe. He adored his ten grandchildren and ten great grandchildren. Growing up with stories of the atrocities had a profound influence, leaving him with immense gratitude for life and an empathy with those suffering.

He was kind, generous and compassionate. Modest and humble he quietly supported many charities and regularly wrote to his MP on issues of justice. He sponsored the education of Armenian girls and was delighted when his last sponsored student graduated from university earlier this year.

In his final years, he dedicated himself to caring for his wife Josephine and was bereft at her death in March. He is deeply missed by all who knew him.

BOOK REVIEWS

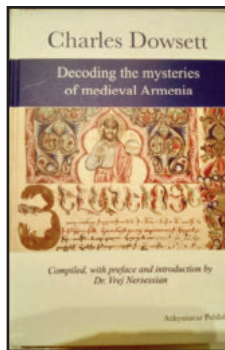
Palahovid: An Ancestral Memoir by Missak Khralian; 184 pp, ISBN 978-1-903656-63-3 Published by Gomidas Institute London.



This is a memoir and village history of the Armenian Genocide. The author was 14 years old when the Ottoman Turks began the extermination of the Armenian Genocide. While the men in his village of Til (Palou region) were arrested and executed, most of the remaining population was "deported" and perished on their way to the Syrian deserts. The author and around 20 other women and children remained in their village and subjected to an assimilation process

to become Turks. They had their names changed, converted to Islam and renounce their Armenian identities. This is a detailed, harrowing account of the author's suffering, as well as the suffering (and deaths) of others around him. Originally written in the 1930s and published in Armenian in 1938, this is an early account of the Armenian Genocide on the eve of the Nazi Holocaust in Europe.

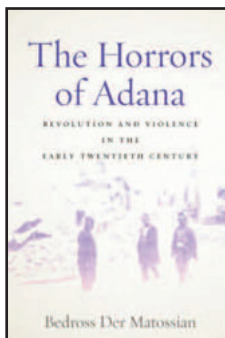
Decoding the mysteries of medieval Armenia: by David Gutman; Paperback; 246 pages; Published by Edinburgh University Press; ISBN 978-1-4744-4525-2



The thirty studies collected in this volume belong to Charles James Frank Dowsett (1924-1998), the First Calouste Gulbenkian Professor of Armenian Studies in Oxford from 1964 to 1991. The articles cover a period from 1951 to his retirement in 1990, explore and elaborate topics of Armenian history, literary sources, classical, patristic, medieval and early modern, his lifelong contribution to Armenia's heritage. The most fascinating aspect of the studies are the titles and the manner in which the content of the studies expand in unpredictable direction thanks to his

prodigious range of learning.

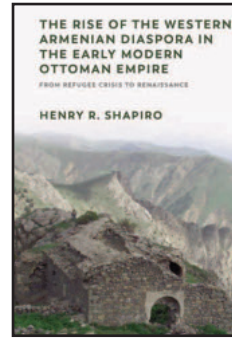
The Horrors of Adana: Revolution and Violence in the Early Twentieth Century by Bedros Der Matossian; Paperback; 343 pages; Published by Stanford University Press; ISBN 978-1-5036-3102-1



In April 1909, two waves of massacres shook the province of Adana, located in the southern Anatolia region of modern-day Turkey, killing more than 20,000 Armenians and 2,000 Muslims. The central Ottoman government failed to prosecute the main culprits, a miscarriage of justice that would have repercussions for years to come. Despite the significance of these events and the extent of violence and destruction, the Adana Massacres are often left out of historical narratives. *The Horrors of Adana*

offers one of the first close examinations of these events, analyzing sociopolitical and economic transformations that culminated in a cataclysm of violence.

The Rise of the Western Armenian Diaspora in the Early Modern Ottoman Empire: From Refugee Crisis to Renaissance by Henry R. Shapiro; 336 pp, ISBN 9781474479608, Published by Edinburgh University Press.



This book traces how Armenian migrants changed the demographic and cultural landscape of Istanbul and Western Anatolia in the course of the seventeenth century. During the centuries that followed, Ottoman Armenian merchants, financiers (sarafs), authors, musicians, translators, printers and bureaucrats would play key roles in Ottoman trade, cultural life and even governance, that is, in most spheres of the empire's economic and cultural life. This book shows

how that cosmopolitan world came into being.

Using both Ottoman Turkish and little-known Armenian sources, Henry Shapiro provides the first systematic study of Armenian population movements that resulted in the cosmopolitan remaking of Istanbul. In the first part of the book he documents the Great Armenian Flight, showing how the global crisis of the seventeenth century (war, climate change, famine) impacted the historical Armenian population centres of the Caucasus and Eastern Anatolia and led to mass migrations and resettlement in Western Anatolia, Istanbul and Thrace. In the second part of the book Shapiro links this history of migration and the refugee crisis with the development of intellectual and cultural life in Istanbul and Western Anatolia – the rise of the Western Armenian Diaspora.

Godless Hour - A Yerevan Tale by Ara Iskenderian; Paperback; 124 pages; Published by Gomidas Institute London; ISBN 978-1-909382-68-8



One night, God turns His back on Yerevan for a single hour, just long enough for the demon *Ajami* to pay the city a visit. With the Almighty looking the other way the Godless Hour begins and Yerevan's statues are brought to life in a tale of magical realism wherein each of the giants of the Armenian past debate their lifetime's achievements in pursuit of an answer to the question 'who is the greatest of their number?' and just what that answer might mean for anyone who dares to dream themselves one day worthy of their own statue.

Never in a Fishbowl: A Mimmow in the Sea of Life. By Julia Harley-Green; Paperback; 140 pages; Published by Cory Publishing; ISBN 978-1-7390807-0-9



A thought-provoking and often humorous memoir about living in several countries and volunteering in others. From etiquette in Ethiopia to rattlesnakes in South Carolina and a picnic on *Aeroflot*, cultural differences illuminate what is really important when interacting at home and abroad. The uplifting enthusiasm of Romanian children and the moving consequences of a catastrophic earthquake in Armenia stress resilience of those overcoming adversity.

Above all, an inspirational celebration of life.

Copies can be obtained ypdbooks.com, Amazon and all good bookshops.

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- Maintain a comprehensive community library.
- Provide volunteering/work experience/work placement opportunities & training where required.



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