

ARMENIAN VOICE



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CENTRE FOR
ARMENIAN INFORMATION
AND ADVICE

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CAIA LAUNCHES NEW LIBRARY DIGITISATION PROJECT



The CAIA is pleased to announce that it has been awarded a grant from the *Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF)* for Hayashen's Library. The Centre for Armenian Information and Advice (CAIA) has received £48,600 from the *Heritage Lottery Fund* toward an ambitious library-digitisation project to preserve and promote Armenian history, culture and heritage.



The aim of the project is to make the centre's archives more accessible to researchers, students as well as the wider community. The project, will be implemented by volunteers trained in archive digitisation, photography and cataloguing.

By putting the CAIA's resources online, the project will make Armenian historic, social and cultural issues accessible to a wider audience. The centre will also hold several exhibitions to showcase its archives during the two-year project as part of its ongoing efforts to actively promote UK's Armenian heritage to a new generation of digitally aware users.

CAIA CEO Misak Ohanian welcomed the grant saying: "This will facilitate the centre's efforts to integrate technology into its goal of preserving and promoting Armenian heritage and culture as well as making

accessible the history of UK's Armenian community, something which it has helped shape over the past 25 years."

Almost 100 invited guests, CAIA members and volunteers attended a major reception at Hayashen on Sunday 20th May 2012, for the launch of the Library digitisation project funded by HLF.

H.E. Mrs. Karine Kazinian, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Armenia to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was kindly present to support the launch and help give out certificates to CAIA's volunteers during the year and to students who had completed the "Introduction to Armenian History, Culture & Heritage" course that had taken place during February-March 2012. Other guests during the reception included representatives from the Armenian Church & Community Council, Friends of Armenia and Ealing Cllr. Ara Iskanderian who congratulated the CAIA and the project plans.

The CAIA is very grateful to everyone who supported the event, including the volunteers who helped out with the catering and drinks throughout the 2 hour-long event. ■





CAIA HOLDS SUCCESSFUL AGM



On Saturday 3rd December 2011, over 50 CAIA members attended *Hayashen* to take part in the CAIA's 25th Annual General Meeting.

The meeting included the Board's report by the chair, Mr. Garo Boyadjian, activities report by CEO Mr. Misak Ohanian, and presentation of 2010/11 audited accounts by treasurer Mr. Richard Anooshian.

At the end of each report, members asked questions and expressed their grateful appreciation to the work of the Directors, staff and volunteers who contribute daily towards improving the quality life of the most disadvantaged within the Armenian community.

At the end of the AGM special thanks was expressed to outgoing Trustees/Directors Ms. Susan Kassabian and Mr. Emin Tatosian, followed This was followed by the election of new directors. For the current year, CAIA's Management Committee comprises of the following: Mr Garo Boyadjian (Chair), Mr Richard Anooshian (Treasurer), Mr Bosik Gharapetian (Vice Treasurer & Company Secretary), Mr. Hrant Shirakuni (MC Secretary) and Mrs. Isgouhi Aghabekian.

THE PEOPLE & FUTURE

A talk and PowerPoint presentation entitled "*Armenia, Azerbaijan, Turkey – People and Future*" by Naira Sultanyan - Political and Project Officer of the *British Embassy* in Armenia took place in *Hayashen* on 8th November 2011.

The talks focussed on efforts made by British Embassies across the 4 republics of Armenian, Georgia, Azerbaijan and Turkey to:

- equip young people born in the past 20 years with skills on conflict management and negotiations to help them avoid another disastrous war. For example, new social media is utilised to communicate their messages with each other., efforts are made to help young people to understand the pain on both sides (meetings with mothers/relatives of missed people, hostages and victims of war)
- young people are encouraged to listen to each other celebrate diversity and enjoy the fact that these regional people have many similarities through residential events



• creativity is encouraged – they write theatre plays, they perform. They get on the stage and offer their solutions. They challenge and are challenged. (*A Turk and an Armenian face a fatal problem – after a shipwreck they appear in a small boat and because they have no trust, no respect but lots of stereotypes, they keep blaming and cursing each other so at the end both sink, You see the audience on the stage trying to offer their solutions. The same is with the Story of a Tree play – two neighbors – unable to take care of the nut tree which grows on the border, so also unable to enjoy the nuts! The audience can also vote by raising red or green cards.*)

Ms Soultanian concluded her talk by saying that the purpose of these activities are above all to help them laugh, join hands to shape peaceful and happy South Caucasus. Needless to say a lively debate followed after the presentation. ■

EASTER AT HAYASHEN



CAIA's annual Easter Day Family Party took place on 8th April 2012 at *Hayashen* after church services. Over 100 adults and children enjoyed the 4 hour event to the dance sounds of *DJ Funky East*, London's top Armenian/Middle Eastern DJ and lots of food. The party ended with a raffle draw and games.



The CAIA is grateful to everyone who attended and supported the event, in particular all the volunteers who helped out on the day. ■

INTRODUCTION TO ARMENIAN HISTORY, CULTURE & IDENTITY



Once again this year, the CAIA organised another successful course about Armenian history, culture and Identity thanks to the support of Ealing Adult Education Department.

A total of 50 people from all ages and background attended the course with 20 students formally enrolled completing the 6-part course at Hayashen.

The aims of the course was to address the needs of Armenian families and young Armenians born or growing up in this country as well as those connected to them such as people married to Armenians or mixed heritage to appreciate Armenian history and culture. This year several people with little or no connections to Armenians enrolled also to the course to learn and benefit from the exceptional range of speakers/workshop leaders who delivered the course over 6 Sundays during February 20 to 27 March.

The subjects covered were:

- Armenia in Old Maps and Old Armenian Maps by Dr Rouben Galichian (photo above)
- Armenian Diaspora in the Global Age: Issues and Questions by Dr Hratch Tchilingirian
- Armenian Architecture – City of Ani by Steven Sim
- Armenian Folk Dances by Shakeh Major Tchilingirian -
- The Armenian Genocide – A complete History by Dr Raymond Kevorkian (Paris)
- Narratives of Belonging in the Armenian Diasporas by Dr Susan Pattie

Throughout the course, the students learned together, enjoyed Armenian and Middle Eastern traditional lunch together, networked and contributed to some very interesting debates and discussions long into the afternoons.

Some of the positive outcomes of the course were:

- Enabled diverse groups of people (Armenians, non-Armenians and those from mixed Armenian heritage) across the generations to interact and learn from specialists/experts in their field as well as each other.
- Encouraged new learners in becoming interested about Armenia's long history and rich cultural heritage.
- Raised the self-esteem, confidence and pride in the identity of those who have never had the opportunity to learn about Armenian history and culture enabling them to speak with increased knowledge with others about these subjects.



Left Photo: Dr.Kevorkian alongside Ani King Underwood who kindly interpreted his talk.



Right Photo: Dr Susan Pattie speaking.

- Improved interpersonal relationships between the generations.

See below some of the feedback from the students.

+“I am a research student interested in visiting Armenia State University next year as part of my research. I am interested in the shared history of forced migration of the Armenian and the Kurds after 1918. I would be good if I collect some background information and contacts from Armenian Diaspora Community in London before my research trip.”



Left: Dr Hratch Tchilingirian



Right: Steven Sim

•“I am going to Armenia. I will be part of a group from Cambridge University, which is studying international politics. Would it be ok for me to share these details with my fellow students? “

•“Dear Shakeh,
it was nice meeting you at the Armenian Dancing Lecture and Workshop at the Armenian Centre on the 11. March. I enjoyed the dancing together with everybody else. It was amazing how very quickly everybody learnt the steps. It was



because you were teaching them with ease and you made it fun. Everybody enjoyed the devotion and energy put in. Someone made a video of the dance workshop and when I watched it afterwards and listened to the magic rhythms again, I could easily put myself back into that atmosphere and feeling again. Because I did not have my hearing aid with me, I could appreciate only a little of your lecture about Armenian dancing and its history and place, but I will read up about it.

I am sending you, as promised, the photos I made. Because I concentrated on taking photos of you dancing solo, I missed out on the dance itself and do not know what the title was. I thank you for giving me an insight into this side of the Armenian people.
With kind regards, Alice Svojanovsky”

HEALTH TALKS & ACTIVITIES FOR ARMENIAN SENIOR CITIZENS

ARMENIAN SENIOR CITIZENS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY



Over 100 Armenian Senior Citizens, Carers and guests enjoyed a great afternoon of celebration together on 9th December 2011.

This was the 25 consecutive years that CAIA had organised such an event as a mark of respect to Armenian Senior citizens and Carers for their dedication and sacrifice to their families and people in general.

Special guests included, the Worshipful Major London Borough of Ealing, Cllr. John Gallagher and the Mayoress Mrs Pauline Melson, Ft. Shnork Baghdassarian, Cllr. Ara Iskanderian, Angie Bray, MP for Ealing Central and Acton and the new designated joint ambassadors to the Republic of Armenia, Mr Jonathan Aves and Ms Kathy Leach.

The event was supported by the *National Energy Action (NEA)*, a major national charity whose work aims to improve and promote energy efficiency to some of the



Tenor Sipan Hakobyan sang several beautiful Armenian carols during the Xmas celebration.



Left to right: CAIA CEO Misak Ohanian, Jonathan Aves, Angie Bray MP, Ms Katy Leach and Piya Malik, Policy, Campaigns and Parliamentary Officer of NEA.

most disadvantaged sections of society.

The CAIA is also grateful to all the volunteers who helped with this event by decorating the hall, serving food, wrapping raffle prizes and/or making donations. particular welcome and appreciated were delicious catering products kindly donated by *Katsouris Brothers Ltd.*

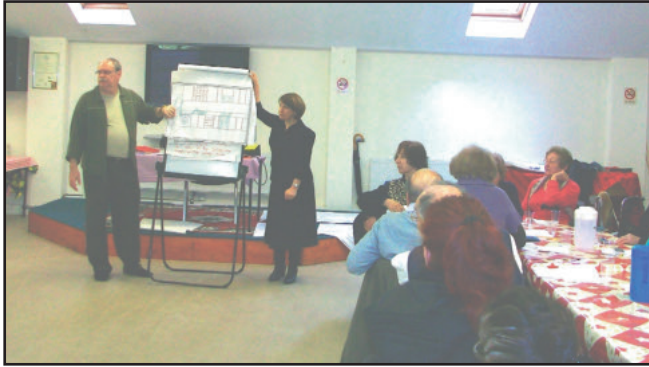


HELPING WITH DIGITAL TV SWITCHOVER



Thanks to a small grant from *Community Outreach Programme*, CAIA raised awareness about the Digital TV switchover which took place in London during April 2012. As part of this campaign, CAIA held an informative stall in *Hayashen* on 19th March where one-to-one assistance was provided, including helping eligible Armenian residents complete Help Scheme forms.

ENERGY BEST DEAL



Thanks to the support of Citizens Advice & OFGEM, the CAIA organised 3 Energy Best Deal sessions during April 2012 to raise awareness about saving energy in order to address fuel poverty experienced by members of the Armenian community who subsist on low incomes such as the elderly.

ADDRESSING DIGITAL INEQUALITIES TOGETHER



During the February 2012 half term week, Armenian school children helped with the weekly IT class operated by CAIA to address digital inequalities with the community. A big thank you to all the young people who helped the keen and determined adult students to learn about computers, the internet and social media sites such as Facebook.

OBITUARIES



GENOCIDE SURVIVOR ASTRID AGHAJANIAN PASSES AWAY 11 MAY 2012

ASTRID AGHAJANIAN, one of the last remaining survivors of the Armenian genocide and possibly the last living in Britain has passed away. In 1915, when the Ottoman authorities began their systematic annihilation of the Armenians living in Western Armenia, their historic homeland, Astrid's father was shot and Astrid along with her mother, grandmother and younger brother were deported and force-marched into the deserts of *Der El-Zor*. Her life journey of struggle, perseverance, survival and faith, took her from her birth place to Palestine, Cyprus and finally London, UK. In 1997 Astrid was interviewed by Robert Fisk, which was published in his book *The Great War for Civilisation*. Her story appeared also in an article in *The Independent* entitled "Shameful echo of a forgotten holocaust". This led the Imperial War Museum to interview Astrid. Finally, in 2010, Astrid was interviewed for the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust website. Her voice recording in the Imperial War Museum, London, includes her experiences in Haifa, Tiberius and Nicosia.

www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b01jhnzv.

You can watch the video-clip of her personal testimony on Holocaust Memorial Day Trust on the following website link <http://hmd.org.uk/resources/films/untold-stories-astrid-aghajianian>

You can read Astrid's article in *The Independent* by visiting <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/obituaries/astrid-aghajianian-survivor-of-the-armenian-genocide-who-narrowly-escaped-death-7848763.html?origin=internalSearch>

CONDOLENCES

The CAIA extends its deepest condolences to the Boyadjian family for the dual loss of their parents/grand-parents, Azadouhi Boyadjian 12th August 1921-28th November 2011 and Mr Barkev Boyadjian 3rd December 1916- 5th February 2012.



COMMUNITY NEWS



On 12th March 2012, the *Anahid Association* organised the screening of the documentary film entitled "*Grandma's Tattoo*" made and produced by Suzanne Khardalian. The film borrowed from Hayashen's Library led to a very interesting discussion about the content of the film. Almost 30 people, mainly women took part, enjoyed each other's company and a light lunch.

* * *



Once again this year Armenians in Ealing and across West London made pilgrimage to the Armenian Genocide Tree in London Borough of Ealing at the corner of Bond Street and High Street.

On Saturday April 28th at 12.30pm the short commemorative ceremony began with a pray from His Grace Bishop Vahan Hovhannessian which was followed by several speeches, most notably from 3 local politicians, Cllr. Ara Iskanderian, Cllr. Bassam Mahfouz and North Ealing MP Stephen Pound.

The tree is already producing apricots where the memorial plack reads "*This Prunus armeniaca tree is homage to the one and half million victims of the Armenian Genocide*". This and other Genocide Remembrance events throughout April 2012 in London was organised by the *Armenian Church & Community Council*.



On 16 and 17 May 2012, *King John* was performed in the Armenian language as part of the *World Shakespeare Festival's Globe to Globe* programme. The festival coordinated by the *Royal Shakespeare Company* features all of Shakespeare's 37 plays performed in 37 languages.

To mark this unique occasion, up to 50 people attended a special lunchtime event at the *Waterman's Art Centre* on Sunday, April 22, 2012.

The event in Brentford organised on the initiative of Sonia Tahta, celebrated Shakespeare's links with the Armenian experience and the upcoming theatre production, which included talks by guest speakers and a screening of the BBC production of *The Life and Death of King John* (1984).

The event started with delicious lunch at the *Guru Tandoori* Indian restaurant and a quiz for the winner to receive a free ticket to see the play at the *Globe*.

Sacha Tahta, a writer, filmmaker and performer, spoke about the play and provided a general introduction to proceedings.

Paul Higgins, the Associate Director at the *Royal Opera House* and *Glyndebourne*, spoke about Shakespeare's *King John* and discussed the themes of power and politics, which flow throughout the play. He also read some sections from *King John* to illustrate these themes with the participation of some members of the audience.

Andrew Higgins, an artist, spoke about art and how it relates to William Shakespeare. He showed clips from the Italian film *Il Postino* (1994) to illustrate the timelessness of Shakespeare's impact across different forms of art.

Nyree Tanielian, one of the coordinators of the event said that she was pleased with the event in attracting so many people. "*We didn't expect such a large turnout but are extremely pleased and look forward to seeing King John in mid-May with a little more insight than we previously had,*" she said.

Congratulation to all those who helped organise this special event, especially the excellent speakers who raised our awareness about Shakespeare in advance of the production at the *Globe*.

* * *

On Sunday, 27th November, 2011, Mr. Vartan Ouzounian was bestowed with the *Nerses Shnorhali* medal by His Holiness Catholicos of All Armenians, with a Catholicical Encyclical issued on this occasion at *St. Yeghiche Church, Kensington*. The Encyclical was read at the end of the Divine Liturgy to the whole congregation by Fr. Nerses Nersesian. Following the reading H.G. Bishop Vahan affixed the medal on Vartan and another one on Rosette Ouzounian. The Bishop then highlighted important aspects of Mr. Ouzounian's benevolent works in the Armenian community and church in London, the UK and Armenia and congratulated both Vartan and Rosette Ouzounian.

A reception for the occasion was followed at the *Tara Copthorne Hotel*, during which a booklet and a video documentary elaborating on the benevolent works of Mr. Ouzounian. Present at the reception were H.G. Bishop Vahan, H.E. Karine Kazinian, Ambassador of the Republic of Armenia and many dignitaries, friends and representatives of various Armenian organisations.

* * *

"*Treasured Objects - Armenain Life in the Ottoman Empire 100 Years Ago*" a richly illustrated book was launched by the *Armenian Insitute (AI)* in the *Gulbenkian Hall* in the evening of April 28th, 2012. The book, edited by VK Davidian, SP Pattie and G Stepan-Sarkissian is part of *AI's* continuing project of oral histories. Copies of the book can be purchased by contacting: info@armenianinstitute.org.uk



* * *

Leper Colony, written and directed by Vaughan Pilikian, took place at the *Yard Theatre*, a fringe venue in *Hackney Wick*, in East London, from 23 May to 9 June 2012.

A return to the last dark age, and a premonition for the next, reflecting a world poised between ruination and transcendence. Here there are no stories to tell. There are no characters and no places. There is no such thing as society. There is no such thing as the ninety-nine percent. For further info visit: <http://www.zatik.com/fastnews.asp>

* * *

London based Assadour Guzelian (photo below) was awarded the *MOVSES KHORENATSI* Medal, which according to Wikipedia, is the Republic of Armenia's highest cultural award, presented by the President of Armenia to people who have significantly contributed to the advancement of Armenian culture. The Medal was given to Assadour Guzelian on behalf of the President by Hranush Hakopyan, the *Minister of Diaspora*, at a special function held at the ministry, on Monday, 4 June, 2012. Hranush Hakopyan had already awarded Mr Guzelian the *WILLIAM SAROYAN* Medal at the Armenian Embassy in London, on 27 March 2012, for his contribution to Armenian literature and culture as a teacher of Armenian language, literature and history, as a lecturer, editor, writer, poet and community activist, who has served his nation for over 60 years with great dedication.



* * *

Lilit Movsisyan, won the *Young Person of the Year*, at the *Pride in Our People* awards event held at the *University of West London* in Central Ealing on 1st June 2012.

Her inspirational and tenacious attitude who battled against the odds to survive a vicious virus which left her leg amputated was one of the night's impressive stories.

Lilit Movsisyan, 19, was left in a coma for 21 days on her way back from an interview at *Oxford University* in 2010. Doctors fought for an hour to resuscitate her when the virus attacked her heart.

The Hanwell teen, who has stunned friends, family and teachers with her unfading smile and determination to overcome the tragedy, said: "*The hardest thing is sometimes thinking about what my family are feeling and what they've been through. If it was my sister, I don't know how things would've been. I'm glad it wasn't her. I just had to see it through and had the hope that things were going to be better.*"

Lilit will study Spanish and philosophy at *Oxford University* this autumn after professors kept a place open for her so she could complete her *A Levels*. The hardworking teen will use the £500 prize money to spend on books.

* * *



Emilios Nicolaou (above) born in Cyprus on 23rd October 1939 sadly passed away on 17th February 2012. The funeral service was held in St. Sarkis Church followed by interment in Greenford Park Cemetery. Emilios was a much loved and respected man. He was a devoted husband to Nora, dearest father to Victoria and Nicholas, beloved brother, cousin and godfather, and dear friend and mentor to many. He was also a well-known figure in the Armenian community, doing all he could to shape and maintain the Armenian football team in London for over 45 years.

At 24, Emilios left behind a promising football career in one of the top teams in Cyprus and only a few months earlier in November 1963, he had played for the national team in a famous 3-1 victory over Greece in Nicosia.

He turned a group of young Cypriot Armenians playing football in the park into a Sunday League football team. The AYA originally played in the *Chiswick & District Sunday football league*, reaching cup finals in 1967 and 1974. He also organised the team's foreign tours, including the very first, to Athens, in 1976, and to California in 1978 to take part in the 10th annual Armenian Olympics, where the team won the Soccer Tournament and Emilios was presented with the '*Most Valuable Player*' award. There were several other trips in the following years, to France, Belgium, Switzerland, Los Angeles, Argentina, and to Cyprus. Emilios was instrumental in managing and fundraising for the AYC by organising barbecues and discos. He also promoted the spirit of brotherhood, sportsmanship and community spirit amongst Armenians both young and old. In addition, he organised charity matches, raising money not only for AYA but also for various charitable causes including the *Aid Armenia Earthquake Fund*. Emilios remained active and as passionate as ever despite being ill in the past few years. ■

HAYASHEN YOUTH CLUB

Thanks to the support of the BBC Children In Need Fund, the Hayashen Armenian Youth Club (HAYC) continues to thrive thanks to Youth Worker Anahit Galstyan and many professionals within the Armenian community who kindly offer their time to engage with young Armenians in order to empower them as positive role models. See below a summary of various workshops/events held at HAYC over the past several months.

+ Drama Workshop with Vicky Hougasian took place on 21st October 2011. This was a very active and fun workshop.

+ Manicure workshop with Scarlet Sarkis held on 4th November 2011. The girls showed far more interest than the boys and were taught how to take care of their nails.



+ On 18th November 2011, Cllr. Ara Iskanderian, talked to the Youth about growing up in Ealing, his accomplishments, as well as the difficulties in school, and how he has overcome them. (Photo above) This was a very inspirational yet informal chat. The youth felt comfortable in asking him questions about his career, education and life.

+ A major Youth Club Christmas Party was held on 2nd December 2011; over 60 young people enjoyed an evening of celebration and accomplishments during the year. DJ Stevie Nalbandian (Aka DJ Funky East) provided the party with a fusion of Armenian, Middle and Western music with everyone having a great time. What a fantastic way



to finish the year! (See photo above)

+ The new year kicked off with Karen Grigoryan, an Armenian songwriter/composer/music producer/film director/graphic artist/photographer/a journalist (to name a few), paying HAYC a visit on 13th January 2012. Although only a relatively few young people attended the workshop due to January exams and revisions, Karen took his time in chatting with the youth and informing them about his career and experiences in the media. We'd like to thank him for taking the time out of his busy schedule and for his kind donation of his music albums for the CAIA's library.

+ With many young people interested in Higher Education and thinking of going to university, we invited Elen Gyulnazaryan from UCL Armenian Students Society, to talk to on 27th January 2012. Elen spoke about scholarships available to Armenian students and also about her experience at UCL, one of the world's top universities. She discussed how to apply for scholarships and what to expect from university life. The talk was very inspirational to the youth, who are finding themselves increasingly put off of studying as a result of rising fees.

+ On 10th February 2012, Vicky Hougasian kindly ran another drama session. Despite the cold weather and snow we had a good turnout and had an active and fun session. Vicky ran a series of drama exercises and the youth ended up playing 'our favourite movies' charades. The winners were Levon Ohanian and Artemis Madoians. After all the January stress of tests, exams and coursework, this was a very relaxing session.

+ As direct result of the January workshop about further education, on 16th February, during half term, a special-trip/campus tour was organised to University of London Union, followed by lunch on site. This was a very enjoyable day and those who came felt like they got a taste of university life in London. For anyone else thinking of applying to universities, we would encourage you all to visit your chosen universities.



+ In February we received the fantastic news that we have secured funding for HAYC for another year. In order to mark this good news and all our achievements at HAYC over the past year the young people decided to make a photo collage from key milestones/events to display at Hayashen. (See photo above)

On 24th February 2012 Karen Grigoryan was kind enough to pay HAYC another visit to talk about his new website, which he wanted Armenian youth to get involved with. Watch this space for more information about his project.



On 30th March 2012, two former Youth Club members Helen Aivazian and Onnig Gulian came to talk to the current members about taking a *gap year* and travelling the world both between their university education and between finishing their education and finding work. They both had very different experiences and shared their good and bad times with the youth. The talk enabled young people to look into travelling opportunities and even working abroad whilst travelling, a great option especially with the difficult job market in the UK. (See photo below)



+ On 13th April, we were very grateful to Meg Dobson, the *Globe to Globe* festival marketing executive and Hasmik Tamamyan, a volunteer with *Shakespeare's Globe Theatre*, to visit HAYC and talk about the *King John* production taking place in May at the *Globe Theatre*. (Below) *Shakespeare's King John* in Armenian language was one of over 30 plays performed in various languages during the *Globe to Globe* festival to coincide with the London 2012 Olympics.



+ Lucine Shahbazian, a young trainee solicitor came to talk to the youth about a career in law on 11th May. Although Lucine specialises in family law, she was well-equipped to answer all the questions asked to her by the enthusiastic youth who learned a great deal during this session.

+ George Burda from *Armenian Youth Association Football Club* came to encourage the youth to get involved with *AYA FC* as they wish to encourage more young people to become involved in playing football. ■

ARMENIAN COMMUNITY PRE-SCHOOL GROUP

ACPG CHRISTMAS PARTY



On 2nd December 2011, the ACPG organised its annual Christmas party at *Hayashen* with over 50 children and parents enjoying themselves.

The children sang, danced, jumped, and ate snacks and homemade cakes kindly provided by the parents. Father Christmas also visited the party handing out presents to all the well-behaved children. (See photo above)

We are grateful to playleader Mrs Armineh Sargsyan for all her hard work throughout the year as well as to all the dedicated parents who regularly bring their children to *Hayashen Parents & Toddler Group* twice a week.

SUMMER PLAY SCHEME & OUTING

The ACPG is organising its 25th summer play scheme this year. Activities for children 1-14 will take place at *Hayashen* on the following days and times.

Monday-Friday 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 (5 days 10.00am-12.30pm)

Monday-Friday 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, (5 days 10.00am-12.30pm)

Monday- Friday 20, 21, 23, 24 (5 days 10.00am-12.30pm)

A fun filled all day trip to *LEGOLAND* is planned for Wednesday 22 August for all children less than 18 years of age. The Coach leaves *Hayashen* at 9.00am and returns at 6.00pm. Please book well in advance. ■



NEWS IN BRIEF FROM DIASPORA & ARMENIA

The 50,000-80,000 Armenian community in Syria continues to be effected by the bloody unrest in that country. Despite the fact that majority live in the relatively safe cities of Aleppo and Damascus some are seeking refuge in Armenia. So far, 50,000 Syrian Christians, including Armenians have fled to Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq. In the past year Armenians have died as a result of indiscriminate car bombs, Armenian soldiers serving in the army attacked, tortured and killed. Following the Houla massacres on 19th May that left over 100 people dead, local Armenians have also suffered losses. Catholicos Aram I of the Great House of Cilicia has condemned the violence. The Isahakyan Armenian church and an Armenian school in the city's Christian-populated district are now serving as a shelter and hospital for the Syrian rebels.

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According to the *Agenzia Giornalistica Italia* in January 2012, at least 10,000 Armenian have fled Iraq after the 2003 US-led invasion. Iraqi Armenians live mainly in the cities of Baghdad, Niniveh, Kirkuk, Basrah and Dohuk.

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This year marks the 500th anniversary of the first Armenian printed book (*published in Venice in 1512*), and various museums and libraries around the world are celebrating with exhibits and symposia. A major exhibition, entitled "*Armenia: Imprint of a civilization*", took place during 16 December 2011-10 April 2012 in the museums of St. Mark's Square at the prestigious venues of the *Correr Museum, the National Archaeological Museum and the Marciana National Library in Venice*.

This exhibition acted as the official launch of the jubilee celebrations taking place in the Armenian capital Yerevan, a UNESCO World Book Capital for 2012. A major focus of the exhibition demonstrated the long and fruitful experiences of the Armenian people with diverse communities and cultures from Europe to the Far East. In particular, through detailed historical documentation (including manuscripts and works of art), illustrating the development of the Armenian presence in Venice and their position within the Venetian society. Other sections of the exhibition offered new perspectives on the development of Armenian historiography, literature, philosophy, science and theology.

* * *

Ragip Zarakolu, a prominent Turkish human rights campaigner and book publisher, received an Armenian state award on 29 May 2012 for what President Serzh Sargsyan called a "*remarkable contribution*" to international recognition of the 1915 Armenian massacres in the Ottoman Empire as genocide.

* * *

During February 2012 the annual Festival of British films was conducted in Yerevan, Vanadzor, Gyumri and Berd. This year marked the tenth anniversary of the British Council Armenia Office and the festival is an effective means for the people of Armenian to refresh their perceptions about the United Kingdom.

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The *Policy Forum Armenia*, a think-tank organization based in Washington DC has published a report entitled "*Armenia: Averting an Economic Catastrophe*" which warns the people of Armenia, the Diaspora, and other stakeholders about an economic disaster in the making in the country. It provides an assessment of policies that have driven Armenia to where it is now and point out the signs of more trouble to come. The report states that the country's political leadership needs to fully internalise these problems and related risks and address them expeditiously. It offers a detailed set of recommendations to help overcome the severe short- and medium-term problems faced by the economy. Important among them is the formation of a legitimate authority to oversee the new policy course on

behalf of the people of Armenia. The report states that the situation requires a true government of national unity that would lay out a workable agenda and reach out to all constructive forces in Armenia and the Diaspora to help accomplish that.

* * *

On March 13, 2012, the "*Virtual Museum of the Armenian Diaspora*" website was launched at the RA Ministry of Diaspora. The idea is that "*Armenians are a nation regardless of place of residence, and Armenia is the Homeland of all Armenians*". The goal of the program is to present the history of the Armenian people, the present and the future, contribute to the elimination of the counter-influence of the classical and new Diasporas and unity, the increase of the level of cognition between the Homeland and the Diaspora and the Armenian communities and cooperation, the preservation of the Armenian identity, as well as the formation and enhancement of the awareness of Armenian statehood.

"Today, yet another pan-Armenian program is turning into a reality. It is pan-Armenian because an attempt has been made to gather the information about activities of different Diaspora Armenian communities, structures and organizations all in one place, try to present Armenian cultural values and the rich heritage, as well as provide a summary of the values of our nation and communities. I think the symbol of the website is also interesting. The pomegranate is the symbol of all Armenians, and the particles represent our compatriots living abroad", RA Minister of Diaspora Hranush Hakobyan mentioned in her speech. The multilingual website (Armenian, Russian, English), armdiasporamuseum.com comprised of several sections, including *Virtual Armenian World (Armenian Communities, Pan-Armenian Organizations, Religious Organizations)*, a *Database (Exhibition Hall, Armenian Genealogy10)*, *Map of the Website, Links and Contacts*.

* * *

A documentary film *Who Is Gorky? An Abstract Life* was broadcast on *BBC Four*, on 12 March 2012. The film was a personal journey into a family tragedy by filmmaker Cosima Spender who explores how she and her relatives have been shaped by her grandfather - the pioneering Abstract Expressionist painter and Armenian genocide survivor, Arshile Gorky. Following a series of tragedies, he committed suicide in 1948, leaving a young wife and two daughters behind. Through conversations with her grandmother, Gorky's widow, Spender tries to make sense of his creativity, the reasons for his death and the shadow it subsequently cast. The film takes the viewer through the pain and courage of the family, coming to an emotional climax in Gorky's Armenian birthplace in Van, Western Armenia (today's Eastern Turkey).

* * *

"*Grandma's Tattoos*," a Swedish production directed by Suzanne Khardalian, aired on *Al Jazeera English* eight times over the week of January. 11-18, 2012, occupying a 'prime time' slot in all the key time zones.

"*Grandma's Tattoos*" (2011), a 58-minute-long documentary, chronicles Khardalian's quest to uncover the atrocities that scarred her grandmother, a woman who bore "*devilish marks*"-tattoos on her face and hands-that were the persistent reminders of a time in captivity and rape during the Armenian Genocide. Much of her experiences remain a mystery to her progeny, but the few facts Khardalian discovers years after her grandmother's death are but a faint yet terrifying echo of the hellish occurrences that haunted the survivors to the grave.

<http://www.aljazeera.com/programmes/witness/2012/01/201219114241618276> ■

THE LUYYS FOUNDATION PROMOTES ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE, BRANDS ARMENIA AS A LAND OF POSSIBILITIES AND ENGINEERS A CREATIVE NATION

Armenia's President, Serzh Sargsyan and Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan are the founders of the LUYYS Education Foundation. Their vision is to foster positive cultural, academic, business and social change in Armenia by raising the level of education and a "Can Do Attitude" among the Armenian youth in the country and the Diaspora. The Foundation has two major programs that are closely connected:

The LUYYS Scholarship Program and the Develop Armenia Program (DAP). LUYYS encourages the youth to aim as high as possible in their academic achievements. Grantees must study hard while participating in a collaborative design process aimed at shaping the LUYYS Develop Armenia Program. LUYYS engineers the transition from academic life into real life achievements and links Luys scholars to their younger peers throughout Armenia.

The new economic reality of continuous innovation requires a corresponding new kind of education — learning that is not separated from doing. All LUYYS programs focus on interactive, collaborative learning as a life-long process. All students are required to come and work in Armenia during their academic pause and during the entire duration of their studies.

Innovation always meets resistances to change. LUYYS overcomes this challenge with the active support of its scholars who are spread in the world's top 10 universities. Together they pioneer and promote new ways of thinking and doing. They have a wide range of expertise and practice as well as extended networks. They are the connecting agents between all members of our society and the Armenian world.

The Luys Community has been growing fast since 2009 it has supported 175 students. Luys requires students in different parts of the world to represent Armenia by creating Armenian Societies in universities if there are none and making links with the Armenian community in the country where they study.

In other words Luys is creating an intellectual capital, and is building a New Enlightened Armenia.

Students who are Luys scholars from Cambridge University, Oxford University and University College London (UCL) will be present at the second Armenian Street Festival in Kensington, London on 29th July, 2102. Everyone is cordially invited to our stall to discover more about Luys and how to get involved.

Grant Shirakuni (European Social and Political Studies UCL)

BRAND NEW: LEARN ARMENIAN LANGUAGE IN ARMENIA!

The Charity Krounk, established since 1988 aims to promote Armenian language and arts in the West, and facilitate the cultural exchange between Armenia and the Diaspora.

This year Krounk is organising Armenian Language course in Armenia during summer. The program is for adults only from age 18 to 99! Here are few details you will need to know before you register your interest for this course:

- Learners will be placed in comfortable en-suite bed and breakfast accommodation in the centre of Yerevan;
- Learners will be divided into following teaching groups: complete beginner, intermediary and advanced. Certificate of completion awarded at the end of each level.
- Duration of each level: 14 days, classes held 6 days a week except Sundays;
- Learners will be taught in small teaching groups;
- Every morning: two hour language session, followed by session on Armenian history and culture (taught in English or French);

- Optional afternoon trips on offer every day: ex. Garni and Geghard, lake Sevan, Echmiadzin, History Museum, Modern, Matenadaran etc. accompanied by local guide.
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BOOK REVIEWS

ARMENIAN CUISINE

by Aline Kamakian & Barbara Drieskens
Hardback 368 pages, Nr of photos: 348

Cooking is a form of storytelling according to the authors of "Armenian Cuisine", a vibrant, new cookbook that captures Armenian cooking traditions and a slice of their history through home recipes and personal accounts.

"As always the kitchen is the place where stories come out," says Barbara Drieskens, co-author of "Armenian Cuisine" and an anthropologist who teamed up with the co-owner of the restaurant Mayrig, Aline Kamakian, to help Kamakian achieve her dream of publishing her mother's recipes.

"Armenian Cuisine," launched in December 2011, is first and foremost a cookbook featuring more than 139 recipes, from basic to elaborate dishes. Kamakian, who is Lebanese of Armenian origin, wanted to showcase Armenian food and show it as its own cuisine originating from distinct circumstances. "After having the restaurant [Mayrig] and hearing people say, 'this food is not Armenian,' I wanted to prove that it is definitely Armenian," she explains.

The main components of Armenian cuisine are based on a few simple ingredients or recipes, according to Kamakian, with pepper paste, yogurt and nuts among the most important. The pepper paste is "aromatized but not hot," and each Armenian home prepares its own version as well as its own yogurt which is combined into many classic dishes, such as mante (baked meat dumplings) or stuffed vegetables. Many dishes are also made from a combination of fish, rice and nuts, with nuts as the basic element. But Kamakian did not want to stop with just a description of Armenian cuisine and needed help to accomplish her goals for the book.

"I'm a cook. I know how to cook but I don't know how to write. ... I wanted [Barbara] to write this book. And her first reaction was definitely no. A doctorate in anthropology and [a] cookbook? This was too different. So when I started to explain to her what I saw for this book and what I wanted people to know about Armenians, she found a lot of anthropology in it discovering Armenian culture and writing about it through food."

The first step for Drieskens was to get in the kitchens of Kamakian's mother, aunts and friends and soon learned that the ritual of cooking could lull people into a frame of mind in which they felt comfortable sharing moving, personal stories. "It was also really touching to see how food is a form of consolation. A woman would start to tell about the place she comes from, Urfa [a city now situated in southeast Turkey], and she tells an incredibly touching story about her mother. She cries, Aline cries, I almost cry and then the woman starts to talk again about food ... It's a way of talking about things that are otherwise difficult to speak about."

These stories became a part of the book, adding a narrative from the cooks who gave their recipes. Kamakian and Drieskens eventually embarked on a literal, culinary journey to eastern Turkey toward the end of the writing process, to trace recipes back to where they originated. The trip was especially emotional for Kamakian, who was visiting for the first time the homeland her ancestors had fled long ago. Together, the pair covered 2,800 km to source ingredients and recipes. "We traveled through all these places and saw where the recipes come from. You start to understand more and more why. Because in certain places there is a lot of cheese, certain places produce honey, or you have all these sheep. In Urfa I had a crisis: no more aubergine, too much aubergine!" says Drieskens.

For Kamakian, finding the towns where various ingredients come from is a part of the narrative connecting ancient Armenia and current Armenian traditions.

"Sometimes people say show me your friends and I'll tell you who you are. I say, tell me what you're eating and I'll tell you who you are. It's history. I can tell you from what you're eating, which region of old Armenia your parents are from from how you use the ingredients to what kind of ingredients," she says.

Kamakian sees this cookbook as her contribution to preserving the traditions of those who preceded her.

"It's my way of thanking each Armenian mother by keeping up their recipes, keeping the tradition and keeping a sense of who you are."

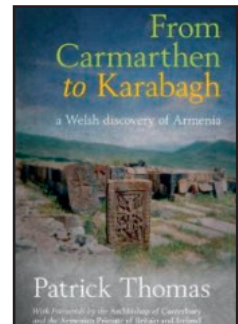
For more information visit: www.armenian-cuisine.com

FROM CARMARTHEN TO KARABAGH - A WELSH DISCOVERY OF ARMENIA

by Patrick Thomas

ISBN: 9781845273668 March 2012

Paperback, 200 pages Price: £7.50



After Canon Patrick Thomas' first visit to Armenia in 2005, he was surprised to find that this little-known nation had captured his heart. He immediately began immersing himself in Armenian history, culture and religion, and came to admire the nation's 'unique strand of Christianity, with its powerful symbolism and mystical poetry'.

Patrick Thomas also became aware of the pain of its history, including the terrible genocide during the First World War when over a million Armenians were killed. In 2007 a memorial to the victims was unveiled in the Temple of Peace in Cardiff – the first such memorial in these islands.

Because of his love and understanding of Armenia, Canon Patrick has become accepted as 'a voice of the voiceless'. But there is another strand to his exploration of Armenia and its struggles, and the injustices committed against it: that is, the parallel background of Welsh history. He quotes the head waiter in a restaurant in Armenia saying, 'Wales is an ancient country, like Armenia – we have both had to struggle a long time for our freedom'. Patrick Thomas loves both nations, and this is his love-letter to them.

With Forewords by the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Armenian Primate of Britain and Ireland. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, says that this book 'gives us a warm and vivid portrait of the richness of Armenian Christianity'. Bishop Vahan Hovhannessian, Armenian Primate of Britain and Ireland, says that Canon Patrick Thomas has 'earned the right to be an honorary ambassador of the Armenian people to the rest of the world'.

Author Biography:

Canon Patrick Thomas, Vicar of Christ Church in Carmarthen and Chancellor of St David's Cathedral, is a well-known writer and broadcaster. The book is available from bookshops or from the website: www.carreg-gwalch.com

THE LIGHT BEARERS by Jean Hutton

ISBN: 1854246186 Paperback Pages: 320

Publisher: Monarch Publications

Originally published in May 2003, author Jean Hutton looks into the recent past to discover the story of the Bible Lands Society. She discusses the men and women who strived to provide front line care in conditions of horrific suffering, and events such as the Armenian genocide, that are largely forgotten today.

How many for example know the history and wide influence of the British based charitable society called Bible Lands throughout the whole of the Middle East? I suspect very few people. Founded 150 years ago as the Turkish Missions Aid Society, with Lord Shaftsbury as the first President, their records give a firsthand view of history, most of us know very little about. The Armenian massacres by the Ottoman Turkish state only being a part of the turmoil and tragedies in the area during all the years of the Society's existence. Not a light read but a Jean Hutton says, "These events speak with

great eloquence of the terrible brutality of which we seem capable, but equally of the heroism and compassion of which we are also capable”.

THE MAKING OF MODERN TURKEY - NATION AND STATE IN EASTERN ANATOLIA, 1913-50

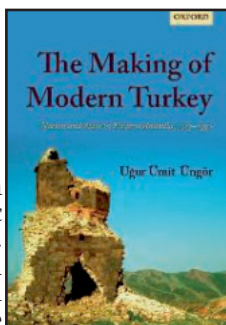
by Ugur Umit Ungor

ISBN13: 9780199603602

ISBN10: 019960360X

Hardback, 352 p,

15 b & w images & 2 maps;



The eastern provinces of the Ottoman Empire used to be a multi-ethnic region where Armenians, Kurds, Syrians, Turks, and Arabs lived together in the same villages and cities. The disintegration of the Ottoman Empire and rise of the nation state violently altered this situation. Nationalist elites intervened in heterogeneous populations they identified as objects of knowledge, management, and change. These often violent processes of state formation destroyed historical regions and emptied multicultural cities, clearing the way for modern nation states.

The Making of Modern Turkey highlights how the Young Turk regime, from 1913 to 1950, subjected Eastern Turkey to various forms of nationalist population policies aimed at ethnically homogenizing the region and incorporating it in the Turkish nation state. It examines how the regime utilized technologies of social engineering, such as physical destruction, deportation, spatial planning, forced assimilation, and memory politics, to increase ethnic and cultural homogeneity within the nation state. Drawing on secret files and unexamined records, Ugur Umit Ungor demonstrates that concerns of state security, ethnocultural identity, and national purity were behind these policies. The eastern provinces, the heartland of Armenian and Kurdish life, became an epicenter of Young Turk population policies and the theatre of unprecedented levels of mass violence.

About the Author

Ugur Umit Ungor studied Sociology and History and defended his Ph.D. in 2009 (summa cum laude). He worked at the *Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies*. His main area of interest is the historical sociology of mass violence and nationalism.

THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN ARMENIA – AUTHORITARIANISM AND DEMOCRACY IN A FORMER SOVIET REPUBLIC

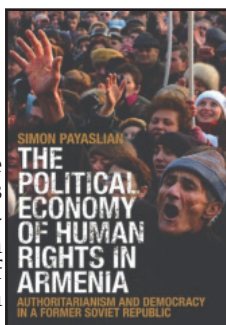
by Simon Payaslian

Tauris Academic Studies,

June 2011 - 384 pages,

ISBN: 978-1-84885-811-4,

ISBN10: 1-84885-811-6



Since its independence from the Soviet Union in 1991, Armenia has experienced a reversal from democratization to a Soviet-style authoritarian regime and has been accused of repressive approaches to human rights. Here, Simon Payaslian juxtaposes a masterful survey of the history of the Armenian people from the nineteenth century through the first republic (1918-21), and Sovietization to the present, with the evolution of international human rights standards, and argues that a statist and authoritarian political culture has impeded political liberalization and institutionalization of human rights principles. Highlighting the clash between sovereignty on one side and human rights and democracy on the other, this comprehensive and in-depth analysis is essential for all those interested in human rights, democratization,

political repression and the former Soviet republics.

About the Author

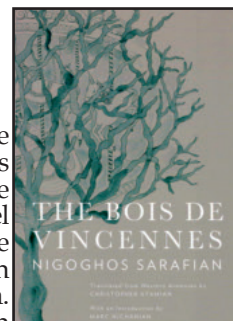
Simon Payaslian is the Charles K. and Elisabeth M. Kenosian Professor in Modern Armenian History & Literature, at Boston University. He is the author of *The History of Armenia: From the Origins to the Present* (2007) and *United States Policy toward the Armenian Question and the Armenian Genocide* (2005).

THE BOIS DE VINCENNES

(ISBN 978-1934548-02-8

or 1-934548-02-2)

Wayne State University Press



The Armenian Research Center at the University of Michigan-Dearborn has announced the publication of the English translation of the short novel of exile, *The Bois de Vincennes*, by one of the prominent Armenian-French authors, Nigoghos Sarafian. Originally published in Armenian in 1947, the work is best known by its French-language title, which has been retained in this English translation. Ably translated by Christopher Atamian, this novel introduces to the English-speaking world, the mind of one of the Armenian Diaspora's most complex writers. The book also features an introduction by Prof. Marc Nichanian, who discusses Sarafian's intellectual world.

In this book readers see the effect of exile caused by the Armenian Genocide on Sarafian. He lived in Paris from 1923 to his death in 1972 and was a member of the *Menk* ("We") group of Armenian-French writers who attempted to renew and redefine (in part through their eponymous journal) Armenian identity in its new Diaspora setting. This book is in some measure a way for Sarafian to come to terms with his own exile and the exile of the Armenian people in general. It is also an extended meditation in and on the Vincennes Woods, a park just outside Paris, where he spent time in solitary contemplation.

About the Author

Christopher Atamian, the translator of this work, is a New York-based writer, filmmaker, and producer. *The Bois de Vincennes* is his first published, book-length translation. The book's publication was subvented through a generous grant from the *Ajemian Foundation*.

THINGS WE LEFT UNSAID by Zoya Pirzad Paperback, 352 pages - ISBN 9781851689255

Deep in an Iranian suburb, made rich by the booming oil industry, Clarice Ayvazian lives a comfortable life surrounded by the gentle bickering of her children and her gossiping friends and relatives. Happy being at the heart of her family, she devotes herself to their every need.

But when an enigmatic Armenian family move in across the street, something begins to gnaw at Clarice's contentment: a feeling that there may be more to life – and to her – than this. Dizzy with the sweltering heat and simmering emotions, Clarice begins to feel herself come alive to possibilities previously unimaginable.

Set in Iran prior to the Islamic revolution, Zoya Pirzad's award-winning novel crafts an intimate portrait of family life – its joys and its compromises – and how we find a happiness that endures.

Zoya Pirzad is a renowned Iranian-Armenian writer and novelist. She has written two novels and three collections of short stories, all of which have enjoyed international success. *Things We Left Unsaid* has been awarded multiple prizes, including the prestigious *Houshang Golshiri* award for Best Novel of the Year and her most recent collection of stories, *The Bitter Taste of Persimmon*, won the prize for Best Foreign Book of 2009 in France. She grew up in Abadan, where this novel is set, and now lives in Tehran.

Further details from www.oneworld-publications.com

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