

ARMENIAN VOICE

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CENTRE FOR
ARMENIAN INFORMATION
AND ADVICE

NEWSLETTER FOR THE LONDON - ARMENIAN COMMUNITY. WINTER 2013 No. 61

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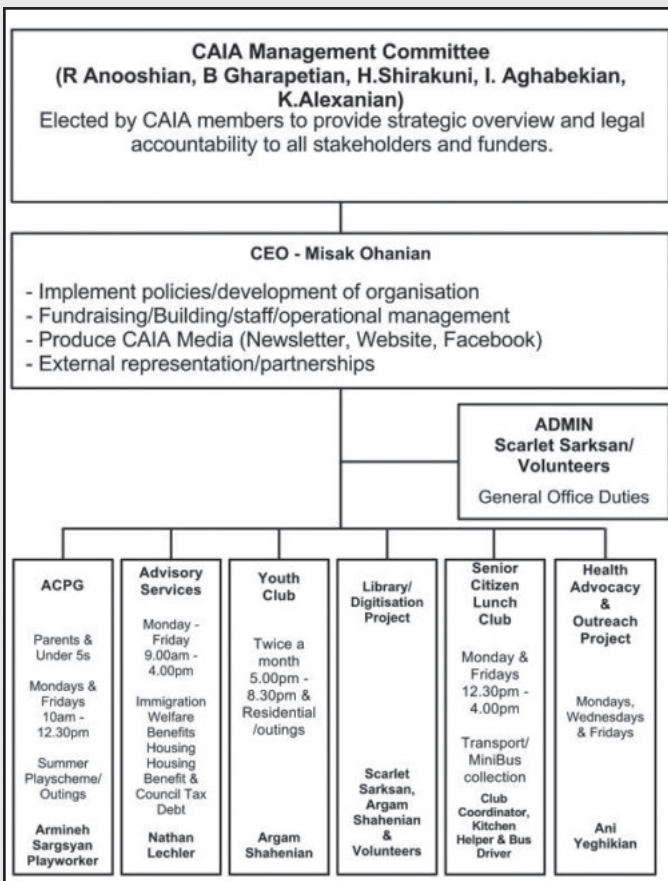
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CAIA HOLDS SUCCESSFUL AGM



On Saturday 1st December 2012, over 50 CAIA members took part at the CAIA's 26th Annual General Meeting in Hayashen where reports were presented about its key achievements and the finances of the charity. At the end of the AGM a special vote of thanks was expressed by members to all members of the Management Committee. (See below CAIA's organigram)



CAIA's Management Committee for the coming year comprises of Mr. Richard Anooshian, Mr. Bosik Gharapetian, Mr. Hrant Shirakuni, Mrs. Karine Alexanian and Mrs. Isgouhi Aghabekian.

Some of the major services provided during the year were:

- + Advice, information and practical help to almost 500 people related to their benefit entitlements, housing, employment, debt and immigration concerns.
- + Held monthly advisory surgeries with DWP at Hayashen
- + Organised successful Easter Party enjoyed by 100+ people
- + Organised public launch of Library Digitisation project
- + Provide basic IT classes to 50 people
- + Supported 150 older people/Carers across London by advocating on their health/ care needs and 110+ home visits.
- + 100 children attended twice weekly Parents & Toddlers group and annual summer playscheme.
- + Over 200 older people provided with 2400 meals
- + Free lifts provided to 30 disabled people over 1000 times
- + Over 100 young people enjoyed youth club sessions and outings/residential.

INTRODUCTION TO ARMENIAN HISTORY, CULTURE & IDENTITY

The CAIA is delighted to announce that thanks to a small grant from Ealing Adult Education Department it is organising another course to meet the demand from 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.

The course is also open and suitable to the general public who have little or no knowledge about Armenia.

The 6-part course is delivered in the English language, starting always informally with light lunch and refreshments to enable those present to meet the speakers and generally network/introduce themselves.

Course detail are:

- Sunday 17 February, 2013, **Vazken Davidian** - *A History from the Streets: The Bantoukhd Hamal of Istanbul* - Art History, Social and Cultural History, Ottoman Armenian History
- Sunday 24 February, 2013, **Karen Babayan** - *An exploration of Armenian identity across cultural boundaries, manifested through contemporary art practice.*
- Sunday 3 March, 2013, **Prof. Khatchatur I. Pilikian** - *Opera & The Armenians*
- Sunday 10 March, 2013, **Guy Moore** - *Armenian Natural History, Armenia's World Botanical Position*
- Sunday 17 March, 2013 **Dr. Aida Alayarian** - *The consequences of denial; the Armenian Genocide*
- Sunday 24 March, 2013, **Shakeh Major Tchilingirian** - *Armenian Folk Dances*
- Time: 2.00pm-4.00pm (Doors Open at 1.30pm)



On 19th July, 2012, Misak Ohanian, Chief Executive Officer of the Centre for Armenian Information & Advice was kindly invited to speak at the AGM of the Mill Hill Park Residents Association held at Hayashen. Misak spoke about the history of Armenians in the UK, reasons for their presence, how they maintain their cultural identity in the UK and the background to the establishment of the CAIA in Mill Hill Road, Acton.



Hayashen, Mill Hill Road, Acton, 1882 & 2012.
The Tricycle Club is no more!



Photographer Tigran Asatrian kindly provided CAIA library Volunteers 4 training sessions about digital cameras, scanner and Adobe Photoshop during September and October 2012.

RECRUITING DIGITISATION INTERNS

The Centre for Armenian Information and Advice is offering an exciting project opportunity for both undergraduate and post-graduate students. We are looking for individuals who will help digitise our substantial collection of various materials concerning Armenia, Armenian Culture and Armenian Diaspora which could be used as a final year project in your studies. The project involves a variety of activities, which is why we are looking for individuals to volunteer with skills in:

- Scanning (ESPON GT20000 available for use)
- Digital Photography (CANNON EDS 500D available to use or can use your own)
- Database Management (Google Docs, Google Drive)
- Website Design and Development (WordPress or any other)
- Marketing and Advertising

OUR MATERIALS

Interns will be dealing with old and rare books, maps, paintings, photographs, unpublished memories and other works about various places that are of great importance to us and the Armenian community.

VOLUNTEERS

The kinds of work vary from transcribing text on computers, digitising books and documents, updating catalogues, research into archives, etc.

Specifically:

- Cataloguing Armenian/English/Foreign language books into the ISAD database (*standard national database template for archives/libraries*)
- Researching online background information for books, so all relevant information is inserted into ISAD
- Scanning a variety of different materials
- Creating digital folders, so all materials are organised appropriately

What we expect from you:

- Able to read English (Armenian and/or any other language is an advantage)
- Strong IT skills; such as experience in Excel, Microsoft Word, Access and/or Google Docs (training will be offered)
- Relevant experience in scanning - this will involve knowing how to adjust dpi, colour, size and etc.
- To be careful with documents/archives

If you are interested, but do not have the required skills, do not hesitate to contact us as training and support will be provided to all volunteers, including travel expenses.

CONTACT US

Please contact us at info@caia.org.uk and we will be delighted to provide you with further information. ■

ARMENIAN EVENT AT ACTON LIBRARY

On Thursday 6th December 2012, a joint event was organised for the first time between *Ealing Library Services* and the CAIA at Acton Library. The event started with a minute's silence as a mark of respect for the unexpected death of Armenia's Ambassador to the UK, Mrs Karine Kazinian. Kate Goddard, Library Manager, introduced the work of *Ealing Library services*, followed by a short talk by local Councillor and former Mayor of Ealing, John Gallagher. (Photo below) CAIA CEO Misak Ohanian spoke about the London Armenian community and in particular the connection with LB. of Ealing and Acton specifically.



Richard Neville provided two very entertaining stories as part of the tradition of storytelling. Dr Vrej Nersessian spoke eloquently about the 500th anniversary of first printed Armenian book as a major milestone in the national awakening of the dispersed Armenian nation. Maggie Hingley spoke briefly about partnership work between *Derwentwater Primary School* and *Acton Library*.



Over 30 people attended this modest but informative event which included the opportunity to meet Erlanda Simonyan and Karine Zenjiryan from the *National Academy of Sciences Library*, and Juletta Manukyan from the *National Library* who were on a two-week on placement with *Ealing Library Services*. Congratulations to everyone who contributed to the success of this event.



NEW TRUSTEES/DIRECTORS WELCOME

The CAIA Management Committee welcomes and encourages CAIA members to volunteer to join its Board of Trustees/Directors. This is a great opportunity to obtain board level experience and contribute to the welfare of London's Armenian community, the service that CAIA has been providing the Armenian Community for the past 25 years. Training and support provided.

To undertake these important roles, it will be essential for you to demonstrate:

- Commitment to CAIA's aims and objectives
- Work ethically, with transparency and without bias for the common good of all.
- Ability to actively work in a team environment
- Ability to think strategically and act collectively in the interests of the charity.
- Experience or a track record in one or more of the following areas would be advantageous:
 - Fundraising
 - Media /Public Relations
 - Business planning and Finance
 - Legal services
 - Management
 - Human Resources
 - IT /social media

For further information about becoming a Trustee/Director and about the work of CAIA, please write and explain how you can contribute to CAIA: info@caia.org.uk

CAIA Management Committee



On 7th July 2012 CAIA had a stall at *Acton Carnival* as in previous years. The Mayor of the London Borough of Ealing, Councillor Mohammad Aslam, accompanied by Cllr. Hitesh Tailor visited the stall.



On Saturday 8th December 2012 CAIA raised £400 for the *Syrian-Armenian Emergency Relief Fund* at *Acton Christmas Fair*. Many thanks to everyone who donated goods, visited and/or helped out at the stall throughout a very cold day.

ARMENIAN SENIOR CITIZENS ACTIVITIES



Over 100 Armenian Senior Citizens, Carers and guests enjoyed a great afternoon of food and entertainment together on 14th December 2012 in *Hayashen*.



This was the 26th 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 community in general. Special guests included, His Grace Bishop Vahan Hovhanessian, who blessed the delicious food kindly catered by volunteers as well donated by *Jakobs restaurant, Chella Restaurant and Katsouris Brothers*.



Other guests present included Mr Onik Avakian from the *Armenian Church & Community Council* who thanked CAIA and its members for raising over £800 for the *Syrian Armenian Emergency Relief Fund*. Cllr. Shahbaz Ahmed, Deputy Mayor London Borough of Ealing, kindly attended and gave his best wishes.



On 1st August 2012, over 50 Armenian Senior Citizens and Carers enjoyed a great sunny day out at the seaside town of *Hastings* where they were welcomed by members of the town's small Armenian community.



Some of those who enjoyed the party.



Sitting together and enjoying each others company as well as great food, entertainment and presents.



Jenia Nersessian (*above*) performing during the Xmas Party 2012. On the occasion of the declaration of Armenia's independence, Acton-resident, Jenia was awarded the *Movses Khorentasti* medal by the President of Armenia for service for Armenian culture/acting. ■

ARMENIAN COMMUNITY PRE-SCHOOL GROUP

SUMMER PLAY SCHEME & OUTING



For three weeks during August 2012, the Armenian Community Pre-school Group (ACPG) organised its 25th consecutive summer play scheme. Activities for children place at Hayashen as well fun filled outings to Bunny Park, West Ealing and also an all day trip to LEGOLAND on Wednesday 22 August, 2012.



80 children 1-17 years of age learned, played and enjoyed themselves throughout the project, made possible by the support of Ealing Council. The Hilden Charity Trust and Capital Radio Help a London Child. We are very grateful to all staff, parents and volunteers who helped out with this project and the two outings.



ACPG CHRISTMAS PARTY



On 3rd December 2012, 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 & below)



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 Hayashen Parents & Toddler Group twice a week.



Painted puppets during summer playscheme



Meeting the animals at Bunny Park, Hanwell

COMMUNITY NEWS



On 29th July 2012, the 2nd annual Armenian Street festival took place on the streets of Iverna Gardens in the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea, where St. Sarkis Church is located, with the aim of celebrating and promoting our Armenian culture and heritage. Thirty stalls by various Armenian community organisations (including CAIA) and businesses displayed and sold Armenian artifacts, books, jewellery, shirts, Armenian chocolates and brandy, as well as information about their services and activities.

Despite the rain, a great deal of fun was had by all with lots of food, music, dancing and special guests and dignitaries, such as H.E. Serzh Sargsyan, the president of Armenia, who was visiting the London Olympics games. Congratulation to all those who helped organise and contributed to such a positive event for UK Armenians.

Watch festival video prepared by Zarouhi Arzoumanian. www.youtube.com/watch?v=AMYvd6puOUIA&feature=youtu.be



A peaceful protest took place outside the Hungarian Embassy in London on 3rd September regarding the extradition of Azerbaijani convicted murderer Ramil Safarov who was serving life sentence in Hungary for the murder of an Armenian soldier.



The auditorium of the *Tabernacle* was fully seated for the debut performance of the *London Armenian Opera*. The performance on 6th July, 2012 (repeated again on 27/28th October) was itself the first of the very well known Armenian Opera "*Anoush*" by Armen Tigranian. All present, Armenians and non-Armenians were amazed at the professional performance of the *London Armenian Opera*, whose performance team combines the talents of young performers at the beginning of their career with those of our local community enthusiasts. The performance with its five acts mesmerised the audience with the beautiful voices of the singers, the choral group, the small accompanying orchestra, the dancers and the costumes. A special booklet was published on this occasion which included the programme, biographies of the performers and messages by the supporters as well as the Chairman of the *London Armenian Opera*, Mr. David Stepan and its Artistic Director Maestro Aris Nadirian. In his "*A Word from the Artistic Director*" Maestro Nadirian explains, "*This year is particularly important to us, as we celebrate the centenary of the opera's performance. It is purely coincidental that tonight's performance mirrors that of the 1912 premier in Alexandrapol, in terms of the use of a small orchestra, chorus and venue!*" Playing the lead role of *Anoush* was Tereza Gevorgyan, and that of *Saro* Vahe Begoyan. Meanwhile, our own Aris Nadirian played the role of *Mossi* and Anais Heghoyan shined as a star in her dual roles as the mother of *Anoush* and the mother of *Saro*. The orchestra was directed by Levon Parikian. The entire performance was directed by Seta White. Arsen Zakaryan was the choreographer and Claire Roberts the Stage Manager. The Armenian community in the UK is thirsty for such performances to enhance its cultural awareness and showcase it among the wider public. Congratulations to Aris, David, Seta and all the performers of the *London Armenian Opera* and all those who contributed to the success of the Opera. The CAIA was pleased to assist this project in a small way by making *Hayashen* available to the group for its numours rehearsals.

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Cevanne Horrocks-Hopayian concluded a run of her showcase, '*The Evolution of Eve*' at The Yard, in Hackney Wick in the East End of London in October. 2012 The *Evolution of Eve* crossed boundaries and broke codes. It crossed boundaries of nations, musical genres, art forms and even the boundary between art and science. Drawing on sources as far apart as Armenian music, jazz, folk, classical and pop, it treated the audience to a unique creation. Cevanne is both a composer and a performer. She sings, plays harp, dances and acts. As a composer, she has been cutting edge from school days when she attended the Guildhall of Music and Drama as a junior student. She has researched Armenian music and been inspired by it. One of her first compositions was titled *Zankanakner*. She believes that each generation and each performer should bring something fresh to tradition.

She can be heard playing Armenian traditional songs at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=As5sQaz7jxc>.

Her first CD, *Big Ears*, was released in 2010.

For further information please contact:

Dr Kevork Hopayian k.hopayian@btinternet.com

CONDOLENCES

It is with deep sadness and shock that CAIA heard of the sudden death of Her Excellency Ambassador Mrs. Karine Kazinian.

We at the *Centre for Armenian Information and Advice* (CAIA) offer our heart felt condolences to the Embassy of the Republic of Armenia, the Armenian Government and to her family and friends.

Her Excellency Ambassador Karine Kazinian was a great friend of the Armenian Community in the UK and supported CAIA's many functions over the short period of time that she was in the UK. She will be dearly missed by all.

CAIA Management Committee

CONFERENCE & RECEPTION ON ARMENIA



One of the last major events organised by the late Ambassador Karine Kazinian was a conference and reception on 8th November, 2012, at *Bishop Partridge Hall, Church House Conference Centre* to mark the national day of Armenia and the 20th anniversary of establishing diplomatic relations between the Republic of Armenia and the UK. Over 200 people attended these events including current and former diplomats, media, representatives of various UK Armenian community organisations, professionals, businesses and media.

Also in November 2012 the first multi-sector British Trade Mission visited Armenia to explore trade and business opportunities. The visit was organised by *British Expertise* and the British Embassy and was supported by the *FCO Commercial Diplomacy Fund*.

The Trade Mission included 9 British companies from a wide range of business areas, such as engineering, construction, infrastructure development, IT and telecommunications, education, environment, jewellery, science and PR and communications. The Mission met stakeholders from the Armenian Government, international donor community, business and civil society representatives.

The Trade Mission met the Minister of Economy, Tigran Davtyan, who stressed the willingness of the Armenian Government and local businesses to strengthen and develop business links between Armenia and the UK. In addition, the Minister briefed the Trade Mission on the business environment in Armenia and possible opportunities. Apart from meeting Armenian colleagues, the Trade Mission also met with the British business community in Armenia and members of the *Armenian-British Business Chamber (ABBC)* hosted a dinner to mark the visit.

During a press conference with Nigel Peters, Deputy Chief Executive of *British Expertise*, he noted that members of Trade Mission are very pleased to be in Armenia and keen to establish new connections with Armenian businesses.

Ambassador Kathy Leach assured that the British Embassy will continue to promote the great reputation of British businesses and support the development of British and Armenian business links.

BRITISH LIBRARY ARMENIAN TREASURES



A display of Armenian treasures celebrating the 500th anniversary of Armenian printing, the designation of Yerevan as 2012-2013 *World Book Capital* and the 20th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Armenia and the United Kingdom, was on show in the *Ritblat Treasures Gallery* of *British Library* until 31st January 2013.

The exhibition was formally launched on 22nd November 2012 with a reception organised by the *British Library* and *Armenian Embassy* of London. (One of the last duties of the late Her Excellency Ambassador Karine Kazinian - above photo)

On view were a number of exquisitely illuminated manuscripts and rare specimens of the earliest Armenian printed books the Library holds.

Printing in Armenia began in 1512 in Venice, spreading to other European cities, the Near and Middle East and India in the centuries that followed. In Armenia itself printing was introduced in 1771.

CONDOLENCES

Mikhael Essayan (1927-2012)

The honorary president of the *Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation*, Mikhael Essayan, passed away in the early hours of 23rd October 2012 in London, at the age of 85.

A grandson of Calouste Gulbenkian, he was a Foundation director between 1981 and 2005, and has been followed in this role by his son, Martin Essayan.

A lawyer, he worked for the *Iraq Petroleum Company*, in London and in the Middle East, and sat on the General Council of the Bar of England and Wales. Appointed to the Queen's Counsel, he was awarded a *honoris causa* doctorate by the *Armenian National Academy of Sciences* and in Portugal distinguished with the *Order of Merit* and the *Order of the Infante Grand-Cross*.

In a press release, the Foundation's Board of Directors emphasised the great dedication, competence and integrity with which Mikhael Essayan honoured the *Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation* throughout over three decades of service.

CAIA expresses its condolences to his family.

Read more about CAIA on
www.caia.org.uk &
www.facebook.com/Hayashen

HAYASHEN YOUTH CLUB



Mr. Bosik Gharapetian BSc, MSc, MBCS, CITP, ISEB, a highly qualified IT Project Manager and a CAIA Trustee/Director was kind enough to visit the youth on the 8 June 2012 to provide them with a coaching/ mentoring session on careers. This was a very beneficial session, especially for those who were finishing up their exams and were looking for work or applying to university in the near future. Bosik also kindly helped couple of young people by reviewing their CV's and offered to arrange 1-2-1 sessions with those who wanted more advice.

Dance teachers Mr. Arsen Zakaryan and Ms. Karina Avetisyan visited HAYC on 22 June 2012 to help young people brush up their Armenian Dancing. This was an interactive session, which made everyone to get up and move.

On the 7 July 2012, HAYC hosted an of End of School Summer BBQ party. This was organised mainly by the youth. A great time was had by all. (Photo below)



After a well deserved summer break HAYC held a jam-packed session on 7 September 2012. Ms Vanita Nicholls (whose mother is Armenian) from Ealing Council came to talk about Ealing Apprenticeships Scheme and apprenticeships in general. This was a great addition to previous sessions HAYC has held about careers, education and employment. Ms. Christine Anserlian was also talked about her project 'Hamov' - which seeks to promote Armenian culture and language using food as a fun medium. During the same evening, CAIA volunteer Mr. Efstathios Stivaros led a discussion about young people



starting small businesses. (Photo above)

On 5th October 2012, dance teacher Mr. Arsene Zakarian, led another dance workshop for young people. He taught a variety of different Armenian dances, which the youth clearly seemed to be enjoying. After the workshop, young dancers rehearsed with Arsene for the 'Anoush Opera' performance. At the end of their rehearsal, HAYC youth joined in for one very happy circle dance which can be viewed on <http://www.youtube.com/user/CAIAHayashen>



On 19 October 2012, Ms. Poornima Karunacadacharan from REAP (Refugees in Effective and Active Partnership), led a workshop on human rights and equality. This involved explaining the current forms of discrimination, and cir-



cumstances that give rise to various forms of prejudice in society. The youth were given a chance to brainstorm any words, which they thought were associated to equality. To no surprise, young people gave very insightful responses to this word. In the same evening, a free raffle draw was held with five lucky youngsters winning cinema tickets. The evening finished with the young people enjoying tasty Middle Eastern chicken wraps.

On 9 November 2012, banking analyst, Mr. Ara Yeromian spoke about careers in banking and financial service industry. He said that young people could improve their chances in entering this line of work by undertaking as much work experience as possible. Student Christine Anserlian also kindly attended HAYC same evening and put up "post it" signs everywhere in Hayashen such as on the walls, chairs, doors, cups, bottles. Christine had written the name of each item in Armenian, English and phonetically as a way to encourage young people to learn and speak Armenian as well as a means to promote discussion amongst the youth about the value

and importance of the Armenian language. (Photo below)



On 23 November 2012, Mr. Matt Dronfield from London Youth gave a talk about volunteering, and how young people can gain the prestigious *v-inspired* award. By the end of the talk 15 young people registered and started completing their volunteering records book. (Below)



On 7 December, 2012, an early Christmas Party was organised, which in true Armenian tradition, involved lot of food (Kebabs, fingerfood, chocolate cakes, etc) and dancing thanks to the exciting music kindly provided by DJ FunkyEast (Stevie Nalbandian) blasting through Hayashen's speakers. (End of party group photo)



On 11 January 2013, HAYC kicked off the New Year with a great workshop led by Mr. Vasken Jermakian, Restaurant Manager of Pizza Express Westfield Stratford. Mr. Jermakian gave an insightful talk about first time employment for young people and kindly shared his knowledge and experience with the young people. He gave many examples on the things to do and not to do at interviews, as well as the importance of interpersonal skills and making a CV to stand out. (Photo below)



GO KARTING FUN DAY



On 26 July, 2012, over 45 young people aged 11-18 enjoyed an unforgettable Go Karting Fun day at Brentwood Karting Raceway.



The group travelled by coach to Brentwood from Hayashen in the morning. Once arrived, the young people signed in, suited and were briefed about safety before enjoying several laps of practise driving. After a restful lunch break, several timed races took place in the afternoon with certificates for all 45 drivers and metals for the three fastest youngsters.



Winning driver Karen Poghosyan (above) and young people (below) cheering their friends during the races.



YOUTH RESIDENTIAL AT WOODROW HIGH



A very enjoyable two-day residential took place during the weekend of 14-16 September 2012, organised by CAIA's Hayashen Armenian Youth Club.

The weekend trip was jam-packed with activities, ranging from archery, team building exercises, swimming, football and raft building.

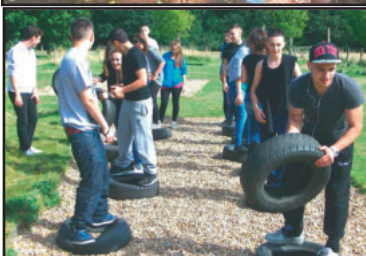
The residential was held at Woodrow High House, near Amersham, and is renowned for its famous ghost stories; it keeps all the kids and staff on their toes. 40 young people aged 11-18 accompanied by 4 adult CAIA staff and volunteers, arrived by coach on Friday evening, and were quickly assigned to their sleeping rooms.



Then after a nice fish & chips meal, the young people gathered around a large campfire in the grounds of the mansion, and enjoyed melted marshmallows and the impressive fire show demonstrated by one of the local youth workers.



After staying awake almost all of the night, the excited youth enjoyed a full traditional English breakfast and got on with the challenging activities. The youth were separated into three groups, with each group taking turns to activities such as archery, raft building and team building exercises. The youth clearly enjoyed the archery, as they were using real bows and arrows, which when used accordingly, travel in distance extremely fast. The team building exercises differed from the other two, as it required young people to use more of their brains than their instincts. After lunch, the young people spend considerable time raft building, which they later used to race with in the large swimming pool.



Later in the evening, a disco was held at the basement of the year-long mansion. The basement itself was very unique, as it was divided into two parts; a dance floor, and mini-museum.

The mini-museum contained some very interesting artefacts dating back from the civil war, yet the youth seemed more determined to show their skills on the dance floor. The accompanying CAIA staff and volunteer adults did not participate, as they were scared that their own dancing skills would outdo the youth. Nonetheless, the disco was fun and entertaining, with snacks and soft drinks.

On the last day, everyone (40 young people, girls/boys, CAIA staff/volunteers and youth workers from Woodrow High) participated in several competitive games of football on the astro turf pitch. It was very fast and equal, with neither team able to dominate the games much. All results were fairly close, thus making the competition even more exciting and final penalty shoot out. After the games, everyone was treated to a tasty Sunday roast lunch and soon afterwards the youth started to clear up their room, packed their bags, and said goodbyes to the staff at Woodrow High House.



The group arrived back at Hayashen by 4.00pm where waiting parents greeted the very tired but happy children. Overall, the trip was fun and challenging, leaving positive and lasting impression on many of the young people who made new and lasting friends during the trip.



A YOUNG FOOTBALLER WITH A BRIGHT FUTURE



As a footballing nation, Armenia is not too bad. With up and coming stars such as Henrikh Mkhitaryan (*FC Shakhtar Donetsk*) and Aras Ozbiliz (*Kuban Krasnodar*), our future looks bright. However, what about *Hayashen Youth Clubs* very own Ashot Poghosyan? He is a young British Armenian who has quickly developed into a fantastic prospect, gaining attention from a variety of different clubs.

Ashot began playing at a very early age, building his foundations in Armenia. Once he arrived to London, he soon began playing for *Chelsea F.C.* He was there for 2 years, learning so much valuable knowledge and skill. After Chelsea, he moved on to the *David Beckham Football Academy*, where he would train everyday, assisted by personal trainers, bettering his game, and allowing him to mature with great discipline.

From his time there, he was called up for a trial at *Birmingham F.C.* Unfortunately, he did not receive an offer from the club, but instead returned back to London, training with the *Chelsea Youths*. Again, he had another trial, this time at *Notts County F.C.* Soon after, he was invited to play for *Armenia's U19 squad*, and thus resulted in getting scouted to play for the Ukrainian side, *FC Metalurh Donetsk*.

These are exciting times for young Armenian footballers, and I am sure the entire British Armenian community is proud that we have produced such talents, and will no doubt support Ashot all the way. Ashot has proved that with hard work, you can achieve anything you like.

Argam Shahenian



Above 1st photo, Ashot Poghosyan (on the right) practising with *Armenia's U19 squad* in Scotland and above 2nd photo during the *Two-Day Hayashen Armenian Youth Club Residential* at Woodrow High House playing football and shouting instructions to teammates.

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR DONORS

The CAIA is grateful to all the following for their kind donations of financial support as well as in kind such as books, CDs, DVDs and other items/equipment towards its work since the last publication of *Armenian Voice*. Their generosity is highly appreciated and most welcome.

<i>Armenian Embassy (Books)</i>	<i>Mrs S Hilton</i>
<i>Mr A Abadjian</i>	<i>Dr K Hopayan</i>
<i>Mrs A Abrahamian</i>	<i>Mrs N Kasparian</i>
<i>Mrs B Amirmansour</i>	<i>Mr A Khachikian</i>
<i>Mr R Anooshian</i>	<i>Mrs G Khach</i>
<i>Mrs J Arik</i>	<i>Mrs O Khulian</i>
<i>Mr M Asaturyan</i>	<i>Mrs A Kunter</i>
<i>Mr A Avagimov</i>	<i>Mr D Lalian</i>
<i>Mr S Avedikian</i>	<i>Mr Z Mankassarian</i>
<i>Mrs F Batarseh</i>	<i>Mr N Manoukian</i>
<i>Mrs S Baghdasaryan</i>	<i>Ms D Menachkanian</i>
<i>Mrs A Bahadrian</i>	<i>Mr & Mrs Minasian</i>
<i>Mrs J Bamban</i>	<i>Mr A Minassian</i>
<i>Mr & Mrs Beniatian</i>	<i>Ms V Minassian</i>
<i>Mr & Mrs Biglarian</i>	<i>Mr & Ms Nazloomian</i>
<i>Dr S M Boghossian</i>	<i>Mrs L Nazikian</i>
<i>Mr & Mrs Boghossian</i>	<i>Mr K Nicolas</i>
<i>Mrs O Brose</i>	<i>Mrs M Partzigian</i>
<i>Mrs J A Carlisle Date</i>	<i>Mrs A Peltegian</i>
<i>Mr D Chakelian</i>	<i>Mr & Mrs Simon</i>
<i>Mr K Chakmakjian</i>	<i>Ms A Sarkis</i>
<i>Mrs G W Clark</i>	<i>Mrs S Sarksan</i>
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Long before Baron Pierre de Coubertin, after a nearly 1200-year hiatus, organized the Modern Olympics of "Athens 1896," the Ancient Olympics that began in 776 B.C. honored countless athletes every four years, including some famous Armenians.

Among them, Prince Varazdat Arshakuni (in Armenian; Latinized as Varastades), later King of Armenia, was the last known recorded Ancient Olympic victor who won the boxing event at the 291st Olympiad (in 385 A.D.). A memorial plate, now in display at the Olympic Museum in Olympia, Greece, details his win as the most honored champion of the 291st Olympiad. At the 265th Olympiad, 104 years earlier (281 A.D.), another of the famous non-Greek winners (in wrestling) was the Armenian King Trdat III (286-342 A.D.), who in 301 A.D. adopted Christianity as the state religion, making Armenia the first Christian nation. The exploits of both kings were chronicled by the Armenian Historian Movses Khorenatsi (*Moses of Khoren*) in his *History of Armenia*.

The end of the Ancient Olympics came in 393 A.D., when the Roman Emperor Theodosius I, a convert to Christianity, legally abolished the games as an old "pagan" religious rite. In 1998, the International Olympic Academy installed in Olympia a marble bust by sculptor Levon Tokmajyan, honoring the Armenian King Varazdat Arshakuni (385 A.D.).

The first Armenian Olympic champion of the Modern Olympics was Hrant Shahinyan (1923-96), born in the village of Gyulagarak, who at age 28 competed at the 1952 Helsinki Olympics as a member of the USSR Artistic Gymnastic National Team, receiving two gold medals in gymnastic rings and team combined exercises, and two silvers in gymnastics individual men's all-around and the pommel horse. He was also a seven-time USSR and two-time world champion. Among the other Armenian athletes competing alongside Shahinyan—all representing the Soviet Union—were Albert Azaryan and Artur Akopyan.

Armenia was represented as a unified country for the first time at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics as part of the *Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)*. With only five athletes participating, the team won three gold medals in weightlifting, wrestling, and sharp-shooting. Armenia has been competing as an official independent nation since the 1994 *Lillehammer Winter Games*.

The first (and only) Gold Medal that Armenia won as an independent country, was at the 1996 *Atlanta Summer Olympics*, by Armen Nazaryan in Greco-Roman Wrestling. He later, in 2000 *Sydney Olympics*, won another gold medal, but this time for Bulgaria. In 2004 Athens Olympics he won the bronze medal, with Bulgaria again. During the *London Olympics* Armenia won a total of 3 medals (1 and 2 Bronze), joint 60th with Belgium and Finland.

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A major exhibition, entitled "ARMENIA: IMPRINTS OF A CIVILIZATION", took place during 16 December 2011 – 10 April 2012 in the museums of *St. Mark's Square, Venice*. Hosting the exhibition were the prestigious venues of the *Museo Correr*, the *Museo Archeologico Nazionale*, and the *Monumental Rooms of the Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana*. The exhibition marked the fifth centenary of the first book printed in the Armenian language. This exhibition acted also as the official launch of the jubilee celebrations taking place in the Armenian capital Yerevan, a *UNESCO World Book Capital* for 2012. Other similar events marking the Fifth Centenary of the Armenian Press has been taking place across the world.

A fully illustrated 400-page catalogue accompanied this unique exhibition, which included contributions from distinguished Armenologists on an international level, and, especially, members of the Italian academy. CAIA is very

grateful to exhibition curator Dr Boghos Levon Zekiyan for kindly sending a copy of the catalogue for *Hayashen Library*.

• • •

Over 50 Armenians have died so far in the violence that has swept Syria in the past two years. In the meantime over 5000 Armenians have sought refuge in the Republic of Armenia. Images of the fallen Armenian victims can be viewed at the following link:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=fwx0vrCK8U&feature=share

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Memories Without Borders is a unique Turkish-Armenian-Azerbaijani documentary, looking at the impacts of troubled histories on individual lives today. For full details visit <http://www.c-r.org/MWB>

• • •

Armenian Rhapsodies, a road movie by Diaspora-Armenian young directors, was awarded a special prize at the *British Council's Armenian Panorama* contest in July 2012.

According to an official statement by the organisers, the film, which tells about Armenia, will be screened in the UK as part of the *Sheffield Doc/Fest 2013 festival*, an annual documentary film festival that attracts the best representatives of cinematography each year.

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The 2012 *International Hrant Dink Award* was presented to laureates İsmail Beşikçi from Turkey and "Memorial Human Rights Centre" from Russia, on September 15, 2012, with a ceremony organized by the *Hrant Dink Foundation* held at the *Cemal Reşit Rey Concert Hall* in Istanbul.

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On 7th December, 2012, a groundbreaking film was premiered at *Glendale Public Library* auditorium to mark the 55th birthday of national hero Monte Melkonian, organised by the *Patriotic (Hayrenaser) Organisation*.

Political scientist and historian Dr. Armen Ayvazyan, spoke about the parallels between the Artsakh war and the Armenian rebellion of 1720's. Patriotic musical performances enriched the evening, while an exhibit showcased photographs about the liberated regions of Artsakh. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s9gU0joVuPw>

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In November 2012, the major British retailer, *Marks & Spencer*, opened its first ever store in Yerevan, introducing its latest collection of clothes for men, women and children, as well as accessories, shoes, underwear and make-up products. The opening event in Yerevan's *Dalma Garden Mall* was attended by the UK ambassadors to Armenia and the M&S regional director, Mark Koprovsky. Twelve Armenian top models showcased the M&S autumn and winter collections of footwear and clothes. Speaking at the ceremony, Ambassador Katherine Jane Leach noted that Armenia and UK have developed firm relations over years, the diplomat said that the presence of numerous British brands (including M&S) in the country is an evidence of such closeness.

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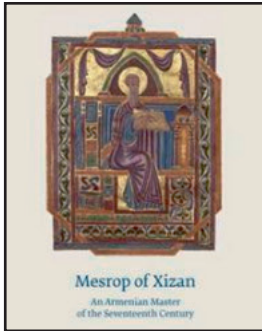
According to a Press Release of 20th July 2012 by *HM Revenue & Customs*, a British man from Hertfordshire who worked as an international arms dealer was jailed for three and a half years for attempting to sell surface to air missiles to Azerbaijan against a strict arms embargo, following an investigation.

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In July 2012, Armenia's *Human Rights Defender (Ombudsman)* Karen Andreasyan, and Margarita Hakobyan, Country Director, *Oxfam GB Armenia*, signed a six-year memorandum of cooperation which envisages the implementation of joint human rights protection programs, proposal of necessary amendments to Armenia's legislation, and raising public awareness. ■

BOOK REVIEWS

Mesrop of Xizan - An Armenian Master of the Seventeenth Century by Dr. Mikayel Arakelyan



176 pages, paperback,
300 x 240 mm,
120 colour illustrations
ISBN 978 0 955339 33 2,
Paul Holberton
publishing, London,

Illuminator, painter, scribe, clerk, teacher, doctor of theology, restorer and binder, Mesrop was one of the greatest Armenian artists of his and following generations. He was prolific, working for at least forty-two years in Sos (*New Julfa*) from 1608 to 1651. This book is the first serious study of the 46 of his manuscripts that have survived. The focus of the book, however, is *The Four Gospels*, one of the few manuscripts painted entirely by Mesrop's hand and one of the most extensively illuminated in his oeuvre. It includes an extraordinary series of illuminations of both Old and New Testament scenes, with no less than twenty-three full page miniatures, and seventeen smaller miniatures. The author sheds light not only on Mesrop's career but on those of Armenian miniaturists of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Through a thorough analysis of Mesrop's works Arakelyan is able to closely study the working methods of artists working in the scriptoria of *Vaspurakan*, *Mokk* and *New Julfa*. He demonstrates the dramatic and exciting way in which these artists developed stylistic and iconographic approaches to painting beyond those of their predecessors. The monograph is of tremendous significance for *Armenologists* and *Byzantinologists* in the fields of iconography, Armenian miniature art and theology.

Author Biography: Mikayel Arakelyan was born in Yerevan, Armenia, in 1970. In 1992, he graduated from the Yerevan State Institute of Fine & Dramatic Arts with a B.A. and M.A. in Design and Painting. He went on to obtain a Ph.D. in Art History from the Institute of Fine Arts of the National Academy of Sciences of Armenia in 2004. Currently, Dr. Mikayel Arakelyan is a Senior Researcher at the *Matenadaran Institute of Ancient Manuscripts (Yerevan)*, and author of numerous scholarly articles and conference papers. Besides his scholarly activity, he also works in the field of professional painting: Dr. Arakelyan is a member both of the *Association Internationale des études Arméniennes* and the *Armenian National Committee of the Association of Byzantinists*. For more information: www.paul-holberton.net

Blood Oranges Dipped in Salt by Karen Babayan



Hardback published by
The Wild Pansy Press 2012,
ISBN 978-1-900687-40-9,
priced £15.

Karen was brought up in the Armenian community of Tehran in Iran until she was 16 and then moved to the UK with her immediate family. She is now a visual artist living in Cumbria with a fascination for her family roots and for the insight that they give into a resilient community's incredible history.

"The stories are woven around family photos and recollections that have assumed a mythical quality for me over the years," explains Karen, "and they've been patiently collected over a lifetime of con-

versations. The stories occupy a time span of over 400 years to the present day and the events cover a geography of three continents: from *Jughra*, *Dilijan* and *Yerevan* in Armenia; *Salmas*, *Isfahan* and *Tehran* in Iran, then to *Leeds* and *Appleby*, England and finally to *Toronto*, Canada."

The book, entitled *Blood Oranges Dipped in Salt*, reflects the history of the Armenians of Iran from the perspective of the author's own family. Dreams feature strongly; also births, marriages and deaths, the stuff of family life. The stories bear witness to a minority cultural with a monumental history that has experienced generations of loss, displacement, migration, immigration and assimilation.

Karen Babayan has tried to bring a sense of 'here and now', creating a tangible link from the past to the present whilst trying still to retain the spirit and survival of the original tales. The title is based on an Armenian taste for oranges dipped in salt as a snack and the reference to blood oranges emphasises the strong family bonds reflected in the stories.

"I have felt a strong sense of responsibility for capturing these stories and experiences," says Karen, "before those who tell them and the stories themselves are lost. It is particularly poignant to see them in print at last and to be able to share them more widely. I hope that the production of the book, which is very tactile like a keepsake, will encourage people to pass it on as these stories have been passed on through the generations of my family."

SANDCASTLE GIRLS by Chris Bohjalian

Published by Simon & Schuster

Over the course of his career, *New York Times* bestselling novelist Chris Bohjalian has taken readers on a spectacular array of journeys. *Midwives* brought us to an isolated Vermont farmhouse on an icy winter's night and a homebirth gone tragically wrong. *The Double Bind* perfectly conjured the Roaring Twenties on Long Island – and a young social worker's descent into madness. And *Skeletons at the Feast* chronicled the last six months of World War Two in Poland and Germany with nail-biting authenticity.

As *The Washington Post Book World* has written, Bohjalian writes "the sorts of books people stay awake all night to finish."

In his 15th book, *The Sandcastle Girls*, he brings us on a very different kind of journey. This spellbinding tale travels between *Aleppo*, Syria in 1915 and *Bronxville*, New York in 2012—a sweeping historical love story steeped in the author's Armenian heritage, making it his most personal novel to date.

When Elizabeth Endicott arrives in Syria she has a diploma from Mount Holyoke College, a crash course in nursing, and only the most basic grasp of the Armenian language. The First World War is spreading across Europe and she has volunteered on behalf of the Boston-based *Friends of Armenia* to deliver food and medical aid to refugees of the Armenian Genocide. There Elizabeth becomes friendly with Armen, a young Armenian engineer who has already lost his wife and infant daughter. When Armen leaves *Aleppo* to join the British army in Egypt, he begins to write Elizabeth letters, and comes to realize that he has fallen in love with the wealthy, young American woman who is so different from the wife he lost. Flash forward to the present, where we meet Laura Petrosian, a novelist living in suburban New York. Although her grandparents' ornate Pelham home was affectionately nicknamed "The Ottoman Annex," Laura has never really given her Armenian heritage much thought. But when an old friend calls, claiming to have seen a newspaper photo of Laura's grandmother promoting an exhibit at a Boston museum, Laura embarks on a journey back through her family's history that reveals love, loss – and a wrenching secret that has been buried for generations.

For more information visit: www.chrisbohjalian.com

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