

# ARMENIAN VOICE



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CENTRE FOR  
ARMENIAN INFORMATION  
AND ADVICE

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FUNDED BY THE LONDON BOROUGH OF EALING & HOUNSLOW

THIS ISSUE OF ARMENIAN VOICE IS  
DEDICATED TO THE 1,500,000+1  
MARTYRES OF THE ARMENIAN  
GENOCIDE AND THE MANY OTHER  
PEOPLE KILLED/UPROOTED FROM  
THEIR HOMES DURING & AFTER THE  
END OF THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE



Here we are.  
100 years later.  
Honouring those who died so that we could live.  
Still waiting for justice. Still under threat and physically  
insecure in many parts of the world.  
Meanwhile we have much to be proud of.  
We have an independent Republic and *Artashk* is free  
from external oppression. Diaspora communities have  
contributed greatly to every host society Armenians have  
settled and in the immortal words of William Saroyan:

*"I should like to see any power of the world destroy this race,  
this small tribe of unimportant people, whose wars have all  
been fought and lost, whose structures have crumbled, literature  
is unread, music is unheard, and prayers are no more  
answered. Go ahead, destroy Armenia. See if you can do it.  
Send them into the desert without bread or water. Burn their  
homes and churches. Then see if they will not laugh, sing and  
pray again. For when two of them meet anywhere in the world,  
see if they will not create a New Armenia."* William Saroyan

## MINISTER OF DIASPORA VISITS HAYASHEN



Dr Hranush Hakobyan, Armenia's Minister of Diaspora, and the longest-serving woman in the National Assembly of Armenia visited Hayashen on 18 November 2014. The Minister was welcomed to Hayashen by CAIA members, volunteers and service users who familiarized her the valuable work and charitable services of CAIA. In her remarks the Minister spoke about issues related to the Republic of Nagorno-Karabagh; recognition of the Armenian Genocide; and strengthening of our homeland as well as relations between Armenia and the Diaspora. Following her remarks, time was allotted for questions and answers during which the Minister addressed all the issues raised by those present. The Minister was in UK in official capacity during which time she also met various other UK Armenians organisations and attended several functions. ■

## ELECTION HUSTINGS AT HAYASHEN



In the run up to UK's General Election, a special hustings event was held on 13 April 2015 at Hayashen by various community organisations to educate and encourage all people to participate in the democratic process as part of their civic duty. Over 50 people from various ethnic backgrounds attended the two-hour event including the prospective parliamentary candidates for the Ealing Central & Acton constituency or their representatives. ■

## CAIA HOLDS SUCCESSFUL AGM



On Saturday 22 November 2014, CAIA held its 28th Annual General Meeting in *Hayashen* with over 100 members taking part either in person or by proxy. (Photo above) During the AGM reports about the key achievements of the CAIA charity and its finances were presented by the chair, Mr. Richard Anooshian, Treasurer Mr. Bosik Gharapetian and CEO Mr. Misak Ohanian. Special guests at the AGM included local Ealing Councillors Yvonne Johnson and Joy Morrissey as well as MP Angie Bray.

## CAIA ON NATIONAL TELEVISION TWICE

In the evening of 15 December 2014, a short feature film was aired about the London Armenian Community and CAIA on the *Community Channel*, which broadcasts on (Sky 539- Virgin Media 233- Freeview 63) and *London Live* (Sky 117- Virgin 159- Freeview 8). The feature can view on: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=D44bPIV92cM>.

On 13 April 2015, *Channel 4 News* visited *Hayashen* and filmed the views of Armenian Senior citizens about the comments made by His Holiness the Pope at a Special Mass at *St. Peter's Basilica*, the day before. He said that humanity had lived through "three massive and unprecedented tragedies" in the last century. "The first, which is widely considered 'the first genocide of the 20th Century', struck your own Armenian people." Pope Francis also referred to the crimes "perpetrated by Nazism and Stalinism" and said other genocides had followed in Cambodia, Rwanda, Burundi and Bosnia. He said it was his duty to honour the memories of those who were killed. "Concealing or denying evil is like allowing a wound to keep bleeding without bandaging it," the Pope added.

The news feature on *Channel 4* can be viewed on: [http://www.channel4.com/news/catch-up/display/playlistref/130415/clipid/130415\\_4ON\\_armenia\\_vt\\_pm\\_1304](http://www.channel4.com/news/catch-up/display/playlistref/130415/clipid/130415_4ON_armenia_vt_pm_1304)

## EASTER SUNDAY FAMILY CELEBRATION



On Sunday 5 April 2015 almost 100 people of all ages celebrated Easter with food, music and festive games at *Hayashen*. This annual event organised by the CAIA with the help of its members and volunteers was particularly memorable because during the event

1- A short illustrative presentation took place to remember and honour former CAIA chairman Souren Grigorian why sadly passed away in March at the young age of 60. (See page 12)

2- CAIA's CEO, Misak Ohanian was presented with an Honorary Award for outstanding service for UK's Armenians community issued by the *Minister of Diaspora of the Republic of Armenia*. The Award was handed to Misak by Minister Armen Liloyan from the Armenian Embassy in UK. Other guests during the festivities included local Ealing Councillors Joy Morrison and John Ball.



## ACTON CHRISTMAS FAIR



On Saturday 13 December over 10 CAIA volunteers took part in the annual *Acton Christmas Fair*. The volunteers spend over 5 hours engaging with local people/community leaders to promote the Armenian community and fundraise for CAIA's charitable activities. ■



## HEATHROW COMMUNITY FUND SUPPORTS CAIA

A community project set up to deliver Healthy Eating workshops to young people and new parents based on Armenian traditional recipes, Middle Eastern and the Mediterranean diet has received a £1000 grant from *Heathrow Community Fund* with the objective of helping to educate and improve diet/eating behaviours.

The workshops will be delivered in CAIA's *Hayashen Community Centre* in Acton for all residents across West London, and is scheduled to start in June 2015.

The CAIA was awarded the donation under *Heathrow Community Fund's Communities Together* grants programme.

According to CAIA's CEO "Many Armenians growing up in the diaspora are in danger of forgetting the traditional recipes of their forefathers. The nutritional benefits of middle eastern and Armenian diets are being lost as Armenians integrate into western society. This workshop will help to educate and transfer culinary skills in a fun and practical way and also encourage inter-generational learning".

*Heathrow Community Fund* is part of an independent grant-making charity set up by Heathrow's owners to support and strengthen local communities close to the airport. In the past two years it has donated more than £1 million through three grant programmes, funding projects which support young people, help protect the environment and support active local communities. Funds come from an annual donation from the airport, donations from airline passengers and fines imposed on aircraft that breach noise limits.

More information about the fund visit: [www.heathrow.com/communityfund](http://www.heathrow.com/communityfund) and for the workshops please register by email [info@caia.org.uk](mailto:info@caia.org.uk)

## CAIA VOLUNTEER SECURES APPRENTICESHIP



The CAIA is happy to announce that one of its volunteers Catherine, has secured an apprenticeship place on *Ealing Council's Pathways Programme*.

19 year old Catherine who left school at GCSE level and had been looking for employment became a volunteer with CAIA in April 2014 where CAIA provided her with experience of the work environment, varied training programmes and support. As a result Catherine has grown in confidence and skills and we are delighted that with her new found confidence and our recommendation and support she was successful in securing this opportunity. The CAIA would like to wish Catherine continued success.

## CAIA ORGANISES SUCCESSFUL MONEY MANAGEMENT & COMBATING FUEL POVERTY WORKSHOPS



On 29 October 2014, 5 February and 27 March 2015, CAIA delivered 5 anti-poverty money management and fuel cost saving/keeping warm workshops in *Hayashen*. As a result of these 5 workshops, almost 60 older people / carers and those subsisting on low incomes benefited by becoming more aware of how to budget, how to cope with the cost of keeping warm and best energy deals. These events were supported by *Ealing Council*, *COSIE Energy Advice* and *Citizens Advice* via *OFGEM*.



## LONDON MAYOR THANKS CHARITIES

On 18 November 2014, trustees and volunteers from CAIA attended a reception at *City Hall* for various West London charities. (Photo below)

London Mayor Boris Johnson thanked the charities for all the work they do for local people and the communities they serve.





# ARMENIAN SENIOR CITIZENS



On 12 December 2014 the annual senior citizens Christmas party took place at *Hayashen* organised by the CAIA for the 28th consecutive year in respect of their dedication and sacrifice they have made to bring up their families.

Over 100 senior citizens, carers and guests such as Hayr Vahan, the Head of the Armenian Church in UK, local MP Angie Bray and others enjoyed a great afternoon of food and entertainment. Cultural entertainment was led by the Seniors who sang and recited poetry, *Oud* player Mr Richard Lapachian and *Mezzo-Soprano* Anais Heghoyan accompanied on the piano by Hayr Vahan who also got everyone to singing together.

The party was organised with the help of many volunteers who decorated the hall, cooked, donated gifts for the Seniors, as well foods donated by *Katsouris Brothers* and *Tesco West Ealing*. Big thanks you also for Mr Raffi Yuredjian who photographed the event. (See above) ■



The Armenian senior citizens club takes place twice a week on Monday and Friday afternoons. Over 200 Seniors benefit from the club attending over 2000 times annually. Transport is provided via CAIA's minibus to those who are frail and unable to use public transport as long as they are residents of London Borough of Hounslow and Ealing who support the club.

The club offers diverse services and activities including hot meals, advice about entitlements or other concerns the Seniors or Carers many have, health promotional talks, an annual seaside outing, Christmas party and the opportunity to play pool, backgammon and of course bingo.

In recognition of the valuable social/cultural role played by the club Ft. Shnork and Ft. Aren from the Armenian Church visited *Hayashen* on 20th February 2015 to meet some of seniors who attend the club where they enjoyed themselves by eating together, sharing stories and singing. (See group photo below) ■





# ARMENIAN COMMUNITY PRE-SCHOOL GROUP



On 15 December 2014, the ACPG (Armenian Community Pre School Group) held its annual Christmas party attended by over 30 parents and children. Many thanks to all the parents for the catering arrangements, Mrs Ano Cholakian for the gifts to the children, Mrs Armineh Sargsyan for operating the group over the past year and all those who kindly support the ACPG during the year, specially *The Benlian Trust* and the *Barkev Kassardjian Sis Trust*.



Eileen Cameron from the Pre-school Learning Alliance spoke to parents and children about oral hygiene on 27 February.



During half terms the ACPG is open for older children which enables siblings to come to *Hayashen* to play and learn together as well as find out what else *Hayashen* offers including how to use the library and the opportunity to volunteer when they are little older. (Photo above & below)



## CHILD PROTECTION WORKSHOP AT HAYASHEN



On the initiative of the CAIA, Ambika Sharma, Children's Safeguarding Development Officer Ealing & Harrow delivered a three hour long Children's Safeguarding training on 24 September 2014 at *Hayashen* benefiting six CAIA and local Armenian community teachers, youth workers, trustees and volunteers. All received certificates for attendance.



## AN INTRODUCTION TO ARMENIAN HISTORY, CULTURE & HERITAGE



During Feb-March 2015, over 50 people from various backgrounds benefited from a 6-part course delivered by various professionals and specialists at Hayashen thanks to the support of Ealing Council's Adult Education Department. CAIA's annual *Armenian History, Culture, & Identity* course held over 6 Sunday provided stimulating learning and networking opportunities in the English language. The course started on 15 February 2015, with Irish photographer Helen Sheehan (above) speaking about "*Armenian Family Stories and Lost Landscapes*". Helen talked for an hour while showing images from the various Armenian towns and villages such as Zeytun and Diyarbakir (Dickranakerd) she had visited to photograph. Helen spoke about the Exhibition Installation she organised in January 2015 held in Istanbul which attracted over 250 visitors and generated a great deal of media attention. Helen also displayed copies of the exhibition catalogue and answered various questions from those present.

Following a short break, actor/presenter Joanne Zorian-Lynn, spoke about her collaboration with Helen to trace her family roots by visiting Diyarbakir. During her visit, Joanne was able to better understand how her great grandmother Sarah and grandfather Yervant, then 10 years old, fled the 1890 pogroms to join her sons who had already dramatically escaped to Manchester.



At the end of her presentation discussion took place about family history and the process of discovery and healing. On 22 February Maria Graham who has a Master's degree in History of Art and Architecture from the University of Reading gave an illustrated and moving talk about the "*First World War and An Armenian War Memorial in Cheshire*" commissioned by the family of 21-year old Haron Baronian who was killed in Mesopotamia in 1917. Maria started by speaking about the Great War which took the life of around three quarters of a million British servicemen and the feelings of shock, loss and grief felt by bereaved families which were compounded by the absence of their loved ones' bodies, a result of the ban on repatriation of the dead. In the absence of a local grave to visit, most families commemorated their dead in some way. Full body figurative sculpture was a popular form of

civic memorialisation following the war, nearly always taking the form of anonymous men, archetypes or allegories. In the second part of her talk, Maria (below) focused on how the Baronian family settled and originally prospered in the 1900's in Manchester only to gradually disintegrate due to one child being killed in the war, another permanently disabled as a result of injuries sustained in the war, lose their fortune in the 1920's economic crash and emigration. Maria concluded her talk by saying that the Knutsford War Memorial today stands outside the Red Cross Headquarters, a short way from the town. A now largely forgotten fact within the local community is that it commemorates an individual British soldier of Armenian descent.



At the end, all those present unanimously agreed that CAIA write a letter to the local council not to forget the identity of this brave soldier killed fighting the Ottoman Turkish government at the same time as they were committed the genocide of his fellow Armenians in Anatolia. The event ended with Maria donating a ceramic poppy to the CAIA from the recent installation from the Tower of London where she had ensured that the name of Haron Baronian was mentioned in the Roll of honor ceremony.



Anne Elizabeth Redgate, (above) a lecturer in History at Newcastle University, who specialises in early medieval Armenian history, gave an illustrated talk on Sunday 1 March about King Gagik Artsruni who build the Aghtamar Church on Lake Van. Ann spoke about national identity, vernacular literature and liturgy, kingship, the use of artistic images to communicate political messages. Her publications include *The Armenians* (1998) and *Religion, Politics and Society in Britain, 800-1066* (2014).





On Sunday 8 March, Martin Essayan, the great grandson of Calouste Gulbenkian, a member of the Board of Trustees of the foundation and responsible for the Armenian Communities Department talked at *Hayashen*. Martin spoke about the life and achievements of Calouste Gulbenkian, an Armenian born in the Ottoman Empire who went on to play a key role in the development of Middle Eastern oil and assembled an outstanding art collection with pieces from all times and all places. During his hour long presentation, Martin described the purpose and humanitarian activities of the *Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation* which now has assets of around € 3 billion and spends over € 100 million per annum. Most of this is in Portugal but the foundation also has offices in London and Paris and an Armenian Communities Department that acts globally in pursuance of its mission "to create a viable future for the Armenian people in which its culture and language are preserved and valued".

At the end of the talk, Martin answered all the questions asked to him as well as patiently listening to all the expectations Armenians have from the Foundation. Copies of the Five-year plan of the Armenian Communities department at the Foundation published in 4-languages were also distributed.



On 15 March, British photojournalist Russell Pollard gave an illustrative talk about his travels to Armenia and *Artsakh*. Russell provided an objective insight into the life and issues faced by people in *Artsakh*, specially the large number of young people who have grown since the war. At the end Russell kindly answered various questions from an independent perspective about Armenian identity. For further information please visit the website [www.Artsakh.Org.UK](http://www.Artsakh.Org.UK) produced by Russell.

In the same afternoon, Rubina Sevadjan, introduced and read excerpts from her newly published book, *In the Shadow of the Sultan*. Rubina is a third generation Diasporan Armenian, whose family left Asia Minor in the 1800s and is now scattered across the world. The narrative of the novel is set during the summer of 1896 in the Ottoman Empire of *Abdul Hamid II*. It tells the story of an

Armenian boy living comfortably with his family until events lead to his setting off on a long journey with his faithful dog at his side. After reading Rubina took questions from those present and sold/signed copies of the book, the income of which the author kindly donated to CAIA. For more information please write to: [intheshadowofthesultan@gmail.com](mailto:intheshadowofthesultan@gmail.com)



*Storytelling in an Armenian diaspora context: Performance and discussion* was the title of the 6th and final session of the course on 22 March delivered by Vergine Gulbenkian (photo below) who has studied drama and researched the rich Armenian oral tradition of story telling.

In an hour long performance Vergine weaved several interlinked stories in an entertaining and touching way, which mesmerised all those present.

At the end of this inspiring performance, there followed questions and answers that was appreciated by all. ■



## ARMENIAN PAVILION AT BOOK FAIR

The opening ceremony of the *Armenian Pavilion* at the *London Book Fair 2015* took place in *Olympia* on 14 April 2015 organised by the *Armenian Embassy* led by His Excellency Dr Armen Sarkissian, Ambassador of Armenia to the *Court of St James's* in the presence of various guests such as community organisations, publishers and authors, from the UK and abroad such as Armenia, Russian, USA.





# HAYASHEN YOUTH CLUB



On 10 October 2014, HAYC welcomed Lilit Nagapetyan to talk about studying and working in Law. She first began with discussing what inspired to study law, her experiences while studying her BA in Russia, and then MA in England. She then focused on different routes one could take to become either a solicitor or a lawyer. The focus then went to her experiences in working for a London firm, and what is expected at that level. The youths asked many questions afterwards, and were clearly interested in Lilit's talk as it was very detailed and insightful. Anyone interested can contact us for her *PowerPoint* presentation.



On 24 October 2014, a very enjoyable and successful *Halloween Party* took place organised by the young people. They decorated *Hayashen*, brought snacks and arranged music and wore various scary costumes! The winner of the best costume was Knar Ghulyan (*group photo above*)  
On 7th November, HAYC welcomed Stephanie Hayter (*Photo top right*) from *The Money Charity* to give a KS3/4 money workshop. This illuminating workshop was very interesting as Stephanie discussed the importance of saving up money, different types of loans, budgeting, how much goes towards bills, living costs, going to university, bringing up children, etc. It was a very important opportunity for our youth to understand the importance of finances as this is an important life skill they need to gain. So important that it is also now part of the school curriculum. After the talk the young people asked many ques-



tions as they were clearly motivated by the subject which helped them gain new knowledge about managing and saving money.

On 23 January 2015, HAYC welcomed *Migrant and Refugee Communities Forum's* Community Organiser Krissie Nicolson, who led an interactive workshop about the *Forum Leadership Academy*. She started with a fun exercise where young people stood in three separate spaces, each space representing whether they agreed, not sure or disagreed with a specific statement concerning young people. The exercise made the young people to think and literary vote with their feet! At the end of the workshop there followed a debate with the youth expressing their views and knowledge on a wide spectrum of issues concerning themselves as Armenians and as young Britons. The overall message of the workshop was to get involved in society and not to remain indifferent because those who do, allow others to make decisions for them, which sometimes young people may not share or agree with.



On 20 February HAYC welcomed student Raphael Gregorian (*photo below*) to give a talk about how to start your own university society as well as receiving grants for higher education. In his illustrated talk, Raphael explained ways in which you can obtain funding from university to start your own society. As a member of the *SOAS Armenian Society*, Raphael also spoke about their activities and joint collaborations with other societies to raise awareness about the Armenian culture and issues. At the end of the talk Raphael showed a video of the *Hrant Dink Commemoration* event held outside of *SOAS University* which can be viewed on line via *Youtube*. At the end, the young people asked many questions and were clearly inspired and excited to become active once they attend university as well.





On 6 March 2015, HAYC organised a *Girls Only* session Lena Keshishian. (Photo below on the left)  
The workshop was about fitness, wellness, confidence building and self defence for girls not martial arts. Lena spoke about her experience of taking part in various Tak Won Town competitions and brought along medals and belts she has won over the years. Lena also introduced the Kickstart charity she set up which offers trainings. For more information visit: [www.kickstartcharity.org.uk](http://www.kickstartcharity.org.uk)



On 20 March HAYC welcomed award winning London-born Armenian film director Garo Berberian to talk about film making. He spoke about his use of traditional film editing equipment before the digital era. He also gave great insight into his experiences on set and showed clips of different short films, adverts and documentaries he has made.

In April Garo is accompanying Historian Ara Sarafian, Director of the *Gomidas Institute* to Eastern Turkey to film the programme for centennial commemoration of the Armenian Genocide in the towns of Bitlis, Mutki and Diyarbakir. The focus will be a common understanding of the terrible events of 1915 and their legacy over the past 100 years as well as to build bridges between Armenians, Kurds, Assyrians and Turks for a better future together. At the end of his very inspiring talk, Garo agreed to help the young people to make a short film of their own about the *Hayashen Armenian Youth Club*. Should anyone be interested please contact Argam at CAIA.



## CONGRATULATIONS TO TALIN ASLANIAN



Congratulations to Talin Aslanian, 16, of Bishop Ramsey sixth form in Ruislip, (2nd from left in above photo) who was elected along with 2 other schoolchildren in the Borough of Hillingdon's UK Youth Parliament elections after canvassing in schools across the borough. Before starting her term of office as the borough's UKYP representative for 2015-16, Taline and her two colleagues met Cllr David Simmonds, deputy leader of Hillingdon Council, and Tom Murphy, Head of Early Intervention Services, at the Civic Centre to discuss their priorities for the year ahead.

Cllr Simmonds said: "It is good to know that young people in the borough are enthusiastic about the democratic process and campaigning about important issues."

## CAIA PARTICIPATES IN WORLD ARMENIAN YOUTH NETWORK CONFERENCE IN BUDAPEST



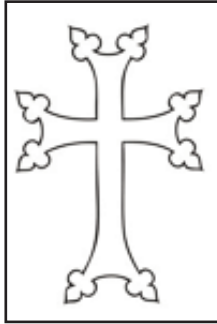
During the week of 17-23 November 2014, CAIA staff member Lucine Shahbazian attended a study session organised by WostAYN (World Armenian Youth Network) held at the Council of Europe Youth Centre in Budapest. WostAYN is an organisation that works to support and promote cooperation between diaspora communities and Armenia, and promote youth groups working together at a national and international level. The study session brought together 31 participants from 11 countries from Armenia, the Russian Federation and all over Europe.

Over the week there were lectures and workshops on subjects including theories around peace-building, non-formal education, conflict resolution, exploration of ideas for practical projects, project management and fund-raising. One of the highlights of the week was visiting the Armenian Cultural Centre in Budapest which included a concert followed by a talk about the work of the centre and the Armenian community, which although very small has got special recognition as a minority group in Hungary due to the length of time Armenians have been settled there.

For more information visit: [www.wostayn.net](http://www.wostayn.net)



## CONDOLENCES



It is with great sadness that CAIA has to announce the passing away of its former Chairman (photo below) Souren Grigorian (1955-2015) after a long and brave struggle against cancer during the past several years. The very dear husband of Mina, much loved and loving father of Andreas and Mateos, Souren will be greatly missed by all members of his family and friends who knew, loved and respected him. His spirit will live through them and us all. Internment took place at Gunnersbury Cemetery on 20 March 2015.



The CAIA extends its deepest condolences to the family Mrs Vartoohi Navasartian-Grigorian, loving mother and grandmother and devoted wife of Mr Sarkis Grigorian who in the course of few weeks was bereaved twice. She will be greatly missed by all members of her family and friends as a regular at the Armenian Senior Club at Hayashen. Internment took place at Gunnersbury Cemetery on 17 February 2015.

### ARMENIAN VOICE ADVERTISING RATES

One Advertisement	
Full Page (A4)	£150
Half Page (A5)	£110
Quarter Page (A6)	£ 80
Minimum Size	£ 40

Four Advertisements	
Full Page (A4)	£500
Half Page (A5)	£380
Quarter Page (A6)	£280
Minimum Size	£120

Above is based on the production of  
good quality colour Pdf/digital artwork ready to print.



British-born Lena Adishian wanted to do her part to commemorate the centennial of the Armenian Genocide. She asked herself, "How can we celebrate our survival as Armenians and communicate our history and culture in a modern way?" The answer became the "The 100 Years, 100 Facts Project," ([100years100facts.com](http://100years100facts.com)) launched on April 24 and spanning 2014 to 2015. These years are the threshold to the centennial, sure, but they also represent our age today, when computers, the internet, and social media are the most powerful means to convey messages to large audiences.

The 100 Years, 100 Facts Project keeps interested readers informed with new facts twice a week. The website houses the content, including links to resources for further reading. Through social media activities on Facebook, Twitter, Reddit, Instagram and Google+, the project works to raise awareness, followers and users. As of December 2014, the project has published 69 facts, reaching over 20,000 readers, in all 50 United States and over 100 foreign countries. The most popular fact by far, "The first European coffee-shops were established by Armenians" has had over 11,000 page views. The project as a whole has been translated into Portuguese and French, with additional translations on the horizon.

"The 100 Years, 100 Facts Project is an educational initiative at heart," Lena says. "There are articles on history, music, religion, profiles of famous figures, write-ups on Diaspora communities around the world, and of course some facts on the Armenian Genocide, too. All of it is meant to celebrate our people, our nation, our culture, and the challenges we have overcome, while making meaningful contributions to the world."

Lena Adishian is not in it alone. Now living in Los Angeles, she got in touch with an old friend, Nareg Seferian, who is based in Yerevan. Nareg does the research and initial drafting of the facts, they exchange feedback from California to Armenia, ultimately sharing the facts with the world.

For more details visit [100years100facts.com](http://100years100facts.com) and sign up for newsletter.

### NEW GLOBAL PRIZE AS PART OF 100 LIVES INITIATIVE

On 11 March, 2015, George Clooney joined humanitarian leaders to launch a new global prize, the Aurora Prize for Awakening Humanity, as part of the 100 LIVES initiative in New York. Mr. Clooney and 100 LIVES co-founder Ruben Vardanyan discussed their goals to combat genocide and explained how apathy—one of the biggest challenges to addressing the issue—must be confronted by real and sustained awareness: "We really want people to get involved with 100 LIVES," said Clooney, "to celebrate those that overcome adversity and give back to others, just as the Armenian community is doing in this centenary year." "The humanity, generosity, strength and sacrifice shown by those who saved so many Armenians compels us to tell these stories," added Vardanyan. "Now is the time to shine a light on those most extraordinary lives, to build on the lessons they teach us, and to express our gratitude for what they did."

The Aurora Prize will be given to those who put themselves at risk and enable others to survive and thrive. Its annual grant of \$1 million will be awarded to a recipient who will, in turn, present it to the organization identified as the inspiration for their action. Mr. Clooney will award the inaugural Prize at a ceremony in Yerevan, Armenia on 24 April, 2016. <http://edelman.isebox.net/100lives>.



## THANK YOU TO ALL OUR DONORS

The CAIA is grateful to all the following for their kind donations. Their generosity is highly appreciated and most welcome.

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#### To donate on line

<https://mydonate.bt.com/donation/donation.html>



To donate by Text over the phone please text "CAIA01" followed by your donation to 70070.



You can also follow our latest activities on facebook via <https://www.facebook.com/Hayashen>

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## Programme of Armenian Studies

Հայագիտական Ուսմանց Ծրագիր

## WESTERN ARMENIAN

### Summer Intensive Courses in London

Our Summer Intensive Courses give students the confidence to read, write, speak and understand Western Armenian. Each course consists of 100 classroom hours taught by Dr Krikor Moskofian (SOAS, University of London). Semi-catered accommodation is available.

#### WESTERN ARMENIAN 1 | MONDAY 6 JULY UNTIL THURSDAY 30 JULY 2015

Western Armenian 1 is designed for beginners. It will provide students with the essential tools for using language. By the end of the course, students will be able to engage in simple conversations with native speakers, write simple sentences and read basic texts.

#### WESTERN ARMENIAN 2 | MONDAY 3 AUGUST UNTIL THURSDAY 27 AUGUST 2015

By the end of the course, students should be able to engage in conversations with native speakers on most topics relating to daily life, produce writing of a reasonable complexity, and to read the kind of texts available in newspapers.

#### SCHOLARSHIPS | DEADLINE: FRIDAY 15 MAY 2015

A number of full scholarships are available to cover students' tuition fees. These are awarded as short-term Armenian Studies Scholarships by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation. Please contact us for more information.

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## BOOK REVIEWS

### ***An Inconvenient Genocide - Who Now Remembers the Armenians?***

By Geoffrey Robertson QC - Hardback, 304 pages - ISBN: 9781849547789

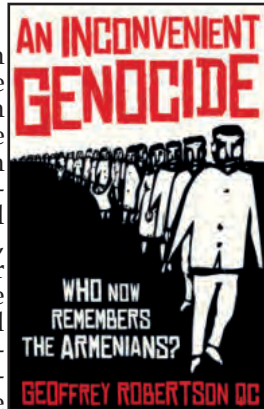
The most controversial question that is still being asked about the First World War - was there an Armenian genocide? - will come to a head on 24 April 2015, when Armenians worldwide will commemorate its centenary and Turkey will deny that it took place, claiming that the deaths of over half of the Armenian race were justified. This has become a vital international issue. Twenty national parliaments in democratic countries have voted to recognise the genocide, but Britain and the USA continue to equivocate for fear of alienating their NATO ally.

Geoffrey Robertson QC condemns this hypocrisy, and in *An Inconvenient Genocide* he proves beyond reasonable doubt that the horrific events in the Ottoman Empire in 1915 constitute the crime against humanity that is today known as genocide. He explains how democracies can deal with genocide denial without infringing free speech, and makes a major contribution to understanding and preventing this worst of all crimes. His renowned powers of advocacy are on full display as he condemns all those - from Sri Lanka to the Sudan, from Old Anatolia to modern Syria and Iraq - who try to justify the mass murder of children and civilians in the name of military necessity or religious fervour.

***KOMITAS The Artist and The Martyr* by Serge Momjian - Paperback 227pages -ISBN-13: 978-1857568325**

Komitas is the skilful artist-priest who tours the remote villages in his homeland, collecting and transcribing folk songs. His long, scrupulous research work as an ethnomusicologist enables him to trace the pre-Christian roots of Armenian sacred music, and bring its folk music to a high standard. He lectures on these topics at the International Musical Society, to which he is admitted as the first non-European member. He plays there a crucial role in introducing the unique musical heritage of Eastern cultures to the West.

Although he is a celebrity musician and his lectures and songs are widely acclaimed, his secular performances of sacred music in his homeland and abroad put him on a collision course with the conservative clergy of his church, opening the gates of hell upon him. On the night of 24 April 1915 known as *Red Sunday* Komitas is arrested along with 200 Armenian intellectuals and community leaders and deported far inland by the Ottoman government as a prelude to a premeditated plan to annihilate the Armenian population of Anatolia. Though he is among the few who are reprieved, the terrible nightmare he has experienced, from which he never mentally recovers, takes him into asylums, where he spends the last twenty years of his life in seclusion, his complex inner world governed by the ineradicable images of his past. This compelling book, based on concrete facts and events and written in commemoration of the centenary of the



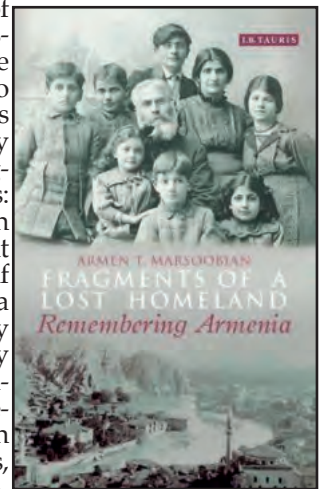
Armenian Genocide, serves to make past periods and people come alive in an entertaining dialogue.

#### **About the Author**

Serge Momjian studied journalism in London and has a degree course in fiction writing. He has worked as a reporter, including Beirut's *Daily Star* newspaper and London's *Events* news magazine. He wrote novels by the time he reached his forties. These include *Conflicting Motives*, *The Invisible Line*, *The Singer of the Opera* and *Memories of the Past*. During his literary career his innovative writings have brought him praise and a good reputation. *Komitas, The Artist and The Martyr* is written in commemoration of the centenary of the Armenian Genocide.

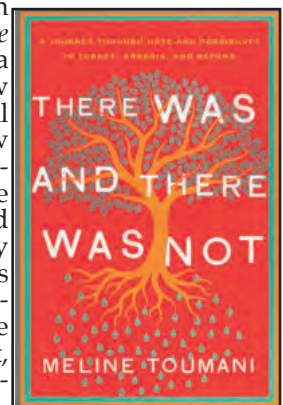
***Fragments of a Lost Homeland: Remembering Armenia* by Armen T. Marsoobian, Hardback, IB Tauris**

The Armenian world was shattered by the 1915 genocide. Not only were thousands of lives lost but families were displaced and the narrative threads that connected them to their own past and homelands were forever severed. Many have been left with only fragments of their family histories: a story of survival passed on by a grandparent who made it through the cataclysm or, if lucky, an old photograph of a distant, silent, ancestor. By contrast the Dildilian family chose to speak. Two generations gave voice to their experience in lengthy written memoirs, in diaries and letters, and most unusually in photographs and drawings. Their descendant Armen T. Marsoobian uses all these resources to tell their story and, in doing so, brings to life the pivotal and often violent moments in Armenian and Ottoman history from the massacres of the late nineteenth century to the final expulsions in the 1920s during the Turkish War of Independence. Unlike most Armenians, the Dildilians were allowed to convert to Islam and stayed behind while their friends, colleagues and other family members perished in the death marches of 1915-1916. Their remarkable story is one of survival against the overwhelming odds and survival in the face of peril.



***There Was and There Was Not: A Journey Through Hate and Possibility in Turkey, Armenia, and Beyond* by Meline Toumani**

A young Armenian-American goes to Turkey in a "love thine enemy" experiment that becomes a transformative reflection on how we use-and abuse-our personal histories. Meline Toumani grew up in a close-knit Armenian community in New Jersey where Turkish restaurants were shunned and products made in Turkey were boycotted. The source of this enmity was the Armenian genocide of 1915 at the hands of the Ottoman Turkish government, and Turkey's refusal to acknowledge it. Century onward, Armenian and Turkish lobbies spend hundreds of millions of dollars to convince governments, courts and scholars of their clashing versions of history.





Frustrated by her community's all-consuming campaigns for genocide recognition, Toumani leaves a promising job at *The New York Times* and moves to Istanbul. Instead of demonizing Turks, she sets out to understand them, and in a series of extraordinary encounters over the course of four years, she tries to talk about the Armenian issue, finding her way into conversations that are taboo and sometimes illegal. Along the way, we get a snapshot of Turkish society in the throes of change, and an intimate portrait of a writer coming to terms with the issues that drove her halfway across the world.

In this far-reaching quest, told with eloquence and power, Toumani probes universal questions: how to belong to a community without conforming to it, how to acknowledge a tragedy without exploiting it, and most importantly how to remember a genocide without perpetuating the kind of hatred that gave rise to it in the first place.

**THE FALL OF THE OTTOMANS:  
The Great War in the Middle East  
by Eugene Rogan, Hardback, ISBN: 978-0-465-02307-3**

Rogan (*Modern History of the Middle East/St. Antony's Coll., Oxford Univ.; The Arabs: A History, 2009, etc.*) corrects Western assumptions about the "sick man of Europe." In this well-researched, evenhanded treatment of the Ottomans' role in World War I, especially in its assessment of the Armenian genocide of 1918, the author delineates the urgent internal and external causes spurring the crumbling Turkish empire to seek a defensive alliance with Germany and counter Britain, France and Russia when war broke out in 1914. The coalition of fiery Young Turks had risen against the aging autocratic sultan and demanded a restoration of the constitution in 1908, but during the tumult, they allowed Turkey's European neighbors to annex more territory.

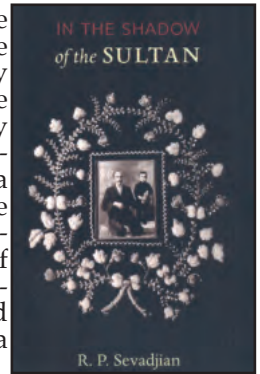


Russia's territorial ambitions were most feared, while Britain and France could not be trusted. The war became a "global call to arms" for all parties, with the Ottomans declaring a jihad in order to unite Muslims. Rogan walks through the "opening salvos" of the war, at Basra, Aden and Egypt, showing the vulnerability of the Ottoman defenses; yet the Ottomans showed enormous spirit and ingenuity against the Entente assault on the Dardanelles in February 1915. Rogan elucidates the Allied debacle at Gallipoli-although the lack of maps is frustrating-a reckless campaign he blames more on Lord Kitchener than on Winston Churchill and which provoked a government crisis back in Britain. The dire campaigns in Mesopotamia, Suez and Palestine were not a "sideshow" to be dismissed by the Allied planners in their hopes for a quick victory over a weak Ottoman Empire. Actually, they produced-through the Arab Revolt galvanized by T.E. Lawrence and the drafting of the *Sykes-Picot Agreement* and the *Balfour Declaration*-an uneasy armistice and partition that promised to be deeply divisive for another century. An illuminating work that offers new understanding to the troubled history of this key geopolitical region.

***In The Shadow of The Sultan* by R. P. Sevadjian**

An historical coming of age novel. This is the story of a boy in his early teens, who leaves his home and journeys 200 miles to his grandmother's town. He makes the 21 day journey in the company of his beloved dog (Kaylo) and amule (Vartoug). The story is set in the late summer of 1896, during the height of the Hamidiyan Massacres in Asia Minor. These were a prelude to the Armenian Genocide of 1915, and the story shows that the seeds of

Genocide were sown long before then. The story is written in the hope that it will be read by teenagers, young adults and those who have little or no familiarity with Armenian history of the period. The narrator grows from a happy, pampered boy into a mature youngster who can make hard decisions for himself. It is a coming of age story, and a story about irredeemable loss. His old life ends, and he is pushed by events into taking a certain path in his life.



This is an adventure story of survival and self-discovery. The politics have been kept to a minimum as a young teenager probably would not have been discussing it in detail. Hopefully, the story will provide an insight to the way of life for Armenians at the time. Details of distances, phases of the moon, days of the week etc. bring the story to life. Foreign words have been footnoted and a glossary provided, as well as a list of personal names and their meanings. There are also short historical notes to guide the reader. The book has been written as a continuous narrative, without chapter headings. However it clearly falls into two parts: before and after the event that changed the boy's life.

The maturing of the boy is shown through his actions when he meets various people on his journey; kind people, bad people, helpless people. An elderly adventurer called Baron Garabed, who helps him early in his journey, provides some more background to the story.

The psychological implications of violence - graphically described in the narrative - often results in trauma. This, in certain types of behaviour, is hinted at in the text: a coldness, false bravery, survivor's guilt, haunting and recurring nightmares.

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

R. P. Sevadjian is a third generation Diasporan Armenian, whose family left Asia Minor in the 1800s and was scattered across the world, no member remaining in their ancestral homelands. For further information, contact [inthesadowofthesultan@gmail.com](mailto:inthesadowofthesultan@gmail.com)

***The Cry of Silence - Traces of an Armenian Memory* by Antoine Agoudjian - Hardcover 160 pages - 113 color & black & white photos - ISBN: 9782080202161**

Twenty-seven years ago, Antoine Agoudjian, the grandson of survivors of the 1915 genocide, embarked on a search for places steeped in the history of his ancestors. Starting in Armenia and the Caucasus, his continuing work on remembrance brought him to



Jerusalem, Lebanon, Syria, Turkey, Iraq, and Iran.

Through the aesthetic power of his photographs combined with the integrity of his approach, Antoine Agoudjian positions himself as a witness, questioning and transmitting a message of hope—that of the indomitable strength of the human spirit.

Photography, which became an important vehicle for his emotions, has given true meaning to his quest for identity. On the occasion of the centenary of the Armenian genocide, his life's work is brought together in a poignant volume, exploring the history of his people while also reflecting contemporary struggles against intolerance and discrimination.



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- Promote Armenian History, Culture and Events
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