

ARMENIAN VOICE



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CENTRE FOR
ARMENIAN INFORMATION
AND ADVICE

NEWSLETTER FOR THE LONDON - ARMENIAN COMMUNITY. AUTUMN 2015 No. 66

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Website: www.caia.org.uk Facebook: www.facebook.com/Hayashen

FUNDED BY THE LONDON BOROUGH OF EALING & HOUNSLOW



His Grace Bishop Hovakim Manukyan, the new Primate of the Armenian Church of the UK and Ireland, visited Hayashen on 3 July 2015 to introduce himself.

**YOU CAN NOW SUPPORT CAIA's
CHARITABLE WORK VIA THE
"Donate Now" BUTTON ON
www.facebook.com/Hayashen**

Your donation enables us to continue to deliver much needed services for the Armenian community. Currently we have an OFSTED registered Parent & Toddler Group, Youth Club, a reference library, Quality marked Advice & Health Services as well as our Elders Lunch Club which provide many with an opportunity to maintain relationships and ward off isolation. We are also able to provide transportation for the less able members of our community through the use of our own minibus. We also publish and distribute the "Armenian Voice" newsletter to our database of 3000 Armenians in the UK to ensure that community information is shared. In order to continue and potentially extend our services your support is vital and allows this to happen. Thank You. ■



Some of the many volunteers who help you receive *Armenian Voice* twice a year. Thank you to all our volunteers for giving their time when it is needed.





EALING WOMEN OF THE YEAR AWARDS



The first ever *Ealing Women of the Year Awards* took place at the Rickyard, Walpole Park, West Ealing on 14 June.

20 women were recognised for their outstanding contributions under the following 7 categories, Education, Sports, Mum/Carer, Community leader/ campaigner, Arts, Enterprise/Business and Outstanding achievement. The 6-hour event included pampers sessions, workshops, information, music and the award ceremony during which all the nominees were recognised. The CAIA was pleased to nominate and publicly acknowledge the outstanding contribution of the following two people.

Diane John has contributed greatly to the CAIA and has many professional skills, which she has shared with the charity, specifically in IT, PR, HR and marketing. During the course of this process she became a member of the Charity and at the AGM in November 2014, she was elected a Trustee/Director of CAIA. Diane has helped to organise CAIA volunteers, the production of a CAIA's website and much more whilst also running her own business, caring for her elderly parents, and looking after her family.

Elizabeth Awaniss (photo above with new local MP Rupa Huq) has contributed a great deal to the CAIA in various ways that no other person has. Elizabeth created a garden in the small courtyard of *Hayashen*. As well as spending her time volunteering, she purchased with her limited funds everything from pots, soil, and flowers. She cleaned, washed and has maintained the garden as if it was her own, she brought new chairs and made a lovely sitting area for children/older people to enjoy. The area is now somewhere people like to sit and spend time in.

Elizabeth lost her mother a few months ago and had to travel back to Poland. However as soon as she returned she continued where she left off, working hard to make the centre a welcoming and inviting place for everyone. Elizabeth and Diane are just two of many unsung community supporters which make the CAIA tick. ■

LA Based Asbarez publishes article about CAIA - 1st July 2015

written by Catherine Yesayan

After an hour and a few underground line changes I arrived at the Acton Town subway station. I was going to meet Misak Ohanian, the CEO and the founder of CAIA (*Center for Armenian Information and Advice*).

While I was still in Glendale, before my trip to London, I had already exchanged emails with him. We had arranged to meet at the Center also known as *Hayashen*, on the first Friday after my arrival in London. The center is open for members on Fridays and Mondays.

The London Underground, also known as the "Tube," seemed to me more complicated than the Paris metro. However, the Tube has many attendants who are readily available to direct riders to their destination.

I stepped off the subway at *Acton Town station*, and showed the address I had in my hand to an attendant who was standing at the exit. With a courteous manner, he directed me to a map on the wall and showed me how to get there. It was a short five-minute walk. It was drizzling – a typical misty London weather.

I found the *Hayashen* building without any difficulty. I was right on time to have lunch with members. Misak introduced me to some of them. Most were Armenian senior citizens originally from other countries. I also met a Persian man. The center is open to everyone.

There were about two dozen men and women. Some were playing backgammon, some were playing cards and some were at the pool table. The atmosphere was cheerful. Our lunch menu was meatballs with pasta and salad.

I chatted with a few people. Vartan Avanesian was from Iran. He had lost his eye sight due to glaucoma. He had been a teacher in the city of *Rasht* in Iran, and brought his family to London after the Iranian Revolution. He was happy that every Friday and Monday he could come to the center and meet friends.

When I spoke with Clara Garapetian I realized that we had one degree of separation. She was from *Tabriz*, Iran, and she had lived on the same cul-de-sac where my husband's aunt lived. Her story was similar to Vartan's. She and her husband moved to London after the Islamic Revolution, joining their kids who were already there to study.

Then I met 35-year-old Sos Grigorian. He was walking on crutches because he had Cerebral Palsy. His family had moved to London from Yerevan when he was 14 in 1994. He told me that he and his family are so grateful to Misak and to the center because when they came to London, they didn't know their way around. Misak gave them guidance and helped them to settle and get help from the government. After lunch, the members celebrated two birthdays. They brought in two cakes, one for *digin Azadouhi* and



Catherine Yesayan with Misak Ohanian

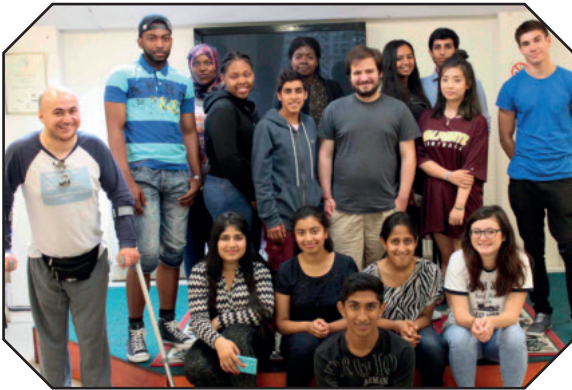
another for digin Siran. They sang Armenian and English versions of *Happy birthday*, twice for each of the birthdays. After lunch and the birthday celebrations, it was time for bingo. The members settled in to play, while Misak gave me a tour of the *Hayashen*.

The CAIA is a registered Charity in England. The principal focus of the center is to provide welfare and to give advice on immigration, housing and employment, so new immigrants can easily integrate into British society. Besides the elderly program, they also provide free day care twice a week for toddlers. Misak and his family are from Cyprus. He with his parents moved to London when he was 11 years old, in 1967. The idea of starting a center came naturally, after he married and had a son. He and his wife felt that they needed an Armenian Nursery for their child. So they started a nursery in 1986 which it turned into what it is today – A Center for Armenian Information and Advice. The Center has a good strategical location. It is in Acton Town, a borough of Ealing, where about 800 Armenian families live. It is a three story building. The hall that they use for gatherings and elderly lunch is in the first floor. The middle floor is the administrative offices and the top floor is occupied by a reference Library which has a very impressive collection of old Armenian papers since 1895. Hayashen besides having part-time child-care and a senior citizen club, it also has a youth club, and offers health outreach programs. Often professionals are invited to give nutritional or cultural workshops.

Today the Center boasts 400 paid members. The membership fee is £15 a year. Most of the expenses are subsidized by Ealing City Council and other fundraisings they have during the year.

To say I was impressed about Misak Ohanian and what he has accomplished, it won't be enough. *Hayashen* is truly a beacon of hope for the Armenian community of London.

THANK YOU CHALLENGE NETWORK



On 27 September HAYC welcomed schoolchildren from the Challenge Network for their annual *Hayashen* 'Spring cleaning' session. As usual the day went really well as they were able to give *Hayashen* a good clean. The group worked really hard and managed to make the forecourt, hall, staircase and library look bright and new.

To reward them, the day ended with a cooking workshop where they were learned how to make Armenian *borek*. After helping with making the dish the group tucked in and really enjoyed the meal.

Overall the session was really successful and it is always a pleasure having the Challenge group help maintain *Hayashen*.

The same group of young volunteers also spend several hours promoting Armenian Culture and fundraising for CAIA on Sunday 20 September outside *Morrisons* Supermarket in Acton. (Photos on the right)

A big thank you to all the young people, volunteers and CAIA members who contributed to both these events. ■

INTRODUCTION TO ARMENIAN HISTORY, CULTURE & IDENTITY COURSE

The CAIA thanks to a small grant from 'Ealing Adult Education Department' 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 anyone with an interest in history, culture and heritage.

This course is designed by way of introduction to increase knowledge of Armenian history, culture, identity & dispersion and to enable adults/young people to understand better about where, why and how Armenians have arrived in UK and the challenges facing them.

2016 Dates - Time: 1.30pm – 4.30pm

Sunday 7 February – Registration & Induction 1.00-2.00pm (or by post/email via info@caia.org.uk)

Sunday 14 February – *A History of Armenian Photography and Armenian History through Photography* – Dr David Low

Sunday 21 February – *Daylight After a Century* - George Jerjian

Sunday 28 February – *Armenia's economic and political challenges since Ukrainian crisis, additional discussion on emigration and growing alienation of Diaspora from Armenia* - Lilit Gevorgyan

Sunday 6 March – *Medieval Mystic and Majestic Poet: Krikor Narekatsi and the 10th–12th Century Armenian Renaissance* - Eddie Arnavouodian

Sunday 13 March – TBC-

Sunday 20 March – *Introduction to Armenian ethnographic folk dances, discussion of the significance of regional variations and folk rituals* - Shakeh Major Tchilingirian



ARMENIAN SENIOR CITIZENS



Ceza Ouzounian who has worked for the NHS in various capacity delivered two informative and enjoyable nutrition workshops on 8 May and 10 July 2015 to promote a healthier lifestyle to Senior Citizens and Carers. Ceza spoke about healthy eating, foods, diet, nutrition products and other aspects of health and wellness. She also distributed sample nutrition products which was welcomed by all those present.



Since April 2015, thanks to a small public health grant by Hounslow Council CAIA has been able to organise monthly Armenian dance/movement workshops at the Seniors Citizens Club. The workshops have been delivered by acclaimed solo dance artist and choreographer Shakeh Major-Tchilingirian whom film-maker Atom Egoyan has described as "mesmerising". The purpose of the Armenian dance/movement sessions is to reduce feelings of cultural isolation in an enjoyable physical activity which we hope also will improve their emotional well-being generally. The workshops are aimed at those aged 60+ and Carers last approximately 45 minutes and so far have been very enjoyable and rewarding. Visit CAIA's website for workshop dates.

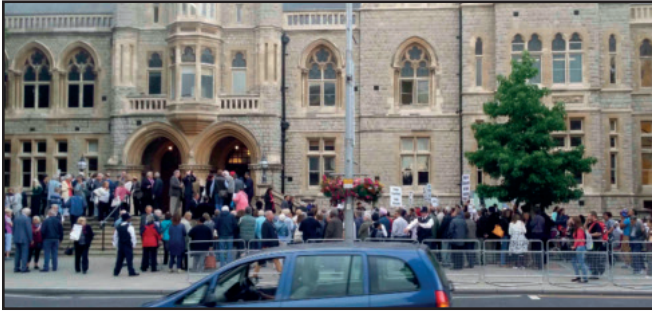


Dancing /moving sitting down or standing up.



On 29 July over 50 senior citizens and carers spend a very enjoyable seaside outing to Eastbourne

DID YOU KNOW?



Several hundred older people from diverse communities protested outside *Ealing Town Hall* on 28 July 2015 to highlight the fact that *Ealing Council* had allocated the entire voluntary sector older people service budget to one organization. The protest was organised by a consortium which included *CAIA*, *Age UK Ealing*, *Southall Day Centre*, *the United Anglo-Caribbean Society*, *the Alzheimer's Society* and *MIND*.

All of the above organisation care passionately about services to older people and have 170 years' worth of combined experience of providing services to older people within the borough of Ealing which depend on some funding from *Ealing Council*. All provide vibrant activities at various locations throughout the borough which are a huge means of support for older people and their carers. Despite the protest, petition of over 5000 signatures, appeal letters from various individuals and organisations (including one from *The Armenian Community Council*) to local councillors and newspapers, council officers stood by their original decision after 'reconsideration'.

Unfortunately this situation has been brought about as a direct result of the way that the council have decided to allocate the funds and has nothing to do with the overall level of funding available or cuts the council has to make. Now, many older people have been left isolated which will have a significant impact on their emotional and physical wellbeing. This in turn will put pressure on health and social care systems. Being able to access a service how,



when and where required is fundamental to dignity and respect for older people. Under the circumstances and the fact that *Ealing Council* no longer provides any direct grants to the *CAIA*, we have had to reluctantly reduce the number of days the Senior Citizens club operates. As from October, the Monday club has ceased and now operates only on Fridays but even this is unsustainable in the long run. The club has been the main focal point of support for hundreds of Senior Citizens since 1994 offering a variety of informative health talks/workshops, recreational activities, nutritious meals, cultural events, free mini-bus service to frail and disabled to help attend and advice on entitlements, housing, debts/utility bills, etc. Annually 150+ people benefit from the provision attending over 2,200 times. ■

SUPPORTING HOUNSLOW CARERS

Being a carer for a relative who is disabled or elderly can be both a stressful and rewarding experience. It can also affect your self-confidence and make you less assertive when dealing with the authorities. It was with this in mind that *CAIA* liaised with the "Community Partnership Carers Services" funded by the London Borough of Hounslow to put on two successful one-day workshops at the *CAN Mezzanine/Treaty Centre*, for carers living in the borough on 28 September and 5 October 2015. The workshops were facilitated by Alison Shuttle of 'Access Careers' who has also run similar workshops in the past.



On the confidence-building workshop, delegates were taught a range of skills to boost their confidence and self-esteem with a view to seeking work and also with dealing with issues in their personal life. The Assertiveness Training workshop encouraged attendees to learn how to say 'no', give and receive criticism, identify the difference between being passive, aggressive and assertive whilst at the same time, improving their time management skills. By the end of the courses, attendees felt much more positive about their future and provided excellent feedback.

These workshops were the second of a series with a two-day Employability Skills Course taking part in July also organised at the *CAN Mezzanine/Treaty Centre* targeting Carers thinking of improving their prospects of finding work by learning how to write a CV, interview techniques, goal-setting, finding work through the visible and hidden job markets. The course was delivered by Alison Shuttle and will be repeated in February 2016.



A new support service for Carers looking after vulnerable adults and those with chronic illnesses, long term medical conditions, physical disability, sensory impairment and frail older people has been established by a consortium composed of *The Asian Health Agency*, *Southall Day Centre*, *Ealing Carers Centre* and the *CAIA*. The project funded by *Ealing Council* and *Ealing Clinical Commissioning Group* will deliver personalised and flexible short breaks/respite care service for carers incorporating: 24 hour 7 day a week domiciliary care including personal care, emergency care and hospital discharge care packages, night sitting, cooking, cleaning, shopping etc; a home based befriending service, escorting service; day care and centre/community based short breaks; holiday breaks for carers; and respite through enabling carers to participate in social, leisure, educational and cultural activity in community settings. There will also be a multi lingual advice, information, and signposting service and health and wellbeing awareness raising activities and workshops.

For further information please contact *CAIA*. ■

ARMENIAN COMMUNITY PRE-SCHOOL GROUP



CAIA has been organising summer playschemes and outings during the school holidays since 1987. Throughout these years hundreds of young children of Armenian descent have benefited themselves through various educational, recreational, interactive and fun activities. August 2015 was no different. From playing with sand and water in the sunshine of *Hayashen's* garden, to learning how to cook from the older generation to going to *Thorpe Park* to challenge themselves, overcome fears of height and speed, making or strengthening friendships.



CAIA is extremely grateful to the many parents, the *Hilden Charitable Trust* and the *J Lyon's Charity* for supporting the playscheme and outing this year to *Thorpe Park*. Thanks to the enthusiasm and contribution of all the above, they brought lots of joy to over 70 children this summer who otherwise would have been bored and isolated indoors during the school holidays.

During the school term, parents and children under 5 years of age are welcome to *Hayashen* on Mondays and Fridays 10am-12.30pm where structured and informal learning activities are offered to children, new friendship formed, birthdays celebrated as well as free milk provided to the children.



On 19 August over 50 children and parents visited *Thorpe Park* on a sunny day out. For the children, the stimulating day gave them the chance to become physically active waking around the park, eating together, gaining improve their confidence by going on rides, develop relationships with their peers. (More photographs on page 10)



WE REMEMBER AND DEMAND



Armenians and all justice seeking people across the world staged various protest, solidarity and remembrance events marking the 100th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide during the Ottoman Empire throughout 2015. In the UK a whole series of events have been taking place under the auspices the *Armenian Genocide Centenary Commemoration Committee (AGCCC UK)* - for full details visit www.accuk.org.uk

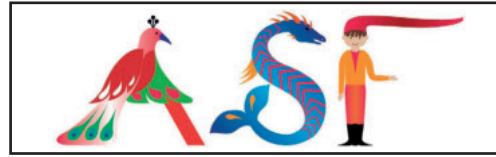


The *Finborough Theatre* staged the production of "I wish to Die Singing" to rave reviews during April 21 - May 16. This powerful new documentary drama brought the story of the Armenian Genocide to a wide

audience by combining vivid characters drawn from survivor testimonies with a final section entirely focused on the current political realities of genocide recognition and non-recognition. It was both informative and moving for the audiences. (Photo above of actress Tamar Karabetyan) Playwright Neil McPherson is Artistic Director of the *Finborough Theatre* who will also be publishing the playscript this year. An earlier version of this production was presented for a sold out short run at the *Finborough Theatre* in 2005 to mark the 90th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, and received a staged reading at the *Hayashen* in 2006.



On 9 May 2015, the 23rd anniversary of the Liberation of Shushi, *Artsakh (NK)* was marked in *Hayashen* organised by Mr Ara Petrosyan, a veteran of the Battalion Shushi. Two documentary films 60 minutes each, produced by Samvel Tadevosyan, a renowned documentary film maker was shown followed by a live *Skype* discussion with the film maker.



On 19 July 2015, on the grounds of *St. Sarkis Church* and *Iverna Gardens* in *Kensington*, the 5th *Armenian Street Festival* took place with the aim of celebrating Armenian culture, heritage and promoting networking/community cohesion across the generations and all local peoples. On a beautiful Sunday morning *CAIA* members/volunteers and various other Armenian charities set up stalls to greet the over 2000 visitors who enjoyed the day which started with a *Medieval Church Procession* in celebration of God's beautiful creation and blessing of the four corners of the earth.

At 1pm *Bishop Hovakim*, new head of the *Armenian Church of UK* and various dignitaries proceeded to the entrance of the Festival for the cutting of the ribbon which signified the start of the Festival. Each visitor to the festival was given a free copy of the festival booklet and names of all participating groups was displayed on the large TV Screen on the specially set up podium where the master of ceremonies made announcements throughout the day including at the end, the results of the much anticipated raffle draw.

The *CAIA's* stall offered an excellent opportunity for members of the public to find out about the charitable work of the *CAIA*, to meet staff/volunteers and to hear from them what services we offers for Armenians and those connected to them across London. *CAIA's* participation was supported by the *RB of Kensington & Chelsea*.

Visitors to the festival were much impressed by the delicious food sold, the diversity of stalls selling Armenian artifacts, bric-a-brac, books, as well as the games and entertainment during the afternoon. This included music by the *Jirair Band*, a concert in *St. Sarkis Church* by violinist *Levon Chilingirian OBE*, followed by the *London Armenian Opera* performing parts of the Opera *Davit Bek* and the performance of *Akhitar Dance Group*. A short video of the day can be viewed on youtube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CBp64jEJh6c>



Seven time winner of British International Journalist award from the *Independent* Robert Fisk gave a talk entitled *The Armenian Genocide a Century* at *University College London* on 8 June 2015 organised by the *UCL Armenian Society* and *AGCCC UK* to a packed diverse audience. The lecture can be seen in full via the following link at:

http://youtu.be/a9UgUCz37_c

HAYASHEN YOUTH CLUB

On 1 May 2015, HAYC had a formal discussion about planning future events/guest speakers for the coming Youth Club Programme. The excellent discussion enabled young people to make suggestions/share ideas for the benefit of young people. Present during the consultation was Ms Diane John from CAIA's Management Committee who was really impressed by the views and initiative of the youth.

On 15 May HAYC welcomed Ms Nara Mackenzie to talk about her internship at Edlman, the public relations firm that was employed by 100 LIVES to raise awareness for the Armenian Genocide and its victims. She gave great insight into the preparation, as well as her daily schedule and the general type work involved. It was really interesting when she explained the high level of confidentiality which was involved, because none other than George Clooney was supporting the campaign. She also explained the future goals of 100 LIVES, such as their humanitarian rights award which will be presented to the winner in Yerevan, Armenia in April 2016. The session clearly inspired our youth members, and after the talk Nara prompted a discussion about what the word 'Genocide' means to young British Armenians.



On 28 May 2015, the CAIA arranged an educational visit to City Hall thanks to the City Hall's Public Liaison Unit to enable young Armenians/Londoners to learn about their city and how it is run. (Photos above)

The evening started with light refreshments and introductions. This was followed by a talk from Richard Nicholson who explained the roles and responsibilities of the GLA, Mayor of London and London Assembly. Following his talk and a short film, a tour of City Hall took place. The 2-hour event was very insightful and appreciated by all those who attended.

On 12 June HAYC welcomed Iman (photo top right) from The Challenge Network who talked about the organisation and specifically about the government backed volunteering program it delivers. The Challenge Network delivers the National Citizens Scheme programme which brings together all 16 and 17 year-olds young people from diverse backgrounds, providing them with strong skills for life, work, and adulthood. Iman showed an excellent PowerPoint



presentation about all aspects of the Challenge, but one in particular, which caused interest from the youth, was the Challenge Summer camping trip, something which HAYC alumni have benefited in the past. After the talk, short discussion and Q & A took place.



On 26 June HAYC had its very own Mikey Kouwiloyan making a short PowerPoint presentation about Campaigning for Creating Awareness of Child Abuse. Mikey has already made this presentation at his school and used it via Twitter campaign to raise awareness about the rights of children. The talk was very insightful as he explained different forms of Child abuse such as for example Emotional Abuse, Sexual abuse, On Line Abuse - Cyberbullying, etc. He also explained about the advantages of using social media to create a awareness for such a serious topic. Mikey also mentioned about how he raised money for the NSPCC through cake sales. After the talk the members asked Mikey questions about his project, such as why he chose this topic which led to an excellent discussion by all those present. Overall, the youth members were very impressed by the talk, especially as Mikey is only 12 years of age and has already achieved so much.



On 17 July, the HAYC welcomed Maral Ovanessoff (above) from Benlian Trust to speak about the history of the London Armenian community and how Mr. Edward Benlian played a pivotal role. Maral began by giving a summarized background of the Armenian diaspora prior to and after the Genocide. She spoke about how Armenians settled in Iran and the role of Armenian merchants establishing communities in India and more exotic countries such as Burma and Singapore. She also spoke

about the life of Mr. Benlian and how at the age of fourteen he inherited his father's business and became a very successful businessman. In addition, Maral described how the *Benlian Trust* generates its income and spends it for the benefit of various UK and Armenian charities as well as individual grants to Armenian students for higher education. Maral's talk was very interesting and informative, and gave young people a better understanding about one of UK Armenians most important and positive institutions.



On Friday 11 September, Nayiri Keshishi made a presentation about employability at HAYC. As part of this a short "team working skills" exercise took place. (Photo above) Nayiri works in the careers department at Kingston University. During the same session, three young people, Atom Clark, Anayis Der Hakopian and Anton Akopian were presented with special CAIA souvenir T-shirts for volunteering for CAIA during the summer holiday and for their various achievements. (Photo below)



HAYC had a two part session on Friday 18 September. First was *Healthy Eating* workshop with young people learning how to make and *Humous* and *Lentil kefte* thanks to master cook Rita Koundarjian. (photo below) The youth, mainly young boys learned the basics of these recipes and enjoyed eating the fruit of their work.



JACK PETCHEY FOUNDATION SCHEME

CAIA is pleased to announce that the Trustees of the *Jack Petchev Foundation* have approved its application to join the achievement award scheme at the *Bronze Level*. This means that the *Hayashen Armenian Youth Cub (HAYC)* can expect to receive a grant of £200 this year in order to recognise the achievements of one of its youth. Annually the club will receive further small grants in recognition of the personal achievements of its youth. In addition, the club is also now eligible to apply for two Educational Visit Grants per calendar year. The approval was made following a visit by one of the grants officers of the Foundation to HAYC in July where she met and spoke to the young people about their interests, aspirations and achievements so far.



As a direct result, on 9 October Anayis Der Hakopian (photo above with certificate) became the first young person from HAYC to be recognised by CAIA and her peers for her outstanding achievements. Specifically in the field of creative media such as animation and film production. Anayis has now joined the *Questors Youth Theatre* to learn acting, lighting which will also help her script writing for the theatre and film making projects in the future. For further information about the Foundation watch www.youtube.com/user/PetchevFoundation



The second session was a talk by Canadian born young Armenian woman Ms Sona Kerim (above) who works as a teacher in East London. Sona spoke about her experiences volunteering in Armenia and what it means to be Armenian in the diaspora which led to an interesting Q & A and debate.

On Friday 9 October acclaimed solo dance artist and choreographer Shakeh Major-Tchilingirian delivered a workshop at HAYC. Shakeh spoke informally about the meaning of some Armenian ethnographic folk dances and the regional variations and encouraged the teenagers to be more proud of this wonderful expression of Armenian identity and culture.

HAYC GO KARTING FUN DAY



On 23 July 2015 over 40 young people enjoyed a great day out at *Brentwood Raceway* after traveling there by coach from *Hayashen* thanks to the support of the *BBC Children In Need*. The youth drove in five groups after undergoing detailed induction cheering each other and later eating together. Many thanks to all the parents who volunteered to help out on the day, specially *Armine Sargsyan*. ■



The five best drivers with their awards



PHOTOGRAPHS FROM TRIP TO THORPE PARK 19 AUGUST



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.

Ms M Abkarian	Mr J Kevorkian
Mrs A Abrahamian	Mrs R Kingwell
Mr R Abrahamian	Mr A Karapetian
Mrs I Aghabekian	Mr & Mrs H Kiremidjian
Mr A Aivazian	Mr A Khachatourian
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Ms H Kaskalian	Mr & Mrs Partzikian
Mr J Kevorkian	Mrs V Gulbenkian
Mrs R Kingwell	Mr V P Shahbazian

DONATE ON LINE TO CAIA

It is now easy to support CAIA's charitable work.

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



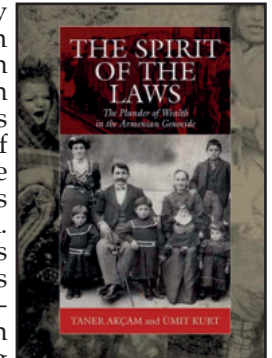
You can also follow our latest activities on facebook via <https://www.facebook.com/Hayashen>

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

BOOK REVIEWS

The Spirit of the Laws - The Plunder of Wealth in the Armenian Genocide - Taner Akcam and Umit Kurt - Translated by Aram Arkun 220 pages, bibliog., index ISBN 978-1-78238-623-0 Hb Published 2015 Published by Berghahn Books

Pertinent to contemporary demands for reparations from Turkey is the relationship between law and property in connection with the Armenian Genocide. This book examines the confiscation of Armenian properties during the genocide and subsequent attempts to retain seized Armenian wealth. Through the close analysis of laws and treaties, it reveals that decrees issued during the genocide constitute central pillars of the Turkish system of property rights, retaining their legal validity, and although Turkey has acceded through international agreements to return Armenian properties, it continues to refuse to do so. The book demonstrates that genocides do not depend on the abolition of the legal system and elimination of rights, but that, on the contrary, the perpetrators of genocide manipulate the legal system to facilitate their plans.



"They Can Live in the Desert but Nowhere Else": A History of the Armenian Genocide (Human Rights and Crimes against Humanity)
Ronald Grigor Suny Hb – 2015

Starting in early 1915, the Ottoman Turks began deporting and killing hundreds of thousands of Armenians in the first major genocide of the twentieth century. By the end of the First World War, the number of Armenians in what would become Turkey had been reduced by ninety percent—more than a million people. A century later, the Armenian Genocide remains controversial but relatively unknown, overshadowed by later slaughters and the chasm separating Turkish and Armenian versions of events. In this definitive narrative history, Ronald Suny cuts through nationalist myths, propaganda, and denial to provide an unmatched account of when, how, and why the atrocities of 1915-16 were committed.

Drawing on archival documents and eyewitness accounts, this is an unforgettable chronicle of a cataclysm that set a tragic pattern for a century of genocide and crimes against humanity.

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A Century of Save the Children's Assistance to Armenian Refugees

On June 20, Save the Children in close partnership with the British Embassy in Armenia organized a photo exhibition on the occasion of the World Refugee Day.

The exhibition told the story of inclusiveness, humanitarian aid, spirit of volunteerism and tolerance.

The cornerstone of the exhibition was the archive photos of Save the Children support provided to Armenian refugees in Syria (who fled Turkey) after World War I, and the assistance that is currently provided to their fourth generation who has taken refuge from Syria to Armenia. The archive photos are courtesy of the British Embassy in Armenia and the London-based Centre for Armenian Information & Advice Hayashen, who kindly provided the archive photos.



"In May 1919 Save the Children was set up by two extraordinary British sisters, who felt that they could not stand by while refugee children were left destitute and starving after WWI. Their determination and fundraising efforts saved the lives of thousands of children, including many Armenian children in Syria and the Soviet Union," said Katherine Leach, the British Ambassador to Armenia. "I'm delighted we can tell this story today – and highlight the vital work Save the Children is still doing in Armenia and across the world as a global champion of children's rights."

The exhibition also shared the memories and results of Save the Children's assistance to refugees in Armenia since 2004. Nine various projects were showcased, which helped refugees from Syria, Iraq and Azerbaijan get culturally and economically integrated, have improved shelter, get access to cultural, educational, health, child protection and participation activities.



"For me, this event is not only about the forced journey of the Armenian nation, but also about the evolution of Save the Children to become a helping hand for children in 120 countries of the world," said Arsen Stepanyan, Save the Children Armenia Country Director.

Save the Children established its presence in Armenia in 1993. Since 2004, Save the Children Armenia Representative Office has been implementing refugee assistance programs through funding from the US State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration, UNHCR and the European Union.

More photos of the event can be found here:

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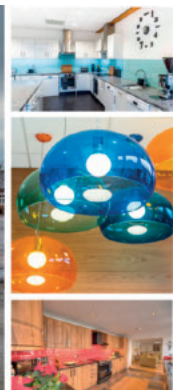
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The Armenian genocide is one of the most horrific yet little spoken of events in Turkish history. This courageous film is directed by award-winning director Fatih Akin who co-wrote the screenplay with longtime Martin Scorsese collaborator Mardik Martin, stars Tahar Rahim (*A Prophet*) as a father torn from his children.

Mardin, 1915: one night, the Turkish police round up all the Armenian men in the city, including the young blacksmith, Nazaret Manoogian (Rahim), who is separated from his family.

Years later, after managing to survive the horrors of the genocide, he hears that his two daughters are also still alive. He becomes fixated on the idea of finding them and sets off to track them down. His search takes him from the Mesopotamian deserts and Havana to the barren and desolate prairies of North Dakota. On this odyssey, he encounters a range of very different people: angelic and kind-hearted characters, but also the devil incarnate.

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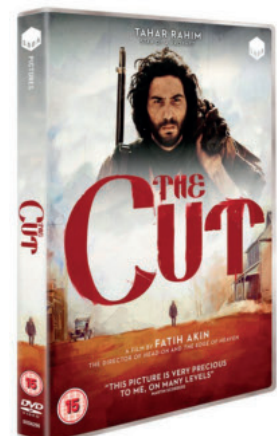
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- Run regular youth clubs
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- Promote Armenian History, Culture and Events
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