

# ARMENIAN VOICE



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CENTRE FOR  
ARMENIAN INFORMATION  
AND ADVICE

NEWSLETTER FOR THE LONDON - ARMENIAN COMMUNITY. WINTER 2011 No. 58

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## CAIA MARKS 25 YEARS OF SERVICE



2011 marks the 25th Anniversary since the established of the *Centre for Armenian Information & Advice (CAIA)*.

That's a quarter of a century in services for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged Armenians be they refugees, migrants, older/disabled people, carers, jobless, homeless, single parent families, low income families, women and children.

The CAIA is grateful to each and every person and organisation which has over the years contributed to us in reaching this milestone, be they funders, CAIA members, staff, volunteers or just about anyone who has supported and appreciated our aims and objectives in improving the quality of life within the Armenian community.

We hope we can rely on such continued support in 2011 and coming years, given the major challenges that face our charity with all the funding cuts backs and demand on our vital services which many people rely. ■

## NEW SIGN WILL HELP VISITORS TO HAYASHEN

15 years after we first approached *Ealing Council* to put a sign to help visitors with directions to *Hayashen*, it was appropriate that the sign was installed on the corner of *Mill Hill Road* this year when CAIA is marking its 25th anniversary.

We are very grateful for the residents of *South Acton Ward* who voted in approval for the sign at their ward meeting from their local ward budget and to our three local councillors, Cllr. John Gallagher, Cllr. Yvonne Johnson and Cllr. Mik Sabiers who put the motion on the agenda.

The sign will enable first time visitors to *Hayashen* find their way to our Centre much easier from now on. ■

## 27 MARCH - CENSUS DAY 2011

Every ten years a Census takes place which enables the British state to plan ahead for the forthcoming decade. Planning in terms of where and what it requires to spend its budget on such as for example number of schools, hospitals, etc. The first Census in England took in 1086 and the process is totally confidential.

On 12th November 2010, the CAIA invite *Karlene Kerr, Ealing Census Area Manager* to *Hayashen* where she spoke about the importance of completing the Census. The facts are simple. Each completed Census form is worth approximately over £20,000 to the local authority in the form of financial support its receives from central government.

The Census is also very important for ethnic minorities living in the UK to demonstrate how they choose to define themselves. For UK Armenians it is vital that we promote our identity by referring to ourselves as Armenians in the question about ethnicity because there are no accurate statistics about the numbers of people living in UK with Armenian origin. We know approximately that there is anything between 15-20,000 or so people of Armenian ethnic heritage living in the UK but they are often regarded invisible, which diminishes our local and national rights as a people and a community. We appreciate why some Armenians choose not to disclose their ethnic origin, in the light of the terrible persecution, discrimination and massacres we have been subjected to over the centuries however the Census should be seen as an opportunity to reveal our presence in the UK and not something, which threatens us personally or collectively. We also appreciate that the current public debate about multi-culturalism and British identity does not encourage smaller minority ethnic communities to reveal themselves but Armenians have been contributing to British society for over 150 years one way or another and we should be proud of this and be confident in referring to ourselves as Armenians in the 2011 Census.

If you require help in completing the Census please do not hesitate to contact the CAIA or ask for an Armenian interpreter from the Census collectors. ■





**CAIA IS ON FACEBOOK** - The link is:  
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Centre-for-Armenian-Information-Advice/150069445015045>  
 Please register to receive the latest news from CAIA.

## TASTES OF ARMENIA



Thanks to the "Generations Together- Acton Together" project, another 7-day Armenian cookery classes took place in October-November 2010. 20 young and older people took part in these free workshops led by experienced facilitators Mrs. Azadouhi Ohanian and Mrs. Caroline Koundarjian. Final sessions of these very enjoyable and educational workshops are due to take place in February.



## CAIA's ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2010



On Saturday 4th December 2010, CAIA held its 25th Annual General Meeting at Hayashen. The meeting included the Board's report by the chair, Mr. Garo Boyadjian, the activities report by CEO Mr. Misak Ohanian and a presentation of the 2009/10 audited accounts by Treasurer Mr Richard Anooshian.

Some of the key achievements during 2009/10 were:

- 625 people benefited from advisory services on over 5000 times enabling them to successfully claim £352,393 from various benefits
- 50 people assisted with obtaining British Naturalization.
- 50 people help obtain British passports
- 14 people received Driving Licences after CAIA helped them complete application forms.
- 17 households helped with obtaining new accommodation (after eviction, permanent or social housing)
- 42 people received job related Trainings at CAIA
- 200 senior citizens attended twice weekly social club on over 2400 times where they ate together, socialised and obtained health and other practical advice and support.
- 36 of the most frail and disabled elderly were provided free door to door transport to access club on 1400 times.
- 155 people helped across London, by making home visits to identify their diverse health and care needs and advocating on their behalf to assist them to continue living independently, reduce their social isolation and improve access to health and care services.
- 63 children attended the twice weekly Parents & Toddlers group and summer Playscheme over 500 times
- Various inter-generational activities took place including young people teaching older people how to use computers, cookery classes, Armenian history, Culture & heritage courses for 6 Sundays and family outings and celebration at Easter.
- Two issues of *Armenian Voice* was published with 6500 copies mailed free

At the end of each report, members asked questions and expressed their appreciation for all the hard work put in by the Directors, staff and volunteers many of whom contribute on a daily basis towards improving the quality of life for some of the most disadvantaged within the Armenian community.

This was followed by the election of 2 new directors, Mr Bosik Gharapetian and Mr Hrant Sargsyan. Prior to their election, each candidate gave a short speech about themselves, their career, experience, etc and about what they hope to contribute to the CAIA.

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



## TRAINING IN JOB SEARCH SKILLS

Thanks to a small grant from the Skills Funding Agency, the CAIA has continued to assist those looking for work improve their prospects via training opportunities. For 3-day on february 8th, 9th and 10th, professional trainer and career coach Ms Alison Shuttle delivered training to 12 people, mainly women in *Hayashen*. Lunch, crèche facilities and travel expenses were provided to the students to remove any barriers they may face in attending the course which covered included a Skills assessment, Short and long term goal planning, Information about the job market, How to Market yourself, Managing a job search campaign, Applying for jobs, Types of CV's, Planning, preparing and completing a CV, How to complete application forms, Applying online, Writing covering letters, Developing confidence at interviews and further support.



CAIA plans to repeat this 3-day course in June 2011 as well as organise two one-day workshop in May. A *Confidence-Building* course on Tuesday 17th May and *Assertiveness Skills* course on Wednesday 18th May. Please register for these now by contacting CAIA.



## ARMENIAN VOICE ADVERTISING RATES

### One Advertisement

Full Page (A4)	£120
Half Page (A5)	£ 80
Quarter Page (A6)	£ 60
Minimum Size	£ 30

### Four Advertisements

Full Page (A4)	£400
Half Page (A5)	£280
Quarter Page (A6)	£200
Minimum Size	£100

## BARKING ISLAND



Last year's Cannes Festival 2010, the 'Golden Palm' for best short film was awarded to *CHIENNE D'HISTOIRE*, a film by Serge Avedikian (who also appears as an actor in the *ARMY OF CRIME*, the film by guideline about the valiant leader of the Resistance in Paris, Missak Manoushian and his comrades-in-arms).

Thanks to the personal efforts of Prof. Khatchatur I. Pilikian and the cooperation of Serge Avedikian, the premier screening of this brilliant 15-minute animation film took place in London at *Hayashen* on 30th January 2011.

The background of the *Chienné d' Histoire*, or *Barking Island*, is well recorded more than half a century ago by the distinguished writer and journalist Aram Andonian, himself a survivor of the Genocide of the Armenians. Here it is what he wrote, rendered into English (just published in UK by Gomidas Institute as *Exile Trauma and Death* by Aram Andonian, Translated & Edited by Rita Soulahian Kuyumjian.):

*"It should not be forgotten, of course, that the Ittihadists first tested their massive exile plan on the dogs of Constantinople - and I am alluding to the four legged creatures. They killed the defiant and biting ones on the spot and banishing the remaining ones to one of the Princes Islands, where most of them perished of hunger or tore each other to pieces. Their screeches reached Constantinople when the wind blew in the city's direction."*

In the same evening, in way of an IN MEMORIAM for the Jerusalem born Maestro Ohan Durian, excerpts of Arsen Aslanian's 2008 film, titled *With Love, Ohan Durian*, was shown, which includes among others, various musical excerpts conducted by the Maestro.

Prof. Pilikian in his introduction reminisced how he had sketch Durian's portrait in late 1969 when he visited his studio in Beirut, Lebanon. Maestro Ohan Durian signed at the bottom left corner of the sketch with musical symbols - as did sometimes the world's Armenian composer Aram Khatchaturian.



Prof. Pilikian recalled also how back in 1969, maestro Durian invited him to sing the tenor solo for the first complete performance of *Verdi's Requiem Mass* in Yerevan, with *Armenian Radio-TV Philharmonic Orchestra & Chorus* under Durian's exuberant direction. The Maestro had the whole musical score memorised, hence conducted without having the score in front of him on the podium.

According to his life companion, Alice, herself a singer, Ohan Durian was listening to *Mozart's* music while breathing his last on the morning of the Armenian Christmas Day, January 6, 2011, just over 88 years of age.



# ARMENIAN ELDERS CLUB

## INFLUENCING HEALTH POLICY

Liz Carr (Marketing & Communications Officer) & Barbara Nea (Senior Policy Officer) from ROTA (*Race on the Agenda*) run a workshop on 23rd July 2010 entitled "How to influence Health Policy".

As a result of the workshops as well as 1-2-1 interviews with several older people and their carers, a 2-page article was published in ROTA's publication which is called *AGENDA*. (We have reproduced the 2 page article on Page 6-7 of this newsletter)

We are very grateful for ROTA for taking into account the views of our older people and Carers in their policy work.

## LIFESTYLE CHECK FOR SENIOR CITIZENS & CARERS



On Friday 20th August, 2010, lifestyle checks took place for Armenian Senior Citizens and Carers by NHS Health Trainers Kimberley Bailey and Janice Perry from Public Health Department at Hayashen. 8 people in total benefited from the health checks including blood pressure readings and weight measurements. The weight measurement identified 3 people as overweight and 5 fell into the obese category, which is why CAIA has organised monthly gentle physical activities specifically for Armenian Senior Citizens and Carers.



An information session took place about "Personalisation" on Monday 27th September 2010 by Sally Duhig, Transformation Service Manager (Putting People First Team) Hounslow Council.



Olukemi Otun & Yvette Hockley - Community Development Workers from the NHS Ealing Primary Care Trust Mental Health and Wellbeing Team spoke at Hayashen's Elders Day Centre / Lunch club to an appreciative audience on Friday 22nd October 2010.



On Monday 17th January 2011, 36 visitors to Hayashen, mainly older people and Carers underwent a free Diabetes test and reading material to raise their awareness about Diabetes. The programme was organised by CAIA in partnership with The Silver Star Appeal.

## SILVER SURFERS SESSIONS



6 sessions of Silver Surfers took place in partnership with Acton High school during September, October and November 2010 which will be repeated again in February-March 2011. As a result of these one hour introduction to computers over 50 people aged 55+ have now started the on line Myguide course and have their own email addresses, enabling them to learn on line at their leisure.





## ARMENIAN SENIORS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY



Over 100 Armenian Senior Citizens and guests took part in a Christmas party at *Hayashen*. This was the 24 consecutive year the CAIA had organised such an event as a mark of respect to Armenian Senior citizens for their dedication and sacrifice to their families and people.



Special guests included Fr. Vahan Hovhannessian, Primate of UK Armenians, and Mayor of LB of Ealing Cllr. Rajinder Mann, accompanied by his kind wife Cllr. Gurmit Mann, Leader of Ealing Council, Cllr Julian Bell and his kind wife Hermia Bell. (Pictured above on the right)



The CAIA is grateful to all the volunteers who helped in this annual event by decorating the hall, serving the food, wrapping the raffle prizes and the kind donations received, in particular to *Katsouris Brothers Ltd* for catering supplies and *Robert Tateossian* with some of the raffle prizes.

## FAMILY DAY OUT TO HASTINGS



On 29 July 2010 almost 40 Senior Citizens, Carers with some of their grandchildren spend a wonderful day out at the seaside resort town of Hastings thanks to a grant from the *Generation Together* project. The Londoners were welcomed by some local Armenians who live in and around Hastings who were kind enough to help the "tourists".

## IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF OLDER ARMENIANS & CARERS THROUGH EXERCISE



Thanks to an award from *Heathrow Community and Environment Small Grants awards 2009/10*, older Armenians and Carers from West London have been benefiting from the positive effects of undertaking regular gentle exercises at the *Hayashen* Armenian community Centre in Acton.

Many older people from Ethnic minority communities normally do not exercise for various reasons and need specific help and encouragement. Many face barriers such as language or lack of confidence, especially elderly women. Now these have been overcome for older Armenians as they have enjoyed themselves during the classes amongst people they know and trusts in a safe and friendly environment they already attend to enjoy the company of their peers. The project has also involved young local Armenians to encourage and support their older compatriots by working together with fitness instructor Ms Anna Larsson.

Thanks to the project, 40 older people and Carers benefited from the 12 exercise sessions. Targeted at some of the most isolated and hard to reach older people in combating high blood pressure and obesity.

Two of the grateful project beneficiaries said:

- It encouraged me to gentle exercises
- It helped me in many ways trying to come out of the house

The *Community & Environment Awards* scheme sponsored by Heathrow, in conjunction with Groundwork Thames Valley provide small grants for community groups and schools. Projects are linked to the themes of; Creating sustainable communities and a fairer world, Developing and enhancing local skills, Natural resource protection and enhancing the environment, Sustainable production and consumption, Climate change and energy. ■



# Making our voices heard – three case studies

BAME organisations have a unique place within their communities addressing mental health inequalities. They:

- provide services to meet needs that mainstream providers are either unaware of or do not have the expertise to address. They may also bridge the gap between BAME communities and mainstream services
- empower BAME communities and support their engagement in service and policy development
- tackle the wider socio-economic determinants of mental ill-health

Despite this they are undervalued and under-supported. The general picture presented by existing regional and national research is that these specialist groups remain relatively fragile, suffering from a substantial lack of capacity due to severe under-investment and access to adequate

infrastructure support.

Many BAME organisations struggle to grow and develop and even to sustain their operations. They operate in an increasingly challenging environment. The recession is having a disproportionate impact on them, and the move from grant making to commissioning is favouring large and more resilient mainstream voluntary and community (VCS) organisations.

In this section, we feature three organisations which provide critical support and services to their communities. CAIA has given a focus for London's Armenian communities for nearly 25 years. Likewise, Camden Chinese Community Centre has been an integral part of the local area for a similar length of time. Finally, Tageero is less than 10 years old, and working with BAME people of Somali origin.



# Homeland or hostland? a view from the Centre for Armenian Information and Advice

> Misak Ohanian, Manager of the Centre for Armenian Information and Advice (CAIA) started the Centre in 1986 to address the personal needs of the Armenian communities in London. The relatively small population of 20,000 is scattered across the city and finds a base in west London at Hayashen.

CAIA exists to improve the quality of life for Armenian people. Originally they provided information, advice and advocacy for refugees, women, older people and their carers but are now the focal point for all of London's Armenian communities. They address issues such as health, welfare rights, immigration and housing, and also offer social and cultural events for all age groups.

Armenian communities are complex because they include nationalities from many troubled parts of the world including Iraq, Iran, Lebanon, Turkey and the former Soviet Union. More Armenians live outside Armenia than inside, due to centuries of massacres and persecution. A diaspora within a diaspora has been created as a result of dispersions followed by further dispersions across the world. Consequently there is no such thing as a homogenous Armenian community.

It can be difficult for two Armenians to communicate. They have commonalities, for example their shared history, faith, and language. But there are also differences in terms of how long they have been in the UK, whether they speak English, and whether they have been assimilated or integrated. All these factors have an impact on mental health.

Misak says: "mental wellbeing is a living, breathing issue for us. There is very little research available about the Armenian mental state and the continuing trauma of Genocide denial. Experiences are passed on from generation to generation. Older people live all their lives in one place. They suddenly have to adjust to living in a completely different place with language difficulties."

Likewise, younger people with a dual heritage may not feel 100 per cent at home in the UK, and there are Armenians in 120 countries all feeling the same way. So they may not be totally mentally well. As Misak says: "They can be living collectively in a state of fragmentation, and individually with multiple identities, suffering at the same time from a lack of identity."

That identity has been forged by many events and people – so there are a complex set of reasons why someone behaves in a certain way. Last year CAIA helped people from 19 different countries. Different waves of migration mean that each group has a different way of dealing with things.

For example, some people become assimilated into the British way of life and stop thinking of themselves as Armenian. Others choose to embrace their cultural identity and become integrated, maintaining a dual heritage. This is the concept of homeland or hostland. Some Armenians have come to see the UK as their home; for others it is still a host country.

Mental health issues are considered taboo within this group of people. Misak

says there is a lot of depression and loneliness because Armenian groups are so disparate and disempowered. Day to day survival is difficult and he has known of refugees and asylum seekers who have committed suicide because they felt unable to cope.

One of the barriers to accessing mainstream mental health services for the Armenian communities is language. But it is about so much more than language alone. CAIA provides a social space where people can find out about services among people who understand their needs. The existence of the organisation also acts as a protective factor against the development of certain mental health problems. A mainstream, non-Armenian organisation would find it difficult to offer the same special level of care and genuine feeling.

CAIA employs a health advocacy worker, Hrachik Sarian, who supports people both within the Centre and outside. On a visit to CAIA to meet clients and staff, it was clear that her work is vital to the continued good health of the people she cares for. However, funding for her post is in place only until March 2011.

There are now also bi-monthly mental health surgeries at the Centre run by the West London Mental Health Trust for which CAIA provides interpreters. Clients are comfortable discussing their problems in this safe space where they are not in any other setting. One person said this is the only place her mother will talk about her feelings. In this way staff are able to pick up on any underlying mental health problem when another issue – for instance, housing – is the presenting problem.

The older people and their carers we spoke to were unanimous in their praise for CAIA and Misak's work. One carer told us that the Centre and the church are the only places her mother visits. If CAIA did not exist, her feelings of isolation would be increased. Others know that there would be more mental health problems. It gives them a feeling of safety, an understanding of their problems and all-important human contact, when the Armenian presence is often invisible to decision makers, and its voice unheard.

Misak Ohanian's own story is a living example of how an Armenian identity is forged. He was born in Cyprus where his grandparents had fled following the Armenian genocide. In 1963, both his parents and grandparents had to leave Cyprus when it divided, and came to the UK. For the second time in his life, Misak's grandfather had lost everything.

In the UK, Misak rediscovered his roots and relearned Armenian. The development of CAIA has mirrored his life: he started the elders lunch club to enable his parents to meet their peers and celebrate their culture. When his son was born, so was the playgroup.

He says: "We have always been involved in fundraising and community activities. My mother still cooks for the elders club and recently gave a cookery class. We've developed some intergenerational work and took part in a pilot project last year funded by Acton Together. Getting young and older people together to learn from one another has been very successful."





# HAYASHEN YOUTH CLUB AND PLAYGROUP

## ARMENIAN COMMUNITY PRE-SCHOOL GROUP SUMMER PLAYScheme



Between August 2 to 20th the *Armenian Community Pre School Group* organised its annual Summer Play scheme benefiting over 70 children, who enjoyed various diverse outings, including a picnic at *Bunny Park* in West Ealing, a visit to *Acton Fire Station* (photo above) and an all day trip to *Thorpe Park* on 18th August 2010. (Group photo below)



Parents and children enjoyed also various play and singing activities throughout Half Term holidays in Hayashen 25-29 October, 2010. (Picture below)



## ACPG PUPILS RECEIVE CERTIFICATE



In September 2010 almost 10 children who have been attending the *Hayashen Parents & Toddlers Group* over the past 2 years received their special attendance certificates as they departed to start their formal educational at various reception classes / schools. Despite this many will continue to keep in touch as they will participate in ACPG's half term activities and summer project. Nevertheless the departure is was an emotional time for both children and Play leader *Armine Sargsyan*. We wish the children (and parents) all the best for the challenges that await them and will continue to support them as and when they need anything from us.

## ACPG's ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY



For the 24th consecutive year the ACPG organised a Xmas party on 6th December 2010 in the presence of *Very Reverend Fr. Vahan Hovhannessian*, Primate of the Armenian Church of GB..

Children sang, danced, jumped, and ate snacks and home-made cakes with their parents for over 2 hours. Father Christmas also visited the party handing out presents to all the well-behaved children. We are grateful to Play-leader *Mrs Armineh Sargsyan* for all her hardwork throughout the year as well as to all the dedicated parents who regularly bring their children to *Hayashen's Parents & Toddler Group* twice a week.

## ARMENIAN COMMUNITY PRE SCHOOL GROUP (ACPG) GAINS NEW QUALITY STANDARD

Following its successful *OFSTED* registration in February 2010, the ACPG has in September gained the *Bronze Award* in the *Quality Framework for Supplementary Schools*. The next challenge for ACPG is to achieve the Silver level and later the Gold.

We are grateful for *Khalil Rahim*, *Supplementary Schools Development Coordinator* from *Acton Community Forum* and *CAIA* volunteer *Hrant Sargsyan* for assisting us in this process.



## 25 TEENAGERS ENJOY EXCEPTIONAL WEEKEND OF FUN AND ADVENTURE



Thanks to a grant from *Ealing Council's Cash4Youth* programme, 25 teenagers aged (12-18) participated in a weekend of supervised team building and challenging activities at *Woodrow High House* such as:

- Archery
- Orienteering
- Low Rope Course
- Scavenge hunt
- Swimming
- Hike
- Football , outdoor sports and a Camp Fire



The coach left *Hayashen* on 17th September with the teenagers accompanied by 4 adult supervisors and returned by 4pm on Sunday 19th September exceptionally tired but very happy from *Woodrow High House*.

*Woodrow High House* set in the beautiful Chiltern Hills near Amersham, is *London Youth's* beautiful 17th century manor house which provides a range of personal development opportunities for young people through sports, outdoor education and the arts. The weekend was organised by the *CAIA* with the direct involvement several young people who form the nucleus of the *Hayashen Armenian Youth Club (HAYC)*



## CAIA VOLUNTEERS HONOURED

The *CAIA* is delighted to announce that on 29th October 2010, 4 *CAIA* volunteers, *Simonn Sahakian*, *Hrant Sargsyan*, *Scarlet Sarksan* and *Argam Shahenian* received certificates at *Ramdan Jarvis Hotel* from the *Mayor of Ealing Council Cllr Rajinder Mann* at a special ceremony to mark *CSV Make A Difference Day*, the biggest annual nationwide celebration of the contribution volunteers make to the local community.



**Pictured Left to Right:** Volunteer *Scarlet Sarksan*, *CAIA* CEO, *Misak Ohanian*, Deputy Mayor of London *Richard Barnes* (another guest at the ceremony), Volunteers *Hrant Sargsyan* and *Nelly Hovsepyan*.



On the evening of 26th November, 2010, *Avetis Shahbazyan*, *Selineh Sarian* and *Aram Shahbazyan* (See photo) attended a lavish *V-awards* and presentation ceremony held at *Hammersmith Town Hall*, as a reward for their hard work; 50 hours voluntary service at *CAIA's Hayashen Armenian Youth Club (HAYC)*. As well as being presented their certificates by his worshipful, the Mayor of Ealing, the three volunteers also enjoyed a delicious 3-course Caribbean cuisine meal. Overall, it was a rewarding experience and an enjoyable night for several hundred young volunteers from across West London. ■



# COMMUNITY NEWS

## THE EALING COUNCIL RECOGNISES THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE ONCE AGAIN

At its full Council meeting on December 14th, 2010, *Ealing Council* reaffirmed once again by an absolute majority its acknowledgement and recognition "of the events of 1915 perpetrated against the Armenians as constituting genocide". The reaffirmation was important because while Ealing Council had first acknowledged the Armenian genocide back in 1988 largely at the time through CAIA's efforts, (see *Armenian Voice* No. 4) many of the current Ealing Councillors and/or staff such as the Chief Executive were not aware of this.

CAIA congratulates the members of the *Ealing Council* for their just and fair vote in favour of this resolution, and in particular hard work and effort made behind the scene by Cllr Ara Iskanderian as well as the lobbying efforts of various Armenian organisations and individuals, in particular the *Armenian Church & Community Council* who last year planted a tree in Ealing to honour of those martyred during the Armenian Genocide.

On 27th January 2011, during the annual *Holocaust Memorial Day* when *Ealing Council* annual plants a tree, the Leader of the Council, Julian Bell, during the ceremony recalled the genocide of the Armenians among the other atrocities during the commemoration of the liberation of *Auschwitz*.

\* \* \*

On 30th November 2010, after a long illness, David Ivimey Miller O.B.E - first British Ambassador to Armenia and a good friend of the Armenian people - passed away and, following his Funeral Service, held on Friday 10th December in the *Parish Church of St Nicholas*, he was cremated and his ashes committed to his final resting place on Monday 13th December 2010.

A special memorial service (*Hokehangist*) took place on 9th January 2011 at *St Yeghiche Armenian church* in Kensington on the occasion of 40th day of his death organised by the *Armenian Community & Church Council of GB*.

\* \* \*

Ana Atanesyan is an Armenian/Russian/British independent film producer. She was a student at *Westminster University* back in 2000-03 Studying BA (Hons) Business - Finance. After, she studied Msc in Banking and International Finance at *City University (Cass Business School)*, Ana worked as Head of Finance in a Health Club, which she quit to pursue her career as an independent film producer on a feature film, along with her boyfriend (now husband, Sam Holland), who is a writer and director. They made their first feature film called *ZEBRA CROSSING*. Its a low budget British thriller/drama, which was completely self-financed without any industry backing, and it took since 2006 for it to finally be released! The film has won numerous awards, such as British Independent Film Award, please see the link: <http://bifa.org.uk/winners/2008>, Audience award at *Raindance Film Festival* and many others around the world (please see website: [www.crown-films.com](http://www.crown-films.com)).

*ZEBRA CROSSING* has now been picked up for a UK Distribution by *Exile Media Group*.

*ZEBRA CROSSING* main homepage is on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/ZebraCrossingFilm?ref=ts>.

\* \* \*

The *Lemkin Trust* - to be launched in the spring of 2011 - is planned to be the first organisation set up to focus primarily on ending state supported denial of genocides and crimes against humanity. Within many regions of the world governments directly or indirectly support the denigration and denial of genocides and mass atrocities. Raphael Lemkin was a Polish lawyer of Jewish descent. Repulsed by the destruction and targeting of civilians during the two World Wars and the period in between, he coined the term Genocide, and actively lobbied the *United Nations* and its member states to adopt the Genocide Convention, which it did in December 9, 1948. For further information please contact Hratche Koundarjian Founding Coordinator at [hratche@lemkintrust.org](mailto:hratche@lemkintrust.org) or visit [www.lemkintrust.org](http://www.lemkintrust.org)

\* \* \*

Through the lobbying of the *Armenian Legal Initiative Group UK*, 98 year old Astrid Aghajanian, the last survivor of the Armenian Genocide in the UK, is featured in one of the *Holocaust Memorial; Day Trust's Untold Stories* in their 2011 commemorations. Click on

<http://www.hmd.org.uk/resources/films/untold-stories-astrid-aghajanian> to witness how well a dignified lady tells of her first-hand childhood experiences with simple words and gestures.

This is a breakthrough for a national organisation that has till now consistently refused to feature the Armenians.

\* \* \*

Dr. Vahan Hovhanessian Primate of the Armenian Apostolic Church for UK, Wales, Ireland and Scotland will celebrate Armenian Mass for the first time on the 30th April at *St. David's Cathedral, Pembrokeshire*.

The celebration of mass on the 30th April in the Cathedral of Wales's Patron Saint with the rites of the Armenian Apostolic Church will be a historic first that will attract pilgrims from within and outside of Wales. In addition Easter this year on the 24th April coincides with the official day for the remembrance of the Armenian Genocide of 1915.

Finally the 24th April 2011 will be the 10th anniversary of the recognition of the Armenian Genocide by the leaders of all four parties in the *National Assembly of Wales* and by all major Churches of Wales (Church in Wales, Non-Conformist Churches and the Roman Catholic Church) ■



The *Aghktamar Armenian Dance Group* performed at the *Dance Around the World festival* at *Cecil Sharp House* on October 24th, 2010.



## CELEBRATIONS OF THE RE-INTRODUCTION OF ARMENIAN STUDIES AT SOAS



October 2010 saw the first anniversary of the reintroduction of Armenian Studies at the *School of Oriental and African Studies* (SOAS) at the *University of London*. Funded by the *Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation*, the course has already attracted great interest. It offers courses in Armenian culture and history as well as Western Armenian Language. The latter is a particularly welcome development, as Western Armenian is considered an endangered language by *UNESCO*.

To mark this happy occasion, that coincided with a major celebration in the Armenian calendar – *Tarknatchats* or the Feast of Translators, widely regarded as a feast of language and literature – Dr Krikor Moskofian of the Armenian Studies programme at SOAS organised a series of cultural events that ran over a period of 3 weekends.

Opening the first weekend was a fascinating talk by Ara Sarafian, the Director of the *Gomidas Institute* in London. His lecture was entitled *Armenian Serfs (Khafirs) in the Sassoun Region of the Ottoman Empire: A Critical Interpretation Based on New Archival Evidence*. The paper made a critical evaluation of the notion of serfdom in the *Moush-Sassoun* region based on the detailed reports of *Krikoris Vartabed* to the Armenian Patriarchate of Constantinople in 1872. The lecture, and subsequent discussion, chaired by Dr Igor Dorfmann-Lazarev, provided valuable insights into the experience of Armenian peasant life in historic western Armenia.

The highlight of the second weekend was the Keynote Speech of the entire programme by the Dean of Faculty of Languages and Cultures at SOAS, Professor Anne Pauwels. In her talk, *Keeping a Language Alive in a Global Diaspora: Challenges and Initiatives for Armenian in the World*, Professor Pauwels examined the challenges that languages like Armenian faced in a world where globalisation, displacement and migration are the norm. She highlighted the significant linguistic challenges for migrants, refugees and others, not only in terms of learning new languages but also in maintaining their pre-migration language. Professor Pauwels concluded with an outline of strategies and initiatives that could assist communities in keeping their languages alive and therefore maintaining their languages in a transnational context. This very informative talk was peppered with examples of the speaker's own work among migrant communities in Australia. There was a lively discussion afterwards, chaired by Professor Ian Brown, SOAS.

The second weekend also saw a lecture, the only one in Armenian, by Dr Zaven Yegavian, director of the Armenian Communities Department of the *Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation*. Dr Yegavian presented an overview of Armenian education in Armenian diasporan schools. After offering a survey of the history of the Armenian school system in the diaspora he highlighted the difficulties and challenges that such institutions faced. The meeting was chaired by Dr Krikor Moskofian.

The final weekend incorporated two very interesting events. The first was a lecture by Dr Tim Greenwood, Lecturer of Medieval History at the *University of St Andrews* in Scotland on *Three Late Antique Armenian Silver Crosses*. This fascinating

lecture introduced, and discussed in great detail, a newly discovered silver cross which bears a long Armenian inscription. The cross was assessed in the context of other late antique silverware from Asia Minor, specifically 2 other late antique silver crosses. Dr Greenwood considered the potential contributions that these discoveries could make to our knowledge of Armenian art history, history and identity in late Antiquity. The meeting was chaired by Dr Sossie Kasbarian, SOAS.

The final event of the celebrations was a film screening of a documentary on probably the greatest Armenian writer of the early 20th century, the Constantinopolitan feminist and activist, *Zabel Yesayan*. The film, directed by Talin Suciyan and Lara Aharonian, examines the later years of Yesayan's life, following her emigration to Soviet Armenia and her disappearance during Stalin's purges. It also highlights how little this giant of Armenian literature is known today in the Armenian Republic. In a characteristic scene from the film a woman in Yerevan asks 'Who is this Zabel Yesayan?' on discovering that the street she lives on had been renamed after the author. The event ended with a discussion between Dr Victoria Rowe, a leading expert on late 19th and early 20th century Armenian women's writing, and Suciyan, an Istanbul-Armenian journalist.

One of the lasting outcomes of the series of events also saw the launch by Dr Moskofian of the *Society of Western Armenian Speakers*. Meeting once a month the society encourages members of the community to converse in Western Armenian with language students at SOAS in a friendly, relaxed and informal environment. People of all ages and with different levels of language ability are welcome provided they speak, or try to, in Western Armenian.

To find out more please contact Dr Krikor Moskofian at SOAS or by email: [moskofiank@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:moskofiank@yahoo.co.uk)

Vazken Khatchig Davidian

## CAIA WELCOMES SPECIAL GUESTS



CAIA staff and volunteers welcomed some special guests to *Hayashen* on 28th October 2010 who were in London for the reintroduction of Armenian Studies at the *School of Oriental and African Studies* (SOAS).

**Pictured Left to Right:** Tigran Yegavian (*Deputy editor of France Arménie periodical*), Misak Ohanian (*CAIA CEO*), Zaven Yegavian (*Head of the Armenian Department, Gulbenkian Foundation, Lisbon*) and Krikor Moskofian (*Armenian Studies, SOAS*)



Hrant Dink, the editor-in-chief of the bilingual Turkish-Armenian newspaper *Agos*, was assassinated in Istanbul on January 19, 2007 by a radical Turkish nationalist. Hrant Dink was one of Turkey's most prominent Armenian voices and, despite threats on his life, refused to remain silent on matters of concern to the community. Hrant Dink emphasized the need for democratization in Turkey and focused on the issues of free speech, minority and civic rights.

The European Court of Human Rights ruled in September 2010 that Turkey failed to protect the life of journalist Hrant Dink, who was murdered in 2007.

Turkish authorities were warned that ultra-nationalists were plotting to kill Dink, but failed to act, it said.

Dink, had been prosecuted for allegedly denigrating "Turkishness".

The European court ordered Turkey to pay Dink's family 105,000 euros (£88,000) in compensation.

"The court took the view that the Turkish security forces could reasonably be considered to have been aware of the intense hostility towards Hrant Dink in nationalist circles," the ruling said.

"None of the three authorities informed of the planned assassination and its imminent realisation had taken action to prevent it." In its ruling on Tuesday, the European Court of Human Rights also found that Turkey had failed to protect Dink's freedom of speech.

\* \* \*

Armenian NGOs "Society without violence" and "Women's Rights Center" called on the citizens to be involved in the tragic story of a 20-year-old Zaruhi Petrosyan who was killed by her husband and mother-in-law in October 2010 in the town of Masis in Armenia. Currently Zaruhi Petrosyan's husband Yanis Sarkisov is under arrest. It is claimed that such cases are common in Armenian society and indifference allows such cases be continued and repeated.

\* \* \*

Armenia in October 2010 launched the world's longest cable car line, a 5.7-kilometer (3.5-mile) engineering feat that spans a spectacular gorge to the country's ancient Tatev monastery.

Armenian President Serzh Sarkisian, Nagorno-Karabakh leader Bako Sahakian, the supreme head of the Armenian Apostolic Church, Catholicos Karekin II, government officials and other high-ranking guests attended a ceremony launching a 5.7-kilometer-long tramway, named "The Wings of Tatev."

President Sarkisian, Catholicos Karekin II, other ministers were the first to take a ride along the aerial tramway connecting the village of Halidzor in Armenia's Syunik province with the ninth-century monastery of Tatev, one of the country's most important religious centers and a major tourist attraction.

The new tramway will function throughout the year and will allow visitors to bypass a grueling 90-minute drive in and out of the rocky Vorotan River Gorge.

\* \* \*

Haybook Armenian Ebooks (<http://haybook.wordpress.com>) is pleased to announce the creation of a new Facebook page for all Armenians who love both the Armenian culture and the Internet. You are most welcome to join now the group "HayBook ArmenianEbooks" on Facebook. Haybook also has enlarged its digital library and is happy to present new Ebooks.

\* \* \*

A new report issued in October by the San Francisco-based Global Heritage Fund (GHF) has warned that the ruins of Ani are on the verge of vanishing because of mismanagement and neglect. Located in Turkey's Kars province, the ruins belonged to the medieval city of Ani, once the capital of an Armenian kingdom. The report identifies nearly

200 heritage sites in developing nations as being at risk, highlighting 12 in particular as being on the verge of irreparable loss and destruction. Three sites in the Middle East -- Iraq's Nineveh, Palestine's Hisham's Palace, and Turkey's Ani -- are among those most in danger. The ruined city of Ani, on the border of Turkey and Armenia, dates back to the 11th century.

The ruins came into spotlight in September 2010 when Turkish nationalists performed Muslim prayers there in response to a service which the Turkish government permitted to go ahead in an Armenian church in eastern Turkey. The prayers came less than two weeks after the service on Van's Akdamar Island in a church that had been closed for services since the 1915 incidents during the World War I.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS AT HAYASHEN

### INTRODUCTION TO ARMENIAN HISTORY, CULTURE & IDENTITY

The CAIA thanks to a small grant from Ealing Adult Education Department is organising the above titled course in English to meet the demand from families and young Armenians born or growing up in this country as well as those connected to them to appreciate more about Armenian history, culture and identity.

This course is designed by way of introduction to increase knowledge of Armenian history, culture, identity and dispersion and to enable any adult or young person to understand better about where, why and how they have arrived in UK and the challenges facing Armenians. Anyone attending all 6 presentation will receive a certificate.

The Course details are:

- **Sunday 20 February, 2011, Armenian Genealogy and Armenians of India & Far East** - Liz Chater
- **Sunday 27 February, 2011, Socio-economic and Political Developments in Armenia From 1991-Present** – Dr Armine Ishkanian (LSE)
- **Sunday 6 March, 2011, The Formation of the Modern Armenian Nation** - Cllr. Ara Iskenderian
- **Sunday 13 March, 2011, Ten Important Events in the History of the Armenian Church** - Dr. Vahan Hovhannessian
- **Sunday 20 March, 2011, Armenian Architecture** – Steven Sim
- **Sunday 27 March, 2011, Zabelle Boyajian's, Life and work of an artist, poet, translator and an activist** - Prof.K.I.Pilikian

Time: 2.00-4.00pm(Light lunch/refreshments1.30-2.00pm)

Please let us know in advance if you are attending.

### BENEFITS ADVICE SURGERIES

Benefits Advice Surgeries organised in partnership with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) at Hayashen now take place once a month by appointment in advance

Wednesday 6th April 2011, 10.30 am - 1.00 pm  
 Wednesday 11th May 2011, 10.30 am - 1.00 pm  
 Wednesday 1st June 2011, 10.30 am - 1.00 pm  
 Wednesday 6th July 2011, 10.30 am - 1.00 pm  
 Wednesday 3rd August 2011, 10.30 am - 1.00 pm  
 Wednesday 7th September 2011, 10.30 am - 1.00 pm  
 Wednesday 5th October 2011, 10.30 am - 1.00 pm  
 Wednesday 2nd November 2011, 10.30 am - 1.00 pm  
 Wednesday 7th December 2011, 10.30 am - 1.00 pm

Contact Hrachik Sarian at CAIA on 020 8992 4621 to book appointment in advance and provide language support.



Canan Çınar  
canan@turkishtimes.co.uk

## Canan Çınar ile Dünya Kenti Londra



Tarih boyunca yaşanan savaşların ve kıyımların farklı ülkelere sürdüğü kültür kardeşimiz Ermeniler ile Türkiye'de olduğu gibi Londra'da da komşuluk ve dostluk ilişkilerimizi sürdürürken yakın dostlarımızı da sayfamızda da ağırlamak istedim.

# 'Soykırım' tartışmalarının gölgesinde: İn

Türkiye'de her ne kadar sık sık soykırım iddiaları ile gündeme gelselerde, Ermeniler her zaman dostumuz ve kültür kardeşimiz olarak hayatımızda yer aldı ve yer almayı devam edecek, özellikle bu durumu bozmak isteyenlere inat...

Ancak iki ülke arasındaki en aşılmaz gibi görünen sorun 'soykırım' iddiaları; Ermenistan, 1915 yaşanan olayları Türkiye'nin 'soykırım' olarak kabul etmesini istiyor. Başta ABD ve Fransa'da bulunan yurtdışındaki Ermeniler (diaspora) bu konuda aktif bir tutum izliyor ve uluslararası baskıyla Türkiye'yi buna zorluyor. Türkiye ise soykırımı tanımıyor.

Yakın tarihe kadar Sovyetler Birliği'ne bağlı bir Cumhuriyet olan Ermenistan, 1991 yılında bağımsızlığını ilan etti ve o günden beri Ermenistan Cumhuriyeti olarak bağımsız bir ülke konumunu aldı. Başkenti Erivan olan ülkenin nüfusu yaklaşık 3.5 milyon %98'i Ermenilerin oluşturduğu ülkede az sayıda Yezidi ve Ruslar da yaşıyor.

Ermenilerin Milattan Önce 405 yılında kullanmaya başladıkları ve 38 harften oluşan kendilerine has özel bir alfabeleri ve dilleri var.

Ermenistan 4. yüzyılda Hristiyanlık dinini kabul eden ilk ülke olarak bilinmekte. Halk çok dindar olmakla beraber, Hristiyanlığın gerekleri doğrultusunda hayatlarını devam ettiriyorlar.

### 18'in üzerinde ülkeye dağılmış bir millet

18 yy'da İngiltere'ye göç etmeye başlayan Ermeniler'in İngiltere'ye gerçekleştirdikleri en geniş çaptaki göçleri 2. Dünya savaşı sırasında olmuş. İngiltere'de Londra, Manchester, Liverpool, Glasgow, Birmingham ve Edinburgh'a yerleşmiş olan Ermeni nüfusunun % 90'ı Londra'da yaşıyor. İngiltere'nin en eski göçmen

## Misak Ohanian Ermeni Toplum Merkezi Genel Müdürü ve Armenian Voice Newspaper Editörü



Misak Ohanian Ermeni Toplum Merkezi Genel Müdürü ve Armenian Voice Newspaper Editörü

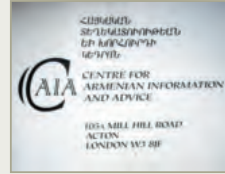
İngiltere'de ki göç serüvenleri uzun yıllar öncesine dayanan Ermenistanlı göçmenler, diğer etnik kökenden topluluklara nazaran ülkeye uyum sağlamış durumda. Ancak her ne kadar dışarıdan bakıldığında rahat bir topluluk olarak görülsede, son beş yıl içinde Ermenistan'dan maddi sorunlar nedeniyle İngiltere'ye göç eden aileler ister istemez kendi dillerinde hizmet veren toplum merkezlerine ihtiyaç duymaktalar. Bu merkezlerden birisi de Ermeni Toplum Merkezi. Olanakları dahilinde yılda üç sayı gazete yayımlayan kuruluş, Ermeni göçmenlere her alanda yardım ve destek veriyor.

Kuruluşun Genel Müdürü ve Armenian Newspaper'ın Editörü Misak Ohanian ile Ermeni göçmenler hakkında küçük bir söyleşi yaparak, topluluk hakkında genel bir bilgi almak istedim. 1986 yılında hizmet vermeye başlayan Ermeni Toplum Merkezi, İngiltere'de hizmet veren en eski kuruluş olarak kabul ediliyor.

'Ermeni göçmen topluluğun sek-

senli yıllarda yoğun olarak yaşadığı problemler bu tür bir organizasyonun doğmasına neden oldu ve 1986 yılından beri çalışmalarımıza devam ediyoruz. Danışmanlık hizmeti dışında, topluma her alanda yardımcı olmaya çalışıyoruz. İş, eğitim, sisteme alışmaları ve dil sorunlarının doğurmuş olduğu problemleri hafifletmeye çalışıyoruz.

Ayrıca kitaplık, oyun alanlarımız ve parti alanlarımız var. Çeşitli toplantılar ve kutlamalar düzenleyerek topluluğun burada bir araya gelip vakit geçirmesini sağlıyoruz. İşsiz olan arkadaşlarımıza gerekli staj ortamını sağlayarak, iş hayatına atılmaları için alt yapı hazırlıyoruz. Ağırlıklı olarak gerçekten



yardıma ihtiyacı olan kişiler ile ilgileniyoruz. Ermenistan'da yardıma ihtiyacı olan çocuklarımıza yönelik çalışmalarımızda mevcut.

Ayrıca 1987 yılından beri yılda üç kez yayımladığımız Armenian Voice adlı gazetemiz var. Gazeteyi 2000 eve göndererek toplumu son gelişmelerden ve etkinliklerden haberdar ediyoruz. Bizim dışımızda Ermeni göçmen toplumuna yönelik yılda üç kez yayım yapan iki gazette daha var ve yaklaşık 12 tane toplum kuruluşumuz mevcut.

Ermeni göçmenlerin uzun yıllardır bu ülkede yaşıyor olması çeşitli işlere dağılmalarını sağladı ve her alanda çalışmalarını sürdürmekte. Özellikle Türkiye'li toplum ile (Türkler, Kürtler, Kıbrıslılar) ortaklaşa bir çok aktivite yapıyoruz ve bu konularda birbirimizi destek veriyoruz.'



jentina, Avustralya, Kanada, Yunanistan, İsrail, Polonya, Ukrayna, Kıbrıs, Irak, İran, Hindistan, Mısır, Filistin, Türkiye. 40,000 ile 50,000 arasında Ermeni nüfusu İstanbul ve yakın çevresinde yaşıyor.

İngiltere'ye ilk göç eden Ermeni toplulukları ise Lübnan, Suriye, Irak, İran ve Kıbrıs'tan gelmiş.

toplulukları arasında sayılan Ermeniler'in ülkedeki nüfusu 20,000 dolayında.

Ermeniler'in bu ülkedeki ilk iş alanlarının tekstil olduğu sanılıyor. 19 yy'da Manchester'da tüccarlık yaparak ya da küçük üretici ve perakendeci olarak çalışmaya başlayan Ermeni göçmenler, 1870 yılında İngiltere'de ki ilk Ermeni Kilisesi'ni açıyorlar.

18'in üzerinde ülkeye dağılmış olan Ermenilerin özellikle yoğun olarak yaşadıkları ülkeler; Rusya, Fransa, USA, Gürcistan, Suriye, Lübnan, Ar-



Her yıl Ermeni Toplum Merkezi öğrencileri için düzenlenen yaz şenliği aileleri bir araya getiriyor.



## BOOK REVIEWS

### "MEMORIES OF THE PAST"

by SERGE MOMJIAN

ISBN: 9781849630047 priced at £7.99

On July 15 London-based *Austin & Macauley Publishers* released 190-page *Memories of the Past* by Serge Momjian. The book centers on the life of Vartan Apelian who is only two when he loses his parents in the first large-scale massacres of the twentieth century. It is not until his mid-teens that Vartan realises the tragedy of the past. He emigrates to the States in the 1930's and then talks to the survivors of a homeland that no longer exists. The compelling eyewitness accounts of the atrocities haunt him. He traces his Armenian roots during his historical research and scrupulously typifies his people's strengths and weaknesses. What changes Vartan's whole life completely is the day when he discovers, to his amazement, that his mother, now a forgotten old woman converted to Islam, has survived the massacres. The book's author Serge Momjian was born in Beirut. He came to London as a young man, began to study journalism, then attended a degree course in fiction writing. Since then he has worked as a feature writer and book reviewer for various publications including Beirut's *Daily Star*, the Middle East's leading English language newspaper, and London's *Events* news magazine. Passionately interested in the arts, he has also contributed articles to periodicals. He is the author of *Conflicting Motives* (1994), *The Invisible Line* (2000), and *The Singer of the Opera* (2004), all three novels published in London. During his literary career Momjian's writings showed real originality and have brought him praise and a reputation. *Memories of the Past* is his first historical novel and his greatest work.

### AGHTAMAR: A JEWEL OF MEDIEVAL ARMENIAN ARCHITECTURE

ISBN 9781903656990 (UK and USA), and ISBN 9789756158166 (Turkey).

168 pages, including 68 colour photographs plus illustrations.

This beautiful work, which includes illustrations and photographs, was originally written by Stepan Mnatsakanian, who examined the *Church of the Holy Cross* and its sculptural reliefs within the context of medieval Armenian architecture. Mnatsakanian's work has been combined with invaluable architectural drawings of the church from *Edizioni Ares (Milano)*, as well as recent photographs by Kadir Çitak.

This publication introduces Armenian scholarship on medieval Armenian art and architecture to Turkish audiences. It was compiled by Ara Sarafian and Osman Koker with a generous grant from AGBU *Asbeds (Los Angeles)*.

"*Aghtamar: A Jewel of Medieval Armenian Architecture*" was released at *Star 2000* bookstore in Van on 17 September 2010, and at *Cezayir Toplantı Salonu* in Istanbul on 21 September 2010.

Stepan Mnatsakanian, *Aghtamar: A Jewel of Medieval Armenian Architecture* [*Aghtamar: Ortaçağ Ermeni Mimarlığının Mucəhəri*, is a joint publication of the *Gomidas Institute (London)* and *Birzamanlar Yayıncılık (Istanbul)*

For more information please contact [info@gomidas.org](mailto:info@gomidas.org)

### SAVING ARMENIANS: "VATICAN DIPLOMACY AND THE ARMENIAN QUESTION BETWEEN 1918-1922"

The Vatican state was well aware of the Armenian Genocide in 1915, as Armenian Catholic communities were destroyed alongside other Armenians. The Vatican's

Apostolic Delegate to Constantinople Mgr. Dolci reported such developments to Pope Benedict XV, who personally appealed to the Ottoman government to stop the persecutions. Following the end of WWI, the Vatican tried to help surviving Armenians by appealing to the Catholic world for support. Armenian Catholics played an important role in making these efforts fruitful.

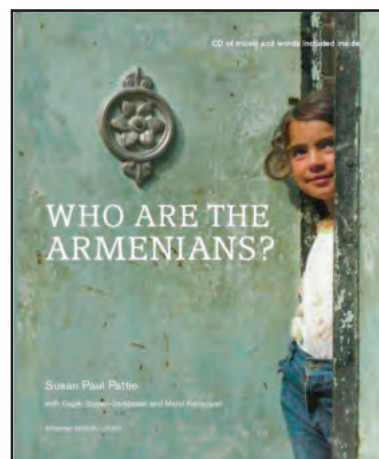
To date, little is known of the Vatican's involvement with Armenians during World War I and its aftermath. This is because Vatican archives have been inaccessible to English speaking scholars. However, the recent translation of Mario Carolla's excellent book, "*Vatican Diplomacy and the Armenian Question: The Holy See's Response to the Republic of Armenia, 1918-1922*", presents, for the first time, a detailed account of the Vatican's involvement with Armenians. Carolla's work rests on original documents from Vatican Archives, most of which have never been subject to scholarly scrutiny. These documents have been reproduced alongside his analysis, and the majority of his Italian documents have been translated into English.

Mario Carolla, "*Vatican Diplomacy and the Armenian Question: The Holy See's Response to the Republic of Armenia, 1918-1922*", translated from Italian by Cynthia Quilici, London: *Gomidas Institute*, vi + 368 pp., 2010, GB£24.00 / US\$35.00. To order, please contact from [info@gomidas.org](mailto:info@gomidas.org)

### WHO ARE THE ARMENIANS?

By Susan Pattie

with Gagik Stepan-Sarkissian and Maral Kerovpyan.  
Book and CD of music and spoken word



This is a fascinating guide for both children and adults to learn about the Armenian people. Aimed at children aged 5 – 12, the book brings the 3000-year-old Armenian history and culture to life through folktales, language, food, religion, music, dance, art, poetry, sports and games. The book includes information about the Republic of Armenia and also explains how Armenians have made homes all over the world. *Who are the Armenians?* presents the lives of children in Armenia and diaspora countries showing how they live today. A CD is included with songs, poems, dancing music and spoken words.

Dr Susan Pattie is a Senior Research Fellow at *University College London (anthropology)*, teaches for the *Syracuse University London Program* and is director of the *Armenian Institute*. She was a Visiting Scholar in the *Armenian Studies Program and Anthropology Department at the University of Michigan* where she taught two courses for the autumn 2009 term. Author of *Faith in History: Armenians Rebuilding Community* (Smithsonian Institution Press) and numerous other publications, Dr Pattie's research has focused on Armenians in diaspora, beginning with field-work in Cyprus.

For further info contact [info@armenianinstitute.org.uk](mailto:info@armenianinstitute.org.uk) or call 020 7978 9104. Copies available also at CAIA.

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**CONDOLENCES**

Vartan Hovanesian born in Tabriz on the 8th February 1922 - died on the 9.10.2010 in his sleep at home. He is survived by his wife Harriet & five children (Selina, Emma, Rodney, Ben & Jamie) & his 2 grand daughters.

His cremation took place on the 21st October 2010 at South West Middlesex Crematorium.

Condolences to his family and all those who knew and loved him.

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We invite you to support CAIA by completing and returning the form below to us.

Thank you very much.

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