

ARMENIAN VOICE



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CENTRE FOR
ARMENIAN INFORMATION
AND ADVICE

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CAIA CELEBRATES ITS SILVER JUBILEE



On Sunday 4th September 2011 over 120 CAIA members, staff, volunteers, services users and guests marked the 25th anniversary of CAIA's establishment, during which time the CAIA has successfully enhanced the quality of life for 1000's of disadvantaged members of the Armenian community in London, specifically those living in isolation, poverty or distress by providing welfare, educational & cultural services.

Supporting the event was the Very Revd. Dr. Vahan Hovhannessian, Primate of the Armenian Church in the UK and Ireland, Dr. Hratch Tchilingirian, Chairman of the St. Sarkis Armenian Church Trust and members of the Armenian Community & Church Council of GB, the Worshipful Mayor of Ealing Council, Cllr John Gallagher, accompanied by the Mayoress Mrs Pauline Melson, the leader of Ealing Council, Cllr Julian Bell and Mrs Hermia Bell, representatives from the Armenian Medical Association, Ealing Pre School Learning Association, Ealing Adult Education Department, Refugee Women's Association and several individuals such as freelance IAG Trainer Ms Alison Shuttle, well known Armenian actor Mr Kevoork Malikian and respected orator/author Mr Assadour Guzelian. All the above guests and visitors were greeted by members of the CAIA Management Committee Mr. Garo Boyadjian, (Chairman), Mrs. Susan Kassabian (Secretary), Mr. Richard M. Anoshian (Treasurer), Mr. Bosik Gharapetian (Vice Treasurer), Mr. Vatche Gulbekian, Mr. Hrant Shirakuni and CAIA Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Misak Ohanian.

The Very Revd. Dr. Vahan Hovhannessian offered his congratulations and blessings to the CAIA. "Hayashen was the first place I visited in my capacity as the new Primate of the Armenian Church in the UK and Ireland," said the Primate adding "and today I am as impressed and grateful to the members of the board of directors and the staff of the CAIA as I was when I first learned about this viable and active center in the heart of the Armenian community in London."

Other guests who praised and congratulated the CAIA on reaching this important milestone included the leader of Ealing Council Cllr. Julian Bell, the Worshipful Mayor of Ealing Council, Cllr John Gallagher and Mr Assadour Guzelian.

During the afternoon over 60 people who had attended various training courses at Hayashen over the past year such as ICT, Employability and Financial Capability were awarded certificates, as were another 15 volunteers for providing 50+ hours of service to CAIA's various projects. Mr Misak Ohanian spoke briefly thanking everyone who had attended and supported the CAIA over the years, in particular all the current and former Trustees/Directors and staff for their contribution in sustaining the charity and its services. Lifetime membership to 3 former veteran trustees, Ms Annik

Hogg, Mr John Der Parthog and Mr Hovannes Koundarjian was announced for demonstrating exceptional commitment and leadership to the development of the organisation over the years. At the conclusion of the event several people made various donations towards the work of the CAIA, which is highly appreciated.

☆☆☆

On 4th October 2011; over 50 people attended a special reception to mark CAIA's 25th Anniversary. The reception took place in the Mayors Parlour adjacent to the Council Chamber. The reception started at 6.30pm with the Worshipful Mayor of LB of Ealing, Cllr J Gallagher, the Mayoress, Mrs Pauline Melson, CAIA Directors and CEO Mr. Misak Ohanian welcoming the guests.



Guests supporting this special milestone in the history of the CAIA, included Mrs Karine Kazinian, the new ambassador of Armenia to the UK, Stephen Pound MP, the leader of Ealing Council, Cllr Julian Bell, Deputy leader, Cllr Ranjit Dheer, Cabinet members, Cllr Yvonne Johnson and Cllr Patricia Walker. Other local councillors present included Cllr K Crawford (Labour), Cllr Ara Iskanderian (Labour), Cllr Harvey Rose (Liberal Democrat) and Cllr Andrew Steed (Liberal Democrat). Cllr David Millican, leader of Conservative Councillors in Ealing sent his apologies due to a previous commitment as had Virenda Sharma MP and Richard Barnes, Deputy Mayor of London. Other guests in attendance included Lorna Fleming, Joint commissioning manager for Older People Services, representatives from the Armenian Church & Community Council, Armenian Saturday School, K.Tahta Armenian Sunday School, the Armenian Institute, London Armenian Poor Relief Society Trust and several veteran CAIA members and former Trustees.

Following drinks and buffet of Armenian and Middle Eastern dishes, the guests moved to the Council Chamber where the Worshipful Mayor of LB of Ealing, Cllr J Gallagher, thanked everyone for attending and congratulated CAIA on its Silver jubilee. In his welcoming remarks, the Mayor spoke a little about the Mayors Fund and how the previous 3 councils of Acton, Ealing and Southall had merged to become to days Ealing Council.

In accordance to protocol, the next speaker was Her Excellency Mrs Karine Kazinian, who despite being in the post for only a few weeks was aware of CAIA's services and wished Happy 25th Birthday. After expressing thanks to all the guests and in particular the Mayor for the reception, CAIA's founding member and CEO Mr Misak Ohanian delivered his message reflecting on the achievements of the charity and recalling some significant personal memories over the years.

Continues on page 3



EASTER AT HAYASHEN



An Easter feast took place on Sunday 24th April 2011 in Hayashen enjoyed by 100 members of the Armenian community. Given the significance of the day, appropriate and inspirational live performance was provided by master Violinist Grant Martirosyan. CAIA is grateful to everyone who attended and supported the event, in particular all the volunteers who helped out on the day.



CAIA TAKES PART IN ACTON CARNIVAL



On Saturday 9 July, 2011, the CAIA once again held a stall at the annual Acton Carnival along many other local community. Pictured left to right, Mayoress Mrs Melson, the Worshipful Mayor of LB of Ealing Cllr J Gallagher and CAIA CEO Misak Ohanian at CAIA's stall.

SAFE HAVENS IN A HOSTILE WORLD – FOR 60 YEARS

The 24 July 2011 issue of *The Independent On Sunday*, published an interview with CAIA's CEO Misak Ohanian as part of a wider article marking the 60th anniversary of the *UN Convention for Refugees*. The article, written by Andrew McCorkel entitled *Safe havens in a hostile world – for 60 years* highlights how this UN convention (signed in 1951 in Geneva) has saved over 50 million people from torture, death or war. The article can read on <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/politics/safe-havens-in-a-hostile-world-ndash-for-60-years-2319537.html>

ARMENIA'S FOOTBALL TEAM UNLUCKY TO LOSE TO REPUBLIC OF IRELAND



On Tuesday 11 October 2011 over 100 Armenians from all ages and walks of life packed Hayashen eating lahmajoun



and cheering the brave Armenian national football team. A rare collective experience for dispersed Armenians willing the progress of the team towards its first major football tournament. Unfortunately the game turned on the 26th minute with the sending off of Armenian goal-keeper Roman Berezovsky, who raised his arms when he emerged from the area to block a Simon Cox shot. Replays revealed that Cox handled the ball first, and the Armenian keeper had not touched ball with his arms. To add insult to injury, an almost comical Armenian own goal led the Republic on their way to the 2-1 victory, leaving Armenians across the world depressed about another injustice against our small nation. However, we are confident that there will be many more such opportunities in the future for the small/under-resourced but brave Armenian national football team to emerge victorious.

CAIA VOLUNTEERS HONOURED

In October, the CAIA was delighted to nominate Nayri Keshish, Michael Brooks and Nelly Hovsepyan to receive an 'Exceptional Achievement' award 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. ■

EMPOWERING PEOPLE TO FIND EMPLOYMENT



Thanks to a small grant from the *Skills Funding Agency* via *Hounslow Council*, the CAIA continued to assist those looking for work to improve their job prospects via training opportunities.

Confidence Building and Assertiveness Skills Workshops took place on 17th and 18th May attended by 12 people, followed by a 3-day comprehensive job search skills course during June 21-23, 2011. Professional trainer delivered the workshop and training and career coach Ms. Alison Shuttle.

Lunch, crèche facilities and travel expenses were provided to the students to remove any barriers they may face in attending. As a result the those taking part were able to concentrate and learn about short and long term goal planning, information about the job market, how to market yourself, managing a job search campaign, types of CV's, Planning, preparing and completing a CV, applying for jobs, How to complete application forms, Applying online, Writing covering letters, Developing confidence at interviews and further support. The 3-day was repeated on June 21, 22 and 23 for another group of people looking to improve their job prospects. A total of 38 people benefited from this project for which they and we are grateful for to the *Skills Funding Agency*.



ADDRESSING DIGITAL INEQUALITIES

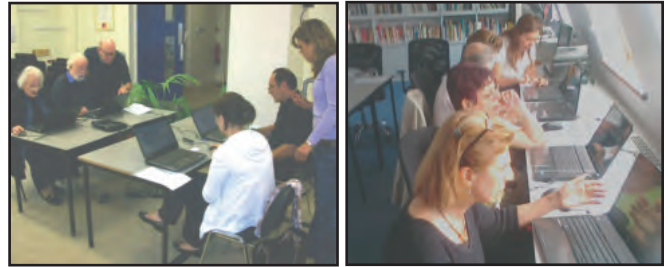
There are those who know how to use computers for personal, educational and/or professional purposes, while some do not for various reasons. The cost of purchasing a computer, subscribing to an Internet provider or just because some have never had the opportunity to learn.

For the past year the CAIA has been trying to address such digital inequalities within the Armenian and wide community by offering formal and informal learning ICT opportunities. For 3 days during June 7-9, 2011, 10 people benefited from a basic ICT course thanks to a small grant from *The Skills Funding Agency*, via *Ealing CVS*. The basic ICT course delivered by Mr Jim Wong, targeted beginners with little or not experience of how uses computers or accesses the Internet.

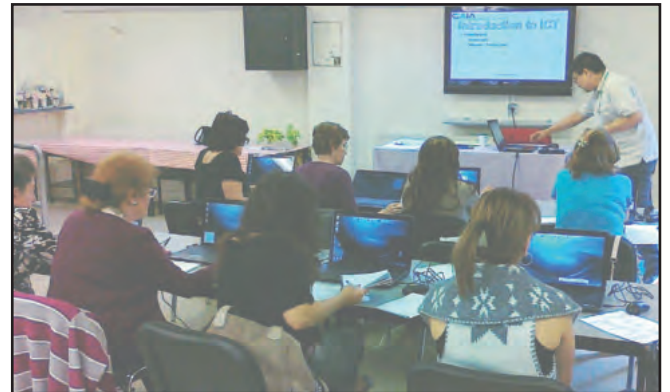
We are pleased to report that by the end of the course 10 people, mainly women:

- Understood the basics of keyboard and most commonly used software such as Word.
 - Learnt how to use the Internet and Email
 - Learnt how to search for information using Google and other search engines.
 - Were able to book mark favourite websites
 - Had become more knowledgeable about internet viruses
 - Practised successful how to send and receive emails, including attachments such as photos / documents
- In addition, free drop classes have been taking place which have enabled over 60 people to register on simple basic on line courses with *UK on Line Centres* with the help of CAIA's trained *digital champion* staff and volunteers. Those attending have learnt how to search the Internet, learnt how the keyboard and mouse works, send and receive emails.

If you know anyone wish it on learn, irrespective of their



age, background or even level of English, encourage them to come to *Hayashen* any Thursday 10.30am-12.30pm for free 1-2-1 lessons in a comfortable, friendly and supportive environment. Join the digital revolution. ■



Continued from page 1

Misak thanked all the CAIA members, staff and committee members who had contributed positively over the years in order to help the organisation pursue its aims and objectives of helping the most disadvantaged sections of the Armenian community such as low income families, women/children, older people/carer's and newly arrived refugees to settle and integrate within British society without forgetting their roots/heritage.

Stephen Pound MP also conveyed his congratulations to the CAIA in his usual eloquent manner and spoke passionately about the rights of the Armenian people regarding Genocide recognition and the self-determination for Nagorno Karabagh. The final speaker was Ealing's first and hopefully not last Armenian Councillor, Cllr. Ara Iskanderian who recalled that the CAIA has been in operation throughout his young life, providing vital services that Armenians have come to rely on.

The evening continued until 8.30pm with all those present continuing to socialise and network with each other with everyone expressing all the best for the CAIA in the next 25 years. ■

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

INTRODUCTION TO ARMENIAN HISTORY CULTURE & IDENTITY

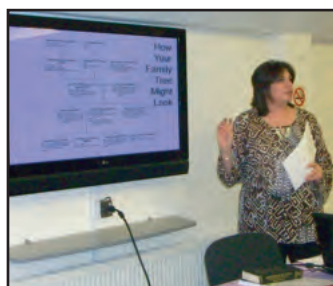
In 2011, the CAIA successfully organised another "Introductory" course about Armenian history, culture and heritage thanks to the support of *Ealing Adult Education Department*.

During Sunday February 20 to 27 March, 20 students and other interested individuals from diverse backgrounds benefited from the 6-part course delivered professionally by various specialists in their field such as



+ The Very Revd. Dr. Vahan Hovhannessian, Primate of the Armenian Church in the UK and Ireland, who spoke about the *Ten Important Events in the History of the Armenian Church*.

+ Liz Chater came from Southampton to speak about *Armenian Genealogy and Armenians of India & Far East*, including the life and times of *Sir Catchik Paul Chater (Khatchik Poghos Astvatsaturian)*, born 165 years ago in Calcutta, India, who settled in Hong Kong where by virtue of his tireless industry, gained immense wealth and became the most significant person of Honk Kong from 1876 to 1926. In 1902, Chater was knighted by King Edward VII. Liz Chater also demonstrated about how to trace Armenian ancestors through various genealogy software/websites.



+ Dr Armine Ishkanian (LSE) spoke about the *Socio-economic and Political Developments in Armenia From 1991-Present*.

+ Historian and recently elected Councillor, Ara Iskenderian spoke about *The Formation of the modern Armenian Nation*.

+ Foremost student of Armenian architecture Steven Sim travelled from Glasgow to speak about his many travels to Eastern Turkey in the past 20 years and showed unseen images from various parts of Anatolia, which he has docu-



mented through his own means and dedication. Visit www.virtualani.org

+ Prof.K.I.Pilikian spoke and showed slides about the life and work of artist, Zabelle Boyajian's, entitled *ZABELLIANA - 95th Anniversary of Zabelle Boyajian's Armenian Legends & Poems*.



Throughout the course, the students learned together, enjoyed Armenian and Middle Eastern traditional lunch together, networked and contributed to very many interesting debates and discussions that took place on a wide range of issues related to Armenian history, literature, faith, culture and identity.

It was also pleasing that another non-registered 20 or so people attended the various individual sessions during the course, including most notably script writer, Jean Fairweather and Prof Richard Hovannisian, the first holder of the *Armenian Educational Foundation Endowed Chair in Modern Armenian History* at the UCLA, USA, who was visiting London when Steven Sim spoke.

The purpose and benefit of the course is that it:

- Enabled diverse people (Armenians, non-Armenians and



those of mixed Armenian heritage) across the generations to interact and learn from specialists/experts in their field.

- Encouraged new learners (Armenians and non-Armenians alike) to learn about Armenia's history and rich cultural heritage and also act as a platform for further learning and community engagement/outreach to those who have never had the chance for one reason or another.

- Raised self-esteem and confidence in speaking with others about Armenia and Armenians. Beneficiaries of the course this year included young people, parents, grandparents and teachers from both *Armenian Supplementary Schools*.

Below is the view of one person who took part in the course.



"As an Armenian, born in the diaspora, in India, who has lived for the last 44 years of my life in the UK, in the London Borough of Ealing, the series of talks on Armenian History, Culture and Identity have been very interesting and educative for me. Until now my knowledge of my Armenian heritage has been gained from my parents, articles in magazine, various books and two visits to Armenia. However, the talks by speakers who are specialists in their chosen subjects have added an extra dimension to my knowledge overall and given me greater confidence and ability to talk about my Armenian heritage with others".

Register now for the course next year due to place on Sunday February 19, 26, March 4, 11, 18 & 25, with 5 new speakers. ■

HEALTH TALKS & ACTIVITIES FOR ARMENIAN SENIOR CITIZENS

The following activities took place at the Armenian elders club/Day centre in the past few months. The CAIA is very grateful to everyone who contributed towards these informative and health promotional events.



On 11 February 2011, PC David Young from South Acton Police Team and Cllr John Gallagher spoke about *Feeling Safe in the Home*. (Photo above)

On 21 March 2011, a special *Census* completing session took place at Hayashen to assist mainly older members of



the west London's Armenian community complete the 2011 *Census*. CAIA staff/volunteers as well as local *Census* representatives were present to assist throughout the 3 hour event. As a result of this event and home visits, CAIA enabled over 30 households complete *Census* forms which otherwise they would have not been able to do so.

On 25 March 2011, Barbara Nea (ROTA Senior Policy Officer) and CAIA held a focus group about *Health Reforms & Equality*. The views of the group (below) were incorporated in a final report produced to influence decision makers.



Nairi Stepan-Sarkissian (above) from Harrow Citizens Advice Bureau visited Hayashen Elders Club on Monday 23 May 2011, and delivered a short talk about how to obtain best deals in energy.



On 20 June 2011, Annie Khenian (above) gave a short talk and demonstrated how gentle exercises can help ease away pain, improve posture and maintain good health.



On 8 July 2011, Physician/Psychologist Shahan Tamrazian M.D MRCP gave a brief talk about Arthritis/Bone Pain.



On Friday 29, 2011, a major cancer awareness event was organised as part of *Ethnic Minorities Cancer Awareness Week (EMCAW)*. Both cancer sufferers and their Cares alike far too often consider the subject of cancer taboo within the Armenian community. As a result many are not visible and too proud to seek help, suffering often in isolation and silence. Miss Avril van der Loo, Macmillan Information Project Manager, North West London Cancer Network provided information and ran a focus group with the help of CAIA's Health & Advocacy Worker, Ms Hrachik Sarian. ■

HAYASHEN YOUTH CLUB

HAYASHEN ARMENIAN YOUTH CLUB (HAYC)



15th July marked the successful restart of HAYC's Friday evening youth club thanks to funding from the BBC *Children In Need*.

At the first session, the young people have chose amongst themselves a committee to work with CAIA staff/ volunteers in pursuing the aims of the club. The committee members are, Aram Shahbazyan, Selineh Sarian, Suzanna Vardanyan, Stepan Bagdasaryan, and Christian Sahakian. Others willing to help the Youth Club are most welcome to contact us.

The dates agreed with the young people for future HAYC sessions are as follows. So if you are aged 11-18, put these dates in your diary and come along.

November 4, 18, (5-8.30pm)

December 2, (Xmas party – (5-8.30pm)

January 13 & 27, 2012 (5-8.30pm)

February 10 & 24 (5-8.30pm)

March 9 & 23 (5-8.30pm)

For further information visit and sign up HAYC's Facebook at:

In addition to the Friday evening Youth club two major activities took place during September 2011.



On 1 September, over 41 young people aged 11-18 enjoyed a *Go karting Fun day* at Brentwood Karting Raceway. The group travel to Brentwood from Hayashen in the morning and arrived by 10:00am where they signed in, suited and briefed about safety before enjoying practice drivers in the morning. After a lunch break, several timed races



took place in the afternoon with certificates for all drivers. The fastest driver of the day was Karen Poghosian who received a trophy while the two runners up received medals.



During the weekend of September 16-18, a residential programme of challenging activities took place at Woodrow High House with 34 young people accompanied by 3 adult supervisors.



The Coach left Hayashen at 5.30pm on Friday and returned back by 4pm on Sunday. In between the young people enjoyed full board and lodgings and various team and confidence building activities including:



- Archery
- Problem solving
- Low Rope Course



- Scavenge hunt
- Swimming and Football on astro turf
- A Camp Fire and Disco in the evenings



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.



ARMENIAN COMMUNITY PRE-SCHOOL GROUP

ARMENIAN COMMUNITY PRE-SCHOOL GROUP SUMMER PLAYScheme

Between 1-19 August 2011, the Armenian Community Pre-School Group (ACPG) organised diverse learning, play and creative activities including arts, crafts, games,



sports, dancing, singing as well as several local outings including one to Acton Fire Station and LammasPark in



Ealing thanks to the support of Ealing Council and The Hilden Charity Trust.



Կիրակի, Սեպտեմբեր 4, 2011 թ.-ին ամեկի քան 120 անդամների, պաշտոնեաների, կամատուր օժանդակողների եւ մի շարք հրապարակների ներկայությամբ, նշեց Հայկական Տեղեկատվության եւ Խորհրդովի Կեդրոն-ի (Հայաշէն-ի) գործունեության 25 ամեակը, որի ընթացքում Հայաշէնը յայտնություններ ծառայել է՝ հազարավոր թից բաղկացած Լոնտոնի հայ գաղութին, մասնատրապէս նրանք, ովքեր ամենատուժած եւ կարիքատուր խան են ներկայացնում, հայթայթելով նրանց տարրական ապրուստի եւ մշակութային պահանջները:

Միջոցառման հովանատրողներն էին՝ Հայր Վահան Ծ. Վրդ. Յովհաննէսեանը, Ս. Սարգիս եկեղեցու խորհրդովի ատենապետ Դոկտ. Հրաչ Չիլինգիրեանը, Հայ եկեղեցաւ կան խորհրդովի անդամներ եւ Իլինգի արժանապատիւ քաղաքապետ՝ Cllr. John Gallagher-ը, որին ընկերակցում էր քաղաքապետուհի՝ Pauline Melson-ը եւ Իլինգի քաղաքաւ մասի ներկայացուցիչներ՝ Cllr Julian Bell եւ Hermia Bell-ը: Ներկայ էին նաեւ ներկայացուցիչներ Armenian Medical Association-ից, Ealing Pre-School Learning Association-ից, Ealing Adult Education Department-ից, Refugee Women's Association-ից եւ ուրիշ անձնատրողներն ինչպէս IAG վարժուհի՝ Alison Shuttle-ը: Նոյնպէս ներկայ էին՝ հանրայայտ արեւտագէտ եւ արտիստ Գէորգ Մայիքեանը եւ յարգարժան հրապարակաւ կախուս-գրող՝ Ասատուր Գուգելեանը:

Վերը նշած հիպերին եւ այցելուներին դիմատրեցին Հայաշէնի վարչական կազմը ըստ հետեւելի՝ Ատենապետ Կարո Բոյաղճեան, Զարտուղարուհի՝ Սուզան Բասաբեան, Գանձապահ՝ Ռիչարդ Անուշեան, Փոխ գանձապահ՝ Բոսիկ Կարապետեան, Վաչէ Գուգելեան, Տրանտ Շիրաքունի եւ Հայաշէնի ընդհանուր վարիչ՝ Միսակ Օհանեանը:

Հայր Վահան Ծ. Վրդ. Յովհաննէսեանը շնորհատրելով Հայաշէնի ծննդեան 25-րդ տարեդարը, ողջունեց եւ օրինեց այս հայանապատ կազմակերպութեանը, յիշելով թէ՛ Հայաշէնը առաջին վայրն էր, որ նա այցելեց իբրեւ՝ նորընտիր առաջնորդ Բրիտանիայի եւ Իռլանդիայի հայութեան եւ շնորհակալութիւն յայտնեց բոլոր անձանց, որ աշխատում են Հայաշէնում թէ՛ վարչական կազմին եւ թէ՛ ընդհանուր կառավարիչ ու միա պաշտօնեաներին, քանզի նա նոյնքան տպատրած եւ գոհ էր ինչպէս առաջին իսկ օրն, երբ այցելեց այս գործունեայ եւ կարեւոր հաստատութեանը Լոնտոնի հայ գաղութում:

Միա հիպերն ինչպէս՝ Cllr. Julian Bell-ը, քաղաքապետ՝ Cllr. John Gallagher-ը եւ Ասատուր Գուգելեանն եւ շնորհատրեցին Հայաշէնի 25-ամեակը, փառաբանելով կատարած այն բոլոր աշխատանքները, որ Հայաշէնը ունեցել է իր պատմութեան ընթացքում:

Երեկոյթի ընթացքին, ամեկի քան 60 հոգի, որոնք անցնող տարաւ ընթացքին մասնակցել էին Հայաշէնում կազմակերպած գանազան դարընթացներին, ինչպէս՝ համակարգչային գիտելիքներ, ֆինանսական եւ անգործութեան վերաբերեալ դասընթացներ, պարգեատրեցին վկայականներով: Պարգեատրեցին նաեւ՝ 15 հոգուց բաղկացած կամատուր օժանդակողներ, որոնք մատակարարել էին ամեկի քան 50 ժամ անվճար ծառայութիւն Հայաշէնի յարկի տակ գանազան բնագաւառներում:

Միսակ Օհանեանը համառօտ կերպով իր շնորհակալութիւն յայտնեց բոլոր նրանց, ովքեր տարիներ շարունակ ներկայ էին գտնել Հայաշէնում եւ ամեն կերպ հովանատրել ու աջակցել Հայաշէնի նախաձեռնած աշխատանքներում, մասնատրապէս ներկայ եւ նախկին վարչական կազմից ու պաշտօնեաներից, որոնք նիւրաբար աշխատել են այս կազմակերպութեան մէջ: Ապա, 3 տարեց անդամ-անդամուհիներ՝ Տիկ. Աննիկ Հոգ, Պրն. Ջոն Տեր Փարթոյը եւ Պրն. Յովհաննէս Զունդարճեանը, որոնք տարիներ շարունակ գործել եւ իբրեւ վարչութեան անդամներ, պարգեատրեցին յաերժական անդամակցութեամբ իրենց ցուցաբերած իրապատու եւ նիւրած ծառայութեան համար:

Միջոցառման աւարտին ներկաներն կատարեցին նիւրաւութիւններ, որը բարձրէն գնահատում է:

Երեքշաբթի, Հոկտեմբեր 4, 2011 թ.-ին ամեկի քան 50 հրապարակների ներկայ գտնեցին յատուկ ընդունելութեան, իշատակելու Հայաշէնի գործունեության 25 ամեակը:

Լոնտոնեկոյն տեղի ունեցաւ Իլինգի քաղաքապետարանի խորհրդարահում, որը սկսեց երեկոյան ժամը 6:30-ին, թաղամասի յարգարժան քաղաքապետ Cllr. John Gallagher-ը, քաղաքապետուհի՝ Pauline Melson-ը եւ

Հայաշէնի վարչութեան անդամների ներկայությամբ, որտեղ Հայաշէնի ընդհանուր վարիչ՝ Միսակ Օհանեանը ընդունեց հիպերին:

Հայաշէնի պատմութեան այդ իրապատու իրադարձութեան հովանատրողներն էին՝ Հայաստանի հանրապետութեան նորընտիր դեսպանուհի՝ Տիկ. Կարինէ Կազինեանը, խորհրդարանի անդամ՝ Stephen Pound MP, Իլինգի Քաղաքապետարանից՝ Cllr Julien Bell, Cllr Ranjit Dheer, Cllr Yvonne Johnson եւ Cllr Patricia Walker: Ներկայ էին նաեւ թաղամասի գանազան կուսակցութիւնների ներկայացուցիչներ ինչպէս Cllr K Crawford (Labour), Cllr Ara Iskandarian (Labour), Cllr Harvey Rose (Liberal Democrat) եւ Cllr Andrew Steed (Liberal Democrat): Cllr David Millican (Conservative), խորհրդարանի անդամ՝ Virenda Sharma MP եւ Լոնտոնի քաղաքապետի տեղապահ՝ Richard Barnes-ը բազմազաղ Լինելու պատճառով, ներողութիւն էին յայտնել իրենց բացակայութեան համար: Տրաիրեալների շարքում էին գտնում՝ Հայկական Եկեղեցական խորհրդովի ներկայացուցիչները, շաբաթօրեայ ու կիրակնօրեայ հայկական դպրոցների ներկայացուցիչները, Armenian Institute-ի, Աղբատախանում ու նաեւ Հայաշէնի ներկայ եւ նախկին վարչութեան անդամներն: Ներկայ էր նաեւ Lorna Fleming-ը, Joint commissioning manager for Older People Services:

Ներկաներն հիւրասիրեցին հայկական եւ միջին արեւելեան պիւրծաբեր ուտեստեղէնով եւ գանազան ըմպելիքներով, որից յետոյ ուղղեցին դէպի խորհրդարահ, ուր ունկնդրեցին քաղաքապետի խօսքերը: Նա իր շնորհակալական խօսքը ուղղեց ներկաներին իրենց բերած մասնակցութեան համար եւ շնորհատրեց Հայաշէնի ծննդեան եւ գործունեութեան 25-ամեակը: Իր խօսքերի մէջ անորադարձաւ՝ քաղաքապետարանի ֆոնդի մասին եւ ինչպէս նախկինում գոյութիւն ունեցող 3 թաղամասեր՝ Acton, Ealing եւ Southall-ը միացան ու կազմեց՝ այսօրայ Ealing քաղաքապետարանը:

Երկրորդ խօսման էր՝ Հայաստանի հանրապետութեան դեսպանուհի արժանապատիւ Տիկ. Կարինէ Կազինեանը, թերեւս մի քանի շաբաթ ժամանած բայց լաւածանօթ Հայաշէնի գործունեութեան, շնորհատրեց Հայաշէնի 25-րդ տարեդարը եւ լաւագոյն մաղթանքներով աւարտեց իր խօսքը:

Ապա Հայաշէնի հիմնադիր անդամ եւ ընդհանուր կառավարիչ՝ Միսակ Օհանեանը, նախ շնորհակալութիւն յայտնեց բոլորից, յատկապէս յարգելի քաղաքապետից օրալ ընդունելութեան համար, իր պատգամն փոխանցեց անորադարձալով այս ոչ-շահաւորական եւ բարեկարգիւն հիմնարկութեան՝ Հայաշէնի ձեռքբերումների ու վերիջեց տարիների ընթացքին պատահած մի շարք անձնական, բայց հետակրկական միջադէպեր: Նաեւ շնորհակալութիւն յայտնեց Հայաշէնի բոլոր անդամ-անդամուհիներից, պաշտօնեաներից եւ վարչական կազմից եւ բոլոր նրանք, ովքեր տարիների ընթացքում, դրական կերպով օգտակար են հանդիսացել Հայաշէնին, որպէսզի լաւագոյն հերպով ծառայի իր նպատակներին՝ օժանդակելով ամենակարգաւոր եւ գրկած հայերին՝ քիչ եկամտաւ ունեցողներին, կանանց ու երեխաներին, տարիքատներին եւ իրենց ինստիտուտներին, ինչու չէ նաեւ ունեւ, որ նոր են հաստատել Անգլիա, օգնելով տեղատրելու եւ համակարգելու օրէնքներին ու միջավայրին, առանց մոռանալու իրենց հայկական արմատներն ու էութիւնն:

Ապա բեւ հրապարակեց Stephen Pound MP, որը իրեն իրապատու ոճով շնորհատրեց այդ կարեւոր իրադարձութիւնը Հայաշէնին եւ խոր գգացմունքերով տոգորած՝ խօսեց հայոց ցեղասպանութեան ձանաչման եւ հայերի կորած իրատնքների, ինչու չէ նաեւ հայ ժողովրդի հաստատականութեան մասին Ղարաբաղի խնդրում:

Վերջում բեւ հրապարակեց Իլինգի առաջին ՀԱՅ ներկայացուցիչ՝ Արա Բականդարեանը, որը յաւանք չի լինելու վերջինը: Երիտաւարը Արան վերիջեց թէ՛ ինչպէս Հայաշէնը դերակատար է եղել իր կեանքում, ցուցաբերելով կենսական ծառայութիւններ հայ համայնքի նկատմամբ, որին յետել են մեծաքանակ հայեր:

Միջոցառումը շարունակեց մինչեւ երեկոյան ժամը 8:30-ը, որտեղ բոլոր ներկաներն շարունակեցին իրենց գրոցները մտերմ եւ ընկերական մթնոլորտում եւ փոխանցեցին իրենց ամենալաւագոյն մաղթանքները Հայաշէնի յաջորդ 25 տարիների համար: ■

Թարգմանեց եւ համարեց՝ Նարոյ Նինա Կարապետեանը Լոնտոն - Հոկտեմբեր, 2011

Yelena Bonner, human rights activist and widow of Soviet dissident and Nobel Peace Prize winner Andrei Sakharov died in June 2011. She was 88.

Throughout her lifetime, Ms. Bonner lent her voice to many causes. She spoke very passionately on the human rights violations committed by Azerbaijan in Karabagh and virtually from the onset of the national liberation movement there, she defended the right of the Armenian nation to self-determination. She was the eldest child of Bolshevik revolutionaries Gevork Alikhanyan, who once was party chief in Armenia, and Ruth Bonner. Yelena Bonner's legacy continues to inspire countless people around the world as a commanding voice for human rights and remains a heroic figure for Karabagh Armenians.

* * *

"Dr. Death" Jack Kevorkian, Armenian by origin, passed away on 3 June 2011 in a Michigan hospital at the age of 83. Jack Kevorkian was a staunch supporter of euthanasia and stood for its legalization. He is said to have helped at least 130 terminally ill people end their lives from 1990 to 1998. Kevorkian served 8 years in prison and was released in 2007.

* * *

According to *Forbes* (a leading source for business news and financial information) Armenia has now the 2nd worst economy in the world. Armenia's economy shrank by 15% in 2009 as an expatriate-financed construction boom fizzled along with the world economy. With a mediocre growth forecast for the next few years, this landlocked former Soviet republic is dependent upon Russia and Iran for virtually all of its energy supplies and struggling to keep up with the rest of the world. Per-capita GDP of \$3,000 is less than a third of neighboring Turkey, and inflation is running at 7%.

* * *

On 13 July, 2011, the governments of Armenia and UK signed agreements on avoidance of double taxation of income and assets and the prevention of tax evasion.

At a meeting after the signing ceremony, Armenian Minister of Foreign Affairs Edward Nalbandian and British State Minister for European Affairs David Lidington and British Foreign Secretary William Hague discussed a wide range of bilateral, regional and international issues. Nalbandian was said to have spoken in detail about the steps taken by Armenia to intensify political dialogue, promote bilateral relations and cooperation in international bodies, to boost business links and cultural exchange.

* * *

The government of Turkey announced in August 2011 that it will return thousands of properties, confiscated by the state after 1936, to non-Muslim religious foundations. The returned properties should benefit the Greek-orthodox Christians, Armenians and Jews who are recognized minorities in Turkey.

The news prompted His Holiness Catholicos Aram 1 of the Holy See of Cilicia to send a letter to the Prime Minister of Turkey R.T. Erdogan in which he wrote, "As the spiritual and legal Head of the Armenian Catholicosate of Cilicia, uprooted from its centuries-old seat and established in Antelias, Lebanon, and as the representative of the faithful of the Armenian Orthodox Church, also exiled from Turkey and dispersed all over the world, we find your decree of Saturday 27 August 2011 partial and unjust. The Armenian Catholicosate of Cilicia still holds the titles of ownership of several churches, hospitals, schools, orphanages, cemeteries and other church properties that were confiscated by Turkish authorities during the Armenian Genocide of 1915. The Armenian people still keep the titles of ownership of the homes, businesses and lands they inherited from their grandparents who were victims of the Genocide planned and executed by the Ottoman-Turkish government of the time.

The current decree of your government may comply with European Union standards, but is not an act of justice. Mr. Prime Minister, selective acts of justice deny history and negate democratic values and principles. International instruments such as the European Court of Human Rights and Congressional and parliamentary bodies are implementers of democratic values and principles, and the people are their conscience. As Fridtjof Nansen, the High Commissioner of the League of Nations (1921) and Nobel Prize winner, wrote in his well-known book, *Armenia and the Near East* (London, 1928), "The Armenian people have never abandoned hope; they have gone on bravely working, and waiting. They are waiting still..." (p. 324). And I would add that they will never stop demanding justice from Turkey for the Armenian Genocide; and they will never stop demanding the restoration of their human rights.

Mr. Prime Minister, your claim for justice and human rights will be credible only if you recognize the Armenian Genocide.

* * *

The Armenian Armed Forces made an impressive display of Armenia's current military capabilities with a parade at Republic Square on 21 September to mark the 20th anniversary of the re-establishment of Armenia's independence.

Taking part in the parade were units from the Army, Military Police, Peacekeeping Brigade, Special Brigade of Special Forces, NKR Defense Army, Police Forces, Frontier Troops of National Security Service, and the Russian 102nd Military Base. Students of the Vazgen Sargsyan Military Academy, the Armenak Khanferiants Air Force Academy and the Monte Melkonian Military College also took part in the parade.

Among the military equipment displayed during the parade were products from local military industry such as unmanned flying devices. There were also Zenith-Rocket complexes, Artillery Intelligence, and Automated Fire Control Systems which had been modernized in local military industrial companies.

At the conclusion of the parade, President Serzh Sargsyan delivered his remarks on the 20th Anniversary of the independence.

* * *

On 23 September 2011 President of Armenia, Serzh Sargsyan addressed the 66th United Nations General Assembly, making the case for applying of the principle of self-determination to Nagorno-Karabakh. In his remarks, Sargsyan also drew the international community's attention to the increasing efforts by Azerbaijan to thwart the Karabakh peace process and spreading what he termed "armenophobia." On the Turkey-Armenia front, Sargsyan outlined that while many nations and international organizations have recognized the Armenian Genocide, Turkey continues to deny that historical fact. "Without recognition and condemnation, it will be impossible to develop and implement effective mechanisms of prevention, which is one of the UN's priorities. Armenia will contribute its most to the recognition, punishment, and prevention of genocides," said Sargsyan.

* * *

The first book featuring the biography of American business magnate and inventor, chief executive officer of the Apple Inc, Steve Jobs is to arrive in early 2012.

Jobs who passed away in October, up until recently kept his biography secret, asking others not to meddle with his private life. The contents of the book have not yet been made public.

Steve Jobs was born in 1955 in Mountain View, California. His biological parents are reported to be Syrian immigrants. But a week after his birth, an Armenian mother, Claire Hakobyan, and an American father, Paul Jobser, adopted Steve.

Jobs maintained throughout his life that they were his real parents. ■

COMMUNITY NEWS

During April 2011, the Armenian community of Ealing marked the first anniversary of the planting of an apricot tree in Ealing Green in remembrances to the Armenian genocide. (See photo below)



Two young brothers, David and Simon Davidian made a short film about the April 24th protest march marking the 96th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide in London. The film was on youtube within hours and ensured that Armenians across the globe were united in their battle for deeper recognition of the crimes committed by Ottoman Turkey in 1915. David and Simon said "We personally took it upon ourselves to film the highlights of the protest in an effort to share it with the Diaspora and likewise educate the world." The 10 minute online documentary can be watched at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=jexDNna-CP8 <<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jexDNna-CP8>>



On Sunday 12th June 2011 the first Armenian Street Festival took place thanks largely to the efforts of the Very Revd. Dr. Vahan Hovhannessian, Primate of UK Armenians along with several of his colleagues and volunteers. All Armenian organisations were invited to contribute which they did in a variety of ways to promote the profile of the Armenian community in a positive light to the wider community. The day festival started a ribbon-cutting ceremony, where the Primate was accompanied by Cllr. Julie Smith, Mayor of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and Mr. Gevorg Terterian, Consul of the Embassy

of the Republic of Armenia in UK. Present also throughout the day was Baroness Caroline Cox a long-time friend of the Armenians and the actor Gevorg Malikian who acted as master of ceremony from the stage. Congratulations to everyone who took part and contributed to the success be they volunteers, donors, stallholders, musicians or the general public. Despite the poor weather well over 1000 people visited the festival. Plans are already in motion to organise a 2nd Armenian street festival in 2012. For further information please contact the Primates Office at: primatesoffice@armenianchurch.co.uk

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At the invitation of the Armenian Parliament, a British Parliamentary Delegation visited Armenia and Karabagh on 17th April 2011. The visit was organised by the *British-Armenian All-Party Parliamentary Group (BAAPPG)*. The Parliamentarians were Baroness Cox (*Chair of the Group, heading the Delegation*), Baroness Flather, Lord Harrison of Chester, Baroness Hollins and Mr John Whittingdale MP. Accompanying them were Mr Antony Abadian (*treasurer of BAAPPG*) and Mrs Odette Bazil (*co-founder and executive-secretary of BAAPPG*) organiser of the event.

Upon their return, the British Parliamentarians issued a joint- Statement about the visit and their meetings.

Mr Whittingdale initiated a meeting with Mr David Lidington MP, Minister of State (*Europe and NATO; FCO*) to discuss issues concerning Armenia and Karabagh, engaged himself in furthering in UK the various activities involving Armenia of which he was already committed to and, together with the other four Members of the Delegation, will soon start organising an Exhibition of concerning the Armenian genocide (1915-23) " at the *Imperial War Museum*.

Baroness Flather presented a question entitled "What is the timetable for the (British) Government to recognise the Armenian genocide?" which was debated at the House of Lords on 16th June 2011. Supporting Baroness Flather was: Baroness Cox, Lord Avebury and the Rt Rev Robert Foster, Bishop of Chester. Representing the Government and answering negatively, was Lord Howell of Guilford.

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During June 22-26, the *Victoria and Albert Museum Celebrated Refugee Week 2011* with free talks, tours, workshops and performances. Amongst the many highlights was an event held on Sunday 26 June entitled *Dance Around the World*, with traditional dances from refugees' countries of origin. Akhtamar Armenian Group performed to the delight of those present.

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The Armenian Paralympics Sailing Team competed in the *IFDS World Champanions* in the Sonar event in Weymouth during July 2011 thanks to the effort of the ACCC and Mr Raffi Manoukian.

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A true story of love, loss and survival set against the backdrop of the Armenian Genocide is being brought to life by two women from *Muswell Hill*, a suburb of north London. Based on the novel *Affinity with Night Skies* by local author Astrid Katcharyan, the story is to be made into a film called *Astra* by Director Athena Mandis and tells the tale of how one woman made her own history and changed the lives of future generations of women in the process.

An early suffragette, the protagonist Astra Sabondjian not only chose her own path to love at a time when most women had arranged marriages, but also found time to carve out a career in journalism, save her husband from the gallows, raise a family, open a prestigious couturier house and school for dressmakers in Athens.

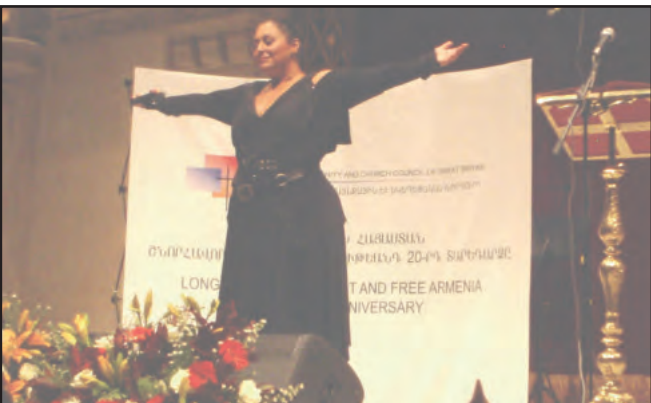
Spanning two generations the story is told over countless wars in the Ottoman Empire as Astra and her husband Setrag, a liberal newspaper editor fight for their love and survival. The story begins in 1905 in *Erzeroum (Eastern Turkey)* as Astra and her family flee to *Smyrna (Ismir, Western Turkey)* to escape the Turkish massacre of Armenians.

Athena says: "This story has real resonance to me as big events

have shaped where I am today. As the daughter of a Greek Albanian trade unionist who fled to the UK to take political asylum I know only too well the ripple effect of conflict and Diaspora." She adds: "This is a story of a woman who weaves in and out of patriarchal society to create her own compelling history. It begs to be told and I am hugely excited to be part of it." The two women are taking the script to the Venice Film festival later this year and are looking for film finance. If anyone wishes to back this project please contact Athena Mandis at: a.mandis@qmul.ac.uk



Raymond Kevorkian's 1,200 page study, *The Armenian Genocide: a Complete History*, was originally published in French. The English translation was released by I.B. Tauris in March and a book signing event was held at St Yeghiche Church organised by the Committee for the Recognition of the Armenian Genocide (CRAG) in July. (See photo above)



Armenia's 20th Anniversary of Independence was marked with a major concert on Saturday 24 September at St Yeghiche Armenia Church London organised by the Armenian Community & Church Council of GB (ACCC) under the auspices of the The Embassy of the Republic of Armenia. The concert featured popular singer Shushan Petrosyan (above) and the newly formed Cilicia Ensemble.

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James Garo Derounian, Principal Lecturer in Community Development and Local Governance, at the University of Gloucestershire was amongst the first to post a Government e-petition. 100,000 signatures needed to ensure a Parliamentary debate! James says - "as an Anglo Armenian the sense of historical injustice remains strong". To sign to right an historic wrong visit the e-petition "Recognition of the Armenian Genocide" <http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/261>

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Staphan Sarkissian will be holding an exhibition of his paintings entitled "Faces of Rajasthan" at the Tabernacle Gallery between 1-7 November, 2011. Full information at Carnival Village website: www.tabernacleW11.com

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Condolences to all those who knew Gregory Krikorian (23/9/1913 - 29/7/2011) Son of Gevork Krikorian & Christine Krikorian (nee Kevorkian). The father of the late artist, Tamar Krikorian. ■

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR DONORS

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY SONYA



Congratulation to Mrs Sonya Hilton who became 90 years young on 20th June this year. Mrs Hilton, an Armenian originally from India, was a Conservative Councillor at Hammersmith & Fulham during 2000-2004 who kindly nominated the CAIA as one of the two charities to benefit from her birthday celebration. Mrs Hilton also visited Armenia for the first time in June where she enjoyed visiting all the tourist sights. Thanks to Mrs Hilton, £400 was raised for CAIA's charitable aims from her friends/relatives and well wishers. We are very grateful to Mrs Hilton for thinking of us and wish her many more happy birthdays. ■

BOOK & CD REVIEWS

THE TRANSFORMATION OF TURKEY: REDEFINING STATE AND SOCIETY FROM THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE TO THE MODERN ERA

BY FATMA MUGE GOCEK

Published by IB Taurus, Hardback £59.50

In 1923, the Modern Turkish Republic rose from the ashes of the Ottoman Empire, proclaiming a new era in the Middle East. However, many of the contemporary issues affecting Turkish state and society today have their roots not only in the in the history of the republic, but in the historical and political memory of the state's imperial history. Here Fatma Muge Gocek draws on Turkey's Ottoman heritage and history to explore current issues of ethnicity and religion alongside Turkey's international position. This new perspective on history's influence on contemporary tensions in Turkey will contribute to the ongoing debate surrounding Turkey's accession to the EU, and offers insight into the social transformations in the transition from Ottoman Empire to Turkish Nation-State.

A QUESTION OF GENOCIDE : ARMENIANS AND TURKS AT THE END OF THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE -

RONALD GRIGOR SUNY; FATMA MUGE GOGUEK, FATMA MUGE GOGUEK, NORMAN M. NAIMARK -

Published by Oxford University Press, Incorporated 2011
464 pages - ISBN 0195393740 eBook ISBN 9780199792764

One hundred years after the deportations and mass murder of Armenians, Assyrians, and other peoples in the final years of the Ottoman Empire, the history of the Armenian Genocide remains a victim of historical distortion, state-sponsored falsification, and the deep divisions between Armenians and Turks. Working together for the first time, Turkish, Armenian, and other scholars present here the most accurate reconstruction of what happened and why. This book is the product of a decade of scholarly encounters that launched intense investigations by historians and other social scientists dedicated to honest exploration of one of history's greatest tragedies. While the word "genocide" still divides communities, there is no longer any serious doubt that the Young Turk government ordered and carried out in 1915-1916 mass deportations and massacres targeted toward designated ethnoreligious groups. This volume includes reviews of the historical debates surrounding these events, portraits of the perpetrators, detailed accounts of the massacres themselves, and reflections on the broader implications of what happened then on what might happen now. Here history is not only the stories that we tell about the past but the foundation on which might be built new understandings of the present and possible futures.

TALAAAT PASHA'S REPORT ON THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE, 1917, Published by Gomidas Institute, Includes full-size color map.

ISBN 978-1-903656-61-7. UK £12.00

Recent documents released in Turkish archives, combined with surviving documents from Talaat's Pasha's private papers, confirm that Talaat was indeed the architect of the Armenian Genocide. There is a clear record that he ordered and supervised the general deportation of Ottoman Armenians in 1915-16, and that he followed the fate of such deportees from close quarters. Talaat was sent updates regarding Armenians at different stages of deportations, as well as information about the fate of others who were subjected to special treatment. Although a great deal of Ottoman records still remain unavailable in Turkish archives, the available records show that the Ottoman deportation thesis was a smokescreen for the annihilation of Armenians. Ottoman records in Turkish archives, as well as Talaat's 1917 report, show that less than 100,000

Armenians survived in the so-called resettlement zone for Armenians. According to Talaat's report on the Armenian Genocide, most Armenians in the Ottoman Empire had disappeared between 1915 and 1917, or they were dispersed in different provinces of the Ottoman Empire for assimilation. The forced assimilation of hundreds of thousands of Armenians was indicative of the power, control and purpose of the Ottoman state.

Talaat Pasha's Report on the Armenian Genocide, 1917 is the closest official Ottoman view we have of the Armenian Genocide. The report was undoubtedly prepared for Talaat Pasha and meant for his private use. It was not meant for publication and probably only survived because Talaat was assassinated in 1921 and his widow gave the report to a Turkish historian who eventually published it. No such record has been released by Turkish archives to date, though the data presented in the 1917 report can be checked against the available Ottoman records and stands scrutiny.

According to Talaat's figures 1,150,000 Armenians disappeared in the Ottoman Empire between 1915-1917. This number includes well over 100,000 Armenians who fled from the Ottoman Empire in 1915 (and died in large numbers from hunger, exposure and disease), but it does not include tens of thousands of Armenian women and children who were absorbed into Muslim families or placed into state orphanages for assimilation.

In this publication of Talaat's report on the Armenian Genocide, historian Ara Sarafian discusses the 1917 report in light of other Ottoman records. He presents Talaat's statistics in all detail and includes two invaluable color maps demonstrating the content of the report, as well as additional Ottoman documents related to the Armenian Genocide. Sarafian presents Talaat's breakdown of the number of Armenians, their native provinces, and their whereabouts in the Ottoman Empire in 1917.

To order please contact books@gomidas.org

ARMENIAN GRAVES, INSCRIPTIONS AND MEMORIALS IN INDIA-DACCA 1722-1977 BY LIZ CHATER includes 160 full colour photographs

This book is a valuable addition to the study of the patriotic, pioneering and prosperous Armenian merchants and entrepreneurs who, for more than three centuries, were active from India to Indonesia.

In addition to building churches and schools in the far-away Orient, these remarkable people helped revive the Armenian struggle for an independent Armenia, printed the first Armenian newspaper and financially supported Armenian churches and communities in South & East Asia and elsewhere.

Liz Chater is relative of the illustrious philanthropist Sir Catchik Paul Chater (*Khachik Pogose Astwachatoor*, 1846-1926). He was born in Calcutta and became a successful businessman in Hong Kong. Also he was an outstanding civil servant. He was knighted in 1902. He is considered as one of the great benefactors of the Armenian community in Calcutta.

The book contains in excess of 160 full colour photographs of all the remaining graves at the Armenian Church *Dhaka* (*Dacca, previously in Bengal but now capital of Bangladesh*). In addition, it includes over 25 individual family tree charts that relate directly to those Armenians buried in *Dhaka*. These charts have been drawn up from Ms Chater's own research of the Armenian community's existence there between the 18th and 20th centuries.

She has also uniquely cross-referenced the grave inscriptions with the original Armenian Church death register entries and where possible, also included important factual information from those registers. All transcriptions and register entries that are written in Armenian have been expertly translated into English, the majority of which

have been completed by the very Reverend Fr. Krikor Maksoudian, to further help the Armenian family history researchers around the world who may have a South East Asia genealogy connection.

The book is published by *Chater Genealogy Publishing* through a self-publishing print-on-demand online website www.blurb.com. The direct link to purchase the book is: <http://www.blurb.com/bookstore/detail/2277738>

To obtain a copy please use the above direct link.

For general enquiries on Armenian genealogy in India please email me either at liz@chater-genealogy.com or lizchater@tiscali.co.uk.

FROM THE INDIAN OCEAN TO THE MEDITERRANEAN - THE GLOBAL TRADE NETWORKS OF ARMENIAN MERCHANTS FROM NEW JULFA BY SEBOUH DAVID ASLANIAN
Hardcover, 392 pages - ISBN: 9780520266872 - £34.95

Drawing on a rich trove of documents, including correspondence not seen for 300 years, this study explores the emergence and growth of a remarkable global trade network operated by Armenian silk merchants from a small outpost in the Persian Empire. Based in New Julfa, Isfahan, in what is now Iran, these merchants operated a network of commercial settlements that stretched from London and Amsterdam to Manila and Acapulco. The New Julfan Armenians were the only Eurasian community that was able to operate simultaneously and successfully in all the major empires of the early modern world—both land-based Asian empires and the emerging sea-borne empires—astonishingly without the benefits of an imperial network and state that accompanied and facilitated European mercantile expansion during the same period. This book brings to light for the first time the trans-imperialcosmopolitan world of the New Julfans. Among other topics, it explores the effects of long distance trade on the organization of community life, the ethos of trust and cooperation that existed among merchants, and the importance of information networks and communication in the operation of early modern mercantile communities. Dr. Sebouh Aslanian was born and raised in Ethiopia, and was educated at *McGill University*, the Graduate Faculty of the *New School for Social Research in New York*, and *Columbia University*, where he received a Ph.D. in 2007. He has taught at *Columbia*, *Claremont McKenna College* in California, and is currently Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of History at *Whitman College* in Walla Walla, WA.

ONE DAY IN APRIL by Jad El Hage

One Day in April is published by *Quartet Books*. Set in Beirut, 1977, amidst the civil war, *One Day in April* paints a rich portrait of Lebanon's cultural elites and completes Jad el Hage's civil war 'trilogy', confirming the author's position as one of Lebanon's finest contemporary writers.

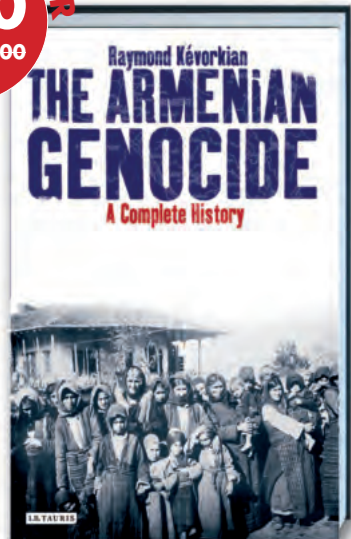
Exactly two years into the civil war, Armenian photographer 'Koko' Krikorian is given an unusual assignment: to meet up with freelance journalist Nader Abi Nader in a remote Bekaa Valley village to cover a conciliatory wedding aimed at ending a vendetta between warring tribes. However, Nader, a brilliant but maverick writer, is also Koko's arch enemy. Not only is he impossible to work with, he's also the man who stole Koko's girlfriend, the beautiful and enigmatic painter, Najla. As Koko drives to the Bekaa he reflects on the past entanglements of this tormented trio, on Beirut's fading glory and on the destruction of its famed artistic and intellectual life. When he arrives, more surprises await him. The desperados aren't what they seem, there are rumours of a witch in the vicinity, and a novel idea for ending the civil war is being hatched.

Lebanese poet, novelist and playwright Jad El Hage has

been publishing his creative works in newspapers since 1966. He has worked as a journalist since he was sixteen and also a book editor and radio broadcaster in Beirut, Paris (*Radio Monte Carlo*), Athens (*Harlequin Arab World*), London (*BBC World Service*) and Sydney. His published works include, in Arabic, one novel, seven collections of poetry and two of short stories, one play for radio and four for theatre. He has two novels in English – *The Last Migration* (*Panache Publications*) and *The Myrtle Tree* (*Banipal Books*). The book can be purchased by contacting 020 7636 3992 or by email to: info@quartetbooks.co.uk

THE GURDJIEFF FOLK INSTRUMENTS ENSEMBLE: MUSIC OF GEORGES I

Georges Gurdjieff is best known as a mystic and spiritual teacher, but he was also a musician who composed by dictating to his pupil, the Russian pianist Thomas de Hartmann. The great jazz pianist Keith Jarrett helped revive international interest in Gurdjieff's work with his *Sacred Hymns* album, in 1980, but this set presents his music in a very different setting. Gurdjieff was born in Armenia, and influenced by the songs he heard on his travels through the Middle East and Central Asia. This Ensemble, directed by Armenian musician Levon Eskenian, sets out to return his music to its "ethnic inspirational sources". Which means Eskenian has chosen pieces that relate to folk songs or sacred songs that have their roots in Armenia, or neighbouring regions, and that they are performed by leading Armenian folk musicians. The result is a delicate, haunting and atmospheric selection of instrumental pieces. Played by a 14-piece acoustic band, they range from drifting, mesmeric arrangements for the *duduk* Armenian woodwind to subtle, sparse passages, or more sturdy dance pieces played on the zither-like *kanon*, the *oud* or the *santur* dulcimer. An intriguing, often gently exquisite set.



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AUTHOR EVENT

Sunday 18th March 2012 at 2pm

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Raymond Kévorkian, author of *The Armenian Genocide*, will be giving a talk as part of the Introduction to Armenian History, Culture & Heritage course.

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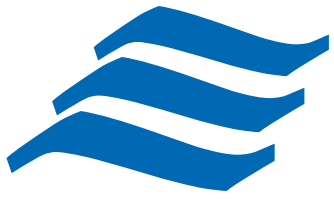
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