



# Armenian Institute news

## The Armenian-European Experience

**A**rmenian communities have existed in Europe for over 1,000 years. Today there are communities in all of the 15 countries of the European Union and throughout Eastern Europe. The unique experience of Armenians in Europe is marked by their deep integration in the social, economic and cultural milieu of their respective countries, whilst continuing to be part of their millennia-old culture. Indeed, this experience provides an example that full integration is possible alongside dual and complementary cultural identities.

Integration and diversity have been among the most challenging processes in the European Union. A generally neglected area of attention in such discussions is the importance, relevance, role and impact of diaspora communities in the various phases of integration.

The Armenian Institute—which brings together

the talents and work of academics, scholars and professionals from diverse disciplines—is aptly posed to contribute to the wider understanding of issues related to collective and individual identities and their impact on society, both positive and negative.

Even as the European Union itself creates another level of civic belonging, with progressively close structural ties between citizens of different member states, the visibility of ethnic and religious diaspora communities is increasing in importance. The networks, experiences, and influences of these citizens and communities have an important impact on the host societies, as well as the global economy, politics and security.

Whilst questions are raised as to the depth of ties and commitment to the host society, for most individuals in diaspora (*continued on page 2*)

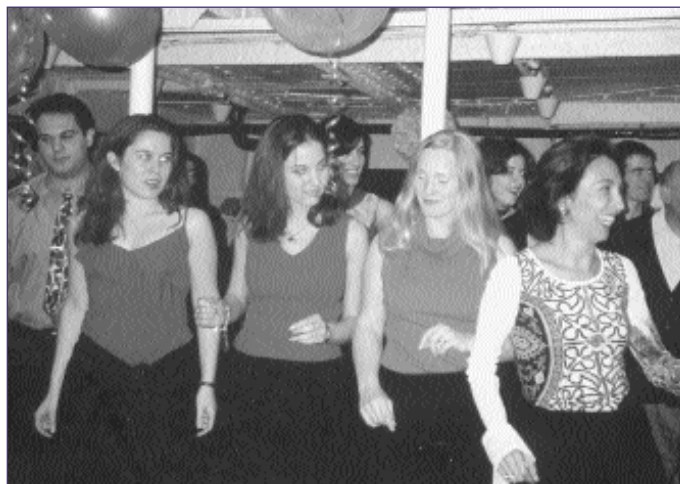
## 'Relaxed rave' a huge success New season of activities begin on HMS President

NOURITZA MATOSSIAN

**O**n November 25, the Armenian Institutes launched its new season of activities with a 'Relaxed Sunday Rave' on HMS President, docked on the Embankment.

In a cosy bar with seating, the lights of the Tate Modern, Festival Hall and Blackfriars Bridge sparkled through the portholes creating a magical atmosphere. One hundred and thirty friends of the Institute of various nationalities were buzzing with anticipation.

DJ Rohan Brown and superb dancer from Salsa Fever came to help us with the Salsa programme. An enthusiastic core of volunteers - Tamar Haytayan, Helin Avedissian, Vanessa Galbraith, Ara Ohanian and others - worked hard to organize the event. Rohan raised the temperature, as we demonstrated a salsa, then began to teach. Chairs emptied as people danced to the beat



Fast learners with plenty rhythm and soul!

in lines and soon in couples. 'They've got Rhythm!'. Have you noticed how people break into a huge smile when they catch the step and enjoy dancing?' A wonderful sight.

Oriental and Armenian delicacies went down a treat, drink flowed, people strolled buying books, checking the items for silent auction and meeting up with friends in a wonderfully relaxed mood.

I got lucky when two most distinguished musicians, Levon Chilingirian and Haroutune Bedelian, were gracious enough to (*continued on page 2*)

## ATTN: YOUTH ESSAY & POETRY COMPETITION

We invite young students to send original essays and poems in Armenian or in English on the subject of:

**"How, Why, and When do you feel Armenian?"**

A panel of three professionals will judge the entries. Prizes will be awarded for each category (poetry and essay) for two age groups: **9-13 years old** and **14-18 years old**. There will be four First Prizes (£50 each), two for each language, and four seconde prizes (£25 each).

Prizes will be given at a special event in May, where winning poems and essays will also be presented to the public. The winning entries will be published in the *Armenian Institute News*.

Entries should be sent to: Armenian Institute, 7 Hollingbourne Road, London SE24 9NB.  
**Deadline: 30 April 2002.**  
For further details and application form, please write to AI or email: [info@armenianinstitute.com](mailto:info@armenianinstitute.com)

### ԵՐԻՏԱՍԱՐԴԱԿԱՆ

### Շարադրութեան եւ Բանաստեղծութեան Մ Ր Ց Ա Ն Ա Կ

Նիւթ՝ «Ինչպէս,  
Ի՞նչու եւ ո՞ւր  
Հայ կ'զգաս»:  
9-13 տարեկան եւ  
14-18 տարեկան  
երիտասարդներու  
Համար: Հայերէն կամ  
Անգլերէն լեզուով:  
Առաջին մրցանակ £75,  
Երկրորդ մրցանակ £25:  
Ժամկէտ՝ Ապրիլ 30  
(տես վերեւի Հասցէն):

## 'Armenian-European' (continued from page 1)

communities, the layers of identity and multiple connections are not a source of conflict, but rather a source of enrichment of the individual, the group, and society at large.

European countries are being transformed to more openly diverse societies. It is important to explore how newcomers can be assisted to develop a deeper attachment and commitment to being part of the host society, and maintaining other meaningful forms of belonging. Equally, it is vital to develop methods to help the host society appreciate the contributions of diaspora communities to society at large. With these questions in mind, the Armenian Institute is planning and developing a series of projects to be held in 2002.

### Identities Without Borders

A day-long academic and policy-oriented conference/workshop that will focus on issues such as: Diasporas as mechanism of integration of newcomers with host society; Diasporas as linkage with wider transnational communities; Citizenship and diversity: finding a balance; Economic interaction between

diasporas and homelands; Institutional factors: the structures of diasporas; and others.

### Children Within New Borders

As the role and place of the new generation in diaspora communities is one of the key variables of the integration process, this activity will focus on children's cultural and linguistic education.

Innovation and resource development in bilingual and multi-cultural teaching will be demonstrated throughout morning and afternoon arts-based workshops, led by experts from around the world. Computer and internet learning, arts-based formal and informal teaching will be explored.

### Language Beyond Borders

Knowledge of languages, in addition to providing means of communication, facilitates better understanding of cultures, values and traditions of various communities.

This seminar will focus on innovation in bilingual teaching and resource development, especially, but not only, for children.

## HM President (continued from page 1)

hold up the art works for me to auction. Paintings and prints, some by the famous Yerevan artist Ararat Sarkissian, were successfully auctioned. Hokies star Natalie Manoukian performed two songs with great panache. Then Armenian dancing, more salsa, more merengue.

Mrs. Bansri Shah wrote,

"Thanks so much for the great party. I really enjoyed the salsa music and your dancing." West-Indian playwright Mustafa Matura concurred: 'We ate, drank and danced... enjoyed it all. How about some Armenian folk art, dance, songs... great atmosphere...'

How about you?



Salsa lesson given by Nouritza & Rohan Brown of Salsafever.



Fave artist Natalie sings Auction Bid song, 'I will survive'.

## THANK YOU Friends of the Armenian Institute

The Armenian Institute is grateful to the following for their financial contributions and moral support.

### SPONSORS

Levon Chilingirian & Susan Pattie  
Bedo & Tania Eghiayan  
George & Diana Kurkjian  
John & Christina Kurkjian

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Hratch Tchilingirian  
Alan Topalian  
Luisa Weinzierl  
Pamela Young

## www.armenianinstitute.com

AI website launched! We would like to thank webmaster **Arec Koundarjian** and content/design consultant **Taline Haytayan** for launching the website recently. AI thanks them for their work and continued efforts to further develop the site.



**Armenian Institute**

7 Hollingbourne Road, London SE24 9NB

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info@armenianinstitute.org

# calendar of events

Throughout the year the Armenian Institute will be organising a series of cultural and educational events, lectures, seminars, and conferences. Here are some of the forthcoming events.

## How to Book

### BY EMAIL

info@armenianinstitute.org

### BY FAX

020 7274 5764

### BY POST

With cheque payable to Armenian Institute, mail to 7 Hollingbourne Road, London SE24 9NB

### *Drawing on the past to enrich the present*

*The Armenian Institute is*

*dedicated to making*

*Armenian culture and history*

*a living experience, through*

*innovative programmes,*

*educational resources, work-*

*shops, academic events,*

*exhibits and performances.*

\* More details and information about forthcoming AI events will be sent by mail.

## FILM

**5 FEBRUARY 2002**

*In Memory of Henri Verneuil*  
(Ashot Malakian)

## MAYRIG

Starring Omar Sharif, Claudia Cardinale, Nathalie Roussel, with Isabelle Sadoyan, and Jacky Nercessian. (French with English subtitle.)

This acclaimed autobiographical film (1991), dealing with the Armenian Genocide and the Malakian family's settlement in France in 1924, is a masterpiece of the popular French film director.

During his 45-year career Henri Verneuil made more than 30 feature films. In 1996, he received a Cesar, the French version of the Oscar, for lifetime achievement in cinema. He died on 11 January at the age of 81.

Donation: £5 AI Friends: £3

## MUSICAL ODYSSEY

**13 APRIL 2002**

## Adventures with Komitas: From Geghart to Hollywood Bowl

Based on a four-hour programme on Armenian music made for the Dutch national radio last year, documentary maker/producer Dorothee Forma and composer/producer Michael Fahres will make presentations about their odyssey of Armenian music. The producers travelled to Armenia, France and California to trace the path of Komitas's music and to discover the multi-dimensional expressions of Armenian music in the last one hundred years.

**Children's music workshop, Komitas songs and instrumental music.**

## WORKSHOPS

**10 FEBRUARY 2002**

**23 FEBRUARY 2002**

**10 MARCH 2002**

## ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

These workshops are designed to assist people, young and old, to gather the life histories of Armenian community members in Britain. Non-Armenian friends may also be interested in studying their own communities and neighbourhoods. A series of three workshops will be led by professionals experienced in interviewing and video techniques. Topics include: How to begin; how to organise material; presentation of results to each other, and others. Some finished projects will later be displayed to the public. Open to adults and youth 12-years and up. Fee: £15 AI Friends: £12

## MEET THE AUTHOR

**MAY 2002\***

## Armenian Women of the Stage

Through a selection of biographical sketches Alice Navasargian tells the story of talented Armenian women in the performing arts focusing on their important achievements. The book charts the historical development of women stage performers within and without Armenian communities from the middle of the 19th century to the present day.

Alice Navasargian will present her book with the accompaniment of a videotape showing excerpts from stage performances of a number of Armenian women of sound and stage represented in this unique publication.

## LECTURE-WORKSHOP

**MARCH 2002\***

## Visual Narratives: Armenian History Through Maps

Maps are snapshots of history. They are visual narratives of the past, providing points of reference for the present. This event is an exciting opportunity to look at Armenian history through historical maps. Invited guest speakers include renowned scholar Claude Moutafian (Paris), who has published fascinating maps of Armenian history. Author and artist Nouritza Matossian will make slide presentation about her research trip to historic Armenia (Turkey).

**Children's Workshop: mixing map-making & history.**

## Catholicos Karekin I Memorial Conference

**JUNE 2002\***

## The Armenian Church: Crossroads of East and West

The day-long event will bring together scholars and experts to discuss the historical role of the Armenian Church as a bridge between East and West, especially in the spheres of theology, liturgy and religious practices. The conference, to be held on the third anniversary of His Holiness's passing, will be a forum for intellectual exchange of ideas and analyses about the relevance of East-West interaction in the contemporary Armenian church and community life.



Be part of a new vision

# Are you an average Armenian?

If you consider yourself an average Armenian, stop here. No need to continue reading.

Do you desire to learn about the rich Armenian cultural heritage? Do you wish to enrich your personal and communal life? Would you want to share the wealth of Armenian culture with others? Are you willing to support an institution which is committed to making Armenian culture relevant to every Armenian in Britain?

If you answered 'yes' to all four questions, congratulations! Continue reading.

Probably, you are wondering who is an average Armenian. Well, there's one more question that makes the difference: Are you willing to contribute £25 a year (more or less the price of a ticket to a concert) and become a Friend of the Armenian Institute? If yes, then you are one of the 120 people we are looking for out of the 12,000 Armenians living in Britain. Our goal for 2002 is to find and enlist at least 120 Friends:

Armenians, half/quarter Armenians, hyphenated Armenians, honorary Armenians, and ABCs (Armenian-by-choice).

The Armenian Institute, too, is not an average Armenian organisation. It is a programme-oriented powerhouse of talent, professionalism and leadership.

Within the short time since its founding, the Armenian Institute has already conducted very successful events and projects for children, youth, young adults and the general public. For 2002, the Institute has a line-up of a series of more exciting intellectual, educational, cultural and artistic projects.

Your financial and moral support are very significant to us; your partnership would make the planning, development and implementation of many other projects possible.

We look forward to hearing from you and to welcoming you as a Friend of the Armenian Institute.

*Yes*, I want to support the Armenian Institute and become a **Friend** of the Armenian Institute.

- Friend (single)  £25
- Family  £40
- Concession  £15
- Patron  £100

I wish to support the projects of the Armenian Institute as a Donor. Enclosed is my donation of £\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

I want the Armenian Institute to treat the enclosed donation of £\_\_\_\_ as **gift aid** donation. Please tick here  if you are a UK tax payer. National Insurance Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: **Armenian Institute** 7 Hollingbourne Road., London SE24 9NB.

## Friends of the Armenian Institute

### BENEFITS

**FRIENDS** of the Armenian Institute will receive a regular newsletter about activities and events, priority booking, and a discount on entrance tickets (including one guest). In addition, your support will make it possible to implement a wide range of exciting activities for all ages.

**PATRONS** of the Armenian Institute will receive the above, as well as a selected gift publication, and an invitation to an exclusive event for patrons.

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