

Spring 2003
Volume 2, Issue 2



armenian institute news

COMING EVENTS

ARMENIAN CULTURAL PERFORMANCE

Friday, 23 May 2003
6.00 PM - Barbican Hall

The Armenian Institute, in association with the Akhtamar Armenian Performance Group, is presenting a pre-concert programme at the Barbican, featuring **Akhtamar dancers**, artists **Shakeh Avanesian**, **Dikran Alexanyan**, and **Mayis Simonian**. The programme includes traditional lyrical and folk Armenian dances, the beautiful sounds of duduk music and Armenian songs.

The Barbican presents **X-BLOC REUNION**, a revolutionary mix of ethnic and urban music from the former Eastern Bloc. The concert at 7.30 pm will feature master dudukist **Djivan Gasparian**, inspiring vocalist **Alim Qasimov**, and Russia's leading folk singer **Sergey Starostin**.

The Armenian dance performance is FREE.
For concert tickets contact:
www.barbican.org.uk/xbloc
or call Barbican Box Office
020 7638 8891

PHAROS CONCERT

Identities Without Borders

Lord Bhikhu Parekh delivers keynote lecture

The Armenian Institute began a year of activities with a major international colloquium, generously funded by the St. Sarkis Trust. The first event on February 6th, a keynote address by Lord Bhikhu Parekh, was held at the British Library. Professor of Political Theory at the LSE and the University of Hull, Lord Parekh is the author of *Rethinking Multiculturalism* and numerous other reports, articles and books. He opened the colloquium by addressing the central issue of "Fostering Cohesion in Multicultural Societies". Prof. Eileen Barker of the LSE moderated the session.

Colloquium

The following day, speakers and delegates were welcomed at Armenian House. Four panels throughout the day brought together speakers from Europe and the United States, interacting with each other and the audience in lively discussions. Panel one on "Contemporary issues in migration, refugee, and diaspora studies" included Professors Khachig Tölölyan (Wesleyan), Peter Loizos (LSE) and Gloria Toticaguena (Nevada), chaired by Dr. Ruth Mandel (UCL). Bringing together examples from Basque people, Armenians, Cyprus, and others, the panel discussed issues of loyalty regarding multiple identities, the place of dissent, sustaining networks of meaning and identity and other issues. In the second panel, moderated by historian Prof. Claire Mouradian (Paris), a different approach to similar questions was evidenced as Thomas Chullikal of the Menuhin Foundation (Brussels) and Emma D'Costa of Cultural Cooperation (London)



Prof. Bhikhu Parekh

addressed: "The public space of diversity: diasporas explored in the media and the arts". Both organisations have considerable experience in presenting different, especially minority cultures to the wider public through the arts (festivals, school education, the internet, and by facilitating networks of diaspora artists).

In the third panel, "Citizenship and Grass-

(continued on page 2)

Keynote lecture at the British Library



Prof. Eileen Barker





IWB Panels (L to R): Ruth Mandel, Gloria Toticaguena, PeterLoizos. Dina Kiwan, Suan Pattie, Anny Bakalian, Birgit Brandt; Emma D'Costa; Claire Mouradian, Thomas Chullikal.

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roots: What are the interfaces of Diaspora, Community and the State”, scholars who have also worked with education and politics at the local level led the discussion. Dr. Dina Kiwan (Institute of Education), Dr. Birgit Brandt (Community Fund), and Dr. Anny Bakalian (CUNY) looked at the impact of local advocacy groups, different concepts and expectations of citizenship, and the place of education in nurturing new citizens. The final panel, chaired by Dr. Susan Pattie (UCL) featured Dr. Razmik Panossian, Hratch Tchilingirian and Dr. Gloria Toticaguena, summarising the earlier panels and looking for practical proposals stemming from the discussions.

The Armenian Diaspora

In the evening, a roundtable discussion on “The Armenian Diaspora Today” was held with the participation of an exceptionally large group of scholars. Chaired by Dr. Pattie, the panel included Bakalian, Mouradian, Panossian, Tchilingirian, Tölölyan, Theo Van Lint, and Pamela Young. Three brief presentations were made on the Armenian communities in Europe (Mouradian), North America (Bakalian), the Middle East (Tchilingirian) and Armenia-Diaspora Relations (Panossian). After short reflections by the other panels, a lively discussion followed with the full participation of the audience.

Storytelling

A storytelling workshop for families followed on Saturday afternoon (February 8th). Top British storytellers performed tales from around the world. Sally Pomme Clayton, Vergine Gulbenkian and Chris Smith entertained with words and song, taking the audience to Armenia, Central Asia, England and Palestine. In the evening Thomas Chullikal gave a video-illustrated lecture about the work of the Menuhin Foundation. He focused on the project “Enfants d’ici, Contes d’ailleurs” for which the Armenian Institute served as advisor. This project took storytellers from four minority cultures in Europe (Armenian, Kurdish, Gypsy, and Berber) into primary schools in different European countries. The children listened to the stories and were assisted in illustrating them by the Foundation’s resident artists. A series of books has come from this project, including Tou-manian’s *The Flower of Paradise*, for which Dr. Pattie wrote the introduction, giving background on Armenians for young readers.



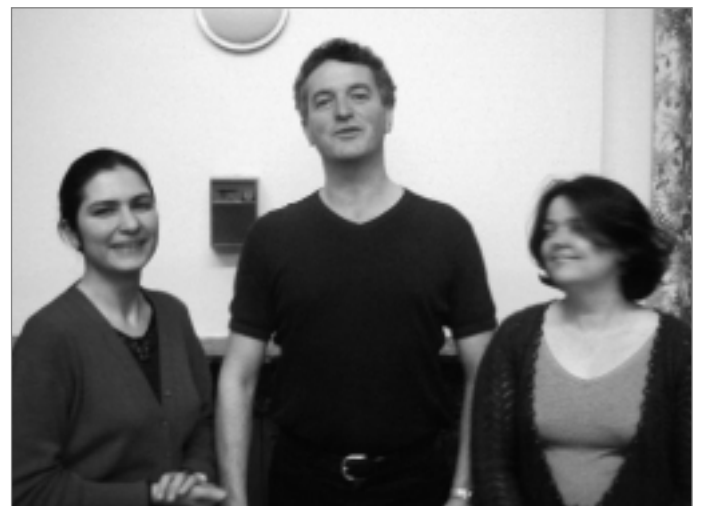
Bill Christian

The Armenian Institute is grateful to St. Sarkis Trust for the financial assistance and to the trustees of Armenian House for the generous use of the building; to Tania Jakobs of Jakobs Café for her delicious contributions to the proceedings, and to Mrs. E. Simolac for her kind help at Armenian House.

Oral History



Roundtable Discussion (LtoR) Khachig Tölölyan, Razmik Panossian, Claire Mouradian, Pamela Young, Anny Bakalian, Susan Pattie, Hratch Tchilingirian, Theo van Lint.



Storytellers: Vergine Gulbenkian, Chris Smith, Sally Pomme Clayton.

Revisiting History

Richard G. Hovannisian, Professor of Armenian and Near Eastern History at the University of California, Los Angeles and author of many books, presented an engaging lecture on March 22. The event was co-hosted by the Armenian Institute and Hamazkayin Armenian Educational & Cultural Society. Hovannisian analysed the history and experience of the first Armenian republic (1918-20) and the domestic and international challenges facing the current independent Republic of Armenia. In contrast to the much more difficult political and economic situation in the first republic, he concluded that the current republic has more favourable opportunities for political and economic development. The large crowd gave a warm welcome to Prof. Hovannisian and provided a lively question and answer period at the end.

Book Fair

During the last two years, a team has been cataloguing and analysing the Charles Dowsett library collection, which was purchased by the AGBU London Trust, and has been given on permanent loan to the Armenian Institute to create a research library, open to the public. The late Professor Charles Dowsett was the first holder of the Chair of Armenian Studies at Oxford



University. The team has identified the core library in Prof. Dowsett's main interests in Armenian Studies, as well as related topics, peoples and adjoining geographical areas, philosophy, and folklore.

Prof. Dowsett had exceptional and diverse interests. A considerable number of books do not fit into the concept of the prospective library. These comprise nearly a thousand books on many subjects. In consultation with the AGBU London Trust, the Institute held a book fair and sale on April 5 in the Gulbenkian Hall, where books falling under this category were exhibited for purchase. The Armenian Institute continues to search for an appropriate space for the book collection. Any suggestions for possible facilities or properties owned by members of the Armenian community would be greatly appreciated.



The little chefs at Children's Cookery Workshop.

Little Chefs

A Children's Easter Cookery Workshop for 6-9 year-olds was held on April 15, headed by Helin Avedissian. Qualified teachers at the Kids' Cookery School in Acton, led the workshop. Ten children enjoyed decorating Easter eggs, baking and cooking in a fun and enjoyable environment.

"Ararat" Screening



On the occasion of the official opening of the critically acclaimed film "Ararat" in the UK, the Institute hosted a Special Preview on April 16 at the Curzon Mayfair. Nouritza Matossian, author of *Black Angel: A Life of Arshile Gorky*, the book that helped inspire the film, introduced the film, which deals with the issue of genocide denial, and spoke about her collaboration with the acclaimed director Atom Egoyan. Matossian, as the biographer of Gorky, is featured in the film as Ani, an art historian and the central character in the film. The sold out screening was preceded by a champagne reception.



(L to R) Helin Avedissian, Nona Shahnazarian, Theo van Lint, Nouritza Matossian.

WARM WELCOME AND THANKS To New and Renwed Friends of the Armenian Institute

(since January 2003)

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*renewal

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Armenian Institute coming events

LECTURE KEYNOTE ADDRESS

THURSDAY

6 February 2003

6:00 PM

The British Library
Meeting Room 4

**"Fostering Cohesion in
Multicultural Societies"**

Lord Bhikhu Parekh

Centennial Professor, London School of
Economics; Member of the House of
Lords; Chair of the Commission on the
Future of Multi-Ethnic Britain

FREE ADMISSION

(Reservation required, limited space)

INTERNATIONAL COLLOQUIUM ON DIVERSITY & INTEGRATION

Friday

7 February 2003

9:30 AM - 5:00 PM

Armenian House, 25 Cheniston Gardens
Kensington, W8

"Identities Without Borders"

PANELS

- Contemporary Issues in migration,
refugee, and diaspora studies
- The public space of diversity
- Citizenship and Grassroots
- Implications for policy

Scholars and experts from the UK,
the US and Europe.

REGISTRATION

£20; AI Friends £15; Students £10

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

Friday

7 February 2003

7:30 - 9:30 PM

Armenian House, 25 Cheniston Gardens
Kensington, W8

**"The Armenian Diaspora
Today"**

Dr. Anny Bakalian, CUNY, New York
Claire Mouradian, EHESS, Paris
Razmik Panossian, Armenian Institute
Susan Pattie, Director of IWB Project
Hratch Tchilingirian, LSE
Khachig Tölölyan, Wesleyan University
Theo van Lint, Oxford University
Pamela Young, Oxfam GB

TICKETS

£5; AI Friends £4; Students £3

NOTE

**Takouhi requested
that we place their
ad in our newsletter;
in return they'll
put an AI ad in their
booklet.**

Any comments?



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BY EMAIL: info@armenianinstitute.org

BY FAX: 020 7274 5764

BY POST: Cheque payable to Armenian Institute, 7 Hollingbourne Road, London SE24 9NB

OR CALL: 020 7978 9104 or 020 7371 4434

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become a Friend/Patron/Benefactor of the Institute.

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Family £40
Concession £15
Patron £100+
Benefactor £1000+

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

Name _____

Address _____

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Gift Aid Declaration: I would like the Armenian Institute to
reclaim tax on all donations I have made since 01/01/03 and
thereafter until further notice. I am a UK tax payer.

Signature _____ Date _____

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



Akhtamar Armenian Performance Group

Presents

ZARTONK: An evening of Armenian Dance, Music and Poetry

Artistic Director Arsen Zakaryan

Saturday 17th May 2003; 7.30 PM

Logan Hall
20 Bedford Way, London WC1H 0AL
(doors open at 7.00 pm)

Tickets: £10, £15, £20
(children under 16 50% discount)

To book please call:

Dalila 01707 642 774
Maral 020 8864 1919
Takouhi 020 8543 0908
Laurence 020 7371 3261

or email: Takouhi.Tchertchian@sgam.co.uk