



Arts & Living

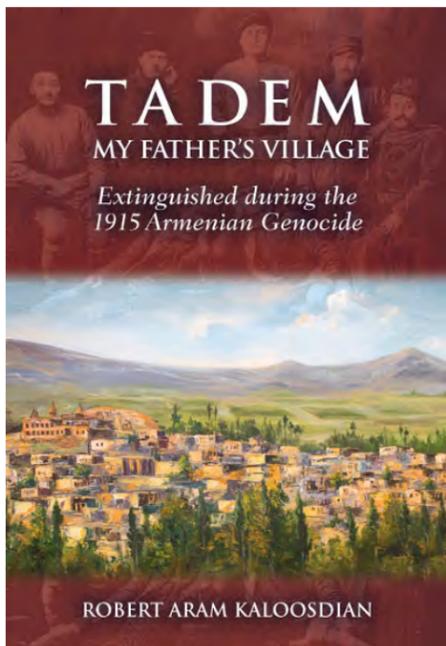
Tadem, My Father's Village by Robert Aram Kaloosdian to Be Published in March

BOSTON – A new book, titled *Tadem, My Father's Village*, by Robert Aram Kaloosdian, will provide an account of the village which had been razed during the 1915 Armenian Genocide.

In April 1915, in the midst of World War I, the Young Turk government set off an explosion of violence against the Armenians in the eastern part of the country. Accustomed to pogroms, mass looting, and mob violence, the Armenians failed to understand this time was different. This time, by government decree, the goal was not intimidation, rape or robbery – the goal was their complete extermination.

Drawing on more than a dozen eye-witness accounts of the Armenian Genocide, most never before published, the author recounts the life and death of an Armenian village from the first intimations of violence through deportations, family separations, massacres, and escapes, to the establishment of diasporan communities in the United States and elsewhere.

"Tadem's story mirrors the tale of hundreds of other Armenian towns and villages in the Ottoman Empire. Robert Aram Kaloosdian has made a lasting contribution through his meticu-



lous combination of historical sources, memoirs, and oral histories," said Richard G. Hovannisian, University of California, Los Angeles and Shoah Foundation Institute.

"Kaloosdian has etched his name on a significant achievement...he has developed a new form of local history," said Taner Akcam, PhD, Professor of History and Armenian Genocide Studies, Strassler Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Clark University

"This micro-history of the Armenian Genocide closes a critical gap in our knowledge," added Hilmar Kaiser, PhD, author of *The Extermination of Armenians in the Diarbekir Region*.

Kaloosdian was raised in Watertown, and graduated from Clark University and the Boston University School of Law. His father was a survivor of the Armenian Genocide. A leader in Armenian-community affairs in the United States and abroad, Kaloosdian has devoted much of his life to the recognition and study of the Genocide. He was a member of the Armenian National Institute and a founder of the Armenian Assembly of America. A lawyer for more than 50 years in Greater Boston, he participated in the defense of a school curriculum guide against Genocide deniers in federal court. Kaloosdian practices in Watertown and lives in Belmont, with his wife, Marianne.

The book is expected to be published by Peter E. Randall on March 2.



Der Hayr (played by Levon Asdourian) is invited over by the family's patriarch (played by Aris Hamparsumian) to bring over a suitor for Lara (played by Scott Toppi)

'Where Is Your Groom' Takes Search to Philadelphia Armenians

MEDIA, Penn. – The cast of "Where Is Your Groom? (*Pesad Oor Eh*)" performed for an enthusiastic crowd in a sold-out show at Delaware County Community College on January 31, in an event hosted by the St. Gregory Armenian Church of Philadelphia.

The comedic play, written and directed by Taleen Babayan, sheds light on relevant and significant issues facing both the younger and older generations of Armenians in the Diaspora, and tackles the themes of assimilation, cultural identity, and ethnic preservation.

"Where Is Your Groom? (*Pesad Oor Eh*)" crosses ethnic boundaries and delivers shared laughs as it follows the story of an Armenian-American family's quest to find their daughter a suitable husband in this warm-hearted comedy that shows the lengths one family will go to in order to maintain their ethnic ties while living in America.

"Where Is Your Groom (*Pesad Oor Eh*)" is a laugh-out-loud comedy of the typical Armenian household," said Norair Miller of Philadelphia, PA. "It is a very entertaining, well done play with a hilarious script and I highly recommend seeing it."

Fellow audience member Silvia Mashikian Manoukian echoed Miller's sentiments.

"Thank you to the cast for such an incredible performance and for a memorable night for the whole family," said Manoukian. "Somehow every Armenian needs to see this show."

The group's Philadelphia performance marked its sixth since its debut at the off-Broadway The Players Theatre in New York City in October 2013. Following its initial performance, the cast has staged the production for Armenian communities

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Siroun (played by Daniella Baydar) shows her son Saro (played by Haig Minassian) her "hars" list to help him find an Armenian wife.

Award-winning Actor Sir Ben Kingsley Cautions Europe on 'Sliding back' Unless it Faces Dark Past

By Yoni Kempinski and Ari Soffer

PRAGEU (Israel National News) – Award-winning veteran actor and story teller Sir Ben Kingsley was among the dignitaries at the first day of the Let My People Live Forum in Prague, and used the opportunity to explain why in his view Europe has failed to fully come to terms with the crimes of the Holocaust.

Noting that his own role in several Holocaust-related films, Kingsley said he felt "privileged as an actor to have my costume embellished... dare I say... signified, dignified, possibly humiliated, sadly, with the yellow star on three occasions. And it is because of that... the great Jewish diaspora and Israel itself has allowed me to be a witness, a story teller, a voice."

He said he felt an acute sense of "gratitude and awareness of the profound responsibility I do have as an actor and a storyteller in bringing the Shoah, the Holocaust to the minds of young people who knew nothing about it," and urged the world to be "vigorously persistent in telling the story of grief-stricken Europe."

One of the greatest tragedies, he insisted, was the fact that in his view "Europe did not grieve in 1945. It moved on. It found another enemy, it found other issues.

"The first step in healing is for us to collectively grieve – we have missed that crucial step."

As a result, he warned, "we are in terrible danger, because of missing the step of grieving, of sliding back."

Kingsley said that actors could play a key role in helping Europe achieve "catharsis" by "triggering grief" through their work – but cautioned producers and directors to stick to the facts and not stray into the realm of fiction.

"Don't make funny stories up, don't make 'what if?' stories up - stick to the facts, and allow Europe to grieve," he said.

"Hitler said 'who will remember the Armenians?'" he noted, in a reference to the lack of international response to the Armenian genocide which played a part in emboldening the Nazis' actions. "We must never, never, ever, allow somebody in the future to say 'who will remember the Jews of Europe?' Everybody will."

But he lamented that some in Europe were determined to forget – ironically, as a pretext to perpetuate anti-Semitism – relating a particular experience he had at the set of one of his films in the Hungarian capital of Budapest.

An old man approached the movie's cast to ask what they were filming. Upon hearing the production would be about the holocaust, he retorted, "It never happened, and if you don't shut up it will happen again!"

"How about that? Isn't that totally screwy?" asked an incredulous Kingsley.

The Let My People Live Forum event, organized by the European Jewish Congress took place January 26-27 in the Czech Republic to mark the 70th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz death camp.



Sir Ben Kingsley