



▶▶ LACDMH Service Area 2 Presents the Sixth Annual Armenian Genocide: Transgenerational Effects & Healing

Saturday, April 13, 2024

10 AM – 2:30 PM

ACF Beshir Mardirossian Burbank Youth Center

75 E. Santa Anita Ave., Burbank, CA 91502

Join us for this in-person event to learn about intergenerational retraumatization resulting from the Artsakh Diaspora, including how youth is affected, and how to cope with and foster healing.

If you have any questions about this event, please contact Mariam Nahapetyan at mnahapetyan@dmh.lacounty.gov or Rima Safaryan at rsafaryan@dmh.lacounty.gov.

LACDMH Service Area 2 Presents
The Sixth Annual Armenian Genocide:
Transgenerational Effects & Healing

Event Agenda

10:00 – 10:30 AM

Registration

Entertainment

Armine Stepanyan – Piano

10:30 – 10:45 AM

Welcome and Opening Remarks

- Mariam Nahapetyan, LACDMH, Service Area 2
- Representative from elected officials in attendance
- Jorge Partida Del Toro, Psy.D., LACDMH

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Keynote Presentation and Q&A

“Transgenerational Trauma and Healing”

Talin Khechoomian, LCSW

12:00 – 12:30 PM

Lunch Break

12:30 – 12:45 PM

Cultural Performances

- Ararat Dance Studio LA students, led by Armine Khachatryan, Artistic Director and Choreographer, Artsakhi Axjikner & Sharan
- Robert Ghazaryan, Piano

12:45 – 1:45 PM

Panel Discussion

Panelists:

- Dr. Rehana Peiris, MFT
- Lilit Tadevosyan
- Vosgan Mekhitarian

Moderator: Lucina Babayants, LMFT, Psy.D.

1:45 – 2:30 PM

Evaluations and Closing Remarks

Mariam Nahapetyan, LACDMH, Service Area 2

About the Presenters

Talin Khechoomian, L.C.S.W., earned an MSW from Columbia University School of Social Work, and an undergraduate degree in psychology from UCLA. She was born and spent most of her childhood in Sweden, then moved to Los Angeles with family. After seven years of working with children and families as a school social worker in New York and Los Angeles, she transitioned to online private practice to become more involved with Armenia. After the Second Nagorno-Karabakh War in 2020, she moved to Armenia to focus on the mental health of soldiers, their families and others affected by the War. She has extensive experience training local therapists and psychology students on various topics such as grief, trauma, suicide prevention, assessment, and many other topics.

Rehana Sonali Peiris, M.A., M.F.T., Psy.D., Professor, VP of Clinical Services of a reputable non-profit, and a human and animal rights advocate with over ten years of experience in the field of psychology. Dr. Peiris is passionate about understanding the motives and intentions behind decision making. Dr. Peiris has partnered with the L.A. County Department of Mental Health and the Department of County Foster Services to provide support to parents, children, and youth for many years. Dr. Peiris is culturally sensitive and embraces diversity; her roots stem from Sri Lanka and Portugal, including part of the first generation of her family in America. Dr. Peiris's mission is to provide accessible mental health support globally to all individuals, regardless of socio-economic status, race, culture or religion, and break the stigma associated with getting help for mental health issues.

Vosgan Mekhitarian, was ordained a priest upon graduating in 1966 from the Seminary of the Catholicosate of the Great House of Cilicia (Antelias, Lebanon). In 1972, he founded St. Mary's Armenian Church in Glendale, California, the most flourishing parish of the Western Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church in America. Since 2005, he has conducted his own research in the archives of the Foreign Ministry of France—located in the city of Nantes—and has digitized over 60,000 pages of documents related to Armenia and Armenians, covering the period of 1860-1923. The first volume of these documents, titled “Armenians at the Twilight of The Ottoman Era,” was published in 2011, in Yerevan, Armenia, under the aegis of the Ministry of Diaspora of the Republic of Armenia and Pyunik - All Armenian Foundation for Human Resources Development. At present, Mr. Mekhitarian pursues research in genocide studies and is the Litigation Head for a law firm in Los Angeles.

Lucina (Lucia) Babayants, L.M.F.T., Psy.D., is a professor of psychology at The Chicago School of Professional Psychology and works as a post-doctoral intern psychologist servicing the Armenian community in Glendale. She initiated and conducted the “Healing Armenia” project to help post-war population/refugees (Armenians) heal from complex trauma. She is a former refugee from Baku, Azerbaijan, and a survivor who dedicated her life to helping people recover from trauma and to thrive again. She is also a singer and a songwriter, who released an album dedicated to the victims of the Armenian genocide. Her research dissertation on the topic of “Narcissistic Personality Disorder Among Armenian-Americans” was the first dissertation ever written on this population.