

# TREE OF LIFE

کھلنے والے درخت

DECEMBER 2019



## **INTRODUCTION**

We are very proud and excited to present the inaugural edition of the London based community magazine, Tree of Life. Our first edition has been created by a dedicated and talented team, featuring articles, puzzles and children's activities – this is just the start of what we hope to be a successful quarterly magazine to share with our parish.

We hope you find the content as interesting to read as we did writing it!

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## INTERVIEW WITH PROFESSOR GEOFFREY KHAN

by Josh Coleman

*Professor Khan teaches Hebrew and Aramaic at the University of Cambridge. A specialist in the history of the Assyrian language, he kindly lent his time to talk to us about his passion for our language and the work he undertakes to preserve the many dialects of Assyrian.*

**JC:** Hi Professor Khan, thank you so much for taking the time to talk with us. I'd like to start by asking about where your interest in studying the Assyrian language and other middle eastern dialects came from?

**GK:** I'm primarily a linguist, I originally studied classical Semitic languages like Hebrew, ancient Aramaic, Akkadian and Arabic. Nearly 25 years ago I met some of the Assyrian community in London, actually in Ealing. I began to become familiar with the history of Assyrians and, first of all, I saw what a beautiful language it is. But then I realised it was a highly endangered language and it consisted of many dialects, which was a reflection of its great antiquity, because very ancient languages become very diverse. It was [originally] purely a kind of academic interest, then the human being in me became very much sympathetic. I was wanting to reach out as a fellow human being. So, there's a sort of human dimension to my work, I feel I'm doing something that's going to benefit others. Cultural loss is crucially what an academic like myself can help with. An academic in the field of arts and humanities is working on culture and language, and culture and language are crucially important for the wellbeing of humanity in general, but certainly the wellbeing of communities whose language and oral heritage are endangered, such as the Assyrian community. I think this is



what academic work should do, it should have a benefit to the society around and not be purely a kind of abstract process. Arts and humanities can do that, they're an important aspect in anybody's life.

**JC:** Can you tell me about some of the work you've done in preserving the Assyrian language and other middle eastern dialects?



**GK:** Most of my academic production over the years has been writing grammars which include descriptions of dialects and transcriptions of recordings, such as folktales and memories of village life. However, I've also been working more and more with communities to try and make my work available to them. I feel very strongly that I have to not only study the language for its own sake, as an academic, but also work and study with the communities. Working with communities, for the communities, to involve them and help them (as it were) in the preservation of their language heritage. When I first started working I published my books with traditional academic publishers, but of course they are typically quite expensive and totally inaccessible to communities in the Middle East, so now I'm keen to publish my work on open access publishing platforms, where anybody can get access around the world, and also to make the recordings I've taken available publicly so that communities can get access. Also, I'm working with NGOs in Iraq to run workshops and train, particularly younger, people how to go about recording the dialects of their grandparents, which is something the youth in London could do. I'm asking people to send me copies so I can archive them.

**JC:** That leads me nicely onto my next question. I was going to ask what

sort of things we can do within the diaspora to help keep our language alive?

**GK:** In recent years in particular, working together has become very important and it's very important to work with people of your generation. I'm about 5 years off retirement, I'm not going to be doing this forever, but people of your generation in particular should carry this on, and I'm encouraging you guys to get involved. What is really important is preserving the spoken language, the ephemeral spoken culture, I tell the Assyrian community when I give talks, "Yartutokhon go pumokhon ile" (your heritage is in your mouth). What is endangered are the [various] spoken vernacular dialects [that were] spoken in the villages. So, within the community you can make a point of being able to communicate with your grandparents in their [specific] dialect, that's one way. The crucial other thing is to preserve knowledge by recording your grandparents speaking. You can do this simply by videoing them with your smart phone. You should get them to talk about their memories and their lives, you know the old folk speak not only in dialects which are endangered, but they also have all kinds of memories of endangered culture, they might remember their village and village life, all of which are gone. And then somehow transferring a copy of the recordings to me and my team at Cambridge means we can preserve it on one place. But crucially it has to be archived. I think an important step forward is to get more and more people involved in this effort for cultural preservation of language heritage.

*Dr Khan provided me with a document containing his instructions for taking recordings that can be archived and used in his research. For anyone who would like a copy, or would like to forward recordings to Dr Khan, do not hesitate to email me on [joshcoleman16@icloud.com](mailto:joshcoleman16@icloud.com)*

Image provided by Dr Khan

# LIVING ASSYRIA - NIGHT AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM

by Belinda Yonan

The British Museum holds one of the world's most key collections of Assyrian artefacts. Illuminated galleries depict the royal lion hunts and banquet processions for the kings, all guarded by colossal Lamassu on either side of the entrances. To the average visitor, these are relics of an ancient civilisation, tangible only through the imposing sculptures and grand scriptures that remain. The intricate craftsmanship evokes the opulence of a time gone by. For the descendants of this culture, however, it is a very different story. These objects are not just archaeological marvels; they represent a heritage that has survived and, much like the Assyrians themselves, have withstood the test of time.



(Left to right) Reliefs depicting the royal lion hunts; Bust of Ashurbanipal; Clay tablets on a variety of subjects found in Ashurbanipal's library.

Most of the objects on display today were discovered by British ambassador Austen Henry Layard, whose previous excavations had drawn the interest of the government. With their backing, The British Museum sponsored Layard's research into the Assyrian empire, eventually leading to the discovery of the empire's capital – Nineveh. While a fair number of explorers had previously

visited the ancient sites and excavated Assyrian structures and palaces, the precise location of the capital was not confirmed until 1847. Layard's discoveries in Kuyunjik, near Mosul, revealed the fabled city of Nineveh, where Ashurbanipal, one of Assyria's last kings, presided.

When the exhibit "I Am Ashurbanipal, king of the world, king of Assyria" opened, the collection experienced a renaissance. Several treasures were brought out of a decommissioned gallery, including clay tablets from Ashurbanipal's famously extensive library. Other objects were loaned to the UK for the first time; pieces travelled in from Paris, Berlin, Russia and even the Vatican. The local Assyrian community saw this as an excellent opportunity to lend their voice and bring life to the exhibit; and thus, "Living Assyria" was created.



Colour was virtually applied using projectors to show the original colours of the reliefs.







The event was held on February 22nd 2019, nearing the end of the Ashurbanipal exhibit, and featured performances of songs and poems throughout the day. Wearing costumes provided by Julia Cherri, the community also treated visitors to traditional music and dancing in the Great Hall of the British Museum.

The evening closed with a fashion show featuring garments by Assyrian designer Nahreen Odisho, based in Sweden. “Living Assyria” became the perfect symbol of how modern day Assyrians have carried their traditions and cultures into contemporary society. Under the watchful gaze of the ancient reliefs, today’s Assyrians danced and sang before the thousand-year history of their heritage.



“I Am Ashurbanipal, king of the world, king of Assyria” photos by Belinda Yonan  
 “Living Assyria” photos by Natalia Toma

# **“THE SAINT MAR - YOUSIP KHANISHO”**

## **DOCUMENTARY SCREENING**

by Diana Hinar



His Grace Mar Awraham Youkhanis and Rev Tony Malham with the family of Saint Mar Yosip- Shamasha Bawai Younathan, Shamasha Abris De Matran and Mrs Lucrice De Matran- our guests of honour for the evening

**St Mary's Cathedral Events Committee hosted their very first event since their formation in September of this year...and what a way to start.**

We were honored to host the screening of the documentary film- ‘The Saint- Mar Yosip Khnanisho’. The film was produced and directed by 2 young Assyrian filmmakers Carlos Hydo and Amar Daniel from Sydney, who travelled the world interviewing family members, close affiliates and prominent church figures giving their accounts of the late Metropolitan. The comprehensive biography documents Mar Yosip Khnanisho’s life from birth to his final days, tracing his steps throughout the Middle East and his spiritual encounters with members of the Church and communities worldwide.

The evening was presided over by His Grace Mar Awraham Youkhanis, alongside our Parish Priest Rev Tony Malham, and deacons. Over 200 faithful members of St Mary's Cathedral joined and the screening was

well received by all in attendance.

In London, we are so blessed to have grown up with members of Saint Mar Yosip Khnanisho's family; Shamasha Bawai, Shamasha Abris and his wife Lucris, who were the evening's guests of honour.

We would like to thank the producers for allowing us to screen this special documentary and to our Diocesan Bishop His Grace Mar Awraham Youkhanis for his efforts in making it all possible.



Shamasha Bawai Younathan receiving his portrait of Saint Mar Yosip gifted to him by St Mary's Cathedral Events Committee

St Mary's Cathedral Events Committee would like to extend their thanks to everyone that attended this historic event and to all those that helped make it happen. We pray that the community continue to come together for all future events.

May the blessings of our Saint Mar Yosip be with you all.



(Left) St Mary's Cathedral Events Committee with His Grace Mar Awraham Youkhanis and St Mary's Cathedral priest Rev Tony Malham. L-R Nina Khalil, Remoun Christian, Diana Hinar, HG Mar Awraham Youkhanis, Qasha Tony Malham, Valentina Aram, Bernadette Youna and Edwin Yaro.

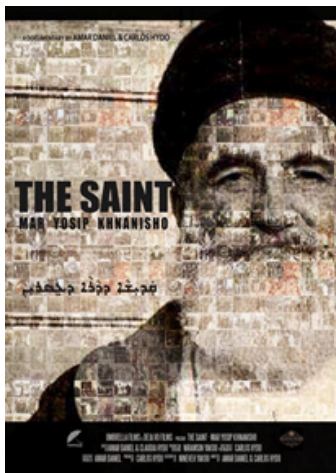


(Right) His Grace Mar Awraham Youkhanis and over 200 honoured guests await the screening. Images provided by Diana Hinar.

# “THE SAINT- MAR YOSIP KHANISHO”

*INTERVIEW WITH DIRECTORS CARLOS HYDO AND AMAR DANIEL*

by Diana Hinar



Two young Assyrian film directors Carlos Hydo and Amar Daniel from Sydney produced and directed the outstanding documentary ‘The Saint- Mar Yosip Khanisho’. The film was premiered in Sydney on 15th September 2019 and screened again at Nineveh Lounge in Sydney on 22nd September, presided over by His Eminence Mar Meelis Zaia AM. It was also screened in Melbourne on the same day and attended by His Grace Mar Benyamin Elya. Here in the UK, we screened the documentary at the Assyrian House in London on 9th November 2019 that was attended by His Grace Mar Awraham Youkhanis and over 200 Assyrians in the UK.

We are delighted to be hosting an interview with the Assyrian film directing duo in our very first publication of this magazine. In it, they share their advice to aspiring filmmakers and bring us insights into the creation of their documentary including not only the high points but also some of the stumbling blocks they encountered along the way.



### **Please tell us a bit about yourselves and your background**

**Amar:** I was born in Baghdad, Iraq. My father was also born in Iraq, and my mother was born in Syria. I graduated from Baghdad University with a Bachelor's Degree in Cinematography, and soon after, in 2004, I had migrated to Australia to pursue a career in cinematography.

**Carlos:** I am the son of Edward Hydo known as Adwar Rassam- an Assyrian Artist and visionary. I started filming and editing from the age of 13 for a small family owned wedding videography company. I graduated from AFTRS (Australian Film, Television and Radio School) in 2003 and worked in various television networks.

**How did your journey start out in the Film Industry?** ***“As a cinematographer, I have produced many projects but to date, The Saint has been the one documentary that I have truly enjoyed producing”***

**Amar:** In Iraq, after I graduated from the University of Art, I was very blessed to have worked for many famous Iraqi TV networks such as Al-Iraqiya TV and I was honoured to have produced numerous amounts of documentaries for them. I also took inspiration from my father, William Daniel, who was a Director of Photography. I admired his passion for and commitment to the world of filming.

**Carlos:** I started filming from a young age at weddings so my interest in filming was from a young age. After graduating in Sydney, Umbrella Films was established 2010- a Sydney based production company specialising in quality visuals for weddings and other special occasions.

### **How did the idea for “The Saint- Mar Yosip Khnanisho’ come about?**

One day, my colleague and fellow filmmaker, Carlos Hydo and I were discussing some matters and the church and Mar Yosip's name found its way into our conversation. My mother had also introduced me to him and I was very keen to learn more about his mission and life. I tried to find videos and documentaries about his life, but unfortunately, I was unable to. The following

day, I contacted Carlos with the idea of producing a film for Mar Yosip and Carlos was also very happy and keen as he was also considering making a documentary regarding Mar Yosip.

I wanted to spread the message that our church, “The Assyrian Church of the East”, is filled with Saints and this film was mainly focused on targeting the youth, in hopes of teaching them a bit of background knowledge on the Saints that came from “The Church of the East”.

***“We hope that people receive a greater knowledge about the history of the Assyrian Church of the East and Mar Yosip Khnanisho from the period of 1893-1977”***

**Did you face any obstacles whilst filming?**

One of the biggest obstacles that we had faced whilst filming was trying to gather credible

information. We received a lot of assistance from the Assyrian Church of the East in gathering information about Mar Yosip. In particular, His Eminence Mar Meelis Zaia AM, offered very helpful information such as directing us on who to interview. We also had trouble reaching certain regions of Turkey and Iraq, due to war and other circumstances. Thankfully we were able to hire some people to film in those areas for us.

**What do you hope people will take away from this film?**

We hope that people receive a greater knowledge about the history of the Assyrian Church of the East and Mar Yosip Khnanisho from the period of 1893-1977, which is the duration of Mar Yosip Khnanisho’s time on earth.

**Can you tell us about any future projects that you have planned?**

The only thing that I can say publicly is that Carlos and I are working vigorously on a number of different projects. Unfortunately at this current moment, but hopefully in the near future, more news will be published.

### **What is your greatest achievement to date?**

As a cinematographer, I have produced many projects but to this date, ‘The Saint’ has been the one documentary that I have truly enjoyed producing. The passion and love that Carlos and I had when making this documentary is indescribable, and we are hoping that our future projects receive that same love and support as this one has.

### **What advice would you give to any aspiring filmmaker?**

Amar: As a young cinematographer I always went by one saying “As long as you have a vision and passion, nothing is impossible.”

Carlos: I have documented hundreds of weddings, music video clips and thousands of hours of recorded footage, but I am still pushing myself to always take the next step into a much larger scale of film making and storytelling. Keep pushing yourself to do better and better is my advice.



Producers Carlos Hydo (left) and Amar Daniel (right)

# **MAR AWRAHAM YOUKHANIS**

## **- BIOGRAPHY -**



### **His Grace Mar Awraham Youkhanis- Bishop of Western Europe**

**His Grace Mar Awraham was born on the Feast of the Epiphany (6 January) in the year of our Lord 1989, in Basra, Iraq; to parents Dr David Youkhanis and Mrs Moren Alexander Youkhanis. His Grace is brother to two siblings, an older brother, Mr Nenos Youkhanis and his wife Mrs Ninorta Youkhanis; and a younger brother, Deacon Ramen Youkhanis.**

**His Grace and his family left Iraq in the year 1993, spending two years in Greece, in hopes of finding a new home. They migrated to Sydney, Australia in the year 1995, where they settled and made their new home.**



## **Clerical Ordinations**

- Lector on Feast of Hosannas (9 April 2006)
- Sub-deacon on First Sunday of the Hallowing of the Church (5 November 2006)
- Deacon on Commemoration of Mar Yousip Khnanisho (8 July 2007)
- Priest on Seventh Sunday of Summer (22 August 2010)
- Chorbishop on Sixth Sunday the Great Fast (2 April 2017)
- Archdeacon on Third Sunday of the Resurrection (5 May 2019)
- Bishop on Sixth Sunday of the Resurrection (26 May 2019)


*All clerical ordinations were conducted by His Beatitude Mar Meelis Zaia AM.*

## **Church Service**

- Joined St Hurmizd's Cathedral choir at the age of 12
- Student at Rabi Alexander (Shoora) Michailian's community violin school from the age of 12
- Secretary to the Metropolitan Mar Meelis Zaia AM 2010-2019
- Youth and Children's Associations Chaplain 2010-2019
- Chaplain at St Hurmizd's Assyrian Primary School 2010 -2012
- Chaplain at St Narsai Assyrian Christian College from 2012-2013
- Director on The Assyrian Schools Board from 2010-2019
- Secretary to the Family Tribunal from 2018-2019
- Member of the Commission of the Middle East of the New South Wales Ecumenical Council from 2015-2019

## **Education**

- Primary Education, 1995-1996, Fairvale Public School
- Primary Education, 1997-2000, Prairievale Public School

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- High School Education, 2001-2006, St Johns Park High School
  - Bachelor of Architectural Studies, 2007-2010, University of New South Wales
  - Master of Arts in Early Christian and Jewish Studies, 2011, Macquarie University
  - Postgraduate Certificate of Arts in Ancient History, (Research), 2012, Macquarie University
  - Graduate Certificate in Theological Studies, 2012, Australian Catholic University
  - Master of Theological Studies, 2013, Australian Catholic University
  - Diploma Of Language Studies (Classical Syriac and Classic Hebrew), 2012-2013, The University of Sydney
  - Doctor of Philosophy in Ancient History, 2013-present, Macquarie University.

# PRELATE'S DINNER - AN EVENING OF CELEBRATION

by Diana Hinar



On Sunday 24th November, Assyrian Church of the East UK was honoured to have had Sunday Mass conducted by His Beatitude Mar Meelis Zaia AM, Metropolitan of Australia, New Zealand and Lebanon in the presence of His Grace Mar Yohannan Joseph, Bishop of India and the UAE, His Grace Mar Awraham Youkhanis Bishop of Western Europe, priests, deacons and beloved faithful of St Mary's Cathedral.

To follow on from that blessed Sunday morning, St Mary's Cathedral, together with His Grace Mar Awraham Youkhanis, organised a Diocesan Reception in honour of our Venerable Prelates at the Assyrian Hall, attended by over 400 people. The evening commenced with an official welcoming of His Beatitude Mar Meelis Zaia AM, His Grace Mar Yohannan Joseph and His Grace Mar Awraham Youkhanis. In the spirit of the occasion, both the Assyrian and British national anthems were sung by St Marys Cathedral choir.

An invocation prayer was said by Rev Chorbishop Stapanos Yelda, followed by felicitations by Rev Fr Tony Malham, His Grace Mar Awraham Youkhanis and His Grace Mar Yohannan Joseph.

His Beatitude Mar Meelis Zaia was welcomed on stage to give the main keynote address.

The evening raised over £80,000 in donations from our community for the bishopric. We would like to extend our gratitude to all those involved in making this evening happen and to the community for their love, faith and support.



(Top left) His Beatitude Mar Meelis Zaia Am conducting Sunday Mass at St Mary's Cathedral on Sunday 24th November. (Top right) A photo of His Grace Mar Awraham's Consecration was displayed on the night. (Bottom) St Mary's Cathedral Choir sang the UK, Assyrian and Church anthems upon entrance of the Venerable Prelates.







(Left) A Felicitation by His Grace Mar Yohannan Joseph.



(Top) The catering and organisation was provided by the wonderful Hospitality Group.

Dinner images provided by Qasha Tony Malham, Diana Hinar, and Natalia Toma  
Group photo provided by the Hospitality Group



(Top) There were over 400 people in attendance for the evening. (Centre) St Mary's Cathedral Events Committee with our honourable prelates HB Mar Meelis Zaia, HG Mar Yohannan Joseph and HG Mar Awraham Youkhanis. (Bottom) St Mary's Cathedral Youth Committee.

## WORDSEARCH

F	B	S	K	B	X	G	Y	H	I	O	Y	D	M	F
X	F	O	K	B	W	P	M	E	Q	A	U	G	E	I
C	I	A	M	A	R	A	N	V	B	U	L	T	S	S
A	D	U	P	F	V	C	W	E	A	O	S	S	O	H
S	H	A	M	A	S	H	S	N	W	Y	H	Q	P	T
A	S	H	U	R	B	A	N	I	P	A	L	U	O	A
A	H	N	W	X	R	Z	S	N	L	O	S	Z	T	R
H	I	H	I	G	K	B	T	M	G	S	B	Z	A	O
N	H	R	O	M	N	W	A	F	A	U	E	S	M	L
U	O	N	Y	D	R	N	G	M	C	O	X	V	I	P
G	J	I	C	S	E	U	A	R	U	H	S	A	A	E
W	U	E	L	S	S	L	D	Z	M	H	W	Q	R	M
K	C	F	E	G	A	A	O	C	D	K	U	O	K	O
P	V	R	A	V	O	N	G	K	F	U	A	Q	D	L
E	C	M	M	C	N	W	R	T	E	H	P	S	L	K

ARAMAIC  
ASHUR  
ASHURBANIPAL  
ASSYRIA  
ISHTAR

LAMASSU  
LION  
MESOPOTAMIA  
NIMRUD  
NINEVEH

SARGON  
SHALMANESER  
SHAMASH

## WORDSEARCH

2	9	2	2	3	7	9	1	4	3	8	3	2	2
3	3	3	8	4	7	4	9	9	2	8	4	4	3
1	8	3	4	2	1	2	4	2	4	0	8	2	8
0	2	9	4	1	8	3	1	7	9	9	2	2	3
3	4	7	2	2	1	4	0	8	2	1	2	1	8
4	0	2	8	3	3	3	9	2	2	2	8	8	0
8	3	9	4	2	7	0	4	4	8	1	2	1	3
3	1	2	4	1	2	1	0	9	0	0	1	0	8
2	3	3	1	1	2	2	8	3	3	8	8	8	2
8	2	7	2	4	4	2	2	0	7	2	3	9	2
0	9	4	2	4	9	2	8	3	0	7	0	3	8
7	2	8	0	3	2	3	7	2	3	3	4	4	3
9	2	3	1	8	4	8	7	4	4	1	8	2	4
2	1	0	4	3	8	1	3	2	2	3	1	9	4

colour : gaw`na - گەونا

I : a`na - ئەنا

to shear, to scalp : gazz - گەز

Assyria : Aa`tur - ئەسور

wealth, treasure : gaz`za - گەزە

wife, woman : bakh`ta - بەختە

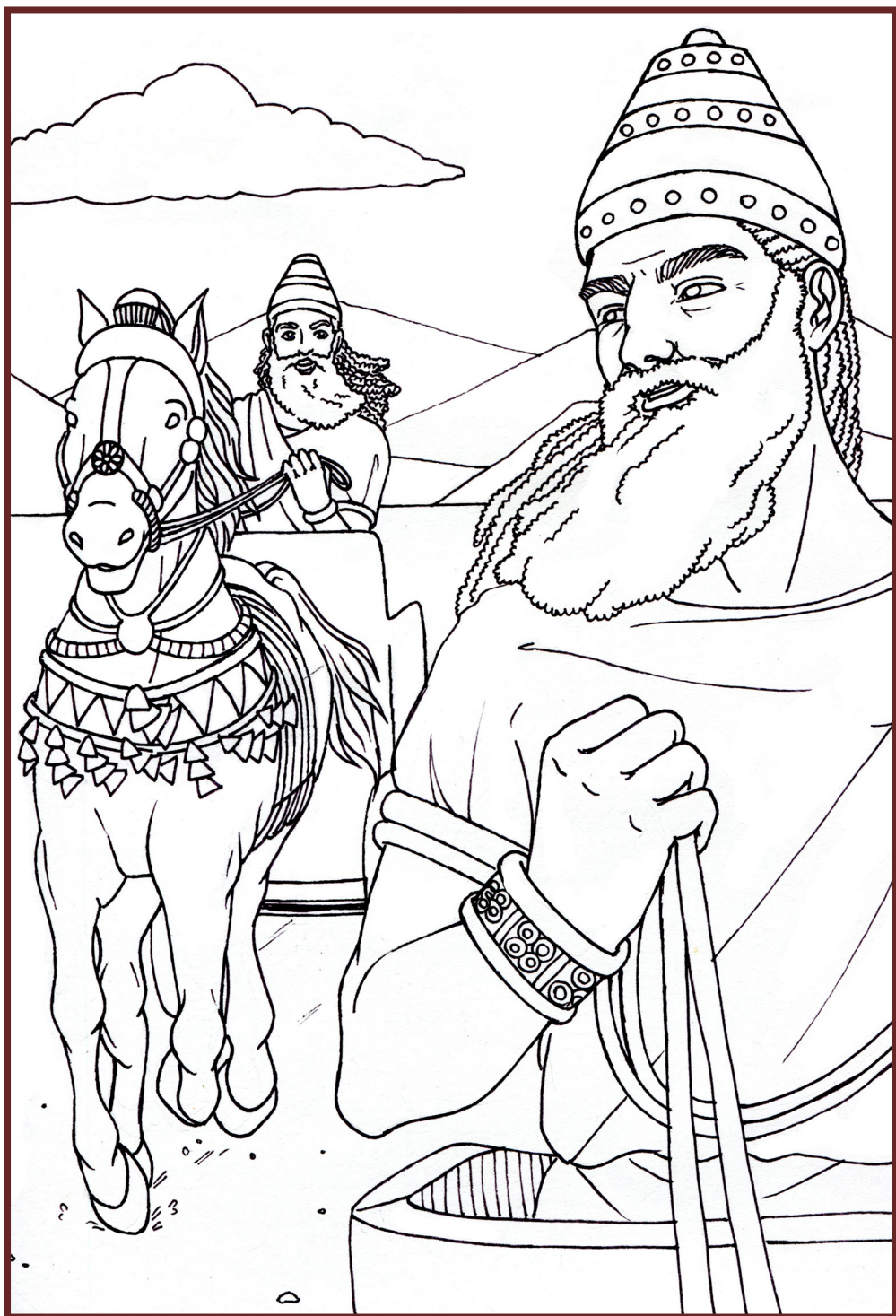
the spine : grim`kha`sa - گریمکەسا

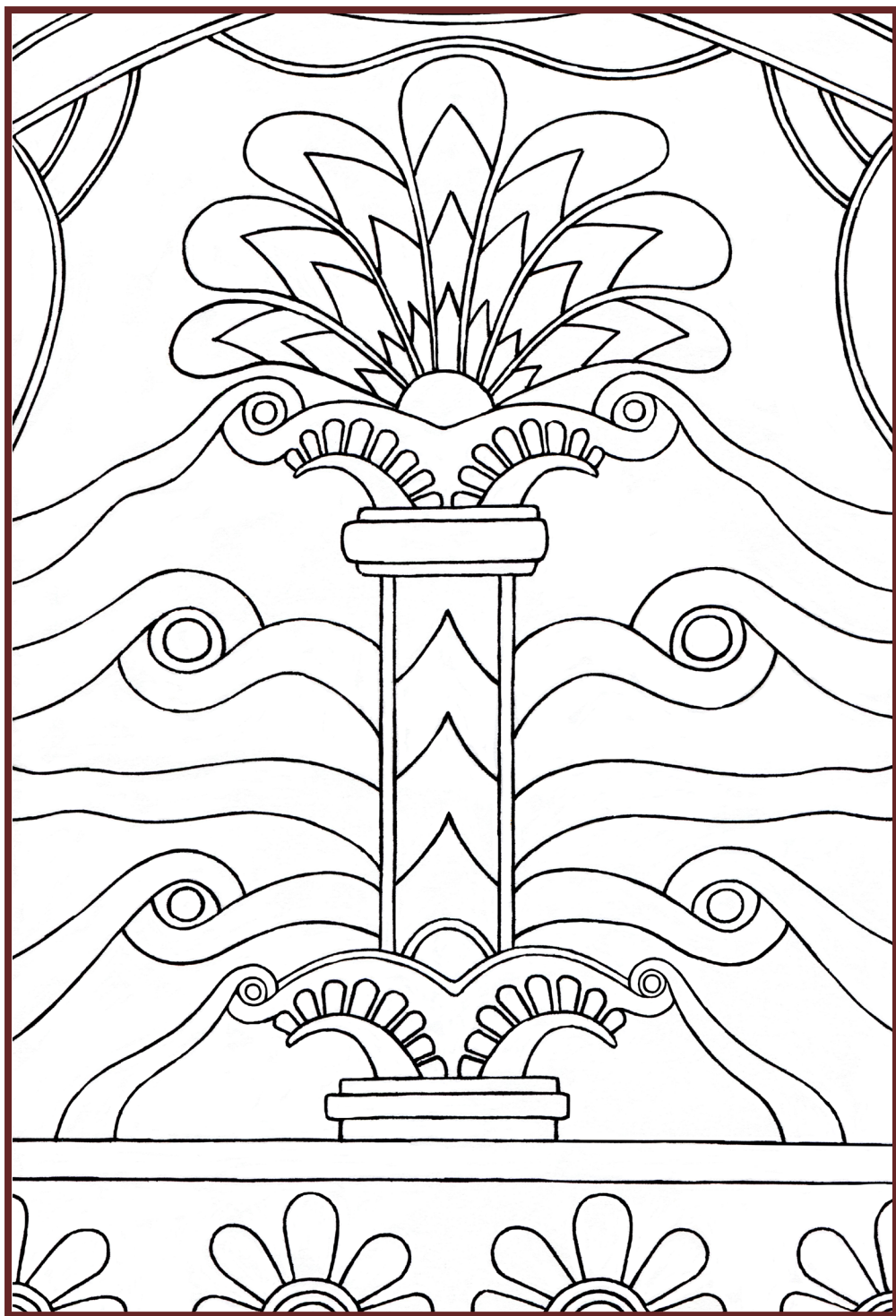
in : gaw - گە

no ■ la - ܠܐ  
heart ■ lib`ba - ܠܒ  
tongue; language ■ li`sha`na - ܠܝܫܢܐ  
in need ■ soon`qa`na - ܠܫܘܢܩܐܢܐ  
Church ■ e:e`ta - ܠܥܝܬܐ  
youth ■ e:`lai`ma - ܠܥܝܠܡܐ  
salvation, saving ■ por`qa`na - ܠܦܪܩܐܢܐ  
to forgive ■ pa`khil - ܠܦܝܟ  
Euphrates ■ prat - ܠܦܪܬ  
to fast ■ `sa`im - ܠܦܫܝܡ  
prayer ■ `slo`ta - ܠܦܫܠܐ  
a promise ■ `qaw`la - ܠܦܩܘܠܐ  
chief ■ rubb - ܠܪܒ  
the vowel (o) in Assyrian language ■ rwa`sa - ܠܪܘܥܝܬܐ  
ghost, spirit ■ roo`kha - ܠܪܘܟܬܐ  
market ■ shoo`qa - ܠܪܘܩܐ  
order, peace ■ shai`na - ܠܫܝܢܐ  
peace ■ shla`ma - ܠܫܠܡܐ  
beautiful ■ sha`pee`ra - ܠܫܐܦܝܪܐ  
a miracle ■ tid`moor`ta - ܠܬܝܕܡܘܪܬܐ  
disciple; pupil ■ tal`mee`da - ܠܬܠܡܝܕܐ  
from ■ min - ܠܡܢ

turbulence ■ doo`ba`roo`ta - ܠܕܘܒܐܪܘܬܐ  
hope ■ hee`vee - ܠܗܝܝܒܐ  
honour, excellency ■ hid`ra - ܠܗܝܕܪܐ  
mind, brain, intellect ■ haw`na - ܠܗܘܢܐ  
she ■ (ay) hay - ܠܗܝ  
belief, faith ■ hai`ma`noo`ta - ܠܗܝܡܐܢܘܘܬܐ  
trust, right ■ zid`qa - ܠܝܕܩܐ  
triumph ■ za`khu`ta - ܠܝܙܚܘܬܐ  
go ■ zee - ܠܝܬ  
a reed ■ zee`la - ܠܝܙܐ  
one ■ kha - ܠܝܬܐ  
unity, union ■ khu`ya`da - ܠܝܚܝܬܐ  
life ■ khay`ye - ܠܝܬܐ  
gifts ■ khal`a:t`te - ܠܝܬܐ  
instead of ■ khlap - ܠܝܬܐ  
back ■ kha`sa - ܠܝܬܐ  
hot ■ khim`ma - ܠܝܬܐ  
yeast ■ kh`mee`ra - ܠܝܬܐ  
best, more ■ `taw - ܠܬܐ  
Oh!, O! ■ ya - ܠܬܐ  
a verbal prefix (used to ...) ■ kee - ܠܬܐ  
as, while ■ kadd - ܠܬܐ







## ART COMPETITION

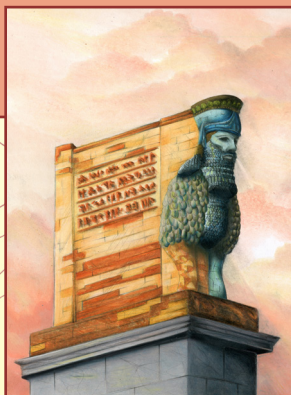
*Submit your entries for a chance to be featured!*

**Do you have a passion for art and photography?**

**Would you like to submit your work and have it featured in the next edition?**

**Let your creativity flow, and share your vision with [Treeoflife@acote.org.uk](mailto:Treeoflife@acote.org.uk) for the chance to have it included in the spring edition.**

**The top pick will even be featured on the cover!**



By @ArtworkBYBelle



# GRADUATION NIGHT

by Sara Odisho Darmoo



The Assyrian Church of the East Youth Association Committee (ACEYA) hosted their first event since their formation in September of this year - a graduation ceremony to honour students in our community who have passed exams and gained qualifications from GCSE to Postgraduate study.



(Top) The graduates certificates all lined up, ready to be presented.

(Above) St Mary's Cathedral Choir getting ready for His Grace Mar Awraham's arrival.

Guests enjoyed a glass of Prosecco on arrival followed by an official welcoming of His Grace Mar Awraham Youkhanis and our Parish Priest Rev Tony Malham. Also in attendance were Cor-Bishop Stepanoos Yelda, Rev Shmail Tamras and Rev Khoshaba Georges of the Ancient Assyrian Church of the East.



(Above) The graduates with His Grace Mar Awraham and other members of the clergy.  
(Bottom) Assyrian Church of the East Youth Association Committee with His Grace Mar Awraham

Speeches were presented by Sara Odisho Darmoo, Graduate Danny Gelyanah and a Felicitation was delivered by His Grace. 30 Graduates were then called one by one and presented with personalised certificates of recognition signed by His Grace. ACEYA extend their thanks to everyone that attended and hope that the community continue to support Youth events going forward.



Graduation images provided by Diana Hinar and Sara Odisho Darmoo.





**D-Rymez Presents: The Shutdown Show LIVE!**  
**30/11/19**



After 2 months of consistent preparation and promotion, our community DJ & Artist Banipal Yelda also known best as D-Rymez put on a fantastic sold out club night show in West Ealing which was a major success. He would like to wholeheartedly thank everyone who purchased a ticket and supported his first ever event. He confidently claims It was full of fun vibes and loving energy. For everyone who is looking forward to the next event, he will be organising a follow up show sometime around the end of March 2020. More information will be provided nearer to the time. D-Rymez would also like to thank everyone from the Assyrian community for supporting his career movements as an Artist & DJ. He appreciates the love and encouragement, it does not go unnoticed. He has quoted 'I really love how close our community has come together. I'm very proud of everyone who has taken a role in getting our Assyrian youth involved in church



activities and recognising their achievements. I'm very proud of all of you. I wish all members of the Church and Assyrian Society of the UK nothing but success and blessings for next year. You are all doing an amazing job and anything I can do to contribute towards the strength of our community please let me know.' He has also quoted.. 'Even though we have a small loving community here in the UK, please try to use social media to connect with other Assyrians around the world that are doing amazing things. We all need to unite and merge together again to do great things. You never know what collaborations and opportunities you may discover with a little bit of networking, God bless you all.'



***If you want D-Rymez to DJ at your next party or event please contact him for further information:***

**Email: [D-Rymez@hotmail.com](mailto:D-Rymez@hotmail.com)**



# ANNOUNCEMENT

## INAUGURAL DIOCESAN YOUTH CONFERENCE 2020



The Diocese of Western Europe is pleased to announce that it will be hosting its inaugural Youth Conference in the city of London from 20-23 August 2020.

All youth aged between 16 and 40 are more than welcome to attend.

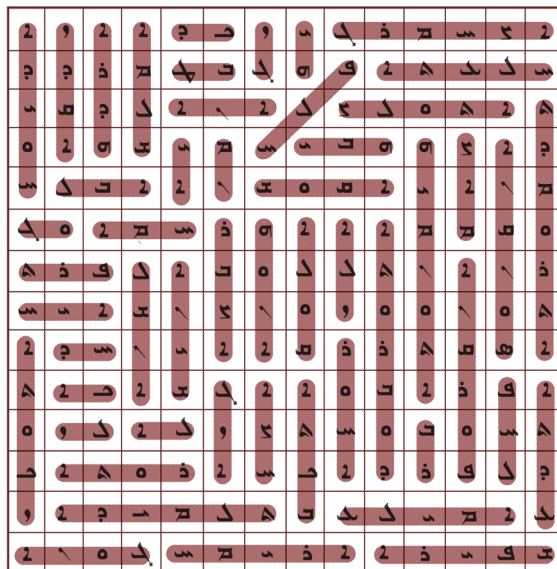
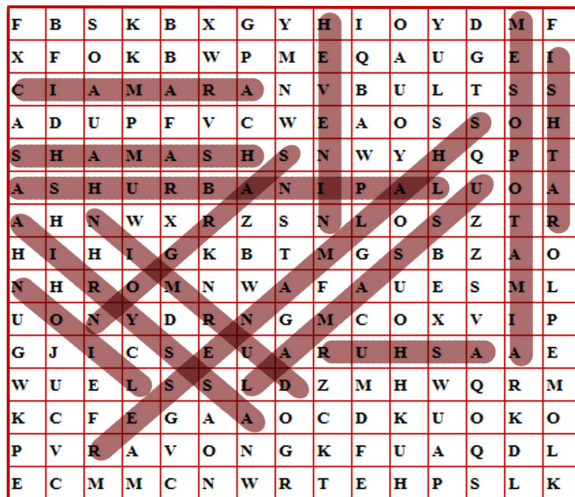
We look forward to having you at Youth Conference 2020 in London, look out for more information coming in the New Year!

For all general queries, please email  
**[yc@acote.org.uk](mailto:yc@acote.org.uk)**

# WORDSEARCH

## SOLUTIONS

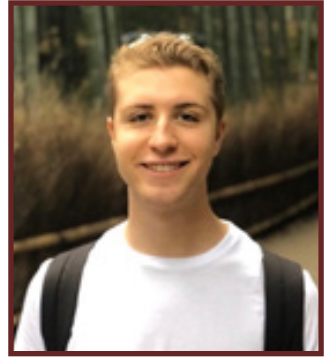
Struggling to find the hidden words on the puzzles? The solutions below will help!



## MEET YOUR EDITORS

### **Josh Coleman, *Content Editor***

Josh is a 19-year-old student from Kent studying Politics and Spanish at the University of Southampton. Being only half Assyrian, he grew up in an English-speaking household, so he often spends his free time teaching himself to speak Assyrian. Ever since he was young, he has been interested in the Assyrian language and culture. Spending lots of time with family and using online resources has allowed him to build up a conversational level of Assyrian over the years. Getting involved with the magazine committee has given him the chance to immerse himself into the community more, something he has always wanted to do.



### **Diana Hinar, *Content Editor & Treasurer***



Diana was born in Baghdad in 1983 to parents Odisho Odisho and Linda Aziz and moved to London in 1990. She gained her BA in Media Studies in 2004 from De Montfort University, Leicester and went back to college in 2010 to study a diploma in Accounting, receiving her Level 4 certificate in AAT (Association of Accounting Technicians) from Hammersmith College. For the past 12 years, she is an Accounts Payable and Receivable Clerk and

PA to the CFO at Low Profile Fashions Ltd, a clothing manufacturer and is owned by entrepreneur and dragon on Dragons Den Touker Suleyman. Alongside this she is a freelancer in the production department at Sky News and Sky Sports News. Diana loves travelling and photography.

### **Bernadette Youna, *Advertising Creative***

Bernadette who was born and raised in London is daughter to John and Karmen Youna. She is currently in her final year of University studying Media and Communications; Bernadette is in the process of working on her dissertation that is about ‘the loss of identity and diaspora of the Assyrian community in London’. Once her final year is over Bernadette wants to



go into the career field of digital marketing working for either Sky or Google. Bernadette is also in the events committee where she creates all graphic designs and posters for each event, along side helping to run the social media page. Usually in her spare time she likes to go out with her friends, or go around photographing people in Central London for her ‘Street Photography’ diaries.

### **Belinda C. Yonan, *Editor In Chief & Creative Design***



Born and raised in London to parents Jane Odisho and Aoner Yonan, Belinda obtained her BA in English Literature and Hispanic studies at Queen Mary University of London. During her time at Queen Mary’s, Belinda spent a year abroad in Seville, completing her humanities studies at Universidad Pablo de Olavide. Passionate about film and languages, she has gone on to work as an account

manager in cinema and TV post-production, handling localisation projects for major theatrical releases. Belinda enjoys keeping herself busy, freelancing in illustration, and Spanish to English translation. When not handling client work, Belinda can be found working on her personal artwork, and projects promoting mental health awareness.



The Tree of Life is a motif that has been identified in ancient Assyrian reliefs. A universal image, the Tree of Life is recognised in many ancient cultures, symbolic of knowledge and immortality amongst other things. For us, it perfectly captures our culture and heritage. The tree is a representation of our desire to pass history down to future generations – what better name for our first publication?



We look forward to branching out with fresh ideas, and creating new content for our future editions.

If you are interested in sending anything in, please contact  
**[Treeoflife@acote.org.uk](mailto:Treeoflife@acote.org.uk)**

*“I can do all things  
through Christ which  
strengthen me”*

*Philippians 4:13*

# MD Hair & Beauty

*presents*



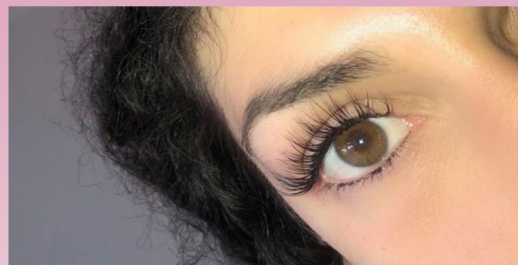
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**10 Hanger Green, Ealing,  
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**[www.memhairandbeauty.co.uk](http://www.memhairandbeauty.co.uk)**



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