

*Curriculum Vitae***Aida Zilelian**

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Education

- M.A., Creative Writing, Queens College, Queens, NY, 1998
- B.A. Psychology, minor in English and Philosophy, Queens College, Queens, NY 1995

Publishing History**Literary Journals***Fiction*

“With Great Affection, Sophie” – Pen Pusher - April 2008

“Encore” - *Visions Literary Journal* – Fall 2008

“Is This Desire?” - *Slushpile Magazine* – Spring 2008

“The Will of Sacrifice” - *The Writer’s Block* – Summer 2009

“The Festering” – *Suss: Another Literary Journal* – October 2009

Sucker Literary Magazine – February 2012

“He’s the One for Her” - *Ararat Magazine* – July 2010

“Almost There” - *Halfway Down the Stairs* – March 2010

“Red Riding Hood” – *Memewar* – December 2010

“To Be Home Again” - *Assisi Journal* – March 2011

“The Darkness of North” - *Waccamaw Journal* – Spring 2011

“The Weight of Emptiness” – *Halfway Up the Stairs* – December 2011

“The Good Girl” – *Ararat Magazine* – July 2011

“A Passing Season” – *Niche Magazine* – September 2012

“For the Good of the Whole” – *Theurgy Literary (UK)* – January 2013

“A Different Street” – *Exterminating Angel* – April 2013

“Wind and Glass Behind Us” – *Bleeding Heart Press* – Fall 2013 (upcoming)

“Afterlife” – *Per Contra* – Fall 2014

“Where the Wind Howls” – *The MacGuffin* – Summer 2017 (forthcoming)

Non-fiction

“What I Can Tell” – *SNR Review* - Fall 2009

Panik: Life Anthology About Life Altering Experiences (Anthology)
February 2012

“The Cold War” – *Wilderness House Literary Review* – Fall 2009

“In My Innocence” – *The Fertile Source* – July 2010

“Liar, Liar” – *Lowestoft Chronicles* – Fall 2010

“Toni with an ‘i’” – *Red Fez Journal* – February 2012

“1998” – *Free Range Nonfiction* – April 2013

Anthologies

“Liar, Liar” - *Lowestoft Chronicles 2011 Anthology*

“In My Innocence” - *paniK: Candid Stories of Life Altering Experiences Surrounding Pregnancy*

“Wind and Glass Behind Us” – *Transfusion* – Bleeding Heart Publications

“The Art of Trying” – *Anthology of Immigrant Experiences* - *Red Hen Press* (forthcoming)

“My Father’s Grave” - *These Summer Months: Stories from the Late Orphan Project* – *Backpack Press* (forthcoming)

Works in Progress/Bodies of Work

- *The Hollowing Moon* (Young Adult)
Fiction – A novel about two young teenage girls who escape their small town and travel across the Midwest.
This body of work was one of the four semi-finalists of the Anderbo Novel Contest. THE HOLLOWING MOON it is also the prequel to *The Legacy of Lost Things*.
- *The Legacy of Lost Things* - Debut novel (General/multi-cultural fiction)
Fiction – A prequel to *The Hollowing Moon*, delving into the lives and history of an Armenian family immigrating to America and adjusting to the new life of a modern country. Recipient of the 2014 Tololyan Literary Award. Published by Bleeding Heart Publications.
- *These Hills Were Meant for You* - (General fiction)
Fiction – A collection of short stories focusing on family relationships and the themes of redemption, loss and personal triumph. Characters interweaving throughout the collection create a family tree of individuals who are connected to one another. Some of the short stories have appeared in various literary journals.
- *The Last Echo Through the Plains* - (General/multi-cultural fiction)
Fiction – Told through three interweaving narratives, this novel is a family saga following the impact of the Armenian Genocide over four generations, and the long-lasting effects of tragedy on ancestral legacy and cultural memory.

Readings, Presentations, Editorial

Newtown Literary (Editorial Board Member)

A Queens-based literary journal promoting new and emerging writers whose writing evokes the community of the borough of Queens. Reading and reviewing submissions, editing, partaking in decision-making aspects of a literary journal.

Boundless Tales Reading Series

Curator. Launched in September 2011, Boundless Tales Reading Series is one of the only reading series in the borough of Queens. The goal of this series is to provide a venue for writers who are passionate about their writing, and who would like to share their work in a public forum.

Sunday Salon – October 2007

Ear Inn Reading – Summer 2008

Gartal Reading Series – 12 November, 2008

Hamazkayeen: Literary Gems -12, April 2012

Phoenix Reading Series – 30 October, 2012, Summer 2012

Art & Slush: Soho – 30 October, 2012

Phoenix Reading Series – 30 October, 2012

Hamazkayeen: Literary Gems -22 February, 2013

Nature of the Muse – 4 April, 2013

REZ Reading Series – 2, May 2013; 19, September 2013
Oh, Bernice! 14 June, 2013
With Special Guest! 8, October 2013
Town Hall with Queens Council of the Arts, 18, October 2013
First Tuesdays, March 2014
Oh, Bernice! February 2015
NYU “Outside” Reading Series, March 2015
QCA: Celebrating Queens Women Artists, March 2016
F Bomb Reading Series, May 2017

Interviews

- Interview with Paula Rossman on QPTV’s “World of Arts” (December 2015)
- Interview with WNYC’s John Hockenberry – “The Takeaway” (April 2015)
- Voice of Armenians – Interview (April 2015)
- Interview with Glendale Newspress – “Learning Matters” by Joylene Wagner (April 2015)
- Fiction Writers Review – Interview with Nancy Agabian (March 2015) / French translation by George Festa
- Book Radio Interview with Kari Moran (March 2015)

Blurbs/Reviews

“A lyrical description of a family’s search for their daughter and their humanity.”
 – Kirkus Reviews

“The Legacy of Lost Things is a beautifully written and artfully constructed novel that explores the intimate lives of several generations of an Armenian immigrant family in America. Aida Zilelian has the superior novelist’s combination of equanimity and empathy. In deceptively simple prose, she takes you right to the heart of the matter.”

-- Aram Sayoran, internationally known poet, novelist, biographer, memoirist, playwright and the recipient of two National Endowment for the Arts poetry awards

“The Legacy of Lost Things is a page-turning puzzle, a gripping study of a family of lost souls, burdened by patterns beyond their control, borne of tradition and decisions made in the blindness of youth. With unblinking bravery, Aida Zilelian has composed a complex, exquisitely-crafted story about the reality of violence and the possibility of redemption.”

– Nancy Agabian, Author, *Me as her Again: True Stories of an Armenian Daughter*