



Mr. Avedis Abrahamian survived the Armenian Genocide, leaving Turkey in 1915 and arriving at the port of Providence, Rhode Island on route to New York City on 1921, at the age of 15. He received his high school diploma in New York City on his 60th birthday. The lack of formal education, however, did not prevent him from being a voracious reader of historical texts and educating himself on the critical issues facing his generation. As he sat in his small paint store in the Bronx, NY, he welcomed customers, friends and family to join him in the back room for a glass of orange juice and more importantly, discussions – often heated – on the critical issues facing America.

In the 1930's, he was warning against continued failure to grant African-Americans equal rights. He forewarned that by postponing this injustice, America would pay a high price.

On the back pages of The New York Times in the mid 1960's, it was reported that 'advisors' were going to Vietnam and villagers were being relocated. He cautioned against the escalating war saying "this is what was done to us - to the Armenians. They moved us out of our villages saying it was for our benefit - the US is now doing the same in Vietnam – it will not go well".

Mr. Abrahamian's recently published memoir, *Avedis' Story: An Armenian Boy's Journey*, edited by his daughter, Dr. Carolann Najarian (Gomidas Institute, 2014), is about his experiences as a little boy before and during the Armenian Genocide 1915, and settlement in America. In it he discusses the transformation in his thinking from wanting vengeance against the Turks to seeking justice and his growing awareness of the suffering of other people.