

[Back to WZZM13.com](#)




[More WZZM13 Sites](#)

Find stories and video

[Log in](#) [Contact us](#)

Click Here to Track Crime in Your Neighborhood

SpotCrime

- [Meekhof Lumber to close in June](#)
- [Meijer Gardens announces summer concerts](#)
- [Trader Joe's, Whole Foods, H&M coming to area](#)
- [MI House Representative Takes A Flying Leap](#)

## GR Doctor Honors Armenian Heritage with First Novel | Arts & Culture

**Title (Max 100 Characters)**  
GR Doctor Honors Armenian Heritage with First Novel  
*Submitted by Candice Fleszar-Smith*  
*Wednesday, January 23rd, 2013, 11:00am*

47

2

Like

Tweet

Print (#)

E-mail (#)

Topics: [Arts & Culture \(/news/arts-culture/\)](#), [Events \(/news/events/\)](#), [Families \(/news/families/\)](#)



Dr. Topouzian talks with a guest about his novel

Dr. Keri Topouzian, DO, FACOEP, has two passions: holistic medicine and his Armenian heritage. The Grand Rapids practitioner has turned the latter into “[A Perfect Armenian](http://aperfectarmenian.com/),” a novel that takes readers on a wild journey through the traitorous labyrinths of culture, romance, war, corruption and prejudice.

On Thursday, January 17 and Friday, January 18, Keri Topouzian, D.O. held a first book signing and discussion at the [Keystone Pharmacy in Cascade](http://www.keystonerx.com/) (<http://www.keystonerx.com/>) to unveil his novel and share key facts about Armenian culture and history. The event was graced with a rush of readers within the first hour, and a slow but steady pace of guests on Friday. Though it was a departure from its regular subject matter, the event was part of [Keystone's ongoing seminar series](http://www.keystonerx.com/pharmacy-services/seminars.php) (<http://www.keystonerx.com/pharmacy-services/seminars.php>).

Topouzian started writing *A Perfect Armenian* seven years ago. The novel is based upon an historic timeline that begins in 1914, at the onset of World War I. It follows the fictional life of Tavid Kaloustian, a cunning yet determined young Armenian who will do whatever it takes to protect his family and friends from the quickly approaching genocide—a genocide that was all too real for many Armenians.

"It has been very exciting to have it (Novel) published, and to see the buzz build up around the novel upon its release," said Topouzian. "It was such a privilege to meet so many people from different immigrant families, Armenian or other cultures, and to hear their stories—truly beautiful and truly humbling."

One Armenian gentleman relayed the story of his grandparents, who had fled Armenian Turkey shortly after they were married; only to be separated upon their escape. Each had the opportunity to marry others, but they resisted, believing that their spouse was still alive and that they would be reunited. Twelve years later, his grandmother walked into his grandfather's shop in Lebanon. She had found him again. All of his grandfathers' relatives were killed during the genocide, which took the lives of 1.5 million people.

At Friday's event, a woman and her son rushed in as the author was packing up—her grandmother had also escaped being killed during the genocide. "My (other) son called me and asked if I made it last night. When I said that I couldn't make it in time, he told me there was another signing right now! So we hopped in the car and rushed over to meet him!"

When asked why he wrote the book, Topouzian replied, "Armenians have had a great deal of suffering in their past, and much of the Armenian literature is quite depressing. I wanted to read a book that offered triumph within this horrible history. I couldn't find one, so I wrote it. As a physician, I see a lot of suffering as well as a lot of courage. I hope that anyone in any situation or from any culture could relate to the characters in this novel."

Topouzian, who has self-published this book, is planning several more book signing events, including one in April to be held in the Detroit area. So far, readers have been sending messages to the author, describing the novel as "a real page turner", a "fantastic story", and "simply incredible." He is also hard at work on a sequel—details of which are top secret.



Dr. Topouzian with a new fan



Dr. Topouzian with fans who have a personal connection to his story



Dr. Topouzian signs a copy of his book

Topics: [Arts & Culture \(/news/arts-culture/\)](#), [Events \(/news/events/\)](#), [Families \(/news/families/\)](#)

[\(#\)](#) [\(#\)](#) [\(#\)](#) [\(#\)](#)

Top Ada / Cascade Stories

News



[/news](#)

[/news/78133-meekhof-lumber-close-june](#)  
[Meekhof Lumber to close in June \(/news](#)

News



[/news](#)

[/news/77903-meijer-gardens-announces-](#)  
[summer-concerts\)](#)

News



[/news](#)

[/news/77813-trader-joes-whole-foods-](#)  
[hm-coming-area\)](#)

Community Spirit



[/news/community-](#)

[spirit/77723-mi-house-representative-takes-](#)  
[flying-leap\)](#)




</news/78133-meekhof-lumber-close-june> [Meijer Gardens announces summer concerts](#) </news/news/77903-meijer-gardens-announces-summer-concerts> [Trader Joe's, Whole Foods, H&M coming to area](#) </news/news/77813-trader-joes-whole-foods-h-m-coming-area> [MI House Representative Takes A Flying Leap](#) </news/community-spirit/77723-mi-house-representative-takes-flying-leap>

**Upcoming Events near Ada / Cascade**

Kent Career Tech Center Community Open House	Teen Zone - CAS	Placeholder Cascade Friends of the Library Book Sale
<a href="/h/events?ct=d&amp;eid=270863741">/h/events?ct=d&amp;eid=270863741</a>	<a href="#">eid=270064826</a>	<a href="/h/events?ct=d&amp;eid=270384359">/h/events?ct=d&amp;eid=270384359</a>
Mar 7, 6:00PM	Mar 7, 5:00PM	Mar 10, 1:00PM
Kent Career Technical Center <a href="/h/events?ct=d&amp;vid=270857908">/h/events?ct=d&amp;vid=270857908</a>	Kent District Library - Cascade <a href="/h/events?ct=d&amp;vid=173969005">/h/events?ct=d&amp;vid=173969005</a>	Kent District Library - Cascade <a href="/h/events?ct=d&amp;vid=173969005">/h/events?ct=d&amp;vid=173969005</a>

[SEE MORE LOCAL EVENTS \(/H/EVENTS\)](#)



☒ Post to Facebook

Posting as Beth Veltman ([Change](#))

Facebook social plugin

## Ada / Cascade Deals (/local-deals)

[20% Off Service Call \(/coupon/70559/1\)](#) [/node/70559](#) Parker & Arntz Plumbing & Heating </business-directory/heating-air/70559/parker-arntz-plumbing-heating>

[10% Off services \(/coupon/50109/\)](#) [/node/50109](#) Caretakers Landscape </business-directory/home-garden/50109/caretakers-landscape>

[Buy 1 Room Get 2nd 50% OFF! \(/coupon/76100/\)](#) [/node/76100](#) Kris's Kolors </business-directory/home-garden/76100/kriss-kolors>

[More Deals \(/local-deals\)](#) | [Advertise with us \(/advertise-here\)](#)

## Ada / Cascade Businesses (/business-directory)



</business-directory/child-care-services/62232>  
</milestones-child-development-center>  
**Milestones Child Development Center**  
</business-directory/child-care-services/62232>  
</milestones-child-development-center>

**NO Enrollment Fee!**  
</coupon/62232/0>

[Watch video](#)  
</business-directory/child-care-services/62232>  
</milestones-child-development-center>



</business-directory/heating-air/59996/grapids-heating-cooling-inc>  
**Grapids Heating & Cooling Inc.** </business-directory/heating-air/59996>  
</grapids-heating-cooling-inc>

[ALL COMMUNITY SPONSORS \(/BUSINESS-DIRECTORY\)](#)

## Most popular stories from nearby communities

### East Grand Rapids News (<http://egr.wzzm13.com>)

- [Lego Block Party - March 9 \(<http://egr.wzzm13.com/news/arts-culture/78493-lego-block-party-march-9>\)](http://egr.wzzm13.com/news/arts-culture/78493-lego-block-party-march-9)
- [Local Artist's Painting Is New Acquisition for Swedish Museum \(<http://egr.wzzm13.com/news/arts-culture/78033-local-artists-painting-new-acquisition-swedish-museum>\)](http://egr.wzzm13.com/news/arts-culture/78033-local-artists-painting-new-acquisition-swedish-museum)
- [Chess Anyone? \(<http://egr.wzzm13.com/news/arts-culture/77644-chess-anyone>\)](http://egr.wzzm13.com/news/arts-culture/77644-chess-anyone)
- [VIDEO: East Grand Rapids Polar Plunge \(<http://egr.wzzm13.com/news/community-spirit/77557-video-east-grand-rapids-polar-plunge>\)](http://egr.wzzm13.com/news/community-spirit/77557-video-east-grand-rapids-polar-plunge)
- [Milestone EGR High School Reunions from 1953-1998 Classes \(<http://egr.wzzm13.com/news/events/77468-milestone-egr-high-school-reunions-1953-1998-classes>\)](http://egr.wzzm13.com/news/events/77468-milestone-egr-high-school-reunions-1953-1998-classes)

### Kentwood News (<http://kentwood.wzzm13.com>)

- [Fundraiser To Help Rebuild Burned Church \(<http://kentwood.wzzm13.com/news/community-spirit/77943-fundraiser-help-rebuild-burned-church>\)](http://kentwood.wzzm13.com/news/community-spirit/77943-fundraiser-help-rebuild-burned-church)
- [Local Non-Profit "Sea to Sea" Tours To Fight Poverty \(<http://kentwood.wzzm13.com/news/community-spirit/77713-local-non-profit-sea-sea-tours-fight-poverty>\)](http://kentwood.wzzm13.com/news/community-spirit/77713-local-non-profit-sea-sea-tours-fight-poverty)
- [11th Annual Taste of Kentwood 2013 on Thursday \(<http://kentwood.wzzm13.com/news/community-spirit/77520-11th-annual-taste-kentwood-2013-thursday>\)](http://kentwood.wzzm13.com/news/community-spirit/77520-11th-annual-taste-kentwood-2013-thursday)
- [Police Seeking Witnesses After Deadly Car Accident in Kentwood \(<http://kentwood.wzzm13.com/news/crime/77566-police-seeking-witnesses-after-deadly-car-accident-kentwood>\)](http://kentwood.wzzm13.com/news/crime/77566-police-seeking-witnesses-after-deadly-car-accident-kentwood)
- [28th Street Metro Cruise needs volunteers \(<http://kentwood.wzzm13.com/news/news/77456-28th-street-metro-cruise-needs-volunteers>\)](http://kentwood.wzzm13.com/news/news/77456-28th-street-metro-cruise-needs-volunteers)

### Lowell News (<http://lowell.wzzm13.com>)

- [2013 Lowell Chamber Awards \(<http://lowell.wzzm13.com/news/business/78063-2013-lowell-chamber-awards>\)](http://lowell.wzzm13.com/news/business/78063-2013-lowell-chamber-awards)
- [MI House Representative Takes A Flying Leap \(<http://lowell.wzzm13.com/news/community-spirit/77723-mi-house-representative-takes-flying-leap>\)](http://lowell.wzzm13.com/news/community-spirit/77723-mi-house-representative-takes-flying-leap)
- [27th annual West Michigan Regional \(Art\) Competition \(<http://lowell.wzzm13.com/news/arts-culture/77600-27th-annual-west-michigan-regional-art-competition>\)](http://lowell.wzzm13.com/news/arts-culture/77600-27th-annual-west-michigan-regional-art-competition)
- [Bushnell Elementary PJ Bowl-A-Rama - March 2 \(<http://lowell.wzzm13.com/news/community-spirit/77567-bushnell-elementary-pi-bowl-rama-march-2>\)](http://lowell.wzzm13.com/news/community-spirit/77567-bushnell-elementary-pi-bowl-rama-march-2)
- [Closings Around Lowell Today \(<http://lowell.wzzm13.com/news/schools/77495-closings-around-lowell-today>\)](http://lowell.wzzm13.com/news/schools/77495-closings-around-lowell-today)



Do you have a story to tell? [Become a community blogger!](#) ([/contact/Become\\_a\\_community\\_blogger](#))

**[Ada / Cascade Real Estate Listings](#)** ([/real-estate-listings](#))



(<http://www.14671Sparta.com>)

**14671 Sparta Ave, Kent City, Michigan** (<http://www.14671Sparta.com>)

**\$248,500**

Contact: [LuAnne](#) ([/profile/47051/luanne](#))

Courtesy of: Rockford Realty



(<http://www.DanceStudioforSale.com>)

**270 West St, Cedar Springs, Michigan** (<http://www.DanceStudioforSale.com>)

**\$199,900**

Contact: [LuAnne](#) ([/profile/47051/luanne](#))

Courtesy of: Rockford Realty

**[SEE MORE LOCAL REAL ESTATE](#)** ([/REAL-ESTATE-LISTINGS](#))