

# NEWSLETTER

Marilyn J. Sarkisian, Editor

1430 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE  
CAMBRIDGE 38, MASSACHUSETTS

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Number 2

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## BOSTON BANQUET LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN FOR

### HARVARD ARMENIAN CHAIR WITH \$30,000

At the successful NAASR-sponsored October 30th kickoff banquet, a responsive and extremely enthusiastic audience raised nearly \$30,000 of the \$300,000 needed to establish a Chair of Armenian Studies at Harvard University. The first in a series of such banquets attracted a capacity crowd of over 400 people to Boston's exclusive Harvard Club from New England and other states.

Most of the persons attending the dinner were on hand to greet Harvard President Nathan M. Pusey and author-playwright William Saroyan at the reception given for them and the other honored guests prior to the banquet. Following the steak dinner, NAASR First Vice-chairman Dr. Arra S. Avakian introduced toastmaster G. John Gregory. A member of the Mass. Board of Education and of NAASR's Board of Directors, Gregory spoke on the origins and value of this new movement before introducing the speakers and artists.

### Pusey Expresses Harvard's Appreciation

In his banquet speech Dr. Pusey expressed appreciation for the Association's desire to establish the first Chair of Armenian Studies in America at Harvard. He said such a chair would help to fill the large void in our knowledge of the Middle East and of an important national culture that has contributed much to world civilization. He further acknowledged that "Armenian culture is permeated with profound religious and literary values." Dr. Pusey added that an endowed professorship in Armenian studies will be of everlasting value because it will provide for continuity, high scholarly standards and permanence. He assured those present that Harvard would do its utmost to help in the

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## EXPANDED ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

### TO BEGIN IN FALL AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY

As a result of the initial sum of \$30,000 raised by the Association for the endowment of a Chair of Armenian Studies, Harvard University will be able to begin a limited program for the advancement of Armenian studies and research at its Center for Middle Eastern Studies in the fall of 1956. The announcement was made jointly a week after the October 30th banquet by NAASR Board Chairman Manoog S. Young and Dean McGeorge Bundy of the Harvard University Faculty of Arts and Sciences.

The expanded program will be above and beyond that which Harvard already offers in Armenian and will serve in the interim until the Chair becomes a reality. Its extent will depend upon the amount of yield available by next fall from the invested funds for Armenian studies. It may encompass a graduate school tuition scholarship, publication subsidies, and/or library purchases of much-needed books and periodicals.

### Scholarship or Fellowship Possible

At the banquet Dean Bundy expressed his pleasure at the excellent beginning showed by those present in helping to set up the endowed fund for Armenian studies. He stated that the limited program would most likely commence with a scholarship or, if possible, a fellowship in Armenian history. He further added that when the Chair is ultimately established, the best man in this field would be sought by Harvard for the position.

The money raised in the name of the Harvard Armenian Chair, according to Chairman Young, will go directly to the University's endowed fund designated for

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early fulfillment of the program to create at the University a virtual center of Armenian learning and research unparalleled in the Western World.

William Sarcoyan stressed the fact that the Armenian studies program, as outlined by NAASR, is the best thing that has come along in generations in the American-Armenian community and is worthy of everyone's whole-hearted support regardless of their religious, political, or other beliefs. The success of this program, he said, will bring to an end "the help-less longing of the human heart for an orderly truth."

Developing this thought further, Rev. A. A. Bedikian impressed upon the audience that the job of establishing this Chair must be undertaken and completed by the Armenians themselves. Speaking in Armenian, the pastor-emeritus of the Armenian Evangelical Church of New York stated that rather than a luxury, this Chair is a most urgent necessity for the self-respect of the Armenians and the perpetuation of their heritage.

Lt.-Gov. Sumner G. Whittier brought the greetings of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and spoke in glowing terms of the contributions of the Armenians to the American way of life. The Harvard Chair would constitute just one more contribution of great value to world knowledge and understanding.

Other speakers included NAASR Board Chairman Manoog S. Young, who outlined the Association's broad nationwide program for Armenian studies and brought out the fact that Harvard first started offering courses in Armenian in 1927 under the late Professor Robert P. Blake. Harvard Professor Richard N. Frye reiterated the value and urgency of this program for the use of scholars in other fields. Mass. Commissioner of Education Dr. John J. Desmond, Jr., Prof. Emmanuel P. Varandyan of Ohio State University, and NAASR Board Treasurer J. Mark Kolligian also spoke on the value and immediate need of this project.

Seated also at the head table were Sir Hamilton A. R. Gibb, recently Laudian Professor of Arabic at Oxford University

in England and now all-University professor at Harvard; Prof. Marc Raeff of Clark University's Department of History and International Relations; NAASR Board members Prof. M. G. Sevag of the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine and Gen. Sarkis M. Zartarian.

From the clergy were Reverends Papken Maksoudian and Arten Ashjian, of the Holy Trinity and St. James Armenian Churches of Boston and Watertown respectively, and Rev. Dr. Yervant Hadidian of the Watertown Cilician Memorial Church. The musical portion of the program was provided by noted concert, radio and TV artists Maro and Anahid Ajemian, whose musical selections of Armenian and other numbers delighted the audience.

Many telegrams and messages wishing the Association success in its important venture were acknowledged.

ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM  
(Cont. from Page 1)

Armenian studies. The interest from this fund will be used each year in setting up increasingly larger programs in Armenian studies and research. More important, Young said, Harvard's own contribution towards the success of the program will probably equal in amount or kind the \$300,000 needed to endow the Chair.

All gifts to the fund can be sent to the Association. However, for tax exemption purposes, checks should be made out to "Harvard University Armenian Studies Fund." Acknowledgements will come directly from the University. Those wishing to make "name fund" donations of \$15,000 or more can arrange through the Association to meet directly with the proper Harvard officials.

SEND ARMENIAN BOOKS TO HARVARD LIBRARY

The Harvard University Library's Armenian section has been increased by nearly 1200 books, pamphlets, and periodicals as a result of the donation of four private collections. The next issue of the NEWSLETTER will carry the details.

The Harvard Library will welcome all collections, whether small or large. All books will bear appropriate name plates of the donor. Write to NAASR for further information.

Contributions and Pledges as of December 1, 1955, to the

HARVARD UNIVERSITY ARMENIAN STUDIES FUND

For the Advancement of Armenian Studies and Research and the  
Establishment of an Endowed Chair of Armenian Studies

(NOTE: Some of these donations have been pledged over 2 or 3-year periods while others were immediate contributions.)

<u>California</u>	<u>Amount</u>	D-Anonymous No. 3	\$ 25.00
Dr. J. Michael Hagopian	\$ 117.10	Rose Depoyan	55.00
(in the memory of his father, Dr. Michael Hagopian)		Mr. & Mrs. John Der Hovanesian	200.00
P-Anonymous No. 1	5.00	Mrs. Adele Der Manuelian	100.00
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<u>Canada</u>		Mr. & Mrs. Karnig S. Dinjian	75.00
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V. Philip Torigian	100.00
Krikor Torosian Family	200.00
Kevork Tutunjian	200.00
Prof. Aram Vartanian	25.00
Osia Yeramian	200.00
Manoog S. Young	105.00
Mr. & Mrs. Aram S. Zacarian	100.00
Peter C. Zakarian	15.00
Gen. & Mrs. Sarkis M. Zartarian	1000.00

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Mary Colombosian	100.00
Sarkis Colombosian	500.00
Koorken Der Bedrosian	500.00
Grace V. Heroian	50.00
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Sharkey Heroian	100.00
Arthur E. Jorjorian	200.00
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K-Anonymous No. 4	20.00
Atty. & Mrs. Paul Kazarosian	200.00
Azad Maranjian	100.00
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Vaughn Sayian	60.00
Avedis K. Simonian	200.00
S. Taparagan	25.00

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Dr. Paul Hasserjian	250.00
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#### New Jersey

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James Lulejian Melcon	100.00

#### New York City

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George Avakian	20.00
Berje David	200.00
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Arpine Mardiguian	15.00
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Dikran Missirlian	1000.00
Harry M. Raphaelian	300.00

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#### Pennsylvania

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Ahavnie Paroonagian	5.00
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M. J. Najarian	1500.00
Mr. & Mrs. Peter S. Norigian	100.00
Theresa Noorigian	50.00

#### Virginia

Bedros Manoukian	142.50
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#### Organizations

Armenian Students' Assn. of Am.	500.00
Armenian Youth of Am., Watertown	25.00
Harvard Armenian Club	20.00
Union of Marash Armenians	500.00

#### RECAPITULATION

Total Remitted To date	\$ 6,682.48
Total Pledged	23,322.12
Total Remitted & Pledged	<u>\$ 30,004.60</u>