NCCJ Develops Memorial Service For Armenians

The National Conference of Christians and Jews has placed April 24, Armenian Martyrs Day, on its calendar of religious and ethnic holidays and has prepared a four-page brochure on “Remembering the Armenian Martyrs” for use by its 75 regional offices across the nation.

NAASR provided background information for the preparation of the brochure. Also assisting in the project were Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America and Ourselves Board.

Hovannisian Discusses Genocide Education

There is an increasing awareness in the United States of human rights issues, and this awareness has opened “grand new vistas” for educators attempting to inform the public about the Armenian Genocide and the Jewish Holocaust.

This was the message conveyed by Dr. Richard G. Hovannisian, Professor of Armenian and Near Eastern History at the University of California, Los Angeles, in a talk at Harvard University on April 15 sponsored jointly by NAASR and by the Facing History and Ourselves National Foundation of Brookline, Mass.

The evening’s program was devoted to the topic of “Teaching About the Armenian Genocide in Public and Private Schools,” with special emphasis on the Facing History and Ourselves curriculum, which includes a section on the Armenian Genocide.

Facing History and Ourselves has been praised by educators because it is designed not simply to teach adolescents the facts of the Armenian Genocide and the Jewish Holocaust, but because it encourages them at the same time to look at themselves and to consider questions about judgment, prejudice, stereotyping, and other ethical issues.

The evening’s program was opened by Manoog S. Young, NAASR Board Chairman and a member of the Facing History and Ourselves Board. NAASR funded the development of the Armenian segment of the curriculum with grants exceeding $35,000, and continues to actively support the introduction of the curriculum into school systems across the nation.

Speaking briefly at the program was Facing History and Ourselves Program Director and co-founder, William Parsons, who developed the Armenian segment of the curriculum. Mr. Parsons noted that 1,500 school systems nationally now teach students about the Armenian Genocide.

At the same time, he warned that in many areas the inclusion of the Armenian segment has become a problem due to protests by Turks who deny the facts of the Armenian Genocide. Educators today are sliding away from teaching anything controversial,” Mr. Parsons noted. Therefore, teachers and administrators must be supported in the teaching of difficult subjects.

Prof. Hovannisian has lectured at many workshops and programs for teachers sponsored by the Facing History and Ourselves Foundation and serves as a member of the Board.

The evening concluded with a lengthy question-answer session and the presentation of the film “The Hangman,” one of the teaching aids used in the Facing History and Ourselves program. A special exhibit of books dealing with the Armenian Genocide and related subjects was set up by NAASR, and an up-to-date list of these titles was prepared.

Excerpts from Prof. Hovannisian’s remarks can be found on page 4.

NAASR Gala Tribute June 15
Manoogian, Adamian To Be Honored

An opportunity to celebrate NAASR’s 30th anniversary, to recall the accomplishments of the past, and to look forward to the challenges of the future will be provided to NAASR members and friends at the gala celebration. Extravaganza to be held on Sunday, June 15, in Cambridge, Mass.

Founders, charter members, directors, members, and supporters from all parts of the country are expected to attend this memorable event, which will climax a full year of activities marking NAASR’s three decades of success and pioneering achievements to further Armenian studies.

Two outstanding Armenian Americans, Alex Manoogian and Gregory H. Adamian, will be recognized as recipients of NAASR’s Distinguished Service Award at the banquet for their contributions to further Armenian studies and culture and for their constant support of NAASR since its founding.

Mr. Manoogian, prominent industrialist, community leader, and philanthropist of Grosse Pointe, Michigan, is an Honorary Life Member and a longtime supporter of NAASR. The founder and Board Chairman of Masco Corporation, he is the Life President of the Armenian General Benevolent Union.

Dr. Adamian, President of Bentley College in Waltham, Mass., is a Charter Member of NAASR and has served as a Director for nearly 30 years. In the years he has served as its president, he has transformed Bentley College from a small urban school into a large suburban institution recognized as a national leader in all aspects of business education.

In addition, a number of Armenian Americans who have made outstanding achievements in their chosen fields of endeavor will be recognized for having brought credit to the Armenians through their accomplishments.

The banquet will be held in Memorial Hall, Harvard University, beginning at 5pm and will feature a specially selected sumptuous meal. The hall will be elegantly decorated for the occasion. The banquet will be preceded by a champagne reception.

Awards at Banquet

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Continued on page 2
NAASR Gala Tribute

Cambridge-Yerevan Sister City Project

NAASR members and friends had the opportunity to learn more about the Cambridge-Yerevan Sister City Project at a meeting on April 9 at the First Armenian Church. Ellen B. Maas, Chairman of the Cambridge-Yerevan Sister City Project Committee, and Aram K. Karakashian, Director of Trinity Diploma, Inc., of Gainesville, Fla., explained the proposal of the City of Cambridge to establish a sister city relationship with a Soviet city, most likely Yerevan. Also present were Sister City Committee members Jackie Abramian and Suzanne Pegram.

Sister City projects are designed to provide cultural and educational exchanges between artists, scholars, school systems, archaeologists, and others.

At the Cambridge City Council passed a resolution in January, 1985, to enter into a Sister City relationship with a Soviet city. Since then, Yerevan, Capital of Armenia, has emerged as the most likely candidate for the Soviet city. Members of the Cambridge Sister City Committee plan to visit the Soviet Union in May to finalize the arrangements for the Sister City relationship.

As the NAASR meeting it was noted that the Sister City Project had been initiated by President Reagan last fall. This was the project that was endorsed by President Reagan last fall. With the increase in international tensions in recent months, NAASR has been of prime importance to working in a concrete manner to contribute to better and more lasting peaceful relations.

The donation, for the entertainment portion of the evening’s activities, including the banquet, pre-post program reception, is $50 minimum per person. A trip to the evening’s programs, the cash equivalent of $2,000, will be offered as a door prize at the banquet.

The donation, for the entertainment portion of the evening’s activities, including the post-program reception, is $25 per person.

Program to Feature Celebrities

Following the banquet, an elaborate audio-visual and musical program will be presented with an array on history prominent Armenian Americans and others participating.

Among the performing artists who have accepted invitations to take part in the celebration are Armenian folk groups, pianists and ethnomusicologists Sahak Araratian, soprano Daryn Melkonian, soprano Mark Portarayan, and Broadway star Michael Kermoyan.

The program is under the direction of Daniel Adamian, a talented young man who is preparing a unique program which will focus on the events of the 30 years that NAASR has been in existence while at the same time taking advantage of the multifaceted talents of the participants.

Further details and information will be made available in the American Armenian newspaper and through special mailings. Reservations may be made by contacting the NAASR Headquarters.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

NAASR NEEDS YOU!

Could you devote two or more hours per week to work at NAASR headquarters? Help in the daytime to help out at our NAASR headquarters? Please call 870-7530.

Armenian Pride

The following article appeared in the March 27th issue of the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) "Armenian Pride," published by驟 Brown, and Westley editions of the TAB, a weekly newspaper widely circulated in the Boston area.

By Elise Noel McMahon

Just beyond the confines of Harvard University, in a campus building used by Hour House next to Longfellow Park in Cambridge, is an unoccupied oasis of Armenian culture.

The Mt. Asburn Street headquarters of the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR), a 35-year old organization promoting the study of Armenian culture and history, is decorated with maps of the country in Armenian and French, an ample library of books about Armenian history, art and culture, and postcards from Armenia. The current director of NAASR’s William Saryoun and portrait photographer Youssef Kuru. Both the collection of artifacts serioius scholarly inquiry goes on.

Every area of Armenian studies is a virgin field and provides fascinating history for research,” says NAASR Board Chair Manoog S. Young. He explains that the organization’s focus on Armenian studies, scholarship and publications in America’s largest Armenian community has established endowed Armenian chairs at Harvard and the University of California at Los Angeles, he says, adding that he hopes interest in Armenian studies will eventually move from the scholarly to the non-scholarly world as well.

“Middle East history will go through a rewriting as Armenian sources become known,” says Young. “This is the time of the clerics and monksaries. Armenians translated and recorded material whose original sources have been lost. Later on, we were traders and formed settlements in India, Ethiopia and Singapore and we have a history of the world,” says Young, adding that he recently received a copy of the Armenian Pol and that “there has been a recent revival within Poland for Armenian Polishes to enhance their Armenian heritage.”

A plan to increase publishing activity is on NAASR’s agenda, according to Young. Who plans to have a book in publication within the next nine months and with a library of 10,000 titles. This is a major project in Armenia — the project already has some roots.

At the April 9th board meeting, NAASR started, you couldn’t buy five books on Armenian history, culture, or language, says Young. He adds that the NAASR book selling operation was established after the Chair at Harvard was established.

— the Mt. Asburn Street house is already too small for NAASR and is looking for another site. Young says, NAASR has a national membership of about 1,000, and a Boston area membership of about 300, he adds.

NAASR is also planning to establish an Institute for the Study of the Armenian Genocide, which was the subject of a controversy between Harvard and Wellesley College. Young, whose mother and father were among the first of most of their Armenian relatives in America, says that the issue “should approach the genocide in a scholarly manner. We need to recognize that the Armenian language is a living, not a dead language.”

NAASR has produced illustrated manuscripts and churches that may have served as inspiration for Goliath and David. Giragos Hur, a student who worked on the book in Armenia, which ended for about two years.

With plans to increase publishing activities, and numerous books, private papers and newspapers promised to NAASR, but with no place to store them.

issue should be “studied in terms of the historical forces, such as imperialism and colonialism, and of political events... The ordinary Turk was not interested in the accident that had taken place,” Young says.

NAASR has also launched a $125 million dollar campaign to establish an Institute for Armenian Studies and Research, which would encourage scholars to spend their time pursuing independent research in Armenia, while helping access to the resources of NAASR and local universities, says Young.

Young believes scholarly interest in Armenian culture continues to grow in interest in Armenian culture. “Armenia has positive international interest in our world, and the world does not know about it,” he says. “It has not been translated. Armeni has produced illustrated manuscripts and churches that may have served as inspiration for Goliath and David. Giragos Hur, a student who worked on the book in Armenia, which ended for about two years.

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Especially a letter given at Harvard University by the President of the University, Professor Hovannisian, University of California Press, Los Angeles, 1974. The United Nations Genocide Convention is a legal instrument that defines and prohibits acts that constitute genocide. It was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 9, 1948. The Convention, which has been ratified by nearly all United Nations members, is a legally binding treaty that establishes a framework for the prevention and punishment of genocide. It is considered one of the most important international human rights instruments.

Richard G. Hovannisian

Remarks on Genocide Education in the Nation's Schools

As you know, it is a Convention that the two events.

There is certainly a strong linkage between the Holocaust and the Armenian Genocide. Both events were characterized by the wholesale extermination of entire communities, primarily on the basis of ethnic or religious identity. In the case of both the Holocaust and the Armenian Genocide, there was a great tradition of extending assistance to the survivors of the atrocities. This was something that all countries involved knew about because they were collecting money for the Armenian widows and orphans. But the memory vanished within one generation, as the survivors were too young to remember.

On this matter of the acceptability of genocide, the question of morality also comes into play, for we are dealing with the question of judgment and responsibility that the Faching History program considers.

To what degree can we excoriate academic institutions, governments, and political scientists for taking a state-sponsored view of history? In Turkey today, there is no service to the state point of view. The academic community in Armenia has been rather successful in educating the Armenian Genocide in my country. I received at least once a month a new publication of denials, making the victims the perpetrators—the ultimate, final stage of denial.

On the more positive side, in this country, too, there are many scholars and researchers who are examining the Holocaust and, particularly in the field of education, there is more attention being paid to the issue of how to prevent mass killing, how to prevent the perpetrators from doing it again. As in New York, New York, Connect­ed with other historical and cultural structures in other countries and it has taken a firm position to ensure that students who should have part of the curriculum a unit or course on genocide in its new state of New York. This open great new vistas for the scholars and teachers of history, literature, art, and the mass media for those of us who are interested in this subject.

There are other certain areas that I think are vital. Holocaust media is very rich. There are, I think, a few very good television series that portray the victims of the Holocaust; there is footage of the SS. The Nats were very good record keepers; they had a very sophisticated system of records. But when you bring the matter down to the level of the individual, as you know, it is a Convention that the two events.

On the other hand, you need to examine the issues of how to prevent genocide.

Particularly in the field of education, there is more attention being paid to human rights and to the issues of how to prevent genocide.

Before, despite the fact that there were more material and news accounts about the Armenian Genocide in this country, there were a number of cases where the students were too young to remember. They were not getting money for the Armenian widows and orphans. But the memory vanished within one generation, as the survivors were too young to remember.

So I would say that while there are a number of cases where the students were too young to remember. They were not getting money for the Armenian widows and orphans. But the memory vanished within one generation, as the survivors were too young to remember.

The United Nations Genocide Convention, which was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 9, 1948, is a legally binding treaty that establishes a framework for the prevention and punishment of genocide. It is considered one of the most important international human rights instruments.

The convention defines genocide as any of the following acts committed with the intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial, or religious group: killing members of the group; causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group; deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part; imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group; and forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.

The convention also establishes a framework for reporting and investigating allegations of genocide, and it provides for the establishment of an international convention against genocide. It is considered one of the most important international human rights instruments.
Armenian Language Courses At Watertown High School

This year marks the 15th anniversary of the establishment of Armenian language classes at Watertown High School. Despite the reluctance of high school students in the United States to study foreign languages, the Armenian program at Watertown High School has been able to keep enrollments high enough to justify continuation of the courses. The ethnic diversity of Watertown, as well as its relatively large Armenian population, has been an important factor in this success.

Anahid Yacoubian, who has taught the language classes for all 15 years, points out that the program provides an important foundation in the Armenian language for high school students who may wish to pursue Armenian studies in college.

The revival of the Armenian community in America in recent years and the interest it has shown in tracing its ethnic roots have given an impetus to the study of the language. Miss Yacoubian reports, an interest that has found students and students to trace their family roots. A number of prizes and awards to Armenian language teachers in high school also encourage the language study. The most coveted of these is the Allen Mamogian Award, given to two students annually, to visit Armenia. This award is funded jointly by the Allen Mamogian Cultural Fund and the Armenian Club at the high school. In addition, there are various scholarships offered by the Armenian Women's Eastern Region of the Armenian Women's Educational Federations of Boston, the Armenian Club, and the Armenian Renaissance Association, which are open to students in the language program.

The Armenian language classes form the nucleus of a variety of programs and activities at Watertown High School and in the community, including poetry recitation, the performance of plays, Armenian culture day, and others. Many of these activities are filmed in video using the facilities of the high school media center.

Armenian language is taught on five levels and the classes encompass students from various backgrounds. Many of the students are from families of recent immigrants who speak Armenian at home. While this may appear to be an advantage, it is difficult for such students to understand the improper usage or colloquial phrasings which they have become accustomed to. It is sometimes easier for the student who enters the study of the language with a fresh mind, with little or no previous knowledge. Certainly the teaching of a language to students with different backgrounds, with different levels of comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing, is a challenge, Miss Yacoubian acknowledges.

But the greatest problem, according to Miss Yacoubian, is the lack of an adequate textbook. To this end, the first textbook in Armenian, H. R. H. Prince Ashot, of Beirut, is being published. It was written in Beirut by an Armenian author.

Miss Yacoubian approaches this task with respect to meet the challenge, with educational credentials from both the Middle East and the United States. A native of Aleppo, Syria, she is a graduate of the Armenian Catholic University in Beirut and has Master's Degrees in Education, Social Science, and Counseling from Boston State College. She has taught Armenian studies typically to grounded students who have had the opportunity to learn the language and to non-Armenians who have a desire to learn.

"To try to make the study of Armenian fun as well needs the input of the teacher," Miss Yacoubian explains. This approach attracts non-Armenian students to her classes occasionally, as well as Armenians in Turkey who have had the background who enrolled in her classes.

ACADEMIC AND RELATED PROGRAMS

Expansion and Support of Academic Chairs and Programs

(facilitating seven or college Art/Armenian/Arts, U. of Mass., U. of Con.)

Scholarships, Fellowships, Research Travel Lectureships, Visiting Scholars, Research Programs, (Programs and Staffing)

Monographs, Reprints, Translations (Independent research, scholarship, and studies)

Dictionaries, Encyclopedias, Reference Works, Manuscripts, Reprints, Translational Studies (Translations)

Staff, Equipment, and Other Needs (Computer/Word Processing, Typewriters, etc.)

Restoration of Armenian Genocide Curriculum Project

Endowment Funds, all others are quasi-endowment or current funds.

Invest in Your Armenian Heritage

Hovanessian

Continued from page 4

Hovanessian made a film, "The Forgotten Genocide," but this will only tell the story of the early years and only one film. There should be many kinds of films so there should be audio-visual clips. I would suggest to those of you representing Armenian organizations that the financing of the various visual materials, the development of curriculum aids and audio-visual materials is very important.

Facing History is, from the Armenian point of view, the best thing that has happened in the field of education. It is the only Holocaust curriculum that has seriously addressed the Armenian Genocide. Facing History, the Armenian experience, the only one that has recognized the existence of educational systems. There are problems. Most teachers and most schools simply don't have the time or the energy to devote to this kind of book. They may have only two weeks. Under these circumstances, it is quite possible that they leave out the whole Armenian chapter and teach the Holocaust as though it happens in the very first lines, makes it very clear that it concerns two issues, the Holocaust and the genocide. What we need to do is to insure that

Hovansian

Continued from page 4

they wanted it to be something different.

Miss Yacoubian believes that Armenians should have a cultural exchange within the public schools, a cultural exchange that would be beneficial to all citizens. She states, "I think that by organizing this kind of exchange, we can show how important it is to teach the genocide in our schools. But we also need to find ways to make it relevant to all students."

A memorial service was coordinated by the Armenian Church of Watertown. Judge Robert O. Crane, and a number of Members of the Knights of Vartan sponsored the program with the cooperation of the Armenian community.

In brief remarks Speaker Keverian reminded the audience that he had an ancestral home in the city ofInitially, there were problems. Most teachers and most schools simply don't have the time or the energy to devote to this kind of book. They may have only two weeks. Under these circumstances, it is quite possible that they leave out the whole Armenian chapter and teach the Holocaust as though it happens in the very first lines, makes it very clear that it concerns two issues, the Holocaust and the genocide. What we need to do is to insure that
Recent and Selected Titles of Note

A sampling of some recent and noteworthy additions to NAASR's Armenian Book Clearing House list appears below. Figures in parentheses represent reduced prices for NAASR members in good standing. A complete list of recent titles is available upon request.


Toros Tarouni, compiled by Emma Korkhiamazian. A140p. $2.00 ($1.75). Tzerun. compiled by Havrad Hakobian. A141p. $2.00 ($1.75).


The Art of Letter Type: 120 Tables of Armenian Decorative Types, by Fred Afrikian [Sovetakan Grogh Publishers, Yerevan]. The Armenian alphabet presented in a variety of artistic styles, designed for the inspiration of contemporary painters, graphic artists, and printers. Text in Armenian, Russian, and English. A156. $12.95 ($10.95).


The Dhimmi: Jews and Christians under Islam, by Bat Ye'or [Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, Cranbury, N.J.]. An analysis of the position of the non-Arab and non-Muslim communities subjected to Muslim domination after the conquest of their homelands, with a collection of documents dating from the seventeenth century to the present time. Cloth, H267c. $25.00 ($22.95); paper, H267p. $9.95 ($8.50).

Exotic, Light & Easy Cookbook of Middle Eastern Cuisine, by Ida P. Vajrabedian & Todd & Honeywell, Great Neck, N.Y.). A selection of Armenian/Persian dishes, including appetizers, soups, breads, rice dishes, meat dishes, casseroles, stuffed vegetables, and desserts. X170. $8.95 ($7.50).

From Hunger to Caviar, by Lucik Melikian [University of La Verne Press, La Verne, Calif.]. A novel about an Armenian American family living in an upper class Long Island suburb, with lengthy flashbacks to life in Turkey in the early decades of the 20th century. T120p. $14.25 ($11.95).

Langue Arménienne en Arménie Soviétique: L'Évolution du Vocabulaire, by Robert Dermerguerian [University of Provence, Aix-en Provence]. A study of the evolution of the Armenian vocabulary in Soviet Armenia during the past five decades as the nation has emerged from a rural background to a modern industrial society. L65p. $15.00 ($13.50).


Views and Artifacts. A142p. $3.00 ($2.75).

Paintings. A143p. $3.00 ($2.75).

Treasury-Museum. A144p. $3.00 ($2.75).

Vark 'Mashtots' by Koriun (Caravan Books, Delmar, N.Y.). A photo-reproduction of the 1941 Yerevan edition of Koriun’s Life of Mesrop, a major source of fifth century Armenian history (in Armenian), with a translation into English by Bedros Norchad, an introduction by Krikor H. Makosian, and a reproduction of the Concordance published in Yerevan in 1972. H269. $50.00 ($45.00).


SPECIAL "SOVIET LIFE" ISSUES ON ARMENIA AVAILABLE

The June, 1986, issue of Soviet Life, a beautifully illustrated magazine in color published in the United States, will be devoted to Armenia. Copies will be available through NAASR at $1.75 each (postpaid).

Four previous special issues on Armenia: April '76, Dec. '80, Nov. '82, and May '83 are still available at $2.50 per issue or $9.00 (postpaid) for all 5 issues including June '86. [For NAASR members in good standing: $2 per issue or $7.50 for all 5 issues.]

How You Can Help:

- Join
- Renew
- Reinstates
- Participate
- Publicize
- Contribute

Invest in your Armenian Heritage.

Have you included NAASR in your will?

Title Still Available


Facing History and Ourselves: Holocaust and Human Behavior, by Margot S. Strom and William S. Parsons [International Educations, Watertown]. H182p. $15.00 ($12.50).


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