

NAASR Newsletter

Spring, 1986 (Vol. III, No. 1)

National Association for Armenian Studies and Research

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
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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 Banquet and 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,



Alex Manoogian



Gregory Adamian

research, and publications through American institutions of higher education.

Awards at Banquet

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
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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.

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 in Belmont, Mass.

Ellen B. Mass, Chairman of the Cambridge Soviet Sister City Committee; Jane Sullivan, a member of the Cambridge School Committee and of the Sister City Committee; Jeb Brugmann, Director of the Cambridge Peace Commission; and Steven J. Kalishman, Executive Director of Citizen Diplomacy, 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 Pearce.

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

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.

At the NAASR meeting, it was noted that the Sister City project had been initiated by President Eisenhower in 1956 and endorsed by President Reagan last fall. With the increase in international tensions in recent months, the Sister City project is ideally designed to provide opportunities for individuals to work in a concrete manner to contribute to better and more lasting peaceful relations.

"We can think of no more logical choice than the city of Yerevan, Capital of the Armenian S.S.R., as the sister city," NAASR Board Chairman Young wrote in a letter to the Cambridge Sister City Committee. "Both Cambridge and Yerevan are old and venerable cities which are experiencing rebirth and continued growth. Both have outstanding universities and cultural institutions and resources. Both are centers of scientific and technological research and activity. And both are large industrial centers with or near large metropolitan populations." He also pointed out that Cambridge has Armenian churches, cultural institutions, libraries, and other resources as well as a significant Armenian population.

Also at the meeting Rev. Vartan Hartunian, Pastor of the First Armenian Church, provided a tour of the Armenian Library and Museum of America (ALMA), temporarily on the ground floor of the church.

NAASR Gala Tribute

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with a vast array of hors d'oeuvres in Memorial Hall at 4 pm.

Program to Feature Celebrities

Following the banquet, an elaborate audio-visual and musical program will be presented with as many as 100 prominent Armenian Americans and others participating.

Among the performing artists who have accepted invitations to take part in the celebration and extravaganza are pianist and ethnomusicologist Sahar Arzruni, soprano Audrey Melikian, mezzo soprano Maro Partamian, and Broadway Star Michael Kermoyan.

The program is under the direction of Daniel Adamian, a talented young man who is preparing a unique program of entertainment 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.

John Baboian, a member of the faculty of the Berklee School of Music in Boston, will coordinate the musical portion of the program.

The program will begin at 7:30 pm in Sanders Theatre, which is adjacent to Memorial Hall, and will be followed by a reception. Ample free parking facilities will be available in nearby Harvard parking lots and garages.

The donation for the entire evening's activities, including the banquet, program, pre-banquet and post-program receptions, is \$100 minimum per person. A trip to Armenia or the cash equivalent of \$2,000 will be offered as a door prize at the banquet.

The donation for the extravaganza portion of the evening only, including the post-

program reception, is \$25 per person.

NAASR Board chairman Manoog S. Young announced that there will be no public solicitation of contributions during the evening's programs. The proceeds from the evening's activities will provide the organization with vitally needed operating funds to carry on its work and projects.

Special Commemorative Book

A special commemorative book numbering thirty or more pages is being prepared and will be available free to all who attend the evening's activities. It will contain highlights and photographs of NAASR's activities of the past thirty years. It will be available to all others at \$5 a copy.

A large committee is continuing to meet regularly to plan the banquet and extravaganza. The subcommittee chairmen are Daniel Adamian, Program; Haig Deranian, Commemorative Book; Erivan Hagopian, Tickets; Nishan Goudsouzian, Publicity and Mailings; Joanne Peterson, Banquet Arrangements; Esther Agabian and Marguerite Maserian, Decorations; and Anahid Yacoubian, Hospitality.

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

VOLUNTEERS VOLUNTEERS NAASR NEEDS YOU!

Could you devote two or more hours per week on a steady schedule during the daytime to help out at our National headquarters? Please call 876-7630.



Committee planning the June 15 NAASR Gala Tribute

Armenian Pride

The following article appeared in the March 25 issue of the *Brookline, Newton, and Wellesley editions of the TAB*, a weekly newspaper widely circulated in the Boston suburbs.

By Elise Noel McMahon

Just beyond the confines of Harvard University, in a gabled, turn-of-the-century house next to Longfellow Park in Cambridge, is an unexpected oasis of Armenian culture and history.

The Mt. Auburn Street headquarters of the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR), a 30-year-old organization promoting the study of Armenian culture in American colleges, is decorated with maps of the country in Armenian and French, an ample library of books about Armenian history, art and culture, and posters celebrating the works of Armenians William Saroyan and portrait photographer Yousuf Karsh. But amid the collection of artifacts serious scholarly inquiry goes on.

"Every area of Armenian studies is a virgin field and provides fascinating history for research," says NAASR Board Chairman Manoog Young, a second-generation Armenian. He explains that the organization's focus has been "to promote Armenian studies, scholarship and publications in American colleges and universities." NAASR 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," he predicts, noting that through their clerics and monasteries, Armenians translated and recorded material whose originals have been destroyed. Armenians were traders and formed settlements in India, Ethiopia and Singapore — "all over the world," says Young, adding that he recently received a letter from an Armenian Pole, and that "there has been a recent revival

within Poland for Armenian Poles to enhance their Armenian heritage."

A plan to increase publishing activity is on NAASR's agenda, according to Young, who adds that it will take about \$50,000 to step up the publishing operation. With a book-selling operation that handles about 900 titles, and with a library of 10,000 volumes — about 80 percent of which is in Armenian — the project already has some roots.

"When NAASR started, you couldn't buy five books on Armenian history, culture, or language," says Young. He adds that the NAASR book selling operation — begun after the Chair at Harvard was established



NAASR Board Chairman Manoog S. Young

— "has taken off so well that it is a case of the tail wagging the dog." Admitting that he is not sure why, Young adds that the best seller is *Armenian Village Life Before 1914*, which "sells like hot cakes." Other works for sale at the NAASR office include books on Armenian needlework, immigration to the United States and a three volume history on the Republic of Armenia, which endured 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

— the Mt. Auburn Street house is already too small and NAASR 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 conference NAASR sponsored last April at Bentley College. Young, whose mother and father lost most of their Armenian relatives in the massacres of 1915, says that the institute "should approach the genocide in a scientific, objective way." While he admits that many Armenians "are bitter about history's neglect" of the 1915 genocide, and bitter towards the Turks for committing the killings, Young says that

the issue should "be studied in terms of the historical forces, such as imperialism and Russia's relationship to Armenia, and of political events... The ordinary Turk was a victim of his leaders, too."

NAASR has also launched a \$2.5 million fund drive to establish an Institute for Armenian Studies and Research, which would encourage scholars to spend their sabbaticals pursuing independent research in Armenian studies, while having access to the resources of NAASR and local universities, says Young.

Young believes scholarly interest in Armenian culture can lead to general interest in Armenian culture. "Armenia has produced one of the finest literatures in the world, and the world does not know about it, because it has not been translated." Armenia has produced illuminated manuscripts and churches that may have served as the inspiration for Gothic structures built a hundred years after them, says Young.

"We want younger generations to know their heritage," he says, adding that "to deny one's past is like cutting off one's arm." And Armenian studies, Young says, are fascinating not just for Armenians, "but for the scholarly world as a whole."

NAASR DIRECTORS AND STAFF

Executive Committee: Chairman: Manoog S. Young; First Vice-Chairman: Raffi P. Yeghiayan; Second Vice-Chairman: Aram S. Karakashian; Secretary: Charles Sahagian; Treasurer: Erivan Hagopian; Ass't Secretary: Nancy Kolligian; Ass't Treasurer: Rose A. Hovannesian.

Members-at-large: Gregory H. Adamian, Aharon G. Aharonian, Richard Ashton (Calif.), William Aznavourian (R.I.), Sonia Bogosian (N.Y.), Richard N. Frye, Nishan Goudsouzian, Elizabeth A. Gregory, Aram Johnson, Gregory S. Kolligian, Hagop J. Nersoyan (Ohio), Dennis R. Papazian (Mich.), Arthur S. Petoyan (Calif.), Pergrouhi N. Svajian (N.Y.).

Staff: Sandra L. Jurigian, Executive Secretary; Barbara J. Merguerian, Director of Information and Publications; Joanne A. Peterson, Director of Library Services and Executive Assistant; Danila A. Terpanjian, Library Consultant.

On Genocide Education in the Nation's Schools

Remarks by Richard G. Hovannisian

Excerpts from a lecture given at Harvard University on April 15 and sponsored jointly by NAASR and the Facing History and Ourselves National Foundation.

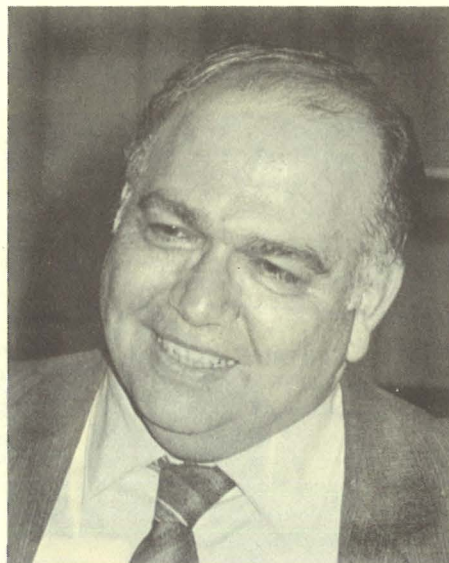
The United Nations Genocide Convention has finally been ratified in Washington, D.C., by the United States Senate. I'm not certain how significant the ratification of the Genocide Convention is — as you know it is a Convention that outlaws the crime of genocide and prescribes punishment for it. The record of the United Nations has not been very bright in the enforcement of measures to prevent mass murder and genocide since the organization was founded, but nevertheless, after a 30-year struggle, the Genocide Convention in a watered-down version has finally been accepted by the United States.

The Facing History and Ourselves curriculum focuses largely on the Holocaust and World War II, but it includes a substantial chapter on the Armenian Genocide as well. And as we look at the Genocide Convention, it is interesting that the two genocides — the Armenian and the Jewish — have so much in common. In the Genocide Convention there are five or six conditions listed, any one of which perpetrated against a people is considered to be a genocide. In the case of both the Armenian Genocide and the Jewish Holocaust, all of the categories apply. So there is certainly a strong linkage between the two events.

There is also a problem, particularly among Holocaust scholars, on the question of universality versus uniqueness. Many Holocaust scholars believe that the crime perpetrated against the Jewish people in World War II was so great and so different from all other mass killings that it was absolutely unique and should not be confused with other mass killings which may have been tragic but did not have the same results. And there is a certain tug of war that goes on between these scholars of Holocaust studies and others who believe that while each set of circumstances was unique, one has to look for the more universal application and meaning. Both sides have valid points; both sides have a right certainly to the positions that they hold.

The Facing History curriculum uses the Armenian Genocide and the Jewish Holocaust not only to teach about what happened in the past, but also to teach students about themselves, about their own attitude toward themselves, toward their neighbors of a different race, a different religion, or a different nationality. It is so easy for us to sit here 70 years later, or 40 years later, and to condemn the in-

difference of those who lived at the time. But when you bring the matter down to the personal level, and assume that you are sitting in your home and someone is being attacked outside, you raise matters of judgment, moral issues. Do you shut the light and pull down the shade, or do you try to help? In trying to help, you yourself may be hurt, you may become a victim when you try to intervene. These are the kinds



Richard G. Hovannisian

of questions that the Facing History curriculum tries to deal with.

As I look at these two examples of genocide in the 20th century, I find many other parallels. Many of the survivors of the Holocaust at first did not want to admit that they were survivors — there was a certain amount of embarrassment and a need to suppress the fact that a genocide occurred and that they had survived it. And when I look back over the Armenian Genocide, I realize that it took a decade for that event to come into focus; it was so horrible, so terrible, that the survivors couldn't deal with it for a long time. And it is interesting to note that the children and grandchildren of the survivors feel more intensely now, several decades later, the suffering of their parents. So the impact of genocide grows and becomes more intense as the years go by. Indeed we come to what is referred to by Holocaust scholars as "transgenerational trauma," the trauma of the survivor mothers and fathers being passed down to their children and their grandchildren.

I do not think you would find very many people in the United States today who do not have at least a vague idea about what the Holocaust was. But this is not true in the Armenian case, despite the fact that the Armenian Genocide occurred a generation

...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 published about the Armenian Genocide in this country in 1915 than there was about the Holocaust when it was taking place. After all, the Armenians were Christians and victims, and there was a great American tradition of extending assistance to Christian Armenians in the past. It was something that all Sunday School children knew about because they were collecting money for the Armenian widows and orphans. But the memory vanished within one generation.

On this matter of the acceptability of genocide, the question of morality also comes forward, for now we are dealing with the questions of judgment and honesty that the Facing History program considers. To what degree can we excuse academics, intellectuals, historians, and political scientists for taking a state-sponsored view of history? In Turkey today there is service to the state point of view. The entire academic community has been mobilized to produce denial literature on the Armenian Genocide. In my office I receive at least once a month a new publication of denial, making the victims the perpetrators — the ultimate, final stage of denial.

On the more positive side, in this country there is an increased awareness of the Holocaust and, particularly in the field of education, there is more attention being paid to human rights and to the issues of how to prevent mass killing, how to prevent genocide. In the past few years states (such as New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, and California) have taken measures to insure that students should have as part of the curriculum a unit or course on human rights, including the crime of genocide. This opens great new vistas for educators — and it opens whole new vistas for those of us who are interested in this subject.

There are certain other areas that I think are vital. Holocaust media is very rich. There is film footage of death camps, of the victims of the Holocaust; there is footage of the SS. The Nazis were very good record keepers; they celebrated the genocide by photographing what went on. In the Armenian case there is much less; the audiovisual component for teaching the Armenian Genocide is lacking. J. Michael

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UPCOMING CONFERENCES

BYZANTINE STUDIES

The 17th International Byzantine Congress on the theme "Crisis and Continuity in Byzantium" will be held on August 3 to 9, 1986, in Washington, D.C. The conference is organized by the United States National Committee for Byzantine Studies on behalf of the Association Internationale des Etudes Byzantines. The sessions will be held at the Dumbarton Oaks Research Center and Georgetown University.

Topics for plenary sessions include: The Christianization of the Empire, Transformations of Urban Life in Byzantium, Byzantium and the Arabs, Byzantium and the Slavs, the Mediterranean World in the Thirteenth Century.

Further information is available from the Committee for Byzantine Studies, 1100 17th St. NW, Suite 330, Washington, D.C. 20036.

ARMENIAN STUDIES

The third conference of the International Association of Armenian Studies will be held in Brussels, Belgium, at the Palace of Academies, 1 rue Ducale, on September 22 to 24, 1986. Following the conference, the general assembly of the Association will be held.

All correspondence relating to the conference should be addressed to Francine Mawet, 6 avenue des Cygnes Sauvages, B 1970 Wexembek-Oppem, Belgium.

ASIAN STUDIES

The 32nd International Congress for Asian and North African Studies will be held in Hamburg, Germany, on August 25 to 30, 1986.

The sections include Art and Archaeology, the Christian Orient, Iranian Studies, Islamic Studies, Near East and North Africa, Turcology.

Further information may be obtained by addressing inquiries to 32nd ICANAS Congress Organisation, Hamburg Messe and Congress GmbH, Postfach 30 24 80, D-2000 Hamburg 36, Federal Republic of Germany.

CSUF Offers Expanded Program

The Armenian Studies Program at California State University, Fresno, has announced an expanded schedule of course offerings for the fall 1986 semester, reflecting growing interest in the program.

Courses in Armenian art, architecture, history, and language will be given, as well as two courses on author William Saroyan. The Introduction to Armenian Studies course, offered in two sections, provides a survey of the history, geography, literature, language, and art of Armenia from ancient times to the present, with emphasis on resources, bibliography, and report writing. The introductory course meets the General Education requirements for CSUF students.

A minor in Armenian Studies is offered

for students completing 21 units of course work through the program.

The coordinator of the Armenian Studies Program is Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, who has been named the Outstanding Professor for 1986 at CSUF. A member of the CSUF faculty since 1977, Prof. Kouymjian received his BA from the American University of Beirut, Lebanon, his MA from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and his PhD from Columbia University.

Prof. Kouymjian has been active in the community-wide drive to raise funds for the new Leon S. Peters Business Building and Valley Business Center at CSUF. The new building will house the offices of the proposed Center for Armenian Studies.

Armenian Studies in Provence, France

Beginning with the 1985-86 academic year, the University of Provence, in France, is offering a diploma in Armenian Studies. The establishment of this new degree was approved unanimously by the University Council in May, 1985, upon the favorable recommendation of the University's Commission on Instruction.

The new degree requires three years of study, including three units of language instruction, one unit of Armenian history and civilization (offered in French), and one unit in Armenian literature (to be taken in the student's third year). The program is open to students with no previous

knowledge of the Armenian language.

The degree is under the jurisdiction of the Armenian Section of the Institute of General Linguistics and Oriental and Slavic Studies of the university. Robert Dermerguerian heads this section.

In a related development, the Rector of the Aix-Marseille Academy has made public his decision that Armenian will be accepted as a foreign language to meet the requirements of the Baccalaureat examination. Three high schools (lycees) in the Marseille area offer instruction in Armenian: St. Charles, Antonin Artuad, and Longchamp.

Summer Study Offered in Venice

Two four-week intensive courses in the Armenian Language and Culture will be held in Venice, Italy, this summer.

One course will be held at the University of Oriental Languages from August 4 to August 28. It will be divided into several levels, depending on the student's knowledge of the Armenian language. Instruction in literature, history, art, and Classical Armenian (Grabar) will be offered in addition to the modern language.

The teachers will be Father Levon Zekiyan (Venice), Hilda Kalfayan-Panossian (Paris), Garabed Karakayan (Paris), Marc Nshanian (Paris), and Ani Totoyan (Paris).

Applications should be addressed to: Prof. Boghos Levon Zekiyan, University of Venice, Lingua e Letteratura Armena, S. Polo 2035, 30125 Venezia, Italy.

The other course will be offered by the Academy of San Lazzaro of the Mekhitarist Fathers with the collaboration of the Armenian Moorat-Raphael College.

This course, which will run from July 20 to August 20, is open to all those interested in perfecting their knowledge of the Armenian language and culture. Students must be 15 years of age or older.

Language instruction will be held on three levels: beginners, intermediate, and advanced. In addition to courses in language, literature, history, and art, a number of guest speakers will lecture on specific topics related to their area of specialization in Armenian Studies.

Those interested in registering for the course are asked to contact the Armenian Academy of San Lazzaro, 30126 - Venezia, Italy.

Society for the Study Of Caucasia Formed

At the Second Conference on the Cultures of the Caucasus, held at the University of Chicago on May 18, 1985, Prof. Robert H. Hewsen (Glassboro State College, N.J.) and Prof. Howard I. Aronson (University of Chicago) founded the Society for the Study of Caucasia (SSC), a new learned association devoted to advancing and coordinating research into the Caucasian region of the Soviet Union, both north and south of the Caucasus range.

Based at the Center for Balkan and Slavic Studies at the University of Chicago, the new society will serve to link scholars and

other individuals engaged in Caucasian Studies in the broadest sense of the term, and will endeavor to collect, analyze, and disseminate information and the results of research. The Society plans to publish both a newsletter and an annual journal.

Further information and membership applications are available by contacting Prof. Howard I. Aronson, Center for Balkan and Slavic Studies, University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill. 60637, or Prof. Robert H. Hewsen, Department of History, Glassboro State College, Glassboro, N.J. 08028. ■

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.

It is believed that Watertown is the only public school system in the nation that offers students Armenian as a foreign language.

The revival of the Armenian community in America in recent years and the interest in tracing one's ethnic roots have given an impetus to the study of the language, Miss Yacoubian reports, an interest she has fostered by encouraging students to trace their family roots.

A number of prizes and awards to Armenian language students at the high school also encourage the language study. The most coveted of these is the Alex Manoogian Award, given to two students annually, to visit Armenia. The award is funded jointly by the Alex Manoogian Cultural Fund and the Armenian Club at the high school. In addition, there are various scholarships (offered by the Armenian Women's Educational Club, the Hai Guin, 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 recitations, 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, in many cases it is difficult for such students to unlearn the improper usage or colloquial phrases 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 Armenian-language textbook that presents Armenian as a foreign language and which can compete with the modern, colorful, and well-designed material available to students who study other languages, such as French, German, or Spanish. Miss Yacoubian uses the textbook prepared by Hagop Atamian and Stella Malkasian Boy and supplements it with material she herself prepares, including Armenian Scrabble, crossword puzzles, and Bingo.

Miss Yacoubian approaches her tasks well-equipped 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 Haigazian College in Beirut and has Master's

Degrees in education, social science, and counseling from Boston State College. She has taught Armenian successfully to Armenian adults who never had the opportunity to learn the language and to non-Armenian adults married to Armenians.

"I try to make the study of Armenian fun as well as educational," Miss Yacoubian explains. This approach attracts non-Armenian students to her classes occasionally, such as two students of Irish background who enrolled in Armenian

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NCCJ Service

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America; Rev. Vartan Hartunian, Pastor of the First Armenian Church of Belmont, Mass.; Marilyn Woloochian, an NCCJ National Trustee from Providence, R.I.; and a number of clergymen of other faiths.

The four-page brochure presents a general explanation of Martyrs' Day; suggests Protestant, Roman Catholic, Jewish, and Eastern Orthodox prayers for the day; provides a program for civic observances; and concludes with a brief list of sources for further reading on the Armenian Genocide.

Robert Dick, Executive Associate of the NCCJ and Program Director of the Martyrs' Day project, met in Boston with local Armenian clergymen as well as NAASR Board and Staff members on April 16 at a luncheon meeting organized by NAASR in order to explore steps the NCCJ might take to increase public awareness of the Armenian Genocide.

Workshops for NCCJ regional directors, a youth retreat, and preparation of media programs were among the possibilities mentioned. Steps to disseminate further the *Facing History and Ourselves* curriculum, particularly the portions dealing with the Armenian Genocide, were also discussed.

On the first page of the NCCJ brochure it is stated: "Armenian Martyrs' Day deserves to enter the mainstream of American commemorations, not only as a memorial to 1.5 million people but also as an occasion to commit the human family to peace and justice, to an end to all genocide and mass cruelty." The material is designed primarily for situations in which persons of various churches, faiths, and cultures join with Armenians in civic or interreligious observances.

A copy of the brochure may be obtained from NAASR by sending a stamped self-addressed No. 10 envelope.

The NCCJ is a non-profit human relations organization engaged in a nationwide program of intergroup education to eliminate prejudice and discrimination. The national headquarters are located at 71 Fifth Ave., New York, N.Y. 10003.



Anahid Yacoubian with some of her Armenian language students

Priorities, Programs, Activities, and Needs

(Over a Period of Three Years)

National Center for Armenian Studies and Culture	
New Headquarters and Center of Activities.....	\$500,000
(in concert with other organizations)	
Institute for Armenian Studies and Research.....	250,000
(Independent research, scholarship, and studies)	
Armenian Information, Education, and Documentation Center.....	250,000
(Programs and Staffing)	
Armenian Reference and Research Library.....	125,000
(Staffing, Equipment, Furnishings, Services)	
Armenian Book Clearing House.....	25,000
(Staffing and Inventory build-up)	
	<u>1,150,000</u>
Academic and Related Programs	
Expansion and Support of Academic Chairs and Programs.....	500,000*
(including seven-college Art Consortium/Tufts U., U. of Mass., U. of Conn.)	
Scholarships, Fellowships, Research and Travel.....	250,000*
Grants, Scholar-in-residence Grants	
Lectureships, Visiting Scholars, Research Programs.....	125,000*
Curriculum Development (including Armenian Genocide Curriculum Project)	
Conferences, Seminars, Lectures, Institutes.....	100,000*
World Congress of Armenian Studies (1987 or 1988).....	50,000
	<u>1,025,000</u>
Publications	
Armenian Heritage Press.....	100,000
(Revolving Fund for Scholarly and Popular Works, Monographs, Reprints, Translations)	
Journal of Armenian Studies and Newsletter.....	50,000
	<u>150,000</u>
Staff, Equipment, and Other Needs	
Equipment (Computer/Word Processor, Typewriters, etc.).....	30,000
Repairs, Furnishings	
Staffing (Executive and Administrative).....	200,000
Miscellaneous.....	25,000
	<u>255,000</u>
* = Endowment Funds; all others are quasi-endowment or current funds.	
Total	\$2,580,000

Invest in Your Armenian Heritage

Martyrs' Day Program At Mass. State House

NAASR joined a number of organizations in sponsoring the annual Martyrs' Day Program at the Massachusetts State House in Boston on April 24, 1986.

Governor Michael S. Dukakis and House Speaker George Keverian headed the list of dignitaries who participated in the short ceremony in front of the Armenian plaque.

Reminding the audience that he had an especially strong sense of the tragedy that struck the Armenians in Turkey in 1915 because his father came from an area near Smyrna, the Governor noted that "it is important that we have this ceremony every year, that we do remember what happened, lest we be condemned to repeat the events of the past."

Earlier Gov. Dukakis had signed the proclamation designating April 24 as Armenian Martyrs' Day in the Commonwealth.

In brief remarks Speaker Keverian observed that the efforts of the Turkish Government to deny the Genocide through the financing of academic research and public relations campaigns requires strong continued effort to preserve the historical truth.

Peabody Mayor Peter Torigian served as Master of Ceremonies. Haig K. Deranian, Commander of the Ararat Lodge, Knights of Vartan, opened the program. The Knights of Vartan sponsored the program with the cooperation of a number of Armenian organizations, including NAASR.

Secretary of State Michael Connolly, State Treasurer Robert Q. Crane, and a number of State Senators and Representatives were present for the ceremony.

A memorial service was coordinated by Rev. Dajad Davidian, Pastor of the St. James Armenian Church of Watertown.

Hovannisian

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Hagopian made a film, "The Forgotten Genocide," but that is now ten years old and only one film. There should be many kinds of films; there should be audio-visual clips. I would suggest to those of you representing Armenian organizations that the whole emphasis on audio-visual materials, the development of curriculum aids and documentation, 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 issue of Genocide and the Armenian experience, the only one that has received some acceptability within school systems. There are problems. Most teachers and most schools simply don't have a semester to spend on this 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 alone, although the book, in the very first lines, makes it very clear that it concerns two issues, the Genocide and the Holocaust.

What we need to do is to insure that the

study of human rights and of genocide is considered serious enough for our school districts to be willing to spend the necessary 8-week period, or 16-week period, to deal with these vital subjects in a meaningful way.

Watertown High

Continued from page 6

because they wanted "to try something different."

Miss Yacoubian believes that Armenian language classes in the public schools can be a valuable supplement to the other means of teaching the language in the United States: Armenian day schools, Saturday or after-school language classes, or summer programs.

Language classes in the public schools are difficult to establish and to support. When the Watertown program was initiated 15 years ago, it was accompanied

by similar programs in the nearby towns of Waltham, Arlington, and Belmont. However, the other programs gradually died out due to the low level of enrollment.

Obviously, Armenian language programs in the public schools can succeed only in communities which have large Armenian populations and where parents, community leaders, and school officials are willing to support them. But whether the student goes on to college level work in Armenian studies or uses the language only socially and recreationally, the benefits to the individual students and to the community can be considerable.

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.

Armenian American Almanac, First Edition, 1985-86, Hamo Vassilian, editor (Armenian Reference Books Co., Glendale, CA.) A guide to Armenian organizations, churches, newspapers, foundations, television and radio programs, library collections, schools and colleges, bookstores and book publishers, bibliographies, scholarships, studies programs, and special collections in the United States. X174p. \$24.95 (\$22.95).

Armenian Miniature Series, Mashtots Institute of Old Manuscripts "Matenadaran" (Editions Ereboundi, Los Angeles). Series editor, B. Chookasjian; publications editor, V. Karagozian. Each publication in the series contains 16 full-color reproductions of manuscript pages painted by medieval Armenian miniature artists.

Avag, compiled by Lilith Zakarian. A139p. \$2.00 (\$1.75).

Toros Taronatsi, compiled by Emma Korkhamazian. A140p. \$2.00 (\$1.75).

Tzerun, compiled by Hravard Hakobian. A141p. \$2.00 (\$1.75).

The Armenian People of Portland, Maine, by Anthony P. Mezoian (University of New Hampshire, Durham). The story of the Armenian immigrants who settled in Portland, Maine, beginning in 1896, profusely illustrated with black and white photographs, many of them rare old family pictures. H271. \$21.50 (\$18.95).

The Art of Letter Type: 120 Tables of Armenian Decorative Types, by Fred Afrikan (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 Conversion of Armenia: A Retelling of Agatangelos' History, by Valerie Goekjian Zahirsky (St. Vartan Press, New York). A retelling of the life of St. Gregory the Illuminator as described by the fifth century historian Agatangelos. H270p. \$4.95 (\$4.50).

On a Darkling Plain: The Life Story of Heggine Der Babaian Abajian, in collaboration with Gil Haroian (Rosekeer Press, Fair

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 \$10 (postpaid) for all 5 issues including June '86. (For NAASR members in good standing: \$2 per issue or \$7.50 for all 5 issues.)

Lawn, N.J.). The autobiography of an Armenian woman from Sebastia who survived the deportations of 1915 and made a new life in the United States. X175. \$10.00 (\$9.25).

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 seventh 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. Varjabedian (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).

La Langue Armenienne en Armenie Sovietique: l'Evolution 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 six decades as the nation has emerged from a rural background to a modern industrial society. L65p. \$15.00 (\$13.50).

St. Etchmiadzin. (Editions Ereboundi, Los Angeles). A series of full color pamphlets depicting various aspects of the Holy See of Etchmiadzin, the historic center of the Armenian Church. Boghos Boghosian, photographer; Grigor Khandjian, art editor. In Armenian, Russian, and English.

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

Paintings. A143p. \$3.00 (\$2.75).

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

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

The Zohrab Bible: Astuatsashunch Matean Hin ew Nor Ktakarants (Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments), edited by Hovhann

Zohrapian (Caravan Books, Delmar, N.Y.). A facsimile reproduction of the 1805 Venetian edition with an introduction by Claude Cox. The latest in the Classical Armenian Text Reprint Series. C46. \$150 (\$135).

Turkey: A Country Study, edited by Richard F. Nyrøp (The American University, Washington, D.C.). One in the series of U.S. Government Printing Office area studies, with a chapter on history; also maps, statistics, bibliography, and glossary. The massacres of the Armenians is fully acknowledged. H271. \$12.00 (\$10.95).

Titles Still Available

Armenia on the Road to Independence, 1918, by Richard G. Hovannisian (University of California Press, Berkeley). H23. \$28.50 (\$26.50).

Armenian Folk-Tales and Fables, translated by Charles Downing (Oxford University Press, London). F17. \$15.95 (\$13.50).

The Armenian Revolutionary Movement: The Development of Armenian Political Parties through the Nineteenth Century, by Louise Nalbandian (University of California Press, Berkeley). H3. \$26.50 (\$24.50).

Colophons of Armenian Manuscripts, 1301-1480: A Source for Middle Eastern History, selected and translated by Avedis K. Sanjian (Harvard University Press, Cambridge). H34. \$24.95 (\$20.95).

David of Sassoun: The Armenian Folk Epic in Four Cycles, translated by Artin K. Shalian (Ohio University Press, Athens). F4. \$25.00 (\$20.00).

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

The French Influence on the Western Armenian Renaissance: 1843-1915, by James Etmekjian (Twayne, New York). H6. \$8.95 (\$7.50).

The Peoples of the Hills: Ancient Ararat and Caucasus, by Charles Burney and David Marshall Lang (Praeger, New York). H56. \$25.00 (\$20.00).

Recent Studies in Modern Armenian History, edited by Robert W. Thomson (Armenian Heritage Press, Cambridge). H67p. \$7.50 (\$6.25).

Invest in your Armenian
Heritage.
Have you included NAASR
in your will?



National Association for Armenian
Studies and Research, Inc.

175 Mt. Auburn Street
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138
Telephone: (617) 876-7630

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