NAASR Moves to New Headquarters in Belmont

A new era for the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research was inaugurated on September 1, when its headquarters were officially relocated to a recently purchased, spacious brick building at 395 Concord Avenue near Belmont Center.

After 22 years of operation in its conveniently located but increasingly inadequate headquarters building at 175 Mt. Auburn Street near Harvard Square, Cambridge, NAASR now occupies an equally convenient but much larger building in Belmont that will provide sorely needed space for NAASR’s existing programs and entities. The new headquarters will also make possible the implementation of NAASR’s plans to establish an Institute for Armenian Studies and Research.

The acquisition of the new 10,000-square-foot building, which is located next to the Belmont Post Office and across the street from the First Armenian Church, was finalized on July 6. The building was formerly the national headquarters of the John Birch Society, which has moved to Appleton, Wisc.

The Belmont facility will amply meet the space requirements for the rapidly expanding collection of NAASR’s Armenian Reference and Research Library as well as for the growing needs of the Armenian Book Clearing House, the Armenian Information, Education, and Documentation Center, the Armenian Heritage Press, and other NAASR programs designed to increase public awareness of the Armenian people and their history and culture.

Fund Drive Launched

To provide for the purchase of the new building and the establishment of the Institute for Armenian Studies and Research, NAASR has launched a $1.5 million fund drive. The proceeds from the sale of NAASR’s former headquarters building, which netted NAASR more than $600,000 when the sale was finalized on September 1, will augment the fund.

The acquisition of the new headquarters ends a five-year search by the NAASR Board of Directors for a larger building in the greater Boston area. The new facility is conveniently located on a major public transportation line and in close proximity to Harvard University in Cambridge as well as to the Armenian communities of Arlington, Watertown, Waltham, and other Boston suburbs.

“The early success of the $1.5 million fund drive is essential for the effective operation of NAASR’s programs and projects,” emphasized NAASR Board Chairman Mancog S. Young. “It will permit the rapid retirement of the mortgages, fund the Institute for Armenian Studies and Research, and provide the means to engage much-needed additional support personnel to carry out NAASR’s projects to advance Armenian studies and research.”

Hagopian Family Donates over $50,000 as Drive Tops $167,500

Donations to NAASR’s $1.5 million fund drive for the new headquarters building and the Institute for Armenian Studies and Research have topped $167,500, as of October 1.

A total of 229 donors from 22 states and Canada have already contributed to the fund, which in a few short weeks has reached over 10 percent of the $1.5 million needed to retire the mortgages on the new headquarters and establish a fund to support the Institute.

Heading the list of contributors is the Hagopian family, who has pledged over $50,000 to the fund in memory of their parents, the late Kaspar and Kohar Hagopian.

The family donors are Jacob J. Hagopian of San Jose, Calif., and his sisters: Mrs. Libby H. Ahmajan of Sacramento, Calif.; Mrs. Mary Bedrosian of Whitinsville, Mass.; Mrs. Betty Janigan of Fresno, Calif.; the late Mrs. Eva Malkasian of Whitinsville; and Mrs. Helen E. Tashjian of Sacramento.

In recognition of the gift, the lecture room in the new building will be named the “Kaspar and Kohar Hagopian Hall.”

Natives of Pazmashen, a village in Turkish Armenia located near the city of Kharpert, Kaspar and Kohar Hagopian immigrated to the United States in the early 20th century and lived for many years in Whitinsville, Mass.

Kohar Hagopian passed away prematurely in 1937 at the age of 50; Kaspar Hagopian was employed for 40 years at the Whiting Machine Works in Whitinsville and passed away in 1958 at the age of 73.

Benefactors and Patrons

The other Benefactor donors to date, with contributions of $10,000 each, are Dr. and Mrs. Gregory H. Adamian of Waltham, Mr. and Mrs. Armen Dohanian of Belmont, and Mrs. Marie Nahigian of Belmont (in memory of husband Raymond Nahigian).

In the category of Patron, with contributions of $5,000 or more each, are Lucy Chaderjian of Fresno, Calif. (in memory of her parents, brother, and uncle), Mrs. Madeline O. Kolligian of Belmont (in memory of husband J. Mark Kolligian), Mr. and Mrs. Sarkis Peterson of Brookline, Jacob Plibiosian of Arlington, Mr. and Mrs. Raffi P. Yeghiyian of Lexington.

Of the $167,542 donated to date, $76,148 is in the form of pledges or stocks and $90,578 has been earmarked for the Institute.

A complete list of donors of $250 and above, as of October 1, along with the donor categories, will be found on page 4.
New Building Will Enable Expansion of Programs and Entities

NAASR members and friends who were given the opportunity to inspect the new headquarters building at the first floor of the building, held a series of key receptions in late June and early July, were unanimous in their assessment that NAASR has acquired a facility that will meet all its needs for many years to come. The new building is an increase of about four times the size of the former headquarters.

The building consists of two stories and a full, finished basement. The building is fully air-conditioned with separate systems for each floor. Engineers who have examined the building note that it boasts a solid construction that will easily support NAASR’s library and bookkeeping house facilities and will permit the moving of interior partitions to meet specific needs.

A minimum amount of renovation is needed immediately to make the building suitable for NAASR functions. According to the preliminary plans, the first floor of the building will house its book store, a small conference and a larger lecture room, administrative offices, and a small kitchen. Space is also available on the second floor for the Institute for Armenian Studies and Research.

The full ground floor will provide a warehouse for the Book Clearing House and Distribution Center and general storage; a conference room; a publications office and the NAASR Board room. Space is also available on the second floor for the Institute for Armenian Studies and Research.

One of the most important needs that will be met by the acquisition of a larger headquarters facility is the implementation of plans to establish an Institute for Armenian Studies and Research. The NAASR Board of Directors has long regarded as a priority project the formation of an Institute of this nature that would engage the skills and attention of the new generation of Armenian scholars who have been trained in the rapidly growing Armenian studies programs in colleges and universities.

Some of these scholars are teaching and conducting research in the colleges and universities. NAASR Board Chairman Young points out, however, that while universities provide important research facilities for Armenian studies, they have their own agendas. It is vital for us to provide support for research in areas of Armenian studies that the community considers important today.

Scholars need to address in greater detail the Armenian Genocide in the context of international affairs of the modern period. Beginning in the 18th century, such studies could provide valuable insights into many contemporary issues affecting Armenian both inside and outside of Armenia and bearing on their relations with other nations and their position in the world community.

All smiles over the acquisition of the new building are, left to right, Board member Gregory S. Kolligian and his cousin, Board Secretary Namrata Kolligian, in the photo at the right. Board Member and Founding Member Prof Richard N. Frye of Harvard University arriving at the new Headquarters.

Indeed, A New Era Has Begun

On September 1, 1989, the move to the new headquarters building in Belmont, Mass., was completed and the former headquarters was formally sold on the same day.

The move took a week of packing and moving. To move all the accumulated office furniture and equipment, library shelving and files, and the carts of books, papers, equipment, and other office materials to the new building required a truckload of two floors of the new building.

It is difficult to believe that so much material has been moved, and that it has been done in a single day.

The promise of the new era is in the hands, minds, and hearts of all who are interested in the advancement of Armenian studies and research on a scholarly, objective, and perpetual basis.
Contributors to Campaign for New Headquarters Building and Institute

**BENEFACCTOR (500,000-$999,999)**


**SPONSOR ($2,500-$4,999)**

- Jocko & Phyllis Annanian - Belmont, Mass.

**SUSTAINER ($1,000-$2,499)**

- Jacob Pilibiosian - Arlington, Mass.
- Mrs. & Mr. Raffi P. Yeghiayan - Lexington, Mass.

**SPONSOR ($500-$999)**

- Everett H. Berberian - Hiliborough, Calif.
- Manoog and Barbara Young - Belmont, Mass.

**PATRON ($500-$999)**

- Lucy Chaderjian - in memory of parents, Avedik & Makrouhi Chaderjian; brother, Nazareth A. Chaderjian; and uncle, Agop Jacques Annanian - Fresno, Calif.
- Mr. & Mrs. Sarkis Peterson - Brookline, Mass.

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**Recognition of Donors For Contributions to NAASR's $1.5 Million Fund Drive**

The following list outlines the recognition of donors for the various categories of contributions to NAASR's $1.5 million fund drive for the new headquarters building and the Institute for Armenian Studies.

Intermediate amounts are acceptable and will receive appropriate recognition. Other means of recognition will be announced later.

The Honor Roll will be displayed in a prominent location in the new headquarters building and will include all donors contributing $1,000 or more.

The Commemorative Book will be a beautifully bound volume in which all donations will be listed and will be kept in the NAASR archives. In addition, all areas and funds will be designated in appropriate ways.

### $500,000

1. Center for Armenian Studies and Research
2. Institute for Armenian Studies and Research
3. Visitng Scholars Fund
4. Publications Fund

### $250,000

1. Armenian Reference and Research Library
2. Armenian Information, Education, and Documentation Center
3. Visiting Scholars Fund

### $100,000

1. Armenian Book Clearing House and Distribution Center
2. Administrative Offices
3. Research Fellowships
4. Publications Fund

### $50,000

1. Lecture and Meeting Hall
2. Board of Directors Room
3. Publications Fund
4. Research Travel Grants Fund

### $25,000

1. Conference Room
2. Lounge and Reception Area
3. Research and Study Areas

### $10,000

1. Large Office - Benefactor
2. Small Office - Patron
3. Honor Roll [Gold] - Sponsor
4. Honor Roll [Silver] - Sustainer

### $500 to $100

1. Commemorative Book - Sponsor

35th Annual Assembly Weekend Activities
- Nov. 4 - 7:30 p.m., Open House & Reception
- New NAASR Headquarters
- Nov. 5 - Noon, 35th Annual Assembly and Luncheon
- First Armenian Church
- 380 Concord Ave., Belmont
- Nov. 5 - 2 p.m., 35th Assembly Business Session
- First Armenian Church
- Nov. 6 - 1:30 p.m., 35th Anniversary Celebration Banquet
- Holy Trinity Armenian Church
- 145 Brattle St., Cambridge

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