

NAASR Newsletter

1989 Special Issue (Vol. VI, No. 1, Issue 19)

National Association for Armenian Studies and Research

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 Manoog 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 Janigian 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 Hagop-

ian 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 Pilibosian of Arlington, and Mr. and Mrs. Raffi P. Yeghiayan of Lexington.

Of the \$167,542 donated to date, \$76,148 is in the form of pledges or stocks and \$9,057 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.



Hagopian family benefactors at the entrance to NAASR's new headquarters building. Left to right, Jacob J. Hagopian, Mrs. Helen E. Tashjian, and Mrs. Betty Janigian.

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 two of a series of receptions in late June and early July were unanimous in their assessment that NAASR has acquired a facility that will amply meet its needs for many years to come. The new building is nearly four times the size of the former headquarters.

The brick 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 book clearing 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 and lounge.

The NAASR Armenian Reference and Research Library will occupy the second floor, along with the Information, Publicity, and Publications office and the NAASR Board room. 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 conveyor belt will facilitate deliveries and shipments.

Extra space on the ground and second floors will be available for rental to other Armenian organizations, two of which will be moving in soon.

The building is of a basic solid construction that is expected to require little maintenance. However, some minor renovations are needed, such as the installation of new carpeting, the replacement of the underground oil tank, and some interior refinishing and movement of partitions.

In the longer run, as funds become available, it is planned to install a kitchen, enhance the appearance of the entrance by landscaping, and further renovate the second floor to accommodate the Institute for Armenian Studies and Research.

The major significance of the new headquarters building is that, with the necessary funding, ample space will be available to operate and expand NAASR's activities, programs, and entities in its continuing effort to increase awareness of Armenian history and culture and to advance Armenian studies and research.

Institute for Armenian Studies To Foster Research in Important Areas

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 establishment of a research center 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 the Armenian community to provide support for research in areas of Armenian studies that the community considers important.

Scholars need to address in greater detail the Armenian question in the context of international affairs of the modern period, beginning with the 17th century. Such studies could provide valuable insights into many contemporary issues affecting Armenians both inside and outside of Armenia and bearing on their relations with other nations and their position in the world commu-

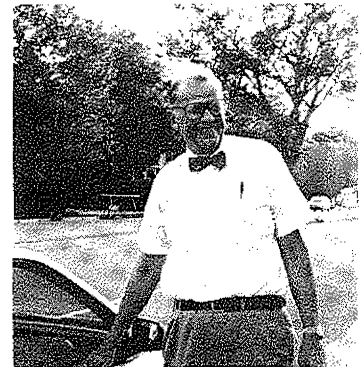
Recent Scenes at NAASR's



NAASR's recently purchased building, located on Concord Avenue near Belmont Center, which officially became the new headquarters on Sept. 1. Next to the building to the left in the photo, is the Belmont branch of the US Post Office.



Major donors help to celebrate the acquisition of the new building: Dr. Gregory H. Adamian, Mrs. Marie Nahigian, and Mrs. Madeline O. Kolligian, left to right.

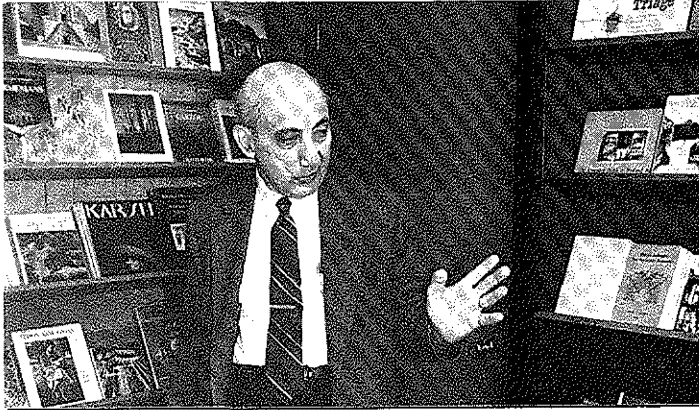


All smiles over the acquisition of the new building are, at left, Board member Gregory S. Kolligian and his cousin, Board Secretary Nancy R. Kolligian; in the photo at the right, Board Member and Founding Member Prof. Richard N. Frye of Harvard University arriving at the new Headquarters.

nity today. Also, many features of Armenian medieval history and life which have been inadequately examined could yield useful information about the development of Armenian culture and its relation to world civilizations.

Several aspects of the Armenian Genocide remain to be explored by scholars, such as its sociological, psychological, and economic impact. In the wake of increasing academic interest in the position of minorities in the Ottoman Empire, it is important to have competent studies of the Armenian community in Turkey in the 18th and 19th centuries.

New Headquarters Building



NAASR Board Chairman Manoog S. Young in the new sales room for the Armenian Book Clearing House. The photo, by Krystyna Wieschiewicz, appeared in a feature article about NAASR's new headquarters in the Sept. 7 issue of *The Belmont Citizen-Herald*.



Joining in the celebration were donors and Board members Mary Ann Kazanjian, attorney David J. Barber, Edward A. Kazanjian, Jr., and Raffi Yeghiayan, right to left.



NAASR Board members, staff, and guests at one of a series of Open Houses which are being held at the new Headquarters building in Belmont. The Open Houses began in the summer and are continuing through the months of October and November.

The Institute for Armenian Studies and Research will encourage both on-site and off-site research. It will provide office space and NAASR's library facilities for able scholars who are engaged in important research in the Armenian field and who would not otherwise have the facilities available to conduct this research. Stipends will be available to offset some of their expenses not otherwise provided for by their institutions.

Lectures, workshops, seminars, and small conferences will also be part of the Institute's program.

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

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 itself took eleven gruelling days of packing and moving. To move all the accumulated office furniture and equipment, library shelving and files, and the cartons of books, supplies, and records required ten large van loads, four small van loads, and two station wagon loads. The actual moving took three long days. The books from the warehouse of the Armenian Book Clearing House and from the library along with the supplies, records, and other paraphernalia required 1,860 cartons. These items are now spread out over the greater part of two floors of the new building.

It is difficult to believe that so much material has been accumulated over the period of NAASR's 35 years of existence unless you see it with your own eyes. Yet all this in a sense represents NAASR's wealth and much of the basis of its entities and programs.

Now, the task ahead is to finish unpacking and organizing all this material and to become fully operational as soon as possible so that we can proceed with our activities. Some — perhaps many — cartons will remain unpacked for months. Necessary repairs and renovations will need to be undertaken concurrently. Yet we must not lose sight of the fact that our primary purpose is to advance Armenian studies, research, and publications and as a result bring about greater awareness and understanding of Armenian history and culture both in the past and present. These efforts are particularly significant today as we move towards a future of greater cultural renewal and even perhaps the realization of the Armenians' national political objectives.

To do all this means we must increase the dissemination of information through our Information, Education, and Documentation Center, double and even triple the distribution of books through our Armenian Book Clearing House, continue to add to the holdings of our Armenian Reference and Research Library, expand the publication activity of our Armenian Heritage Press, plan and hold more conferences, seminars, lecture series, courses, exhibits and book fairs, and other cultural and educational activities, and last but not least make our Institute for Armenian Studies and Research fully operational as soon as possible so that scholars and researchers can pursue the study of important aspects and periods of our 3,000-year history.

To bring about the realization of all this requires the continued dedication, assistance, and generous support of the members and friends of NAASR. Most crucial at this juncture is to bring about the early conclusion of our \$1.5 million fund drive so that the mortgages can be paid off, the staff can be expanded, and the programs can be gotten under way.

The acquisition of a new and larger building should not be considered an end in itself but only the beginning and the means whereby we can continue to fulfill the mission of NAASR. In this we hope all members and supporters will realize that it is only with their continued participation that we can be assured of success.

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.

Manoog S. Young, Chairman
NAASR Board of Directors

Contributors to Campaign for New Headquarters Building and Institute

BENEFACTOR
(\$50,000-\$99,999)

Jacob J. Hagopian - San Jose, Calif., and Sisters:
Mrs. Libby H. Ahmajan - Sacramento, Calif.;
Mrs. Mary Bedrosian - Whitinsville, Mass.;
Mrs. Betty Janigian - Fresno, Calif.;
the late Mrs. Eva Malkasian - Whitinsville, Mass.;
Mrs. Helen E. Tashjian - Sacramento, Calif.
in memory of parents Kaspar and Kohar Hagopian

BENEFACTOR
(\$10,000-\$24,999)

Dr. & Mrs. Gregory H. Adamian
Waltham, Mass.
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in memory of husband,
Raymond Nahigian
Belmont, Mass.

PATRON
(\$5,000-\$9,999)

Lucy Chaderjian
in memory of parents,
Avedis & Makrouhi Chader-
jian; brother, Nazareth A.
Chaderjian; & uncle, Agop
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in memory of husband,
J. Mark Kolligian
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(\$2,500-\$4,999)

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(\$1,000-\$2,499)

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Dr. Vahan D. Sewny
Southport, Conn.

OTHER DONORS

178 other contributors from
21 states and Canada have
donated between \$10 and
\$249 for a total of \$13,447.

(Figures as of Oct. 1, 1989)

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

- Center for Armenian Studies and Research
- Institute for Armenian Studies and Research

\$250,000

- Armenian Reference and Research Library
- Armenian Information, Education, and Documentation Center
- Visiting Scholars Fund

\$100,000

- Armenian Book Clearing House and Distribution Center
- Administrative Offices
- Research Fellowships
- Publications Fund

\$50,000

- Lecture and Meeting Hall
- Board of Directors Room
- Publications Fund
- Research Travel Grants Fund

\$25,000

- Conference Room
- Lounge and Reception Area
- Research and Study Areas

\$10,000

Large Office - Benefactor

\$5,000

Small Office - Patron

\$2,500

Honor Roll (Gold) - Sponsor

\$1,000

Honor Roll (Silver) - Sustainer

\$500 to \$100

Commemorative Book - Supporter

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

NAASR Newsletter

ISSN 0890-3794



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