

# NAASR UPDATE



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National Association for Armenian Studies and Research

This new publication is being issued as an informal means of keeping members and friends up to date about NAASR plans, programs, and activities. It will appear on an occasional basis, as needed, between issues of the *NAASR Newsletter*, publication of which has been interrupted for more than a year but which will be resumed later this fall.

► **40TH ANNIVERSARY.** For nearly a year a large committee of Greater Boston members, with Nancy R. Kolligian and Leo Maghakian serving as co-chairs, has been developing plans for a gala celebration later this year on the weekend of November 3-5 in order to mark a major milestone in the history of NAASR as well as in the progress of Armenian Studies.

The weekend's activities will begin with a two-day international conference on "Armenian Studies: Looking Towards the 21st Century" with scholars from this country and abroad participating. They will take a retrospective view and discuss the course for the future in meeting the needs and challenges of the 21st century in the diaspora and Armenia in fostering Armenian studies, research, and publication.

Among the scholars who will be participating in the conference are Dr. Levon Avdoyan, Library of Congress; Dr. Kevork Bardakjian, University of Michigan - Ann Arbor; Dr. George Bournoutian, Iona College, NY; Dr. S. Peter Cowe, Columbia University; Dr. Lucy Der Manuelian, Tufts University; Dr. John A. C. Greppin, Cleveland State University; Dr. Richard G. Hovannisian, University of California - Los Angeles; Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, California State University - Fresno; Dr. Robert Mirak, Boston University; Dr. James R. Russell, Harvard University; and Dr. Bert Vaux, Harvard University.

Attending from abroad will be Dr. Jean-Pierre Mahé, University of Paris (Sorbonne), and Dr. Michael E. Stone, Hebrew University of Jerusalem; and from Armenia's Yerevan State University Professors Garnik Ananian of the Department of Philology and Lendroosh Khurshudian of the Department of Armenian History will be coming.

During this weekend a photographic exhibit, "Armenia: Images of Endurance and Hope," by George Bedirian of Washington State University will open at the NAASR Center and Headquarters.

The weekend will be climaxed by a banquet on Sunday, November 5, at the Westin Hotel, Copley Place, Boston, commencing with a reception at 4 p.m. The main speaker will be Ben H. Bagdikian, Pulitzer prize-winning journalist, editor, and author of the recent book, *Double Vision: Reflections on My Heritage, Life, and Profession*, in which he discloses among other things his role in the cloak-and-dagger operation in connection with the publication of the secret "Pentagon Papers" on the Vietnam War. He is the former dean of the Graduate School of Journalism at the University of California at Berkeley, is a former NAASR Board member, and currently serves on NAASR's National Advisory Board.

The banquet's entertainment program will be provided by the 35-member Erebuni Armenian Chorus of Greater Boston under the direction of Maestro Artur Veranian, formerly of the Comidas Conservatory of Yerevan, and by Helena Veranian, concert pianist.

A commemorative book consisting of historical information and many photographs is being planned and will be available to all who attend the banquet or who contribute to the Special

40th Anniversary Fund. Other details and information about the banquet and the weekend's activities will be given in future mailings and in the newspapers.

This activity-packed weekend promises to be one of the most memorable occasions in the history of NAASR and will be an opportunity, also, to honor the sixteen living founders of NAASR out of an original group of sixty Greater Boston community leaders and Harvard University professors who had the vision and determination to give impetus and substance to Armenian Studies in this country and abroad.

As the pioneering organization dedicated to the advancement of Armenian Studies and the perpetuation of the Armenian heritage, members and friends can, by attending the banquet and other activities, reaffirm their support of NAASR's programs and goals as it looks towards the 21st century in the fulfillment of its mission.

► **41ST ANNUAL ASSEMBLY.** The 41st Assembly of Members which officially concludes 40 years of activity will be held on Saturday, November 18, at the NAASR Center and Headquarters in Belmont, MA. The featured luncheon speaker will be Col. Moorad Mooradian of Springfield, VA, former professor of international relations at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, NY, and a member of the NAASR Board of Directors. He will have returned from another of his many trips to Armenia and Karabagh and will speak about the current situation there and the relevance of Armenian Studies.

► **YEREVAN STATE UNIVERSITY GRANTS.** The NAASR Board of Directors has voted to make a grant of \$5,000 worth of books to the Yerevan State University Library in order to enhance its collection of English language books and has made an additional grant of \$5,000 to augment the salaries of faculty members in those departments related to Armenian Studies. These grants are part of NAASR's efforts to aid academic activities and programs in Armenia.

► **MAJOR BEQUEST.** A major bequest of \$30,000 was received in 1993 from the estate of Mrs. Haigouhy Avakian of Los Angeles, CA, in memory of her late son, John O. Avakian, who had been a NAASR member for 32 years. Both were survivors of the Armenian Genocide with the rest of the family and originally lived in the Boston area until they moved to Southern California following World War II. John Avakian was a graduate of the University of Southern California, majoring in psychology, and taught at Lincoln High School in Los Angeles for 34 years. Hoberleigh Phreigh, a granddaughter, administered Mrs. Avakian's estate. This bequest has become a part of NAASR's Fund for the Future, which now exceeds \$155,000.

► **NEW PUBLICATIONS.** In June the NAASR Armenian Heritage Press released its 12th publication, an expanded new edition in English of *Hussenig: The origin, history, and destruction of an Armenian town*, by Marderos Deranian and revised by his son, Dr. H. Martin Deranian. With nearly 100 photographs and maps, it provides a rare glimpse into the everyday life of a Middle Eastern town at the turn of the century.

Later in the fall the next issue of NAASR's *Journal of Armenian Studies* will be released with informative articles on "Ancient Platforms for Astronomical Observation in Armenia," "An Armenian Nurse in the Turkish Wards during World War

I," "The Armenian Community in the Netherlands," and three essays by Prof. Jean-Pierre Mahé.

NAASR's Armenian Book Clearing House continues to expand its holdings of books on Armenian history, culture, language, and related subjects and is virtually having difficulty keeping up with the proliferation of books in English, a testimonial to the growth of the Armenian Studies movement. An up-dated catalog listing over 1,500 titles is in preparation. A new list of recent and selected publications, as well as a new list of books on sale, will be mailed to all members in time for Christmas shopping. NAASR's Book Clearing House has the world's largest inventory of books in English on Armenian subjects.

► **HEADQUARTERS PROGRAMS.** The informative and timely programs which are held generally on a monthly basis at the NAASR Center and Headquarters continue to be well received and attended, with many of them being standing room only. Among those who have presented talks beginning in the fall of 1993 are Prof. Ara E. Dostourian of West Georgia College; Col. Moorad Mooradian; author Stina Katchadourian of Stanford, CA; and environmentalist and physicist Philip Ketchian of Belmont, MA.

In 1994 lectures were given by Prof. Nelly Baratian of Yerevan State University; economist Edward Marootian, Jr., at the American University of Armenia; diplomat and author Edward Alexander of Bethesda, MD; Prof. James R. Russell of Harvard University; Dr. Levon Avdoyan of the Library of Congress; Dr. Levon Chookaszian of Yerevan State University; Rev. Prof. Boghos Levon Zekiyian of the University of Venice; Prof. George Bournoutian of Iona College, NY; multi-media artist Anoush Ter Taulian of New York City and Karabagh; and John C. Walsh of the World Society for the Protection of Animals.

To date in 1995 presentations have been made by Dr. Radick Martirosian, Rector of Yerevan State University; Prof. Levon Chorbajian of the University of Massachusetts - Lowell; former Moscow correspondent Jon Auerbach of *The Boston Globe*; Dr. James R. Russell; and author, lecturer, and dentist Dr. H. Martin Deranian of Shrewsbury, MA.

During 1994 two all-day seminars were held on "The Armenian Genocide: Denial and Documentation," with Prof. Roger W. Smith of the College of William and Mary and Dr. Vahakn N. Dadrian, formerly of the State University of New York - Geneseo; and on "Formulation of Armenian Foreign Policy," with Col. Moorad Mooradian.

► **NEW BOARD MEMBERS.** During the last two Annual Assemblies, five new Directors were elected. They are Karen Kazarosian, Watertown, MA; Jack Medzorjian, Winchester, MA; Joanne A. Peterson, Brookline, MA; Joyce Sulahian, New York City; and Charles J. Tateosian, Walnut Creek, CA.

► **NECROLOGY.** Since the fall of 1993 NAASR has lost some of its most devoted members and supporters who played major roles in the early successes and history of the organization as well as in its later years. This group includes:

Edward Mardigian, Birmingham, MI, Charter Member, Honorary Life Member, principal NAASR benefactor, and former member of the Board of Directors; Dr. Avedis K. Sanjian, Narekatsi Professor of Armenian Studies at UCLA, 38-year member, Honorary Life Member, and also a former Director; Edna Bogosian, Watertown, MA, Founder and former secretary of the Board of Directors, who was secretary to three Massachusetts governors; Dr. Karl Kasparian, Lincoln, MA, Founder; Rev. Yuhanna D. Mugar, Claremont, CA, Founder; Mrs. Zabelle Atesian, Birmingham, MI, Charter Member,

who served as secretary of the Detroit Chapter; Mrs. Alice O. Kasparian, Belmont, MA, Charter Member and benefactor; Prof. Hoosag K. Gregory, London, England, Charter and Supporting Member; Mrs. Yevnigé Bailey, Los Angeles, Charter Member; Ara S. Boyan, Ormond Beach, FL, Charter Member; Sadie H. Pilibosian, Whitinsville, MA, Charter Member; Rev. R. Puzant Rubyian, Detroit, MI, Charter Member; Dr. Franklin D. Murphy, Los Angeles, CA, former Chancellor of UCLA and Honorary Life Member of NAASR;

Edward D. Turnamian, Alpine, NJ, 38-year member who served on the first New York Chapter Committee; Berge A. Cherkerzian, Mt. Prospect, IL, 37-year member; Edith Husenig Bozyan, Newport, RI, 35-year member and benefactor; Mrs. Florence Donabedian, Jamaica Plain, MA, 32-year member; Anne M. Avakian, Berkeley, CA, 30-year member, who only recently prepared an authoritative compilation, *Armenian Folklore Bibliography*; Anna Chakmakjian, Phoenix, AZ, 30-year member; Dr. Frank Kasparian, Belmont, MA, 26-year member; Mrs. Satenig Ourian, New York City, 24-year member and benefactor; Prof. Puzant Yeghiayan, Watertown, MA, 21-year member, former Dean of Studies, Armenian Seminary, Catholicosate of Cilicia, and author of the recently published voluminous work, *Heroes of Hayastan*; Mrs. Arax L. Najarian, Belmont, MA, 20-year Supporting Member, who served most recently on the Fund-Raising Committee;

Dr. Berj H. Haidostian, Birmingham, MI, 15-year member; Mrs. Flora Jeknavorian, Lowell, MA, 15-year member; Sam H. Donabedian, El Cajon, CA, 13-year member; Margaret Shamirian, Providence, RI, 13-year member; Mrs. Seervart Manoogian, Absecon, NJ, 12-year member; Mrs. Hannah Kalajian, Northboro, MA, 11-year Supporting Member, who was founder of Near East Food Products and author of *Hannah's Story: Escape from Genocide in Turkey to Success in America*; Samuel J. Emmanuel, Seattle, WA, 10-year member; Dr. Agnes Missirlian, Wellesley, MA, 10-year member, who was Professor and Chairwoman of the Department of Management at Bentley College; Vahram Y. Rejebian, Dallas, TX, 10-year member;

Harry Garo, Downey, CA, 8-year member; Mrs. Marjorie Dadian, Bethesda, MD, 7-year Supporting Member and benefactor; Mrs. Araxia M. Hovsepian, Atherton, CA, 7-year member; Mrs. Marie Manoogian, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI, 7-year Supporting Member; Ara J. Ohanian, Watertown, MA, 7-year member; Mrs. George Chamalian, Peekskill, NY, 6-year member; Jack Karapetian, Watertown, author, formerly with Voice of America, and a more recent member; and Mrs. Rose Yacubian Lubin, Jamaica Plain, MA, recent Patron Member.

► **NAASR STAFF.** The NAASR Headquarters' staff consists of Sandra L. Jurigian, Administrative Director, Hagop Hachikian, Research and Library Assistant, and three part-time members -- Linda B. Abkarian, Staff Assistant and Receptionist; Zakar Hachikian, Book Department and Building Assistant; and Dr. Barbara J. Merguerian, Publications Director.

With the ever-increasing volume of work and with many new programs and projects in the offing, additional staff members are needed; however, financial constraints prevent us from adding to the staff at present. Volunteers can help us meet the demands and challenges in the immediate future. You can help NAASR achieve its goals if you can volunteer your services and time. Please call and discuss how you can help or speak to any one of the Board members.

► **NEW FAX NUMBER.** The NAASR Headquarters can now be reached by FAX at (617) 484-1759. Our regular telephone number is still (617) 489-1610, and mail as usual should be addressed to: 395 Concord Ave., Belmont, MA 02178.