

Conference in October on Armenian Studies

As Armenia enters its fourth millennium of recorded history, the issues facing the field of Armenian Studies have gained a new urgency.

In order to address many of these issues, NAASR is convening a conference entitled "Rethinking Armenian Studies: Past, Present, and Future," on October 4-6. The conference will examine the state of the field of Armenian Studies – its achievements, its problems, and its concerns – as well as initiate an internal discussion within the field that is a prerequisite for any external dialogue.

The conference will also explore strategies for incorporating Armenian Studies into the mainstream of academic discourse; reconsider the role of university chairs, research centers, and other academic institutions in the development of the field; and consider the relationship between Armenian Studies in North America and in the Armenian Republic.

The proposed sessions for the conference are as follows:

- The Origins and Early History of Armenian Studies in the U.S.
- The Role of University Chairs: Past and Present
- The Role of Organizations, Institutions, and Research Centers
- Integrating Armenian Studies Within Universities
- Future of Armenian Studies

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NAASR in the 21st Century: Challenges and Opportunities

As it approaches its landmark 50th year, NAASR is aggressively working to increase its funds for operations and expand its membership base in order to meet the challenges of the new century and beyond.

Among these challenges are expanding its dedicated but small staff; fully activating its Institute for Armenian Studies and Research; cataloging and making more accessible resources of the Mardigian Research and Reference Library; expanding NAASR's lecture series and programs both at its Headquarters and nationwide; expanding its web site to make it a more effective tool for communicating with both its members and the general public; increasing the number of quality NAASR publications; expanding NAASR's bookstore; and in-

interacting with and drawing on the enormous potential resources of Armenian Studies scholars in the Armenian Republic.

There have been many substantial accomplishments in the past half-century. To note but a few: NAASR's establishment and support of Chairs of Armenian Studies at major universities such as Harvard, UCLA, and Columbia, as well as 12 other endowed chairs or programs which have followed from NAASR's pioneering efforts; the explosion of publishing in English on Armenian subjects, springing from the impetus given to Armenian Studies by NAASR, resulting in more than 2000 titles to date; in short, the elevation

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NAASR Elects New Board Chairman

Nancy R. Kolligian of Watertown, Mass., has been elected as the new Chairman of the Board of the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research. She succeeds Manoog S. Young of Belmont, Mass., who has



Nancy R. Kolligian

served as NAASR's Board Chairman since the organization's inception in 1955 and will continue to serve as Chairman Emeritus. The election took place at a meeting of NAASR's Board of Directors following the 47th Annual Assembly of Members in November 2001.

Kolligian, a NAASR member since 1983, has served on its Board of Directors since 1986. She has been a member of its Executive Committee, most recently as Treasurer, and has been instrumental in the planning of NAASR's 30th, 35th, 40th, and 45th anniversary celebrations.

She is the President of Distributor Corporation of New England, located in Malden, Mass., which has

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47th Annual Assembly Features Talk by Prof. Michael Stone, Elections

Prof. Michael Stone of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem spoke on the history and current activities of that school's Armenian Studies Program, of which he is the chairman. The talk was given at the luncheon program preceding the 47th NAASR Annual Assembly of Members on November 3, 2001.

Prof. Stone was born in Leeds, England, and grew up in Australia. He received a D.Litt. degree from the University of Melbourne and a Ph.D. from Harvard University, where he studied under, among others, the late Prof. Avedis K. Sanjian. He has taught at the Hebrew University since 1965.

Noting that Jerusalem has had profound significance for the Armenians and an important Armenian presence for many centuries, he observed that it is still surprising that in a nation with a population of about 6 million and a very small Armenian community there should be such a program at all, much less such an active one.

"Moreover," he stated, "for most of the [program's] 35 years of existence it has not had any outside support, but was established and maintained by the University from its own budget."

Even though the program has long been successful, Stone points to the last few years as a period of dynamic growth. In all, between 40 and 60 students participate in Armenian Studies courses annually. The department holds a lecture series each year, directed to the Armenian and general Israeli public. There is also a Hebrew University Armenian Students Organization.

In addition to the success of the program in teaching, it has also engaged in other important undertakings. Stone highlighted the work that has been done in collecting and preserving Armenian inscriptions in the Holy Land, which include some of the oldest known uses of the Armenian alphabet.

Also, under the scientific direction of Prof. Bert Vaux of the Harvard University Department of Linguistics the program, in collaboration with the Israel Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Sciences of Armenia, has begun a study of the distinctive Armenian dialect of Jerusalem, which is nearly extinct.

One of the more public accomplishments of the program has been the archaeological study over the past two years of a medieval Jewish cemetery in Armenia. Stone said that "The results are remarkable, and the tombstones and inscriptions of the thirteenth-fourteenth centuries open up new windows on Armenian history as well as revealing the existence of a Jewish community in Armenia, of whose existence we knew nothing at all." This project is a partnership with the Institute of Archeology of the Academy of Sciences and the Diocese of Siunik of the Armenian Church. The findings will be published in the near future.

Another important project Prof. Stone is involved in is the Hebrew University Armenian Studies publications series, which continues the now-defunct University of Pennsylvania series. The first volume in the series has just been published, with three more currently in press and at least another three in preparation.

Special Committee Reports

Reports were given by the chairmen of the special Assembly committees: Erivan Hagopian, Lexington, Nominating; Jack Medzorian, Winchester, Constitution and Rules; Prof. Aram S. Karakashian, Waltham, New Business and Resolutions; and Bernard Zulalian, Belmont, Auditing. The Assembly was chaired by NAASR Board Chairman Manoog S. Young, and Robert D. Bejoian, Cambridge, served as Secretary of the Assembly.

In addition, Chairman Young gave a report highlighting the activities and programs of the past year and reviewed the objectives and goals of NAASR for the coming decade.

25-Year Members Recognized

Nine members were recognized at this year's Assembly for having been NAASR members continuously for 25 years. Recognized were Rachel Dohanian, Dr. Varant Hagopian, Edward A. Kazanjian, Alice Harriett Nakash, and Walter Vartanian, all of Massachusetts; Dr. Aline Eden, New York; Florence Chakerian, New Mexico; George Chakoian, Rhode Island; and Deron Kasparian, Texas.

New Directors and Officers Elected

Three new Directors were elected to the NAASR Board during its 47th Assembly business session.

The new Directors are:

- Dr. Joan Bamberger, Watertown, MA, retired Associate Professor of Anthropology, Wellesley College;
- Rev. Nersess Jebejian of Pinellas Park, FL, Mission Parishes Coordinator of Florida and Louisiana of Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church and NAASR Life Member;
- Dr. Seda E. Keshishian, Lincoln, MA, Clinical Psychologist and Instructor at Harvard Univ., Dept. of Psychiatry.

Re-elected as Directors were Van M. Aroian, Worcester, Bertha Mugurdichian, Providence, R.I., Dr. Moorad Mooradian, Springfield, VA, Helen Mardigian, Bloomfield Village, MI, James M. Kalustian, Arlington, and Manoog S. Young.

The NAASR Board of Directors consists of 27 members who serve 3-year terms. There are Directors from the following states: California (4), Florida (1), Illinois (1), Massachusetts (16), Michigan (1), New Jersey (1), New York (1), Rhode Island (1), and Virginia (1). There are also regional representatives appointed to represent NAASR in over 15 other sections of the country with major Armenian communities.

The continuing Directors are Dr. Gregory H. Adamian, Medford; Anton Boghossian, Belmont; Dr. Vartkes L. Broussalian, Granada Hills, CA; Dr. Vatche Ghazarian, Waltham; Berjoohy Haigazian, Mt. Laurel, NJ; M. Hrair Karamanoukian, Hollywood, CA; Karen Kazarosian, Watertown; Michael Kilijian, Fresno, CA; Jack M. Medzorian; Armand K. Mirijanian, Morton Grove, IL; Debra Saryan, Andover; Joyce Sulahian, New York, NY; and Charles J. Tateosian, Walnut Creek, CA.

The Executive Committee consists of Nancy R. Kolligian, Chairman; Manoog S. Young, Chairman Emeritus; Raffi P. Yeghiayan, Lexington, First Vice-Chairman; Prof. Aram S. Karakashian, Second Vice-Chairman; Van M. Aroian, Secretary; Yervant Chekijian, Boston, Treasurer; and Robert D. Bejoian, Advisor.

OFFICIAL NOTICE**Annual Assembly of Members**

The 48th Annual Assembly of Members of the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research, Inc., will be held on Saturday, Nov. 16, at 12 noon at the NAASR Center, for the following purposes:

(1) To receive and discuss reports from the Board of Directors; (2) to act on new business and resolutions presented for the consideration of the assembled members; (3) to elect Directors of the Association; and (4) to transact any other business which may properly come before the assembly.

All members in good standing, with dues paid for the current year, have the right to attend, be heard, and vote.

Other details will follow.

Forthcoming Titles From Armenian Heritage Press

Armenian Heritage Press' next publication will be *Aliza: An Armenian Survivor Torn Between Two Cultures*, by Aliza Harb, with Florence Gilmore.

Aliza is unique among Armenian Genocide survivor memoirs in that the author and central figure was an Arabic-speaking, Catholic Armenian from the small village of Viranshehr, in south central Turkey. Thus, *Aliza* is a minority within a minority.

As central as the Genocide is to *Aliza*, her ongoing attempts to adjust to her new cultures and surroundings also provide insights to all readers.

Also to be published by the Armenian Heritage Press is a new edition of Emmanuel Varandyan's 1938 novel *The Well of Ararat*. The Armenian Heritage Press edition of the novel will feature a new preface by Harvard Professor Emeritus Richard N. Frye and Eden Naby Frye.

As part of its ongoing efforts to document the Armenian Genocide and the Armenian experience, the Armenian Heritage Press is currently preparing two valuable additions to literature of Genocide survivors: *Hagop: A Memoir of My Father*, by Theodore D. Kharperian, and *The Story of My Life: A Memoir* by Oksen Teghtsoonian.

Library Dedication and Other Building Areas Dedicated

The NAASR Research and Reference Library has been named for Edward and Helen Mardigian in recognition of their generous gift of \$200,000.

Plaques were placed around the interior of the building in acknowledgment of other generous gifts, bequests, or memorials as listed below:

Dr. Gregory H. and Deborah Adamian
Medford, MA

Gerald and Lucille Ajemian
Dover, MA

Avedis and Makrouhi Chaderjian, Nazareth A. Chaderjian, and

Agop J. Atamian
by Lucy Chaderjian, Fresno, CA

Arthur H. Dadian
by Mrs. Marjorie M. Dadian
Bethesda, MD

Manuel and Armenouhy Der Manuelian

by John Vigen Der Manuelian
Belmont, MA

Armen and Rachel Dohanian
Belmont, MA

Boghos and Nazlee Jaffarian
by Mrs. Ethel Jaffarian Duffett
Orlando, FL

Kaspar and Kohar Hagopian
by their children and grandchildren
CA and MA

Charles N. Ishkanian (bequest)
Troy, NY

Koren D. Kasparian
by Mrs. Alice Odian Kasparian
Belmont, MA

Gregory Archie Kolligian
by Mrs. Rose Kolligian
Winchester, MA

J. Mark Kolligian
by Mrs. Madeline O. Kolligian
Waltham, MA

Paul and Ann Korian
Weston, MA

Raymond Nahigian
by Mrs. Marie Nahigian, Belmont, MA

Zarouhi Noorjanian
Milford, MA

Nerses and Lucia Ohanasian
by Alice Ohanasian, Winchester, MA

Mr. and Mrs. Sarkis Peterson
Brookline, MA

Jacob and Audrey Pilibosian
Arlington, MA

Charles Talanian
by Mrs. Nevert Talanian
Belmont, MA

Mr. and Mrs. Hrand Joseph Topjian
Englewood, NJ

Raffi and Carol Yeghiayan
Lexington, MA

NAASR Launches Web Site: WWW.NAASR.ORG

WWW.NAASR.ORG, the web site of the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research, is up and running as one of the most informative sites of any Armenian organization.

The site serves as a means to inform both members and those who are unfamiliar with NAASR of the organization's purposes, achievements, entities, and ongoing activities, and also provides the ability to order items from NAASR's Armenian Book Clearing House. The site will help NAASR to maintain its position as a preeminent Armenian Studies organization by establishing a presence on the world wide web, which has become the dominant medium of communication, research, and commerce.

The site includes such features as:

- a history of NAASR, its accomplishments, and its various entities
- information about NAASR's current activities, including a schedule of forthcoming events and postings of past and present news releases
- reports on NAASR's ongoing lecture series – in some cases, full texts
- detailed descriptions and purchase information about all NAASR publications, past and present
- a complete listing of all books available through NAASR's Armenian Book Clearing House, including information on how to purchase them
- links to Armenian Studies programs nationwide and worldwide
- contact information so both NAASR members and non-members can find out more about the organization.

Lecture Series in 2001 Includes Authors and Scholars

Karen Yuzbashian: The Battle of Avarayr and Its Historical Role

On March 13, Prof. Karen Yuzbashian of the Russian Academy of Sciences in St. Petersburg spoke on the war of 450-51 between the Armenians and the Persians, and the Battle of Avarayr in particular. This era has long been recognized as central to any understanding of Armenian history. Prof. Yuzbashian focused on some of the less-examined aspects of the events and attempted to place them in historical context.

Yuzbashian stressed that although the story of the Battle of Avarayr is frequently portrayed in terms of a clear battle between good (represented by Vartan Mamigonian) and evil (represented by Vasak Siuni), there were political reasons for the events which unfolded. The only unquestionable fact is that Vartan's rebellion preserved the religious freedom and, to some extent, the national identity of Armenia.

Displaying a remarkable depth and breadth of knowledge of Armenian history and culture of the period, Yuzbashian left the audience impressed with his ability to convey a great deal of detailed information in an accessible and engaging manner.

James R. Russell: The Role of Epic in Armenian Literature

Prof. James R. Russell, Mesrob Mashtots Professor of Armenian Studies at Harvard University, gave a well-attended and enthusiastically received talk on April 19.

Starting with one of the oldest known Armenian texts, the pre-Christian poem on the birth of the god Vahagn which is preserved in Movses Khorenatsi's *History of the Armenians*, Russell focused on the motif of dragon-slaying which figures in the poem. He traced it through countless other works, Armenian and non-Armenian alike, including ones from Persia, Capodocia, and to England, where the dragon-slaying Saint George (of Capodocian origin) is the nation's patron saint.

Russell's recent translation of *The Heroes of Kasht* focuses attention on yet another epic with ancient roots. However, it exists only in a modern retelling by the Armenian-American poet

Karapet Sital, who was born in the Lake Van region of historic Armenia and settled in Philadelphia in the U. S.

Just as in earlier times epic structures, themes, and plots were adapted, transferred, or borrowed wholesale, Sital collected and transcribed versions of this oral epic and recast it to reflect "the themes of class struggle and the Soviet Union's desperate struggle against the Nazi invader." However much Sital introduced elements which may seem anachronistic in a story set



Prof. James R. Russell

in the time of Tamerlane, the motif of dragon-slaying recurs yet again, along with other elements which unmistakably tie the Kasht epic to ancient exemplars.

Following his talk, Prof. Russell answered a large number of questions from the audience, who were clearly caught up in the remarkable sweep of his presentation.

Moorad Mooradian: The Karabagh Dilemma

The current status, the future prospects, and the recent history of the Karabagh conflict were the subject of a well-attended lecture by Dr. Moorad Mooradian on May 24. Mooradian's talk attempted to unravel some of the tangled threads of the longstanding conflict and provided insight into possibilities for its resolution.

Mooradian referred to "the unrealistic belief among many Armenians that war ends when the bullets stop flying and violence is curbed." The cessation of war, he observed, is not the same as peace. Furthermore, he cited the naïve belief widespread in Armenia that Azerbaijan is under greater pressure

for peace (since they "lost" the war) than Armenia is. This is far from true, Mooradian explained; there is pressure on both sides.

Stating that "most people in Armenia are tired of the Karabagh conflict and what it has done to the country and their deteriorated standard of living," Mooradian observed that nonetheless the word "compromise" is considered anathema by most of the people in both countries. The primary responsibility for this, he feels, is the government's for failing to wage a war of public relations to prepare the people to accept less than 100% victory.

One of the fundamental issues which Mooradian returned to at the end of the talk was "how far back in history are we supposed to go to claim that lands belong to a particular state?" This question lies at the heart of the Karabagh dilemma, as Armenians trace their presence in Karabagh back for millennia. Yet the Azeris have produced questionable scholarship that makes similar claims, and Stalin drew the borders which placed Karabagh within Azerbaijan in the early 1920s. Thus the question is raised: Whose claim is the strongest? Does possession make right?

Bert Vaux: Muslim Armenians of the Black Sea Coast

The Armenian dialect of the Hamshen, a mostly Muslim and little-known group of Armenian origin living along the Black Sea in Turkey and Abkhazia in Georgia, was the topic of a lecture by Harvard University professor of linguistics Bert Vaux on June 7.

Few are aware of these people, who in all number several hundred thousand worldwide. The Armenian community is largely unaware of this group to whom they are related ethnically and whose language, called Homshetsma by its speakers, is closely related to standard Western Armenian.

Vaux explained that the Hamshen derive their name from a village of the same name in Northeastern Turkey, near Rize, which seems to have been itself derived from an Armenian prince Haman Amatuni who came there with migrants from the Ayrarat district in the eighth century A.D. He then pro-

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Lecture Series (continued)

ceeded to detail the striking similarities and noteworthy differences between the language Homshetsma and standard Armenian.

Vaux explained that while there were forced conversions of the Hamshen to Islam from the 16th century down to the 1915 Genocide, the language preserves the memory of the people's Christian past to an extent; for the most part, though, Christian elements noticeably have been purged. Yet, although the language has been mostly de-Christianized, the Hamshen still observe the Armenian Christian New Year (celebrated on the day of Epiphany) and the Armenian Christian feast of Vartivar.

Nancy and Sam Sweezy: Folk Art and Armenian Identity

The role of folk art in the formation of Armenian identity was the topic of an illustrated lecture by Nancy and Sam Sweezy on September 20.

The Sweezys are co-editor and photography editor, respectively, of the newly published *Armenian Folk Arts, Culture, and Identity*, the first scholarly English-language work devoted to the topic.

Nancy Sweezy explained that the goal in creating the book was to produce a scholarly work that was still accessible to the general public and gave a sense of the "long sweep of Armenian cultural history." To achieve this goal, "we have looked at the history of Armenia through material culture created by exceptional and unexceptional artists who are part of the general community of people and at the myths that are communally generated rather than through political and economic events."

The talk followed the structure of the book, which is divided into six sections: Armenian origins; symbols of Armenian identity; settlements, dwellings, and inhabitants; artifacts and artisans; personal adornment; and fight, feast, and festival.

The concluding portion of the Sweezys' presentation focused on Armenian feasts and festivals, some of which are pre-Christian (although almost all have taken on at least the trappings of Christianity) and most of which continue today.

Tom Ohanian: Coming to Terms with Armenian Genocide: New Voices, New Methods

Methods of getting the story of the Armenian Genocide before the public eye were the subject of a talk by Thomas A. Ohanian on October 18.

Ohanian is the author of the recently published novel *Lines in the Sand: Love, Tragedy, and the Armenian Genocide* and is an Oscar and Emmy Award recipient for his pioneering work in digital editing and filmmaking.

Ohanian stated that there are "different things that can be done to get these stories out there." His book, which is based on many months of careful research, "is one of a series of things" he wishes to do to help the effort and his contribution to the body of work of Armenian-themed books, television programs, feature films, etc.

As a pioneer in the field of digital editing, Ohanian is able to speak knowledgeably about the importance of digitizing existing documents and audiovisual versions of Genocide survivor oral histories, most of which were recorded on tape in the 1970s and 1980s. As he explained, the technology involved is neither prohibitively expensive nor difficult to master; as he put it, most 10-year-olds have the ability to do the digital transfers.

Bert Vaux: Nagorno-Karabagh: Population, Language, and Cultural Change

Prof. Vaux of Harvard University's Department of Linguistics spoke on November 15 at Harvard University, having spent August 2001 in Stepanakert, Karabagh's capital, teaching at the Summer Institute on Armenian Dialectology and conducting field research on Karabagh dialects while also traveling throughout the entire region. The talk was co-sponsored by NAASR and Harvard's Armenian Students Society.

Vaux reported that the best estimate of the current population of Karabagh is about 140,000 (with some 55,000 in Stepanakert). However, he stressed, no one is really sure what the actual population is. Since the war with Azerbaijan, the population of Karabagh has undergone substantial changes.

Although the Karabagh dialect is still present in the region, Vaux said that it is disappearing, like all other dialects, through slow attrition. The

Yerevan dialect of Standard Eastern Armenian is taking over as the most prevalent mode of speech in Karabagh, even though most Karabaghtsis will speak the dialect if it is spoken to them.

Vaux discussed a noteworthy aspect of modern Karabagh -- the newly constructed and excellent roads that traverse much of the area and connect Armenia and Karabagh. The condition of the roads, he observed, is in marked contrast to that of the roads in Armenia itself. However, the good roads have a downside; they allow people to leave the area easily and emigrate elsewhere. Like in the Armenian Republic, the loss of population is a problem in Karabagh as well, and one that Vaux feels is serious. Although thousands of people have left the region since the war with Azerbaijan, few have moved in.

Vaux addressed a further threat to Karabagh: the imperiled status of Section 907 of the Freedom Support Act, a U.S. government provision which has blocked all but humanitarian aid to Azerbaijan due to their blockade of Armenia. (Section 907 has since been waived by President Bush.)

NAASR-CYSCA Events

Over the past several years, NAASR and the Cambridge-Yerevan Sister City Association (CYSCA) have co-sponsored a series of forums that have brought timely issues in the Armenian Republic to Boston-area audiences.

On May 31 ten educators from Armenia participated in a panel discussion on "Education in Armenia: Trends, Issues, and Methods." Each of the participants gave a presentation on his or her background and offered a few observations on his or her experience while in the Boston area before moving on to some of the substantial issues faced by educators in Armenia.

On August 9 a group of ten students from Belmont, Arlington, and Waltham, Mass., who had recently traveled to Armenia for a three-week visit, discussed their experiences during a panel discussion entitled "School Partnerships to Promote a Civil Society in Armenia." Among the issues addressed during the students' presentations were volunteerism and conflict resolution, gender issues, environmentalism, human rights, free-market economy, ethics, health care, voting, law, and free and independent media.

News From the NAASR Headquarters

New Computer Systems Acquired

NAASR took a great technological leap forward with the acquisition of a state-of-the-art Dell Computer system that more than meets the organization's current and anticipated needs.

In addition, a new Hewlett Packard system was purchased for publications work and another pc was obtained for use in the bookstore.

In the past several years NAASR has also received donations of computers from James Kalustian of Arlington, Gihon Balian Sears of Chestnut Hill, and Danila Terpanjian of Belmont. These computers greatly aided NAASR's transition from its old system to the new one. In addition, a Panasonic laser printer was donated by Sarah Mulligan of Cambridge.

New Member of NAASR Staff

Joining NAASR's staff of Sandra Jurigian, Administrative Director, Marc Mamigonian, Publications Director, and Lana Jurigian, bookstore and administrative assistant, is Dr. Armen Musheghian of Yerevan, who has been appointed scholar-in-residence and hired as Assistant Librarian.

Dr. Musheghian is a graduate of Yerevan State University's Department of Oriental Studies and received a Ph.D. from the Institute of Linguistics in 1996. He has taught at the Adjarian University and Haybusak Institute in Armenia and has served as a senior researcher at the Institute of Linguistics. His main field is comparative and con-

trastive linguistics, and his current area of research interest is in the history of the Armenian language.

In his capacity of Assistant Librarian Dr. Musheghian is contributing to the reorganization of NAASR's Edward and Helen Mardigian Armenian Research and Reference Library, particularly in the area of Armenian-language books and periodicals. He is also assisting researchers and other library patrons with inquiries and requests for information.

As scholar-in-residence Dr. Musheghian will be working on translations of Armenian texts and continuing his linguistic research. He is planning a textbook of Eastern Armenian, and will serve as a consultant to the *Journal of Armenian Studies*.

Distinguished Visitors

Armenian Ambassador to the U.S. Dr. Arman Kirakossian and Dr. Taner Akçam were among the distinguished visitors to NAASR.

While at NAASR in March, Kirakossian toured the headquarters and visited the bookstore and Armenian Research and Reference Library. He contributed a copy of his published doctoral dissertation, *British Diplomacy and the Eastern Armenian Question, 1830-1914* (in Armenian) to the library. Kirakossian was also pleased to see that the library contained works written by his father, John Kirakossian.

Dr. Taner Akçam visited NAASR while in the area conducting research,

having previously attended the University of Chicago conference "Armenians and the End of the Ottoman Empire," the first to bring together Armenian and Turkish scholars which dealt with the Armenian Genocide.

Akçam's research has focused on socio-psychological issues in modern Turkish society, and he has become known as the first Turkish scholar to acknowledge openly the Armenian Genocide and the Turkish government's role in denying the Genocide.

While at NAASR Akçam discussed his views on the Chicago conference and other developments in genocide scholarship, toured the NAASR Headquarters, and visited the library.

Other distinguished visitors to NAASR have included political scientist and special advisor to former President of Armenia Levon Ter Petrosian, Dr. Jirair Libaridian; Dr. Kevork Bardakjian, holder of the Marie Manoogian Chair of Armenian Language and Literature and director of the Armenian Studies Program at the University of Michigan; Prof. Seta Dadoyan of the American University of Beirut; Prof. Claire Mouradian of the National Center for Scientific Research in Paris, France; author Agop J. Hachikyan of Montreal; Rev. Karl Vardan Avakian of Fresno, Calif., Minister to the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America; and best-selling author Peter Balakian, Professor of English at Colgate University, N. Y.

Book Donations and Ongoing Work in Armenian Research and Reference Library

The Edward and Helen Mardigian Research and Reference Library includes primarily Armenian and English language books, pamphlets, periodicals, and personal papers totaling more than twenty thousand in number. There are also books in French, German, Russian, and Turkish.

In addition to the large number of both Armenian and English-language books on the history of Armenia and the many nations whose histories are relevant to an understanding of Armenia's, the library includes a wide range of literature, language texts, memoirs, art and architecture vol-

umes, religious works, and countless reference works, including dictionaries, encyclopedias, and bibliographies.

The library has received donations of a number of substantial collections, and NAASR is always looking to increase the size and scope of the library. In recent years much-needed shelving was donated by the Worcester, Mass., Public Library and Harvard University Library.

The addition of archive librarian Debbie Saryan to NAASR's Board of Directors has helped galvanize the massive effort to re-organize the library's large collection. During the

summer of 2000 the volunteer efforts of longtime NAASR members Vigen Der Manuelian and Ara A. Gelenian assisted in the processing of numerous collections donated in the past several years. Long-range plans for the library include the computer cataloging of the entire collection.

Donations List

Since the last listing of donations received, the following members and friends have helped to add to the depth and breadth of the NAASR Library's collection (* = additional donation; + = major collection).

The listing follows on the next page.

Book Donations to Library

- Dr. Gregory Adamian**
Medford
- Esther Agabian**
Watertown
- George Aghjayan**
Worcester
- Arakel Almassian**
Watertown
- Gerard T. Amirian+**
Watertown
- Armenian Missionary Association of America+**
Paramus, NJ
- Mr. & Mrs. Nishan Atinizian**
Winchester
- Anahid Avakian**
Arlington
- Robert W. Bashian**
Westwood
- Lucy & Anna Bedirian**
Watertown
- Mrs. Leonie S. Bennett**
Watertown
- Mr. & Mrs. Nerses Bergoudian** [in memory of parents Drtad & Virginia Guleserian]
Belmont
- Mr. & Mrs. M. Birnbaum+**
Harrison, NY
- Mrs. Aghavnie Boghosian**
Midlothian, VA
- Paul Boghosian**
Belmont
- Torkom Boyajian+**
Worcester
- Ed Brown** [records]
Arlington
- *Mrs. Florence Chakerian**
Albuquerque, NM
- Compatriotic Union of Habousi**
Amherst, NH
- Dr. Vahakn N. Dadrian**
Conesus, NY
- Mrs. Gertrude Demirjian Decicco**
[in memory of mother Serinosh Michigan]
Winchester
- Stephen Der Margosian+**
Farmington, CT
- Ervant Der Megerditchian+**
Quincy
- Vigen Der Manuelian** [records and pictures]
Belmont
- Robert A. Derounian+** [collection of father Avedis A. Derounian, a.k.a. John Roy Carlson]
Penfield, NY
- Mrs. Marilyn Dodd**
Arlington
- Arshag Gechijian+**
Belmont
- Zarm Keljik-Geisenhoff**
St. Paul, MN
- Dr. Vatche Ghazarian+**
Waltham
- Dr. Elizabeth Gregory+**
Kennett Square, PA
- Mr. & Mrs. Edward Guleserian** [in memory of parents Drtad & Virginia Guleserian]
Belmont
- Martin & Helen Halabian+**
Watertown
- Mrs. Armineh Haladjian+**
Yerevan, Armenia
- Mrs. Mary Hogikyan** [musical scores]
San Francisco, CA
- * Mary Hovnanian** [records]
Winchester
- Mrs. Nevart Jerzyk+**
Tucson, AZ
- Mrs. Alice Kalemkiarian**
Watertown
- Ann Kaprielian**
Natick
- *Mrs. Alice Odian Kasparian+**
Belmont
- Joyce Kazanjian** [in memory of parents Harold and Zabelle Kazanjian]
Cotuit
- Dr. Osgan Kechian+**
Manhasset, NY
- Dr. Charles D. Kochakian**
Birmingham, AL
- Harry & Araxie Kolligian+**
Medford
- Mrs. Madeline O. Kolligian+**
Waltham
- Richard Koundakjian** [in memory of parents Garabed H. & Mary Koundakjian]
Bedford
- Rev. Mihran G. Kupeyan+**
Altadena, CA
- Mrs. Leyla Macauley**
Rockaway Beach, NY
- Mrs. Elizabeth (Hilyard) Mack**
Grafton
- Dr. Garbis H. Meguerian+**
Olympia Falls, IL
- Dorothy Mossessian**
Worcester
- Mrs. Armenie Najarian**
Belmont
- Newton Free Library**
Newton
- Mrs. Rose Ruze**
Concord
- Michael Saparoff+**
Mansfield
- Helen Sahagian+**
Arlington
- Dr. Mark Saroyan+**
Oakland, CA
- Joseph J. Tashjian**
Troy, NY
- Charles J. Tateosian**
Walnut Creek, CA
- *Mrs. Seta Terzian+**
Dedham
- *Prof. Khachig Tololyan**
Wesleyan University, CT
- Margaret Toomajanian** [in memory of mother Mary Peters]
Belmont
- Gaspar Vanetzian**
Watertown
- Haig R. Yazijian+** [in memory of mother Haiganoush Agnes Yazijian]
Lynn

If you or someone you know have books in Armenian, English, or other languages on Armenian subjects that you are thinking of discarding, please donate them to NAASR's Armenian Reference and Research Library.

The core of the library's collection has come from donors like you who have helped make it one of the finest and largest of its kind in America.

No collection is too big or too small – contact NAASR if you have any questions.

All gifts to NAASR are tax deductible. Keep the Armenian Heritage alive – give to NAASR.

New Board Chairman *(continued from page 1)*

been the eastern New England distributor of Carrier commercial and residential equipment since 1963. She is also on the Board of the Friends of Armenian Culture Society (FACS) and a lifetime member of the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU).

Nancy Kolligian is the daughter of the late Gregory Archie and Rose Kolligian. Her great-uncle, the late J. Mark Kolligian, was a Founding Member of NAASR. She received a Bachelor's degree in Spanish from Middlebury College in Vermont and went on to receive a Master's degree in Spanish from Middlebury College in Madrid. She is active in alumni affairs at her alma mater and currently serves as co-chair of the Annual Fund Executive Council. After receiving her degrees, she taught Spanish in the Melrose, Mass., school system and was a member of the American Council for Teachers of Foreign Languages.

Kolligian expressed her enthusiasm about leading NAASR into the new century and the new millennium as the organization itself approaches its 50th anniversary. "NAASR's role over the past half century in gaining recognition for Armenia's rich history and culture has been tremendous," she stated, "and I

am eager to see NAASR continue to be in the forefront of the Armenian Studies movement both here and abroad. There is enormous potential within the groundwork that has been laid for the further development of NAASR's programs."

In particular, Kolligian pointed to the pioneering efforts and years of service of Manoog Young as Board Chairman and co-founder of the organization. "Manoog's dedication to NAASR has been nothing short of superhuman," says Kolligian, "and the way in which he has pursued the ideal of perpetuating Armenian Studies has been inspirational not just to me but to many others in the field. I am very pleased that he will continue to serve in a special advisory capacity and help lead the way into a new era."

Chairman Young stated that he was pleased that the chairmanship was being passed on to someone "who has for so long been a part of NAASR and understands the role it has played in the development of Armenian Studies. Nancy has served with distinction on the Board of Directors. She has the respect of her peers and my full support."

In addition to continuing and expanding NAASR's current programs

Armenian Studies Conference *(continued from page 1)*

Over 100 scholars have been invited to participate. The conference will be held at the NAASR Center as well as at Harvard University.

Further details will be forthcoming in subsequent mailings, news releases, and issues of the NAASR Newsletter.

and entities in the U.S., Kolligian is also interested in assisting the scholarly community in Armenia. She wants to see NAASR "serve as a bridge" between the Armenian Studies communities in Armenia and in the United States, an undertaking that can serve as an important complement to NAASR's work in fostering Armenian Studies in American colleges and universities. "Each scholarly community can only be enriched by an active exchange of ideas, and we can make a big difference in the lives of worthy scholars who are terribly underfinanced in Armenia. It is crucial that Armenian Studies remain vital both in the Armenian Republic and in the Diaspora."

NAASR in the 21st Century *(continued from page 1)*

of Armenian Studies from the dream of a few to a field pursued by many, Armenians and non-Armenians alike.

The amount of new research and writing that has been undertaken in the past 47 years is enormous. Considering the scope of Armenia's 3000-year old civilization – its history, arts, language, and literature, its impact on other cultures and their impact on Armenia – the amount of work which has not yet been touched upon, much less exhausted, is virtually endless.

In order to do this vital work, a new generation of scholars must be trained. As Armenian Studies has risen to prominence at major universities, it has begun to extend out into other fields and disciplines. For this to continue, scholars who are not necessarily Armenian Studies specialists must be developed: linguists, political scientists, art historians, literary scholars, musicologists who have one foot in Armenian

Studies and the other in more general pursuits will insure that Armenian Studies does not exist in a vacuum and become a field of interest solely to Armenians. It is also important that a chair in Armenian Studies be established in Washington, D.C., in order to serve as a source of objective and authoritative information.

So that these goals can be achieved, NAASR is calling on all members to increase their current membership level and commit to that level of contribution for the next five years. All members are also asked to spread the word about NAASR and to sign up at least one new member this year. With your help, our efforts in fostering Armenian Studies in all areas will continue to grow and guarantee that the Armenian legacy be passed on to future generations.

The achievement of the much needed boost in operating funds will insure the long-term stability necessary

for NAASR to undertake the kind of projects which have made it a leader in the past 47 years and will keep it a leader in this century.

Volunteer At NAASR!

NAASR is seeking Volunteers to share their talents during regular weekday business hours and/or occasional evenings before and after lectures.

Activities might include bookstore sales and customer service, computer assistance, library and archival work, and general office assistance, including mailings.

If you are interested or know of someone who may want to be approached, please contact NAASR by phone at 617-489-1610 or by e-mail at hq@naasr.org.