

## NAASR Holds 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Assembly of Members



Dr. Merrill D. Peterson at the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual NAASR Assembly of Members

NAASR Board Chairman Nancy R. Kolligian convened the historic 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Assembly of NAASR Members on Saturday, November 13, 2004. The Assembly marked the beginning of two years of observances of NAASR's 50 years of pioneering programs in Armenian Studies which will culminate in a gala celebration in the fall of 2006.

Following lunch, NAASR's Director of Programs and Publications Marc A. Mamigonian introduced the luncheon program speaker, Dr. Merrill D. Peterson, author of the recently published *Starving Armenians: America and the Armenian Genocide, 1915-1930 and After*.

Peterson is Professor of History (emeritus) at the University of Virginia and editor of the prestigious Library of America edition of the writings of Thomas Jefferson. His other books include the acclaimed *Lincoln in American Memory* and *John Brown: The Legend Revisited*.

The lecture, following the structure of the book, explored the American response to the planned extermination and dispersion of the Armenian people during World War I, from the initial reports to President Woodrow Wilson from his ambassador to the Ottoman Empire, Henry Morgenthau, down to the ongoing campaign to convince the U.S. government to recognize the Genocide.

Part of a generation admonished as children to "remember the starving Armenians," Peterson went to Armenia in 1997 as a Peace Corps volunteer and became fascinated by the country's troubled history. His stay there was cut short due to illness, but Peterson remained committed to the idea of telling the

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## NAASR's Armenian Heritage Press Publishes Three New Titles in 2004

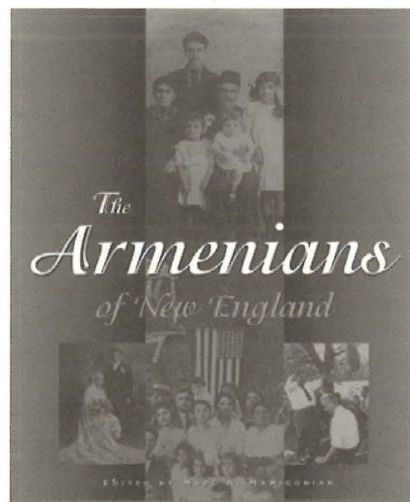
NAASR's Armenian Heritage Press published three new titles in 2004 which represent the wide range of possibilities that exist within Armenian Studies today: *Armenian and Iranian Studies*, by James R. Russell; *Hagop: An Armenian Genocide Survivor's Journey to Freedom*, by Theodore D. Kharpertian; and *The Armenians of New England: Celebrating a Culture and Preserving a Heritage*, edited by Marc A. Mamigonian.

### *Armenian and Iranian Studies*

*Armenian and Iranian Studies*, by Prof. James R. Russell, Mashtots Professor of Armenian Studies at Harvard University, is a co-publication by the Armenian Heritage Press and Harvard University Press.

The book appears as the ninth volume of the Harvard Armenian Texts and Studies Series which has included works by Robert W. Thomson, Nina Garsoian, Michael Stone, and Sirarpie Der Nersessian. NAASR had also collaborated with Harvard's Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations' Iranian Series on Russell's landmark *Zoroastrianism in Armenia* (1987).

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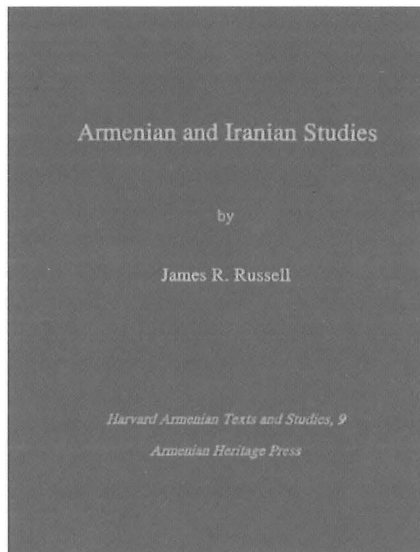


## New Titles from Armenian Heritage Press (continued from p. 1)

NAASR published Russell's *The Book of Flowers*, a translation with commentary of a novella by the Armenian author Derenik Demirjian, in 2003.

*Armenian and Iranian Studies* is a 1,400+ page omnibus of ninety-one of Russell's articles spanning the years 1980 to 2003, including both previously published and unpublished pieces. Many of the published pieces appeared in hard-to-find academic journals and thus are virtually inaccessible to many readers.

Some of the articles in the volume deal exclusively with either Armeniaca (ancient, medieval, and modern) or Iranica (pre-Islamic). In the case of the



former, Russell has been most interested in the sources and religious material of heroic epic and of folklore – material ancillary to the “official” Christian clerical culture – as well as the visionaries of the Armenian tradition such as Mashtots, Narekatsi, and Charents. In the Iranian area, there are studies of Irano-Judaica and the culture of the Parsi Zoroastrians of India.

The bulk of the articles, however, deal not with Armenia or Iran per se, but rather Armeno-Iranica, the intersection of the two ancient civilizations. In some cases, they supplement the author's *Zoroastrianism in Armenia*, which argued that the pre-Christian religion of the majority of Armenians was, despite local features, the Zoroastrian faith of the Parthian Arsacids. Other articles are concerned with witchcraft and magic, heretical beliefs condemned by

the Armenian Church, Armenian lyric poetry, and above all else, Armenian heroic epic, especially the Sasun epic, popularly known as David of Sasun.

James R. Russell is the author of *The Book of Flowers*, *Hovhannes Tlkurantsi and the Medieval Armenian Lyric Tradition*, and *The Heroes of Kasht: An Armenian Epic*, as well as many scholarly articles, lectures, and book chapters. He has held the Mashtots Chair at Harvard for the past decade. He is currently completing a translation and commentary on the lyric verse of the 19th century Armenian poet Bedros Tourian.

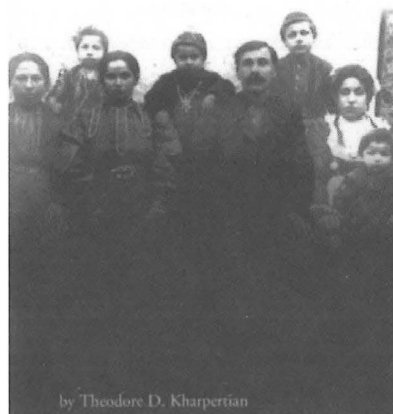
### *Hagop: An Armenian Genocide Survivor's Journey to Freedom*

*Hagop* recounts the life of Hagop Kharperian, the sole survivor in his family of the Armenian Genocide of 1915, in which more than one million Armenians perished at the hands of the Ottoman Empire.

Written by his son Theodore in the form of a memoir, covering nearly a century and spanning locales from Asia Minor and the Middle East to Europe and the United States, *Hagop* represents the odyssey of one man's lifelong struggle and tenacity: the Genocide and his miraculous but bitter childhood survival; the uncertain and difficult years of transition from Malatia, his birthplace in Turkey, to Asnières, his home in France; and the surprising decision after World War II to settle and raise a family in the United States.

Both a historical account and a poignant family saga of sorrow and joy,

### HAGOP An Armenian Genocide Survivor's Journey to Freedom



of loss and triumph, *Hagop* is a tale of crime without punishment – the Genocide – and the narrative of a remarkable life and its impact on a new, American-born generation.

The author, Theodore Kharperian, was born in Jersey City, New Jersey, in 1949. He is Professor of English at Hudson County Community College, where he has been a full-time faculty member since 1979, and has taught at Rutgers University in Newark. He received his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from McGill University in Montreal and did his undergraduate work at the University of Pennsylvania. In addition to *Hagop*, Kharperian is the author of *A Hand to Turn the Time: The Menippean Satires of Thomas Pynchon*, and his poetry has appeared in *Talisman: A Journal of Contemporary Poetry and Reviews*, for which he serves as Associate Editor. He lives with his family in Montclair, New Jersey. Hagop himself also lives in New Jersey and remains active at age 97.

### *The Armenians of New England: Celebrating a Past and Preserving a Heritage*

The Armenian Heritage Press, in association with the Armenians of New England Committee, has published *The Armenians of New England: Celebrating a Culture and Preserving a Heritage*, the proceedings of the 1999 conference of the same name held at Bentley College in Waltham, MA.

The Armenians of New England conference was the first to undertake the study of an Armenian community of North America and was the result of the cooperation of a number of Boston-area Armenian organizations. The organizing committee was formed from personnel from the Armenian Cultural Foundation, the Armenian International Women's Association, the Armenian Library and Museum of America, the Friends of Armenian Culture Society, Mayreni Publishing, the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research, the New England Heritage Center, the office of Senator Steven A. Tolman, and the New England Board of Higher Education.

The conference and book were made possible by contributions from a number of donors, including a major grant

## New Titles Available *(continued from p. 2)*

from the Knights of Vartan Grand Council's Fund for Armenian Studies.

The book was edited by Marc A. Mamigonian, with editorial input from Dr. Barbara Merguerian, Dr. Suzanne Moranian, and Dr. Robert Mirak. Mark McKertich designed the volume, which includes dozens of photographs, many of them provided by Ruth Thomasian of Project SAVE Armenian Photograph Archives.

The volume covers a wide range of topics relevant to the Armenians of New England specifically, and many of universal relevance. Religion, immigration, literature, architecture, music, civic, political, and cultural institutions, inter-ethnic relations - these subjects and others are illuminated by the articles contained in the book.

Prof. Thomas O'Connor of Boston College, the noted scholar of Boston history, provides a lively introduction with "The Armenian Experience: Roots of the Past, Realities of the Present."

"Community Growth and Change" focuses on the establishment of the early Armenian community in New England and its characteristics. The chapter consists of Linda L. Avakian's "Armenian Migration to New England," Isabel Kaprielian-Churchill's "Changing Patterns of Armenian Neighborhoods," Robert O. Krikorian's "In Defense of the Homeland: New England Armenians and the Legion d'Orient," Marc A. Mamigonian's "An Armenian Business: The Case of the Ararat Grocery," Suzanne Elizabeth Moranian's "The Immigration of Armenian Women to New England Since 1945," and "Almost Family: Assyrians and Armenians in Massachusetts," by Eden Naby (Frye).

"Noted Individuals" profiles a few of the fascinating people who left their mark on the growing community. Fr. Arten Ashjian looks at "Michael H. Tophanelian: A Pioneer Armenian Church Leader," David Stephen Calonne discusses "William Saroyan and Massachusetts," Lucy Der Manuelian chronicles "Moses H. Gulesian and Saving the USS Constitution," and Sonia I. Ketchian tells the story of an "Idealist of Three Continents, at Home in New England: Tzolog 'Harry' Ketchian."

"Cultural Institutions" examines some of the remarkable and vital institutions and organizations that have influenced the life of Armenians in New England for a century. Joan Bamberger's "Learning from the Homeland: Armenian Cultural Organizations in Suburban Boston" examines NAASR, The Armenian Library and Museum of America, and Project SAVE Armenian Photograph Archives. Varoujan Karantz looks at the Heritage Harbor Museum in Providence in "Bridging the Past to the Future." Robert Mirak sketches the history of "The Armenian Cultural Foundation, 1945-98: Crises in the Museum," and Rubina Perroomian studies "Hairenik: A Periodical in the Heart of New England."

"The Arts, Language, and Literature" looks at how the rich Armenian artistic traditions took root in the new soil of New England. The chapter includes Leon Janikian's "Secular Musical Life of the New England Armenian Community," Christina Maranci's "The Armenian Churches of New England: Tradition and Adaptation," Arshag Merguerian's "A Century of Church Buildings as Expressions of the Armenian Diaspora," Marc Nichanian's "Armenian Writers and Literary Publications in New England, 1920-70," Ruth Thomasian's "Armenian Photographers of New England," and Bert Vaux's "The Fate of the Armenian Language in New England."

The volume concludes with the special section "Who Are We Now and Who Are We Becoming," which ponders some of the issues that have shaped Armenian women's consciousness both in the present and in the past tense. Arlene Voski Avakian considers "Are We What We Eat? Armenian-American Women's Ethnic Identity and Food," S. Shaké Topalian discusses "Daughters and Granddaughters of Survivors: From Horror to Finding Our Own Voices," and Nancy Kricorian offers "Notes on Feeling Armenian by a Second-Generation Watertown-tsi." Janice Okoomian's "Becoming White: Armenian Racialization in Legal and Visual Discourse, 1909-1922" was not available for publication but has appeared elsewhere.

### NAASR Funds New Book by George Bournoutian on Karabagh

NAASR provided major funding for the publication by Mazda Publishers of *Two Chronicles on the History of Karabagh* by George Bournoutian. The book is a revised and substantially expanded version of his earlier, out of print *History of Qarabagh* (1994).

NAASR's Armenian Book Clearing House will serve as the primary distributor of the book.

Bournoutian has translated and provided commentary for two 19th century Persian-language chronicles on Karabagh, Mirza Jamal Javanshir's *Tarikh-e Karabagh* and Mirza Adigözal Beg's *Karabagh-name*. These works provide a detailed picture of Karabagh in the 18th and early 19th centuries. The translation of the *Tarikh-e Karabagh* was the basis of his earlier *History of Qarabagh*, while the *Karabagh-name* makes its first appearance in English.

Bournoutian writes that "In the course of my research, I [have] realized that, in order to present a fair and balanced view of the history of the region, one must rely not on Russian, Armenian, and European primary sources, but also on the work of Persian and local Turkic chroniclers as well."

He adds, "Statesmen shall ultimately decide the validity of Armenian and Azeri claims in Karabagh," he writes. "In the meantime, the work of these 19th-century local historians should aid unbiased historians to sort out the facts."

#### NAASR-Sponsored Lectures

Bournoutian gave the West Coast launch of the book under the joint sponsorship of NAASR and the Abril Bookstore in Glendale in November 2004. He will give additional talks sponsored by NAASR in other cities throughout 2005 and it is hoped that he will offer a one-day seminar at the NAASR Headquarters in the Spring.

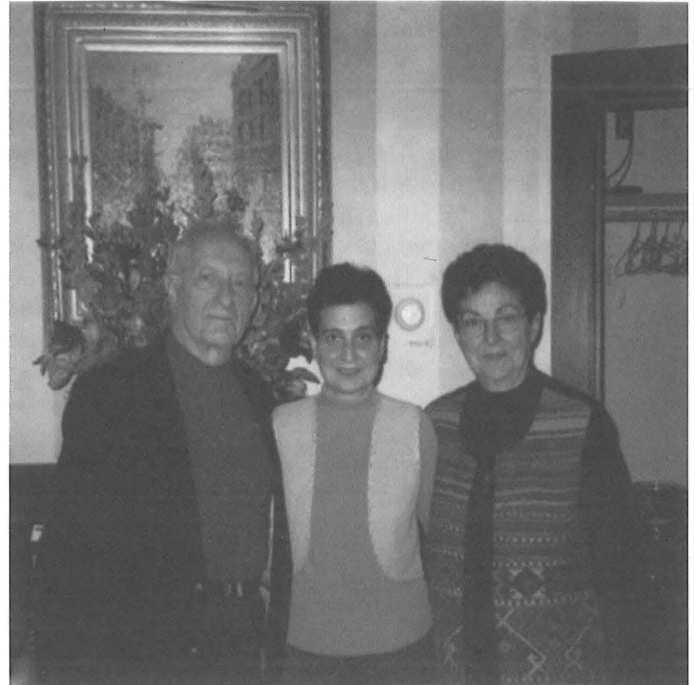
## Recent Bequests to NAASR

NAASR has received two recent bequests from the estates of the late Nora Vartanian of Long Branch, NJ, and Madeline O. Kolligian of Waltham, MA.

Nora Vartanian was a NAASR member (Benefactor) continuously for 46 years. She received degrees from Temple University and Columbia University and worked as a pharmacist and as Purchasing Director at the Boston University Medical Center. She was the recipient of numerous professional awards and honors.

Madeline O. Kolligian was a NAASR member (Benefactor) continuously for 49 years. She and her husband, the late J. Mark Kolligian, were generous and enthusiastic supporters of NAASR from the time of its creation in 1955. She attended the Massachusetts College of Art and was an accomplished painter. She is also remembered by her family as a voracious reader and crossword puzzle enthusiast.

The NAASR Board of Directors is grateful for these munificent bequests which will allow the organization to continue its programs for the furtherance of Armenian studies and research.



Dr. Knarik Avakian of Yerevan, center, with NAASR Board member Van Aroian and his wife Mary Aroian.

## 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Assembly *(continued from page 1)*

Armenians' story as a part of American history - much as Peter Balakian was simultaneously doing in his book *The Burning Tigris*.

After Dr. Peterson's lecture the business portion of the Assembly commenced, which included reports and elections of board members.

Chairman of the Board of Directors Nancy Kolligian presented a report on organizational, informational, and academic matters, and Treasurer Robert Bejoian offered a detailed account of NAASR's financial reorganization which has been going on under his leadership throughout the past year.

In addition, there were reports by the Assembly's special committees on Nominations, Constitution and Rules, New Business and Resolutions, and Auditing.

The chairmen of the special committees were Paul Boghosian of Belmont, Nominating; Karen R. Kazarosian of Watertown, Constitution and Rules; Yervant Chekijian of Boston, New Business and Resolutions; and Edward Der Kazarian of Watertown, Auditing.

### Results of Elections

Re-elected to three-year terms as Directors were Joan Bamberger of Watertown; James M. Kalustian of Winchester; Seda E. Keshishian of Lincoln; Manoog S. Young of Belmont; and Bertha Mugurdichian of Providence, RI.

The following were newly elected as Directors: Gregory Aftandilian, Vienna, VA; Anna Marie Norehad, Glenview, IL; Marta Batmasian, Boca Raton, FL (3-year terms); Daniel G. Adamian, New York, NY; and Dr. Jonathan Varjabedian, West Hollywood, CA (2-year terms).

The NAASR Board of Directors consists of 27 members who serve 3-year terms. There are Directors from the following states: California, Florida, Illinois, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and Virginia.

The continuing Directors are Dr. Gregory H. Adamian of Medford; Robert D. Bejoian of Watertown; Anton Boghosian of Belmont; Yervant Chekijian of Boston; James M. Kalustian of Arlington; Dr. Aram S. Karakashian of Waltham; Karen R. Kazarosian of Watertown; Michael Kilijian of Fresno, CA; Nancy R. Kolligian of Watertown; Stephen A. Kurkjian of Manomet; Jack M. Medzorian of Winchester; Armand K. Mirijanian of Morton Grove, IL; Dr. Suzanne E. Moranian of Winchester; Dr. Simon J. Simonian of Potomac, MD; Charles J. Tateosian of Walnut Creek, CA; and Raffi P. Yeghiayan of Lexington.

Mrs. Helen Mardigian of Bloomfield Village, MI, retired from the Board of Directors this year.

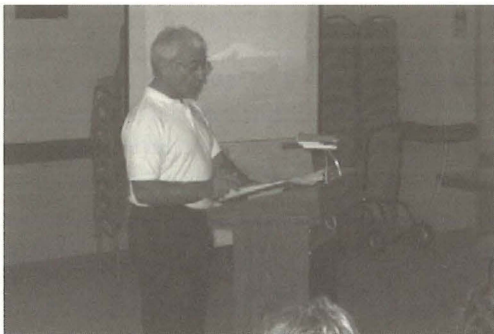
The new Executive Committee of the Board of Directors will be elected at its meeting in January 2005.

## A Busy Fall of Lectures and Events for NAASR

Fall 2004 was one of the most active in recent memory for lectures and events at NAASR's Headquarters in Belmont, MA, and also saw NAASR begin to expand its programs beyond the Boston area.

The first NAASR event of the fall season took place, in fact, not in Belmont but in Providence, RI, on September 9, when Philip Ketchian reprised his illustrated lecture on climbing Mt. Ararat, a talk which he had given at NAASR in February.

The lecture was held at Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church and was co-sponsored by NAASR and the Armenian Historical Association of Rhode Island (AHARI). Ketchian's lecture, which combined scores of slides documenting his ascent of Mt. Ararat in



Philip Ketchian in Providence, RI.

2003, was extremely well received by the audience of more than eighty people.

Providence-resident and member of the NAASR Board of Directors Bertha Murgurdichian was instrumental in working with Corinne Heditsian of AHARI to organize this lecture, as well as Rouben Galichian's in Providence in December (see below).

### Talk on Armenian Christianity

The first event held at the NAASR Headquarters was a lecture by Dr. Ara Dostourian, a longtime NAASR Regional Representative, on "Armenian Christianity in the Context of World Christianity" on September 30.

Dostourian is a retired Professor of History at West Georgia College and a former research fellow in Armenian Studies at Harvard University. He has spent decades studying the development and characteristics of Christianity



Dr. Ara Dostourian

as practiced historically by the Armenian people.

His lecture presented an overview of basic Christianity and its relationship to the other Abrahamic faiths (Judaism and Islam) as well as the two major non-Abrahamic world religions (Hinduism and Buddhism) and placed Armenian Christianity within the context of the three major Christian traditions: Orthodoxy, Catholicism, and Protestantism. He placed a special emphasis on Armenian Christianity's relationship with Orthodox Christianity, as the Armenian tradition is part of the Oriental Orthodox family of churches (with Syriac, Coptic, Ethiopian, and Indian).

### Seminar by Dr. Gerard J. Libaridian

NAASR was pleased to present a one-day seminar on October 9 on "Armenia Today: Problems and Prospects," Dr. Gerard J. Libaridian's follow-up to his successful fall 2003 seminar "Making Sense of the New Armenian Republic."

The seminar explored the most recent developments in the Armenian Republic in the areas of politics, economics, and foreign policy, including the Karabagh negotiations. Libaridian presented these developments from a variety of perspectives and prodded those in attendance with thought-provoking questions.

He paid special attention to the actions and strategies of the opposition parties and to the priorities – stated or otherwise – of both the Ter Petrossian and Kocharian administrations. As is always the case when Libaridian lec-

### Did You Know?

At a reception in honor of Dr. Libaridian held at the home of Vartan and Seda Keshishian in Lincoln, Libaridian revealed that he had been inspired by an article written by NAASR Chairman emeritus Manoog S. Young to write his Ph.D. thesis.

Young's article was published as "Armenian Liberation Activities During the Second Half of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century" in the 1972 Armenian Heritage Press volume *Recent Studies in Modern Armenian History*. Libaridian completed his doctoral thesis, "The Ideology of the Armenian Liberation: The Development of Armenian Political Thought Before the Revolutionary Period (1639-1885)," at UCLA under Dr. Richard G. Hovannisian.

Libaridian paid tribute to Young not only for providing this personal inspiration but also for his central role in the creation of NAASR and the Armenian Studies movement in the U.S. in general.

tures, there was far more to discuss than time permitted.

### Two Visiting Scholars from Yerevan

In October NAASR had the opportunity to present lectures by two scholars visiting the Boston from Yerevan: Lina Yakubova, a Ph.D. candidate at Yerevan State University, and Dr. Knarik Avakian of the Institute of History, National Academy of Sciences of Armenia.

Yakubova, who was brought to NAASR's attention through the kindness of Dr. Eden Naby Frye of Harvard University, spoke on the historical relationship between Armenians and Assyrians as displayed in Armenian sources. In addition to her scholarly work on the subject, Yakubova is the producer of the documentary films *Assyrians in Armenia* and *Assyrians in Iran*.

Dr. Knarik Avakian was in the Boston area as part of a two-month research trip to the U.S. (see page 7). She spoke on "Armenian Immigration to the U.S.: Evidence From the Constantinople Patriarchate."

The Constantinople Patriarchate archives are a rich source of information

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## Book Donations and Ongoing Work in Armenian Research and Reference Library

As was reported in the last issue of the NAASR Newsletter, a major library reorganization is being undertaken by Ruby Chorbajian, who began as a volunteer at NAASR in June 2004 and is currently a part-time staff member.

Since completing the major task of cataloguing the Avedis Derounian archive, Chorbajian has been organizing NAASR's enormous periodicals holdings, with a particular focus on creating a definitive list of duplicates to facilitate exchanges with other libraries and institutions.

As part of this work, Chorbajian is creating a detailed computer listing of NAASR's periodicals – something which to this point has not existed. This will greatly facilitate both researchers and the NAASR staff for years to come.

Finally, in the previous issue of the Newsletter the efforts of numerous NAASR volunteers were acknowledged. Unfortunately, the name of Lillian Etmekjian was inadvertently left off the list. Her work in the library in recent years is greatly appreciated.

### 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.

Dr. Knarik Avakian, Yerevan  
 Lemuel Avedian, Brighton  
 Dr. Vahe Baladouni, New Orleans, LA  
 Dr. Seta B. Dadoyan, Beirut, Lebanon  
 Dr. H. Martin Deranian, Shrewsbury  
 Dr. Stanislav Grigoriev, Chelyabinsk, Russia  
 Armine and Siranoush Haroutunian, Southfield, MI  
 Rev. Joanne Hartunian, Belmont  
 Edna Hovagimian, Stoughton  
 Mitchell Kalpakgian, Warner, NH  
 Rev. Arnak Kasparian, New Milford, NJ  
 David Kherdian and Nonny Hogrogian, Chatham, NY  
 Richard Kloian, Richmond, CA  
 Ann Najarian, Watertown  
 Arshaloys Nersesian and Family, Royal Oak, MI  
 Dr. Nishan Parlakian, New York, NY  
 Joanne Peterson, Brookline  
 Irene Sarkisian, Woburn  
 Albert Sarkissian, Watertown  
 Arpi Simonian, Potomac, MD  
 Dr. Verjine Svazlian, Yerevan  
 Vahey Takvorian, Watertown  
 Robin Tashjian, Buffalo, NY  
 Shushan Teager, Belmont  
 Rev. Dr. Vartan Tootikian, Southfield, MI  
 Nora Vartanian (via Dr. Charles Slagen, Concord, MA)  
 Miriam Wert, Port Royal, PA

### Other Recent Acquisitions

Thanks to the kind efforts of Armen Aroyan of Monrovia, CA, director and founder of the Armenian Heritage Society, NAASR has added to its Armenian Research and Reference Library numerous hard-to-find foreign titles, especially Turkish language books and art books.

These books include the Armenian-language *Vaghemi Marashe ev Hayere* (Ancient Marash and the Armenians, 1990), *Iraki Hayere* (The Armenians of Iraq, 2003), and *Badmutiun Antebi Hayots* (History of the Armenians of Aintab, vol. 3, 1994).

Turkish-language volumes include Arsen Yarman's massive *Osmanli Saglik Hizmetlerinde Erminiler* (Armenians in the Ottoman Health Services and the History of Holy Savior Armenian Hospital, 2001), Pars Tuglaci's huge two-volume *Tarih Boyunca Istanbul Adalari* (History of the Islands of Istanbul, 1995), and vols. 4 and 5 of *Gravurlerle Turkiye* (Turkey in Gravures), which feature scores of spectacular engravings of Anatolian villages and cities, many of them Armenian, reproduced from 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century books and magazines (see image below).

Other titles include the second volume of the extremely rare *Iconographie Arménienne* (Armenian Iconography, 1998) compiled by Sarkis Boghossian – NAASR had volume one, printed in Paris in 1987 but did not have the later companion volume; and *Ormenyország Kincesi*, a Hungarian-language exhibition book for a major show in Budapest in 2002.



A 19<sup>th</sup> century image of Ani Cathedral from *Turkiye Gravurlerle*, vol. 5.



Marc Mamigonian found a business card from his great-grandfather's store in *Iconographie Arménienne*!

## A Message of Thanks from Visiting Scholar Knarik Avakian

Dr. Knarik Avakian came to the U.S. partially under a grant from NAASR, to conduct research in the NAASR library as well as other research centers in the Boston area and elsewhere in the States.

Her dedication to scholarship is extraordinary, and like many other scholars in Armenia she has made great sacrifices to remain in Armenia and carry on with her work.

It was both an honor and a pleasure to have hosted Dr. Avakian and to have played a part in advancing her work as a scholar.

It is a great honor and a pleasure for me to have been the guest of the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR), an organization that was the impetus for and continuing supporter of Armenian Studies in the United States since 1955.

I came to the U.S. to participate in the conference "A Century of Armenians in America: Voices from New Scholarship," held in New York City on October 9, 2004. The conference was organized by Dr. Anny Bakalian, Associate Director of the Middle East and Middle Eastern American Center, the Graduate Center, City University of New York.

The focus of my research has been the history of the Armenian community in the U.S. I received my Ph.D. from the Institute of History, National Academy of Sciences of Armenia, and my book *The History of the Armenian Community of the United States of America (From the Beginning - 1924)* was published in 2000 in Yerevan. I am continuing my investigation of the history of the Armenian-American community from 1924 to the present, in order to improve and to enlarge my research on the history of the largest and the most organized community of the diaspora.

Due to the prevalent socio-economic difficulties in Armenia, I was hindered from coming to the U.S. to do academic research. Thus, till now I have done all my research on the history of the Armenian community of the U.S. from afar, always dreaming of having the chance to be in the community I was

investigating, to study the rich historical materials (books, periodicals, unpublished materials, archives) concerning different aspects and periods of the Armenian-American community, that are available in the U.S.; and, moreover, to personally observe the various intricacies of Armenian social, economic, political, religious, and cultural identity, as well as other aspects of intra-communal life in the U.S.

Taking advantage of the unique opportunity of being in the U.S., I have tried to fulfill my dream to study at various Armenological and local academic centers in the U.S. (New York, Boston, Washington, Michigan, Los Angeles, Fresno, and San Francisco).

NAASR, faithful to its creed of supporting Armenian studies and research, hosted me under its hospitable academic roof and organized a lecture, during which I gave a report on "Immigration of Armenians to the United



Dr. Knarik Avakian

States of America: Evidence from the Archives of the Armenian Patriarchate of Constantinople," on October 21, 2004. I am thankful to NAASR for that and for opening wide the doors of its rich and valuable library to me, and also for introducing me to various other Armenian centers and organizations in New England, so that I could study the materials available there as well. Those were very fruitful days for my research.

I am thankful to NAASR also for organizing the schedule of my research,

interviews, historical site-seeing in the Boston area and Worcester, for material support, and for the warm family atmosphere that prevails at this institution. This is really a practical example of diaspora-Armenia ties, the result of which (my Armenian-American studies) I hope will be useful both for the Diaspora and for Armenia.

I would like to express my deep gratitude especially to the NAASR Board Chairman Nancy R. Kolligian, Secretary Van M. Aroian, First Vice-Chairman Raffi Yeghiayan, Treasurer Robert Bejoian, Director of Programs and Publications Marc A. Mamigonian, Administrative Director Sandra L. Jurigian, Chairman Emeritus Manoog S. Young, and the entire NAASR Board of Directors, as well as the Boston-area Armenian community. I am thankful also to Mr. and Mrs. Yeghia and Lena Adourian for hosting me in their lovely home during my entire stay in the Boston area in October and November.

Until now Boston was close to me due to my ancestor, the political figure, lawyer, diplomat, publicist, and writer Mihran Svazlian (my mother, Prof. Verjine Svazlian's, grandfather), who organized and became the chairman of the very first Armenian lobbying organization in the U.S., the Armenian National Union of America (1917, Boston), and who published the *Armenian Herald* (1917-1919, Boston). He succeeded in organizing intercommunity and international activities on behalf of Armenians. Especially fruitful were his negotiations with President Woodrow Wilson and high governmental and public men of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

While carrying out my research at NAASR I became persuaded that although the staff and the volunteers of this organization are not necessarily native Armenian speakers, nonetheless they are adhering to their ancestral roots and national traditions, with devotion and strength; and through their Armenian-spirited enterprises, meetings, and publications they are doing their best to preserve their national identity, in order to keep the flame of Armenian Studies and Research burning in the New Land.

**Lectures (continued from p. 5)** on Armenian immigrants to the U.S., who came primarily from the Armenian-inhabited regions of Turkey and Western Armenia and maintained their relations with the Armenian Patriarchate of Constantinople, regarding it as their permanent spiritual, moral, and practical bulwark.

**An Evening with David Kherdian and Nonny Hogrogian**

The acclaimed husband and wife team of author David Kherdian and author/illustrator Nonny Hogrogian discussed and read from their new books on November 4.

Kherdian recently published *The Song of the Stork and Other Early and Ancient Armenian Songs*, a translation from the Armenian, and a collection of new poems, *Letters To My Father*. Hogrogian's new book is a memoir entitled *Finding My Name*.



Nonny Hogrogian & David Kherdian

The two writers' work came to life as they read to the entranced audience. The highly personal poems from Kherdian's *Letters to My Father* in particular, with their raw emotions, were deeply moving for reader and listener alike.

**Historic Maps of Armenia**

London-based author and map collector Rouben Galichian presented an illustrated lecture highlighting the creation and contents of his recently published book *Historic Maps of Armenia: The Cartographic Heritage* on December 2 to a large and enthusiastic audience at the NAASR Headquarters.

The lecture was the North American launch of the book and the first of two New England lectures by Galichian. The second, under the joint sponsorship of NAASR and the Armenian Historical Association of Rhode Island, took place a week later on December 9 at the Armenian Euphrates Evangelical Church in Providence.

Galichian discussed his early interest in maps and mapmaking which eventually led to the creation of a substantial map collection of his own and to the book *Historic Maps of Armenia*.

He explained that, in addition to being motivated by a desire to share the beauty of maps, he wanted to impart to young people some of his own enthusiasm for the field of cartography and to enkindle an interest in them. Another major motivation, Galichian explained, was political. Maps have a political and historical importance as they reflect power relations among nations and convey an image of the world that reflects the view of those who produce them. Hence, some Turkish and Azeri mapmakers exclude Armenia from their maps altogether or else minimize it.



Rouben Galichian, center, with Corinne Heditsian, Marc Mamigonian, and Bertha Mugurdichian, left to right

**Thinking of Giving to NAASR?**

NAASR's members and friends are the lifeblood of the organization – without your financial support we could not have accomplished any of the goals we have reached over the past half century.

There are other ways to support NAASR in addition to membership dues and contributions. Attending NAASR's lectures, patronizing NAASR's bookstore, encouraging friends and family members to join NAASR, and donating time and materials to NAASR are also significant ways to help.

**Give to the NAASR Library**

If you or someone you know has books in Armenian, English, or other languages on Armenian or related subjects that are in danger of being discarded, 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.

**NAASR Wishlist**

There are other important ways to give to NAASR, as there are items for which there is always a need. For example:

- Bookshelves for the library
- A new sound system for the lecture hall
- Desktop computers no more than two years old or newer
- Laptop computers of the same vintage
- Laserprinters
- DVD player

If you have something you think we need or can assist in our getting it – we ask you to call us.

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