NAASR to Help Launch Armenian Genocide Textbook

Among the highlights of NAASR's fall 2005 series of lectures and public programs will be the Massachusetts launch of the textbook *Crimes Against Humanity and Civilization: The Genocide of the Armenians*. The book was produced by Brookline-based Facing History and Ourselves and was first suggested in the late 1970s by NAASR Chairman Emeritus and Facing History Board Member Manoog S. Young.

The launch will take place at a panel discussion devoted to the issue of Armenian Genocide education and high school curricula to be held on Friday, September 30, at 7:30 p.m. at the Belmont (MA) High School Auditorium on Concord Avenue. The evening will be sponsored by Facing History and Ourselves, The Armenian Assembly of America, and NAASR.

Taking part in the panel discussion will be Prof. Richard G. Hovannisian of the University of California, Los Angeles, who served as a scholarly advisor for the project and who is the author or editor of numerous important works on the Armenian Genocide; Adam Strom, Program Associate for Research and Development at Facing History and the principle writer and editor of *Crimes Against Humanity and Civilization*; and John Shattuck, former Assistant Secretary of State and current Chief Executive Officer, John F. Kennedy Library Foundation.

The event will be an exciting opportunity for the public to learn more about this important resource book and to hear a lively discussion about the pressing issue of how to advance the teaching of the Armenian Genocide in public schools in Massachusetts and the rest of the United States.

Wide Range of Speakers and Topics in NAASR's Fall Lecture Series

As part of its ongoing efforts to bring a variety of speakers and topics to its long-running lecture series, the NAASR Program Committee has assembled an outstanding lineup for fall 2005. The following list of speakers and events is subject to change. Please watch for mailings or e-mails and check www.naasr.org for updates. All events at NAASR Center, 395 Concord Ave., Belmont, MA, unless otherwise noted.

- **Thurs., September 8, 8:00 p.m.**: Moorad Mooradian: A New Look at TARC (Turkish-Armenian Reconciliation Commission)
- **Sat., September 10, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.**: Seminar by Moorad Mooradian: Hurting Stalemate or Mediation: The Conflict Over Nagorno-Karabakh (*registration required*)
- **Thurs., September 22, 8:00 p.m.**: Carolann Najarian: Healers, Holy Books, Mountains, and Gardens: Armenian Folk Medical Beliefs and Practices (co-sponsored by Armenian International Women's Association)
- **Fri., September 30, 7:30 p.m.**: Special Panel Discussion on Armenian Genocide Education and Public School Curricula with Prof. Richard Hovannisian (UCLA), Adam Strom (Facing History and Ourselves), and John Shattuck (John F. Kennedy Library). Co-sponsored by The Armenian Assembly of America and Facing History and Ourselves. To be held at Belmont High School Auditorium.
- **Thurs., October 13, 8:00 p.m.**: Van Arolian: Armenian Photographs in the Getty Museum Collection: An Introduction
- **Thurs., October 27, 8:00 p.m.**: Marc A. Mamigonian: All Abunk for Tararat! The Use of Armenian in James Joyce's *Finnegans Wake*
- **Thurs., November 10, 8:00 p.m.**: Steve Kurkjian: Kiss My Children's Eyes: A Search for Answers to the Armenian Genocide Through One Remarkable Photograph
- **Sat., November 19, 12:00 noon**: 51st Annual NAASR Assembly of Members. Luncheon Lecture by William S. Parsons, Chief of Staff, U.S. Holocaust Museum

**Coming in December: Film Premiere**

In December, NAASR will be co-sponsoring (with Facing History and Ourselves) the New England premiere of Canadian-Armenian filmmaker Araz Artinian's powerful new film *The Genocide in Me*. Details of time and venue are not available as this Newsletter goes to press. As soon as this information is finalized we will notify our friends and members. We recommend visiting Artinian's website, www.twentyvoices.com, for information about the film and to view a trailer.

**Save These Dates!**

NAASR will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary at the Royal Sonesta Hotel in Cambridge, MA, with a conference and gala banquet on Friday, September 29, and Saturday, September 30, 2006. More details will be forthcoming in the next issue of the Newsletter.
Adventures in Cyberspace
By Marc A. Mamigonian

As part of my job as Director of Programs and Publications as part of my "Armenian-American civic duty" I spend a fair amount of time reading the reviews and postings on Google News, Armenia, and Armenian-language English-language news outlets. Anyone who does likewise knows that it would be easy to spend most of each day responding to ridiculous articles dealing with the Armenian Genocide—recent months, with the Turkish denial machine in high gear, have been particularly vexing. Most simply have to be ignored or forgotten. Once in a while, though, something crops up that must be addressed.

On Tuesday, May 17, 2005, I received an e-mail from a NAASR member and friend Joe Dagdalian of Harvard, MA, calling attention to the fact that when one did a search for "Armenia" or "Armenian" on Google—far and away the world's most popular search engine—a "sponsor"-sponsored advertisement appeared for ArmenianManifetsos-3003.

The site itself—which I cannot quote at length because it has since vanished—was a rant about the evil Armenians and the glorious Turks. I wrote the following:

Hello Marc,

Thank you for your email.

I understand that you saw an inappropriate advertisement on a Google results page. Our AdWords Specialists have removed this ad.

The advertisement you saw was generated through the AdWords program, which is designed to give thousands of small business owners the power to quickly and efficiently generate traffic to their sites. The ads they create run on our site immediately. Our editorial staff reviews all ads to make sure that they are appropriate for our site. Since we show ads immediately, there is often a short period of time when the ad is running before being reviewed and approved by Google AdWords Specialists. Please note that we try to keep this lag as short as possible.

Unfortunately, it seems you saw the advertisement before we had a chance to review it. We have since had the opportunity to review the ad and have determined it inappropriate for our site.

Please accept our apologies. We thank you for your patience and continuing support. We look forward to providing you with the most effective advertising available.

-- continued on page 5

NAASR Working with New Group Devoted to Armenian Drama

A new group devoted to the preservation and promotion of Armenian drama has made extensive use of the NAASR's Armenian Drama and Research Library in recent months. The Armenian Dramatic Arts Alliance (ADAA), was conceived by President Bianca Bagatournian during a meeting with Anne Vandanian and Diana Hekimian in California earlier this year.

With the help of the Armenian drama specialist Dr. Nishan Parakashian, whose expertise on ADAA's inclusion last April was attended by several ADAA founders, ADAA has begun amassing a large collection of dramatic texts, scholarly articles on Armenian drama and film, and artifacts related to the same.

Working with NAASR Director of Programs and Publications Marc A. Mamigonian, who is serving on the ADAA Advisory Board, Bagatournian and playwright Joyce Van Dyke, author of "A Girl's War and a co-founder of ADAA, have carried out research and pooled scores of items from the NAASR Library.

Bagatournian remarked that "with the weight of the Armenian collective conscious­ tion, it's hard to imagine how long it would have taken us to collect all the necessary items. It's truly a most important resource."

ADAA's mission is to preserve Armenian drama by archiving existing texts and commissioning new translations of Armenian dramatic works into English and make them available on the web; nurture new dramatists through annual scholarshipships and support Armenians in the dramatic and cinematic fields. To fulfill this mission, ADAA plans to develop a collection of dramatic works and related writings and establish a meeting place on the web to encourage dialogue on Armenian projects in theater and cinema.

The launch of ADAA's website, www.armeniandrama.org, is scheduled for September 1.

Genocide Memorials Photo Exhibit at NAASR Headquarters

Since May, NAASR has been pleased to have on display in its lecture hall a special exhibition of more than three dozen photographs of Armenian Genocide monuments worldwide taken by renowned photographer Hrair "Hawk" Khatcherian. The exhibit, which was featured in April at the UCLA conference "After Nine Decades: The Enduring Legacy of the Armenian Genocide" and subsequently at the California State House and elsewhere, was mounted by Richard and Anne Elbrecht of Davis, CA. The Elbrechts have loaned these impressive photographs to NAASR for a limited time only.

Monument and Memorial Complex at Deir ez-Zor, Syria, designed by Sarkis Balanskanian of Aleppo. Shown here is the martyrs hall, containing a glass-covered display of remains of Genocide victims. The complex was dedicated on May 3, 1991.

Monument at Drizernagapart, Yerevan, Armenia.

The exhibit features photographs of memorials at the following locations: Drizernagapart, in Yerevan, Armenia; Teheran, Iran; Urnoume, Iran; Deir ez-Zor, Syria; Margada, Syria; Antelias, Lebanon; Blidza, Lebanon; Plovdiv, Bulgaria; Nicosia, Cyprus; Khartoum, Sudan; Buenos Aires, Argentina; Cordova, Argentina; Sao Paulo, Brazil; Montevideo, Uruguay; Montebello, California; Montreuil, Canada; Vienna, Austria.

Hawk Khatcherian was born in Beirut, Lebanon, and now lives in Canada. He has published two books of his photographs of Karabakh and recently published Yorgi: Pilgrimage Through Western Armenia, 1997-2002.

NAASR is grateful both to the Elbrechts and Khatcherian for making these photos available.

Volunteers Needed in Library

In our last issue we reported on the tremendous progress in our library which is being catalogued by acting librarian Ruby Chorbaian. The library has seen a lot of activity since the project began last spring and it is now at a critical juncture.

Volunteers are needed to carry out a number of fundamental tasks which must be performed on a daily basis in order for the cataloguing to continue at its current pace. For example, affixing call number labels to books as they are catalogued in the computer is a simple but time-consuming task which currently takes the cataloguer could be spending in the vital work of cataloguing more books. Other tasks which do not require technical knowledge include placing nameplates in books and reshelving books.

Volunteering in the NAASR Armenian Reference and Research Library is a good opportunity for high school students to build a pre-college resume or fulfill community service requirements. For NAASR members and friends with a little time to spare, it is a great way to help NAASR move forward with the vital task of making accessible our valuable library holdings. Please contact ruby@naasr.org or call 617-489-1610.
Report on Mashtots Conference in Karabagh

By Ruby Chorbajian

An International Educational Conference Devoted to the 1600th Anniversary of the Invention of Armenian Script and Foundation of Amaras School was held June 3-5 in Stepanak­ert-Amaras, Nagorno-Karabagh (Ar­menia), celebrating Mesrop Mashtots' fifth century invention of the Armenian alphabet and subsequent religious and cultural movements. With support from NAASR, I traveled to Armenia for a two-week visit in June, accepting an invitation from Yerevan State University to participate in the conference and report on it.

The three-day conference of scholarly presentations by speakers from around the globe, combined with cultural festivities, drew a sizeable crowd from Karabagh and the Republic of Armenia, including families, scholars, groups of adolescents, and students who came to hear the presentations and take part in the celebrations.

Speakers by Karabagh Dignitaries

Karabagh Vice Prime Minister Ashotyan Danielyan and Karabagh President Arkady Ghukasyan opened the celebrations with moving speeches expressing joy and optimism about the cultural anniversary and opening ceremonies. Primate of Arta­skh Bishop Pargev Martirosyan deliv­ered a blessing.

One highlight from the many lec­tures presented was the talk of Dr. Karen Yuzbashyan of the Orient­al Studies Institute in St. Petersburg, who discussed Mashtots' political ac­tivities as they are presented in Korysat's Visk Mashtotsi the first and (for a long time the only) work on Mashtots' life and activities. Another inter­esting lecture was presented by Prof. Armenni Hayastanian of Halle University in Germany, putting the Armenian alphabet in the context of East Christian literary systems. Hayastanian noted the parallels between the spread of Christianity in the East and the development of new alphabets. He explained that the Eastern coun­tries and peoples who refused pagan­ism saw in the new scripts the expres­sion of a covenant sealed and signed with God in which they invested their liturgical culture.

Gathering at Amaras Monastery

On the second day of the conference, presentations passed for panelsists and locals to travel nearly two hours to Amaras monastery and school where hundreds gathered as the local commu­nity replicated traditional activities, including church service (circle dance) with musical accompaniment.

The Amaras monas­tary, founded by Grigor Lusovich (Gregory the Enlightener) at the beginning of the fourth century A.D. and completed by his grandson, opened as a school by Mashtots early in the fifth century.

First of Numerous Planned Events

Yerevan State University Vice Re­ctor to observe the conference, Prof. Conference Organizing Committee Aram Simonyan explained that the Com­mittee has positioned itself strategi­cally to get as much exposure as possi­ble in local and national media for this event. He noted the importance of informing Armenians in the dias­pora and foreign about the important international activities.

"It is very important for people—students and academicians—to know what is going on," said Simonyan, who has been on the Committee since its inception and has been working steadily to culti­vate interest in similar events. He fur­ther explained, "this is only one in a stream of international confer­ences in Armenia."

Nguyen mission ended on page 5
Spring Lectures Cover Wide Range of Topics

George Bournoutian: The Academic War Over Nagorno-Karabagh

Dr. George A. Bournoutian, Senior Professor of History at Adelphi University and President of NAASR, conducted a special afternoon seminar at NAASR on Saturday, May 14, entitled "The Academic War Over Nagorno-Karabagh," admitting that the conflict is a major contemporary problem for Armenia. He is the author of numerous books covering Armenian history, including the recent Two Chronicles on the History of Karabagh (Mazda Press), and has taught Armenian history at Columbia University, Tufts University, New York University, Rutgers University, the University of Connecticut, Ramapo College, and Glendale Community College.

As an introduction to the Karabagh discussion, and as a backdrop to the ongoing intellectual battle, Bournoutian began with a brief historical overview of the past several decades in the region, including secession and independence, war, the decade-long shaky ceasefire, Turkish and Azerbaijan economic retaliation, and often sensitive issues, and his cuteness of human contributed to everyone's enjoyment of the day.

According to Bournoutian's non-Armenian sources, the earliest records of the Karabagh region, documented in Strabo's geography and many other Greek and Roman sources, indicate that the entire region west of the Kur River (located in modern-day Azerbaijan) was part of Armenia. This is today's Nagorno-Karabagh, which is only about one third the size of all historic Karabagh.

Armenian historians point out that the region Armenians claim was actually the Caucasian Albanians (Aghvarx), which includes peripheral areas and areas east of the Kur River, as well as areas west of the River as far as Lake Sevan. Azerbaijan claim that the Caucasian Albanians are the ancestors of the Azerbaijanis who have been in these regions at least as long as the Armenians—a notion that has long been a point of contention in the Caucasus, even in Soviet times.

Bournoutian countered that records show the Caucasian Albanians were converted to Christianity by Armenians early in the fourth century. Those Azerbaijanis (no relation to the Azerbaijanis of the Baku region) were part of the Iranian people of the region, closely related to the Persians, and not of Central Asian or Turkic origins. He added that it was always local Armenian historians and geographers who wrote about their local Turkish presence in the region until the eleventh century.

Bournoutian's openness to the audience's questions, comments, requests for clarification—as some of his material was extraordinarily detailed and technical—allowed for a discussion that anecdotally, combined with his particular professorial style made for a scholarly and detail-oriented lecture which was also accessible and enjoyable for all attendees.

Pamela Steiner: When a Traumatized People Tries to Resolve Past Hurts

As part of NAASR's ongoing efforts to present a variety of perspectives on understanding the Armenian Genocide and its legacies, Dr. Pamela Steiner of Cambridge, MA, delivered a talk entitled "When a Traumatized People Tries to Resolve Past Hurts," on May 16.

As a member of the Program on International Conflict Analysis and Resolution at the Center for International Affairs at Harvard University, Dr. Steiner has long worked with interdisciplinary teams dealing with trauma- lized communities. She has conducted workshops and facilitated dialogues between Israeli Jews and Palestinians, Germans and Jews, and Greeks and Turks, has participated in moderated presentations on a wide range of issues in conflict resolution, mass trauma, and inter-group dynamics. Dr. Steiner, who is the great-great-granddaughter of Henry Morgenthau, the American ambassador to the Ottoman Empire at the time when the Armenian Genocide was executed, has become increasingly interested in the question of how that it will also become... an important impediment to Turkey.

Dr. Tanor Akam of the University of Minnesota explained that the Turkish government was never misled about the nature of the conference and it was officially made known through a communication with NAASR, Akam explained, "We don't agree with the labeling 'Turkish and anti-Turkish,' this is not the government's position. The government had only three important criteria: scholars who are Turkish citizens; academic integrity; and moral justification for resolving the wrong doings of the past."

When Akam spoke at Harvard University in 2004, under the auspices of NAASR, the Zoryan Institute, and Harvard, he stressed that there are many people in Turkey, especially students, who want an open discussion of the Armenian Question. Although it is clear that the government is not ready for such a discussion, he feels that it is only a matter of time before it will have to take place—and especially if Turkey wants to join the European Union.

When the cancellation remains a major disappointment to academic communities and proponents of a free and democratic Turkey, it may be difficult for us to see that the cancellation actually moved forward the ongoing discourse over Turkey and Armenian history.

It was reported by participants that the conference dominated the headlines for a week following the cancellation, and academics and historians in general continued discussing not only issues of history, but also free speech and the role of the government in limiting access to research. Despite years of work and the cancellation remains a major disappointment to academic communities and proponents of a free and democratic Turkey, it may be difficult for us to see that the cancellation actually moved forward the ongoing discourse over Turkey and Armenian history.

Do you have any ideas for the NAASR Newsletter? Please e-mail Marc Mastouian or Habib Rasouli at hgb@naasr.org or give us a call at 617-389-1010. We appreciate your input!