



# The National Association for Armenian Studies and Research

## NAASR Active Partner in Gorky Retrospective in Los Angeles

Throughout the spring and early summer, NAASR was actively engaged in events connected with the exhibition "Arshile Gorky: A Retrospective" at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles (MOCA). The events included a presentation by MOCA Chief Curator Paul Schimmel organized by the Armenian Professional Society of Los Angeles in Glendale, a lecture by Prof. Richard Hovannisian, a screening of Atom Egoyan's *Ararat* and discussion with Egoyan, and the gala opening of the exhibition itself.

NAASR is part of the MOCA Friends of Arshile Gorky Leadership Committee, and Southern California Board Member Bruce W.



Bruce Roat, NAASR Board Member for Southern California

Roat has been actively involved individually as a committee member as well and has spearheaded NAASR's involvement.

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## NAASR Holds 56th Annual Assembly, Elects New Chairman

The National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) held its 56th Annual Assembly of Members on May 15, 2010, at the NAASR Headquarters, 395 Concord Ave., Belmont, MA. The Assembly included reports on NAASR's activities and business during the past year, watched a video by Marc Mamigonian entitled "Keeping Up with 21st Century Technology: NAASR at Work," and held elections for its Board of Directors, which meets four times per year.

Reelected Board members include Dr. Seda Keshishian of Lincoln, Shushan Teager of Belmont, and Manoog S. Young of Belmont, all for Greater Boston; Van Aroian of Worcester, for Central and Western Massachusetts; Bertha Mugrdichian of Providence, RI, for Southeastern New England; Gregory Aftandilian of Vienna, VA, for the Middle Atlantic states; Marta Batmasian of Boca Raton, FL, for the Southeastern states; and Anna Marie Norehad of Glenview, IL, for the Mid-West states. Dr. Geri Lyn Ajemian of Watertown was newly elected to the Board of Directors for Greater Boston, replacing Luder Tavitt Sahagian of Needham.

Stepping down from the NAASR Board after more than half a century of exceptional service was Dr. Gregory H. Adamian of Medford, MA. "We cannot measure the time and dedication Greg has given during his years on NAASR's Board," stated Chairman Nancy R. Kolligian. Dr. Adamian will continue to remain involved with NAASR as Chairman of the Finance Committee and as an invaluable source of advice, Kolligian emphasized. At a post-Assembly meeting of the Board of Directors, Seta Kalajian of Bedford, MA, was appointed to fill Adamian's slot for the next year.



Outgoing and incoming NAASR Board Chairmen, Nancy R. Kolligian and Raffi P. Yeghiayan

### *Chairmanship Passes from Nancy Kolligian to Raffi Yeghiayan*

NAASR's Executive Committee, which meets monthly throughout the year, will also see some changes. Chairman Nancy Kolligian is stepping down after nine years in that role and will continue to serve on the Executive Committee as Advisor. Long-serving First Vice-Chairman Raffi P. Yeghiayan of Lexington will take over chairmanship duties.

During her address to the Annual Assembly on May 15, Kolligian hailed the vision and the achievements of those who built NAASR and have sustained it for fifty-six years, including Chairman Emeritus Manoog S. Young, who was unable to be present. She underscored that NAASR is not only surviving as an organization but is thriving and "has been catapulted to new levels of achievement." Kolligian noted the profusion of NAASR's public

*see ASSEMBLY, page 2*

## Chairmanship Passes from Nancy Kolligian to Raffi Yeghiayan

*ASSEMBLY, from page 1*

programs in recent years, expanding to areas throughout the U.S., into Canada, and, she said, “soon, hopefully, overseas.”

She singled out Southern California Board Members Dr. Rubina Peroomian and Bruce W. Roat for their exceptional efforts to expand NAASR’s activities and interaction with other organizations in the area, and took particular note of Roat’s recent work resulting in NAASR’s partnership with the Los Angeles Museum of Contemporary Art to present public programs in connection with the Arshile Gorky retrospective beginning in June.

Kolligian pointed out the high degree of cooperation and collaboration with other organizations, both Armenian and non-Armenian, and took special note of NAASR’s co-sponsorship of and participation in two major academic events in 2010: the “International Conference on the Armenian Diaspora” at Boston University, in conjunction with the Kenosian Chair in Modern Armenian History and Literature at BU and the Zoryan Institute’s International Institute for Diaspora Studies, and the “Workshop on the State of the Art of Armenian Genocide Research” at Clark University, in conjunction with the Kaloosdian/Mugar Chair in Armenian Genocide Studies at Clark and the Ohannessian Chair at the University of Minnesota.

She spoke with satisfaction at the research grants NAASR has issued during the previous year, and praised the continuing collaborative relationship between NAASR and the Knights of Vartan to administer the Knight’s Fund for Armenian Studies to support significant scholarship. “We need to perpetuate the work these scholars are doing,” Kolligian emphasized, “because if we do not, it will fall by the wayside and die.”

In acknowledging that after nine years she is “rotating off” as chairman, Kolligian, who has served on the Board since 1986, stressed that the words “retire” and “resign” are “not in my vocabulary,” and that the time had come only for her to “change roles.” “I’m excited about where NAASR is today and the possibilities the organization has moving forward,” she stated. She concluded with a quote from Robert Louis Stevenson: “Don’t judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant.”

Kolligian announced that Raffi Yeghiayan would be the new chairman. Yeghiayan, a Board member since 1962, made an announcement that surprised Kolligian when he informed the Assembly that the NAASR Board had approved the creation of a Nancy R. Kolligian

Fund for Armenian Studies for which, in barely three weeks, \$20,000 had been raised. The earnings from this fund will be used exclusively

gian, and Yeghiayan urged continued support for this fund “which will help us support scholars in need who may not have other sources of funding.”

He acknowledged Kolligian’s good grace and hard work “with a smile” through a key period of transition in the history of the organization and said that he was “hopeful that I can justify your trust in me” as the third Chairman in the history of NAASR.

### *Members of 2010-11 Executive Committee*

Robert D. Bejoian of Cambridge, longtime Treasurer, stepped down from the Executive Committee and will be replaced by Roxanne Etmekjian of West Newton, previously Assistant Treasurer.

The 2010-11 Executive Committee of the NAASR Board of Directors thus consists of: Raffi P. Yeghiayan, Chairman; Van M. Aroian of Worcester, First Vice-Chairman; Jack M. Medzorian of Winchester, Second Vice-Chairman; Stephen A. Kurkjian of Manomet, Secretary; Dr. Geri Lyn Ajemian, Assistant Secretary; Roxanne



“Don’t judge every day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant.”

to provide research grants. “This is an area where we are making a difference,” said Kolligian, Advisor.

Etmekjian, Treasurer; and Nancy R. Kolligian, Advisor.



## Is NAASR In Your Will?

There are many ways you can help NAASR and its programs for the furtherance of Armenian studies and research. One of the most significant is including NAASR in your estate planning. There are many possibilities – please make an appointment with NAASR to discuss the best plan for you. Call us at 617-489-1610, e-mail us at [hq@naasr.org](mailto:hq@naasr.org), or visit us at the NAASR Center in Belmont.

# NAASR Active Partner in Gorky Retrospective

*PARTNER, from page 1*

Roat is also a board member of the Armenian Professional Society, which was formed in 1958 for the advancement of education and fellowship among Armenians, and it was through his efforts that NAASR joined with APS and the USC Institute of Armenian Studies, the Armenian Allied Arts Association, the Armenian Film Foundation, the Armenian Engineers and Scientists of America, and the ARPA Institute, for an April 30 dinner event featuring MOCA Chief Curator Schimmel's presentation in anticipation of the MOCA Gorky exhibition.

With nearly 300 people in attendance, APS was able to donate net proceeds of \$4,000 from this event to MOCA. The MOCA team was at hand to answer questions about the coming exhibit and speak about the different community activities at the museum surrounding the big summer event. Paul Schimmel, the chief curator at MOCA, presented an eloquent commentary on Gorky's works with an accompanying slide show.

On June 4, Roat, along with NAASR's Director of Academic Affairs Marc Mamigonian, attended the gala VIP Opening of "Arshile Gorky: A Retrospective" at MOCA as well as the MOCA Members Opening on June 5. They visited with representatives of the museum such as Director of Education Suzanne Isken, Curator Paul Schimmel, Director of Development Jennifer Arceneaux, outgoing CEO Charles Young, and incoming MOCA Director Jeffrey Deitch, as well as distinguished members of the Los Angeles Ar-

menian community, and members of the Gorky family, including Gorky's daughters Natasha and Maro Gorky, Maro's husband, artist and writer Matthew Spender, and their daughters Saskia and filmmaker Cosima Spender, whose short film on her grandfather was shown. Mamigonian commented, "It was a true pleasure to be at such a magnificent and festive event, to meet with new friends and colleagues and to catch up with old ones. MOCA and everyone involved in this undertaking should be very proud of their work."

Bruce Roat said, "The MOCA Friends of Arshile Gorky campaign has brought together an influential group of Armenian community leaders to provide essential support for the momentous Gorky retrospective. NAASR is very excited to support MOCA's compelling series of educational programs organized in conjunction with the exhibition."

On June 20, NAASR co-sponsored with

MOCA a special lecture by Prof. Richard Hovannisian, "Arshile Gorky: Armenian Refugee and Exile," at the museum's Ahmanson Auditorium, and on June 24 partnered with



Jennifer Arceneaux, MOCA Director of Development; Stephan Bagboudarian, Armenian Professional Society President; Marc Mamigonian; Bruce Roat

## MOCA Acknowledges NAASR Contribution

NAASR received a kind letter of acknowledgement from MOCA Development Director Jennifer Arceneaux, stating, in part:

"I wish to extend the sincere thanks of all of us at The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles (MOCA) for the wonderful gift from the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research in support of "Arshile Gorky: A Retrospective," through the MOCA Friends of Arshile Gorky campaign.

"On view at MOCA from June 6 through September 20, 2010, "Arshile Gorky: A Retrospective" is the first full-scale survey of Gorky's practice in nearly 30 years, featuring 200 works from each period of the artist's extraordinary oeuvre including paintings, sculpture, prints, and works on paper from the early 1920s until his tragic death in 1948.

"With your donation to MOCA Friends of Arshile Gorky, the Southern California community will be welcomed to enjoy this profound exhibition and accompanying education programs, specifically presentations by Atom Egoyan and Richard Hovannisian. The museum is delighted by your willingness to provide essential funds to enable us to celebrate the life and accomplishments of this remarkable Armenian-American artist."

MOCA for a screening of *Ararat* and *Q & A* with Atom Egoyan. Roat remarked, "the presentations by Richard Hovannisian and Atom Egoyan provided valuable perspectives on Armenian history and culture in connection with the great Armenian-American artist." NAASR is pleased to have provided other input and suggestions on MOCA's public programs in connection with the exhibition, which includes a presentation by Dr. Kim Theriault who will be speaking at MOCA in September.

NAASR Chairman Nancy Kolligian, stepping down after nine years, expressed the organization's enthusiasm for the undertaking, saying "NAASR is thrilled to be part of these significant events devoted to a great artist. We are very appreciative of the efforts of Bruce Roat and Rubina Perroomian of our Board as well as the Southern California NAASR Committee who are working so hard to bring this and other programs to fruition." New Chairman Raffi P. Yeghiayan added that "the Gorky exhibition is virtually a once-in-a-lifetime event and we are proud to be working with MOCA. This exhibition represents an important cultural event not only for the art world but also for all Armenians and it deserves our support."

## Special Tributes to Maria Littleton, Bertha Muğrdichian, and 25-Year Members

At NAASR's 56th Assembly, Chairman Kolligian paid special tribute to two NAASR members in attendance. First, she honored Maria Littleton of Belmont, a longtime friend to and volunteer at NAASR. Littleton has made a major monetary contribution establishing a fund in her name and in memory of Rev. Vartan Hartunian, his wife Grace, and the entire Hartunian family. Kolligian presented Littleton with a plaque commemorating her donation and the Hartunian family. The plaque is now hanging outside NAASR's lecture hall.



Nancy Kolligian and Maria Littleton



Nancy Kolligian with Bertha Muğrdichian



Ruth Thomasian and Nancy Kolligian

The second honoree was Board Member Bertha Muğrdichian. In addition to her long service to NAASR, Muğrdichian was honored on March 26, 2010, by the Rhode Island State Nurses Association and inducted into their Hall of Fame for her exceptional service to the profession and to the community.

Also recognized were a pair of 25-year NAASR members: Dr. John Zakarian of Orinda, CA, who was not able to be present, and Ruth Thomasian of Watertown, the Founder and Executive Director of Project SAVE Armenian Photograph Archives. Chairman Kolligian made note of Thomasian's extraordinary contributions through Project SAVE's work documenting and preserving Armenian photographs.

## Prof. Frye Honored on 90th Birthday

On May 13, 2010, prior to the lecture "Magic From Greater Iran: The Parthian-Armenian-Russian Triangle" by Harvard's Prof. James R. Russell, NAASR paid tribute to Prof. Richard N. Frye on the occasion of his 90th birthday. Although his actual birthday was in January, schedules prevented an earlier observance, and the appropriateness of honoring Frye prior to a lecture by Prof. Russell, who holds the Mashtots Chair at Harvard that Frye was so instrumental in creating, as a catalyst to and a Founding Member of NAASR, and on a subject (Armenia within the context of a "Greater Iranian world") so close to Frye's heart, was irresistible.

In recognition of Frye's enormous contributions, Chairman Nancy Kolligian announced that the NAASR Board had approved a \$2,500 donation to the Richard N. Frye Lecture Fund at Harvard University.

It is impossible in a short article to convey the life story or the importance of Prof. Frye to NAASR, to Armenian Studies, Iranian Studies, or Middle East Studies in general. A very brief survey must suffice.

Richard Frye was born in Birmingham, Alabama, but grew up mainly in Champaign, Illinois. He has written that his interest in Oriental history began when he was in high school and read the book *Tamerlane, The Earth Shaker*; and he writes that "in the summer of 1928 I went to the unique Near Eastern Summer School at Princeton University, and there began my life's career." He is the Aga Khan Professor Emeritus of Iranian Studies at Harvard, a founder of Middle Eastern Studies in the U.S., called "the Dean of World Iranists."

His voluminous publications include *The Heritage of Persia*, *The Golden Age of Persia*, and as an editor and contributor, *The Cambridge History of Iran*. We are fortunate that Prof. Frye has also written a most lively and informative memoir, entitled *Greater Iran: A 20th-Century Odyssey*.

It is of Prof. Frye's impact on NAASR and on Armenian Studies that we must take special note. Many people made NAASR and created a space in this country for Armenian Studies to grow. But it seems fair to say that no single person has had as catalyzing an effect as Prof. Frye did. Even before there was a NAASR, Prof. Frye was an advocate for establishing programs in Armenian Studies at top universities and urging, as he still urges today, Armenians to emerge from their ghetto and take their rightful place among the civilizations of the world.

Indeed, it is well known by many that it was a 1954 speech by Prof. Frye that catalyzed the creation of NAASR in the first place and thus gave birth to the drive to create permanent programs and endowed chairs in Armenian Studies in the U.S. For many years, Prof. Frye has tirelessly advocated for NAASR and for Armenian Studies in general. We are all deeply in his debt.



Dr. Eden Naby Frye and Prof. Richard Frye

# Prof. Frye's Talk That Gave Birth to NAASR

In recognition of Prof. Richard Frye's 90th birthday, we are pleased to reprint an article on his catalyzing 1954 talk which spurred the formation of NAASR and the campaign to establish a chair in Armenian Studies at Harvard. The author of this article, which appeared in the April 17, 1954, issue of the *Armenian-Mirror Spectator*, was none other than future NAASR Founding Chairman Manoog S. Young. The full text of Frye's talk was printed over the course of three issues of the newspaper in May 1954, and we hope to reprint it in its entirety in a future issue of the *Newsletter*. We thank the *Mirror-Spectator* for their permission to reprint this article.

## Harvard Professor Calls For Center of Armenian Studies

By **Manoog S. Young**

BOSTON—At a lecture-meeting of the Boston Branch of the ASA April 9, at the International Institute, Prof. Richard N. Frye of Harvard University called for the establishment of a Center of Armenian Studies at a leading American university in order to put Armenian scholarship and research on a continuing and permanent basis in this

country and to raise Armenian history, language, and culture to "its rightful place on the world stage."

Speaking before a capacity audience of over 150 ASA members and Armenian students from Greater Boston colleges, Dr. Frye maintained that Armenian studies should receive the same status as that of any other people and should



Prof. Richard Frye, ca. 1955

be part of a university curriculum as an established and respected discipline.

### Need More Armenian Scholars

In the past the burden of such studies and interest, particularly in the Western world, has been carried for the most part by non-Armenian scholars and through non-Armenian support. Dr. Frye insisted that it is about time that the Armenians themselves do much more in this respect and spearhead a concerted effort to bring about the creation of an Armenian center at a university to foster Armenian studies.

A vigorous and youthful speaker, Dr. Frye is professor of Middle Eastern Studies at Harvard and also instructor of Classical Armenian. Among his many published works is a translation of an Armenian chronicle on the Mongols, *History of the Nation of the Archers*, recently reprinted by the Harvard University Press.

### Decries Ghetto Mentality

In his speech, which bristled with many sharp words and remarks, Dr. Frye insisted that "it is about time that the Armenian people got out of their ghetto mentality." He said that Armenians "shouldn't be either arrogant or ashamed" of their origins or culture. "The Armenians have a richer literature than many other peoples, yet this is unknown to most of the world." Armenia and Armenians are "a part of world history, not separate from it, and the study of Armenian literature, history, and culture is worthy of study." Least of all, he maintained, it should not be neglected by the Armenians themselves.

### Continuing Basis Needed

The important thing, however, in connection with Armenian studies and research is that it must be approached from a disinterested point of view and must not be studied in isolation from other historical events and forces. Most of all, he reiterated, Armenian studies must be on a continuing basis under the direction of an outstanding Armenian scholar, and this can only be provided for through a center at a leading university.

During the spirited question-answer period after his talk, Dr. Frye, when asked what it would take to bring about the realization of a center of Armenian Studies at a university such as Harvard, said that the Armenian community itself must show a continuing interest and should organize and work towards such an end by providing moral and financial support. Such activity, he felt, would surely be reciprocated by any university administration.



Manoog S. Young, ca. 1955

## NAASR Board Member and Benefactor Helen Mardigian Remembered

NAASR joins with the entire Armenian-American community in mourning the loss on August 4 of Helen Mardigian (1922-2010) of Royal Oak, MI. The wife of the late Edward Mardigian, Helen was a long-serving (1991-2004) member of NAASR's Board of Directors. With her husband, who served on NAASR's Board, she was a major benefactor of NAASR throughout the fifty-five years of its existence, in addition to supporting many other Armenian and other causes and institutions.

Long-time member of NAASR's Board of Directors, former Bentley University President Dr. Gregory Adamian remarked, "Helen was a wonderful and benevolent individual.



Helen and Edward Mardigian

indeed, the generosity of the Mardigian Foundation, will never be forgotten by this organization. We would not be in our Headquarters building nor would our library that bears their name have made such great advances without the steady support of the Mardigians. Helen and Edward's good works will endure."

NAASR's Founding Chairman Manoog S. Young worked with Helen and Edward for many years during his chairmanship. "We are so saddened by Helen's passing, who with her husband Edward, was a dedicated, longtime member of and generous donor to NAASR," said Young. "Helen was a firm believer in the advancement of Armenian Studies as represented by NAASR's purposes and programs. She was a dear friend who was always available when needed and will be greatly missed."

## Prof. Ladis Kristof, Age 91

Prof. Ladis K. D. Kristof, a NAASR member of many years' standing, passed away on June 15 at age 91. Kristof earned a Ph.D. in political science from the University of Chicago and taught for many years at Portland State University in Oregon. He was the author of numerous books and articles.

Prof. Kristof's son, *New York Times* columnist Nicholas Kristof, in a tribute to his father, wrote:

"My father, an Armenian, was born in a country that no longer exists, Austria-Hungary, in a way of life that no longer exists. The family was in the nobility, living on an estate of thousands of acres—and then came World War II.

"My father was imprisoned by the Nazis for helping spy on their military presence in Poland. He bribed his way out of prison, but other relatives died at Auschwitz for spying. Then the Soviet Union grabbed the region and absorbed it into Ukraine, and other relatives died in Siberian labor camps.

"Penniless, my father fled on horseback to Romania but saw that a Communist country would afford a future neither for him nor his offspring. So he headed toward the West, swimming across the Danube River on a moonless night. On the Yugoslav side of the river, he was captured and sent to a concentration camp and then an asbestos mine and a logging camp. After two years, he was able to flee to Italy and then to France.

"My father found that despite his fluent French and university education, France did not embrace refugees. Even children of refugees were regarded as less than fully French.

"So he boarded a ship in 1952 to the United States, the land of opportunity—even though English was not among the seven languages that he spoke. His first purchase was a copy of the Sunday *New York Times*, with which he began to teach himself an eighth language.

"He arrived as Vladislav Krzysztowicz, but no American could pronounce that. So he shortened it to Ladis Kristof" ("My Father's Gift to Me," *New York Times*, June 18, 2010).

## NAASR Mourns the Passing of Dr. Arra S. Avakian (1912-2010)

The three Board Chairmen, past and present, of the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR), on behalf of all NAASR friends and members, wish to express the Association's grief at the loss on June 30 of NAASR co-founder Dr. Arra Avakian and at the same time honor his long life and acknowledge his innumerable contributions.

In pursuit of the goals cherished by Dr. Avakian, Thomas Amirian, and Manoog Young, the first three NAASR Founders, the Board will establish the NAASR Founders Fund in permanent recognition of their commitment to Armenian Studies.

Current Chairman Raffi P. Yeghayan: "We are deeply saddened by the news of Dr. Arra Avakian's passing. As one of the triumvirate of NAASR Founders, Arra was the embodiment of service to the Armenian community in the many capacities he held throughout his life. He was an enthusiastic supporter of his nation, church, history, and language. He was always an enchanting person in conversation and in the convictions he expressed. We benefited immensely by having him as an acquaintance and friend. We will miss him sorely."

Nancy R. Kolligian (Chairman, 2001-2010): "As we mourn the loss of Dr. Arra Avakian, we must pause and reflect on his formidable contributions. He left his mark not only on NAASR as one of the founders of the Association, and not only to the field of Armenian Studies to which he gave so much, but also to the entirety of Armenian-American affairs throughout his near century of life."

Manoog S. Young (Chairman, 1955-2001): "I am very saddened to learn of the passing of Arra Avakian, a many-faceted person who was an asset to the Armenian cultural community as a whole. Arra was a very important part of NAASR from its very beginning as a founding member with Tom Amirian and myself and for many years thereafter. His presence and role will be greatly missed."



Dr. Arra S. Avakian in the 1950s

Dr. Arra Avakian was the second child of Setrak and Takoohi Avakian of Kharpert, Historic Armenia. Born in 1912 in Boston, Arra moved to Fresno in 1920, where his 90 years of service to the Armenian Church began. At the time of his death, he was a Deacon at the St. Paul Armenian Church in Fresno. Arra attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology where he obtained his Doctor of Science degree in Mathematics in 1935. During World War II, Arra served in ordnance, developing special weapons. He attained the rank of Colonel. In civilian life, he worked in industrial and aerospace technology in the Boston area and in Washington, D.C.

Always deeply involved in his Armenian heritage, he taught Armenian courses at the University of Massachusetts Extension while in Boston and served as deacon and choirmaster in Watertown and Washington, as well as in Fresno. In 1970, Dr. Avakian became the first Professor in the Armenian Studies Program at California State University at Fresno. He led Elderhostels and tours to Armenia, gave

lectures, and led several Armenian organizations. As a long-standing member of the national brotherhood of the Knights of Vartan, he became its Grand Commander in 1985-1987. Dr. Avakian was the author of several books. In 2003 he published a historical novel, *The Eaglet*. His *Armenia: A Journey Through History* has served as a textbook. He also translated sixteen books from Armenian to English. His deep erudition and broad knowledge of Armenian matters and church history made him a valuable resource to many. He married Georgia Keosaian on July 1, 1939. She died in 2004.

Arra Avakian is survived by five children: Arsine Peterson of Australia, Armine Mortimer of Illinois, Arra Avakian of Massachusetts, Armen Avakian of Indiana, and Arten Avakian of Texas. He is also survived by a sister, Armine Elliott; a brother, Seth Armen; as well as seven grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

## Death of Dr. Pierre V. Haig, Los Angeles Community Leader

Dr. Pierre Vahe Haig, a highly-respected Armenian-American community leader, passed away on January 12, 2010, at age 93. His funeral services were held on January 21, at the Church of the Reclusion of Forest Lawn, Glendale, Calif. Haig is survived by his three children, Helen, Mari, and Theodore Haig; his three grandchildren, Simon, Costel, and Michael; and his brother,

Robert Vartan Haig.

Haig was a founding member and Chairman of NAASR's Southern California Chapter, continuing his NAASR membership over 40 years. He was very active in NAASR's efforts to establish a chair in Armenian Studies at UCLA—which became the Naregatsi Chair in Armenian Studies. He and his late wife, Alice, who served on NAASR's Board

of Directors and on the Southern California Regional Committee, were pillars of the Southern California Armenian community and did much to lay the foundations for NAASR, and for Armenian Studies as a whole, in the region.

A future NAASR event in memory of Pierre and Alice Haig is in the planning stages.

# NAASR LIBRARY RECEIVES TWO IMPORTANT COLLECTIONS

By Marc A. Mamigonian  
Director of Academic Affairs

## Additional Books from the Library of Dr. Levon Z. Boyajian

Prof. James Russell, in the previous issue of the NAASR Newsletter, gave a detailed description of a collection of books donated by Dr. Levon Boyajian. Unfortunately, before that issue of the Newsletter had appeared, Dr. Boyajian passed away, on March 22, 2010. NAASR joins with his family and many friends and colleagues in mourning the loss of a man of learning and intelligence who made great contributions to the Armenian-American community. We note with gratitude, as well, the generous contributions made to NAASR in lieu of flowers in Boyajian's memory.

During the summer, Dr. Boyajian's son Zachary brought an additional donation to the NAASR library. Among the donated items were two of special note.

### *After the Storm: A Seminar of the Survivors of the Armenian Massacres*

The first is a large box containing materials relating to the landmark 1980 interfaith conference "After the Storm: A Seminar of the Survivors of the Armenian Massacres in Commemoration of the 65th Anniversary of the 1915 Genocide." Prof. Russell explained to me that he and Dr. Boyajian "got to know each other in 1980 when he chaired a committee I formed to convene a conference at the Armenian Diocese on the children of Genocide survivors." (Russell at that time worked for His Eminence Torkom Manogian at the Diocese.)

In addition to various materials relating to the conference, the most important item is a typed transcription, presumably done from tape recordings, of the conference proceedings. The outline of the conference is as follows:

#### FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 1980

##### SESSION 1: THE STORM

Part 1: Testimony by survivors of their own experiences—Bedros Norehad

Part 2: Reports by historians on the massacres; the background, the events and the results—Dr. Marjorie Housepian, Historian and Author; Prof. R. Hrair Dekmejian, Political Scientist

##### SESSION 2: THE WORLD VIEW

Part 1: Genocide and refugee problems in the world today—Eugene Stockwell, Associate General Secretary for Overseas Ministries National Council of Churches; Professor Ara Dostourian, Historian; Prof. Helen Epstein, Writer

Part 2: Discussion

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##### SESSION 3: THE PSYCHOLOGY OF SURVIVAL

Part 1: Interviews with survivors and subsequent generations—Kerop Bedoukian, Martha Gurahian, Karl Kalfayan

Part 2: Psychiatrists and Psychologists discuss the "survivor syndrome" and the Armenian experience—Dr. Levon Boyajian, Psychiatrist; Dr. Helen Hanesian, Psychologist; Dr. Haroutun Babigian, Psychiatrist; Dr. Haigaz Grigorian, Psychiatrist; Dr. Levon Tashjian, Psychiatrist

##### SESSION 4: AFTER THE STORM

Part 1: Continuation and discussion: Summary—Michael Arlen, Writer; Peter Sourian, Writer

Closing remarks and benediction by His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manogian, Primate

It is thought that this conference, which was chaired and moderated by Dr. Boyajian, was the first of its kind in its focus on the survivors of the Armenian Genocide. The proceedings were never published, though Boyajian and conference participant Dr. Haigaz Grigorian would co-author an important article, "Psychological Sequelae of the Armenian Genocide," published in Richard G. Hovannisian, ed., *The Armenian Genocide in Perspective* (1986). The unpublished conference proceedings are available for use in NAASR's Mardigian Library and it is hoped to publish or otherwise disseminate them in some form in the future.

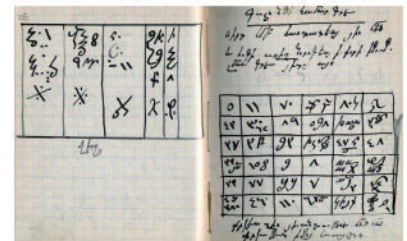
### *Bzshshkaran, Book of Healing*

For an account of the second item of great interest among Boyajian's books, we turn again to Prof. James Russell of Harvard for a description.

"After giving NAASR some rare Armenian books in the summer of 2009, Levon Boyajian mentioned to me in correspondence that his father, who had emigrated to the USA from Aleppo, had possessed a notebook with some magical writing in it, but thought it had been lost. After Boyajian's passing some months later, his son delivered more books, among which I discovered the little bound notebook thought to have been lost, which contains a lengthy list in Modern Western Armenian of illnesses and poisons and their cures and antidotes, with all medical terms listed in French in parentheses. The text is modern and I would date it to the 1920s at the latest, the 1890s at the very earliest.

"After some blank pages there follow spells and magical symbols in both pencil and ink in another hand, more of a scrawl. The various parts of these magical texts are in late Classical Armenian and were evidently copied from an older MS of the 17th or 18th century. Some of the spells are known from other sources. The initial binding spell mentioning Solomon is most interesting and belongs to a cycle of Solomonic myth well known in Armenian.

"Though there is no formal connection between the two different texts—the medical and the magical—in the notebook, the volume has the title *Bzshshkaran*, "Book of Healing." I believe the presence of the texts together is not coincidental: healing and magic went together; and Solomon, in addition to his mastery of magic and control of demons, was reputed in legend to have written a book of all the cures for all diseases. This book was consigned to concealment and oblivion since it contributed to his hubris: God alone is the healer of all. A similar legend attaches to the primordial Iranian king Jamshid, with whom Solomon is often identified in Persian and general Islamic legend."



Pages from the *Bzshshkaran*, or *Book of Healing*, from the Levon Boyajian collection, showing a magical spell.



## Books from the Library of Haigazn Kazarian

In the spring of 2010 I received a phone call from a gentleman who said that he wanted to know if we would be interested in receiving some books and materials that belonged to his father, who had been a researcher on Armenian issues. When I asked what his father's name had been and the gentleman told me "Haigaz Kazarian," I was rather flabbergasted and told the gentleman that I was quite familiar with his father's work and that of course we would be interested in anything relating to Haigaz (or Haigazn) Kazarian. Arrangements were made for the caller—Dr. Kirk Kazarian of Ossining, NY—to pay a visit to NAASR in June with the materials.

As it happened, Kazarian at that time had just recently been the topic of a number of conversations I had had with Prof. Taner Akçam of Clark University, particularly in connection with the April 2010 workshop at Clark which NAASR had co-sponsored entitled "The State of the Art of Armenian Genocide Research: Historiography, Sources, and Future Directions."

The description of the workshop that we had written began thus: "As is the case with the scholarship on all mass murders, the first experts on the Armenian Genocide were the survivors. They were the first to gather documentation, compile memoirs and, later, publish these records in a systematic way. The material and publications of Aram Andonian, which he began compiling in 1916, may be considered as the foundation for studies in this area. Two authors who began a more systematic approach in the 1960s are Father Krikor Gergerian, who wrote under the pen name 'Kriger,' and Haigazn Kazarian."

Thus, Kazarian, though working within the limitations of his time and place, was one of the first writers to attempt to write the history of the Armenian Genocide using archival documents and official records, and his pioneering role deserves to be remembered. His work appeared in numerous issues of the *Hairenik* newspapers and the *Armenian Review*, and in the book *Tueghabab Turke* (1968). Kazarian worked for the *Hairenik* for more than three decades until his death in 1972. An editorial in his honor in the October 12, 1972, *Armenian Weekly* hailed him as "the Armenian Lemkin."

Simon Vratsian, the last Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia before its Sovietization, wrote a biographical sketch of Kazarian which was included in *Tueghabab Turke* and from which the following information is gleaned.

Haigazn Kazarian was born in Sebastia (Sivas) in 1892. He was a 1914 graduate of the University of Constantinople and majored in law and languages. (Kazarian had command of numerous languages, including Ottoman and modern Turkish, Armenian, French, German, and English.) At the outbreak of World War I he was in the Reserve Officers Military School in Constantinople and was sent to fight at Adrianople with the 5th Division of the 2nd Army Corps. With many Armenian soldiers being liquidated as part of the campaign of genocide, Kazarian was saved by a Turkish friend and went into hiding. After the war, he reemerged and served in the Intelligence section of the British Army of the Black Sea. He traveled with British intelligence officers for several years, acting as an interpreter, then in 1920 was reassigned to the Naval Center, Turkish Ministry of Marine in Constantinople.



A 1912 photo from the collection of Haigazn Kazarian. Kazarian is seated, third from the left.

It was at this point that Kazarian began coming into contact with various documents pertaining to the extermination of the Armenians, some of which he translated for the occupying forces. Thus it might be said this is where his research began. The vast majority of Kazarian's papers, including the bulk of the documentation he collected, resides at the Armenian National Institute (ANI) in Washington, D.C., to which it was donated in 1996. (See "Haigazn K. Kazarian Papers Donated to Armenian National Institute," *The Armenian Reporter*, June 6, 1996.) ANI Director Dr. Rouben Adalian has been informed of the donation of additional papers to NAASR and it is planned to share digital copies with ANI of relevant materials.

Traveling to NAASR in June with his sister Florence Jesmajian of Brooklyn, Dr. Kirk Kazarian brought the small collection of books, notes, maps, photographs, papers, and other items that belonged to his father. (A return visit in August added to the collection additional photographs as well as his father's vintage 1930s Underwood Armenian typewriter.) Fortunately, Prof. Taner Akçam was visiting NAASR that day and was able to visit with the children of the man whose work he has spent much time reading.

The donated books contain such interesting items as the 1914 Armenian-language edition of Lynch's *Armenia: Travel and Studies* and Kazarian's personal copies of *Ambassador Morgenthau's Story* and Clarence

Ussher's *An American Physician in Turkey*. Many of the books have Kazarian's marginal notes.

Of even greater potential interest, though, are the folders of notes and maps, mostly in Armenian and Turkish; an album of photographs of Kazarian's home city of Sepastia and a vintage album of postcards of heroes of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation; a partial typescript of his intended English translation of *Tueghabab Turke*, never completed; and a number of notebooks filled with Armenian handwriting which might be Kazarian's own or possibly his father's. The collection will be closely examined by competent experts in the near future to better ascertain its importance.



From Haigazn Kazarian's album. The caption reads: "The Turkish school across the street from the Protestant Church and Normal School."

# Armenians of Lebanon Volume Published by Haigazian University and NAASR

The National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) is pleased to announce the publication of *Armenians of Lebanon: From Past Princesses and Refugees to Present-Day Community*. The volume, an undertaking of Haigazian University, is being distributed in North America by NAASR with NAASR's Armenian Heritage Press as co-publisher. The book was officially launched in Beirut on April 9, 2010, and a U.S. launch, to be held at the NAASR Center in Belmont, MA, is being planned.

*Armenians of Lebanon* presents papers given at the September 2005 conference "Armenians of Lebanon: Past and Present," held on the occasion of Haigazian's 50th anniversary. The volume was edited with an introduction by Dr. Aida Boudjikianian, originally from Lebanon and presently living in Montreal, and it contains papers in English, French, and Armenian. The conference was organized by Dr. Ara Sanjian, then the Director of the Department of Armenian Studies at Haigazian.

The hardcover book is 506 pages-long and has 14 chapters grouped thematically and chronologically in 8 parts. Seven chapters are in English, four in French, and three in Armenian—the languages in which the original papers were presented. Translated abstracts are given at the end of the chapters. The volume contains biographies of the authors and photographs and maps.

## Wide Range of Topics in Armenian History and Culture in Lebanon

Covering the full span of Armenian history and society in Lebanon from medieval times to the present day, the book is a unique repository of the rich culture and vitality of one of the most important Armenian diaspora communities. It provides a wealth of information for both the scholar and the layperson and is, of course, of particular interest for those with ties to Lebanon.

The first section of the book, "La Présence Arménienne au Temps des Croisades" contains a chapter by Claude Mutafian entitled "Les Princesses Arméniennes et le Liban Latin (XII-XIII siècle)" ("Armenian Princesses and Latin Lebanon, 12th-13th Century"), covering the marriages between French crusader lords and Armenian princesses. The second section, "Orphan and Refugee Period," contains chapters by Hilmar Kaiser, "The Armenians of Lebanon During the Armenian Genocide," drawing mostly on Turkish archives and in particular on Talaat's telegrams sent to his administration's officials or to Turkish army officials based in Lebanon and in the region, and Vahé Tachjian, "L'établissement définitif des réfugiés arméniens au Liban dans les années 1920 et 1930" ("The Permanent Settlement of Armenian

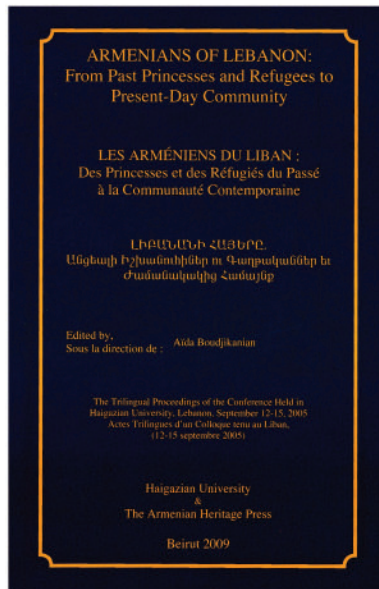
Refugees in Lebanon in the Years 1920 to 1930"), which makes extensive use of the AGBU archives on the permanent resettlement of Armenian refugees during this period.

The third section, in Armenian, contains Verjine Svazlian's "Libananahay hayrenadardzneru hamazhamanakeay ev tarzhamanakeay mshakutayin zarkatsune Hayastani mech" ("The Synchronic and Diachronic Cultural Development of the Lebanese-Armenian Repatriates in Armenia"), an ethnographic study of Lebanese Armenians, originally from Cilicia, who "repatriated" to Soviet Armenia. The fourth section, "Music, Literature, Printing: A Few Facets of a Rich Artistic and Cultural Life," contains chapters by Roubina Artinian, "Armenian Choirs in Lebanon, 1930-1980"; Nora Salmanian, "La contribution des Arméniens libanais à la vie musicale et artistique au Liban de 1920 à nos jours" ("Lebanese-Armenian Contributions to the Musical and Artistic Life of Lebanon from 1920 to the Present Time"); Armen Urneshlian, "Arabi kerpere Libananahay grakanutean mech" ("Arab Characters in Lebanese-Armenian Literature"); and Araxy Deronian ("The Armenians in Lebanon at the Library of Congress").

The fifth section, "Les Arméniens au Travail," contains editor Aida Boudjikianian's essay "Le travail autonome auprès des Arméniens du Liban: entre la pratique d'une tradition communautaire et un concept des théories des diasporas" ("Self-Employment Among Lebanese Armenians: From a Community Tradition to a Concept of Diaspora Theories"), while the sixth contains Shoghik Ashekian's "Libananahay gaghute ev Haykakan Tseghaspanutean hartse (1965-1975)" ("The Lebanese Armenian Community and the Recognition of the Armenian Genocide, 1965-1975") covering the Lebanese Armenian community's quest for genocide recognition.

Section seven, "The War Years (1975-1991) in Lebanon and the Various Roles Played by the Armenians of Lebanon and of the Diaspora," contains a pair of essays: Rouben Avsharian's "The Ta'ef Agreement and the Lebanese Armenians" and Khatchik Der Ghoukassian's "Lebanon in My Mind: The Civil War and the Centrality of the Lebanese Armenian Community in the Making of Armenian Diaspora Nationalism." The final section features Asbed Kotchikian's "Between (home)land and (host)land: Lebanese Armenians and the Republic of Armenia" and Nicola Migliorino's "The Lebanese System and Armenian Cultural Diversity Between Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow: Opportunities and Limits."

*Armenians of Lebanon* is available from NAASR's bookstore for \$35.00 (less 15% for NAASR members).



## LIBRARY 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 Edward and Helen Mardigian Armenian Reference and Research Library's collection. We are very grateful to them for their generosity and for the continuing support of and interest in our library.

Dr. Gregory H. Adamian, Medford, MA  
 Hermine & Edwin Adamian, Arlington, MA  
 David B. Amiraian, Latham, NY  
 Ararat-Eskijian Museum, Mission Hills, CA  
 Armenian Cultural Foundation, Arlington, MA  
 Armenian Research Center, Univ. of Mich., Dearborn, MI  
 Van & Mary Aroian, Worcester, MA  
 Armen Aroyan, Monrovia, CA  
 Mary Kandalian-Aslanian, Oakland, CA  
 K. Badalyan, Somerville, MA  
 Artsvi Bakhchinyan, Yerevan, Armenia  
 Dr. Levon Bastajian, Belmont, MA  
 Lucy Bedirian, Watertown, MA  
 Michael Bobelian, New York, NY  
 Dr. Levon Boyajian, Englewood, NJ  
 Zachary Boyajian, Chichester, NH  
 Grigor Boyakhchyan, Yerevan, Armenia  
 Leon Carapetyan, Oswego, NY  
 Ellen S. Chesnut, Alameda, CA

### Dr. Martin Deranian Donates Hussenig Archive to NAASR Library

In the next issue of the *Newsletter* we will present a detailed description of a large and important archive donated by Dr. H. Martin Deranian of Worcester, MA. The archive contains his late father Marderos Deranian's collection of materials used in writing the volume *The Village of Hussenig*, published in Armenian and English by the Baikar Press in 1981 and as *Hussenig* by NAASR's Armenian Heritage Press in an expanded English edition translated and revised by Dr. Deranian in 1994. Plans are being made to digitize this rich archive of materials which Dr. Deranian has maintained and augmented through many years.



An image of Hussenig from the Deranian archive.



Khatchig Mouradian (left) of Clark University and Dr. Ugur Üngör (right) of University College, Dublin, in the NAASR Library.

The Civiltas Foundation, Yerevan, Armenia  
 Joseph Dagdigian, Harvard, MA  
 Susie Davidson (Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life),  
 Brookline, MA  
 Vigen Der Manuelian, Cambridge, MA  
 Elza and Haig Didizian Fund, London, England  
 Eastern Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church of America,  
 New York, NY  
 Michelle Ekizian, Teaneck, NJ  
 Dr. Eden Naby Frye, Brimfield, MA  
 Ara Ghazarians, Lexington, MA  
 Gina Hablanian, Watertown, MA  
 Dr. Sona Haroutyunian, Venice, Italy  
 Nerses Hayrapetyan, Yerevan, Armenia  
 Istituto Poligrafico e Zecca dello Stato, Rome, Italy  
 Elissa & Vartkes Karaian, Winchester, MA  
 Edward & Mary Ann Kazanjian, Belmont, MA  
 Dr. Kirk Kazarian and Florence Jesmajian, Ossining, NY, and  
 Brooklyn, NY  
 Judy Kolligian, Jamaica Plain, MA  
 Helen M. Krikorian, Arlington, MA  
 Hagop & Knar Manjikian, Studio City, CA  
 Yulia Melikyan, Chicago, IL  
 Mr. & Mrs. Zareh Maserejian, Belmont, MA  
 Mashtots Institute of Ancient Manuscripts (Matenadaran), Yerevan,  
 Armenia  
 Dickranuhi Merguerian, Ashland, MA  
 Dr. Suzanne Moranian, Winchester, MA  
 Dr. Carolann & George Najarian, Lincoln, MA  
 Hideharu Nakajima (Japan Armenia Friendship Association),  
 Kawasaki, Japan  
 Dr. Gayane Novikova, Cambridge, MA  
 Lily Ordoubeigian, Watertown, MA  
 Dr. Razmik Panossian, Montreal, Canada  
 Joanne Peterson, Brookline, MA  
 Dr. Jack Porter, Newton, MA  
 St. Nersess Armenian Seminary, New Rochelle, NY  
 Mr. & Mrs. Haig Sarajian, Oradell, NJ  
 Dr. Andrea Scala, Milano, Italy  
 John Shinas, Burlington, MA  
 Hovann Simonian, Encino, CA  
 Stichting Armeens Apostolische Kerk, Amsterdam, The Netherlands  
 Richard Tashjian, Santa Fe, NM  
 Ruth Thomasian, Watertown, MA  
 Anahid Yacoubian, Arlington, MA

# NAASR Programs

**Jan. 21:** Dr. Dikran Kaligian: "The ARF Under Ottoman Rule, 1908-1914," at the NAASR Center.

**Jan. 28:** Dr. Arman Grigoryan: "The Rocky Road of Armenian-Turkish Normalization: Before and after the Protocols," at Columbia University. Co-sponsored by the Columbia University Armenian Studies Program, the Armenian Center at Columbia University, the Middle East Institute at Columbia University, and NAASR.

**Feb. 13-14:** International Conference on the Armenian Diaspora, at Boston University. Co-sponsored by the Charles K. and Elisabeth M. Kenosian Chair of Modern Armenian History and Literature, Boston University, the International Institute for Diaspora Studies (A Division of the Zoryan Institute), and NAASR.

**March 11:** Roger Hagopian, "Destination Watertown: The Armenians of Hood Rubber," at the NAASR Center. Co-sponsored by the Armenian Library and Museum of America and NAASR.

**March 18:** Edward and Mary Ann Kazanjian, "A Journey To Historic Armenia: There Is Something There," at the NAASR Center.



Edward Kazanjian

**March 18:** Prof. Richard Hovannisian, "The Changing Landscape of Western Armenia and Cilicia," at the Glendale Central Library. Sponsored by the Glendale Public Library and co-sponsored by the Ararat-Eskijian Museum, the Organization of Istanbul Armenians, and NAASR.

**March 21:** Public Reception in Honor of Ruth Thomasian, Founder and Executive Director of Project SAVE Armenian Photograph Archives, at the Ararat-Eskijian Museum, Mission Hills, CA. Sponsored by the Ararat-Eskijian Museum in collaboration with the Armenian Library and Museum of America, the Armenian International Women's Association, the Organization of Istanbul Armenians, the Friends of UCLA Armenian Language and Culture Studies, and NAASR.

**March 22:** West Coast Premiere of *The Lark Farm*, written and directed by Paolo & Vittorio Taviani, at the James Bridges Theater, UCLA. Sponsored by the Friends of UCLA Armenian Language and Culture Studies, UCLA Center for Near Eastern Studies, and the UCLA Center for European and Eurasian Studies, in association with the AEF Chair in Modern Armenian History at UCLA, the UCLA Italian Department, the Ararat-Eskijian Museum, the ARPA Foundation for Film, Music, and Art, and NAASR.

**March 24:** *Ravished Armenia*: Silent Film Screening and discussion with film historian Anthony Slide, at the Glendale Central Library Auditorium, Glendale, CA. Sponsored by the Glendale Public Library and co-sponsored by the Ararat-Eskijian Museum and NAASR.



Gathering of Boston-area scholars at NAASR on Feb. 25, 2010. Seated, left to right: Prof. Taner Akçam, Dr. Eden Naby Frye, Prof. Richard Frye, Prof. Lucy Der Manuelian, Van Aroian, Nancy Kolligian; Standing, left to right: Marc Mamigonian, Shushan Teager, Prof. Christina Maranci, Jennifer Dixon, Dr. Robert Dulgarian, Dr. Gayane Novikova, Stepan Stepanyan, Dr. Suzanne Moranian, Dr. Devallon Bolles, Dr. Sonia Ketchian, Prof. Simon Payaslian, Roxanne Etmekjian

**April 6:** Tufts Day of Remembrance, with talk by former Governor of Massachusetts Michael S. Dukakis and Mrs. Kitty Dukakis, "Do We Really Remember the Armenians?" Sponsored by Tufts University, the Darakjian-Jafarian Chair in Armenian History, the Department of History, and NAASR.

**April 8-10:** Workshop on "The State of the Art of Armenian Genocide Research: Historiography, Sources, and Future Directions," at Clark University. Co-sponsored by the Robert, Aram and Marianne Kaloosdian and Stephen and Marion Mugar Chair, Strassler Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Clark University; Arsham and Charlotte Ohanessian Chair, College of Liberal Arts, University of Minnesota; and NAASR.

**April 11:** Prof. Zaza Aleksidze, "Armenian Manuscript Treasures in Georgia," at the Ararat-Eskijian Museum. Co-sponsored by the Friends of UCLA Armenian Language and Culture Studies, the Ararat-Eskijian Museum, and NAASR.



Dr. Suzanne Moranian

**April 30:** A Special Overview by LA MOCA Chief Curator Paul Schimmel of the West Coast presentation of "Arshile Gorky: A Retrospective," at the Brandview Collection banquet hall, Glendale, CA. Co-sponsored by the Armenian Professional Society, USC Institute of Armenian Studies, Armenian Allied Arts Association, Armenian Film Foundation, Armenian Engineers and Scientists of America, ARPA Institute, and NAASR.

**May 6:** Prof. George Bournoutian, "The Historic Armenian Presence in Nagorno-Karabagh: Documentation and Falsification," at the NAASR Center. Lecture given in memory of Dr. Moorad Mooradian, NAASR Board Member, 1991-2004.



Prof. George Bournoutian, right, with Anahith Boyajian, Beatrice Petricone, Lillian Mooradian, and Marc Mamigonian

**May 13:** Prof. James R. Russell, "Magic From Greater Iran: The Parthian-Armenian-Russian Triangle," at the NAASR Center. Lecture in honor of the 90th birthday of Prof. Richard N. Frye, NAASR Founding Member and Aga Khan Professor Emeritus of Iranian Studies, Harvard University.

**May 15:** 56th Annual NAASR Assembly of Members, at the NAASR Center.

**May 20:** Dr. Vahram Shemmassian, "Humanitarian Intervention by the Armenian Prelacy of Aleppo during the First Months of the Genocide," at the NAASR Center.



Prof. Vahram Shemmassian and Raffi Yeghiayan

**May 25:** Dr. Dikran Kaligian, "The Armenian Revolutionary Federation Under Ottoman Rule, 1908-14," at the Krikor & Mariam Karamanoukian Glendale Youth Center, Glendale, CA. Co-sponsored by the Armenian Center of Glendale, Hamazkayin Regional Executive of Western USA, the Ararat-Eskijian Museum, the Organization of Istanbul Armenians Cultural Committee, the Kessab Educational Association Cultural Committee, and NAASR.



Dr. Dikran Kaligian

**June 20:** Prof. Richard Hovannisian, "Arshile Gorky: Armenian Refugee and Exile," at the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA), Los Angeles, Ahmanson Auditorium, Los Angeles, CA. Co-sponsored by MOCA and NAASR.

**June 24:** Screening of Atom Egoyan's *Ararat* at MOCA and Q&A with Egoyan, at the Pacific Design Center, Silverscreen Theater, West Hollywood, CA. Co-sponsored by MOCA and NAASR.

**July 10:** Missak Kelechian, "The Cry of the Orphans: Young Survivors of the Armenian Genocide in Lebanon," at the Ararat-Eskijian Museum. Co-sponsored by the Ararat-Eskijian Museum and NAASR.



Dr. Lou Ann Matossian, center, with Edward Keljik and his mother Jeanette Keljik

**July 11:** Dr. H. Martin Deranian, "Miracle Man of the Western Front: Dr. Varaztad H. Kazanjian, Pioneer Plastic Surgeon," at the Ararat-Eskijian Museum. Co-sponsored by NAASR and the Ararat-Eskijian Museum.

**July 22:** Dr. Lou Ann Matossian, "From Massachusetts to Minnesota: Pioneering Armenian-American Writer Bedros Keljik," at the NAASR Center.

**August 12:** Prof. Levon Chookaszian, "Expressions of Armenian Identity in the Art of Arshile Gorky," at the Glendale Public Library. Sponsored by the Glendale Public Library and co-sponsored by the Ararat-Eskijian Museum, the Organization of Istanbul Armenians, and NAASR, with the generous support of Vatche and Arlene Sarkoyan.

# J. Michael Hagopian Film Archives To Be Preserved by USC Shoah Foundation

On April 13, 2010, the USC Shoah Foundation Institute signed a historic agreement with the Armenian Film Foundation and Dr. J. Michael and Antoinette Hagopian. The agreement paves the way for the Institute to preserve the Armenian Film Foundation's collection of nearly 400 filmed interviews with survivors and other

Hagopian, a filmmaker and a survivor of the Armenian Genocide, began conducting interviews with other survivors in 1968. In 1982, the Armenian Film Foundation—which Hagopian established to support the motion picture documentation of Armenian heritage and life—expanded the project. Hagopian and the Foundation conducted interviews in 10 countries, and while the majority of interviews are in Armenian (some in rare dialects) or English, others are in Arabic, French, German, Greek, Kurdish, Russian, Spanish, and Turkish.



Left to right: Dr. J. Michael Hagopian, Bruce Roat, Mrs. Toni Hagopian

witnesses of the first major genocide of the 20th century: the attempt by the Ottoman Turks to annihilate the Armenian people in 1915.

Dr. Hagopian is a Charter Member of NAASR, having joined in the year of the Association's founding, 1955, and has served on its Board of Directors and as Regional Director for Southern California. In this capacity, he spearheaded NAASR's development on the West Coast and its efforts to establish the second endowed chair in Armenian Studies, at UCLA. NAASR's current Southern California Board Members Dr. Rubina Perroomian and Bruce Roat were present at the signing ceremony on April 13.

“As a preliminary step towards including Armenian Genocide survivor testimonies in the archive, our agreement with the Armenian Film Foundation is a major milestone,” said USC Shoah Foundation Institute Executive Director Stephen Smith. “This project will help preserve evidence of a genocide that must be acknowledged. It will honor the memory of those whose lives were taken, and it will ensure that future generations are able to learn from individuals who experienced the Armenian Genocide firsthand.”

“It is my wish to donate to NAASR digitized copies of the entire Eyewitness Survivor Film Archive of 400 interviews if funds become available,” said Dr. Hagopian. He added, “In this way there will be storage of the Archives in a safe and secure environment on the East Coast.”

The signed agreement is the first step in the process to digitize, index, preserve, and disseminate the testimonies collected by Dr. Hagopian and the Armenian Film Foundation. Once the process is complete, the testimonies will become accessible through the USC Shoah Institute's Visual History Archive, which contains nearly 52,000 video testimonies of Holocaust survivors and other witnesses. Funds must be raised before work will commence.

## Village Histories Wanted

A focus of NAASR's library is to expand our collection of “village histories” or *bushamatean* volumes, of which some 200 have been published. These important publications, which Prof. James Russell has called a virtually unique Armenian genre, contain vast quantities of information on the now-de-

stroyed Armenian communities of the Ottoman Empire.

NAASR's Mardigian Library already has a strong collection of these precious books, and we are looking to fill the gaps we have or, in some cases, to find copies in better condition than those in our collection.

Please, if you have in your homes such books and they are no longer in use, consider donating them to the NAASR library. Your contribution will be duly acknowledged and genuinely appreciated. Please contact Marc Mamigonian at [marc@naasr.org](mailto:marc@naasr.org) for more information.



## Grants Issued by NAASR and Knights of Vartan

Three research grants were issued in May 2010 by NAASR and the Knights of Vartan's Fund for Armenian Studies, which is administered by NAASR. The recipients are:

1. Dr. Tork Dalalyan, Institute of Linguistics, National Academy of Sciences, Yerevan, Armenia. Travel grant to take appointment Fellowship at the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, Harvard University, Fall Semester 2010. Dr. Dalalyan is currently researching linguistic connections between Armenian and the languages of the Scythians and Alans. Grant issued by NAASR.

2. Irina Ghaplanyan, currently Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Politics and International Studies at the University of Cambridge, England. Research and travel grant for work on her project "Political Elites in Foreign Policy Making: A Case Study of Armenia." Grant issued by the Knights of Vartan Fund for Armenian Studies.

3. Prof. Alexander Agadjanian, Professor at Center for Study of Religion, Russian State University for Humanities, Moscow, and Konrad Siekierski, Ph.D. candidate, Institute of Archeology and Ethnography, National Academy of Sciences of Armenia, Yerevan. Research grant towards study of "Armenian Christianity Today: Popular Ethos, Local Practices, and Social Functions." Grant issued by the Knights of Vartan Fund for Armenian Studies.



## Marguerite Amirian Turns 100

NAASR wishes to salute Mrs. Marguerite Amirian, widow of NAASR co-founder Thomas Amirian, who has turned 100. Mrs. Amirian was born in Lynn, MA, on June 2, 1910. She comes from a family with many relatives, and she greatly enjoys keeping in touch with relatives and friends.

Mrs. Amirian has been a devoted wife and mother and caring for her family has been the focus of her adult life. She met Tom Amirian through their mutual involvement in the Armenian Students Association, and until recent years was a fixture at NAASR lectures in Belmont. We wish her continued health and happiness.



The late Thomas Amirian, standing, with Marguerite Amirian and Adrienne Amirian at a NAASR event in the 1980s.

## NAASR Videographer Extraordinaire Roger Hagopian Honored

Roger Hagopian wears many hats: hard-working businessman, active participant in the Armenian community in many capacities, including as rock-solid and reliable videographer for NAASR's Boston-area events, and maker of documentaries "in his spare time."

Over the past decade, he has made a group of superb video documentaries that include *Memory Fragments of the Armenian Genocide* (2007), *Our Boys: Armenian-American World War II Veterans* (2006), *Journey of an Armenian Family* (1999) and *Memories of Marash: Legacy of a Lost Armenian Community* (2002), which received the Comcast Regional Award for Best Documentary Film.



Roger Hagopian speaking at NAASR on March 11.

With his latest work, *Destination Watertown: The Armenians of Hood Rubber* (which was shown at NAASR on March 11 with the co-sponsorship of the Armenian Library and Museum of America), however, Hagopian has gone a step further and created his best and richest work yet. But we emphasize the word "yet"—since Hagopian has not yet failed to excel himself with each new documentary.

Hagopian conducted extensive research and carried out numerous interviews with former factory employees of Armenian descent as well as other East Watertown residents and descendants of the Hood family. The documentary combines interview footage with historic photographs, maps, documents, artifacts, and images of the remnants of the old factory, once one of the largest of its kind in the world. It is a gripping, informative, and entertaining work.

The Armenian community has come to understand what an extraordinary resource Hagopian is—taking time out of his busy work and family life to craft loving and well-researched videos that document aspects of our history that would otherwise be lost forever.

It is encouraging to note that the non-Armenian world takes note of his work, as well, as on May 19, 2010, Hagopian was honored by the town of Watertown with the community's "Historic Resources Award."

NAASR joins with all who appreciate and recognize Roger Hagopian's talent and dedication. We are all lucky to know him and we all benefit from his hard work and enthusiasm.

## Conversational Western Armenian Classes at NAASR in Fall 2010

Anahid Yacoubian of Arlington, MA, will again be offering a weekly class in conversational Western Armenian at NAASR. The Tuesday night Beginners Class will begin on September 28; the Wednesday night Advanced Beginners Class will commence on September 29. There will be ten sessions each from 6:45 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. Classes will conclude in December.

Yacoubian has taught Armenian language classes in the Watertown public schools for many years. The course will focus on conversation and communication skills in Western Armenian.

Thematic dialogue will provide an opportunity for students to practice their newly acquired skills. The alphabet will be introduced to enable students to understand the structure of



Advanced Beginners Armenian Class, Spring 2010: Natalie Zakarian, Carol Minasian, Anahid Yacoubian, June Baboian, Shahkeh Setian

the language and to help students to differentiate the pronunciation of similar sounds.

Reading and writing will be incorporated based on the interest of the class. Class size will

be limited to 15 with a minimum of 10. Tuition fees are as follows: \$150 (non-members), \$135 (NAASR members and students). All handouts will be provided by the instructor.



Beginners Armenian Class Spring 2010: Standing: Vahram Nahikian, Anoush Nahikian, Anahid Yacoubian, Michael Rubinstein; Seated: Ed Danielson, Geri Lyn Ajemian, Lucille Ajemian, Ann Danielson

### NAASR Videos Are Now on YouTube

NAASR is pleased to announce the launch of its youtube channel featuring selected lectures from our active and diverse programs. The channel is at



<http://www.youtube.com/user/ArmenianStudies>.

Please visit the page to see what is currently available—talks on Armenian history, art, architecture, the Armenian genocide, and more. New videos are being added on an ongoing basis.

Through the years, many people who do not have access to our programs have asked if there were a way for them to benefit from our rich lectures featuring the leading names in Armenian Studies and related fields. Now there is—subscribe to our youtube channel.



**NAASR Newsletter** ISSN 0890-3794

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