

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR ARMENIAN  
STUDIES AND RESEARCH (NAASR)/ CALOUSTE GULBENKIAN  
FOUNDATION LECTURE SERIES ON CONTEMPORARY ARMENIAN ISSUES  
AND FIRST ARMENIAN CHURCH (BELMONT)

*Present a Program in Commemoration of the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
of the Armenian Earthquake*

**THE 1988 ARMENIAN EARTHQUAKE AND  
THE TRANSFORMATION OF  
DIASPORAN/HOMELAND RELATIONS**

**Introduced and Moderated by Stephen Kurkjian**  
*Investigative Reporter (Retired), Boston Globe, and  
Member, Board of Directors, NAASR*

**With the participation of John A. Simourian, Michele  
Simourian, Dr. Hayk Demoyan (on video), Dr. Carolann  
Najarian, and Elaine Kasparian.**

**Thursday – December 13, 2018 - 7:30 p.m.**

**Nahigian Hall, First Armenian Church  
380 Concord Ave., Belmont, MA**

The devastating earthquake that struck Soviet Armenia on December 7, 1988, caused massive devastation and death especially in the cities of Spitak, Leninakan (now Gyumri), and Kirovakan (now Vanadzor). As many as 50,000 people were killed and well over 100,000 were injured. The earthquake prompted a massive international humanitarian response which included historic contributions from the worldwide Armenian diaspora.

In a recent article published in the *AMAA News* and reprinted in the *Armenian Mirror-Spectator*, multiple Pulitzer Prize winner Stephen Kurkjian told the story of how Watertown native John Simourian led an effort to bring dialysis equipment to Armenia, relating also the work of Dr. Carolann Najarian, the Armenian Milk Fund, and other individuals and organizations who rapidly mobilized to save lives. The rescue effort, Kurkjian makes clear, had a transformative effect on the relationship between the Armenian diaspora and the then Soviet republic, creating bonds and relationships that continue to flourish today.



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