



The National Association for Armenian Studies and Research



**From
Silva
Sedrakian**
NAASR Executive
Director

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to announce that my first year at NAASR has been productive with great accomplishments mainly due to our committed supporters and members as well as NAASR's dedicated staff, volunteers, and Board of Directors.

A member once mentioned to me, "You have big shoes to fill," and I knew that I had a tremendous task to do which could only be possible by listening to my NAASR mentors, Sarah Ignatius, former Executive Director and my stellar predecessor, and our visionary former Chairperson, Yervant Chekijian. They have both supported me with genuine advice and encouraging guidance.

Having emerged from the pandemic lockdown, NAASR's stunning Vartan Gregorian Building is again home to see MESSAGE, page 2

NAASR's Expanding Horizons Raises Funds and Spirits

NAASR held a special celebratory evening entitled "Expanding Horizons," on June 24, 2022, that featured a cocktail reception in the Solarium and dinner in the Assembly Hall, with a program including a musical performance by talented young pianist Tigran Mardanyan and a presentation by acclaimed filmmaker Ani Hovannisian, whose documentary *The Hidden Map* aired nationwide on PBS.

"Expanding Horizons" was ably presided over by NAASR Board Member Judith Saryan and also included remarks by Dr. Lisa Gulesserian of Harvard University and NAASR Chairman Yervant Chekijian.

We are grateful to all who sponsored this event, providing vital support to help us serve our global mission supporting Armenian studies and research.



Left to right: Laura Yardumian, Silva Sedrakian, Ani Babaian, Ani Hovannisian, Marc Mamigonian, Judith Saryan, Dr. Lisa Gulesserian, Arlene Saryan Alexander



All eyes were on pianist Tigran Mardanyan



Ani Hovannisian, Yervant Chekijian, Sharon Chekijian, and Gevorg Yaghjian pause for a selfie



IN MEMORIAM

Edward Avedisian
(1937-2022)

NAASR Board Member
and Philanthropist
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NAASR Holds 68th Annual Assembly and Welcomes Distinguished New Board Members

The National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) welcomed four highly accomplished new members to its 27-person Board of Directors, after elections held during its 68th Annual Assembly of Members on Saturday, November 5, 2022. The new Board members are Dr. Nick Akgulian of Racine, WI; Brian Ansbikian of Stoneham, MA; Assistant Professor Mihran Aroian of Austin, TX; and Gerald Papazian of Palos Verdes Estates, CA.

NAASR is honored to welcome these talented, distinguished, and committed new members to its Board to work together towards

achieving NAASR's mission of advancing Armenian Studies.

At a meeting of its Board of Directors following the Annual Assembly, officers were elected for 2022-23: Chairperson, Judith Saryan of Cambridge, MA; First Vice-Chairperson, Roxanne Etmekjian of West Newton, MA; Second Vice-Chairperson, Mark A. Momjian of Philadelphia, PA; Secretary, Arlene Saryan Alexander of Washington, D.C.; Treasurer, Bruce W. Roat of Los Angeles, CA; Advisors, Ara Araz of Franklin Lakes, NJ, and Nancy R. Kolligian of Watertown, MA.

see ASSEMBLY, page 2



New NAASR Chairperson Judith Saryan

NAASR Holds 68th Annual Assembly and Welcomes Distinguished New Board Members

ASSEMBLY, from page 1

Incumbents re-elected for three-year terms were Edward Avedisian of Lexington, MA; Jirair Balayan of Auburn, MA; Dr. Susan Barba of Cambridge, MA; Nancy Kricorian of New York, NY; Arlene Saryan Alexander; and Shushan M. Teager of Belmont, MA.

NAASR is grateful to the three outgoing Board members for their years of dedication, generosity, and excellent service: Marta T. Batmasian of Boca Raton, FL; Dr. Bedross Der Matossian of Lincoln, NE; Dr. Jesse Matossian of Woodland Hills, CA; and Stepan Piligian of Westford, MA.

NAASR has been very fortunate for having a visionary and dedicated leader as its Chairperson for the past seven years, Yervant Chekijian, who has led NAASR's growth including the completion of its splendid building. Yervant Chekijian's commitment to NAASR as a long-time member for more than fifty years and as a Board member for more than twenty years has set an example of genuine dedication and true generosity that will remain an integral part of NAASR.

NAASR is also thankful to its dedicated volunteers who assist the organization in many different ways by sharing their time and expertise.

Distinguished New Board Members

The new NAASR Board members are experienced professionals in their respective fields.

Dr. Nick Akgulian, of Racine, Wisconsin, attended the University of Wisconsin for both undergraduate (BS) and medical school (MD). He completed residency in Family Practice, working as a Family Practitioner in the Racine area for much of the time between 1995-2021. From 2001-02, Nick lived and worked in Armenia for a World Bank/USAID project involving health care reform. From 2003-05, he lived and worked in Central America in Belize, as medical director of Hillside Clinic, Toledo District. In January 2021, Nick resumed the medical directorship at Hillside until July 2022, at which time he traveled to live and work in Artsakh for two months on a health care reform project in the Martuni region, sponsored by the Tufenkian Foundation and the Armenian American Medical Association (AAMA) Boston. Involvement with the Armenian community has taken many forms including as a NAASR member; being a founding member of the MidEast Beat Armenian folk band; St. Nersess summer study graduate; Armenian Assembly summer intern; St. Mesrob Armenian Church (Racine) Parish Council member; cofounder of the Racine Armenian Coalition organization; Armenian studies in Venice; a number of trips into Anatolia beginning in 1984, most recently 2019; living in

Armenia the spring of 1992 and providing relief to earthquake survivors and war refugees; numerous trips to Armenia with Fuller Housing to participate in home construction.

Brian Ansbikian, of Stoneham, Massachusetts, has been an active member of the Armenian community since adolescence. As a boy, he attended Sunday School at St. James Armenian Church and went on to study Armenian language for several years at the church's Mesrob Mashdotz Institute. Brian was an active ACYOA and AGBU Young Professionals member for many years. Brian completed his undergraduate studies in finance and Middle Eastern studies at Boston University. His experience with the curriculum sparked a lifelong interest in supporting the advancement of research and study of Armenian topics. Brian currently works in mergers and acquisitions within the technology industry and has prior professional experience in investment banking, corporate strategy, and business development. Brian is passionate about Armenian culture and history. Deeply interested in Armenian music, he has studied the oud and various genres of Armenian and Middle Eastern music since age 16. He maintains a large collection of antique ouds and has performed extensively across New England, including at the opening of NAASR's Vartan Gregorian building.

Mihran Aroian, of Austin, Texas, is a long-time member of NAASR. Most recently Mihran has been on the faculty at the McCombs School of Business at The University of Texas at Austin and a visiting professor at the Manoogian Simone College of Business & Economics in Yerevan, Armenia. Mihran was instrumental in Texas passing House Resolution 191 and becoming the 46th state to recognize the Armenian Genocide, having the Texas Commission on Holocaust and Genocide include the Armenian Genocide in their educational programs, and having the Texas Education Agency include the Armenian Genocide in Texas public school social studies curriculum. Mihran has an eclectic background as a scientist, venture capitalist, entrepreneur, and instructor. Previously, Mihran was the co-founder of TMI Capital, Amicus Networks, and Science Partners. Having worked for Austin Ventures, Mihran has a background in working with entrepreneurial firms in the US and Armenia and is currently consulting with a cardiovascular biotech company in Boston.

Gerald (Jerry) Papazian, of Palos Verdes Estates, California, is currently the Managing Director of Fountainhead Associates, Inc., a management consulting firm he founded, which specializes in helping entrepreneurs start and grow new businesses. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Southern California (USC) with a degree in Economics and re-

ceived his JD/MBA degree from UCLA, where he was a member of the law review. Jerry is a NAASR Leadership Circle member since 2013 and is active in his local community. Jerry became Chairman of the Armenian Film Foundation after the death of Dr. J. Michael Hagopian, and, along with Carla Garapedian, successfully led the effort to include digitized and indexed copies of Hagopian's 400 filmed interviews of witnesses and survivors of the Armenian Genocide into the USC Shoah Foundation Visual History Archive, founded by filmmaker Steven Spielberg. He was a member of the USC Board of Trustees and served as president of the USC Alumni Association. He is currently President of the US Capitol Page Alumni Association and serves on the board of the Pomegranate Foundation and the Southern California Committee for the Olympic Games. He is a Henry Crown Fellow at the Aspen Institute.

Message From Silva Sedrakian

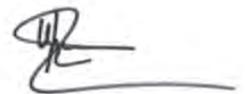
MESSAGE, from page 1

in-person programs and events and welcomes all visitors to the library and the bookstore. In addition to our academic programs, NAASR started offering programs for children and youth, providing space and opportunity for our young generation to be more acquainted with Armenian literature and heritage. We are thrilled to see members of our community gathering in and enjoying our building!

Inspired by NAASR's founding leaders, I am committed to continue building a strong community with our members and partners in fulfilling NAASR's mission in advancing Armenian Studies. NAASR takes pride in supporting a growing number of brilliant scholars worldwide with their publications in prominent academic presses.

Your contributions in fulfilling NAASR's mission are what makes our work meaningful. Together with NAASR's staff and its newly elected Chair, Judith Saryan, we look forward to further collaboration and to building a broader community and outreach.

Sincerely,



Silva Sedrakian
Executive Director

Armenian Stories for Children Come Alive at NAASR

Editor's note: In 2022 NAASR began a series of programs for children that aim to provide educational and enjoyable content for young people drawing on Armenian literature and folklore. The first of these, in April, featured Anbardeli Zabelë (Անպարտեղի Զապէլը), by Nora Kayserian and illustrated by Lusine Ghukasyan, about Zabel Yesayan. We here present a report by Mary Galstian on the two fall 2022 children's events.

By Mary Galstian

Once upon a time, in the beautiful Town of Belmont, there was a castle called NAASR, with a welcoming Solarium where there are events for Armenian children: magical fairytale reading sessions of great Armenian storytellers narrated by a gem of the current-day adult generation...

That time was not long ago. In fact, it happened on November 12, in the magnificent Solarium of NAASR's Vartan Gregorian Building. It



Judith Saryan as Zabelle Yesayan, April 12, 2022

was a narration of legendary Armenian writer and poet Hovhannes Tumanyan's folktale "Bochad Aghvesuh" (Պոչստ Աղուէսը) which is also known in English as "The Fox That Lost Its Tail." (A popular version of the story was published by Nonny Hogrogian as *One Fine Day*.) Hovhannes Tumanyan was a literary giant and cultural leader of the late 19th and early 20th century who laboriously compiled, assembled, and

passed on morals through poems, ballads, folktales, fables, novels, and any written form of communication to enlighten the Armenian nation. The story was told exquisitely by Meghri Dervartanian, a highly active and brilliant leader of the Boston Armenian-American community. The morning of the event, the Solarium was full of happy children running around and playing before the event started. Their parents were in utter joy at witnessing Armenians coming together to connect through a tale that offers subtextual educational hidden codes to any young Armenian child or adult in any part of the world. As the saying goes, "tales are told to put children to sleep, and to awaken adults..." This time around, Meghri told the aforementioned fable to teach a bit more of the Armenian language's ABCs to a group of bright 3-7 year olds.

One of many themes that travels through "The Fox That Lost Its Tail" is: to reap the fruits of your own labor and to not take the harvest of others. The fox happens to drink the milk from an elderly woman's milk-pan and she cuts the fox's tail. When the fox asks to have his tail back, she tells it to go get milk for her. This segues into a medley of events in which the fox sets on a journey asking the cow, the field, the fountain, the girl, and so on for different items that connect like a network, enabling it to essentially get its tail back. The fox has to go get one item to provide it and get the other, like a group of links. As such, this story also portrays that all functions, products, and resources in the community support each other



Mary Galstian and Meghri Dervartanian on Oct. 1, 2022

in a huge circle.

In order to make such complex themes comprehensible to the young children, Meghri crafted a wonderful illustration on a large board accompanied by stick figures that she implemented in order to give the children a visual perspective on the plot. The storytelling also included active engagement with the children, as Meghri took moments in between and asked them questions to spark their creative thinking skills and hear their enthusiastic responses. The children also experienced a group activity, holding hands in a circle to better grasp the communal emphasis of cooperation and interconnectedness that Tumanyan diligently and carefully imparts through this tale.

The event on November 12 was a sequel to the first NAASR youth program event of the fall, which took place on October 1. The fairytale for the October event was Armenian linguist, folklorist, and historian Ghazaros Aghayan's "Anahid" narrated by Meghri and myself with theatrical use of props. (This story has been rendered in English by David Kherdian as *The Golden Bracelet* and by Robert D. San Souci as *A Weave of Words*.) Ghazaros Aghayan was a prominent educator of the 19th century who devoted his life to writing literature to ensure development, maintenance, and cultivation of the Armenian spirit and precious human values.

The tale is a story of a village girl, named Anahid, with whom Vatchagan—the son of a king—falls in love. Anahid gives Vatchagan a condition, encouraging him to learn a craft in exchange for her consent to marriage. After learning the meticulous and fine art of embroidery, Anahid agrees to marry. Years later, when Vatchagan gets imprisoned, it is his craft—a delicately handmade drapery which is sent to Anahid describing his dire situation through embroidered details—that ultimately frees him and saves his life. This is to say that no matter what walk of life one is from, whether a king or a peasant, a man or a woman, an adult or child, one must learn to interweave education and some craft of one's passion and choice in order to gain wisdom from received knowledge and apply it. This tale was written during the *Zartonk* period—the Armenian Renaissance—in the 19th century. Its message resonated with the nation and is still relevant today because it is a part of the Armenian purpose: we create.

The treasures and interpretations behind Armenian folklore are vital to the development of today's Armenian youth. NAASR's efforts to bring these folktales to the shore and reawaken the community in the Diaspora to the indispensability of this cultural form of identity development is a huge step to impactful change. Join the next ԱԲԳ/ABC for Children event at NAASR, coming soon. Stay tuned!

International Conference “Technologies of Communication and Armenian Narrative Practices Through the Centuries” at NAASR

On September 17 and 18, 2022, the international conference “Technologies of Communication and Armenian Narrative Practices Through the Centuries” took place at the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) Vartan Gregorian Building.

The conference was organized and sponsored by the Society for Armenian Studies (SAS) and NAASR with the co-sponsorship of the University of Southern California Institute of Armenian Studies, the Mashtots Chair in Armenian Studies at Harvard University, the Armenian Studies Program at California State University, Fresno, the Armenian Studies Program at the University of California, Irvine, the Krikor and Clara Zohrab Information Center, and the Center for Armenian Studies at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

The conference featured papers by scholars from Armenia, the United States, Hungary, and Australia, mainly participating in person but with several joining via Zoom.

Welcoming remarks on September 17 were provided by representatives of SAS and NAASR. SAS president Bedross Der Matossian of the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, thanked conference supporters and co-sponsors and noted the significance of the conference’s being the first one held at NAASR’s new building, which had its grand opening shortly before the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, and that SAS is “looking forward to more fruitful cooperation with NAASR in the coming years.” NAASR Director of Academic Affairs Marc Mamigonian pointed out that having scholars gathered together in the building to share their work and interact with each other and with the general public is the ultimate fulfillment of what was hoped for when the building was conceptualized.

Dzovinar Derderian of UC Berkeley framed the conference theme with Christopher Sheklian of Radboud University. In her opening remarks, she stated that the idea for the conference went back several years and was “the outcome of Christopher Sheklian and my separate but intersecting interests in the questions of how forms and mediums of narration have shaped various Armenian communities and how Armenians in turn have molded those mediums and genres of communication.”

Session One: Narrative Practices and Power

The first conference session was “Narrative Practices and Power” and included four papers with Mamigonian as chair and discussant. Armen Abkarian (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor), “Forging The Crown of Togarmah: *Vahram’s*



Conference participants and organizers: Left to right, Bedross Der Matossian, Harutyun Marutyun, Varak Ketsemanian, Christina Maranci, Anna Aleksanyan, Anush Sargsyan, Lerna Ekmekcioglu, Dzovinar Derderian, Hasmik Khalapyan, Gayane Ayyvazyan, Marc Mamigonian, Asya Darbinyan, Nora Lessersohn, Shushan Khachatryan, Jesse Arlen

Chronicle and the Creation of Cilician Armenian Kingship,” focused on *Vahram’s Chronicle* and its strategies of projecting the power and legitimacy of the Cilician Armenian kings, as well as its place in a tradition of Armenian historiography that sought to legitimize this or that ruler



Left to right: Harutyun Marutyun, Hasmik Khalapyan, Asya Darbinyan, Armen Abkarian

while also drawing on non-Armenian forms and styles. Asya Darbinyan (Clark University), “Stories of Refugee Struggle and Assistance through the Periodicals of Imperial Russia,” discussed the coverage of the plight of Armenian refugees in various periodicals published in the Russian Empire during World War I, both in Russian and in Armenian, and posed a key question, “What did

the central imperial periodicals focus on versus their Armenian counterparts?”

In his presentation “Visual Forms of Communication as a Tool and Sign for Revolutionary Changes,” Harutyun Marutyun (Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute, Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography, National Academy of Sciences of Armenia) took a close look at the posters and banners of the Karabakh movement in the late 1980s and early 1990s, focusing on the issue of legitimacy, in this case how the movement, through its posters, asserted the legitimacy of its cause by invoking a document, the Soviet constitution, and a concept, the will of the people.

Hasmik Khalapyan (American University of Armenia) in “Narratives of Atheism in Forging a Soviet Armenian Citizen” provided a detailed look at the history and modes of communication used in Soviet Armenia to promote the communist doctrine of atheism to a nation with a strong Christian church and traditions.

Session Two: Technologies of Communication and Identity Making

On September 18, the conference continued with “Technologies of Communication and Identity Making,” with Zoom presentations by Natasha Parnian (Macquarie University), “A World in Crisis: Reconstructing Identity in

Late Antique Armenia,” and Diana Ghazaryan (Pázmány Péter Catholic University), “Through the Lens of History: Photographic Modes of Inhabiting the Holy Land by 19th and 20th Centuries Armenians,” and, in-person, Shushan Khachatryan (Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute), “Sacred Objects as Symbols of the Armenian Genocide Survival Stories.” Nora Lessersohn of University College London was the chair and discussant.

All of the papers addressed forms of communication such as manuscripts, books, photographs and prayer scrolls that double as devices of mediation, and through their mediation, they serve as objects of identity formation. Parnian discussed the development of the Armenian alphabet—a most fundamental technology of communication—which, in being used to translate Christian literature in particular, forged a visual and intellectual relationship between Armenian-ness, or Armenian identity, and Christianity. Ghazaryan examined photographs that not only serve to connect or mediate their viewers with the stories they tell, but also situate the



SAS President and NAASR Board Member Bedross Der Matossian

Armenian photographers themselves as mediators, in-between figures who could bridge their local community, the “East,” with the communities of the “West.” Khachatryan presented examples of old manuscripts, ritual and prayer books, and hmayils (prayer scrolls) that serve as conversation starters that allow viewers to learn Armenian stories of survival and thus to better understand Armenians as survivors across multiple generations.

Session Three: Adapting to Change

The panel “Adapting to Change: Mobility, Changing Socio-Economic Patterns, and Technologies of Communication” began with a talk by Jesse Arlen (Zohrab Information Center), “An Old Technology in a New Era: The Use of the Scroll (Hmayil) among Early Modern Armenians,” concerning the hmayil, the extraordinary scroll-shaped medium that emerged in the early modern period, and addressed ques-

tions such as “Who produced these scrolls, who were they produced for, and for what purposes?” and “How might the contents of hmayils help explain their function and use among early modern Armenians?” Gayane Ayvazyan (Harvard University), “The ‘Diary’ of Eremia Komurjian: The Writing of Everyday,” offered insight into the life of Eremia and his background, focusing on what his

work tells us about the everyday, in productive contrast to previous scholarly work. The third paper was by Anush Sargsyan, and it treated the extraordinary T/O (*terrarum orbis*) map, which has been studied in depth by Rouben Galichian. Sargsyan took a different approach by seeking to understand the work within the context of its host manuscript, MS 1242 of the Matenadaran. Christina Maranci (Mashtots Chair in Armenian Studies, Harvard University), acted as session chair and discussant.

Session Four: Can the Provinces Speak?

The final panel, “Can the Provinces Speak? Mainstreaming Peripheral Narratives and Perspectives on Ottoman-Armenians,” focused on the theme of how to access the lives of provincial Ottoman Armenians during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Anna Aleksanyan (Clark University), “Provincial Khmoratip School Press as a Platform for Representation of Women’s Issues,” looked at a relatively unknown source or set of sources that yield a wealth of information about provincial life and specifically women’s issues, marking a significant contribution since the Armenian women’s movement has thus far been examined more through newspapers and books published in Constantinople and other metropolises.

Nora Bairamian (UCLA), “Assessing the Development of Armenian Nationalism in the Ottoman Borderlands Through the Genre of the Short Story,” discussed the differing responses of provincial masses to the emerging or ongoing revolutionary movement around them, drawing on two short stories written by provincial authors, Tlgadintsi of Kharpert in 1911 and Rupen Zartarian, who also was raised in Kharpert and was Tlgadintsi’s student. Varak Ketsemanian (Princeton University), “The Memoirs of Boghos Shadig (1874-1951): Subaltern Voices of the Armenian Revolutionary Movement,” focused on scholarship of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation, both popular and academic, which has tended to concentrate on the



Left to right: Varak Ketsemanian, Anna Aleksanyan, Lerna Ekmekcioglu, with Nora Bairamian participating via Zoom on screen

leadership of the movement rather than lower-level revolutionaries such as Boghos Shadigian, whose narrative nevertheless expands our un-



Left to right: Gayane Ayvazyan, Anush Sargsyan, Jesse Arlen

derstanding of how the nationalist, revolutionary ideology spread among the masses in the provinces. Lerna Ekmekçioglu (McMillan-Stewart Associate Professor of History, MIT), acted as the chair and discussant of this final panel.

Concluding Remarks by New Mashtots Chair, Christina Maranci

“The speakers took us from late antiquity to modern period, from Artsakh to Jerusalem, and from Constantinople to the eastern provinces; they looked at the epic and the everyday, they brought to light modest objects and lesser-known genres, they gave voice to the subaltern, presented regional and microhistories, and told history ‘from below,’” said Maranci. Furthermore, the conference “reflects an important change in the way we approach history, literature, and culture from previous decades, and demonstrates the present and powerful engagement of Armenian Studies with the movements and developments in so many fields.” Derderian then led a general discussion on the papers and general themes of the conference.

Dadourian Foundation Supports Programs on Armenia’s Cartographic Heritage

For a third consecutive year, in 2022 the Dadourian Foundation provided support for a series of NAASR programs: a series focusing on Armenia’s cartographic heritage and its importance today for Armenian history, culture, and sovereignty.

The first program was a webinar hosted on March 26, 2022, with Rouben Galichian, on “The Ever-Changing Borders of Armenia in Ancient and Modern Times: The Cartographic Record.” Born in Tabriz, Iran, previously based in London, now residing in Armenia, Galichian is a widely recognized expert on the cartographic heritage of Armenia and the South Caucasus from antiquity to the modern era and its distortion and manipulation for political purposes.

Exploring maps of Armenia’s changing borders over time, Galichian revealed significant aspects of Armenian history, culture, and geography from ancient times to the present which are vital to the current territorial debate. The 44-day war waged by Azerbaijan and Turkey against Armenia and Artsakh in the fall of 2020 and the ongoing clashes have highlighted the importance of the accurate determination of the borders of the Republics of Armenia and Artsakh and how essential this is to their full exercise of sovereignty.

The series continued in December with presentations by Matthew Karanian and Dr. Khatchig Mouradian. Karanian’s webinar, “Mapping the Armenian Highland,” discussed a series of extraordinary maps created a century ago by his



An image from Karanian’s talk—a map by Mardiros Kheranian at the Hairenik building in Watertown undergoing conservation

than 20 years later with the exploration of all of ancient Armenia. Along the way, he picked up where his Uncle Mardik had left off, by mapping the Armenian Highland in words and photographs, to preserve their memory for future generations.

Mardiros Kheranian’s maps are works of art as well as historical records. They have been displayed, or are currently on display, at the National Museum in Yerevan, at Holy Etchmiadzin, at the Armenian Prelacy in Detroit, and at the ANCA in Washington, D.C.

The final program, an in-person and online presentation by Dr. Khatchig Mouradian, the Armenian and Georgian Area Specialist at the Library of Congress and a lecturer in Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies at Columbia University, had the evocative title “Gas Balloons, Emperors, and Armenian Mapmakers: A Cartographic Journey through the Library of Congress’s Collections.” An unexpected highlight of the program was the display of three of the rare 18th century maps discussed by Mouradian provided courtesy of the Arme-



From Matthew Karanian’s “Mapping the Armenian Highland,” showing one of Mardiros Kheranian’s maps of Van

nian Museum of America in Watertown. (See “Dr. Khatchig Mouradian Inspires Multiple Audiences at NAASR,” on next page.)

Also in December, NAASR Director of Academic Affairs Marc Mamigonian and Library Curator Ani Babaian published an installment of NAASR’s Treasures of the Mardigian Library featuring maps and atlases from the library’s collection, reflecting the diversity of approaches to mapping Armenia over the past 325 years, spanning from the oldest (a ca. 1697 map of Armenia and the region) to the most recent (an *Atlas of the Nagorno-Karabagh Republic* published in 2010).



After Khatchig Mouradian’s talk audience members got to view rare maps courtesy of the Armenian Museum of America

great uncle Mardiros Kheranian and the impact these maps had on him on his own path to discovery of his ancestral lands in Western Armenia and in creating works such as his book *The Armenian Highland*.

Author and lawyer Karanian’s journey of discovery began in Cilicia and concluded more

Dr. Khatchig Mouradian Inspires Multiple Audiences at NAASR

By Pauline Getzoyan

“If you can’t read books, breathe books.” Dr. Khatchig Mouradian imparted these words of wisdom to his young (and older) audience during the first of his two in-person presentations at the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) holiday open house on Thursday, December 15.

Dr. Mouradian’s first presentation “The Books and Authors That Inspired My Journey” was in conversation with Harvard doctoral student Julia Hintlian. Stacked on the table in front of him during the discussion were several books, including a book of poetry by Vahan Tekeyan and novels by author Moushegh Ishkhan: *For Bread and Light* and *For Bread and Love*. There was also Victor Hugo’s *Les Misérables* in both Armenian and English, which Dr. Mouradian called “transformative” and one that “enriches me and connects me to my childhood.”

A self-described bookworm, Dr. Mouradian “felt he could escape in books” as a child born a couple of years into the Lebanese Civil War. His parents encouraged his love of reading and exposed him to many languages as a child, including Armenian, Arabic, Turkish, French, and English.

Hintlian’s insightful conversation-starters ranged from the importance of physical copies of books versus audiobooks/e-books and reading effectively with an eye to the future to how novels have had a tangible effect on Mouradian. Mouradian responded that it’s best not to be a purist and to consume books in the medium that works best for each person (audiobook, ebook, or print) and to enjoy the experience and journey of reading a book. He shared that as a child he read a story in Armenian entitled, “Bring a stone from Ani.” When Mouradian traveled to Turkey for the first time, the ruins of Ani were the first place he visited. He knelt and started collecting small pebbles from the area and, in a moment of revelation, realized that he was recalling the story, prompting him to gather the stones.

Questions from the audience followed, including one asking which books to read before going to college. Mouradian suggested a number of books, including Kahlil Gibran’s *The Prophet* and Donna Tartt’s *The Goldfinch* and said that he likes books that surprise him. “Read what interests you,” he said, and take in the sense of wonder books impart.



Julia Hintlian and Khatchig Mouradian



Mouradian presenting “Gas Balloons, Emperors, and Armenian Mapmakers: A Cartographic Journey through the Library of Congress’ Collections”

Mouradian and Kurt Awarded Aronian Book Prizes

Prior to Mouradian’s second presentation, NAASR’s Board of Directors chairperson Judith Saryan and Director of Academic Affairs Marc Mamigonian both offered remarks. Mamigonian took a few moments to pay tribute to longtime NAASR supporter Edward Avedisian with a 2021 video featuring Avedisian on clarinet with the Armenian Chamber Orchestra.

Mamigonian then made a surprise announcement during his introductory remarks, to the delight of those gathered for the presentation. Mamigonian announced Dr. Mouradian as one of the recipients of the 2022 Dr. Sona Aronian Book Prizes for Excellence in Armenian Studies for his book *The Resistance Network: The Armenian Genocide and Humanitarianism in Ottoman Syria, 1915-1918*. NAASR awards the prizes annually in recognition of important scholarly works in the field of Armenian Studies. Mamigonian also shared that Dr. Ümit Kurt was announced two days prior as co-winner of the 2022 prize for his book *The Armenians of Aintab: The Economics of Genocide in an Ottoman Province* during his presentation with NAASR titled “Talat Pasha’s Genocide Technocrat: A Biography of Mustafa Reşat Mimaroglu.”

Before beginning his presentation, Mouradian expressed his gratitude to NAASR for the award and recognition of his work. Additionally, he expressed his appreciation to many institutions, including NAASR, for offering opportunities for students like himself to achieve their academic aspirations.

From Books to Maps

Mouradian’s second presentation was entitled “Gas Balloons, Emperors, and Armenian Mapmakers: A Cartographic Journey through the Library of Congress’ Collections.”

While not an expert on Armenian cartography, Mouradian said he is an avid student of the subject, one which he has been able to pursue through the Library of Congress, which is home to the largest collection of maps in the world.

Mouradian’s presentation spanned from the 18th century, with the work of the Mekhitarist congregation, to the early 20th century, Ethiopia, the First Republic of Armenia, and Soviet Armenia. He also included the first Armenian map printed in the early 1600s.

Central to Mouradian’s presentation was Fr. Elia (Yeghia) Endasian of the Armenian Catholic Mekhitarist congregation, the engraver who made “an indelible mark on Armenian cartography.” Mouradian took the audience on a journey of Endasian’s map creations, from his world map in 1784 through a detour to his booklet about the history of the hydrogen balloon, which were of great interest to people of the time and increased his popularity, to his continental maps and map of the Ottoman Empire. A complete set of Endasian’s maps are housed in the Library of Congress, which have been digitized and are available for research. “These high-resolution scans spread Endasian’s legacy to the four corners of the world, a fitting tribute to a man who lived to bring the four corners of the world to Armenians,” Mouradian concluded.

A highlight of the evening was the physical display of three of Endasian’s maps discussed by Mouradian, thanks to the generosity and participation of the Armenian Museum of America in Watertown, MA. Museum Collections curator Gary Lind-Sinianian was on hand to assist with the display for attendees to view the maps more closely following the presentation.

(Armenian Weekly, December 21, 2022)

2021-2022 NAASR / Calouste Gulbenkian Lecture Series on Contemporary Armenian Issues

For a sixth year, the NAASR / Calouste Gulbenkian Lecture Series on Contemporary Armenian Issues has provided ground-breaking and agenda-setting programs on a wide range of timely subjects. See list of programs (webinars and hybrid events) below and the accompanying in-depth report on one of these programs, “The Ukraine War and Armenia(ns): Immediate Impacts and Repercussions,” on pages 20–21.



“Fractured Regions and Small States” participants: Marc Mamigonian, Anna Ohanyan, Carter Malkasian, Gohar Iskandaryan, David Lewis

August 25, 2021: “Crisis in Armenia’s Russia-Only Security Doctrine”

Panelists: Lilit Gevorgyan (Russia and CIS Associate Director, IHS Markit, UK) and Armen Kharazian (Principal Attorney, Kharazian Law, USA)

Co-sponsored by NAASR / Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation Lecture Series on Contemporary Armenian Issues and the Society for Armenian Studies.



Maria Armoudian presents “Lawyers Without Borders,” also with Khatchig Mouradian and Marc Mamigonian

temporary Armenian Issues, Ararat-Eskijian Museum, Armenian Bar Association, Armenian Democratic Liberal Party/Ramgavars, Armenian Network of America-Greater NY, Daughters of Vartan-Sahaganoush Otyag, Justice Armenia, Knights of Vartan-Bakradouny Lodge, St. Leon Armenian Church.

October 6, 2021: “Lawyers Beyond Borders: Advancing International Human Rights Through Local Laws and Courts”

Presenter: Maria Armoudian (Senior Lecturer, University of Auckland, New Zealand)

Co-sponsored by NAASR / Gulbenkian Lecture Series on Contemporary Armenian Issues, Columbia University Armenian Center, Institute for the Study of Human Rights (ISHR).

November 4, 2021: “Black Garden Aflame: The Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict in the Soviet and Russian Press”

Presenter: Dr. Artyom Tonoyan (Research Associate, Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, University of Minnesota)

Sponsored by NAASR / Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation Lecture Series on Contemporary Armenian Issues and the Society for Armenian Studies.

Armenian Issues and the Society for Armenian Studies.

November 8, 2021: Artak Beglaryan (State Minister of the Republic of Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh) and the former Artsakh Human Rights Ombudsman) in conversation with Dr. Anna Ohanyan (Richard B. Finnegan Distinguished Professor of Political Science and International Relations, Stonehill College)

Sponsored by NAASR / Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation Lecture Series on Contemporary Armenian Issues.

November 17, 2021: “Syunik Frontlines Update”

Presenter: Tatul Hakobyan (Journalist and the coordinator of the ANI Armenian Research Center)

Sponsored by NAASR/Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation Lecture Series on Contemporary Armenian Issues.

December 2, 2021: “Fractured Regions and Small States: The Impact of Shifting Geopolitics on Armenia”

Panelists: Dr. Gohar Iskandaryan (Chair of Iranian Studies, Department of Oriental Studies, Yerevan State University), Dr. David Lewis (Associate Professor in International Relations, University of Exeter), and Dr. Carter Malkasian



“Genocide Education in Massachusetts” panelists: Marc Mamigonian, Eric Cohen, Herman Purutyan, Dikran Kaligian, Lerna Ekmekcioglu

(author of *The American War in Afghanistan: A History*)

Moderator: Dr. Anna Ohanyan, Richard B. Finnegan Distinguished Professor of Political Science and International Relations, Stonehill College

Sponsored by NAASR / Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation Series on Contemporary Armenian Issues.

February 3, 2022: “Genocide Education in Massachusetts: A New Mandate, a New Era, and New Challenges”

Panelists: Eric Cohen (Chairman, Massachusetts Coalition to Save Darfur), Dr. Dikran Kaligian (Armenian National Committee of America, Eastern Massachusetts), Herman Purutyan (Massachusetts State Chair, Armenian Assembly of America), and Dr. Lerna Ekmekcioglu (McMillan-Stewart Associate Professor of History, MIT)

Moderator: Marc A. Mamigonian, Director of Academic Affairs, NAASR

Sponsored by NAASR / Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation Lecture Series on Contemporary Armenian Topics.

March 31, 2022: “The Ukraine War and Armenia(ns): Immediate Impacts and Repercussions”



Participants in the panel “The Ukraine War and Armenia(ns): Immediate Impacts and Repercussions”: Marc Mamigonian, Stepan Piligian, Anna Ohanyan, Nerses Kopalyan, Vicken Cheterian

Panelists: Dr. Vicken Cheterian (Lecturer in History and International Relations, University of Geneva and Webster University Geneva), Dr. Nerses Kopalyan (Associate Professor-in-Residence of Political Science, University of Nevada, Las Vegas), Dr. Anna Ohanyan (Richard B. Finnegan Distinguished Professor of Political Science and International Relations, Stonehill College)

Moderator: Stepan Piligian, Member, NAASR Board of Directors, and Columnist, Armenian Weekly

Sponsored by NAASR/Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation Lecture Series on Contemporary Armenian Issues.

April 7, 2022: “Restitution of Property in Turkey After 100 Years”

Panelists: Ömer Kantik, Legal Counsel, and Destina Kantik, Attorney

Moderator: Ayda Erbal, Adjunct Professor of Politics, New York University and Bogazici University

Co-sponsored by NAASR/Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation Lecture Series on Contemporary Armenian Issues, AGBU Ararat, Daughters of Vartan-Sahaganoush Otyag, Knights of Vartan-Bakradouny Lodge, and St. Leon Armenian Church.

June 8, 2022: “Debunking Myths: On the Road to a Sustainable Armenia”

Presenter: Dr. Irina Ghaplanyan (Political Scientist and author of *Post-Soviet Armenia: the New National Elite and the New National Narrative*)

Co-sponsored by NAASR / Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation Lecture Series on Contemporary Armenian Issues, AGBU Ararat, AIWA NJ Chapter, Ararat-Eskijian Museum, Armenian Democratic Liberal Party/Ramgavars, Justice Armenia, Knights of Vartan, Bakradouny Lodge, and St. Leon Armenian Church.

July 8-9, 2022: “Russia-Ukraine: War, Statecraft, and Shifting Geopolitics in Eurasia”

Co-sponsored by Erasmus+ Jean Monnet Module “EU, Security and Fundamental Rights” (EUSecJuris), Eurasia International University (EIU), NAASR / Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation Lecture Series on Contemporary Armenian Issues.

NAASR Holds First Annual Vartan Gregorian Lecture

NAASR held its first annual Vartan Gregorian Memorial Lecture on Thursday, April 28, 2022, a webinar presentation by Prof. Hourii Berberian of the University of California, Irvine, and Prof. Talinn Grigor of the University of California, Davis, entitled “From *Bogeyman* to HAY KIN: Representations of Armenian Women in Modern Iran.” Mr. Ara Arakelian, nephew of Vartan Gregorian and President of the Friends of Armenian Culture Society, gave opening remarks on video about his late uncle. The webinar was co-sponsored by the Meghrouni Family Centennial Chair in Armenian Studies at UC Irvine.

About the Lecture

Berberian and Grigor’s talk was part of a larger book project that explores the history of Iran’s Armenian women from the beginning of Naser al-Din Shah’s reign in 1848 to the 1979 fall of the Pahlavi dynasty. As the first scholarly study of its kind, it analyzes the shifting relationship between Iran’s central nodes of power (absolute monarchy and patriarchy) and its Armenian female subjects (ethnic minorities and women) in Qajar and Pahlavi Iran. An article, “Pictorial Modernity and the Armenian Women of Iran,” was published in the peer-review journal *Iranian Studies* in 2022.



Some of the archival materials used by Berberian and Grigor

In this talk, Berberian and Grigor employed pictorial representations of Armenian women to demonstrate their impact on the processes, strategies, and anxieties of modernization by examining two pictorial spheres redolent of the entangled relationship between modernization and women’s visibility and representation: satirical cartoons (1920–58) and costume exhibition (1972–76). The video of the webinar can be viewed on NAASR’s YouTube channel.



Hourii Berberian is Professor of History, Meghrouni Family Presidential Chair in Armenian Studies and Director of the Center for Armenian Studies at the University of California, Irvine. Her books include *Armenians and the Iranian Constitutional Revolution of 1905-1911* (2001) and the award-winning *Roving Revolutionaries: Armenians and the Connected Revolutions in the Russian, Iranian, and Ottoman Worlds* (2019).



Talinn Grigor is Professor and Chair of the Art History Program in the Department of Art and Art History at the University of California, Davis. Her books include *Building Iran: Modernism, Architecture, and National Heritage Under the Pahlavi Monarchs* (2009), *Contemporary Iranian Art: From the Street to the Studio* (2014), and *The Persian Revival: The Imperialism of the Copy in Iranian and Parsi Architecture* (2021).

About Vartan Gregorian

Vartan Gregorian (April 8, 1934-April 15, 2021) was a brilliant educator, humanitarian, and friend after whom NAASR’s Belmont, MA, headquarters building is named. Born in Tabriz, Iran, he received his secondary education at Collège Arménien in Beirut, Lebanon, and graduated from and received a PhD in history and humanities from Stanford University.

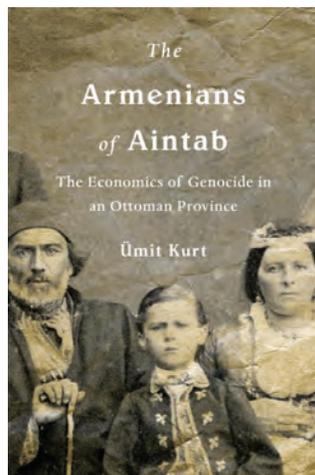
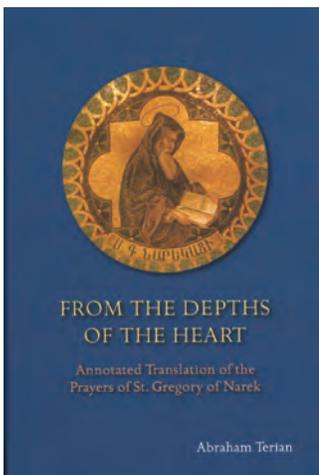
After an academic career spanning two decades, including a period as Tarzian Professor of Armenian and Caucasian History at the University of Pennsylvania, Gregorian served as President of The New York Public Library, President of Brown University, and President of Carnegie Corporation of New York. He was the author of the memoir *The Road To Home: My Life And Times* as well as *The Emergence of Modern Afghanistan, 1880-1946* and *Islam: A Mosaic, Not A Monolith*.

In the words of Edward Avedisian of the NAASR Board of Directors and the lead donor of the NAASR Vartan Gregorian Building, “Vartan Gregorian embodies the values at the heart of NAASR’s mission. He dedicated his entire life to educational advancement and the pursuit of knowledge, engaging in public service throughout his career, and working to better the human condition.”

NAASR Announces Winners of 2022 Dr. Sona Aronian Armenian Studies Book Prizes

The National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) is pleased to announce the 2022 Dr. Sona Aronian Book Prizes for Excellence in Armenian Studies, jointly awarded to Dr. Ümit Kurt for *The Armenians of Aintab: The Economics of Genocide in an Ottoman Province* (Harvard University Press, 2021) and Dr. Khatchig Mouradian for *The Resistance Network: The Armenian Genocide and Humanitarianism in Ottoman Syria, 1915–1918* (Michigan State University Press, 2021); and to Dr. Abraham Terian for his annotated translation of St. Gregory of Narek’s *Matean Oghbergut’ean* (Մատեան Ողբերգութեան) or Book of Lamentation, *From the Depths of the Heart* (Liturgical Press, 2021). The 2022 awards are for books with a 2021 publication date.

NAASR’s Aronian Book Prizes were established in 2014 by the late Dr. Aronian and Dr. Geoffrey Gibbs, to be awarded annually



to outstanding scholarly works in the English language in the field of Armenian Studies and translations from Armenian into English.

NAASR’s Director of Academic Affairs Marc A. Mamigonian commented that “each year it is difficult to make choices for the Dr. Sona Aronian Book Prizes—there are many superb works coming out from across the wide range of what constitutes Armenian Studies. This is a good problem to have.”

Abraham Terian is the first repeat winner of the Aronian Prize, having earlier received the 2017 award for translation for *The Festal Works of St. Gregory of Narek: Annotated Translation of the Odes, Litanies, and Encomia*. Terian is professor emeritus of Armenian theology and patristics at St. Nersess Armenian Seminary, Armonk, New York. Both *The Festal Works of St. Gregory of Narek* and *From the Depths of the Heart: Annotated Translation of the Prayers of St. Gregory of Narek*, as well as other recent publications such as *Moralia et Ascetica Arme-*

niaca: The Oft-Repeated Discourses (Catholic University Press, 2022) *The Life of Mashtots’ by his Disciple Koriwn* (Oxford University Press, 2022) are part of Terian’s extraordinary continued scholarly productivity in his “retirement.”

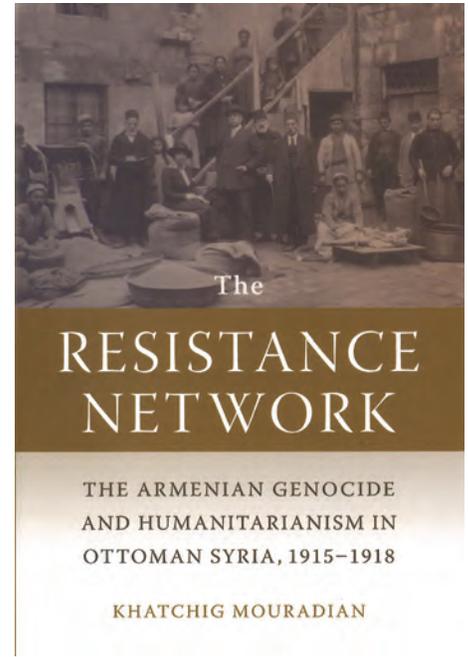
Reached by email, Terian modestly replied, “Thank you for the unexpected award, especially to a previous recipient of Dr. Sona Aronian book prize for translation from Armenian into English. Were it not for the inspiring text by St. Gregory of Narek my translation would have been insignificant.”

Ümit Kurt is Assistant Professor in the School of Humanities, University of Newcastle, New South Wales. Kurt, born and raised in Aintab (today Gaziantep, Turkey), was astonished to learn that his hometown once had a large and active Armenian community. In *The Armenians of Aintab*, Kurt explores the Armenian dispossession that produced the homogeneously

Turkish city in which he grew up. In particular, he examines the population that gained from ethnic cleansing. Those who benefited most—provincial elites, wealthy landowners, state officials, and merchants who accumulated Armenian capital—in turn financed the nationalist movement that brought the modern Turkish republic into being. The economic elite of Aintab was thus reconstituted along both ethnic and political lines.

Via email, Kurt reflected that “as a historian and perhaps even a narrator, it is very difficult to separate my research topic from my personal history, especially when I am working on the dark annals of my own country’s history. I am sometimes a passive agent and sometimes active. It starts with my upbringing and continues in my education and, in fact, is with me, my whole life. At some point, ‘your’ people’s history became part and parcel of ‘my own history.’” He continues, “I did not own your people’s history; on the contrary, it came to own me. *The Armenians of Aintab* is an outcome of such a long journey. This award is so meaningful and extremely important to me in terms of showcasing the truth and honesty of my work. And I am so happy that it has been confirmed and crowned by such a special prize. My only wish and hope is that my work will open new avenues and paths for further research and researchers.”

Khatchig Mouradian is the Armenian and Georgian Area Specialist at the Library of Congress and a lecturer in Middle Eastern, South



Asian, and African Studies at Columbia University. *The Resistance Network* is the history of an underground network of humanitarians, missionaries, and diplomats in Ottoman Syria who helped save the lives of thousands during the Armenian Genocide. Mouradian’s work challenges depictions of Armenians as passive victims of violence and subjects of humanitarianism, demonstrating the key role they played in organizing a humanitarian resistance against the destruction of their people. He ultimately argues that, despite the violent and systematic mechanisms of control and destruction in the cities, concentration camps, and massacre sites in this region, the genocide of the Armenians did not progress unhindered—unarmed resistance proved an important factor in saving countless lives.

Responding to the news of the prize, Mouradian connected the history he explored in the book with the current moment. “In these challenging times for the Armenian nation, I derive strength and hope from the resistance network. These men, women and, yes, children, demonstrated that resistance is possible even in the darkest moments of a nation’s history.” He added, “all I did was reconstruct their stories and amplify their voices. It is they who deserve the recognition. Their gift to me—and, hopefully, us—is the realization that if they could do it then, we can do it now. It’s an honor to share this prize with my colleague, the indefatigable Ümit Kurt. This prize is also testament to Taner Akçam’s ongoing impact on a number of fields not just through his own work, but that of his PhD students. Thank you, NAASR, for this award.”

Authors or publishers wishing to submit books for consideration for future Aronian Prizes may contact NAASR Director of Academic Affairs Marc A. Mamigonian at marc@naasr.org.

Christina Maranci

Aiming to Bring Armenian Art, Culture to Wider Campus Community

By Jill Radsken, *Harvard Gazette*

Christina Maranci, the new Mashtots Professor of Armenian Studies, has big plans. The first person of Armenian descent to hold the position, which is shared jointly by the departments of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations and History of Art and Architecture, Maranci is bursting with ideas for introducing Armenian art and culture to a wider Harvard audience. She spoke to the *Gazette* about her work in Turkey, the discovery of her culture, and the cultural richness of the Greater Boston Armenian community. Interview was edited for clarity and length.

GAZETTE: Tell me about your connection to Armenian culture.

MARANCI: I grew up in Connecticut, not far from New York City, and there weren't many Armenians in my town. My parents loved and still do love European culture — classical music, ballet, opera — and they were very interested in sharing that with us. We also went to Armenian church.

I became really interested in medieval art and art history in college. I slowly found myself groping eastward to Byzantium and then, ultimately, to my own homeland and its traditions. It was a slow process. Whereas I had planned to study high Gothic architecture, I ended up working on Armenian art and architecture.

GAZETTE: Why is Armenian architecture important?

MARANCI: There was an argument that Armenia was the cradle of Gothic architecture in Europe. That position isn't held anymore, but Armenian architecture from the 10th and 11th centuries is striking for its aesthetic values. You see verticality and clustered columns and pointed arches and many of the things that you have in Europe, but this is a different tradition and one that that can be and should be understood in its own context.

When you study the Armenian highlands before Christianity, you see what would be, in an art history textbook, tidied into different chapters: Ancient Near East (Persepolis) or Hellenistic sculpture. But what's so interesting in Armenia is that we can find evidence that points to both traditions.

Artifacts excavated from the ancient Armenian highlands point both to classical Mediterranean traditions (such as a figurine of a goddess in contrapposto and sculpted with the wet drapery technique) as well as objects that point to Ancient Persia (a silver rhyton in the shape of a horse and rider bearing striking similarity to the sculpted figures of the staircase at the audience hall of Persepolis). This means that the corpus of archaeological material does not fit tidily into conventional categories of art history, but rather crosses them, making Armenia a very unruly place to study, which is interesting and also challenging.

GAZETTE: The local Armenian community helped establish your professorship in 1959. What is your involvement with them?

MARANCI: My husband, who's also Armenian, goes to the Holy Trinity Armenian Church on Brattle Street and sings, so I sometimes go with him. But there are also great centers for study in the area, such as the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR), which was closely involved with the establishment of this chair. I've been a



PHOTO BY STEPHANIE MITCHELL/HARVARD STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

member since I was a graduate student. [A Vassar alumna, Maranci got her M.A. and Ph.D. at Princeton.] NAASR is located in Belmont, and it's a great resource for scholars, students, and the community. There is also the Armenian Museum in Watertown, which holds an important collection. This area has a rich Armenian community, second only in the United States to Los Angeles.

GAZETTE: Would you tell us about your work with at-risk sites in Turkey?

MARANCI: There are many Armenian churches in Eastern Turkey, part of the historical territories of Armenia, but they are mostly in fairly desolate places and in various states of disrepair. I work with the World Monuments Fund in New York City, and in turn we work together with the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Turkey as well as other ministries to call attention to these churches and to, ultimately, stabilize them.

The area I study is on a closed international border and home to beautiful and important historic churches. One of them is 19-sided and has lost half of itself: It's basically a cross-section of its original form. Working on such churches is very complicated from many perspectives: political, diplomatic, engineering, and economic. It's a game of patience, and at the same time they're in really dire condition — and, on top of that, the area is highly seismic.

This material is great to teach with because it shows how medieval monuments are caught up in so many different spheres of inquiry, from art history to human rights, international law, politics, not to mention history and religion.

GAZETTE: What are your plans for Armenian studies here?

MARANCI: I want to build undergraduate interest, but I also want to attract and train M.A. and Ph.D. students. I want to create a Gen Ed course on the art and culture of Armenia in order to raise awareness of this extraordinary tradition that doesn't usually get studied. Undergraduates aren't exposed to it, and yet Armenian art and culture is connected to so many different cultures, from Amsterdam to the Philippines. It's just an extraordinary story to tell. I need to find a snappy title for it!

(*Harvard Gazette*, November 8, 2022)



NAASR and the Knights of Vartan Issue Grants in 2022



Grants issued jointly by NAASR and Knights of Vartan Fund for Armenian Studies except where noted.

NAASR has issued research grants since 1966. An April 1973 NAASR press release announced that “the total of all grants made to date by NAASR since the inception of the Fund for the Advancement of Armenian Studies in 1966 in support of studies, research, publications, libraries, and conferences exceeds \$35,000.”

In 2007 NAASR and the Knights of Vartan agreed to combine

efforts and administer both NAASR and the Knights of Vartan Fund for Armenian Studies grants under one unified process. Since 2008, NAASR and the Knights of Vartan Fund for Armenian Studies have issued 211 grants, either jointly or separately. We are proud of the impact of these grants which have allowed scholars to present, publish, and enrich their work and contribute immeasurably to the growth of the field.



Dr. Boris Adjemian, Director, AGBU Nubar Library, Paris, grant to support publication of an English translation from French of his book on the history of Armenians in Ethiopia.



Dr. Tigran Aleksanyan, Institute of Archeology and Ethnography, National Academy of Sciences, Republic of Armenia, grant to support preliminary exploration of the fortresses of the Berd region.



V. Armineh Babikian, PhD student, University of Toronto, and **Jennifer Thompson**, Occupational Therapist, Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital, travel grant to present paper “International Innovation from America to Armenia: Providing Remote Education for Rehabilitation Clinicians in Armenia Treating Acquired Amputation During Post-Armed Conflict” at 2022 World Federation of Occupational Therapy (WFOT) International Congress and Exhibition. Grant issued by NAASR.



Dr. Cevat Dargin, Post-graduate Research Associate, Department of Near Eastern Studies, Princeton University, grant to support additional research for book on the history of state making and nation building in the Middle East through the case of Dersim from the 1877–78 Russo-Turkish War to the Turkish state’s violent transformation of the region in 1937–38.



Ruben Davtyan, PhD student, Martin-Luther University Halle-Wittenberg (Germany) & Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography NAS RA, grant to support excavations in Lori Berd, one of the main Bronze and Iron Age archaeological sites in Armenia.



Dr. Thomas Simsarian Dolan, Visiting Assistant Professor of History, American University in Cairo, travel grant to conduct archival research for chapter on Calouste Gulbenkian for book project “Unusual Figures: Empire, Race and Unseeing the Global Middle East.”



Davit Gevorgyan, Junior Researcher at the Matenadaran / Mashtots Research Institute of Ancient Manuscripts and PhD student in Historiography and Source Science, grant to attend online classes in Ancient Georgian paleography to facilitate PhD research project on “Armenian monasteries on the Black Mountain as scientific-educational center (11th-13th centuries).”



Aram Ghoogasian, PhD candidate in Near Eastern Studies, Princeton University, grant to travel to the Boston area for two weeks to visit three Armenian libraries in support of dissertation on reading culture across the Armenian world in the mid-19th century.



Dr. Rachel Goshgarian, Calouste Gulbenkian Fellow in Armenian History, Department of History, Boğaziçi University, and Associate Professor, Department of History, Lafayette College, travel grant to support January 2023 trip to Yerevan to conclude research in the Matenadaran for monograph tentatively titled “Armeno-Turkish and the Space of Language in the Late Medieval and Early Modern Worlds: Manuscript Production and the Circulation of Ideas, Literature, and People.”



Khachik Grigoryan, Ankyunacar Publishing, grant request to support translation and publication of English edition of Anania Sanahnetsi’s “Objections Against Dyophysites” from *Grabar* (Classical Armenian).



Julia Hintlian, PhD student in Religion, Harvard University, travel grant to visit Armenia to conduct research for her dissertation.



Whitney Kite, PhD student in Art History and Archaeology, Columbia University, travel grant to conduct research in Armenia, Venice, Paris, and London, and Turkey for dissertation “The Lay of the Land: Armenian Monasteries in their Local Landscapes.” Grant issued by NAASR.



Tsovinar Kuimchian, PhD student, University of Oxford, travel grant to carry out research in New York for thesis project “The Space That We Couldn’t Find Prior’: Trauma and Vitality in Contemporary Armenian Art.”



Dr. Deborah Mayersen, Senior Lecturer in International and Political Studies, University of New South Wales Canberra at the Australian Defence Force Academy, travel grant to support research on 1896 mass violence in Van.



Lilit Melikyan, Lecturer in Chair of History of Armenia’s Neighboring countries, Ph.D. student in Chair of Diaspora Study, Yerevan State University, travel grant to go to St. Petersburg to carry out research for project entitled “The relationships between Artsakh royal families and Georgian kingdom during the 12th-15th centuries.”



Tigran Mikayelyan, Advisor to Permanent Representation of the Republic of Artsakh in the Republic of Armenia and PhD student, Armenian State University of Economics, grant to support research project on demographic and migration challenges in post-war Artsakh.



Suren Minasyan, Chief Specialist, Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Armenia, and PhD student in Economics, Russian-Armenian University grant to cover travel and fieldwork for research project “Food Security Issues of the Republic of Armenia in the Context of the 44-Day War and the Recent Russian-Ukrainian Conflict.” Grant issued by NAASR.



Dr. Oksana Nesterenko, Visiting Scholar, Jordan Center for the Advanced Study of Russia, New York University, grant to conduct on-site research in Armenia in order to complete the final chap-

ter of book, “A Forbidden Fruit? Religion, Secularity and Music in the USSR before its Fall,” under contract with Indiana University Press.



Daniel Ohanian, PhD student, UCLA, and Director of Research at the Sara Corning Centre for Genocide Education, grant to compile and republish Armenian-Canadian periodical from the 1920s *Ararat Monthly* /

Արարատ ամսաթերթ, the official publication of the Georgetown Boys.



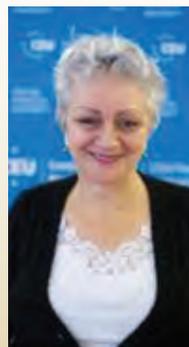
Dr. Jakub Osiecki, Deputy Director, The Research Center for Armenian Culture in Poland, travel grant to visit U.S. for interdisciplinary study on the Armenian Church in the 20th century based on oral history resources in Boston and New York.



Lori Pirinjian, PhD student in Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, UCLA, grant to support research project investigating how Armenia’s Russian-backed “anti-gender” movement uses national rhetoric to advance its cause in the regional power struggle between the Russian Federation and the West.



Mariam Saribekyan, Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography, National Academy of Sciences, Republic of Armenia, grant to support excavation work on Veri Berd Fortress in Lernakert.



Dr. Erna Manea Shirinian, Matenadaran / Institute of Ancient Manuscripts and President of Armenian Committee of Byzantine Studies, travel grant to present paper “Some Observations Concerning the Forgeries in the Byzantine Empire” at the 24th International Congress of Byzantine Studies in Venice and Padua in August 2022.

Grant issued by Knights of Vartan Fund for Armenian Studies.



Konrad Siekierski, Doctoral Candidate in Theology and Religious Studies, King’s College London, grant to support dissertation fieldwork in Armenia in fall 2022 for “Gospel Books as Home Saints: Between Vernacular Christianity and Armenian National Heritage.”



Dr. Khachatur Stepanyan, Head of the Chair of World History and its Teaching Methods, Armenian State Pedagogical University, grant to support visit to Boston to use ARF archives for book on Armenia-Persia relations in 1918-1921.



Dr. Talin Suciyan, Associate Professor (Privat Dozent) of Turkish Studies at Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, grant to support research/publication project on indigenous medicine in the form of a translation and scholarly analysis of an Armeno-Turkish manuscript of remedies.



Armine Tigranyan, PhD student of the Department of Cultural Studies, Yerevan State University, grant to support publication of monograph “Mechanisms of protection of Artsakh’s cultural heritage in the international system of heritage protection.”



Dr. Benik Vardanyan, Department of the Early Archaeology of Armenia Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography, NAS RA, grant to support project of preparing a scientific catalog of Lchashen archeological excavations including H. Mnatsakanyan’s archive.



Tatevik Vardanyan, Armenian State University of Economics, Yerevan, grant to support travel and fieldwork for a policy paper on assessing improvement and efficiency needs of water systems management in Artsakh, “The Issue of Water Resources as an Important Pillar of Artsakh’s Economic Security.” Grant issued by NAASR.

New Armenian Community Projects Funded by Mass Humanities Grants

Mass Humanities has announced it has awarded \$713,876 in Expand Massachusetts Stories (EMS) grants to 42 cultural nonprofit organizations across the Commonwealth, including to the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) and the Armenians of Whitinsville. The funded projects will surface new narratives about the people and ideas that shape Massachusetts.

NAASR was awarded \$9,570 for its project, “Exploring Hybrid Identities of Armenian-Americans in Mass.” The project will support a series of public programs on Armenian-American identities and how they interact within the diverse community of Massachusetts.

The project will expand Massachusetts stories by encouraging and inviting members of the Armenian-American community in Massachusetts to share their voices and perspectives on the multiple facets of their identities and how they have been shaped through interactions with the broader, diverse Massachusetts community. “Exploring Hybrid Identities of Armenian-Americans in Massachusetts” will encourage fruitful conversations and reflections on the importance of the diversity within the Armenian-American community and the overall Massachusetts population.

Armenians of Whitinsville was awarded \$7,500 for its project “Whitinsville Armenians, Stories Past to Present.” The project will produce 10 to 15 oral history recordings from Armenians with ties to Whitinsville. The recordings will sit on the Armenians of Whitinsville project website alongside recently translated and subtitled recordings of Armenian Genocide survivors done in the 1970’s. They will also reside with the University of Southern California Center for Armenian Studies for research purposes.

The project will expand Massachusetts stories

through oral histories that will explore issues around the diaspora, the transformation of the Armenian community of Whitinsville, and how their identity has changed over the last 130 years. If interested in contributing your story, please contact the project through info@armeniansofwhitinsville.org.

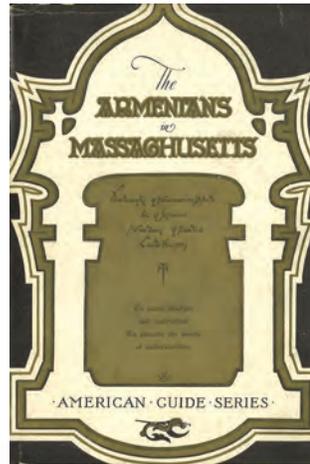
Rooted in Mass Humanities’ mission to create opportunities for the people of Massachusetts to transform their lives and build a more equitable Commonwealth, the new EMS initiative kicked off last year with support to projects across

the state that included audio tours, documentary films, oral histories, and public events. The new grant program will strive to promote an equitable and inclusive society that recognizes all people’s perspectives, especially those that have been marginalized and underrepresented.

This latest round of funding will continue to focus on projects that surface and share the histories and experiences of traditionally overlooked communities. “At this critical juncture in the history of our state, we see these projects as the sparks for a needed reimagining of our past and a new vision for our future,” said Brian Boyles, executive director of Mass Humanities. “We believe Massachusetts can only truly thrive when all residents participate in creating, learning and sharing the stories of Massachusetts.”

A non-profit based in Northampton, Mass Humanities provides grants to more than 200 organizations across the state each year. The EMS initiative provides up to \$20,000 to nonprofit organizations.

The grants are made possible through Mass Humanities’ partnership with Mass Cultural Council, the state’s cultural agency, as well as a two-year, \$700,000 partnership with the Barr Foundation that was announced in August 2022.



The Armenians in Massachusetts, an important early source on the community, published in 1937



Hagop Sarkisian in Roxbury, MA (photo courtesy of Joe Sarkisian)

Update on Armenian Studies Chairs

2022 proved to be a remarkably busy year for changes in personnel at Armenian Studies chairs in the United States.



Harvard University

Dr. Christina Maranci was named the new Mashtots Chair in Armenian Studies at Harvard for the 2022-23 academic year. Previously the Arthur H. Dadian and Ara T. Oztemel Professor of Armenian Art at Tufts University, Maranci is the first woman and the first Armenian to hold the Mashtots Chair. (See accompanying interview with Prof. Maranci, p. 11.) This, of course, leaves the Dadian-Oztemel vacant; we have no definite news of a search announcement at the time of writing.



University of Michigan

Dr. Michael Pifer was named the Marie Manoogian Chair in Armenian Language and Literature at the University of Michigan, which had been held by Professor Kevork Bardakjian from its inception until his retirement. Pifer is the author of *Kindred Voices: A Literary History of Medieval Anatolia* (Yale University Press, 2021) and a coeditor of *An Armenian Mediterranean: Words and Worlds in Motion* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2018).



Columbia University

Dr. Alison Vacca was named the Gevork M. Avedissian Professor of Armenian History and Civilization at Columbia. Previously at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Vacca is a historian of early Islam working on the caliph provinces Armenia and Caucasian Albania whose first monograph, *Non-Muslim Provinces Under Early Islam: Islamic Rule and Iranian Legitimacy in Armenia and Caucasian Albania* (Cambridge University Press, 2017), received the 2018 prize from the Central Eurasian Studies Society.



California State University, Fresno

In September 2022, CSU Fresno announced a search for the next Haig and Isabel Berberian Endowed Chair of Armenian Studies, a position made vacant when Prof. Sergio La Porta became Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Humanities at the university. LaPorta had served as Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies since 2009.



Clark University

In September 2022, Clark University announced a search for the next Robert Aram and Marianne Kaloosdian, and Stephen and Marian Mugar Chair in Armenian Genocide Studies, following the departure of Prof. Taner Akçam to become the inaugural director of the Armenian Genocide Research Program of the Promise Armenian Institute at UCLA.

NAASR Interns Advance Work in Library

In 2022, Claudia Haines, who recently completed her MA at Tufts University, began work at NAASR continuing a project begun in 2021 by her fellow ex-Tuftonian Sarah McAleer, creating a detailed finding aid for the large Avedis Derounian Archive at NAASR. During 2021 and 2022, Miles Mamigonian undertook the project of organizing the Armenian-language periodicals and newspapers in NAASR's collection, working with library curator Ani Babaian. We present here portions of reports from Haines and Mamigonian on their work in the summer of 2022; Haines completed her work in December 2022 and Mamigonian continues his when available.

Claudia Haines

Over the past three months, I have added nineteen boxes of material from the Avedis Derounian (John Roy Carlson) Archive to the finding aid started by last year's NAASR intern, Sara McAleer. The finding aid, which currently extends across nearly 350 pages and includes forty-one boxes from the more than seventy-box Derounian Archive, encompasses a vast range of material: I have spent hours poring over everything from handwritten notes and reports gathered from Derounian's observations and interviews of extremist political figures; to early drafts of Derounian's books, *Under Cover* (1943) and *The Plotters* (1946); to court records documenting Derounian's repeated battles against his detractors; to masses of the appallingly racist, xenophobic, anti-Semitic, and anti-Communist propaganda that were the subject of Derounian's research.

My approach to each box generally involves reading over the included materials one by one, noting titles of publications, authors, and dates; organizing materials within categories (e.g. "reports"; "correspondence"; "literature"; etc.) when appropriate; and documenting any names and/or subjects that appear repeatedly within a particular folder. Because the organization and contents of each box in the collection varies widely, I never know exactly what I will encounter in a given day, which has made for a summer of consistently surprising and interesting work.

Miles Mamigonian

This summer, as usual with my work at NAASR, I have worked on one primary project with a sprinkling of side projects that always keep me busy. My primary project for the past two years has been a systematic organization of NAASR's Armenian-language periodicals section.

When I began work on the section in 2021, NAASR's roughly 1,000 periodical titles (many of which are newspapers that span several decades) were disorganized and, just as problematically, incompletely cataloged. A portion of the publications had been entered into our library catalog and a larger portion were recorded on a spreadsheet, but most of the information about the exact



Miles Mamigonian working with a volume of *Nayiri*



Claudia Haines digs into the Derounian archive

holdings of each publication was incomplete. For the past two summers I have made my way through the collection, beginning with Ա and just a few weeks ago ending with Ֆ. I open every box; organize its contents if necessary; record our holdings; make note of the title, subtitle, publication location, publisher, editor, printer, and any other information that I can find; scan the cover and any other pages containing important information; make a new label for the publication; re-box it if necessary; and set it in its proper place on the shelves.

One exciting change in my work this summer has been the addition of a small amount of conservation training under the guidance of the wonderful Ani Babaian, our library curator. The two of us worked together to stabilize the condition of our bound volumes of *Hayastani Kochnak* (Հայաստանի Կոչնակ) from 1916 through 1920. We repaired pages, cleaned and reattached the front and back covers, and re-adhered the spines of many of the volumes. I learned a lot from the project and am now making small repairs myself when I see fit. There is something profoundly relaxing about the process of book conservation and restoration. It forces me to slow down, focus, and try to understand exactly what this individual item needs.

The other major change that has made this summer particularly interesting is my (slowly) growing familiarity with Armenian. When I began work last year, I didn't even know all the letters but as I've worked to become more efficient at transliterating and sounding out words, I have found myself recognizing some words and names. As a result, a few weeks ago, while I was recording the holdings of *Nor Keank* (Նոր Կեանք), a periodical published by the Hunchaks in London in the late 1800s and early 1900s, I found two issues bound at the beginning of a volume that had no masthead. After reading the note printed at the top of both issues, it turned out that these two untitled issues were the result of a court case between Avedis Nazarbekian (a Hunchakian leader) and the Hunchak Party itself about the ownership of the publication *Hnchak* (Հնչակ). I had a great conversation over lunch with Bedros Torosian, a visiting scholar from UC-Irvine, about *Nor Keank*, *Hnchak*, and the publication *Mart* (Մարտ) along with how those publications are related to the work he is doing on the political ideas being created and shared in the diaspora during the early twentieth century. The conversation reinforced for me how much I don't know about early twentieth-century Armenian politics but it also reminded me that every issue of every publication that I touch has a story to tell. Now that NAASR's Armenian language periodicals collection is properly organized and documented, it will finally be practical for researchers like Bedros to make use of NAASR's resources.

SJS Foundation Supports NAASR Digitization Project

NAASR has digitized and made accessible through its online library catalogue a collection of more than 100 rare and fascinating *taregirks* (տարեգիրք) or “yearbooks” and *taretsoyts* (տարեցոյց) or “almanacs” from the holdings of its Mardigian Library. This project was undertaken through the generous support of the SJS Charitable Trust. A full list of these digitized titles with links can be found on the NAASR website.

The collection of digitized volumes spans from the 1890s to the 1960s and includes titles published in Alexandria, Athens, Beirut, Boston, Constantinople, Paris, Tehran, Venice, and elsewhere. NAASR has one of the most substantial collections of these extraordinary publications outside of university libraries, which are often not available to the public. NAASR selected these as priorities for digitization because

at NAASR by Ani Babaian, Nareg Kalaydjian, Marc Mamigonian, and Miles Mamigonian.

The terms “yearbook” and “almanac” do not

covered by these volumes, from pre-genocide Ottoman Armenians (*Amenun Taretsoytsë, Hayun Taretsoytsë, Kikoi Taretsoytsë, Mer Taretsoytsë*, and others), Armenian Americans (*Amerikahay Taretsoytsë, Amerikahay Hanragitak Taregirk, Vtak Amerikahay Taretsoyts*, and others), French Armenians (*Parizahay Taretsoyts*), Bulgarian Armenians (*Vitosh-Ararat Pulkarahay Taregirk*), Lebanese Armenians (*Hamazgayini Taregirk, Amenun Taregirk*), Egyptian Armenians (*Egiptahay Taretsoytsë*), and Persian Armenians (*Parskahay Taretsoyts*), among others.

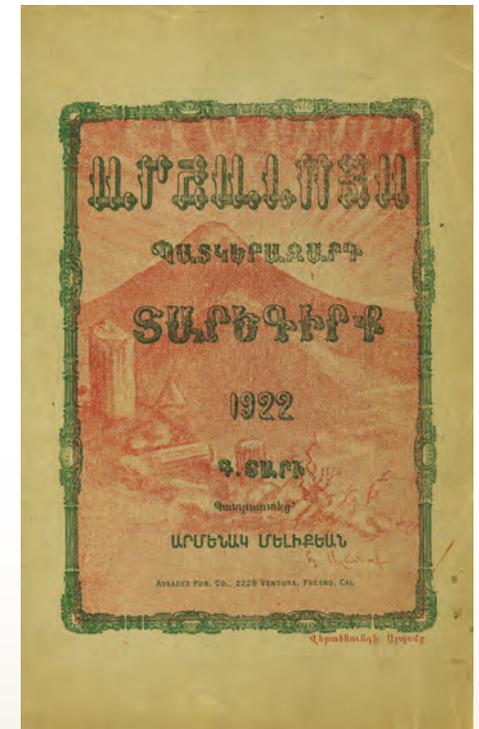
While some of these publications and their value to researchers are well known, many remain obscure and little seen. It is hoped that by making them more widely accessible that greater light can be shed on the eras and loca-



Cover of 1928 *Kavrosi Taregirk'ë*, published in Paris

fully convey the significance of these publications, which are vital sources of information on the affairs of particular communities and contain important literary and artistic works often not otherwise available elsewhere. Many of them are also strikingly designed and impressive visual works in their own right. For example, the still little-studied *Kavrosh* (Կավրոշ) yearbooks, published between 1906 and 1933 in Constantinople and Paris by Yervant Tolayan, was a feast for the eyes and specialized in humor. *Navasard* (Նավասարդ), a yearbook of literary and fine arts published in Constantinople in 1914 and overseen by Daniel Varoujan and Hagop Siruni, is both beautiful and loaded with writings from some of the leading Armenian writers of the time. It also contains translations into Armenian of works by Maurice Maeterlinck (1862-1949), Oscar Wilde (1854-1900), and Adam Mickiewicz (1798-1855). Many others are more prosaic in appearance but no less rich in information.

A wide range of Armenian communities are



Cover of 1922 *Arshaloys Patkerazard Taregirk'*, published in Fresno

tions that the volumes encapsulate. In addition, although some may be digitally accessible elsewhere online, the decision was made to include all since the collection housed within NAASR's Mardigian Library has an integrity of its own. Additional titles and/or issues will be added as they are received, and upgrades will be done if better copies of individual items are added to the library.



Cover of 1921 *Ergitsakan Tarets'oyts'*, published in Constantinople

they are a treasure trove of information, written to inform Armenians at the time about what was going on in various communities both politically and culturally. These yearbooks serve as important resources for any scholar or member of the public looking into a particular time and place in Armenian history.

The digitization was begun prior to the Covid pandemic by the late Berge Panosyan, who passed away unexpectedly in 2021. The remainder of the job was completed in-house

NAASR's Mardigian Library: 2022 Highlights

By Ani Babaian, Library Curator

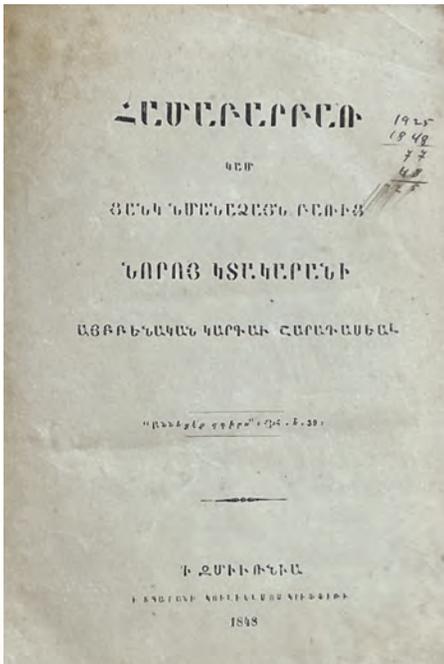
As of the end of 2022, the Mardigian library has a total of 33,275 cataloged items.

The activities of the Mardigian Library during the past year can be divided into the following sections:

1. Processing of library materials
2. Digitization of yearbooks project
3. Conservation
4. Treasures of Mardigian Library
5. Research assistance & general use
6. Public programs
7. Collaboration with other libraries

1. The processing of donated items, shelving, and reorganization of materials within the library is an ongoing job. Two areas call for special mention:

Vartan Gregorian Collection: We have continued to receive materials formerly in the col-



A rare book from the Vartan Gregorian Collection: *Hamabarbar kam ts'ank nmanadzayn barits' Noroy Ktakarani aybbenakan kargaw haradaseal* = Համարարքաւ կամ ցանկ նմանաձայն բարից Նորոյ Կտակարանի այբբենական կարգաւ շարադասեալ, published in Smyrna in 1848

lection of Vartan Gregorian which are now catalogued and shelved in a separate section of the library. To this point, approximately 600 books have been received with more expected.

Periodicals: In summer 2022, the Armenian periodicals were extensively reorganized by Miles Mamigonian. The process involves first going through one by one, checking and com-



Matthew Cooper (far left) attended the Library Open House and saw the rare three-volume *Patmut'iun Hayots'* [History of the Armenians] (1784–86) by Mikael Chamchian that had belonged to his great-grandfather Haig Simsarian

pleting the prepared list and ordering the periodicals alphabetically according to the Armenian alphabet. Then comparing with the spreadsheet, adding all detailed information to the spreadsheet, labeling, cataloguing, and adding them to the online Library catalog. The periodicals are then boxed and labeled with the name in Armenian and transliteration. Adding these titles to the catalogue is an ongoing process.

Audio-Visual Collection: Cataloguing NAASR's collection of hundreds of lp records was undertaken by Nareg Kalaydjian. Plans are being made for cataloguing all CDs, audio cassettes, VHS video cassettes, and 78 rpm records and rehousing them in proper storage.

2. NAASR has digitized and made accessible through its online library catalogue a collection of more than 100 rare and fascinating *taregirks* (տարեգիրք) or “yearbooks” and *taretsoyts* (տարեցոյց) or “almanacs” from the holdings of its Mardigian Library. This project was undertaken through the generous support of the SJS Charitable Trust. (See accompanying article, “SJS Foundation Supports NAASR Digitization Project,” page 17.)

3. The conservation room has been outfitted with new tools for the conservation of books and periodicals. Books have been separated for cleaning, fixing, or restoring. This year around 500 periodicals and books were cleaned, fixed, and stored properly.



Prof. Richard Hovannisian presented a copy of his newest volume, *Armenian Communities of Persia/Iran*, including a chapter by Ani Babaian, at NAASR in May 2022

In December, Alison Fulmer, a Preservation Specialist at Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC), came to NAASR to carry out an NEH-grant-supported library assessment for preservation planning purposes. The detailed report will be received and assessed in early 2023.

4. As part of their continuing collaborative project, Ani Babaian and Marc Mamigonian prepared and posted four issues of the “Treasures of the Mardigian Library” in 2022: “The Avedis Derounian (John Roy Carlson) Archive,” “Haigazn Kazarian: A Pioneering



Aram Bajakian listening to 78s from the NAASR collection

Researcher on the Armenian Genocide and His Materials at NAASR,” “‘Having a Grand Time:’ Armenian Summer Resorts in the Catskills, Revisited,” and “‘Treasures of NAASR’s Mardigian Library: Maps and Atlases.’”

5. In 2022, although the NAASR building was only fully reopened to the public in the spring, we hosted approximately 60 in-person users of the library, including out-of-town visiting researchers Aram Ghoogasian and Bedros Torosian from California, Michele Sigler and Rebecca Jinks from London, and Aram Bajakian from Vancouver, Canada. Aline Keledjian from Facing History and Ourselves became the first visitor to use the USC Shoah Visual History Archive at NAASR. In addition, we filled nearly 100 research-related requests for information and/or scans of items (whether in-person or remote).

6. Public Programs

October 4, 2022, “Palaces for the People: One Book, One Belmont” Panel Discussion. Marc Mamigonian presented an illustrated talk at Belmont Public Library about NAASR’s library as part of panel discussion with Elizabeth Gibson, President of the Friends of the Benton Library, Jen Greenleaf, social science and management librarian at MIT, and Kelly Linehan, Director of the Waltham Public Library in



Anna Nazarian, one of our wonderful library volunteers

Waltham, Massachusetts.

October 14, 2022, Open House at Mardigian Library. Ani Babaian made two presentations of highlights and rarities from the NAASR library collection. Around 50 people attended this event.

7. Collaboration with other libraries

In March, a Zoom meeting was held with Anna Chulyan, Head of the National Library of Armenia, in which we introduced Mardigian Library and discussed possibilities for collaborations. One result of this conversation is that items available at the Mardigian Library now appear in searches within the National Library of Armenia catalogue when appropriate.

In addition to the above, prior to the reopening of the NAASR building to the public in spring 2022, Ani Babaian and Marc Mamigonian mounted in the Rotating Exhibit space in the library a selection of photographs from “Churches of Historic Armenia: A Legacy to the World,” by Anne and Richard Elbrecht, which had been donated to NAASR following Anne Elbrecht’s death.

Special thanks are owed to interns who worked on library projects: Claudia Haines, Nareg Kalaydjian, and Miles Mamigonian; and to volunteers Roxanne Etmekjian, Adrenna Antreasian, Anna Nazarian, and Roger Hagopian for their devoted assistance.



NAASR’s oldest map, “Persia Sive Sophorum Regnum cum Armenia Assyria Mesopotamia et Babilonia,” by Philipp Clüver (Leiden, ca. 1697) (NAASR Mardigian Library, gift of Elizabeth Hagopian)

NAASR established a relationship with Deborah Borsuk, Coordinator of Children’s Services, and Bethany Campbell, Children’s Librarian of Belmont Public Library. They visited NAASR and purchased Armenian Children’s books for their library.

Khatchig Mouradian, Armenian and Georgian Area Specialist at the Library of Congress (LOC), provided a list of duplicate books from the LOC and 148 books from the list will be added to our collection.

In September, during the visit of Dr. Harutyun Marutyan, the Director of the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute, NAASR donated 65 books related to the Armenian Genocide and the Artsakh issue to the scientific library of the of the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute Foundation.



Bedros Torosian of UC Irvine (left) and Miles Mamigonian look into some rare periodicals

NAASR Panel Discusses Fallout of Ukraine Crisis for Armenia

By Harry Kezelian

ON THURSDAY, MARCH 31, the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) held a virtual panel discussion titled “The Ukraine War and Armenia(ns): Immediate Impacts and Repercussions.” The program was part of the NAASR/Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation Lecture Series on Contemporary Armenian Issues.

Dr. Vicken Cheterian (History & International Relations, University of Geneva), Dr. Nerses Kopalyan (Political Science, University of Nevada, Las Vegas), and Dr. Anna Ohanyan (Political Science & International Relations, Stonehill College), served as panelists discussing the impact that the war in Ukraine is having on the Armenian world.

Introduced by NAASR director Marc Mamigonian, the panel was moderated by community activist and member of the NAASR Board of Directors, Stepan Piligian.

First to speak was Cheterian, who opened with the comment that “the Russian invasion has been full of surprises.” One surprise, at least in the minds of many in the West, was that Putin would actually make good on his threats to invade Ukraine. The assumption by key analysts and foreign policy advisers was Putin was bluffing to obtain concessions, said Cheterian, crediting President Biden as one of the few who actually took Putin at his word.

The second surprise, he said, was that while Putin has been “very meticulous” and “a strong technician” in the past who understood “the balance of forces,” the Putin who is invading Ukraine is a different man: ideological and bitter. Cheterian also noted that the Russian military performance in Ukraine has been subpar.

The Russians themselves were in for another surprise, said Cheterian; he claims they didn’t expect such a strong show of unity between the US and Europe in support of Ukraine.

The result of this invasion, Cheterian said, is a new phase of strong polarization in Europe. While prior to the war there had been some voices in Western Europe supporting Putin — both among right-wing populist groups and some intellectuals — today, such viewpoints have been marginalized, he explained.

Looking at Turkey, the war did not bring a very dramatic change, Cheterian stated. Turkish policy is the same; they are maintaining their balancing act between a rejuvenated NATO and Russia. Turkey tries to portray it-

self as a mediator. But while they make declarations against the invasion, they continue to do business with Russia and have not imposed sanctions. Azerbaijan is also playing a balancing act, said Cheterian.

Therefore, said Cheterian, it seems that countries in the Middle East and elsewhere are not getting caught up in the polarization between the West and Russia, but looking out for their own interests while attempting a balancing act; and this includes Turkey, Azerbaijan, and — surprisingly, according to Cheterian — Georgia, which did not take “harsh” actions against Russia.

Next to speak was Kopalyan, whose work focuses on World Political Systems. Kopalyan agreed that the failure of Russia’s total invasion had taken Putin by surprise and that he was seemingly retreating while absorbing the Donbas region in the west.

Kopalyan noted that the cleavage between the West and Russia places Armenia “in an almost impossible position,” and that the situation “puts enormous pressure on their ability to not fall into the trap of choosing sides.”

Instead, Armenia is engaging in what’s known in political science literature as “strategic shirking.” Kopalyan differentiated this from “strategic silence.” Armenia has not been silent; rather they have made it known that they will refrain from any entanglements, despite various attempts by Azerbaijan, Turkey, and even Ukraine to pull the country into the conflict.

“Strategic shirking,” said Kopalyan, is precisely the position that Russia assumed (at a lower risk level to them) during the 2020 Karabakh War, at least until its conclusion. Russia was not silent—they spoke about the Karabakh conflict being decided in other platforms, they engaged in vague rhetoric, and they discussed reconciliation. But they engaged in “shirking,” as Kopalyan terms it, and avoided direct involvement in the conflict.

Neutrality is extraordinarily difficult, said Kopalyan. Thus, Armenia takes a pragmatic, but vague posture: they discuss reconciliation without getting involved in the actual conflict.

What has become obvious, said Kopalyan, is that Russia’s takeover of Eastern Ukraine will place Armenia in a difficult position vis-a-vis international platforms. Azerbaijan will try to use this to frame Armenia as a pro-Russian pariah and try to paint it with guilt by association. Meanwhile, Russia may actually try to force Armenia to recognize the independence of the Donetsk Republic (the ethnic Russian breakaway state in Western Ukraine), which Armenia will not want to do in order to avoid becoming a pariah to the West. Russia

may also propose that the breakaway regions of Ukraine become member states of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and other Russian-led international groups.

Due to these factors, and with the intensification of the rift between the West and Russia, the avoidance of entanglement becomes exceedingly difficult, said Kopalyan. Diplomatic pressure from the West will increase, and the European Union (EU) will become less tolerant of Armenia’s siding with Russia in European forums. This has already been happening as the EU has put pressure on Armenia for siding with Russia in the Council of Europe. Meanwhile, Russia will continue to pressure Armenia to take their side. This won’t happen only to Armenia, but all countries that Russia considers a part of its sphere of influence. From a diplomatic perspective, therefore, the biggest impact of the war is a greater concern over diplomatic polarization.

Kopalyan also discussed the issue of security in Armenia and Artsakh. He and other analysts, using projection modeling, said they expect a broader incursion by Azerbaijan in April. According to the analysts, Azerbaijan appears to be preparing for a new assault, exhibiting behaviors consonant with readiness for such an action.

This behavior of Azerbaijan, Kopalyan said, could be attributed to two factors. One is the weakening of Russian power. The war in Ukraine appears to have the effect of weakening Russia, at least in relative terms, more than strengthening it.

Secondly, again due to the war, Russia’s military resources are being depleted. Since Armenia buys 90 percent of its arms from Russia, this could limit Armenia’s ability to buy arms and maintain military preparedness, he said. Kopalyan suggested that negotiating with France, India, and China could be a way for Armenia to increase its military hardware.

Ohanyan drew attention to various changes that are taking place in world politics, some of which actually preceded the war, but were exacerbated by it. Some of these include, great power rivalry, multipolarity (within which Russia has sabotaged its own role), the weakening of the international rules-based rule order (which softens the idea of “territorial integrity” that is key in the Karabakh conflict), and militarization and coercive diplomacy as a negotiation strategy. The fragmentation of the global economy, due to Covid especially, is another major issue.

Ohanyan noted that the West’s response to the Ukraine crisis amounts to an economic containment of Russia, an unprecedented attempt to excise Russia from the global economy. The economic fallout for Armenia is hugely significant, she said, adding that the volatility of world politics is going to be the new norm, and not only Armenia but many other developing countries.

With the Ukraine war, Ohanyan stated, Russia abrogated its institutionalized engagement



with China to bring about Eurasian integration and connectivity. Such connectivity is in China's interest and is a part of their agenda; Armenia's previous foreign policy choices made sense in this context. But now that Russia is globally isolated, it has become unreliable in advancing such Eurasian integration. This dictates a rethink of Armenia's security infrastructure but also its development in general.

Ohanyan noted that it was too early to predict just what sort of Russia would emerge from the war, whether vindictive or remorseful. Ohanyan noted that Russian media and messages issuing from the Kremlin are already talking about the need to encourage business, which has been affected by the sanctions. The "social contract" between Putin and his people is threatened if there is an economic downturn, and so Russia may try to connect with the global economy through post-Soviet periphery countries like Armenia, she added.

Ohanyan seems to think that "the West is not going to emerge victorious" despite the strong show of unity against Russia, and that there will be a host of problems such as food crises in developing countries, global recession, and electoral backlash in Western countries because of the rise in the price of gas. She also noted that several traditional Western allies such as India, Israel, Turkey, and the Gulf States are on the fence in regard to the war.

One change now, she explained, is that Russia is becoming more authoritarian and power is becoming more centralized, meaning the state's institutional capacity to navigate their way out of the crisis has lessened. This is particularly true considering that green energy looks ready to overtake oil in the next 20 years, and oil-rich economies like Russia are under pressure to modernize.

Looking at whether a "new cold war" would emerge and how Armenia would be impacted, Ohanyan mentioned the economic impact, labor migration, remittances, and food security, in addition to the fact that with the sanctions placed on the Russian commodities market, transportation corridors through Armenia may become an option for Moscow. Conversely, some financial analysts are even arguing that the South Caucasus is emerging as an alternative route from China to Europe.

Ohanyan noted that though Russia is a pariah for now, ultimately the West will still need Russia to solve major issues like the standoffs with North Korea and Iran, as well as the climate change crisis; and the Nagorno Karabakh issue might be an opportunity for Russia and the West to come together on a conflict resolution project.

Ohanyan concluded that "Armenia is on track with deepening its state capacities as long as those states that derive legitimacy from the public are better positioned to push back against the polarization" which derives from world politics and the "new cold war" which most developing countries do not want.

During the question-and-answer period, Cheterian opined that Armenia is entering a period of instability. Cheterian argued that since the late 1990s, the country has relied too much on Russia, and has not invested enough in solving its problems, such as the Karabakh issue or relations with Turkey. A weakened Russia helps Armenia, he continued, pointing out that whenever Russia is powerful, the more neutral it becomes, and the more it views Armenia as a pawn to advance its own interests, but when Russia is relatively weak, it acts in a more pro-Armenia manner, more like an "older brother."

In response to another question on diplomatic ties between Armenia and Russia, Ohanyan stated she doesn't think any country can rely on any single country for security and that Armenia needs to diversify its diplomatic presence. Armenia-Turkey diplomacy, she said, needs to be looked at with great care because it links Armenia to European markets. Security is a multilevel product, she added. That which needs to be done for the security of Artsakh is one thing; the broader security of Armenia as a whole, however, depends in Ohanyan's mind on Armenia's joining international organizations.

Cheterian agreed that Armenia needs to look to other partners to diversify their security, naming France, Greece, China, and India as possibilities. He also pointed out that Azerbaijan manages to diversify its security (i.e., close relations with both Russia and Turkey), so why can't Armenia depend not only on Russia but also other countries for its security.

To questions about the continued efficacy of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group tasked with solving the impasse of Karabakh, Ohanyan mentioned that the outcome of the 44-day war was "illegal and coercive," and that the placement of the Russian peacekeepers was also not a part of the Minsk Group format. Therefore, both Azerbaijan and Russia ignored the peace process. Ohanyan called the West's ignoring of the war, "a canary in a coal mine," showing the failures of the Western project to advance democracy. She argued that although the West professes to be spreading democracy, they seem to think it should be a top-down process, a sort of geopolitical game, and they are more concerned with siding with whoever is in NATO rather than encouraging democratic processes like the Minsk Group, which, if implemented, actually would help spread democracy.

Kopalyan stated that the issue with the Minsk Group is that Azerbaijan has a "schizophrenic" posture toward it. On the one hand they deny the relevance of the Minsk Group and say that the issue has "been resolved." On the other hand, they participate in the negotiations. They are trying to change the mandate of the Minsk Group — they want to use it to help broker a broader Azerbaijan-Armenia treaty (which is not what it was created for)

and lump Karabakh into that, he explained.

Cheterian reminded the audience that Ukraine has developed military cooperation with Turkey in the last few years and supported Azerbaijan. But he also pointed out the similarities between Armenia and Ukraine, both being "fragile countries struggling to move away from their Soviet totalitarian heritage and experiment with revolutions and democratization. Cheterian also noted that there is a longstanding Armenian diaspora community in Ukraine, including many migrants from present Armenia, who need our help and attention.

Kopalyan was more cynical regarding the Ukraine-Armenia connection, pointing out that Ukrainian leader Volodymyr Zelenskyy's administration made a decision to prioritize Azerbaijan over Armenia, and views the occupation of Crimea, for instance, as similar to Armenia's "occupation" of Artsakh. Azerbaijan has sided with Ukraine, and a parallel narrative about "territorial integrity" has been advanced by both sides. Furthermore, Zelenskyy has taken the attitude that "if you aren't for Ukraine, you're against us," even recalling the ambassador to Georgia because that country didn't sufficiently support Ukraine. The anti-Russian sentiment is so aggressive, and understandably so, said Kopalyan, that "guilt by association discourse is resonating more than what the reality is."

Finally, the panelists agreed that the world responded differently to Artsakh than Ukraine, not only because Armenia and Azerbaijan are countries many don't know, but because the world is primarily responding to the Ukraine invasion due to fear of Russia rather than any particular knowledge of Ukraine itself. Cheterian in particular, blamed the West for not making it clear that Ukraine would never be allowed into NATO or the EU. He states that Ukraine's interest in joining the western alliances, and the West's negligence to make it clear that this would be impossible, only angered Russia, yet when Russia invaded, the Western countries didn't really protect Ukraine.

Kopalyan expressed the opinion that Ukraine "is being given up as a sacrificial lamb" by the West to get Russia in a Vietnam-like quagmire, which will weaken Russia. He also mentioned that Azerbaijan got some sympathetic ears in the West because they based their argument on territorial integrity, and claimed that when negotiations failed, they had to invade "their territory."

Finally, Ohanyan stated that the war in Ukraine is "more anti-systemic" while the Karabakh conflict results from "the tyranny of territorial integrity," bringing up the conflict in the Tigray region of Ethiopia as a similar case, and finally concluding that "as a human being it upsets me that we haven't developed an anti-war movement."

(*Armenian Mirror-Spectator*, April 7, 2022)

Hamazkayin Cultural Retreat Explores Language, Storytelling, and Narrative

Editor's note: Spring 2022 was an especially joyous time for us at NAASR, because after more than two years of limited access due to Covid precautions, we were able fully to reopen our building to the public, hosting our own in-person events and welcoming other organizations. One of the first such events was spearheaded by NAASR Board Member Khatchig Mouradian for Hamazkayin, and was originally intended to take place in 2020. With thanks to the Armenian Weekly, we present this report on the workshop with photos by Weekly editor Pauline Getzoyan.

A small group of students and young professionals from across the US and Canada immersed themselves in the Armenian language during a cultural retreat organized by the Hamazkayin Eastern Region from May 27 to May 29.

The brand new program held at the NAASR Vartan Gregorian Building over the holiday weekend featured an accomplished and inspiring lineup exploring the theme of storytelling from various perspectives: actor and producer Sona Tatoyan, Dr. Kristi Rendahl, Dr. Lisa Gulesserian, and Dr. Khatchig Mouradian, who also served as program director.

The vision for the program and its features were outlined in 2019 through focus groups led by Dr. Mouradian at Columbia University. The program was developed in response to a

demand among university students and young professionals for Armenian-language driven outlets fostering creativity and professional development. The retreat aimed to promote an environment where participants can openly discuss, critique, and create; where Armenian culture and identity are viewed as dynamic; and where top-down, moralizing approaches give way to horizontal, creative endeavors. The program was made possible through a grant from the Armenian Communities Department of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation.

After welcoming remarks from Hamazkayin Eastern Region Executive Committee member Maroush Nigon and Dr. Mouradian, the participants were engrossed in Tatoyan's impassioned performance of "Azad" before an intimate and captive audience inside the James and Marta Batmasian Hall. The New England setting was quite a departure from the theatrical, multi-sensorial experience at Pico Playhouse last month, but equally powerful, nonetheless. From her first utterance of "Karagöz (an ancient art form) to her cliffhanger on the roads out of Syria, Tatoyan's stripped-down performance of Azad in Belmont on Saturday morning transported audience members to her family's home in Aleppo. That's where she learned how to walk on her first birthday and heard stories about her ancestors' treacherous journeys toward survival during the Armenian Genocide. It was also where a few



Participants meet with Sona Tatoyan following her performance

years ago she discovered a trunk full of her great-great grandfather Apkar's multicolored, leather shadow puppets, which Tatoyan says summoned her to this "ferocious calling to the art of storytelling." As Tatoyan put it, her great-great grandfather "used story to distract from suffering, and he did so with great humor, uplifting our humanity in a time of epic inhumanity."

Following her rousing performance, Tatoyan welcomed questions from participants, who began discussions surrounding inherited trauma, victimization, art and family histories. Karnie Dishoyan, who was born and raised in Aleppo and moved to the US in 2016, unraveled into tears when she shared with Tatoyan her emotional return to her home country last summer. Teni Apelian of the a cappella trio Zulal recalled the poignant moment in her candid remarks about vulnerability. "Through the tears, you greeted each other with, 'I'm happy [to meet you]. As Armenians, if we can be this authentic with each other, I think we can heal each other,'" said Apelian.

After a lunch break, Dr. Gulesserian arrived to present a brief lesson and workshop on the art of the zine—miniature, eight-page magazines with infinite possibilities for informative, entertaining or inspirational content. Participants referred to examples provided by Dr. Gulesserian's students at Harvard University and then tapped into their creativity to plan, design and create their own zines in the Arme-



Sona Tatoyan performs "Azad"

nian language. The zines produced by participants at the cultural retreat offered tips on environmentally sustainable habits, mathematics study skills, mindfulness, quantum mechanics and a touching tribute to family caregivers written and illustrated by Dr. Rendahl, who was the final presenter of the day.

The group moved to the solarium just as the afternoon rainstorm was settling down for Dr. Rendahl's discussion "Navigating times of disruption through language." Dr. Rendahl, who is fluent in Eastern Armenian, opened up about her time as a volunteer in the Peace Corps, living in the Armenian provinces of Kotayk and Lori from 1997 to 2002. She also discussed some of her post-conflict work with the Center for Victims of Torture.

Three years ago, Dr. Rendahl took on the most delicate and important responsibility supporting her beloved father in the final years of his life. Dr. Rendahl was a loving and trusted primary caregiver and adopted different language strategies to rebuild communication with her ailing father (i.e., creative adaptation, distracting and redirecting, deconstruction). "Get me the stuff with the billion animals in it," her father once instructed her. "Probiotics. Yogurt. You want yogurt," exclaimed Dr. Rendahl. "He didn't know yogurt, but he was able to say, 'billion animals in it.' And I understood him, because we were very close." When she invited participants to break out into small groups and come up with their



Hamazkayin Cultural Retreat, May 28, 2022

own example of deconstructing a simple Armenian word, the miraculous appearance of a stunning rainbow was brought to Dr. Rendahl's attention, an emotional sight that prompted a memorable group photo with the participants.

In another heartbreaking and thought-provoking testimony, Dr. Rendahl explained her communication in Spanish with her father's caregiver. "When discussing death and other difficult issues, I spoke in Spanish because I didn't want my father to hear and understand the conversation," said Dr. Rendahl. "I wondered what would happen if throughout our daily en-

counters, we thought about listening as our last sense. And if so, what would we want the recipient of our words to hear?"

For the final discussion session, Dr. Mouradian invited one of the participants in the retreat, Dr. Lalai Manjikian, to join him in a conversation on narratives and agency in the context of war, genocide and refugee crises. Manjikian spoke about various types of discourse surrounding refugees, as well as ethical considerations related to refugees. She discussed how refugees are represented by certain media and political discourses, as well as by public opinion. Some of the language used tends to dehumanize and criminalize refugees. She noted the importance of migrant narratives and how refugee voices are crucial in understanding their everyday life realities.

Manjikian then focused on how refugees within an urban context face a period of "in-betweenness" (both in the spatial and temporal terms). During this period of uncertainty and indefinite waits to obtain formal status, refugees face a number of severe obstacles. As a result, they face social exclusion. However, she underlined, based on examples drawn from qualitative interviews she's conducted with refugee claimants, that the presence of these individuals cannot simply be ignored. Throughout their everyday lives, they actually manage to carve out their own agency by partaking in social and political activities in the city. By doing so, they establish a sense of belonging and become active members of society, despite not being formally recognized as citizens.

Connecting the discussions throughout the weekend, Dr. Mouradian in turn explored themes of agency, storytelling and the importance of amplifying the voices of targeted groups. Another dynamic discussion ensued on education, curricula, public discourse and identity.

(Armenian Weekly, June 2, 2022)



Dr. Lisa Gulesserian leads a session

New Book Publications by NAASR Board Members, Academic Director

***American Wildflowers: A Literary Field Guide* (Harry N. Abrams, 2022), edited and with an introduction by Susan Barba; illustrated by Leanne Shapton**

American Wildflowers: A Literary Field Guide collects poems, essays, and letters from the 1700s to the present that focus on wildflowers and their place in our culture and in the natural world.

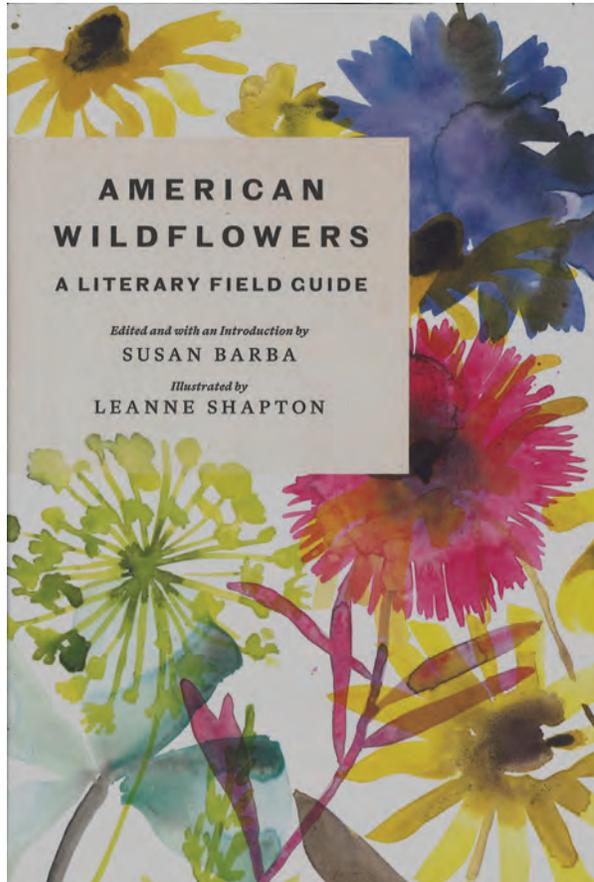
Editor Susan Barba has curated a selection of plants and texts that celebrate diversity: There are foreign-born writers writing about American plants and American writers on non-native plants.

There are rural writers with deep regional knowledge and urban writers who are intimately acquainted with the nature in their neighborhoods. There are female writers, Black writers, gay writers, indigenous writers. There are botanists like William Bartram, George Washington Carver, and Robin Wall Kimmerer, and horticultural writers like Neltje Blanchan and Eleanor Perényi. There are prose pieces by Aldo Leopold, Lydia Davis, and Aimee Nezhukumatathil. And most of all, there are poems: from Walt Whitman and Emily Dickinson, William Carlos Williams and T. S. Eliot to Allen Ginsberg and Robert Creeley, Lucille Clifton and Louise Glück, Natalie Diaz and Jericho Brown.

The book includes exquisite watercolors by Leanne Shapton throughout and is organized by species and botanical family—think of it as a field guide to the literary imagination.

Bedross Der Matossian, *The Horrors of Adana: Revolution and Violence in the Early Twentieth Century* (Stanford University Press, 2022)

After a decade of meticulous research in more than 15 archives, Prof. Bedross Der Matossian's book on the Adana Massacres of 1909 has recently been published in paperback, hardcover, and kindle editions by Stanford University Press (SUP). Titled *The Horrors of Adana: Revolution and Violence in the Early Twentieth Century*, the book examines the 1909 twin massacres that shook the province of Adana, located in the southern Anato-

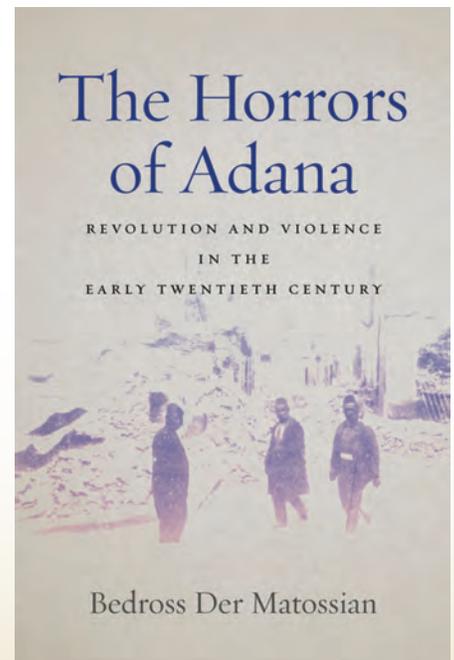


lia region of modern-day Turkey, killing more than 20,000 Armenians and 2,000 Muslims. Images of Adana after the massacres show unprecedented physical destruction of a once prosperous city. Local Armenian businesses, churches, residences, and living quarters were totally destroyed. The violence that began in the city of Adana soon spread across the province and poured beyond its borders eastward into the province of Aleppo. In terms of the number of victims, this was the third-largest act of violence perpetrated at the beginning of the twentieth century, following only the Boxer rebellion (1899–1901) and the genocide of the Herero and Nama between 1904 and 1907 in the German colony of southwest Africa. The central Ottoman government immediately sent investigation commissions and established courts-martial to try the perpetrators of the massacres. However, these courts failed to prosecute the main culprits of the massacres—a miscarriage of justice that would have repercussions in the years to come.

The Horrors of Adana offers one of the first

close examinations of these events, analyzing sociopolitical and economic transformations that culminated in a cataclysm of violence. Drawing on primary sources in a dozen languages, the book provides an interdisciplinary approach to understanding the rumors and emotions, public spheres and humanitarian interventions that together informed this complex event. Ultimately, through consideration of the Adana Massacres in micro-historical detail, *The Horrors of Adana* presents an important macrocosmic understanding of ethnic violence, illuminating how and why ordinary people can become perpetrators.

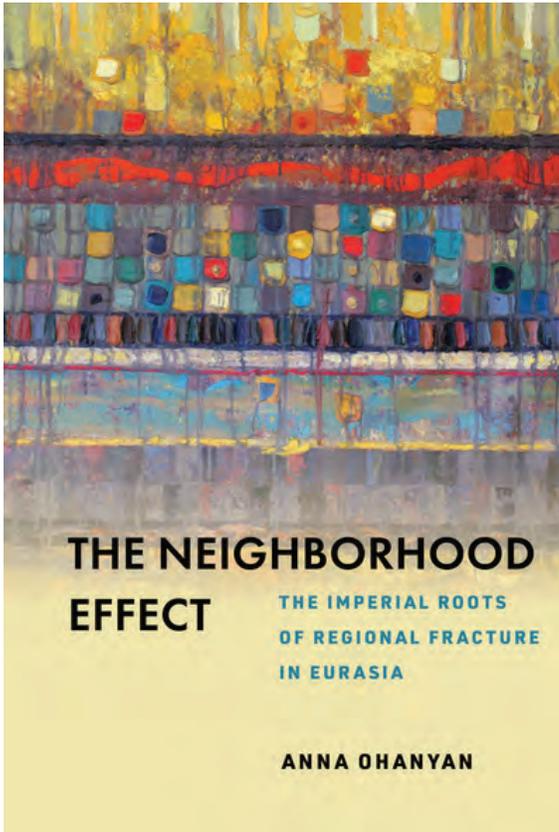
Despite the significance of these events and the extent of violence and destruction, the Adana Massacres are often left out of historical narratives especially in the historiographies of Ottoman and Middle Eastern studies. Denialists of the Armenian Genocide continue to propagate the provocation thesis regarding these massacres. They view the “events” or the “disturbances” of Adana as a failed uprising by Armenians to bring in European intervention with the aim of erecting the Kingdom of Cili-



cia. Furthermore, they normalize the resulting violence as a natural byproduct of Armenian “provocations.” Der Matossian offers a necessary corrective to these narratives by arguing that outbreaks like the Adana massacres do not occur *sui generis*; they are caused by a range of complex, intersecting factors that are deeply rooted in the shifting local and national ground

of political and socioeconomic life. The book also addresses the question of how better to understand the Adana massacres in relation to the Armenian Genocide, while bearing in mind their individual trajectories rather than simply viewing the first event as foreshadowing the second.

Ussama Makdisi (Rice University), author of *Age of Coexistence: The Ecumenical*



Frame and the Making of the Modern Arab World, wrote, “*The Horrors of Adana* is a truly groundbreaking and highly nuanced exploration of intercommunal, sectarian, and nationalist violence in the late Ottoman Empire. A must-read for scholars of the modern Middle East.” Jacques Semelin (Sciences Po Paris), author of *Purify and Destroy: The Political Uses of Massacre and Genocide* calls *The Horrors of Adana* “an outstanding analysis of a massacre never before deeply studied. Bedross Der Matossian offers a thorough inquiry into the perpetrators, victims, bystanders, and social-political context, useful to all those interested in understanding processes of mass violence.”

Anna Ohanyan, *The Neighborhood Effect: The Imperial Roots of Regional Fracture in Eurasia* (Stanford University Press, 2022)

Why are certain regions of the world mired in conflict? And how did some regions in Eurasia emerge from the Cold War as peaceful and resilient? Why do conflicts ignite in Bosnia,

Donbas, and Damascus—once on the peripheries of mighty empires—yet other postimperial peripheries like the Baltics or Central Europe enjoy quiet stability?

Anna Ohanyan argues for the salience of the neighborhood effect: the complex regional connectivity among ethnic-religious communities that can form resilient regions. In an account of Eurasian regional formation that stretches back long before the nation-state, Ohanyan refutes the notion that stable regions are the luxury of prosperous, stable, democratic states. She examines case studies from regions once on the fringes of the Habsburg, Ottoman, and Russian Empires to find the often-overlooked patterns of bonding and bridging, or clustering and isolation of political power and social resources, that are associated with regional resilience or fracture in those regions today.

With comparative examples from Latin America and Africa, *The Neighborhood Effect* offers a new explanation for the conflicts we are likely to see emerge as the unipolar US-led order dissolves, making the fractures in regional neighborhoods painfully evident. And it points the way to the future of peacebuilding: making space for the smaller links and connections that comprise a stable neighborhood.

Anna Ohanyan is the Richard B. Finnegan Distinguished Professor of Political Science & International Relations at Stonehill College, a Nonresident Senior Scholar at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace/Russia and Eurasia Program, and a two-time Fulbright Scholar to South Caucasus. Dr. Ohanyan founded the Global Development and Security Studies Program at Stonehill and served as the chair of the Political Science & International Studies Department from 2014 to 2017. She is the 2022 recipient of the Michael Horne Award for Distinguished Faculty Scholarship at Stonehill and is a member of the NAASR Board of Directors.

Dr. Ohanyan has authored and co-authored five books, including *Armenia’s Velvet Revolution: Authoritarian Decline and Civil Resistance in a Multipolar World* (I. B. Tauris, 2020), *Russia Abroad: Driving Regional Fracture in Post-Communist Eurasia and Beyond* (Georgetown Univ. Press, 2018), and *Networked Regionalism as Conflict Management* (Stanford Univ. Press, 2015).

Sam Slote, Marc A. Mamigonian, John Turner, *Annotations to James Joyce’s Ulysses* (Oxford University Press, 2022)

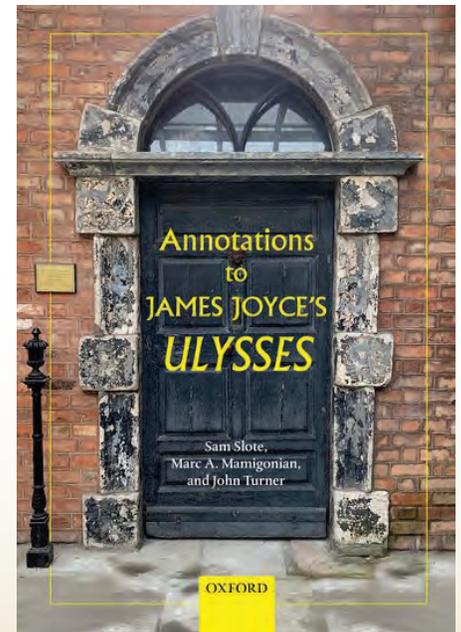
James Joyce’s *Ulysses* is filled with all sorts

of references that can get in the way of many of its readers. This volume, with over 12,000 individual annotations (and more than double the word count of *Ulysses* itself), explains these references and allusions in a clear and compact manner and is designed to be accessible to novices and scholars alike.

The annotations cover the full range of information referenced in *Ulysses*: a vast array of literary allusions, such as Shakespeare, Aristotle, Dante, Aquinas, slang from various eras and areas, foreign language words and phrases, Hiberno-English expressions, Catholic ritual and theology, Irish histories, Theosophy, Freemasonry, cricket, astronomy, fashion, boxing, heraldry, the symbolism of tattoos, horse racing, advertising slogans, nursery rhymes, superstitions, music-hall songs, references to Dublin topography precise enough for a city directory, and much more besides.

The annotations reflect the latest scholarship and have been thoroughly reviewed by an international team of experts. They are designed to be accessible to first-time readers and college students and will also serve as a resource for Joycean specialists. The volume includes contemporaneous maps of Dublin to illustrate the cityscape’s relevance to Joyce’s novel. Unlike previous volumes of annotations, almost every note includes documentation about sources.

The book has been hailed as “comprehensive, incisive and indispensable” by Colm



Tóibín (Liverpool University), who listed it as one of the Best Books of 2022 in *The Irish Times*; “monumental, exhaustive and thoroughly engrossing ... a towering, epochal achievement” by Anne Fogarty (University College, Dublin); and “simply one of the best [books] ever devoted to *Ulysses*” by Declan Kiberd (University of Notre Dame).

DONATIONS TO NAASR'S MARDIGIAN LIBRARY

The following donors contributed items to NAASR's Edward and Helen Mardigian Library in 2022. Donations to the Mardigian Library from our members and friends have been instrumental in making the library what it is today, and continue to be the most important source for the growth of our holdings. Few things mean more to us than the trust displayed by donors when they give their precious items to us, and we quote with pride the words of Adrienne Alexanian who stated "I put my faith in you because I sense your emotional commitment to your calling."

If you have materials in any language on Armenian and related subjects that you wish to consider donating to NAASR, please contact Director of Academic Affairs Marc A. Mamigonian at marc@naasr.org or 617-489-1610. Due to space limitations we cannot accept all items; we can only take items that we need to expand our collection.

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Eric Bogosian in the Mardigian Library with a copy of his book *100 Monologues*.

Prof. Nina G. Garsoian, 1923-2022: A Pioneering Scholar and Mentor

NAASR joins with a community of scholars and friends around the world who mourn the passing of one of the titans of the field of Armenian Studies: Prof. Nina G. Garsoian (1923-2022). No short overview can do justice to Prof. Garsoian's enormous contributions as a researcher, teacher, mentor, and exemplar.

For much of the latter half of the 20th century and into the 21st, Garsoian helped to shape the study of Armenian history and the development of Armenian Studies as a whole, trained many



scholars who have gone on to make significant contributions to the field, and wrote foundational works of scholarship.

A NAASR member for more than 60 years and a longtime member of its Academic Advisory Committee, Garsoian was, along with Prof. Richard Hovannisian, given the NAASR Founders' Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Field of Armenian Studies on the occasion of the organization's 60th anniversary, celebrated in 2016. At that time, Hovannisian remarked that "Nina Garsoian is, for me, a role model ... She is truly a pioneer." Garsoian herself, in an inspiring recorded message shown at the celebration, commenting both on NAASR and the field of Armenian Studies, declared that "We were there at the beginning, this is not even the middle, and we hope it will go on for a long time to come."

Nina G. Garsoian was Gevork M. Avedissian Professor Emerita of Armenian History and Civi-



Garsoian speaking at a NAASR banquet in 1993, with Avedis Sanjian and Paul Boghosian



Nina Garsoian with Robert Thomson and Emmanuel Varandyan at a NAASR banquet, 1964



Garsoian speaking at the 1964 NAASR International Conference on the Armenian Language

lization at Columbia University. She was born in Paris to Armenian émigrés from Russia and arrived with her family in New York in 1933. She received her BA from Bryn Mawr College 1943, and her MA and PhD from Columbia University in 1946 and 1958 in Byzantine, Near Eastern and Armenian History. According to a report published in 1958 by Dr. Armen Jerejian, then the head of Armenian Studies at Columbia, Garsoian's doctoral work on the Paulician heresy was "the first time that such a scholarly work based on Armenian sources was accepted as a doctoral dissertation" by Columbia University.

In 1962, Garsoian began teaching at Columbia on a visiting basis. In 1965 Garsoian was made assistant professor and NAASR's decade-long support of the Armenian Studies program at Columbia began, followed by additional support from the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU), thus allowing the Armenian program to exist on a full-time basis and to become a training ground for a new generation of scholars. In 1969

she was named full professor, and in 1973 Garsoian became the chair of the Department of Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures. She was appointed as the initial holder of the chair in Armenian History and Civilization at Columbia upon its establishment in 1979 and held the position until her retirement in 1993.

Professor Garsoian also taught at Smith College and served as the first female dean of the Graduate School at Princeton University (1977-79) and a trustee of the Ford Foundation. She was a long-serving director of the *Revue*

des Études Arméniennes in Paris and was a co-editor of the *Encyclopedia of the Middle Ages*. She was also a fellow of the Medieval Academy of America and a corresponding fellow of the British Academy.

In 1974, with Richard Hovannisian, Dickran Kouymjian, Avedis Sanjian, and Robert Thomson, she was a founding member of the Society for Armenian Studies and became its first president. In 2019 she received the SAS Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition and appreciation of her outstanding service and contribution to the field of Armenian Studies.

Among Garsoian's many publications are *The Paulician Heresy* (1967), *Armenia Between Byzantium and the Sasanians* (1985), *The Epic Histories* (Buzandaran Patmut'iwnk') (1989), and *Interregnum: Introduction to a Study on the Formation of Armenian Identity* (2012), and a memoir, *De Vita Sua* (2011).



Garsoian with Sarah Ignatius and Marc Mamigonian at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, 2018

IN MEMORIAM

Edward Avedisian

(1937–2022)

NAASR Board Member and Philanthropist

NAASR joins with family and friends and the Armenian community worldwide in mourning the passing of Edward Avedisian on December 7, 2022. Avedisian, a world-class clarinetist who performed with the Boston Pops for 35 years and the Boston Ballet Orchestra for 43 seasons, among other orchestras, served on the NAASR Board of Directors since 2016 and was principal benefactor for NAASR's Vartan Gregorian Building which opened in 2019.

Avedisian's philanthropy was not limited to his essential role in the creation of NAASR's new building. He also founded and served as principal benefactor for the Khoren and Shooshanig Avedisian K-12 School and Community Center in Yerevan, named for his parents. He is a trustee of the American University of Armenia and principal benefactor of the university's Paramaz Avedisian Building, named for his late brother. He also honored his brother by making a transformative gift to the University of Rhode Island College of Pharmacy and was presented with an honorary doctorate by the university.

Most recently, in September 2022, he made an extraordinary \$100 million gift to Boston University's medical school, which is now renamed the Aram V. Chobanian & Edward Avedisian School of Medicine, honoring both Ed and his childhood friend Dr. Aram Chobanian, dean emeritus of the School of Medicine and provost of the Medical Campus as well as University president emeritus.



Yervant Chekijian, Vartan Gregorian, and Ed Avedisian at the NAASR building grand opening, Nov. 1, 2019

A Belief in the Transformative Power of Education

Yervant Chekijian, NAASR Board Chairman from 2016 to 2022, who spearheaded the campaign to create NAASR's new headquarters, has recalled that "as our friendship flourished, Ed joined the NAASR Board. He recognized NAASR's achievements of the past and believed in its future. Guiding his vision is his belief in the transformative power of education. As we were planning NAASR's new headquarters, Ed challenged me to be more ambitious to secure NAASR's mission for future generations as a global center. He said, 'Make the plans and let's talk.'"

Current NAASR Chairperson Judith Saryan observes that "Ed Avedisian had extraordinary vision, optimism, and generosity. He believed deeply in the importance of education in creating a better world. We are eternally grateful for his tremendous legacy which we honor in NAASR's global center."

Edward Avedisian, the son of Khoren and Shooshanig Avedisian, grew up in Pawtucket, RI, where he attended public school and served as president of his graduating class. "We lived in an immigrant neighborhood, so you got an education on the street, combined with your formal education. I wouldn't change a thing. My parents encouraged me. I knew that education was the ticket."



Ed Avedisian at the Khoren and Shooshanig Avedisian School, Yerevan

Accomplished Musician Turned Investor

Avedisian earned bachelor's and master's degrees in music at Boston University and enjoyed a long and successful career as a top-flight clarinetist. In addition to his long tenures with the Boston Pops and Boston Ballet Orchestra, he held posts in the Atlanta & North Carolina Symphonies, Boston Opera Co., Boston Lyric Opera, and Harvard Chamber Orchestra, as well as substitute engagements with the Boston Symphony and the Metropolitan Opera. He has appeared as soloist with the Armenian State Philharmonic, the Armenian Radio and TV Orchestra, and the National Chamber Orchestra of Armenia, and was visiting artist to Boston's sister city of Hangzhou, China, in 1998.

He was twice appointed a Fromm Fellow for contemporary music performance at Tanglewood under the direction of Aaron Copland and received an American National Theater Academy Award for his performances in Europe in 1962. He also served as Adjunct Professor of Music at Boston University (1970-1980) and lecturer at Endicott College (1970-1976) and served for two years as a panelist for the National Foundation for Advancement of the Arts (2000 & 2001).

During his musical career, he was also developing as a self-taught investor. "I'd be running to catch planes to perform with an orchestra and would pick up a Wall Street Journal," he later recalled. "I read about new technology, invested and plowed the earnings back into my investments. I'm a risk-taker," he says. "Going into music was risky, and investments are risky. But you live and learn." On many occasions, he would self-effacingly say, "I got lucky."



With students at the Khoren and Shooshanig Avedisian School in Yerevan

A Humble Man Who Made a Huge Impact

Many visitors to NAASR's headquarters building have expressed surprise that it does not bear Ed Avedisian's name. Those who knew him, though, recognize this as being consistent with his character. Yervant Chekijian notes that Ed was "a humble man. As we were approaching the completion of our new building, I kept asking him how he would like the Avedisian name to appear on the building. He said, 'Who am I to have my name on this fabulous building? I am just a musician who has been a good investor. The building should bear the name of a person who has distinguished himself, someone scholarly like Vartan Gregorian, whose achievements are in line with NAASR's mission and who has dedicated his entire life to educational advancement and the pursuit of knowledge.'"

Chekijian aptly observes, "Ed's life embodies the values at the heart of NAASR's mission." Ed Avedisian is survived by his wife Pamela, his sister Zvart Avedisian Onanian, his brother, Paul Avedisian, two generations of nieces and nephews, and many cousins.



Ed Avedisian and Vartan Gregorian

Margaret Atamian, NAASR Benefactor

Margaret Celia (Berberian) Atamian passed away peacefully at home on October 22, 2022, with her beloved husband of 66 years by her side, Leon Atamian. Margaret was the daughter of the late Celia and Peter Berberian of Medford, the mother of Douglas Atamian and his wife Annelise of Wellesley, Wesley Atamian and his late wife Mish of Wellesley, and Noel Atamian of Boston, and grandmother of Gregory, Nicole, Natalie, Sam, Nalina, and Anaka.

Margaret and Leon Atamian were major donors to NAASR's building capital campaign, with a significant gift that was directed to a prominent and welcoming visible feature of NAASR's Vartan Gregorian Building—the Garden Atrium, which bears their name.

Margaret was born and raised in Medford, a graduate of Medford High School who went on to work as a young woman at the Pepperell Company and Federal Reserve Bank in Boston. During this time Margaret enlisted in the Naval Reserves where she honorably served her country as a first generation Armenian American. After a long courtship with Leon while he was in the navy, the two married and began their life together.



Margaret cared deeply for her community which inspired her to be involved in many organizations. She was a longtime member of Holy Trinity Armenian Church, Chairperson of their Women's Guild and of the Women's Guild Central Council for the Eastern Diocese. Margaret traveled to Armenia as a member of Children of Armenia Sponsorship Program (CASP), to visit the orphanages they sponsored. She loved being a part of the Hai Guin Scholarship Association and enjoyed the great friendships she developed with her sisters.

Dr. Vartan Ghugasian, NAASR Backer

Dr. Vartan (Van) Ghugasian, DMD, of Arlington, formerly of Watertown, passed away on May 23, 2022. Vartan was the brother of the late Armen Ghugasian (1950-2017) and son of the late Jack and Takuhe (Seferian) Ghugasian. Vartan is survived by many loving relatives of the Seferian, Minakyan, Candan, Giritlian, and Karaian families.

Dr. Ghugasian was a longtime member of NAASR and a member of its Leadership Circle. With his brother Armen, he donated generously to NAASR's building capital campaign and the NAASR Founder's Gallery on the third floor of the Vartan Gregorian Building is named in their honor.

Vartan completed his undergraduate studies at Tufts University and his professional studies at the Tufts School of Dental Medicine and went on to open a private prosthodontist practice on Boylston Street, moving to the Fresh Pond area in Cambridge in later years. Van and Armen were an infectiously popular pair lending entertainment, current events, and comradery to all who walked through the door. Patients turned into friends and friends turned into life-long friends. Vartan's reputation preceded him as he built a thriving practice one block at a time of quality, compassion, and integrity. His insatiable drive to help others led to treating many of Boston's homeless. He gave generously to many causes near and dear over the years; one of them being the Perkins School for the Blind.



Vartan became involved in humanitarian activities in Armenia starting in the 1990s. He and his colleague Dr. Myron Allukian, Jr. helped establish a state-of-the art free dental clinic for the Karagheusian Foundation in Nork (ultimately expanding to 5 locations). Vartan personally provided free dental care to children for one month every year for over a decade. They hosted and trained Armenian dentists in the US so that they could bring their training back to other dentists in the homeland.

The Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II and the government awarded the Medal of St. Nersess Shnorhali to Vartan on December 30, 2007, in recognition of his humanitarian actions for the homeland.

Vartan was bestowed with an honorary fellowship on November 9, 2020, from the American Academy of Dental Science (the first and oldest honor society for the field in the world) for his years of service to the organization. He has affectionately been referred to as the "patriarch" of the group and a member for over four decades.

Vartan was a founding member and past president of the Armenian Dental Society, fellow of the International College of Dentists, American College of Dentists, and the Pierre Fauchard Academy as well as other dental societies. He remained active in teaching at the Harvard and Tufts Schools of Dental Medicine for the remainder of his career. He was a longtime member of the St. James Armenian Apostolic Church Men's Club and former member of the St. James Choir and Executive Committee.

Margaret Dakesian: NAASR Member for 64 Years

Margaret (Mugurdichian) Dakesian of Hudson passed away peacefully at home on December 30, 2022. She was 94 years old. Margaret was predeceased by her husband of 60 years, the late Sahag Dakesian (see 2021 NAASR Newsletter on Sahag Dakesian, NAASR Board Member and Charter Member). She is survived by her twin sister Bertha Mugurdichian of RI, and many nieces and nephews.

Margaret was an avid member and participant in many aspects of



the Armenian diaspora, including AGBU and NAASR, which she joined in 1958. She and Sahag were fixtures at NAASR lectures and events for decades and both are missed. She was active in the Armenian Church of the Holy Translators since its inception. She volunteered for many years at Emerson Hospital after a full career as a medical secretary at Tufts Medical Center.

Michael Grossman, Librarian and Friend of NAASR (1959-1922)

Michael Grossman, retired librarian for Armenian, Georgian, and Perso-Arabic Script Languages of South Asia in the Middle Eastern Division (MED) and later the Middle East, Africa, and Asia Division (MEAAD) passed away on June 22, 2022, after a long battle with cancer. A good friend to NAASR and the entire Armenian community, Michael will be missed by many.

In September 1984 Michael began work in The Caption Center at WGBH Boston in various roles. In the 1990s Michael began working part-time evenings in the MED assisting with Armenian and Georgian materials. When his time at WGBH was reduced in April 1999, MED hired him as a one-half time Library Assistant VI. He served in that capacity until October 2001, when he was hired as the Librarian for Armenian, Georgian, and Perso-Arabic Script Languages. Michael retired in January 2019 after 17 years and 2 months of service to Harvard College Library (HCL) but returned to work part-time in the division in February 2020 briefly before Covid intervened. In November 2021 he resumed his work and continued to come into the office until a few weeks before his death.

During Michael's time in MED and MEAAD he was instrumental in building the Armenian collection and putting it on a stable foundation—it is now the premier academic research collection in the world, outside of Armenia. During his tenure he acquired a portion of the Haroutune Hazarian Library for HCL. He developed close relations with the Armenian community in Massachusetts, especially the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR), with whom he instituted an exchange program for Armenian resources. With the Armenian Library and Museum of America (ALMA), Watertown, he collaborated on the digitization of seven rare prayer scrolls (hmayils), dating from the 17th-19th centuries. He cultivated ties with the Armenian bookstore Abril in southern California which continue to this day and have been an important source of North American Armenian diaspora ephemera.

Michael also actively pursued the development of the Georgian collection, building upon the legacy and work of Professor Robert Pierpoint Blake (1886-1950). During retrospective conversion of the collection Michael was exhilarated to discover a catalog card in Georgian and English in the hand of Professor Blake. The inauguration of Harvard's Program



on Georgian Studies on 22 September 2021 was an exciting development for him, and the program has, and will continue, to profit enormously from Michael's work.

Michael worked with the late Professor Shahab Ahmad to enhance the library's holdings on South Asia, acquiring some 23,000 titles in Perso-Arabic script including the Maulvi Alimuddin, Khalilurrahman Daudi, the Alamgir Shuja, and the M. Shahab Ahmed Memorial collections, among others, the majority from the 19th and the first half of the 20th centuries. These acquisitions were an active response to Harvard President Drew Faust's explicit imperative for the University's greater engagement with South Asia and its study. The collection's potential for a deeper understanding of the intellectual history of, and the development of printing and the book in South Asia, has already been noted by researchers. Finally, Michael also was involved in acquiring important holdings from the minority religious communities of Pakistan.

Put NAASR in Your Estate Plans

There are many ways you can help NAASR and its programs to advance Armenian Studies. One of the most significant is to include NAASR in your estate planning. Contact NAASR to discuss possibilities at 617-489-1610 or hq@naasr.org.

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