



The National Association for Armenian Studies and Research



Plan on NAASR's 60th Anniversary Gala

Please mark your calendars for NAASR's 60th Anniversary Gala on Saturday, November 12, 2016, at the Boston Marriott Burlington, One Burlington Mall Road, Burlington, MA. The keynote speaker will be award-winning author and actor Eric Bogosian; and the Master of Ceremonies will be Editor-in-Chief of the *Harvard Business Review* Adi Ignatius.



Eric Bogosian, Adi Ignatius

Established in 1955, NAASR is proud to have led the movement to create, maintain, strengthen, and perpetuate Armenian Studies in the United States, including pioneering initiatives to establish the first two chairs in Armenian Studies in the U.S. at Harvard University and UCLA. Come celebrate and hear what's new for the next 60 years. For sponsorship opportunities contact NAASR at hq@naasr.org. Check out our website for details at www.naasr.org. Overnight guests can make reservations now and ask for the NAASR rate at the Burlington Marriott.

NAASR to Transform Its Headquarters into a Global Center Connecting Scholars of Armenian Studies and the Public



The rendering of the transformed NAASR Headquarters

This is an exciting and dynamic time for NAASR as we have undertaken plans for long overdue renovations to transform our aging building into a much more attractive, welcoming, and expansive place for scholars in Armenian Studies and a vast array of other visitors—Armenians and non-Armenians alike.

Over the past months we have been working with a team led by Ara Krafian at the architecture, design, and engineering firm of SMMA in Cambridge, MA. Please visit NAASR's website to view the architectural drawings and NAASR's Building on our Legacy Capital Campaign.

see HEADQUARTERS, page 2

NAASR Elects New Chairman Yervant Chekijian and New Officers

At the Board meeting following the Annual Assembly, the Board elected its 2016 officers. Yervant Chekijian replaces Raffi Yeghiayan as Chairman after Raffi's six years of faithful service and conscientious leadership. Raffi chose to step down as Chairman, although he plans to remain active as Advisor on the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee consists of:

Chairman: Yervant Chekijian
First Vice-Chairman: Nancy Kolligian
Second Vice-Chairman: Jack Medzorian
Secretary: Stepan Piligian
Treasurer: Judith Saryan
Advisor: Roxanne Etmekjian
Advisor: Raffi Yeghiayan

NAASR Annual Assembly Looks Toward the Future

NAASR held its 62nd Annual Assembly on Saturday, May 14, 2016, in Belmont. The assembly speaker was Ambassador Rouben Shougarian of Tufts University's Fletcher School of Law and Diplo-

macy, Armenia's first Ambassador to the United States (1993-99). He acknowledged the increasingly fruitful cooperation with NAASR as he began his talk on "Building a New Generation of Armenian Leaders through the Tavitian Scholarship Program at the Fletcher School." All

15 of the current Tavitian scholars from Armenia, as well as alumna Olya Yordanyan, were present as NAASR's guests, and introduced themselves. Amb. Shougarian detailed several major crises Armenia has faced recently but

see ASSEMBLY, page 2



In back: Marc Mamigonian, Stepan Piligian; middle: Yervant Chekijian, Jack Medzorian, Edward Avedisian, Raffi Yeghiayan, Nancy Kolligian, Gregory Aftandilian; front: Judith Saryan, Sarah Ignatius, Bertha Mugurdichian, Van Aroian, Jirair Balayan, Shushan Teager, Dr. Suzanne Moranian

NAASR Elects New Chairman Yervant Chekijian and New Officers

ASSEMBLY, from page 1

found cause for hope in Armenia's strong response and in the talent of the first generation of scholars born in independent Armenia.

The membership elected five very talented new Board Members, whom we are proud to welcome:

George Aghjayan of Westminister, MA – co-organizer of the first Armenian Genealogy conference;

Edward Avedisian of Lexington, MA – philanthropist;

Jirair Balayan of Auburn, MA – engineer and community activist;

Nancy Kricorian of New York City, NY –

author and activist;

Dr. Bedross Der Matossian of Lincoln, NE – scholar and professor.

The outgoing Board members were thanked for their dedication and service:

Dr. Geri Lyn Ajemian, of Watertown – Director of Curriculum, Littleton Public Schools;

Adi Ignatius, of Brooklyn and Cambridge – Editor-in-Chief, *Harvard Business Review*;

Bertha Mugurdichian, of Providence – retired nurse educator and NAASR member since 1958;

Dr. James Russell, of Cambridge – longtime Mashtots Professor of Armenian Studies, Harvard University.



Tavitian scholars Tigran Yeranossyan and Armine Mosiyan with Amb. Rouben Shougarian

NAASR to Transform Its Headquarters into a Global Center

HEADQUARTERS, from page 1

Founded over 60 years ago, in 1955, NAASR achieved its ambitious goal of advancing Armenian Studies by raising funds to help endow the first chairs at Harvard and UCLA, and supporting endowed positions at other universities, greatly increasing awareness of Armenian contributions to world culture and civilization and the place of the Republic of Armenia in the world, laying the factual foundation upon which Genocide recognition rests, and leading to a new generation of scholars, historians, and authors relying on NAASR for academic research and global connections.

Since purchase in 1989, the NAASR headquarters building has served as a place where erudite scholars of Armenian Studies have come for support and research in NAASR's unique library holdings, and for connection with members and the public over lectures and symposia. Our library has grown to become world-class as one of the top five libraries open to the public in the diaspora, with broad interest to scholars, students, educators, genealogists, authors, and the public around the world, while our aging building is virtually unchanged since then and in drastic need of repair.

The renovation will advance our ability to reach Armenians globally, as well as safeguard our rare collection of over 27,000 books (expected to expand to over 40,000 in the next decade) in a dry, climate-controlled setting. The library also holds antiquarian books, some dating back to the 17th century, maps, music recordings, and numerous other rare periodicals and special collections. All document and preserve Armenian culture, history, and identity.

The designs will create a welcoming event

hall, bookstore, lounge café, study area and scholars' conference room where scholars, authors, historians, journalists, students, people researching genealogy and family history, and the public can connect and share ideas; and make all three floors accessible under the Americans with Disabilities Act. NAASR welcomes visitors and students of all ages, from grade school on up, to touch and turn the pages of rare books over 100 years old, and to study, side by side, texts written in completely different alphabets, such as Armenian, Arabic, Persian, and English from NAASR's collection.

This as an opportunity to advance our mission fostering Armenian Studies and building community worldwide to preserve and enrich Armenian culture, history, and identity for future generations. The NAASR Board reached this decision after careful consideration and study. The cost is estimated at \$2.5 million, a significant portion of which will go toward making the building accessible. There is no comparable property in the area to purchase with similar lot size and square footage at the same or lower cost. The scope of the transformation includes:

- New glass-walled garden lobby, solarium, and elevator serving all floors;
- Expansion of event hall capacity to 150 people;

- Expansion of library to all three floors;
- Dry, climate-controlled environment to preserve rare collections;
- New antiquarian book and map display area;
- New listening room for diverse collection of Armenian music;
- New viewing and preservation area for unique special collections;
- New AV production area for worldwide broadcast of lectures;
- New scholars' conference room;
- Inviting space for bookstore and adjoining lounge café; and
- Expanded study and research space for scholars and members.

As the building transforms, so too will NAASR's programming, which will further expand NAASR's influence as one of the world's leading resources to advance Armenian Studies and preserve and enrich Armenian heritage for generations to come.

Please go to our website to view the architectural plans at www.naasr.org. If you would like to

consider a gift or pledge to NAASR's Building on Our Legacy Campaign, commitments may be made over a two- or three-year period, and many opportunities to name rooms, areas, and collections, displays, and other aspects of the new building are available at a wide range of gift levels. For more information, please call Sarah Ignatius at NAASR at 617-489-1610.





NAASR Hires Sarah Ignatius as First Executive Director

After sixty years of leadership in Armenian Studies, the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) has hired its first executive director, Sarah B. Ignatius, who started the first of the year at its headquarters in Belmont, MA.

Ignatius, a lawyer, served on NAASR's Board of Directors since 2014 and as a member of its Executive Committee as Treasurer. "This is a major change in the history of NAASR to appoint an executive director," said Raffi P. Yeghiayan, then Chairman of NAASR's Board of Directors. "We are taking this step due to NAASR's significant growth and expanded activities over the last several years, both locally and nationally. We have full confidence that NAASR will continue its growth with the vision of a professionally qualified executive director."

The executive director functions have long been shared among NAASR's Executive Committee, Board of Directors, and Director of Academic Affairs Marc A. Mamigonian. Ignatius will work with them to fulfill NAASR's mission of fostering Armenian Studies and building community worldwide to preserve Armenian culture, history, and identity for future generations.

"After a several-month search, Sarah emerged as our choice to take us into the next era," said Nancy R. Kolligian, who chaired NAASR's Search Committee. "We've had the pleasure of working with her as a NAASR Board member, and have witnessed first-hand her enthusiasm, dedication to Armenian Studies, and depth of experience in non-profit management."

"I am honored to serve NAASR in this role and can't imagine a more meaningful opportunity," said Ignatius. "My hope is to expand NAASR's membership, strengthen its financial standing, and keep NAASR vital in a diversifying world."

Ignatius has worked for more than 25 years as a lawyer and executive director, most of that time at the Political Asylum Immigration Representation Project in Boston, defending the rights of people fleeing from persecution throughout the world. Previously, she also worked as an associate at a law firm in Seattle and a public defender.

Her interest in Armenian Studies deepened dramatically after she accompanied her father and brother on the 2006 NAASR tour to Armenia and Historic Armenia. "It was like opening a door in my house and finding all these beautiful rooms I never knew existed."

Her interest deepened to the point of writing a young adult novel, *The Devil's Kaleidoscope*, set in the town where her grandfather was born, about a 14-year-old Armenian boy, Arakel, caught up in the Genocide. As a 2015 Somerville Arts Council Literature Artist Fellow, she is

putting the finishing touches on her manuscript, which has already received recognition: 2015 New England Society of Children's Books Writers & Illustrators' Ruth Landers Glass Scholarship for Novel Excerpt; and Honorable Mention from the 2014 National League of American



NAASR Executive Director Sarah Ignatius with Academic Director Marc Mamigonian

Pen Women, Soul-Making Keats Awards. Her short story "Burning Embers" received Honorable Mention from Glimmer Train's 2013 Short Story Award for New Writers, and her recent posting "The Very Delayed First Call Home" appeared in the *Washington Post* "On Parenting" blog.

Ignatius earned her B.A. from Stanford University with Distinction and Honors in Anthro-

pology; and her law degree, *cum laude*, from Georgetown University Law Center, where she was Articles Editor for the *Journal of Law and Policy in International Business*.

She taught immigration and asylum law at Boston College Law School for ten years as an adjunct, and has written extensively on immigration and asylum law. She is the co-author of the comprehensive immigration law reference book *Immigration Law and the Family* (Thomson Reuters); and authored a 200-page, detailed report for the National Asylum Study Project of Harvard Law School. Her legal articles have appeared in numerous journals and publications.

She is the daughter of Paul Ignatius, former Secretary of the Navy, and Nancy Ignatius, a hearty New Englander who traces roots back to the Mayflower. Sarah is married to Dan Kesselbrenner, Executive Director of the National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild, and their son Joel attends Wesleyan University. Her siblings are Adi Ignatius, Editor-in-Chief of the *Harvard Business Review*; Amy Ignatius, New Hampshire Superior Court Judge; and David Ignatius, a foreign affairs columnist for the *Washington Post* and author of several best-selling spy novels.

Greetings from the Executive Director

I am thrilled to have come on board at NAASR in January of this year, and honored to serve an organization with such long-standing integrity and vision as NAASR. I can't imagine a more meaningful opportunity, especially since my grandfather Hovsep Ignatius was one of the early donors to the UCLA and Harvard chair campaigns. This is a very exciting time at NAASR as we chart our course for the next 60 years.

My primary goal is for NAASR to reach its full potential as a global center for Armenians and non-Armenians alike to connect with scholars and each other, and to help preserve and enrich our heritage for generations to come. NAASR is embarking on many new initiatives, as we face a diversifying world of what Armenian identity means today. With the NAASR Board and staff and with your help, we will be increasing our support to scholars, bringing more and more of our resources online and adding hundreds more titles to our online bookstore, expanding membership, strengthening our financial standing, transforming our headquarters building, and developing inspiring programming relevant both to our past and to modern-day realities for Armenians around the world. Please stop by anytime or email me with thoughts and suggestions at sarah@naasr.org.

NAASR Hosts Leadership Circle Events on the East And West Coasts

NAASR's Leadership Circle dinner, on February 27, 2016, on the West Coast was a wonderful event, attended by over 130 NAASR members, scholars, and UCLA students, mingling over drinks and appetizers in the lovely UCLA Faculty Club and then over dinner listening to best-selling author Chris Bohjalian and acclaimed filmmaker Eric Nazarian in a dialogue moderated by Mark Arax about the screen adaptation of Bohjalian's novel *The Sandcastle Girls*. Award-winning filmmaker and director Dr. Carla Garapedian served as Master of Ceremonies, and newly appointed NAASR Executive Director Sarah Ignatius gave an update on NAASR initiatives for 2016. No small thanks go to the Reception Committee, who generously dedicated their time and talent to putting together a superb evening: Armen Aroyan, Roupen Berberian, Dikran Dalian, Maggie Goshchin, Helen Haig, Paul Ignatius, Alice Ketabgian, Gregory Ketabgian, Silvia Matossian, Margaret



Chris Bohjalian and Bruce Roat at UCLA event

Mgrublian, Jerry Papazian, and Bruce Roat. Check out all of Roupen Berberian's photos of the event on NAASR's Facebook page.



David, Madlyn, and Margaret Mgrublian at UCLA



Leadership Circle members Joan Kolligian, Paul Bedrosian, Nancy Kolligian at Bentley

On the East Coast, NAASR hosted a Leadership Circle dinner at Bentley University, on December 4, 2015, featuring the incomparable Prof. Richard Hovannisian, who gave a powerful and personal account of his experience growing up in a community of immigrant survivors of the Armenian Genocide and his journey towards becoming a historian. Hovannisian offered generous praise for the current NAASR leadership's efforts that have produced a reenergized and dynamic organization.



Richard Hovannisian and Marc Mamigonian at Bentley University

Please consider joining the Leadership Circle to enjoy special events like these. The Leadership Circle provides an elevated level of membership to help NAASR to face new challenges and demands in the 21st century, while remaining true to our original vision fostering scholarship in Armenian Studies to preserve Armenian history, culture, and identity for future generations. Leadership Circle membership levels are \$1,000/year, \$5,000/year, or \$10,000/year.



Mark Arax, Eric Nazarian, Chris Bohjalian at UCLA



Over \$15,000 Raised at NKR Fundraiser in Watertown

By Rupen Janbazian

A panel discussion on the Nagorno-Karabagh Republic (NKR/Artsakh) was held on April 16 at the Armenian Cultural and Educational Center (ACEC) in Watertown. The event, which was attended by 200 people, also served as a fundraiser for the victims of the recent—and ongoing—Azerbaijani aggression against NKR. It was organized by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Armenian Society (MITAS) and the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR), in association with the Armenian Revolutionary Federation (ARF) Boston “Sardarabad” Gomideh, the Armenian Relief Society (ARS) Watertown “Leola Sassouni” and Cambridge “Shushi” Chapters, the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) of New England, and the Armenian Assembly of America (AAA).

Panel moderator and NAASR Director of Academic Affairs Marc Mamigonian offered the opening remarks and welcomed MITAS representative Narek Dshkhunyan, who spoke on behalf of the students’ union, and thanked those present for attending. Mamigonian then invited ARF “Sardarabad” Gomideh member Tsoler Avedissian, who appealed to the audience to reach out to their representatives in Congress and other government representatives to show that Armenian Americans are united on the NKR issue. She also invited those present to participate in the community-wide protest scheduled to take place at the Turkish Consulate in Boston on April 24. Mamigonian then introduced AGBU New England chair Ara Balikian, who thanked those who had already donated to the victims through the AGBU, and provided

details about how the collected funds would be allocated.

Before introducing the members of the panel, Mamigonian explained that the event had two principal purposes: to inform the public about the latest developments in NKR, and to raise funds for the victims of aggression and for the families of the fallen soldiers. Mamigonian announced that donations could be made through three channels: the Armenian Relief Society (ARS) Eastern United States, the AGBU of New England, and the MIT Armenian Society.

Mamigonian introduced the first panelist, Dr. Simon Payaslian, the Charles K. and Elisabeth M. Kenosian Chair in Modern Armenian History and Literature at Boston University, who provided an historical introduction to the discussion. Payaslian spoke in detail about the history of the Karabagh region, with a particular focus on the period since the creation of the Soviet Union until the beginning of the Karabagh War.

Mamigonian then introduced Armenia’s first ambassador to the United States, Amb. Rouben Shougarian, lecturer at Tufts University’s Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, who provided details about the latest attacks within a historical context of the region since the fall of the Soviet Union. “Human life is the highest value of an independent country,” he said. The Karabagh War has never been about an ethnic conflict, but is rather about self-determination and one of people wanting to live freely in their homeland. Speaking on the “artificial parity” of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group, Shougarian said that it is wrong to hold all

parties responsible in a conflict where one party is guilty.

Mamigonian then invited the third panelist, Amb. Armen Baibourtian, the director of admin-



Amb. Rouben Shougarian (Photo: Kenneth Martin)

istration of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church, and Armenia’s first ambassador to India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Indonesia. Baibourtian provided details on the impact of what he called the “four-day war,” which took place on April 2-5. He said that one of the most significant points of the latest developments was the Armenian nation’s manifestation of heroism. “Not only were the soldiers defending the borders,” Baibourtian said, “but the entire nation, everywhere” was unified and consolidated. The ambassador went on to say that this latest heightened conflict proved that Armenians around the world are able to work cohesively. Speaking about the reasons why the “frozen” conflict turned into a large-scale attack on NKR, Baibourtian said that by launching an offensive, Azerbaijan wished to change the status quo and the peace format currently being employed in NKR.

Mamigonian then introduced the fourth panelist, Robert Avetisyan, who spoke via Skype. Avetisyan, the permanent representative of the NKR in the United States, thanked the organizers, co-sponsors, panelists, and community members for keeping Artsakh at the forefront of their thoughts, noting that such events do not go unnoticed by the people in the republic. Avetisyan then provided details about the heightened conflict from April 2-5, which he called a major Azerbaijani failure, both militarily and politically. He explained that NKR is taking steps to provide the international community with facts of the inhuman acts committed by the Azerbaijani—see FUNDRAISER, page 7



Amb. Armen Baibourtian (Photo: Kenneth Martin)

Old State House Hosts Program on Moses Gulesian

By Aram Arkun

The Bostonian Society hosted a special evening program, “Becoming Bostonian,” on April 7 in the Old State House to honor the life and works of Moses Gulesian, a Bostonian and Armenian preservationist. The event, cosponsored with the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR), was part of a growing wave of attention to Gulesian’s philanthropic work, which helped both Boston and Armenians, sometimes simultaneously.

Brian LeMay, president and executive director of the nonprofit Bostonian Society, spoke about Gulesian’s work as a preservationist, as “somebody who had a deep appreciation for the fundamental ideas that lie at the foundation of this country, that are embodied in many ways in this building.” He pointed out that the discovery of the time capsule on top of the Old State House building spurred interest in Gulesian’s life and works.

LeMay provided background information about the Bostonian Society’s mission and activities, and the importance of the Old State House building itself. He said that Gulesian’s historical significance is tied to Boston and the Bostonian Society. Gulesian joined forces with prominent members of the abolitionist and suffragist movements, yet until the discovery of the time capsule, the Bostonian Society was not well informed about his activities.

LeMay introduced Dr. Joyce Van Dyke, playwright and Shakespeare scholar, and a lecturer at Harvard Extension. Van Dyke managed to make Gulesian’s personality and life immediate and accessible through a very lively five-minute presentation. She found Gulesian to be a man with a “romantic soul and an iron will.” Born in the Ottoman Empire under Turkish rule, after coming to the US all alone at the age of 17, he was well placed to make Americans understand what Turkish rule really meant in those days.

He became prominent in Boston society after succeeding in business, with a copperworks factory in the South End, and real estate holdings. He made the copper replicas of the statues on top



Middlesex County Sheriff Peter Koutoujian (right) was among the guests inspecting the contents of the “time capsule.”

of the Old State House. In 1905, he intervened to try to save the historic ship *Old Ironsides*, and this turned into a national movement which led to its preservation.

Gulesian helped save many thousands of lives by organizing the Friends of Armenia, working alongside Clara Barton, Julia Ward Howe, Alice Stone Blackwell, and William Lloyd Garrison, Jr., raising funds for Armenian relief. He turned the top floor of his copperworks factory on Waltham Street into a shelter for several hundreds of Armenian refugees.

Van Dyke concluded, “You can see that he had a very large soul, a very large Armenian-American-Bostonian soul. It is a beautiful example of how immigrants can make the greatest patriots in this country.”

LeMay then presented Don Tellalian, an ac-

complished architect who among other things consulted for the Bostonian Society for the Old State House renovations. Tellalian spoke about the discovery of the time capsule inside the Lion above the east façade of the Old State House. He went over the clues that spurred on his research.

During renovations, Skylight Studios was able to confirm the existence of this capsule, and so it was removed and opened up in a controlled environment. The contents, over 113 years old, were in very good condition. Most striking was a large red book which dealt with US foreign relations.

This book was not listed in a contemporary newspaper inventory of the capsule. Tellalian related that his “wife Barbara has in certain circumstances very sharp instincts,” and in September 2015, she noticed that the date of 1896 of the documentary collection coincided with the



Hamidian massacres of Armenians in the Ottoman Empire.

Indeed, Don Tellalian found that a large section of the book dealt with Turkey and the Armenian massacres. He found that on only one page in the book, page 887, the corner turned was down deliberately, and this section concerned, among other things attacks in Marash, Gulesian's hometown. He concluded that it must have been Gulesian who placed the red book into the time capsule.

Stephen Kurkjian, prizewinning reporter for more than 45 years at the *Boston Globe* and winner of three Pulitzer Prizes, represented NAASR as a longtime board member on the program. He spoke of the pride Armenians felt to see the Armenian flag flying at full mast in front of the State House during the visit of Armenia's President Serzh Sargsyan the week prior to the Gulesian event. He felt this was a turning point for Armenians like himself, who, he said, "would have to say who we were...we had to say that every time, time and again at every class, at every school we went to, and explain ourselves."

Then came the extraordinarily quick removal of a defamatory billboard only a few blocks from the Old State House and Armenian Heritage Park, placed to cast doubt on the Armenian Genocide, through rapid action by friends of the Armenians in Boston as well as Armenians themselves. He said that this was due to "all of those people who we have touched and told our story for fifty years, and told them who we were, and told them the pride we felt, the Moses Gulesians, the Mugar family, the Noubar Afeyans, for the Armenians back in the 19th century all the way up to the Armenians here in the 21st century." Finally, this evening came about to com-

memorate Gulesian, showing that the way Armenians played an important role in Bostonian society even over a century ago was again being recognized by Boston society.

Kurkjian concluded, "Our story has finally been heard and reckoned with, and it is the proudest moment for me, as I hope it is for you, that we are here tonight, together, brothers and sisters of Hayastan, brothers and sisters of old historic Armenia and new Armenia, and Armenia here in the Old State House."

The audience was then invited to look at a display of the time capsule and its contents in the room next door. Each visitor received a specially prepared program booklet with five articles about the Old State House and Gulesian.

The audience itself in some ways was as interesting as the program, though its size was limited by code restrictions and space limitations to 75 people. A number of the guests had direct connections to Gulesian. Donald Tellalian, who played an important role in restoration of the Old State House, declared afterwards: "We are so pleased that the Bostonian Society in collaboration with NAASR hosted the evening at the Old State House, bringing together extended Gulesian family from New York, Vermont and Maine, and others."

One of these guests was Adrienne Richardson, whose great-grandfather was Moses Gulesian's brother Joseph. The Richardsons have inherited interesting documents concerning the Gulesians, including a property list of the Gulesian family from Marash, and an oil painting by Armand Ishlemeji. The latter, given to them by the wife of the architect Dudley S. Gulesian, is thought to be a portrait of Moses, but the family is looking for confirmation of this.

There were non-Armenians present whose lives had been touched by Gulesian too. Cameron Peters, chief financial officer of 24M Technologies, Inc., related during the reception for the event that his lithium-ion battery startup company moved into an old building at 130 Brookline Street in Cambridge, Massachusetts, that the Massachusetts Institute of Technology had bought and refurbished. On the door was written Gulesian's name. The building was probably initially a workshop garage in the 1920s. Gulesian lost the building to foreclosure during the Depression.

Peters grew interested in the history of the building and Gulesian, and prepared a PowerPoint presentation for the 55 employees of his company. Peters said that among other things, Gulesian erected the first electric street lighting along Huntington Avenue in Boston and the first parking garage in Boston.

Dr. Jack Keeverian, Professor Emeritus of Drexel University (and brother of the late Speaker of the House of Massachusetts) and his wife Dorothy, Sheriff Peter Koutoujian, members of the Board of Directors of the Bostonian Society and NAASR, and representatives of the Tekeyan Cultural Association were part of the audience that evening.

After the event, Sarah Ignatius, executive director of NAASR, declared: "Part of what was so special for us was partnering with the Bostonian Society in a new setting and talking about how Armenian immigrants had been crucial to Boston's own history and preservation. We hope to follow up with other Armenians who similarly have played a strong role in the development of Boston's history."

Armenian Mirror-Spectator, April 21, 2016

Over \$15,000 Raised at NKR Fundraiser in Watertown



Narek Dshkhunyan of the MIT Armenian Society (Photo: Kenneth Martin)

FUNDRAISER, from page 5
jani Armed Forces during the latest incidents of aggression, and that the government will do everything in its power to hold Azerbaijan accountable. Speaking about the current situation on the Line of Contact (LoC), Avetisyan said that while the major fighting is over and the situation is mostly calm, Azerbaijan continues to consistently violate the 1994 ceasefire agreement. "We're not asking the world to be pro-Armenian; we want them to be pro-peace," Avetisyan said.

He then assessed international reaction to the heightened violence, and said it followed the same pattern as before the escalation—that is, there was no unambiguous singling-out of Azerbaijan as the aggressor. "This gives a false sense

of impunity to Azerbaijani authorities," he said. Avetisyan then outlined the possible reasons behind Azerbaijan's decision to launch the attack, noting internal political pressures—such as Azerbaijan's oil crisis—as well as anti-Armenian sentiments that exist throughout the country.

Before taking questions from the audience, Mamigonian invited to the stage AAA board of trustees co-chairman Anthony Barsamian, who thanked the panelists and shared his thoughts on the situation in NKR and the organization's work.

At the conclusion of the event, a short video on NKR was presented. Afterwards, it was announced that \$15,000 had been raised during the event for the victims and their families.

Armenian Weekly, April 19, 2016

First Armenian Genealogy Conference Draws Hundreds

The first Armenian Genealogy Conference was held at the Armenian Cultural and Educational Center (ACEC), in Watertown, Mass., on the weekend of April 9-10. More than 300 people attended the two-day conference. Some came from as far as Vancouver, Canada, while two participants flew in from Great Britain.

The day-long program was video-taped by Roger Hagopian, well-known local filmmaker (“Destination Watertown: The Armenians of Hood Rubber” and “Memories of Marash”). The videos (14 parts) are available through conference co-sponsor NAASR’s YouTube channel www.youtube.com/armenianstudies.

The program began Saturday with a welcome by the three conference organizers, Tracy Rivest Keeney, Mark Arslan, and George Aghajyan.

Keeney, creator of the Armenian Genealogy Facebook page, led the first presentation, covering the sources most commonly available to genealogists in the United States. She used real cases in highlighting the valuable information that can be gleaned from the sources. Her talk supplied an important foundation, especially for those just beginning their family tree research.

The next presenter, Arslan, provided background on his family research and its evolution to become the Armenian Immigration Project. Initially devoted to immigrants from Keghi, the website has become an extensive database for all immigrants to the United States. Arslan gave examples of the ways to search the databases as well as to link individuals to various records. He also explained how others can help in transcribing records.



Conference presenters and co-organizers Tracy Keeney and Mark Arslan (photo by Kenneth Martin)



NAASR Board member Stephen Kurkjian and Janet Andreopoulos speaking on DNA research (photo by Kenneth Martin)

Vahe Tachjian, director of Houshamadyan, spoke of the project’s aim to “reconstruct Ottoman Armenian town and village life.” He gave examples of memory items that supply important context, particularly for genealogists. He also explained how people can help expand the project.

Then, both Houshamadyan and Project SAVE—the Armenian photograph archives and one of the sponsoring organizations of the conference—welcomed attendees to their booths, where participants shared their photographs, family trees, and other memory items, and learned about these two important Armenian institutions.

Following lunch, Luc Baronian, professor of linguistics at Université du Québec à Chicoutimi, spoke of the importance of the books, periodicals, and other information contained in the records of Armenian compatriotic unions. Using the examples of Gurin, Ourfa, Albustan, and Gesaria, Baronian detailed early census records, hand-drawn maps, post-genocide lists of villagers around the world, and survivor memoirs to highlight the richness of material available to genealogists.

The final speakers for the day were Janet Achoukian Andreopoulos and Stephen Kurkjian. Andreopoulos supplied a brief explanation of the different DNA tests available and the companies that offer them. Kurkjian and An-

dreopoulos then told the story of how a DNA test helped one woman identify her Armenian father. Andreopoulos walked the audience step-by-step through the process and methods she used to unearth the previously unknown father.

The final two hours on Saturday were devoted to networking and actual research. More than 12 volunteers from nearby Family History Centers of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints helped attendees with their own family research. In addition, based on the village origins of conference participants, photographs of the attendees were taken with others from the same region—the villages fell into 12 regions, and participants were divided into groups accordingly. DNA kits from Family Tree DNA were also made available at a discount.

On Sunday, cosponsors Project SAVE, NAASR, and the Armenian Museum of America (AMA) opened their doors to conference participants. Attendees learned more about the missions of the organizations, their extensive collections and resources, and the way they can be used by genealogists. Hamazkayin Boston and the Tekeyan Cultural Association also sponsored the conference. Given the tremendous success of the program, future conferences are currently being planned for other locations.

Armenian Weekly, May 13, 2016



One-Day Conference on “Treasures of Western Armenia” Held at Ararat-Eskijian

On Sunday October 25, 2015, the Ararat Eskijian Museum, the Armenian Jewellers Foundation, and the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) co-sponsored a conference on the “Treasures of Western Armenia,” at the Ararat-Eskijian Museum in Mission Hills, CA. Bruce Roat of the NAASR Board of Directors served as the Master of Ceremonies.

The first speaker, Dr. Rouben Adalian, Director of the Armenian National Institute (ANI) in Washington, D.C., spoke on the effects of the Genocide on the material culture and civilization in Western Armenia. Dr. Adalian conveyed the difficulty dealing with the subject matter, since, from his perspective, the devastation was enormous and complete. He indicated that he has never visited Eastern Turkey (Western Armenia) and despite the numerous Armenians who have visited the area in recent years, he had no plans for going. While some churches, such as

Sourp Giragos in Diyarbakir and Holy Cross on Aghtamar Island have been renovated in recent years, most everything else had been destroyed or is in very bad condition.

To put the losses from the Genocide in perspective, Dr. Adalian spoke about his recent visit to an archeological site in the Republic of Armenia, just outside of Yerevan, where evidence exists that the inhabitants of Armenia were making wine several thousands of years ago, indicating an advanced development of culture, and that the current inhabitants continue to make wine to this very day. The losses from the Genocide are not just the churches and other architectural monuments, which generally would erode over several hundred years, but a way of life that had been going on for several thousands of years, even before there was evidence of the written word, and the generally accepted start of the use of the term “Armenians” in the 7th to 9th century B.C.

The second speaker was Mr. Pierre Akkelian, a native of Montreal, who is Chairman of the Armenian Jewellers Foundation, headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland. Mr. Akkelian spoke about the Alexander Miller Collection of Armenian

er Collection was the property of the Republic of Turkey and sought their return.

The third and last speaker was Mr. Hratch Kozibeyokian, President of the Armenian Rugs Society of Los Angeles, who discussed “Tradi-



Rouben Adalian, Roupen Berberian, Sofi Khachmanyam, Maggie Goschin, Pierre Akkelian, Hratch Kozibeyokian, Bruce Roat

artifacts, recently discovered in the Saint Petersburg Russian Museum of Ethnography. In 1916, Czar Nicholas II approved a scholarly expedition to Van, and a small team of ethnographers led by Alexander Miller arrived there in 1916 and collected a total of 513 objects and 60 photographs. The objects taken back to Saint Petersburg included Armenian costumes, jewelry, and carpets; they remained in the museum basement for 100 years and were never displayed until 2015.

Mr. Akkelian spoke about the role of the Armenian Jewellers Foundation, working with the Russian Museum of Ethnography, in arranging to put the Armenian objects on display from April 2015 through October 2015, and the joint effort to prepare the recently published book *Treasures of Western Armenia* which is a catalogue of the Alexander Miller collection of artifacts. Akkelian mentioned that the Republic of Turkey had contacted the Museum and claimed that the Mill-

er Collection was the property of the Republic of Turkey and sought their return. Mr. Kozibeyokian referred to frequent uses of the symbols of the sun, eagles, the Armenian symbol of eternity, the use of images of dragons, the swastika, and what has come to be referred to as the Star of David, but which was used as a symbol by many ethnic groups since ancient times.

On behalf of the co-sponsoring organizations, following the event, Master of Ceremonies Bruce Roat expressed his appreciation for the presentations on this often overlooked aspect relating to the Armenian Genocide—the tremendous loss of material culture and traditions from Western Armenia—and for the collaborative effort that resulted in such a thought-provoking program.

Following the program, audience members explored an extensive exhibit of Armenian rugs, artifacts, and large photographs of many items in the Alexander Miller Collection



‘Armenians and the Cold War’ International Conference Takes Place at UM-Dearborn

By Rupen Janbazian

The Armenian Research Center at the University of Michigan-Dearborn (UM-Dearborn) hosted an international academic conference on “Armenians and the Cold War” on the university’s campus from April 1-3. Nearly 30 scholars from across the world participated in the unprecedented conference, which spanned across several disciplines.

The conference kicked-off on the evening of April 1 with a meet and greet with the participants at the university’s College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters (CASL) Building. Dean of UM-Dearborn CASL Marty Hershock welcomed those in attendance. Asbed Kotchikian (Bentley University), editor of the *Armenian Review*, and Gregory Aftandilian of the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR), also shared words of welcome to participants and attendees. An introduction of the conference was given by Ara Sanjian, Director of the UM-Dearborn Armenian Research Center, who outlined the reasons why such a conference was organized and what purpose it serves.

The first panel, which took place on the evening of April 1, was entitled “An Armenian ‘Cold War’ before the Global Cold War?” and featured panelists Garabet K. Moundjian, an independent historian, Pasadena, Calif.; Vahe Sahakyan of the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor; and Hazel Antaramian-Hofman of Fresno Com-



Dr. Ara Sanjian, Director of the Armenian Research Center, Dearborn, and principal organizer of the conference

munity College. Cam Amin of UM-Dearborn served as panel chair, while Astrig Atamian of École des hautes études en sciences sociales, Paris, served as discussant. Moundjian’s paper focused on the Armenian Revolutionary Federation’s (ARF) collusion in the Kurdish rebellions of the 1920s and 1930s in Republican Turkey, in context of the search of the origins of Islamized Armenians in Turkey; Sahakyan’s paper looked at the changing course of the ARF during and after the Second World War; while Antaramian-Hofman presented on the post-WWII repatriation of American-Armenians to Soviet Armenia.

Saturday’s first panel was entitled “Armenian-Americans in the 1950s” and featured pan-

elists Levon Chorbajian of the University of Massachusetts, Lowell; Gregory Aftandilian of the American University, Washington, D.C.; and Benjamin F. Alexander of the New York City College of Technology (CUNY). Pam Pennock of UM-Dearborn chaired the panel and Khatchik DerGhougassian of the Universidad de San Andrés, Argentina, served as discussant (via Skype). Chorbajian’s paper focused on the opposing views of the *Hairenik Weekly* and the *Armenian Mirror-Spectator* at the time, with a particular focus on articles and editorials written in 1951; Aftandilian’s presentation focused on the writing of *Hairenik* and *Armenian Review* editor Reuben Darbinian during the Cold War; while Alexander’s talk centered around the ARF’s policies in the United States in the 1950s and especially on the activities of General Dro through his links with the U.S. government.

Panelists Jirair Jolakian, editor of the *Nor Haratch* newspaper of Paris and Astrig Atamian of École des hautes études en sciences sociales, Paris, made up Saturday’s second panel entitled “The Armenian ‘Cold War’ in France. Jolakian’s presentation focused on the articles and editorials of Shavarsh Misakian, the editor of *Haratch* during the years of the Cold War, while Atamian’s paper looked at the “Garmir” communist movement among the Armenian community of France, during the Cold War. Professor Emeritus (UCLA) and Adjunct Professor of History (University of Southern California) Richard G.



Hovannisian chaired the panel, while Asbed Kotchikian served as discussant.

Saturday's third panel, entitled "The Armenian 'Cold War' in South America" was chaired by Kevork Bardakjian of the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and featured panelists Vartan Matiossian of the Armenian National Education Committee, New York; Heitor Loureiro of São Paulo State University (UNESP); and Khatchik DerGhougassian. Simon Payaslian of Boston University served as panel discussant. Matiossian's paper entitled "Fighting for History: An Unknown Polemics in the Beginnings of the Cold War" focused on the polemic between historian Haroutiun Astourian and ARF intellectual Sahag Barceghian in 1947 about how the history of the first Republic of Armenia (1918-1920) and Soviet Armenia should be written; Loureiro's paper focused on the rise of communism in the Armenian community of Brazil and its repression by the political police; while DerGhougassian focused on the pro-/anti-Soviet divide in the Armenian community of Argentina from the late 1940s to the late 1980s.

The conference's fifth panel entitled "Armenians: Between a Soviet Homeland and the Diaspora," featured panelists Nélida Boulgourdjian of the Universidad Nacional de Tres de Febrero, Argentina, and Gevorg Petrosyan of the Institute of Oriental Studies, National Academy of Sciences, Armenia. Boulgourdjian presented the background of Soviet policy toward Armenian communities of the diaspora, with a particular focus on the communities of France and Argentina between 1930 and 1950. Petrosyan's paper focused on the impact of the Cold War and Turkish-Soviet relations on Armenians in Turkey and their relations with Soviet Armenia between 1945 and 1964. Anush Hovhannisyan of the Institute of Oriental Studies, National Academy of Sciences, Armenia, chaired the panel, while Eldad Ben-Aharon of Royal Holloway (University of London) served as panel discussant.

After the panel, participants and attendees marked the 30th anniversary of the Armenian Research Center of UM-Dearborn with a reception honoring Gerald E. Ottenbreit, Jr., and Alice Nigoghosian, for their years of dedicated service.

Sunday's first panel entitled "The Armenian 'Cold War' in the Arab World from 1945 to 1970" featured panelists Hratch Tchilingirian of the University of Oxford, and James Stocker of Trinity Washington University. Panelist Khatchig Mouradian of Rutgers University, who was to present his paper entitled "The Cold War of Genocide: April 24 Editorials in the Lebanese-Armenian Party Political Press,

era of the Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia (ASALA) and the Justice Commandos of the Armenian Genocide (JCAG) in the Middle East (1970s and 1980s). Eldad Ben Aharon, paper entitled "The Cold War and Middle East Political Violence: An Israeli-American-Turkish Alliance?," explored the relations between the United States, Israel, and Turkey in the early 1980s, the context of the Middle East and its Armenian communities. The second panelist, Emre Can Dağlıoğlu of Clark University presented on the changing identity of the Armenian population of Turkey during this period. Nélida Boulgourdjian chaired the panel, while Vahe Sahakyan served as discussant.

The next two panels, entitled "Soviet Armenian Historiography and the Cold War" and "Arts and Popular Culture during the Armenian 'Cold War'" took place together, with Vartan Matiossian acting as chair. Samvel Grigoryan an independent historian from Moscow presented on the impact of Soviet-Western relations on the historiography of the Armenian Kingdom of Cilicia; and Anush Hovhannisyan presented on the "private stories" of Armenian Genocide survivors in Soviet Armenia during the Cold War, in the first portion of the combined panel. Richard Hovannisian served as a discussant of the first two presentations. Tigran Matosyan of the American University of Armenia (AUA) then presented on the Armenian "Hippie" movement, which took place in Soviet Armenia in the 1960s and 1970s. Kevork Bardakjian, who served as discussant, shared his experiences

from Soviet Armenia during those years. Neery Melkonian—an independent researcher, critic, and curator from New York City—was due to present on Armenian Diaspora Artists and the Cold War, but was unable to attend.

At the conclusion of the conference, a second roundtable was held between participants and attendees. The discussion focused on the legacy of the Armenian "Cold War" and its impact today. The discussion focused on the three main aspects—the historical, political, and sociological—around which the Cold War affected Armenian communities around the world. Recommendations for future research and discussions were also made by those present.

Armenian Weekly, May 5, 2016

invites you to attend

ARMENIANS & THE COLD WAR

International Academic Conference
with thirty scholars from seven countries

April 1-3, 2016

Friday, 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM
Saturday, 10:00 AM to 6:30 PM
Sunday, 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM

Kochhoff Auditorium, 1030 CASL Building University of Michigan - Dearborn
4901 Evergreen Road, Dearborn MI 48128

For more details contact Gerald Ottenbreit at (313) 593-5181
or e-mail: gottenbr@umich.edu

1945-1970," was not able to attend due to illness. Levon Chorbajian served as panel chair, while Benjamin Alexander served as panel discussant. While both panelists' presentations focused on the effects of the Cold War on the Armenian Apostolic Church, Tchilingirian's paper explored the rift between Etchmiadzin and Antelias, while Stocker's paper looked at the United States and the struggle within the church between 1956 and 1963.

After Sunday's first panel, a roundtable discussion between participants and attendees took place, which compared the chronologies of the global Cold War and the Armenian "Cold War." Ara Sanjian offered opening remarks, while Asbed Kotchikian led the discussion.

The conference's seventh panel explored the

Panel Presents Personal Perspectives on Karabagh at Northeastern University

By Aram Arkun

The National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR), with the co-sponsorship of the Northeastern University Armenian Students Association, presented a panel discussion on Karabagh on February 12 moderated by Professor Anna Ohanyan at Northeastern's student center. Different personal perspectives of Armenian discussants with varying connections to the region made for an accessible and informative event. The sizable audience of approximately 110 included both a good number of students as well as older individuals from the Boston area Armenian community.

After a welcome from the vice president of the Northeastern student club, Ani Semerdjian, and master of ceremonies Marc Mamigonian, Director of Academic Affairs of NAASR, a video from Northeastern University president Joseph Aoun was screened. Aoun declared that he had Armenian friends while growing up as a youth in Lebanon, and so learned all about the Armenian soccer teams there. He encouraged the students to simultaneously celebrate their Armenian roots and American identities, and said they were sending the world a message — that no matter where the students lived now, they continued to care about Armenians and Armenian issues.

Dr. Simon Payaslian, holder of the Charles K. and Elisabeth M. Kenosian Chair in Modern Armenian History and Literature at Boston University, provided a short historical overview of Nagorno-Karabagh or Artsakh from ancient times to the present, accompanied by PowerPoint slides.

Ohanyan concisely described the recent shift of the situation in Karabagh from what many observers called a frozen or low-intensity conflict to a more active one, with a greater number of frontline deaths last year and heavy military buildup. It has become a frontline for the new conflict between Russia and the West. For the rest of the program, she directed a series of questions on Karabagh to four panelists.

Ohanyan is Richard B. Finnegan Distinguished Professor of Political Science and International Relations and Chair of the Department of Political Science and International Studies at Stonehill College in Easton, Mass. She is the author of *Networked Regionalism as Conflict Management* (Stanford University Press, 2015) and NGOs, IGOs, and *Network Mechanism of Post-Conflict Global Governance in Micro-*

finance (Palgrave Macmillan, 2008), and is organizing a global security studies internship program which includes choices of placement in Armenia, Georgia, and Serbia.

The panelists included Konstantin Grigoryan, Armine Mosiyan, Anna Astvatsaturian Turcotte, and Olya Yordanyan. Each first presented his or her personal background. Grigoryan's family, originally from Karabagh, settled in Baku until the events of the late 1980s forced them to flee. After brief stays in Armenia and Russia, they settled in Kentucky, where Grigoryan grew up. After studying engineering, he switched fields, and now is doing his residency in medical school. He remains in contact with relatives in Karabagh.

Armine Mosiyan, a native of Artsakh who went to Yerevan State University, has come to the US to study at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University.

Turcotte was born in Baku in 1978, but her grandfather was from Khndzoresk village of Syunik province in present-day southeastern Armenia. He fled the Armenian Genocide to Baku where Azerbaijani violence against Armenians in 1918 forced him to flee to Turkmenistan, but eventually he ended up in Yerevan. However, the family moved back to Baku, now part of the Soviet Union, for work reasons. As hostility in Azerbaijan towards Armenians escalated, Turcotte and her family left Baku in the fall of 1989, just before the January 1990 attacks and killings of Armenians. After a period of time in Armenia, they received American refugee status and moved to North Dakota. In 2012, Turcotte published her memoirs, *Nowhere: A Story of Exile*, based on the diary she kept.

Yordanyan, raised in Yerevan, has no direct roots in Karabagh, but lived in Armenia during the war. She is a freelance journalist pursuing a master's degree at Boston University who has undergraduate and master's degrees in International Relations from Yerevan State University (as well as a bachelor's degree in Musical Arts from the Komitas Yerevan State Conservatory). She holds a graduate certificate in Public Policy and Administration from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University.

Ohanyan's first question was how the lack of international recognition and the blockade of the Republic of Mountainous Karabagh (NKR) affects daily life. Mosiyan responded that NKR enjoys all the attributes of a country, and said that in daily life, "I don't feel any kind of difference with other countries." However, Azerbai-

jani threats to shoot down civilian planes do not allow the use of an airport, while diplomas from Artsakh State University are not recognized in places like the US. The blockade prevents many international investments, and loans from the World Bank or International Monetary Fund are not possible. Tourism is affected, and this impacts the economy.

Grigoryan said that there is a fear that war may break out again. The youth have to serve in the military, and even now shootings take place, leading to sporadic deaths. He said, "It is a fear that we don't experience here in the United States. ... Having been there, it is also eerie, going through some of the regions where you see empty villages. ... You are always reminded of the atrocities that had happened. The city of Shushi, yes, is being rebuilt, but there are parts of it where you go and you are reminded of the war. There is always the unease that people have."

Turcotte pointed out that there is stable economic growth, and said that this "is unusual for a country that is not considered to be a country, that is blockaded and whose only trade is with Armenia." She said the people of Karabagh want good government, peace, and construction. The roads are better than in Armenia, thanks to foreign investment, and despite areas reminding visitors of the war, the capital of Stepanakert is beautiful and Shushi, an artistic center, is progressing. Mining, food processing, telecommunications, construction, and tourism produce income, but educational opportunities and health care are limited.

She declared that the borders are constantly being attacked, and demining is necessary. The US is the only country in the world that sends aid officially, and that is only two million dollars for demining, which is insufficient. There is no UN presence because of the conflict.

She concluded, "All the things that we hold dear here, they hold dear there. They don't care that they are not recognized. ... They are still living [there] and their kids are going to school. We need to support them."

Yordanyan said, "There is a psychological element of permanent pressure and fear that there might be a war, but it has been 25 years so when it happens every day you get used to it even if it is extreme. ... People living there are really, really strong. They are like the Scots of Armenia." She found that many of the problems of daily life were the same as those facing Armenians living in the Republic of Armenia. Maintaining

a self-sustainable economy is a great collective challenge, but, she said, there are many positive achievements in Artsakh, such as low unemployment at around two to three percent and real competition in the parliamentary elections. Yordanyan thought that “the people of Artsakh should concentrate on building civil society... which will make the Republic of Artsakh a stronger country. This is the only resource Karabagh can rely on.” Another opportunity is to increase energy production to begin exporting to Armenia.

Ohanyan’s second question concerned the recent increased intensity and breadth of violence on the 160-mile line of contact despite a formal ceasefire. How does the rapidly shifting geopolitical environment of the south Caucasus affect the peace process?

Mosiyani said that Azerbaijan has to choose between Turkey and Russia because of recent conflicts, and if Russian-Turkish relations turn sour, as part of the relations of Russia with the West, they affect the Karabagh issue too. Meanwhile, Iran is reemerging in the region after its nuclear deal. Finally, the economic collapse in Azerbaijan due to falling oil prices increases domestic dissatisfaction with the government, so President Ilham Aliyev may turn to Karabagh as his trump card.

Grigoryan said that Armenians have always been the pawn of the powers in the region, and lately Armenia has been aligning more with Russia. For him, the most likely scenario is the indefinite continuation of the status quo. Iran does not want a strong Azerbaijan since it has a large domestic Azerbaijani population, while Turkey generally aligns with Azerbaijan and is at odds with Iran. Aliyev cannot sign a ceasefire since he would lose face domestically. For Grigoryan, however, the Azerbaijani celebration of Ramil Safarov as a national hero after his brutal murder of an Armenian in 2004 in Budapest was a disturbing aspect of the situation.

Turcotte said that up to several months ago she would have said that Armenia would have successfully continued its balancing act between the various powers in the region, but now, with the fall of the Azerbaijani currency along with oil prices, ordinary citizens are committing suicide because of their debt. Azerbaijani criticism of the Aliyev regime has increased, which may lead Aliyev to irrational actions. He already has begun the use of tanks at the borders. In sum, she said, she no longer knows what may happen next.

Yordanyan said that changes for the worse in Russian-Western relations will affect the Karabagh negotiation process negatively and slow it down. The Middle Eastern situation is important. As the US wants to cooperate with Iran to achieve a solution to the Syrian conflict, an increased role of Iran in the region may also



From left, Marc Mamigonian, moderator Dr. Anna Ohanyan, and panelists Armine Mosiyani, Konstantin Grigoryan, Anna Astvatsaturian Turcotte, and Olya Yordanyan, with Northeastern University President Joseph Aoun on the screen above them.

help Armenia directly and indirectly in the negotiation process. On the other hand, a rise in Islamic fundamentalism in the region may spread to Azerbaijan and pose a threat in the future to Armenia.

Ohanyan’s third set of questions included what NKR might gain through a demilitarization of the line of contact with Azerbaijan and how important international recognition is for the people of NKR.

Yordanyan responded, saying “I do not think that the demilitarization of contact line borders is possible considering the extent of anti-Armenian hatred now in Azerbaijan.” International recognition is important as the final step or end. Without it, Karabagh does not exist, and it will provide many more opportunities. However, a lot of other steps are necessary before this, she said.

Finally, Ohanyan asked what is the significance of NKR for Armenians outside Armenia who grew up with the legacy of the Armenian Genocide.

Turcotte said that she just received a question after an event in Boston which led her to write an article afterwards. An Armenian community leader asked why can we not empty Karabagh of its Armenian population and give it to Azerbaijan in order to end this conflict. She said that this cynicism is shocking. “For the first time in our history, we have won back land... yet millions of Armenians do not know about Karabagh. They don’t support its fight for independence. That is why these kinds of events are important.” Turcotte said it is important to send the message to Azerbaijan that while Armenia may not have oil, it has its diaspora.

Grigoryan said, “I haven’t been part of the

greater Armenian diaspora. I grew up in Kentucky and Cincinnati, Ohio, where there were not many Armenians around, but I always felt connected with Artsakh growing up... it should be important for the whole Armenian diaspora. We are all Armenians and should be united as much as we can.” He added that with Armenians from Syria settling in Karabagh, that may create further bonds with diaspora Armenians.

Yordanyan eagerly said, “I was waiting for this moment. This is the best part, where a lot can be done.” She said there is a lot of potential for developing information technologies in Karabagh which would overcome its isolation, and diasporan Armenians can be of great help. Furthermore, a lot of people in NKR are self-employed, so comparatively small sums of money can allow their projects to continue. Finally, she said, diasporan Armenians need to discover Karabagh for themselves in a new way, such as through summer internships. Yordanyan said, “You do not need formal recognition — just the will and a project.”

Mosiyani said “I myself feel that Karabagh plays a huge part in diasporan life. When someone asks where you are from and I say Armenia, and when someone is Armenian and I say Artsakh, I can feel the warmth. ... We can see the diaspora caring about Karabagh when we look at the roads. It is not only financial support — it is caring about the state.” Diasporan Armenians come to live in the villages with families for several days to get to know them better.

At the conclusion of the program, audience questions were fielded by the panelists.

Armenian Mirror-Spectator
February 25, 2016

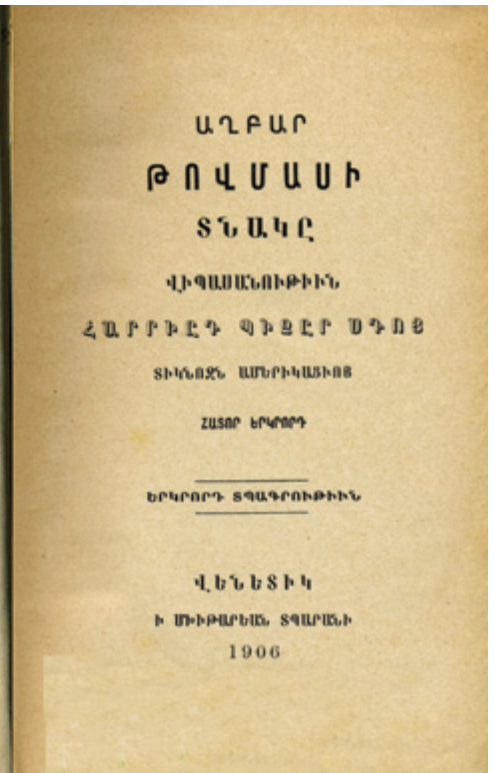
In the Library: *Uncle Tom's Cabin* in Armenian and Other Items of Interest

NAASR's Mardigian Library has long had among its holdings the Armenian translation of Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin*—*Aghpar T'ovmasi Dnagë* in Western Armenian transliteration. This was the second edition, published in 1906 in Venice by the Mekhitarists in two volumes, and the NAASR copy was part of a large collection donated by Haroutiun Kazazian (1886-1982) of Summit, NJ.

Among the items recently added to the Mardigian Library as part of the acquisition of Harvard duplicates was a copy of the 1854 first edition of the Armenian. It is remarkable that the book was translated into Armenian within two years of its initial publication in 1852. No translator is credited in either edition.

Various later 19th century editions of *Uncle Tom's Cabin* (in English) include a letter from "the Rev. Mr. Dwight" in Constantinople, who must be Harrison Gray Otis Dwight, the Protestant missionary to the Armenians in Asia Minor, to Professor Stowe, the husband of the author. The letter reads as follows:

"'Uncle Tom's Cabin' in the Armenian language! Who would have thought it? I do not suppose your good wife, when she wrote that book, thought that she was going to missionate it among the sons of Haig in all their dispersions, following them along the banks of the Euphrates, sitting down with them in their towns and villages under the shade of hoary Ararat, travelling with them in their wanderings even to India and China. But I have it in my hands! in the Armenian of the present day, the same language in which I speak and think and dream. Now do not suppose this is any of my work, or that of any missionary in the field. The translation has been made and the book printed at Venice by a fraternity of Catholic Armenian Monks perched there on the Island of St. Lazarus. It is in two volumes, neatly print-



Frontispiece and title page of 1906 printing of *Aghpar T'ovmasi Dnagë*



Title page of first edition of Armenian translation of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*

ed and with plates, I think translated from the French. It has not been in any respect materially altered, and when it is so, not on account of religious sentiment. The account of the negro prayer and exhortation meetings is given in full, though the translator, not knowing what we mean by people's becoming Christians, took pains to insert at the bottom of the page

that at these meetings of the negroes great effects were sometimes produced by the warm-hearted exhortations and prayers, and it often happened that heathen negroes embraced Christianity on the spot.

"One of your former students is now in my house, studying Armenian, and the book I advised him to take as the best for the language is this 'Uncle Tom's Cabin.'"

On that same page it is also mentioned that "From the Armenian Convent in the Lagoon of Venice (i.e., San Lazzaro) came a most beautiful Armenian translation of 'Uncle Tom', with a letter from the principal translator." Efforts to locate this letter among the Stowe papers and—

perhaps—to definitively identify the translator have thus far been unsuccessful. We hope to be able to report more about this at a later date.

One wonders: how widely was this influential book read in Armenian circles? What impact did it have upon its readers? Did they see any similarities between the oppression of African-American slaves and Armenians living under Ottoman domination?

As part of the same Harvard collection (for which NAASR must thank Michael Grossman, Middle Eastern Librarian at Harvard's Widener Library), numerous other rare and unusual books were added to NAASR's holdings. A very few of the highlights include:

- Dkt. H. Hamazasp Oskean, *Vasputakan-Vani Vankerë* (Vienna: Mkhitarian Tparan, 1940-1947). This three-volume, 1,100+ page study is an important source on many of the now-destroyed Armenian churches and monasteries of the Lake Van Region.
- T. Azatean, *Akn ew Akntsik* (Istanbul: H. Abrahamean, 1943), is one of several noteworthy *hushamateanner* (memorial books) included in this collection. Others include an excellent copy of Arshak Alpayochean's monumental, two-volume *Patmutiwn Hay Kesarioy* [History of Armenian Gesaria], published in Cairo in 1937.
- The oldest item in the collection is volume 1 of the 1805 "Zohrabian" Bible printed in Venice by the Mkhitarian press. This Bible, edited by Hovhann Zohrabian at San Lazzaro, in the words



DONATIONS TO NAASR LIBRARY

The following donors have contributed items to NAASR's Edward and Helen Mardigian Library since the previous listing in the Fall 2014-Spring 2015 issue of the Newsletter. The donations of our friends and members constitute a huge portion of our library: collections large and small of books, newspapers, personal papers, and ephemera which form the core of our holdings. Thank you!

- Sandra Aghababian, Lexington, MA
 Hambersom Aghbashian, Glendale, CA
 Adrienne Alexanian, New York, NY
 Adrenna Antreassian, Watertown., MA
 Dr. Artur Andranikian, Yerevan, Armenia
 Ararat-Eskijian Museum, Mission Hills, CA
 Aram Arkun, Lynnfield, MA
 Armenian Cultural Foundation, Arlington, MA
 Armen Aroyan, Monrovia, CA
 Association des Amis du Centre d'Histoire et Civilisation de Byzance,
 Paris, France
 Alice Avanian, Swampscott, MA
 Rev. Andrea Ayvazian, Northampton, MA
 Rose Mary Aznavorian, Arlington, MA
 Dr. Karen Babayan, Cumbria, United Kingdom
 Dr. Levon Bastajian, Belmont, MA
 Mary Bergoudian, Belmont, MA
 Dr. George Bournoutian, Haworth, NJ
 Armen S. Casparian, Cumberland, RI
 Zareh Chalian, Burbank, CA
 Ellen S. Chesnut, Alameda, CA
 Dr. H. Martin Deranian, Shrewsbury, MA
 Virginia Deranian, Shrewsbury, MA
 Edward Der Kazarian, Watertown, MA
 Haig and Elza Didizian, London, England
 Estate of Anne Elbrecht, Davis, CA
 Friends of Hrant Dink, Boston, MA
 Tom Frist, Mointreat, NC
 Dr. Ara Ghazarian, Lexington, MA
 John Goshdigian, Concord, MA
 Gina Hablanian, Watertown, MA
 S. Robert Jaffarian, Fayston, VT
 Ara Jeknavorian, Chelmsford, MA
 Karen Joovelegian, West Greenwich, RI
 Nancy Kalayjian, Belmont, MA
 Carole Long Karabashian, Philadelphia, PA
 Deron "Dee" Kassabian, Alameda, CA
 Sharon Kassakhian, Westfield, NJ
 David Kherdian, Marblehead, MA
 Osman Köker, Istanbul, Turkey
 Nancy R. Kolligian, Watertown, MA
 Dr. Abraham Krikorian and Eugene Taylor,
 Port Jefferson, NY
 Helen M. Krikorian, Vienna, VA
 Dr. Newton Kupelian, Belmont, MA
 Arto Kurkjian, Belmont, MA
 Linda Manoukian, Waltham, MA
 Berj and Anie Manoushagian, Waltham, MA
 Mardic Marashian, Arlington, MA
 Dr. Ronald T. Marchese and Dr. Marlene R. Breu, Duluth, MN
 Berc and Sofik Martayan, Bal Harbour, FL
 Anna Ohanyan, Concord, MA
 Sara Omartian, Springfield, MA
 Gerald S. Papazian, Palos Verdes Estates, CA
 Dr. Rubina Peroomian, Glendale, CA
 Project SAVE Armenian Photograph Archives, Watertown, MA
 Dr. James R. Russell, Cambridge, MA
 Dr. Levon Saryan, Milwaukee, WI
 Dr. Verjine Svazlian, Yerevan, Armenia
 Barbara and Don Tellalian, Newton Centre, MA
 Vasbouragan Society, Granada Hills, CA
 Marilyn Weber, Northville, MI



Frontispiece and title page of the Zohrabian Bible of 1805

of scholar Claude Cox, "may properly be regarded as the single most important work of Armenian biblical scholarship since the patristic period."

- Father Paschal Aucher's [Harutiwn Awgorean] *Grammar: English and Armenian* (Venice, 1817), is a publication of great historical significance and was funded by that most famous of students of Armenian, Lord Byron.

- Two publications, a pamphlet entitled *Vérité sur le Mouvement Révolutionnaire Arménien et les Mesures Gouvernementales* (Constantinople, 1916) and *Aspirations et Agissements Révolutionnaires des Comités Arméniens* (Constantinople, 1917), are among the very earliest examples of what would later be understood as state-sponsored denial of the Armenian Genocide. (A

2001 reprint of the latter, a part of the Krikorian and Taylor Collection, also was recently added to NAASR's Mardigian Library.) They join the similarly rare tri-lingual photo album *Die ziele und taten armenischer revolutionäre / The Armenian aspirations and revolutionary movements / Aspirations et mouvements révolutionnaires arméniens* (ca. 1915), already in the NAASR library as part of the Bournoutian Collection. These publications initiated the process of Ottoman, then Turkish, denials of the destruction of the Armenian people and the effort to show that whatever was happening to the Armenians was a justifiable response to Armenian aggression. As such, they are fundamental to understanding the century-long denial of the Genocide.

NAASR Proudly Supports the 14th Annual UCLA Graduate Colloquium

On February 12, 2016, Professor Peter Cowe welcomed scholars from Armenia, Germany, England, Switzerland, Hungary, Russia, and the United States, in an event that enlightened the Los Angeles community, on the latest developments in the field of Armenian Studies.

Lusine Sargsyan (Yerevan State University, Armenia) discussed the manuscript heritage of the Armenian community of Transylvania in the 19th century.

Marieta Bazinyan (Yerevan State University, Armenia) discussed the identity markers of Armenians according to Grigor Artsruni and the *Mshak* Periodical (1872-1892).

David Leupold (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Germany) discussed collective violence, memory, and national collectivity in the Lake Van region, based on his interviews in Turkey, Armenia, and Georgia.

Ari Sekeryan (Oxford, England) discussed the Armenian Community at the end of the Ottoman Empire, based on the Armenian press in Turkey (1918-1923). The focus of the discussion was on the condition of the Armenian orphans and the population that continued to live in Turkey.



David Leupold and Ari Sekeryan



Erin Piñon

Mari Mamyan (Yerevan State University, Armenia) was unable to attend, but her paper on the Aprocryphal Gospel of Nicodemus was presented.

Erin Marie Piñon (Southern Methodist Uni-

Woman”.

Narine Jallatyan (UCLA) discussed the works of the Caribbean poet Edouard Glissant and the Armenian diasporan poet Vahe Oshagan, in the context of opening up horizons to think and



Conference participants and organizers

versity, Texas) discussed the five illustrations dedicated to Agathangelos’s *History of the Armenians* which were painted by Vardan Baghishetsi in 1569. The focus of the talk was on the visual representation of Trdat, the King of Armenia, and his transformation from animal (boar) to human, and more abstractly, from pagan to Christian.

Gohar Grigoryan (University of Fribourg, Switzerland) discussed the use of symbols typical of Mongol rule, by 13th century Cilician Armenia, which accepted Mongol suzerainty. The illustrated talk included pictures of miniatures, coins, seals, and royal dress (textiles).

Piruza Hayrapetyan (Central European University, Hungary) discussed the *ganj* genre’s literary connections with the Armenian *K’aroz*, the Syriac *madrasha* and *memra* and the Byzantine *Kontakion*.

Levon Aghikyan (Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography of National Academy of Armenia) was not able to attend, but his paper on the first Chalcolithic Period Burials in Armenia was presented by Kristine Martirosyan-Olshansky of UCLA.

Anna Gevorgyan (Yerevan State University, Armenia) discussed how the Soviet Armenian Media (the Avangard) created the “New Soviet



Lusine Sargsyan and Marieta Bazinyan

theorize about the Diaspora and the diasporic condition.

Elli Ponomareva (European University at Saint Petersburg, Russia) discussed the language situation in the Armenian Community of Tbilisi.

Babken Der Grigorian (London School of Economics, England) discussed the new wave of social movement formation in Armenia by analyzing its emergence, efficacy, and its contribution to broader democratization and economic development efforts.

Gary Glass, Jr. (University of Missouri) discussed the differential success of rural Armenian families in the transition to a market economy as a result of their social helping networks.



GRANTS AND FINANCIAL AID FROM NAASR AND THE KNIGHTS OF VARTAN (SEPT. 2015-MAY 2016)

Over the past nine months NAASR and the Knights of Vartan Fund for Armenian Studies (jointly administered by NAASR and the Knights of Vartan) have funded a wide variety of scholars of Armenian Studies. We are proud to support such diverse and valuable work by young and up-and-coming scholars and established academics alike and to facilitate the development of new projects and the exchange of ideas that enriches the field of Armenian Studies.

1. Travel grant to Ani Shahinyan, doctoral student, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, UCLA, in support of her research in Armenia on martyrological works in Armenian history through consultation with scholars and investigation of historical documents (NAASR).
2. Travel grant to Fred Sienkiewicz, doctoral student, Boston University School of Music, to conduct research in Armenia for comprehensive scholarly study of Alexander Arutiunian's life and a critical survey and catalog of his complete works, with an overview of the cultural and musical context of Soviet Armenia geared toward the general Western musician (NAASR).
3. Travel grant to Edip Gölbaşı, doctoral candidate, Department of History, Simon Fraser University (British Columbia, Canada), to visit the Ottoman archives and conduct research for thesis "The Armenian Massacres of 1895-1896: Internal Security and the "Climate of Violence" in the Eastern Provinces of the Ottoman Empire" (Knights of Vartan Fund for Armenian Studies).
4. Travel grant to Umit Kurt, doctoral candidate, Strassler Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Clark University, to go to Turkey to conduct research for thesis "The Emergence of a New Wealthy Class between 1915-1922: The Seizure of Armenian Property by the Local Elites in Aintab" (Knights of Vartan Fund for Armenian Studies).
5. Travel grant to Hayarpi Papikyan, University of Paris Descartes, Paris, France, to support research in Yerevan and Tbilisi for thesis "Education of Armenian girls between family and school in the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th centuries," covering the public discourse about the social and cultural role of Armenian women in late 19th and early 20th century (Knights of Vartan Fund for Armenian Studies).
6. Travel grant to Yelena Ambartsumian and Leah Marangos to conduct research on the intersection of cultural property, historiography, and Armenian identity in Nagorno-Karabakh for an article to appear in *Convivium: Exchanges and Interactions in the Arts of Medieval Europe, Byzantium and the Mediterranean* (Knights of Vartan Fund for Armenian Studies).
7. Publication grant to Nairi Hakhverdi (project coordinator) towards translation costs for *Anthology of Late Ottoman Armenian Literature* (S. Peter Cowe and Theo van Lint, project supervisors) (NAASR).
8. Travel grant to Jesse Siragan Arlen, doctoral student in Armenian Studies, UCLA, to participate in workshop "Introduction to Armenian Manuscript Studies" in Berlin (NAASR).
9. Travel grant to Khatchig Mouradian, doctoral candidate, Strassler Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Clark University, to conduct research in Ottoman archives on the role of Arabs during the Armenian Genocide (Knights of Vartan Fund for Armenian Studies).
10. Research grant to Lokman Sazan, graduate student at Universitat Rovira i Virgili, Tarragona, Spain, to support fieldwork for the project "In Pursuit of Memories of Genocide Among Armenians of Mardin in Turkey" (Knights of Vartan Fund for Armenian Studies).
11. Travel grant to Vahagn Hakobyan, doctoral student at the Institute of Oriental Studies of the National Academy of Sciences, Republic of Armenia, to support research in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs archives in Moscow on "The Situation in the South Caucasus in the 18th Century" (Knights of Vartan Fund for Armenian Studies).
12. Research grants to Taner Akçam, Kaloosdian and Mugar Professor of Armenian Genocide Studies and Modern Armenian History, Clark University, for digitization and indexing of major archive of documents on the Armenian Genocide (NAASR).
13. Travel grant to Carla Kekejian, University of California, Irvine, to conduct research in Armenia for project on Armenian Women's Sign Language, a defunct, indigenous sign language of Armenia believed to have developed due to speech taboos and a rule of silence imposed on married women (NAASR).
14. Publication grant to Ara Merjian, Smbat Hovhannisyan, and Narek Mkrtchyan's in support of the book *Gramsci's 'Circle of Humanity'* and Armenia (NAASR).
15. Travel grant to Rose Vartiter Aroush, doctoral candidate, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, UCLA, to participate in workshop in Yerevan and present work-in-progress from dissertation on the ethnic factors of Armenian culture that influence the role of the family and the impact of the community on the experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) Armenians living in Los Angeles (NAASR).
16. Travel grant to Umit Kurt to participate in panel which he organized entitled "New Issues, Perspectives and Sources in Armenian Studies," for the 5th Global Conference of the International Network of Genocide Scholars (INoGS) in Jerusalem (Knights of Vartan Fund for Armenian Studies).
17. NAASR provided funding to support the February 2016 UCLA Graduate Student Colloquium in Armenian Studies.
18. NAASR provided funds as co-sponsor of the American University of Armenia (AUA) College of Humanities and Social Sciences and UCLA two-day graduate student workshop on "The Contemporary Construction of Armenian Identity," held in Yerevan.
19. NAASR and the Knights of Vartan jointly provided funds as co-sponsors of the conference "Historical Tayk: History, Culture, Confession," organized in Yerevan by the Matenadaran (Mesrop Mashtots Institute of Ancient Manuscripts), National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia, and the Armenian National Committee of Byzantine Studies.
20. In summer 2016 NAASR continued its ongoing support of the Zoryan Institute's Genocide and Human Rights Program at the University of Toronto.

Sona Aronian

Scholar and NAASR Benefactor

Dr. Sona Aronian, 85, of Kingston, RI, died November 17, 2015, after a long illness. She was Professor Emerita of Russian, Comparative Literature and Women's Studies at the University of Rhode Island. Prof. Aronian held a B.A. in Comparative Literature from Boston University and a Ph.D. in Slavic Languages and Literatures from Yale. She taught at the University of Pittsburgh and the University of Pennsylvania, and at the University of Rhode Island she established and directed the program in Russian Studies and participated in the creation of the Comparative Literature and Women's Studies programs. She did archival research in Moscow, St. Petersburg, Prague, and Paris on the Russian modernist writer Alexei Remizov with the support of grants from the International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX). She served as contributing editor of a two-volume set of the *Russian Literature Triquarterly* devoted to the life and works of Remizov as well as a separate volume of his *Selected Prose*. She also presented papers on Remizov at several international conferences in the United States and in Russia.

In retirement she became engrossed in the study of the Armenian language, literature, and culture. She endowed two book prizes for outstanding scholarly work in Armenian studies to be granted by NAASR. She financed the construction of a state-of-the-art language lab at the Avedisian School in Yerevan, Armenia. She and her husband



Dr. Sona Aronian, left, in her ancestral town of Zeiton, with fellow traveler Hrant Gulian on the 2009 NAASR Armenian Heritage Trip to Cilicia (photo by Hrag Marganian)

Geoffrey Gibbs endowed a URI scholarship in music composition.

Prof. Aronian was the daughter of Arusiag Opsoyan Aharonian and Arshag Aronian (Aharonian). She is survived by her husband, Geoffrey Gibbs; a sister, Karen Beaver; a nephew, Hovannes Beaver; six nieces (Susan Sparling, Pat Opsoyan, Sharon Kehaya, Pamela Sparling, Marty Light, and Nancy Cleveland); and her husband's daughter Allegra Brunborg.

IN MEMORIAM

John A.C. Greppin

By Prof. James R. Russell

Editor's note: Prof. John A.C. Greppin died on May 3, 2016, at the age of 79. The author of numerous books and articles, he was a Professor of Linguistics at Cleveland State University from 1975-2010, and was the founder and long-time editor of the Annual of Armenian Linguistics. In 2012 Prof. Greppin donated his large and impressive library of Armenian books to NAASR's Mardigian Library (see Summer/Fall 2012 NAASR Newsletter), a gift that immeasurably enriched our holdings.

Some of us in the field used to refer to him in gentle humor as the bird man. Professor John A.C. Greppin of Cleveland State University was an Indo-Europeanist, writing about historical linguistics with frequent reference to such long-dead languages as Hittite and Homeric Greek, or Hieroglyphic Luvian. But he wrote a book on Classical and Middle Armenian bird names, and when I was a student I wrote to him about one entry. He not only replied but invited me to give a paper at the First International Conference on Armenian Linguistics, which was held at the University of Pennsylvania on a warm weekend

in July 1979. This was an act of great generosity. It was the first paper I ever gave, my first entry into the academic fraternity. It is wistful, nearing the end of one's working life, recalling that.

There were many subsequent conferences: John was an indefatigable organizer and publisher. He edited a series of reprints of Classical Armenian texts, with introductions by experts on the particular texts. I did one of those, too. With his round glasses and narrow features he somewhat resembled the avians he loved. John was a man of many interests, and the wide range of books he reviewed in the *Times Literary Supplement* of London reflects them. He was a happy family man with a comfortable manse in a Cleveland suburb (and many pet birds); and he was a very devoted teacher much loved by his pupils. He had a dry, Midwestern sense of humor and a sharp tongue. We clashed sharply in public a few times and more in private, but after even the bitterest exchanges we went back to being friends as though nothing had happened. A person who is quick to be calmed, and who forgets disputes easily, shares attributes of the Divine.

The worldwide fellowship of Armenian studies will miss this learned colleague; and for me and others there is the added deep sorrow of the loss of a friend. That is an inconsolable loss, even if one imagines him at last hearing spoken Hittite in the Otherworld of the Divine Presence, or talking about Mycenaean birds with Homer.



John Greppin with the late Richard Frye at NAASR in 2009

Astvadz hokin lusavore: May God bathe his soul in everlasting light.



Dr. Gregory A. Adamian

1926-2015

With great sadness, NAASR marked the death of Dr. Gregory H. Adamian (Sept. 17, 1926-Nov. 21, 2015). Dr. Adamian was President Emeritus and Chancellor of Bentley University in Waltham, MA, was a Charter and Life Member of NAASR and served on the NAASR Board of Directors from 1956 until 2010, acting as Chairman of the National Advisory Board during many of those years. He remained a valued advisor after retiring from the Board and was an integral part of NAASR from its inception to the present day.

NAASR Chairman Raffi P. Yeghiayan stated that "Dr. Adamian has been a stalwart supporter of NAASR and its vision since the first day of the organization. The first office NAASR had to reside in was within the Adamian law practice offices, where he nurtured it. His continuing dedication and drive was a valued asset to benefit NAASR, and he became a respected mentor to us all. He will be sorely missed."

"There is no way to adequately state the important leadership role Greg Adamian played for NAASR and for the Armenian community, and, indeed, for the academic community as well," said NAASR Academic Director Marc A. Mamigonian. "His contributions were matchless and his legacy is immense."

In 2006, looking back a half century, Adamian stated that "if ever there was a national association created and launched without assets or any semblance or promise of financial support, but with ambitious aspirations and lofty 'Pie in the sky dreams,' it was NAASR. ... It's nothing short of miraculous as we look back to 1955 when this organization was founded. Never, did this pioneering group that had their impossible dream, ever in their wildest imagination envisage what you see today."

During his 21 years as President of Bentley College (as it was then known), the school experienced dramatic academic, financial, and physical growth, with its enrollment increasing twofold, its faculty fourfold, and its endowment more than a hundredfold. He transformed an accounting college into a premier institution of higher learning with a Center for Business Ethics and a Graduate School of Business.

Prior to his appointment as Bentley's fourth president in 1970, Adamian was a practicing attorney and served with distinction as a professor of business law and as Chair of the Law Department. After stepping down from the presidency he served as Chancellor. In recognition of his service to Bentley, the Adamian Graduate Center is named in his honor, and an endowed professorship of law at Bentley bears his name.

Adamian was born in Somerville, MA, and

grew up in greater Boston and in Brooklyn, NY. He was educated at Harvard University and went on to earn a Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from Boston University and a Masters in Public Administration also from Harvard. He was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Law degree by Boston University in 1991, on which occasion Boston University President John Silber remarked that Adamian has been "Bentley's second founder."



Images of Gregory Adamian spanning his more than 50 years of dedicated service to NAASR

Previously Adamian had also received an honorary doctorate in Commercial Science from Bentley College.

In addition to Adamian's role in the history of NAASR, he has also played a vital part in other Armenian and civic organizations. He has served as a director of the St. Nersess Armenian Seminary, a trustee of the Armenian Assembly, on the Central Board of the AGBU, and was active in the Council of Armenian Executives. In the 1950s he led an effort on behalf of Armenian immigrants, the Council for Immigration and Resettlement of Armenians. He was an active Mason and Shriner and a member of the Knights of Vartan. He joined the U.S. Navy during World

War II and reached the rank of Lieutenant Junior Grade.

Adamian's service to the Armenian community was recognized by Karekin I, Catholicos of All Armenians, when he awarded Adamian the St. Sahag-St. Mesrob Medal in 1998. He has also received the Armenian Students' Association Ara S. Boyan Humanities Award and the Humanity Award from the Facing History and Ourselves National Foundation.

Former NAASR Board Chairman Nancy R. Kolligian recalled that "during my tenure as chairman he was a trusted mentor whose ad-

vice and insight were invaluable to me during a transitional period in the leadership of NAASR. Greg was the consummate professional on many levels, but I also knew him personally, as he was a friend for many years of my parents, so the loss I feel is very deep. We are all better for having had the privilege of knowing Greg Adamian, and the legacy he left for not only NAASR, Bentley University and the Armenian community are testaments to the important leadership roles he played in each of them."

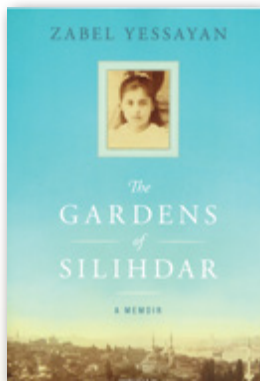
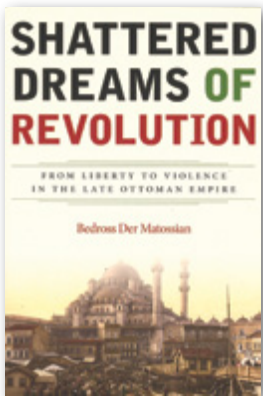
Dr. Adamian is survived by his wife Deborah, sons Douglas and his wife Angela and Daniel and his wife Carrie Ellen, and grandchildren Jenna, Anna, Julia, Addison, and Olivia.

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

The National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) is pleased to announce the winners of the first Dr. Sona Aronian Book Prizes for Excellence in Armenian Studies. Dr. Aronian, who passed away on November 17, 2015, established the prizes last year, to be awarded annually to an outstanding scholarly monograph in the English language

in the field of Armenian Studies and, in alternating years, to a translation from Armenian into English of a work of literature or of an academic book within the field of Armenian Studies.

The award for an academic monograph was awarded to Dr. Bedross Der Matossian for his book *Shattered Dreams of Revolution: From Liberty to Violence in the Late Ottoman Empire*, published by Stanford University Press. The prize for translation of a work of literature from Armenian to English was awarded to Jennifer Manoukian for her translation of *The Gardens of Silihdar* by Zabel Yessayan, published by the Armenian International Women's Association Press. Both prizes come with a monetary award.



The announcement of the prizes was made by Marc Mamigonian on Friday, December 4, at the Boston-area event in honor of NAASR's Leadership Circle, of which Dr. Aronian was a member. Her husband, Prof. Geoffrey Gibbs, was present for the announcement.

Though not in attendance, prizewinners Der Matossian and Manoukian provided statements. Der Matossian wrote: "It is a great honor to be the first recipient of the Dr. Sona Aronian Book Prize for Excellence in Armenian Studies given by NAASR. I would like to thank NAASR for recognizing my contribution to the field of modern Armenian history. For sixty years NAASR has been in the forefront of promoting Armenian Studies with its multifaceted dimensions. Hence, this is a great privilege. I hope to be able to continue my contribution to the field of Armenian Studies by introducing new perspectives and new methodological approaches for understanding modern Armenian history. Thank you."

Jennifer Manoukian expressed that "There is always a gnawing concern in a translator's mind—or in a writer's mind, for that matter—that her work will be just another book spine in, if she's lucky, the stacks of a university library. And in time, that is what *The Gardens of Silihdar* will become. But when the gloom of this idea starts to descend, I like to imagine a student in that library stumbling on Yessayan in translation 100 years from now and learning, through her work, not only about late-nineteenth-century Ottoman history, Armenian history, and women's histories—without allusion to the persecution that tends to overshadow contemporary understandings of what Western Armenian literature is—but also about the complexity of the ideas and human—not intrinsically Armenian—emotions that can be expressed in Western Armenian. I like to imagine—definitely paradoxically and maybe naively—that a translation like this one could galvanize this

student, push her to study the language and start her own translations, because, like me, she would feel giddy and restless at the thought of all the wisdom waiting to be uncovered in the neglected works of Western Armenian writers."

Following the announcement, NAASR Academic Director Mamigonian stated that "NAASR is very pleased and honored to carry forward this legacy of Dr. Sona Aronian's in years to come, and to provide encouragement to other deserving scholars and translators. We applaud her for endowing these prizes, which are the first of their kind in the U.S. Congratulations to Dr. Bedross Der Matossian and Jennifer Manoukian on their outstanding contributions and well-deserved awards."

NAASR's Online Bookstore Is Back

Several hundred titles from NAASR's bookstore are now available through our website, with the remaining 1700+ being added on an ongoing basis. All available titles will be online in the near future.



If you're not currently a NAASR member, please consider joining:

- Members with current year dues paid receive a 15% discount
- Leadership Circle members receive a 20% discount

If you're a member for the current calendar year, please contact Administrative Director Lana Jurigian before placing your order at lane@naasr.org or 617-489-1610 to receive your discount code. You need the code in order to receive your member discount.

If you are looking for a title that is not yet online, please contact us at lane@naasr.org or call 617-489-1610.



NAASR Newsletter ISSN 0890-3794

National Association for Armenian Studies and Research, Inc.

395 Concord Avenue, Belmont, MA 02478 • Tel.: 617-489-1610

Fax: 617-484-1759 • E-Mail: hq@naasr.org • Web: www.naasr.org

Marc A. Mamigonian, Director of Academic Affairs

Printed by Arvest Press, Waltham, MA