



The National Association for Armenian Studies and Research

NAASR Receives \$225,000 Grant from Massachusetts Cultural Facilities Fund

The National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) received on May 18, 2017, a grant of \$225,000 from the Massachusetts Cultural Facilities

Fund of the Massachusetts Cultural Council to go toward construction of an elevator and other accessibility features as part of NAASR's \$4.5 million project for its headquarters

on Concord Avenue in Belmont. With this grant NAASR has commitments for 70% of the total budget.

NAASR's aim is to transform its building, which has remained virtually unchanged since its purchase in 1989, and to welcome the public with a redesigned bookstore, lounge café, scholars' conference room, and garden atrium and solarium, encouraging research, study, lectures, informal gatherings, and professional activities centered on Armenian Studies. The building transformation is being designed by the architectural, design, and engineering firm of Symmes Maini & McKee Associates in Cambridge, MA.

Renovations to the building, funded in part with this grant, will see GRANT, page 5



The Turkish-language edition of Akçam's book

Akçam Confirms Authenticity of Andonian Papers In Explosive Talk About New Book

BY ALIN K. GREGORIAN

BELMONT, Mass. — Prof. Taner Akçam delivered an explosive, exciting talk on Thursday, October 6, 2017, on his findings which quelled any doubts about the veracity of one of the premier works on the Armenian Genocide by survivor Aram Andonian.

The Andonian book, *Medz Vojirë* (The Great Crime), came under sustained attacks by Turkish scholars and a 1983 book raised so many concerns that even most Armenian scholars were afraid to use it as a resource.

The lecture, held at the First Armenian Church in Belmont, was co-sponsored by the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) and the Friends of the Kaloosdian-Mugar Chair in Armenian Genocide Studies at Clark University. NAASR also provided financial support for Akçam's research, presented publicly for the first time in this lecture. Akçam's lecture was see ANDONIAN, page 12

Celebrating 60 Years of Service

NAASR Gala Attracts Hundreds of Supporters

BY DICKRAN KHODANIAN

BURLINGTON, Mass. — Hundreds of supporters and guests gathered at the Boston Marriott Burlington to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR).

The evening began with NAASR's 60th Anniversary Gala Committee Chair Nancy Kolligian, who welcomed all the attendees and recognized the members of the Gala committee, who put in hard work to make the celebration a reality.

Kolligian spoke briefly about history of the organization and the vision of the 60 founding members: to form an educational organization dedicated to advance the study of Armenian history, culture, and litera-

ture, and to make it a relevant field of studies among American institutions.

Following Kolligian's remarks, NAASR's first Executive Director Sarah Ignatius spoke about the collective group of people at NAASR who are so dedicated to the prosperity of the organization. She emphasized that her work as the Executive Director is only just the beginning to many more successful years to come.

She then introduced the Editor-in-Chief of the *Harvard Business Review* and the evening's Master of Ceremonies, Adi Ignatius, to honor the evening's special guests.

see GALA, page 6



NAASR Academic Director Marc Mamigonian and Founders' Award honoree Richard Hovannisian

NAASR Looks Back at History, Forward to New Era

BY ALIN K. GREGORIAN

BURLINGTON, Mass. — The National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) celebrated its 60th anniversary on November 12 with a family affair — whether those families were academics who had worked with NAASR, longtime members of the organization or members of the Ignatius family, who have been associated with the organization for many years.

see HISTORY, page 4

NAASR Elects Stellar New Board Members at Its Annual Assembly, and Hears Report from Building Design Team

NAASR held its 63rd Annual Assembly of Members on Saturday, May 20, 2017, at its headquarters in Belmont, MA, and elected four highly accomplished new members to its 27-person Board of Directors. The newly elected Board members are: businessman Ara Araz of Franklin Lakes, NJ; physicist and engineer Dr. Jesse Matossian of Woodland Hills, CA; primary care physician and Armenian community activist Dr. Armineh Mirzabegian of Wellesley, MA; and Sylvia Lee Parsons of Bethesda, MD, Program Analyst and the wife of the late William S. Parsons, former NAASR Board member.

NAASR Chairman of the Board, Yervant Chekijian, said he was honored to welcome these impressive new Board members and was looking forward to working with them in the coming year.

He also thanked the outgoing Board members for their insights and dedicated service: artist and researcher Hazel Antaramian Hofman of Fresno, CA; historian and teacher Dr. Suzanne Moranian of Arlington, MA; scholar and nonprofit consultant Dr. Lou Ann Matossian of Minneapolis, MN; and law professor Ann



SMMA Architect and Senior Associate Michael Pardek

new top floor, the design of which evokes images of the stairway at Noravank with its height and tufa coloring. The upper-story atrium will have a design on the glass to reduce glare that is reminiscent of Armenian lace. Other elements under consideration are having the letters of the Armenian alphabet etched on the wall by the stairway in the Garden Atrium and designing the new front door, which will be opposite the *khachkar* at the First Armenian Church, with similar features carved into the wood to create a “visual dialogue” across Concord Avenue.

Distinguished New Board Members

The newly elected NAASR Board members are each highly distinguished in their fields.

Ara Araz is the Founder of Economic Development Resources, Inc., a consulting firm securing incentives and tax credits from government agencies for companies undertaking capital projects. He has been active in the New Jersey area promoting NAASR events and programs. He is a founding board member of Justice Armenia; a delegate to the Diocesan Assembly of Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church representing St. Leon Armenian Church; a coordinator of cultural activities of St. Leon; a senior member of the Auditing Committee of the Eastern Diocese; and Chairman of the Committee on NEA, ERA, Bylaws and Church Governance of the Eastern Diocese. He received his B.S. in Finance and Management from New York University’s Stern School of Business.

Dr. Jesse Matossian is an Engineer Associate at Eastman Chemical Company and previously was Senior Scientist, Hughes/Boeing Satellite Systems, and Project Manager, Hughes Research Laboratories. He is a NAASR Leadership Circle Member. He was Treasurer of the Los Angeles

County Museum of Art, Graphic Arts Council and Acquisitions Committee Co-Chair. He has authored 31 publications in scientific journals, has 21 U.S. and foreign-issued patents, and has authored/co-authored three book chapters. Honors include Hughes Research Laboratories Sector Patent Award; Hughes Electronics Corporation Malcolm Currie Innovation Award; and Boeing Satellite Systems Chairman’s Honor Award. He earned a B.S. in Physics from USC and an M.S. and Ph.D. in Physics from Stevens Institute of Technology.

Dr. Armineh Mirzabegian is a Primary Care Physician at Southboro Medical Group. She is a Leadership Circle member. She also teaches in the Longitudinal Preceptorship Program, UMASS School of Medicine. She completed her Internal Medicine Residency at New England Deaconess Hospital. She earned a B.A., cum laude, in Biology from Wellesley College and an M.D. from Mount Sinai School of Medicine. Honors include Medical Student Award, New York Academy of Medicine; Armenian Missionary Association Scholarship; and Peter and Alice Koomruian Armenian Education Scholarship. She is a member of the Massachusetts Medical Society, Armenian American Medical Association (past President), Armenian Medical International Committee, and Friends of Armenian Culture Society (Secretary). She speaks Armenian, Persian, and French.

Sylvia Lee Parsons is a Program Analyst for the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences at the National Institutes of Health. She was a founding member of AIWA; the First Chief of Staff for the Armenian Embassy, Washington, D.C.; Western Regional Director of the Armenian Assembly, Los Angeles; Congressional Staff for Rep. Martinez and Rep. Torres; and Special Assistant, White House Office of Management and Administration and Office of National Drug Control Policy. She earned a B.A., cum laude, in Social Sciences from Point Loma University, San Diego and a Certificate in Legislative Studies from Georgetown University.



SMMA President & CEO Ara Krafian

Lousin, of Chicago, IL. In appreciation, NAASR gave each outgoing Board member the evocative book by Mehmed Ali, *Yousuf Karsh and John Garo: The Search for a Master’s Legacy*.

Armenian Elements in the Building Design

Ara Krafian, President and CEO, and Michael Pardek, Architect & Senior Associate, of Symmes Maini and McKee Associates (SMMA) were the featured speakers at the Annual Assembly, presenting beautiful slides of the new plans for the building exterior. Pardek explained how numerous Armenian design features were being incorporated into the building, such as the monumental two-story stairway leading from the new glass-walled Garden Atrium up to the



Nancy Kolligian, Nancy Kricorian, and Roxanne Etmekjian with Executive Director Sarah Ignatius



NAASR Chairman Yervant Chekijian and SAS President Barlow Der Mugrdechian



Left to right, Dr. Geoffrey Gibbs, Prof. Kevork Bardakjian, Prof. Sergio LaPorta

Special NAASR Leadership Circle Reception with Armenian Studies Scholars

NAASR and the Society for Armenian Studies (SAS) co-hosted a special reception for esteemed scholars of Armenian Studies and NAASR Leadership Circle members, at the NAASR headquarters on November 18, 2016, less than a week after NAASR's Gala. Nearly 20 scholars, in Boston for SAS's 42nd annual meeting, mingled with Leadership Circle members, who are dedicated individuals central to NAASR's mission and financial stability.

NAASR Chairman Yervant Chekijian and SAS President Barlow Der Mugrdechian, in their remarks, emphasized the cooperative relationship between the two organizations and the complementary role each organization plays in advancing and strengthening Armenian Studies. As Chekijian noted, the evening was a welcome opportunity for NAASR to fulfill one of its key roles: the bringing together of members of the Armenian community with the scholarly community. He also discussed NAASR's plans for the transformation of its headquarters and expressed the hope that the next reception with SAS would be held in the

new building.

Barlow Der Mugrdechian discussed some of SAS's future plans and the conference SAS had organized the previous day, entitled "Armenians in America," as well as the panels SAS organized at the Middle East Studies Association annual convention in Boston that weekend.

An extremely gratifying moment during the reception came when each of the scholars, who are SAS members, introduced themselves, giving a short account of their research interests, and nearly all noted that NAASR had awarded them a grant for their work, or helped them to find sources in their research, or provided opportunities to speak and present their work to the public.

During the evening, NAASR Director of Academic Affairs Marc Mamigonian presented Christina Maranci with the 2016 Dr. Sona Aronian Book Prize for Excellence in Armenian Studies for her monograph *Vigilant Powers: Three Churches of Early Medieval Armenia* (see article on page 21).

Bequests Bolster NAASR's Building Campaign

NAASR received important bequests from the estates of the late Dr. Gregory Adamian (1926-2015) and Robert Semonian that have bolstered the ongoing capital campaign to raise \$4.5 million for the transformation of NAASR's center. Both men were true pillars of the Armenian

community, both locally in Massachusetts as well as nationally and around the world.

Dr. Adamian, who passed away in November 2015, was the longtime President and then Chancellor of Bentley College (now Bentley University), which he built up from a small school into a premier institution of higher learning. His influence on NAASR was also significant: as a Charter Member of NAASR and a dedicated member of NAASR's Board of Directors from 1956 until 2010, as well as a trusted advisor after stepping down from the Board, he shaped NAASR for decades. (See *NAASR Newsletter* Fall 2015-Spring 2016 for a lengthy profile of Dr. Gregory Adamian and his life and work.)

Robert Semonian passed away in June 2016 at the age of 77. As Paul Boghosian wrote in an obituary of Semonian that appeared in various Armenian newspapers, "Bob had a distinctive



Robert Semonian

and driven personality that gave impetus to his legendary networking abilities as a vitally social member of the Massachusetts Armenian community. As a gregarious patriot of Armenian causes and organizations, he made continuous and significant contributions to the Knights of Vartan, National Association for Armenian Studies and Research, Armenian Library Museum of America, Armenian Tree Project, and St. James Armenian Church among many other Armenian civic and community organizations." He was a longtime NAASR member and frequently attended

NAASR programs until his health prevented his doing so, and in 2015 became a Patron Member of NAASR's Leadership Circle.

Both men will be missed by NAASR and by Armenians everywhere. Their generous bequests will both continue the impact made during their lives and memorialize it forever.



Dr. Gregory Adamian (right) with Manoog Young

NAASR Looks Back at History, Forward to New Era

HISTORY, from page 1

About 300 people, including academics, current college students and longtime supporters filled the hall at the Burlington Marriott. The theme of the evening was reflecting on the accomplishments of the organization as well as looking ahead to its new direction.

Adi Ignatius, editor-in-chief of the *Harvard Business Review*, served as the master of ceremonies. His sister, Sarah Ignatius, is the NAASR Executive Director. In her comments, Sarah Ignatius said she was introduced to the organization in 2006 when she participated in a trip organized by NAASR to historic Armenia.

Adi Ignatius spoke about his time as the Moscow bureau chief for the *Wall Street Journal*. He said during his three years in the Russian capital, he had never felt the urge to visit Yerevan, but that his wife, who was not Armenian, had visited Yerevan twice and loved it.

He was on the same NAASR tour as his sister and his father to the ancient Armenian homeland. "It was a moving experience, and most moving was Kharpert," he said. He praised the organization for "perpetuating and supporting Armenian studies in the US."

There was a short awards presentation ceremony on behalf of the Armenian Genocide Museum of Yerevan. On their behalf, Gary Grigorian presented a medal to Marc Mamigonian, NAASR's Director of Academic Affairs. Following the medal, Armenia's ambassador to the US, Grigor Hovhannissian, expressed his "heartfelt congratulations from Armenia and Foreign Minister [Edward] Nalbandian."

Mamigonian introduced two honorees of the evening, titans in the field of Armenian studies, Dr. Nina Garsoian and Dr. Richard Hovhannissian. Garsoian, Avedissian Professor Emerita of



Eric Bogosian with Heather and Nairi Kraffian



Eric Bogosian and Noubar Afeyan



Yervant Chekijian with Gala Committee member Susan Piligian

"We were in Kharpert one afternoon and I was feeling a breeze blowing on a warm day and I thought, this is it. This is what my grandfather saw at this same exact spot," she said. That moment made her realize the "power of history and the power of NAASR as well." As she said, the organization has "reverence for history yet is propelling us forward."



Nina Garsoian couldn't be present but the short video she sent was a highlight



Members of the Sayat Nova dance troop, joined by revelers

Armenian History and Civilization at Columbia University, was unable to attend and had sent a video message.

Mamigonian said that NAASR worked to "create the space where all aspects of study in the field can take place, to have a place where Armenian scholars could come together." He and the others also spoke about the organization's

continued on next page

major expansion plans in the near future.

Hovannisian managed to arrive at the reception even though his day started in Istanbul, where he was overseeing the translation of several of his volumes on Van, Bitlis and Moush into Turkish. He started off his comments by paying tribute to Dr. Martin Deranian, who had died a few months earlier. He also paid tribute to his fellow awardee, Garsoian, calling her “for me a role model. I should not be paired with her,” he said humbly. He also said that she had not been “fully recognized and it is very fitting that NAASR has recognized her.”



Gala Committee Chair Nancy Kolligian with Armen Aroyan

He continued, “None of us had any training in Armenian studies.” Therefore, he said, without ever having taken a course in Armenian history, he had to teach one at UCLA. “I want to congratulate NAASR. It is moving forward very rapidly with renewed commitment.”

He then wished success to the many young university students in attendance.

The keynote speaker was Eric Bogosian, the award-winning film, stage and television actor and writer who turned his tremendous intellect to finding out about the Armenian Genocide, resulting in the publication of his book, *Operation*

Nemesis, last year.

Bogosian spoke about his family’s story in Massachusetts and the previous generation’s desire to “find” Armenians where perhaps there were none, such as Cary Grant, and concluding that basically everyone is Armenian, since humans descent from Noah and Noah’s Ark landed on Mount Ararat. Simple logic.

On a more serious note, he asked, what makes an Armenian — is it language or community?

“We took pains to preserve the identity of vast regions that were cleared of Armenians,” he said. “It is not just genes and geopolitics, but honor, self-respect and dignity. Pride in religion,” he said.

“We survived a massacre and a genocide. [But] being a victim is not a point of pride. It’s like letting Turks have the last word.”

He suggested it was time Armenians reveled in the positive things they had done, such as being responsible for the glorious architecture of the Ottomans, as well as poetry, religious architecture, cuisine, etc.

“Today we are a diasporan people. It is a false notion to believe that Armenians are biding their time to return” to the ancient lands, he said.

It is a new life outside Armenia and historic Armenia where many Armenians now thrive, he said. “Diasporan Armenians make powerful contributions.”

“We are descendants of one of the longest lineages,” he said, many high achievers. “We need to be defined by achievement, by how we made the world a better place.”

He spoke about his book (and thanked the *Mirror-Spectator’s* Aram Arkun for his help). He became fascinated by the story of Soghomon Tehlirian’s assassination of Talaat Pasha in Berlin and realized that he was “pretty ignorant” of the story as well as Armenian history in general. Over the course of 10 years, with help from NAASR, he fine-tuned the book.

He suggested that in addition to studying the Armenian Genocide, other fields be explored more fully, such as early Christian Armenian



Selfies at a NAASR Gala? It Must Be a New Era!

history, the 19th century Ottoman Armenians, and Armenians in Iran and Russia, the role of troubadours in the Caucasus.

“Simply to pass down stories or to focus on tragedy is not enough. We need to work so we understand all of it,” he said.

A short film was shown, prepared by Artur Petrosyan, Karine Abalyan and Christopher Zakian, on NAASR and its plans for the future.

Finally, Yervant Chekijian, chairman of NAASR’s Board of Directors spoke about his long history with the organization. He joined NAASR in 1959 as a young teen and he invited the many young students present to follow suit.

Chekijian also spoke about the many events that the organization is now handling, as well as the scholars such as Prof. Taner Akçam who have been helped by the organization.

The evening ended with a call for donations from Sarah Ignatius in return for the donors’ names being inscribed in the *Illuminators of the Future of Armenian Studies Manuscript*, created in the old Armenian style, by artists Laura Zargouian and Knar Hovakimyan.

(Originally published in the *Armenian Mirror-Spectator*, December 1, 2016)

NAASR Receives Grant from Massachusetts Cultural Facilities Fund

GRANT, from page 1

bringing the building into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) by adding an elevator serving all levels, an entry ramp, and accessible rest rooms. The renovation will also add a fourth level (third story) to the building, with a 150-person event hall and state-of-the-art audio-visual technology to allow live streaming and remote participants and presenters from around the world.

“This grant is essential in helping to preserve our rare holdings for future generations and make them accessible to all,” said Yervant Chekijian, NAASR’s Chairman of the Board. “With the latest technologies incorporated into the building, we will be able to connect

people from around the world and truly become a global center for Armenian Studies.”

The initial reason for NAASR’s capital project was to preserve the rare books, periodicals, and archives in NAASR’s Edward and Helen Mardigian Library, one of the top five publicly accessible Armenian Studies libraries in the world, soon to reach 40,000 volumes in diverse languages and alphabets, with holdings dating to the 1600s.

The library has grown to become world class and is a living legacy of Armenian culture and history. The Mardigian Library’s holdings are mostly in Armenian, but many are in Turkish, Persian, Russian, French, English, Arabic, and German, and other languag-

es, and NAASR welcomes anyone to browse and study in the library.

The inspiring design and upgraded accessibility will draw professionals, students, scholars, genealogical researchers, and the general public into the building to attend evening programs, study, conduct research, browse the bookstore, and connect with each other.

“We are thrilled and honored to be selected for a Massachusetts Cultural Facilities Fund grant,” said NAASR Executive Director Sarah Ignatius. “It comes at the exact right moment to motivate people to make our vision a reality. And we are grateful that Massachusetts recognizes the critical importance of supporting capital investments to cultural non-profits.”

Celebrating 60 Years of Service

NAASR Gala Attracts Hundreds of Supporters

GALA, from page 1

Adi Ignatius first read a letter from the Armenian Educational Foundation (AEF) that congratulated NAASR on their 60th anniversary. Ignatius stated that the letter showed the value of the work of the night's honorees and all the scholars in the field of Armenian studies.

Ignatius then invited Gary Grigorian to present a medal to NAASR on behalf of Hayk Demoyan, the Director of the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute in Yerevan. Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Armenia to the United States Grig-



Master of Ceremonies Adi Ignatius



Dr. Hovannissian, who had just returned from a conference in Istanbul earlier in the day, said that there was no training in Armenian studies when he began his career and noted the importance of organizations such as NAASR. He then congratulated NAASR on its achievement and thanked the organization for ensuring that

he attended Armenian Sunday school, attended Armenian weddings, served as an altar boy in Armenian church, and so forth. Bogosian said that growing up, he questioned what makes someone Armenian. In his remarks, he addressed the geographic aspect, the knowledge of language, and the fact of having relatives

or Hovhannissian then provided congratulatory remarks on behalf of the government of Armenia. In his remarks, Hovhannissian said that the work of NAASR has become a treasure for the global Armenian community and its work within American institutions will continue to have its impact.

Longtime and dedicated member of NAASR and the Director of the organization's academic affairs, Marc Mamigonian then took to stage to present the Founders' Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Field of Armenian Studies. The distinguished awardees included Dr. Nina Garsoian, Avedissian Professor Emerita of Armenian History and Civilization of Columbia University, and Dr. Richard Hovannissian, Professor Emeritus of Modern Armenian and Near Eastern History of UCLA. Both have immensely shaped the field of Armenian studies through teaching, lectures, mentoring, research, and various publications.

Dr. Garsoian expressed her gratitude and briefly discussed her experience in Armenian studies and working with organizations like NAASR in a recorded video message.



Gala Committee Chair Nancy Kolligian



NAASR Executive Director Sarah Ignatius

the coming generation has a group of scholars and academics to learn from, so that they can help advance the field of Armenian studies.

The keynote speaker—actor, novelist, and playwright Eric Bogosian—opened his remarks by reminiscing about his childhood: how

from older generations considering themselves Armenian.

“The notion of pure blood is fiction,” said Bogosian. “In the end, the lineage of our heritage is not merely a matter of genes or geographical borders... Our heritage is a heritage

of culture and identity based on honor and self respect and dignity. In other words, pride," he added.

Bogosian stressed that despite the fact that the Armenian people have experienced genocide and have survived, it is not the only way to define the Armenian people. "Being a victim is not a point of pride," said Bogosian.

Bogosian then emphasized that Armenians have a long, complex, and ancient history and the only way to truly understand it will be through scholarship and the type of work NAASR conducts. He also stressed that the various diasporan communities across the world make significant contributions to their local communities, while maintaining a pride for their culture. He considered the diaspora and the modern Republic of Armenia as one global network of Armenians, which both work to benefit one another.

"We lose as a nation when we allow people to insist on restricted definitions about what it means to be an Armenian," said Bogosian. "Truly understanding Armenian history and culture should be the primary answer to the question of 'what is an Armenian?'" added Bogosian.

Bogosian explained that it has become NAASR's role to make sure that coming generations have the opportunity to learn about Armenian studies. By providing the necessary resources, NAASR becomes a great supporting structure in the field of Armenian studies—whether through its bookstore or within educational institutions in the U.S, according

to Bogosian.

Bogosian then provided the importance of NAASR as a resource, as he detailed the impact the organization had on his book *Operation Nemesis*. According to Bogosian, NAASR was able to get him the right books and put him in contact with the necessary authors and aca-



NAASR Chairman Yervant Chekijian

demics for him to properly conduct the necessary research for the book. He said that that he could not have finished his book without the help of NAASR and thanked them for their support in helping its launch.

"Armenia's ancient history encompassing the period of empire, its early Christian period, its glorious medieval history, and the centuries of the Ottomans, particularly the 19th century—these are all very important areas of study... To simply repeat the folktales about Armenia and Armenians, passed down from our loving grandparents, is not enough. Simply to focus on tragedy is not enough. In order to fully understand who we are as a people—who we, ourselves are—in order that all Armenians can express the deep love and pride of all that is Armenian, we need to work so that we understand all of it. And that has been the wonderful accomplishment of NAASR," said Bogosian.

A short video was then presented titled "A Meeting of Minds: NAASR and the Future of Armenian Studies" that was created by Artur Petrosyan, Karine

Abalyan, and Christopher Zakian. The video highlighted Dr. Taner Akçam's experience of unexpectedly finding pages of the missing memoir of Naim Bey—an Ottoman bureaucrat whose memoir is a documentation of telegraphs between him and Talat Pasha. Dr. Akçam knew that NAASR would support the

further development and research of his project and that is why he approached them.

The video continued to showcase other scholars who have worked with NAASR in the field of academia, and displayed the results of NAASR's work, which included the establishment of 14 modern day chairs in Armenian studies across the U.S. To this day, NAASR has given out countless grants, in order to further advance various fields of research in Armenian studies.

The final speaker of the evening was the Chair of the NAASR

Board of Directors, Yervant Chekijian, who discussed his history with the organization and how he was introduced to it over 50 years ago. He then highlighted a few of the achievements of NAASR, including the establishment of the several chairs of Armenian Studies starting from the one at Harvard University. He then discussed how there has been a great increase in scholars in the field and number of books relating to Armenian studies thanks to NAASR.

Chekijian also provided details about the plans to renovate the current NAASR headquarters and asked for everyone's support in this endeavor. He ended his address encouraging all current students to get involved in NAASR. "Stay engaged, stay in contact, do not get lost, and as you graduate and you move on to your profession, stay in touch with your counterparts... Make a personal commitment. 57 years ago, I did that. And I ask you, in order for us to grow, to make that kind of commitment," said Chekijian.

The event concluded with the presentation of an illuminated manuscript that provided an opportunity for donors to have their names inscribed with calligraphy and to permanently make their mark in the field of Armenian studies. The manuscript, which is titled "Illuminators of the Future of Armenian Studies," was created by artists Laura Zarougian and Knar Hovakimyan. Anyone could have his or her name, or the name of a loved one, inscribed for a pledge of \$1,000.

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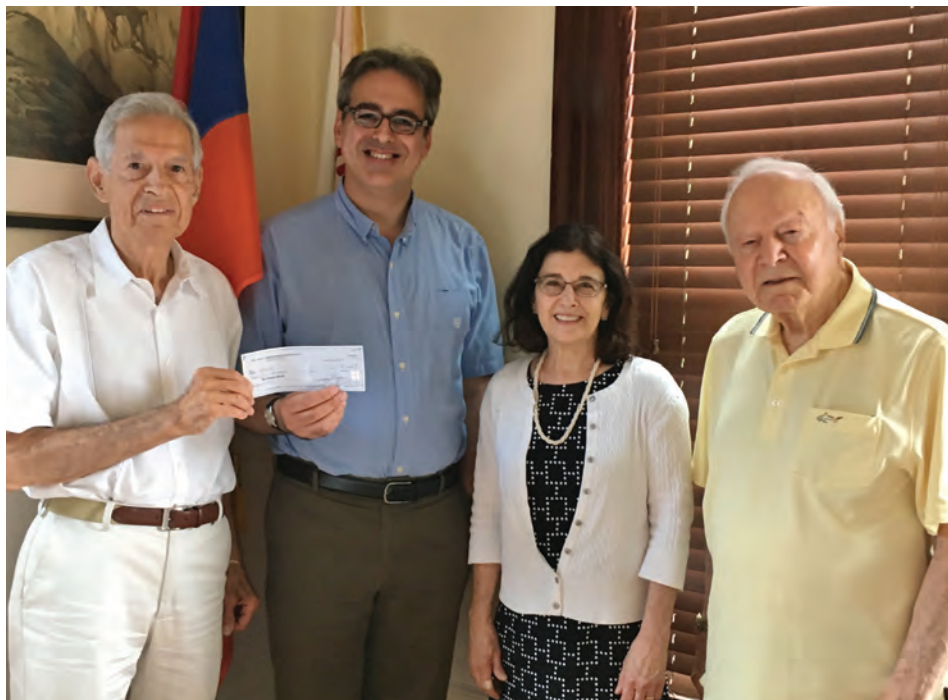


Keynote speaker Eric Bogosian

“Building on Our Legacy” Capital Campaign

NAASR has reached 70% of our \$4.5 million goal for the Building on Our Legacy Campaign. Thanks to all of you who have donated and pledged so generously. If you haven't done so yet, naming opportunities still exist at a variety of levels. Please consider a donation as we still need your help in this final stage. For a \$1,000 donation, for example, you can sponsor a chair in the new event hall or have a name listed as an “Illuminator of the Future of Armenian Studies.”

Illuminators of the Future of Armenian Studies: A gift of \$1,000 funds your name or the name of a relative, ancestor, mentor, scholar you admire, or anyone else inspiring to you to be written in special calligraphy on a beautiful, hand-painted manuscript, as an Illuminator of the Future of Armenian Studies. The manuscript is limited to the first 200 names and will be on permanent display in the new building.



Cpl. Paul S. Marsoubian Post 41 Commander George Harutunian, along with Post 41 founding member, past commander; trustee, and NAASR Board Member Jack Medzorian, presented NAASR's Sarah Ignatius and Marc Mamigonian with a very generous donation to the Building on Our Legacy campaign on June 26, 2017.



Laura Zarougian and Knar Hovakimyan creating the manuscript art

Event Hall Chairs: A gift of \$1,000 funds your name or anyone else's of your choosing for a chair in the new event hall. A plaque would bear the name of the person you choose.

This as an opportunity to advance NAASR's mission fostering Armenian Studies and building community worldwide to preserve and enrich Armenian culture, history, and identity for future generations. And for birthdays, holidays, and other special events, this makes the perfect gift.

To learn whether the person you seek to recognize is already on the manuscript or has an event hall chair, contact Sarah Ignatius, at sarah@naasr.org, or call 617-489-1610. For example, Zabel Yessayan, the remarkable Armenian writer and activist of the late 19th



The “Illuminators of the Future of Armenian Studies” manuscript

and early 20th centuries, is already taken! Her name will appear on the manuscript. Consider who else you'd like to add.

Detail of the manuscript art

From the Desk of Marc A. Mamigonian



During the past year NAASR has organized, hosted, and co-sponsored a total of 62 events (from mid-May 2016 through June 2017). Such a large, indeed, unprecedentedly large, number of programs is attributable to a number of factors, among them the efforts of our Board members in various areas, the strength of our partnerships with many organizations and entities, and the richness and diversity of the work being done by scholars.

Geographically, these 62 programs included 24 in Massachusetts (10 at NAASR headquarters), 21 in California, 11 in New Jersey, four in New York, and one each in Illinois, Florida, and Michigan. Deserving of special mention are our longstanding partner relationships with the Ararat-Eskijian Museum in California and St. Leon Armenian Church in New Jersey and the efforts of Maggie Mangassarian-Goschin at the former and Ara Araz at the latter.

Among these events were co-sponsorships of four conferences/symposia:

1. "Hadjin: Remembering a Historic Armenian Community in Cilicia," at George Deukmejian Community Center, Mission Hills, CA. Co-sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program at California State University, Northridge, the Ararat-Eskijian Museum, and NAASR.

2. The 2nd Armenian Genealogy Conference, at University of Michigan, Dearborn. Co-sponsored by the Armenian Research Center at

the University of Michigan-Dearborn, NAASR, Houshamadyan.org, Nor Keghi Association, and the Cultural Society of Armenians from Istanbul, among the organizers of which, and a featured speaker, was NAASR Board Member George Aghjayan.

3. "Spaces of Remembering the Armenian Genocide," at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Co-sponsored by Holocaust, Genocide & Memory Studies Program, Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center, and other university departments, and NAASR, which included as a participant NAASR Board Member Nancy Kricorian.

4. "New Perspectives on Photography in the Ottoman Empire: A Symposium," at the Armenian Museum of America, Watertown, MA. Co-sponsored by the Armenian Museum of America, Project SAVE Armenian Photograph Archive, and NAASR.

Fourteen of the 62 nationwide programs were part of the NAASR /Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation Lecture Series on Contemporary Armenian Issues. Special thanks are owed to the contemporary programming committee that includes Stepan Piligian, Judy Saryan, Jirair Balayan, Anna Ohanyan, and Olya Yordanyan, especially for their roles in organizing the December 2016 program at Harvard University on Armenia's parliamentary elections and the March 2017 panel on Nagorno-Karabagh held at MIT. Among the other highlights of this series were hugely attended talks by Armenian member of the Turkish parliament Garo Paylan in New Jersey and in Belmont in October 2016, outstanding presentations also in October 2016 by Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute Director Hayk Demoyan in Belmont and in California, Khatchig Mouradian's lecture in Florida in February 2017 on the challenges faced by Syrian-Armenians, and the panel discussion and screening of the documentary *Children of Vank* at Columbia University in April. (See "Gulbenkian Foundation Supports NAASR's Contemporary Programming" on p. 14)

NAASR's efforts in recent years to increase support for scholars through research grants (as well as our longtime partnership with the Knights of Vartan Fund for Armenian Studies) continue to gain momentum and an unprecedented number of grants were issued during 2016-17. (See "Grants Issued by NAASR and the Knights of Vartan" on p. 24.) Of course, our ability to continue to increase our support through grants is dependent on the availability of funds; but it is clear that, having led the movement to establish Armenian Studies in the U.S. starting more than 60 years ago, a future priority must be to support researchers and scholars in the field to carry out and publish their work.

NEWS FROM THE NAASR CENTER

Sandra and Lana Jurigian Depart NAASR; Laura Yardumian Joins the Staff

NAASR's two key administrative staff members left this past September with Sandra Jurigian retiring after 55 years of selfless dedication, service, and heartfelt devotion to the organization, and upon her daughter Lana Jurigian departing to pursue other opportunities. Their professionalism and commitment to excellence have been essential to NAASR's development and success for decades.

After a nationwide search, NAASR hired Laura Yardumian as the new Program and Administrative Associate. She started work mid-March and immediately be-

came an indispensable part of the team. She has the perfect combination of skills and background. Many years ago, she worked for the Zoryan Institute and then for the last 18 years at the Cambridge Friends School, a pre-K through 8th grade Quaker school in Cambridge, MA, where she excelled in communications, development, website design, and related administrative work.

Laura says, "I am incredibly honored and very pleased to become part of such a vibrant organization. It is a real joy to join the NAASR team at such an exciting and pivotal time in its history."

Please stop by and say hello to her if you haven't already. She is focusing her time on NAASR's bookstore on-site and online, on memberships and donations, on social media outreach, and on so many other areas central to ongoing operations. She is proficient with cloud-hosted databases used in our bookstore and memberships, is adept with online communications, and is an avid Facebook and Twitter user. Now is the time to get your Facebook page up and running, if you have avoided it all these years, so you can keep up with NAASR.



Sarah Ignatius and Laura Yardumian

Akçam Honors Rev. Krikor Guerguerian, Announces Digitalization of Guerguerian Archival Collection, at ALMA Lecture

By ARAM ARKUN

WATERTOWN, Mass. — Prof. Taner Akçam presented a lecture with slides on the legacy of the work of Rev. Krikor Guerguerian on the Armenian Genocide, and announced the digitization of the latter's collection, at the Armenian Museum of America (ALMA) on May 11. There was a large audience present at this talk, titled "The Story Behind the Smoking Gun."

Guests were welcomed by Michele M. Kolligian, President of the ALMA Board of Trustees. Marc Mamigonian, Director of Academic Affairs of the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR), which co-sponsored the program, introduced Akçam, who at present holds the Robert Aram and Marianne Kaloosdian and Stephen and Marian Mugar Chair in Armenian Genocide Studies at Clark University in Worcester.

Akçam dedicated his talk to the memory of Guerguerian, who was born in 1911 in Gürün, Sepasdia (Sivas). After witnessing the murder of his parents and surviving the Genocide, he collected materials to document its history for half a century. He died in 1988.

Akçam traced a direct line from Guerguerian's work to his own by declaring that "the torch in the field of Armenian Genocide research was lit by Fr. Krikor Guerguerian and carried on by Richard Hovannisian, and most especially Vahakn Dadrian. I consider Dadrian my mentor and the founder of our field. I took over the torch."

Akçam explained that Guerguerian embarked on his research career in 1937. Almost each year afterwards, he traveled to various countries, including Turkey, in order to collect materials. He used the penname Krieger when he published works, largely in Armenian. He also had an unpublished volume planned called "Armenocide."

Akçam has been finding useful original documents in Guerguerian's archival collection, now held by his nephew Dr. Edmond Guerguerian, a psychiatrist in New York City. This collection has been digitalized by Berc Panossian with support from a number of Armenians such as Hrant Gulian and Armenian organizations like the Jerair Nishanian Foundation, the Caluste Gulbenkian Foundation, and NAASR.

Akçam found two different categories of materials: documents from various archives, including Austrian, British, German, French, and American, the Nubarian Library in Paris, and that held by the Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem; and Guerguerian's own materials.

Much of the valuable material comes from the post-World War I Ottoman court martial trials which the Armenian Patriarchate of Constantinople obtained. These copies ended up in large part at the Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem, where Guerguerian accessed them. He learned about them through Kurd Mustafa

some transcriptions would be placed online, he would reserve others to allow his students to use and publish before others.

Akçam said that in the past, when Dadrian or Akçam quoted the Ottoman court martial indictments, Turkish and other denialists would counter by demanding the originals, which they



Taner Akçam makes an emphatic point (photo by Bethel Charkoudian)

Pasha (nicknamed Nemrut, or grim-faced).

This man was one of the judges of the court martial, who became a member of the Society for the Rise of Kurdistan (Kurdistan Teali Cemiyeti), established in 1918. After several criminal investigations targeted him he escaped in 1920 to Cairo, where Guerguerian lived. Kurd Mustafa Pasha told Guerguerian that copies of the court martial materials were sent to Jerusalem.

Akçam added that the Guerguerian collection had been microfilmed by the Armenian Assembly of America in the 1980s. Furthermore, both the Zoryan Institute and the Armenian Revolutionary Federation archives in Watertown had a copy of microfilms that were independently made of the full set of Jerusalem documents. While the former microfilm is not accessible to the public, the latter two organizations' copies seem to have altogether disappeared, while the Jerusalem Patriarchate collection itself is not at present open to the public.

Vahakn Dadrian benefited greatly from Guerguerian's work, Akçam said, and in addition, in 1974 Dadrian went to Jerusalem to himself copy some materials. Dadrian, and later Akçam, used these items extensively. Now, a professional team has also transcribed around 800 pages of the Ottoman materials Guerguerian collected. Akçam said that while

did not have. At the same time, they would point to official Ottoman documents created during the process of the Genocide deliberately as part of an effort of fake "fact" creation.

Akçam, like many other scholars, referred to the seminal work of Michel-Rolph Trouillot to describe this process of denialism. The Ottomans and then Turkish nationalists destroyed or hid materials in their own possession, created their own sources, and then wrote their own narrative and history.

The documents from Jerusalem copied by Guerguerian allow countering this. Akçam gave the example of telegrams from Bahaettin Shakir and Mahmut Kamil cited in the main court martial indictment and published on May 5, 1919. The former was sent from Erzerum, where Shakir was, to Sabit Bey, governor of Elazig (Kharpert), in July 1915, and asked, "Are the Armenians dispatched from there being liquidated?"

The Shakir telegram had been quoted at the time in the *New York Times*. The rediscovery of Guerguerian's copy has become Akçam's "smoking gun" of his lecture title because it is now very hard, he said, to dispute its validity. The Ottoman letterhead on Guerguerian's copy indicates its authenticity, Akçam explained, along with the four-digit codes used for cipher telegrams, which correspond with those used in

From the Desk of Sarah B. Ignatius



This past year, NAASR has engaged in so many new initiatives and activities locally and around the country that I am as inspired and grateful as ever to be part of such a committed group of members, donors, Board, and staff, charting NAASR's course for the future. High points of the past twelve months include:

“Building on Our Legacy” Capital Campaign:

At this time last year, NAASR launched the public phase of the capital campaign, and generous donors have now pledged over \$3.2 million toward our \$4.5 million campaign for NAASR's headquarters transformation, which will add a new top floor, a garden atrium, a solarium, an elevator, expanded library and event hall space, and many other wonderful rooms and features. This has come about due to the hard work and dedication of NAASR Chairman Yervant Chekijian, the Capital Campaign Committee members, many very generous donors, and the stellar team of architects, engineers, and designers at Symmes Maini and McKee.

Massachusetts Cultural Facilities Fund Grant: We were thrilled to receive a \$225,000 grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council's Cultural Facilities Fund for fire protection, installation of an elevator, and other accessibility upgrades under the Americans with Disability Act, recognizing NAASR and its rare-book library as “a living legacy of culture and history after the Armenian Genocide.” Thanks to our many partners who wrote stellar letters of support: Prof. Christina Maranci (Tufts); Facing History (Adam Strom); Project SAVE (Ruth Thomasian); Armenian Film Foundation (Jerry Papazian); Society for Armenian Studies (Barlow Der Mugrdachian); NAASR's Concord Avenue neighbor John Aftandilian; former Gov. Mike Dukakis; Sheriff Peter Koutoujian; and Sen. Ed Markey. (See “NAASR Receives \$225,000 Grant” on p. 1.)

Staffing: We said goodbye to our key administrative staff in September 2016 upon Sandra Jurigian's retirement after 55 years of dedicated service and heartfelt care for the organization, and her daughter Lana's departure at the same time to pursue other oppor-

tunities. With the NAASR 60th anniversary Gala only six weeks away, several people stepped in, two of whom are still working with NAASR on a part-time basis: Chris Cogliano, as Data Specialist; and Ashley Dorian, as Office Assistant. Thank you! In March 2017, after a nationwide search, we were lucky to hire Laura Yardumian, as NAASR's Program & Administrative Associate, who is already an indispensable part of everything. (See “News from the NAASR Center” on p. 9.)

Technology Upgrades: We instituted a number of long overdue and much-needed technological upgrades this year, including high speed internet, which finally came to NAASR in December 2016, after NAASR survived for years with our bookstore crashing at night when we were trying to sell books at NAASR events. Since 2016, NAASR now also sells books through our website, where we add more titles each month, and we sell through Amazon.com. In 2017, for the first time, we started using donor software, retiring (but still retaining for old time's sake) the 3x5 cards for each member. And if you haven't already noticed, we have a very active Facebook page, Twitter feed and LinkedIn page, thanks to Laura Yardumian.

NAASR's 60th Anniversary Gala: We had a spectacular evening with Eric Bogosian as keynote and Adi Ignatius as Master of Ceremonies and over 315 guests in attendance. Our net income exceeded \$144,000, and even more importantly, people had a wonderful time, as this sampling of quotes shows: “Magical evening!” “Everything was fantastic;” “One of the best events I've ever been to. Everyone at my table said this;” “And the best part was it ended on time.” We have copies of the 60th Anniversary program booklet with a NAASR timeline of 60 years of success if you're interested in a copy. Let me know. (See articles on the Gala beginning on p. 1.)

Leadership Circle: NAASR's Leadership Circle is expanding after a summer soiree, hosted by Nancy and Joan Kolligian in 2016, and after other wonderful events, including NAASR's 60th Anniversary Gala. We are striving to expand this core group of individuals, central to our financial stability, who commit to donating at the \$1,000 level or higher each year. In November 2016, NAASR held a special reception in Belmont for Leadership Circle members to meet with scholars from the Society for Armenian Studies (see article on page 3). Special receptions for Leadership Circle members are in the planning stages for both the East and West Coast for 2017. To join the Leadership Circle or to request additional information, please contact me. We would be gratified if you joined.

So Much More: NAASR's insightful programs around the country, numerous scholar visits to conduct research in our Mardigian Library, people from far and wide seeking a vast range of books from our online bookstore, members new and old as Board members stopping by regularly, the awarding of scholar grants worldwide, my trip to Florida for a riveting talk at St. David's by Dr. Khatchig Mouradian, hosted by Board Member Marta Batmasian, and my trip to Yerevan for the Aurora Prize and Dialogues have, all in all, made this an outstanding year.

other documents in the Ottoman archives today.

In fact, some of the telegrams in the Guerguerian archive are also available in the Ottoman state archive. Akçam discovered 50 such telegrams, which again shows the authenticity of the Guerguerian collection. Furthermore, telegrams on the same topic confirm one another, and question and response telegrams have been found.

Aside from court proceedings, including testimonies and interrogations, cipher telegrams sent by the Ottoman Interior Ministry or army commanders, and telegrams from the provinces to the Interior Ministry, there are also the materials of the Ottoman investigatory commission sent to Anatolia in autumn of 1915.

Guerguerian's collection is leading to many publications decades after his death. Akçam

used Guerguerian's microfilms of Naim Bey's telegrams from the Nubarian Library in Paris and the latter's handwritten memoirs to prepare a book on Naim Bey which has been published in Turkish, and soon will appear in English translation.

(Originally published in the *Armenian Mirror-Spectator*, May 25, 2017)

Akçam Confirms Authenticity of Andonian Papers In Explosive Talk About New Book

ANDONIAN, from page 1
 preceded by introductory remarks by NAASR Academic Director Marc A. Mamigonian and Steven Migrdichian, President of the Friends of the Kaloosdian-Mugar Chair.

Andonian was arrested on April 24, 1915, and during his incarceration, he was sent to a



Taner Akçam at his lecture on Oct. 6

concentration camp in Meskene, where he first met Naim Effendi (Bey), an officer there. He survived the camp and later met Naim again in Aleppo in 1918. At that point, Naim was sympathetic to the plight of the Armenians and gave Andonian telegrams and documents which showed how high up the chain of command the orders for the extermination of the Armenians led. He published his book in French in the 1920s in France, where he moved, and in English (in London) and in Armenian (in Boston).

Akçam's book, *The Memoir of Naim Bey and Talat Pasha Telegrams*, which had been released in Turkey just two days prior to his talk at the First Armenian Church in Belmont, takes on the naysayers. He addressed every point raised in the book by Turkish "scholars" Sinasi Orel and Sureyya Yuca, which first and most convincingly put forth the argument that the book was a fake.

One of the most important points that Akçam made was that the entire research he conducted took place at the Ankara state and military archives, a source that the Turkish government and population cannot discount. "The Ottoman archives are one of the most important sources, I've always said," he added.

Akçam said that as a matter of fact the book was originally suggested by the Turkish authorities. "In the 1990s, Prime Minister Mesut Yil-

maz said, 'you're a historian, work on it.' That is my innocent defense," much to the delight of the crowd.

Another major help to Akçam was the collection compiled by the Very Rev. Krikor Guerguerian, a Catholic priest and survivor of the Armenian Genocide, who had one of the largest collection of materials on the Armenian Genocide. As Akçam noted, Guerguerian was a pioneer in the field of studying the Armenian Genocide. In 1965, the self-trained researcher published a detailed analysis of the Andonian text in Beirut, verifying it.

The denialist argument was based on three points: there was no such person as Naim Bey; there is no actual memoir, since a non-existing person cannot write a memoir; and the so-called Talat Pasha telegrams, like the alleged memoir, were invented by Andonian.

Although noted researcher Guerguerian (who used the penname Kriger) in 1965 published a detailed examination of Andonian's materials and Vahakn N. Dadrian in 1986 published a lengthy response to Orel and Yuca, in general the scholarly world ceased using the memoir and telegrams as trustworthy sources. Until now, the claims against Andonian have remained unanswered and have become the cornerstone of denialism.

Naim Effendi Offers Help

Naim Effendi had secretly copied many Ottoman documents by hand (perhaps to deflect blame should there have been repercussions for the mass extermination). Naim sold his collection to Andonian, who proceeded to publish them in Armenian. An English and French translation followed. Akçam cautioned, however, that the only serious edition is the Armenian one, with the French translation decent, but the English one full of errors.

There are 52 handwritten copies of Ottoman records and 21 original documents in the book. The documents were ciphered (in a numerical code) and Andonian also published the key for

the documents.

Most incriminating were the telegrams from Talat Pasha, who specifically ordered the extermination of Armenians. One order that Akçam showed, verified in his book, dated from September 22, 1915. The order was for the elimination of all rights for Armenians on Turkish soil, such as the right to live and work, which "have been eliminated. Not one is to be left, not even the infant in the cradle; the government accepts all responsibility for this."

One by one, Akçam took on the three main arguments of Orel and Yuca. The central point of the deniers is that a person called Naim Effendi does not exist. Akçam said that his research showed that Naim was a real officer and there are various documents in the Ottoman archives to prove it.

In fact, he said, he first found a document on Naim Bey in the Turkish Military Archives in Ankara, ironically in part of an eight-volume collection published in 2007 to refute Armenian claims. It was in the seventh volume, on the investigation of army officers. The text related that in the spring and summer of 1916, the Meskene concentration camp experienced a larger-than-usual number of escapees, all of whom headed to Aleppo. The minister of interior, Talat Pasha, had initiated the inquiry to understand how the prisoners escaped. In that investigation was the account of one "Naim Effendi, age 26, from Silifke," a former dispatch officer at Meskene and later the store house officer in Aleppo.

Another telegram, the order by Talat to kill Krikor Zohrab, the writer and parliamentarian, bears the same signature. The telegram is now in the Boghos Nubar Library in Paris.

At the bottom of the document are the signatures of Mustafa Abdulhalik, the governor of Aleppo, and Abdulahad Nuri, the director of the Deportation Office. Naim Effendi's name appears twice. In the first note is written "Ask with an official communiqué Naim Effendi," while the second states "preserve this Naim Effendi."

Akçam went on to list more and more documents in the Andonian book, including telegrams from Talat complaining that American consulates were obtaining secret information regarding the goings-on in the Ottoman lands.

Some of the incriminating documents listed by Andonian were photographed and saved for posterity by Guerguerian. "Now they [the originals] are gone," Akçam said.

In addition, some of the pages were sent by Andonian to Istanbul Patriarch Zaven Der Yeghiayan, who had filed suit against the government. The suit never got anywhere and "we don't know where those passages and papers are," Akçam said.

Akçam noted, the two main arguments raised by deniers have collapsed. "They accused the Armenian community of a crime by falsifying, fabricating history," he said. "They need to swallow their pride and apologize."

He next went on to take on the possible charge that they would say Naim Bey was a gambler and accustomed to taking bribes. He explained that for that very purpose, he combed through the Ottoman archives for close to one year on 10 different subjects.

With a PowerPoint presentation, he showed some of the letters and dispatches, which sought the elimination of specific families, such as the Hazarbetyan, Amiralyan, Çaglasyan and Discekenyan families. "There are Ottoman documents with the exact same names and a telegraph that came from Talat," in the Turkish archives, he noted.

In yet another specific verification from the Andonian book, Akçam found documents from a Soghomon Kuyomjyan or Soghomon Effendi, who was related to a deputy called Nalbantian. Nalbantian appealed to Talat and other deputies for his relatives' safety. "Talat ordered Soghomon to stay in Aleppo," to be safe, but somehow, officers sent him to Deir Zor, where he and his family perished.

"The information on Soghomon is in the Turkish archives," Akçam said. "It is the exact same story."

Other documents showed, "with dozens of corroborative entries in the Ottoman records," the orders by the governor of Aleppo and Talat for the transfer of orphaned Armenian children from Aleppo to Sivas and Istanbul, killing Armenian children in and around Meskene and Raqqa, forcing out Armenian railway workers and their families around Aleppo and taking care of the issue of having the dead lying openly along the deportation route, etc.

Akçam spent much time similarly debunking technical objections raised by denialists on what type of paper the Ottoman officials used, as well as the ciphered messages' codes. For example, he said, the Turkish authors denying Andonian's work suggested that the specific key he cites to decipher the letters was not used during the years he cites. By diligence and thorough research, Akçam said he found many examples corroborating Andonian's work.

In short, he concluded, "there is nothing to lead us to doubt [the documents'] authenticity." In fact, he added, arguments against them are "complete and utter nonsense. It is BS."

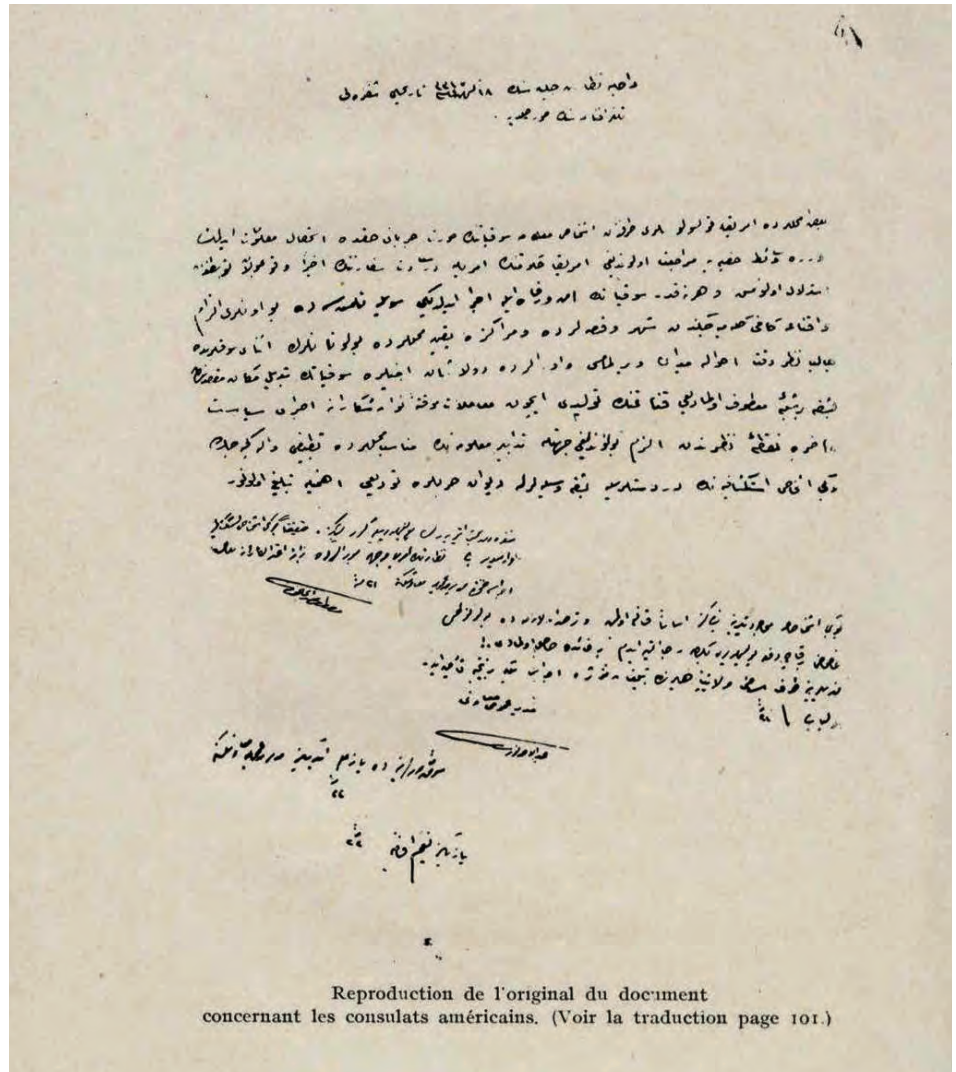
"It is proven beyond a doubt that Naim Efendi's documents were very real," he said.

Akçam credited Prof. Vahakn Dadrian with taking up Andonian's defense in 1986.

He also praised Naim Bey for being "very sympathetic when it came to Armenians."

Currently Akçam said that he is working on the English translation of the book, which he expects to be published anywhere from a year or two later.

(Originally published in the *Armenian Mirror-Spectator*, October 13, 2016)



Reproduction de l'original du document concernant les consulats américains. (Voir la traduction page 101.)

One of the telegrams published by Andonian

NAASR Supports Taner Akçam's Vital Research

NAASR has a long working relationship with Prof. Taner Akçam, the Robert Aram and Marianne Kaloosdian and Stephen and Marian Mugar Chair in Armenian Genocide Studies at Clark University. Over the past two years, NAASR has worked closely with Akçam as he began his thorough investigation of the Fr. Krikor Guerguerian archive, which led to his undertaking the digitization of this huge collection.

NAASR's Director of Academic Affairs Marc Mamigonian says, "Taner and I have had many conversations for years now about the need for someone to address the controversy around the Andonian materials, and, of course, it was he who took the steps to do this by examining the Guerguerian archive. What he has found is more than we could have imagined."

When Akçam approached NAASR to be one of the entities to provide financial support for this work, the idea was enthusiastically embraced; and with some of the first results of his research based on this material emerging (see accompanying articles), it is clear that the investment was a good one. NAASR looks forward to further work by Prof. Akçam and other researchers making use of this incredible archive as it becomes available online.



Garo Paylan with Marc Mamigonian in the filled-beyond-capacity hall of First Armenian Church, Belmont (photo by Katia Suna)

Gulbenkian Foundation Supports NAASR’s Contemporary Programming

Beginning in September 2016 and running through the end of May 2017, the first year of the NAASR / Calouste Gulbenkian Lecture Series on Contemporary Armenian Issues covered a wide range of topics.

In recent years NAASR has made a concerted effort to increase its programming on modern and current-day Armenian subjects, while striving to maintain the high level of quality that audiences have come to expect from NAASR events. With the support of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, in 2016-17 NAASR was able to take this effort to a higher level, and the Lecture Series on Contemporary Armenian Issues for the Academic Year 2016-17 yielded 14 programs, which were some of the best, most well-attended, and most insightful events of any NAASR programming this academic year in California, Florida, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New York, drawing together attendees



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from a diverse range of ages and speakers from throughout the United States, Armenia, and abroad, who participated live or by Skype, to discuss some of the most pressing issues facing Armenians throughout the world today.

The series has as its overall goal advancing the level of knowledge and discussion of complex, controversial issues through thoughtful presentations from some of the best minds sharing insights, data, and experiences with the public. The title and content of Dr. Hayk Demoyan’s lecture, “The End of the Third Republic? Or, What to Expect for Armenia’s Future,” presented in Massachusetts and in Southern California (see the article on this talk on p. 20), aptly illustrates this challenge and achievement.

Undoubtedly an important aspect of the series is to heighten the engagement of the diaspora and the connection of a college-age audience to present-day issues in Armenia and, indeed, to Armenian affairs in general. For example, the panel at Harvard University on “The Armenian Parliamentary Elections in April 2017: How Can the Diaspora Engage in Armenia’s Democratic Evolution” presented numerous challeng-

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 2015-Spring 2016 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. We have changed our method of tracking donations since the last issue of the *Newsletter*, so if any donors have been omitted we apologize in advance and ask you to notify us so that proper acknowledgement can be made in the next issue. Thank you!

Hermine Adamian, Wellesley, MA
 Lena Adishian, El Segundo, CA
 Aharon G. Aharonian, Shrewsbury, MA
 Vahe Apelian, Loveland, OH
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 George & Zoya Omartian, Watertown, MA
 Dr. Susan Pattie, London, UK
 Harry Parsekian, Watertown, MA
 Project SAVE Armenian Photograph Archives, Watertown, MA
 Pearl Perouz Seferian, London, Ontario
 Hagop Sarkissian, Watertown, MA
 Dean Shahinian, Alexandria, VA
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles Takoushian, Scottsdale, AZ
 Gerard Torikian, Attainville, France
 Katie Van Adzin, Arlington, MA
 Hagop Vartivarian, Englewood, NJ
 Marc Yagjian, Austin, TX
 Vartkes Yeghiayan, Glendale, CA
 Dr. Lilit Yernjakyan, Bakersfield, CA

es and suggested courses of action without easy solutions. (See Judith Saryan's overview of this program on p. 22.)

The programs featuring Garo Paylan, member of the Parliament of the Republic of Turkey, in Massachusetts and New Jersey drew some of the largest crowds in memory, with some 350 people present in Belmont, MA and a similar number at St. Leon Armenian Church in Fair Lawn, New Jersey. (See article on the Paylan's Belmont talk on p.16.) The Contemporary Armenian Issues panels held at universities drew a majority of undergraduate and graduate students, as well as community members, and at least one program ("Spotlight on Nagorno-Karabagh: The Four-Day War and Its Aftermath" at MIT) was live-streamed by ABC News.

A complete listing of all 2016-2017 NAASR programs, including those in the NAASR / Calouste Gulbenkian Lecture Series on Contemporary Armenian Issues, many with links to online video of the programs, can be found on www.naasr.org.



Dr. Antranig Kasbarian speaking at "Spotlight on Nagorno-Karabagh: The Four-Day War and Its Aftermath," one of the highlights of the NAASR/Gulbenkian Contemporary Issues Series

Garo Paylan Speaks to Overflow Crowd in Belmont

BY ALIN K. GREGORIAN

BELMONT, Mass. — Member of Parliament in Turkey Garo Paylan received a hero's welcome for a standing-room-only talk at the First Armenian Church on Tuesday, October 4, 2016, for his first appearance in Massachusetts, at a program sponsored by the NAASR Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation Lecture Series on Contemporary Armenian Issues, the Kaloosdian-Mugar Chair in Armenian Genocide Studies at Clark University, Hamazkayin Armenian Cultural and Educational Society, Society of Istanbul Armenians of Boston, and the Tekeyan Cultural Association.

Middlesex County Sheriff Peter Koutoujian welcomed Paylan. "To our brother, Garo, welcome to the beautiful Armenian community of Boston. Our brothers and sisters in other countries face repercussions and retaliation. We will use our freedom of assembly to listen."

Paylan, who hails from Malatya, is a co-founder of the People's Democratic Party (HDP), the left-leaning, majority-Kurdish party. He represents a district of Istanbul in the National Assembly. The veteran human rights activist seemed taken aback by the thunderous reception and standing ovation greeting him. Soft spoken, he thanked the crowd in Armenian (*Shad shenorhagal em*), as he launched into his talk in English.

Paylan continued to shock the audience by his openness. He was asked if he was worried about his own safety or that of the Armenian community. "Your worries are real issues. The example is Hrant Dink. [But] What about Sevag Balıkcı in the army? He said nothing about Armenian issues and they killed him as well."

Balıkcı was a young conscript in the Turkish army as part of the compulsory service, who was shot to death by fellow soldiers on April 24, 2011.

He then raged against acting Patriarch of Istanbul, Aram Atesyan, who sent a letter to Erdogan declaring his unhappiness with the German Parliament for adopting a resolution denouncing the Armenian Genocide in June.

Such kowtowing will not keep him or anyone else safe, Paylan said.

"If you say you're Armenian, it's enough for



them," he said. He added, "I can't make statements like that," referring to Atesyan's groveling.

He added, "Maybe 1 percent struggled in 1915 and they just killed us. We were taught to be silent. To stay silent is not safe," Paylan said.

Paylan compared the current post-coup mood in Turkey to the one not-so-long ago, when human rights activists were taking to the streets to demand justice for Kurds and Armenians.

"We are living in one of the darkest periods of Turkish history," he said. "A year ago, in June 2015, it was a warm summer, [we experienced] very romantic days, when we were having hopes about peace, facing the past and future for our children and grandchildren."

The focus of Paylan's comments was rights for all in Turkey, including Armenians, Kurds, Assyrians, members of the LGBT community and women. In fact, Paylan said that as a supporter of human rights and democracy, he and fellow liberals earlier supported the rights of conservative Muslim women, who were prevented from wearing headscarves to universities.

"In the 1990s they were suffering and as a democrat, I was with them on the headscarf issue. At college I was with them, especially friends who had headscarves," he explained.

Those very same repressed fundamentalist Muslims eventually helped build AKP Party, the Islamic powerhouse headed by current Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

"For three generations we were always silent, especially those who suffered Genocide. My grandmother refused to tell me about it. My father told of what she lived through but said don't speak publicly about it," he said. "Then Hrant Dink came."

For him, Dink was a catalyst for embracing

his identity. Eventually Paylan took over the leadership of several Armenian schools in Istanbul.

Later, he became one of the organizers of Dink's funeral, which was epic in scope.

"We started to know each other. To only care about your identity is a disease," Paylan said. Those introductions in broader society led to the creation of HDP.

While the party is not big yet, it has doubled its numbers in the election from 6 percent the first year to 13 percent the second.

More importantly, Paylan noted, there are "many that are ready to hear about us." HDP, he said, works for gender equality, LGBT rights, as well as respect for every minority in the country.

"Whoever suffers, we are them. We don't care about the vote," Paylan noted, adding, "My party recognizes the Genocide."

He explained, also, that the HDP makes sure that the candidates are at least half female.

He also said that many members of parliament have had their immunity stripped, exposing them to arrest if the government disagrees with what they say. For the time being, Paylan has his immunity.

Erdogan, he said, needs an internal enemy, against whom he can raise and consolidate his power base. The Kurds and Armenians both have been useful foils for him.

"If you ask for Kurdish rights, he says you support the PKK. We are the ones who want to stop this entire war," he said, referring to the HDP. "Polarization is deepening."

Growing up, he said, the humiliation of being Armenian was especially daunting at Armenian elementary school, he said, where the Turkish vice principal would control everything, making student sing the national anthem up to 10 times

back to back, if he deemed students were not shouting with enough zeal. The students were made to chant, “happy is the person who is a Turk,” again and again. “I asked my father, aren’t we Armenians?”

Paylan was asked how his family chose to stay in Turkey despite all the obstacles, dark history and mistreatment. Simply, he explained, it is home.

“My dad and uncle came in the 1970s for a month and my dad said he could not make it. He could not eat the food and the culture was different.”

Paylan said that in high school, his classmates and friends could not figure out his name, asking where he was from. His full name, Garabed, was not used; instead, he was known as Kaya, the Turkified version of his name. In fact, in public he even had to call his mother “anne” (pronounced “anneh”) instead of mama.

“They asked in high school where I came from,” he said, not knowing anything about Armenians or their existence or eradication on those lands.

He added that the crowd he saw before him Tuesday night bore the same faces he sees back home, from Marash, Aintab, Dikranagert, etc.

He also spoke at length about the fate of the Armenian lands which are now mostly settled by Kurds. Armenians and Kurds, he said, have to work together toward joint ownership of those lands. The Kurds, he added, have a saying that the Armenians “were the breakfast and we are the lunch.”

Paylan said that he was delighted with his reception in the diaspora. “I knew that people were following me [in the media] but I didn’t know it was this much.”

He praised the diaspora for keeping ties with Armenia, but urged them to remember their ancestral lands in Turkey. “You have lost your interest in Turkey. You think it will never be OK but we had dreams two years ago. There was very much hope and the church in Dikranagert



“Some serious Armenian height”: Peter Koutoujian, Marc Mamigonian, Garo Paylan

was renovated.”

“We always start the sentence, ‘first you recognize the genocide and then we talk. Of course we had demands about genocide for all our losses. Unless we have a democratic country, none of it will happen. We have to care about our land. That land is still bleeding.’”

He then blamed the “deep state” in Turkey for knowing “how to manipulate.”

“The deep state continues. They know how to manipulate and consolidate the majority. So all the Turks have to come together.”

He had harsh words for the Erdogan government, especially post-coup, their zeal for blaming every problem on the supporters of Abdullah

Gulen. Nor did he mince words when it came to Turkey’s culpability in sending weapons to Syria to terrorists.

He said that the budget committee in 2012 had \$2 billion in hidden numbers, which had been paying for trucks that went to Syria and brought weapons to Islamic terrorists.

“Erdogan wants to be the leaders of Sunnis” around the world, he said. The power struggle and the fight against the Kurdish minority have led to 8,000 deaths, he said, with many as young as 15. “I have buried so many young bodies,” he said.

Erdogan, he added, is centralizing all power. Thus, he said, he is fulfilling the requirements of the deep state. “Every 10 years or so there is a coup or coup attempt in Turkey. We warned him [Erdogan] but he didn’t listen.”

He blames the US for the coup, Paylan said, and he asks the US to “give me Gulen. Then he is taking all the properties of those he blames. Does that remind you of something?”

The properties confiscated during the Genocide add up to \$50 billion, he said. Therefore, he urged the diaspora to come back and claim those lands.

Despite the human rights violations, he said, the US is still trying to curry favor with Erdogan. “The West turns a blind eye to the human rights violations,” he said. “There are 5,000 politicians in prison, there is no free media, there is no judiciary.”

“I am not a hero. It was a genocide. We all lost something 100 years ago.”



Marc Mamigonian and Garo Paylan

(Originally published in the *Armenian Mirror-Spectator*, October 13, 2016)

Panel Held at MIT Featuring Artsakh Ombudsman and Former Armenian Ambassador to U.S.

BY DICKRAN KHODANIAN

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – On March 9, 2017, the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR)/Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation Lecture Series on Contemporary Armenian Issues, in conjunction with the MIT Armenian Society (MITAS), presented a panel discussion titled “Spotlight on Nagorno-Karabagh: The Four Day War and its Aftermath—Perspectives on Security, Diplomacy, and the Prospects for a Lasting Peace.”

Held at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), the panel was moderated by Tufenkian Foundation program director Dr. Antranig Kasbarian and featured panelists Ruben Melikyan (Artsakh Ombudsman), Ani Sargsyan (Tavitian Scholar at Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy/NKR Foreign Ministry spokesperson), and Ambassador Rouben Shougarian (Tufts University Professor and Armenia’s first Ambassador to the U.S.).

The event began with a set of brief remarks by Marc Mamigonian, NAASR’s Director of Academic Affairs, who spoke about the recent works of NAASR and their cooperation with student organizations in the Boston area.

Former Tavitian scholar at Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Ombudsman Melikyan presented the human rights report he published following the April War that took place between Artsakh and Azerbaijan in 2016. Melikyan began by noting that he refers to the events of April as the “April War”—not the often-used “Four Day War”—since fighting and heavy casualties continued until the end of April 2016.

Melikyan explained that the first interim report, which included war crimes against civilians, war crimes against Artsakh Defense Army servicemen, and Armenophobia was published on April 21, 2016. He defined Armenophobia as “a policy of the Azerbaijani state by injecting hatred into the Azerbaijani society toward Armenians.” He recalled his experiences with it and stressed that it was a very crucial aspect of the first interim report.

According to the Ombudsman, the second document produced was a legal assessment issued on May 2, which covered indiscriminate attacks and human shielding. He added that these first two documents were produced using open sources.

Following his appointment as the human rights defender, he began an independent fact finding mission in May to create a report analyzing all the human rights violations from the April War. Melikyan explained that his methodology consisted of on-site visits, interviews, data requests from relevant authorities, consultations with experts, and the monitoring of open sources.

Melikyan said that the report was ultimately



Artsakh Ombudsman Ruben Melikyan

published in Talish—the site of much Azerbaijani aggression—on Dec. 9, the International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims, with two additions: one private and one public.

Melikyan’s report covered definitions of relevant war crimes, facts of atrocities, responsibility, and his conclusions.

In regards to the war crimes, his presentation listed the different types of crimes committed by Azerbaijan including torture, execution, and mutilation. He provided the statistics and geographical locations of where the violations occurred.

“The martyrs seemed to be executed simply for being Armenian,” said Melikyan during his presentation. “This evidence is even stronger today, following the recent events, than it was on Dec. 9,” he added.

During his presentation, Melikyan also displayed videos that were posted on social media by Azerbaijani’s portraying the inhuman acts they committed during the war. The videos were taken down shortly after being posted but were downloaded by the human rights defender’s office to use as evidence.

“It was a systemic and well organized nature as they were done in all regiments of the Azerbaijani Defense Army,” added Melikyan.

The statements by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) condemning the violence but failing to blame one side were also mentioned in Melikyan’s report.

“We have many details of alleged atrocities by the Azerbaijani side,” said Melikyan. “War crimes are war crimes everywhere and we need to handle them.”

Melikyan concluded his report by bringing up the recent escalation in late February in Martuni and Askeran—the most serious escalations since the April 2016. In this case, the Azerbaijani side suffered five casualties. He reiterated that there

was a lack of reaction from the international community, which has led to further impunity of the Azerbaijani side. “This is very dangerous,” said Melikyan.

His report concluded with a poll, which showed that the main concern of the Artsakh population is their security.

In between the panelists, moderator Dr. Antranig Kasbarian addressed questions ranging from the factors that facilitated the April 2016 war, what was learned from it, and how do the different role players view the dispute.

As he expressed some of his opinions, Kasbarian explained how he believed that a part of

why the war was sparked was Azerbaijan’s desire to test out some of its new weaponry. He added that Artsakh’s presence at the negotiating table is essential and that principles like the Madrid principles need to be reevaluated in light of these human right violations being committed by Azerbaijan.

Panelist Ani Sargsyan discussed a series of points that explained Azerbaijan’s intentional provocation of war last April. She explained how Azerbaijan had been preparing actively by building up their military and had also instigated anti-Armenian sentiments in the country.

Sargsyan also mentioned that Azerbaijan had rejected any suggestions made on the negotiating table ranging from removal of snipers, placing an OSCE office in Yerevan, and the implementation of mechanisms to track who violates the ceasefire.

She noted that in the last year, the caliber of the weaponry used by Azerbaijan has steadily increased. She mentioned that based on its actions, Azerbaijan shows that their attempt at solving the issue is only by resorting through military means.

She concluded her remarks by stressing that efforts need to be concentrated on implementing the use of mechanisms at the Line of Contact (LoC) in order to ensure a peaceful coexistence of Nagorno-Karabagh and Azerbaijan.

Ambassador Shougarian began his presentation by discussing the need for Armenia to readjust its negotiating position in this conflict. Shougarian touched upon the seriousness of the issue and added how a once local issue has now transitioned into a global security concern.

“It became a unique example of Russian, American, and European cooperation in the former Soviet Union,” said Shougarian when explaining the complexity of the case.

According to Shougarian, Azerbaijani Presi-

NAASR's Mamigonian Speaks At Providence, RI, Genocide Commemoration

On April 23, 2017, the Armenian Martyrs' Memorial Committee of Rhode Island commemorated the 102nd Anniversary of the 1915 Armenian Genocide and celebrated the 40th Anniversary of the dedication of the Armenian Martyrs' Memorial Monument at the entrance to North Burial Ground in Providence.

The clergy from the three Armenian Churches with deacons holding religious service in memory of the Holy Martyrs in front of the Armenian Martyrs' Memorial Monument in Providence on Sunday, April 23.

The program opened with the presentation of the flags by the Homenetmen Scouts and the placing of wreaths by the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America (ACYOA), the Armenian Relief Society ARS "Arax" and "Ani" chapters, the Armenian Revolutionary Federation (ARF) Providence Kristapor gomideh, the Armenian Youth Federation (AYF) "Varantian" chapter, the Homenetmen Providence chapter, the Hamazkayin Providence chapter, and the Daughters of Vartan in front of the monument.

Archpriest Rev. Gomidas Baghsarian and Rev. Kapriel Nazarian, Sts. Vartanantz Armenian Church., Rev. Shnorh Souin, Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church, Rev. Dr. Ara Heghinian, and Rev. Hagop Manjelian, Armenian Evangelical Church, performed a special service in memory of the 1.5 million Holy Martyrs.

The combined choirs from the Armenian churches and chorale sang Armenian hymns under the direction of Maestro Konstantin Petrossian. The elected officials who were present each gave their messages. They were, Governor Gina M. Raimondo, Congressman David N. Cicilline and Congressman James R. Langevin. Bringing the Greetings of the City of Providence was Mayor Jorge O. Elorza. Katherine Kazarian, State Representative, Secretary of State Nellie Gorbea, General Treasurer, Seth Magaziner were also present.

Pauline Getzoyan and Esther Kalajian of the Genocide Education Project, R.I. Branch, announced the 2017 Genocide Educator of the Year, Claudia Traub, who teaches at the Sophia Academy in Providence. Her students study the Armenian Genocide and the Holocaust. This award includes a \$500 stipend, which is made possible through the donations of the Armenian Martyrs' Memorial Committee of R.I. and the Armenian Cultural Committee of R.I. Traub accepted her award and brought several of her students to see the event and learn more about the Armenian Genocide.

The Homenetmen Scouts, under the direction of Raffi Rachdouni,

sang two Armenian patriotic songs, "Verkerov Li" and "Hyortik." A beautiful rendition of Sayat Nova's "Eshkhemed" was played on the duduk by David Gevorkian accompanied by Doug James. The Honor Guards for the day included the Armenian Masonic Degree Team, the Knights of Vartan, and the Homenetmen Scouts.

The event's guest speaker was Marc A. Mamigonian, Director of Academic Affairs at the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR).

The following is an excerpt from Mamigonian's speech:

I want to return to 1977, the year this memorial monument was dedicated, for a moment. I've spoken some about what has been gained since then but we must also take note of what has been lost: what I mean are the survivors. I was 9 in 1977: my grandmother, a survivor born in Kesirig, was still alive, in her early 80s. Even though most of my direct ancestors left before the genocide, if you are my age, or older, or even a little younger, you grew up with survivors around you, or at least as part of your life. It wasn't something unusual. With a few amazing exceptions, that is no longer the case. This is the way of the world: each generation gives way to the next generations. But with their passing, something is lost that can never be replaced: the lived experience of pre-genocide life, and of the genocide itself, and its aftermath—in short, our direct, human connection to all of that has been lost. We run the risk—and I

find myself thinking about this often at my work—of losing the human connection and the Armenian Genocide becoming merely an academic pursuit or a political cause. When I feel that—distance—creeping into my thoughts, which, in all honesty, is sometimes necessary to keeping one's sanity, it helps me if I take a moment to remember that, yes, this is History with a capital H, but it is also my grandmother, and yours, or your parents, or great-grandparents, or some other person in your family you don't even know existed.

So I leave you with this thought: let the survivors who are gone, and of course those who perished in 1915, rest in peace; but also keep them alive and in your thoughts, and not only on April 24. Remember that they were individuals, and to whatever extent possible, learn about their lives. Remember that they were part of a culture that was extinguished, and learn about that culture. "You can kill a man but you can't kill an idea," said the African-American civil rights

leader Medger Evers. But you *can* kill an idea: by forgetting. "The struggle of man against power is the struggle of memory against forgetting," writes Milan Kundera. So, remember the survivors, continue the struggle against forgetting, and as the saying goes, *baykar baykar minchev verch* [struggle, struggle until the end].

(Adapted from press release authored by Joyce Yeremian and published in the *Armenian Weekly*, April 28, 2017)



dent Ilham Aliyev's statements regarding shooting down civilian aircrafts in Artsakh, the Ramil Safarov case, and the April War are significant because how these events happened can be compared to ISIS.

"The style, the beheading, mutilation, and torture, is showing that Azerbaijan is trying to transform this conflict into a religious one," said Shougarian. "It is not a religious conflict, but the fact that Azerbaijan is trying to transform it needs to be spoken about today."

Shougarian then went on to explain the notion of responsibility to protect and how the international community needs to interfere in the sovereignty of the state if that state persecutes

and commits crime against their own people.

"Azerbaijan considers the people of Nagorno-Karabagh their citizens, and if that's the case, the crimes committed against them should not be tolerated by the international community," said Shougarian.

"Nagorno-Karabagh was able to win against Azerbaijan in the first war, but the price they paid was international recognition," added Shougarian.

Shougarian stressed that that because Karabagh is facing this constant threat, a message to the international community needs to be sent in addition to territorial integrity and self-determination, which is remedial recognition.

Following the panelist's remarks, several questions by audience members were asked that addressed the role of Russia and the OSCE, the effect of the Trump administration, Artsakh's recognition by Armenia and the international community, and Artsakh's current state of preparedness.

Efforts by Armenia to stop "playing by the rules" and criticisms of how Armenia and its Foreign Ministry handled the situation during the April War were also discussed during the question and answer period.

(Originally published in the *Armenian Weekly*, March 13, 2017)

Demoyan Warns Of Dire Situation In Armenia

BY ARAM ARKUN

BELMONT, Mass. — On October 13, 2016, Hayk Demoyan delivered a lecture ominously entitled “The End of the Third Republic? Or, What to Expect for Armenia’s Future” at the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) in Belmont, as part of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation Lecture Series on Contemporary Armenian Issues. The title did not mislead, as Demoyan delivered what might be considered a “wake-up call” for the diaspora.



Demoyan has been director of the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute in Yerevan since 2006, and from 2011 to 2015 served as the secretary of the State Commission on Coordination of the Events Dedicated to the Commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. He is the author of twelve books on topics ranging from aspects of the Armenian Genocide to Armenian sports in the Ottoman Empire.

Demoyan is a public figure in Armenia who, although sometimes associated with the political establishment because of the positions he has held, has not been a stranger to controversy. He presented himself at NAASR on a more basic level, saying, “I am not going to provoke anything. I am a scholar and I am a citizen. I feel myself obliged to share with you some thoughts and anxieties as a person, an Armenian, from Armenia.” He declared that he is not and has never been a member of any political party.

Demoyan identified himself as an eyewitness and survivor of the cataclysms and changes of the past 25 years of Armenian independence, and he showed 25 photographs in slides accompanying his talk to remind the audience just what the people in Armenia have passed through. In other words, the quarter-century anniversary of the Republic of Armenia should serve not only as a festive occasion but an opportunity to examine the challenges and threats facing Armenia’s future.

He proceeded to present several issues, both internally and externally, which are threats to the existence of the Republic of Armenia. In foreign policy, the relationship with Russia is fraught with problems. The decision of Armenia to join the Eurasian Economic Union in September 2013 and give up serious efforts at integration into the European Union was problematic, he said. Demoyan called this Russian-dominated environment “USSR 2.0.”

The unprecedented escalation in hostilities which led to the April War this year with Azerbaijan, Demoyan observed, triggered renewed discussion over the value to Armenia of its strategic relationship with Russia. Many Armenians wondered how Russia could sell arms to Azerbaijan which were then used to kill Armenians. This in turn domestically con-

tributed to a deepening gap between Armenian society and government, which, Demoyan said, was “truly disturbing.”

A further complication or challenge is an attempt to frame the Soviet legacy in a positive manner. In Russia this is evident in bookshops which have whole shelves of expensively-printed volumes praising Stalin, Beria, and Lenin, he said. Armenia to a degree is part of a joint cultural “space” with Russia and there are similar efforts to rebuild Soviet memories there, but this phenomenon is dangerous. Demoyan exclaimed that you cannot—after 25 years—restore what was broken apart. An attempt to do this without the necessary resources would lead to a new tragedy, he added.

Demoyan gave one example of his opposition to the creation of a statue honoring Anastas Mikoyan, the Armenia-born former chairman of the Supreme Soviet. Mikoyan, he explained, was involved in mass purges of Polish officers as well as Armenian officials regarded as suspect by the USSR.

Relations with another one of Armenia’s hostile neighbors, Turkey, remains stuck in a quagmire. Despite Armenia’s signing the Protocols with Turkey, the border between these two countries remains closed without effective efforts by Russia, the U.S. or Europe to change this situation, which constitutes a semi-blockade for Armenia. Whether Russian-Turkish relations are tense or friendly, he noted, the Turkish-Armenian border remains closed.

The destruction in Syria today and the consequent flow of Syrian-Armenian refugees to Armenia poses another problem for Armenia.

Domestically, Demoyan feels that after Armenia voted for a parliamentary system of government last December, the forthcoming April parliamentary elections will be “a crucial landmark date for Armenians and for all of us—this is the fate of the Republic that we will secure for future years.”

He said that the armed attack and hostage situation by the fringe political group Sasna Tsrer (The Daredevils of Sasun) for two weeks over the summer was part of “new disturbing developments.” He noted that the majority was protesting and sided, actively or passively, with the attackers though their actions were illegal and resulted in fatalities. He concluded that “if former combatants will try to solve issues in Armenia, this will be just starting the end of statehood.”

The gap between the government and society is really dangerous, Demoyan said, as the government remains silent. Its only means of com-



munication with the people is the police.

Demoyan openly declared that government corruption is rampant, but he said that “a little hope” exists with the new government and its appointments. Yet there are still some of the same people remaining in government. Aside from corruption, Demoyan pointed out that the external debt is huge and the economic situation is “very, very serious.”

The most serious threat facing Armenia, according to Demoyan, is the depopulation of Armenia through emigration. He said that nearly one

and a half million Armenians have left already, and if the economic situation is not ameliorated, this could trigger new emigration and endanger the existence of the country.

Demoyan said that the main weapon in Armenia's hands is its human resources, which are now leaving the country. Secondly, Armenia must be strong internally. Demoyan once told the Armenian president that the problem with Azerbaijan cannot be solved with more or better weapons. The only way is for Armenia to become a more democratic state, respecting human rights and with rule of law leaving no room for corruption. This will make it a more powerful country than authoritarian and corrupt Azerbaijan, he said. One hope for the future is a new generation of Armenian decision makers, but it is not clear how they will overcome the entrenched present system and come to power, he added.

Demoyan concluded by examining what the diaspora can do. The situation in Armenia was important for Armenians living in the Republic as well as those abroad. He said that recent efforts of several individuals to criticize with public letters or petitions were not sufficient. The diaspora should be a form of leverage or a factor in triggering change in a positive direction in Armenia. He stressed that involvement is necessary to help create change, but not efforts to control. In other words, agendas from the U.S. or Russia should not be imported.

One way, Demoyan said, would be by involving diasporan structures in Armenia through a permanent pan-Armenian commission as the successor to the Armenian Genocide centennial commission.

Demoyan elaborated on his ideas during the extensive and freewheeling question-and-answer session. He pointed out that there was no serious political opposition in Armenia, but for the most part temporary opposition figures who disappear after the elections. He said, with his typical humor, that "we don't want people sitting in parliament with nicknames." Those with nicknames are usually criminal or Mafia-type figures. If these people are reelected next year, this will be a big problem, he said.

He added that election fraud is a common occurrence. He feared greater violence if the upcoming elections were seen as fixed and unfair as the preceding ones.

Corruption, he told another questioner, emanates not just from the Soviet legacy, or the influence of former Karabagh combatants. A lack of official punishment for misdeeds is combined with tolerance or acceptance in common society, Demoyan said. Demoyan declared that he did not want to either target or praise the government, but rather to show directions which could help resolve the situation as well as prevent violence.

The audience generally responded in a sympathetic manner to Demoyan's talk. Some praised his openness. A few gave positive examples of change in Armenia, but most seemed pessimistic about the possibility for change. A handful called for drastic action. One suggested total withdrawal of diasporan support to Armenia until the government changes, while another felt that armed violence was necessary to carry out a revolution, including the assassination of Armenian "traitors" as in Operation Nemesis after the Armenian Genocide.

After answering many audience questions, Demoyan made a final statement: "I am here to give a bold and serious message...for all of us. I am one of you. I am not an extraordinary person who can identify or make historical predictions. That is not my task. ... But I feel I fulfilled one minimum obligatory task. I raised the issues, I broke the silence. ... We have to raise our voices, at the least, and then to act."

He concluded, "We have to draw this roadmap for bringing Armenia back from that swamp that we are now in after 25 years. If not, the final result will unfortunately be predictable. We can lose our state. This is not an exaggeration.... All the possibilities are in our hands, individually or on a group level."

(Originally published in the *Armenian Mirror-Spectator*, October 20, 2016)

Christina Maranci Receives Sona Aronian Armenian Studies Prize

The National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) is pleased to announce that Dr. Christina Maranci has been awarded the 2016 Dr. Sona Aronian Book Prize for Excellence in Armenian Studies for her monograph *Vigilant Powers: Three Churches of Early Medieval Armenia* (Brepols, 2015).

NAASR's Aronian Prize was established in 2014 by the late Dr. Aronian and Dr. Geoffrey Gibbs, to be awarded annually to outstanding scholarly works in the English language in the field of Armenian Studies and in translation from Armenian into English. The 2016 award was for a book published in the year 2015.

The announcement of the prize was made on Friday, November 18, 2016, at a reception at NAASR's Belmont, MA, headquarters. The reception was held in honor of NAASR's Leadership Circle members and the members of the Society for Armenian Studies, which was holding its annual meeting in Boston that week.

NAASR Director of Academic Affairs Marc Mamigonian congratulated Prof. Maranci, who holds the Arthur H. Dadian and Ara T. Oztemel Associate Chair in Armenian Art at Tufts University, and who was present to receive the award, noting that her book is one that "changes and enriches our understanding of early Armenian church architecture in profound ways."

Prof. Maranci stated, "I am beyond thrilled to have received this award, and particularly through the good offices of NAASR. NAASR facilitated my difficult fieldwork at the church of Mren, the subject of the first chapter of the book, in which I presented a great deal of new evidence." She pointed out her many years of association with NAASR, saying that she has "also benefitted from giving presentations at NAASR, where I have always enjoyed informed, insightful, curious, impassioned, and supportive audiences. Feedback from NAASR lectures helped me at each stage of preparing this book, so it is particularly wonderful to receive this award."



NAASR Panel at Harvard Probes Diaspora Role in Armenia's Democratic Future

BY JUDITH SARYAN

The National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) held a panel discussion at Harvard University on December 3, 2016, entitled “The Armenian Parliamentary Elections in April, 2017: How Can the Diaspora Engage in Armenia’s Democratic Evolution” as part of the NAASR/Calouste Gulbenkian Lecture Series on Contemporary Armenian Issues. The program was co-sponsored by the Harvard and MIT Armenian Societies.

In this groundbreaking panel discussion, NAASR brought together moderator Dr. Anna Ohanyan, the Richard B. Finnegan Distinguished Professor of Political Science and International Relations at Stonehill College, with five distinguished panelists both from Armenia and the United States. These panelists included Professor Miguel E. Basanez, Director, Judicial Reform Program, Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy, Tufts University; John M. Evans, American diplomat and former U.S. Ambassador to Armenia; and via Skype from Armenia, Sona Ayvazyan, a founding member and Executive Director of Transparency International Anti-Corruption Center; Isabella Sargsyan, Program Director at the Eurasia Partnership Foundation and an international consultant on religious freedom issues; and Tevan Poghosyan, Armenian Member of Parliament and President of the International Center for Human Development.

The 25-year-old Republic of Armenia is facing political unrest due to issues of corruption, lack of economic growth, dissatisfaction with the current government, and concerns regarding the borders of Nagorno-Karabagh (NKR/Art-sakh). In April, 2017 Armenia will hold its first parliamentary elections since the Constitutional reform referendum of December 2015 and will transition from a semi-presidential system to a parliamentary one, strengthening the legislature at the expense of the presidency. The goal of the discussion at Harvard was to explain the Constitutional changes occurring in Armenia and to explore the role of the Diaspora in the political evolution of the country.

Professor Miguel Basanez spoke first about election fraud in Mexico and the impact that it had on Mexico’s democratic evolution. He noted the importance of opinion polling with an emphasis on how to improve the veracity of the responses. Professor Basanez played a central role in improving Mexican electoral practices that support democracy. After 71 years of the dominance of a single party, the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) was defeated in the elections through the ballot box in 2000.

Elections that are free, fair, and transpar-

ent constitute the bedrock of any democracy. Around 84% of the respondents in Armenia answered that it is important for citizens to vote in elections, according to the Caucasus Barometer survey carried out by the Caucasus Research Resource Center in Armenia. Over the past 20 years, a new trend of authoritarian and semi-authoritarian countries to rely on elections to legitimize their power has been significant. Elections are carried out, in democratic and most authoritarian states alike. However, fraudulent elections have emerged as the parallel trend. Electoral fraud erodes the basic trust between

the diaspora community and to strengthen election monitoring. Diaspora communities worldwide are increasingly active players for their home states in terms of remittances, promoting foreign direct investment, and in the political sphere. In terms of politics, 119 countries have external voting provisions, including Mexico, Georgia, Azerbaijan and Russia, among many others. Armenia’s dual citizenship law is very conservative, and requires in-country presence for a citizen to vote.

Against this backdrop, the possibility for Diasporic Armenians lacking citizenship to serve

as election monitors in the upcoming parliamentary elections, is a step for civil participation and a mechanism for strengthening the bond between the Diaspora and Armenia. Isabella Sargsyan showed a bar chart demonstrating that voting results in polling places with election monitoring were significantly different and much less supportive of the dominant party than voting results in non-monitored precincts. The chart below shows the voting results of the Armenia, 2015 Constitutional Referendum in the Armavir region.



the government and the people; according to the Caucasus Barometer, only 5% of respondents in Armenia agreed with the statement that “most people can be trusted” and 30% thought that “you cannot be too careful.” The numbers for Georgia were slightly better.

Importantly, electoral fraud and the breakdown of trust can be powerful factors for producing instability and violence as occurred in Yerevan this past summer. In 2015 only 35% of the respondents thought that democracy is preferable to any other form of government, a decline from 57% in 2011. Another significant shift is that the number of people agreeing that people should participate in protest actions against the government in Armenia increased from 26% in 2011 to 46% in 2015. Regarding perceptions as to whether the most recent elections were conducted fairly, only 6% said yes in Armenia, versus 37% in Georgia.

This trend is alarming, and there are no quick fixes. However, the experience of Mexico and other countries demonstrates that there are ways to combat electoral fraud including to engage

tutional Referendum in the Armavir region. The percentage of “yes” votes was dramatically lower in the polling precincts with foreign observers. (Sergey Shpilkin, analyst).

Dr. Ohanyan and other members of the panel emphasized that even with election monitors, there is no guarantee that the elections will be free of any tampering. They pointed out that the goal of free, fair and transparent elections is an ongoing challenge and will take time to achieve.

The elections are one piece of a much larger challenge to engage the Diaspora in the democratic evolution of Armenia according to former Ambassador John Evans. The Diaspora and Armenia have the potential mutually to develop the democratic structures necessary to propel Armenia forward.

The Citizen Observer Initiative is inviting volunteers from across the Diaspora to join volunteers in Armenia and be election observers for the Parliamentary Elections to be held on April 2, 2017. The aim of the initiative is to provide oversight of the voting process and prevent electoral violations and fraud.

Harsneren: Language of the Armenian Bride



BY CARLA
KEKEJIAN

Master's
student in
Human
Development
and Psychology
at the UCLA
Graduate
School of
Education and
Information
Sciences.

(Editor's note: We are very pleased to reprint this overview by Carla Kekejian of her research, supported in part by a grant from NAASR, on a fascinating and mostly unexamined subject.)

What is Harsneren?

The word “Hars” (հարս) in Armenian translates to “bride” in English. The suffix “-eren” (-երէն) is frequently added to the name of a place, including countries or regions, and indicates the language used by the inhabitants of that place. “Hars” and “-eren” merged together creates the word *Harsneren*, which comes to mean “Language of the Bride” in Armenian.

Harsneren was a gesture-based signing language in Armenia which developed due to speech taboos and a rule of silence imposed on married women. It was a non-verbal, gestural form of communication used by women instead of their spoken language. My ongoing study explores under what circumstances *Harsneren* developed, at what moments during their everyday lives women utilized it, and what the different signs and gestures are that women frequently demonstrated.

Fieldwork and Findings

In efforts to learn more about *Harsneren*, I traveled to the villages of Baghanis, Voskepar, Voskevan, and Noyemberyan in the Tavush Province of present-day northeast Armenia, where the first and only study of the sign language was conducted in the early 1930s. Prop-

er observation and documentation of *Harsneren* was only possible through in-person conversations with regional women about the early uses of the sign language, possible contemporary uses in modern populations, and an examination of variations of the gestures among the different interview subjects.

From these in-person interviews, it was learned that young brides employed this sign language to communicate basic needs to members of their family; however, only when absolutely necessary, as communication was often prohibited for the young bride, especially in the presence of her husband, in-laws, and certain other relatives. At the time, Armenian women lost what little agency they had upon marriage, and it was the patriarchal and social norms imposed on them in public and even private spaces which contributed to the rise and use of *Harsneren* over time.

Harsneren is no longer in active use in the four villages today. Some women described their use of it when they were young brides, while other women recalled their mothers' use of it. Some women claimed they were silent for decades, while others claimed that the rule of silence was more relaxed in their household. The severity of the silencing of the young bride and the extent to which she used this sign language (if she used it) varied amongst families and depended on the gender dynamics of particular households. However, the women who did recall uses of the sign language often demonstrated similar gestures. These included gestures for “father-in-law,” “mother-in-law,” “husband,” “hungry,” “bread,” and “water” among a couple of others. Thus, it can be assumed at this point, that some uniformity did exist among the gestures used by different women.

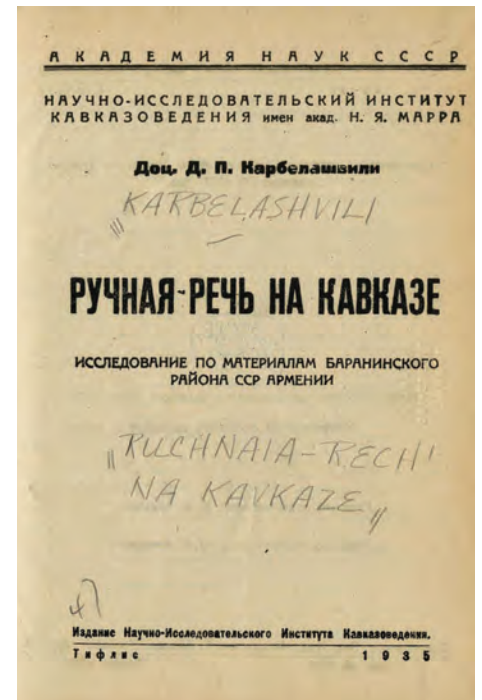
Moreover, it is very likely that the use of *Harsneren* was widespread in different regions of Armenia since the circumstances that generated it extended across historical Armenian spaces. Such circumstances included a rule of silence imposed on married women, women's responsibility to yield their speech as a form of respect for men and affinal relatives, and the socially accepted means and moments of communication for women at the time.

Why is Harsneren important?

While much is still unknown about *Harsneren*, the preliminary findings gathered through my recent fieldwork in Armenia allowed for uses of the nearly forgotten sign language to be observed, documented, and analyzed. Conversations with various regional women (regardless of whether or not they spoke *Harsneren* themselves), also allowed for further examination of social norms and family and gender systems in Armenian culture at the time. Additionally, these findings enabled a deeper understanding of customs of betrothal and marriage and perceptions regarding the role and responsibility of Armenian women in society at that time, as well as today.

What's Next?

This ongoing study on *Harsneren* untangles and unravels the sign language and the social circumstances that led to its rise and fall. Beyond patriarchy and gender norms as explanations for the development and continuous use of *Harsneren* for generations, it is important to look at this process of communication from a wider context that explains where gender-specific and patriarchal norms come from and perpetuate such practices. In addition to an examination of *Harsneren* specifically and the broader framework for which it falls within, I also seek to explore and understand gender-specific languages and forms of communication among other cultures, as well. Finally, this coming



D.P. Karbelashvili's study, *Ruchnaia-rech na Kavkaze* (Manual Speech in the Caucasus), the first study published on the gestural communication of married Armenian women. Carla Kekejian found the only copy of the book in the U.S.

summer, I expect to conduct further documentation of *Harsneren* and its use across various regions of Armenia.

I would like to conclude by thanking UCLA's Center for the Study of Women for their recent support of my work, as well as the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) for the research grant they provided me with as an undergraduate student which allowed my research to take off.

(Reprinted from the UCLA Center for the Study of Women blog, <https://csw.ucla.edu/2017/03/14/harsneren-language-armenian-bride/>)



Grants Issued by NAASR and the Knights of Vartan



During 2016-2017, NAASR and the Knights of Vartan Fund for Armenian Studies provided grants to a large number of scholars and institutions around the world, nearly doubling the amount of grants issued compared to 2014-2015, and continuing a growth that has been ongoing for several years in recognition of the increased need and the positive impact of these grants.

A listing of grant recipients from 2011 to this year is now available on www.naasr.org. We will add earlier years as well as links and further information. Even a cursory glance at the listing will make apparent the tremendous diversity of the subjects covered by these grants, many of which have been issued to graduate students or recent PhDs, as well as to established scholars and researchers.

Grant Recipients

(July 2016-July 2017)

Scott Abramson, Doctoral Candidate, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, UCLA, translation grant to allow completion of forthcoming academic article, working title “The Armenians of the Levant: The Region’s Unsung Builders and Modernizers.” Grant issued by the Knights of Vartan Fund for Armenian Studies.

Anna Aleksanyan, Doctoral Student, Clark University, travel grant to attend and present paper “‘Neutral Home’ and the Issue of Identity of Armenian Child Survivors” at third international multidisciplinary conference titled “Children and War: Past and Present” in July 2016 in Salzburg, organized by the University of Wolverhampton (UK), together with the University of Salzburg. Grant issued by NAASR.

Rosie Aroush, Doctoral Candidate, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, UCLA, grant to cover costs of transcription of interviews of subjects for PhD dissertation on Experiences of LGBTQ Armenians in the Diasporic Community of Los Angeles. Grant issued by NAASR.

Gayane Babayan, Graduate Student, Central European University and Yerevan State University, travel grant to present paper “The Multi-Cultural Artistic Milieu of Fourteenth-Century Crimea: A Note on the Patterns of Artistic Adoption and Adaptation in the Miniatures of the Fourteenth-Century Crimean-Armenian Tetraevangelion” at 15th Annual Graduate Student Colloquium in Armenian Studies at UCLA on February 24, 2017. Grant issued by NAASR.

Melissa Bilal, Visiting Scholar, Dept. of History, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, travel grant to go to Yerevan in order to complete research in the archives and to work with the staff of the Digital Library (Digilib) of American University of Armenia on the digitization and editing of material for the forthcoming *Feminism in Armenia: A History*, a book and a website project by Melissa Bilal and Dr. Lerna Ekmeçioğlu, about the lives and work

of twelve Armenian women who were born in Ottoman Constantinople. Grant issued by the Knights of Vartan Fund for Armenian Studies.

George Bournoutian, Iona College, publication grant to help cover printing costs of translation with extensive commentary of two books dealing with land tenure in the Yerevan Province in the last years of the 19th century, *Земельные Дачи Эриванской Губернии*. Выпуск 1- Дачи Эриванского Уезда (Tiflis, 1903) and *Земельные Дачи Эриванской Губернии*. Выпуск 2. Дачи Новобаязетского Уезда (Tiflis, 1905). Grant issued by the Knights of Vartan Fund for Armenian Studies.

Emre Can Daglioglu, Doctoral Student, Clark University, travel grant to support archival research in Turkey for doctoral research on “The 1895-6 Armenian Massacres: Violence and Resistance in Van.” Grant issued by the Knights of Vartan Fund for Armenian Studies.

Ani Danielyan, Doctoral Student in Archeology, University of Paris 1 Pantheon-Sorbonne, research grant for completion of doctoral work on “Pre-Protohistoric Rock Art of Armenia.” Grant issued by Knights of Vartan Fund for Armenian Studies.

Vahram Danielyan, Assistant Professor, Yerevan State University, Department of Modern Armenian Literature, publication grant to support English-language editing of forthcoming book publication *Negotiation of Differences in the Common Urban Space*, a collection of articles devoted to the experience of sharing the urban space by Armenians and Turks, and practices of negotiating differences. Grant issued by NAASR.

Jasmine Dum-Tragut, University of Salzburg, research grant for project “The Unknown Armenian Prisoners of War in Habsburg Austria, 1915-1917: The Anthropological Studies of Rudolf Pösch.” Grant issued by the Knights of Vartan Fund for Armenian Studies.

Özlem Galip, Post-Doctoral Fellow, University of Oxford, travel grant to support post-doctoral project aimed at exploring and comparatively assessing the way Kurdish, Turkish and Armenian intellectuals have responded to the Armenian Genocide in both oral and literary narratives. Grant issued by the Knights of Var-

tan Fund for Armenian Studies.

Iván Gaztañaga González, Doctoral Candidate in Genocide and International Law, University of Granada, Spain, research grant to cover costs of copying, digitizing, and transcribing diplomatic documents in the Spanish National History Archives relating to the Armenian Genocide; for presentation of exhibition of materials; and for publication of materials. Grant issued by the Knights of Vartan Fund for Armenian Studies.

Gohar Grigoryan, Doctoral Candidate, University of Fribourg, travel grant to conduct research in Pisa for dissertation on “Royal Images of the Armenian Kingdom of Cilicia (1198-1375) in the Context of Mediterranean Intercultural Exchange.” Grant issued by NAASR.

Vahagn Hakobyan, Doctoral Student, Institute of Oriental Studies, National Academy of Sciences, Armenia, travel grant to conduct research in Iran on “The Impact of Iran’s Political Situation on Armenian Liberation Movement in the Second Half of the 18th Century.” Grant issued by NAASR.

Ani Honarchiansaky, Doctoral Student, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, UCLA, travel grant to attend and present paper “‘And they took away from them the bones of their own kings that the Persians were carrying away into captivity’: The Significance of Bones in Armenian, Zoroastrian, and Early Christian Beliefs,” at the International Medieval Congress (IMC) in Leeds, England, July 2016. Grant issued by NAASR.

Ani Kasparian, independent researcher and Assistant Director, Armenian Research Center, Dearborn, MI, travel grant to conduct interviews and research in Turkey on the experiences of concealed and Islamized Armenians. Grant issued by the Knights of Vartan Fund for Armenian Studies.

Whitney Kite, MA Student in Art History, Tufts University, grant to travel to Venice and attend Padus-Araxes summer intensive course for Armenian language and culture, to obtain Armenian-language skills for research towards Masters qualifying project on Horomos monastery. Grant issued by NAASR.

Péter Kránitz, Graduate Student, Pázmány Péter Catholic University, Budapest, travel grant to travel to present paper “From Colonialist to Humanitarian? The Dissolution of the Armenian Question into the Discourse on Refugee Rights,” at 15th Annual Graduate Student Colloquium in Armenian Studies at UCLA on February 24, 2017. Grant issued by NAASR.

Umit Kurt, Doctoral Candidate, Clark University, travel grant to participate in panel entitled “New Issues, Perspectives and Sources in

NAASR Supports Zoryan Summer Program for 10th Year

Each year since 2006, NAASR has provided support for a student to attend the Genocide and Human Rights University Program sponsored by the Zoryan Institute. "It is very meaningful for NAASR to make it possible for a student to take part in this great program," said NAASR Executive Director Sarah Ignatius, "because we know the instruction they receive is top notch, and it is impressive that so many of those who have participated have gone on to do important work as scholars and activists."

Zoryan Executive Director George Shirinian provided the following information about the 2016 recipient to NAASR's Marc Mami-gonian.

Dear Marc:

I wanted to give you some information about the student to the GHRUP for whom NAASR provided support this year. Your funding, combined with another scholarship, enabled Gohar Khanumyan to attend the GHRUP. Let me tell you a little bit about her.

Mrs. Khanumyan has worked at the Armenian Genocide Museum Institute in Yerevan since 2004. There, she heads a team of researchers that are responsible for the museum's library and archival collections. She is the author of several articles, published both in Armenia and abroad. She is currently conducting research on the collecting of Armenian orphans in the aftermath of the

Genocide. I found her research on feral children after the Genocide fascinating, as I have heard nothing about this before. She is also developing a course on "The Consequences of Genocide."

Please convey our appreciation to the NAASR Board for its ongoing support, and congratulations and best of luck on your 60th anniversary gala. I wish I was able to attend.

All the best,

George

George Shirinian, Executive Director
Zoryan Institute

Armenian Studies," for the 5th Global Conference of the International Network of Genocide Scholars (INoGS) in Jerusalem. Grant issued by Knights of Vartan Fund for Armenian Studies.

Dr. Umit Kurt, Post-Doctoral Fellow, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Harvard University, travel grant to conduct research in British National Archives for book project provisionally titled *The Curious Case of Ali Cenani Bey: The Story of a Genocidaire During and After the 1915 Armenian Genocide*. Grant issued by the Knights of Vartan Fund for Armenian Studies.

Jennifer Manoukian, Doctoral Student, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, UCLA, travel grant to present paper "Disrupting Literature in Diaspora: Zareh Vorpouni's *The Candidate* and the *Nouveau Roman*" at the 15th Annual Graduate Student Colloquium in Armenian Studies at UCLA, February 24, 2017. Grant issued by NAASR.

Caroline McCune, MA Candidate in Art History and Museum Studies, Tufts University, travel grant to present paper "Guns & Roses: The Battle of Avarayr in an Armenian Hymnal at the Boston Public Library" at 15th Annual Graduate Student Colloquium in Armenian Studies at UCLA, February 24, 2017. Grant issued by the Knights of Vartan Fund for Armenian Studies.

Lilit Melikyan, Doctoral student in Diaspora studies, Yerevan State University: travel grant for 2-month stay in Tbilisi researching history of Armenians in Georgia during the 12th-18th centuries. Grant issued by the Knights of Vartan Fund for Armenian Studies.

Erin Piñon, graduate student at Southern Methodist University, travel grant to participate annual meeting of the Sixteenth Century Society and Conference in Bruges, August 18-20, 2016, presenting paper "Lions and Tigers and Trdat—Oh My! Zoomorphic Figures in the Armenian Christianization Myth." Grant issued by NAASR.

Laura Samvelyan, independent researcher

and Assistant Creative Director, Publicis Armenia, travel grant to present paper "Language and Literacy Practices in a Diasporic Setting: Case Study of Armenian Community in Buenos Aires," at conference "Heritages of Migration: Moving Stories, Objects and Home," Buenos Aires, Argentina, April 6-10, 2017. Grant issued by NAASR.

Marine Sargsyan, Doctoral Student, Leiden University, Faculty of Humanities, Institute for History, grant to support academic visit at the Harriman Institute, Columbia University, as Visiting Scholar, to carry out work for dissertation "Pattern of Change: Socio-Economic Growth and Political Transition in Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan in 1991-2013." Grant issued by NAASR.

Ararat Sekeryan, travel grant to support research in Armenia for bilingual (Armenian-Turkish) publication of Siamanto's *Garmir Lurer Paregames* (Red News from My Friend, 1909) with a comprehensive introduction on the author's life and work. Grant issued by the Knights of Vartan Fund for Armenian Studies.

Ani Shahinian, Doctoral Student, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, UCLA, travel grant to present paper "Tracing Models of Martyrdom: The Effect of the Martyrdom Narratives in the Armenian Bible on the Composition of Martyrologies and Development of Theological Thought in Medieval and Early Modern Armenia" at the 350th anniversary of the first Armenian printed Bible conference at Etchmiadzin, October 2016, and travel grant to go Armenia in the summer of 2017 to continue research on newly identified martyrological texts at the Matenadaran in Erevan and continue theological research at the Etchmiadzin. Grants issued by NAASR.

Allison Suhan, Adventures in Preservation Board Member, grant in support of ongoing documentation and creation of database of Gyumri's Kumayri Cultural Museum-Preserve as part of long-term Gyumri restoration and

documentation project. Grant issued by the Knights of Vartan Fund for Armenian Studies.

Sona Tajiryan, Doctoral Student, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, UCLA, travel grant to present paper "From Surat to Izmir, Aleppo and Venice: Family Networks of Armenian Gem Merchants in Early Modern Global Trade of Diamonds" at "The Levant and Europe: Shipping and Trade Networks of People and Knowledge," organized by the Levantine Heritage Foundation, November 2016, in London. Grant issued by NAASR.

Ani Tatintsyian, travel grant to attend and present paper on "To Remember and Demand" at "Truth, Lies and Manufacturing Memory," the third annual interdisciplinary conference hosted by Humber College, School of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the International Festival of Authors (IFOA), Toronto, October 2016. Grant issued by NAASR.

Theo van Lint, University of Oxford, on behalf of AIEA (Association Internationale des Etudes Arméniennes, grant in support of the 14th General Conference of the AIEA, to be hosted at Pembroke College, Oxford, August 10-12, 2017. Grant issued by NAASR and by the Knights of Vartan Fund for Armenian Studies.

James Wiener, Co-Founder and the Communications Director, Ancient History Encyclopedia, travel grant to cover expenses to produce articles and definitions, and catalogue photographic entries concerning Armenian history and culture for Ancient History Encyclopedia's "Ancient Armenia Project." Grant issued by the Knights of Vartan Fund for Armenian Studies.

Tigran Yepremyan, Doctoral Candidate in World History, Yerevan State University, travel grant to conduct research and participate in symposium "On the Edges of Christianity — Iceland and Armenia in the Middle Ages" at the Centre for Medieval Studies (Miðaldastofa) at the University of Iceland, Reykjavik, on June 8, 2017. Grant issued by the Knights of Vartan Fund for Armenian Studies.

IN THE LIBRARY

The Nerses Baghdoyan Archive

MORE THAN A DECADE AGO, an anonymous person brought to NAASR several boxes' worth of material that he thought would be of possible interest to us. This turned out that this material had belonged to the late Maro Baghdoyan of Winchester, MA, who was a longtime member of NAASR dating back to the 1950s and died in 2004. These boxes contained some books, newspapers, and handwritten materials. Much of it turned out to be the work of her father, Dr. Nerses M. Baghdoyan, a native of Aintab and a graduate of Central Turkey College and the Syrian Protestant College in Beirut.

Hratch Kestonian provides the following information about Dr. Baghdoyan in his 2015 American University of Beirut MA thesis, "A

Portrait of Armenian Student Life at the Syrian Protestant College, 1885-1920": Nerses Manoug Baghdoyan: Born in Aintab, 1880; Private practitioner, 1906-1912; served in the Turkish army, 1912-1918; Director of the Euphrates hospital, 1912-13; Surgeon at the Military hospital in Aintab, 1914-1915; Director and surgeon American Relief

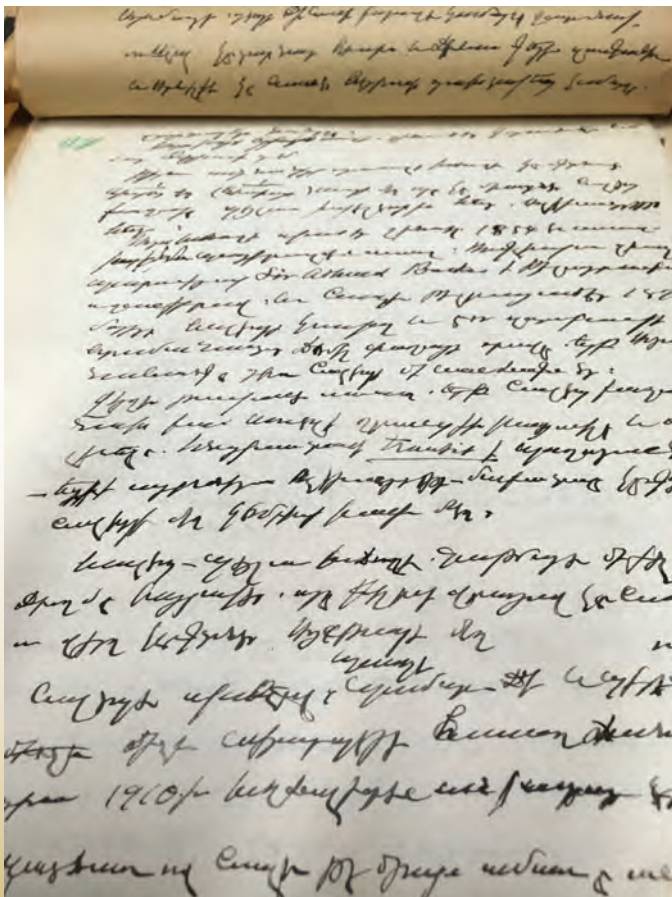


Poster for a commemorative event of the Aintab Union from 1960

hospital Aleppo, 1918-19; US army 1921-1934; served in the Civilian Conservation Corps 1934-1946.

The archive contains material related to Dr. Baghdoyan's service in the Ottoman army, involvement in Armenian-Kurdish affairs, and his research on his native city of Aintab, and other writings, as well as copies of articles he wrote that were printed in the *Hairenik* daily, such as "Husher Ayntabi Griwneren" and "Husher: Im Prgutean Ughin."

One of Baghdoyan's manuscripts



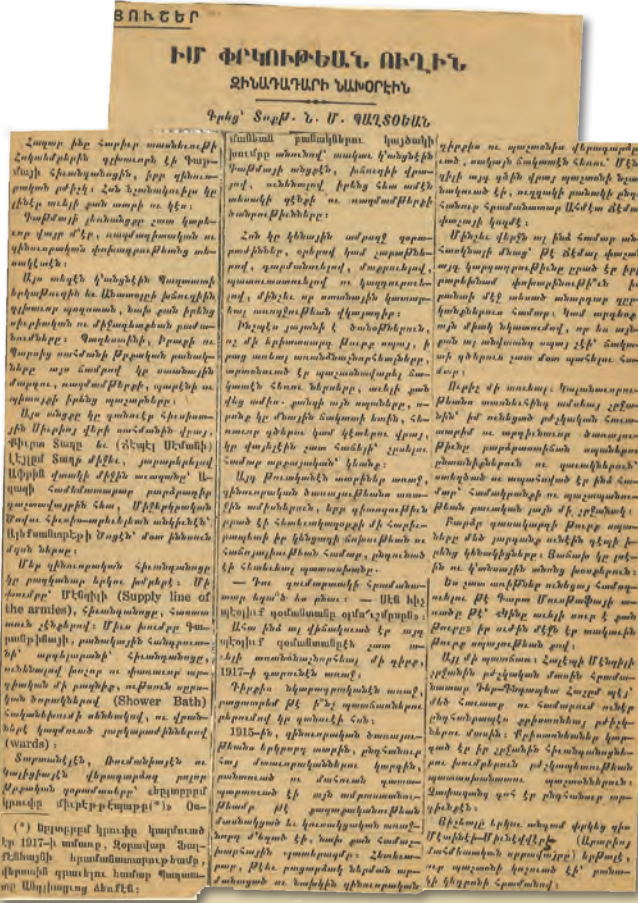


During the past year this archive was examined by several researchers, including Dr. Khatchig Mouradian, who provides the following insights:

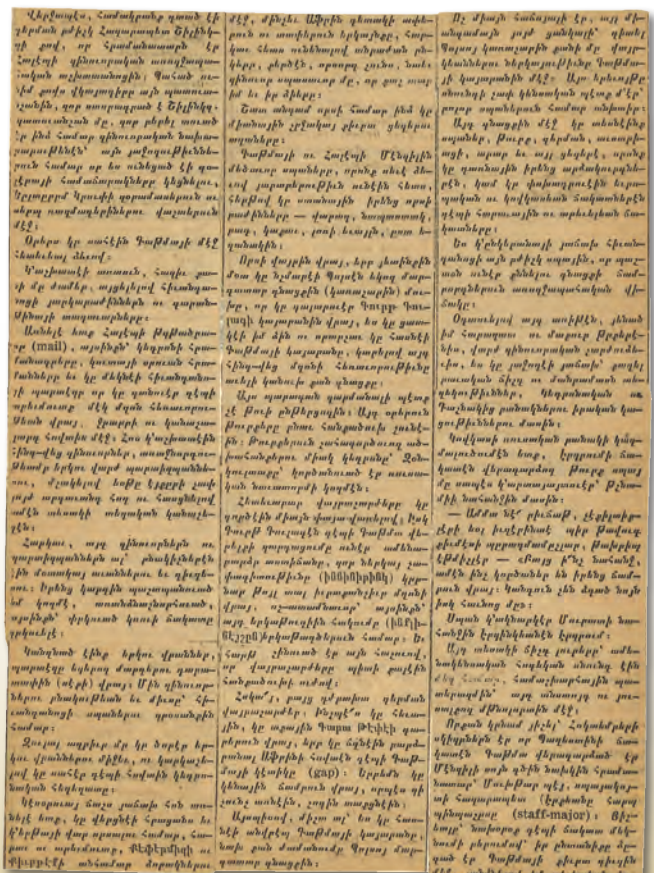
Baghdoyan's archive includes several manuscripts and published articles (primarily in Armenian) about his experiences serving in the military in the Ottoman Empire, and later with the British. One particular article, which he published in the *Hairenik* newspaper in Boston, details his experiences in Katma and his escape to Aleppo as the British were advancing in Syria in 1918. His vivid description of the Ottoman military supply lines, camps, and operations stand out as testament to his profound knowledge of the lay of the land in northern Syria, the medical and health situation during WWI, and the condition of the Ottoman army as defeat loomed. Importantly, Baghdoyan's account and letters strike at the very heart of the Turkish state's denial of the Armenian Genocide. One of the last bedrocks of the denialist position is the argument that the Armenians served as a fifth column, and fought against the Turks on different fronts. Recent scholarship—as well as Turkish- and English-language translation of memoirs of Armenian officers serving in the Ottoman army—has disrupted this denialist argument, engendering a lively discussion within Turkey itself about Armenians serving in the Ottoman army while their families and relatives were being marched to their deaths. Baghdoyan's account comes as yet another nail in the coffin for this aspect of denial. This is an important archive that requires further attention from scholars.



A hand-drawn map of the Sasun region



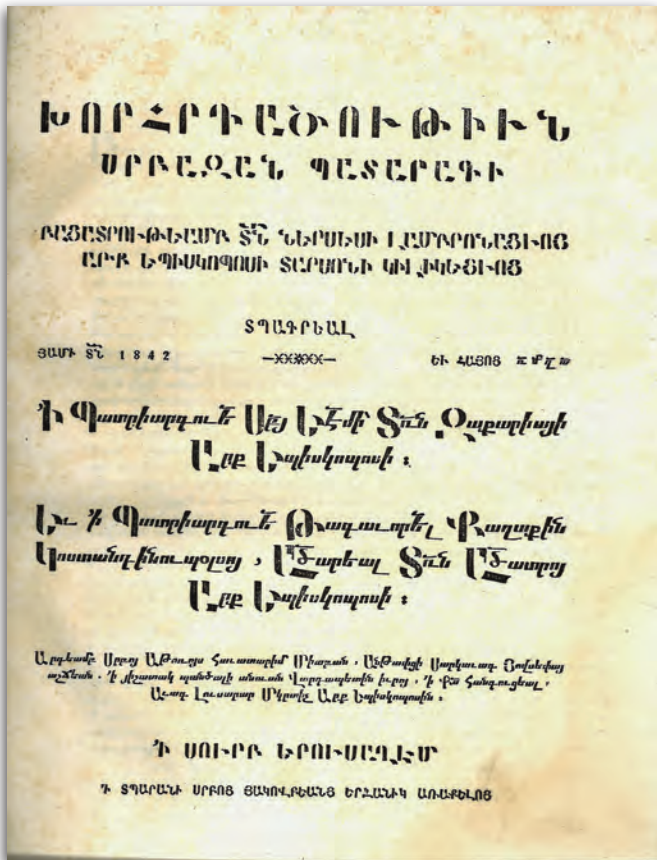
Copy of Baghdoyan's memoir article "Im Prgutean Ughin"



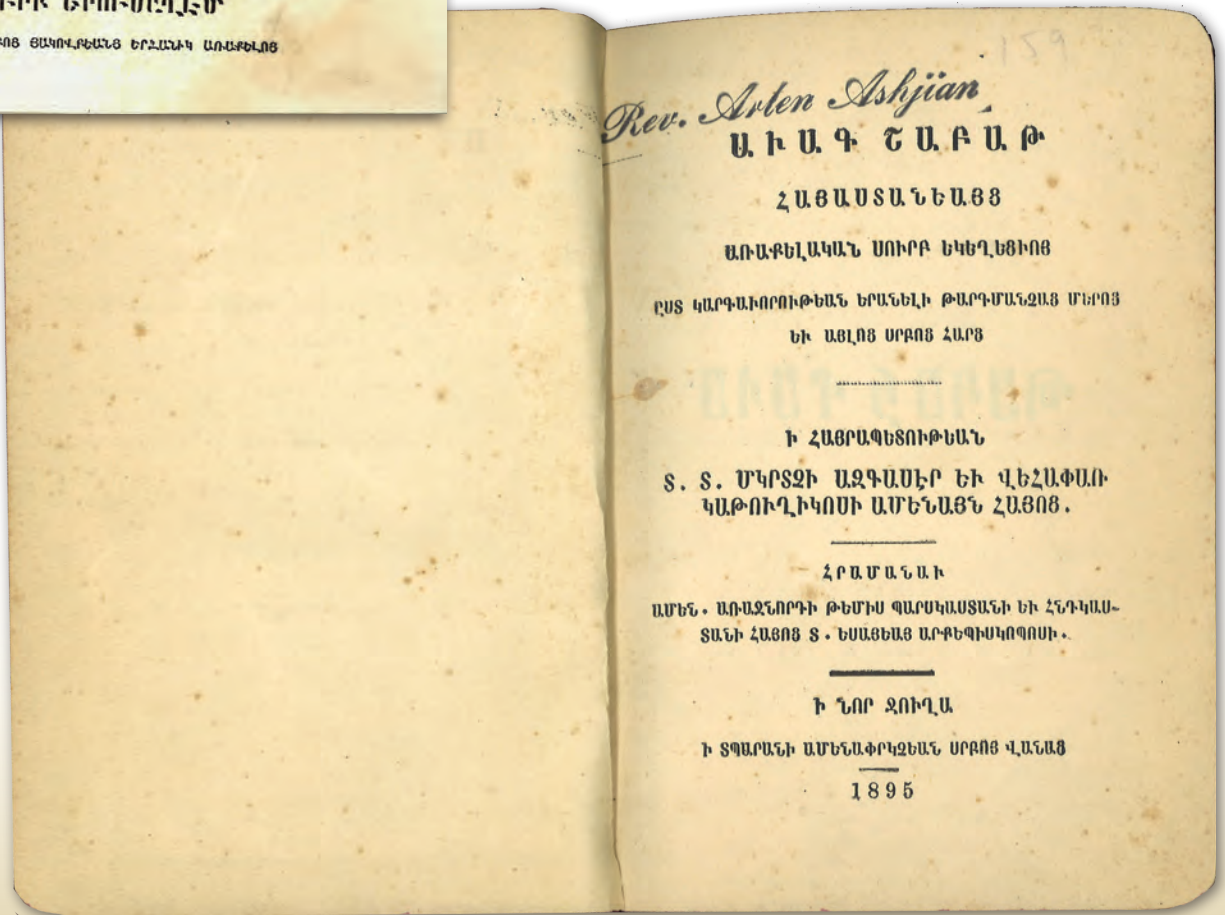
IN THE LIBRARY

Highlights from the Collection of Rev. Fr. Arten Ashjian

The large personal library of the late Rev. Fr. Arten Ashjian, NAASR Founding Member, church historian, and long-serving Diocesan priest, contains hundreds of books including a wealth of rare, beautiful, and interesting volumes. NAASR is truly fortunate that Fr. Ashjian chose to leave his library to us for safekeeping and for the benefit of future readers and scholars. A selected few items are highlighted here.

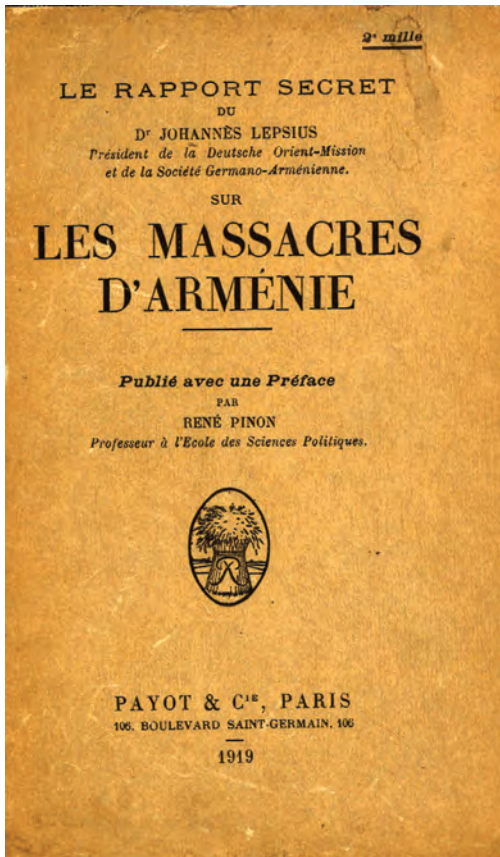


Khorhratsut'iwn Srbazan Pataragi: bats'atrut'eamb Team Nersesi Lambronats'wo (I Surb Erusaghem: I Tparani Srboy Hakovbiant's Erjanik Arak'elots', 1842). This exceptional copy of Nerses of Lambron's 12th century commentary on the Divine Liturgy was published in Jerusalem in 1842 and is among the oldest titles in Fr. Ashjian's collection.



Awag Shabat': Hayastaneayts Arakelakan Surb Ekeghetswoy  st Kargaworut'ean Eraneli t'argmanch'ats' merots' ew aylots' Srboy Harts' (I Nor Jugh: I Tparani Amenap'rkch'ean Srboy Vanats', 1895). Fr. Ashjian's copy of the *Awag Shabat'* (Great Week or Holy Week), published in New Julfa in 1895.

Fr. Ashjian's collection also includes many historical works, including *Le Rapport secret sur les massacres d'Arménie* by Johannes Lepsius (Paris, 1919), Col. E. Bremond's *La Cilicie en 1919-1920* (Paris, 1921), Frijtof Nansen's *L'Arménie et le Proche Orient* (Paris, 1928), and F. C. Corbyn's *The Present Position of the Armenian Nation* (London, 1932).



The thirty-six boxes comprising the Ashjian Collection will be processed and catalogued by NAASR's Library Curator Ani Babaian in coming months. It is intended that duplicate volumes from the collection will be shared with St. Nersess Armenian Seminary, another institution to which Fr. Ashjian was devoted.



T'ovmayi Gem-bats'woy Haghags nmanogh lineloy K'ristosi / t'argmaneats' Vrt'anēs Askērean (I Venetik: I Surbn Ghazar, 1853). This Armenian translation of Thomas à Kempis's *De Imitatione Christi* (The Imitation of Christ, ca. 1418) was translated by Vrt'anēs Askērean and published in Venice at San Lazzaro in 1853.



Fr. Ashjian at NAASR's 40th anniversary celebration

Rev. Fr. Arten Ashjian (1919-2016)

The Reverend Fr. Arten Ashjian, a NAASR Founding Member and former member of the Board of Directors, was born in Aleppo, Syria, on November 21, 1919, and christened Antranik in the Armenian Cathedral of Aleppo, and passed away on May 17, 2016, in New York. His father Avedis, and his mother Mariam, were survivors of the 1915 Genocide, displaced from Ourfa-Edessa. Antranik received his primary education from 1924 to 1934 at Armenian and American schools in Aleppo. From 1934 until the completion of his theological and philosophical studies, he was a seminarian at the Armenian Patriarchate in Jerusalem.

Responding to an invitation offered to him and other former seminarians in 1945 by Bishop (later Archbishop) Tiran Nersoyan, the newly installed Primate of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, Antranik arrived in New York City in March 1947, having been accepted as a special graduate student at the Episcopal General Theological Seminary. He was ordained as Fr. Arten by Bishop Nersoyan in 1948.

Fr. Arten earned a Master of Sacred Theology degree in 1950 from General Theological Seminary and a Master of Theology from Harvard Divinity School in 1961. Until the end of 1988 when he retired, Fr. Arten served in half a dozen states as parish priest, including a 15-year pastorate at St. James Armenian Church of Watertown, Massachusetts.

Fr. Arten was Director of Ecumenical Relations of the Eastern Diocese, from 1978 to 1988, during the primacy of Archbishop Torkom Manoogian. Over a period of two decades, until 1992, he was an instructor of Armenian Church history and other subjects at St. Nersess Armenian Seminary, where he also served a six-month term as chaplain. His involvement in the St. Nersess Seminary included membership for several terms on the Board of Directors, where he served as Secretary.

Fr. Ashjian was considered the historian of the Armenian Church in the United States, and of the Eastern Diocese in particular. His lifelong research on those subjects—including his archival investigations, interviews with principal figures, and his own personal recollections as an active participant in the major events of the Armenian Church in the 20th century—served as the basis for an historical volume on the Armenian Church of America, *The Torch Was Passed*, published in 1998 to coincide with the Diocesan centennial.

One of his final books, *An Armenian Monk's Ministry on Two Continents: The Story of Archbishop Hovsep Sarajian* (2006), revisited the earliest period of the Armenian Church in the New World, through the life of its most influential figure.

Fr. Arten is survived by his beloved wife of 66 years, Mary, their daughter, Zovinar Suzie, and son, Arra Avedis.

(Adapted from obituary prepared by the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church.)

IN MEMORIAM:

Dr. H. Martin Deranian

1922-2016



NAASR joins with the entire Armenian community in mourning the loss and celebrating the life of Dr. H. Martin Deranian of Shrewsbury, MA. Dr. Deranian (August 21, 1922-September 26, 2016) was a NAASR Charter Member (having joined the organization in June 1955) and served as its first Regional Director for New England. He remained a supporter for decades, giving numerous lectures for NAASR and publishing the English edition of his father's book *Hussenig: The Origin, History, and Destruction of an Armenian Town* with NAASR's Armenian Heritage Press in 1994. In recent years he had also donated his and his father's extensive Hussenig archive to NAASR's Mardigian Library as well as his collection of materials used in writing the book *Miracle Man of the Western Front: Dr. Varaztad H. Kazanjian, Pioneer Plastic Surgeon* (2007).

An accomplished dentist in Worcester, MA, for over sixty years, Dr. Deranian made an important and pioneering contribution to writing the early history of Massachusetts Armenians with his books *Worcester is America: The Story of Worcester's Armenians, The Early Years* (1995), *Miracle Man of the Western Front* (2007), *President Calvin Coolidge & The Armenian Orphan Rug* (2013, 2014), and *Hagop Bogigian: Armenian American Pioneer & Philanthropist* (2016). The last of these fulfilled Dr. Deranian's lifelong pledge to honor the memory of his great-uncle. In his last years Deranian expended considerable effort to ensure that Bogigian's legacy of supporting the education of

Armenian women through scholarships at Mt. Holyoke College, Wilson College, and Pomona College would be perpetuated.

In a talk for NAASR given in 1957, Dr. Deranian stated, "As a member of NAASR, I feel that our best contribution to these conflict-ridden times is the preservation of the enduring and valuable cultural values of our people."

Through his work as a historian and through his dedicated membership and participation in NAASR and a number of important Armenian-American institutions and his support for Armenian Studies at his alma mater Clark University, Dr. Martin Deranian more than lived up to this ideal. He will be missed by all who knew him and benefitted from his knowledge and kindness. NAASR's Academic Director Marc Mamigonian recalled, "Dr. Deranian was a living link to the history of the Armenian-American community, and no one was more generous in sharing his knowledge." Prof. Richard Hovannisian commented that Dr. Deranian "was as close to being an institution and immortal as one can get."

Dr. Deranian is survived by his wife of 62 years, Virginia (Derderian) Deranian; his son, Jonathan Deranian of Grafton; his daughter Lydia Deranian-George of Shrewsbury; and three grandchildren, Chelsey, Jacob, and Samantha.

Funeral services took place on September 30 at the Armenian Church of Our Saviour, 87 Salisbury Street, Worcester, officiated by Der Aved Terzian, followed by interment at Hope Cemetery, Worcester.

IS NAASR IN YOUR WILL?



There are many ways you can help NAASR and its programs for the furtherance of Armenian studies and research. One of the most significant is including NAASR in your estate planning. There are many possibilities - please make an appointment with NAASR to discuss the best plan for you. NAASR has available an informational brochure for estate planning. Please call us at 617-489-1610, e-mail us at hq@naasr.org, or visit us at the NAASR Center in Belmont to discuss your plans.



Passing of Haig Der Manuelian (1926-2016)

NAASR Founding Member

NAASR joins with the Armenian community in marking the passing of Haig Der Manuelian (1926-2016) on December 1, 2016. Der Manuelian was one of the visionary group of Founding Members of NAASR in 1955 and served on the Board of Directors for the first decade of the association's existence, playing an important role in the early development of NAASR and its first two major initiatives, the establishment of chairs in Armenian Studies at Harvard University and UCLA. He remained a member and supporter of NAASR for the remainder of his long life.

Yervant Chekijian, Chairman of NAASR's Board of Directors, reflected: "With characteristic humor, Haig would often test my personal knowledge of Armenian history. He was singularly devoted to Armenian Studies and the Armenian community for his entire life and was a key figure not only in NAASR's history but also that of the Armenian Museum of America, the Armenian Assembly of America, and more."

NAASR extends its condolences to Haig's wife, Adele, and his children Mark, Matthew, Michael, Martin, and their families.

As Michele M. Kolligian, who succeeded Der Manuelian as President of the Armenian Museum of America Board of Trustees, stated, "Haig was a proud Armenian and man of strength who excelled in every aspect of his life A true visionary, Haig demonstrated a deep passion and dedication that made it possible for this institution to thrive and grow into the world-class Museum it is today."

Marc Mamigonian, NAASR's Director of Academic Affairs, remembered that "Haig used to love to tell the story of how, before NAASR was started, he and Manoog Young tried to get the Armenian Students Association interested in the idea of raising funds to start a chair in Armenian Studies at Harvard. They went to a meeting and, as Haig put it, 'we got two votes—Manoog and me.' So, instead, NAASR was created, and the rest is history."

Funeral services took place on December 10, 2016, at First Armenian Church, Belmont, MA.

William S. Parsons

(1945-2016)

With sadness NAASR marks the passing of former member of NAASR's Board of Directors William S. Parsons (1945-2016) on December 23, 2016, after a long illness.

Parsons was the long-serving Chief of Staff of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. Before becoming Chief of Staff, he served as the Museum's Director of Education and was responsible for developing educational programs both in Washington and throughout the nation.

Bill Parsons first became involved with NAASR in the 1970s when, as a teacher in Brookline, MA, with Margot Stern Strom he co-founded Facing History and Ourselves. Beginning in 1978, NAASR provided major funding for the development of Facing History's Armenian Genocide curriculum project. Parsons served on NAASR's Board from 2012-2015.

Fellow NAASR Board Member Gregory Aftandilian reflected that "Bill Parsons believed strongly in the role of education to bring aware-



Bill Parsons speaking at NAASR in 2005

ness of the terrible crime of genocide in the 20th century, including the Armenian Genocide. His position as Chief of Staff of the Holocaust Memorial Museum, plus his numerous writings and lectures, helped to enlighten the general public about the facts of the Armenian Genocide and its importance as a precursor of subsequent genocides."

Among Parsons' publications were *Everyone's Not Here: Families of the Armenian Genocide: A Study Guide* (1989) and with Samuel Totten and Israel W. Charny, *Century of Genocide: Eyewitness Accounts and Critical Views* (1997, 2004).

Bill Parsons is survived by his wife, Sylvia; his son, Scott; his two grandchildren; brothers, James and Brad; sister, Ellen, and many other relatives. A memorial service was held on Saturday, January 7, 2017, at National Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C.

Scholar Grants Make an Impact

In this issue of the *Newsletter* we begin what will be a regular feature in the future, brief profiles of and messages from recipients of NAASR and/or Knights of Vartan Fund for Armenian Studies grants. (And see also the article by grant recipient Carla Kekekian and the piece on NAASR's ongoing support for the Zoryan Institute's Genocide and Human Rights University Program.) We are glad to be making a difference for scholars!



Marine Sargsyan

Marine Sargsyan is a doctoral student at Leiden University in the Netherlands, in the Institute for History, and is writing her dissertation on "The Policy of Small States in the Strategies of the Great Powers: the Case of Armenia."

"In support of my appointment as a Visiting Scholar at the Harriman Institute at Columbia University, in February 2017 I was awarded a travel grant by NAASR. With NAASR's support, my spring semester 2017 at Columbia was marked with numerous events and opportunities, such as attending several academic programs, among them the session

on the 'Spotlight on Nagorno-Karabakh: The Four-day War and Its Aftermath: Perspectives on Security, Diplomacy, and the Prospects for a Lasting Peace,' organized by NAASR and hosted by the MIT Armenian Society; the 22nd Annual World Convention of the Association for the Study of Nationalities at the Harriman Institute at Columbia University, New York; and the first Armenian Online Conference of Young Researchers from the Armenian Diaspora, organized by the Armenian Community in China and China-Eurasia Council for Political and Strategic Research in partnership with Noravank Foundation and ARMACAD, with the support of the Ministry of Diaspora.

"Also during this time I have written the first chapter of my dissertation and the following papers/articles: 'The Four-Day-War in Nagorno-Karabakh: A Year On Since the Grave Violations of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights' (co-written with C. Triantafyllidi) and 'The Dynamic of the Politico-Economic Developments and Relations of the South Caucasian States with Russia and the EU in 1991-2013,' both forthcoming."

Umit Kurt

Dr. Umit Kurt, in 2016-17, a Post-Doctoral Fellow at the Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Harvard University, received his Ph.D. in history at Clark University in 2016, with his dissertation focusing on the confiscation of Armenian properties and the role of local elites/notables in Aintab during the Armenian Genocide, 1915-1921. He is the author of numerous historical and political articles in scholarly journals and newspapers, several books in Turkish, and co-author with Taner Akçam of *The Spirit of the Laws: The Plunder of Wealth in the Armenian Genocide*. He has been the recipient of grants from NAASR and the Knights of Vartan Fund for Armenian Studies.

"The priceless support of the NAASR and the Knights of Vartan grants enabled me to get my Ph.D. dissertation done. I conducted my research for the dissertation in the British and Armenian national archives through the NAASR/Knights of Vartan. It was also



remarkable for me to earn such prestigious grants. By all means, I can easily say that my work would not have been without significant support and encouragement of NAASR and the Knights of Vartan. I am completely certain that this important grant will also help many other graduate students to be able to finish their research."

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