



The National Association for Armenian Studies and Research

NAASR's 64th Annual Assembly Marks a Major Transition

For the first time in many years, NAASR held its Annual Assembly of Members outside of its headquarters as the building was slated for demolition. NAASR members met across the street for the 64th Annual Assembly, on Saturday, May 19, 2018, in Nahigian Hall at First Armenian Church, Belmont, MA. The Assembly featured elections of NAASR Board members, a



Charles Sahagian receives his 60-year member certificate. Thank you, Chuck, and all of our long-time supporters!

detailed report from Chairman Yervant Chekijian on the capital campaign for NAASR's new building, a delicious luncheon from Ani Catering, and an erudite talk by Dr. Lisa Gulesserian, Lecturer on Armenian, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, Harvard University.

The slate of dedicated and experienced members reelected to continue their excellent service on the NAASR Board of Directors consisted of George Aghjayan of Westminister, MA; Nurhan Becidyan of Paramus, NJ; Roupen Berberian of Glendale, CA; Joan Kolligian of Arlington, MA; Nancy Kolligian of Watertown, MA; Jack Medzorian of Winchester, see ASSEMBLY, page 3

NAASR Breaks Ground on New Global Center

On Friday, June 29, 2018, the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) marked the start of demolition of its aging and cramped headquarters on Concord Avenue in Belmont, MA, in preparation for all-new construction of a first-class, global Armenian Studies center, rare book library, and gathering space for scholars, researchers, and the public, welcoming Armenians and non-Armenians alike.

Edward Avedisian, the lead building donor, was among the NAASR Board members and donors sporting hard hats and wielding sledge hammers to mark this key milestone. Also present were members of the project's architectural, engineering, and design firm of see GROUND BREAKING, page 2



Edward Avedisian commences the demolition of the NAASR building

Mardigian Library Receives Guerguerian Archive

NAASR has received one of the most significant archives of documents relating to the Armenian Genocide—the archive collected by the late Fr. Krikor Guerguerian—for research and study in NAASR's Mardigian Library. These materials are considered “priceless” by noted scholar Prof. Taner Akçam, who relied on them heavily for his book *Killing Orders: Talat Pasha's Telegrams and the Armenian Genocide* (Palgrave, 2018). Akçam holds the Robert Aram and Marianne Kaloosdian and Stephen and Marian Mugar Chair in Armenian Genocide Studies at Clark University's Strassler Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies.

Among the important items in the Guerguerian archive are photographic copies of numerous official Ottoman telegrams which were used in the 1919-20 Military Tribunals but had since vanished, including one from Behaeddin Shakir, one of the founders of the Committee of Union and Progress (CUP), inquiring about details from the field on the deportations and killings of Armenians. Akçam considers this see ARCHIVES, page 10



A portion of the Guerguerian archive devoted to the Teşkilatı Mahsusa (Special Organization) and its role in the Armenian Genocide



Fr. Krikor Guerguerian, pen-name “Kriger”

NAASR Breaks Ground on New Global Center

GROUND BREAKING, from page 1
Symmes, Maini & McKee (SMMA) of Cambridge, MA, as well as the general contractor, Altair Construction. Cambridge Savings Bank is also partnering on the project.

The lead building donors are Edward and Pamela Avedisian; Margaret C. and Leon J. Atamian and Family; Marta and James Batmasian; and Edward and Janet Mardigian, whose parents were involved in the initial development of the library, which bears their name, and who carried on the Mardigian legacy to help support the rebuilding of the library.



Margaret C. and Leon J. Atamian

Plans call for a soaring glass wall extending the full three floors of the new building and illuminating the interior Garden Atrium and top-floor Solarium with natural light. A variety of Armenian features are part of the building, including



Marta and James Batmasian and Pamela and Edward Avedisian



Janet and Edward Mardigian (photo: farusa.org)

a carved wooden doorway at the entrance incorporating Armenian designs, and an Armenian alphabet wall along the monumental stairway leading up to third floor Event Hall. Out front, a perennial garden with Armenian Scilla and other special plantings will create year-round appeal and a dramatic bench engraved with an Armenian inscription will create a spot for reflection.



The new NAASR Center will be a bold look for NAASR, for Belmont, and for the Armenian community

The new building will have expanded space in a climate-controlled setting for NAASR's rare book library as well as an expanded event hall for diverse programming and community events; a welcoming bookstore; a new classroom; a Shoah Foundation video archive viewing room; and a charming Atrium Overlook, as well as visiting researchers offices and a Scholars Conference Room.

By the end of July, NAASR had received financial commitments for \$5.75 million of the \$6.5 million campaign. "We invite the entire community to become part of NAASR's inspiring plans for our headquarters and have a lasting way to recognize family members," said NAASR Board Chairman, Yervant Chekijian. "We are honored and grateful that many generous families have put their trust in NAASR as one of the world's leading institutions to preserve Armenian history and heritage for generations to come," he added.

NAASR's rare book Mardigian Library is one of the top five Armenian libraries open to the public in the diaspora, soon to total 40,000 books, with volumes dating back to the 1600s, and rare periodicals dating to the 1800s, as well as unique personal archives of prominent scholars, early Armenian-Americans, and religious leaders, including Father Krikor Guerguerian's archive of rare Ottoman documents. The new building will have ample space to accommodate existing holdings and allow for substantial growth, within a secure environment.

The Center will bring scholars of Armenian Studies, professionals, and the general public together and serve as a repository of culture, history, and language and as an educational center for scholars and people of all ages from grade school on up.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has also

given full support with a capital grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council's Cultural Facilities Fund of \$225,000 awarded in 2017, primarily for installation of an elevator and other accessibility features under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

NAASR staff has moved to temporary offices at the AGBU-New England headquarters on Mt. Auburn Street in Watertown. NAASR's rare book



Demolition under way, July 2018

library is in special climate-controlled storage for a year while the building is under construction, although NAASR is operating its bookstore online at www.naasr.org.

NAASR will continue to offer programming and co-sponsor conferences nationwide during construction. NAASR plans to hold programs in the Boston area with Armenian community partners and educational institutions in the region, and will continue its national programming at venues around the country.

To become a lasting part of NAASR's new headquarters, please contact Sarah Ignatius, Executive Director, at sarah@naasr.org or call her at 617-489-1610.

64th Annual Assembly Marks Major Transition

ASSEMBLY, from page 1

MA; Sylvia Parsons of Bethesda, MD; Bruce Roat of Los Angeles, CA; and Raffi Yeghiayan of Bedford, MA.

NAASR Board Chairman Yervant Chekijian delivered a report focusing on the progress of the Building on Our Legacy campaign and emphasized that the building transformation is but one part of the overall transformation and modernization of NAASR that will prepare the organization for the next sixty years and more of its existence. Acknowledging the past chairmen Nancy Kolligian and Raffi Yeghiayan, Chekijian noted that thanks to their efforts NAASR is now in a position to take steps “to meet the needs of today and tomorrow for NAASR and for the whole Armenian community.”

Chekijian briefly described the enormous effort involved in preparing for the move out of the building and recognized the stellar leadership

and meticulous planning of Executive Director Sarah Ignatius in organizing the months-long process. He sketched out an overview of the extremely active year of programs for NAASR in different parts of the U.S., and then turned to

an update on the building campaign, reporting that at that point out of the total budget of \$6.5 million just short of \$5 million had been pledged. Emphasizing that there is a place for everyone to participate in the campaign at whatever level they can, Chekijian paid tribute to the generosity of the lead donors Edward and Pamela Avedisian, and major benefactors Marta and James Batmasian and the Atamian Family, as well as all who have participated in the campaign to date.

“We have to have the right facilities to function in this modern world,” declared Chekijian, and the new building will be technologically equipped to allow this to happen. After all, he noted, “this building is going to be here for gen-



Featured speaker Dr. Lisa Gulesserian of Harvard

erations,” and it will be something we can all be proud of. Chairman Chekijian concluded with a renewed appeal for all to participate in the capital campaign, joking that “I’m available 24 hours a day to take your call.”

After the luncheon, Dr. Lisa Gulesserian, who taught Elementary Western Armenian and Armenian Culture courses at Harvard during the 2017-18 academic year, gave a talk entitled “What Happens After This Story? Post-memory in Micheline Aharonian Marcom’s *Three Apples Fell from Heaven*.” Dr. Gulesserian earned her PhD in English from the University of Texas at Austin, with a dissertation entitled “‘Because if the dead cannot live, neither do we’: Postmemory and Passionate Remembering in Micheline Aharonian Marcom’s Armenian Genocide Trilogy.” An amended version of her analysis of Marcom’s trilogy will be published in a forthcoming issue of *Review of Contemporary Fiction*, and Marcom’s novel *Three Apples Fell from Heaven* was the subject of her talk at the NAASR Assembly.

Gulesserian first encountered Marcom’s novel when preparing to write her dissertation on literature about the generational impact of the Armenian Genocide and was immediately entranced by Marcom’s imaginative, polyphonic book. Applying the concept of post-memory, which is a term for the experiences of the generation(s) after a traumatic event such as genocide and how they come to “remember,” through stories, the events that preceded but shape their own lives, Gulesserian explored this complex literary work.

Gulesserian’s focus was three-fold: to introduce the concept of post-memory through her encounter with *Three Apples Fell from Heaven*; explain post-memory, its preconditions, and outcomes by describing the catalysts for *Three Apples*; and a close reading of one chapter of the novel “that shows a single strategy, among many, for putting post-memory into action such that it removes the emotional motivations for fighting genocide denial.”

Following Dr. Gulesserian’s presentation there were special reports from NAASR Executive Director Sarah Ignatius and Director of Academic Affairs Marc Mamigonian, and presentation of 25- and 50-year membership certificates, as well as, for the first time, 60-year certificates. Some of those receiving certificates were members for even longer than that, all the way back to 1955.

Receiving 60-year certificates were: Barbara Bousian, Sahag Dakesian, Margaret Dakesian, Dr. Ara Dostourian, Mary-Louise Essaian, Dr. Nina Garsoian, Dr. Deran Hanesian, Elissa Karanian, Olvi L. Mangasarian, Edward Minasian, Bertha Murgurichian, Anna Marie Norehad, Dr. Dennis Papazian, Jacob Pilibosian, Charles Sahagian, Mary Shadbegian, and Joseph Topjian.

Receiving a 50-year certificate was Lucy A. Bedirian.

Receiving 25-year certificates were: Dr. Epiphanes K. Balian, Sara Chitjian, Sophie



Yervant Chekijian articulates NAASR’s future plans



Chairman Yervant Chekijian presents Stephen Kurkjian with his 25-year member certificate

Garvanian, Philip P. Ketchian, Stephen A. Kurkjian, Ann Lousin, Eunice A. Malkasian, Claire Mangasarian, Vahram Sevacherian, and Mariam Tatosian.

NAASR Hosts Leadership Circle Events in Boston, New York, Los Angeles, and Washington, D.C.

To thank NAASR's stellar Leadership Circle members for their generous support and to reach out to expand the circle, NAASR held special Leadership Circle events in four cities over the past year, all of which were inspiring gatherings, promoting our Leadership Circle, which is essential to our ongoing work and many successes.

The Los Angeles area event, on October 1, 2017, was a special reception at the James Bridges Theater, UCLA, prior to the first program in the J. Michael Hagopian Film Discovery Series, organized and sponsored by the Armenian Film Foundation and NAASR. This series focuses on the pioneering legacy of J. Michael Hagopian and his impact as an advocate for Armenian Studies and as a filmmaker.

Leadership Circle members and other special guests enjoyed a catered reception in the lobby of the theater and listened to welcoming remarks from Jerry Papazian of the Armenian Film Foundation (AFF) and Sarah Ignatius of NAASR before taking their places in the auditorium for the program.

The program, "Forbidden Journeys: J. Michael Hagopian's Film of the 1967 NAASR Trip to Historic Armenia and Its Legacy and Ani Hovannisian-Kevorkian's Work-in-Progress on the Vanishing Traces of Historic Armenia," was co-sponsored by the Richard G. Hovannisian Chair in Modern Armenian History at UCLA, the Narekatsi Chair in Armenian Language and Literature at UCLA, and the Ararat-Eskijian Museum.

Portions of Hagopian's film *Historic Armenia*, shot during the landmark NAASR trip to Historic Armenia in 1967, were shown as well as Ani Hovannisian-Kevorkian's current documentary on the vanishing traces of Historic Armenia, followed by a panel featuring Dr. Carla Garapedian of AFF, Ani Hovannisian-Kevorkian, Prof. Richard G. Hovannisian, and Marc A. Mamigonian of NAASR, with opening and closing words from Narekatsi Chairholder Prof.



Hayk Demoyan, Shant Mardirossian, and Taner Akçam in Lexington



Carla Garapedian and Jerry Papazian of the Armenian Film Foundation at UCLA



NAASR Board Member Jesse Matossian, Ani Hovannisian-Kevorkian, and Sylvia Matossian, at UCLA

S. Peter Cowe and Hovannisian Chairholder Prof. Sebouh Aslanian. The second J. Michael Hagopian Film Discovery event is being planned for fall 2018 at UCLA.

In the Boston area, on October 13, 2017, NAASR partnered with the Near East Foundation (NEF) to present the Boston-area public premiere of the documentary film *They Shall Not Perish: The Story of Near East Relief*, at the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum in Lexington, MA. *They Shall Not Perish* details the unprecedented humanitarian efforts of thousands of Americans who saved a generation of orphans and refugees during the collapse of the Ottoman Empire and in the aftermath of Armenian Genocide, utilizing historical footage, archival photographs, and contemporary interviews from

leading academic experts such as Taner Akçam, Peter Balakian, Keith David Watenpugh, and the late Martin Deranian.

A post-film discussion featured NEF Board Director and executive-producer of the film, Shant Mardirossian, with scholars Dr. Hayk Demoyan and Dr. Taner Akçam along with Marc Mamigonian of NAASR. At the special Leadership Circle reception prior to the screening, guests enjoyed passed hors d'oeuvres, lively conversation with each other and the panelists, and remarks from Yervant Chekijian of NAASR and Shant Mardirossian of NEF.

In New York, NAASR Board Member and acclaimed author Nancy Kricorian hosted a reception for NAASR Leadership Circle members, scholars, and special friends at her home on November 30, 2017, before the NAASR-co-sponsored program, "Impossible Harms: A Conversation with Prof. Henry Theriault," at Columbia University. Guests partook of excellent Middle Eastern food amid conversation and short remarks from host Nancy Kricorian, Sarah Ignatius of NAASR, and Dr. Khatchig Mouradian, the Nikit and Eleanora Ordjanian Visiting Professor at Columbia University and an organizer of the evening's lecture, who noted NAASR's significance as one of the leading Armenian Studies research centers in the world, as well as the countless ways he has relied on NAASR for research and general assistance.

At the lecture following the reception, Dr. Henry Theriault, President of the International Association of Genocide Scholars and longtime NAASR member, offered similar praise for

NAASR's central role as a global leader advancing Armenian Studies and how that has affected his work, and then he engaged in a probing discussion of the evening's topic with Marc Mamigonian and Eylem Delikanli of Research Institute on Turkey, based in New York City.

These warm remarks by scholars Dr. Moura-



Maria Mahdesian, Zela Astarjian, and Sarah Ignatius in Lexington

dian and Dr. Theriault made evident their close working relationships with and high respect for NAASR's knowledgeable support and assistance.

A Leadership Circle development event in Washington, D.C., took place on April 26, 2018, at the Cosmos Club, hosted by NAASR Board Member Judith Saryan of Cambridge, MA, and Arlene Saryan of Washington, D.C. The evening featured a discussion of the chal-

lenges and successes in advancing equal rights for Armenian women.

Sarah Ignatius of NAASR welcomed the many women leaders in the room, as well as the men, and explained that the Cosmos Club was the perfect setting with its tradition of thoughtful discourse and its history of being a male-only club until 1988, illustrating the power of advocacy for equal treatment. She explained how NAASR's programming not only looks at Armenia's past but focuses on contemporary Armenian topics, expanding its reach to college

and university students as well as the general public, with support from the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation. She also described NAASR's plans to transform its headquarters.

Maro Matosian, Executive Director of the Women's Support Center (WSC), had returned to Yerevan to participate in the demonstrations, thus embodying women's empowerment in Armenia, so standing in her stead was Antranig Kasbarian, Executive Director of the Tufenkian Foundation, who has worked for many years with Matosian to advance women's rights and



Sarah Ignatius, Anna Kalashyan, and Antranig Kasbarian in Washington, D.C.



Attendees at the Washington, D.C., reception

civil society. Kasbarian explained how WSC, under Matosian's leadership, serves victims of domestic violence and their families, actively training them, as well social workers, therapists, and police officers, to make productive decisions. WSC promotes gender equality through its advocacy work, and welcomes the growing social justice activism in Armenia and the increasing tendency of the diaspora to engage in rehabilitative and developmental assistance to Armenia.

Anna Kalashyan of the World Bank provided an excellent global framework for the challenges and opportunities faced by developing countries when addressing the empowerment of women and human rights. She discussed how other countries have worked on these challenges and what Armenia can learn from them, focusing on how the legal and regulatory framework in Armenia affects women's ability to get jobs and start businesses and the need to provide incentives to work.

The audience, comprised of women and men from the age of 12 to 97, was clearly engaged in the topic and raised numerous questions during a lively Q & A session.

NAASR's Mardigian Library Holds Rare Treasures

WHILE scholars and researchers from around the world seek out the unique holdings of NAASR's Mardigian Library, the general public may not be as aware of the Library's richness and importance. NAASR's Library Curator Ani Babaian prepared this overview as a way of acquainting our members and friends with this invaluable resource. The Mardigian Library is one of the top five Armenian rare book libraries open to the public in the diaspora, with over 28,000 items for scholarly research, the earliest of which dates to the 1600s, and soon to total nearly 40,000 volumes. Many are extremely rare and hard to find anywhere else in the world.



A *sharakanots'* printed in Amsterdam in 1692 that belonged to the late Dr. Levon Z. Boyajian

Growth of the Mardigian Library

The Mardigian Library's collection has grown over time in numerous ways:

- Collections were donated or willed to NAASR by its founders, such as Manoog S. Young and other NAASR founders; noted scholars, such as George Bournoutian, John A. C. Greppin, James R. Russell, Abraham Krikorian and Eugene Taylor, and many others; Armenian community leaders such as Fr. Arten Ashjian, Hagop Atamian, Dickran Boyajian, Fr. Dajad Davidian, Harry Kolligian; and many NAASR members and members of the community.
- Exchanges with world-class libraries, such as Harvard's Widener Library, the Armenian Genocide Museum and Institute, and the Armenian Cultural Foundation
- Generous gifts from authors, publishers, and other individuals
- NAASR purchases to complement holdings

Its Unique Value

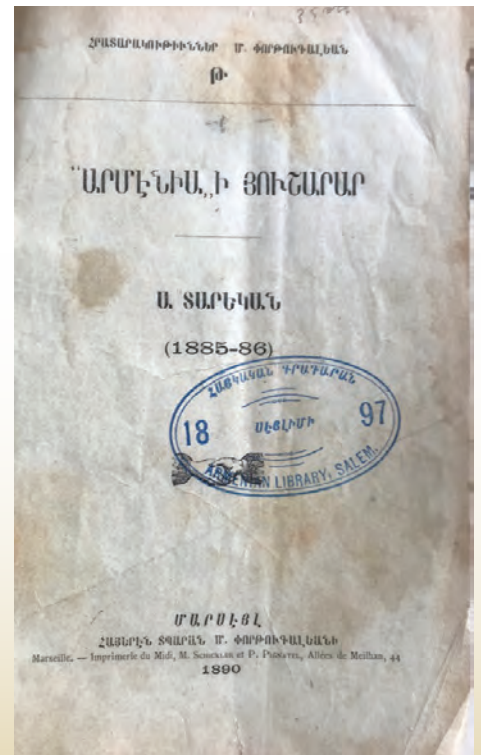
The Mardigian Library is a unique resource for a variety of reasons:

- It covers a broad range of topics, including ancient and modern history, religion and theology, literature, art and architecture, linguistics, law, anthropology, cuisine, economics, natural sciences, photography, encyclopedias, dictionaries, and other reference works

continued next page



A portion of the literature section



This volume of "Armenia"i *Husharar* by Mkrtich Portugalean was published in Marseille in 1890, was once part of the "Armenian Library of Salem," and was given to NAASR by the late Vahe Tashjian.

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- The library is one of the world's largest collections of books concerning Armenia or Armenians or written by Armenian authors.
- Materials are in Armenian, English, Armeno-Turkish, French, Farsi, Russian, German, Japanese, and many other languages.
- Books were published in a variety of Armenian publishing centers worldwide: Constantinople/Istanbul, Tehran, Tbilisi, Cairo, Geneva, Vienna, Yerevan, Echmiadzin, Venice, Jerusalem, Pittsburgh, Boston, New York, etc.
- Books date from the 17th century to the present.
- The physical condition of the books helps us to understand their significance to their readers and prior owners and tells us much about their history.
- Many books are signed by noted authors.
- The library contains a large collection of Hushamateans, publications about now-destroyed Armenian villages and towns.

The Mardigian Library also contains:

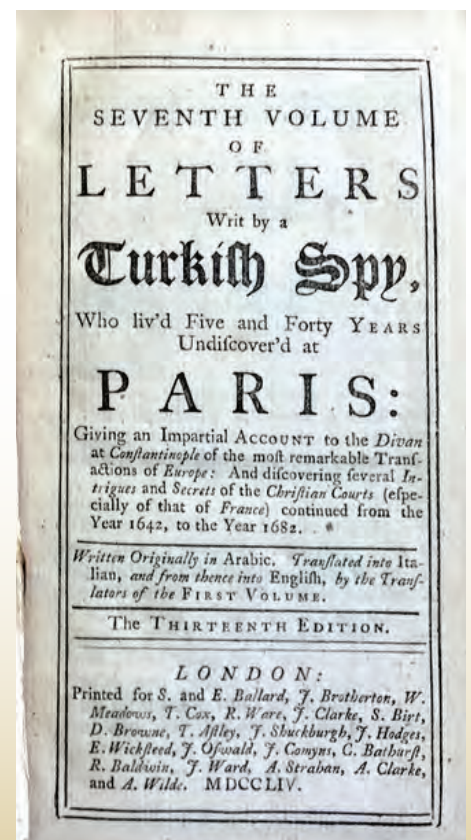
- Important collections of personal papers, which represent a substantial source of information for future researchers, such as those of Avedis Derounian (aka John Roy Carlson) and Father Guerguerian's archive of Ottoman documents and other materials.
- Newspapers, periodicals, and scholarly journals, dating to the 1800s
- Maps
- Posters
- Pamphlets and programs of events
- Constitutions and reports of Armenian political parties, organizations, and foundations
- Photographs
- Calendars
- Paintings



A rare print from *Harper's Weekly* in 1915, "Is the Final Chapter of Armenia About to Be Written?" was the gift of Abraham Krikorian and Eugene Taylor.

Cataloguing Statistics (May 2017-May 2018)

NAASR's Library Curator cataloged 3,517 books during the past year. The process of cataloging includes cataloging and labeling according to Library of Congress classifications; placing a bookplate of the donor inside each book; and cleaning and restoring, as necessary. The Mardigian Library now has a total of 28,292 books.



The rare *Letters Writ by a Turkish Spy* was published in London in 1754.



Rare books from the Guerguerian Collection include this beautiful book of sharakans printed in Venice in 1814.



Ani Babaian prepares for the move.

Preparation for Move of Mardigian Library to Secure, Rare Book Storage

Before the move, with the assistance of volunteers and part-time staff, the entire library was re-organized, and the following items were catalogued for the first time:

- Artworks: 38 Paintings, 10 Drawings, 1 print, 7 Etchings, 1 Photograph, 1 Rug, 1 Lithograph
- 224 Posters
- 228 Maps
- 224 Calendars
- 40 Assorted Objects

NAASR staff provided special assistance to our rare book library movers, such as wrapping and protecting paintings and framed maps, and measuring the entire shelf space for the Mardigian Library and for the NAASR Bookstore to establish shelving requirements in the new building.

Library Users

This year the library welcomed scholars, graduate students, journalists, historians, genealogists, the general public, and many visitors from around the world.

Ongoing Projects:

- As NAASR receives new rare book donations, even while we are in our temporary office, our cataloging of new acquisitions



This 1950s copy of the Cairo Armenian newspaper *Houssaper* (Husaber) gives Marc Mamigonian a chance to stretch his arms.



tions is ongoing.

• Additional work is also ongoing to organize postcards, pamphlets, programs, and miscellaneous items for cataloging.

Special thanks to Sarah B. Ignatius, NAASR Executive Director, for her support and for creating a pleasant and positive work environment; and Marc A. Mamigonian, NAASR Director of Academic Affairs, for his ongoing support and prompt willingness to resolve issues. Special thanks also to volunteer Adrenna Antreasian for her reliable and continuous assistance. Thanks to NAASR Board Member Shushan Teager for her constant support and encouragement.



This unusual tin once contained candy—more recently it was featured in an exhibition at the Armenian Genocide Museum.



One of many items in the library's sheet music collection, "Yes Nur Em"



Our beloved Underwood Armenian typewriter once belonged to pioneering genocide researcher Haigazn Kazarian.

The extremely rare Girk Patmteants (Book of History) by Arakel Tabriz, printed in Amsterdam in 1669, from the George and Ani Bourmoutian Collection



Mardigian Library Receives Guerguerian Archive

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document as a clear expression of the CUP leadership’s genocidal intentions. The archive also contains photographic images of the now lost “Memoir of Naim Bey” published by Aram Andonian around 1920.

Fr. Guerguerian’s nephew, Dr. Edmund Guerguerian of New York, preserved his uncle’s materials after his uncle’s death in 1988 and recently donated them to NAASR in April upon Akçam’s recommendation that the original materials come to NAASR and after meeting with NAASR’s Academic Director Marc Mamigonian.

“The Guerguerian archive is a tremendous addition to our rich Mardigian library holdings,” said Mamigonian. “Father Guerguerian collected materials from around the world and brought them together in one location. Many of these

pin of Cleveland State University; hundreds of rare Armenian books from Harvard’s Widener Library; and thousands of volumes from Armenian rare-book collectors Abraham Krikorian and Gene Taylor of Long Island. “Many of these books are nearly impossible to find in this area outside of Widener Library at Harvard, and are available to the general public at NAASR,” says Mamigonian.

About Fr. Krikor Guerguerian

Fr. Krikor Guerguerian was born in Gürün in the province of Sivas (Sepastia) in 1911. He was the youngest of a large family and lost his parents and many siblings and other family members during the Armenian Genocide. Educated at Bzommar Catholic Monastery and St. Joseph University in Lebanon, he continued his theological training in

Rome at the Levonian Academy and settled in Cairo, Egypt.

In addition to his duties as a priest in Cairo and later in the U.S., Fr. Guerguerian devoted much of his adult life to researching the Armenian Genocide, traveling to important archival repositories, such as the Jerusalem

of the general public and the international public opinion concerning the Armenian massacres of 1915.” That is no longer the case thanks to several generations of scholars. The trailblazing work of Fr. Guerguerian will continue to contribute to the growth of that scholarly work, thanks to the accessibility of his archives.

Taner Akçam on the Guerguerian Archive

The Krikor Guerguerian Archive is truly a treasure for Armenian Genocide research. It contains the most incriminating evidence for the genocidal intent of Ottoman-Turkish authorities.

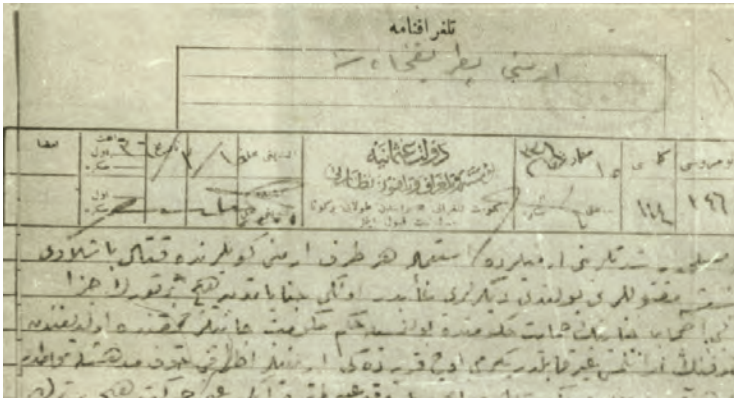
In denying the historicity of the Armenian Genocide, Turkish governments have followed a three-part strategy: First, they created their own “facts” and archives; Second, they hid and/or destroyed materials that would have belied the “historical narrative” they are intent on proving, records that indicate the genocidal intent of the Ottoman Government; Third, they questioned the authenticity of some existing materials, for example, the killing orders of Talat Pasha published by the Armenian intellectual Aram Andonian, given to him by the Ottoman bureaucrat Naim Efendi.

The materials from the Military Tribunals which were held during 1919-1921 in Istanbul against the perpetrators of Armenian Genocide are among the documents that have all but disappeared without a trace, and there is no solid information as to their possible fate. Over the decades, denialists have loved to repeat the argument at every occasion: “show us the originals.” Likewise, denialists argued that Naim Efendi (aka Naim Bey) and his memoir never existed and that the telegrams published by Andonian were fake and fabricated by Armenians.

The Guerguerian Archive is an essential blow against these strategies and arguments. It destroys the main facades of the denialist wall by showing them to be without any foundation in fact. The Archive contains an important number of Military Tribunal documents as well as photographs of Naim’s memoir and the telegrams he gave to Andonian.

It is crucial to make these materials available to a broader audience. The Krikor Guerguerian Online Archive project we are undertaking at Clark University will make this possible. Every researcher can have access to these materials and download them.

It is also of great importance that the original materials will be preserved at NAASR, an institution that prides itself on its openness and accessibility. The Krikor Guerguerian Archive is itself an historic site—it is a repository of history, it has value to see the materials to respect this man’s work and to provide a context that allows us better to understand the documents.



An Ottoman document from the Guerguerian archive

materials exist nowhere else or, if they do exist, are not accessible to the public.”

Fr. Guerguerian’s nephew had given Akçam access to the archive in 2015 and allowed him to digitize them. Akçam has plans to launch an online Guerguerian archive, partly through the support of grants from NAASR. “It is important, however, for researchers to have access to Fr. Guerguerian’s originals, in addition to the digital copies that Prof. Akçam will be offering online,” noted Mamigonian.

NAASR’s headquarters in Belmont, where site work began in May for an all-new, state-of-the-art global center for Armenian Studies, will securely house this very special archive upon completion in 2019.

This donation has brought the Mardigian Library to a new level of importance for scholars and researchers worldwide, as well as recent donations of nearly 3,000 volumes from Prof. George Bournoutian of Iona College on Armenian history with particular attention to interactions with Russia and Persia; the extensive Armenian linguistics collection of the late Prof. John Grep-

Patriarchate and the Nubarian Library in Paris, where he photographed or copied crucial materials which are today either lost or inaccessible.

Publishing under the pen-name “Kriger,” he contributed a seminal, if still not widely known article entitled “Aram Antoneani Hratarakats Turk Pashtonakan Vaweragruru Vawerakanutiwne” (“The Authenticity of the Official Turkish Documents Published by Aram Andonian”) to the 1965 collection *Hushamatean Mets Egherni* (Memorial Book of the Great Crime), and wrote the volume *Yozghati Hayaspanutean Vaweragrakan Patmutiwne* (Documentary History of the Armenocide in Yozgat), published in 1980. However, among his archives are a number of unpublished book-length works, as well as vast amounts of notes and documents that he gathered for these projects and for others he was never fully able to realize.

Fr. Guerguerian was one of the pioneers of what is now the field of genocide studies. In his 1965 article on the Aram Andonian documents, he complained that “to this day no serious scholarly work has been presented to the discretion

DONATIONS TO NAASR'S MARDIGIAN LIBRARY

The following donors have contributed items to NAASR's Edward and Helen Mardigian Library in the period since the publication of the 2016-17 *Newsletter* and ending August 31, 2018. Donations to the Mardigian Library from our members and friends have been instrumental in making the library what it is today, and continue to be the most important source for the growth of our holdings.

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

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NAASR's Mardigian Library has grown by leaps and bounds over the past decade thanks to your donations and no one has advocated more for the library than our Board Member Shushan Teager; here working with Harvard graduate student Julia Hintlian.

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 Dr. Henry Theriault, Brookline, MA
 Jonathan Varjabedian, Palm Springs, CA

From the Desk of Sarah B. Ignatius



In a word, this year is all about change. We packed up for the future and moved out of our old building, a seemingly impossible challenge with over 28,000 rare Armenian books in our library (some dating to the 1600s), and at least that many new books in the bookstore, as well thousands of rare periodicals and unique personal archives, not to mention over 30 four-drawer file cabinets full of NAASR papers, starting in 1955.

After being knee-deep in boxes, sorting, culling, organizing, cleaning, and recycling (totaling hundreds of pounds of paper), we moved nearly everything into storage, and we will move back into our beautiful new building with a much more organized and better-preserved and archived collection. Thanks to our amazing staff and volunteers for accomplishing so much to meet this challenge. (See NAASR’s Big Move on page 18.)

All the while, our Board actively engaged in fundraising for the Building on Our Legacy capital campaign and through their successes and personal generosity, we have now raised a remarkable \$5.75 million of our \$6.5 million budget. The resounding response from generous donors in Massachusetts as well as around the country, particularly in Florida, Michigan, Washington, D.C. area, New Jersey/New York, and California is especially gratifying and shows how deeply the community, locally and nationally, cares about and supports our mission.

Our general contractor, Altair Construction, began site work and demolition in May, and while the permitting incurred some delays, once we received the permit, the building came down remarkably fast—in two short weeks. Truth be told, it was a little sad to see the old building go. While it was aging, blocky, cramped, and not the prettiest building on the block, it represented a major stage in NAASR’s earlier development in 1989 to purchase a building for our own office, library, and bookstore. But it’s time had come.

We are now ensconced in temporary offices at the AGBU-New England Center, where we are conducting our work, offering programming locally and in venues around the country, cataloguing recent rare book donations, and operating our bookstore online.

Our talented team of architects, designers, and engineers at SMMA is creating a breathtaking building that will be a true gem and a draw for everyone—Armenians and non-Armenians alike, and will bring Armenian traditions alive with a multitude of features, including a beautiful, hand-carved Armenian front door. NAASR will be able to realize fully its mission as one of the world’s leading resources for the advancement of Armenian Stud-

ies, building a global community, expanding horizons, supporting scholars, and preserving and enriching Armenian culture, history, and identity for generations to come.

This past year, we increased geographical diversity, offering 52 excellent programs, the majority of which occurred outside of Massachusetts (see From the Desk of Marc A. Mamigonian on page 16), and held four Leadership Circle events in Washington D.C., New York City, Massachusetts, and Los Angeles. (See NAASR Hosts Leadership Circle Events on page 4.) I urge you to consider becoming part of this core group of committed individuals whose vision and generosity will continue to propel us into the future. Annual donation levels start at \$1,000.

Our Contemporary Issues Series, co-sponsored with the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, was as thought provoking as last year and extremely relevant, addressing many of the issues at the core of the movement for change in Armenia. (See From the Desk of Marc A. Mamigonian on page 16.)

NAASR also focused particularly on women this year. This spring, we held two very successful panel discussions on Armenian women at Tufts University and in Washington, D.C. Our excellent speakers, including Maro Matossian and Anna Kalashyan, spoke about the challenges and successes in advancing equal rights for Armenian women. In April, we also co-sponsored a two-day workshop of “Feminist Interventions in Armenian Studies, Armenian Interventions in Feminist Studies,” organized by Lerna Ekmekcioglu and Melissa Bilal at MIT. And we co-sponsored a reading of a new play about the life of Zabel Yessayan, entitled *Zabel in Exile*.

The diversity of scholar grants across the globe addressing a breadth of topics underscores how alive the field is and how rich



Melissa Bilal and Lerna Ekmekcioglu



Sarah Ignatius takes her turn with the sledgehammer. Also shown, left to right: Yervant Chekijian, Jonathan Merin, Edward Avedisian, Harry Parsekian, Michael Pardek, Roxanne Etmekjian, and Marc Mamigonian (photo: Ann Ringwood)

the promise of research from these new scholars will be for future generations. We are proud to give our support. (See NAASR and Knights of Vartan Issue 21 Grants in 2018 to Date on page 14.)

We are planning a series of NAASR programs for this fall, which will include programs looking at the new government in Armenia, as well as many other current inquiries.

In the coming year, we will also work on digitization of our most valuable collections, as well as archival preservation of our rarest books. We will continue to expand our geographical range around the country. For the future, we will also work to develop financial sustainability and create new partnerships and collaborations with organizations and institutions nationally and internationally in Armenia and elsewhere.

We will also continue to modernize our operations due to the talents of NAASR's Program and Administrative Associate Laura Yardumian, who has already updated many features on our website to display current events, accept membership renewals and donations online, and group books into collections for easy browsing in our online bookstore. Look for more upgrades to come. And Laura has mastered all of our various software programs, synching them to each other for smooth operation of nearly everything we do. Don't



A glimpse at the big NAASR move

forget to follow NAASR on social media, where Laura's postings will give you the latest. (See NAASR Is Social! on page 24.)

None of the accomplishments of the past year would be possible without our excellent staff, who do the work of three or four times as many people: Marc Mamigonian, Director of Academic Affairs; Laura Yardumian, Program & Administrative Associate; and Ani Babaian, Library Curator.

With deep admiration and appreciation for our founders, our Board chairs past and present, our Leadership Circle, our staff past and present, our loyal volunteers, and our membership, all of whom have kept this organization moving forward with excellence, integrity, and faithfulness to our mission of advancing Armenian Studies for generations to come, I can say wholeheartedly, this has been an outstanding year!

NAASR and Knights of Vartan Issue 21 Grants in 2018 to Date



Since the beginning of 2018, NAASR and the Knights of Vartan Fund for Armenian Studies have issued twenty-one grants to scholars and institutions around the world, continuing a growth that has been ongoing for several years in recognition of the increased need and the positive impact of these grants. For the sake of brevity, only grants issued in calendar year 2018 (through July) have been included here. A listing of all grant recipients since 2011 to this year is available on our website.

Taner Akçam, Robert Aram & Marianne Kaloosdian and Stephen & Marianne Mugar Chair in Armenian Genocide Studies, Clark University), on behalf of organizers of conference “The Abdul Hamid Era and Beyond: Massacres and Reform, Rupture and Continuity,” which will take place in October 2018 at Clark University. Grant issued by the Knights of Vartan Fund for Armenian Studies.



Rosie Vartyter Aroush, Ph.D. Candidate, Program Coordinator, Teaching Fellow, UCLA, Dept. of Near Eastern Languages & Cultures, research grant to support doctoral work on “Experiences of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Armenians in Los Angeles: Family Relationships, Identity Negotiation, & Community Involvement.” Grant issued by NAASR.

Lusine Balyan, independent researcher, Armenia, travel grant to participate in International Conference “Linguistic and Literary Studies on the Caucasus,” May 2018, University of Verona, Italy, and present paper “The Individual Between Traditional and Modern Morals in the Works of Hrant Matevosyan.” Grant issued by NAASR.

Emre Can Daglioglu, Ph.D. student, History Department, Clark University, travel grant for May 2018 trip to London to conduct research in Foreign Office archives for doctoral research on “Reform and Violence in the Hamidian



Era.” Grant issued by the Knights of Vartan Fund for Armenian Studies.

Asya Darbinyan, Ph.D. candidate, Clark University, travel grant to participate paper at workshop “Armenian Childhood(s): Histories and Theories of Childhood and Youth in Armenian Studies,” University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, April 2018, to present paper “Victims, Survivors, Savages: Armenian Refugee Children in the Caucasus during the Great War.” Grant issued by NAASR.



Marta Filippini, Conservator, Central Institute for the Conservation of Archival and Bibliographic Material of the Italian Ministry of Cultural Heritage, & Paolo Lucca, Ca’ Foscari University of Venice, Department of Asian and North African Studies, travel grant to support trip from Italy to Armenia to conduct research at the Matenadaran and other museums to carry out research on medieval Armenian recipes for parchment, inks, pigments, and adhesives manufacturing. Grant issued by NAASR.

Samvel Grigoryan, Ph.D. student, Center for Medieval Studies of the Paul-Valery University of Montpellier, France, travel grant to support participation in the 16th Annual Colloquium in Armenian Studies at UCLA, February 2018, presenting paper on “Recent Discoveries in Cilicia and Their Contribution to the Issues of Cilician



Armenian Studies.” Grant issued by NAASR.

Khoren Grigoryan, Ph.D. student, Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography, NAS Republic of Armenia, travel grant to conduct fieldwork in Anjar in Lebanon for doctoral research on “Identity of Mus-sadaghian Armenians in Anjar.” Grant issued by NAASR.



Shushan Hambaryan, Ph.D. student, Matenadaran, Research Institute of Ancient Manuscripts, travel grant for research trip from Yerevan to Jerusalem to study manuscripts at Jerusalem Patriarchate of 17th century miniaturist and scribe Markos Patkerahan, for doctoral dissertation, 10-25 May 2018. Grant issued by NAASR.



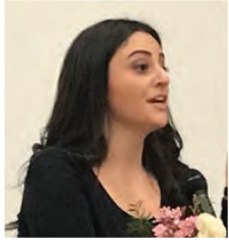
Polina Ivanova, Ph.D. Candidate in History, Harvard University, travel grant to carry out research in Yerevan in September-November 2018 for dissertation “From East of the Mediterranean to West of Iran: Migration, Mobility and Remaking of Human Geography in Medieval Asia Minor (1000-1300).” Grant issued by NAASR.



Pınar Karakılıç, Ph.D. student, Institut national des langues et civilisations orientales [INALCO], Paris, travel grant to cover two trips (Istanbul-Yerevan, Istanbul-Paris) in May 2018 to participate in academic events in Paris and in Yerevan. Grant issued by NAASR.



Carla Kekejian, Ph.D. student in Communication Sciences and Disorders, University of Utah, travel grant to go to Armenia to document uses of Harsneren in region of Goris and its neighboring villages in Gegharkunik Province for doctoral research. Grant issued by NAASR.



Arman Khachatryan, Ph.D. student in Interdisciplinary Studies, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel, travel grant to support participation in the 16th Annual Colloquium in Armenian Studies at UCLA, February 2018, presenting paper on “The Political and Scientific-Educational Activities of the Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem, 1909-1949.” Grant issued by the Knights of Vartan Fund for Armenian Studies.



Umit Kurt, Polonsky Postdoctoral Fellow, Van Leer Jerusalem Institute, Jerusalem, travel grant for research trip to Armenia for book project on key genocide perpetrators in Aintab region Ali Cenani, Ahmed Faik, and Mehmet Yasin. Grant issued by the Knights of Vartan Fund for Armenian Studies.



Khatchig Mouradian, Nikit and Eleanora Ordjanian Visiting Professor, Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies Department, Columbia University, travel grant to conduct archival research for project on Aram Manougian. Grant issued by the Knights of Vartan Fund for Armenian Studies.



Taline Papazian, Researcher, Institute of Armenian Studies, University of Southern California, grant to support English-language translation of her



French-language book *L'Arménie à l'épreuve du feu: Forger l'Etat à travers la guerre* (Paris: Karthala, 2016). Grant issued by the Knights of Vartan Fund for Armenian Studies.

Anush Sargsyan, junior researcher and Ph.D. candidate, Mesrop Mashtots Scientific Research Institute of Ancient Manuscripts [Matenadaran], travel grant to participate in the 16th Annual Colloquium in Armenian Studies at UCLA, February 2018, presenting paper “An Exposition of Yohannes of Amidas’ Heavenly Jerusalem Miniature” (Chester Beatty Library No. 551). Grant issued by NAASR.



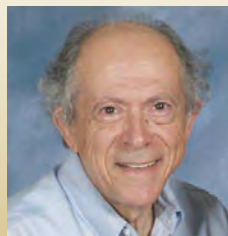
Marine Sargsyan, Doctoral student at Leiden University, Faculty of Humanities, Institute for History, grant to support visiting research fellowship at the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, Harvard University in 2018, writing thesis on “The Policy of Small States in the Strategies of the Great Powers: The Case of the Republic of Armenia.” Grant issued by NAASR.



Alvard Semirjyan, Associate Professor, Faculty of Armenian Philology - Chair of Theory of Literature and Literary Criticism, Yerevan State University, travel grant to participate in International Conference “Linguistic and Literary Studies on the Caucasus,” May 2018, University of Verona, Italy, and present paper “Literary Relations in Post-Independent Period of Armenian, Georgian and Azerbaijani Literary Texts (Levon Khechoyan’s “King Arshak, Drastamat Eunuch”, Otar Chiladze’s “The Basket,” and Akram Aylisli’s “Stone Dreams”).” Grant issued by NAASR.



Abraham Terian, Professor of Armenian Patristics and Academic Dean at St. Nersess Armenian Seminary (retired), travel and research grant to sup-



port writing of commentary on Koriwn’s *The Life of Mashtots in Armenia* in 2018. Grant issued by NAASR and the Knights of Vartan Fund for Armenian Studies.

Meri Yeranossyan, Independent Consultant/ Research Analyst, & Sona Mnatsakanyan, Instructor, Armenian Language and Literature, American University of Armenia, travel grant to participate in “Archives of Resistance” International Conference organized by and held at Leeds University, June 2018, to present paper on literary works of Zaven Biberyan. Grant issued by NAASR

Feedback from Some Recent Grant Recipients

Melissa Bilal: “Thanks to the Knights of Vartan funds, I was able to travel to Yerevan in August 2017 to conduct archival research and hold meetings for the project *Feminism in Armenian*, which I am currently collaborating on with Lerna Ekmekçioğlu. For our project, it is crucial that we travel to Armenia on a regular basis to update our archive with new material we come across while working on the material we already collected thus far. Some of these primary sources we have been newly discovering can only be located in Yerevan. So, my trip to Yerevan libraries and archives in the summer of 2017 was very productive.”

Arman Khachatryan: “This was a unique opportunity for me to present my PhD topic to a large spectrum of scholars who have been working in the Armenian Studies field. I would not be able to participate to the conference if not for the generous support of the NAASR and the Knights of Vartan Fund for Armenian Studies. I think that this colloquium was an excellent platform for young researchers to meet and discuss common scientific interests, making a good ground for future possible collaborations.”

Khatchig Mouradian: “I am writing to thank Knights of Vartan and NAASR once again for the travel and research grant which allowed me to conduct research in a number of countries overseas, including Beirut and Yerevan, and have already produced a short article (appearing in the *Armenian Weekly Magazine* and *Agos* in Turkish) and with two long articles forthcoming.”

From the Desk of Marc A. Mamigonian



NAASR Programs in 2017-2018

Highlights from a Busy Year

From September 2017 to June 2018, NAASR was involved in 52 programs as organizer or co-sponsor. Among these were programs in California, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, and Washington, D.C., and collaborations with UCLA, Fresno State University, Columbia University, Clark University, Northeastern University, Tufts

University, Harvard University, and MIT. As always, we must note that such a high volume of quality programs would not be possible without the active engagement of numerous NAASR Board Members as well as representatives of the many outstanding Armenian and non-Armenian organizations with whom we collaborate.

Listings of all NAASR programs, with links to video whenever available, can be found on the NAASR website.

Major Conferences

NAASR devoted an unprecedented amount of funds to support major conferences and symposia in fall 2017-spring 2018, held at and in collaboration with top universities and other partners.

- “Confessionalization and Reform: The Mkhitarist Enterprise from Constantinople to Venice, Trieste, and Vienna,” at UCLA. Organized by the Richard Hovannisian Chair of Modern Armenian History at UCLA, with the co-sponsorship of the Narekats’i Chair of Armenian



Participants and sponsors of “Confessionalization and Reform: The Mkhitarist Enterprise from Constantinople to Venice, Trieste, and Vienna,” at UCLA. Left to right, standing: Daniel Ohanian, Jennifer Manoukian, Sona Tajiryan, Hagop Gulludjian, Jesse Arlen, Peter Cowe, Paolo Lucca, Roupen Berberian. Left to right, seated: Conference organizer Sebouh Aslanian, Marc Nichanian, Cesare Santus, Fr:Vahan Ohanian, Akopig Manukian, Salpi Ghazarian, Krikor Beledian, Anna Shirinian, Bruce Roat

Studies (UCLA), NAASR, the USC Armenian Studies Institute, and the UCLA Center for Near Eastern Studies (CNES).

- Graduate Student Colloquium in Armenian Studies, at UCLA. Organized under the auspices of the Narekatsi Chair in Armenian Studies with sponsorship from the Center for European and Russian Studies, Center for Near Eastern Studies, Center for the Study of Women, Center for World Languages, Cotsen Institute of Archaeology, Department of History, Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Nazarian Center for Israel Studies, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, Promise Institute for Human Rights, Society for Armenian Studies, and NAASR.

- “Celebration of 400 Years of Armenian-American Heritage, 1618-2018,” at the Ararat-Eskijian Museum, Mission Hills, CA. Co-sponsored by the Ararat-Eskijian Museum (AEM), NAASR, Project SAVE Armenian Photograph Archives, the Armenian Genocide Museum-In-



Conference participants at the “Celebration of 400 Years of Armenian-American Heritage, 1618-2018” at the Ararat-Eskijian Museum (photo: © Bardig Kouyoumdjian)



Presenting framed banknotes of the First Republic of Armenia to Richard Hovannisian, with Hayk Demoyan at right (photo: © Bardig Kouyoumdjian)

stitute (AGMI) in Yerevan, Armenia, and the California State University Northridge Armenian Studies Program.

- “Photography in the Ottoman Middle East and Beyond,” at Brand Library & Art Center, Glendale, CA. Presented under the auspices of the Richard Hovannisian Endowed Chair in Modern Armenian His-

tory, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), with additional support from NAASR.

- “Feminist Interventions in Armenian Studies, Armenian Interventions in Feminist Studies,” at MIT. Sponsored by the MIT McMillan-Stewart Chair, Women and Gender Studies Program; Institute of International Education; Armenian International Women’s Association (AIWA); NAASR / Calouste Gulbenkian Lecture Series on Contemporary Armenian Issues; and the Mirak Family Foundation.



Lerna Ekmekcioglu, Melissa Bilal, and Anna Aleksanyan at the opening session of “Feminist Interventions in Armenian Studies, Armenian Interventions in Feminist Studies,” at MIT

lan-Stewart Chair, Women and Gender Studies Program; Institute of International Education; Armenian International Women’s Association (AIWA); NAASR / Calouste Gulbenkian Lecture Series on Contemporary Armenian Issues; and the Mirak Family Foundation.

- Columbia Armenian Studies Mini-Symposium, at Columbia University. Co-sponsored by the Columbia Armenian Center, the Armenian Society of Columbia University, and NAASR.

- “The First Republic: 100 Years Later,” at Columbia University. Co-sponsored by the Armenian Revolutionary Federation, the Armenian Review, and NAASR.

Contemporary Programs

The NAASR/Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation Lecture Series on Contemporary Armenian Issues for the Academic Year 2017-18 offered 13 programs, which were some of the most well-attended and most outstanding events of NAASR’s programming this past academic year. They were primarily held at leading universities including Northeastern, Harvard, MIT, Tufts, and Columbia, drawing attendees of diverse ages, and speakers from throughout the United States, Armenia, and abroad, who participated live or by skype. The series was at the forefront of serious discussions on issues that were among those leading to change in leadership in Armenia, addressing questions relating to environmental degradation, gender discrimination, and the imminent need for reform and systemic change. The series was extremely well-attended and thought-provoking, earning overwhelmingly positive responses.

This series consisted of the following intellectually challenging lectures throughout the country, from September 2017 to June 2018 as follows:

1. September 21, 2017: Henry Theriault, “Setting the Agenda: Genocide Studies Today and the Place of the Armenian Genocide,” in conversation with Marc Mamigonian, at the NAASR Center, Belmont, MA.

2. October 5, 2017: Panel Discussion, “Expanding Inclusion of Media Literacy in Education in Armenia: Challenges and Opportunities,” with the participation of five young women from Armenia’s media literacy organizations and schools, at the NAASR Center, co-sponsored by the Cambridge Yerevan Sister City Association.

3. October 12, 2017: Christina Maranci, “Art’s Afterlife: Medieval Armenia in the Modern Age,” at Columbia University, NY, co-sponsored by the Armenian Center at Columbia University and the Research Institute on Turkey.

4. November 30, 2017: Henry Theriault, “‘Impossible Harms’: A Conversation with Prof. Henry Theriault, President, International Association of Genocide Scholars,” Columbia University, NY, co-sponsored by the Armenian Center at Columbia University, the Institute for the Study of Human Rights, and the Research Institute on Turkey.

5. December 7, 2017: Panel: “Environmental Security and Statecraft in Armenia,” at Northeastern University, MA, co-sponsored by Northeastern University Armenian Club.

6. January 18, 2018: Nick Pittman, “Grassroots Development in Armenia: Challenges, Opportunities, and Lessons Learned,” at the NAASR Center.

7. February 28, 2018: Hayk Demoyan, “Forgotten Defiance: The Karabagh Movement and Armenian National Identity,” at St. Leon Armenian Church/Charles & Grace Pinajian Youth Center, Fair Lawn, NJ, co-sponsored by AGBU Ararat, Armenian Democratic Liberal Party-Ramgavars, Armenian Network of America-Greater NY, Justice Armenia, Knights of Vartan-Bakradouny Lodge and Daughters of Vartan-Sahaganoush Otyag, St. Leon Armenian Church, and Tekeyan Cultural Association-Greater NY Chapter.

8. March 12, 2018: Hayk Demoyan, “Between Realism and Mythology: Modern Identity and Memory Politics of the Armenian World,” at the NAASR Center.

9. April 7, 2018: “Feminist Interventions in Armenian Studies, Armenian Interventions in Feminist Studies,” at MIT, co-sponsored by the MIT McMillan-Stewart Chair, Women and Gender Studies Program, Institute of International Education, Armenian International Women’s Association, and the Mirak Family Foundation.

10. Wednesday, April 11, 2018: Panel Discussion, “Armenian Women: Leadership, Empowerment, and Human Rights,” at Tufts University, co-sponsored by Tufts Armenian Club, All ASAs at Boston-Area Universities, AGBU-YP Boston, Armenian International Women’s Association, New Paths-Bridging Armenian Women, and the Armenian Bar Association.

11. April 12, 2018: Vartan Oskanian, “Self-Determination Under International Law: The Tale of Two Conflicts: Kosovo and Nagorno-Karabagh,” at Harvard Law School, co-hosted by West Coast Law Students Association, Middle East Law Students Association, Harvard International Law Journal, Harvard European Law Association.

12. May 8, 2018: Ohannes Kılıçdağı, “The Armenian Community in Istanbul and Crisis Facing the Patriarchate,” at St. Leon Armenian Church/Charles & Grace Pinajian Youth Center, Fair Lawn, NJ, co-sponsored by AGBU Ararat, Constantinople Armenian Relief Society (C.A.R.S.), Esayan-Getronagan Alumni Inc., St. Leon Armenian Church, and Tibrevank Alumni Inc.

13. May 30, 2018: Julien Zarifian, “From Humanitarianism to Abetting Denial: The U.S. and Recognition of the Armenian Genocide,” at the AGBU-New England Center, Watertown, MA, co-sponsored Outreach Lecturing Fund of the Fulbright Scholar Program.

NAASR's Big Move

If you visited NAASR in the months preceding our mid-April move out of our longtime headquarters building in Belmont, MA, you witnessed a coordinated frenzy of activity as the entire NAASR staff of full-time and part-time employees, greatly assisted by numerous volunteers, as well as two professional moving companies, all focused on getting decades of material organized and ready to go. It was an unforgettable and exhausting process, documented in part in these photographs.

Laura Yardumian and Sarah Ignatius keeping NAASR going while the boxes pile up



Boxes, everywhere boxes!



Emptying out 20-year's-worth of stuff from Marc Mamigonian's office was no party



National Library Relocations handling our precious books with great care

Adrenna Antreassian and Ashley Dorian packing artworks





Some of the last of the boxes on their way out



Harout Khodaverdian organizing duplicate newspapers



The National Library Relocations, Inc., crew in action



An empty Mardigian Library is a strange sight!



Ashley Dorian takes a break

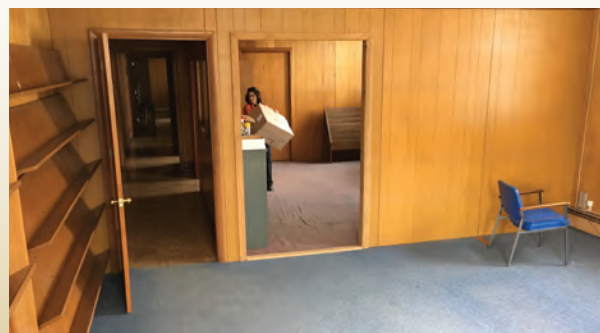


Ani Babaian, Adrenna Antreassian, and Clovis Medeiros at work



It takes a lot of boxes to pack a library and bookstore. Board member Judy Saryan pitches in.

NAASR's Big Move



Sarah Ignatius in the empty NAASR Bookstore. A lot of memories, but a bright future ahead.

Special thanks go to Ani Babaian, NAASR's Library Curator, who logged countless extra hours in preparation for the move; to temporary part-time staff members Ashley Dorian Martin, Harout Khodaverdian, Miles Mamigonian, Mitchell Sullivan, and Joseph Tramontozzi; and to the numerous talented and generous volunteers who gave their time, Adrenna Antreassian, Roxanne Etmekjian (Board member), Danila Jebejian Terpanjian, Audrey Kalajian, Michelle Oishi, Judith Saryan (Board member), and Shushan Teager (Board member).

NAASR Library Receives Collection of the Late Aida Marks

NAASR receives donations of books, sometimes single items and sometimes large collections, from a wide variety of individuals all over the world.

In 2017 we were contacted by Mr. Edward Marks, who served as ambassador to Cape Verde and Guinea-Bissau in the late 1970s, wanting to donate the Armenian book collection of his late wife, Aida Marks, of Washington, D.C. NAASR is honored that Amb. Marks chose to honor his wife's legacy in this manner.

The collection consists mostly of a comprehensive survey of Armenian literature of the 20th century but also include some rarities such as an Armenian-English dictionary published in Istanbul in the early 20th century. The bulk of the collection was inherited from Mrs. Marks' father and include



Aida Marks

a substantial number which she herself bound in leather.

Aida Marks, the daughter of Raffi and Gerselia Nercess, was born in Hamadan and raised in Tehran. She earned her baccalaureate diploma from Lycee Razi. Her family on both sides were centuries-long residents of Iran, and a family-authored history of the family was translated into English by Aida.

She met and married Edward Marks in Nairobi in 1963. She was an active partner in his diplomatic career for almost four decades, including assignments to Nuevo Laredo from 1963 to 1965, Luanda from 1965 to 1966, Lusaka from 1966 to 1969, and Brussels, where they arrived in 1971.

Mrs. Marks gracefully fulfilled the social and American community responsibilities of

a senior American diplomat during her husband's assignments to Colombo as deputy chief of mission and to Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde as U.S. ambassador from 1977 to 1980. She was with him in New York on his last diplomatic assignment, as deputy U.S. Representative to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, and then later in Honolulu, where he was the advisor on terrorism to the U.S. Pacific Command (PACOM) from 2002 to 2005.

Mrs. Marks volunteered at the White House in the 1990s and was a real estate agent with the Long and Foster firm in the Georgetown neighborhood of Washington, D.C. She was an active member of the Soorp Khatch Church community.

Aida Nercess Marks, died in Washington, D.C., on July 3, 2017. In addition to Ambassador Marks, Mrs. Marks is survived by her brothers, Vahe and Edwin Nercess who reside in Florida and their families, plus other extended family members.

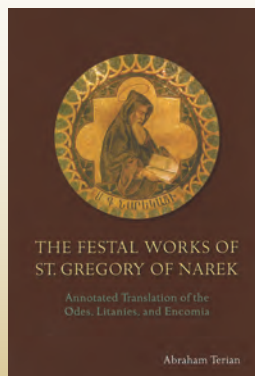
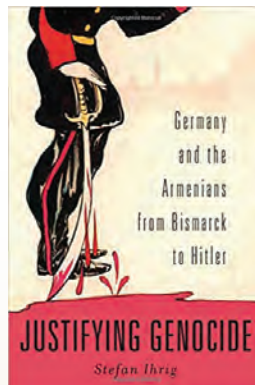
Stefan Ihrig and Abraham Terian Receive Sona Aronian Armenian Studies Book Prizes from NAASR

NAASR is pleased to announce that Dr. Stefan Ihrig and Dr. Abraham Terian have been awarded the 2017 Dr. Sona Aronian Book Prizes for Excellence in Armenian Studies.

NAASR's Aronian Book Prizes were established in 2014 by the late Dr. Aronian and Dr. Geoffrey Gibbs, to be awarded annually to an outstanding scholarly works in the English language in the field of Armenian Studies and translations from Armenian into English. The 2017 awards are for books published in the year 2016.

Ihrig was awarded the prize for a monograph for his book *Justifying Genocide: Germany and the Armenians from Bismarck to Hitler* (Harvard Univ. Press), while Terian won for a translation of a literary work, *The Festal Works of St. Gregory of Narek: Annotated Translation of the Odes, Litanies, and Encomia* (Pueblo Books). Each book has been hailed by readers and researchers, with, for example, Yehuda Bauer praising Ihrig's work as "a major contribution to the study of German attitudes to the Armenian Genocide," and James R. Russell stating that of Terian's translation that "all subsequent work on Narekats'i will be measured by its high standard."

The announcement of the prizes was made by NAASR Director of Academic Affairs Marc Mamigonian on Thursday, December 14, 2017, at a NAASR's Belmont, MA, headquarters during the NAASR Christmas Open House. Thanking fellow members of the selection committee for the awards Dr. Christina Maranci, Dr. Bedross Der Matos-



sian, and Dr. Vartan Matiossian, Mamigonian noted the difficulty in choosing among a number of outstanding works in both categories, but that this was "a wonderful problem to have since it means that good work is being done by scholars and translators."

By email, Abraham Terian expressed his "deep gratitude to NAASR and, in particular, to Dr. Sona Aronian for establishing this special prize for excellence in Armenian Studies. ... While we venerate our martyred saints of a hundred years ago, let us not forget our great Saint of a thousand years ago, as Pope Francis reminded us on the Genocide Centennial."

Stefan Ihrig, also via email, wrote that "I am very humbled to be awarded the Sona Aronian Prize and thank NAASR and my wonderful colleagues in the field of Armenian Studies. I have so far only spent a few years of my life working on the Armenian Genocide and yet they have been among the most meaningful of them all. I have seen and better understood the meaning of courage. Working on the Armenian Genocide means not only working on an immensely important and difficult topic, it also means exposing oneself to attacks and slander by those threatened by our findings, interpretations, and opinions. All too often we find ourselves taking many of the hardest steps alone. Meeting with colleagues from all over the world, including from Turkey, over the years, I felt a little less alone. And again, with this recognition, I feel a little less alone."

Fr. Dajad Davidian

1934-2018

NAASR wishes to inform our members and friends of the passing on July 14, 2018, of Fr. Dajad Davidian, pastor of St. James Armenian Church of Watertown, MA, from 1969-1999, and former member of the NAASR Board of Directors and a Charter Member of NAASR.

Fr. Dajad was a beloved member not only of the Massachusetts Armenian community but also in Armenia where he spent much of his time in his later years.

“Der Dajad was part of the bedrock of this community for as long as some of us can remember,” noted Marc Mamigonian, NAASR’s Director of Academic Affairs, “and his wit, compassion, learning, and dedication came through in every conversation with him. He will be missed by many all over the world.”

The Very Rev. Fr. Daniel Findikyan, Primate of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church in America, wrote that “Der Dajad was a remarkable figure in the Eastern Diocese: one of the earliest American-born clergymen, who in the course of his long ministry became known and admired throughout the worldwide Armenian Church. A man of profound intellectual gifts, he always wore his learning lightly, and was able to connect with people from every station and walk

of life—within the Armenian community and in the broader society.”

Fr. Dajad, whose baptismal name before his ordination to the Order of the Holy Priesthood was Arthur, was the beloved husband of the late Yeretzgin Rosemarie (Abrahamian) Davidian. He is survived by his children Ari Davidian, Susan and her husband Joseph Ferro III, and Raymond A. Davidian and his wife Seta; grandchildren Nicholas, Grayce, Gregory and Nairi; and siblings Raymond Davidian and Albert Davidian and his wife Patty, as well as other family, friends, and parishioners.



Fr. Dajad Davidian, left, with Rev. Vartan Hartunian at the dedication of the NAASR Center in 1992.

Fr. Dajad was born in Worcester in 1934. He attended the Theological Seminary of the Armenian Catholicosate in Cilicia, through the arrangement of then-Primate Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan, from 1952-1955. In 1957, Archbishop

op Mampre Calfayan ordained him as a deacon. Upon his return to America, he continued his education at the General Theological Seminary in New York City, graduating in 1958. He served as a pastoral assistant at the Holy Cross Church in New York City and in 1958, was assigned as deacon-in-charge at the Armenian Church of Bergen County.

On July 17, 1960, Fr. Dajad was ordained a priest by Archbishop Sion Manoogian in Worcester. Additionally, he was appointed Executive Secretary of the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America and Editor of *The Armenian Guardian*. He was appointed to the staff of St. Nersess Armenian Seminary in 1962 and became the Pastor of St. Mesrob Armenian Church of Racine, WI.

In 1969, Fr. Dajad was assigned as Pastor of St. James parish, where he faithfully served until his retirement in 1999. “Retirement” for Fr. Dajad, however, only meant the beginning of a new chapter in his ministry, as he began to spend most of his time in Armenia, where he was actively engaged in preaching, teaching, and organizing new parishes in our homeland. He also organized and directed youth groups in Armenia, performed pastoral ministry with the poor, handicapped and el-

derly, and conducted Christian preaching and education. (Some material adapted from <https://stjameswatertown.org/in-memorial-rev-fr-dajad-davidian-1934-2018/>)

Paul R. Jurigian

1935-2017

Longtime NAASR member and volunteer Paul R. Jurigian of Belmont, MA, passed away on October 18, 2017. Paul was the beloved husband of Sandra Lee (Kazanjian) Jurigian, who served as NAASR’s Administrative Director and in other capacities for more than half a century. Paul is also survived by his daughters Paula Jurigian of Bel-

mont and Lana Jurigian, also former NAASR Administrative Director, of Woburn, and his sister Mae Takoushian of Waltham.

A frequent and welcome presence at NAASR for many years, Paul also generously gave of his time as a volunteer, helping with any task at which he could assist. He was a good friend to many at NAASR and was a strong supporter of the organization’s mission.

Funeral services took place at St. James Armenian Church in Watertown on October 23, 2017, with interment at Highland Meadow Cemetery, Belmont.



IN MEMORIAM

Robert D. Bejoian

1958-2017

With great sadness NAASR wishes to share with our members and friends news of the passing of Robert D. Bejoian of Cambridge, MA, formerly of Watertown, NAASR Life Member and highly dedicated, long-serving (1991-2011) member of the NAASR Board of Directors. Bob first joined NAASR in 1981 and was deeply committed to the mission of the organization, working hard to keep it advancing towards the future.

Former NAASR Chairman Nancy Kolligian stated that "Bob was a dedicated Board member who served as Treasurer during a pivotal time in NAASR's history. He was also very devoted to his mother Rose and his entire family as well as to his church and the Armenian community. Bob will be missed by all who knew him. May God rest his soul."

Jack Medzorian, who served for many years with Bob on the NAASR Board, aptly commented that "he was a pleasure to work with and his death is a loss to the community." Roxanne Etmekjian, who succeeded Bob as NAASR Treasurer, observed that "Bob did so much for NAASR and was a good friend to many."

In 2011, when Bob stepped down from the NAASR Board after 20 years, then

Chairman Raffi Yeghiayan commented that he "took our financial records system from the horse and buggy reports rendered in the form of pen and ink ledgers to the 21st century reports" and that NAASR was "indebted to him for the quality of the work and the innovative insights" he brought to the organization.

During his years of service to NAASR, Bob was an important voice on the Board of Directors, serving on many special committees, as a member of the Executive Committee, as Treasurer for many years, and as acting Executive Director. "Bob was an important part of NAASR's transition to

the modern organization it has developed into over the past 15 years," said Marc Mamigonian, NAASR Director of Academic Affairs. NAASR Executive Director Sarah Ignatius noted that "he had the vision to see what we might be able to accomplish, did careful research to propose options, and implemented directives to carry them out. So while he is gone, the advances he made continue to help us each day."

Bob was the son of the late Kasper and Rose (Dadaian) Bejoian and brother of Paul and Chris Bejoian and the late Barbara Bejoian, and the uncle of Casey, Ian, Tyler, and Kasper. He was a graduate of Watertown High School and a member of the Boston College class of 1980. He received an MBA from Boston College in 1982.

Funeral services were held at Saint James Armenian Church in Watertown on Friday, November 17, 2017, with interment services at Ridgelawn Cemetery, Watertown.



IS NAASR IN YOUR WILL?

The advertisement features a large group photo of diverse people standing in front of a large, historic stone building. The NAASR logo is in the top left corner. The text 'PLANNING YOUR ESTATE WITH NAASR IN MIND' is prominently displayed across the middle. There are also smaller inset images showing people in a library or study setting.

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.

Please make an appointment with Sarah Ignatius at NAASR to discuss the best plan for you or ask to be sent a copy of NAASR's estate planning booklet. Call us at 617-489-1610, or e-mail us at hq@naasr.org.

NAASR Has a Book for You!



Have you tried to find a book on an Armenian topic for yourself or as a gift, but it's out of print or just not available on Amazon? Try NAASR! From history to cookbooks, art, religion, language, literature, music, memoirs, and more, the NAASR Bookstore has hundreds of hard-to-find titles, as well as a modest selection of books in Armenian.

During construction of our new building (view progress on our webcam at www.naasr.org), the NAASR Bookstore is a leaner version of the full store, with most of the popularly requested books on hand and new books added as they are published.

Not in the area? Not a problem! Visit the NAASR Bookstore online, on our website. Now organized into categories, the selections are easy to browse. You can also search by title or author by clicking on the magnifying glass at the top right of the Bookstore page. Can't find a particular book? Call NAASR at 617-489-1610 to ask if it is available. We're happy to help!

Academic Director Mamigonian Connects with the Community

During the winter and spring 2018 NAASR's Director of Academic Affairs Marc A. Mamigonian spoke twice at Belmont High School during the school's January and April Diversity Weeks.

On January 30, Mamigonian addressed a packed auditorium on the subject of the Armenian Genocide and the ways in which the Genocide is denied. Showing video clips from the documentary film *Merchants of Doubt*, he explained the ways Turkey's denial of the Armenian Genocide resembles—and draws on the example of—denial in the natural sciences, including the decades-long efforts of Big Tobacco to foment doubt about the harms of smoking and the campaign to deny or obscure the effects of global warming. (Mamigonian has written about this in various articles including in the journal *Genocide Studies International*.) He also showed clips from the recent Joe Berlinger documentary *Intent to Destroy*. Following his

presentation he fielded many questions from students and teachers in the audience.

On April 3 Mamigonian took part, along with Belmont High graduate Nairi Krafian and current students Knar Krafian and Raffi Manjikian,



Left to right: Raffi Manjikian, Marc Mamigonian, Knar Krafian, Nairi Krafian (photo: Heather Krafian)

in a discussion of the Armenian Genocide and Armenian-American identity. On both occasions, Mamigonian worked closely with Bel-

NAASR Is Social!

You have even more ways to engage with NAASR now. For starters, our website (www.naasr.org) has many new features, where you can view the progress of construction of our new building through our webcam, purchase a book from our online bookstore, renew your membership, or make a donation. Prefer Facebook or Twitter? You can like us and follow us for event and program news. You can also watch those excellent NAASR programs you missed on our YouTube Channel, with links on our website as well. However you engage with NAASR online, we thank you for liking, commenting, and sharing!



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mont's Heather Krafian, Belmont High School English teacher Dr. Kristin Comment, and had the opportunity to reach hundreds of students.



Henry Theriault, Marc Mamigonian, and Belmont Media's Bob Felleman

In June, Mamigonian with Dr. Henry Theriault of Worcester State University was interviewed by Bob Felleman of Belmont Media for the program "What's Going On." The interview, broadcast locally and available online, aired in two 30-minute segments and covered a wide range of topics from general Armenian history to the Armenian Genocide and genocide denial.



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