



AGBU Board Members, Chairpersons, donors, members and staff in front of New York City's St. Vartan Cathedral on the occasion of the 82nd General Assembly, 2002. (Photo J.K. Hovhannes)

FRONT COVER — Top row (left to right), Camp Nubar youth; Groundbreaking at AGBU Manoogian-Demirdjian School in Canoga Park, California, with (l to r) School trustee Yervant Demirjian, School Chair & AGBU Central Board member Sinan Sinanian, trustee Silva Karayan, principal Hagop Hagopian, AGBU President Berge Setrakian, trustee Noubar Agopian; Archbishop Hovnan Derderian & members of the clergy; students at Alexander school in Sydney, Australia; Graduates from Alex & Marie Manoogian School in Southfield, Michigan, USA. Bottom row (left to right), Students at the Children's Center in Armenia; Dr. Hamayak Sisakyan examining a patient at the Ultrasound Center in Erebuni Hospital, Armenia; The newly built Lazar Najarian-Calouste Gulbenkian school in Aleppo, Syria; A volunteer serving pensioners at one of six Armenia soup kitchens.

BACK COVER — Top row (left to right), The Armenian Philharmonic Orchestra; AGBU Montreal Venturers in Armenia; AUA graduates celebrating their achievement.

Bottom row (left to right), 2002 New York Summer Intern Program staff and students; Members of AGBU's Montreal chapter, including Chair, Paul Kichian (standing left); Members of Ararat Futsal team from Cyprus.



Armenian General Benevolent Union

97 Years of Preserving Heritage

AGBU's history dates back to 1906, but since the independence of Armenia in 1991, we have played an increasing role as a bridge between the Diaspora and the homeland.

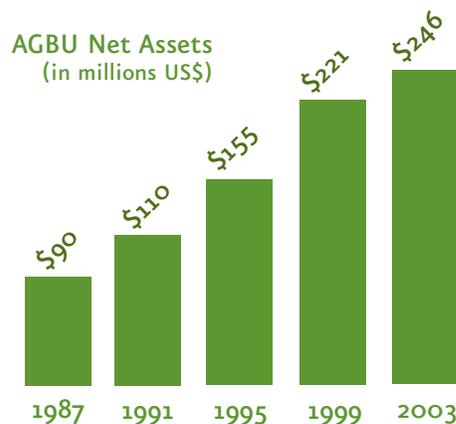
AGBU has worked to modernize its programs and goals to meet the ever changing needs of the community. From schools to scholarships, from Young Professionals in Beirut to internships in New York, from soup kitchens to the American University of Armenia, and from cultural events and athletic games to support of Armenian programming on television stations around the world, AGBU is at the forefront of providing world-class programs.

Over the last century, we have carefully managed our financial resources to ensure that the organization's programs and projects will continue and expand for future generations. In the last few years, the number of donors has increased dramatically, collectively they represent some of the largest donations in our history.

Before the humanitarian crisis of the 1988 earthquake in Armenia, AGBU's primary income was derived from its membership dues, fundraising and bequests. Since then, Armenians worldwide have responded to AGBU's appeal to support new initiatives and as a result AGBU's net assets have increased by millions of dollars, which allows AGBU to continue and strengthen its mission. With a strong trust in AGBU's financial management, Armenians have come to recognize that AGBU reaches more people annually—over 400,000—than any other Armenian organization.

The future looks bright for Armenians and AGBU. We are certain to play a major role in ensuring that the common heritage and identity we have shared for millennia will continue to unify and invigorate us. We continue in our efforts to plan, provide and promote new endeavors to meet the challenges and needs of the 21st century.

Together great things will happen.





To Our Members, Donors and Friends,

As we reflect on the last two years and review the mission and goals of AGBU on the occasion of the 83rd General Assembly, we are ever mindful of the new and emerging demands that confront us in this rapidly changing world. With the approach of AGBU's Centennial Anniversary in 2006, a comprehensive analysis of our programs is underway to ensure that our current programs are effectively fulfilling their intended purpose. We must assess the necessity of new initiatives to better address the evolving needs of our constituents around the globe.

For nearly a century, AGBU has reached out to Armenians throughout the world. We continue to operate 17 AGBU day schools, which enroll nearly 6,000 students, and 13 Saturday schools that serve hundreds of young Armenians. Each year, our scholarship program assists over 500 outstanding Armenian students in meeting their educational goals as they attend some of the finest institutions in the world. Today, AGBU summer youth camps, internship programs, Generation Next Mentorship Program, Young Professionals, sports and scouting programs, cultural activities and publications offer invaluable guidance, as well as educational, social and professional experiences, providing our youth with the tools necessary to maintain their identity, perpetuate their heritage and become the leaders of tomorrow. In Armenia alone, AGBU sponsors three Children's Centers, making after-school activities available to 3,500 children; six Soup Kitchens that feed over 1,200 pensioners and orphans daily; the American University of Armenia, with 1,000-plus alumni; the Armenian Philharmonic Orchestra; an Ultrasound Center, and the list goes on.

However, none of these initiatives would be possible without the ongoing trust and financial support of our donors, the

2002 AGBU New York Summer Interns get hands-on experience in the city's financial industry.

Students connect to the world at one of three AGBU Children's Centers in Yerevan.



MENTORING OUR YOUTH

Guiding our youth to make wise professional decisions is part of AGBU's mission to provide them with the tools to succeed. Participants in the New York and Paris Internship Programs and students in the Los Angeles Generation Next Program receive mentoring to ensure their talents are put to good use.

DEVELOPING BRIGHT HORIZONS

Education has always been a central focus of AGBU's mission. With the resources at Children's Centers and AGBU-funded schools around the world, youngsters are being prepared to meet the challenges of the future.

dedicated leadership of our worldwide chapters, and the stewardship of the Central Board. It is with appreciation, and on behalf of the Central Board, that I extend my sincere gratitude to our cadre of volunteers and supporters, who give so much of themselves to ensure the success of our programs.

Turning to the highlights of 2002 and 2003, we continued to build upon current programs and funded new projects, which in the context of a sluggish world economy placed a strain on AGBU's program budget. Nevertheless, while the economy slowed, the number of AGBU donors increased, enabling us to overcome our fiscal obstacles. Our program expenditures for the two-year period totaled nearly \$57 million, which represents an increase of over \$12.5 million when compared to 1992 and 1993. Also during the same 10-year period, AGBU's net assets increased by nearly \$100 million. It is important to note, however, that as we continue to grow and expand, we must make a concerted effort to systematically increase our general revenue base. I am confident that the generosity of our donors will enable us to address the pressing and ever-changing needs of our global community for future generations, taking us well beyond the 21st century.

Since our last General Assembly, major center renovations have taken place at many of our chapters and schools, including AGBU institutions in Montreal, Canada; Watertown, Massachusetts; and Cordoba, Argentina; and our schools in Aleppo, Syria; Detroit, Michigan; and Canoga Park, California. In addition, AGBU launched the Karabakh Repopulation Centennial Project to help rebuild and repopulate the post-war region, expanded its Summer Intern Program to include France, funded the construction of clergy housing at Holy Etchmiadzin and a

Over 1,000 attended a special AGBU Buenos Aires-sponsored concert by the city's Philharmonic at the pastoral Armenia Square.



PROMOTING ARMENIAN CULTURE

From concerts in Buenos Aires and operas in Los Angeles to the funding of "The Armenians: A Story of Survival"—a sweeping documentary that was broadcast on 23 public television stations across North America—Armenian culture has a vast audience that appreciates its unique spirit, accomplishments and point of view.

new church in southwest Yerevan.

Our summer camps continued to thrive with Camp Nubar in New York, Kessab Camp in Syria and Colonie de Vacances in France celebrating their 40th, 35th and 20th anniversaries respectively. Meanwhile, a network of 4,000 AGBU Young Professionals expanded their activities to include a co-sponsored event with the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York, the funding of American University of Armenia's digital library in Yerevan, and the establishment of an endowment for AGBU's Children's Centers. In addition, YP Committees were established in Montreal, Canada; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and Beirut, Lebanon.

Despite these successes, there is still much more work ahead of us. We must live up to our collective responsibilities of promoting and preserving our common heritage. Indeed, we must push ourselves to exceed expectations by recommitting our considerable energy, talent and resources to rejuvenating areas in need by ensuring that our chapters are active and vibrant, creating new initiatives in response to changing needs, and guaranteeing that our homeland and its citizens can thrive in a free and prosperous Armenia. As we look to the horizon, to our Centennial and beyond, I ask each and every one of you to consider what you can do today that will make a difference in the life of an Armenian tomorrow. Together, we can make certain that a hundred years from now, another President of AGBU will be reporting on AGBU's current activities and will take great pride, as I do, in knowing that there is a past filled with a rich history and a future filled with tremendous promise.

Berge Setrakian, AGBU President

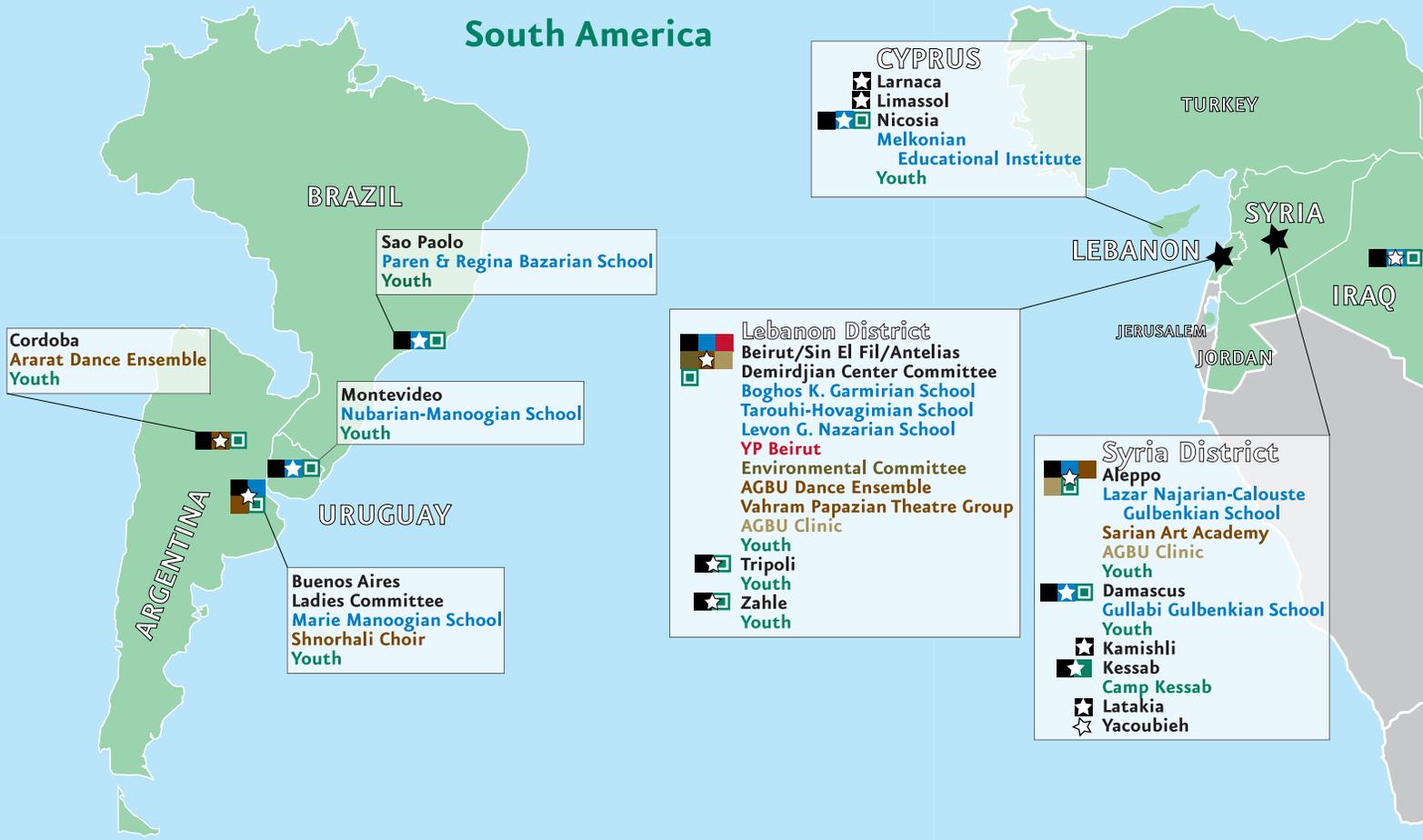
AGBU President Berge Setrakian tours Montreal's Alex Manoogian Center with Chapter Chair Paul Kichian during recent renovations.



RENOVATING FOR THE FUTURE

Several AGBU centers and schools around the world have recently been renovated to ensure that modern facilities serve each community. Aleppo, Cordoba, Chicago, Montreal and Watertown have appealed to local AGBU members and friends and millions of dollars have been raised for this purpose.

AGBU Worldwide 2002-2003



In 34 countries, **AGBU** reaches 400,000 Armenians annually with its educational, humanitarian and cultural programs.



Armenia & Karabakh



BIENNIAL REPORT 2002 TO 2003



CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

December 31

ASSETS	2003	2002
Current Assets:		
Cash	\$ 6,501,168	\$ 5,346,438
Portfolio investments	172,678,570*	160,158,304*
Accounts receivable	1,991,490	1,176,323
Interest receivable	530,351	596,092
Total Current assets	181,701,579	167,277,157
Real Estate	66,626,937	65,616,657
Furniture, equipment and leasehold improvements, net	2,121,520	2,353,290
Total Assets	250,450,036	235,247,104
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$3,889,565	\$3,752,049
Notes payable	766,107	648,642
Total Liabilities	4,655,672	4,400,691
Net Assets:		
Unrestricted	37,306,159	37,381,161
Temporarily restricted	21,692,378	24,061,912
Permanently restricted	186,795,827	169,403,340
Total Net Assets	245,794,364	230,846,413
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	250,450,036	235,247,104

*These amounts represent book value as of 12/31/02 and 12/31/03. Total market value as of 12/31/02 and 12/31/03 are \$147,363,586 and \$179,321,950 respectively.

HIGHLIGHTS

BIENNIAL FINANCIAL REPORT 10-YEAR COMPARATIVE TOTALS

	2003	(% ^o)	2002	(% ^o)	1992
Total Assets	\$250,450,036	6.46	\$235,247,104	66	\$141,791,752
Total Income	40,448,522	50.86	26,811,319	(19)	33,113,860
Total Expenditure	26,769,020	(10.96)	30,064,590	69	17,792,227

Yearly (%^o) Increase/(Decrease) 10-year (%^o) Increase/(Decrease)

PUBLIC SUPPORT & REVENUE

Public Support:

- Contributions
- Membership dues
- Special events

Revenue:

- Investment income
- Rental income
- Tuition and other school income

Management income and capitalization

TOTAL PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE

PROGRAM AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

Programs:

- Educational
- Cultural
- Religious
- Humanitarian

- Administrative
- Fund raising
- Foreign exchange/Translation adjustment

Total Expenditure

Prior period adjustment

TOTAL PROGRAM & ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

Change in net assets, from operations

Inter-fund transfers

Change in net assets

NET ASSETS, beginning of year

NET ASSETS, end of year

ALL FIGURES ARE IN U.S. DOLLARS.



ARMENIAN GENERAL BENEVOLENT UNION

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Year Ended December 31, 2003

Year Ended December 31, 2002

Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
\$ 2,175,104	\$ 5,694,656	\$ 13,320,682	\$ 21,190,442	\$ 1,279,349	\$ 7,325,389	\$ 3,115,703	\$ 11,720,441
513,150			513,150	302,259	-	-	302,259
2,560,000	9,485	90,676	2,660,161	2,678,028	-	14,522	2,692,550
5,248,254	5,704,141	13,411,358	24,363,753	4,259,636	7,325,389	3,130,225	14,715,250
2,994,794	481,034	-	3,475,828	769,231	197,552	-	966,783
1,532,309	8,913	-	1,541,222	910,155	9,101	-	919,256
11,067,719	-	-	11,067,719	10,210,030	-	-	10,210,030
15,594,822	489,947	-	16,084,769	11,889,416	206,653	-	12,096,069
444,113	(493,597)	49,484	-	304,590	(339,326)	34,736	-
21,287,189	5,700,491	13,460,842	40,448,522	16,453,642	7,192,716	3,164,961	26,811,319
14,591,834	534,661		15,126,495	14,067,918	1,000,311		15,068,229
5,499,469	449,405		5,948,874	6,013,939	129,496		6,143,435
236,932	2,287,382		2,524,314	34,183	4,154,645		4,188,828
548,129	548,971		1,097,100	642,094	1,885,706		2,527,800
20,876,364	3,820,419	-	24,696,783	20,758,134	7,170,158	-	27,928,292
2,193,183	12,216		2,205,399	2,119,653	45,144		2,164,797
227,621	-		227,621	187,305	30,411		217,716
(360,689)	(94)		(360,783)	(301,941)	55,726		(246,215)
2,060,115	12,122	-	2,072,237	2,005,017	131,281	-	2,136,298
22,936,479	3,832,541	-	26,769,020	22,763,151	7,301,439	-	30,064,590
(1,268,449)	-		(1,268,449)	-	-		-
21,688,030	3,832,541	-	25,500,571	22,763,151	7,301,439	-	30,064,590
(380,841)	1,867,950	13,460,842	14,947,951	(6,309,509)	(108,723)	3,164,961	(3,253,271)
305,839	(4,237,484)	3,931,645	-	3,474,652	(3,520,109)	45,457	-
(75,002)	(2,369,534)	17,392,487	14,947,951	(2,834,857)	(3,628,832)	3,210,418	(3,253,271)
37,381,161	24,061,912	169,403,340	230,846,413	40,216,018	27,690,744	166,192,922	234,099,684
\$37,306,159	\$21,692,378	\$186,795,827	\$245,794,364	\$37,381,161	\$24,061,912	\$169,403,340	\$230,846,413

OUR VALUES

- > EXCELLENCE
- > IDENTITY
- > INNOVATION
- > INTEGRITY
- > PROFESSIONALISM
- > RESPECT

Strong core values that transcend time and place are an important part of Armenian culture. AGBU adopts these guiding principles to guarantee a bright future for all Armenians.

Examples of these values in action in 2002 and 2003 were plentiful. All AGBU programs are a result of donor support and teamwork, proving that Armenians are eager and willing to help one other. The best is yet to come.

AGBU CHAPTER CHAIRPERSONS

ARGENTINA, Buenos Aires: Vahram Hairabedian. Cordoba: Juan Nourikhan. **AUSTRALIA**, Melbourne: Maral Tchorbadjian. Sydney: Aram Hagopian. **AUSTRIA**: Tamara Babayan-Bohdjalian. **BELGIUM**: Vartkess Knadjian. **BRAZIL**: Carlos Der Haroutounian. **BULGARIA**, Bourgas: Hagop Movsesian. Plovdiv: Roupen Chavoushian. Sofia: Sonia Avakian-Bedrossian. Varna: Vanuhi Arakelian. **CANADA**, Montreal: Boghos Kichian. Toronto: Hagop Altounian. Vancouver: Dickran Kuchukgozian. **CYPRUS**, Larnaca: Stepan Kamakian. Limassol: Merouj Sarkissian. Nicosia: Hratch Manoukian, Karekin Costanian. **EGYPT**, DISTRICT COMMITTEE OF EGYPT, Cairo: Berdj Terzian. Alexandria: Sarkis Vartzbedian. **ENGLAND**: Harout Aghajanian. London Trust: George Kurkjian. **ETHIOPIA**: Vahagn Karibian. **FRANCE**, DISTRICT COMMITTEE OF FRANCE: Denis Ketchedjian. Paris: Vahe Torossian, Richard Abdalian. Lyon: Serge Vartanian. Marseilles: Bernard Besoian. Nice-Cote D'Azur: Alain Kebabdjian. St-Chamond/St-Etienne: Edmond Anemian, Leonardo Basmadjian. Valence: Varoujan Varvarian. Vienne: Soukias Sukiassian. **GREECE**, Central Committee of Greece, Athens: Krikor Khatchadourian. Thessaloniki: Haigouhi Portukalian. **IRAN**: Rouben Ter-Poghossian. **IRAQ**: Hampartzoum Shehranian. **ITALY**: Haig Alexanian. **LEBANON**, DISTRICT COMMITTEE OF LEBANON, Beirut: Avedis Demirdjian. **SOUTH AFRICA**: Jacques Adanian. **SWITZERLAND**: Taline Avakian. **SYRIA**, DISTRICT COMMITTEE OF SYRIA, Aleppo: Bedros Boyadjian, Melkon Shamamian. Damascus: Takvor Boyadjian. Kamishli: Meguerditch Yeghoyan. **URUGUAY**: Avedis Barsamian. **USA**, SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA DISTRICT COMMITTEE: Simon Simonian. Greater Fresno, CA: Berge Kalamkarian. Glendale/Pasadena, CA: Hagop Boyamian. Los Angeles Hye Geen, CA: Sona Yacoubian. Los Angeles Metro, CA: Alice Gondjian. Los Angeles Westside, CA: Sevan Varteressian. Oakland-San Francisco, CA: Ashkhen Mouradian. Orange County, CA: Krikor Mahdessian. Palms Springs, CA: Mary Beloian. San Diego, CA: Ani Kalayjian-Lanuza. San Fernando Valley, CA: Ara Aghishian. SCDC Ladies: Maral Yeranossian-Babian. Silicon Valley, CA: Yervant Zorian. Chicago, IL: Hratch Doumanian. Cleveland, OH: Sebouh Setrakian. Detroit, MI: Nadya Sarafian, David Terzibashian. Houston, TX: Sarkis Ohanian. **NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT COMMITTEE**, Boston: Souren Maserejian. Greater Boston Ladies, MA: Hamest Atamian. Providence Men, RI: William Aznavourian. Philadelphia, PA: Elizabeth Barone, Clara Samelian.

AGBU BOARD OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

BERGE SETRAKIAN, PRESIDENT

SARKIS DEMIRDJIAN, VICE PRESIDENT

ARSHAVIR GUNDJIAN, VICE PRESIDENT

NAZAR NAZARIAN, TREASURER AND VICE CHAIRMAN

JOSEPH BASRALIAN, SECRETARY

HIS HOLINESS KAREKIN II, HONORARY MEMBER
CATHOLICOS OF ALL ARMENIANS

LOUISE MANOOGIAN SIMONE, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

M. MICHAEL ANSOUR, MEMBER, UNITED STATES

CAROL BAGDASARIAN ASLANIAN, MEMBER, UNITED STATES

RICHARD MANOOGIAN, MEMBER, UNITED STATES

BENON SEVAN, MEMBER, CYPRUS

SAM SIMONIAN, MEMBER, UNITED STATES

SINAN SINANIAN, MEMBER, UNITED STATES

DICKRAN TEVRIZIAN, MEMBER, UNITED STATES

EDOUARD JAKHIAN, MEMBER, BELGIUM

LEVON KEBABDJIAN, MEMBER, FRANCE

KARNIG YACOUBIAN, MEMBER, SYRIA

HAYGACHEN OUZOUNIAN

BARRY ZORTHIAN, DIRECTORS EMERITI

BOGHOS NUBAR, FOUNDER

ALEX MANOOGIAN, HONORARY LIFE PRESIDENT, IN MEMORIAM

AGBU PRESIDENT'S CLUB

Mr. and Mrs. Vartkess Balian, Co-chairs.

YOUNG PROFESSIONAL COMMITTEES

CANADA, Montreal: Mark Sumbulian, Aida Setrakian. **LEBANON**, Beirut: Arpi Tanielian, Gacia Mardirian. **SWITZERLAND**, Geneva: Karineh Manaserian-Cattin. **USA**, Los Angeles, CA: Vrej Hovsepian, Anahid Andreassian. Orange County, CA: Natalie Balikciyan, Sella Tosyalian, Alis Polatyan. Northern California: Edward Minasian, Sarkis Soghomonian. Greater New York, NY: Natalie Gabrelian. Philadelphia, PA: Steve Odabashian.

AGBU DAY & SATURDAY SCHOOLS

ARGENTINA, Buenos Aires: Marie Manoogian. **AUSTRALIA**, Sydney: Alexander Primary, Alex Manoogian Saturday School. **BRAZIL**, Sao Paulo: Paren & Regina Bazarian. **BULGARIA**, Dobrich: Saturday School. Haskovo: Saturday School. Plovdiv: Saturday School. Rouse: Saturday School. Silistra: Saturday School. Sliven: Saturday School. Yambol: Saturday School. **CANADA**, Montreal: Armen Quebec-Alex Manoogian. Toronto: Daniel & Alice Zaroukian. **CYPRUS**, Nicosia: Melkonian Educational Institute. **FRANCE**, Paris: Alex Manoogian Saturday School. **GREECE**, Athens: Artaki Kalpakian. **IRAN**, Teheran: Marie Manoogian, Nevart Gulbenkian. **IRAQ**, Baghdad: Poursadan Friday School. **LEBANON**, Beirut: Boghos K. Garmirian, Tarouhy-Hovagimian Secondary, Levon G. Nazarian. **SYRIA**, Aleppo: Lazar Najarian-Calouste Gulbenkian. Damascus: Gullabi Gulbenkian. **URUGUAY**, Montevideo: Nubarman-Manoogian. **USA**, Canoga Park, CA: Manoogian-Demirdjian. Chicago, IL: Sisag H. Varjabedian Saturday School. Cleveland, OH: Saturday School. Cosa Mesa, CA: Saturday School. Southfield, MI: Alex and Marie Manoogian.

Mass Appeal

ARMENIA Twelve Years After Independence

With 10 publications in five languages, AGBU reaches more Armenians than any organization.

The English-language **AGBU NEWS** (New York, USA) is the largest publication in Armenian history and reaches 80,000 homes around the world. Its sister publication, **UGAB MAGAZINE** (Paris, France), reaches an additional 20,000 French-speaking households.

The Armenian language **HOOSHARAR** (New York, USA) is the oldest AGBU publication and serves the Armenian-speaking community.

Other publications, like the Spanish-language **GENERACION 3** (Buenos Aires, Argentina), the Armenian/Arabic **KHOSNAG** (Beirut, Lebanon), the Armenian/Arabic **DEGHEGADOU** (Cairo, Egypt), the Armenian/English **MIOUTUNE** (Sydney, Australia), the Armenian/English **DESILK** (Toronto, Canada), and the English-language **ARARAT** quarterly (New York, USA) serve international communities.

In addition to its own publications, AGBU actively supports other Armenian newspapers and publications, as well as the Writer's Union of Armenia. In 2002, AGBU funded the translation and publication of Peter Balakian's critically acclaimed best-seller, *Black Dog of Fate*.

Aware of the phenomenal growth of the internet and the role it plays increasingly in modern life, **AGBU WEBSITES** offer a global hub and sites like www.agbu.org, which are accessed by over 5,000 users each month and contain a variety of information to better inform donors, members and the public about the organization's accomplishments.



AGBU WEBSITES

- New York Central Office www.agbu.org
- AGBU London www.agbu.org.uk
- AGBU Nice armencity.free.fr/associations/UGAB/entree.htm
- AGBU Southern California
- District Committee www.agbuca.org
- AGBU Sydney www.agbu.org.au
- AGBU Toronto www.agbutoronto.ca
- AGBU Buenos Aires www.ugab.org.ar
- AGBU Camp Nubar www.campnubar.org
- AGBU Union Sportif Nubar www.usnubarparis.free.fr

AGBU YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

- Greater New York www.agbuypgny.org
- Los Angeles www.agbuypla.org
- Northern California www.agbuypnc.org
- Orange County, CA www.agbuypoc.org

AGBU SCHOOLS

- Alex & Marie Manoogian (Southfield, MI) www.manoogian.org
- Nubarian-Manoogian (Uruguay) www.ugabnubarian.edu.uy
- Armen Quebec-Alex Manoogian (Montréal) www.alexmanoogian.qc.ca
- Manoogian-DemirDjian (Los Angeles, CA) www.agbumds.org
- Marie Manoogian (Buenos Aires) www.ugab.org.ar
- Melkonian Educational Institute (Cyprus) www.melkonian.ac.cy
- Daniel & Alice Zaroukian (Toronto) www.agbutoronto.ca

Pride in Identity



A scene from AGBU Ardivavazt Theatre Group's Zvart operetta.

The Armenian Identity is a rich tapestry of many colors, patterns and shapes. **AGBU CHAPTERS** are the organization's heart and soul and represent the vibrancy of each community's commitment to their identity. Each community welcomes all Armenians to join together for a common purpose, like AGBU France's ambitious **KARABAGH REPOPULATION PROJECT**, which is helping to rebuild the war-torn villages that remain abandoned from the 1988 to 1994 conflict with Azerbaijan. Spearheaded by AGBU Board Member, Levon Kebabdjian, with the support of the AGBU District Committee of France, the project has so far successfully reconstructed 22 houses in the village of Norashen. This project has been adopted by AGBU as one of its major centennial projects.

The District Committee of France also initiated an assistance program for the war widows and their children. This important endeavor provides each family two dairy cows and two calves to supplement their living expenses. AGBU chapters in Los Angeles and London have raised funds to support this program.

At **AGBU CAMPS IN BULGARIA, FRANCE, SYRIA AND THE UNITED STATES** summers are a time for youth of Armenian heritage to come together and build friendships and memories that will last a lifetime. Each summer, over a thousand campers take back to their families a new enthusiasm about their culture.

Over the past eight years, a young dynamic force has emerged under the auspices of AGBU—**THE YOUNG PROFESSIONALS (YP)**. AGBU YPs are a growing network of career-oriented Armenians interested in activities and events to enhance the social, professional and cultural lives of young Armenian professionals and the greater community.

Our Chapters are filled with grassroots cultural activists that strongly believe in adapting the Armenian culture to local needs. Support of the arts has always been crucial to AGBU's mission. Many AGBU Chapters support dance troupes, choirs, theatre groups and other unique expressions of the local community's interests. Productions like the **Zvart operetta**, performed by the Los Angeles-based **AGBU ARDAVAZT THEATRE GROUP** along with the Lark Musical Society, attracted 6,000 people and generated a ground swell of arts patronage for the group.

The **ARMENIAN PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA** receives annual grants for weekly concerts, new instruments, administration, salary supplements, international guest artists and special festivals. The Philharmonic has successfully toured Europe, America and the Middle East and it has produced over a dozen CD recordings.



AGBU Camps in France (above) and America (below).



Mr. & Mrs. Levon Kebabdjian (center left) with local Armenians being assisted by the Karabakh Repopulation Project.



Taleen Tashjian (center) successfully conducted the first "Survey of Australian Armenians." She is pictured with AGBU's Vahe Artinian, Mr. Sassoon Grigorian, representing the NSW Premier's Dept., Mr. Terry Chapman, Chairman of the Independent Schools Association, as well as representatives of the Armenian Church, community organizations, media and educational establishments.

Respect for Heritage



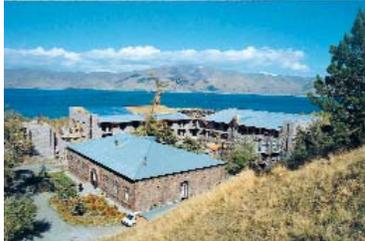
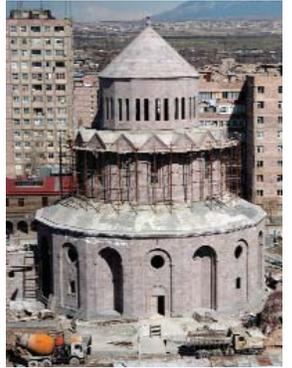
St. Gregory the Illuminator Cathedral, Yerevan.

Filled with the pride of our heritage, AGBU does not shy away from innovation to ensure that our culture and community grows and adapts.

AGBU's programs are the result of typical Armenian values that incorporate integrity and respect for one another.

With a strong belief in faith, AGBU's partnership with the Holy See of Etchmiadzin ensures that our common heritage survives for future generations. AGBU donors have funded the construction of the **OUTSIDE ALTAR OF HOLY ETCHMIADZIN, CLERGY HOUSING** at the Holy See of Etchmiadzin, **ST. SARKIS CHURCH AND HOLY TRINITY CHURCH IN YEREVAN, ST. HAKOP CHURCH IN GYUMRI, ST. GREGORY OF NAREK IN VANADZOR** and **ST. GREGORY THE ILLUMINATOR CATHEDRAL**—the largest Armenian church in the world—also in the Armenian capital. An AGBU donor has also generously contributed to the construction of **VASKENIAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY** on Lake Sevan.

Together, the Holy See and AGBU have partnered to run the **AGBU CHILDREN'S CENTERS** and **AGBU SOUP KITCHENS**. The Centers educate 3,500 students while the six Soup Kitchens—located in Etchmiadzin, Hrazdan, Sevan and Yerevan—serve over 1,200 pensioners and orphans daily.



Clockwise from bottom left, A scene from one of six AGBU Soup Kitchens in Armenia; New Clergy housing being built in Etchmiadzin; Holy Trinity Church in Yerevan; Vaskenian Seminary on picturesque Lake Sevan.



The Armenian Philharmonic Orchestra.



The AGBU Young Professionals of Northern California 2002 Annual Winter Gala organizing committee brings together hundreds of Armenian professionals from across the country to enjoy the sights and sounds of San Francisco.



AGBU Cordoba Chair Juan Nourikhan with AGBU President Berge Setrakian (center) along with leaders and members of the local community during the opening ceremony for the new AGBU athletic center.

On the occasion of the centennial anniversary of the Armenian composer Aram Khachaturian, **KHACHATURIAN@100** toured AGBU chapters around the world.



Right, Pianist Sahan Arzruni (center) with AGBU Sao Paolo Chairman, Carlos Matheus Der Haroutiunian, Honorary Dep. Fernando Gasparian, and AGBU Brazil Man of the Year, Dr. Varujan Burmaian.



AGBU Cairo recognized the accomplishments of filmmaker Atom Egoyan during a special event in early 2003.

Left, Egypt District Committee Chair, Berdj Terzian, congratulates the Armenian Canadian filmmaker for his achievements in promoting the Armenian culture.



Honing Excellence

Manoogian-Demirdjian's Class of 2003-2004.

There is no shortage of talent among Armenians. AGBU taps into each individual's ability and their desire to excel.

With **30 DAY & SATURDAY SCHOOLS** in North and South America, Europe, the Middle East and Australia, over 6,500 students learn about their identity.

AGBU Manoogian-Demirdjian school in Canoga Park, CA, demonstrated that its academic instruction is second to none as members of the 2003-2004 class went on to study at the world's most prestigious universities, including Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Columbia, MIT, UCLA, Stanford, and UC Berkeley.

Another AGBU school, Alex & Marie Manoogian in Southfield, Michigan, was applauded by *The Detroit News* newspaper which wrote that the school "stands by its mission to provide a quality education while enriching students about Armenian history."

The AGBU L. Najarian-C. Gulbenkian school, with its 1,600 students, enjoyed modern new facilities through the generous donation of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation.

In addition to its own schools, AGBU also financially assists dozens of other Armenian schools.

During the 2002-2003 period, AGBU's financial assistance totalled almost one million dollars enabling 1,119 scholarship and loan recipients in 30 countries to meet their educational goals.

AGBU also has other educational opportunities for young Armenians. The **AGBU NEW YORK AND PARIS SUMMER INTERN PROGRAMS** welcome students from around the world to intern in medicine, law, journalism, banking, finance, government, media, education, public relations, finance, and international affairs. During these past two years, 67 students from 11 countries have enjoyed this once in a lifetime opportunity.

In Armenia, AGBU and the Holy See of Etchmiadzin joined forces over a decade ago to administer three **CHILDREN'S CENTERS IN YEREVAN**. The Nork, Arapkir and Malatya Centers provide instruction in the fields of history, language, computers, art, music, dance, crafts and gymnastics. All three centers include a chapel, weekly church services and Bible studies.

Believing in the potential for Armenia's students to transform the country, AGBU was instrumental in the creation of the **AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF ARMENIA (AUA)** and funds projects at the **YEREVAN STATE UNIVERSITY**. Both institutions have thousands of well-educated alumni that are working to develop local industries and technologies to benefit Armenia.

Highlighting the medical potential of Armenia, AGBU, in partnership with the Jefferson Ultrasound Research and Education Institute of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, has established the **ULTRASOUND CENTER** which offers the most up-to-date diagnostic clinical tools along with training courses, offered in conjunction with Yerevan State Medical University, that also attract foreign students from Russia, India, and China.

The donation of new equipment to the St. Nersess the Great Hospital in Yerevan strengthens a former gift to the Holy See of Etchmiadzin and builds on the existing medical infrastructure of the country.



AUA Graduates celebrate with their families after convocation.



Students at the Alex Manoogian Saturday School in Paris, France.



An Ultrasound Center instructor with students from India, Russia and Armenia.



2003 AGBU Summer Interns in New York (left) and Paris (right).



Dancers keep in step with their instructor at one of the AGBU Children's Centers.

Bringing Youth Together



Young AGBU members rest on the steps of the reconstructed ruins of Garni Temple in Armenia.

Whether in Yerevan, New York, Sao Paulo, Beirut, Marseilles or Glendale, when AGBU youth come together to learn, mentor, volunteer, or socialize, new friendships are forged. Armenians can take pride that they all share a common past and are working hard to build a future together.

AGBU GENERATION NEXT mentors and staff have served over a hundred Armenian students ranging from the seventh to eleventh grades since 1997. Adult volunteers assist students with issues involving academics, behavioral challenges and acculturation. By providing positive role models, our volunteers help these young Armenians become responsible, self-sufficient young adults.

To keep Armenian youth connected to Armenia, two AGBU schools—Manoogian-Demirdjian (California) and Marie Manoogian (Buenos Aires)—organize annual trips to Armenia for their seniors. The experience is unforgettable and contributes to their pride in being Armenian.

AGBU ATHLETIC GAMES nurture a healthy competitive environment that encourages camaraderie. Chapters from across Europe and South America come together for their regional games, while the AGBU World Games is a biennial event.

Another biennial affair, **AGBU FOCUS** brings together hundreds of AGBU Youth Program alumni and friends. Montreal hosted AGBU FOCUS 2003 and events included a panel discussion on Armenian volunteerism, a colorful exhibition of Children's Art from AGBU Children's Centers, and an elegant gala in Old Montreal.

One of the longest running AGBU youth initiatives is **AYA SPORTS AND SCOUTS**, which have thousands of members on five continents.

Whatever their interest, young Armenians feel at home with AGBU.



AGBU Sao Paulo's Women's Volleyball team at the 2002 AGBU South American Regional Games in Montevideo, Uruguay.



Winners from the XII AGBU European Games in Vienna, Austria.



AGBU San Fernando Valley scouts.



AGBU Generation Next mentors, staff and students in Los Angeles.



Aleppo AYA youth at the AGBU camp in Kessab, Syria.



California's Manoogian-Demirdjian school students touring Armenia.



AGBU FOCUS 2003 guests at a PERSPECTIVES evening at Montreal's Museum of Contemporary Art.



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