

AGBU

BIENNIAL REPORT

2008 - 2009

PRESENTED AT THE 86TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ON OCTOBER 16, 2010 IN BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA



AGBU CENTRAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2008 – 2009

President
Berge Setrakian

Vice President
Arshavir Gundjian

Treasurer
Sam Simonian

Secretary
Berge Papazian

Honorary Member
His Holiness Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians

Members
USA: M. Michael Ansour, Carol Bagdasarian Aslanian, Joseph Basralian, Yervant Demirjian, Nazareth Festekjian, Arda Haratunian, Sarkis Jebejian, Levon Nazarian, Sinan Sinanian, Dickran Tevrizian, Yervant Zorian (as of Oct. 2008). ARGENTINA: Ruben Kechichian.
FRANCE: Aris Atamian, Levon Kebabdjian (until Oct. 2008).
SWITZERLAND: Vahe Gabrache. SYRIA: Vasken Yacoubian.

COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES

Sarkis Demirdjian, Richard Manoogian, Nazar Nazarian,
Louise Manoogian Simone, Karnig Yacoubian.

Director Emeritus
Barry Zorthian

IN MEMORIAM
Boghos Nubar, Founder; Alex Manoogian, Honorary Life President.



COVER PHOTO: Participants of the 2009 Yerevan Summer Intern Program at the Sardarabad monument, Armenia.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

2 - 3	President's Message
4 - 5	Financial Report 2008- 2009
6 - 9	Armenia & Karabakh
10 - 13	Education
14 - 17	Internships & Mentorships
18 - 32	Chapters
33	2008 & 2009 AGBU District and Chapter Chairs
34	Spotlight
35	Performing Arts
36 - 37	Biennial FOCUS Weekend
38 - 41	Young Professionals
42 - 47	Youth Programs
48	Media & Publications
Inside Back Cover	2008 & 2009 AGBU Programs



AGBU President Berge Setrakian & Mrs. Setrakian, Diaspora Minister of the Republic of Armenia Hranush Hakobian, AGBU Central Board Members, chairpersons, donors, members and staff in front of the Aleppo Sheraton Hotel on the occasion of the 85th General Assembly in October 2008.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

To Our Members, Donors and Friends,



The Biennial Report provides a clear outlook of the many accomplishments of our organization worldwide. While it serves as a permanent historical record of our achievements, it also helps us assess our present work and devise a vision for meeting the challenges of the future.

The past two years have demonstrated the fundamental character and resilient strength of the AGBU and its membership. Despite numerous financial, social and political challenges experienced by

the world community at large, and Armenia in particular, AGBU maintained a steady and clear course in managing its various national, cultural, social, educational and humanitarian programs, serving the interests and the welfare of Armenia and the needs of the Armenian community worldwide. These achievements were realized through the diligent management and hard work of our Board of Directors, Council of Trustees and staff, as well as the dedicated planning, efforts and support of our Districts, Chapters, members and donors throughout the world.

The strength of our leadership and the commitment of our members have been at the core of our past success. It is imperative that we sustain that energy, focus and commitment to be able to meet the challenges of our times.

The evolving geopolitical landscape and its impact on Armenian life have created a climate that demands active leadership and ongoing service.



AGBU Central Board Members: Front row (left to right), Joseph Basralian, M. Michael Ansour, Berge Setrakian, Nazar Nazarian (Trustee), Arshavir Gundjian, Carol Aslanian; Back row (left to right), Yervant Zorian, Aris Atamian, Vahe Gabrache, Yervant Demirjian, Arda Haratunian, Nazareth Festekjian, Berge Papazian, Sinan Sinanian, Sam Simonian. Missing from photo: Levon Nazarian, Sarkis Jebejian, Ruben Kechichian, Dickran Tevrizian, and Vasken Yacoubian.

Throughout its history, AGBU's policies and activities have involved civic engagement in the nation's political life. Last year, during the critical development of the Armenia-Turkey Protocols and their regional and international repercussions, Armenia required a concerted effort on behalf of Diasporan communities to show their solidarity with what AGBU determined was the right policy in the best interest of the nation. AGBU took a characteristic position, joined by several organizations in voicing its allegiance and support for our people and nation-state. As a result, Armenia showed itself as a willing and pragmatic partner for regional peace; though talks with Turkey have stalled, the fact that Armenia showed its resolve to take a seat at the table has had a significant and felt impact on the world stage.

Along the same lines, AGBU Europe continues to play a critical role in developing awareness about key Armenian issues in the European Parliament. The historical rights of Armenians in recognition and retribution for the Genocide, documenting and preserving the Armenian heritage in Western Armenia, and the right for self-determination and independence of the Republic of Nagorno Karabakh, have all been brought to the forefront at international political forums and through collaboration with various political and scientific institutions.

The Armenian General Benevolent Union will always continue to be a non-partisan, pan-Armenian organization. Yet by the AGBU's very nature, issues of Armenian national interest – foremost the survival and security of our people, the development and prosperity of Armenia, and the preservation of our heritage and identity – will be at the core of our activities and our mission. Consequently our members and leadership must face the new realities of the world and our nation, prepared to take appropriate steps in the interests of the Armenian people.

AGBU has continued to grow its presence in Armenia, with specialized initiatives, sustained support for humanitarian and social programs, and partnerships with medical, academic, cultural, and social institutions. In addition to major donor-sponsored projects, several AGBU chapters and the Young Professional Groups generated substantial funds to support



Vatche and Tamar Manoukian (left) with Berge and Vera Setrakian (right) at the tenth annual SCDC gala in Los Angeles. The Manoukians, who donated \$11 million to the AGBU Pasadena High School and Center in Southern California, were honored at the event.

various programs in Armenia. The biennial report details many of the contributions and ongoing programs, among them the renovated sports and cultural community center of Nubarashen, the library of the National Academy of Sciences, the Genocide Museum and Institute in Yerevan, the printing house and offices of the Writers' Union, and more recently the chancellery building at the Holy See of Etchmiadzin, and the Radiology Center in Yerevan. AGBU is also the primary sponsor of the National Youth Chess Competition of the Republic of Armenia, committed to cultivating and showcasing one of the country's prominent areas of intellectual prowess.

The Armenian General Benevolent Union has been a leading proponent of the Armenian Church and its historic role in our national existence. Since its inception, AGBU has always believed that it can best serve the Armenian people through its commitment to Armenia and to the Armenian Church. The bond between AGBU and the Armenian Church is deeply rooted and unmatched by any other Armenian organization. AGBU's leadership, donors and members have consistently provided strong support to the programs and projects of the Holy See of Etchmiadzin and the development of local church communities worldwide.

Over the past two years, AGBU has managed its traditional programs through the functions of its chapters around the world, with an increased awareness and sensitivity for the need to modernize and revitalize our activities, ensuring that our programs are effective in implementing AGBU's mission in line with the current demands of our communities today. Several of our new initiatives evolved into established programs, such as the Antranik Scouts Camp, which continues to expand its facilities and now brings scouts from North and South America, Europe and the Middle East for a summer scouting experience together, and the Discover Armenia program that combines community service with cultural enrichment and attracts diasporan teenagers to their homeland. These programs bring growing numbers of our youth from different communities together in Armenia to experience and take pride in their living heritage and to connect with each other. AGBU continues to provide essential social and humanitarian services through activities such as the Generation Next program operating out of Glendale, California.

Our media resources and communications are also being expanded and diversified. The *Ararat Magazine* is now published on-line in a more dynamic and interactive format, reaching a wider readership. The *AGBU Magazine*, through its broad distribution, continues to provide in-depth and analytic focus on topics that impact Armenia and our organization. The *Revue Arménienne des Questions Contemporaines* provides in-depth analysis of issues of interest to the Armenian world. We are also in the process of coordinating and improving our communications and the web-based networking of our worldwide chapters.

In the same context, AGBU's educational role has evolved into a variety of programs that aim to address the global realities of the 21st century. Realizing the need to serve a growing number of constituents that are outside the traditional Armenian schools and circles, AGBU is now focusing on the re-deployment of resources to their most effective use. Several of our communities are facing growing financial challenges as their schools operate far below their original enrollment capacities. This is the result of changing

expectations of parents for their children's education, now taking in the many options available to them and often choosing schools outside our community purview. Consequently, local boards, in collaboration with AGBU's education department, are exploring alternatives that best meet their educational needs within the resources of every community.

The Armenian Virtual College has been a highly successful new initiative that has taken advantage of the changes in our midst. It offers online Armenian language, history and culture courses at three levels in six languages. Now in operation for its second year, the Armenian Virtual College has completed a summer term and four regular semesters with more than 500 students participating from 35 countries.

As part of the re-deployment of its resources, AGBU has revised its scholarship policies with added focus on the fields of performing arts, public service, and education for the priesthood, and will further expand its scholarship programs to encourage talent and cultivate leadership by investing in youth who have the potential to advance and succeed in a modern, global, technologically advanced and competitive world.

AGBU youth programs have experienced tremendous growth, particularly in Europe. In the past two years, the Young Professionals have expanded activities in Spain, Germany and Russia. The Summer Internship programs now operate in New York, Paris, Yerevan and, most recently, in Moscow, every year adding scores of alumni to their network of bright and successful young professionals.

A major focus of our General Assembly this year will be harnessing the huge potential of our Young Professionals to the mission of the largest Armenian organization, and facilitating their integration into the leadership ranks of our General Union. Our young people must be encouraged to greater participation in AGBU at all levels. They must receive the necessary support and have greater opportunities to serve within AGBU to ensure we have the best leadership in the generations to come.

These are exciting times for AGBU. They are certainly times of great challenges and great opportunities. It continues to be a great honor for me to serve as the President of AGBU, with a talented Board of Directors and Council of Trustees as well as dedicated membership and staff. Ultimately, our organization is especially blessed by the trust, solidarity and enthusiastic service of many generous and devoted members, friends and supporters around the world.

We have a wonderful and illustrious history as an organization. For over a century, AGBU has made advances in the lives and well-being of countless Armenians around the world; this work continues as strongly and shines as brightly as in any time in our past. We have every reason to believe that our future generations will achieve even more success.



Berge Setrakian,
President



FINANCIAL REPORT 2008 - 2009

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS	December 31	
	2009	2008
Current Assets:		
Cash	\$ 9,872,346	\$ 6,445,048
Portfolio investments	224,442,973 (*)	211,051,275 (*)
Contributions/Accounts receivable	16,101,443	2,820,649
Interest receivable	635,716	1,813,987
Total Current Assets	251,052,478	222,130,959
Real Estate	79,001,006	78,937,313
Furniture, equipment and leasehold improvements, net	1,978,685	1,831,111
Total Assets	332,032,169	302,899,383
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$5,228,763	\$4,295,539
Notes payable	654,862	731,535
Total Liabilities	5,883,625	5,027,074
Net Assets:		
Unrestricted	51,889,744	48,691,378
Temporarily restricted	32,557,896	34,860,070
Permanently restricted	241,700,904	214,320,861
Total Net Assets	326,148,544	297,872,309
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	332,032,169	302,899,383

PUBLIC SUPPORT & REVENUE

Public Support:

- Contributions
- Membership dues
- Special events and other income

Revenue:

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

Satisfaction of program restrictions

TOTAL PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE

PROGRAM AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

Programs:

- Educational
- Cultural
- Religious
- Humanitarian

- Administrative
- Fundraising
- Foreign exchange/Translation 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

(*) These amounts represent book values. Total market values as of 12/31/2009 and 12/31/2008 are \$231,405,367 and \$185,970,367 respectively.

HIGHLIGHTS

Biennial Financial Report 10-year Comparative Totals

	2009	%*	2008	%**	1998
Total Assets	\$332,032,169	9.61%	\$302,899,383	42.39%	\$212,714,355
Total Income	63,994,009	68.56%	37,965,686	<3.78>%	39,460,402
Total Expenditure	35,717,774	<6.99>%	38,403,096	43.18%	26,819,732

*Yearly % Increase (Decrease) **10-year % Increase (Decrease)

All figures are in U.S. Dollars.

ARMENIAN GENERAL BENEVOLENT UNION

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES

Year Ended December 31, 2009

Year Ended December 31, 2008

Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
\$ 1,560,579	\$ 8,736,071	\$ 28,597,841	\$ 38,894,491	\$ 3,342,098	\$ 8,207,066	\$ 13,043,572	\$ 24,592,736
320,444	-	-	320,444	327,736	-	-	327,736
4,328,453	20,445	49,413	4,398,311	4,735,011	26,997	-	4,762,008
6,209,476	8,756,516	28,647,254	43,613,246	8,404,845	8,234,063	13,043,572	29,682,480
5,894,218	-	-	5,894,218	(5,811,753)	-	-	(5,811,753)
2,198,874	11,502	-	2,210,376	2,155,298	17,956	-	2,173,254
12,276,169	-	-	12,276,169	11,921,705	-	-	11,921,705
20,369,261	11,502	-	20,380,763	8,265,250	17,956	-	8,283,206
26,578,737	8,768,018	28,647,254	63,994,009	16,670,095	8,252,019	13,043,572	37,965,686
8,584,987	(8,584,987)	-	-	8,727,623	(8,727,623)	-	-
35,163,724	183,031	28,647,254	63,994,009	25,397,718	(475,604)	13,043,572	37,965,686
18,947,504	-	-	18,947,504	19,038,692	-	-	19,038,692
8,905,988	-	-	8,905,988	10,511,897	-	-	10,511,897
2,113,152	-	-	2,113,152	2,812,517	-	-	2,812,517
3,143,586	-	-	3,143,586	2,171,181	-	-	2,171,181
33,110,230	-	-	33,110,230	34,574,287	-	-	34,574,287
3,122,469	-	-	3,122,469	3,477,772	-	-	3,477,772
230,000	-	-	230,000	222,000	-	-	222,000
(744,925)	-	-	(744,925)	129,037	-	-	129,037
2,607,544	-	-	2,607,544	3,828,809	-	-	3,828,809
35,717,774	-	-	35,717,774	38,403,096	-	-	38,403,096
(554,050)	183,031	28,647,254	28,276,235	(13,005,378)	(475,604)	13,043,572	(437,410)
3,752,416	(2,485,205)	(1,267,211)	-	(651,476)	(1,852,288)	2,503,764	-
3,198,366	(2,302,174)	27,380,043	28,276,235	(13,656,854)	(2,327,892)	15,547,336	(437,410)
48,691,378	34,860,070	214,320,861	297,872,309	62,348,232	37,187,962	198,773,525	298,309,719
\$51,889,744	\$32,557,896	\$241,700,904	\$326,148,544	\$48,691,378	\$34,860,070	\$214,320,861	\$297,872,309

ARMENIA/KARABAKH



The AGBU-sponsored and supported American University of Armenia (AUA) opened its new Paramaz Avedisian Building on November 1, 2008.

A cornerstone of AGBU's mission is the support of the Armenian homeland. AGBU, through the generosity of its donors, has provided vital support to Armenia for over a century. Today, AGBU's numerous programs, projects, and grants strengthen Armenia and Karabakh, and work to ensure a positive future for all Armenians.





The American University of Armenia hosted two conferences for overseas American universities in May 2009: the annual meeting of the Association of American International Colleges and Universities (AAICU) and the 2009 meeting of the American International Consortium of Academic Libraries (AMICAL).

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF ARMENIA

A bastion of academic excellence in Armenia, the American University of Armenia (AUA) annually enrolls about 400 students in the institution's two-year programs, earning graduate degrees in Business Management, Conservation and Environmental Science, Engineering, Law, Political Science and International Affairs, Public Health, and Computer Science. In November 2008, AUA inaugurated the new Paramaz Avedisian Building in Yerevan. The modern five-story building added about 100,000 square feet of space to AUA's existing facilities, including classrooms and seminar rooms, laboratories and research centers, faculty offices, wireless Internet connections, a video conferencing room, a café, a bookstore, a gym, and exhibition space. Designed by Altoon + Porter Architects of Los Angeles, it incorporates several innovative design elements and sophisticated environmentally sensitive solutions.

In March 2009, AUA partnered with the World Bank Yerevan Office to launch the Knowledge for Development Center within the AUA Papazian Library. The Memorandum of Agreement outlines the basis for cooperation and joint activities of the two institutions in knowledge dissemination, learning, and capacity building for the development arena.

ARMENIAN PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

Recognizing the importance of the performing arts, AGBU has supported the 110-member Armenian Philharmonic Orchestra (APO) since 1992. Annual grants are allocated for weekly concerts, new instruments, administrative costs, salary supplements, international guest artist appearances and special festivals. APO has also toured Austria, Canada, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Iran, Japan, Lebanon, Portugal, Russia, Spain, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom and the United States and has produced over fifty CD recordings.

AGBU-Sponsored Programs & Projects in Armenia & Karabakh

ONGOING PROGRAMS

ARMENIA

American University of Armenia
 Armenian Philharmonic Orchestra
 Children's Centers (3)
 Senior Dining Centers (4)
 Ultrasound Center
 Armenian Virtual College
 Chess-Republican Interschool Olympiad
 Hye Geen Pregnant Women's Center Gyumri
 Hye Geen Pregnant Women's Center Talin
 Hye Geen Pregnant Women's Center Vanadzor

KARABAKH

Karabakh Chamber Orchestra
 Karabakh Repopulation Project

YOUTH PROGRAMS

AGBU Armenia Scout Movement
 Yerevan Young Professionals

DIASPORA YOUTH PROGRAMS

Antranik Scout Camp
 Discover Armenia Youth Trip
 Yerevan Summer Intern Program

MAJOR PROJECTS

Holy Etchmiadzin Clergy Housing
 Holy Etchmiadzin Armenia Programs
 Holy Etchmiadzin Museum
 Holy Etchmiadzin Children's Center
 Holy Etchmiadzin Service Center
 Holy Etchmiadzin HH Karekin I Religious Education Center
 Holy Etchmiadzin Cathedral
 Holy Etchmiadzin Chapel Construction
 Holy Etchmiadzin Elderly Home
 Holy Etchmiadzin Seminary
 St. Anna Church
 St. Nerses Hospital
 Vanadzor Children's Center
 Vaskenian Seminary

SPECIAL GRANTS

American Friends of Artsakh
 Armenian State Pedagogical University
 Gandzasar Church
 Gyumri Orphanage
 Levon Z. Surmelian Printing House
 Medical Institute & Child Hospital
 "Meron" TV Program
 National Academy of Sciences
 Nubarashen Cultural Center
 "On the Ways of Diaspora" TV Program
 Open Music Festival
 L'Université Française en Arménie (French University)
 Union of Writers
 Various Publications

RENOVATION PROJECTS IN COOPERATION WITH ARMENIAN SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND (ASIF)

Artik, Shirak - Kindergarten #1 & #2 Internal Heating System
 Dsegh, Lori - Cultural Center Renovation
 Elpin Village, Vayots Dzor - Cultural Center Renovation
 Gomq Village, Vayots Dzor - Community Center Roofing Renovation
 Gyumri - People's Architectural & Mercurov's Museum Heating System
 Lori - Tumanian Community Center
 Maralik, Shirak - Town Park Improvement
 Megry, Syunik - Sewage System Renovation
 Norashen Village, Ararat - School Renovation
 Rind Village, Vayots Dzor - Community Center Roofing Renovation
 Sers, Vayots Dzor - Community Center Roofing Renovation
 Shengavit, Yerevan - Kindergarten #7
 Uchan, Aragatsotn - Kindergarten
 Vernashen, Vayots Dzor - Cultural Center Roofing Renovation
 Yerevan - Aram Abrahamyan Museum Renovation
 Yerevan - School #37 Heating System Construction
 Zolaqar Village, Geghargunik - Community Center Roof

In September 2009, the Third Yerevan International Music Festival, which is one of the biggest annual cultural events in Armenia, took place in Yerevan under the guidance of its two artistic directors: maestro Eduard Topchjan, Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of APO; and cellist Alexander Chaushian from Great Britain. The month-long festival by APO hosted world-renowned musicians including François Frédéric Guy (France), violinist Massimo Quarta (Italy), cellist Natalia Gutman (Russia), tenor Giuseppe Giacomini (Italy), violist Kim Kashkashian (USA), pianist Ashley Wass (Great Britain), clarinetist Wolfgang Meyer (Germany), violinist Daishin Kashimoto (Japan) and many others.



Maestro Eduard Topchjan conducting the APO.

CHILDREN'S CENTERS

In February 1993, AGBU and the Holy See of Etchmiadzin joined forces to establish three Children's Centers in Yerevan. These Centers provide art, computer, crafts, dance, gymnastics, history, language, and music programs to local children after regular school hours and during the summer. All three Centers also house a chapel and host weekly church services and Bible studies.

About 4,000 students, ages five to twenty-one, are enrolled in the three AGBU Children's Centers of Yerevan, which are overseen by an administrative staff of over 300.

Over the years, the AGBU Children's Centers Performing Arts Troupes have traveled to the Brazil, Canada, Georgia, Poland, Russia, Uruguay, and the US to present their talents at various cultural events, attracting tens of thousands of attendees. The Centers have undergone extensive renovations to update classroom facilities in the past few years. Three of AGBU's four Senior Dining Centers are also located at the Arapkir, Malatya, and Nork Children's Centers.



Children learning crafts at one of AGBU's Children's Centers.

KARABAKH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Responding to the request of the Karabakh government, AGBU founded the 23-member Karabakh Chamber Orchestra in 2004. The Orchestra was initially housed at the Musical College in Stepanakert, but currently performs in a newly built modern cultural center. A catalyst for the cultural life of Karabakh, KCO attracts standing-room-only audiences during their concerts.



The Karabakh Chamber Orchestra held its fifth-anniversary concert on October 16, 2009.

KARABAKH REPOPULATION PROJECT

In 2002, AGBU's France District initiated the Karabakh Repopulation Project to rebuild the war-torn villages that were abandoned following the 1988-1994 conflict. AGBU's efforts have focused on the village of Norashen in the southeast Hadrut region of Karabakh. Twenty-two homes and a kindergarten were built in a short period of time. The organization also constructed a new medical center and a school to accommodate 80 students in the village of Norashen. The secondary school has



A view of the Pareshen district in the village of Norashen in Karabakh, which was funded by AGBU London.

eight classrooms, an event hall, and a computer room. AGBU also donated furniture to the school.

Chapters in Los Angeles, London, Montreal, Toronto and Sydney have all contributed to KRP. More recently, 13 houses were constructed in the districts of Jrakn and Pareshen of the village of Norashen. Today, the 35 homes built by AGBU in Karabakh have about 150 residents, mostly young couples.

SENIOR DINING CENTERS

Since Armenia's independence, AGBU has sponsored Senior Dining Centers to provide daily meals to over 1,200 pensioners and orphans. Today, AGBU sponsors three facilities in Yerevan adjacent to the Children's Centers and one in Etchmiadzin. They provide ample portions to recipients who can take additional food home to share with family members and friends, and deliver meals to beneficiaries who cannot make it to the facilities.

ULTRASOUND

A modern medical facility, the AGBU Ultrasound Center was founded in 1996 through a partnership with the Jefferson Ultrasound Research and Education Institute and under the direction of AGBU Central Board member Dr. Levon Nazarian, Professor of Radiology at Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia. In 2002, AGBU and Jefferson University Hospital opened a new ultrasound training and research center at the Yerevan State Medical University. Over the years, the Ultrasound Center has helped distribute more than 20 ultrasound machines to hospitals throughout Armenia, Karabakh and the predominantly Armenian region of Javakhk in neighboring Georgia.

ARMENIAN VIRTUAL COLLEGE

The cutting-edge Armenian Virtual College is the first Armenian online school with the distinct goal of making Armenian education available to everyone and everywhere through modern technologies. For more information, see the Education section of this report (p.13).

ARMENIAN REPUBLICAN INTERSCHOOL CHESS TOURNAMENT

Starting in 2008, AGBU has sponsored the annual Republican Interschool Chess Championship project in Armenia. This important initiative of the Armenian Chess Federation, under the auspices of the Republic of Armenia's Ministry of Education and Science, promotes the love of chess among approximately 6,000 schoolchildren in hundreds of schools and helps identify talented young people who can grow to be future champions in the sport, helping to continue Armenia's role as a major player in world chess competitions.



Some of the 1,200 people who benefit daily from the Senior Dining Centers.



Dr. Hamayak Sisakyan conducts an ultrasound on a patient at the Ultrasound Center.



Chess Federation Vice President Smbat Lputyan (far right), with the finalists of the Third Armenian Interscholar Chess Tournament that concluded on May 6, 2009 in Shushi, Karabakh.



World Bank's Rudolf Yan Trefers, AGBU President Berge Setrakian, and Head of Nubarashen local authority Mher Hovhannisian cutting the ribbon at the March 25, 2009 opening of the Nubarashen Sports and Cultural Center.

EDUCATION



Faculty and students of the Alex and Marie Manoogian Charter School in Southfield, Michigan, stand in front of the new building, which was inaugurated on September 8, 2009.

The Armenian General Benevolent Union is often associated with schools and education because over the past decades it has taken initiatives and provided venues for quality education, cultural enrichment, and opportunities to pursue higher education. These initiatives have helped promote our heritage, and have cultivated a sense of identity and pride among many generations of Armenians. While some perceive AGBU's educational role through the narrower perspective of traditional educational institutions and practices, that role has more recently evolved into a variety of programs that aim to address the global realities of the 21st century and the needs of our communities and new generations, both in the diaspora and in Armenia.

This biennial report documents activities over the past two years. At the same time it aims to provide a better understanding and appreciation of the scope of AGBU's Education Department, its worldwide outreach and coordinated operations, and their impact on large factions of our diasporan communities.

The operations of the Education Department consist of three main categories:

1. AGBU Schools Worldwide
2. AGBU Scholarships for Higher Education
3. AGBU Programs with a Global Perspective that target youth outside mainstream Armenian community structures and reach out to larger constituencies

AGBU SCHOOLS WORLDWIDE

AGBU's network of schools is comprised of elementary schools, high schools, extension Saturday and summer schools, and a variety of extracurricular and cultural enrichment programs with an enrollment of 5,500. The time span of the inception and operations of these schools that are geographically dispersed worldwide extends over 80 years. AGBU has schools in Argentina, Australia, Canada, Greece, Iran, Lebanon, Syria, Uruguay, and the United States. The Education Department coordinates the organizational and academic activities of these schools and facilitates collaborative efforts in areas of curriculum development and exchange of best instructional practices and resources. The schools are accredited by national and trans-regional agencies, follow well-defined standards and curriculum requirements, and meet competitive criterion-based assessment and performance requirements.

Over the years, the changing landscape of the Armenian diaspora, the integration of communities in their countries of citizenship, the changing preferences and priorities of the new generations of parents, and the added options available to them for school choice have had an impact on enrollment in Armenian schools. The recent economic crisis has compounded the budgetary challenges, in addition to the changing needs in curricular and instructional approaches. The Education Department, the local education committees, and school boards are collaborating to restructure schools and seek alternatives that best meet the educational needs within the financial

resources of every community. AGBU, in the meantime, continues to provide subsidies of over \$3 million annually in support of the operations of the schools, whose overall annual gross budget is over \$20 million.

AGBU Schools Data 2008-2009:

Elementary Schools:	7
High Schools:	9
Extension Saturday and Summer Schools:	15+
Enrollment:	5,500
Faculty and Staff:	600
Gross Operational Budget:	\$40 million
Central Board Subsidies:	\$6 million
High School Graduates:	675



Alex & Marie Manoogian Charter School (Southfield, USA)

In 2009, AGBU schools in the United States received a major boost through two large contributions. AGBU Trustees Louise Manoogian Simone and Mr. & Mrs. Richard Manoogian donated \$5.5 million for the construction of the new state-of-the-art high school building of the AGBU Alex and Marie Manoogian Charter School in Southfield, Michigan. Mr. & Mrs. Vatche and Tamar Manoukian made an \$11 million donation to AGBU, sponsoring the AGBU Vatche & Tamar Manoukian High School in Pasadena, California. Their support will provide funding for major improvements in the facilities and curricular resources of the school, making it a leading college preparatory high school in Southern California.



Marie Manoogian School (Buenos Aires, Argentina)

AGBU SCHOOLS

ARGENTINA

Buenos Aires Marie Manoogian Institute (Pre K-12)

AUSTRALIA

Sydney Alexander Primary (K-6)
Alex Manoogian Saturday School

BULGARIA

Dobrich Saturday School
Haskovo Saturday School
Plovdiv Saturday School
Rousse Saturday School
Silistra Saturday School
Sliven Saturday School
Yambol Saturday School

CANADA

Montréal Armen Québec-Alex Manoogian (Pre K-8)
Toronto Daniel & Alice Zaroukian (Pre K-6)

FRANCE

Paris Alex Manoogian Saturday School
Lyon Saturday School
Vienne Saturday School

GREECE

Athens Artaki Kalpakian (Pre K-6)

IRAN

Tehran Marie Manoogian (9-12)
Nevart Gulbenkian (1-5)

IRAQ

Baghdad Pourasdan Friday School

LEBANON

Beirut Boghos K. Garmirian (Pre K-6)
Tarouhi-Hovagimian (7-12)
Levon G. Nazarian (Pre K-6)

SYRIA

Aleppo Lazar Najarian-Calouste Gulbenkian (Pre K-12)
Damascus Gullabi Gulbenkian (Pre K-6)
Kamishly Saturday School

URUGUAY

Montevideo Nubarian-Manoogian (Pre K-12)

USA

California
Canoga Park Manoogian-Demirdjian (Pre K-12)
Costa Mesa Orange County Saturday School
Pasadena Vatche & Tamar Manoukian High School (9-12)
Michigan
Southfield Alex & Marie Manoogian Charter School (Pre K-12)
Illinois
Chicago Sisag H. Varjabedian Saturday School
Ohio
Cleveland Saturday School

AGBU SCHOLARSHIPS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

For more than 80 years, the AGBU Scholarship Program, through endowment funds established by generous donors, has contributed toward the higher education of thousands of promising young Armenians enrolled in leading colleges and universities around the world. Today, through its newly established AGBU Fellowship Program and added focus on specialized fields of study, such as the Performing Arts and Religious Studies, the Scholarship Program offers financial assistance to a broader range of Armenian students worldwide.

A More Focused Approach

In 2009, the AGBU Scholarship Program transformed its mission to providing outright grants, and eliminated the offering of graduate student loans. Furthermore, it witnessed the creation of five (5) distinct scholarship categories, each with its own application form, eligibility criteria, & deadline:

1. **AGBU US Fellowships**
2. **AGBU Performing Arts Fellowships**
3. **AGBU Religious Studies Fellowships**
4. **AGBU International Scholarships**
5. **AGBU Heritage Scholar Grants**

*Notes: Additional support for the **AGBU Fellowship Program** was made possible in part by Sam Simonian. Additional support for the **AGBU Performing Arts Fellowship Program** was made possible in part by the Levon & Satenig Nazarian Endowment and the AGBU New York Special Events Committee. Funding for the **AGBU Heritage Scholars Grants** was provided by the George Hologigian Memorial Fund.*

AGBU Awards Close to \$2,300,000 in Educational Assistance in 2008-2009

In each of the 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 academic years, close to 400 students and professionals studying in 25 countries worldwide benefited from AGBU's scholarship



Performing Arts Fellow Aram Demirjian was selected to conduct internationally renowned cellist YoYo Ma and the Silk Road Ensemble. Photo Credit: Andrew Hurlbut, Photographer, New England Conservatory.

assistance, with distributions across six continents totaling close to \$400,000 USD and \$600,000 USD, respectively. Graduate loans in the amount of \$89,000 were provided in the 2008-2009 academic year. In addition to these scholarships, AGBU allocated close to \$1,000,000 in the form of grants to various universities in Armenia, including the American University of Armenia (AUA), L'Université Française en Arménie, the Armenian State Pedagogical University, the National Academy of Sciences Library, and others. Moreover, close to \$200,000 was donated to Armenian schools and other educational institutions throughout the United States and abroad.

The newly established **AGBU Heritage Scholar Grant** rewards outstanding seniors from each of the three AGBU high schools in the United States who display academic excellence, school spirit, and community involvement. The 2009 Heritage Scholars were honors and advanced placement (AP) students, valedictorians, salutatorians, varsity athletes, and active leaders in their cultural and religious communities, with high aspirations for the future.



Tarouhi-Hovagimian School (Beirut, Lebanon)



Manoogian-Demirdjian School (Canoga Park, USA)



Armenian Virtual College is unveiled to the Armenian public at Yerevan's Aram Khachaturian Concert Hall on September 28, 2008.



Students and teachers of the Ohanessian School in the UAE gather for an introductory presentation about the Armenian Virtual College. The Ohanessian School receives instructional support from AVC.

AGBU ARMENIAN VIRTUAL COLLEGE: ARMENIAN EDUCATION — ANYTIME, ANYWHERE!

Officially launched in June 2009, AGBU's Armenian Virtual College (AVC) is a pioneering Armenian institution with the distinct goal of making Armenian education available to everyone and everywhere through state-of-the-art technologies. Throughout the past century, AGBU has supported Armenian educational programs primarily through traditional schools and universities in Armenia and in the diaspora. Through the AVC, AGBU will further its lifelong dedication to promoting education in the globally dispersed Armenian communities, using an entirely innovative online approach. The AVC is prepared to surmount the educational barriers that have plagued the Armenian diaspora for decades. A new Armenian classroom has emerged and will finally be available to all Armenians — anytime, anywhere!

Educational Mission: Reach all interested individuals and groups worldwide who seek a full-fledged education in Armenian Studies, regardless of their age, country of residence, or knowledge level.

Curriculum: Armenian Studies courses in history, language, and culture

Six Languages of Instruction: Eastern Armenian, Western Armenian, English, Russian, French, and Spanish

A Virtual, Innovative Learning Community: With the latest advances in the world of online education, AVC has created a virtual learning community that fosters both the cultural education and social connections otherwise out of reach of most students across the Armenian diaspora and the homeland. Through the use of both synchronous and asynchronous communications, AVC allows students to learn new material at their own pace, as well as confer face to face with their online instructors and virtual classmates across the globe.

Certificate Program & Credit-Bearing Courses: AVC learners can choose to earn credits for each course they complete, ultimately leading to a diploma, or simply audit

courses to enhance their knowledge. Moreover, students may transfer credits from AVC courses to various universities, high schools, and learning institutions across the world. Currently, the AVC is actively pursuing accreditation with recognized educational institutions in the Republic of Armenia, North America, and Europe.

Bridging the Gap: Among more than 1,000 online universities in the world, AVC is the first one dedicated to Armenian education. Today, only 5% of Armenian youth in the world have access to traditional Armenian education. This virtual institute targets Armenian high school and university students who do not have access to traditional, face-to-face Armenian educational programs, through state-of-the-art multimedia resources. The AGBU AVC also supplements the education of those who attend traditional Armenian learning institutions, such as day schools and Saturday schools.

During the Summer and Fall 2009 semesters, over 300 virtual classmates, spanning multiple generations (17 to 82 years of age), accessed AVC's virtual classrooms from US to Russia, Venezuela to South Africa, Argentina to Reunion Island. AVC celebrated its first anniversary in June 2010. During its inaugural year of activities, it had four academic terms and more than 500 students from 35 countries.

Born in Silicon Valley, Raised in Yerevan: The AVC project was initiated in 2004 by Dr. Yervant Zorian, Chairman of AGBU's Silicon Valley Chapter, in response to the need for an educational program that better addresses the current demands of the Armenian diaspora and appeals to present-day students. Since then, the technology and multimedia course content have been developed largely by renowned topic experts in Armenia and reinforced by international pedagogic experts in online learning, in direct collaboration with scientists and engineers at Yerevan State University's Center of IT Education and Research and accreditation granted by the National Academy of Sciences in Armenia.

INTERNSHIPS & MENTORSHIPS



2009 AGBU NYSIP interns with Paul Kayaian of Mosaic Enterprises. Kayaian was one of the guest speakers during the summer who lectured on the value of networking and good resume writing.

AGBU's Summer Intern Programs in New York, Paris, and Yerevan welcome college students of Armenian descent from around the world to participate in once-in-a-lifetime experiences that allow participants to gain an edge in the pursuit of their future career goals through unpaid internships, while solidifying countless lifelong friendships amongst its participants.

In addition to affording critical learning experiences to students in their chosen fields, AGBU Intern Programs expose them to an extensive array of evening and weekend activities, lectures, workshops, and sightseeing trips.

NEW YORK SUMMER INTERN PROGRAM

2009 marked the 22nd anniversary of the popular and competitive AGBU New York Summer Intern Program (NYSIP). Participants spent their summer days working at full-time, unpaid internships in the business hub of the world, while living alongside one another in New York University dormitories, and participating in exciting professional and cultural events during evenings and weekends, including several annual events hosted by AGBU's Young Professionals of Greater New York.

In 2008 and 2009, over 70 university students of Armenian descent converged from Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Brazil, Canada, France, Italy, Lebanon, the Netherlands, Russia, Syria, the United Kingdom, and the United States to take part in this unique adventure. With well over 700 alumni, NYSIP has developed into a vast global network during its rich 22-year history.

Some of the companies secured by AGBU's vast network of host institutions in 2008 and 2009 included Columbia University Medical Center, Hermès, Rothschild, and Telegraph UK. Traditional evening and weekend activities were comprised of a private lesson in Armenian dance by AGBU's renowned Antranig Dance Ensemble; comprehensive professional events, such as the Mentoring Program sponsored by AGBU's Young Professionals of Greater New York, during which interns were paired up with mentors working in a common field; lectures on entrepreneurship and resume writing skills; and a community service initiative



NYSIP participant Hagop Boyaci with his supervisor William Grau at Rothschild where Boyaci interned during the summer of 2009.

entitled Sunshine for Seniors, where interns visited a local Armenian old age home to put on a talent show and spend quality time with residents.

Sadly, on August 3, 2008, Vartkess M. Balian, who along with his wife Rita Balian, established and co-chaired AGBU's New York Summer Intern Program, passed away. The Balian's leadership enhanced the lives of AGBU interns over a 20-year period, and their contribution to the Armenian community will never be forgotten. After Mr. Balian's passing, two new NYSIP co-chairmen were named: the Balian's son, Raffi Balian, who is a Foreign Service Officer for the U.S. Department of State, and Sarkis Jebejian, an AGBU Central Board member, and partner in the corporate law firm of Cravath, Swaine, and Moore.



Interns of the 2008 Yerevan Summer Intern Program at Khor Virap.

YEREVAN SUMMER INTERN PROGRAM

Modeled after its sister program in New York, Yerevan Summer Intern Program (YSIP) has grown into a competitive international unpaid internship program that boasts a diverse group of participants from around the world, all united by a common thread of connecting with their motherland and growing into successful professionals.

In 2008 and 2009, over 40 Armenian students from Australia, Canada, Israel, Russia, Switzerland, Syria, and the United States of America gathered in Armenia's capital for five unforgettable summer weeks. The interns worked in Armenia's top institutions and organizations, including the Armenian Center for National and International Studies, Cafesjian Foundation, Deem Communications, Gevorgyan Gallery, Golden Apricot International Film Festival, HSBC Bank Armenia, the Medical University Hospital, the Philharmonic Orchestra, RA Ombudsman's Office, Shoghakat TV Channel, and the United Nations Development Program, among others.

In addition to gaining critical learning experiences in their chosen fields, YSIP participants took part in an intensive cultural immersion program. This included Armenian language, history and folk dance classes, excursions to historic monuments throughout Armenia, a side trip to Karabakh, visits to AGBU programs, as well as lectures by prominent figures from Armenian academic and political circles.

While in Yerevan, participants stayed in a private house near the downtown area, which promoted bonding among peers and created solid friendships. Moreover, the interns connected with their roots and obtained a new sense of what it means to be Armenian.



2009 YSIP interns Larissa Alaverdian and Corinne Ozbek teaching English to children at an orphanage in Yerevan, Armenia. The Armenian-American college students interned with The Future is Yours Organization throughout the summer.



2009 Yerevan Summer Intern Program participants visit the Sardarabad monument in Armenia.

PARIS SUMMER INTERN PROGRAM

With the exciting opportunity to expand their professional knowledge in the French capital, a combined 26 students from Armenia, Canada, France, Iran, Lebanon, Russia and the United States landed in Paris for five-week internships and a plethora of cultural, social, and professional activities through the AGBU Paris Summer Intern Program (PSIP) during 2008 and 2009.

Students lived in the Maison des Étudiants Arméniens, which is a residence hall created in 1928 by AGBU's first president Boghos Nubar. Since its founding, the building has housed several generations of international Armenian college students who arrive in Paris to complete their post-secondary education.

Some of the prestigious institutions that have hosted interns: Grant Thornton Management Consulting, Institut Supérieur des Métiers, Kalayciyan Architecture, Lefèvre Pelletier & Associates, the Louvre, Musée d'Orsay, the National French Council, Pierre and Marie Curie University, Radio France Internationale, and Thomson Telecom Communications.

In addition to full workdays, interns were also able to enjoy the sites and culture of Paris on a daily basis. AGBU Paris Youth group members brought in their involvement by helping



2008 Paris Summer Intern Program participants during a day trip to a French seaside town.

the interns get better acquainted with Paris, while giving them a taste of life in the French capital.

To complement their professional experience, the interns attended several lectures by leading intellectuals and experts, as well as visiting with representatives of the governments of Armenia and Karabakh. Group excursions took participants to some of the most famous sites and museums in the world, such as Notre Dame Cathedral and the Louvre, and weekend trips for tours of Château de Versailles, Honfleur, Normandy, Trouville-sur-Mer, and scenic regions by the English Channel.

GORIZ LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

As a result of the positive outcomes and partnerships spawned during both the 2006 and 2007 AGBU Project Exchange and Development Seminars for Young European Armenians sponsored by the Council of Europe that took place in Brussels and Valence respectively, a new AGBU program – named *Goriz (Core)* – was established in 2009 to cultivate future Armenian leaders in Europe and took place in Venice, Italy, from May 1-3.

Nineteen participants from Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Italy, and Spain gathered at the Collegio Samuel Moorat Raphaël on the picturesque San Lazzaro Island, home to the Mekhitarist Order and a renowned center for Armenian culture. All were young Armenian professionals living in Europe, and were selected according to their academic achievement and professional background, as well as their leadership qualities and involvement in their local Armenian community.

Informative lectures and debates occurred on subjects related to leadership on a long-term basis among young Armenians in Europe and the promotion of Armenian issues in Europe to civic and government levels. Presentations were made on



Participants of the 2009 Goriz Leadership Program conference in Venice.

diverse topics and issues, such as economic and political issues relating to Armenia, the activities and goals of AGBU Europe, the workings of pan-French Armenian organizations, the status of the Armenian presence in Germany and the AGBU-HAIK partnership, the AGBU Armenian Virtual College, the current relationship between Armenia and Turkey, and the success of a sustainable food program in Karabakh that provides cows to widows.



On November 8, 2008, AGBU Generation Next Mentorship Program (GenNext) students and mentors enjoyed a traditional college tailgate party, after which they attended the UCLA vs. Oregon State football game.

GENERATION NEXT MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

Based in the AGBU Pasadena offices, the AGBU Generation Next Mentorship Program received a whopping \$500,000 grant from the United States Department of Education (DOE) in 2008. Until receiving this grant, mentor relationships were established by volunteer case managers, which limited growth to only 65 mentor-mentee pairs. Armed with the funds to hire two full-time staff case managers, the program is now able to sustain more than double the number of matches, as well as provide a wider array of services to mentees. The funds will be allocated over the course of 2008–2011, mainly to provide salaries for new staff and increase the capacity to serve more youth. Also in 2008, Generation Next was chosen to participate in the highly prestigious Portland State University’s Summer Mentoring Institute, a great honor since only 25 programs are selected from across the United States.

Marking its 10-year anniversary with flair, Generation Next gathered over 200 supporters, government and community leaders, and mentors on February 27, 2009, for its “Stars of Tomorrow” gala that raised over \$40,000 in donations. The evening honored Carla Garapedian, director of *Screamers* and former BBC World News anchor, and Shavo Odadjian, activist and bassist of the world-renowned rock band System of a Down, with the GenNext Community Hero Award.

GenNext continued its work of reaching out to students with issues involving academics, behavior, and acculturation. By providing positive role models, volunteer mentors help these young Armenians become responsible, self-sufficient young adults. Students attend monthly activities, such as a visit to the Ararat Home for the Elderly, a college football game sponsored by UCLA’s “I’m Going to College Program,” and other cultural and educational group activities. A yearly Annual Artistic Showcase is also organized to display their talents.



On February 27, 2009, the Generation Next Mentorship Program raised \$40,000 during its 10th Anniversary Gala. Members of the fundraising committee accepted an award from the AGBU Central Board, presented by SCDC Chair, Berj Shahbazian, far right.

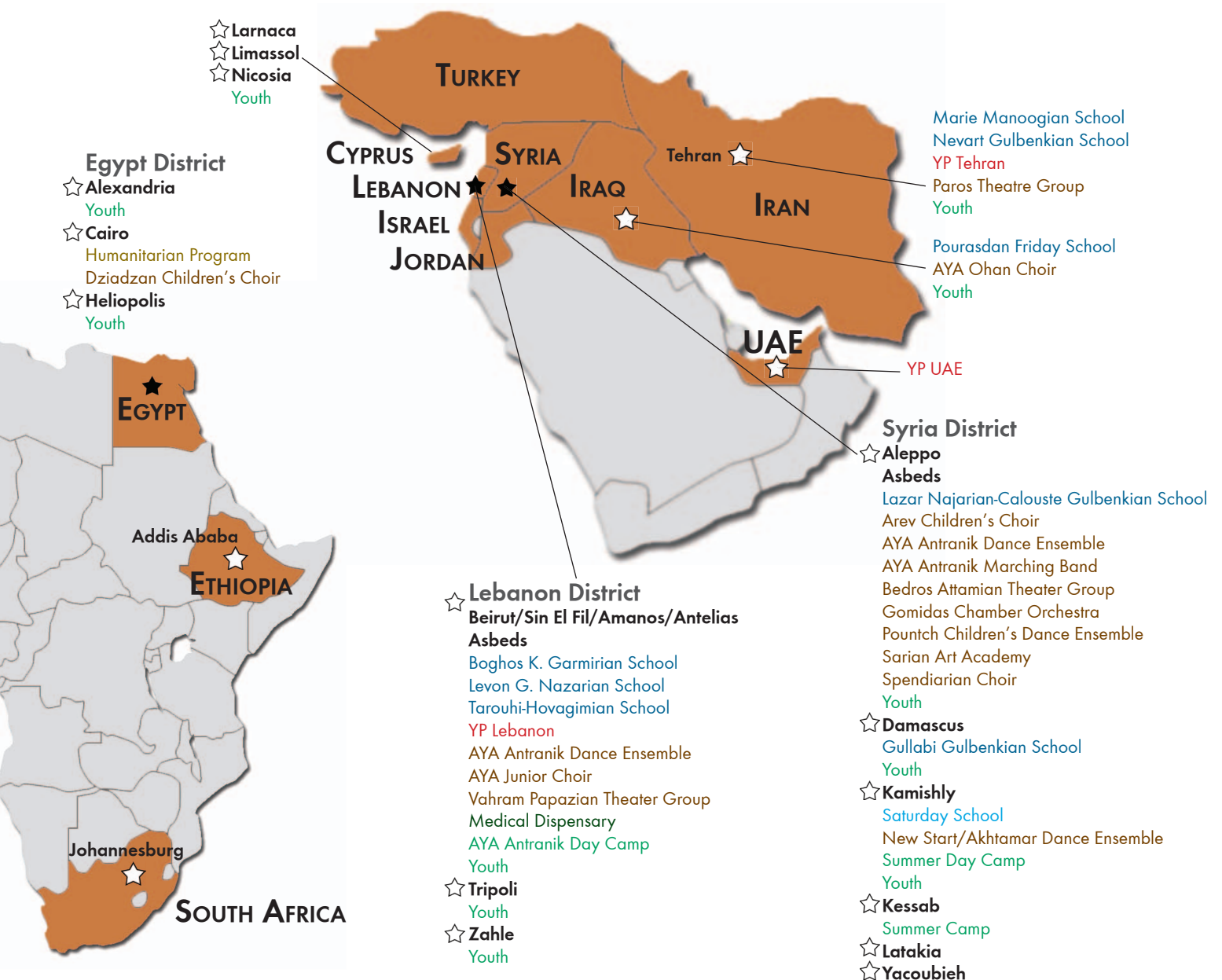


Director Carla Garapedian and musician Shavo Odadjian receive their “Community Hero” awards from AGBU Generation Next for their role in inspiring youth to give back to their local community and make a difference in the lives of others.

CHAPTERS



AGBU Central Board Member Vasken Yacoubian hosted the annual Open Day event which attracted 50 youths from Damascus, 26 from Aleppo and 16 from Beirut on September 11, 2009.



AFRICA / ASIA / MIDDLE EAST

CYPRUS

Thanks to the dedication and enthusiasm of the Larnaca Chapter, plans are underway to build a new center for the local community, which will also include an Armenian resource center open to the public.

EGYPT

The Egyptian Chapters joined forces in 2008 and 2009 to co-sponsor two different events. The first was a lecture tour in Alexandria and Cairo in February 2008 by Hamlet Petrosyan, archaeology professor and Senior Research Fellow at Armenia's National Academy of Sciences, who presented findings from ongoing archaeological excavations of the historical city of Tigranakert in Karabakh, built during the reign of King Tigran the Great (95–55 BC). The second,



Some of the AGBU leaders and members at opening of the Alexandre Saroukhan exhibition at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina in Alexandria, Egypt in December 2009.

Map Key

- COUNTRY** Countries where scholarship recipients study
- ★ District Committees
- ☆ Chapters/Committees
- Schools/Universities
- Saturday Schools
- Young Professionals (YP)
- Humanitarian Projects
- Cultural Programs
- Medical Projects
- Youth Programs, Camps & Summer Intern Programs



The AGBU center in Alexandria, which played a pivotal role in AGBU's early history, was designated by the city as a historical landmark in May 2008.



AGBU Lebanon celebrated the 50th anniversary of the AGBU publication *Khosnag* at the Demirdjian Center on July 15, 2008.



The Beirut chapter distributed veteran diplomas on November 22, 2009 to members who have served the organization for decades.



The AGBU Lebanon Cultural Committee presented a music night featuring young Armenian-Lebanese musicians on March 22, 2009.

sponsored principally by the Cairo Chapter, was an exhibit at the Biblioteca Alexandrina featuring the works of the late Armenian illustrator, Alexandre Saroukhan – almost a hundred pieces in all, which were loaned graciously by the late artist’s family for the month-long exhibit in December 2009.

Alexandria: During May 2008, the Egyptian government declared the grounds of the Alexandria center to be a historic landmark, which means that it can never be demolished. The unique architectural monument played a pivotal role in the early years following AGBU’s founding.

Cairo: The Cairo Chapter co-sponsored an unprecedented international forum entitled “Armenia – Arab World: Past and Present,” which took place at the Faculty of Arts of Cairo University on Tuesday, April 29, 2008 and under the auspices of Egypt’s Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research. The event, which can be described as unique in the Arab world, included various presentations that demonstrated the breadth and prominence of Armenians through the centuries. On January 18, 2009, a new Arabic-language book entitled *Egyptian-Armenian Views on History, Politics and Cultural Heritage* written by Berdj Terzian, Chairman of the Egypt District, was launched on the premises of the Armenian Embassy in Cairo. The publication encompassed forty of Terzian’s articles, which were originally published in the *Arev* Arabic monthly supplement from 1998 to 2008. In addition, an important exhibition of Armeno-Egyptian artists’ works was inaugurated on November 23, 2009, at the *El Hanager Art Center* by the Chapter, featuring approximately a hundred pieces by 38 Armenian-Egyptian artists of different generations in honor of the centennial birthday of prominent Armeno-Egyptian painter Puzant Godjamanian.

IRAQ

Despite prevailing conditions in the country, the Baghdad Chapter continues gathering its membership at the AGBU Center for various activities and programs. On December 12, 2009, a cultural event was held in memory of the Armenian poet Hovhannes Shiraz a quarter century after his passing. In addition to an exhibit of writings and photos, and recitation of his poetry and songs, a show was presented depicting a day in the life of the poet, according to texts written by the poet Medaksia.

LEBANON

The Demirdjian Center in the Antelias section of metropolitan Beirut, which is always bustling with activity, marked its 10th anniversary in 2009. Other milestones within the Lebanon District included the 50th anniversaries of both the Armenian-language publication *Khosnag* and the Vahram Papazian Theater Group. June 15, 2008 was the date of a cultural and tribute program dedicated to *Khosnag*, where speakers praised the quarterly publication’s influence on a generation of Lebanese Armenians. In honor of its golden jubilee, the

Papazian Theater Group staged Jirair Ananian’s modern tragicomedy *Der Mi Toghour Mez Ander* (God, Don’t Forsake Us) during February and March 2009. The group also presented a classic American play in March 2008 – an Armenian translation of Arthur Miller’s “The Witches of Salem,” and was then invited to Amman to perform the production for Jordan’s Armenian community. The following March, the AYA Cultural Committee presented “Musical Spring 2009,” which featured up-and-coming young Lebanese-Armenian musicians performing selections by classical Armenian and European composers.

SYRIA

Aleppo: The Aleppo Chapter, with its myriad of committees and programs, keeps the large local community engaged constantly. Among the highlights from the list was a special program on February 15, 2009, dedicated to His Holiness Vasken I of blessed memory, on the occasion of his centennial birthday, and a cultural program on June 5, 2009, dedicated to Hagop Mikayelian in honor of his 50 years of service to the Attamian Theater Group. Yet another well-attended endeavor was a three-day conference in October 2009, which focused on major cultural figures in the Armenian world between 1850 and 1950.

Damascus: Regularly gathering at the local center for activities geared to all ages, the Chapter maintains a prominent presence in the Syrian capital. The branch organized a three-day presentation in December 2008 dedicated to the centennial birthday of William Saroyan, with lectures and discussions taking place in Arabic and English, as well as Armenian.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Mid-2009 witnessed the birth of a new chapter in the region, AGBU UAE. New activities and partnerships for the local communities in both Dubai and Sharjah are already slated to take place.



The Aleppo Gomidas Chamber Orchestra Concert performed in Beirut on October 31, 2009 at the Demirdjian Center.



AYA Executive Committee chairman Vicken Attarian presents a silver plate to Hagop Mikayelian in honor of his 50 years of service to the AGBU AYA Attamian Theatre Group in Aleppo on June 5, 2009.



The Damascus AYA and the Danish Embassy jointly held an exhibit devoted to Norwegian missionary Bodil Catharina Biorn on May 29, 2009.



The Aleppo chapter held an event on February 15, 2009 honoring the 100th birthday of His Holiness Vasken I of blessed memory.

EUROPE

Recognizing both the vital role that the European-Armenian communities will play in the future of the Armenia-Diaspora relationship and AGBU's evolving relationship with Armenians in Russia, the AGBU Central Board of Directors decided to create a new governing body – the AGBU Europe Board. Hence, on February 1-3, 2008, the Central Board of Directors convened a Pan-European conference in Brussels, to inaugurate this entity, which was attended by over 100 individuals, including the AGBU Central Board, members of the newly appointed AGBU Europe entity, and AGBU chapters and YP groups operating in the EU. Alexis Govciyan was appointed as AGBU Europe's first chairman. As part of its mission, AGBU Europe will bring together established and emerging Armenian EU communities; promote research on Armenian identity, history and culture; develop teaching of the Armenian language and civilization, via global AGBU programs and by supporting local initiatives; and mobilize individuals to further the mission of AGBU throughout Europe.



From February 1-3, 2008, AGBU's Central Board of Directors convened its Pan-European conference in Brussels. The three-day event was attended by members of the newly appointed AGBU Europe board, AGBU chapters operating in the EU, as well as members of the organization's Young Professionals network in Europe.

BELGIUM

Brussels: Partnering with Inside Europe, an independent public policy and resource center dedicated to European affairs relating to Armenia and to the Armenian diaspora, AGBU opened an office in Brussels on February 1, 2009.

BULGARIA

Plovdiv: During the month of April in 2008, the "Erebuni" Musical Ensemble of the Plovdiv Chapter was invited to two Bulgarian cities – Yambol and Silistra – to perform concerts. The sold-out concert in Yambol was in partnership with the AGBU Sliven Chapter, and the Silistra concert was organized through the initiative of the city mayor, who has a close relationship with the city's Armenians. In addition, the Chapter co-sponsored a large-scale fundraising gala on March 21, 2009, with other Armenian organizations, to pay for the repair of the local Armenian cultural hall and school gymnasium. The local municipality was so impressed with the efforts that it donated 45,000 Bulgarian Levas (approx. \$30,000 USD) toward the renovation of the gymnasium.

Sofia: A thriving initiative of the Chapter has been the AGBU Sofia Chamber Orchestra. During the past two years, the ensemble performed close to a dozen concerts and enjoyed an audience of hundreds of classical music aficionados, including many non-Armenians. In addition to a live audience, television viewers also watch the Orchestra – a portion of every concert is broadcast on Bulgarian national television as part of a monthly program featuring classical music. A particularly memorable concert on December 20, 2009, was followed by the presentation of Turkish-Armenian lawyer/author Fethiye Çetin's book *My Grandmother*, which had just been translated into Bulgarian.



On March 21, 2009, 300 members of the Armenian community of Plovdiv, Bulgaria came together for the first annual charity dinner dance at the Novotel Hotel. The event was jointly organized by AGBU, the Armenian Parish Council of St. Kevork Apostolic Church, and the Erevan Organization.



The first spring concert of the 2008-2009 season for the Sofia Chamber Orchestra.

France District

- ☆ Lyon
Armenian Radio Program
Youth
- ☆ Marseille
Youth
YP Marseille
- ☆ Nice
- ☆ Paris
Saturday School
YP Paris
Ahazank Theater Group
Koghtan Choir
Nubarian Library
Goriz Leadership Program
Summer Camp
Summer Intern Program
Youth
- ☆ St-Chamond/St-Etienne
Youth
- ☆ Valence
Youth
- ☆ Vienne
Saturday School
Youth



FRANCE

During April 2008, AGBU chapters in Lyon, Marseille, Paris, and Valence, in cooperation with the Tchobanian Institute, organized a lecture tour entitled "The Foundations for Armenian Security and Means to Ensure It," which was attended by hundreds in all four cities. The Tchobanian Institute is an independent research center devoted to strategic studies in the South Caucasus, Asia Minor, and the Middle East.

Lyon: The Chapter celebrated the inauguration of its renovated center on September 11, 2009, in the presence of several government and AGBU representatives, including the Mayor of Lyon, Gerard Collomb.

Marseille: A June 2008 event honored Chapter member Didier Parakian, who was appointed to the Cabinet of the Mayor of Marseille, the second largest city in France. In addition, the Chapter organized a conference and book fair on December 12, 2008, featuring Hrant Dink's widow Rakel Dink and author Fethiye Çetin as speakers, among others.

Paris: Hayk Demoyan, Director of the Armenian Genocide Museum and Institute in Yerevan, presented two lectures at the Paris Center in late 2008 and 2009. The first focused on the status of Armenian-Turkish relations and the mission of AGMI, while the second discussed his new history book, "Armenian Sports and Gymnastics in the Ottoman Empire."

- ☆ Central Committee of Greece
- ☆ Athens
Artaki Kalpakian School
Youth
- ☆ Thessaloniki
Dance Group

- ☆ Burgas
YP Burgas
- ☆ Dobrich
Saturday School
- ☆ Haskovo
Saturday School
Gomidas Choir
Youth Theater Group
- ☆ Plovdiv
Saturday School
YP Plovdiv
Erebouni Choral Ensemble
Mirage Dance Ensemble
Green Camp
Youth
- ☆ Rousse
Saturday School
- ☆ Silistra
Saturday School
- ☆ Sliven
Saturday School
- ☆ Sofia
YP Sofia
Chamber Orchestra
Camp Unger
Youth
- ☆ Varna
- ☆ Yambol
Saturday School
Aravod Choir

Map Key

- COUNTRY** Countries where scholarship recipients study
- ★ District Committees
- ☆ Chapters/Committees
- Centers/Offices
- Schools/Universities
- Saturday Schools
- Young Professionals (YP)
- Humanitarian Projects
- Cultural Programs
- Youth Programs, Camps & Summer Intern Programs
- AGBU Partners



In the spring of 2008, AGBU chapters in Lyon, Marseille, Paris and Valence cooperated with the Tchobanian Institute to organize a lecture tour entitled "The Foundations for Armenian Security and Means to Ensure It."



AGBU Central Board member Yervant Zorian (center) and AGBU Armenian Representation Director Ashot Ghazarian (left of center) at Moscow State University on September 18, 2009 among Armenian students who attended the presentation about AGBU's youth and educational programs, including the AGBU Armenian Virtual College.



The AGBU-HAIK Frankfurt, Germany office officially opened its doors on April 1, 2008. Located in the heart of Germany, the AGBU-HAIK office represents the first major German initiative for AGBU in the last 20 years.

GERMANY

April 1, 2008 marked an important day for AGBU and HAIK (German-Armenian Students Association) – the AGBU-HAIK Frankfurt Office opened officially, representing the first major German initiative for AGBU in the last 20 years. Germany is the most populous member state of the European Union, and HAIK, which represents a network of Armenian students, scholars, and young professionals across the country with representatives at 17 universities, has participated in a number of AGBU conventions and meetings, making an amicable partnership inevitable. Later in the year, AGBU-HAIK also organized a launch gala, which was attended by members of AGBU Europe.

GREECE

Promoting the arts, the Athens Chapter's Women's Auxiliary Committee joined with the Museum of Greek Folk Art to organize a lecture on Armenian popular art, which took place on May 10, 2009 at the Museum. Guests were enlightened about the main elements of the genre and the important role played by the Armenian Church in the creation of art, and a comparison was made between the Armenian and Greek folk traditions of Asia Minor.

SPAIN

Always seeking to engage with new communities enthusiastic about its mission, AGBU established a formal partnership with an Armenian organization in Barcelona, known as ACAB (Armenian Cultural Association of Barcelona) on January 17, 2009, during a cultural dinner gala. Over the same weekend, AGBU Europe held its quarterly meeting weekend in Barcelona so that its committee members and those of ACAB could get acquainted and discuss avenues of cooperation. ACAB already runs an Armenian school for local youth through AGBU's support.

RUSSIA

In one of its very first partnership events with SIVAM, an Armenian organization comprised of young professionals based in Moscow, and in collaboration with Moscow State University, AGBU sponsored a presentation on its three summer intern programs to encourage participation among diasporans living in Russia, which took place on November 12, 2008, at Moscow State University. That same year, SIVAM collaborated with the AGBU Young Professionals of Los Angeles on a groundbreaking Internet videoconference designed to exchange perspectives on the emerging global Armenian identity.

UNITED KINGDOM

Joining forces with the local K. Tahta Armenian School, the London Chapter initiated an art competition and exhibit for students of the institution on May 17, 2009. Entitled "The Colors of Armenia and Armenia Through the Eyes of Children in the Diaspora," the project aimed to showcase the students' newly acquired knowledge of Armenian art and artists, as well as broaden their awareness of their cultural heritage.



On January 17, 2009, Spanish Armenians, AGBU Europe Board members and supporters from across Europe attended an AGBU-ACAB (Armenian Cultural Association of Barcelona) partnership event in Barcelona, Spain. The launch marked the expansion of the world's largest Armenian nonprofit organization into one of the largest countries of the European Union.



Presentation of Gilbert Sinoué's "Erevan" at the AGBU Paris book fair, May 16, 2009.



Students of the K. Tahta Armenian Sunday School receiving certificates for their participation in an art competition sponsored jointly by the school and the London Chapter.



On November 13, 2008, AGBU Europe hosted a conference in Brussels at the European Parliament entitled "A Journey of Cultural Rediscovery: Armenian Heritage in Turkey."



A Pre-Election Conference: "Meet Your Candidate: The European Parliament and Armenians in the Next Legislature of the European Parliament" was held by AGBU London on May 29, 2009.

NORTH AMERICA



Map Key

- COUNTRY** Countries where scholarship recipients study
- ★ District Committees
- ☆ Chapters/Committees
- Schools/Universities
- Saturday Schools
- Young Professionals (YP)
- Cultural Programs
- Youth Programs, Camps & Summer Intern Programs

CANADA

Montréal: Marking its 50th anniversary with much fanfare, the Montréal Chapter organized a series of events in 2008, including a tributary evening on March 8, which honored past chairmen and paid homage to the history of the Chapter. The anniversary celebrations culminated in a gala on May 18, which was attended by hundreds of members and supporters and garnered donations of \$100,000 for the enhancement of the youth hall in the Alex Manoogian Center. An active body within the Chapter, the Golden Age Committee celebrated its 35th anniversary on October 18, 2009, with a luncheon and cultural program honoring posthumously the founder of the group, as well as current committee members. Recognizing the important role that Armenia's scientists can play in the international academic world, and after learning that the Armenian National Academy of Sciences was about to face termination from the International Astronomical Union (IAU), members of the Montréal Chapter quickly mobilized to raise funds to pay for IAU's outstanding membership dues. Thanks to the generosity of AGBU Montreal, full membership was restored to IAU just in time for their participation in the IAU's triennial assembly in 2009.

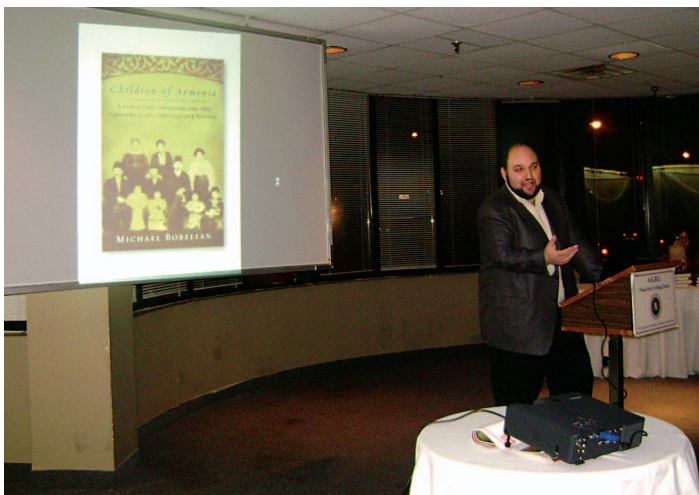
Toronto: An important tradition within the Chapter and the Zaroukian School is to plan one major joint venture every spring – the Annual Anniversary Ball. In 2009, the event paid tribute to former Member of Parliament Sarkis Assadourian, who was the first Armenian to be elected to the Canadian House of Commons. The Chapter also sponsored a concert of Armenian composers by YerazArt, a group of musicians from Armenia, on October 14, 2009, which delighted hundreds of music enthusiasts. In addition, several lectures on Armenian-related topics are organized regularly at the AGBU center.



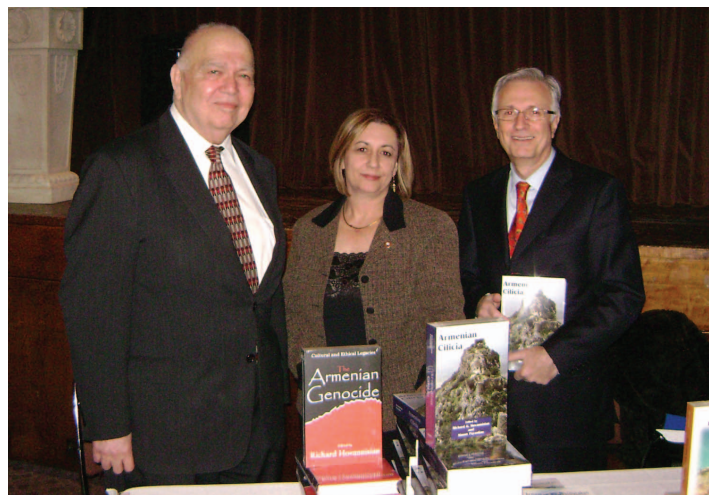
On Saturday, October 4, 2008, AGBU Montréal organized its first-ever walk-a-thon to benefit the local AGBU Armen-Québec Alex Manoogian School. Over 150 participants of all ages, including the AGBU Montreal Scouts' marching band, walked a six-kilometer circuit through the streets of Ville Saint-Laurent.



The series of programs dedicated to the 50th anniversary of the founding of the AGBU Montréal Chapter began with a special celebration and ceremony honoring its past chairmen on March 9, 2008 and culminating in a gala banquet (above), which took place on May 18, 2008 at Chateau Vaudreuil and hosted some 300 guests.



Michael Bobelian speaking about his book *Children of Armenia* during a 2009 event at the AGBU Alex Manoogian Center in Toronto. The book reading was jointly organized by AGBU Toronto and the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research.



On Friday, March 7, 2008, AGBU Toronto presented an illustrated lecture, "The Changing Landscape of Historic Western Armenia: Reflections on a Journey into the Past," by Dr. Richard G. Hovannisian (left) of the University of California, Los Angeles.



One of the performances during the Glendale-Pasadena Chapter's "Arvest Night" on November 16, 2008.



Members of the AGBU Hye Geen Young Circle, which organized the 2009 AGBU Hye Geen Conference, including: Teresa Hayrapetian, Tamar Kevonian, Cynthia Kossayan, Azniv Shakelian, Nellie Yacoubian, Talin Yacoubian Esq, and members of the Alpha Epsilon Omega Fraternity.



A program organized by the Women's Committee of the AGBU Alex Manoogian Center in Pasadena was held at the Manoogian Center on Sunday, March 15, 2009. On the occasion, Hagop Piandarian (right) was honored for his longtime service to the organization and devotion to the Armenian community. Pictured is Piandarian with his brother Bedros Piandarian (left), Director of AGBU Central Board of Directors' Accounting Department.

UNITED STATES

California:

Ardavazt Theater Group: In addition to co-sponsoring another well-attended Dikran Tchouhadjian operetta, *Zemiré*, with the Lark Musical Society in 2008, and staging its fall and spring plays every year, the Ardavazt Theater Group took time to honor Samuel Ilanjan with a jubilee program in honor of his 65 years of service to Armenian theater and culture. During the June 27, 2009 event, Ilanjan received the first AGBU Presidential Medal of Honor.

Fresno: In an effort to promote the Armenian language, the Fresno Chapter organized Armenian conversation classes for the local community in both 2008 and 2009, which were greeted with much enthusiasm.

Glendale-Pasadena: The Chapter organized "Arvest Night" on November 16, 2008, bringing together young musicians and vocalists for a concert attended by hundreds.

Hye Geen Committee: The Hye Geen Committee held a series of lectures and conferences throughout 2008 and 2009, including its second program dedicated to the legacy of Armenian culture, which focused on the success of female Armenian music composers and honored award-winning documentary filmmaker Carla Garapedian; a lecture entitled "Responsibility for the Survival of a Nation"; and a talk by Dr. Arousiak Sahakian, discussing Armenian women leaders and politicians throughout the decades. In partnership with California State University at Los Angeles (CSULA), the Committee held its third and fourth annual "Status of Armenian Community in the US" interdisciplinary conferences, which are aimed at discussing the current situation of Armenian-American communities. The Committee closed out 2009 with a discussion entitled "The Armenian Woman in Armenian Folktales," with guest lecturers leading a discussion on the depiction of women in the Armenian storytelling tradition. The event was part of a continuing series of public lectures based on social and cultural themes.

Orange County: The Orange County Chapter participated in both the Armenian Festival and the Annual City Festival in 2008.

San Fernando Valley: 2008 saw the Chapter celebrate its 20th anniversary. In May 2009, the AYA Sardarabad Dance Group performed a series of songs and dances at the Nazarian Center in Canoga Park.

Silicon Valley: The Chapter joined forces with the Nigol Aghpalian Chapter of Hamazkayin Armenian Educational and Cultural Association to host an artistic celebration called "Hantiboum" in April 2009, gathering 500 guests from the Armenian community in the Bay Area for a concert of songs and poetry readings.

Southern California District Committee: The Southern California District Committee celebrated its tenth annual gala on October 17, 2009, welcoming close to 500 people, including AGBU President Berge Setrakian and Mrs. Setrakian. Continuing its tradition of recognizing longtime benefactors, the Committee honored Vatche and Tamar Manoukian of London (UK), who announced a very generous \$11 million donation to the AGBU Vatche & Tamar Manoukian High School and the Pasadena Center. In addition, an art exhibit and reception paying tribute to world-renowned sculptor and painter Emil Kazaz was held in November 2009. The event included a three-day exhibition event, attracting over 1,500 people.

SCDC Asbeds: In June 2009, the Asbeds of Los Angeles held their fifth annual "Evening with Intellectuals" event, gathering a crowd of 350 guests. The group hosted Turkish historian Dr. Cengiz Aktar of Bahcesehir University in Istanbul and Professor Kevork Bardakjian of the University of Michigan in a discussion on the Armenia-Turkey reconciliation process.

Illinois: The Chicago Chapter co-organized a number of cultural events in 2008 and 2009, including a special performance of William Saroyan's play "The Time of Your Life" as a fundraiser for the AGBU Children's Centers in Armenia.

Massachusetts: In February 2009, the New England District held a special event to inaugurate the Michael Gulbankian Library at the AGBU Watertown Center. The collection will be open to members of the general public interested in learning more about Armenian literature and culture.

New York: Working in cooperation with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the AGBU United Nations Special Interest Group (UN SIG) hosted its first benefit reception on July 24, 2008 at the UN headquarters in New York. The reception raised \$6,000 for the UNDP Youth Career Trail Project, which seeks to mitigate youth unemployment in Armenia by partnering recent college graduates with leading host organizations through a six-month paid internship program. More than a hundred guests, including AGBU and UN dignitaries, attended the reception. A second benefit reception was organized on Thursday, June 11, 2009, in support of UNDP Armenia's Vocational Education and Training (VET) Project. An additional several thousand dollars were raised, which covered the tuition costs of 20 high-achieving students at Gyumri State Technical College.

Pennsylvania: In an effort to encourage friendships among young Armenians in college or just starting their careers in and around Philadelphia, the local Chapter organized a cotillion on June 20, 2009, which was attended by over 200 guests.



H.E. Archbishop Hovnan Derderian presents the St. Sahag-St. Mesrob Medal to Samuel Ilanjan. The jubilee program devoted to the 65th anniversary of the cultural, theatrical and community activity of 80-year-old Samuel Ilanjan took place on Saturday evening, June 27, 2009 at the AGBU Alex Manoogian Center in Pasadena.



On Saturday, November 7, 2009, the Armenian community gathered to attend a tribute event dedicated to world-renowned sculptor and painter, Emil Kazaz. The event was held at the Alex Manoogian Center in Pasadena.



His Excellency Armen Martirosyan, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Permanent Mission of Armenia to the UN, and Ian Bremmer, Founder and President of Eurasia Group, (both center) with members of the AGBU-UN Special Interest Group at the June 11, 2009 fundraiser at the Megerian Rug Gallery in New York.

SOUTH AMERICA



ARGENTINA

Buenos Aires: With the largest diaspora community in South America, the Buenos Aires Chapter committed itself once again to the perpetuation of the Armenian identity through a large cross-section of endeavors, most importantly by donating a *khatchkar* (cross-stone) to the city of La Plata, the capital of the Buenos Aires province. Moreover, the incredibly popular *Cena de los Viernes* (Friday night dinners) that take place at the AGBU center with hundreds of diners each week – Armenians and non-Armenian alike – have seen such an increase in demand that the Chapter began in 2008 to expand the dinners and incorporate Saturday nights. The Women’s Auxiliary Committee, which regularly sponsors Armenian cooking classes, published a new cookbook *Sabores con Historia* for the modern home cook in April of 2009 and they quickly sold out its first printing. On May 7, 2009, the Chapter celebrated its 98th anniversary and announced plans to commemorate its centennial in 2011.

Córdoba: Among a host of all-ages activities, the Chapter sponsored a photograph exhibit on March 30, 2009, entitled *ExpoArmenia* by Stepan Norair Chahinian, a member of YP Brazil. The exposition, which traveled from São Paulo to Argentina, featured images from the photography book *Armenia* that Chahinian created from his experience in that country.

Map Key

- COUNTRY** Countries where scholarship recipients study
- ☆ Chapters/Committees
- Schools/Universities
- Young Professionals (YP)
- Cultural Programs
- Youth Programs, Camps & Summer Intern Programs



As a result of a donation by AGBU Buenos Aires, and through the initiative of Sergio Nahabedian, advisor to the province of Buenos Aires and AGBU Honor Member, the unveiling and blessing of a khatchkar (cross-stone) was conducted on December 2, 2009 on the square next to the Cathedral of La Plata, the capital of Buenos Aires Province. Left to right: Archbishop Kissag Mouradian, Primate of the Diocese of Argentina and Chile; Sergio Nahabedian; Republic of Armenia’s Ambassador to Argentina His Excellency Vladimir Karmirshalian; La Plata mayor Oscar Pablo Bruera; and AGBU Central Board Member Ruben Kechichian.

BRAZIL

São Paulo: The Chapter always looks forward to planning its numerous annual events that bring together the local community, such as the Fashion Show Luncheon, Mothers' Day Luncheon, and the Chapter Anniversary Gala, all of which gather hundreds of supporters each time, and the past two years were no different. These endeavors honor individuals who have dedicated themselves generously to AGBU. For instance, at its 44th Anniversary Gala on September 20, 2008, the Chapter paid homage to those who planted the roots of the community by recognizing its first leaders with special certificates.

URUGUAY

Montevideo: A particularly notable accomplishment of the Chapter is its choral group, *Grung*, which is comprised almost entirely of alumni from the AGBU Nubarian Manoogian School. On November 7, 2008, the *Grung* choral group celebrated its 15th anniversary with a sold-out performance featuring a wide repertoire of classical, folkloric, and liturgical songs. During 2008 and 2009, the Ensemble, which enjoys the local patronage of non-Armenian music aficionados, as well, performed additional concerts for hundreds of spectators on premier stages in the capital city.



The AGBU Grung choral group celebrated its 15th anniversary with a tribute concert in Montevideo.



On Sunday, October 25, 2009, AGBU Brazil celebrated its 45th anniversary at Buffet Maison du France in São Paulo. From left to right: AGBU Central Board member Ruben Kechichian, chapter vice chairman Carlos Baktejian, honoree and former chapter board member Hampartsum Moundjian, honoree and former chapter chairman Carlos Matheus Der Haroutiounian, recipient of AGBU Brazil's Personality of the Year award Manuel Kherlakian Neto, and chapter chairman Krikor Manukian.



The world-renowned French singer Charles Aznavour visited Buenos Aires from May 2-4, 2008 and gave a performance at the Gran Rex Theatre. Left to right: AGBU Central Board member, Ruben Kechichian; Charles Aznavour; Buenos Aires Minister of Culture, Hernan Lombardi; Aznavour's manager, Levon Sayan; and His Excellency Vladimir Karmirshalian, the Ambassador of the Republic of Armenia to Argentina.



The Buenos Aires Women's Committee touring the AGBU Office in Yerevan during their visit to Armenia from September 16-29, 2009.

AUSTRALIA



Map Key

COUNTRY Countries where scholarship recipients study

☆ Chapters/Committees

Schools/Universities

Saturday Schools

Young Professionals (YP)

Cultural Programs

Youth Programs, Camps & Summer Intern Programs

Melbourne: 2009 marked a milestone year for the Chapter. On May 16, a ball was organized to mark its 20th anniversary and hundreds of members and supporters gathered to pay tribute to the organization that continues to serve the community with a monthly newsletter, family dinner gatherings, and other informative programs. Later in the year, an evening of gratitude was held to thank the many volunteers who helped bring the Chapter to fruition and continue its work over the past two decades.

Sydney: AGBU members in this community pay homage to their adopted country every year by holding a gathering on Australia Day. The past two years once again witnessed a large turnout of supporters for this event, and the Chapter has also established a tradition of its own on this day – distributing checks to the local scholarship recipients, who have demonstrated high academic achievement and community involvement.



Members of the AGBU Melbourne Executive Committee cutting the ceremonial cake during the special anniversary celebration on May 16, 2009 at The Langham Melbourne. Left to right: Gloria Hotakorzian, Avedis Semerjian, Chapter Chair Maral Tchorbadjian, Dikran Artaner, Yeran Kassardjian, Hovnan Torosian (absent - Berdj Tchakerian).



The AGBU Sydney chapter celebrated Australia Day on January 26, 2008. Pictured are Philip Ruddock, Member of Parliament (center left) and Gladys Berejiklian, Member of the Legislative Assembly (center right), with university students who received scholarships from AGBU.

2008 – 2009 DISTRICT & CHAPTER CHAIRPERSONS

ARGENTINA

BUENOS AIRES: Ruben Kechichian
CÓRDOBA: Ricardo Erezian

AUSTRALIA

MELBOURNE: Maral Tchorbadjian
SYDNEY: Vahe Artinian,
Toros Boghossian (as of Jun 2009)

AUSTRIA

VIENNA: Berge Seraydarian, Jirair
Balmanian (as of Jan 2009)

BRAZIL

SÃO PAULO: Krikor Manukian

BULGARIA

BURGAS: Hagop Movsesian
DOBRICH: Hayg Egikian
HASKOVO: Garo Hachadurian
PLOVDIV: Roupen Chavoushian
RUSSE: Edmon Dogramajian
SILISTRA: Mgrdich Kalustdian
SLIVEN: Varta Garabedian (2008),
Arshavir Hulian (2009)
SOFIA: Sonia Avakian-Bedrosian
YAMBOL: Sonya Arshavir Hovnanyan

CANADA

MONTRÉAL: Armen Bechakjian
TORONTO: Eugene Karadjian,
Knar Basmadjian (as of Oct 2008)

CYPRUS

LARNACA: Stepan Kamakian
LIMASSOL: Merouj Sarkissian (until Mar
2009)
NICOSIA: David Shahabian

EGYPT

DISTRICT COMMITTEE OF EGYPT,
CAIRO: Berdj Terzian
ALEXANDRIA: Sarkis Vartzbedian
CAIRO: Viken Djizmedjian

ETHIOPIA

ADDIS ABABA: Vahakn Karibian

EUROPE DISTRICT

DISTRICT COMMITTEE OF EUROPE,
PARIS: Alexis Govcayan

FRANCE

DISTRICT COMMITTEE OF FRANCE,
PARIS: Alexis Govcayan
LYON: Michel Sandjian
MARSEILLE: Sahag Karalekian
NICE-CÔTE D'AZUR: Chakée
Hagopian-Clausen
PARIS: Sam Najarian, Viviane
Etjemesian (as of Nov 2008)
ST. CHAMOND/ST. ETIENNE:
Leonardo Basmadjian
VALENCE: Philippe Panossian
VIENNE: Charles Paltobedrossian

GREECE

CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF GREECE,
ATHENS: Hagop Fesjian
THESSALONIKI: Haigouhi Portukalian

IRAN

TEHRAN: Roupen Ter Poghosian,
Levon Hovanessian (as of Sep 2008)

IRAQ

BAGHDAD: Skender Melconian

ITALY

MILAN: Haig Alexanian, Gueguel
Khatchadourian (as of Jun 2009)

LEBANON

DISTRICT COMMITTEE OF LEBANON,
BEIRUT: Avedis Demirdjian,
Gerard Tufenkjian (as of Jun 2009)

SOUTH AFRICA

JOHANNESBURG: Jacques Adanlian

SYRIA

DISTRICT COMMITTEE OF SYRIA,
ALEPPO: Bedros Boyadjian (2008),
Nerses Nersoyan (2009)
ALEPPO: Manuel Varjabedian (2008),
Hagop Mikayelian (2009)
DAMASCUS: Takvor Boyadjian,
Ara Yacoubian (as of Jun 2008)
KAMISHLY: Hovhannes Aroyan
LATTAKIA: Hagop Attamian
YACOUBIEH: Kevork Khatchadourian

URUGUAY

MONTEVIDEO: Hagop Chamikian,
Gustavo Zulamian (as of Aug 2009)

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

DUBAI: Hratch Borghosizian (est. 2009)

UNITED KINGDOM

LONDON: Noushig Setrakian

USA

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA DISTRICT
COMMITTEE, LOS ANGELES: Vahe
Imasdounian (2008), Berj Shahbazian
(2009)
GLENDALE/PASADENA: Shahe
Seuylemezian
HYE GEEN LOS ANGELES, CA: Sona
Yacoubian
ORANGE COUNTY, CA: Krikor
Mahdessian
SAN DIEGO, CA: Ani Kalayjian-Lanuza
SAN FERNANDO VALLEY, CA: Vahe
Ekmekjian (2008), Hovig Antabian
(2009)
FRESNO, CA: Zaroochi Der Mugrdechian
OAKLAND-SAN FRANCISCO, CA:
Ashken Mouradian (2008)
SILICON VALLEY, CA: Yervant Zorian
CHICAGO, IL: Leona Mirza (2008),
Sona Diorio (2009)
NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT, MA: Souren
Maserejian
NEW YORK (NY) SPECIAL EVENTS
COMMITTEE: Nila Festekjian (2008,
Co-Chair; 2009, Chair) & Gacia
Mangassarian (2008, Co-Chair)
DETROIT, MI: Nadya Sarafian
CLEVELAND, OH: Sebouh Setrakian
PHILADELPHIA, PA: Elizabeth Barone,
Clara Samelian
PROVIDENCE MEN, RI: William
Aznavourian
HOUSTON, TX: Sarkis Ohanian
PRESIDENT'S CLUB: Vartkess & Rita
Balian, Raffi Balian & Sarkis Jebejian (as
of Sept 2009)

SPOTLIGHT



Monsignor Stanislaw Pindera (center) is presented with the 2008 AGBU Garbis Papazian Award in Warsaw by Razmik Hartunian-Tamrasians (left), representative of the Garbis Papazian Fund, and His Excellency Ashot Galoyian (right), Ambassador of the Republic of Armenia to Poland. A devout servant of the Catholic Church, a well-known public figure and photographer in Poland, Msgr. Pindera was given the award for his preparation and publication of an impressive photographic album entitled *Armenia: Stones Are More Eternal Than Man*.



Razmik Hartunian-Tamrasians, representative of the AGBU Garbis Papazian Fund, presents Bulgarian reporter, documentarian, and cinematographer Tsvetana Paskaleva (right) with the 2009 AGBU Garbis Papazian Award at a ceremony in Yerevan on July 3, 2009 for her unwavering devotion to the truthful presentation of the Karabakh liberation struggle. Paskaleva has directed seven documentaries and prepared reports as a foreign journalist for CNN, NBC, Antene-2, and other European media agencies on the Karabakh war.



An evening of tribute to the veteran Lebanese-Armenian philologist, editor, educator, and public figure Jirair Tanielian was held at the Komitas Hall of Chamber Music in Yerevan, Armenia on June 3, 2009. The Republic of Armenia Diaspora Minister Hranush Hakobian presented Mr. Tanielian, who is the longtime principal of the AGBU Tarouhi-Hovagimian School in Lebanon, with a watch emblazoned with a symbol of Armenia-diaspora cooperation.



The annual meeting of the Republic of Armenia's National Academy of Sciences (NAS), which took place on April 21-23, 2009, elected AGBU Central Board member Yervant Zorian a Foreign Member of the prestigious Academy. Pictured is Yervant Zorian (left) receiving the Foreign Member diploma from Armenian National Academy of Sciences President Radik Martirosian.



Over 300 guests attended a tribute evening celebrating the more than fifty years of services rendered by AGBU Vice President Arshavir Gundjian to the Armenian nation and its political and public life, which took place on March 14, 2009 in the Jirair and Elise Dervishian Hall of the AGBU Alex Manoogian Center in Montréal.



A five-decade AGBU member and a member of the AGBU Europe District Board, Honorary Consul General of Austria to Egypt Astrid Alexanian-Papazian was bestowed with the "Gold Medal of Honor for Devotion and Services to the Republic of Austria" on January 21, 2008 during a dinner in Cairo at the home of the Austrian Ambassador to Egypt.



Mr. and Mrs. Berge Setrakian with Mr. and Mrs. Levon Kebabdjian (center), who served as a member of the Central Board of Directors from 1992 to 2008, and was awarded the title of AGBU Honor Member at an event on March 27, 2009 in Paris for his more than three decades of service to the Armenian nation.



Raymond Kevorkian, historian and curator of the AGBU Nubarian Library, was awarded the French medal of "Chevalier de l'ordre des Arts et Lettres" in 2009 for his significant contribution to the enrichment of the arts and literature in France and worldwide. Kevorkian was also elected as a Foreign Member of Armenia's National Academy of Sciences in April 2009.



Harout Chitilian, an alumnus of the AGBU Armen Québec-Alex Manoogian School, member of the Montréal Chapter Executive Committee, and YP Montréal chairman, was elected by Bordeaux-Cartierville district during the 2009 municipal elections of Montréal.



The AGBU Antranig Dance Ensemble commemorated its 40th anniversary in 2009, crowned by a glorious performance at New York's Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts on Saturday, November 28.

AGBU boasts a proud history of excellence in the performing arts, and 2008 and 2009 were no different. Applauded by thousands in over a dozen countries, numerous performances were staged by the organization's 30 choral, musical, dance and theatrical ensembles. In addition, two pillar bodies of Armenian culture in the United States – the Antranig Dance Ensemble and the Ardavazt Theater Group – celebrated their milestone 40th and 30th anniversaries respectively. The Antranig Dance

Ensemble marked its 40th birthday in 2009 by performing its 100th full-length program entitled *Reflections* at the prestigious Alice Tully Hall of Lincoln Center in Manhattan. The Ardavazt Theater Group commemorated its 30th year of bringing laughter and tears to the community with a tributary evening honoring the hundreds of actors, technical crew, and committee members who shared their talents both on and off the stage during the 55 productions since 1979.



The cast and crew of the AYA Lebanon Vahram Papazian Theatre Group presents Ananian's "Der Mi Toghour Ander".



A scene from "Zemire" by the Ardavazt Theatre Company in Pasadena, California, which was held between May 30 - June 2, 2008.

AGBU PERFORMING ARTISTS IN CONCERT

An exciting initiative was launched on September 20, 2008, by the New York Special Events Committee (NYSEC). In an effort to raise both awareness of and funds for the AGBU Scholarship Program, the group staged a concert at Weill



Recital Hall of New York City's famed Carnegie Hall to showcase the talents of 16 young musicians who have benefited from the organization's performing arts scholarships. Pre-concert efforts garnered over \$50,000 from AGBU donors, and the sold-out concert itself featured the world premiere of Tigran Martikyan's "The Dance of Spring" and the U.S. premiere of Kevork Andonian's "Rhapsody for String Quartet." Following the success of this endeavor, NYSEC decided to make this a yearly event, and the 2009 concert was held on October 24. Once again sold out at Weill Recital Hall, the evening featured the U.S. premiere of 19-year-old Gevork Badalian's composition based on five folk songs from the Armenian Genocide, compiled by Verjine Svazlian, and raised another \$40,000 in pre-concert donations, which have been allocated to the newly established AGBU Performing Arts Fellowship Program.

BIENNIAL FOCUS WEEKEND



Harry Onnig Madanyan from Chicago shares his thoughts about the possible legacy of today's young Armenian professionals during the Perspectives event, which was moderated by journalist Lara Setrakian.

Fifth Biennial Weekend for Global Young Armenian Professionals During July 2009 Welcomes 400 Guests in Chicago & Raises Over \$35,000 for AGBU Hye Geen Pregnant Women's Project in Armenia

FOCUS celebrated its fifth biennial affair with 400 participants from 16 countries (Argentina, Armenia, Canada, France, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Mexico, Russia, Spain, Switzerland, Syria, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, Uruguay, and over twenty American states) in downtown Chicago from July 16-19, 2009.

The schedule of events included: Thursday evening's Perspectives, a networking forum; Friday's Club Night at a private club in the heart of downtown Chicago; Saturday afternoon's FOCUS on Art with an architectural boat cruise; a closing Sunday brunch; and the weekend's most anticipated gathering – the Saturday evening Gala.

Perspectives has become the traditional kick-off event of FOCUS, bringing guests together to network and discuss a specific current issue facing a generation of young Armenians. Taking place at the River East Art Center, which houses many of the city's art galleries, the discussions centered around the legacy young Armenian professionals want to leave as Armenians to the next generation and how the Armenian community can engage them to take part and make a difference. Lively dialogues ensued on the importance of language in cultural sustainability, the Armenian Genocide and its role in our consciousness, and how to live an Armenian life in the 21st century.

The highlight of the weekend was the Gala, held at the internationally renowned Modern Wing of Chicago's Art Institute. Beginning with cocktails in the Museum's Grand Staircase surrounded by fine art, guests had the privilege to walk through the Alsdorf Gallery of South East Asian Art before being welcomed into the new modern wing for a multimedia presentation on the AGBU Hye Geen Pregnant Women's



A view of the Saturday Night Gala in the Art Institute of Chicago's soaring new Modern Wing.

Centers, the beneficiary of 2009's pre-event fundraising initiatives with international donors. To date, over 700 healthy babies have been born to the mothers who have attended centers sponsored by Hye Geen, and the gift by FOCUS 2009 will be allocated to the new center in Talin, Armenia, where there are many poor and underserved villages.

Beyond the official FOCUS activities, the weekend was also the setting for the AGBU Young Professionals (YP) biennial assembly. Twenty-five YPs representing a dozen YP groups and partner organizations from seven countries (Argentina, Armenia, Canada, France, Russia, the United Arab Emirates and the United States) convened to engage in cross cooperation and collaboration with the end purpose in mind of strengthening and advancing the worldwide AGBU YP Network. Participants

engaged in an open dialogue on partnership opportunities and best practices, with a clear focus on international cooperation. The Assembly was a testament to the accelerated growth and popularity of the YP Network, as well as the dedication of the young Armenians belonging to it, who are committed to working together as a cohesive whole to give back to the community at large to preserve their identity and heritage.

First initiated in 2001, FOCUS was created not only to bring together global young Armenian professionals to share their international perspectives, but also to showcase notable achievements made by AGBU's diverse programs and

strengthen participants' connection to the organization. Over the years, this biennial affair has become the most highly anticipated event for young Armenian professionals around the world with over 2,000 participants, setting a standard for similar gatherings and cultivating a new cadre of AGBU members. In fact, tickets for FOCUS 2009 were sold out well over a week before the festivities even began, and pre-event fundraising efforts for all five FOCUS events have raised close to \$200,000 for AGBU programs.



The international flair of FOCUS 2009 was evident at the farewell Brunch event when guests from as far afield as Buenos Aires, Los Angeles, and Mexico City bonded before saying their final goodbyes.



Participants from Chicago, Los Angeles, and New Jersey enjoy the festive elegance of the FOCUS 2009 Gala.



Guests cruise the Chicago River for an architectural tour of the city as part of the FOCUS on Art cultural program.

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS



Representatives from the Young Professionals Network convening for its Biennial Assembly in Chicago during FOCUS July 2009 weekend.

Spanning five continents, the AGBU Young Professionals (YP) is a growing network of YP groups and supporters from around the world who preserve and promote the Armenian identity and heritage for young Armenians between the ages of 22 to 40.

With an open-door policy, the AGBU YP Network has garnered an international reputation for fostering a sense of community and belonging. Proof positive, the network expanded to 28 in 2008 and 2009 with new groups emerging in Buenos Aires, Burgas, Cologne, Chicago, Dubai, Hamburg, Marseille, and Montréal; cooperative partnerships in Frankfurt and Moscow; and staff in Paris and Yerevan.

Making Armenian communities thriving, better places to live, the YP Network in the last two years:

- Engaged 15,000 YPs worldwide through cultural, professional and social activities;
- Donated \$113,000 to worthwhile projects with 70% of the funds allocated to Armenia and Karabakh. \$35,800 of this sum was donated to the YP Endowment Fund for the AGBU Children's Centers in Armenia, increasing its total value to \$94,800. **Since the network's inception, AGBU YPs have donated nearly \$250,000;**
- Harnessed their collective power by working together on local, regional and global projects;
- Partnered with AGBU Districts, Chapters and Schools; Armenian and non-Armenian youth organizations; and Armenian Student Associations; and
- Participated in key AGBU functions, such as FOCUS, the General Assembly and the pan-AGBU European Conference.

Convened in Chicago during FOCUS 2009, the YP Biennial Assembly enjoyed the largest and most diverse attendance for an AGBU YP meeting ever. Testament to the accelerated growth and popularity of the YP movement, worldwide leadership participated in a cross exchange on partnership opportunities, with a special presentation made on new projects in Armenia. A key outcome, the YP Network consequently agreed to pool its resources and launch an environmental project to build a park in Khachik, Armenia.

Substantive and impactful, YP Groups sponsored 250 events in 2008 and 2009, representing 25% of AGBU worldwide activity and an increase of 40% from the prior two years. Building momentum around the world, YP Groups also identified novel ways to attract their peers and diversified the breadth of their activities with a heightened focus on:

- Web technology by employing online video conferencing, ticketing, donations, and social networking platforms;
- Relevant, contemporary workshops that advance the lives and interests of young Armenian professionals; and
- Community outreach and service projects for Armenian youth, seniors, the disabled and impoverished.

AGBU
YOUNG
PROFESSIONALS

For additional information on the AGBU Young Professionals, visit www.agbu.org/yp and www.facebook.com/agbuyp.



One of the eight YP Groups established in the last two years, YP Chicago Steering Committee Members assemble for the group's inaugural event held in November 2009.

Sampling of 2008-2009 Beneficiaries of YP Giving

- AGBU Camp Nubar
- AGBU Children's Centers
- AGBU Generation Next
- AGBU Hye Geen
- AGBU Manoogian-Demirdjian School
- AGBU New York Summer Intern Program
- AGBU 2008 World Games in Uruguay
- American University of Armenia
- Armenian Genocide Museum Collection (Armenia)
- Karabakh Chamber Orchestra
- Khachik Information Center Project (Armenia)
- Nansen Orphanage Project (Armenia)
- Sweet Corn Project (Armenia)

2008-2009 YP Group Donors

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| YP Boston | YP Northern California |
| YP Cologne | YP Orange County |
| YP Greater New York | YP Tehran |
| YP Los Angeles | YP United Arab Emirates |
| YP Marseille | YP Yerevan |



Giving the most to worthwhile YP causes in the last two years, YP Greater New York Steering Committee Members gather at the group's signature benefit event, the Armenian Christmas Cocktail Reception & Silent Auction, in January 2009.

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS CHAIRS 2008-2009

ARGENTINA

BUENOS AIRES: Ignacio Balassanian

ARMENIA

YEREVAN: Shushanik Ghaltakhchyan (2008), Harutyun Poghosyan (2009)

AUSTRALIA

SYDNEY: Kris Boghossian

AUSTRIA

VIENNA: Hrayr Sarikyan

BRAZIL

SÃO PAULO: Paulo Bilezikjian

BULGARIA

BURGAS (est. 2009): Levon Manukyan
 PLOVDIV: Suzanna Harutyunyan-Vasilevska
 SOFIA: Hermina Emiryan (2008), Magardich Hulian (2009)

CANADA

MONTRÉAL (est. 2009): Harout Chitilian
 TORONTO: Haigo Derian

FRANCE

MARSEILLE (est. 2009): Maral Hekimian
 PARIS: Aurélie Deyirmendjian

GERMANY

COLOGNE: Alfrant Bedrosian
 HAMBURG (est. 2009): Armen Chamlaian

IRAN

TEHRAN: Maria Ghazarians

LEBANON

BEIRUT: Guy Markarian

SWITZERLAND

ZURICH (2008): Marcus Baghdassarian

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

DUBAI (est. 2009): Talar Kazanjian, Lara Setrakian

UNITED KINGDOM

LONDON: Armine Afrikian (2008), Ani Kalustian (2009)

USA

FRESNO (until 2009): Arevig Atarian
 LOS ANGELES, CA: Annie Markarian (2008), Narine Zardarian (2009)
 NORTHERN CALIFORNIA, CA: Emily Kluczynski (2008), Steven Cherezian, David Ojakian (2009)
 ORANGE COUNTY, CA: Talin Babikian
 CHICAGO, IL (est. 2009): Arina Mavilian
 BOSTON, MA: Areg Bagdasarian, Antranig Mardiros (2008), Antranig Mardiros (2009)
 GREATER NEW YORK, NY: Danny Abajian, Aline Markarian
 PHILADELPHIA, PA: Vicky Evreklian (2008), Julie Paretchan (2009)
 WASHINGTON, DC: Leana Movsessian

The AGBU Young Professionals Network brings together young Armenians from all walks of life to serve the greater good.



YP Brazil



YP Buenos Aires



YP Hamburg



YP London



YP Los Angeles



YP Montréal



YP Northern California



YP Orange County

Diverse yet unified, AGBU YPs share one common goal: to preserve and promote the Armenian identity and heritage.



YP Paris



YP Philadelphia



YP Sofia



YP Sydney



YP Tehran



YP Toronto



YP UAE



YP Yerevan

YOUTH



Antranik Scout Camp, Armenia

SUMMER & DAY CAMPS

In 2008 and 2009, AGBU continued to bring together thousands of Armenian youths interested in taking part in the organization's outstanding and engaging summer camp experiences at close to a dozen day and sleep-away camps in eight countries. While some youths stay local, many travel to foreign countries to take part far away from home. AGBU's largest camp program, Camp Nubar, in upstate New York, celebrated its 45th anniversary with a fundraising reunion event in New York City on September 13, 2008, and the same year *Colonie de Vacances* in southern France completed its 25th milestone year. Along with providing a fun and exciting summer experience for youth, AGBU camps aim to help participants stay connected to their cultural heritage and build lifelong friendships.

Camp Unger, Bulgaria



Demirdjian Center Summer Camp, Lebanon



Colonie de vacances, France





Camp Nubar, USA



Green Camp, Bulgaria



Colonie de vacances, France



Buenos Aires Day Camp



Camp Wadi, Egypt



On December 6, 2009, the AGBU Yerevan scout troop participated in the annual "Yertman" (swearing-in) ceremony in Yerevan, Armenia.

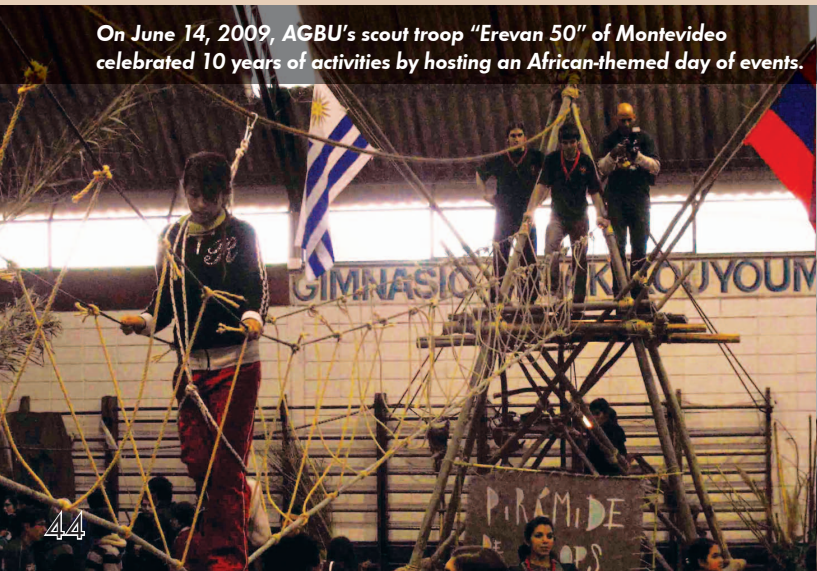
SCOUTS

An exciting AGBU scouting endeavor was launched in 2008 – the Antranik Scout Camp in Armenia. The first AGBU camp in Armenia, the program is designed to bring together the organization’s scouting groups for summer jamborees. The inaugural sessions alone united over 300 youths from Armenia, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Syria, and the United States at the camp, which is located near the village of Lermontovo in the Vanadzor region. As a result, another first was established – a scouts group in Yerevan, which now boasts almost 90 youths. In Baghdad, the well-received Scouts Day took place in September 2009, with close to 100 scouts engaging in activities for hundreds of supporters. The scouts group in Montevideo celebrated its 10th anniversary on June 14, 2009, by creating a unique African-themed activity gym, which was attended by over 400 youths, who “climbed” a re-creation of Mount Kilimanjaro and explored “The Pyramid of Cheops.” When not participating in their local activities, like practicing skill sets and taking excursions into the wilderness, scouts often assist their local Chapter in fundraising and traveling to help with construction projects.



Participants of the AGBU Antranik Scout Camp located in the Lori region of Armenia.

On June 14, 2009, AGBU’s scout troop “Erean 50” of Montevideo celebrated 10 years of activities by hosting an African-themed day of events.



A view of AGBU Iraq’s Boy Scouts Day, which was held on September 22, 2009.





A soccer match between the AGBU Buenos Aires and Córdoba teams during the organization's 2008 World Games in Montevideo, Uruguay.



2009 South America Regional Games, Córdoba, Argentina.

ATHLETICS

AGBU's athletic teams once again proved that hard work, teamwork, and enthusiasm pay off in the end. In Beirut, the AYA Antranik Women's Basketball Team was crowned the Lebanese champion for the sixth and seventh years in a row. Additional victories for another first-division AGBU team took place in Cyprus, as the Nicosia Ararat Futsal team won the National Championship two more times, marking the club's sixth consecutive win. The Cairo Men's and Women's Basketball Teams both won the annual HMEM Alex Nubar Tournament in 2008. Canadian teams also continued their tradition of playing basketball in Montréal every October and in Toronto every May to give their younger athletes a chance to shine. The Annual South American Regional Games had a grand weekend turnout in Córdoba, Argentina, in October 2009, with hundreds of athletes and spectators participating from all four AGBU Chapters within the continent. In Montevideo, the XVIII Biennial World Games took place in July 2008, with 1,000 players and guests coming from around the globe to engage in friendly competitions and interact with fellow Armenian youths during this weeklong event.



Ararat Futsal team in Nicosia wins the 2008-2009 Cypriot championship.



AGBU-AYA Antranik Basketball 1st Division Women team after winning the 2009 Lebanese Championship.



Discover Armenia Youth Trip

Dziadzan Chorus of Cairo



Silicon Valley Kids Club trip to Pixar Animation Studios



YOUTH ACTIVITIES

AGBU's youth groups and special activities flourished in all corners of the world with a wide range of endeavors committed to carrying on the Armenian heritage and the positive development of young Armenians. The Discover Armenia trip for diaspora teenagers brought together 40 participants in 2008-2009, who saw their homeland for the first time and discovered all the beauty it has to offer. The Dziadzan (Rainbow) Children's Choir in Cairo celebrated its fifth anniversary with a performance in October 2009, in addition to the numerous concerts it presented both years in multiple venues. In Beirut, the AYA Antranik Youth Dance Ensemble gave a new performance for a combined 1,100 spectators over two days in June 2008, and the Aleppo AYA University Students group presented a full-day conference on May 1, 2009 entitled "The International Economic Crisis and Its Implications on Armenian Youth." The event attracted 250 college students of Armenian descent and offered lectures by experts and leaders in economics and banking. In 2009, this same group joined forces with the Beirut AYA University Students group and organized a joint winter getaway weekend in the mountains of each country to give members the opportunity to fraternize and develop new bonds. In South America, the Buenos Aires Liga de Jóvenes (youth group) organized its annual "Woodstokian" band festival, attracting hundreds of music lovers. The Silicon Valley Kids Club had the unique opportunity of getting a behind-the-scenes tour of Pixar Animation Studios, as well as a private lecture by Pixar producer Katherine Sarafian in February 2008.



On February 6, 2009, over a hundred students took part in the AYA Lebanon and AYA Aleppo university student cultural exchange in Kessab, Syria.



Discover Armenia Youth Trip



AYA Lebanon & Armenian students of Aleppo University met during a winter getaway that took place March 7-8, 2009 at Faraya, Lebanon.



Aleppo AYA organized a full-day seminar on May 1, 2009 about the international economic crisis and its implications for Armenian youth.



AYA Lebanon's folk dance group performed on June 6, 2008 for more than 500 AGBU school students in Beirut.

MEDIA & PUBLICATIONS



AGBU's media and publications regularly reach over 100,000 Armenians around the world. Our network includes 14 publications in four languages and they are an important means to inform AGBU members and donors about the organization's local and global activities.

Since the launch of flagship website (AGBU.org) in 1999, the Internet has played a growing role in the organization's media strategy with Armenians young and old. In addition to websites and blogs, AGBU's email list (13,000+) continues to grow. The Central Office sends a monthly electronic newsletter that not only summarizes recent news, but also lists upcoming events and other noteworthy items for a general audience.

The organization's Communications Department also maintains an active presence on the most popular social media networks, including Facebook, Twitter, Flickr and YouTube, where Armenians can conveniently receive items of interest that keep them up-to-date and informed.

PUBLICATIONS

AGBU News bi-annual magazine (New York City, USA)

- Nor Tsayn monthly newsletter (Melbourne, Australia)
- Mioutune monthly newsletter (Sydney, Australia)
- AGBU Voice monthly newspaper (Plovdiv, Bulgaria)
- Deghegadou quarterly (Cairo, Egypt)
- Revue arménienne des questions contemporaines semi-annual journal (Paris, France)
- Khosnag quarterly (Beirut, Lebanon)
- Hayatsk quarterly (Aleppo, Syria)
- Yeram monthly email newsletter (Damascus, Syria)
- AGBU-AYA News quarterly (Southern California, USA)
- AGBU Newsletter montly enewsletter (New York City, USA)
- AGBU Armenia monthly newsletter (Yerevan, Armenia)
- Ararat Magazine quarterly (New York City, USA)
- Hoosharar bi-annual magazine (New York City, USA)

Visit AGBU.org for a complete and up-to-date list of all AGBU websites.

SELECT WEBSITES

Flagship Sites

- agbu.org
- agbu.am
- agbu.org/blog
- agbu.org/yp

District Sites

- agbuca.org Los Angeles, USA
- agbuegypt.com Cairo, Egypt
- agbueurope.org Paris, France

Chapter Sites

- ugab.org.ar Buenos Aires, Argentina
- agbu.co.nr Damascus, Syria
- agbuchicago.org Chicago, USA
- agbu.org.uk London, UK
- ugab.org.uy Montevideo, Uruguay
- agbumontreal.org Montréal, Canada
- ugab.com.br Sao Paulo, Brazil
- agbubg.org Sofia, Bulgaria
- agbu.org.au Sydney, Australia
- agbutoronto.ca Toronto, Canada

School Sites

- agbumds.org Canoga Park, USA
- alexmanoogian.qc.ca Montréal, Canada
- agbuphs.org Pasadena, USA
- manoogian.org Southfield, USA
- alexander.nsw.edu.au Sydney, Australia
- school.agbutoronto.ca Toronto, Canada

Committee Sites

- antranig.org New York, USA
- usnubar.org Paris, France
- agbugnnext.org Pasadena (CA), USA

Social Media Networks

- Facebook agbu.org/facebook
- Flickr agbu.org/flickr
- LinkedIn agbu.org/linkedin
- YouTube agbu.org/youtube
- Xing agbu.org/xing

2008 & 2009 AGBU Programs

Alumni Associations (3)

Gulbenkian Manoogian Nubar Schools (CA, USA)
Lazar Najarian-Calouste Gulbenkian School (CA, USA)
Tarouhi Hovagimian School (CA, USA)

Art Academy (1)

Sarian Academy (Aleppo, Syria)

Camps & Day Camps (11)

Antranik Scout Camp (Vanadzor, Armenia)
Arevik Day Camp (Toronto, Canada/2008)
Camp Nubar (NY, USA)
Camp Unger (Sofia, Bulgaria)
Colonia de Vacaciones (Buenos Aires, Argentina)
Colonie de Vacances (Haute-Savoie, France)
Demirdjian Center Summer Camp (Antelias, Lebanon)
Green Camp (Plovdiv, Bulgaria)
Kessab Camp (Kessab, Syria)
Summer Day Camp (Cordoba, Argentina)
Summer Day Camp (Kamishly, Syria)

Choral Groups (10)

Antranik Junior Choir (Antelias, Lebanon)
Aravod Choir (Yambol, Bulgaria)
Arev Children's Vocal Group (Aleppo, Syria)
AYA Choir (Baghdad, Iraq)
Coro Shnorhali (Buenos Aires, Argentina)
Dziadzan Children's Choir (Cairo, Egypt)
Gomidas Choir (Haskovo, Bulgaria)
Grung Choir (Montevideo, Uruguay)
Koghtan Choir (Paris, France)
Spendiarian Choir (Aleppo, Syria)

Dance Ensembles (9)

Akhtamar Dance Ensemble (Kamishly, Syria)
Antranig Dance Ensemble (NJ, USA)
Antranik Dance Ensemble (Antelias, Lebanon)
Antranik Dance Ensemble (Aleppo, Syria)
Ararat Dance Ensemble (Cordoba, Argentina)
Dance Ensemble (Thessaloniki, Greece)
Mirage Jazz Ballet Ensemble (Plovdiv, Bulgaria)
Pountch Children's Dance Ensemble (Aleppo, Syria)
Sardarabad Dance Ensemble (CA, USA)

Intern Programs (3)

New York Summer Intern Program
Paris Summer Intern Program
Yerevan Summer Intern Program

Library/Research Center (1)

Bibliothèque Nubar/Nubarian Library (Paris, France)

Medical Centers (4)

Hye Geen Pregnant Women's Center (Talin, Armenia)
Hye Geen Pregnant Women's Center (Vanadzor, Armenia)
Medical Dispensary (Beirut, Lebanon)
Ultrasound Center (Yerevan, Armenia)

Mentorship Program (2)

Generation Next Mentorship Program (CA, USA)
Goriz Leadership Program (Paris, France)

Musical Groups (8)

AYA Marching Band (Aleppo, Syria)
Chamber Orchestra (Sofia, Bulgaria)
Chamber Orchestra (Stepanakert, Karabakh)
Dzirani Vocal Ensemble (Cordoba, Argentina)
Erebuni Ensemble (Plovdiv, Bulgaria)
Gomidas Chamber Orchestra (Aleppo, Syria)
Hye Herosner Marching Band (CA, USA)
Philharmonic Orchestra (Yerevan, Armenia)

Partnerships (4)

ACAB (Barcelona, Spain)
HAIK (Frankfurt, Germany)
Inside Europe (Brussels, Belgium)
SIVAM (Moscow, Russia)

Radio Shows (2)

Armenian Radio Program (Melbourne, Australia)
Armenian Radio Program (Lyon, France)

Special Committees (7)

Asbeds (Antelias, Lebanon)
Asbeds (Aleppo, Syria)
Asbeds (CA, USA)
FOCUS (NY, USA)
Hye Geen (CA, USA)
New York Special Events Committee (NY, USA)
United Nations Special Interest Group (NY, USA)

Theater Groups (6)

Ahazank Theater Group (Paris, France)
Ardavazt Theater Group (CA, USA)
Bedros Attamian Theater Group (Aleppo, Syria)
Paros Theater Group (Tehran, Iran)
Vahram Papazian Theater Group (Antelias, Lebanon)
Youth Theater Troupe (Haskovo, Bulgaria)

Youth Trips to Armenia (1)

Discover Armenia (Yerevan, Armenia)

AGBU

55 East 59th Street
New York, NY 10022-1112
TEL 212-319-6383
FAX 212-319-6507
EMAIL agbuny@agbu.org
www.agbu.org