

AGBU

BIENNIAL REPORT

2010 - 2011

PRESENTED AT THE 87TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ON OCTOBER 20, 2012 IN YEREVAN, ARMENIA



An artist's rendering of the new AGBU center in Yerevan, to be completed in 2013.

AGBU CENTRAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2010 – 2011

President

Berge Setrakian

Vice President

Arshavir Gundjian (2010), Sinan Sinanian (2011)

Treasurer

Sam Simonian

Secretary

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His Holiness Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians

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ARGENTINA: Ruben Kechichian. **FRANCE:** Aris Atamian.

SWITZERLAND: Vahe Gabrache. **SYRIA:** Vasken Yacoubian.

COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES

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

IN MEMORIAM

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



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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2010 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Captions, from left to right: Members of the AGBU Central Board in Buenos Aires, Argentina, during the 86th General Assembly on October 16, 2010; Concert at the French Embassy opening the week of activities during the 86th General Assembly in Buenos Aires; AGBU honored Argentinean-Armenian entrepreneur Eduardo Eurnekian as "Man of the Year" in October 2010 for his continuing commitment to improving the infrastructure of Armenia; Buenos Aires scouts pose in front of the rendering for their new center during the groundbreaking ceremony that took place after the General Assembly in 2010.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Pride, Commitment, Leadership



To Our Members, Donors and Friends,

This 87th General Assembly Biennial Report encapsulates AGBU's many programs, activities and new initiatives of the past two years. More importantly however, it marks several significant benchmarks and historical milestones, which usher a new era for our nation and our organization.

As we assess our activity and service in this context, we take pride in the steadfast course of our great Union and affirm the national agenda that has always been at the core of our mission. In the face of the extraordinary political and socio-economic challenges, AGBU continues to direct our valuable resources to Armenia and Karabakh, while upholding our commitment to the diaspora, by ensuring that the next generation of leaders is equipped to meet the challenges that lie ahead.

The 20th Anniversaries of Armenia and Karabakh and of the establishment of both their defense forces and diplomatic foreign relations were celebrations of survival and triumph in which our organization had its fair share of pride and sense of accomplishment. We continue to provide unconditional support and remain committed to the homeland, even when under adverse political conditions. The priority going forward is to build on the strengths of Armenia and encourage an ever-evolving state. Our collaborative goal must be to provide a hopeful future, with a sincere commitment from the nation's leadership to fight corruption, strengthen democracy, and stimulate economic growth.

While we feel that we are continuously addressing the ongoing and emerging urgent needs of our homeland and many of our worldwide communities, we have to realize that we are now also

a strong and resourceful nation as a whole and need to act as one. Our resolve for strategic action and serious initiatives as a capable and affluent diaspora is being tested. With an emphasis on issues that restore focus on concerted cooperation among diasporan communities, we must come together to play a forceful and coherent role in the development of Armenia and Karabakh. As we prepare intently for the 100th anniversary of the Genocide, it is essential that we unite and pursue our demands of recognition and restitution.

Armenia must remain our top priority, but equally so should the cultivation of our new generation worldwide. AGBU maintains and initiates programs around the globe providing the necessary platforms to thousands of youths to ensure personal and professional success, while emphasizing the importance of community involvement and active citizenship. Nurturing college and university students in every capacity – from providing financial assistance to offering access to unparalleled internship experience and beyond, we are preparing our future leaders who must rise above and beyond the call of duty to keep our heritage alive. They must contribute their knowledge and expertise to the betterment of our nation, and, at the same time, it is critical that they become leaders and successes in their own countries, bringing Armenians to the forefront of every sector and industry.

Reading through the biennial report with these thoughts in mind, I am pleased with the youthful and educational nature of the many programs and activities that are highlighted through its pages. To single out a few – the American University of Armenia celebrated its 20th Anniversary; we established a partnership with the Eurnekian Fruitful Armenia Fund's NUR Project in Karabakh, which is based on the One Laptop Per Child initiative; the expanded impact and offerings of our Virtual College now boasts over 1,000 students in 50 countries and is the world's first and only Armenian online education program; the launch of the ambitious Armeniaca project by our Europe District focuses on the digitalization and development of open source archives related to the Armenian architectural heritage and historical landmarks; the recent success of our Moscow Summer Internship Program (MSIP) has added more prestige to our Internship Program; our New York Summer Intern Program (NYSIP) celebrated its 25th anniversary of providing high-achieving college students the opportunity to gain valuable work experience; and, most recently, the Musical Armenia Program (MAP) was established to provide a unique summer opportunity in Armenia for promising young talents to collaborate with top musicians and attending master classes at the best music schools. Our summer camps, scouts, athletics and cultural groups continue to engage the youngest members of our community and quickly become mainstays in their lives.

Most importantly, AGBU's new center in the heart of Yerevan, which will be completed in 2013, promises to be a testament to our dedication toward our homeland and heritage, and will surely help grow our presence in both Armenia and Karabakh.

The strength of our leadership, the commitment of our benefactors, the solidarity and enthusiastic service of our chapters and of our generous and devoted members continue to be at the core of our success and of the universal trust our great Union enjoys. It is imperative that we sustain that energy, focus and commitment. AGBU's Central Board of Directors comprises individuals with unique talents, energetic personalities, bright minds, and diverse backgrounds, best endowed to sustain the vision and broad outlook of our visionary past leaders, and lead our organization to new heights.

It continues to be a great honor for me to serve as the President of AGBU along with such individuals and dedicated members and staff. We are proud of the past achievements of our glorious organization, committed to serving our homeland, and believe that we should lead through example, extending an invitation to all Armenians to join us in the efforts of contributing in the mission of building our nation.



Berge Setrakian,
President



Youth assemble every summer morning around the flagpole at Camp Nubar in upstate New York.



AGBU distributes scholarships to students at the French University of Armenia annually.



Teenagers from all over the world gather in the homeland every year to connect with their heritage through the Discover Armenia program.



FINANCIAL REPORT 2011 - 2010

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS	December 31	
	2011 (**)	2010
Current Assets:		
Cash	\$ 11,729,375	\$ 9,170,861
Portfolio investments	243,941,640 (*)	237,524,889 (*)
Contributions/Accounts receivable	3,272,049	3,140,673
Interest receivable	437,208	589,989
Total Current Assets	259,380,272	250,426,412
Real Estate	81,993,449	79,425,794
Furniture, equipment and leasehold improvements, net	1,694,336	1,817,921
Total Assets	\$343,068,057	\$331,670,127
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$9,686,161	\$7,753,731
Notes payable	549,931	549,931
Total Liabilities	10,236,092	8,303,662
Net Assets:		
Unrestricted	49,556,330	46,958,734
Temporarily restricted	37,532,837	33,409,123
Permanently restricted	245,742,798	242,998,608
Total Net Assets	332,831,965	323,366,465
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$343,068,057	\$331,670,127

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 12/31/2011 and 12/31/2010 are \$232,886,433 and \$243,002,060 respectively.

(**) Consolidated financials for 2011 & 2010 consist of the audited figures of the U.S. Delaware Corporation and the compiled figures of the local districts and chapters. The figures of local entities for 2011 were estimated based on 2010 actuals, as a significant number of reports at the time of the preparation of this booklet were not available.

HIGHLIGHTS

Biennial Financial Report 10-year Comparative Totals

	2011	%*	2010	%**	2000
Total Assets	\$343,068,057	3.43%	\$331,670,127	39.13%	\$238,402,626
Total Income	52,882,182	32.76%	39,830,669	<11.03>%	44,768,080
Total Expenditure	43,416,682	1.88%	42,612,748	27.70%	33,369,168

*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, 2011(**)

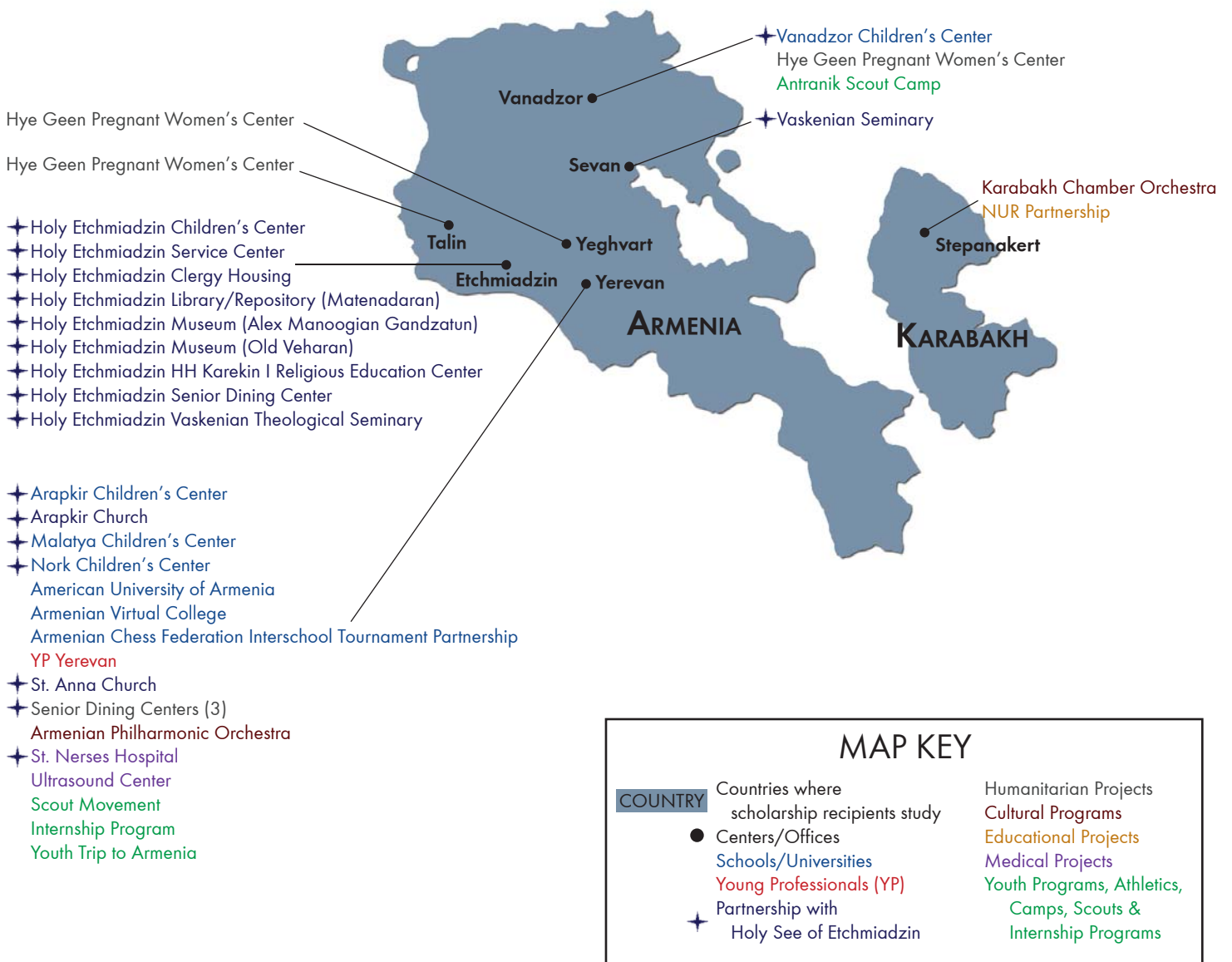
Year Ended December 31, 2010

Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
\$ 2,727,114	\$ 14,199,990	\$ 2,684,521	\$ 19,611,625	\$ 2,969,436	\$ 7,402,858	\$ 2,045,995	\$ 12,418,289
396,562	-	-	396,562	298,965	-	-	298,965
5,196,907	20,000	-	5,216,907	5,121,106	3,597	-	5,124,703
8,320,583	14,219,990	2,684,521	25,225,094	8,389,507	7,406,455	2,045,995	17,841,957
15,152,137	-	-	15,152,137	9,614,270	-	-	9,614,270
2,062,600	4,435	-	2,067,035	2,064,079	8,625	-	2,072,704
10,437,916	-	-	10,437,916	10,301,738	-	-	10,301,738
27,652,653	4,435	-	27,657,088	21,980,087	8,625	-	21,988,712
35,973,236	14,224,425	2,684,521	52,882,182	30,369,594	7,415,080	2,045,995	39,830,669
12,320,983	(12,320,983)	-	-	11,013,905	(11,013,905)	-	-
48,294,219	1,903,442	2,684,521	52,882,182	41,383,499	(3,598,825)	2,045,995	39,830,669
18,466,814	-	-	18,466,814	18,644,589	-	-	18,644,589
10,934,516	-	-	10,934,516	10,869,584	-	-	10,869,584
4,735,883	-	-	4,735,883	5,482,478	-	-	5,482,478
5,550,441	-	-	5,550,441	4,119,946	-	-	4,119,946
39,687,654	-	-	39,687,654	39,116,597	-	-	39,116,597
3,430,922	-	-	3,430,922	3,212,033	-	-	3,212,033
250,113	-	-	250,113	236,125	-	-	236,125
47,993	-	-	47,993	47,993	-	-	47,993
3,729,028	-	-	3,729,028	3,496,151	-	-	3,496,151
43,416,682	-	-	43,416,682	42,612,748	-	-	42,612,748
4,877,537	1,903,442	2,684,521	9,465,500	(1,229,249)	(3,598,825)	2,045,995	(2,782,079)
(2,279,941)	2,220,272	59,669	-	(3,701,761)	4,450,052	(748,291)	-
2,597,596	4,123,714	2,744,190	9,465,500	(4,931,010)	851,227	1,297,704	(2,782,079)
46,958,734	33,409,123	242,998,608	323,366,465	51,889,744	32,557,896	241,700,904	326,148,544
\$49,556,330	\$37,532,837	\$245,742,798	\$332,831,965	\$46,958,734	\$33,409,123	\$242,998,608	\$323,366,465

ARMENIA/KARABAKH



A view from the semi-finals of the AGBU-sponsored 5th Annual School Chess Tournament that took place in Yerevan during March 2011.



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF ARMENIA

AUA had three exciting announcements in 2010 – the first being a generous grant of \$400,000 from the Lincy Foundation, which will help aid the university's rise to the next level of excellence. Just one month later, in April, came the appointment of Dr. Bruce M. Boghosian as the university's new president, effective that summer following the retirement of longtime president Dr. Haroutune Armenian. Dr. Boghosian is a distinguished scholar who holds a B.S. degree in physics and an M.S. degree in nuclear engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and a Ph.D. in Applied Science and Engineering from the University of California, Davis. In June, members of the Akian family from the US cut the ribbon to the new Akian Art Gallery in the University's Paramaz Avedisian Building. In addition to a gift of \$283,000 in support of the gallery, the Akian Family Foundation has committed \$500,000 to AUA over the next five years for scholarships that will be awarded to students at AUA and other higher education institutions in the homeland.

ARMENIAN PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

A particularly ambitious event garnering much applause closed the spring 2010 season of the AGBU-sponsored Armenian Philharmonic Orchestra (APO) – in July, Armenian film director Vigen Chaldanian and the orchestra, under the baton of Maestro Eduard Topchjan, presented "Eugene Onegin," an opera by Tchaikovsky, at the Aram Khachaturian Concert Hall. The production featured soloists from the Spendiaryan Opera and Ballet Academic Theater and Hover Chamber Choir. APO then opened the fall 2010 season by participating in the 4th Yerevan International Music Festival, which took place under the high patronage of Armenia's First Lady Rita Sargsyan and included musicians from 12 countries. Just two months later, the famous German Arts Concert agency invited APO to tour in Germany and Slovakia. The concerts in Frankfurt's renowned Alte Oper were sold out far in advance. The orchestra then performed in Bratislava's Reduta Hall, and featured violin soloist Anush Nikoghosian, who is an AGBU Performing Arts Fellowship recipient. In February 2011, APO made an effort to reach out to students, and gave a series of concerts within Yerevan's universities. A second Tchaikovsky masterpiece – The Nutcracker this time – was performed in March with special effects produced on a screen behind the orchestra and proved so popular that an encore performance was added to satisfy demand.

CHESS TOURNAMENT PARTNERSHIP

The final match of the AGBU-sponsored 4th Republican Interscholar Chess Tournament was held in May 2010, in Kajaran, Armenia, and included teams from all over the country, Karabakh and the Javakhk province of Georgia. Present at the championship was Vice President of Armenia's Chess Federation Smpat Lputyan. The May 2011 finals took place in the Tavush region. AGBU also co-sponsored the first Pan-Armenian Chess Olympiad in Yerevan during August 2010 as part of the One Nation One Culture Festival. Over 40 top-ranked Armenian chess players from Armenia and the diaspora were honored with the presence of Armenia's President Serge Sargsyan on the opening day. AGBU has already

AGBU-Sponsored Programs & Projects in Armenia & Karabakh

ONGOING PROGRAMS

ARMENIA

American University of Armenia
Armenian Philharmonic Orchestra
Children's Centers (3)
Senior Dining Centers (3)
Ultrasound Center
Armenian Virtual College
Armenian Chess Federation
Hye Geen Pregnant Women's Center Talin
Hye Geen Pregnant Women's Center Vanadzor
Hye Geen Pregnant Women's Center Yeghvard
Yerevan State University

KARABAKH

Karabakh Chamber Orchestra
NUR Partnership

YOUTH PROGRAMS

AGBU Armenia Scout Movement
Young Professionals of Yerevan

DIASPORA YOUTH PROGRAMS

Antranik Scout Camp
Discover Armenia Youth Trip
Yerevan Summer Intern Program

MAJOR PROJECTS

Holy Etchmiadzin
Holy Etchmiadzin Arapkir Church
Holy Etchmiadzin Armenia Programs
Holy Etchmiadzin Cathedral
Holy Etchmiadzin Children's Center
Holy Etchmiadzin Clergy Housing
Holy Etchmiadzin HH Karekin I Religious Education Center
Holy Etchmiadzin Library/Repository (Matenadaran)
Holy Etchmiadzin Museum (Alex Manoogian Gandzaton)
Holy Etchmiadzin Museum (Old Veharan)
Holy Etchmiadzin Seminary
Holy Etchmiadzin Service Center
St. Anna Church
St. Nerses Hospital
Vanadzor Children's Center
Vaskenian Theological Seminary

SPECIAL GRANTS

Fridtjof Nansen Orphanage
Grant Life Foundation
Gyumri Renaissance Festival
Gyumri State Conservatory
"Meronk" TV Program
National Academy of Sciences
"On the Ways of Diaspora" TV Program
Open Music Festival
L'Université Française en Arménie (French University)
Union of Writers
Various Publications
Yacobian Scientific Medical Library Renovation

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

Aragatsotn Region - Aruch School Gym Restoration
Aragatsotn Region - Chgnagh School Renovation
Aragatsotn Region - Geghadzor Village Community School Renovation
Aragatsotn Region - Getap School Gym Restoration
Ararat Region - Lanjazat School Gym Reconstruction
Ararat Region - Ourtsndza Cultural House Overhaul
Dilijan Region - Reconstruction of School #6 Building
Dilijan Region - Rehabilitation of School #6 Building
Kotayk Region - Nor Geghi Community Center Heating System
Kotayk Region - Charentsavan Cultural Center Heating System
Lori Region - Geghatzar Project
Lori Region - Khnkoyan Village Community Center Overhaul
Lori Region - Shahumyan Cultural House Overhaul
Shirak Region - Amasia Kindergarten Building Community Center Overhaul
Shirak Region - Gyumri's Shiraz Museum
Syunik Region - Angeghakot Village Cultural House Overhaul
Syunik Region - Brunis School Gym Construction Completion
Syunik Region - Geghanosh Village School Gym Renovation
Syunik Region - Hinatsag Village School Renovation
Syunik Region - Meghri Village School Gym Renovation
Syunik Region - Qarashen Village School Renovation
Tavush Region - Koghb School #1
Tavush Region - Navour School Gym Renovation
Tavush Region - Project in Chinar
Tavush Region - Ptghavan Village School Gym Renovation

donated more than 4,000 chess sets and chess clocks to schools in Armenia and Karabakh, creating a solid base for the development and growth of the game. The winners of the finals received laptops made available by AGBU. The aim of this partnership is to promote a love of chess among students and identify talented young people who can grow to be future champions, continuing Armenia's role as a serious contender in world chess competitions.

CHILDREN'S CENTERS

Over the past two years, the 1,850 students at the Nork, Arapkir and Malatya Children's Centers have been continuing their classes in arts & crafts, computers, dance, gymnastics, history and music, as well as staging several shows around Yerevan to commemorate a number of occasions. The most important highlight came during the week of April 2-8, 2011, when 30 youth from the Nork Center were invited to Beirut, Lebanon, upon the invitation of AGBU's AYA to help celebrate its 80th anniversary. Five performances were held at the Hovhannes Boghosian Auditorium, drawing in a total of 3,000 guests, which included 1,300 Armenian school students. The performers ranged in age from five to 14, and presented a variety of well-rehearsed talent, which consisted of song, dance, and gymnastics. During their time in Lebanon, the youth spent time sightseeing and interacting with local Armenian peers, many of whom were members of the AYA Arine Dance Ensemble. Travel expenses were underwritten by the Armenian company VivaCell.

FRENCH UNIVERSITY OF ARMENIA

AGBU awarded \$60,000 in scholarships to 45 students pursuing higher education at the French University of Armenia between 2010 and 2011. Since 2007, approximately 100 high-achieving students have benefited from the organization's financial support. Graduates of the university are granted both an Armenian state diploma and a French national diploma, which increases their chances of landing a job soon after commencement, and paves the way to help them become future leaders.

HYE GEEN PREGNANT WOMEN'S CENTERS

In November 2011, Hye Geen inaugurated its newest Pregnant Women's Center. The AGBU Hye Geen Nora Injijian Center, which is located within the Yeghvard Childbirth Hospital, is the fourth such facility and was established through a generous grant from Haigaz and Marie-Louise Injijian of Los Angeles in memory of their daughter. As a touching tribute, the first female baby born there was christened with the name Nora. In 2002, AGBU Hye Geen unveiled its first Pregnant Women's Center, and each is sustained largely through successful fundraising efforts in the US and UK; the AGBU Young Professionals of Los Angeles donated enough funding in mid-2011 to cover fully the Vanadzor center's operating costs through the remainder of the year. The list of healthy babies that the AGBU Hye Geen Pregnant Women's Centers are helping deliver has grown to over 800, making an impact in reversing the startling infant mortality rates that inspired Hye Geen to initiate the centers more than a decade ago.



AUA celebrated its 20th anniversary on September 27, 2011.



Performers from the AGBU Nork Children's Center take a bow after a standing ovation in Beirut, Lebanon, on April 5, 2011.



AGBU Council of Trustees member and Benefactors Mr. and Mrs. Nazar and Artemis Nazarian cut the ribbon at the new Chancellery of the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin on April 5, 2010.

KARABAKH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

The Karabakh Chamber Orchestra (KCO) opened its 2010 concert season in March at the Stepanakert Culture Palace with a concert dedicated to the 60th birthday of Karabakh musician, teacher, painter and sculptor Albert Safarian. In attendance was NKR Culture Minister Naira Aghabalian, who presented him with a medal of gratitude recognizing his unique contribution to the development of culture in the republic. Another unforgettable evening of classical music was offered in November, this time at the Youth Palace of Stepanakert. Guest soloists featured were Barsegh Tumanian, Christine Dovlatian and Irina Zakian from Armenia. One of KCO's 2011 performances was dedicated to Gomidas and the Armenian Genocide as it took place during April. The orchestra was founded in September 2004 at the request of former Karabakh President Arkady Ghoukassian, who approached AGBU to sponsor the project.



On April 20, 2011, the Karabakh Chamber Orchestra dedicated a concert to the Armenian Genocide and Gomidas.

NEW EDUCATIONAL STRATEGY (NUR) PARTNERSHIP

In January 2011, Karabakh Prime Minister Ara Harutyunyan, and the world-renowned Argentinean-Armenian entrepreneur Eduardo Eurnekian signed a cooperation agreement that launched the One Laptop Per Child (OLPC) program in Karabakh, which aims to provide laptop computers to elementary schools throughout the republic. The innovative technology program – called the New Education Strategy (NUR) – will be implemented by Eurnekian's non-profit organization, Fruitful Armenia Fund (FAF), in partnership with AGBU's on the ground support. NUR follows the OLPC educational program developed at MIT, which combines a hands-on approach to education with an affordable laptop device, the XO, a waterproof model made for educational purposes with durable batteries that are charged through solar cells. The program will provide the XO to first- to fourth-grade students and their teachers. As part of the agreement, the government of Karabakh has agreed to provide Internet access at participating schools. During the first phase, launched in September 2011, 160 teachers from Stepanakert and Shushi began training through an intensive three-week course on SUGAR, the educational software used by XO.



(Left to Right) AGBU Central Board member Vasken Yacoubian, entrepreneur Eduardo Eurnekian, Chief Executive Director of FAF Ana Cristina Schirinian, and NUR program manager Sebastian Arias-Duvall, announce the launch of NUR Plan in Karabakh.

SENIOR DINING CENTERS

An ample hot meal and plenty of fresh fruits and vegetables are served every week day at the three Senior Dining Centers, which are housed in the Nork, Arapkir and Malatya Children's Centers. Since Armenia's independence, AGBU has been proud to sponsor these facilities reaching out to 600 pensioners and orphans, who often take home additional portions to share with family members. Meals are also delivered to beneficiaries who are bedridden or unable to come to the centers.



A view of the Malatya Senior Dining Center.

EDUCATION



Nubarian-Manoogian School (Montevideo, Uruguay)

Throughout the past century, AGBU has often been associated with schools that have 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. AGBU's educational role has evolved into a variety of innovative programs that aim to address the global realities of the 21st century, and the needs of our communities and new generations.

AGBU's well-recognized international schools have always strived for academic excellence and stand as strong pillars in their local communities. Their comprehensive curriculums, with their focus on the arts, humanities and sciences, keep students constantly challenged, while their trilingual programs comprising Armenian language and history in addition to the first language of their adopted countries, as well as a third language of choice, and the enriching cultural co-curricular activities they offer, help youth maintain a broad outlook of the world and a strong understanding of their Armenian heritage and roots. Every year, AGBU serves close to 5,000 students. In addition to our day schools spanning a range of grade levels from Pre-K -12, AGBU extension schools and summer academies guarantee that Armenian youth around the world receive a high-quality education, no matter what the day or season.

SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENTS

Australia, Sydney: The Forest District Interschool Debating Competition has been taking place in Sydney for the past 14 years, and in June 2010, the **Alexander School** claimed victory for the 7th time. Several students participated as debaters, timekeeper and chairperson after much preparation leading up to the big day.

Canada, Montreal: 2010 proved to be an exciting year for the **Alex Manoogian School** - the school celebrated its 40th anniversary amongst hundreds of supporters during a gala event, and enjoyed a visit to the premises by Quebec's Provincial Minister of Culture, Christine St. Pierre.

Canada, Toronto: In February 2011, students at the **Zaroukian School** worked on science fair projects and presented their

completed assignments to peers and parents in an Open House. Six finalists were then invited to attend the University of Toronto's Science Fair in April, where they met with other student winners in Toronto. Zaroukian's finalists were divided into various themed groups, and enjoyed a workshop on their topic, had time for exploration and received medals for their participation.

Greece, Athens: Joining their peers from around the world, students from the **Artaki Kalpakian School**, as well as alumni up to age 18, were invited by Armenia's Diaspora Ministry to participate in its "Ari Dun" (Come Home) program. The group traveled with their chaperones to the homeland for two weeks in July to see the famous monuments and interact with fellow students from other countries in order to gain a better appreciation for their heritage.

Lebanon, Beirut: Hundreds of enthusiastic alumni celebrated the 70th anniversary of the **Tarouhy-Hovagimian School** at a ball in July 2010. Plans were set in place to revive a movement among former students dedicated to giving back to their alma mater.

Syria, Aleppo: In October 2010, the **Lazar Najarian-Calouste Gulbenkian School**, the largest Armenian school outside of the homeland, received the award for Best Armenian Educational Institution. The school was honored at an official ceremony in the National Academy of Sciences in Yerevan within the framework of a contest organized by the Diaspora Ministry with financial assistance from the World Armenian Congress.

USA, California: The **Manoogian-Demirdjian School** commemorated its 35th anniversary in March 2011 at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in the presence of nearly 500 attendees under the theme of "The Past & the Present, the Then & Now." Alumni were highlighted throughout the program, along with numerous awards presented - the most prestigious being the **AGBU President's Award**, which was bestowed upon the principal, **Dr. Hagop Hagopian**. The institution also had reason to celebrate in 2010, as 25 students received AP Scholar Awards for their high achievement on the College Board's Advanced Placement Program (AP) Examinations. Two of these students also earned the 2011 National Merit Scholarship Program title of

Commended Student based on their PSAT/NMSQT scores, which means that they ranked among the top five percent of the over 1.5 million students who entered the competition and are among the just 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation who are acknowledged for their academic promise.

USA, California: With a commitment to excellence, the **Vatche & Tamar Manoukian High School** celebrated its 5th anniversary in 2011, during which time the institution has already made remarkable progress. Full and independent accreditation, rigorous college-preparatory content standards in all core subjects, a state-of-the-art technology program, a comprehensive performing arts program, and an Armenian language and culture “magnet” program were just some of the many achievements, in addition to members of the senior class having received college acceptances from various respected institutions, including Berkeley, numerous California State Universities, and the University of Southern California, UCLA, UC Irvine and others. The school’s benefactors, Mr. & Mrs. Manoukian, paid a highly anticipated visit to the school in 2010, where they were thanked for their immense generosity.

USA, Michigan: For the first time in its history, the **Alex & Marie Manoogian School’s** graduating class surpassed the million-dollar mark in college scholarships. In 2010, \$1.2 million dollars was offered to approximately half of the school’s 29 graduating seniors to attend in-state institutions, including the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor and Dearborn), Wayne State University, Central Michigan University, Lawrence Technological University and University of Detroit Mercy, as well as grants from multiple out-of-state universities. During the commencement ceremony that year, AGBU President Berge Setrakian was the keynote speaker before an audience of 650 people.



Students from the Marie Manoogian Institute from Buenos Aires visit their peers at the Manoogian-Demirdjian School during the 2011 exchange.

MDS/MMI ANNUAL STUDENT EXCHANGE

A unique initiative established in 1999, the annual exchange program between the Manoogian-Demirdjian School in Southern California and the Buenos Aires Marie Manoogian Institute took place in both 2010 and 2011. Students from each school were not only exposed to a new culture, but also reminded of the common ties that bind together Armenians all over the world. During a course of three weeks, students sat among peers during English, Spanish and other classes, and embarked on sightseeing adventures to establish friendships with their local counterparts.

AGBU DAY SCHOOLS

ARGENTINA Buenos Aires	Marie Manoogian Institute (Pre K-12)
AUSTRALIA Sydney	Alexander Primary (K-6)
CANADA Montreal Toronto	Alex Manoogian (Pre K-8) Daniel & Alice Zaroukian (Pre K-6)
GREECE Athens	Artaki Kalpakian (Pre K-6)
IRAN Tehran	Marie Manoogian (9-12) Nevart Gulbenkian (1-5)
LEBANON Beirut	Boghos K. Garmirian (Pre K-6) Levon G. Nazarian (Pre K-6) Tarouhy-Hovagimian (7-12)
SYRIA Aleppo Damascus	Lazar Najarian-Calouste Gulbenkian (Pre K-12) Gullabi Gulbenkian (Pre K-6)
URUGUAY Montevideo	Nubarian-Manoogian (Pre K-12)
USA California	
Canoga Park	Manoogian-Demirdjian (Pre K-12)
Pasadena	Vatche & Tamar Manoukian High School (9-12)
Michigan	
Southfield	Alex & Marie Manoogian Charter School (Pre K-12)

AGBU SATURDAY SCHOOLS

AUSTRALIA Sydney	Alex Manoogian Saturday School
BULGARIA Dobrich Haskovo Plovdiv Rousse Silistra Sliven Yambol	Saturday School Saturday School Saturday School Saturday School Saturday School Saturday School Saturday School
FRANCE Paris Vienne	Alex Manoogian Saturday School Wednesday School
LEBANON Beirut	Demirdjian Center Saturday School
SYRIA Kamishly	Saturday School
USA California	
Costa Mesa	Orange County Saturday School
Illinois	
Chicago	Sisag H. Varjabedian Saturday School
Ohio	
Cleveland	Saturday School



Alex & Marie Manoogian Charter School (Southfield, USA)



Tarouhy-Hovagimian High School (Beirut, Lebanon)

AGBU SCHOLARSHIPS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

AGBU Scholarship Program

In each of the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 academic years, close to 400 students and professionals studying in nearly 30 countries worldwide benefited from AGBU's scholarship assistance, with distributions across six continents totaling over \$600,000 USD and \$700,000 USD, respectively.

AGBU Fellowships for US-Based Study were awarded to students pursuing graduate studies in the fields of architecture, education, finance/economics, international relations, law, and medicine. Enrolled in highly competitive colleges and universities in the United States, the recipients hailed from such educational institutions as Columbia, Harvard, NYU, Tufts, UCLA, USC, and Yale.

AGBU Performing Arts Scholarships/Fellowships were awarded to musicians from conservatories and universities of music in Austria, Canada, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States. *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.*

AGBU Religious Studies Scholarships/Fellowships were awarded to candidates for priesthood from St. Nersess Armenian Seminary in New Rochelle, New York, and parishes affiliated with the Western Diocese in California, as well as other students of theology worldwide.

Comprising the largest category of individual scholarships, **AGBU International Scholarships** were awarded to students pursuing higher education in their countries of residence. Many are graduates of AGBU schools around the world. In providing the necessary outreach and support to this worldwide program,



AGBU Plovdiv board members and students from Burgas, Dobrich, Haskovo, Silistra, and Sliven, as well as local students, gathered on March 27, 2010, for the chapter's annual event to distribute AGBU scholarship awards.

AGBU's chapters, through their committees and staff, play a vital role in identifying and evaluating potential candidates. They also facilitate scholarship recipients' active involvement in their communities through a variety of programs that comprise youth leadership and mentorship opportunities.

AGBU Heritage Scholars Grants are awarded to outstanding seniors from each of the three AGBU high schools in the United States who display academic excellence, school spirit, and community involvement. The 2010 and 2011 recipients were honors and advanced placement (AP) students, valedictorians, salutatorians, varsity athletes, and active leaders in their cultural and religious communities, with big dreams for the future. *Funding for the **AGBU Heritage Scholars Grants** was provided by the George Holopigian Memorial Fund.*

A brand new AGBU Scholarship Program website, www.agbu-scholarship.org, complete with an online application system, is set to launch in 2012.



Armenia's Culture Minister Hasmik Poghosyan addresses the AGBU Armenian Virtual College's Global Online Forum in Yerevan on September 6, 2011, with AGBU Central Board Member and AVC founder Yervant Zorian at right. The event celebrated AVC's continuing success at educational innovation.



AVC instructor Marina Khachatryan cuts the ribbon with Harutyun Surmalyan, head of the local Armenian community during the opening of the new AVC lab in Rostov, Russia, on September 28, 2011.

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



Since its launch in 2009, the AGBU Armenian Virtual College (AVC), the world's first and only Armenian online school, has significantly broadened its reach across the globe, allowing students of all ages to gain an enhanced understanding of Armenian culture, history and language.

In its first year alone, AVC enrolled over 500 students from 35 countries, including France, Russia, and the United States, as well as countries with minimal Armenian populations, such as Reunion Island, South Africa, and Venezuela. They had the opportunity to take courses in six languages: Eastern Armenian, Western Armenian, English, French, Russian, and Spanish. Turkish was added in 2011.

To celebrate its first anniversary in July 2010, AVC organized an online forum. When its second anniversary arrived, AVC had even more accomplishments to applaud. Its number of enrollees had more than doubled across 50 countries and it had garnered national acclaim as a winner of the Fifth All-Armenian e-content competition in Yerevan in December 2010. To commemorate the June 2011 anniversary, AVC held another Global Online Forum that was led by AVC Founder and Chairman, Dr. Yervant Zorian, and attended by Armenia's Culture Minister Hasmik Poghosyan and other governmental and distinguished guests. They highlighted the success of AVC's hybrid education model, which was first implemented with the Ohanessian Friday School of Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates, and has since has continuously been incorporated in the curriculum of Armenian schools worldwide.

Maintaining a focus on Armenian diasporans, in June 2011, AVC introduced its courses to participants in the "Ari Dun" (Come Home) program, an initiative of Armenia's Diaspora Ministry that creates a cultural immersion experience for global youth. At the same time, AVC has held a series of presentations reaching Armenian communities worldwide, notably in St. Petersburg in September 2010, which drew community representatives, youth and students. Together, these efforts have helped AVC achieve its goal of making Armenian education available to everyone and everywhere through modern technologies.



AVC students take a virtual tour of the Matenadaran Institute in Yerevan.

INTERNSHIPS



Author Margaret Ahnert (center right) with Mrs. Vera Nazarian (center left) surrounded by the 2010 NYSIP students and AGBU staff following her talk on her book *The Knock at the Door*.

NEW YORK SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

In addition to gaining critical professional experience, a must these days for resumes, the participants of the 2010



and 2011 New York Summer Internship Program (NYSIP) met global peers they will call friends for life. During the past two years, 64 interns in total from Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Canada, Cyprus, France, Greece, Lebanon, Qatar, Russia, Syria, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, the United States, and Uzbekistan spent eight weeks exploring the hands-on realities of their chosen fields with full-time, unpaid internships secured through AGBU's vast network of host institutions, which included Columbia University Medical Center, Merrill Lynch, Near East Foundation, Rothschild, and Sony. Participants were housed together at the dormitories of New York University for the duration of the program.

The evenings were filled with exciting cultural events, including a private lesson in Armenian dance by AGBU's renowned Antranig Dance Ensemble, book presentations by authors Margaret Ahnert and Michael Bobelian, and a lecture on Armenian art by critic and curator Neery Melkonian. Interns also attended a comprehensive array of professional events, which included topics such as resume writing, interviewing, business ethics, and entrepreneurship by some of Manhattan's top Armenian industry leaders.

Before each internship season came to a close, participants attended the Supervisors' Reception, held at the AGBU Central Office, to honor the gracious supervisors who hosted interns at their respective internships and provided them not just with valuable skills, but with expert career advice, as well. The program was established in 1987.

PARTNERING WITH YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

NYSIP has also formed a strategic partnership with the AGBU Young Professionals of Greater New York (YPGNY) to ensure that each intern has even more advantages offered to him or her. Following the success of a mentoring initiative started a few years ago by the group, the YPGNY-NYSIP Mentoring Program was formed to take place every summer. Each intern is paired up with a mentor working in the student's field of interest, and they meet several times throughout the program to discuss various issues and seek general guidance, culminating in the very popular Mentoring Night event. The YP group also organizes the annual "Sunshine for Seniors" at the New York Armenian Home in Queens, which comprises a talent show performed by the interns, who not only entertain the residents of the senior living facility, but spend some personal time with them, as well. Many of the residents are happy to share their own life stories and family histories with the interns.



2011 YPGNY-NYSIP interns during the annual Mentoring Night.



Participants of the 2011 Yerevan Summer Internship Program at Garni Temple.

YEREVAN SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Established in 2007, the Yerevan Summer Internship Program (YSIP) provides students with an especially rich cultural curriculum, in addition to worthwhile professional experience. The 2010 and 2011 sessions saw the addition of 41 more alumni added to its growing ranks from Canada, Bulgaria, France, Lebanon, Russia, Syria, United Kingdom and the United States. Developing closer ties with their homeland, the participants gained a better understanding of their roots, interacted with their peers and immersed themselves actively in everyday life in Armenia. The following leading institutions and organizations hosted the students: Ameria Bank, American University of Armenia, Armenian Center for Contemporary Experimental Art, Civilitas Foundation, Hetq Online, IDS Design Studio, Republic of Armenia Human Rights Defender's Office, Republic of Armenia National Assembly and St. Nerses the Great Hospital. The students were housed at a private residence in Yerevan during their six-week stay and paid tribute to their respective supervisors during the traditional farewell reception.



The interns also engaged in various cultural activities, met with young entrepreneurs, attended Armenian language and folk dance classes, visited historical monuments, and became acquainted with the programs carried out by AGBU both in Armenia and Karabakh. A special weekend trip exploring the beauty of Karabakh is organized each summer, in addition to a day trip to AGBU's Antranik Scout Camp in the Lori region.

2011 YSIP students were also given the unique opportunity to attend a performance of the "Anoush" opera at the Armenian National Opera and Ballet Theatre.



2011 YSIP students during one of their many cultural enrichment lectures.



After a long day at work, 2011 YSIP students engage in a friendly basketball competition.



Students from the 2011 Moscow Summer Intern Program.

MOSCOW SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

AGBU's newest internship initiative – the Moscow Summer Internship Program – was launched in 2010



with eight students arriving in the Russian capital ready to gain professional experience and connect with both local and diasporan fellow young Armenians. The following year saw the program already growing in popularity as the number of participants reached 13, for a total of 21 hailing from Armenia, Brazil, Canada, France, the Netherlands, Romania, and the United States. The students spent five weeks and six weeks respectively in Moscow, home to the largest community in the worldwide Armenian diaspora, and were instantly immersed in the global hub of trade, commerce and innovation. They were housed in residential buildings.

Interns explored their chosen fields of interest with full-time, unpaid internships in English-language work environments, which included the Association of Russian Banks, Cigar Clan Magazine, Creditreform Russia, Mediacrat Publishing, *The Moscow Times*, Russian Research Center of Surgery, SKOLKOVO School of Management, Troika Dialogue, and Uspensky Rally Technikum. A few of the interns, seeking to gain greater exposure to various fields of interest, chose to participate in internships at two different companies simultaneously.

The local Armenian young professionals group, SIVAM, an official AGBU partner, worked tirelessly with AGBU to put together the MSIP program calendar, acting as mentors to the interns and organizing various cultural and social activities.

Evenings and weekends were filled with cultural and educational seminars, including introductory Russian language courses, Armenian dance classes, and sightseeing tours to the many historic museums and landmarks of Moscow. Students also attended lectures and events around the vibrant city, including a meeting

designed for foreign students of the Armenian diaspora held in the Cultural Center at the Higher School of Economics (HSE). During the meeting, MSIP students met with members of HSE's Armenian Club. Interns also took a weekend trip to St. Petersburg, where they explored the cultural riches of czarist Russia, including the Hermitage Museum, the Peter and Paul Fortress, the Armenian Consulate, and St. Catherine's Armenian Apostolic Church.

Before each MSIP session came to an end, participants attended a Supervisor's Reception to pay tribute to the kind individuals who hosted them, along with a farewell dinner held on the last evening of the program to celebrate their achievements and honor the participants, volunteers, and coordinators who made the summer possible.



Interns take part in the celebration of the traditional Armenian holiday of Vartavar on July 11, 2010.

PARIS INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The scope of the Paris Internship Program has evolved to cater mainly to high-achieving fourth-year students from the French University of Armenia majoring in business, law and management. Internships take place not just in the capital, but in other French cities, as well, throughout the school year. Taking advantage of the many major companies located in the Rhône-Alpes region, the Lyon Chapter has also joined the Paris Chapter in hosting interns in and around its area. In 2010 and 2011, a total of 33 students were selected for internships related to their field of study in Grenoble, Lyon, Paris and Valence. Students return to Yerevan having built on both their French speaking skills and professional aspirations, in addition to receiving credit for their time spent engaging in unpaid work.



A reception organized for the 2010 Paris Internship Program students and their supervisors at the Alex Manoogian Cultural Center, which was attended by AGBU Europe District Chairman Alexis Govciyan (bottom row, second from right), AGBU France members and friends.

GORIZ LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Close to 20 young Armenians from nine countries were selected to participate in the 2010 AGBU Europe Goriz Leadership Program, which took place in Yerevan during May. Dubbed as the “Pro Democratia” seminar, the gathering informed participants on democracy and the processes involved, thus adding to their knowledge of the economic and political situation of Armenia, reinforced their dialogue with politicians and decision makers, and developed their networking skills. A platform was created to follow up on the ideas that were initiated in order to enable Goriz alumni to share information and documents, maintain the contact throughout the year and create new collaborative projects through the support of AGBU.

The 2011 Goriz weekend, once again organized with the support of the European Commission, took place in Brussels in early December. This time 13 diasporans from seven countries – Armenia, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Greece, Romania, and the Ukraine – came together in the heart of the European Union to discuss current topics and issues, and share ideas and project initiatives for Europe and the Armenian community. Guest speakers included President of the Chamber of Commerce of Belgium Valéry Safarian. Human rights issues and the fight against corruption were discussed extensively during the seminar.

GORIZ was established in 2009 to cultivate future Armenian leaders in Europe, and was born as a result of the positive outcomes and partnerships generated 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. Individuals are selected for participation according to academic achievement and professional background, as well as leadership qualities and involvement in their local Armenian community.



The Goriz annual youth leadership program participants visit the European Parliament in Brussels on December 6, 2011.



Participants of the May 2010 Goriz program visit the AGBU Representation Office in Yerevan.

MENTORSHIPS



GenNext mentees, mentors, supporters and AGBU leadership were among some of the hundreds who gathered for a group photo in front of the new AGBU Generation Next Dome in 2010.

GENERATION NEXT MENTORSHIP PROGRAM



Generation Next Mentorship Program continues to take significant strides toward reaching out to high school students with issues involving academics, acculturation and behavior. Over the past two years, it has received a grant from the Vons Foundation, moved to a new home in Glendale, honored longtime mentors and received scholarship funding for those graduating and moving on to college. As in the past, an evening full of performance and achievement was celebrated at the Eighth Annual Generation Next Talent Showcase and Graduation Ceremony during August 2010 at AGBU Pasadena Center's Boyajian Hall. During the event, eight mentors received the GenNext Five Award, which honors individuals who have been mentors for five or more years. Generation Next donors Sarkis and Diana Tatusian were also recognized. In late 2010, GenNext

moved to a new facility in Glendale. Known as a geodesic dome, a form that was originally designed by visionary US architect Buckminster Fuller, the center now serves as a second home for both mentors and mentees.

During the June 2011 Showcase and Graduation Ceremony, the AGBU Young Professionals of Los Angeles (YPLA) brought in their involvement with the program by awarding scholarships to eight worthy mentees. These grants were based on academic excellence, extracurricular involvement, essays, recommendation letters, and financial need. Two-hundred attendees applauded all participants. A couple of months later, the Vons Foundation presented GenNext with a \$5,000 check. The funds will be used to underwrite the development of a film and music studio for students. To wrap up the year, it was announced that mentee Yeprem Chavdarian and his team from Clark Magnet High School won first-place in the coveted Lexus Eco Challenge, which awarded them \$70,000 for their environmental research. They purchased a marine robot to aid them in their work in the national contest on food research.



The positive results from these past two years can be attributed to the overwhelming growth of the program, which now boasts over 109 mentors, who are matched with an equal number of mentees. The AGBU Generation Next Mentorship Program assists Southern California youth of Armenian descent by providing them with positive role models, guidance, and support. Through one-on-one mentoring, monthly group activities and parenting seminars, the program assists and supports Armenian students who are faced with difficult choices in today's sometimes tense school environment. For anyone interested in becoming a GenNext mentor and making a direct impact in the life of a young Armenian, please visit www.agbugennext.org.

On Sunday, June 26, 2011, the AGBU Young Professionals of Los Angeles (YPLA) awarded college scholarships to eight worthy graduates of the AGBU Generation Next Mentorship Program.

UNIVERSITY OUTREACH

In September 2010, AGBU launched its University Outreach Program, which aims to build and strengthen relationships between AGBU and the numerous Armenian student groups at universities around the world, and its inaugural event took place just one month later. A workshop entitled "Preparing to Succeed," the evening covered the essentials of writing resumes and preparing cover letters, and offered advice on how to give a top-notch interview. The next New York event came in January 2011 under the title of "Embrace the Space," a networking seminar offering an in-depth presentation on the ins and outs of the world of online professional and social networking. Social websites, such as Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter, were discussed, with explanations on the profound impact these sites have on job searching and self-marketing. The use of proper email etiquette generated many questions from attending students. Students gathered at Columbia University for a third event at the end of 2011 to learn the importance of public speaking, effective interviewing, interpersonal communication and other essential career development skills.

A sizeable number of students from eight local universities came together at Boston University in December 2011 for a social media and business etiquette seminar entitled "Social Media and Me." The talk focused on how to optimize properly various social media platforms to help advance one's career and cultivate an online reputation.

The University Outreach Program will be collaborating with college students and professors throughout each academic year to organize events such as seminars and workshops to promote professional and social growth among students. In addition to assisting with their Armenian club programming, the University Outreach Program will promote AGBU's various youth programs, giving students opportunities to participate in internships, scholarships, camp counselor positions, online education, and AGBU's Young Professionals network. Please visit the AGBU University Outreach fan page on Facebook, [facebook.com/agbuunioutreach](https://www.facebook.com/agbuunioutreach), for more information.



Local students with guest speaker and AGBU Central Board member Arda Haratunian at the career development workshop held at Columbia University in New York City on December 7, 2011.



A social media and business etiquette seminar featuring guest speaker Hilary Allard, vice president of The Castle Group, a public relations company, was held on December 2, 2011, in collaboration with the Boston University Armenian Club.

ACADEMICS

Launched in France in 2011, AGBU Academics has since spread to create a unique international network of Armenian students who both think and learn globally. Harnessing social media, university-aged members use a central website, www.agbuacademics.com, to connect and support each other in their academic pursuits, exchanging inspiring stories and ideas.



Orientation events introducing students to the AGBU Academics online network, as well as AGBU's various youth programs, have also taken place in Aleppo, Beirut, Buenos Aires, Damascus, London and Moscow throughout the year, and have gathered top students from the world's leading schools, including Harvard University, École des Hautes Études Commerciales de Paris (HEC,) London School of Economics (LSE), Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO), Oxford and Cambridge Universities, Universidad de Buenos Aires and others. The program now boasts close to 400 members from more than 12 countries.

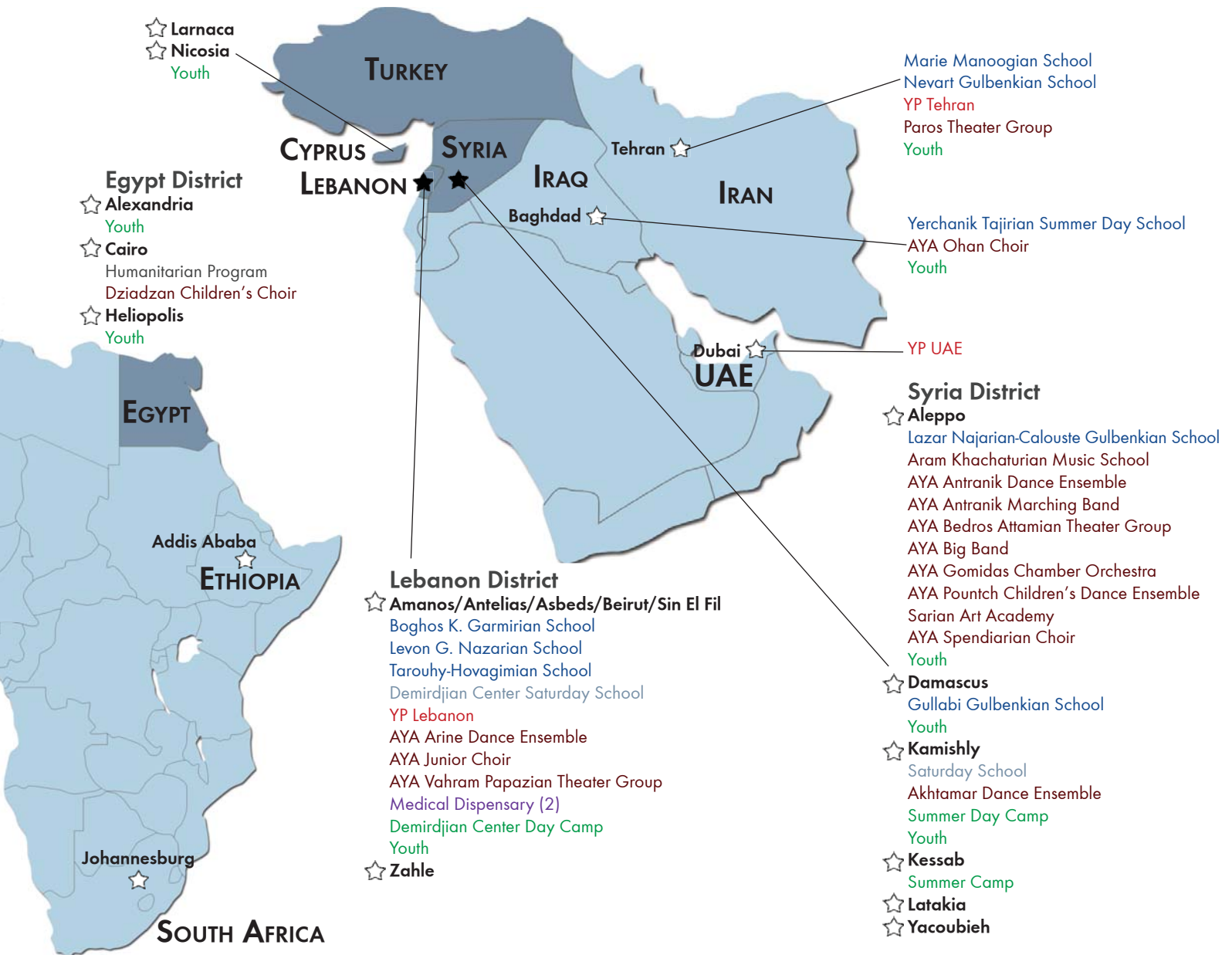


Premiere Academics event in London during 2011.

CHAPTERS



On May 8, 2011, Beirut AYA Antranik held a festival celebrating its 80th anniversary with thousands of spectators present.



AFRICA / ASIA / MIDDLE EAST

CYPRUS

Larnaca: In May 2011, Cypriot President Demetris Christofias cut the ceremonial ribbon to inaugurate the new AGBU Armenian Cultural Centre, which houses a library and is designed to be a rich repository for Armenian culture, ethnology and art in order to promote the history of the Armenian nation in general and the Armenian community of Cyprus in particular. Over 200 members and friends were on hand to witness the exciting occasion, including AGBU leadership, the town mayor, previous mayors, several members of the Cypriot House of Representatives, and supporters from Limassol and Nicosia. The chapter committee will ensure that conferences, workshops and cultural events are organized to keep the community engaged.

Nicosia: With a solid focus on the next generation, the chapter launched a weekly arts & crafts program in June 2011 at the center for children and teenagers ages four to 15. So far, the endeavor has been very well-received by participants, who enjoy learning about different mediums of art, whether it's papier maché, creating masks, painting or mixed media, and then executing their own creations with the diverse and plentiful supplies available. AGBU Nicosia also continues to administer its Ararat Futsal team – the 2010 reigning champion of Cyprus (see page 53 for additional details).



His Excellency Demetris Christofias, President of the Republic of Cyprus, inaugurated the AGBU Armenian Cultural Centre (inset) in Larnaca, Cyprus, on May 5, 2011.



The Nicosia Chapter organized an ongoing series of arts & crafts classes for youth at the AGBU Center in Nicosia. The classes began on June 4, 2011.

MAP KEY

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



On Sunday, October 31, 2010, AGBU Cairo celebrated its 100th anniversary at the Belekdanian Hall in Heliopolis, Egypt, with a program that included performances by the chapter's Dzadzazn Children's Choir.

EGYPT

Cairo: AGBU Cairo was proud to celebrate its centennial anniversary in October 2010 at its Heliopolis center amidst the applause of dignitaries and devoted members. Utilizing the auspicious occasion to recognize its most active volunteers, the chapter honored seven individuals who have served its committee for 20 or more years, and presented Veteran Certificates to 18 members. Encouraging close relationships among global AGBU entities, the Cairo Chapter invited the Aleppo AYA Antranik Dance Ensemble for a performance in April 2010, and then invited the Sydney Chapter's Vahram Papazian Theater Company to stage a production that September.

IRAQ

Baghdad: 2010 and 2011 were exciting years for the Baghdad Chapter; in 2010, it celebrated the 10th anniversary of its AYA Ohan Youth Group and launched the Yerchanik Tajirian Summer Day School, which welcomed well over 120 students in its inaugural year alone. Elementary school-age youth had the opportunity to take science, language, Armenian culture, and other important courses to get ahead in their studies and enrich their knowledge of their heritage. The youth also built friendships with their peers during swimming periods and arts & crafts sessions. The following year brought forth AGBU Baghdad's centennial, which was commemorated with much enthusiasm by all. To mark the occasion, the chapter installed a new swimming pool, which always draws large numbers of members, especially youngsters, during the summer months.



The Beirut AYA Cultural Committee held an art exhibit featuring pieces by the renowned French Armenian artist Jansem from Paris in cooperation with his son Jany Jansem during two weeks in December 2011.

LEBANON

Beirut: The Lebanon District, headquartered in Beirut, and its many chapters celebrated the 80th anniversary of its Armenian Youth Association (AYA) with much fanfare in 2011. A number of commemorative events were scheduled throughout the year, including art exhibits, theater productions, and more; one of the highlights was a parade in May 2011 attended by over 2,500 spectators, including major government officials. Supporters cheered from the stands as AGBU athletes, scouts, students and other youth members marched into the stadium. Later that year in December, an art exhibit spanning two weeks featured French Armenian artist Jansem. Over 800 individuals admired his 35 lithographs, 33 water colors and 16 oil paintings on display, some of which were donated to AYA, at the first-ever solo show of Jansem in Lebanon, which was attended by the artist's son, Jany (Semerdjian) Jansem, government officials and community leaders. In March 2011, former scholarship recipient, Movses Herkelian, who owns the Noah's Ark Art Gallery in Beirut, approached the AGBU Lebanon Cultural Committee with a wish to give



Alumni from AGBU's schools in Lebanon gathered for a reunion on June 4, 2010.

back to the organization – he would donate 30 pieces from his gallery so that AGBU could raise money for its Lebanon Education Fund. The event raised \$70,000 so that AGBU can continue to help students achieve their dreams. The Tarouhy-Hovagimian alumni celebrated the school’s 70th anniversary in June 2010 with hundreds of alumni and friends gathering to show their support for the school that gave them a solid education and classmates they would call friends for life.

SYRIA

Aleppo: The calendar at the AGBU Gulbenkian Center in Aleppo is always full, which is no surprise since the multi-story facility houses the offices of the Syria District Committee, the Aleppo Chapter, the AYA body and well over a dozen subcommittees. The Armenian community and all its supporters in the city have a wide variety of events and programs from which to choose, whether they wish to be a volunteer or spectator. Over the past two years, two major events dominated above others – the first being the Aleppo Chapter’s centennial, which took place in the presence of several hundred individuals in April 2010. The second commemorated another important milestone – the 80th anniversary of AGBU Armenian Youth Association (AYA). The 500-seat Nazarian Hall of the center was filled beyond capacity in December 2011 with audience members eager to witness a rich cultural event celebrating the wonderful and far-reaching achievements of the body since 1931. The chapter’s choral, dance, musical and theater groups all brought their invigorating participation to the show and then brought the audience to their feet. In addition, the AYA Big Band performed a new song dedicated to the 80th anniversary, and a large-folio 320-page commemorative book was unveiled.

Damascus: The Damascus Chapter always plans a diverse array of activities to keep its enthusiastic membership and community at large engaged and energized. There are youth gatherings, lectures, social events, day trips and more, with events happening at least twice a month. An annual day trip to Khiyara has become a tradition for youth to spend time together among greenery and fresh air, as well as build solid bonds with each other. Young AGBU members from Aleppo and Beirut also attended.

Kamishly: AGBU Kamishly organizes an annual festival every year in April to celebrate the town’s founding. In 2010, the chapter’s Akhtamar Dance Ensemble also brought its participation to the event.



The Aleppo Chapter celebrated its centennial anniversary on April 11, 2010.



On April 17, 2010, the Kamishly Chapter celebrated “Kamishly Day,” as they do every year in the presence of AGBU Council of Trustees member Mr. & Mrs. Karnig and Ani Yacoubian.



Students eager to begin class at the Baghdad Chapter’s Yerchanik Tajirian Summer School in 2010.

EUROPE

Europe District: Since its inception in 2008, the Europe District has taken important steps to spread awareness about both AGBU and Armenian issues throughout the European Union. The committee convened its first meeting of 2011 in Bucharest, Romania, which included an audience with the country's Prime Minister. Later in the year, the District sponsored a photography exhibit in Istanbul featuring French Armenian artist Antoine Agoudjian. But perhaps its most ambitious and exciting project of the year was the launch of ARMENIACA, which aptly took place in Yerevan in October and is dedicated to the preservation, digitization, and development of archives related to the Armenian architectural heritage. This endeavor has been selected and supported by the European Commission as part of Component 1.3. Framework Programme "Culture 2007-2013." The Goriz Leadership Program, which is an endeavor of the Europe District, also took place in 2010 and 2011 (see page 17 for additional details).

AUSTRIA

Vienna: Over the past two years, the Vienna Chapter has experienced a surge in activities due to popular demand from the community. In March 2011, the AGBU Garod Dance Ensemble made its much-anticipated debut (see p. 41 for additional details) in front of hundreds of applauding supporters during a cultural program sponsored by the chapter. Eager individuals with a passion for learning Armenian have benefitted from the conversation classes that were offered for several months in 2011. AGBU Vienna has also been collaborating with local AGBU Performing Arts Fellowship recipients to organize diverse classical and chamber music concerts with these musicians, which have been very well-received by the community at large.

BULGARIA

Haskovo: During May and June 2011, the Haskovo Chapter held a number of activities to energize its community, particularly the youth. Whether it was inviting the AGBU Erebouri Band from Plovdiv to present a concert for culture enthusiasts or celebrating International Children's Day with a day of fun for local youth or challenging the AGBU Plovdiv athletes for a friendly soccer tournament, the committee ensured that there was something for everyone.

Plovdiv: The Plovdiv Chapter always gives much importance to cultural endeavors and the past two years proved no different. After co-sponsoring a theater production of "The Candidates of Miss Markrid" in April and May 2010 for the community, the committee then sponsored a tour of the play to audiences in Sliven and Varna the following month. AGBU



The first 2010 AGBU Europe Board meeting was held on January 23 in London at the "Armenian House," a symbolic venue that brings together the entire Armenian community.



The Sofia Chamber Orchestra performed a spring concert on March 13, 2011.



AGBU Europe District Chairman Alexis Govciyan cuts the ceremonial cake as AGBU Valence Chapter Chairman Philippe Panossian (back left) and members look on during the Valence Chapter's 80th Anniversary event on Nov 19, 2011.

- France District**
- ☆ Lyon
 - Armenian Radio Program
 - Youth
- ☆ Marseille
 - Youth
 - YP Marseille
- ☆ Nice
- ☆ Paris
 - Alex Manoogian Saturday School
 - YP Paris
 - Ahazank Theater Group
 - Koghtan Choir
 - Nubarian Library
 - Academics
 - Goriz Leadership Program
 - Colonie de Vacances
 - Internship Program
 - Youth
- ☆ St. Chamond/St. Etienne
- ☆ Valence
- ☆ Vienne
 - Wednesday School



Plovdiv also introduced the renowned Khachaturian Trio of Armenia to music enthusiasts during a concert it co-sponsored in May 2010, and in December 2011, the chapter teamed up with AGBU bodies in Sofia and Varna to present in each city the Bulgarian edition of Hrant Dink’s book *Two Close People, Two Far Neighbors*. The Hrant Dink Foundation granted the rights of the book to the Plovdiv Chapter for translation into Bulgarian, which was made possible by AGBU and the Baklaian Foundation of Burgas, with additional support provided from AGBU’s Bulgarian Chapters. Dink’s widow, Rakel, traveled from Turkey especially for the occasion.

Sofia: Over the years, the Sofia Chapter’s Chamber Orchestra has gained much recognition, not just in Armenian circles, but throughout the city. In 2010 and 2011, the ensemble held close to a dozen concerts, filling the house and receiving standing ovations each time, often inviting interesting guest artists, as well as AGBU Performing Arts Fellowship recipients to perform. A special concert was held in December 2010 to celebrate AGBU Sofia’s centennial. A particularly noteworthy endeavor undertaken by the chapter was a large-scale series of events entitled, “For You, Armenia,” which was dedicated to the 20th anniversary of the independence of Armenia and took place during the entire months of September and October 2011. Art exhibits, concerts and a fundraising ball all attracted hundreds of individuals.

- ☆ Central Committee of Greece
- ☆ Athens
 - Artaki Kalpakian School
 - Youth
- ☆ Thessaloniki
 - Dance Group
- ☆ Burgas
- ☆ Dobrich
 - Saturday School
 - Dance Group
- ☆ Haskovo
 - Saturday School
 - Gomidas Choir
 - Youth Theater Group
- ☆ Plovdiv
 - Saturday School
 - YP Plovdiv
 - Erebouni Choral Ensemble
 - Green Camp
 - Youth
- ☆ Rousse
 - Saturday School
- ☆ Silistra
 - Saturday School
- ☆ Sliven
 - Saturday School
- ☆ Sofia
 - YP Sofia
 - Chamber Orchestra
 - Nur Dance Ensemble
 - Camp Unger
- ☆ Yambol
 - Saturday School
 - Aravod Choir

MAP KEY

<p>COUNTRY Countries where scholarship recipients study</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ District Committees ☆ Chapters/Committees ● Centers/Offices Schools/Universities Saturday Schools Young Professionals (YP) 	<p>Humanitarian Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cultural Programs Medical Projects Youth Programs, Athletics, Camps, Scouts & Internship Programs <p>■ AGBU Partners</p>
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FRANCE

Lyon: Doing its part to help students in Armenia achieve their potential, the Lyon Chapter has partnered with AGBU Paris to host students from the French University of Armenia participating in the Paris Internship Program (see page 17 for additional details).

Marseille: With a guest list that included government officials, diplomats, filmmakers, as well as friends from Barcelona, Geneva, Istanbul and Milan, the Marseille Chapter's centennial celebration gala took place in June 2010. Much fanfare surrounded the weekend of events, particularly since the concert preceding the ball featured three-time Academy Award winning composer Michel le Grand whose mother is Armenian. Over 600 people attended. The previous month, Armenia's Diaspora Ministry organized an exhibition of contemporary Armenian paintings, entitled *Colors of Armenia*, at the Artists' Union of Armenia, which was sponsored by the chapter and dedicated to its centennial.

Paris: To celebrate the 20th anniversary of the independence of Armenia, the Paris Chapter co-organized with the Office of the Mayor a series of cultural events in September 2011 under the title of "Days of Armenia." From cocktail receptions to concerts to lecture events, the endeavor ensured that Armenian culture was made accessible to all Parisian citizens. The chapter also hosted a concert with award-winning jazz musician Arden Arapyan from Montreal that same month.

Valence: The Valence Chapter celebrated its 80th anniversary with a weekend of events in November 2011. During the gala evening, which was attended by the town mayor, government dignitaries, AGBU leadership and 200 members and supporters, French Armenian artist Toros was honored with an AGBU France Honor Member certificate for his longstanding devotion and ongoing commitment to the French republic's Armenians.

GERMANY

Frankfurt: A joint Armenian-Jewish project named "Youth Participation in National Communities - Way for the Democratic Citizenship" was held in April 2010 in Budapest, Hungary. The series of lectures, discussions and presentations were supported and financed by the Council of Europe and took place in its Youth Center of Budapest. AGBU-HAIK, an official AGBU Partner, helped to organize the event and attended with its own delegation (see caption at right for additional details). In July 2010, the body also organized a special concert to help raise funds for the Pan-YP endeavor (see page 46 for additional details).



The Marseille Chapter celebrated its centennial on June 26, 2010, in the presence of Armenia's Diaspora Minister Hranush Hakobyan (seated, third from right).



At the AGBU Paris Alex Manoogian Cultural Center on May 6, 2011, AGBU Europe organized a presentation entitled "In Search of Western Armenia and Armenian Cilicia" by renowned historian from the US Richard Hovannisian.



Members of the AGBU-HAIK partnership in Frankfurt attended a Jewish-Armenian youth conference in Budapest on April 13, 2010, involving themes such as Armenian and Jewish Diaspora community life, intercultural dialogue, assimilation vs. integration, organizing in the Diaspora and many other topics.

ITALY

Milan: In March 2010, the chapter organized a cultural event dedicated to the 140th anniversary of the birth of AGBU's second president and world-renowned philanthropist Calouste Gulbenkian. The following year, two film screenings of Armenian subjects were offered in March and April, and in May, the chapter honored three individuals at a tributary gathering.

THE NETHERLANDS

Almelo: The Holland Chapter has been revived as of late with the influx of new members to the city. Close to 400 members of all ages gather regularly at the Almelo center to enjoy social, educational and cultural events.

SPAIN

Barcelona: In September 2010, members of the AGBU Europe District traveled to Barcelona to witness the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new ACAB (Armenian Cultural Association of Barcelona) Center. The organization, which administers a Saturday school and soccer team, among other youth-oriented activities, is an AGBU Partner.

RUSSIA

Moscow: SIVAM, which is an organization for young Armenian professionals, has been partnering with AGBU for some years now, and is always ready to host events that promote the AGBU's mission and goals. One such event took place in March 2010, during which university students from Moscow came to hear a presentation about summer internship opportunities. Local television stations were eager to cover the story. The group also helps extensively with the Moscow Summer Internship Program (see page 16 for additional details).

UNITED KINGDOM

London: The London Branch celebrated its centennial in 2010 with a concert featuring the Khachaturian Trio from Armenia followed by a ball later in the year. It also held another classical concert in November with young Armenian musicians, as the chapter is committed to offering quality cultural programs to the Armenian community of London.



AGBU Milan Chapter commemorated the 140th anniversary of the birth of AGBU's second president Calouste Gulbenkian on March 19, 2010.



The Holland Chapter organized a dinner event for its hundreds of members on April 2, 2011.



AGBU London celebrates its centennial in December 2010.

NORTH AMERICA



MAP KEY

COUNTRY	Countries where scholarship recipients study	Young Professionals (YP)
★	District Committees	Humanitarian Projects
☆	Chapters/Committees	Cultural Programs
	Schools/Universities	Youth Programs, Athletics,
	Saturday Schools	Camps, Scouts &
		Internship Programs

CANADA

Montreal: Since 2003, the Montreal Chapter has been organizing the Armen Keussayan Armenological Lecture Series every week for nine months out of the year, and continued to attract devoted followers over the past two years. With a focus on the arts, the Cultural Committee also planned a number of events to provide beautiful music and artistic enrichment to the community. In February 2010, distinguished pianist Vahan Mardirossian from France was invited to give a concert, and in May 2011, the SIMA Trio, which includes two AGBU Performing Arts Fellowship recipients, presented a classical music performance. A noteworthy art exhibit featured the works of painter Robert Elibekian, which took place over a weekend in May 2011, and the chapter renewed its efforts to help the Alex Manoogian School by holding a walkathon that raised thousands of dollars in October 2011. AGBU Montreal also enjoys the presence of its active athletic and scouts groups – the basketball teams organize the Chahen Chamlian Tournament with their AGBU counterparts from Toronto every October and the Venturers of the scouts group received in 2011 the highest scouting recognition in Canada for their volunteer work in Armenia (see page 52 for additional details).

Toronto: Toronto's Alex Manoogian Center has always hosted a flurry of lectures, social events and classes, and the past two years were no exception. In May 2011, parents, staff and students of the AGBU Zaroukian School renewed their efforts to fundraise through a walkathon. Over 50 supporters embarked on a five kilometer walk that raised approximately \$5,000 CAD, all of which benefitted the elementary institute. That same year, renowned historian Dr. George Bournoutian drew packed houses, not once, but twice as he gave talks about his most recent publication on Karabakh. The lecture was part of a tour organized by AGBU (see page 39 for additional details), which drew hundreds from across the US and Canada to hear him speak. The chapter, as always, continued to keep its youth engaged in the arts and athletics. At the annual AGBU Toronto Talent Show, aspiring musicians shared the spotlight and the stage as they performed selections from a range of Armenian and non-Armenian lyricists and composers. Additionally, throughout 2010 and 2011, the Sports & Youth Committee (SYC) coordinated regular basketball tournament weekends each May with Montreal, giving its youngest players the opportunity to demonstrate all the skills they acquired from their weekly practice sessions.



The October 25, 2011, presentation from the weekly Keussayan Armenological Lecture Series in Montreal.



A four-day book sale featuring three conferences organized by the Cultural Committee were held at AGBU Montreal's Jirair and Elise Dervishian Hall from April 15 to 18, 2010.



On May 8, 2010, AGBU Toronto's and Zaroukian School's anniversaries were celebrated together at the chapter's annual gala event held at the center.



On December 7, 2010, Garin K. Hovannisian launched his new book, Family of Shadows, at an event organized by the Toronto Chapter at the Alex Manoogian Cultural Center.

UNITED STATES

California:

Fresno: Promoting the arts, the Fresno Chapter organized an exhibit in October 2010 featuring 30 artists of all ages from the local San Joaquin Valley.

Glendale-Pasadena: The AGBU Glendale-Pasadena Chapter has kept its members energized and engaged with a calendar full of social activities, several active athletic teams, and an ever-growing scouts group. The committee's many endeavors have included a cultural event dedicated to Barouyr Sevag, the legendary Armenian poet, which drew a crowd of over 400 in November 2010; an exhibition of painter Hagop Vartanian's work, which transformed the center into a gallery in February 2011; and a special tribute to longtime AGBU member Avedis Manoukian, in April 2011. Mr. Manoukian was a dedicated advocate of AGBU since 1936, and bestowed with AGBU Honor Member status on behalf of the AGBU Central Board of Directors. The event also showcased his paintings, which were sold, per his wishes, to benefit the Chapter's youth activities. The launch of the Chapter's first annual basketball tournament in the spring of 2010, and the North American Regional Games, which brought both basketball and volleyball players from Montreal, San Fernando Valley and Toronto, also proved to be exciting venues that strengthened the ties among AGBU's youth.

Hye Geen Committee: In 2010 and 2011, the Hye Geen Committee assembled a range of experts, intellectuals, and community leaders from various industries to participate in public forums and conferences that explored issues facing Armenian Americans. The theme "The Power of Broadcast Media" was chosen for its 5th Annual Conference on the Status of Armenian Communities Living in the United States, which was organized in partnership with California State University, Northridge (CSUN) Departments of Gender and Women's Studies, Cinema and Television Arts, and Armenian Studies, as well as the CSUN Alpha Epsilon Omega Fraternity. Aptly held in heartland of the entertainment industry, panels engaged audience members on ways to counter negative stereotypes of Armenians in the mainstream media. The 6th Annual Interdisciplinary Conference, entitled "Music as Mirror: How Music Reflects the Changing Social Realities of Diasporan Communities," maintained a focus on the arts. The event, also held at CSUN, featured celebrated composers, as well as the band Armenian Public Radio, whose renditions of Armenian folk songs demonstrated that today's young Armenian musicians are able to express themselves creatively while paying homage to their roots. Numerous informative events were also held throughout both years, including "What Women Want in Marriage," a talk and short comedy play; "Armenian Customs as Part of Ethnic Heritage," a lecture and theatrical presentation; and "Who is Watching the Children: From Orphans to Children of Divorce," which included a question and answer session with prominent educators and psychologists.

San Fernando Valley: The San Fernando Valley Chapter continued to nurture its sports and scouts groups, as well as organize a number of events to bring its membership together. The Veterans Subcommittee also did its part and planned a series of educational lectures for the community. One program of note focused on the challenges facing today's youth, such as bullying and habitual drug use, and the positive difference that close and loving involvement from parents makes.



The AGBU Asbeds of Southern California hosted Professor Richard Hovannisian, Hasan Cemal and Pamela Steiner at their annual "Evening with a Scholar" event at UCLA on March 31, 2011. The event, titled "From Der Zor to Dzidzernagapert - A Conversation with Hasan Cemal," notably featured Hasan Cemal, a journalist for the Milliyet Turkish news agency in Istanbul and grandson of Ahmed Cemal Pasha, who was a perpetrator of the Armenian Genocide.



The AGBU Glendale-Pasadena Chapter exhibited the works of artists Ruben Manukyan and Alexandra Manukyan on May 16, 2010.



The 5th annual Hye Geen Conference on the Status of Armenian Communities Living in the United States took place on March 13, 2010, in the Grand Salon of the Student Union at California State University, Northridge.

SCDC Asbeds: The Asbeds of the Western District have made an effort to host a large-scale lecture event every year. In November 2010, the committee presented “An Evening with a Statesman” and invited Raffi Hovannisian, the first foreign minister of Armenia and the leader of Armenia’s Heritage political party. His talk centered on the topic, “Armenia between East and West: The Challenges of Democracy, Sovereignty and National Interest.” The March 2011 event was named “An Evening with a Scholar” and featured, most notably, Hasan Cemal, the grandson of Ahmed Cemal Pasha, one of the masterminds of the Armenian Genocide. Cemal is a journalist at Milliyet Turkish news agency in Istanbul and is known for having visited Armenia and placing a wreath at the Genocide Monument. The other two speakers were renowned professor Dr. Richard Hovannisian and Pamela Steiner of the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative, who is the great-granddaughter of Henry Morgenthau. All three discussed recognition and reconciliation in the presence of over 400 audience members at UCLA.



AGBU Western District Annual Gala on November 12, 2011.

Western District Committee: Over 500 dignitaries, members and supporters gathered in November 2011 for the Western District’s annual fundraising gala, which honored Dr. Armen Sarkissian of London. Currently the president of Eurasia House International, which he founded, Dr. Sarkissian was the first Armenian ambassador to England and European countries, and the former prime minister of Armenia, as well as an AGBU benefactor.

Illinois: In December 2011, the Chicago Chapter celebrated over 100 years of strengthening the philanthropic, educational, cultural and social life in the city’s Armenian community at its centennial event. The occasion brought more than 200 guests to the AGBU Onnig Norehad Center, where they were treated to a special performance by the Zulal A Capella Trio of New York. In order to ensure many more years of growth, in 2011 the Chapter launched the Kooyumjian-AGBU/Chicago Armenian Humanities Festival with the generous support of the Kooyumjian Foundation. The endeavor features an ongoing series of cultural community events, including lectures, concerts, theatrical productions and exhibits with Armenian artists. The string of events kicked off with a screening of the composer Eric Hachikian’s award-winning film *Voyage to Amasia* in May 2010. It was followed by two lectures in March and November 2011; the first, delivered by Professor Kim Servart Theriault, was entitled “Arshile Gorky and the Development of Abstract Expressionism,” and the second by Professor Armen Marsoobian on “The Armenians of Marzovan and Anatolia College.”



AGBU Performing Art Fellowship Grant recipients together with members of the New York Special Events Committee (NYSEC) before their 2010 concert in Carnegie Hall’s Weill Recital Hall.

Massachusetts: The New England District paid much-deserved tribute to longtime Rhode Island Chapter Chair William Aznavourian for his 45 years of dedicated service to AGBU (see page 38 for additional details).

New York: With a focus on women’s issues, the United Nations Special Interest Group (UN-SIG) hosted two important events in 2010. The March lecture and screening of the documentary “Desert Nights,” spotlighted human trafficking in Armenia, and the November fundraiser, entitled “Happy Mothers, Healthy Babies: Access to Prenatal Care in Armenia,” had positive impacts on a global scale. By raising both awareness and donations for families in rural Armenia, UN-SIG furthered its mission to draw international attention to important social issues in the homeland. In addition, the New York Special Events Committee (NYSEC) continues to promote the performing arts by organizing classical music concerts featuring recipients of AGBU’s Performing Arts Fellowships. See page 43 for special coverage of these events.



Aleta Miller of the United Nations Population Fund, addresses the audience at the AGBU UN Special Interest Group’s (UN-SIG) event “Exposed: Human Trafficking in Armenia” at the AGBU Central Office in New York on March 31, 2010.

SOUTH AMERICA



ARGENTINA

Buenos Aires: Close to 500 members and supporters came together in May 2011 for a sold out event celebrating the Buenos Aires Chapter's centennial anniversary, including His Holiness, Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians and AGBU Vice President Sinan Sinanian. In the presence of Central Board member and Chapter Chairman Ruben Kechichian, His Holiness decorated Rosita Yousoufian, Roberto Malkhassian and Haroutiun Sarafian with medals in appreciation of their longtime service to AGBU. Later in October, the chapter helped gather 15,000 people for the outdoor "Buenos Aires Celebrates Armenia Festival," which included a concert featuring famous Armenian composer Ara Gevorgyan, who dazzled both citizens and tourists with his rich Armenian melodies, as well as a local symphony orchestra, which was directed by Canadian-Armenian conductor Lori Antounian, who flew in for the occasion. Hundreds of AGBU members from almost all subcommittees volunteered their efforts for this substantial undertaking. AGBU Buenos Aires also brought its support to an interesting three-day endeavor by BRIDGE in March 2011 focused on audiovisual art and film, entitled "First Days of Cinema and Independent TV." Boasting the largest diaspora community in South America, the Buenos Aires Chapter continued to attract at least 600 Armenians and non-Armenians alike per week during the immensely popular "Cena de los Viernes y Sabados" (Friday and Saturday Night Dinners) that take place at its center in order to raise funds for the AGBU school's annual class trip to Armenia. The Women's Auxiliary Committee once again offered traditional Armenian cooking classes, and the Cinema Circle gathered film enthusiasts for a number of screenings.



On Saturday, May 14, 2011, nearly 500 people gathered to celebrate the centennial anniversary of the the Buenos Aires Chapter. The sold out event at the Nazarian Hall was honored with the patronage and presence of His Holiness Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians, who was on a pontifical visit to South America.

MAP KEY

- | | | |
|----------------|--|--|
| COUNTRY | Countries where scholarship recipients study | Young Professionals (YP) |
| ☆ | Chapters/Committees | Cultural Programs |
| ☆ | Schools/Universities | Youth Programs, Athletics, Camps, Scouts & Internship Programs |

Cordoba: The Cordoba Chapter celebrated the 25th anniversary of the inauguration of its center in October 2010. The facility is open every week of the year, whether there is a gathering of the “UGABitos” children’s group for ages 4 to 10, which was launched in 2010, or the weekly Friday night community dinners to fundraise for the first youth trip to Armenia in 2011 for local members. Focusing on its commitment to the next generation, the chapter once again organized its annual summer day camp – Colonia de Vacaciones – which allows youngsters to enjoy the center’s large swimming pool and other fun activities daily, and developed its UGABitos group, which brought together a large number of youth through activities in both the city and neighboring villages. In other news, the AGBU Cordoba women’s volleyball team won the local city championship in December 2010.



The Cordoba Chapter’s gathering for youth on September 18, 2010.

BRAZIL

São Paulo: Close to 1,000 members and supporters of AGBU Brazil came together in October 2010 and 2011 to fete the chapter’s annual anniversary luncheons, where tribute is paid to distinguished members for their longstanding dedication to the organization. The former event recognized community benefactor Mrs. Hilda Diruhy Burmaian and honored the memory of her late husband, Varujan, who was a longtime chapter chairman. A few months prior, the chapter also recognized the achievements of Dr. Pedro Andre Jafferian, and at a June event, the Women’s Auxiliary Committee enjoyed the presence of 350 guests at its annual fashion show gathering. At the 47th anniversary gathering in 2011, the Professional Distinction Award was presented to Pro Rector of the State University of Sao Paulo Vahan Agopyan, and Individual of the Year was bestowed upon community benefactor Mr. André Kissajikian. Guests enjoyed music by the internationally renowned composer Ara Gevorgyan from Armenia, who was touring South America as part of his World Peace concert series.



AGBU Brazil held its 46th anniversary celebration on October 24, 2010, during which longtime member Hilda Diruhy Burmaian was honored.

URUGUAY

Montevideo: Upon the initiative of the Montevideo Chapter and Armenia’s Diaspora Ministry, the AGBU Grung Choir presented its very first concerts in the homeland during two weeks in April and May 2011. Under the baton of Maestro Alvaro Hagopian, who is an alumnus of the local AGBU Nubarian Manoogian School, the first performance took place in the Arno Babajanian Concert Hall in central Yerevan under the title of “To the Homeland.” Many prominent figures in the government and art world gave a standing ovation after hearing the selections from Avetissian, Gomidas, Tamatian and others, as well as interpretations of famous folk and patriotic songs. A second concert was enjoyed by hundreds of citizens in Gyumri at the Art Academy. The choir was established in 1993 and also participated in the October 2011 Montevideo concert for Ara Gevorgyan’s World Peace tour in South America.



Under the baton of Maestro Alvaro Hagopian, Montevideo’s Grung Choir performed at the Arno Babajanian Concert Hall in Yerevan on April 26, 2011.

AUSTRALIA



MAP KEY	
COUNTRY	Countries where scholarship recipients study
☆	Chapters/Committees
	Schools/Universities
	Saturday Schools
	Young Professionals (YP)
	Cultural Programs
	Youth Programs, Athletics, Camps, Scouts & Internship Programs

- Sydney**
 - Alexander Primary School
 - Alex Manoogian Saturday School
 - YP Sydney
 - Vahram Papazian Theatre Group
 - Youth
- Melbourne**
 - Armenian Radio Program
 - Youth

Melbourne: Though far from their Armenian homeland, AGBU’s Melbourne members are committed to keeping their heritage alive through a number of initiatives, particularly in the cultural realm. After a number of amateur actors expressed interest in producing a theater production, the chair contacted the AGBU Ardavazt Theater Company to request a script from one of their recent productions. The result in June 2010 was a two-night performance of “One Husband, Two Wives”, which also attracted non-Armenian speaking audience members since subtitles were offered. The troupe was then invited by the Sydney Chapter to perform the play again for its community. Spurred on by the great applause, the Chapter produced another play in late 2011 – “Who Is My Father?” adapted from Ray Cooney’s original play, “It Runs in the Family.” The talents of the musical SIMA Trio, which includes two AGBU Performing Arts Scholarship recipients, were also heard by the local community during an AGBU-hosted concert in July 2011. The Chapter once again continues to organize its popular monthly dinners at the center.

Sydney: Celebrating the 20th Anniversary of its Alexander Day School, the Sydney Chapter organized two sold out dinner dances in August 2010 that enthused the community and reinforced its support of the beloved local institution. That same year, the Chapter’s Vahram Papazian Theater Company staged a production of “The Temporary Husband.” Diaspora Minister Hranush Hakobyan visited AGBU Sydney in 2011 and presented the current chairman, Toros Boghossian, with a special medal recognizing his efforts to maintain the Armenian heritage in Australia. Also in 2011, the Khatchaturian Trio of Armenia performed for the first time in Sydney during an unprecedented concert hosted by the local AGBU benefactors and the chapter. Hundreds applauded the musicians over the course of two concerts during a weekend in May, and most encouraging was the fact that a number of audience members were non-Armenians.



Melbourne Chapter members gather for their family camping trip in 2011.



The Khatchaturian Trio of Armenia performed in Sydney on May 6 and 7, 2011.

2010 – 2011 DISTRICT & CHAPTER CHAIRPERSONS

ARGENTINA

BUENOS AIRES: Ruben Kechichian
CORDOBA: Ricardo Erezian (until May 2010); Javier Petenian

AUSTRALIA

MELBOURNE: Maral Tchorbadjian
SYDNEY: Toros Boghossian

AUSTRIA

VIENNA: Jirair Balmanian

BRAZIL

SÃO PAULO: Krikor Manukian

BULGARIA

PLOVDIV: Roupen Chavoushian
ASSOCIATED CHAPTERS
WITH PLOVDIV:
BURGAS: Hagop Movsesian
DOBRICH: Edouard Kokonyan
HASKOVO: Srpuhi Derandonyan
RUSSE: Boghos Garjarian
SILISTRA: Mgrdich Kalustdian
SLIVEN: Arshavir Hulian
YAMBOL: Sonya Arshavir Hovnanyan
SOFIA: Sonia Avakian-Bedrosian

CANADA

MONTREAL: Armen Bechakjian (until Sept 2011); Aram Yacoubian
TORONTO: Knar Basmadjian

CYPRUS

LARNACA: Stepan Kamakian
NICOSIA: David Shahabian (until Mar 2010); Vicken Kesterlian

EGYPT

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

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-COTE D'AZUR: Chakée
Hagopian-Clausen
PARIS: Viviane Etjemesian (until Jun 2010), Raffi Monjiant
ST. CHAMOND/ST. ETIENNE:
Leonardo Basmadjian
VALENCE: Philippe Panossian
VIENNE: Charles Paltobedrossian

GREECE

CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF GREECE,
ATHENS: Hagop Fesjian (until Mar 2010), Dickran Abassian
THESSALONIKI: Haigouhi Portukalian

IRAN

TEHRAN: Levon Hovanessian (until Sept 2010), Astghik Babaian

IRAQ

BAGHDAD: Skender Melconian

ITALY

MILAN: Gueguel Khatchadourian

LEBANON

DISTRICT COMMITTEE OF LEBANON,
BEIRUT: Gerard Tufenkjian

SOUTH AFRICA

JOHANNESBURG: Jacques Adanalian

SYRIA

DISTRICT COMMITTEE OF SYRIA,
ALEPPO: Nerses Nersoyan
ALEPPO: Hagop Mikayelian
DAMASCUS: Ara Yacoubian
KAMISHLY: Hovhannes Aroyan
LATTAKIA: Hagop Attamian
YACOUBIEH: Kevork Khatchadourian

URUGUAY

MONTEVIDEO: Gustavo Zulamian (until Aug 2011), Haigazun Moumdjian

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

DUBAI: Hratch Borghosizian

UNITED KINGDOM

LONDON: Noushig Setrakian

USA

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA DISTRICT
COMMITTEE, LOS ANGELES: Haig
Messerlian

GLENDALE/PASADENA: Shahe
Seuylemezian

HYE GEEN LOS ANGELES, CA:
Sona Yacoubian

ORANGE COUNTY, CA: Krikor
Mahdessian

SAN DIEGO, CA: Ani Kalayjian-
Lanuzza

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY, CA:
Hovig Antabian (2010), Ara
Yessaian (2011)

FRESNO, CA: Zaroohi Der Mugardechian

SILICON VALLEY, CA: Yervant Zorian

CHICAGO, IL: Sona Diorio

NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT, MA: Souren
Maserejian (until Sept 2011), Ara Balikian

NEW YORK (NY) SPECIAL EVENTS
COMMITTEE: Nila Festekjian

DETROIT, MI: Nadya Sarafian

CLEVELAND, OH: Sebouh Setrakian

PHILADELPHIA, PA: Elizabeth Barone,
Clara Samelian

PROVIDENCE MEN, RI: William
Aznavourian

HOUSTON, TX: Sarkis Ohanian

SPOTLIGHT



RA Armenia President Serge Sargsyan bestowed the **Order of Honor** to AGBU President **Berge Setrakian** in the presence of over 700 guests during a gala dinner in September 2011 at Cipriani-Wall Street in celebration of the 20th anniversary of Armenia's independence. The honor, one of the highest bestowed by the Republic of Armenia, was awarded to Setrakian for his significant contributions to the homeland. Only a small handful of individuals, including AGBU Honorary Life President Alex Manoogian, have received this recognition.



AGBU Vice President **Sinan Sinanian** was awarded the **Anania Shirakatsi Medal**, named after the prominent 7th century scientist, by Armenian President Serge Sargsyan during a banquet at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Los Angeles during September 2011, held to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Armenian independence. The Shirakatsi Medal is awarded for considerable activity in the spheres of architecture, economy, engineering, science and technology.



Recognizing his outstanding contributions to spheres of architecture, economy, engineering, science and technology in Armenia, RA President Serge Sargsyan awarded AGBU Treasurer **Sam Simonian** with the **Anania Shirakatsi Medal** in September 2011. As of late, Simonian and his wife, Sylva, initiated and funded the TUMO Center for Creative Technologies in Yerevan, a creative, open media studio designed to teach youth, ages 12 to 18, who have interest in digital art and information technology (IT).



Citing his legacy of service to Armenians worldwide and to the AGBU Montreal community in particular, **the Central Board of Directors honored Dr. Arshavir Gundjian** (sixth from left) with a dinner and well-deserved tribute in April 2011 at New York City's University Club upon his retirement from the Board. Gundjian, who served as Vice President of AGBU, was a Board member for 35 years, and played a pivotal role in establishing the AGBU Alex Manoogian School in Montreal.



In 2010, Central Board member **Aris Atamian** was bestowed with the “**Chevalier dans l’Ordre national du Mérite**” by French president Nicholas Sarkozy in recognition of his 43 years of professional activities and military services. Atamian, a prominent Paris-based architect, has been a member of AGBU for several decades, having served as chairman and vice-chairman of the AGBU Youth Committee in Paris in the past.



Central Board member and vice president of AGBU Swiss Corporation **Vahe Gabrache** was honored with the **Knight of St. Gregory the Great Order** by His Holiness Benedict XVI, Pope of the Roman Catholic Church, in recognition of his longtime devoted service to the Catholic Church as a member of the Holy Cross parish of the Armenian Catholic Church in Paris. The award was presented by His Beatitude Nerses Bedros XIX, Catholicos Patriarch of the Armenian Catholic Church, in February 2010, following mass at the Armenian Catholic Convent. The Order of St. Gregory the Great, which is named after Pope Gregory XVI who instituted it in 1831, is the second highest medal awarded by the Vatican.



At the AGBU Demirdjian Center in Beirut in November 2010, prominent benefactor and long-standing former chairman of the Lebanon District Committee **Avedis Demirdjian** was honored for his many years of devoted service to AGBU, AYA, the Armenian Church and community. An announcement was also made that His Holiness Karekin II had bestowed upon him the **St. Nersess Shnorhali Medal**. In addition, Mr. Demirdjian was presented with the **AGBU Boghos Nubar Award**, which is given for outstanding service to the Armenian nation and community. The honoree made a \$150,000 donation on this occasion, to be divided equally among Holy Etchmiadzin, the AGBU Lebanon District Committee and the AGBU Demirdjian Center.



For his exceptional contributions to the preservation of the Armenian identity, as well as substantial service in state and political-social activities, AGBU Egypt District Committee chair and Honorary Chair of the Cairo Chapter **Berdj Terzian** was awarded the **Mkhitar Gosh Medal** by RA Diaspora Minister Hranush Hakobyan during an official gathering at the Diaspora Ministry in November 2011. Earlier that year, he had been awarded the **Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Medal of Honor** by His Holiness Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians, for his long-term commitment and contributions to the worldwide Armenian community.



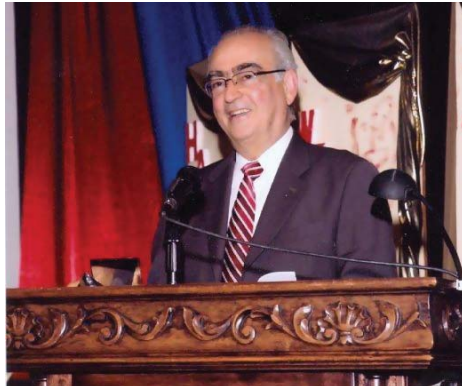
During an official ceremony in 2011 at the Presidential Palace in Yerevan, AGBU Europe and France Districts Chairman **Alexis Govciyan** was presented with the **Mkhitar Gosh Medal** for his substantial state and political-social activity, as well as significant services in the spheres of diplomacy, law and political science.



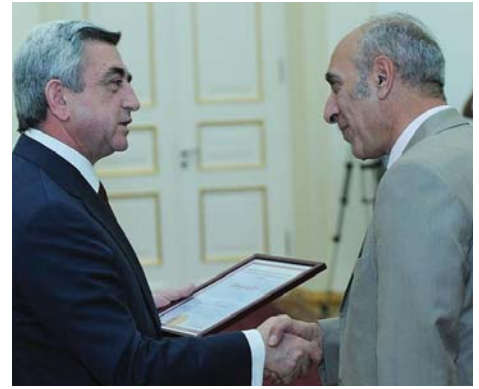
The president of the H.D. Topalian Foundation, **Edmond Pilossian**, and its vice-chairwoman, **Annie Mesrobian**, were bestowed with **AGBU Honor Membership** by AGBU President Berge Setrakian in April 2011 as an acknowledgment of their longstanding dedication and outstanding services to the Armenian community. The Topalian Foundation, an AGBU-affiliated organization, was established in 1993 in Switzerland to fulfill the national aspirations of the late Hagop D. Topalian, a major benefactor of the Union.



In May 2011, the AGBU New England District honored longtime member and Providence Men's Chapter Chairman **William Aznavourian** for more than 45 years of service and dedication to AGBU and the Armenian community with a tributary dinner held at the AGBU Center in Watertown, Massachusetts. Aznavourian, who singlehandedly took on the workload of a full committee and raised tens of thousands of dollars for AGBU through annual fundraising drives, was bestowed with **AGBU Honor Member** status.



In October 2011, at the AGBU Vatche and Tamar Manoukian Center in Pasadena, over 600 attendees applauded the outstanding and numerous achievements of **Krikor Satamian**, the Artistic Director of the AGBU Ardavazt Theater Company in Pasadena. Satamian was bestowed with the **Armenian Diaspora Ministry's William Saroyan Medal**, and with a **Gold Medal from Armenia's Culture Ministry**. Over the past 50 years and on many stages in the world, Satamian has directed 75 plays, taken the lead role in 84 productions, and translated 20 plays into Armenian from both English and French.



Renowned historian **Raymond Kevorkian**, who is also director of the AGBU Nubarian Library in Paris, was awarded the **Presidential Award** by RA President Serge Sargsyan in May 2011. Kevorkian was honored at the Presidential Palace in Yerevan for his contribution to the international recognition of the Armenian Genocide, most recently embodied in his monumental book, "The Armenian Genocide: A Complete History." (See page 39 for additional details.)



In June 2010, the AGBU Manoogian-Demirdjian School in Southern California held a special program dedicated to vice principal **Dr. Ellie Andreassian**, where she was bestowed with the **AGBU President's Award**. The honored scholar has been serving AGBU schools in America for thirty-five years – as educator, vice principal, principal, and curriculum coordinator.



In recognition of her work in the development of health care in Armenia, AGBU Honor Member **Rita Balian** was awarded the **Mkhitar Heratsi Medal** by RA President Serge Sargsyan during a September 2011 dinner in New York City. The Armenian American Cultural Association she founded administers the Armenian American Wellness Center (AAWC) in Yerevan, which provides mammography screening and other health care services.

NOTABLE MILESTONES

Centennial Anniversary: Aleppo Chapter, Baghdad Chapter, Buenos Aires Chapter, Cairo Chapter, Chicago Chapter, London Chapter, Marseille Chapter, Plovdiv Chapter, Sofia Chapter

80th Anniversary: AYA in Lebanon & Syria, Valence Chapter

70th Anniversary: Beirut Tarouhy-Hovagimian School

50th Anniversary: Aleppo AYA Bedros Attamian Theater Company

40th Anniversary: Montreal Alex Manoogian School

35th Anniversary: Canoga Park Manoogian-Demirdjian School

30th Anniversary: Pasadena Ardavazt Theater Company

25th Anniversary: Cordoba Center, Glendale-Pasadena Scouts Group

20th Anniversary: Sydney Alexander School

10th Anniversary: AYA Baghdad Ohan Youth Groups

5th Anniversary: Pasadena Vatche & Tamar Manoukian High School

SPECIAL TOURS



AGBU Nubarian Library Director Raymond Kevorkian in Toronto promoting his book "The Armenian Genocide: A Complete History" on May 3, 2011.

DEBUT OF DR. GEORGE BOURNOUTIAN'S NEWEST SCHOLARLY PUBLICATION

Beginning in November 2011, AGBU launched a tour of renowned historian George Bournoutian's newest publication, *The 1823 Russian Survey of the Karabagh Province: A Primary Source on the Demography and Economy of Karabagh in the Early 19th Century*, which proves that Armenians formed the overwhelming 95% majority of the populations inhabiting the Nagorno-Karabakh territory and the villages of Zangezur in 1822. Hundreds of enthusiastic attendees came to hear Bournoutian speak in Detroit, Montreal, New York and Toronto with each AGBU venue packed. The survey was conducted by Russian officials, who examined the tax-rolls of the Muslim accountants and interviewed Muslim officials, and is a very rare document of some 350 pages. No copies exist in the US and only a handful of copies exist in the former USSR. Dr. Bournoutian managed to locate a copy from the Moscow Central Library and translated the entire survey, with extensive notes and commentary, into English.



Dr. George Bournoutian, discussed his latest work, focusing on the Armenian population in Karabakh during the early 19th century, at AGBU's Alex Manoogian Cultural Centre in Toronto on March 31, 2011, his first of two appearances there.

RAYMOND KEVORKIAN TOURS NORTH AMERICA TO LAUNCH ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF HIS AUTHORITATIVE BOOK ON ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

The book, "The Armenian Genocide: A Complete History," by Raymond Kevorkian, a lecturer at the Institut Français de Géopolitique, University of Paris, and director of the AGBU Nubarian Library in Paris, gives an authoritative account of the origins, events and consequences of the Armenian Genocide. It has been embraced in European academic circles as providing a new understanding to many previously unexamined sources on the Armenian Genocide, and Kevorkian considers the role played by the Armenian Genocide in the construction of the Turkish nation state and Turkish identity, as well as exploring the ideologies of power, rule, and state violence. Crucially, he examines the consequences of the violence against the Armenians, the implications of the deportations, and the attempts to bring those who committed the atrocities to justice. Following the

book's translation into English, the author embarked on a North American book tour during May 2011, with stops in Toronto, Montreal, Los Angeles, Silicon Valley, Detroit and New York. All the lectures were presented in Armenian, and over 600 people came to hear Kevorkian speak in total.

PERFORMING ARTS



The AYA Antranik Dance Ensemble of Aleppo dazzled over 500 audience members during AYA Aleppo's 80th anniversary celebration on December 25, 2011.

CHORAL & MUSICAL GROUPS

AGBU's 17 choral and musical ensembles in Argentina, Armenia, Bulgaria, Canada, Egypt, France, Iraq, Karabakh, Syria, Uruguay and the US enchanted scores of audience members with their melodic voices, deft finger movements and skillful renditions of classic, contemporary and pop music throughout 2010 and 2011. Whenever – or wherever – they are on stage, spectators are sure to put their hands together for rapturous applause and encore requests.

Special highlights from these past two years included an invitation from Armenia's Nansen Foundation to **Aleppo's AYA Gomidas Chamber Orchestra** to perform in Goris, Gyumri and Yerevan during May 2010. All performers were between the ages of 18 and 25. Another group visiting Armenia less than a year later was the **Montevideo Chapter's Grung Choir**. The trip was an emotional one, particularly since many of the choir members were second or third generation Armenians who had not yet been to the homeland. This was the first time the group performed in Armenia, with concerts taking place for hundreds in Gyumri and Yerevan. See p. 33 for additional details.



The Koghtan Choir, under the direction of Haig Sarkissian, gave a concert on December 18, 2010, to help raise funds toward the Paris youth group's humanitarian trip to Armenia, entitled "Arménie Terre de Vie."



A scene from a performance of the Aleppo AYA Big Band on April 3, 2011.



The Gomidas Chamber Orchestra of Aleppo was invited to perform in Armenia by the Nansen Foundation from May 3-10, 2010.

DANCE ENSEMBLES

Traditional and contemporary Armenian dance has always been a mainstay in our culture, attested by the original productions created and choreographed by AGBU's 11 dance ensembles around the world. The **AYA Beirut Arine Dance Ensemble** and the **AYA Aleppo Antranik Dance Ensemble** each unveiled elaborate new productions in 2010 and 2011 at sold out venues filled by thousands who admired the intricate professional choreography of not just Armenian dances, but those from other ethnicities, as well, including Arab, Italian, Moldovan, Spanish and Ukrainian.

Close to 100 members graced the stage in May 2011 when the Arine Ensemble performed its latest show, "The Eternal Traveler," in honor of AYA's 80th Anniversary, and the group, formerly named Antranik, renamed itself in the memory of a beloved member, Arine Tchertchian. Also delighting the greater Lebanese community, the ensemble was invited to perform at the UNESCO building in 2010 for the Rotary Club and during the Ba'abdet Cultural Week in August 2011. As yet another way to serve its extensive community, the Aleppo AYA established a new endeavor named the **AYA Pountch Youth Dance Ensemble**, which made a well-received debut during a performance by their older counterparts.

As it always does, the **Antranig Dance Ensemble** of New York dazzled hundreds of audience members with interpretations of traditional Armenian folk dances. In November 2011, its dancers and crew were invited to Chicago by the local AGBU chapter and *Parev* newspaper to present its latest production, *Reflections*, for the first time in the region. The group also took its show to a number of cities in 2010, including Binghamton, Boston and New York City.

The Vienna Chapter announced with excitement in 2011 the launch of its new **Garod Dance Ensemble** to meet demands for a local dance group. Following months of intense rehearsal, a performance with over a dozen dancers was held in March that was part of a cultural evening organized by the chapter.



The AGBU Antranig Dance Ensemble took their very special brand of Armenian performance dance to the stages of Binghamton, New York and Boston, Massachusetts in fall 2010.



The Vienna Chapter's Garod Dance Ensemble held its first performance on March 24, 2011.



The AYA Arine Dance Ensemble performed "The Eternal Traveler" from May 20 to 21, 2011, in Beirut.



Aleppo's AYA Antranik Dance Ensemble performed on April 3, 2011.

THEATER COMPANIES

Thousands of adoring enthusiasts have witnessed riveting and comical performances by the organization's eight theater troupes in Argentina, Australia, Bulgaria, France, Iran, Lebanon, Syria and the United States over the past two years, in addition to commemorating important milestones.

Reaching audience members that number well over ten thousand over the past five decades, the **AYA Aleppo Bedros Attamian Theater Company** celebrated its Golden Anniversary in November 2011 with a series of events, including an intricate and carefully curated exhibit of cast lists, costumes, photos, programs and props spanning the entire existence of the troupe. Other activities encompassed two lectures and a theatrical event about the history of Armenian theater, as well as a gala dinner.

Another milestone event was recognized, this time by the **Ardavazt Theater Company** in Pasadena. A special gathering attended by hundreds, which included the presentation of a major booklet publication for the occasion, was held in September 2011 to fete the group's 30 years and dozens of productions in the Southern California area. Ardavazt continued to mount its biannual plays, which always attract sold out houses. In 2011 alone, *Wednesday... My Dear*, adapted from Derek Benfield's *Touch and Go*, was staged twice a week for eight weeks in January and February, and 10 performances of Yervant Odian's *Love and Laughter*, a synthesis of three of his plays, were enjoyed during November and December.

In homage to veteran actor and director Krikor Satamian's 50 years of service to both the AGBU and non-Armenian theater world, the Buenos Aires Chapter established in November 2011 the **Krikor Satamian Theater Company** and debuted its very first performance, *Who Is My Father?*, which is adapted from Ray Cooney's *It Runs in the Family*. In order to attract non-Armenian speakers, Spanish subtitles were offered above the stage, and based on the success of the first performance, two additional shows were added and also sold out immediately. Satamian was honored in Pasadena for his Golden Jubilee during an event attended by 600 friends and fans in October 2011. See page 38 for additional details.

The first prize winner of the 2011 "Pomegranate Seed" annual youth theatrical festival, organized jointly by Armenia's Cultural Ministry, "Nakhabem" educational-cultural association, Avetik Isahakian Library and Metro Theater, was the **Plovdiv Chapter's Saturday School theater group**. The students were accompanied by the school principal, artistic director, and parents. During their stay in Yerevan, the delegation paid a visit to the AGBU Armenian Representation, where they got acquainted with the organization's activities in Armenia and Karabakh.

As part of the well-known "One Nation One Culture" Festival organized by Armenia's Diaspora Ministry, the **AYA Beirut Vahram Papazian Theater Company** was invited to Yerevan to perform Baronian's *The Sycophant* at the Hagop Baronian Theater and the State Dramatic Theater in July 2010. The troupe had also staged this production during two weekends in February of the same year.



The AYA Attamian Theater Group of Aleppo celebrated its 50th Anniversary during November 2011.



A scene from the Ardavazt Theatre Company's production of Yervant Odian's "Ser yev Dziridzagh" (Love & Laughter) starring and directed by Krikor Satamian, on November 5, 2011.



The Beirut AYA Vahram Papazian Theater Group presented Hagop Baronian's "Shoghokorte" (The Sycophant) under the direction of Prof. Yervant Ghazanchian from Armenia on Thursday evening, February 18, 2010, in the Hagop Der Melkonian Auditorium.

NYSEC PERFORMING ARTISTS IN CONCERT SERIES

The Performing Artists in Concert Series launched by the New York Special Events Committee (NYSEC) went international in January 2010 as 1,500 classical music aficionados in Aleppo, Beirut and Damascus admired the talents of AGBU's Performing Arts scholarship recipients. Sold out venues, waves of applause and encore requests were the crowning moments of the tour. A collaborative effort, NYSEC sponsored the four musicians and AGBU's local chapters organized and hosted the concerts, which included works by Brahms and Mozart. The Damascus performance was held under the auspices of the Syrian Ministry of Culture, and the Beirut concert was attended by members of Parliament, ambassadors, and well-known musicians and academics.

The third and fourth annual NYSEC Performing Artists in Concert at Weill Recital Hall of the world renowned Carnegie Hall took place during the month of December, once again sold out in both 2010 and 2011. Thanks to the generosity of AGBU donors, these celebrations of music raised \$120,000 in total for the AGBU Performing Arts Fellowship Program and featured distinguished repertoires of music by Armenian and other classical composers.

The 2010 concert welcomed guest artist Daniel Thomas Davis of New York, who joined the young musicians to perform his

composition, "Diary of Scattering," which was inspired by his study of Armenian music. The piece was commissioned for the dissertation project of Henrik Karapetyan, which was made possible in part by the AGBU Performing Arts Fellowship awarded to Karapetyan.

The 150th anniversary of the birth of the famous Norwegian Arctic explorer, scientist, Nobel laureate, diplomat, humanitarian, and friend to the Armenian people, Fridtjof Nansen (1861-1930), was the theme of the 2011 concert, which included works by Norwegian composer Edvard Grieg. NYSEC co-sponsored the evening with the Permanent Mission of Armenia to the United Nations, and also invited to the stage for the first time AGBU scholarship recipients from Europe to share their musical talents.

The featured musicians in these series are recipients of AGBU Performing Arts Fellowship Program grant, which allows them to pursue higher education at some of the world's most well-respected and prestigious conservatories and universities, including Bard College Conservatory of Music, Harvard University, the Juilliard School, Manhattan School of Music, Mannes College of Music, New England Conservatory, Royal Northern College of Music and the USC Thornton School of Music.



The performance at Weill Recital Hall of Carnegie Hall on December 3, 2011.



A grand finale from the NYSEC Performing Artists in Concert series in New York on December 4, 2010.

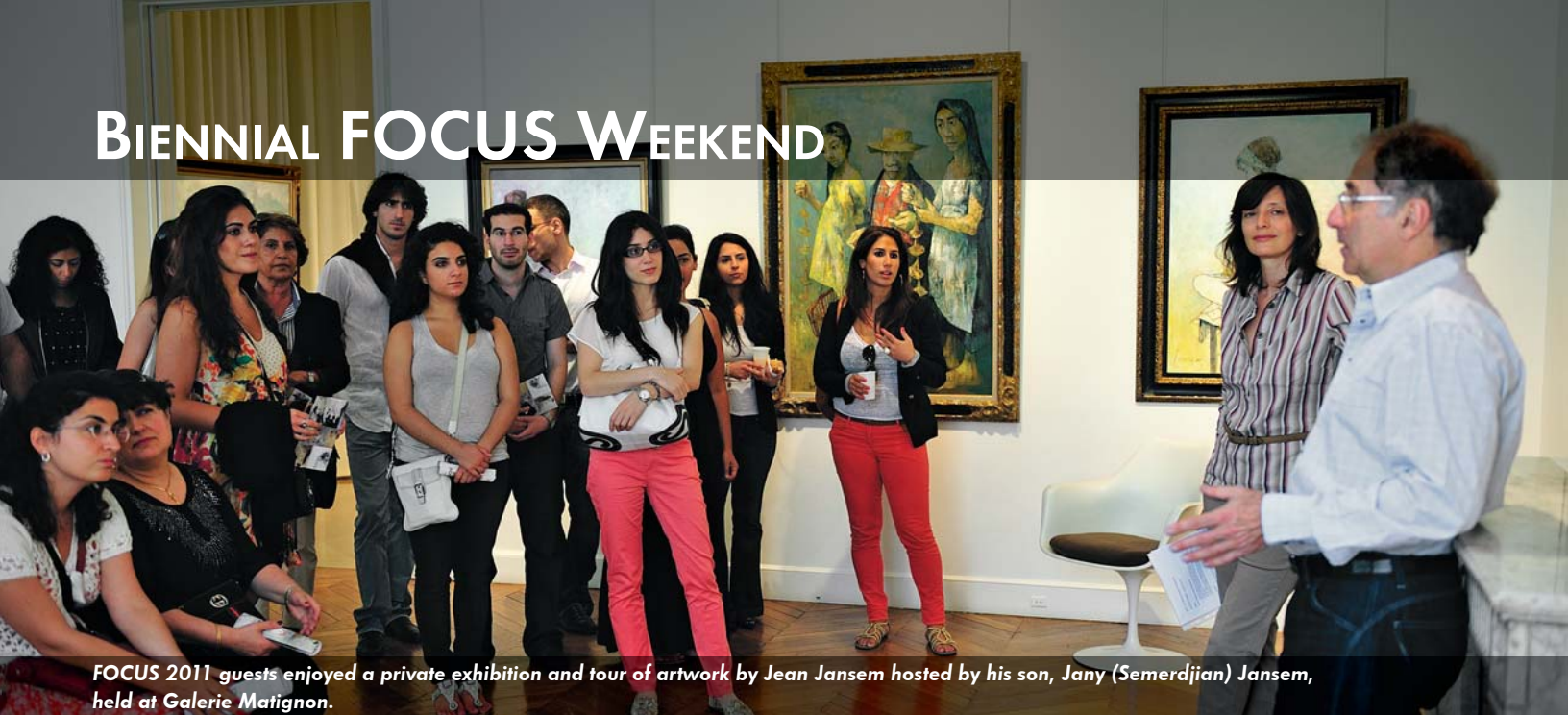


AGBU Performing Arts Fellowship scholarship recipients perform in Beirut at a concert in cooperation with NYSEC on January 31, 2010.



Hundreds of audience members appreciated the music performed during the NYSEC concert organized by the Lebanon District on January 31, 2010.

BIENNIAL FOCUS WEEKEND



FOCUS 2011 guests enjoyed a private exhibition and tour of artwork by Jean Jansem hosted by his son, Jany (Semerdjian) Jansem, held at Galerie Matignon.

FOCUS 2011 Held in Paris – \$40,000 Raised for AGBU’s Armenian Virtual College

From August 4-7, 2011, AGBU FOCUS touched down in Paris for its sixth biennial celebration with close to 400 participants from 25 countries. The affair marked the first time FOCUS took place outside North America and the location attracted new energy and faces from even more countries than ever before.

The gathering was headquartered at Hotel Lutetia in the heart of Paris, as guests traveled around the Left and Right Banks of the city to discover venues and events that were as surprising and diverse as the city itself. Kicking off on that Thursday evening with the networking evening known as Perspectives, FOCUS gathered its guests at Crystal Lounge in the city’s 8^{ième} arrondissement to listen to a moderated discussion about the greater role our community can serve in the outside world. The topic quickly transformed into a lively exchange of opinions and ideas.

Friday’s daytime program was dominated by custom city tours allowing smaller groups the opportunity to discover Paris, from visits to the Armenian landmarks of Paris, including the Komitas monument in Yerevan Park and the Armenian cathedral, to French-Armenian fashion boutiques, perfumeries, and restaurants. That night, hundreds traveled to the 1979 Club in the 2^{ième} arrondissement, which offered a window into the city’s hip and off-the-beaten-path nightlife.

Saturday began at Galerie Matignon, where two art exhibitions, one by renowned French-Armenian artist Jean Jansem and another by photographer Antoine Agoudjian, welcomed guests to FOCUS on Art, which also served as a FOCUS fundraiser. The displays offered an opportunity for visitors to discover Armenian culture and speak to the son

of Jansem, Jany Semerdjian, who offered insights into his father’s work and welcomed questions from attendees.

When FOCUS guests arrived at Saturday night’s gala, they were immersed immediately into the Old World charm of the Cercle de l’Union Interalliée, a former Napoleonic-era home that has since become a private club in the prestigious Faubourg-Saint-Honoré neighborhood, just a few steps away from Elysées Palace.

On the final morning, guests came together one last time for a Sunday brunch at Alcazar restaurant in Paris’s 6^{ième} arrondissement. The gathering was an opportunity for everyone to say their goodbyes with promises to reconnect at future gatherings.

The FOCUS Committee in Paris and New York raised \$40,000 for AGBU’s Armenian Virtual College (see p. 13), which shares with FOCUS a global vision to unify Armenians and reach out to communities everywhere.

First initiated in 2001, FOCUS was created not only to unite alumni of AGBU’s various youth programs but to bring together global young Armenian professionals to share their perspectives on a variety of important issues. The weekend also showcases the notable contributions and achievements made by AGBU’s high-quality programs that appeal to Armenians of all ages, and raises funds through pre-event campaigns. To date, pre-event fundraising efforts for all six FOCUS weekends have raised over \$240,000 for various AGBU programs. Over the years, this affair has become the most highly anticipated event with over 2,500 participants in total, setting a standard for other gatherings of its kind and cultivating a new generation of AGBU members.

YP NETWORK COMES TOGETHER

FOCUS also serves as the setting for the Young Professionals (YP) Assembly, where the worldwide leadership of 17 YP Groups and YP Partners from 10 countries (Armenia, Bulgaria, Canada, England, France, Germany, Lebanon, Russia, United Arab Emirates, United States) convened Friday to discuss collaborative efforts and establish groundwork for continued future success. A testament to the ongoing growth and popularity of the YP Network, over 40 attendees participated, representing the largest and most diverse

attendance for the AGBU YP meeting ever. With an objective to strengthen and advance the worldwide network, the meeting included sessions on professional development, community outreach, sustainability, and the development of new regional and global initiatives. Presentations were conducted by YP Chairs, with valuable contributions made by all attendees, many of whom were meeting face to face for the very first time.



A scene from *Perspectives*, the traditional start of the weekend of events on Thursday, August 4, 2011.



Guests arriving at the Gala, which took place at the Cercle de l'Union Interalliée.



FOCUS participants proudly pointing to the sign for Yerevan Park in the heart of Paris during one of the many group tours on Friday.

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS



Representatives convene for the YP Network Biennial Assembly in Paris, France, during FOCUS 2011.

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 fellowship, community, and belonging. In 2010 and 2011, the YP Network advanced its purview by:

- Engaging 17,000 YPs worldwide through 307 educational, cultural, humanitarian, and social events, which represent a quarter of AGBU worldwide activity;
- Donating over \$122,000 to worthwhile projects with 65% of the funds allocated to Armenia. \$39,200 of this sum was donated to the YP Endowment Fund for the AGBU Children's Centers in Armenia, which increased its value to \$134,000. Since the network's inception, AGBU YPs have donated over \$371,000;
- Harnessing its collective power by working on local, regional and global projects; and
- Partnering on important initiatives with AGBU Districts, Chapters, Schools, and Programs, as well as fellow Armenian and non-Armenian organizations.

A testament to its ongoing growth and popularity, the YP Network convened in record-breaking numbers for meetings at the General Assembly in Buenos Aires in 2010 and FOCUS in Paris in 2011. Both occasions served as platforms for YP representatives to share best practices, discuss collaborative efforts, and establish groundwork for continued future success.

Flexing its global muscle for the very first time, the YP Network also realized a shared vision by funding its own project for

Armenia in 2010. In a unified effort, YP Groups and partners from around the world pooled their resources to build a park for the struggling border village of Khachik, Armenia, and its 300 families. Setting an exemplary model that cooperation reaps results, the new park provides a green space of beauty and relaxation, while attracting visitors and tourists, which generates a new source of income for residents.



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



Youth and villagers from Khachik, Armenia, celebrate the opening of the new park in 2010, sponsored through the cooperation and goodwill of the YP Network.



AUA graduate students accessing the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) Digital Library, which is sponsored annually by the AGBU Young Professionals to support their studies.

Snapshot of 2010-2011 Beneficiaries of YP Donations

- American University of Armenia
- AGBU Armenian Virtual College
- AGBU Camp Nubar
- AGBU Generation Next
- AGBU Hye Geen
- AGBU New York Summer Internship Program
- AGBU Pasadena Scouts
- AGBU Plovdiv Green Camp
- AGBU Sofia Camp Unger
- AGBU Vatche & Tamar Manoukian High School
- AGBU Young Professionals Khachik Park Project
- AGBU Zaroukian School

2010-2011 YP Donors

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------------|
| YP Boston | YP Northern California |
| YP Brazil | YP Orange County |
| YP Buenos Aires | YP Philadelphia |
| YP Chicago | YP Plovdiv |
| YP Greater New York | YP Sofia |
| YP London | YP Tehran |
| YP Los Angeles | YP Toronto |
| YP Marseille | YP Yerevan |
| YP Montreal | HAIK Partnership (Frankfurt) |



Donating the most funds in 2010-11, members of the YP Greater New York Steering Committee gather at the group's signature Silent Auction & Cocktail Reception in 2010.

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS CHAIRS 2010 - 2011

ARGENTINA

BUENOS AIRES: Ignacio Balassanian

ARMENIA

YEREVAN: Harutyun Poghosyan

AUSTRALIA

SYDNEY: Shant Fabricatorian

AUSTRIA

VIENNA: Hrayr Sarikyan

BRAZIL

SÃO PAULO: Paulo Bilezikjian

BULGARIA

PLOVDIV: Suzanna Harutyunyan-Vasilevska

SOFIA: Gevorg Khachatryan

CANADA

MONTREAL: Harout Chitilian (2010), Sarine Chitilian (2011)

TORONTO: Karen Papazian

FRANCE

MARSEILLE: Maral Hekimian

PARIS: Aurélie Deyirmendjian (2010), Armen Seropyan (2011)

GERMANY

COLOGNE: Alfrant Bedrosian

HAMBURG: Armen Chamlaian

IRAN

TEHRAN: Maria Ghazarians

LEBANON

BEIRUT: Guy Markarian (2010), Sarine Karajerjian (2011)

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

DUBAI: Mossine Koulakezian, George Tabakyan (2010),

Mossine Koulakezian, Lara Setrakian (2011)

UNITED KINGDOM

LONDON: Karnig Derderian, Valentina Poghosyan (2010),

Karnig Derderian, Ani Kalustian (2011)

USA

LOS ANGELES, CA: Sevana Melikian (2010), Yeghig Keshishian (2011)

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA, CA: Steven Cherezian, David Ojikian (2010), Steven Cherezian (2011)

ORANGE COUNTY, CA: Linda Adran, Dora Gulesserian (2010), Dora Gulesserian (2011)

CHICAGO, IL: Arina Mavilian

BOSTON, MA: Hripsime Mkrtchyan (2010), Nicole Meregian (2011)

GREATER NEW YORK, NY: Aline Markarian

PHILADELPHIA, PA: Meredith Avakian (2010), Meredith Avakian, Julie Paretchan (2011)

WASHINGTON, DC: Salpy Kabaklian-Slantz



YP Boston Business Etiquette Seminar

MODELING THE WAY THROUGH PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & MENTORING

With an increased focus on professional development, YP Groups, such as YP Boston, YP Lebanon, YP London, YP Montreal, and YP Toronto, provided multiple educational and networking events to their local communities on relevant topics, including business etiquette, entrepreneurship, banking and finance, information technology, and organizational leadership.



YP Buenos Aires 2nd Annual Hai Gallery Night

To nurture the career aspirations of younger generations of Armenians, YP Groups also developed youth mentoring initiatives, such as YP Los Angeles' Career Fairs for AGBU high school students, YP Greater New York's Mentoring Program for AGBU summer interns, and YP Montreal's Mentoring Program for college students and new graduates.

FUNDRAISING & COMMUNITY SERVICE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

YP Groups make it a key priority to give back to the community by investing in causes often needing the greatest attention and assistance. Certain groups earmarked fundraising efforts to benefit AGBU programs in Armenia through signature events, such as YP Greater New York's Silent Auction & Cocktail Reception and YP Northern California's Winter Gala Weekend, while other YP Groups provided financial support to local AGBU programs, including donations made by YP Los Angeles to AGBU Generation Next, YP Plovdiv to the AGBU Plovdiv Green Camp, and YP Sofia to AGBU Camp Unger.



YP Lebanon Lecture on Entrepreneurship & the Challenges of Youth in Lebanon

Embodying the civic spirit of the Young Professionals, YP Tehran spent precious time with Armenian seniors and disabled youth during the holidays, YP Greater New York performed for Armenian seniors with the AGBU summer interns, and YP Los Angeles volunteered to clean rivers and beaches in Southern California. Spreading its mission beyond



YP London Wine Tasting Event



YP Los Angeles Camping Trip

Armenia's capital city, YP Yerevan organized book drives for schools and libraries in Karabakh and Georgia, and established a computer room in the village of Khachik.

BUILDING DIASPORA AWARENESS FOR YOUTH PROGRAMS IN ARMENIA

Commensurate with AGBU's philosophy of connecting youth in the diaspora with Armenia, YP Groups educated their communities on the myriad of youth programs available in the homeland. YP Buenos Aires sponsored a lecture series that presented the volunteer experiences of YPs in Armenia, while YP Montreal organized an Opportunities Fair, which featured available Armenia-based programs for college students, and YP Philadelphia hosted a cultural evening illustrating the experiences of volunteers in Armenia through narration, poetry, and photography.

The AGBU Young Professionals Network brings together young Armenians from all walks of life to serve the greater good. Diverse yet unified, AGBU YPs share one common goal: to preserve and promote the Armenian identity and heritage.



YP Montreal Opportunities Fair



YP Northern California with Permanent Representative of Nagorno-Karabakh to the US Robert Avetisyan



YP Philadelphia January Jingle



YP Tehran Visit to Agouk Center for Disabled Armenian Youth



YP UAE Day Trip to Aquaventure Water Park



YP Yerevan & AGBU Yerevan Scouts Junior Open Equestrian Championship

YOUTH



Colonie de Vacances, France

SUMMER & DAY CAMPS



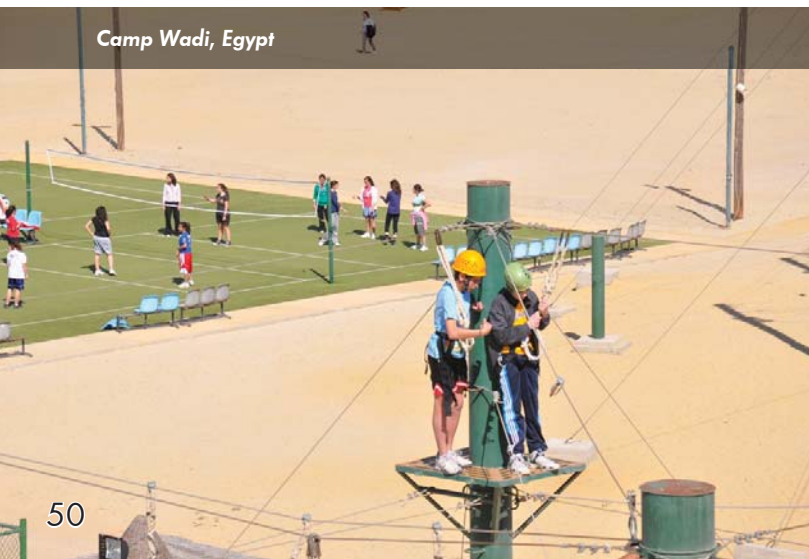
Hundreds and hundreds of Armenian children, tweens and teens enjoyed fresh air while engaging in fun outdoor activities, as well as bonding with their peers, featuring their Armenian culture as a backdrop at the 11 AGBU overnight and day camps these past two years.

Over 500 youth alone traveled to **Camp Nubar** in upstate New York from Armenia, Canada, France, Germany, Turkey, UK and several US cities. In addition to a diverse array of activities, including archery, basketball, horseback riding, swimming and tennis, in 2010 the camp introduced classes in creative writing, digital media & technology and singing, all of which were met with much enthusiasm. Particularly

noteworthy were the new dance and arts & crafts classes taught by ballet master Arman Julhakyan and art instructor Ella Pepanyan, who were invited from the AGBU Nork Children's Center in Armenia in 2011.

The France District's **Colonie de Vacances** continued to attract full house enrollment each year, and the Egypt District's **Camp Wadi** invited AGBU youth from the Syria and Lebanon Districts for a week of fun with local peers in February 2010. The Syria District's **Kessab Camp** then welcomed AGBU youth from Alexandria and Cairo that August.

No matter whether children attend their local AGBU day camp or venture to one of our larger sleep away camps in another country, the end result is the same: they are creating sweet summer memories, connecting to their heritage and making friends for life.



Camp Wadi, Egypt



Camp Unger, Bulgaria



Camp Nubar, USA



Demirdjian Center Summer Day Camp, Lebanon



Colonie de Vacances, France



Summer Day Camp, Cordoba, Argentina



The Governor General of Canada, His Excellency the Right Honorable David granted the highest recognition in Canadian scouting, the very prestigious and coveted Annapurna Award and Badge, to the AGBU Montreal Venturers Company and its scouting leadership.

SCOUTS

Whether they are taking the scout oath, receiving merit badges or engaging in community service projects, AGBU's scouts in nine countries are "always ready" to help keep their culture alive.



Our **Antranik Scout Camp** in the Lori region of Armenia welcomed hundreds of campers from different countries over the past two years, in addition to youth from the newly formed scout group at the Nork Children's Center.

Montreal's Venturers group wanted to make a difference in Armenia and raised \$50,000 to fund a trip to the homeland, where they spent July and August of 2010 helping to build houses in the Taron-3 district of Vanadzor. Their efforts did not go unnoticed – less than a year later, the Canadian government awarded them the Anapurna Award, the highest scouting recognition in the country, to honor their achievements and dedication to their ethnicity.

Marking a milestone, the **Glendale-Pasadena group** celebrated its 25th anniversary in May 2011, and enjoyed the presence of 300 supporters at the bonfire night during their annual camping trip just a few months later.



Pasadena Scouts at Lake Isabella.

The Yerevan Scouts held a tree planting ceremony on October 5, 2011, at the AGBU Antranik Scout Camp.

The Yerevan Scout Group visited the Vazgen Sargysyan Military Academy on November 13, 2010.





The Ararat Futsal team of Nicosia won its 7th national championship in 2010.



ATHLETICS



With active athletic groups in a dozen countries featuring basketball, volleyball, soccer and other sports, AGBU's teams are ready to bounce, punt and kick their way toward victory.

In 2010 and 2011, **AYA Beirut Antranik's Girl's First Division** basketball team clinched the **Lebanese National Championship** title for the eighth and ninth years in a row, proving that they have earned their place at the top.

The **AGBU Ararat Futsal** team in Nicosia has also demonstrated its strength once again by winning the **Cypriot National Cup** title for the seventh time in the club's 11-year existence.

Other AGBU teams continue to strengthen their bonds among fellow groups within the organization. The **32nd Annual South American Regional Games** uniting teams from Buenos Aires, Cordoba, Montevideo and Sao Paulo took place in July 2010, amidst roaring cheers from the hundreds of spectators in the stands.

Following a revival of competition between teams in Southern California and Canada, the **North American Regional Games** took place in Pasadena during July 2010, and the Canadian teams continue to compete every May in Toronto and October in Montreal to keep the rivalries – and the strong friendships – alive and well.

The North American Regional Basketball Tournament, which took place in Pasadena during July 2010.

AYA Antranik Basketball Women's 1st Division team after winning the 2010 Lebanese Championship.

The opening ceremonies of the 32nd Annual South American Regional Games were held in Buenos Aires on July 7, 2010.





Discover Armenia Youth Trip

DISCOVER ARMENIA



A total of 62 teenagers ages 15 to 18 from Belgium, Canada, France, Greece, Lebanon, Syria, UAE, UK and USA embarked on a fantastic adventure to their homeland for three weeks in August of 2010 and 2011 during the Discover Armenia program established by AGBU in 2003.

A significant component of this trip involves community service, for which students can receive volunteer credit at their high schools. Some of the projects during both years included partnering with the Fuller Organization to help build homes for underprivileged families in the Aragatsotn, Armavir and Lori regions, visiting orphanages to play with the children, serving a meal at one of the AGBU Senior Dining Centers and spending time with the pensioners who

have lunch there every day, and donating books to the Children’s Library of Stepanakert.

In addition to attending cultural events, visiting the major monuments and landmarks in all parts of Armenia, as well as the AGBU Representation Office and the AGBU Armenian Virtual College facilities, the group took a three-day trip to Karabakh to explore its lush scenic mountains and learn more about the republic firsthand through interaction with its population.

As part of a “discovery” process, the program invites diasporan teenagers to see the real Armenia of today, cement their connection to their Armenian identity and create friendships with their global peers.



Discover Armenia Youth Trip



Discover Armenia Youth Trip



Terre de Vie participants in Armenia during August 2011.

TERRE DE VIE

arménie TERRE DE VIE

In 2011, the Diaspora Ministry handed out a variety of awards for the purpose of encouraging the preservation and development of Armenian identity in diasporan communities, and UGAB Jeunes France was among the six winners of the “Best Youth Organization” award. The recognition was well-deserved, as the group had fundraised toward and planned a mission to Armenia and Karabakh named “Terre de Vie” (Armenia, Land of Life) for the month of August. Thirty-two young volunteers of Armenian and French origin, ages 18-26, undertook a mission to the homeland that included educational, humanitarian, environmental and cultural components, including 10 days in Karabakh, where they renovated a two-floor youth center and donated more than 250 books in French, as well as school stationery, to the children of the Haykavan Village School. To raise awareness of environmental issues, the group partnered with ACBA Credit-Agricole Bank to organize a cleanup of a Lake Sevan beach and the area around the medieval church on the lakeshore.

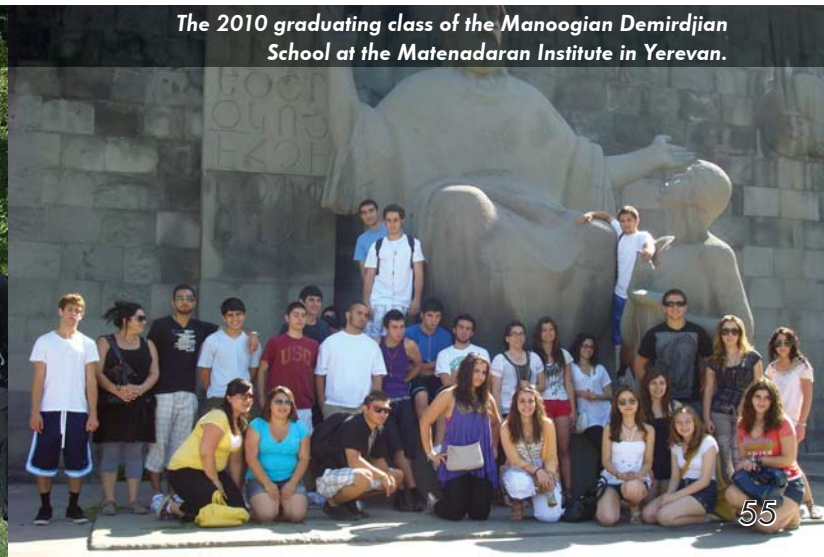
ARMENIA TRIPS

AGBU’s students and youth are always ready to visit their homeland to experience the beauty of their heritage, and 2010-2011 were no different. AGBU schools, including the Manoogian-Demirdjian and Vatche & Tamar Manoukian Schools in Southern California, the Alex & Marie Manoogian School in Detroit and the Marie Manoogian School in Buenos Aires, embarked on their annual trip to Armenia during the spring and summer months. Most encouraging in 2011 was the inaugural journey by the Tarouhy-Hovagimian students from Beirut and the Liga de Jovenes from Cordoba, many of whom were experiencing the sights and sounds of Armenia for the first time. A student group from the Marie Manoogian Girls School in Tehran traveled to Yerevan during September 2010, and both students and alumni from the Kalpakian School in Athens were invited to participate in the Diaspora Ministry’s “Ari Dun” program that same summer.

Alex and Marie Manoogian School students visited Armenia in May 2010.



The 2010 graduating class of the Manoogian Demirdjian School at the Matenadaran Institute in Yerevan.

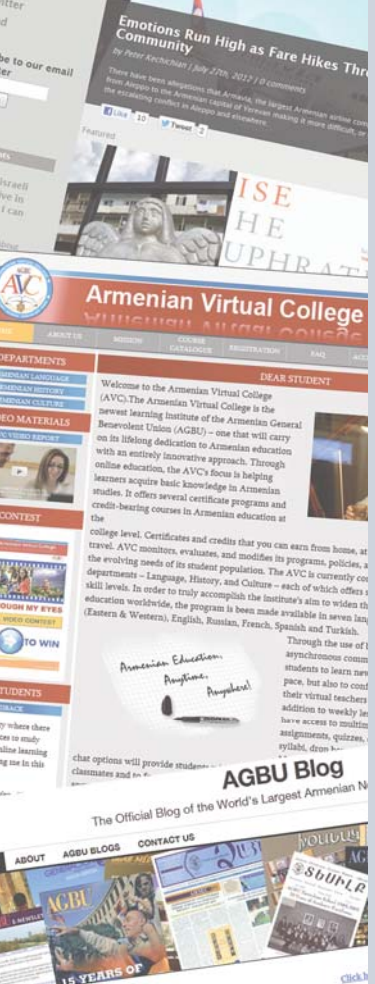
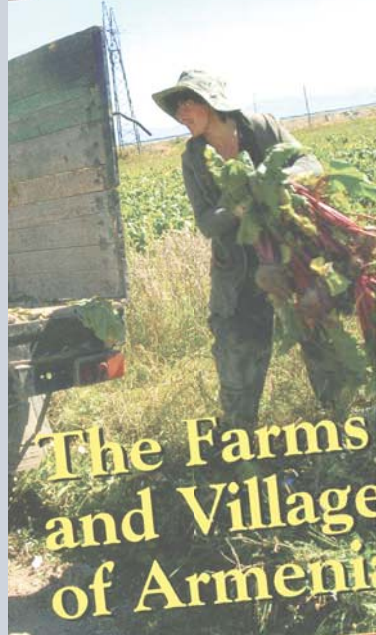




AGBU's media outlets and 16 publications in six languages regularly reach over 100,000 Armenians around the world. They are an important means to inform AGBU members and donors about the organization's local and global activities.

PUBLICATIONS

- AGBU News bi-annual magazine (New York City, USA)
- Nor Tsayn monthly email 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 monthly email newsletter (New York City, USA)
- AGBU Armenia monthly email newsletter (Yerevan, Armenia)
- Ararat Magazine online (New York City, USA)
- Hoosharar bi-annual magazine (New York City, USA)



AGBU's long-standing publication is now online: araratmagazine.org

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



2010 & 2011 AGBU Programs

Alumni Associations (3)

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

Art & Music Academies (2)

Aram Khachatryan Music School (Aleppo, Syria)
Sarian Academy (Aleppo, Syria)

Camps & Day Camps (11)

Antranik Scout Camp (Vanadzor, Armenia)
Camp Nubar (NY, USA)
Camp Unger (Sofia, Bulgaria)
Colonia de Vacaciones (Buenos Aires, Argentina)
Colonia de Vacaciones (Cordoba, Argentina)
Colonie de Vacances (Haute-Savoie, France)
Demirdjian Center Day Camp (Antelias, Lebanon)
Green Camp (Plovdiv, Bulgaria)
Kessab Camp (Kessab, Syria)
Summer Day Camp (Kamishly, Syria)
Yerchanik Tajirian Summer School (Baghdad, Iraq)

Choral Groups (8)

Aravod Choir (Yambol, Bulgaria)
AYA Ohan Choir (Baghdad, Iraq)
AYA Spondiarian Choir (Aleppo, Syria)
Dziadzan Children's Choir (Cairo, Egypt)
Gomidias Choir (Haskovo, Bulgaria)
Grung Choir (Montevideo, Uruguay)
Koghtan Choir (Paris, France)
Youth Vocal Group (Toronto, Canada)

Dance Ensembles (11)

Akhtamar Dance Ensemble (Kamishly, Syria)
Antranig Dance Ensemble (NJ, USA)
AYA Antranik (Arine) Dance Ensemble (Antelias, Lebanon)
AYA Antranik Dance Ensemble (Aleppo, Syria)
Ararat Dance Ensemble (Cordoba, Argentina)
Dance Ensemble (Dobrich, Bulgaria)
Dance Ensemble (Thessaloniki, Greece)
Garod Dance Ensemble (Vienna, Austria)
Nur Dance Ensemble (Sofia, Bulgaria)
Pountch Children's Dance Ensemble (Aleppo, Syria)
Sardarabad Dance Ensemble (CA, USA)

Internship Programs (4)

Moscow Summer Internship Program
New York Summer Internship Program
Paris Internship Program
Yerevan Summer Internship Program

Leadership Program (1)

Goriz Leadership Program (Paris, France)

Library/Research Center (1)

Bibliothèque Nubar/Nubarian Library (Paris, France)

Medical Centers (6)

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

Mentorship Program (1)

Generation Next Mentorship Program (CA, USA)

Musical Groups (10)

AYA Big Band (Aleppo, Syria)
AYA Marching Band (Aleppo, Syria)
Chamber Orchestra (Sofia, Bulgaria)
Chamber Orchestra (Stepanakert, Karabakh)
Dzirani Band (Cordoba, Argentina)
Erevan 50 Band (Montevideo, Uruguay)
Erebuni Ensemble (Plovdiv, Bulgaria)
Gomidias 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 (6)

Asbeds (Antelias, Lebanon)
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 (8)

Ahazank Theater Group (Paris, France)
Ardavazt Theater Group (CA, USA)
Bedros Attamian Theater Group (Aleppo, Syria)
Krikor Satamian Theater Group (Buenos Aires, Argentina)
Paros Theater Group (Tehran, Iran)
Vahram Papazian Theater Group (Sydney, Australia)
Vahram Papazian Theater Group (Antelias, Lebanon)
Youth Theater Troupe (Haskovo, Bulgaria)

University Outreach Programs (2)

Academics (Paris, France)
University Outreach (NY, USA)

Youth Trips to Armenia (1)

Discover Armenia (Yerevan, Armenia)



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