

AGBU **110**  
YEARS

IN UNITY IS STRENGTH • ՄԻՈՒԹԻՒՆԸ ՋՕՐՈՒԹԻՒՆ Է



# 2014 - 2015 BIENNIAL REPORT

PRESENTED AT THE 89<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON OCTOBER 29, 2016 IN NEW YORK, USA

A modern office reception area with a wooden wall and a long wooden counter. The wall features the AGBU logo in large, metallic letters. A long, white, rectangular light fixture hangs from the ceiling. To the right, a glass staircase with a metal handrail is visible. The floor is made of light-colored tiles.

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## Touching the lives of Armenians for over a century

Since its founding in 1906, AGBU has been a bedrock for the Armenian community during both turbulent and exhilarating periods in history. Supporting Armenians through genocide, resettlement, repatriation, natural disaster, revival and independence, AGBU has flourished into an exemplary organization with the resources and goodwill to serve Armenians across the globe.

We continue to address the needs of our most vulnerable populations and safeguard our heritage, while introducing innovative and dynamic initiatives to propel us forward. With an emphasis on educational, cultural and humanitarian programs, AGBU is comprised of over 69 districts and chapters; 47 community centers and offices; 27 Young Professionals (YP) groups; and 24 day and Saturday schools. Our organization also supports various initiatives, including the American University of Armenia, senior dining centers, scholarships and internships, athletics and scouts.

Thanks to the support of our members and donors, AGBU has changed the lives of millions and has remained true to the vision of its founders by investing in the moral and intellectual development of the Armenian people and focusing on sustainable growth in all communities.



**AGBU is**

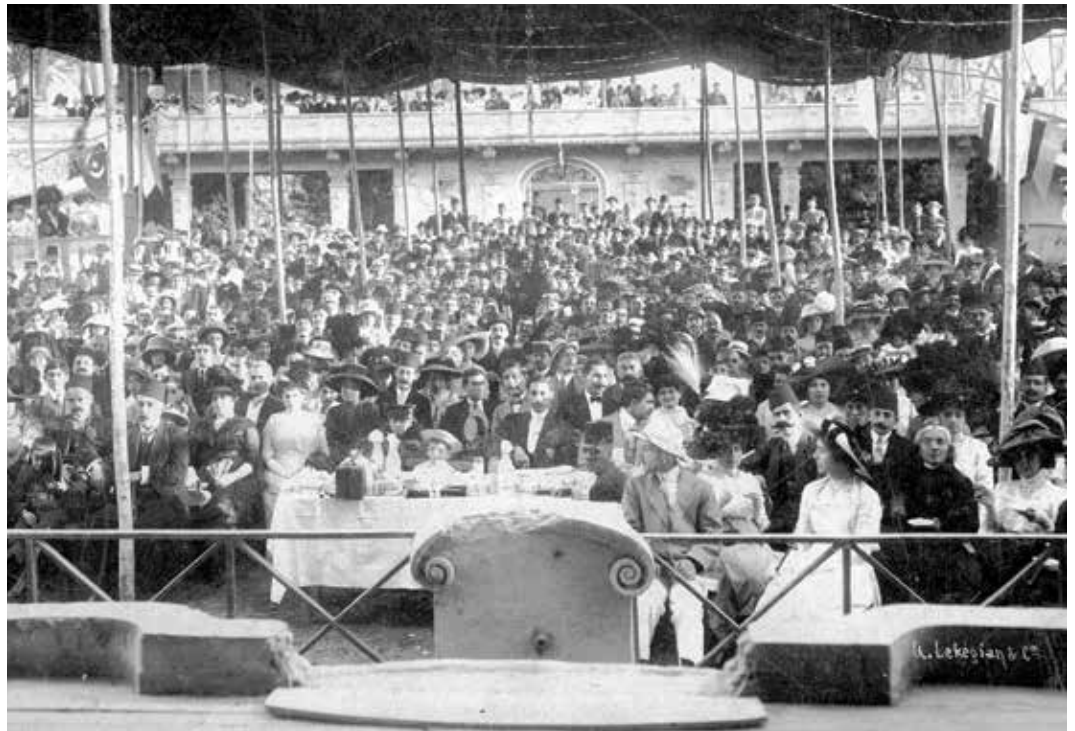
**Commitment**

**Vision**

**Progress**

*COVER PHOTO: The AGBU Discover Armenia program on its annual trip to the Vanadzor Orphanage.*

The illustrious history of AGBU began in 1906 with the hopes of two men in Cairo—Boghos Nubar and Yervant Aghaton—who boldly set out to create an organization to ease the plight of Armenians living in the Ottoman provinces.



# Our History

Implementing its plans to combat famine, depopulation and persecution, AGBU gained a reputation for excellence in its first decade, which only continued to grow in the years that followed.

Opening camps, orphanages, schools, and clinics across the Near East in the aftermath of the Armenian Genocide, AGBU played a pivotal role in bringing humanitarian relief to hundreds of thousands of refugees scattered across the region and preparing Armenians to thrive in the face of uncertainty.

During the same period, AGBU was also committed to developing an Armenian homeland as a beacon for the Armenian people. In the 1920s and 1930s, the organization invested substantially in the infrastructure of Soviet Armenia and in the 1940s financed a major repatriation campaign that brought nearly one hundred thousand Armenians to settle in Soviet Armenia.

In the diaspora, the mid-twentieth century was a time of tremendous growth for AGBU. As Armenians began to achieve security and success, schools and cultural centers opened in North America, South America, Europe and the Middle East. When an earthquake struck Spitak in 1988, these AGBU communities turned their attention to their homeland, supporting a worldwide fundraising effort that collected \$10 million for the distribution of clothing, medicine and food to the victims. The devotion of AGBU to Armenia continued well after its independence in 1991 with long-term projects that promote education, technology and cultural rebirth.

Throughout Armenia and the diaspora, AGBU has come to the aid of Armenians in need and continues to uphold its legacy of service with unparalleled foresight for the growth of the Armenian community.

# Table of Contents



12



26



40



44



50



56

- 4** Our History
- 6** President's Message
- 7** Central Board of Directors
- 8** Financial Reports 2014 - 2015
- 10** 100 Years: Remembering the Genocide
- 12** Humanitarian Emergency Relief Fund
- 14** Armenia & Nagorno-Karabakh
- 26** Education
  - Schools
  - Scholarships
  - Education Innovation
  - Leadership Programs
- 40** Community Empowerment
  - FOCUS Weekend
  - Young Professionals
- 44** Cultural Sustainability
  - Choral & Musical Groups
  - Dance Ensembles
  - Performing Arts
  - Theater Companies
  - Tours
- 50** Cultivating Youth
  - Summer & Day Camps
  - Athletics
  - Exploring Armenia
  - Scouts
- 56** Chapters & Districts
- 76** Spotlight
  - 88<sup>th</sup> General Assembly Awards
  - AGBU Awards 2014-2015
  - Milestones & Anniversaries
- 83** AGBU Programs 2014 - 2015

# To Our Members, Donors & Friends

For Armenians, 2015 was a historic and transformational year. As we marked the centenary of the Armenian Genocide, communities from around the world came together with a common purpose: to honor our past and look toward the future with hope, optimism and purpose.

Together, our courage, perseverance and moral leadership helped our mission expand into a thriving global movement. Building on this united strength, we must pursue our new direction toward prosperity with renewed vigor as we lay the foundation for future generations.

In 2014 and 2015, AGBU made significant strides as we pioneered innovative tools and educational programs, invested in humanitarian, youth and economic development initiatives, and continued to safeguard and promote our rich cultural heritage. The 89<sup>th</sup> General Assembly Biennial Report pays tribute to the dedication of every individual who contributed to these efforts and underscores our unwavering commitment to our global nation.

A spiritual rebirth transformed the collective consciousness of Armenians around the world as we witnessed the canonization of the 1.5 million victims of the Armenian Genocide, declaring these martyrs saints. Held at the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin and with the financial assistance of AGBU, the Armenian Apostolic Church united millions of Armenian worldwide through their shared Christian faith. It was our great privilege and honor to contribute to this historic ceremony.

AGBU continues to be committed to our core values while successfully evolving to respond to our changing environment, something that we have successfully accomplished over our 110 years. Education is one example where we have adapted to a new era of learning. The AGBU Education Innovation initiative helped fuse traditional learning with the latest technological innovations. Specifically, we released three educational mobile apps that make Armenian language, culture and history available on smartphones and tablets. By using and sharing these new tools, every Armenian can help to further popularize our culture, and I encourage you to do so.

We have also forged partnerships with progressive organizations to expand our reach, including with the TUMO Center for Creative Technologies. This collaboration saw the establishment of TUMOXAGBU Centers in Gyumri and Stepanakert.

Our leadership in educational innovation is just one example of our investment in youth and in our future leaders. Empowering and encouraging the younger generation of Armenians around the globe—academically, professionally

and socially—is certainly necessary to ensure a strong future for the global Armenian nation. The expansion of our scholarship and internship programs reflects this strong belief, and helps nurture our fundamental commitment to leadership development and the value of mentorship. Furthermore, our AGBU Young Professionals (YP) is a growing network of groups and accomplished supporters who continue to foster a strong sense of fellowship, community and belonging.

In 2015, we also proudly opened the AGBU Yerevan building, generously donated by AGBU benefactor and Council of Trustees member Nazar Nazarian and his wife Artemis. This 65,000-square-foot state-of-the-art facility incorporates the latest green technologies and will serve as the headquarters of AGBU Armenia's programs. AGBU will share the building with various progressive institutions and non-profits, contributing to the spirit of innovation, collaboration and partnership.

We have also launched *The Insider*, our new alumni magazine, which recognizes the enormous success of AGBU program alumni across dozens of sectors. The individuals featured throughout this new, dynamic publication have established themselves as leaders in their respective fields, achieving professional accolades and bringing pride to the larger Armenian community. It is both gratifying and inspiring to celebrate the accomplishments of our alumni and highlight their achievements to a broader audience.

Through all the excitement of these innovative and uplifting initiatives, we remain committed to providing humanitarian relief, a core pillar of AGBU's activities over the past century. Syrian Armenians continue to suffer displacement and loss due to a protracted civil war. From 2014-2015, we helped thousands of families by raising more than \$1.64 million for the AGBU Humanitarian Emergency Relief Fund for Armenians affected by the conflicts in Syria, Iraq and Nagorno-Karabakh. Although much uncertainty in the region remains, there are signs of hope as hundreds of thousands of Syrian Armenians were welcomed in Armenia, Canada, Lebanon and elsewhere. The new AGBU Vahe Karapetian Center in Yerevan was officially inaugurated and became a coordination and logistics center for the almost 13,000 Syrian Armenians who relocated to Armenia. But much work remains to help families rebuild their lives and plan for the future.

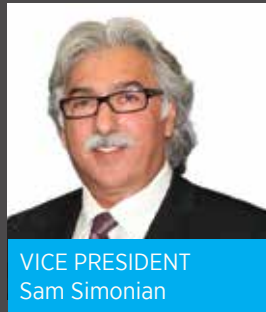
It continues to be a great honor for me to serve as president of AGBU and work alongside dedicated volunteers and staff. I am grateful to our donors and benefactors who make it possible to achieve all that we do. We remain individually and collectively committed to our organization, as it addresses both challenges and opportunities with the singular focus of building a strong global Armenian nation.

**Berge Setrakian**  
*President*

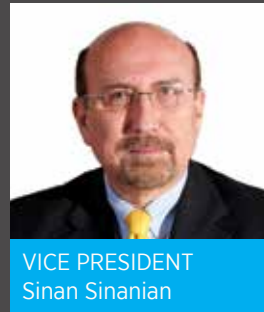
# CENTRAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2014-2015



**PRESIDENT**  
Berge Setrakian



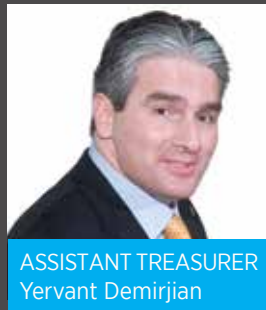
**VICE PRESIDENT**  
Sam Simonian



**VICE PRESIDENT**  
Sinan Sinanian



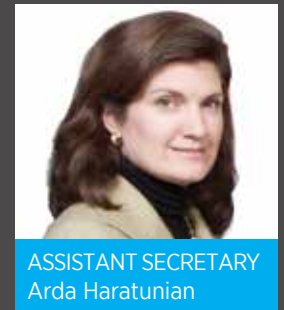
**TREASURER**  
Nazareth Festekjian



**ASSISTANT TREASURER**  
Yervant Demirjian



**SECRETARY**  
Sarkis Jebejian



**ASSISTANT SECRETARY**  
Arda Haratunian

## Members

### ARMENIA

Vasken Yacoubian

### CANADA

Berge Papazian (2014), Lena Sarkissian (2015)

### FRANCE

Aris Atamian, Alexis Govciyan (2015)

### SWITZERLAND

Vahé Gabrache

### UNITED KINGDOM

Arnaud Attamian (2015), Joseph Oughourlian

### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Noubar Afeyan, M. Michael Ansour, Carol Bagdasarian Aslanian (2014), Joseph L. Basralian, Ani Manoukian (2015), Lori Muncherian (2015), Levon Nazarian, Yervant Zorian

## Honorary Member

His Holiness Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians

## Council of Trustees

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

## In Memoriam



Boghos Nubar  
*Founder*



Alex Manoogian  
*Honorary Life President*

# FINANCIAL REPORTS 2015 - 2014

All figures are in U.S. Dollars.

## CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

December 31

ASSETS	2015 (**)	2014
<b>Current Assets:</b>		
Cash	\$ 10,871,475	\$ 13,249,861
Investments - at cost (*)	23,321,083	44,306,963
Contributions/Accounts receivable	7,710,448	2,563,772
Interest receivable	633,392	633,392
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>42,536,398</b>	<b>60,753,988</b>
Investments - non-current - at cost (*)	229,489,684	205,967,899
Real Estate - at cost (***)	92,587,522	88,791,526
Furniture, equipment and leasehold improvements, net	2,051,308	1,901,393
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$366,664,912</b>	<b>\$357,414,806</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>Liabilities:</b>		
Accounts payable	\$8,096,791	\$8,174,031
Notes payable	124,973	230,871
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>8,221,764</b>	<b>8,404,902</b>
<b>Net Assets:</b>		
Unrestricted	64,219,792	54,488,625
Temporarily restricted	40,874,913	53,255,783
Permanently restricted (Endowments)	253,348,443	241,265,496
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>358,443,148</b>	<b>349,009,904</b>
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</b>	<b>\$366,664,912</b>	<b>\$357,414,806</b>

(\*) Total fair market values of current & non-current investments as of 12/31/2015 and 12/31/2014 are \$235,322,718 and \$252,447,415 respectively.

(\*\*) Consolidated financials for 2015 & 2014 consist of the audited figures of the U.S. Delaware Corporation and the compiled figures of the local districts, chapters and schools. The local entity figures for 2015 were estimated based on 2014 actuals, as a significant number of reports were not yet available at the time of the preparation of this booklet.

(\*\*\*) The Board of Directors estimates that the current market value of the properties is significantly higher than the historical cost reported on the U.S. GAAP basis in the financial statements.

## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

### Biennial Financial Report: 10-year Comparatives

	2015	%(a)	2014	%(b)	2004
Total Assets	<b>\$366,664,912</b>	2.58%	<b>\$357,414,806</b>	38.63%	<b>\$257,824,214</b>
Total Income	<b>56,781,550</b>	11.76%	<b>50,806,953</b>	25.37%	<b>40,527,685</b>
Total Expenditure	<b>47,348,306</b>	14.20%	<b>41,460,141</b>	21.56%	<b>34,108,761</b>

(a) Yearly % Increase (Decrease) (b) 10-year % Increase (Decrease)

## 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



# ARMENIAN GENERAL BENEVOLENT UNION

All figures are in U.S. Dollars.

## CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES

Year Ended December 31, 2015 (\*\*)

Year Ended December 31, 2014

Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
\$ 7,006,595	\$ 7,115,240	\$ 1,980,631	\$ 16,102,466	\$ 7,351,098	\$ 3,527,030	\$ 7,123,538	\$ 18,001,666
174,825	-	-	174,825	196,270	-	-	196,270
5,728,551	10,000	-	5,738,551	4,987,969	48,800	-	5,036,769
12,909,971	7,125,240	1,980,631	22,015,842	12,535,337	3,575,830	7,123,538	23,234,705
19,269,921	-	-	19,269,921	12,246,138	-	-	12,246,138
1,648,512	2,256	-	1,650,768	1,577,360	7,273	-	1,584,633
13,845,018	-	-	13,845,018	13,741,477	-	-	13,741,477
34,763,452	2,256	-	34,765,708	27,564,975	7,273	-	27,572,248
47,673,423	7,127,496	1,980,631	56,781,550	40,100,312	3,583,103	7,123,538	50,806,953
12,921,637	(12,921,637)	-	-	9,691,178	(9,691,178)	-	-
60,595,060	(5,794,141)	1,980,631	56,781,550	49,791,490	(6,108,075)	7,123,538	50,806,953
22,954,558	-	-	22,954,558	21,857,644	-	-	21,857,644
12,319,297	-	-	12,319,297	9,862,347	-	-	9,862,347
1,909,638	-	-	1,909,638	2,574,903	-	-	2,574,903
3,681,585	-	-	3,681,585	1,722,863	-	-	1,722,863
40,865,077	-	-	40,865,077	36,017,757	-	-	36,017,757
3,989,248	-	-	3,989,248	3,253,591	-	-	3,253,591
432,296	-	-	432,296	415,396	-	-	415,396
2,061,685	-	-	2,061,685	1,773,397	-	-	1,773,397
6,483,229	-	-	6,483,229	5,544,384	-	-	5,442,384
47,348,306	-	-	47,348,306	41,460,141	-	-	41,460,141
13,246,754	(5,794,141)	1,980,631	9,433,244	8,331,349	(6,108,075)	7,123,538	9,346,812
(3,515,587)	(6,586,729)	10,102,316	-	1,620,613	(3,712,332)	2,091,719	-
9,731,167	(12,380,870)	12,082,947	9,433,244	9,951,962	(9,820,407)	9,215,257	9,346,812
54,488,625	53,255,783	241,265,496	349,009,904	44,536,663	63,076,190	232,050,239	339,663,092
\$64,219,792	\$40,874,913	\$253,348,443	\$358,443,148	\$54,488,625	\$53,255,783	\$241,265,496	\$349,009,904



# 100 YEARS Remembering the Past, Redefining the Future



Throughout 2015, people worldwide came together to remember the victims of the Armenian Genocide, pay tribute to those who helped survivors and secured the future of the Armenian people. AGBU and its districts, local chapters, and members also organized the planning and co-sponsoring of the commemorations.

## CANONIZATION OF THE HOLY MARTYRS AND THE CENTENARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

On the occasion of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Armenian Genocide in 2015, the martyrs of the Armenian Genocide were canonized as saints in the Armenian Church at the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin. In recognition of this historic event, AGBU underwrote all expenses of the canonization ceremony, including the global broadcast, to ensure that Armenians around the world could witness this monumental historical event. Streamed live to Armenian churches around the globe, the canonization of the Holy Martyrs of the Armenian Genocide united millions of Armenians worldwide through the common bond of their Christian faith in what is believed to be the largest canonization service in history.

In April 2015, the Roman Catholic Church held a Sunday Mass at the Vatican's St. Peter's Basilica, marking the centenary of the Armenian Genocide and instilling an enormous sense of recognition and pride in millions of Armenians.

The Armenian Genocide centenary was also marked by a series of unprecedented events. In Istanbul, AGBU Europe, in coordination with several other human rights and civil society organizations, including the European Grassroots Antiracist Movement (EGAM) and DurDe! mobilized thousands of young people from Armenia, Turkey, and Europe to honor the victims of the genocide on the same ground where one of history's darkest chapters first unfolded.

In the United States, the National Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide Centennial Committee, co-led by AGBU Central Board Member Noubar Afeyan, organized a series of commemorative events in Washington in May 2015. Events included an ecumenical service at the National Cathedral and an awards ceremony honoring 29 individuals and organizations that offered humanitarian assistance to Armenians and honored the Armenian Genocide's legacy through recognition and research.

In Los Angeles, more than 160,000 people, including members of the AGBU Western District, students from AGBU's Los Angeles-area schools, and AGBU-AYA scouts and youth members, participated in the March of Justice on April 24.

In Lebanon, more than 1,100 AGBU and AGBU AYA members gathered at the AGBU Demirdjian Center and marched to the Catholicosate of the Great House of Cilicia in Antelias where they participated in mass. Following the mass, an estimated 50,000 people took part in a march for justice, starting in Antelias and ending in Bourj Hammoud, where the AGBU AYA Central Committee chairman Vicken Tchertchian addressed the audience and called for the recognition of the Armenian Genocide.

In Canada, the Canadian parliament adopted Motion 587, declaring April 24 Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day. Over 10,000 people, including AGBU members and AGBU Manoogian-Demirdjian School students, in Montréal marched in the city's streets in May 2015 to remember victims of all genocides. Thousands of people also turned out for a march in Toronto. In Syria, despite local tensions, genocide commemorations took place at AGBU chapters in Aleppo and Kamishli and a new genocide memorial was inaugurated in Damascus.

AGBU France held an international concert titled Génocide arménien, 100 ans de mémoire [Armenian Genocide, 100 years of memory] in Paris under the patronage of President of France François Hollande and President of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan. Directed by French-Armenian conductor Alain Altinoglu, the performance featured the Armenian World Orchestra, an ensemble of musicians of all ages from Armenia and throughout the Armenian diaspora, and the Coro Gulbenkian (Gulbenkian Chorus) from Lisbon, Portugal. The show was broadcast live to an audience at the Yerevan Opera Theatre.

*For more coverage please refer to the chapters section.*



*On April 23, 2015, the AYA scouts held a march through Beirut to commemorate the centenary of the Armenian Genocide.*



*President Serzh Sargsyan speaks at the National Cathedral in Washington on May 7, 2015 © Getty Images*



*AGBU Europe and the European Grassroots Anti-Racist Movement (EGAM) led a delegation to Istanbul on the occasion of the centenary of the Armenian Genocide.*

# HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCY FUND

## FOR SYRIAN ARMENIANS

### HELPING FELLOW ARMENIANS MOVE TOWARD SECURITY AND PROSPERITY

After more than four years of civil war in Syria, AGBU remains committed to ensuring that Armenians throughout the war-torn country receive food, healthcare and shelter, among other necessary items, as the devastating conflict continues.

#### Relief Efforts in Syria

In 2014 and 2015, AGBU raised over \$1.2 million for the AGBU Humanitarian Emergency Fund for Syrian Armenians. During the two-year period, AGBU continued its support by providing emergency aid to more than 3,000 families in Syria, including food packages of cereal, cooking oil, dry meal, eggs, milk and baby formula. AGBU schools and centers coordinated distribution of food, clean drinking water, butane gas, generators, blankets and medicine. Winter supplies were also distributed and AGBU centers in Syria were equipped with beds and blankets to provide shelter to homeless families. Medical assistance was accounted for as AGBU funded more than 50 major medical procedures and provided assistance to 400 wounded patients. AGBU estimated that 100 volunteers in 2014 and 2015 were on the ground in Syria helping with aid distribution. AGBU also helped rebuild homes devastated by the 2014 bombings in the Armenian neighborhood of Nor Kyugh in Aleppo.

© Catherine Ward Photography

## Our Relief Efforts



Over **\$3.2 million** raised since 2012



More than **3,000** families have received emergency aid and over **4,800** individuals have received medical aid



Over **40,000** food baskets have been distributed to Armenian families in need



Over **\$300,000** in financial assistance has been given to Syrian Armenian students studying in Armenian colleges and universities



AGBU also strived to maintain educational continuity for Syrian Armenian children in 2014 and 2015. AGBU schools remained open to serve students when conditions were safe. The AGBU Aleppo Center hosted hundreds of local Syrian Armenian children for daily activities, including arts, dance and sports, providing shelter away from the war's ravages. Syrian Armenians who settled in Armenia, Lebanon, Montréal and Toronto were given tuition for day and Saturday schools. AGBU's global family—including chapters in France, Lebanon, Montréal, São Paulo and Toronto; and YP groups in Athens, Boston, Greater New York, Los Angeles, Northern California and Toronto—raised considerable sums toward Syrian relief through various fundraising activities. AGBU also continued its collaboration with the Syrian Armenian Committee for Urgent Relief and Rehabilitation in a united effort among Armenian Apostolic, Catholic and Protestant leaders and major Armenian organizations.

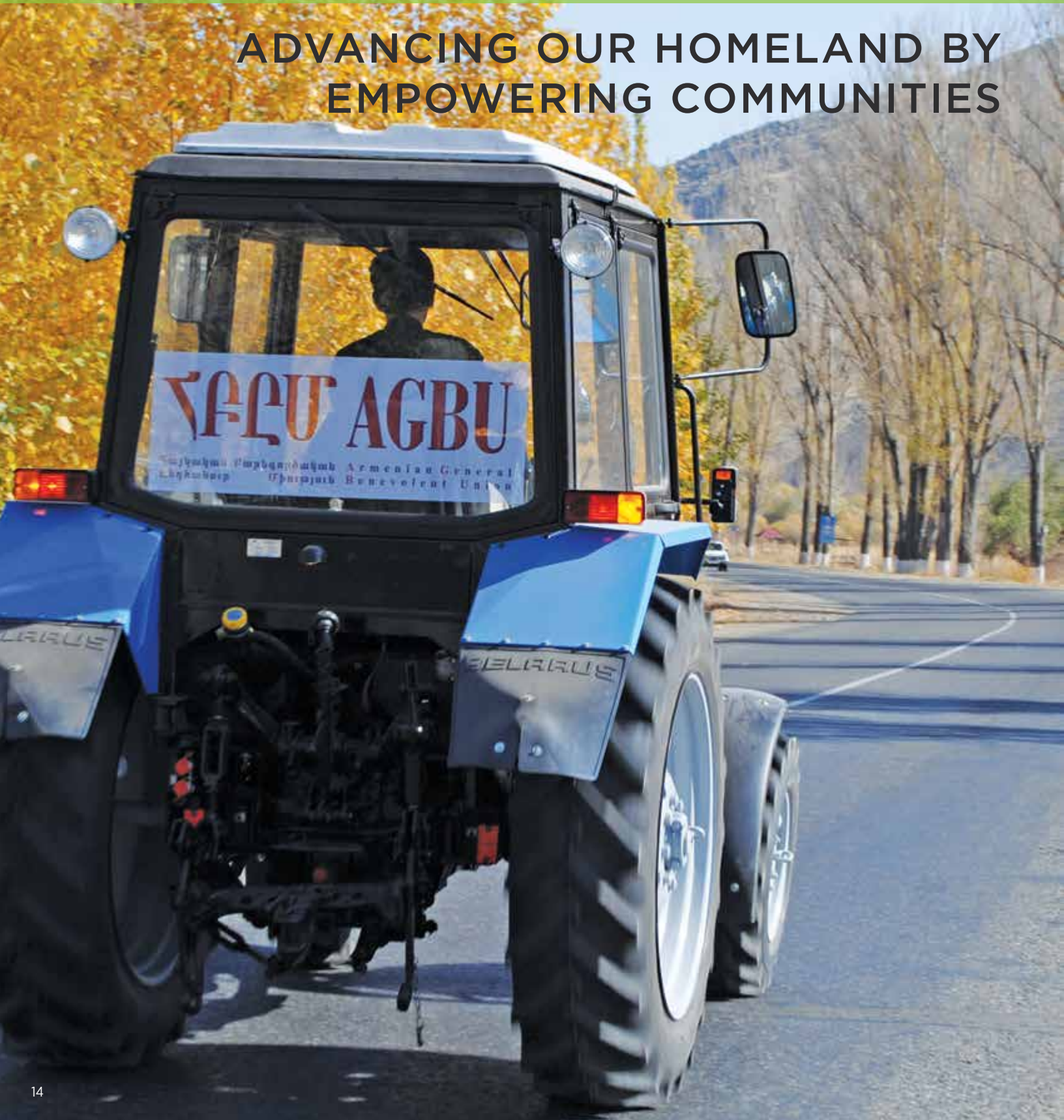
### Syrian Armenians in Armenia

Syrian Armenians continued to settle in Armenia as the situation in Syria continued to deteriorate. In 2014 and 2015, between 12,000 and 13,000 Syrian Armenians lived in Armenia, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHRC). AGBU continued to play a leading role, providing space at the AGBU Vahe Karapetian Center for the Syrian Armenian Relief Coordination Center to conduct one-on-one consultations to assess their needs.

In 2014 and 2015, AGBU, in partnership with the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation and the Armenian government, awarded tuition reimbursement scholarships to close to 400 Syrian Armenians studying at colleges and universities. In 2014, AGBU allocated \$130,000 to cover tuition fees for students and another \$145,000 in 2015. AGBU Yerevan ran fully funded, weekly walk-in medical clinics with Syrian Armenian physicians, offering basic medical treatment and advice to 4,800 people since January 2014. In addition, 100 Syrian Armenians received financial aid and compensation from AGBU for urgent cardiac surgery. AGBU staff members also distributed packages of food and organized children's programs during the holiday season as well as organized concerts and cultural exhibitions. In Nagorno-Karabakh, AGBU, in collaboration with the Cherkian Family Foundation, donated tractors and agricultural supplies to a few dozen families who settled in region's rural areas in 2014 and continued to develop the program throughout 2015.

# DEVELOPMENT IN ARMENIA AND NAGORNO-KARABAKH

ADVANCING OUR HOMELAND BY  
EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES



# AGBU-Sponsored Programs & Projects in Armenia & Nagorno-Karabakh



The Hye Geen Pregnant Women's Centers support new and expecting mothers with its 4 centers.



The Senior Dining Centers provide hundreds of retirees with a meal six days a week.



AGBU's partnership with NUR has given students throughout NKR access to new technologies.

## ONGOING PROGRAMS

### ARMENIA

AGBU Yerevan New Building Construction  
 AGBU-YSMU Levon & Claudia Nazarian Radiology Center  
 American University of Armenia  
 Armenian Chess Federation  
 Armenian Virtual College  
 Children's Centers (3)  
 Hye Geen Pregnant Women's Centers (4)  
 Senior Dining Centers (3)  
 TUMOXAGBU Gyumri Center  
 Yerevan State University

### NAGORNO-KARABAKH

Agricultural Assistance Grants  
 American University of Armenia Extension Program  
 Karabakh Chamber Orchestra  
 Karabakh Hospital  
 New Educational Strategy (NUR) Partnership  
 TUMOXAGBU Stepanakert Center

### YOUTH PROGRAMS

Armenia Scout Movement  
 Young Professionals of Yerevan

### DIASPORA YOUTH PROGRAMS

Antranik Scout Camp  
 Discover Armenia Program  
 Yerevan Summer Internship Program  
 Musical Armenia Program

## MAJOR PROJECTS

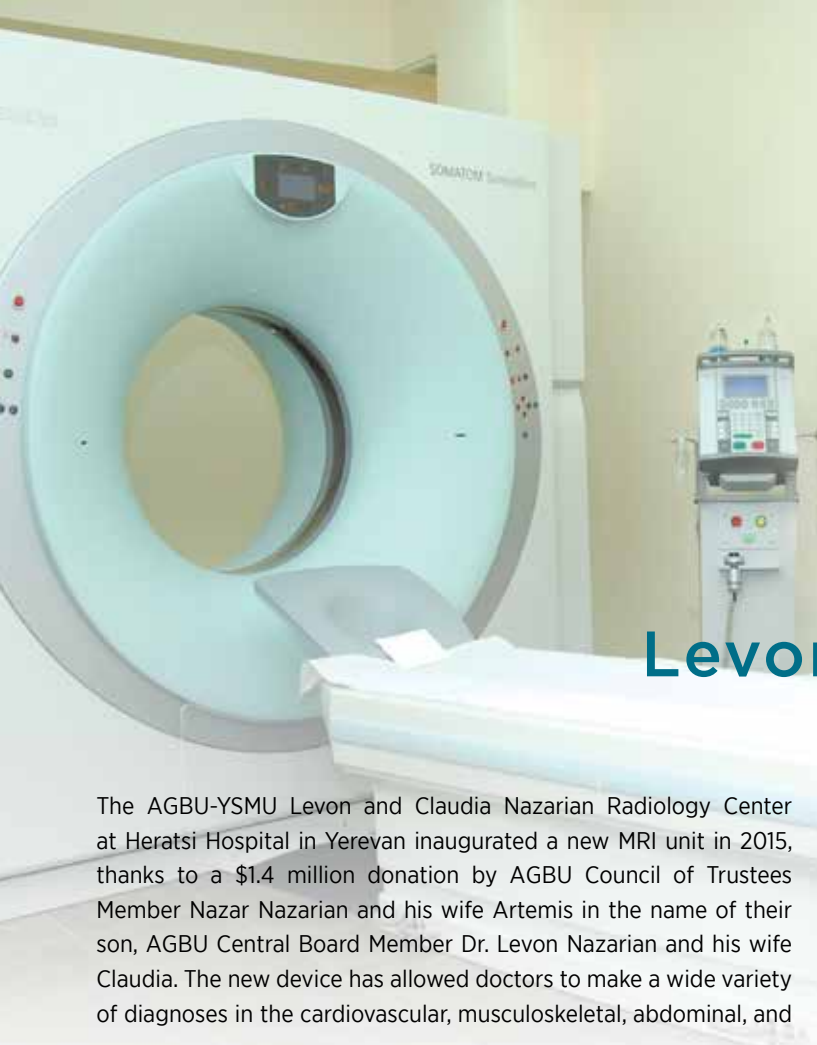
Holy Etchmiadzin Arapkir Church  
 Holy Etchmiadzin Armenia Programs  
 Holy Etchmiadzin Candle Chapel Construction  
 Holy Etchmiadzin Cathedral  
 Holy Etchmiadzin Cathedral Choir  
 Holy Etchmiadzin Children's Center in Vagharshabad  
 Holy Etchmiadzin Clergy Housing & Assistance  
 Holy Etchmiadzin Pontifical Fund for Pastoral Development  
 Holy Etchmiadzin Museum (Alex Manoogian Gandzaton)  
 Holy Etchmiadzin Seminary  
 Holy Etchmiadzin Senior Dining Center  
 Holy Etchmiadzin Shoghagat TV  
 Izmirlian Medical Center (previously St. Nersess Hospital)  
 Vanadzor Children's Center & Senior Dining Center  
 Vaskenian Theological Seminary  
 Canonization of the Martyrs of the Armenian Genocide

## SPECIAL GRANTS

Arapkir Institute for Children & Adolescents  
*ArmeniaNow* (online publication)  
 Armenian Philharmonic Orchestra  
 Ashot Ghulian School in Nagorno-Karabakh  
 Ayb School  
*Defacto Magazine*  
 Gyumri Renaissance Festival  
 Gyumri School #3  
 Holy Etchmiadzin Aragats Camp  
 L'Université française en Arménie (French University in Armenia)  
 Matenadaran (Repository)  
*Meronk TV* Program  
 National Academy of Sciences  
 Nor Malatya School  
*On the Ways of Diaspora TV* Program  
 School for Autistic Children  
 Teach for Armenia  
 UWC Dilijan College  
 Various Publications  
 Yerevan Duduk Festival

## RENOVATION PROJECTS IN COOPERATION WITH THE ARMENIA TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT FUND (ATDF)

Aragatsotn Region, Alagyaz  
 School Construction  
 Lori Region, Dzoragyugh  
 Kindergarten Building Renovation  
 Lori Region, Vahagni  
 School Gym Building Construction  
 Lori Region, Yeghegnut  
 School Gym Building Renovation  
 Shirak Region, Gyumri  
 Pathologic Anatomy Laboratory Building Construction  
 Tavush Region, Azatamut  
 Kindergarten Reconstruction  
 Tavush Region, Berd  
 #2 Kindergarten Third Building Overhaul  
 Tavush Region, Kirants  
 Completion of Irrigation System Construction  
 Vayots Dzor Region, Khndzorut  
 Community Center Building Reconstruction  
 Vayots Dzor Region, Zaritap  
 Kindergarten Renovation



## AGBU-YSMU Levon & Claudia Nazarian Radiology Center

The AGBU-YSMU Levon and Claudia Nazarian Radiology Center at Heratsi Hospital in Yerevan inaugurated a new MRI unit in 2015, thanks to a \$1.4 million donation by AGBU Council of Trustees Member Nazar Nazarian and his wife Artemis in the name of their son, AGBU Central Board Member Dr. Levon Nazarian and his wife Claudia. The new device has allowed doctors to make a wide variety of diagnoses in the cardiovascular, musculoskeletal, abdominal, and

neurologic systems. The state-of-the-art machine also allows the hospital's medical specialists to send digital images to United States for consultation, thereby saving patients the time and expense of traveling to other countries for their conditions to be diagnosed. The MRI unit was an addition to the radiology center, which opened in 2010, providing Heratsi Hospital with a modern, advanced radiology facility.

## American University of Armenia (AUA)

AGBU continued to support the American University of Armenia (AUA) in 2014 and 2015, sponsoring new scholarship programs and boosting academic and library resources for students. During the 2014-15 academic year, AUA and the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Armenia, with financial support from AGBU, launched a \$50,000 scholarship program that provides educational opportunities to soldiers and representatives of the Armenian military. The program caters to service members at every phase of their military career, including classes for soldiers completing their last six months of service; scholarships for Ministry of Defense representatives enrolled in AUA undergraduate and graduate schools; and professional development for military staff. AGBU committed to aiding another annual scholarship program at AUA, which supports students with good academic standing in need of financial assistance. 10 undergraduates and 20 graduate students were awarded a total of \$50,000 in scholarships, which covered 25 to 90 percent of their tuition costs.

AGBU also continued its five-year, \$575,000 commitment toward operating the Continuing Education Program (CEP) through the AUA Extension Program in Nagorno-Karabakh in 2014 and 2015. CEP programs included certification tracks in strategic management; executive leadership; public policy and administration; and tourism and hospitality management. The campus also offered courses and workshops in career development, information technology, standardized tests including the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), and six levels of English instruction. Since the program's start in 2012, 133 courses have been taught to over 2,100 students.

The AGBU Papazian Library also welcomed book donations from Armenian-American intellectuals Richard Hovannisian and Vartan Gregorian. Hovannisian donated over 1,800 books on Armenian, Russian, Soviet, Near Eastern, Middle Eastern, Byzantine and modern European history and cultures. Gregorian donated his personal collection of over 600 publications on subjects including social science and the humanities. AGBU Young Professionals groups from Boston, Lebanon, Los Angeles, Montréal, New York and Philadelphia and partner group HAIK from Frankfurt, Germany, contributed to the AUA Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) Digital Library. The ACM Digital Library provides AUA graduate students and faculty with an essential resource of citations and texts from current and archived journals, articles and conference transcripts in the computing field.

Founded in 1991, the American University of Armenia (AUA) is a private, independent university located in Yerevan, Armenia, and affiliated with the University of California. AGBU is one of its founding members.







## AGBU CHILDREN'S CENTERS

AGBU's Children's Centers continued to administer supplemental instruction in a variety of subjects, including studio and performing arts, computers, crafts, dance, gymnastics, history, language and music programs to local children after school hours and during the summer. In 2014, two students of the AGBU Nork Children's Center's Gevork Ginosyan Circus Troupe accompanied singer Betty during her lively performance representing Armenia at the Junior Eurovision Contest in Malta. On Yerevan's 2,796<sup>th</sup> birthday, the AGBU Nork Children's Center staff received the Yerevan Gold Medal from Mayor Taron Margaryan

for their tireless contributions. In 2015, a group of Nork Children's Center students traveled to France to participate in Éternels, a performance hosted by AGBU Marseille. Over the two years, about 4,000 students, aged 4-21, attended the Children's Centers, which are overseen by an administrative staff of over 300. In 1993, AGBU joined with the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin to transform Yerevan's former Soviet youth palaces into three facilities in the neighborhoods of Nork, Arapkir and Malatya neighborhoods. Since then, the centers have provided a range of afterschool instruction and summer programs for young children and adults.

## Hye Geen Centers

AGBU's Hye Geen Pregnant Women's Centers continued their mission in supporting expectant mothers and their newborn children. During 2014 and 2015, the centers provided care to over 500 newborn babies and their mothers at locations in Talin, Vanadzor, Yerghvart and Yerevan. In 2015, AGBU Yerevan visited the Hye Geen Center in Vanadzor and delivered hats and blankets for newborns from the Armenian Missionary Association of America's (AMAA) Stitched with Love program. The program, initiated by AGBU New York Special Events Committee (NYSEC) member Betty Cherkejian, provided knitted and crocheted hats and blankets to newborns in maternity hospitals throughout Armenia. During the visit, the AGBU Yerevan staff met with 23 women, 13 of whom were expecting their first child. Established in 2002, the AGBU Hye Geen Pregnant Women's Centers provide free counseling and support to pregnant women and have played an important role in ensuring the delivery of 2,000 healthy babies. The Centers strive to improve the country's birthrate and help families raise healthy children by offering seminars with social workers and psychologists to educate women about basic child-rearing and parenting skills.



## Karabakh Chamber Orchestra

In 2014, the Karabakh Chamber Orchestra (KCO), under the direction of founder and artistic director Maestro Gevork Muradyan, celebrated its 10th anniversary with a ceremony honoring the orchestra's musicians followed by a festive concert featuring the works of Eduard Mirzoyan, Arno Babajanyan, Astor Piazzola and other Armenian and non-Armenian composers. The orchestra also presented a fundraising concert to benefit the construction of Sourp Astvatsatsin Church in Stepanakert. The performance was KCO's way of supporting the completion of the church's sanctuary. In 2015, KCO, in cooperation with the International Competitions and Festivals of the Ministry of Culture and Youth Affairs of the Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh, traveled to the United States for two performances. The concerts were held at the Alex Theater in Los Angeles and the Boston National Heritage Museum. Over 15 musicians from Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh perform in the KCO, which has played an undeniably important role in the cultural development of Nagorno-Karabakh since the orchestra's establishment in 2004.



# THE AGBU PRESENCE IN ARMENIA & NKR



The AGBU-sponsored annual Interschool Republican Chess Tournament brings together over 15,000 talented youth from schools throughout the region.



In 2014-2015, the AGBU Senior Dining Centers provided over 400,000 meals to retirees and orphans through its three centers.



In partnership with the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin, AGBU oversees 24 major projects and programs including cultural, social, and other development projects.

## L'Université française en Arménie (UFAR)

AGBU's partnership with L'Université française en Arménie [French University in Armenia] (UFAR) continued to prosper. During 2014 and 2015, AGBU distributed \$60,000 to the 48 top UFAR second-, third- and fourth-year students in the form of AGBU Scholarships of Excellence. Since 2007, AGBU has provided scholarships to over 160 students at the university. The university's new banking and insurance program also launched at the start of the 2014-15 academic year. Program graduates will be trained to work as financial managers and advisors, credit managers and insurance agents. In 2014, nine UFAR students traveled to France to participate in internships at Orange, a major telecommunications corporation; Damaris SA, a leading IT firm; and Grant Thornton, one of the largest independent auditing and tax advisory firms. Interns built upon their knowledge of French, met French Armenian community members and established connections with fellow Armenians in Europe. AGBU and UFAR first partnered in 1994 when the AGBU France District hosted the first contingent of UFAR interns in Paris. Since then, over 80 students have participated in four-week to six-week internships in Grenoble, Lyon, Paris and Valence with the financial support of AGBU.



## Madenataran Scholarship Program

In 2014, AGBU established a new scholarship program with Armenia's Ministry of Education and Science and the Mesrob Mashdots Institute of Ancient Manuscripts (Madenataran) to provide researchers with the support they need to discover and preserve some of the oldest manuscripts, books, and documents in Armenian history. Eight post-graduates received scholarships from the program. In 2015, 11 researchers were awarded scholarships. The initiative was one of the many ways AGBU has supported the Madenataran. Following Armenia's independence, AGBU and its benefactors helped the museum acquire the air conditioning, fire prevention and security systems that were vital to protecting its archives and has also sponsored many of its publications.



## New Educational Strategy (NUR) Partnership

In 2014 and 2015, the New Educational Strategy (NUR) expanded to six more regions in Nagorno-Karabakh: Hadrut, Berdzor, Karyachar, Martakert, Martuni and Askeran. The expansion equipped sixth-grade students in Stepanakert and Shushi with special computers that allowed users to create and edit written, audio, visual (both photos and video) and game materials. Approximately 1,200 computers were distributed during this period. NUR also organized training courses for teachers in Stepanakert and the expanded districts, awarding certificates and laptop computers for program completion. Since 2012, AGBU and Argentinean-Armenian entrepreneur and philanthropist Eduardo Eurnekian's Fruitful Armenian Fund have partnered with NUR, originally providing first to fourth graders in Nagorno-Karabakh and their teachers with laptops. The program was conceived following the One Laptop Per Child (OLPC) concept developed by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), giving students the opportunity to both play and learn, emphasizing creativity over instruction. Over 7,100 laptops have been distributed since NUR launched.



## Republican Interschool Chess Tournament

AGBU's commitment to educational excellence again went beyond the classroom with its sponsorship of the Republican Interschool Chess Tournament. In 2014 and 2015, over 1,000 schools from Armenian schools in Armenia, Nagorno-Karabakh and the Javakh region of Georgia competed in the tournament with over 15,000 schoolchildren ages 7 to 17. In 2014, the championship rounds occurred in Stepanakert, Nagorno-Karabakh with winners receiving laptop computers and finalists receiving monetary prizes and gifts from AGBU and the Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh Republic Chess Federations. In 2015, the tournament created separate divisions for middle school and high school teams. AGBU awarded all finals participants with Lenovo tablets, top individual winners received sport watches, while members of the winning teams were given monetary prizes. Competitors from the top three regions earned laptops from AGBU. AGBU has sponsored the tournament, an initiative of the Armenian Chess Federation under the auspices of the Republic of Armenia's Ministry of Education and Science, since 2008.



## Senior Dining Centers

AGBU's Senior Dining Centers continued to support Armenia's senior citizens in need throughout 2014 and 2015. In 2015, AGBU prepared a surprise meal for 1,200 retirees on the eve of the Christmas season. AGBU Yerevan staff and AGBU Yerevan scouts also delivered food packages to more than 600 retirees visiting the three AGBU Senior Dining Centers in Yerevan and also to those unable to visit the centers. Since Armenia's independence, AGBU's Senior Dining Centers in Nork, Arapkir and Malatya have served 200 hot meals each to more than 600 retirees and orphans on a daily basis. The three centers are housed within the AGBU Children's Centers. They also arrange volunteers to deliver meals to seniors who are unable to travel.



## Teach for Armenia

In 2014, AGBU partnered with Teach for Armenia (TFA), an initiative premised on the idea that every child deserves access to an excellent education. AGBU presented a series of lectures to inform the community about the state of education in Armenia and Teach for Armenia's role in development. In 2015, TFA welcomed its inaugural class of teaching fellows, 15 men and women, selected from over 200 applicants, who taught in the underprivileged regions of Tavush, Lori, Armavir and Gegharkunik regions. Through its partnership with AGBU, TFA strives to improve the quality of education in Armenia.



# SPECIAL EVENTS

## E-Governance Conference

In 2015, AGBU Yerevan hosted a conference on electronic governance (e-governance) organized by the Delegation of the European Union to Armenia, the Embassy of the Republic of Estonia in Armenia and the TUMO Center for Creative Technologies. The main goal of the conference was to raise public awareness about e-governance initiatives in Armenia and discuss the next steps in making information and services as user-friendly and accessible as possible, including actively involving the diaspora. E-governance is the application of information and communication technology for delivering government services to citizens, government employees, and businesses. Armenia uses e-governance to allow citizens to send letters to the government, apply for driver licenses, file taxes, apply for entry visas and read governmental protocols and decrees. The conference also focused on the results of e-governance initiatives implemented in Armenia and the key steps for future development of the field, including the creation of an atmosphere of trust.



## MIT Global Teaching Lab

In 2015, AGBU, along with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), the Ayb Educational Foundation and the Luys Foundation, launched the annual MIT Global Teaching Lab in Armenia. The Global Teaching Lab was a pilot summer program designed to shape a new culture of learning by introducing different methods of instruction. The program, held at the Ayb School, introduced 110 students from across Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh to emerging disciplines, such as neurocomputing, machine learning, and electricity and magnetism and encouraged hands-on learning. The 32 participating students from outside Yerevan were hosted by AGBU at the AGBU Vahe Karapetian Center.



## Old Pontifical Residence at Holy Etchmiadzin

AGBU President Berge Setrakian and Vera Setrakian financed the renovation of the Old Pontifical Residence at the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin, which serves as a museum housing treasured possessions and personal effects of Armenian kings and catholicos. The building was officially reopened in July 2014 in a ceremony presided over by His Holiness Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholics of All Armenians. Since 1968, the Old Pontifical Residence has operated as a museum through the support of late AGBU Lifetime President Alex Manoogian.





# TUMOXAGBU

In 2014, AGBU and the TUMO Center for Creative Technologies announced the start of the TUMOXAGBU partnership, which aimed to expand TUMO's presence throughout Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh with new centers.

With financial support from AGBU Central Board member Joseph Oughourlian, the first TUMOXAGBU center was inaugurated in 2015 in Nagorno-Karabakh. The opening of the Stepanakert center allowed youth ages 12 to 18 to study with seasoned professionals and experts in animation, filmmaking, web development and game development, 3D modeling, computer programming, music, photography and graphic design. A TUMOXAGBU Center was also opened in 2015 in Gyumri. Upon the initiative of President Sargsyan, a telethon to raise funds for the launch of the center was implemented by Shant TV president Arthur Yezekyan. The center launched a free after-school program that promotes 21<sup>st</sup> century skills, including animation, game development, web design and filmmaking.





## #AGBUtalks

AGBU launched #AGBUtalks as part of the 88th General Assembly in 2015 in conjunction with the organization's efforts to propose new avenues of thinking and promote understanding between Armenia and the diaspora. The international series of symposia that was streamed live online and social media engaged participants to develop ideas and roadmaps for strengthening the global Armenian community. Panel topics included "Human Capital in Armenia and the Diaspora," "The Challenges of Building the Armenian State," and "Improving Armenians' International Standing." During "Human Capital in Armenia and the Diaspora," panelists examined various methods of creating conditions to keep Armenians in Armenia, including the strengthening of educational and training methods. "The Challenges of Building the Armenian State" brought together young participants from Armenia and the diaspora, who shared their perspectives on Armenia's path towards development. "Improving Armenians' International Standing" identified methods to advance Armenia on an international stage to draw investment and tourism while also promoting the country's brand.



**AGBU 88**  
General Assembly  
Ընդհանուր ժողով  
Armenia Երևան 2015

# 88<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY

More than 200 delegates from across the Armenian diaspora participated in the AGBU 88<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in Yerevan in 2015. The ten-day assembly consisted of meetings, lectures and panel discussions with leaders from Armenia and the diaspora, tours of Armenia's historic sites, budding startups and technological companies. Delegates were introduced to many successful individuals, companies and organizations, including the Ayb School, TUMO Center for Creative Technologies, UWC Dilijan College, Teach for Armenia and photo app company PicsArt. In Yerevan, delegates toured the Republic of Armenia's Ministry of

Defense and attended a global forum hosted by the Armenian Virtual College (AVC) and the Municipality of Yerevan. The global forum served as the launch of AVC's interactive e-book, *Exploring Yerevan: A Look Inside the City's Past and Present*. Delegates also traveled to Nagorno-Karabakh for a three-day visit where they became acquainted with AGBU projects, including the AUA-AGBU Continuing Education Program, a center that integrates the educational programs of the American University of Armenia's Extension Program, and the Karabakh Chamber Orchestra.

## New Central Board Members Elected

During the 88<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, five AGBU members were elected to the AGBU Central Board:

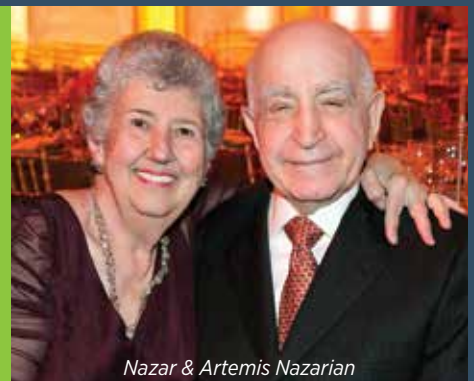
- Arnaud Attamian (United Kingdom)
- Alexis Govcuyan (France)
- Ani Manoukian (United States)
- Lori Muncherian (United States)
- Lena Sarkissian (Canada)



# AGBU ARMENIA HEADQUARTERS AGBU'S INVESTMENT I

During the AGBU 88<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, AGBU inaugurated its new headquarters in Armenia amid fanfare in 2015 as part of the organization's commitment to expand and focus on developing and empowering Armenia. The building serves as the headquarters of AGBU Yerevan's programs and includes a large hall for film screenings, readings, lectures and other public events and has an innovative interior design that unites traditional and contemporary elements. AGBU shares the building with various progressive institutions and non-profits, contributing to the spirit of innovation and collaboration.

The building was designed by architect and AGBU Central Board member Aris Atamian and assisted by architect Narek Sargsyan from Armenia. The interior was designed by Storaket, an architecture studio based in Yerevan. The 65,000 square-foot building, whose façade replicates the old duma—or Parliament—that once stood on the grounds, has incorporated the latest green technologies, such as thermal insulation and photovoltaic panels to generate electricity. The AGBU Armenia Headquarters was made possible thanks to a generous donation by AGBU benefactor and Council of Trustees member Nazar Nazarian and his wife Artemis.



*Nazar & Artemis Nazarian*





# VAHE KARAPETIAN CENTER IN ARMENIA'S CAPITAL

AGBU summer programs in Armenia have allowed youth and young adults from the diaspora to explore Armenia while also gaining valuable professional and cultural experience despite living in separate residences.

With a generous donation in 2014 by philanthropist and entrepreneur Vahe Karapetian, a 5,500-square-meter building at 1 Zakaria Kanakertsi Street in Yerevan transformed into a new residence to host the participants of AGBU Discover Armenia Program, the Yerevan Summer Internship Program (YSIP), and the Musical Armenia Program (MAP). In 2015, the AGBU Vahe Karapetian Center officially opened as not only the home for summer youth programs, but also for year-round youth programs in Armenia. The AGBU Vahe Karapetian Center has also provided a location for the Syrian Armenian Relief Coordination Center, a non-profit organization that occupies the first floor of the building. The coordination center, jointly run by AGBU and the Ministry of Diaspora of the Republic of Armenia, has provided support in medical, housing, financial, educational and logistical issues affecting relocated Syrian Armenians since its founding in 2013.



*Vahe Karapetian*

# EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT

## UNLOCKING THE POTENTIAL OF OUR FUTURE LEADERS



### AGBU SCHOOLS

*Alex Manoogian School  
Montréal, Canada*

AGBU has a global educational network that comprises 24 day, Saturday and summer schools in 12 countries. Together, they have provided young Armenian children in the diaspora with a solid education and a strong sense of cultural identity, while preparing them for a competitive higher learning environment.

Despite the ongoing conflict and humanitarian crises in the Middle East, the AGBU schools in Syria continued to carry out their mission for a community struggling to survive through the uncertainty of the continued civil war. Notwithstanding, in 2014, 30 students graduated from the AGBU Lazar Najarian-Calouste Gulbenkian School in Aleppo, Syria and AGBU schools in Montréal and Lebanon took in young Syrian Armenians who had relocated outside of Syria.

In 2014 and 2015, 484 students graduated from AGBU high schools in Argentina, Canada, Iran, Lebanon, Syria, the United States and Uruguay.

## AGBU North American Schools Armenian Education Forum

In 2014, administrators and Armenian teachers from the four AGBU North American schools – the Alex Manoogian School (Montréal), Manoogian-Demirdjian School (Canoga Park, California), the Vatche and Tamar Manoukian High School (Pasadena, California) and the Alex and Marie Manoogian Charter School (Southfield, Michigan) – gathered at the AGBU Alex and Marie Manoogian Charter School for a forum on Armenian education and educational best practices and experiences. Educators reviewed criteria that measure the effectiveness of the schools in serving AGBU's mission. The forum also explored the applicability of these methodologies and resources to non-traditional school settings or non-Armenian and public school environments to reach a wider circle of school-age children. Attendees further learned about the charter school conversion experience that the Alex and Marie Manoogian school underwent in 1995. They also better acquainted themselves with the Armenian Virtual College (AVC) as a resource of courses, ranging from chess instruction to Armenian history and culture, for their schools.

## A LOOK AT OUR SCHOOLS



24 day, Saturday and summer schools in  
12 countries

In 2014-2015  
AGBU schools  
produced  
484 graduates



*Tarouhy-Hovagimian Secondary School,  
Beirut, Lebanon*

## AGBU School Highlights

### Argentina, Buenos Aires

#### *Marie Manoogian Institute*

29 students in 2014 and 20 students in 2015 in their final year of school at the Marie Manoogian Institute traveled to Armenia to see the country firsthand. For over 33 years, more than 800 Marie Manoogian Institute students have visited their cultural homeland through the school's program. The students' two-week visit is funded by proceeds from the AGBU Buenos Aires's weekly Friday and Saturday dinners. The school continued to focus on teaching Armenian language, culture, history and traditions to its students, of which 85 percent come from third- and fourth-generation Armenian families. While adapting to curriculum changes by the Argentinean government, the school added more teaching hours of Armenian language and co-curricular activities to culturally enrich the program. Throughout 2014 and 2015, students held teleconferences with their sister school in Armenia, the Republic of Argentina School. The interaction allowed students from Argentina and Armenia to reciprocally improve their Armenian and Spanish pronunciation and encourage one another to incorporate new vocabulary. In 2014, the Institute also celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary with an open house full of activities throughout the school and the Alex Manoogian Center, a

six-floor, 97,000 square-foot building that includes state-of-the-art classrooms, an indoor multisport field and an indoor half-Olympic-sized swimming pool on its sixth floor. The event, organized by the Youth League, former alumni of the school, welcomed hundreds of students, alumni and their families. In 2015, the school's graduating class prepared a special exhibition titled 100 Reasons to Live inspired by the 100 LIVES initiative of the Aurora Foundation on the occasion of the centenary of the Armenian Genocide. The exhibition's purpose was to honor those who helped the Armenian people as well as to contribute to the students' understanding of ethical citizenship and English as a second language. Fourteen third- and fourth-year students traveled to Los Angeles to participate in a three-week student exchange program with the AGBU Manoogian-Demirdjian School in California. During the visit, Marie Manoogian Institute students attended classes and were hosted in the homes of Manoogian-Demirdjian students. Fifteen AGBU Nubarian-Manoogian sixth-grade students from Montevideo also visited the Marie Manoogian Institute after several months of exchanges via letters and Skype.

### Australia, Sydney

#### *Alexander Primary School*

In 2015, the AGBU Alexander School celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a concert at the Independent Theatre in Sydney. The program paid tribute to the school's benefactors Alex and Isabelle

Alexander and the late Yervant Babayan who all had major roles in establishing the school.

### Canada, Montréal

#### *AGBU Alex Manoogian School*

In 2014, the AGBU Alex Manoogian School debuted its brand new, state-of-the-art Manuel Keusseyan Library. The renovated facility, funded by a former alumnus, and named after the late educator and intellectual who taught at the school, allows students to take advantage of the latest technologies and showcases the institution's reputation for being at the forefront of innovation. In 2015, the school welcomed 50 Syrian Armenian students and provided them with scholarships covering their full tuition and school supplies. The new students were assigned to integration classes to learn

French, Armenian and English and received academic tutoring and counseling to help them catch up to their peers and to ease the transition. The AGBU Alex Manoogian School's efforts to support Syrian Armenians received unprecedented Canadian and international media coverage, including on France24, Radio-Canada and the Huffington Post, and was lauded by Quebec's Minister of Education in the provincial National Assembly. Approximately 700 Syrian Armenian families arrived in Montréal in 2015.

### Lebanon, Beirut

#### *Levon G. Nazarian Elementary School, Boghos K. Garmirian Elementary School & AGBU Tarouhy-Hovagimian Secondary School*

In 2014, 20 students from the AGBU Tarouhy-Hovagimian School traveled to Armenia as part of the school's yearly trip. Participants visited historic sites and cultural landmarks throughout the country, including the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin, Sardarabad, Garni, Geghard, Lake Sevan and Nagorno-Karabakh. In 2015, Tarouhy-Hovagimian high school students met with Egyptian historian Muhammad Rifat al-Imam, a recipient of the AGBU Garbis Papazian Award, whose talk centered around the centenary of the Armenian Genocide. Al-Imam, who served as editor of AGBU Cairo's *Arek* Arabic-language publication, presented the history of Armenians leading up to the genocide. High schoolers also participated in a shadow day where they explored the day in a life of a career professional in a particular field of interest, such as medicine and gemology, among others.

During the 2014-15 academic year, AGBU schools, in cooperation with the United States Embassy in Lebanon, developed a hands-on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) club. The club's formation was part of a pilot program involving three other Lebanese schools. For the third year in a row, AGBU Lebanon schools presented their annual cultural program The Flight of the Phoenix to the community. Also in 2015, the Shushi Student Theater Troupe staged a play titled *Return*, written by poet and playwright Noushig Mikayelian. More than 40 student actors from the Boghos K. Garmirian, Tarouhy-Hovagimian and Levon G. Nazarian schools took part in this tribute to the centenary of the Armenian Genocide. The AGBU Shushi Student Theater Troupe was founded in 2011 and includes students ages 10 to 17 who put on one theatrical production each year.

## Syria, Aleppo

### *AGBU Lazar Najarian-Calouste Gulbenkian School*

In 2014, the AGBU Lazar Najarian-Calouste Gulbenkian School's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary was celebrated in Armenia with a cultural evening. Participating in the program were members of the Syrian Armenian community who had recently settled in Armenia and former students of the school, who were attending universities in Yerevan.

Another anniversary celebration took place in Los Angeles, attended by 400 former students, including alumnus and former Republic of Armenia Minister of Foreign Affairs Vartan Oskanian. In 2014, 42 students graduated from the school. In 2015, there were 25 graduates.

## Syria, Damascus

### *Gullabi Gulbenkian Elementary School*

In 2015, the AGBU Gullabi Gulbenkian School's fourth, fifth and sixth graders took part in an inter-school competition dedicated to the centenary of the Armenian Genocide. The competition

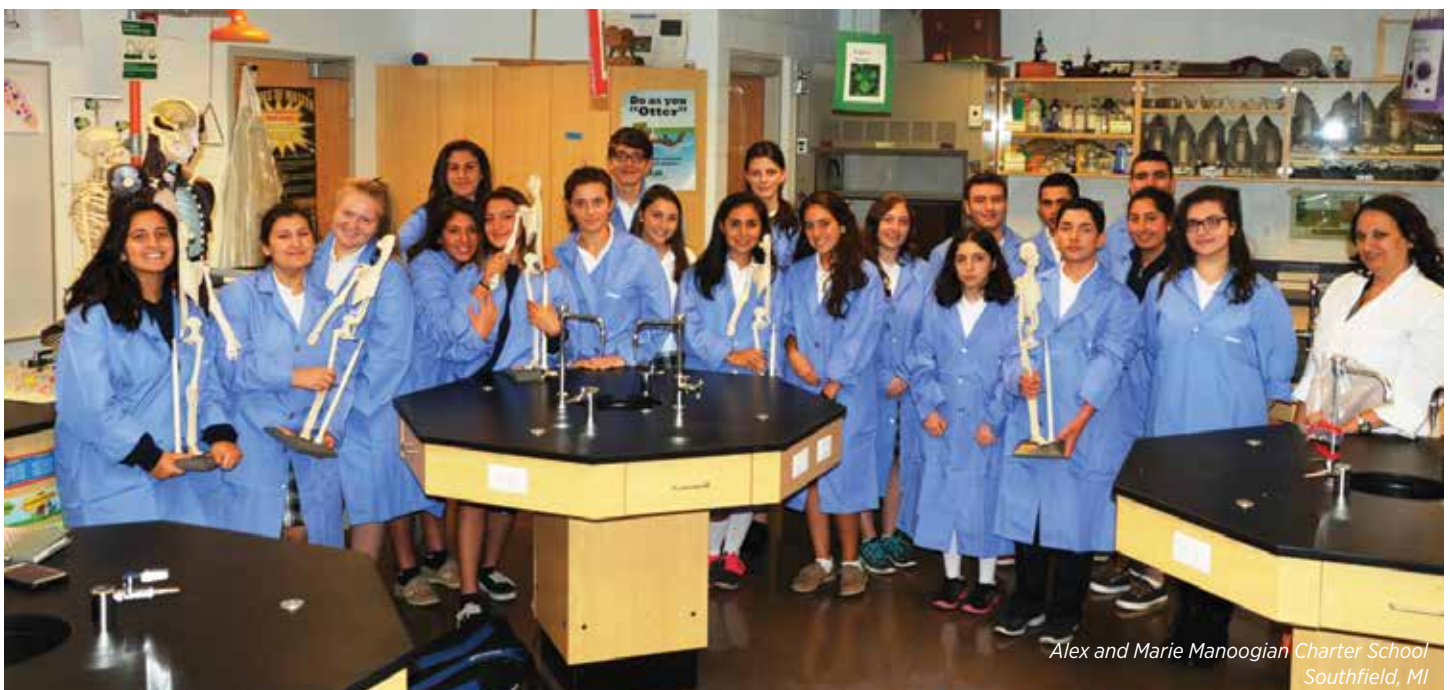
brought together students from four Armenian schools in Damascus with an objective to encourage students to learn more about Armenian history.

## United States, Canoga Park

### *Manoogian-Demirdjian School*

In 2014, the Manoogian-Demirdjian School celebrated its 38<sup>th</sup> anniversary. On the occasion, the parent-teacher organization raised funds through a successful gala event for a new school sound system and scholarships. In 2015, student John Kayacan's photographs of Armenian life and society from his trip to Armenia were featured in a European photo exhibition at the Anne Frank Educational Centre in Frankfurt, called 100 Years of Denial (100 Jahre Leugnung). The school had a transition in leadership as longtime principal Hagop Hagopian stepped down at the end of the 2014-15 academic year and was replaced by Arpi Avanesian-Idolor. Hratch Sepetjian was appointed as Director of Armenian Studies and Programs. During the 2014-15 academic year, the AGBU San Fernando Valley chapter awarded \$5,000 in scholarships to four Manoogian-Demirdjian students as a gesture of support to the school. Philanthropy was a focus for students during 2015. During the Syrian Armenian Relief Fund Telethon in Los Angeles, the

school presented a check of over \$2,000. Manoogian-Demirdjian students raised over \$10,000 for the 2015 Armenia Fund Telethon. The funds raised by students were used to build homes for families with five or more children in Nagorno-Karabakh. Cancer survivor and Manoogian-Demirdjian senior Nora Galoustian, founder of the school's Cancer Awareness Club, spearheaded a fundraising initiative and raised \$7,400 to support the Children's Hospital of Los Angeles. In the same year, 33 sophomores traveled to Armenia as part of their class trip. Students visited landmarks and museums and participated in a community service project, planting trees with the Armenia Tree Project. They also visited the village of Lernagog and had an overnight excursion in Goris. Fourteen juniors and seniors traveled to Argentina as part of a three-week student exchange program with the Marie Manoogian Institute in Buenos Aires. Students stayed with homestay families and learned more about Armenian life in South America.



*Alex and Marie Manoogian Charter School  
Southfield, MI*



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**United States, Pasadena**

*Vatche and Tamar Manoukian High School*

The Vatche and Tamar Manoukian High School appointed Dr. Armine Movsisyan as principal in 2014. Dr. Movsisyan began her career at the school as a history and social science teacher and also served as Dean of Students. Among numerous co-curricular events, students received a sneak preview of the USC Shoah Foundation Institute's Visual History Archive of eyewitness testimonies of Armenian Genocide survivors. Documentary filmmaker Carla Garapedian, project leader of the Armenian Film Foundation's

Armenian Genocide Testimonies collection, presented the project. In 2015, students organized and presented We Are the Monuments, a weeklong exhibition of Armenian art, history and culture as part of the Armenian Genocide centenary commemorations. The student artwork featured in the exhibit illustrated 4,000 years of Armenian art with paintings, recreations of relics, architecture and original pieces in honor of the centenary.

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**United States, Southfield**

*Alex and Marie Manoogian Charter School*

In 2014 and 2015, the AGBU Alex and Marie Manoogian Charter School offered its high school students a variety of college preparatory classes, including a myriad of Advanced Placement (AP) and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) courses rooted in science, robotics and automotive engineering. The school also offered innovative science programs, including computer science and robotics, through Project Lead the Way, a non-profit organization whose hands-on curriculum helps develop in-demand, transferable skills—such as problem-solving, critical and creative thinking, collaboration, and communication—for students as they progress through their schooling and career paths.

Students used the skills and knowledge gained through these courses to compete at Lawrence Technological University's robotics competitions, where the team was highly competitive in both 2014 and 2015. The first entry was a single passenger solar panel car and the second an electrical car, both of which were built by students from scratch. The school utilized the offerings of the Armenian Virtual College's modified program in their Armenian language classes that were supplemented with a combination of online and face-to-face instruction and collaboration between the Alex and Marie Manoogian Charter School teachers and AVC instructors.



*Nubarian-Manoogian School  
Montevideo, Uruguay*

## Uruguay, Montevideo

### *Nubarian-Manoogian School*

In 2014, the Nubarian-Manoogian School was honored for its 40 years of promoting citizenship and Uruguayan identity by the Capital Iberoamericana de la Cultura (Latin-American Capital of Culture) in Montevideo. In 2015, the school held its annual art festival at the Galpón Theater in Montevideo. The festival—which welcomed over 800 people—was the first in the community to be dedicated to the centenary of the Armenian Genocide. In addition to songs and dances in Armenian, Spanish and English, the event also included a presentation of a film by the sixth graders. The film narrated the history of the genocide through accounts and photos of survivors, particularly in their first years of survival in refugee camps and orphanages and their arrival to Uruguay. The film was first debuted during the sixth graders' exchange visit with their peers at the AGBU Marie Manoogian Institute in Buenos Aires.

# LIST OF AGBU SCHOOLS 2014-2015

## ARGENTINA

**Buenos Aires:** Marie Manoogian Institute (Pre-K-12)

## AUSTRALIA

**Sydney:** Alexander Primary School (K-6)

Alex Manoogian Saturday School

## BULGARIA

**Haskovo:** Saturday School

**Plovdiv:** Saturday School

## CANADA

**Montréal:** Alex Manoogian School (Pre-K-8)

## FRANCE

**Paris:** Alex Manoogian Saturday School

**Vienne:** Wednesday School

## GREECE

**Athens:** Artaki Kalpakian School (Pre-K-6)

## IRAN

**Tehran:** Marie Manoogian School (9-12)

Nevart Gulbenkian School (1-5)

## IRAQ

**Baghdad:** Yerchanik Tajirian Summer School

## LEBANON

**Beirut:** Boghos K. Garmirian School (Pre-K-9)

Demirdjian Center Saturday School

Tarouhy-Hovagimian School (7-12)

Levon G. Nazarian School (Pre-K-6)

## SYRIA

**Aleppo:** Lazar Najarian-Calouste Gulbenkian School (Pre-K-12)

**Damascus:** Gullabi Gulbenkian School (Pre-K-6)

## URUGUAY

**Montevideo:** Nubarian-Manoogian School (Pre-K-12)

## USA

**Canoga Park:** Manoogian-Demirdjian School (Pre-K-12)

**Chicago:** Sisag H. Varjabedian Saturday School

**Costa Mesa:** Orange County Saturday School

**Detroit:** Alex & Marie Manoogian Charter School (Pre-K-12)

**Pasadena:** Vatche and Tamar Manoukian High School (9-12)

# SCHOLARSHIPS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION



For almost a century, the AGBU Scholarship Program has helped further the educational pursuits of tens of thousands of promising young Armenian university students enrolled at some of the world's top-ranked universities. In the 2014-2015 academic year, over 430 undergraduates, graduate students and professionals studying in nearly 40 countries received AGBU scholarship assistance totaling over \$1 million in scholarships each year.

In addition to these individual scholarships, AGBU allocated over \$650,000 each year to various institutions in Armenia, including the American University of Armenia (AUA), L'Université française en Arménie (UFAR) and the Mesrob Mashdotts Institute of Ancient Manuscripts (Madenataran), among others.

**AGBU US Graduate Fellowships** were awarded to students enrolled in professional, master's and doctoral degree programs at highly selective institutions throughout the United States. Scholars pursued graduate studies in fields including medicine and health studies, business administration, finance, economics, law, conflict resolution, international relations and public policy, among others. Recipients were enrolled at universities, including: **Columbia University • Duke University • Harvard University • Massachusetts Institute of Technology • New York University • Stanford University • University of California, Los Angeles • University of California, Berkeley • University of Michigan • University of Pennsylvania • Yale University.**

## SCHOLARSHIPS AT A GLANCE



Over **\$1 million** in scholarships awarded annually



Over **430** students benefiting each year



Programs of study in nearly **40** countries

US Graduate Fellowships • International Scholarships  
• Performing Arts Fellowships • Religious Studies Fellowships • Heritage Scholars Grants



**AGBU International Scholarships** were awarded to students pursuing undergraduate and graduate study outside the United States in the fields of business administration, finance, international relations, medicine and law, among others. Institutions included: **American University of Beirut (Lebanon)** • **Boğaziçi University (Turkey)** • **Haigazian University (Lebanon)** • **McGill University (Canada)** • **University of Oxford (United Kingdom)** • **University of Paris – Sorbonne (France)** • **University of Stuttgart (Germany)** • **University of Toronto (Canada)** • **University of Vienna (Austria)** • **University College of London (United Kingdom)**.

**AGBU Performing Arts Fellowships** were distributed to aspiring musicians, composers, actors, directors and screenwriters around the world. Recipients attended prestigious conservatories and schools, including: **Cleveland Institute of Music (United States)** • **Columbia University (United States)** • **Eastman School of Music (United States)** • **The Juilliard School (United States)** • **Longy School of Music of Bard College (United States)** • **New England Conservatory of Music (United States)** • **New York University Tisch School of the Arts (United States)** • **Royal Academy of Music (United Kingdom)** • **Royal Conservatory of Scotland (United Kingdom)** • **The Vienna Conservatory (Austria)**.

**AGBU Religious Studies Fellowships** were given to graduate students, pursuing master's studies and doctoral degrees in theology; Christian education; divinity; pastoral theology and counseling; and youth ministry at institutions in the United States, including: **Boston College** • **Claremont School of Theology** • **Princeton Theological Seminary** • **St. Nersess Armenian Seminary/St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary** • **University of California, Los Angeles**.

**AGBU Heritage Scholars Grants** were awarded to outstanding college-bound seniors at the AGBU Manoogian-Demirdjian School in Canoga Park, California; the AGBU Alex and Marie Manoogian Charter School in Southfield, Michigan; and the AGBU Vatche and Tamar Manoukian High School in Pasadena. The Heritage Scholars Grant recipients included honors students and varsity athletes who demonstrated academic excellence, school spirit and community involvement. Heritage Scholars are pursuing undergraduate degrees in biochemistry and cell biology; biology; linguistics; music; nursing and political science at **University of California, Los Angeles**; **University of California, Riverside**; **University of California, San Diego**; and **University of Michigan, Ann Arbor**, among other schools.

Financed through endowment funds established by AGBU donors since the 1920s, the AGBU Scholarship Program has proudly contributed to the academic achievements of gifted young Armenians, offering financial assistance to full-time students of Armenian descent across six continents.

## MEET SOME OF OUR 2014-2015 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



*Paul Mesrop Borekjian, a master's student in a dual degree program in theological studies and social work at the Princeton Theological Seminary in New Jersey.*



*Armig Kabrelian, an undergraduate in biological chemistry at Johannes Kepler University in Linz, Austria.*



*Claire Alexanian, a medical student at the Georgetown University School of Medicine in Washington D.C.*



*Vasken Ohanian, a master's student in composition and choral conducting at California State University, Long Beach.*



*Susie Sargsyan, a doctoral candidate in applied mathematics at the University of Washington.*



*Şila Temizel, a master's student in environmental engineering at Boğaziçi University in Istanbul, Turkey.*

# EDUCATION INNOVATION

## THE EVOLVING LANDSCAPE OF LEARNING

AGBU committed itself in 2014 and 2015 to providing innovative educational experiences to Armenians of all ages as the organization's alternative education programs saw significant expansion.



AGBU Education Innovation transforms learning by harnessing new technologies to foster and promote Armenian language, history, and culture. By fusing traditional education with technology, AGBU has reimagined education for all – at school, at home and on the go. Having

identified a gap in quality Armenian e-products, AGBU has actively worked with experts and in reputable institutions and organizations to make educational apps, e-books, and online language courses readily available to all.

## Armenian Virtual College

In 2014 and 2015, the AGBU Armenian Virtual College (AVC) continued to diversify and redefine online education with its e-learning offerings and global outreach to individuals and groups. In addition to its core courses in Armenian language, history and culture, AVC began offering niche courses, including the continuation of the popular AVC Chess Program. The chess course, developed in collaboration with the Chess Academy in Armenia and the Chess Federation of the Republic of Armenia, was featured at the 2015 DigiTec Expo in Armenia and received praise by President of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan.



## AVC e-Books

AVC has redefined the Armenian experience with the release of interactive e-books, bringing Armenian history, culture and contemporary affairs into the digital age while extending knowledge from students in a virtual classroom to a wider audience.

Available free for download in seven languages (English, Western and Eastern Armenian, Russian, French, Spanish and Turkish), the multimedia e-book series has become extremely popular since the launch of the first e-book, *The Armenian Highland* in 2014.

*The Armenian Highland* provides an overview of Armenia's history and geography from ancient to modern times, detailing the physical characteristics, natural life, environment, climate and natural resources

of the region. Text is accompanied by color images, audio narration, video clips, 3D panoramas, quizzes and interactive maps to enhance the reading experience.

In 2015, AVC launched its second interactive e-book, *Exploring Yerevan: A Look Inside the City's Past and Present*, designed to offer historical, social and demographic information to readers interested in visiting Yerevan or learning about the city. Prepared in cooperation with the Municipality of Yerevan, the electronic guide features videos, interactive maps, virtual tours, picture galleries, 3D and panoramic images offering a variety of information, ranging from city tours and hikes to cultural and social events.

The e-books have collectively attracted over 16,500 readers through 2015.



## AVC TV School & Hybrid Education

AVC also attended to the needs of tech-savvy learners who prefer to learn with technology instead of textbooks and conventional materials through the TV School and Hybrid Education program.

Prepared in collaboration with the Armenian Ministry of Diaspora, the AVC TV School aired for the first time on Armenian Public Satellite TV Channel H1 in 2014. The TV School provided Armenian language lessons, primarily for English-speaking children and adults. In 2015, the AVC TV School continued its Armenian language learning episodes for English speakers while introducing episodes for Russian speakers. Broadcast in conjunction with the online courses, the program gives viewers the opportunity to get in touch with AVC's live online teachers to continue the learning online.

The Hybrid Education Program has blended conventional methods of education with e-learning to offer the best aspects of the two forms of instruction. The program targets schools and community centers and organizations that wish to introduce innovative learning

methods into their curricula and supplement their programs with additional resources. The method was successfully used in both AGBU and non-AGBU schools and Armenian communities from Latin America to Georgia and from Canada to Russia, reaching 20 schools and communities across the globe. AVC also offered a version of the Hybrid Education Program for 2014 and 2015 Yerevan Summer Internship Program (YSIP) participants.

Since its founding in 2009, AVC has delivered a groundbreaking online course of study to thousands, integrating technology into the daily learning process of students and Armenian enthusiasts around the world while enhancing traditional learning methods and offering convenient access to content. The mission of the Armenian Virtual College is to provide learners around the world with the opportunity to receive a full-fledged education in Armenian studies – anytime, anywhere – regardless of their age, country of residence or knowledge level.

# LEARN ARMENIAN

with

# GUS ON THE GO!

EASTERN or WESTERN ARMENIAN

## Educational Apps

In 2015, AGBU released three educational mobile apps that placed Armenian language, history and heritage onto smartphones and tablets.

Available in Western and Eastern Armenian, AGBU launched the critically acclaimed *Gus on the Go: Armenian for Kids* language apps for children in partnership with the app's creator toojuice, LLC. Recognized by parenting and teaching blogs as one of the best language learning apps and featured in *Parents Magazine*, *Gus on the Go* encourages young children to discover the Armenian language through interactive vocabulary lessons and games. The app features Gus, a friendly owl, and is narrated by native Armenian speakers. Guided by a country map with iconic landmarks, Gus travels through Armenia, visiting Gyumri, Sardarapat, Yerevan and Tatev. Animations enhance the user's experience as children learn basic vocabulary concepts with interactive visual and listening exercises on numbers, colors, shapes, food, animals and more.

AGBU also released *Im Armenia* (My Armenia), a travel app that takes children on a virtual journey through Yerevan and its surroundings. *Im Armenia* offers easy-to-navigate maps and colorful graphics, engaging young visitors with fun facts and encouraging the discovery of some of the country's most popular tourist attractions. Users can take their own pictures, select photos from the gallery and write their thoughts in a journal at each location. The app can be used by children of all ages to prepare them for their trip to Armenia, to keep them focused on their trip and to spark curiosity about the country.

AGBU also released the *Armenian Holidays & Traditions* app, designed for both Armenians and non-Armenians as a teaching tool about Armenian heritage, faith and culture. Filled with recipes, expressions, traditions and more, the app features a full calendar year of over 30 of the most popular holidays celebrated by Armenians around the world.



LANGUAGE MADE EASY & FUN!



# Armenian Holidays & Traditions



More than a calendar: Your key to unlocking a year of treasured Armenian heritage with expressions, recipes, customs & more.

# LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS

## INTERNSHIPS & MENTORSHIPS FOR A BRIGHTER TOMORROW

### New York Summer Internship Program (NYSIP)

The New York Summer Internship Program (NYSIP) is the flagship program in AGBU's cadre of internship opportunities, providing students with real world work experience in a chosen field, immersion in one of the most energetic global cities and a link to Armenian peers from around the world. In 2014 and 2015, NYSIP welcomed 57 undergraduate and graduate students from Armenia, Brazil, France, Lebanon, Romania, Switzerland, Syria, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

Interns spent their summers gaining valuable work experience and growing professionally while enhancing their involvement in the Armenian community. Interns were placed in organizations such as AXA Advisors, Deutsche Bank, Columbia Medical Center, Cushman & Wakefield, Grey Advertising, Human Rights Watch, Michael Aram, Mirrorball, NYU Medical Center and the Permanent Mission of Armenia to the United Nations.

Since 1999, NYSIP has partnered with the Young Professionals of Greater New York (YPGNY) group to provide NYSIP interns with one-on-one mentorship with a YP mentor. Fifty seven YP members mentored NYSIP interns, meeting several times during the summer in groups and individually to provide guidance and discuss topics relating to their fields of expertise.

Founded in 1987 by Rita and the late Vartkess Balian, under the auspices of the AGBU President's Club, NYSIP quickly established itself as the core AGBU program for Armenian students throughout the world.

### London Summer Internship Program (LSIP)

2015 marked the inauguration of the London Summer Internship Program (LSIP), placing 13 students from Argentina, Belgium, Canada, France, Lebanon, the United Kingdom and the United States in internships at Amber Capital, Newscape Capital, White Cube Art Gallery, Wigmore Medical and other prestigious firms and companies. In addition to their daily work schedules, the interns took trips to iconic British landmarks, visited Google's offices in London and attended a gala dinner in honor of President of Nagorno-Karabakh Bako Sahakyan and Baroness Cox of Queensbury. They also met with Vartkess Knadjian, CEO of the diamond company Backes & Strauss, as well as other successful professionals who shared their expertise. The opportunities to network with leading professionals and AGBU Young Professionals in London gave LSIP participants valuable insight into living and working in one of Europe's major economic hubs.

## Yerevan Summer Internship Program (YSIP)

In 2014 and 2015, 36 diasporan Armenians from Austria, Bulgaria, Lebanon, the Netherlands, Russia and the United States traveled to Armenia for a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to build their resumes while immersing themselves in a full schedule of educational, cultural and social activities in their cultural homeland through the Yerevan Summer Internship Program (YSIP). Students specializing in fields including IT, media, education, business and architecture were placed at a wide variety of companies and institutions, including Arabkir Medical Center, Armenian British Business Chamber,

Armenian Monuments Awareness Project (AMAP), Byblos Bank, Deem Communications, ICARE, OneArmenia, Paris Hotel, PicsArt, Storaket Architectural Studio and Women's Resource Center, among others. Since 2007, YSIP has provided students with an edge in a new global market by offering them hands-on, international work experience in their fields of study while also offering an opportunity to develop closer ties to their heritage and a professional network of peers in Armenia and the diaspora.

## GORIZ

In 2014, the sixth AGBU GORIZ seminar gathered a group of 37 young professionals from the Armenian, Jewish and Roma communities for a five-day seminar in Tbilisi, Georgia. This seminar — co-organized by AGBU Europe, the European Center for Minority Issues, the European Union of Jewish Students, the European Roma Grassroots Organization Network and Hayartun (Diocese of the Armenian Church of Georgia) and supported by the Erasmus+ Program of the European Union — focused on negotiating identity

within minority communities. The seminar aimed to raise awareness among participants about the ways identity perception can affect their goals and their relationships with authorities, helping the young leaders take an active part in the way their identity is understood.

The GORIZ Leadership Program trains young leaders who demonstrate exceptional academic performance to represent their Armenian diaspora communities throughout Europe.

## Generation Next

The Generation Next (GenNext) Mentorship Program matches Armenian high school students across Southern California with strong, caring mentors who help them successfully navigate the challenges of adolescence, excel in school and become responsible, self-sufficient adults.

In 2014, GenNext mentees attended a presentation on Armenian history, including discussions on influential Armenians and on the impact of youth on Armenia's future. The program also organized a leadership summit at Glendale Community College to increase students' confidence and self-worth as well as build bonds with mentees and a career day at University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), where students learned about the keys for success in college life. In 2015, GenNext members toured the California Institute of Technology (CalTech) and met with university students and professors, learning about the school's prestigious programs.

Since its inception in 1997, GenNext has served several hundred youth, ages 12 to 18. All volunteer mentors meet with their mentees at least once a month to develop solid relationships that help mentees withstand the trials and tribulations of adolescence and step confidently towards bright futures. Through mentoring, guidance and support, GenNext provides students with an essential link that helps promote a more successful transition into society while preserving culture and heritage.



# COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

## MOBILIZING ARMENIANS LOCALLY & GLOBALLY



## FOCUS WEEKEND: TORONTO

In July 2015, AGBU FOCUS brought nearly 500 young Armenian professionals from around the world to Toronto where they shared ideas, expanded their networks and promoted AGBU's Education Innovation and alternative education program, an initiative to create e-learning apps, tools, and programs, such as WebTalks, creative technology centers, and online learning, to support the mission to make learning Armenian in the diaspora fun and exciting.

The eighth biennial AGBU FOCUS weekend welcomed guests from 160 cities in 14 countries: Armenia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, France, Italy, Lebanon, Mexico, the Netherlands, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom and the United States. For the first time, AGBU FOCUS had an active online presence with a live feed of its panel discussion and networking event, Perspectives, and posts on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram throughout the weekend, using the hashtag #agbufocus to help those far away be part of the action.

Setting the stage for the weekend, attendees were sent a special video message from world-renowned Canadian Armenian filmmaker Atom Egoyan, who welcomed them to his hometown of Toronto and praised AGBU for its many educational initiatives.

The Thursday night Perspectives panel discussion centered on ways young professionals can shape the global brand of Armenia and being Armenian. Panelists took up the task of imagining the future of an Armenian identity disassociated from the genocide and focused on success stories in Armenia and the diaspora. The panel included Henri Arslanian of Hong Kong, Sarine Chitilian of Canada, Alexis Halejian of the United States and Raffi Kassarian of Armenia. It was moderated by Arda Zakarian, reporter at CP24, a news station in Toronto. The night also included a networking session amongst the attendees.

On Friday morning, the AGBU Young Professionals (YP) held their biennial assembly, providing a forum for the YP Network to brainstorm and exchange ideas and discuss areas of opportunity for cross-cooperation and collaboration. Over 25 YP leaders attended the summit. Later in the day, guests attended Taste of Toronto, the first-ever FOCUS food crawl and in the evening, attendees enjoyed Club Night at Maison Mercer.

Saturday's Focus on Art featured photographer Scout Tufankjian, who exhibited images from her recent book *There is Only the Earth: Images from the Armenian Diaspora Project*. Tufankjian, whose book chronicles contemporary community life across the Armenian diaspora, led small groups around the exhibit, sharing stories about each photograph.

During the AGBU FOCUS Gala on Saturday night, guests filled the ARD venue for a night of celebration. Speakers Camilio Azzouz, a young professional living in London; Mihran Egavian, FOCUS 2015 chair; and Ani Manoukian, AGBU Central Board member, emphasized the potential for impact that young professionals can have on the future of the Armenian community. 2015 AGBU FOCUS broke all prior fundraising records, raising \$100,000 in support of AGBU Education Innovation.

Since premiering in New York City in 2001, AGBU FOCUS has distinguished itself as a unique networking experience for over 2,500 global Armenian young professionals. What began as a signature anniversary celebration is now a sensational tradition, offering YPs an opportunity to connect with hundreds of international peers while highlighting the direct and positive impact of AGBU's programs on generations of Armenians, raising over \$430,000 in the event's 14-year history. Along with Toronto, AGBU FOCUS has been held in six different cities: New York City (2001, 2007), Montreal (2003), Miami (2005), Chicago (2009), Paris (2011) and San Francisco (2013).





The AGBU Young Professionals of Greater New York (YPGNY) steering committee at the 2015 Silent Auction & Cocktail Party during which \$21,000 was raised for the AGBU Humanitarian Emergency Relief Fund.

# AGBU YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

The AGBU Young Professionals (YP) is a growing network of YP groups and supporters around the world dedicated to preserving and promoting Armenian identity and heritage for Armenians between the ages of 22 to 40. With an open-door policy, the YP Network has earned an international reputation for fostering a sense of fellowship, community and belonging. In 2014 and 2015, the YP Network made meaningful contributions to the larger community by:

- Engaging over 20,000 YPs worldwide in over 300 educational, cultural, social and fundraising events — representing nearly one-third of AGBU's global activities.
- Donating over \$71,000 to AGBU initiatives, including the AGBU Humanitarian Emergency Relief Fund for Syrian Armenians, the AGBU Humanitarian Emergency Relief Fund for Iraqi Armenians, AGBU Senior Dining Centers, AGBU Children's Centers, the New York Summer Internship Program (NYSIP), Camp Nubar and the AUA Digital Library.
- Bringing together worldwide YP groups on local, regional and global projects and working together with AGBU districts, chapters, schools and programs to implement cultural and philanthropic activities.
- Partnering with fellow Armenian and non-Armenian organizations on important initiatives.



*YP Buenos Aires held its inaugural professional development conference on October 9, 2014.*

## Support for AGBU's Areas of Greatest Need

With the devastating conflict in Syria still ongoing, YP groups committed themselves to supporting the AGBU Humanitarian Emergency Relief Fund for Syrian Armenians through local fundraising events. In 2014 and 2015, AGBU YP groups donated over \$36,000 for Syrian relief. YP Greater New York gave proceeds from their annual Silent Auction and Cocktail Party in 2014 and 2015 to the fund. YP Northern California also offered a portion of its proceeds from its annual San Francisco Winter Gala in 2014 and 2015 and its First Annual Comedy Night in downtown Oakland in 2015. Also joining in the Syria relief efforts as part of the global AGBU campaign were YP, Athens, YP Austria, YP Boston, YP London and YP Toronto.

YP groups also supported other worthwhile causes. In Lebanon, YP Beirut raised funds for AGBU schools in the country. In 2015, YP Athens held a concert of works by Gomidas with more than 300 people in attendance with proceeds going toward commemoration of the Armenian Genocide centenary in Greece. Through FOCUS 2015, YP groups lent their support to AGBU Education Innovation and alternative education programs, among others.

## Professional Development and Mentoring

One of the goals of the YP Network is to put emphasis on professional growth and skill development so that YPs can successfully build their careers, network with their peers, and achieve success in the working world while making new connections. In 2014 and 2015, numerous YP groups held events in their communities on relevant topics, such as career building, entrepreneurship, innovation, information, technology, banking, finance and the creative arts. Events included YP Buenos Aires's professional development conferences; YP London's meet-up events; YP São Paulo's visit to the LinkedIn Latin American offices in São Paulo; YP Los Angeles's Speakers Series; and YP Lyon Rhône-Alpes's entrepreneurship in Armenia forum and partnership with the OnlyLyon private-public marketing campaign that promotes local culture, entrepreneurs and economic development. New YP groups in Belgium (Brussels), The Netherlands (Amsterdam) and Switzerland (Geneva) also launched professional development and public speaking events designed to engage local Armenians to network and exchange ideas. YP groups also mentored and nurtured younger generations of Armenians, continuing programs such as the YP Greater New York's Mentoring Program for AGBU New York Summer Internship Program (NYSIP) interns.

### 2014-2015 YP & Partner Donors

YP Athens	YP Los Angeles
YP Austria	YP Montréal
YP Boston	YP Northern California
YP Brazil	YP Philadelphia
YP Buenos Aires	YP Tehran
YP Chicago	YP Toronto
YP Greater New York	YP Washington, D.C.
YP Lebanon	HAIK (Frankfurt, Germany)

### 2014-2015 Beneficiaries of YP Donations

AGBU Camp Nubar • AGBU Children's Centers • AGBU Education Innovation • AGBU Humanitarian Emergency Relief Fund for Iraqi Armenians • AGBU Humanitarian Emergency Relief Fund for Syrian Armenians • AGBU Lebanon Schools • AGBU New York Summer Internship Program (NYSIP) • AGBU Senior Dining Centers • American University of Armenia (AUA)



*YP Austria on a trip to the Wachau Valley on May 29, 2014.*



*YPNC Summer Sunset Hike to Mission Peak on August 16, 2015.*



*On October 3, 2015, YP Amsterdam held an event titled #SpeakUP that presented the life stories of seven fellow Armenians.*

# YOUNG PROFESSIONALS CHAIRS AND COORDINATORS

## ARGENTINA

Buenos Aires: Ignacio Balassanian

## ARMENIA

Yerevan: Harutyun Poghosyan (2014)

## AUSTRIA

Vienna: Karoush Ghazelian

## BELGIUM

Brussels: Korioun Khatchadourian (2014)  
Anna Tamiryan (2015)

## BRAZIL

São Paulo: Aram Apovian

## BULGARIA

Plovdiv: Haik Garabedian, Nora Radoslavova  
Sofia: Seta Zadikian

## CANADA

Montréal: Maral Kassemjian (2014)  
Jean Akkoyan (2015)

Toronto: Mihran Egavian

## FRANCE

Lyon Rhône-Alpes: Viken Kojakian  
Marseille: Maral Hekimian  
Paris: Paul Der Agopian

## GERMANY

Hamburg: Armen Chamlaian

## GREECE

Athens: Setrak Abassian

## IRAN

Tehran: Maria Ghazarians

## LEBANON

Beirut: Sarine Karajerjian

## THE NETHERLANDS

Amsterdam: Vahag Avakian

## SWITZERLAND

Geneva: Rubina Yacoubian

## UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Dubai: Mossine Koulakzian

## UNITED KINGDOM

London: Angelina Najarian

## USA

Boston: Justine Drabicki

Chicago: Susan Cholakian (2014)

Samantha Simonian (2015)

Greater New York: Lindsey Hagopian (2014)

William Nazarian (2015)

Los Angeles: Taline Guevrekian (2014)

Ani Torosyan (2015)

Philadelphia: Armena Ballard (2014)

Sara Selverian (2015)

Northern California: David Ojakian

Washington, D.C.: Aram Verdiyian (2014)

Hakob Stepanyan (2015)

# CULTURAL SUSTAINABILITY

## SAFEGUARDING OUR HERITAGE FOR OUR FUTURE GENERATIONS



*The AGBU Sofia Chamber Orchestra concert in memory of the victims of the Armenian Genocide on April 19, 2015.  
© Raffi Youredjian Photography*

## CHORAL & MUSICAL GROUPS

### London Chamber Orchestra

In 2014, the AGBU London Chamber Orchestra was founded by artistic director Sarkis Zakarian. The orchestra consists of 15 talented Armenian and non-Armenian musicians residing in the United Kingdom. The debut concert drew a standing ovation after a performance of Armenian and European pieces and a specially commissioned piece based on the Armenian national anthem. In

2015, the orchestra performed a special remembrance concert in honor of the centenary of the Armenian Genocide at St. John Smith Square in London. The concert, titled *Together for Armenia*, brought musicians under the direction of Gustavo Ubeda, the orchestra's main conductor.

### Spendiarian Choir & Gomidas Chamber Orchestra (Aleppo)

In 2014, despite the daily struggles of war in Aleppo, the 24-member AGBU-AYA Spendiarian Choir celebrated its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a concert comprised of the choir's best loved songs. The event began with a presentation detailing the history of the choir, during which current members praised the devotion of the conductors who have enabled the choir to thrive over the course of its history.

The AGBU-AYA Gomidas Chamber Orchestra also performed a concert featuring pieces by Gomidas, Mozart, Yamada, Melikian, Stamitz, Khatchadourian, Vivaldi, Brahms and Shostakovich. Each of the orchestra performers had participated in the 2014 AGBU Musical Armenia Program (MAP) in Yerevan. Founded in 2006, the Gomidas Chamber Orchestra consists of 24 musicians.

### Dziadzan Children's Choir (Cairo)

In 2014, AGBU Cairo's 35-member Dziadzan Children's Choir celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a lively musical interpretation in song and dance of *Katch Nazar's New Adventures*, a folktale written by Hovhannes Toumanian. In 2015, the Dziadzan Children's Choir celebrated the 150<sup>th</sup> birthday of Armenian hero General

Antranik (Zoravar Antranik) with a concert consisting of 21 songs and poems dedicated to the historic figure. The Dziadzan Children's Choir consists of 25 choir members under the direction of artistic conductor Maestro Mihran Ghazelian and choir leader Kohar Ghazelian.

## Grung Polyphonic Choir (Montevideo)

In 2014, the Grung Polyphonic Choir participated in the dance and singing festival Hacelo por Kessab [Do It for Kessab]. Donations from the event were used to help Syria Armenian families who were forced to leave Kessab in spring 2014. In 2015, the Grung Polyphonic Choir held a concert in Montevideo in commemoration of the centenary of the Armenian Genocide with special guest performer violinist Matías Craciun. The concert was recognized by the Ministry of Education and Culture of Uruguay as being of cultural interest to the country. The Grung Polyphonic Choir features 35 members under the direction of Maestro Alvaro Hagopian, an alumnus of the AGBU Nubarian-Manoogian School.

## Koghtan Choir (Paris)

In 2014, the Koghtan Choir held a concert composed of 16 Armenian traditional folk songs and religious hymns performed by 23 vocalists at the Protestant Church of Luxembourg in Paris. During the concert, founder and director Haig Sarkissian spoke about the role of music in Armenian culture and provided interpretations and translations into French. The choir was also invited by French choral director Bernard Lallement and his Vox Sirenis ensemble to perform at a Christmas concert in Paris. Lallement, who composed the famous Latin Mass-inspired *Missa Gallica*, founded the Franco-German Choir and served as honorary president. Featuring 35 members, the Koghtan Choir performed nine concerts in 2014 and 2015 in Paris, Tours and Chinon. The ensemble was founded in 1992 as a way to promote Armenian music and culture to Armenians and non-Armenians in France.

## Sofia Chamber Orchestra

In 2014, the AGBU Sofia Chamber Orchestra debuted its eighth season with a production entitled *Spring Dreams* that drew dozens to the city's Pancho Vladigerov National Academy of Music. Led by Maestro Bedros Papazian with a goal to promote Armenian music across Sofia's diverse communities, the orchestra's program wove together traditional Armenian songs with Western classical music and contemporary poetry. In another concert, the orchestra paid tribute to a great supporter of Ottoman Armenians in the final decades of the Ottoman Empire, Peyo Yavarov. During the performance, a detailed biography of Yavorov was given, citing his importance as a literary figure, along with a reading of one of his poems about the Armenian people, translated into Armenian by renowned 20<sup>th</sup>-century poet Kevork Emin. The Sofia Chamber Orchestra also gave a performance featuring the works of Mendelssohn, Mozart and Piazzolla during a concert as part of the European Music Festival held in the Bulgarian capital. In total, the orchestra performed six times through the course of the year.

In 2015, the Sofia Chamber Orchestra gave eight concerts, including a performance dedicated to the centenary of the Armenian Genocide. The concert included works from Yavarov, Eduard Mirzoyan and Gomidas. Three guest youth soloists from Armenia's New Names of Armenia ensemble also performed, playing the duduk, kanun and oud. In June, the orchestra participated in the European Music Festival, performing with the Beltango musical ensemble from Serbia. The orchestra's performances were with a South American flair, consisting of Argentinean tango music. The orchestra was founded in 2006 on the occasion of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of AGBU.



The AGBU London Chamber Orchestra held its inaugural performance on April 26, 2014.  
© Raffi Youredjian Photography



*Performance by the AGBU-AYA Antranig Dance Ensemble in Aleppo, Syria in November 2015.*

## DANCE ENSEMBLES

### **Antranig Dance Ensemble (Aleppo)**

In 2015, on the tenth anniversary of its founding, AGBU-AYA Antranig Dance Ensemble held two performances, inspiring hope in the face of the ongoing Syrian Civil War. The group performed waltzes and Arabic and Georgian dances as well as traditional Armenian dances before an audience of 150 people. 10 boys and 18 girls are part of the dance ensemble.

### **Arine Dance Ensemble (Beirut)**

In 2014, the Arine Dance Ensemble's junior division presented its first solo performance in the presence of hundreds at the La Sagesse School in Beirut. The program featured dancers bringing to life Armenian and Lebanese national songs. The AYA Arine Dance ensemble also traveled to Armenia for the second consecutive year for the My Armenia II Cultural Festival sponsored by the Ministry of Diaspora of the Republic of Armenia. A delegation of 48 dancers and committee members were hosted for one week, during which the dance troupe participated in four performances in Yerevan, Oshagan, Tsaghkadzor and Vanadzor. The Arine Dance Ensemble is comprised of 160 junior and senior members.

### **San Fernando Valley Dance Ensemble (Canoga Park, California)**

In 2014, 55 dancers brought Armenian culture to life during the AYA San Fernando Valley Dance Ensemble's second annual show. The dance ensemble again performed during their annual show in 2015 with a troupe of over 40 dancers.



The eighth annual AGBU NYSEC concert raised over \$50,000 for AGBU Performing Arts initiatives.

## PERFORMING ARTS

The AGBU Performing Arts Department (PAD) was founded in 2012 to oversee the organization's cultural and arts programs. Since its inception, PAD has connected young Armenian artists worldwide and introduced Armenian art and culture to diverse audiences. It has also organized various cultural programs, including the Sayat Nova International Composition Competition, which was started by AGBU France, and the Musical Armenia Program, as well as performances around the world.

### Musical Armenia Program

The Musical Armenia Program (MAP) continues to grow as young musicians, both Armenian and non-Armenian, seize the opportunity to hone their craft in Armenia. In 2014 and 2015, 22 participants from Canada, Cyprus, France, Germany, Japan, Lebanon, the Netherlands, Qatar, Syria, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, the United States and Uruguay participated in MAP. The three-week program included one-on-one lessons with professors from the Komitas State Music Conservatory,

Armenian music lectures and repertoire studies, auditions, performances in local festivals, meet-and-greets with local artists, and a gala concert performance to end the program. Participants also traveled to the Tatev Monastery, Lake Sevan and the Sardarapat Museum and Monument. Since MAP was founded in 2012, 38 musicians have had the opportunity to train and perform with renowned musicians and strengthen their understanding of Armenian music as part of the program.

### New York Special Events Committee (NYSEC) Performing Artists in Concert Series

In 2014, the New York Special Events Committee (NYSEC) Performing Artists in Concert celebrated the 75<sup>th</sup> birthday of Maestro Tigran Mansurian. The evening's program featured nine Armenian musicians – all AGBU Performing Arts Scholarships awardees – from Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States, eight of whom were first-time performers at the concert. Pianist Sarkis Zakarian of the AGBU London Chamber Orchestra served as artistic director of the event. In 2015, nine musicians performed under the theme of Melodies of Hope. The concert, dedicated to the commemoration of the Armenian Genocide centenary, featured musicians from Armenia, Australia, Canada, China, Germany, Macedonia, Portugal and the United States. The

2014 and 2015 NYSEC Performing Artists in Concert events, which were held at New York's Weill Recital Hall, raised over \$110,000 for performing arts initiatives. Performers in the concert series attended the Juilliard School of Music in New York, the Royal Conservatory of Scotland, the Royal Academy of Music in London, the Komitas State Conservatory in Yerevan, Cologne High Institute of Music, Mannes School of Music, Monash University of Melbourne, Manhattan School of Music and the Shanghai Music Conservatory.

Since 2008, NYSEC has celebrated the achievements of talented Armenian youth who have received AGBU scholarships during their musical studies through its Performing Artists in Concert series.

### Sayat Nova International Composition Competition

In 2014, the third biennial Sayat Nova International Composition Competition was held in commemoration of the centenary of the Armenian Genocide. Composers from around the world were asked to submit a piece for an ensemble of Armenian and Western instruments that integrated the work of Ottoman Armenian poet Daniel Varoujan, a victim of the Armenian Genocide. Over 30 submissions were entered from 11 countries and 14 states. Hovik Sardaryan of Armenia won first prize for his piece, *Flowers of Golgotha*, while Dic-lun Fun of Hong Kong received second prize and Richard Melkonian of the United Kingdom received third prize.

In 2015, the three winners' compositions premiered at a gala concert at New York's Symphony Space. The pieces were performed by an international ensemble of musicians from Armenia, Finland, France, Macedonia and the United States and included a special kamancha performance. Launched by AGBU France in 2006, the Sayat Nova International Composition Competition is designed to introduce Armenian music, literature and history to a wider international audience by asking composers to submit compositions for an ensemble of Armenian and Western instruments that integrate Armenian poetry.

# THEATER COMPANIES

## Hagop Baronian Theatre Group (Melbourne)

In 2015, the Hagop Baronian Theatre Group in Melbourne gave a performance of Berge Zeytuntsyan's drama, *100 Years Later*. The play dramatizes a meeting between the grandson of a high-ranking Ottoman official and the grandson of the Armenian man who assassinated him. The theatre group also performed its core comedic productions, staging a comedy night with a new cadre of young actors and crew members.

## Krikor Satamian Theater Group (Pasadena)

In 2014, the Krikor Satamian Theater Group presented *The Flatterer*, a three-act comedy by renowned Armenian satirist Hagop Baronian, for seven performances with 18 cast and crew members. After the group's play production, the theater underwent a demolition and rebuilding process and that continued through 2015. In September 2015, the group held a jubilee celebration and concert in Pasadena in honor of composer Armen Mantagunian's 60-year career. Nearly 1,500 people attended the event recognizing the musician known for his symphonies, ballets, sonatas, albums and arrangements. Previously known as Ardavazt, the AGBU Krikor Satamian Theater Group was established in 1979 and was named after its artistic director in 2012.

## Malvina Manukyan Children's Theater Group (Plovdiv)

In 2015, the premiere of the Malvina Manukyan Children's Theater Group's performance of the 2009 Varujan Vosgian novel *The Book of Whispers* took place at the State Puppet Theater in Plovdiv, Bulgaria. *The Book of Whispers* is set in the Armenian quarter of the eastern Romanian town of Focșani in the 1950s, but travels through Armenian history, touching on the legends of Ara the Beautiful and Tigran the Great, the Armenian Genocide and Stalinist Armenia. Throughout the narrative, Vosgian addresses notions of individual and collective trauma, both past and present.

## Vahram Papazian Theater Group (Beirut)

In 2015, the Vahram Papazian Theater Group in Beirut staged a production of "Bidi Ella Bidi Chellar," a two-act, modern-day comedy. The performance, including a gala presentation in October 2015, was staged six times over the following two weekends. The production was under the direction of Vartan Meguerditchian and featured both first-time and experienced actors. The Vahram Papazian Theater Group was founded in 1959 by a group of AGBU-AYA members.





# TOURS

In 2014 and 2015, **Raffi Youredjian**, author of *Tour de Armenia*, conducted a 12-city tour of AGBU chapters, schools, Young Professionals (YP) groups and partner organizations. Youredjian visited cities throughout Europe and North America to present his book and share stories about his experience. *Tour de Armenia* is a lively account of Youredjian's 1,000-kilometer bicycle trip through Armenia in search of adventure and identity. During his trip, Youredjian stopped in Etchmiadzin and Shushi as well as in dozens of smaller towns and villages, including Spitak, Jermuk, Alaverdi, Haghpat, Sevan and Martuni. Youredjian was inspired to write the book to show the vitality of Armenia and to propose a progressive way of thinking of Armenian identity that goes beyond the history of genocide.



In 2014, the **DEPOP Research Group**, in partnership with AGBU and the Kololian Foundation, presented the findings of its report entitled *The Depopulation Crisis in Armenia*. The tour, which drew hundreds of attendees in Beirut, Los Angeles, New York, Paris and Toronto, sparked a dialogue about emigration, demographic and socioeconomic challenges in Armenia and ideas to build a stronger future. The DEPOP group proposed several recommendations, including receiving help from the Armenian diaspora, investing in local businesses, micro-lending, promoting greater citizen involvement and strengthening civic institutions.



# CULTIVATING YOUTH

## BUILDING LIFE SKILLS FOR A BETTER FUTURE

### SUMMER & DAY CAMPS

Every summer, AGBU holds 12 day and overnight camps where hundreds of young Armenians develop new skills, make lasting friendships and deepen their understanding of their heritage.

#### Camp Nubar (New York, United States)

In 2014 and 2015, Camp Nubar welcomed over 600 youth from Armenia, Argentina, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, France, the United Kingdom and 14 states in the United States to its campgrounds in New York's Catskill Mountains. The camp also saw the 2014 groundbreaking and 2015 completion of a new outdoor pavilion donated by Greg and Meline Toufayan, Steven and Karen Nargizian,

and Kristine and Joe Casali in honor of their parents, Harry and Suzanne Toufayan. New to the camp in 2014 were chess and backgammon classes and in 2015 a hockey league was introduced. In both years, the campers enjoyed a wide array of activities, including archery, Armenian dance and language, canoeing, horseback riding, photography, swimming and tennis.

#### Colonie de Vacances (Haute-Savoie, France)

In 2014 and 2015, AGBU France District's Colonie de Vacances gathered over 160 youth combined from Armenia, France, the Island of Réunion, Russia, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States in the southern French mountainside of Haute-Savoie

for a three-week camping session. Campers shared their cultural heritage with their peers while participating in numerous activities, including Armenian music and dance classes, visual arts, rafting, soccer, tennis, swimming, horseback riding and hiking.

#### Camp Hayler (Sofia, Bulgaria)

During the 2014 camping season at Camp Hayler in Sofia, Bulgaria, 30 campers enjoyed numerous outdoor activities at Nezabravka Park and took day trips to sites, including the towns of Sopot and Karlovo. Campers also participated in Armenian language classes in partnership with the Armenian Virtual College and welcomed

special guests, including Nelly Matevosyan, councilor at the Armenian Embassy in Bulgaria, and Arsen Mikayelian, consul at the Armenian Embassy in Romania. In 2015, 38 campers from Bulgaria and Romania attended the camp. New activities included hikes, morning yoga and a ropes course.

## Camp Hayler (Plovdiv, Bulgaria)

In 2014, 70 campers across Bulgaria attended the third year of AGBU Plovdiv's Camp Hayler, participating in talent shows, arts and crafts classes and sports. Campers also listened to a presentation by Aharon Kochiyan who discussed his 2005 expedition to Turkey and Armenia. In 2015, 65 children from Bulgaria, Russia and the

United Kingdom attended the camp. Campers participated in the Camp Olympic Games as well as Armenian and Bulgarian comedic productions of *Romeo and Juliet*. During both 2014 and 2015 sessions, Father Hrach Muradyan also presented a lecture series about the Armenian church and faith.

## Demirdjian Summer Day Camp (Beirut, Lebanon)

In 2014, the Demirdjian Summer Day Camp introduced new activities for its 150 campers: Lego Education workshops in robotics and professional photography lessons provided by the Nikon School. The theme to the camp's session was Queens and Kings of Armenia, during which campers learned about their heritage, including interesting historic facts about Tigran the Great and Queen Zabel, among other royal figures. In 2015, the camp hosted a record

number of 180 attendees from Lebanon and overseas. During the end-of-season fiesta, the camp and its volunteers were recognized by the Beirut Marathon Association for their efforts in volunteering at the Farqa Club Race. Over 330 children from Lebanon, Belgium, Canada, the Gulf States, France, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Thailand, the United Arab Emirates, the United States and Uruguay attended the Demirdjian Summer Day Camp in 2014 and 2015.

## Pasadena Summer Day Camp (California, United States)

In 2014, the Pasadena Day Camp provided a nurturing atmosphere for 60 Armenian children. A broad array of activities included arts and crafts, chess, cooking, dance, music, sports and theater. Campers also attended Armenian studies classes, were offered enrichment opportunities for English and math and took day trips

to the Pasadena Police Department and California Science Center. In 2015, campers participated in a full range of activities, including sports, music, dance, arts and crafts, Armenian culture sessions, cooking, chess and field trips to museums and the theater.

## 2014-15 AGBU Camps

Antranik Scout Camp (Vanadzor, Armenia) • Camp Hayler (Sofia, Bulgaria) • Camp Hayler (Plovdiv, Bulgaria) • Camp Nubar (New York, USA) • Colonia de Vacaciones (Buenos Aires, Argentina) • Colonia de Vacaciones (Córdoba, Argentina) • Colonie de Vacances (Haute-Savoie, France) • Demirdjian Summer Day Camp (Beirut, Lebanon) • Kessab Camp (Kessab Syria) • Pasadena Summer Day Camp (Pasadena, USA)

## ATHLETICS

Through AGBU's many sports leagues and athletic competitions, Armenian youth around the world learn the fundamentals of fitness and sportsmanship, which serve them well on and off the field.

### South American Games

In 2014, AGBU's South American chapters—Buenos Aires, Córdoba, Montevideo and São Paulo—gathered in Montevideo, Uruguay for the annual AGBU South American Games. The event welcomed Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan during his official state visit to Uruguay. More than 150 athletes competed in backgammon, men's basketball, chess, soccer, men's table tennis and women's volleyball. In 2015, the 35<sup>th</sup> edition of the AGBU South American Games was hosted in Córdoba, Argentina. More than 250 youth and young adults participated in the games from AGBU's four South American chapters. The AGBU South American Games were first held in Córdoba in 1972.

### 6<sup>th</sup> Pan Armenian Summer Games & Yerevan Half Marathon

Representatives from AGBU chapters and districts from around the world participated in the 6<sup>th</sup> Pan Armenian Summer Games in 2015. Over 6,300 athletes from 175 cities in 35 countries participated in 17 sports in Yerevan, Abovyan, Vanadzor and Stepanakert. Over 340 gold, silver and bronze medals were awarded to top athletes and teams during the games. Hermine Duzian, AGBU Diaspora Youth Programs coordinator and member of the International Committee of Pan Armenian Games, was one of several individuals acknowledged by the President of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan for active participation, planning and coordinating of the games.

In 2015, AGBU Antranik Scouts participated in the first Yerevan Half Marathon. The race, which included 1-kilometer, 5-kilometer, 10-kilometer and the 21-kilometer runs, was organized as part of the Erebuni-Yerevan celebrations to help draw sports tourism to Armenia while encouraging a healthy lifestyle. Anna Sharoyan, an AGBU New York Summer Internship Program (NYSIP) and Yerevan Summer Internship Program (YSIP) alumna, co-organized the race, which drew participants from around the world.



### Discover Armenia

In 2014 and 2015, nearly 100 young Armenians from around the world, including Armenia, Canada, the Dominican Republic, France, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Russia, Syria, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States, gathered in Armenia to participate in the Discover Armenia program. The 2014 participants built a new home for a local family through the Fuller Center for Housing, helped serve retirees at the AGBU Senior Dining Centers, spent time with children in orphanages, attended folk song and dance classes at the AGBU Nork Children's Center and visited landmarks in Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh. In 2015, participants built a house for a family in need in the village of Pokr Vedi, visited orphanages in Vanadzor and Tsaghkadzor and took a trip to Nagorno-Karabakh, including to the Children's Library in Stepanakert to provide books for the children and youth of the city. For 12 years, the Discover Armenia program has allowed youth ages 15 to 18 to form lifelong bonds with their global peers and return home with a greater sense of responsibility toward their Armenian community through a strong emphasis on community service.



# BRINGING ARMENIA

## Arménie, Terre de Vie

In 2015, 37 volunteers of Armenian and non-Armenian descent traveled to Armenia for one month as part of the third biennial Arménie, Terre de Vie program. During their stay, participants completed the renovation of three rooms—an art classroom, a gymnasium and a changing room—at the AGBU Malatya Children’s Center in Yerevan, begun by program participants in 2013. They also held dental hygiene workshops for children at the center and at the Diramayr Hayastani Camp for Orphans in Tsaghkadzor. Founded in 2011, Arménie, Terre de Vie, is a humanitarian program organized by the UGAB Jeunes (AGBU Youth) division of AGBU France. The program aims to introduce diasporan and French-Armenian youth to Armenia through participating in the reconstruction of the country and coming to the aid of the needy.

## Youth Trips to Armenia

It has become a tradition for AGBU schools from around the world to send their students to Armenia every year. For many of these pupils, the trip is their first time visiting the land of their ancestors and seeing everything they have learned about Armenia. In addition to sightseeing and learning more about AGBU’s efforts in Armenia, students participate in community service, such as planting trees with TUMO Center for Creative Technologies students for the Armenia Tree Project; serving meals at an AGBU Senior Dining Center; and spending a day with children at the Trchunyan Orphanage in Gyumri.

AGBU institutions whose students traveled to Armenia include: AGBU Alex and Marie Manoogian School (Southfield, Michigan), 2015; AGBU Marie Manoogian Institute (Buenos Aires), 2014-2015; AGBU Manoogian-Demirdjian School (Canoga Park, California), 2014-2015; AGBU Tarouhy-Hovagimian School (Sin El Fil, Lebanon), 2014-15; AGBU Vatche and Tamar Manoukian School (Pasadena, California), 2014-2015.



AGBU scout groups place an emphasis on leadership, community service and respect for others. Those core principles were forged in the first scout groups in Egypt, Lebanon and Syria in the 1940s and expanded in Argentina, Armenia, Canada, Iraq, Lebanon, Syria, Uruguay and the United States. All AGBU scout groups engage participants in activities, including outdoor skills, educational talks and lectures, and Armenian community events.

### **AYA Antranik Scouts**

In 2014, AYA boy scouts and rovers from the Antranik Antelias and Antranik Sevan chapters were awarded six medals during the 6th Goodwill Games competition organized by the Scouts du Liban Association in Cornet Chahwan, Lebanon. The Antranik Scouts and Rovers won four gold medals, one silver and one bronze in ping pong, long jump, and the 100-meter sprint. AGBU Antranik also participated in the annual Beirut International Marathon both as race-day volunteers and runners. In 2015, members of the Antranik

Scout group volunteered at Beirut's BankMed Youth Race, the first youth race in the Middle East. AYA Antranik scouts cheered on the 6,000 runners in the last leg of the race and distributed medals, gift bags and water after they crossed the finish line. In 2014 and 2015, the scouting troop also held their annual camping sessions as more than 250 members from each chapter gathered for 15 days of scout activities each year. Over 600 scouts are members of the AYA Antranik Scouts.





## Antranik Scout Camp

In 2014 and 2015, the Antranik Scout Camp—the first AGBU camp in Armenia—brought together over 400 combined AGBU boy and girl scouts from Armenia, Georgia, Lebanon, Syria, the United Arab Emirates and the United States in Armenia’s scenic Lori region during the summer season. The camps gave the diasporan Armenian and local Armenian youth the opportunity to meet and share experiences during the camp’s seventh and eighth seasons. In 2014, the Hayartoun Youth Organization from Tbilisi, AGBU Yerevan Scouts and Syrian Armenians from Aleppo, Damascus and Kamishli as well as those seeking refuge in Armenia attended the camp. Campers also visited the AGBU Vahe Karapetian Center and the TUMO Center for Creative Technologies and watched a performance of the AGBU Nork Children’s Center’s performing arts students. The 2015 camp season was centered around the theme of the Armenian Genocide centenary. In addition to usual camp activities, campers again visited the TUMO Center for Creative Technologies and the AGBU Nork Children’s Center and attended performances by Armenia’s Kohar Choir. Since 2008, more than 2,000 boys and girls from affiliated AGBU youth chapters and groups have participated in the Antranik Scout Camp.

## Glendale-Pasadena Scouts

In 2014, the Glendale-Pasadena Scouts developed a record number of leaders in the group’s 30-year history. Twenty-six new leaders advanced in rank during the troop’s annual week-long camping trip. During the week, more than 100 scouts from all scout ranks participated in camping and pioneering activities, including hiking and swimming, and learning more about their Armenian heritage. In 2015, over 50 scouts attended the annual camping trip. The scouts also attended a white-water rafting trip. Over 120 youth and young adult leaders participate in the Glendale-Pasadena Scouts.

## AYA San Fernando Valley Scouts

In 2014, the AYA San Fernando Valley Scouts held a Boy Scouts Court of Honor for the first time to elevate six young men to the prestigious Eagle rank, the highest recognition in the Boy Scouts. More than 150 people witnessed the special ceremony, including local representatives of the Boy Scouts of America. In 2015, 24 boy and girl scouts were part of the AGBU Antranik Scouts Camp in Armenia, the first time the AYA San Fernando Valley Scouts group participated in the event. Established in 1985, the AYA San Fernando Valley Scouts boasts 70 boy and girl scouts.



# CHAPTERS & DISTRICTS

STRENGTHENING  
OUR GLOBAL NATION





# AFRICA & THE MIDDLE EAST



## EGYPT

**ALEXANDRIA**  
Youth (HMEM Nubar Sports Club)  
**CAIRO**  
*Deghegadou Quarterly*  
Dziadzan Children's Choir  
Youth (HMEM Nubar Sports Club)  
**HELIOPOLIS**

## ETHIOPIA

**ADDIS ABABA**

## SOUTH AFRICA

**JOHANNESBURG**

## CYPRUS

**LARNACA**  
**NICOSIA**  
Youth (Ararat Futsal Team)

## IRAN

**TEHRAN**  
Marie Manoogian School  
Nevart Gulbenkian School  
Paros Theater Group  
Youth (AYA Scouts, Sports & Youth Groups)  
YP Tehran

## IRAQ

**BAGHDAD**  
AYA Ohan Choir  
Yerchanik Tajirian Summer School  
Youth (AYA Ohan Sports, Scouts & Youth Groups)

## LEBANON DISTRICT

**AMANOS/ANTELIAS/BEIRUT/SIN EL-FIL**  
Asbeds  
AYA Antranik (Arine) Dance Ensemble  
AYA Lebanon e-Newsletter  
Boghos K. Garmirian School  
Demirdjian Center Day Camp  
*Khosnag Quarterly*  
Levon G. Nazarian School  
Medical Dispensaries  
Tarouhy-Hovagimian School  
Vahram Papazian Theater Group  
Youth (AYA Antranik Sports, Scout and Youth Groups)  
YP Lebanon  
**TRIPOLI**  
Youth (AYA Antranik)  
**ZAHLE**  
Youth (AYA Antranik)

## SYRIA DISTRICT

**ALEPPO**  
Aram Khachaturian Conservatory  
AYA Antranik Dance Ensemble  
AYA Big Band  
AYA Marching Band  
AYA Spendarian Choir  
Bedros Attamian Theater Group  
Gomidas Chamber Orchestra  
*Hayatsk Quarterly*  
Lazar Najarian-Calouste Gulbenkian School  
Pountch Children's Dance Ensemble  
Mardiros Sarian Academy  
Youth (AYA Antranik Scouts & Sports)  
**DAMASCUS**  
Gullabi Gulbenkian School  
Yeram Newsletter  
Youth (AYA Arakadz)  
**KAMISHLI**  
Youth (AYA Scouts)  
**KESSAB**  
Kessab Camp  
**LATAKIA**

## TURKEY

**ISTANBUL**  
UTI (Partnership)

## UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

**DUBAI**  
YP UAE

## CYPRUS

**LARNACA:** In 2015, AGBU Larnaca hosted a number of lectures that focused on notable Armenians and Armenian history from the 20<sup>th</sup> century. That year, the chapter hosted a presentation on Soviet Armenian scientist and astrophysicist Victor Hambartsumyan at the AGBU Armenian Cultural Center. Guest speakers George Troullias, director of the Kition Planetarium and Observatory in Larnaca, and colleague Alexander Prokofiev, highlighted Hambartsumyan's many discoveries and achievements, including his founding of the Byurakan Observatory in Armenia in 1946. Also that year, the chapter welcomed Armenian Cypriot Kevork Zeytounian to lecture on the history of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Zeytounian, a researcher of Armenian history, delivered his talk to over 40 members of Larnaca's two Rotary Clubs.



## CYPRUS (continued)

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**NICOSIA:** In 2014, AGBU Nicosia celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary with an evening full of speeches, tributes and performances. Hampig Mardirossian, the editor of AGBU Lebanon's *Khosnag Quarterly*, delivered a speech outlining the history of AGBU both in Cyprus and internationally, highlighting AGBU's various humanitarian aid campaigns that assist Iraqi and Syrian Armenians and foster educational and healthcare development in Nagorno-Karabakh. Also during the celebration, the Sourp Asdvadzadzin Church Children's Choir and two local young musicians performed a number of vocal and instrumental songs. The event also honored members who have served the AGBU Nicosia community for more

than fifty years and concluded with a reception for guests who commemorated the milestone. Also in 2014, over 60 youth learned the value of caring for the environment by planting new trees on the AGBU Nicosia Center property. The trees, which the children water once a week before arts and crafts classes, were planted in memory of Tony Kassardjian, a dedicated AGBU volunteer. In 2015, the AGBU Nicosia Ararat Futsal Club honored one of its former members, Alik Sarkisyan, after a match against the Armenian National Futsal Team. Sarkisyan, who played with AGBU Nicosia Ararat for two years as its top scorer, was the Armenian national team's assistant coach.

## EGYPT

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**CAIRO:** In 2014, AGBU Cairo partnered with Alexandria's Museum of Fine Arts to help identify 13 works of art by Egyptian Armenian artists found in the museum's storage. Artist Hrant Keshishian assisted the museum with the cataloging process. Also that year, the chapter launched its hybrid chess classes through the Armenian Virtual College-AGBU Chess Certification program. The new initiative drew much interest from children and teenagers as 15 students enrolled in the inaugural class. AGBU Cairo continued its participation in the Armenian Virtual College-AGBU Chess Certification program in 2015 with ten students and four teachers

earning certificates upon completion. In 2015, AGBU Egypt permanently moved its headquarters from downtown Cairo to the suburb of Heliopolis. The chapter continued to serve the residents of Cairo through offices at the Armenian Patriarchate. Additionally that year, AGBU Egypt reprinted *Armenians in Egypt in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century* by Dr. Mohamed Refaat Al Imam. The comprehensive 506-page book examines the Armenian presence in Egypt during the 1800s, including their immigration to Egypt and future role in Egyptian politics and society.

## IRAQ

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**BAGHDAD:** AGBU Iraq stayed active by administering humanitarian assistance to fellow Iraqi Armenians as it provided moral support and financial assistance to 353 Armenians who were forced to leave Mosul and those residing in the regions of Erbil and Nineveh in 2014 and 2015. In 2014, the chapter celebrated the 300<sup>th</sup> birthday

of Armenian troubadour Sayat Nova with a dance performance by AGBU youth. In 2015, AGBU Iraq commemorated the centenary of the Armenian Genocide with a cultural remembrance day. As part of the tribute, the chapter screened the films *The Cut*, *The Lark Farm* and *Ararat*, whose plots all involve the Armenian Genocide.

## LEBANON DISTRICT

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In 2014, AGBU Lebanon's *Khosnag Quarterly* celebrated its 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a performing arts event. AGBU-AYA Lebanon chair Viken Tchertchian and current editor Hampig Mardirossian presented former editors Aram Karamanoukian and Aram Septejian with plaques for their contributions. Also that year, a fundraising art exhibit was presented by the Lebanon Cultural Committee with auction proceeds benefiting AGBU Lebanon Schools. Dozens of paintings by world-renowned artists, ranging in style from impressionism to surrealism to cubism, were donated by Dr. Movses Herkelian, owner of Noah's Ark Gallery in Beirut and a former AGBU scholarship recipient. In the same year, AGBU-AYA Lebanon organized a seminar on educating the next generation of AGBU members about the organization's mission. Additionally, AGBU Lebanon District also held a chess tournament for diplomats, dedicated to the 85<sup>th</sup> birthday of late chess world champion and grandmaster Tigran Petrosian. The Embassy of the Republic of Armenia in Lebanon and Lebanese Chess Federation collaborated to organize the event.

In 2015, AGBU Lebanon participated in a variety of arts and culture events in the country. The chapter partnered with Beirut Design Week to form the HARUR networking platform. HARUR showcased talent to strengthen creative economies, develop entrepreneurship and promote Lebanon's innovative culture. During the Beirut Design Week, AGBU Lebanon displayed the artwork of internationally renowned artists, who donated the proceeds from the sale of their pieces to the chapter to promote artistic projects. AGBU Lebanon also co-organized a performance by the Armenian National Philharmonic Orchestra, the National Chamber Choir of Armenia and the Hover Chamber Choir dedicated to the centenary of the Armenian Genocide at the 2015 Beiteddine Art Festival in the Chouf Mountains in Lebanon.



On August 8, 2015, over 2,000 guests attended the Beiteddine Art Festival to enjoy performances by the Armenian National Philharmonic Orchestra, the National Chamber Choir of Armenia and the Hover Chamber Choir.

## SYRIA

**ALEPPO:** In 2015, AGBU Aleppo commemorated two milestones for two of its educational institutions. The chapter held a celebration for the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the AGBU Lazar Najarian-Calouste Gulbenkian School, which was attended by current and former students and included an artistic and musical program. Additionally, the AGBU Aleppo Mardiros Sarian Academy celebrated its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a three-day exhibition titled

Aleppo: Troublesome Days to showcase drawings and paintings by the academy's students. The presentation took place at the National Center of Aesthetics in Yerevan. Founded in 1955, the Mardiros Sarian Academy has continued to hold classes despite the upheaval and social unrest in Aleppo in part to create a sense of normalcy for the children.

**DAMASCUS:** In 2015, AGBU Syria District Committee chair Nerses Nersoyan met with AGBU Damascus and AYA executive committee members to express his appreciation for the chapter's work in the community and school during the Syrian conflict. At another event, the Republic of Armenia's Ambassador to Syria Arshak Poladyan presented his book *Eyewitnesses of the Genocide* as part of the chapter's Armenian Genocide centenary commemoration.

The book contained memoirs of Syrians who witnessed the genocide as well as photos and evidence of the atrocities. Also on the occasion of the centenary of the Armenian Genocide, AGBU Damascus and the Armenian community held a candlelight vigil and marched to the newly named Armenian Martyrs' Square in the heart of the Syrian capital; and the AGBU Damascus Youth Committee held a youth forum on the legal context of the genocide.

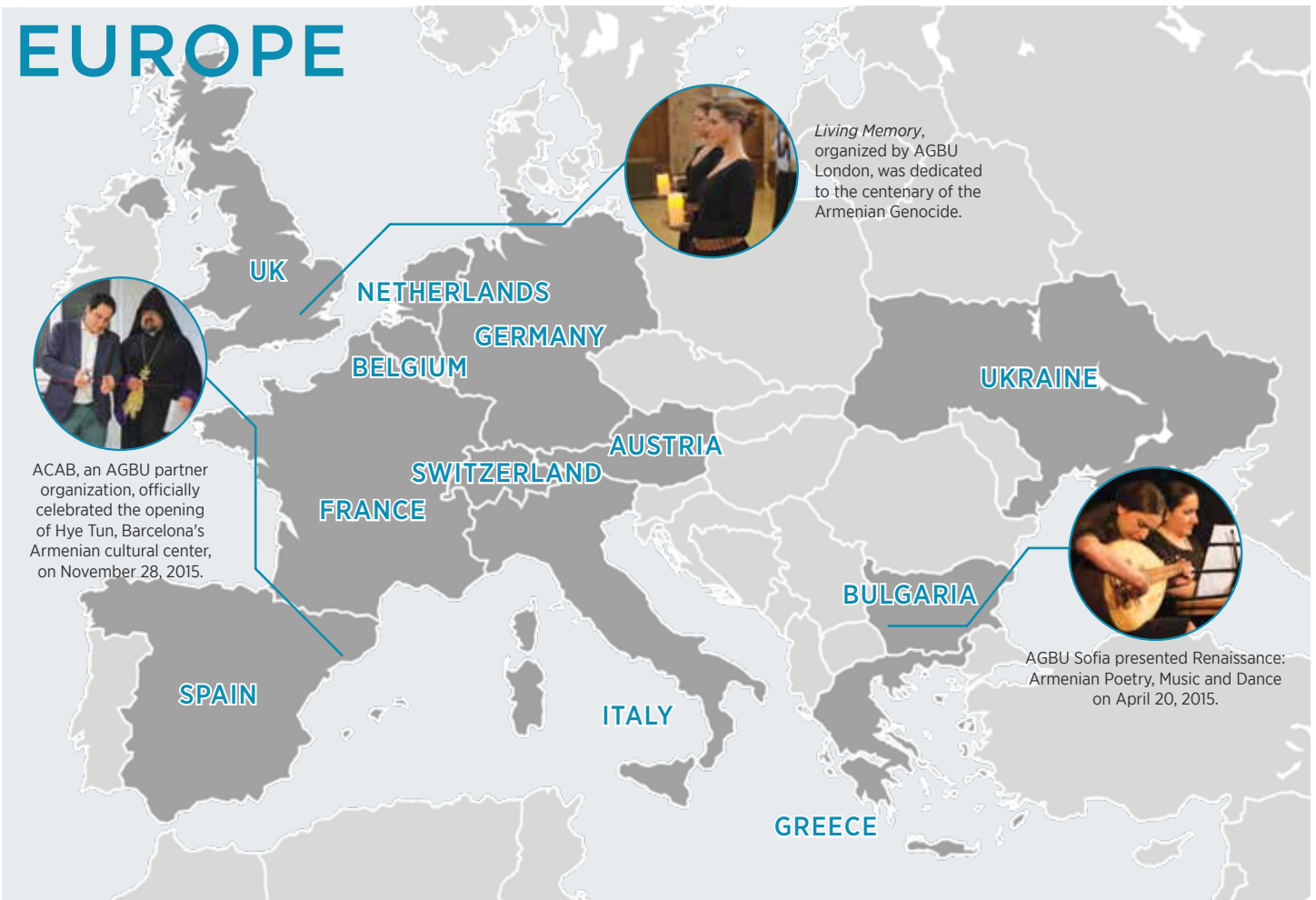
**KAMISHLI:** In 2014, AGBU Kamishli commemorated the 99<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Armenian Genocide with a screening of late French-Armenian director Henri Verneuil's film *Mayrig* and joined other local Armenian organizations in a joint memorial. AGBU Kamishli also held a New Year's Eve party for families and children who found safety in the city. In 2015, the AGBU Kamishli Women's Committee held a Mother's Day celebration, drawing over 220 people. The women's committee remained committed to

having an active calendar of events at the AGBU Kamishli Karnig Yacoubian Center, despite the region's instability. The chapter also prepared and distributed 150 aid packages and provided health services to more than 85 people who had been affected by the war. Once again in 2015, AGBU Kamishli held a festive New Year's Eve party for families and children who settled in the city during the Syrian conflict.

**LATAKIA:** In 2015, AGBU Latakia organized a commemoration of the Armenian Genocide entirely in Arabic for the first time in its history.

AGBU-AYA youth members conceived the idea to include the city's larger Arabic-speaking community in the commemoration.

# EUROPE



ACAB, an AGBU partner organization, officially celebrated the opening of Hye Tun, Barcelona's Armenian cultural center, on November 28, 2015.



*Living Memory*, organized by AGBU London, was dedicated to the centenary of the Armenian Genocide.



AGBU Sofia presented *Renaissance: Armenian Poetry, Music and Dance* on April 20, 2015.

## AUSTRIA

**VIENNA**  
Garod Dance Ensemble  
YP Austria

## BELGIUM

**BRUSSELS**  
AGBU Europe Office  
YP Belgium

## BULGARIA

**BURGAS**  
**DOBRICH**  
**HASKOVO**  
Prof. Krikor Azaryan Theater Group  
Saturday School  
**PLOVDIV**  
*AGBU Voice*  
Camp Hayler  
Erebuni Musical Ensemble  
Malvina Manukyan Children's Theater Group  
Saturday School  
Youth  
YP Plovdiv  
**ROUSSE**  
**SILISTRA**  
**SLIVEN**  
**SOFIA**  
Camp Hayler  
Chamber Orchestra  
Nur Dance Ensemble  
Youth  
YP Sofia  
**YAMBOL**  
Aravod Choir

## FRANCE DISTRICT

**LYON**  
Armenian Radio Program  
Youth  
YP Lyon Rhône-Alpes  
**MARSEILLE**  
Youth  
YP Marseille  
**NICE-CÔTE D'AZUR**  
**PARIS**  
Ahazank Theater Group  
Alex Manoogian Saturday School  
Colonie de Vacances  
Goriz Leadership Program  
Koghtan Choir  
Nubarian Library  
*Études arméniennes contemporaines*  
Youth (Union Sportif Nubar, Jeunes & Les Zanims)  
YP Paris  
**ST. CHAMOND/ST. ÉTIENNE**  
Youth  
**VALENCE**  
Youth  
**VIENNE**  
Wednesday School  
Youth

## GERMANY

**FRANKFURT**  
HAIK (Partnership)  
**HAMBURG**  
YP Hamburg

## GREECE

**ATHENS**  
Artaki Kalpakian School  
Youth  
YP Athens

## ITALY

**MILAN**

## NETHERLANDS

**ALMELO**  
**AMSTERDAM**  
YP Amsterdam

## SPAIN

**BARCELONA**  
Asociació Cultural Armenia de Barcelona (ACAB) (Partnership)

## SWITZERLAND

**GENEVA**  
YP Geneva

## UKRAINE

**KIEV**

## UNITED KINGDOM

**LONDON**  
London Summer Internship Program (LSIP)  
YP London



*His Holiness Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians, speaking at an AGBU Central Board meeting in London on February 1, 2014. © Raffi Youredjian Photography*

In 2014, a petition initiated by AGBU Europe, DurDe!, the European Grassroots Antiracist Movement (EGAM), and İnsan Hakları Derneği (İHD) calling for recognition of the Armenian Genocide in Turkey drew thousands of signatures. Newspapers across Europe published the petition. It marked the second year AGBU joined forces with local human rights groups in support of the cause.

In 2015, AGBU Europe organized a remembrance event on the eighth anniversary of the assassination of Turkish-Armenian journalist Hrant Dink. The event—hosted by European Parliament member Frank Engel—took place at the European Parliament in Brussels. The ceremony was the first European event to take place as part of Armenian Genocide centenary commemorative events that year. In the same year, AGBU Europe, the European Union of Jewish Students and Phiren Amenca jointly launched their groundbreaking project A Europe of Diasporas with a three-day seminar

in Paris. The event brought together 40 activists, academics and specialists from 15 countries to compare experiences between the Armenian, Jewish and Roma diasporas in Europe. A Europe of Diasporas was made possible by a grant from the Europe for Citizens Programme of the European Union and aims to help develop, affirm and popularize the notion of European diasporas and encourage the idea that identities need not be tied to a territory or to a source of authority to be legitimate and valuable. The second seminar in the A Europe of Diasporas series, Diasporas' Heritage and Remembrance, brought together 33 Armenian, Jewish and Roma academics in Budapest later in 2015. The seminar provided an opportunity to draw the wider public into the conversation about the European diaspora. The project also involved raising awareness about the presence of the Armenian, Jewish and Roma diasporas in Europe through a website and an app for smartphones.



A EUROPE OF  
DIASPORAS



Beginning in 2015, AGBU Europe, the European Union of Jewish Students and Phiren Amenca held a series of seminars called A Europe of Diasporas, bringing together activists, academics and specialists from multiple countries to compare experiences between the Armenian, Jewish and Roma diasporas in Europe.



## AUSTRIA

**VIENNA:** In 2014, YP Austria established a new leadership committee. The group organized several activities, including an intensive Armenian-German language class and a roundtable

discussion series titled We-the Diaspora, which analyzed a number of topics, including how to produce a strong and sustainable Armenian diaspora.

## BULGARIA

**PLOVDIV:** In 2015, the Union of Bulgarian Journalists honored AGBU Plovdiv's newspaper *AGBU Voice* at the National House of Culture in Sofia. The 11-year-old publication earned the award for excellence in journalism, photojournalism, and graphic design to publications, broadcasts and socially conscious journalists. In the same year, the chapter's Erebuni Musical Ensemble group performed three times, including at a concert in tribute to AGBU Plovdiv honorary chair and band founder Agop Daydzhanyan.

**SOFIA:** In 2015, AGBU Sofia commemorated the centenary of the Armenian Genocide with a series of artistic and cultural programs with the participation of Armenian and non-Armenian organizations to highlight the survival of the Armenian community in Bulgaria. Among the events was a presentation of Armenian poetry, music and dance at the Modern Theater in Sofia and a selection of music and poetry at a concert entitled Waft of Armenia. A charity ball was also held in 2015 to fundraise for the AGBU Humanitarian Emergency Relief Fund for Syrian Armenians. Items were auctioned off with proceeds going to the relief fund.



*On November 28, 2015, AGBU Sofia held a charity ball at the Sheraton Sofia Balkan Hotel.*



*AGBU Plovdiv hosts a reading of Armenian writers in April 2015.*



A concert titled *Génocide arménien 100 ans de mémoire* was held in Paris on April 21, 2015.  
© UGAB France – Vincent Pontet

## FRANCE DISTRICT

**LYON:** In 2015, AGBU Lyon hosted ten cultural events, including concerts, conferences with Turkish representatives and exhibitions, including *Génocide arménien-en quête de mémoire* (Armenian Genocide: In Search of Memory). The exhibition, held in collaboration

with the We Report collective of independent reporters, gathered various photographs shot in Turkey while journalists followed nine French Armenians who were visiting the country for the first time.

**MARSEILLE:** In 2014, AGBU Marseille organized a trip to Armenia, which included sightseeing and volunteering events. The chapter visited the Madenataran and the Armenian Genocide Memorial, among other sites, and spent a day volunteering at the Gavar Orphanage. In 2015, the chapter held a performing arts event entitled *Éternels* at the Palais de Congrès in Marseille, which

was spearheaded by AGBU Marseille chair Patrick Malakian. Sixty young artists from the AGBU Nork Children's Center in Armenia performed in the musical, whose theme centered around resistance and lyricism. The performers opened the program with verses from the poetry of Hovhannes Shiraz, which set the tone for the performance.

**PARIS:** In 2014, YP Paris hosted an event with Burgot Arnaud, CEO of the crowdfunding company Ulule, who discussed the platforms where investors contribute individually to finance a project collectively. YP Paris used Ulule to raise funds to finance the Earth Life Armenian 2013 project that aimed to meet local educational, health and environmental needs in Nagorno-Karabakh. In 2015, the AGBU Nubarian Library's multidisciplinary journal *Études*

*arméniennes contemporaines* launched its website, becoming the first Armenian studies journal published both in print and electronically. The library also contributed to a 2015 issue of the magazine *L'Histoire*, a reference text for the wider French public and the educational community, and participated in organizing an exhibition at the Hôtel de Ville in Paris in commemoration of the centenary of the Armenian Genocide.

## GERMANY

**FRANKFURT:** In 2014 and 2015, AGBU HAIK continued its partnership by promoting cultural and philanthropic efforts in Germany and providing assistance to support the work of Armenian students and young professionals in the country. HAIK was founded in 2003 to provide a link between Armenian and German students and scholars with an academic network

to enhance the cultural and economic cooperation between Armenia and Germany. AGBU and HAIK began their partnership in 2006 at the AGBU Project Exchange & Development Seminar in Brussels, followed by the opening of the AGBU-HAIK office in 2008 in Frankfurt.

## ITALY

**MILAN:** In 2015, AGBU Milan hosted an art exhibit at the Casa Armenia in honor of the centenary of the Armenian Genocide. The event, which highlighted work by both Armenian and non-

Armenian artists, also featured a musical recital. Vera Yemenidjian-Astourian and AGBU Milan chair Gueguel Khatchadourian organized the event.



*AGBU Holland held a lecture titled "Is Armenia Moving Away from Europe? European Union - Armenia Relations: Progress, Challenges, and Prospects" with Hrant Kostanyan on February 8, 2014.*

## THE NETHERLANDS

**ALMELO:** In 2014, AGBU Holland hosted lectures dedicated to Armenia's current political status and past cultural history. Among them, Centre for European Studies associate research fellow Hrant Kostanyan from Brussels gave a speech titled European Union-Armenian Relations: Is Armenia Moving Away from Europe? The talk focused on Armenia's relations with the European Union (EU) since the collapse of the Soviet Union and the framework in which Armenia collaborates with the EU. Another presentation featured renowned historian Dr. Richard G. Hovannisian, who discussed Western Armenia with multimedia segments on the last Armenians in Dikranagerd (Diyarbakir) and the Armenian-speaking Hamshen people living along the Black Sea near the Turkish-Georgian border.

In 2015, the Holland chapter marked its fifth anniversary with a celebration coinciding with the anniversary of Armenia's independence from the Soviet Union. In the same year, AGBU Holland also held fundraisers in Almelo to benefit underprivileged Armenian children as part of its four-year partnership with the Dutch non-governmental PAX Kinderhulp and the organization's four-week program for 20 disadvantaged children from Vardenis, Armenia. The program is designed to introduce the children to Dutch culture and society. During their stay, the children, aged 8-12, resided with host families in Apeldoorn, the Netherlands, and participated in an array of cultural activities. Additionally, in 2015, the chapter gave a lecture by Khachik Balikjian, an Istanbul native, who detailed the history of the Armenian presence in the Netherlands, which originated in the 17th century as a merchant colony. In his presentation, Balikjian stated that Amsterdam became the most important outpost of Armenians from New Julfa, leading to the establishment of an Armenian Church in 1663.





The 20<sup>th</sup> Euro-Armenian Games was organized by ACAB and took place in Barcelona in April 2014.

## SPAIN

**BARCELONA:** In 2014, the Armenian Cultural Association of Barcelona (ACAB), an AGBU partner organization, organized and hosted the 20th Euro-Armenian Games. Over 550 athletes from 28 delegations, including Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Estonia, France, Germany, Italy, Lebanon, The Netherlands, Russia, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates and the United

Kingdom attended the two-day competition. In 2015, ACAB officially celebrated the opening of Hye Tun, Barcelona's Armenian cultural center. ACAB also operates an Armenian Saturday School and organizes educational and cultural activities, events and lectures to the Armenian community of Spain.

## UNITED KINGDOM

**LONDON:** In 2014, more than 150 Armenians from across the United Kingdom gathered in London, connecting key business and community leaders with promising young professionals. Several prominent Armenian world leaders, including AGBU President Berge Setrakian, were in attendance. The presentation introduced AGBU programs available to youth and young professionals,

including a film highlighting the organization's global activities. In 2015, the chapter hosted an evening of Armenian culture titled *Living Memory* in honor of the centenary of the Armenian Genocide. The event featured the exhibition *The Memory is Still Alive*, which showcased paintings and sculptures by artist Nairi Afrikyan and a series of concerts, dance recitals and poetry readings.



AGBU London presented A Concert Celebrating the Anniversary of the Birth of Aram Khachaturian on May 28, 2014.

# NORTH AMERICA



Former Foreign Minister of the Republic of Armenia Vartan Oskanian delivered a talk titled Armenia's Hopes and Challenges, Foreign and Domestic at the AGBU Vatche & Tamar Manoukian Center in Pasadena on October 10, 2014.



In February 2015, AGBU Toronto welcomed the Tekeyan Armenian Cultural Association's Hay Pem Theatre Troupe of Montréal for a performance of the play *Le malade imaginaire* [The Imaginary Invalid].



Sona Yacoubian, founder and chairperson of AGBU Hye Geen, speaks during the Hye Geen Young Circle conference on March 22, 2014.



Author Chris Bohjalian presented his novel *Close Your Eyes, Hold Hands* at the AGBU Central Office on July 11, 2014.

## CANADA

### MONTRÉAL

Alex Manoogian School  
Youth (Scouts, Scouts Marching Band & Sports)  
YP Montréal

### TORONTO

Youth (Sports & Youth)  
Youth Vocal Group  
YP Toronto

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

### ARIZONA

### CHICAGO

Sisag H. Varjabedian Saturday School  
YP Chicago

### CLEVELAND

### DETROIT

Alex & Marie Manoogian Charter School

### LAS VEGAS

### NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT

### BOSTON

YP Boston

### NEW YORK

AGBU Central Office  
AGBU e-Newsletter  
*AGBU Insider*  
*AGBU News Magazine*  
Antranig Dance Ensemble  
Camp Nubar  
FOCUS  
*Hoosharar Magazine*  
New York Special Events Committee (NYSEC)  
New York Summer Internship Program (NYSIP)  
United Nations Special Interest Group  
YP Greater New York (YPGNY)

### PHILADELPHIA

YP Philadelphia (YP Philly)

### SAN FRANCISCO

YP Northern California (YPNC)

### WESTERN DISTRICT

### FRESNO

### GLENDALE-PASADENA

Generation Next Mentorship Program  
Hye Geen

Hye Geen TV Program

Krikor Satamian Theater Group

Pasadena Day Camp

Vatche and Tamar Manoukian School

Youth (Scouts & Sports)

YP Los Angeles (YPLA)

### ORANGE COUNTY

Saturday School

YP Orange County (YPOC)

### SAN DIEGO

### SAN FERNANDO VALLEY

Asbeds

Manoogian-Demirdjian School

Youth (Scouts)

### SILICON VALLEY

Youth (Kids' Club)

### WASHINGTON, D.C.

YP Washington, D.C. (YPDC)

## CANADA

**MONTREAL:** In 2014, AGBU Performing Arts Fellowship recipient and mezzo-soprano Solange Merdianian performed a solo concert including selections ranging from Gomidas to Gershwin. In 2015, AGBU Montréal organized its annual Armenian Heritage Day in celebration of Armenian independence. The event brought together 400 guests to enjoy Armenian culture, art, music, dance and history with performances by students from the AGBU Alex Manoogian School. Additionally, AGBU Montréal launched a political action committee called the Canadian Armenian Political Affairs Committee (CAPAC), whose mission is to sensitize the broader Canadian community to human rights and humanitarian issues affecting Armenians worldwide. The chapter honored Canadian Member of Parliament (MP) Brad Butt with the AGBU Armenia Award. Butt received the award for his work in sponsoring Motion 587 (M-587) to designate April 24 as Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day in Canada. The Canadian Parliament unanimously adopted Motion 587 on April 24, 2015.

**TORONTO:** In 2014, Iona College Professor of Eastern European and Middle Eastern History Dr. George Bournoutian lectured on Russo-Iranian relations and the formation of the modern Armenian state. The lecture, which discussed the Armenian, Russian and Persian individuals involved in the transformation of the South Caucasus, was part of Dr. Bournoutian's promotion of his book *From Tabriz to St. Petersburg: Iran's Mission of Apology to Russia in 1829*. In the same year, AGBU Toronto and the Armenian community commemorated the seventh anniversary of Turkish-Armenian journalist Hrant Dink's assassination. The event featured guest speaker Turkish journalist, Hasan Cemal, the grandson of Cemal Pasha. The AGBU Piano Quartet made its Toronto debut at a concert co-sponsored by the AGBU New York Special Events Committee (NYSEC). AGBU Toronto youth also remained active, as young Armenians ages five to 15 performed in the annual Talent Show at the AGBU Alex Manoogian Cultural Center. Over 100 attendees witnessed the young talent display their performing arts skills ranging from piano playing to singing. The Toronto chapter continued to remain committed to the next generation of youth by sponsoring AGBU Kids in 2014. The monthly event gathered more than 50 kids for fun and educational activities. In 2015, the chapter again commemorated the anniversary of Dink's death with keynote speaker Fethiye Çetin, a human rights lawyer who represented Dink and investigated the perpetrators of his murder. At a separate event, AGBU Toronto partnered with the Hamazkayin Cultural Association, the Armenian Association of Toronto and the Bolsahye Cultural Association for a lecture on Matthew Karanian's new book *Historic Armenia: After 100 Years*. The book explores the provinces of Western Armenia through photographs, including churches and monasteries that have fallen victim to deliberate destruction, neglect and treasure hunters. AGBU Toronto also welcomed the Tekeyan Armenian Cultural Association's Hay Pem Theatre Troupe of Montréal for a performance of the play *Le malade imaginaire* (The Imaginary Invalid), a comédie-ballet by celebrated French playwright Molière.



AGBU Montreal participated in the commemoration of the centenary of the Armenian Genocide in April 2015.  
© Badger Photography

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

### CALIFORNIA

**WESTERN DISTRICT:** In 2015, the AGBU Western District came under new leadership with a dynamic board headed by new chair Talin Yacoubian. During that year, the Western District was instrumental in organizing and participating in all genocide centenary commemorative events in Los Angeles, culminating in Yacoubian's speech to a crowd of over 160,000 people in front of the Turkish Consulate. The Western District ended the year by hosting a gala

at the California Science Center's Samuel Oschin Pavilion under the Space Shuttle Endeavour. The gala honored two science students from the Manoogian-Demirdjian School and the Vatche and Tamar Manoukian High School with an award and scholarship. The event raised over \$150,000 for a new cadre of programs, including an initiative that will place local students in internships in the media and entertainment industries in the Los Angeles area.

**ASBEDS:** In 2014, the AGBU Asbeds hosted a lecture by His Grace Bishop Armash Nalbandian, Primate of the Diocese of Damascus. Bishop Nalbandian discussed the current condition of Syrian Armenians and acknowledged AGBU's contribution to supporting Armenians in Syria. The Asbeds also celebrated 100 Years of Armenian Americans in Los Angeles with an event at the Getty House, the official residence of Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti. The Asbeds further hosted an event titled Armenia's Hopes and Challenges, Foreign and Domestic, with Foreign Minister of the Republic of Armenia Vartan Oskanian. Among the topics discussed was the role of the diaspora in helping Armenia grow as a democratic nation. In 2015, the Asbeds sponsored a series of events titled What the World Witnessed a Century Ago at the Skirball Cultural Center in Los Angeles, in conjunction with the

Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute in Yerevan. Presentations included an exhibition titled Armenian Genocide: Front Page Coverage in the World Press, based on the book by Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute Director Dr. Hayk Demoyan; a lecture by Dr. Uğur Ümit Üngör titled The Economics of the Armenian Genocide and its Consequences; and a panel discussion on forcibly Islamized Armenians, featuring His Eminence Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Primate of the Western Diocese, and Raffi Bedrosyan, writer and advisor to the Zoryan Institute in Canada. The AGBU Asbeds provide a forum for Armenians to gather to discuss current issues concerning Armenian Americans and to participate in cultural, social and philanthropic activities aimed at enriching the Armenian community.



*Director of the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute Hayk Demoyan presents Elibet Kunzler, a member of a family that saved 8,000 orphans during the Armenian Genocide, with a medal.*



*Talin Yacoubian, chair of the AGBU Western District Committee, addresses the attendees.*

## WHAT THE WORLD WITNESSED A CENTURY AGO



*Dr. Uğur Ümit Üngör, associate professor of history at Utrecht University in The Netherlands, during his lecture titled The Economics of the Armenian Genocide and its Consequences.*



*The panelists with guest from the third night's lecture titled Forcefully Islamized Armenians, featuring Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Primate of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America, and writer Raffi Bedrosyan.*



*The AGBU Vatche & Tamar Manoukian Center in Pasadena opened its doors to the public on April 6, 2014 to raise awareness about AGBU's history, programs and volunteer opportunities.*

**HYE GEEN:** In 2014, the relationship between athletics and international affairs was the theme of the AGBU Hye Geen Young Circle conference, which brought together a panel of experts to discuss the sports industry, culture and the Armenian diaspora. The event, *Sports: Shaping a Nation: An Arena for Diplomacy, Business and Identity*, drew over 130 guests to Woodbury University in Burbank, California. AGBU Hye Geen also helped spearhead a collaboration with 12 other Armenian organizations in the Los Angeles area to honor the memory of the victims of the Armenian Genocide. With representatives from numerous Armenian organizations, the Armenian Women's Coalition of Los Angeles (AWC-LA) convened for the first time in 2014. The AWC-LA union of thirteen women's associations was launched by AGBU Hye Geen founder and president Sona Yacoubian as an all-inclusive tribute to

the role and spirit of Armenian women past, present and future. In 2015, Hye Geen hosted its first event discussing the role of women in resurrecting Armenian communities in the post-genocide era. Panel discussions were composed of Armenian Women's Leadership and Service in the Post-Genocide Period and during Regeneration, and New Avenues of Diaspora Existence. In the same year, Sarah Leah Whitson, executive director of the Middle East and the North Africa division of Human Rights Watch, presented a lecture focused on an overview of human rights issues in the Middle East. Hye Geen was established in 1994 in Los Angeles with the goal of both aiding and empowering women in Armenia and the diaspora through research, education and advocacy. Its Pregnant Women's Centers in Armenia, which bring free, high-quality pre- and post-natal care and counseling, are one of the group's flagship projects.



*Members of the AGBU Hye Geen Young Circle gather for their ninth annual conference, *Sports: Shaping a Nation: An Arena for Diplomacy, Business and Identity* on March 22, 2014.*



The second annual AGBU-AYA San Fernando Valley Dance Ensemble performance on May 19, 2014.

**SAN FERNANDO VALLEY:** In 2014, the AGBU San Fernando Valley chapter hosted a presentation on Western Armenian historical locations called *A Journey to the Summit of Ararat*, presented by its members. The chapter also honored outgoing longtime San Fernando Valley committee members. In 2015, the chapter welcomed Dr. Vahe Tachjian, who delivered a lecture on *Genocide Memories:*

*A Microhistory of Two Armenian Families.* The talk focused on the events of two families from 1915 to 1918. The chapter also hosted an Armenian Genocide centenary commemoration event attended by a number of local and state dignitaries and AGBU members. The evening included a candlelight vigil around a replica of the Dzidzernagapert monument.

**CHICAGO:** In 2014, AGBU Chicago hosted a lecture on writer Zabel Yessayan, the only woman targeted for death among the 250 intellectuals and leaders arrested on the eve of the Armenian Genocide. Yessayan, who escaped, wrote numerous important works

during her lifetime, including *The Gardens of Silihdar* and *My Soul in Exile*. Judith Saryan, the event's guest lecturer, spearheaded the books' translation into English.

**DETROIT:** In 2015, Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia Hovik Abrahamyan awarded AGBU Honorary Member, architect and philanthropist Osep Sarafian with a medal for his involvement

in Armenian communities worldwide and the development of Armenia. Over the years, Sarafian helped finance construction and renovation projects in Armenia through the AGBU Detroit chapter.

**NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT:** In 2014, the AGBU New England District held its fourth annual Thanksgiving Dinner for local area college and university students who were unable to return home for the holidays. The dinner offered the opportunity to network and discuss various topics and promote AGBU events in New England.

In 2015, the New England District held an Evening of Art and Jazz featuring internationally acclaimed painter, designer and architect Maria Kazaryan. The chapter also held monthly social gatherings and family events in cooperation with New England-area Armenian Students Association.



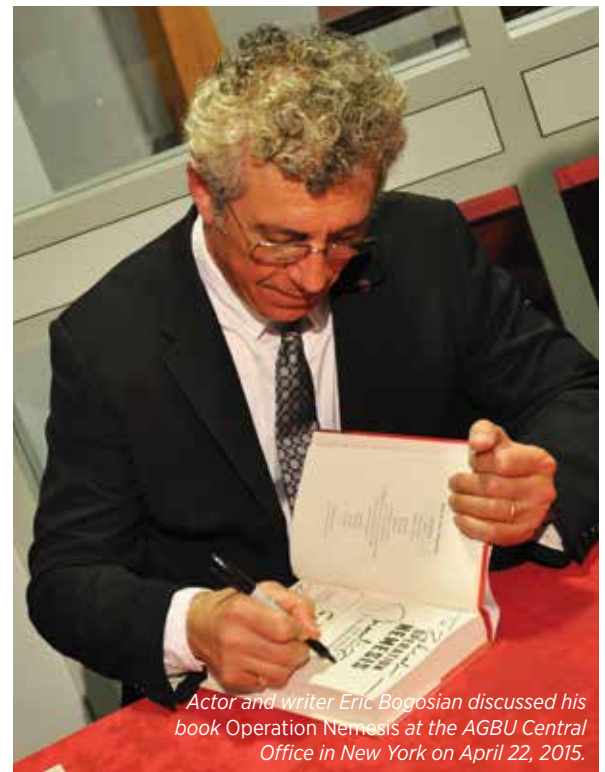
In New York, Spin-for-Syria raised nearly \$75,000 for the AGBU Humanitarian Emergency Relief Fund for Syrian Armenians

**NEW YORK:** In 2014, over 150 diplomats, NGO representatives, journalists, activists, educators, and students came together at the United Nations for a symposium entitled *Toward Preventing Genocide: Nations Acknowledging Their Dark History: Transforming Denial*, a forum co-sponsored by AGBU and the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Armenia to the United Nations, among other organizations. Speakers centered on the theme *A Century of Genocides, 1913-2013: Lessons Learned*, discussing genocide denial by Turkey. 2014 also saw writers and filmmakers present their works at the AGBU Central Office. Critically acclaimed author Chris Bohjalian presented his latest novel *Close Your Eyes, Hold Hands* at the AGBU Central Office as part of his promotional tour. Eric Nazarian screened his acclaimed short film *Bolis*, which won Best Short Film at the 2011 Arpa International Film Festival and screened for AGBU audiences in Lyon and Marseille. Five budding filmmakers, most of whom were AGBU Scholarship recipients, presented their short films at the *From Armenia to New York: An Evening with Young Armenian Filmmakers* event co-sponsored by AGBU and Columbia University. The filmmakers, Viktorya Aleksanyan (*Caregivers*), Ophelia Harutyunyan (*The Frame*), Eric Shahinian (*Justine*), Jesse Soursourian (*No Overture*) and Anahid Yahjian (*LEVON: A Wonderful Life*), discussed their films after the screening.



AGBU Ararat co-sponsored Matthew Karanian's presentation of his book *Historic Armenia After 100 Years* on March 12, 2015.

In 2015, AGBU joined Columbia University, the Armenian Center at Columbia University and the World Monuments Fund in sponsoring a day-long symposium titled *Monuments and Memory: Material Culture and the Aftermath of Histories of Mass Violence*. The multidisciplinary symposium drew on the expertise of specialists in history, comparative literature, art history, area studies, architecture and international affairs to assess whether the ethical issues concerning destroyed or appropriated material culture can have an impact on international policy surrounding restoration, restitution, and social justice. Also in 2015, writer and actor Eric Bogosian presented his new book *Operation Nemesis: The Assassination Plot that Avenged the Armenian Genocide* at the AGBU Central Office. Bogosian is the first writer to offer a complete history of Operation Nemesis, the plot to assassinate Armenian Genocide mastermind Talaat Pasha. Additionally, AGBU along with the Krikor and Clara Zohrab Information Center and the Department of Armenian Studies of the Diocese of the Armenian Church (Eastern), held a lecture with Ariane Ateshian Delacampagne about her book *Portraits of Survival: The Armenians of Bourj Hammoud*. The lecture showcased Delacampagne's collection of photographs that highlighted the shopkeepers, craftspeople and artists of Bourj Hammoud in northeast Beirut. Armen Masroobian also presented his latest book, *Fragments of a Lost Homeland: Remembering Armenia*, at the AGBU Central Office. The talk focused on the history of the Dildilian family, photographers during the late Ottoman period, throughout World War I and the Turkish War of Independence.



Actor and writer Eric Bogosian discussed his book *Operation Nemesis* at the AGBU Central Office in New York on April 22, 2015.



The AGBU Performing Arts Department organized 6 Short Films by Armenian Filmmakers in New York on November 20, 2015.

# SOUTH AMERICA

**ARGENTINA**  
**BUENOS AIRES**  
 Colonia de Vacaciones  
 Krikor Satamian Theater Group  
 Marie Manoogian Institute  
 Youth (Liga de Jóvenes, Antranik Scouts & Sports)  
 YP Buenos Aires  
**CÓRDOBA**  
 Ararat Dance Ensemble  
 Colonia de Vacaciones  
 Youth (Liga de Jóvenes & Sports)

**BRAZIL**  
**SÃO PAULO**  
 Youth (Sports)  
 YP Brazil

**URUGUAY**  
**MONTEVIDEO**  
 Erevan 50 Scout Band  
 Grung Choir  
 Nubarian-Manoogian School  
 Youth (Liga de Jóvenes & Sports)

In 2014, the Buenos Aires General Antranik Scout Group found a new home with the opening of the Didizian Center.

On November 24, 2015 the Nubarian School in Montevideo, Uruguay held its annual festival.

YP Brazil attended a lecture at LinkedIn Headquarters in São Paulo on April 8, 2014.



*Chef Sedrak Mamulyan took part in the Week of Armenian Cuisine, organized by the AGBU Buenos Aires Ladies Committee in September 2014.*



## ARGENTINA

**BUENOS AIRES:** In 2014, Buenos Aires' General Antranik Scout Group found a new home with the opening of the Didizian Center, funded by benefactors Haig and Elsa Didizian of London. The scout group was established in 1986 and includes over 60 youth in the troop today. In 2015, AGBU Buenos Aires held a mass at the Metropolitan Catholic Cathedral for Pope Francis in gratitude for the Roman Catholic pontiff's advocacy in recognizing the Armenian Genocide. The ceremony was presided over by Cardinal Mario Poli, Archbishop of Buenos Aires and was celebrated by

Armenian priests. The choir 100 Voces Para El Centenario (100 Voices for the Centenary), directed by Diana Kaprielian Sarafian and organized specifically for the commemorations, sang during the mass. The chapter also honored its Armenian heritage with its Week of Armenian Cuisine, welcoming hundreds of guests to sample the cooking of the AGBU Ladies Committee. Representatives of the embassies of Armenia, Georgia and Lebanon attended the festival. The event strives to preserve Armenian culinary traditions and customs.

**CÓRDOBA:** In 2014 and 2015, AGBU Córdoba regularly held its Restaurante Armenio (Armenian Restaurant) at the AGBU Center. Chapter members prepared typical Armenian dishes, which drew

hundreds of Córdoba residents. In 2015, the chapter celebrated Children's Day at the Berge Setrakian Center as a way to engage the local community in cultural and educational activities.



*AGBU Córdoba held Children's Day on August 28, 2015.*

## BRAZIL

**SÃO PAULO:** In 2014, AGBU São Paulo celebrated its 50th anniversary in the presence of 400 guests who came together to honor the organization, including His Excellency Ashot Galoyan, Ambassador of the Republic of Armenia to Brazil. During the celebration, Dr. Antranik Kassadjikian was named AGBU Man of the Year 2014. In 2015, the chapter donated proceeds from its anniversary celebration to the AGBU Humanitarian Emergency Relief Fund for Syrian Armenians. In the same year, through the

efforts of AGBU Brazil leadership, the Legislative Assembly of São Paulo adopted Motion 1266, calling April 24 the Day of Recognition and Remembrance of the Armenian Genocide. In recognition of the legislative motion, AGBU Brazil honored state representatives Fernando Capez, chair of the Legislative Assembly of São Paulo, and Pedro Tobias, author of the motion, at a reception at the Legislative Assembly of São Paulo.

## URUGUAY

**MONTEVIDEO:** In 2015, AGBU Montevideo, along with the Municipality of Montevideo, the Centro de Fotografía de la Intendencia de Montevideo and the Armenian Cultural Association of Uruguay, held a premiere of a photography exhibit titled A Cien Años del Genocidio, Uruguay y Los Armenios Hacen Historia (100 Years of Genocide, Uruguay and the Armenians Make History). The display documented 100 years of history of the Armenian community in Uruguay with photographs and historical records provided by families of immigrants. In the same year, AGBU

Montevideo commissioned Sebastian Beltrame, a renowned journalist and TV broadcaster in Uruguay, to travel with their delegation to the AGBU 88th General Assembly in Yerevan to film five programs about the Republic of Armenia, the centenary of the Armenian Genocide and AGBU. His program In Focus is widely honored and was declared of cultural interest by the Ministry of Education and Culture and of touristic interest by the Ministry of Tourism and Sports of Uruguay.

# AUSTRALIA



## MELBOURNE

Armenian Radio Program  
Nor Tsayn Newsletter  
Youth

## SYDNEY

Alexander Primary School  
Alex Manoogian Saturday School  
Mioutune Newsletter  
Tamzara Armenian Folk Dance Group  
Vahram Papazian Theatre Group  
Youth



On May 23, 2015, AGBU Sydney held the official launch of the Tamzara Armenian Folk Dance Group with an event at the AGBU Community Centre.



AGBU Melbourne held a theatre performance on May 3, 2014.



*The Azad Gharibian Dance Group during a performance at ArmeniaFest in Melbourne on April 4, 2015.*

## AUSTRALIA

**SYDNEY:** In 2014, AGBU Sydney contributed to the renovations of Yerevan's Olympus Educational Complex. Located in Yerevan's Nork neighborhood, the Olympus Educational Complex offers both educational and special educational classes for children suffering from movement disorders, such as scoliosis. In 2015, AGBU Sydney Chapter Committee Vice Chair Hovhannes Kouyoumdjian was named the AGBU Sydney Austral-Armenian of the year. Also, the chapter relaunched its youth group with a Presentation Night. During the event, the chapter recognized the past and current

members, athletes and players for their contributions to AGBU and sports. AGBU Sydney launched the Tamzara Armenian Folk Dance Group with an event at the AGBU Community Centre. The group, comprised of more than 30 members of the Sydney Armenian community, was formed with the goal of disseminating traditional folk dance in the Armenian diaspora and the wider Australian community and with the intent of deepening knowledge of and passion for Armenian culture among its members and audience.

**MELBOURNE:** In 2015, AGBU Melbourne and the Armenian Aginian Saturday School hosted a literary evening to celebrate the poetry and literature of several notable Armenian literary figures who were victims of the Armenian Genocide. Authors featured included Daniel Varoujan, Ruben Sevag, Krikor Zohrab, Yeroukhan, and Siamanto, among others. Also in 2015, AGBU Melbourne hosted the inaugural ArmeniaFest, a community festival dedicated to spreading

awareness about Armenian history and culture. The festival—which drew over 1,000 people—was held in honor of the centenary of the Armenian Genocide. Throughout the day, guests enjoyed numerous cultural performances, including a concert by the children of the Aginian Armenian Saturday School and a performance by the Azad Gharibian Dance Group.

# 2014-2015 DISTRICT & CHAPTER CHAIRPERSONS

## ARGENTINA

Buenos Aires: Hampartzoum Haladjian  
Córdoba: Nicolás E. Analian

## AUSTRALIA

Melbourne: Maral Tchorbadjian  
Sydney: Toros Boghossian

## AUSTRIA

Vienna: Jirair Balmanian

## BRAZIL

São Paulo: Helio Balukian

## BULGARIA

Burgas: Hagop Movsesian  
Plovdiv: Roupen Chavoushian

### Chapters associated with Plovdiv:

Dobrich: Eduard Kokonyan  
Haskovo: Srpuhi Derandonyan  
Rousse: Boghos Garjarian  
Silistra: Meguerditch Kaloustian  
Sliven: Arshavir Hulian  
Yambol: Sonya Arshavir Hovnanyan

Sofia: Sonia Avakian-Bedrosian

## CANADA

Montréal: Chahe Tanachian  
Toronto: Knar Basmadjian

## CYPRUS

Larnaca: Stepan Kamakian  
Nicosia: Missak Kouyoumdjian

## EGYPT

District Committee of Egypt, Cairo: Berdj Terzian (until 2014);  
Onnig Belekdanian  
Cairo: Viken Djizmedjian  
Alexandria: Sarkis Vartzbedian

## ETHIOPIA

Addis Ababa: Vahakn Karibian

## EUROPE DISTRICT

Paris: Alexis Govcïyan

## FRANCE

District Committee of France, Paris: Philippe Panossian  
(until July 2015); Nadia Gortzounian  
Lyon: Camille Mesrobian  
Marseille: Patrick Malakian  
Nice-Côte D'Azur: Chakée Hagopian-Clausen  
Paris: Sasun Saugy (until July 2015); Raphael Der Agopian  
Valence: Jean-Jacques Vartanian  
Vienne: Charles Paltobedrossian

## GREECE

Central Committee of Greece, Athens: Dickran Abassian

## IRAN

Tehran: Astghik Babaian

## IRAQ

Baghdad: Pakram Derhagopian

## ITALY

Milan: Gueguel Khatchadourian

## LEBANON

District Committee of Lebanon, Beirut: Gerard Tufenkjian

## NETHERLANDS

Almelo: Harout Palanjian

## SOUTH AFRICA

Johannesburg: Jacques Adanalian

## SYRIA

District Committee of Syria, Aleppo: Nerses Nersoyan  
Aleppo: Manuel Varjabedian  
Damascus: Ara Yacoubian  
Kamishli: Zareh Simonian  
Kessab: Vasken Tchaparian  
Latakia: Hagop Atamian

## UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Dubai: Hratch Borghosizian

## UNITED KINGDOM

London: Jirair Kevorkian

## URUGUAY

Montevideo: Benjamin Kemanian

## USA

Western District Committee: Krekor Karaguezian (2014); Talin Yacoubian (2015)  
Glendale/Pasadena: Hrant Vartzbedian  
Hye Geen Los Angeles, CA: Sona Yacoubian  
Orange County, CA: Krikor Mahdessian  
San Diego, CA: Ani Kalayjian-Lanuza  
San Fernando Valley, CA: Ara Yessayan (2014); Hrag Ohannessian (2015)  
Fresno, CA: Zaroohi Der Mugrdechian  
Silicon Valley, CA: Yervant Zorian  
Chicago, IL: Sona Boghosian Diorio  
New England District, MA: Ara Balikian  
New York (NY) Special Events Committee: Nila Festekjian  
Detroit, MI: Nadya Sarafian  
Cleveland, OH: Sebouh Setrakian  
Providence, RI: William Aznavourian  
Houston, TX: Sarkis Ohanian

# SPOTLIGHT



# 88<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY AWARDS

In 2015, medals, awards and honorary memberships were awarded to eight AGBU members and supporters during the 88<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in Yerevan.

## Anita Anserian 1

AGBU Director Anita Anserian was awarded the St. Nerses Shnorhali Medal on behalf of His Holiness Karekin II, Supreme

Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, for her 25 years of service and dedication to AGBU.

## Knar Basmadjian 2

Knar Basmadjian received the AGBU President's Award for her commitment and dedication to AGBU, serving as the AGBU Toronto chapter chair from 2004 to 2005 and again from 2008 until the

present. She was critical in raising funds for AGBU humanitarian programs.

## Toros Boghossian 3

Toros Boghossian, AGBU Sydney chapter chair since 2010, was awarded the AGBU President's Award for distinguishing himself through his involvement with AGBU programs in Australia,

including the AGBU Alexander School and the Vahram Papazian Theatre Group.

## Alexander Bojko 4

Former Ukrainian Ambassador to Armenia Alexander Bojko was awarded the AGBU Garbis Papazian Award, which is given to a non-Armenian scholar or intellectual who contributes to the dissemination and understanding of Armenian history and culture among his or her own people and the international community.

Bojko, who served as Ukraine's ambassador to Armenia from 1996 to 2001 and again from 2005 to 2010, is a member of the Writers' Union of Armenia and Ukraine, having authored numerous articles, studies and books dedicated to Armenian culture and literature and translated numerous Armenian literary works into Ukrainian.

## Hayk Demoyan 5

Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute Director Hayk Demoyan was recognized for his achievements, service and leadership in organizing numerous academic forums worldwide on the 100<sup>th</sup>

anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. He was awarded the AGBU Silver Medal and the title of AGBU Honorary Member.

## Haig Messerlian 6

Haig Messerlian was bestowed with AGBU Honorary Membership and awarded the organization's Silver Medal for his lifelong commitment to AGBU and Armenian cultural heritage. Messerlian was appointed executive director of the AGBU Central Office

in New York in 1988. From 2010 to 2012, he also served as chair of the AGBU Western District Committee. He was instrumental in fundraising for AGBU programs through art exhibitions, commemorations and special events.

## Nerses Nersoyan 7

AGBU recognized AGBU Syria District Chair Nerses Nersoyan with an Honorary Membership and Silver Medal for his leadership and critical role in coordinating and administering AGBU Syrian relief efforts to the Armenian community in Syria. In 2014, he

was awarded the Movses Khorenatsi Medal by President of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan for his considerable contributions to the preservation of the Armenian identity in the diaspora as well as supporting the development of Armenia-diaspora relations.

## Seyran Ohanyan 8

Republic of Armenia Minister of Defense Seyran Ohanyan received an AGBU Gold Medal for his service to Armenia. He also presented

AGBU with the Medal of the Armed Forces in appreciation of the organization's patriotism and preservation of Armenian identity.

## Serpouhi Sarkissian 9

Serpouhi Sarkissian, a longtime educator at the Gullabi Gulbenkian School in Damascus, Syria, was recognized with the AGBU President's Award for her contributions to the development of the

school and its curriculum. She served as a teacher in Armenian language, arts and culture, and also an administrator at the school from 1954 until 2013.

# SPOTLIGHT



## Vartan Abdo

AGBU celebrated Vartan Abdo's dedication to the Armenian community of the New York metropolitan area, awarding him with a commemorative glass plaque for his 35 years of uninterrupted service as director and founder of

the Armenian Radio Hour of New Jersey. Since 1979, the bilingual program highlights that week's political and cultural happenings in the worldwide Armenian community.



## Henry Arslanian

AGBU-AYA Aleppo chair Henry Arslanian was awarded with the Mkhitar Heratsi Medal upon the decree of Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan. Arslanian, a leading figure within AGBU and AYA

in Aleppo, has made significant contributions to organizing local AGBU youth and sports activities and currently plays an important role in carrying out aid projects for Syrian Armenians.



## Hagop Atamian

AGBU Latakia Chair Hagop Atamian was awarded the Mesrob Mashdots Medal by His Holiness Aram I, Catholicos of the Holy See of Cilicia, for his work

in support of Armenian cultural life. Along with his AGBU contributions, Atamian is the author of numerous books and articles.



## Sonia Avakian Bedrossian

AGBU Sofia chair Sonia Avakian Bedrossian was presented with the William Saroyan Medal from Armenia's Ministry of Diaspora. The medal is granted to those who contribute to the dissemination of Armenian culture in the

diaspora, develop Armenia-diaspora partnerships through creative ventures, and make significant achievements toward the strengthening of relations within diaspora communities.



## Ruben Kechichian

AGBU Central Board member and AGBU Buenos Aires Honorary Chapter Chair Ruben Kechichian received the Mkhitar Heratsi Medal from Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan for his significant involvement in the Armenian community. From 1963

to 1973, Kechichian served as AYA Buenos Aires chair and later served on the chapter's executive committee. From 2006 until 2013, Kechichian served as AGBU Buenos Aires chair.

# AGBU AWARDS 2014



## Ambassador Tatoul Markarian

Former Armenian Ambassador to the United States Tatoul Markarian was conferred with an AGBU Honorary Membership for his service to the

Armenian nation during his tenure in the United States. He served as Armenia's representative in Washington from 2005 until 2014.



## Sarkis Minassian

The AGBU Western District honored Sarkis Minassian—a longtime AGBU staff member and volunteer in Lebanon and California—for his devotion to AGBU with an Honorary Membership. Minassian began his association with AGBU in 1957 as the AGBU Lebanon Executive Director

and co-founded the AGBU Vahram Papazian Theater Group in 1959. After moving to Southern California in 1986, he continued his association with AGBU by volunteering with the San Fernando Valley Chapter.



## Ambassador Garen Nazarian

Ambassador Garen Nazarian, former permanent representative to the United Nations from the Republic of Armenia, was awarded an AGBU Honorary Membership for his dedicated and

distinguished service to the Armenian nation. He served as Armenia's representative to the United Nations from 2009 until 2014.



## Antonio Sarafian

Former AGBU Buenos Aires chapter secretary Antonio Sarafian was bestowed with the Movses Khorenatsi Medal by Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan for his several decades of development and perpetuation of AGBU youth activities in

Buenos Aires and fostering close ties between AGBU youth groups in South America. Sarafian, an AGBU Honorary Member, chaired AYA Buenos Aires during the 1980s and served as the chapter's secretary for 12 years.



## Yervant Zorian

AGBU Central Board member Yervant Zorian received the Republic of Armenia State Award from President Serzh Sargsyan. Zorian, founder of the Armenian Virtual College (AVC) and chief architect

of semiconductor technology firm Synopsys, was awarded along with Samvel Shoukourian for their valuable work in the field of science in Armenia.

# SPOTLIGHT



## Dickran Abassian

Dickran Abassian, AGBU Athens chair, was awarded an encyclical from His Holiness Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, in Peristeri, Greece. Abassian was praised for his dedication to the Armenian nation and the church and his lifelong leadership and

service to the community in Greece. Abassian has led AGBU chapters in Athens and Thessaloniki and maintained a conciliatory and harmonizing role through many tumultuous episodes in the life of the Armenian community in Greece.



## Salpi Der Ghazarian

AGBU Toronto executive director Salpi Der Ghazarian was recognized for her more than 25 years of service to the chapter. Der Ghazarian began volunteering for AGBU Toronto in 1981,

served as a board member for the chapter from 1987 to 1989 and took on the role of executive director in 1989.



## Onnig Garibian

Vice President of AGBU Egypt Onnig Garibian was named an AGBU Honorary Member by the AGBU Central Board for his leadership and dedication. As

chapter vice president, he helped solve property and legal issues for the chapter during his tenure.



## José Antonio Gurriarán

AGBU and its partner organization, the Associació Cultural Armenia de Barcelona [Armenian Cultural Association of Barcelona] (ACAB), honored writer José Antonio Gurriarán with the AGBU Garbis Papazian Award in Barcelona. The

award recognizes non-Armenian intellectuals who contribute to an increased awareness of Armenian history and culture. Gurriarán, a journalist and writer, has published numerous books about the Armenian people.



## Vahe Karapetian

AGBU member Vahe Karapetian was awarded with an AGBU Gold Medal and given the title of AGBU Benefactor Member for his generous donation of a

building in Yerevan to house AGBU youth programs in Armenia. The building, which was named after Karapetian, was inaugurated in 2015.



# AGBU AWARDS 2015



## Krikor Manukian

Former AGBU São Paulo chair Krikor Manukian was honored with an AGBU Honorary Membership. As chair, Manukian displayed strong leadership in AGBU circles in Brazil and South America, organizing activities and annual

events that brought the AGBU chapters in South America together. He also served as a member of the AGBU Executive Committee of São Paulo and as social events committee chair of the chapter.



## Taron Margaryan

Yerevan Mayor Taron Margaryan received an AGBU Gold Medal in 2015 for his valuable work in fostering the collaboration between the Armenian Virtual College (AVC) and the Municipality of

Yerevan, leading to the launch of the AVC e-book *Exploring Yerevan: A Look Inside the City's Past and Present*.



## Nazar & Artemis Nazarian

AGBU Board of Trustees member Nazar Nazarian and his wife Artemis were awarded the Second Degree Medal of the Republic of Armenia by President of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan. The

Nazarians received the honor for “services to the homeland” and their devoted commitment to supporting Armenians around the world.



## Berge Papazian

Berge Papazian was recognized for his years of service and leadership as AGBU Central Board member and secretary from 2006 until 2015. He

also continued to serve as president of AGBU Armen-Ontario and secretary of AGBU Armen-Quebec.



## Simon Simonian

AGBU Asbeds honored 2015 Ellis Island Medal of Honor recipient Simon Simonian for his contributions to the Armenian community of

Southern California. Simonian was also bestowed with an AGBU Honorary Membership for his commitment to AGBU and other Armenian causes.

# MILESTONES & ANNIVERSARIES

- AGBU Aleppo Lazar Najarian-Calouste Gulbenkian School – 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary
- AGBU Aleppo Mardiros Sarian Academy – 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary
- AGBU Alex & Marie Manoogian Charter School – 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary
- AGBU Buenos Aires Marie Manoogian Institute – 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary
- AGBU Cairo Dziadzhan Children’s Choir – 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary
- AGBU Holland Chapter – 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary
- AGBU Montréal Alex Manoogian School – 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary
- AGBU Nicosia Chapter – 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary
- AGBU São Paulo Chapter – 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary
- AGBU Sydney Alexander School – 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary
- AGBU-AYA Aleppo Spondiarian Choir – 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary
- AGBU-AYA Lebanon *Khosnag Quarterly* – 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary

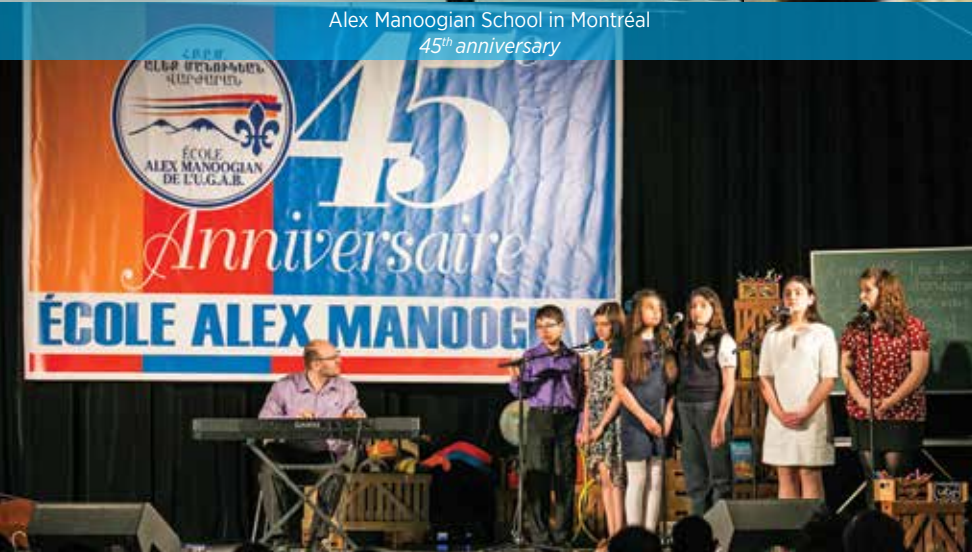
São Paulo Chapter  
50<sup>th</sup> anniversary



Nicosia Chapter  
100<sup>th</sup> anniversary



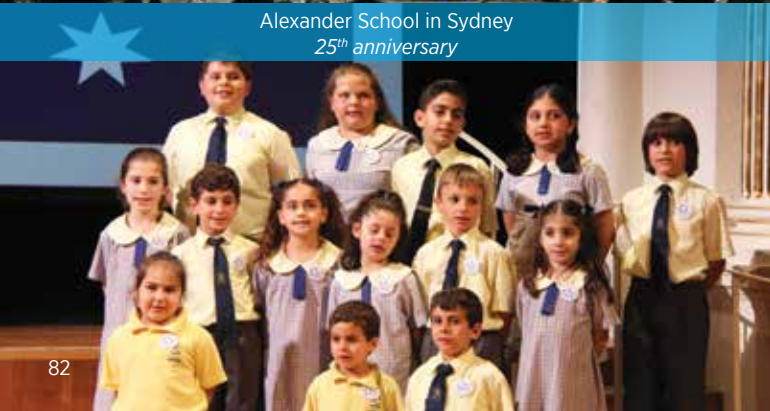
Alex Manoogian School in Montréal  
45<sup>th</sup> anniversary



Lazar Najarian-Calouste Gulbenkian School in Aleppo  
60<sup>th</sup> anniversary



Alexander School in Sydney  
25<sup>th</sup> anniversary



AYA Lebanon Khosnag Quarterly  
55<sup>th</sup> anniversary



# 2014-2015 AGBU PROGRAMS

## ALUMNI ASSOCIATIONS 2

Lazar Najarian-Calouste Gulbenkian School (California, USA)  
Tarouhy-Hovagimian School Alumni Association (California, USA)

## ART & MUSIC ACADEMIES 2

Aram Khachaturian Conservatory (Aleppo, Syria)  
Sarian Academy (Aleppo, Syria)

## CAMPS & DAY CAMPS 10

Antranik Scout Camp (Vanadzor, Armenia)  
Camp Hayler (Plovdiv, Bulgaria)  
Camp Hayler (Sofia, Bulgaria)  
Camp Nubar (New York, USA)  
Colonia de Vacaciones (Buenos Aires, Argentina)  
Colonia de Vacaciones (Córdoba, Argentina)  
Colonie de Vacances (Haute-Savoie, France)  
Demirdjian Center Day Camp (Antelias, Lebanon)  
Kessab Camp (Kessab, Syria)  
Pasadena Day Camp (California, USA)

## CHORAL GROUPS 7

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

## DANCE ENSEMBLES 8

Antranig Dance Ensemble (New Jersey, USA)  
AYA Antranik Arine Dance Ensemble (Antelias, Lebanon)  
AYA Antranik Dance Ensemble (Aleppo, Syria)  
Ararat Dance Ensemble (Córdoba, Argentina)  
Garod Dance Ensemble (Vienna, Austria)  
Nur Dance Ensemble (Sofia, Bulgaria)  
Pountch Children's Dance Ensemble (Aleppo, Syria)  
Tamzara Armenian Folk Dance Group (Sydney, Australia)

## INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS 4

New York Summer Internship Program (NYSIP) (New York, USA)  
London Internship Program (LSIP) (London, United Kingdom)  
Musical Armenia Program (Yerevan, Armenia)  
Yerevan Summer Internship Program (YSIP) (Yerevan, Armenia)

## LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS 1

Goriz Leadership Program (Paris, France)

## LIBRARY/RESEARCH CENTER 1

Bibliothèque Nubar/Nubarian Library (Paris, France)

## MEDICAL CENTERS 2

Medical Dispensaries (Beirut, Lebanon)  
Yerevan State University Ultrasound Center (Yerevan, Armenia)

## MENTORSHIP PROGRAMS 1

Generation Next Mentorship Program (California, USA)

## MUSICAL GROUPS 7

AYA Big Band (Aleppo, Syria)  
AYA Marching Band (Aleppo, Syria)  
Chamber Orchestra (Sofia, Bulgaria)  
Chamber Orchestra (Stepanakert, Nagorno-Karabakh)  
Erebuni Musical Ensemble (Plovdiv, Bulgaria)  
Erevan 50 Scout Band (Montevideo, Uruguay)  
Gomidas Chamber Orchestra (Aleppo, Syria)

## PARTNERSHIPS 3

Associació Cultural Armenia de Barcelona (ACAB) (Barcelona, Spain)  
HAIK-Deutsch Armenischer Studentclub e.V. (HAIK) (Frankfurt, Germany)  
UTI (Istanbul, Turkey)

## PUBLICATIONS 15

AGBU Armenia Newsletter (Yerevan, Armenia)  
AGBU e-Newsletter (New York, USA)  
AGBU News Magazine (New York, USA)  
AGBU Insider (New York, USA)  
AGBU Voice (Plovdiv, Bulgaria)  
Deghegadou Quarterly (Cairo, Egypt)  
Hayatsk Quarterly (Aleppo, Syria)  
Hoosharar Magazine (New York, USA)  
Hye Geen Magazine (California, USA)  
Khosnag Quarterly (Beirut, Lebanon)  
AGBU AYA Lebanon e-Newsletter (Beirut, Lebanon)  
Mioutune Newsletter (Sydney, Australia)  
Nor Tsyan Newsletter (Melbourne, Australia)  
Études arméniennes contemporaines (Paris, France)  
Yeram Newsletter (Damascus, Syria)

## SHOWS/BROADCASTS 3

Armenian Radio Program (Lyon, France)  
Armenian Radio Program (Melbourne, Australia)  
Hye Geen TV Program (California, USA)

## SPECIAL COMMITTEES 6

Asbeds Committee (Antelias, Lebanon)  
Asbeds Committee (California, USA)  
FOCUS (New York, USA)  
Hye Geen (California, USA)  
New York Special Events Committee (NYSEC) (New York, USA)  
United Nations Special Interest Group (New York, USA)

## THEATER GROUPS 9

Ahazank Theater Group (Paris, France)  
Bedros Attamian Theater Group (Aleppo, Syria)  
Malvina Manukyan Children's Theater Group (Plovdiv, Bulgaria)  
Krikor Satamian Theater Group (Buenos Aires, Argentina)  
Krikor Satamian Theater Group (California, USA)  
Paros Theater Group (Tehran, Iran)  
Prof. Krikor Azaryan Theater Group (Haskovo, Bulgaria)  
Vahram Papazian Theater Group (Antelias, Lebanon)  
Vahram Papazian Theatre Group (Sydney, Australia)

## WOMEN'S CENTERS 4

Hye Geen Pregnant Women's Center (Talin, Armenia)  
Hye Geen Pregnant Women's Center (Vanadzor, Armenia)  
Hye Geen Pregnant Women's Center (Yeghvard, Armenia)  
Hye Geen Pregnant Women's Center (Yerevan, Armenia)

## YOUTH TRIPS TO ARMENIA 2

Arménie, Terre de Vie (Yerevan, Armenia)  
Discover Armenia (Yerevan, Armenia)

