



AGBU

2006 - 2007
BIENNIAL REPORT

PRESENTED AT THE 85TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ON OCTOBER 4, 2008 IN ALEPPO, SYRIA

AGBU CENTRAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES 2006 – 2007

2006 AGBU Central Board of Directors

President

Berge Setrakian

Vice Presidents

Sarkis Demirdjian & Arshavir Gundjian

Treasurer

Nazar Nazarian

Secretary

Joseph Basralian

Honorary Member

His Holiness Karekin II,
Catholicos of All Armenians

Chairman of the Board

Louise Manoogian Simone

Vice Chairman

Nazar Nazarian

Members

USA: M. Michael Ansour, Carol Bagdasarian
Aslanian, Richard Manoogian, Benon Sevan,
Sam Simonian, Sinan Sinanian, Dickran Tevrizian

FRANCE: Aris Atamian, Levon Kebedjian

SYRIA: Karnig Yacoubian

DIRECTOR EMERITUS

Barry Zorthian

IN MEMORIAM

Boghos Nubar, Founder
Alex Manoogian, Honorary Life President

Pursuant to the General Assembly held on
December 9, 2006, a new Central Board
of Directors was elected, along with the
establishment of the Council of Trustees.

President

Berge Setrakian

Vice President

Arshavir Gundjian

Treasurer

Sam Simonian

Secretary

Berge Papazian

Honorary Member

His Holiness Karekin II,
Catholicos of All Armenians

Members

USA: M. Michael Ansour, Carol Bagdasarian
Aslanian, Joseph Basralian, Yervant Demirjian,
Nazareth Festekjian, Arda Haratunian,

Sarkis Jebejian, Levon Nazarian,

Sinan Sinanian, Dickran Tevrizian

ARGENTINA: Ruben Kechichian

FRANCE: Aris Atamian, Levon Kebedjian

SWITZERLAND: Vahe Gabrache

SYRIA: Vasken Yacoubian

Council of Trustees

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

DIRECTOR EMERITUS

Barry Zorthian

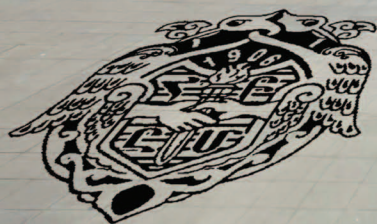
IN MEMORIAM

Boghos Nubar, Founder
Alex Manoogian, Honorary Life President



FRONT COVER (top to bottom): Rita Demirdjian (left), representing the AGBU Lebanon District Committee, and Minister Leila Solh-Hamad (right), representative of the Walid bin Talal Foundation, cutting the ribbon to inaugurate the new AGBU Medical Dispensary in Antelias, Lebanon; An AGBU Senior Dining Center in Armenia; The AGBU Vahram Papazian Theatrical Group performs "Kna Mernir, Yegur Sirem" (Go Die, Come, I'll Love You); Camp Nubar 2007; Montevideo's AGBU Nubarian-Manoogian School.

ՀՊԱՐՏԱԼԻ ԱՆՅԵԱԼ, ԼՈՒՍԱՇՈՂ ԱՊԱԳԱՅ
PROUD PAST, EXCITING FUTURE



AGBU Members & guests during the Centennial celebrations in Cairo, Egypt, April 2006. Photo: Garo V. Varjabedian (Egypt).

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

To our Members, Donors and Friends,



Maintaining a tradition, this biennial report attempts to convey the many accomplishments of the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) within the confines of a defined time period. While it unveils a vast and impressive array of achievements, it is imperative to understand that the work of our great organization at this historic juncture should not be perceived as a mere series of successful events and contributions to worthwhile causes; rather, it should be appreciated as a plan of initiatives that aim to realize its pan-Armenian mission, and to achieve its cultural, educational and humanitarian goals through a clearly charted course of action.

The past two years were characterized by a series of grand events organized by our worldwide chapters, celebrating the glorious centennial of AGBU. This was also an occasion for highlighting the momentous role our organization has played in the survival of our nation, the vision of its founders and their organizational genius, their understanding of the spirit of the times, their deep sense of responsibility and accountability, their staunch commitment to our national institutions and their unwavering belief in Armenia. Qualities that earned AGBU a stalwart reputation and the well-deserved universal trust it rightfully enjoys today.



Our organization's new orientation and vision materialized during this period. We are well aware of the challenges that our new diasporan communities face and the threat those challenges pose to emerging generations regarding the sustenance of our cultural heritage, values and identity. Our future course of action will have a strong impact on the viability of our nation, both in the diaspora and in our homeland.

With this understanding and a deep sense of responsibility, while continuing its commitment to current programs, AGBU has focused its attention on our new generation and has taken initiatives that will help instill in them a strong sense of identity and pride, awareness of issues, and involvement in community. Paramount to these initiatives are projects that provide opportunities for our youth to experience Armenia.

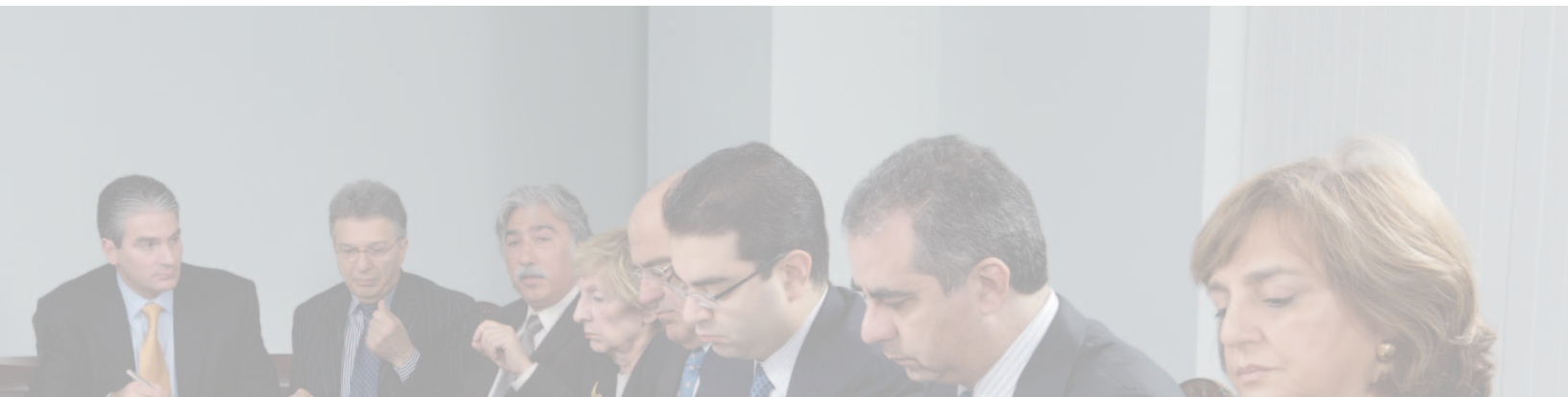
The creation of AGBU's new organizational structure in Europe; the growth of the Young Professionals' movement in various countries in Europe, particularly Eastern Europe; the newly established scout camp in Armenia and the summer work-travel programs for the youth; the expanding internship programs; the Internet-based Virtual College being developed in six languages to promote the study of Armenian language, history and culture; and the preliminary steps toward the realization of the visionary Melkonian Complex in Yerevan are tangible manifestations of AGBU's new orientation.

It is true that AGBU today, more than ever, is fiscally strong, and enjoys the trust and respect of all. Yet the challenges and needs of our nation are vast and demanding. The financial situation worldwide and its negative impact for the current and upcoming years necessitate caution, determination and innovation on our behalf. Therefore, my plea to our membership, our chapters and our friends, is to join forces in promoting the noble mission of AGBU. Be in touch with the spirit of our times, stay the course toward our nation's bright future, and perceive the actualization of our vision through the eyes of our youth and their aspirations, as they prepare to take leadership.

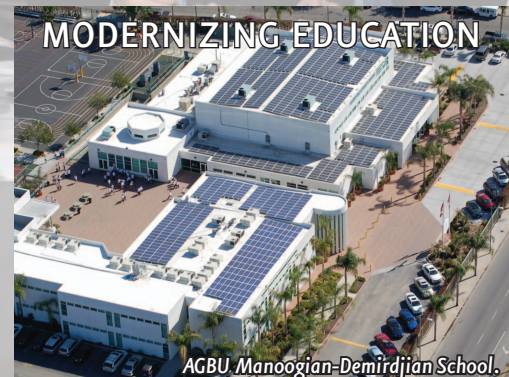


Berge Setrakian, President

AGBU Central Board of Director & Council of Trustees (left to right): Arda Haratunian, Sinan Sinanian, Nazar Nazarian (Trustee), Vasken Yacoubian, Berge Papazian, M. Michael Ansour, Arshavir Gundjian, Yervant Demirjian, Aris Atamian, Sam Simonian, Louise Manoogian Simone (Trustee), Berge Setrakian, Sarkis Jebejian, Nazareth Festekjian, Carol Bagdasarian Aslanian. Missing: Joseph Basralian, Sarkis Demirdjian (Trustee), Vahe Gabrache, Levon Kebedjian, Ruben Kechichian, Richard Manoogian (Trustee), Levon Nazarian, Dickran Tevrizian & Karnig Yacoubian (Trustee)



MODERNIZING EDUCATION



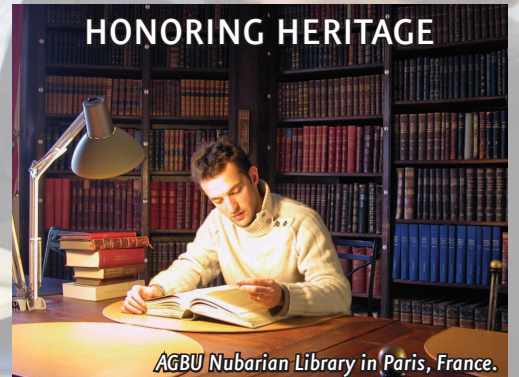
AGBU Manoogian-Demirdjian School.

CONNECTING ARMENIANS



Monthly, over 10,000 people visit AGBU websites.

HONORING HERITAGE



AGBU Nubarian Library in Paris, France.



CANADA

USA

UK

FRANCE

North America

South America

Middle East

Oakland-San Francisco, CA
YP Northern California
 Silicon Valley, CA
 Youth
 Fresno, CA

Southern California District

Asbeds
 Glendale/Pasadena
Pasadena High School
YP Los Angeles
 Ardavazt Theater Co.
 Sardarabad Dance Ensemble
 Marching Band
 Generation Next Mentorship
 Youth
 Los Angeles Hye Geen
 Orange County
 Saturday School
YP Orange County
 Palm Springs
 San Diego
 San Fernando Valley
Manoogian-Demirdjian School
 Youth

Detroit, MI
Alex & Marie Manoogian School
YP Detroit
 Youth

Chicago, IL
Sisag H. Varjabedian
Saturday School
 Youth Dance Group

Houston, TX

Toronto
Daniel & Alice
Zaroukian School
YP Toronto
 Theater Group
 Arevik Day Camp
 Youth

Montreal
Armen Quebec-Alex Manoogian School
Golden Age Committee
 Youth

Philadelphia, PA
YP Philadelphia

Cleveland, OH
Saturday School
YP Washington, DC

New England District
 Providence Men, RI
YP Boston

New York, NY
AGBU Central Office
 NY Special Events Committee
 FOCUS Committee
YP Greater New York
 Antranig Dance Ensemble
 Summer Intern Program
 Camp Nubar

London
YP London

France District

Lyon
 Youth
 Marseilles
 Youth
 Nice
 Paris
Saturday School
YP Paris
 Koghtan Choir
 Ahazank Theater Group
 Nubarian Library
 Summer Camp
 Summer Intern Program
 Youth
 St-Chamond/St-Etienne
 Youth
 Valence
 Youth
 Vienne
Saturday School
 Youth

BRAZIL

São Paolo
YP Brazil
 Youth

Cordoba
 Ararat Dance Ensemble
 Dzirani Band
 Summer Day Camp
 Youth

Montevideo
Nubarian-Manoogian School
 Grung Choir
 Youth

URUGUAY

Buenos Aires
Marie Manoogian School
 Shnorhali Choir
 Summer Day Camp
 Youth

ARGENTINA

TURKEY

CYPRUS

Larnaca
 Limassol
 Nicosia
 Youth

LEBANON

Lebanon District
 Beirut/Sin El Fil/Amanos/Antelias
 Asbeds
 Boghos K. Garmirian School
 Tarouhy-Hovagimian School
 Levon G. Nazarian School
YP Lebanon
 Antranik Dance Ensemble
 Junior Choir
 Vahram Papazian Theater Group
 Medical Dispensary
 Summer AYA Day Camp
 Youth
 Tripoli
 Youth
 Zahle
 Youth

SYRIA

Syria District
 Aleppo
 Asbeds
 Lazar Najarian-Calouste
 Gulbenkian School
 AYA Dance Ensemble
 Bedros Attamian Theater Group
 Chamber Orchestra
 Children's Choir
 Marching Band
 Sarian Art Academy
 Youth
 Damascus
 Gullabi Gulbenkian School
 Youth
 Kamishly
Saturday School
 New Start/Akhtamar Dance Ensemble
 Summer Day Camp
 Youth
 Kessab
 Summer Camp
 Latakia
 Yacoubieh

Baghdad
Pourasdan Friday School
 Choral Group
 Youth

IRAN

Tehran
Marie Manoogian School
Nevert Gulbenkian School
YP Tehran
 Youth

JERUSALEM

JORDAN

AGBU Worldwide 2006-2007

AGBU reaches 400,000 Armenians annually with its educational, humanitarian & cultural programs





BIENNIAL REPORT 2006 - 2007

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS	December 31	
	2007	2006
Current Assets:		
Cash	\$ 9,022,575	\$ 7,353,159
Portfolio investments	209,554,448 (*)	195,427,642 (*)
Contributions/Accounts receivable	3,351,823	6,446,262
Interest receivable	4,170,576	3,346,242
Total Current Assets	226,099,422	212,573,305
Real Estate	73,428,803	71,961,931
Furniture, equipment and leasehold improvements, net	1,530,320	1,627,376
Total Assets	301,058,545	286,162,612
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$4,966,951	\$5,276,774
Notes payable	393,277	440,628
Total Liabilities	5,360,228	5,717,402
Net Assets:		
Unrestricted	59,736,830	57,381,037
Temporarily restricted	37,187,962	32,104,380
Permanently restricted	198,773,525	190,959,793
Total Net Assets	295,698,317	280,445,210
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	301,058,545	286,162,612

(*)These amounts represent book values. Total market values as of 12/31/2006 and 12/31/2007 are \$214,601,984 and \$233,435,384 respectively.

HIGHLIGHTS

Biennial Financial Report 10-year Comparative Totals

	2007	%*	2006	%**	1996
Total Assets	\$301,058,545	5.21%	\$286,162,612	57.12%	\$182,135,549
Total Income	51,263,852	7.34%	47,759,992	83.48%	26,030,651
Total Expenditure	36,010,745	7.46%	33,510,010	36.94%	24,470,108

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

All figures are in U.S. Dollars.

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

Management income, reserve and capitalization

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

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES

Year Ended December 31, 2007

Year Ended December 31, 2006

Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
\$ 2,350,242	\$ 9,298,734	\$ 7,598,706	\$ 19,247,682	\$ 3,805,536	\$ 7,064,659	\$ 11,042,528	\$ 21,912,723
287,216	-	-	287,216	308,243	-	-	308,243
4,006,765	15,209	60,126	4,082,100	3,708,831	8,783	60,458	3,778,072
6,644,223	9,313,943	7,658,832	23,616,998	7,822,610	7,073,442	11,102,986	25,999,038
13,345,608	1,299,397	-	14,645,005	8,434,234	1,701,534	-	10,135,768
1,974,211	6,540	-	1,980,751	1,665,459	13,546	-	1,679,005
11,021,098	-	-	11,021,098	9,946,181	-	-	9,946,181
26,340,917	1,305,937	-	27,646,854	20,045,874	1,715,080	-	21,760,954
32,985,140	10,619,880	7,658,832	51,263,852	27,868,484	8,788,522	11,102,986	47,759,992
8,398,791	(8,398,791)	-	-	7,029,484	(7,029,484)	-	-
1,696,517	(1,790,079)	93,562	-	1,701,534	(1,829,170)	127,636	-
43,080,448	431,010	7,752,394	51,263,852	36,599,502	(70,132)	11,230,622	47,759,992
18,657,060	-	-	18,657,060	16,109,013	-	-	16,109,013
8,941,730	-	-	8,941,730	8,798,454	-	-	8,798,454
4,188,874	-	-	4,188,874	3,656,629	-	-	3,656,629
1,535,619	-	-	1,535,619	1,617,772	-	-	1,617,772
33,323,283	-	-	33,323,283	30,181,868	-	-	30,181,868
3,263,486	-	-	3,263,486	2,693,153	-	-	2,693,153
215,000	-	-	215,000	234,214	-	-	234,214
(791,024)	-	-	(791,024)	400,775	-	-	400,775
2,687,462	-	-	2,687,462	3,328,142	-	-	3,328,142
36,010,745	-	-	36,010,745	33,510,010	-	-	33,510,010
7,069,703	431,010	7,752,394	15,253,107	3,089,492	(70,132)	11,230,622	14,249,982
(4,713,910)	4,652,572	61,338	-	(1,647,703)	(3,870,453)	5,518,156	-
2,355,793	5,083,582	7,813,732	15,253,107	1,441,789	(3,940,585)	16,748,778	14,249,982
57,381,037	32,104,380	190,959,793	280,445,210	55,939,248	36,044,965	174,211,015	266,195,228
\$59,736,830	\$37,187,962	\$198,773,525	295,698,317	\$57,381,037	\$32,104,380	\$190,959,793	\$280,445,210

AGBU-SPONSORED PROGRAMS & PROJECTS IN ARMENIA & KARABAKH

PROGRAMS

ARMENIA

American University of Armenia
Armenian Philharmonic Orchestra
Children's Centers (3)
Senior Dining Centers (6)
St. Nersess Hospital
Ultrasound Center
Vaskenian Theological Seminary

DIASPORA YOUTH PROGRAMS

Yerevan Summer Intern Program
Summer Camp
Youth Trip

KARABAKH

Karabakh Chamber Orchestra
Karabakh Repopulation Project

MAJOR PROJECTS

ARMENIA

Holy Etchmiadzin - Cathedral
Holy Etchmiadzin Service Center
Holy Etchmiadzin Elderly Home
Holy Etchmiadzin Kevorkian Seminary
Holy Etchmiadzin Clergy Housing
Holy Etchmiadzin Children's Center
St. Anna Church
Erebouni Church
St. Gregory the Illuminator Church
Vanadzor Children's Center
Gyumri Pregnant Women's Center
Vanadzor Pregnant Women's Center

SPECIAL GRANTS

ARMENIA

Achapn Health Center
Arabkir Institute for Children and Adolescents
Armavir Village Center
AUA Digital Library
Charentsavan Cultural Center
French University of Armenia
Holy Etchmiadzin Clergymen
Irind Village Cultural Center
Isahakyan Memorial House in Yerevan
Kerargunig Village Road Construction
Lusagjugh Village Water Supply
Lusakung Village Water Supply
Madenataran
Meghri Kindergarten
National Academy of Sciences
Nor Aintab School #2
Nor Gyank Village Community Center
Sardarapat Village Community Center
Various Publications
Yerevan School #145

ARMENIA/KARABAKH

Countless benefactors, donors and friends continue to strengthen our organization's decades-long presence in Armenia and Karabakh by supporting vital programs that reach out to thousands of individuals. AGBU is proud to make a difference in the homeland through its numerous educational, cultural and humanitarian endeavors.

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF ARMENIA

Continuing to lead the way in academic excellence in Armenia, the American University of Armenia (AUA) celebrated its 15th anniversary in November 2006 with a Gala Banquet in Los Angeles. Soon after reaching this milestone, the AGBU-funded institution received accreditation from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. Annually, about 400 students enroll in AUA's two-year program, earning Master's degrees in Business Management, Conservation and Environmental Science, Engineering, Law, Political Science and International Affairs, Public Health and Computer Science.



The AGBU-supported Armenian Philharmonic Orchestra.



AUA graduating class of 2006.

ARMENIAN PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

The Armenian Philharmonic Orchestra (APO), which has been funded by AGBU since 1992, celebrated its 80th year of symphonic excellence with a special anniversary concert on June 8, 2006. In honor of this milestone, guest performers and conductors from France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, Switzerland and the United States were invited to perform with APO. The Orchestra also toured Moscow for one week in June 2006, in addition to Nuremberg, Germany; Bratislava, Slovakia; and the Czech Republic's two largest cities, Prague and Brno, in September and October 2006 for fall music festivals. In 2007, the 110-member ensemble traveled to France during the month of February for concerts sponsored by the local AGBU Chapters in Lyon, Marseille, Nice, Paris, St. Etienne, Valence and beyond, as part of the country's "Year of Armenia" festivities.

CHILDREN'S CENTERS

Three thousand talented students fill the halls of AGBU's three Children's Centers in the Nork, Arapkir and Malatya sections of Yerevan each day after school to expand their horizons and reach new heights of artistic merit. Since 1993, the organization has partnered with the Holy See of Etchmiadzin to sponsor these cultural institutions providing instruction to youth ages 6 to 16 in art, computers, crafts, dance, gymnastics, history, languages and music, in addition to weekly church services and Bible study courses in the adjoining chapels.

On October 17, 2007, 13-year-old Mariam Marukyan from the Nork Center was awarded the top prize during a ceremony at the United Nations in New York City for International Children's Art Competition. Marukyan was one of six winners, selected from a pool of 12,000 global applicants for best depicting the competition's theme "We can end poverty." Also featured in the UN exhibit were art works by two other Nork Center students.

KARABAKH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Continuing its mission of disseminating musical culture, the Karabakh Chamber Orchestra played numerous concerts over the past two years and quickly gained a reputation after its 2004 founding as one of the best chamber orchestras in the South Caucasus with several invitations to perform abroad. Highlights included traveling to Yerevan for the “One Nation One Culture” festival in the summer of 2006 and a special concert organized in honor of Maestro Edouard Mirzayan’s 85th birthday. Together with the administration of the Karabakh Music School, the orchestra’s conductor, Gevorg Muradian, also started a music college in 2006 where future professional musicians study.



An art class at one of the AGBU Children’s Centers in Yerevan.

KARABAKH REPOPULATION PROJECT

Karabakh President Arkady Ghokassian and Deputy Prime Minister Ararat Danielian, along with several ministers, dignitaries and AGBU representatives, were on site for the ribbon-cutting ceremony that took place in September 2006 for the new Norashen School in Karabakh’s Hadrut region. The elementary school, which was funded by the AGBU Southern California District and the Sydney Chapter, is designed to accommodate 80 students and has eight classrooms, one event hall, a teacher’s lounge and a principal’s office. The Toronto and Cairo Chapters, along with AGBU Young Professionals groups and private donors, also donated funds for the project. The official ribbon cutting was followed by the groundbreaking ceremony of the nearby village of Jrakn, which is situated 200 meters away from Norashen. Both initiatives are part of AGBU’s Karabakh Repopulation Project, which was initiated in 2002 and has been helping to rebuild the war-torn villages that were abandoned following the 1988 to 1994 conflict with Azerbaijan. To date, two dozen homes have been built for over 100 residents.



Nork Children’s Center student Mariam Marukyan in front of her prize-winning painting at the United Nations in New York.

SENIOR DINING CENTERS

Since Armenia’s independence, AGBU continues to sponsor six Senior Dining Centers in Yerevan, Sevan, Etchmiadzin and Hrazdan to provide hot meals daily to pensioners and orphans numbering over 1,200. Portions are always ample and recipients take additional food home to share with family members and friends. Moreover, volunteers deliver meals to beneficiaries who cannot make it to the Centers.



Norashen’s students play with AGBU-donated school supplies.

VASKENIAN SEMINARY

Situated on scenic Lake Sevan, the Vaskenian Seminary serves as an oasis of spirituality to over 100 young men who have dedicated their life to God. The expansive campus, church and retreat-like setting contribute to the religious training and education received by the clergy who go on to serve Armenian communities throughout the world.

ULTRASOUND

Aiming to remain at the forefront of Armenia’s medical community, the AGBU Ultrasound Center in Yerevan made great strides in the past two years with the receipt of 22 new ultrasound machines, which will help save the lives of many in Armenia, Karabakh and Javakhk through preventative screenings and early detection. The Center trains doctors and regularly receives a vast array of academic materials (journals, videos, etc.) from abroad. Central Board Member Dr. Levon Nazarian established the facility in 2000 at the Yerevan State Medical Institute, in partnership with Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia.



AGBU Armenian Representation Director, Ashot Ghazarian (left), and Director of Sisian Hospital, Artyom Tadevossian (center), inspect donated ultrasound machines. (Photolure)

EDUCATION



AGBU Manoogian-Demirdjian School, Canoga Park, CA, USA.

Schools and scholarships have for decades provided a head start toward a better life for numerous generations of Armenians from worldwide communities, and they have helped preserve and promote the Armenian language and heritage.

AGBU provides ongoing supervisory support to 5,500 students in its schools worldwide, including the newly inaugurated High School in Pasadena. In view of the financial hardships faced by many of the schools due to growing deficits, the Central Board continued to allocate subsidies, as needed, to help sustain their services to the students and their communities.

At the same time, a comprehensive strategy was developed

to direct efforts toward four major areas of focus that constitute the wider aspect of AGBU's educational mission: 1) Existing schools and their fiscal and quality management in face of changing demographics and expectations; 2) Scholarship policies that help identify, support and maintain talent, leadership and involvement; 3) Coordination, development and sharing of resources and teacher experiences to maximize the effectiveness of Armenian instruction in regular and extension schools; and 4) Development of global initiatives through programs that are trans-national, target our youth outside mainstream Armenian organizations and maximize the impact of our resources.

AGBU EDUCATION DEPARTMENT: A NEW VISION

The new vision of AGBU's Education Department is built on the realities and challenges of our new and evolving diasporan communities. Geographically, there has also been a shift of axis from the original Middle Eastern communities to those of North America, Europe, Russia and Eastern Europe.

The impact of this change has manifested primarily through the generation gap between the first generation of immigrants and their children born and raised in the host countries of the diaspora. Consequently, traditional educational practices implemented through Armenian day schools and Saturday schools have become less effective, reaching only a small fraction of school-age children, while losing students to mainstream institutions which parents perceive as better venues for preparing their children for future careers.

To carry out AGBU's vision in the face of these challenges, new organizational initiatives were implemented over the last two years: Artoun Hamalian joined the Department as Director of Education; and an Educational Advisory Committee was formed.

The Advisory Committee brings together a diverse group of individuals with extensively diverse professional backgrounds in education, including school administration, instructional design and curriculum development, research experience in social development and social integration, educational psychology and sociology, child and family development, college admissions and scholarship management, learning software technologies, and educational television programming. A scholarship committee was also formed to revise existing policies and offer new strategies that help provide wider outreach and achieve better applicant selection.



Buenos Aires Marie Manoogian School.



Aleppo Lazar Najarian School.



Damascus Gullabi Gulbenkian School.

EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Artin Arslanian, Anny Bakalian, Nvair Beylerian, Natalie Gabrelian, Noreen Hajinlian, Artoun Hamalian, Carmen Mansourian, Mary Papazian, Ruzanna Topchyan, Nicole Vartanian, Ani Yazedjian, Yervant Zorian and Carol Aslanian (Central Board of Directors Liaison).

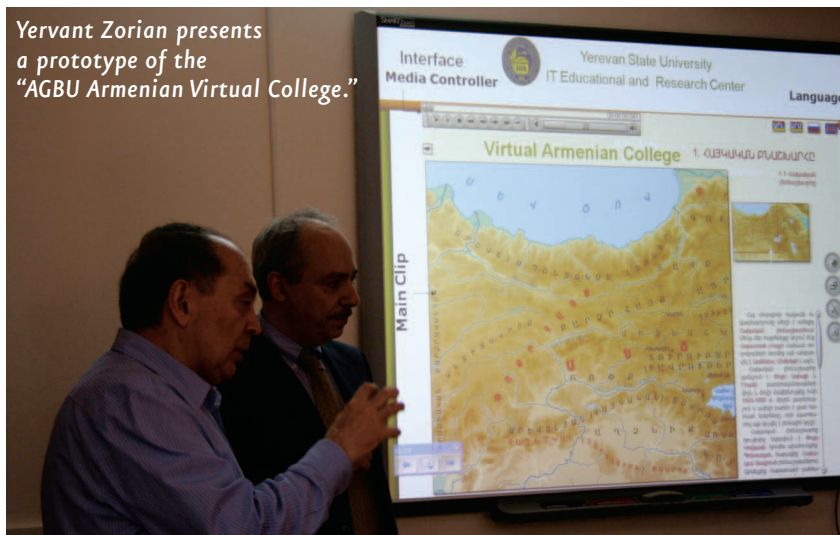
SCHOLARSHIP ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Carol Aslanian, Maral Hajjar, Artoun Hamalian, Maral Jebejian, Sarine Der Kaloustian, Lilit Kurdian, Hripsime Roupen and Steve Semerdjian.



STUDY ABROAD

The Study Abroad Program in Armenia targets diasporan Armenian youth interested in blending accredited academic coursework in their specific fields with the benefit of cultural immersion. The program will provide an attractive and inviting environment while partnering with universities in Armenia and abroad.



VIRTUAL COLLEGE

One of the important projects that began to take shape during this period was AGBU's first-of-its-kind Virtual College, which is an Internet-based, accredited distance learning program in six languages on the topics of Armenian history, music, architecture, art and language. The program equally targets high school honors-level pupils, college students and learning enthusiasts.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Year after year, AGBU's Scholarship Program continues to provide financial assistance to hundreds of worthy university and graduate students all over the world through grants and loans.

Total amount of grants and scholarships distributed in 2006 & 2007: \$1,942,936

Total number of student recipients in 2006 & 2007: 988

AGBU SCHOOLS

ARGENTINA

Buenos Aires Marie Manoogian Institute (K-12)

AUSTRALIA

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

BULGARIA

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

CANADA

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

FRANCE

Paris Alex Manoogian Saturday School
Lyon Saturday School
Vienne Saturday School

GREECE

Athens Artaki Kalpakian (K-6)

IRAN

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

IRAQ

Baghdad Poursadan Friday School

LEBANON

Beirut Boghos K. Garmirian (K-9)
Tarouhy-Hovagimian (7-12)
Levon G. Nazarian (K-6)

SYRIA

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

URUGUAY

Montevideo Nubarian-Manoogian (K-12)

USA

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



Paris Saturday School.



Lebanon Garmirian School.



NEW MELKONIAN CENTER IN ARMENIA

The transitioning of the Melkonian vision to Armenia was the realization of the original dream of the Melkonian Brothers who wanted to establish the academy in Armenia. Inspired by the concept of an international university city, the new Melkonian complex will be composed of modern facilities for living and recreation capable of accommodating hundreds of individuals. It will attract our young generation in multitudes to Armenia throughout the year, while providing a venue for enrichment to the local community.

As detailed by the preliminary architectural plans that were evaluated on site by Central Board members in early September of 2007, and still under review, the complex will be comprised of three buildings that can accommodate more than 350 persons at any given time, a beautiful plaza, a theater, meeting/lecture halls, exhibition hall, outdoor and indoor sports facilities, outdoor and indoor restaurants and cafes, a chapel, media library, and language lab. The 4-acre hilltop property acquired by AGBU for this state-of-the-art complex provides a panoramic view of the city and easy access to downtown Yerevan.

A major aspect of this Educational Center, among other initiatives, will be to facilitate the Study Abroad Program in Armenia for Armenian youth. Study abroad experiences are appreciated and encouraged by colleges and universities around the world and there are a growing number of worldwide programs and options for undergraduate and graduate students to participate in. By providing an attractive and inviting environment and developing a list of study abroad choices in partnership with universities in Armenia, AGBU will attract diasporan Armenian youth to blend accredited academic coursework in their specific fields with immersion in cultural experiences.

The Melkonian Center is envisioned as a key location for Armenia's Chess Federation to promote Armenia's intellectual talent. It is also designed to be the headquarters of AGBU's first-of-its-kind Virtual College, which is an Internet-based, accredited distance learning program capable of reaching a wide base of learners worldwide.

The new Melkonian Center is designated to be a hub for cultural activities and a flexible resource-rich environment for a variety of programs that will help bring hundreds of diasporan Armenian youth together in Armenia year round. We believe the new Melkonian project will strengthen the connectivity between the various communities outside Armenia, ensuring that the Republic of Armenia will continue to be the focal point for Armenians everywhere.

AGBU Central Board Member Aris Atamian presents the projected design for the new Melkonian Complex in Armenia at the Pan-European conference on February 1-3, 2008 in Brussels, Belgium.

INTERNSHIPS & GENERATION NEXT

NEW YORK SUMMER INTERN PROGRAM

Celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2007, the New York Summer Intern Program made a lasting impact on the lives of Armenian college students from around the world. In 2006 and 2007, a total of 70 students from Argentina, Australia, Canada, Egypt, England, France, Lebanon, Syria, and the United States were housed at New York University dorms and immersed themselves in the city's culture, business, nightlife and daily excitement. The program allows interns to get a head start in their future field of employment by working at top companies, including Merrill Lynch, Columbia University Hospital, and HBO. In addition to a daily internship position, students attended a number of educational and cultural events, including two annual events sponsored by the local AGBU Young Professionals. Almost 700 worldwide interns have benefited from this extraordinary, life-changing program.



New York Summer Intern Program.

PARIS SUMMER INTERN PROGRAM

Almost 20 Armenian university students from Armenia, Australia, Austria, Canada, Lebanon, and France participated in the third and fourth sessions of the Paris Summer Intern Program. Interns were housed in the city's "Armenia House" and exposed to the exciting culture of Paris. Each student interned at a business related to their field of interest and had the chance to participate in educational endeavors and excursions in the French capital, ranging from meetings with members of the French National Assembly to a lecture by the president and vice-president of Microsoft's European operations.



Paris Summer Intern Program.

YEREVAN SUMMER INTERN PROGRAM

The premier year of the Yerevan Summer Intern Program in 2007 proved to be a huge success as 16 students from Canada, Egypt, Romania, and the United States were housed at Yerevan State University's dormitories, and spent five weeks interning at top institutions, including the Foreign Ministry, the National Assembly, the Central Bank and leading medical facilities. Interns also had the chance to participate in Armenian language and dance classes, Armenian history lectures and meetings with various governmental leaders. In their spare time, students visited historic landmarks and rural regions within the country, including a trip to Karabakh, and witnessed firsthand all AGBU programs. To keep friends and family informed about their homeland experiences, interns posted entries and photos on a specially designed blog.



Yerevan Summer Intern Program.



GENERATION NEXT MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

Living up to its mission of providing Southern California youth of Armenian descent who are faced with difficult choices in today's often tense school environments with positive role models and support, Generation Next Mentorship Program continues to connect mentors and mentees through innovative and productive group activities, such as rock-climbing expeditions, an artistic showcase, beneficial workshops, and community and cultural events. Moreover, Generation Next has benefited from the addition of an enthusiastic new director and almost 20 new mentors, who get together with their mentees on a weekly basis and offer the guidance necessary for them to succeed in all aspects of life. Modeled after the Big Brothers Big Sisters of America program, Generation Next receives funding from the Glendale Unified School District and obtained scholarships for seven students to participate in personal development courses in 2006.

CHAPTERS

Guests look at the "Nine Contemporary Artists from Armenia" exhibition in Pasadena, California.

CULTURAL

Thousands and thousands of culture enthusiasts applauded in auditoriums all over the world as AGBU presented numerous popular endeavors.



Artist and designer Kevork Shadoyan takes a bow after his "Armenian Silk Road" fashion show in Sydney.



From March to July, 2007, Ara Tekian presented an account of his climbing up Mt. Ararat and visit to Historical Armenia to chapters in Chicago, New York, Vienna and Beirut.



A performance of "The Hired Killer" in Toronto.



AGBU Baghdad's Sayat Nova Chorus prepares to sing for a crowd of 500 people at the AGBU Center on November 18, 2006.



AGBU Sofia Chamber Orchestra performs in February 2007.



The Armenian Heritage Centre was launched on April 24, 2006 by AGBU Melbourne.

Often functioning as the organization's central nervous system, AGBU's over six-dozen chapters plan a variety of activities to fulfill fundraising, cultural and educational goals within each local community to promote and perpetuate the Armenian identity.

AGBU's global 48 centers and offices serve as a hub for its membership to congregate and celebrate their heritage.

EDUCATIONAL

Recognizing that education continues at every age, AGBU Chapters organized lectures and conferences to engage the minds of their membership.



A two-day seminar on "Reporting & the Media" organized by the Damascus Chapter in March 2006.



Los Angeles Hye Geen sponsored a conference on "The Status of Armenian Communities Living in the United States."



In November 2007, AGBU Montreal hosted AGBU Nubarian Library Director Raymond Kevorkian for a series of lectures on AGBU and Armenian history.

CHILDREN'S CENTERS WEST COAST TOUR

The AGBU Nork Children's Center performing arts troupe traveled to the Western United States at the invitation of AGBU and the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church of America during November 2007. The events were attended by thousands in Texas (Dallas) and California (Los Angeles, Orange County and San Francisco).

This one-of-a-kind tour de force, coined as the "Armenian Cirque de Soleil," is a mosaic of music, dance, poetry recitation, thrilling gymnastics and acrobatics, which showcases the talent, spirit and vitality of 52 young performers, ages 10 to 19. The AGBU students present a remarkable repertoire of traditional Armenian and contemporary art forms through the Haykazunk Ethnographic (Folk) Ensemble, Narek Dance Ensemble, Nork Circus Ensemble, Armens Drum Ensemble and Assoub Step Ensemble.



FUNDRAISING & PHILANTHROPY

Fundraising efforts always have the same goal, but AGBU's Chapters pride themselves on finding unique ways to succeed at their mission.



Elisabeth Istamboulli organized a fashion show at the Sir James Henderson School in Milan attended by over 500 people to benefit the AGBU Children's Centers.



New England District raises \$15,000 for AGBU's Karabakh Repopulation Project through a benefit concert.



Cypriot chapters (Larnaca, Limassol & Nicosia) presenting their donation to the relief fund for victims of the fires that swept through Greece during August 2007.



Guests of the "Noyan Tapan" boat cruise on Lake Ontario — an AGBU Toronto fundraiser for the Nor Jaberd Repopulation Project.

ARMENIAN PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA TOURS FRANCE

From February 6 - 15, 2007, the 120-member Armenian Philharmonic Orchestra (APO) toured seven French cities (Nice, Vendee, Saint-Etienne, Lyon, Valence, Marseille, and Paris) to entertain thousands of music lovers as part of the "Year of Armenia" festival of Armenian culture that took place in France during 2006-2007.

Sponsored by AGBU and with the involvement of the organization's many French chapters, the nine-day APO tour provided one of the highlights of the "Year of Armenia" in France, by showcasing the high level of achievement in Armenia's cultural institutions.



2006 – 2007 DISTRICT & CHAPTER CHAIRPERSONS

ARGENTINA

BUENOS AIRES: Vahram Hairabedian,
Ruben Kechichian (as of Mar 2006)
CORDOBA: Ricardo Erezian

AUSTRALIA

MELBOURNE: Maral Tchorbadjian
SYDNEY: Vahe Artinian

AUSTRIA

VIENNA: Berge Seraydarian

BRAZIL

SÃO PAULO: Carlos Matheus Der
Haroutiounian (2006), Krikor
Manukian (2007)

BULGARIA

BURGAS: Hagop Movsesian
DOBRICH: Hayg Egikian
HASKOVO: Garo Hachadurian
PLOVDIV: Hripsime Tovmasyan,
Roupen Chavoushian (as of Oct 2007)
RUSSE: Edmon Dogramajian
SILISTRA: Mgrdich Kalustdian
SLIVEN: Varta Garabedian
SOFIA: Sonia Avakian-Bedrosian
VARNA: Vanuhi Arakelian
YAMBOL: Sonya Arshavir Hovnanyan

CANADA

MONTREAL: Viken Attarian,
Rita Kuyumjian (as of Jul 2006),
Armen Bechakjian (as of Sept 2007)
TORONTO: Knar Basmadjian,
Eugene Karadjian (as of Jun 2006)

CYPRUS

LARNACA: Stepan Kamakian
LIMASSOL: Merouj Sarkissian
NICOSIA: Karekin Costanian

EGYPT

DISTRICT COMMITTEE OF EGYPT, CAIRO:
Berdj Terzian
CAIRO: Onnig Belekdanian,
Viken Djizmedjian (as of Apr 2007)
ALEXANDRIA: Sarkis Vartzbedian

ENGLAND

LONDON: Harout Aghajanian, Noushig
Setrakian (as of Apr 2006)

ETHIOPIA

ADDIS ABABA: Vahakn Karibian

FRANCE

DISTRICT COMMITTEE OF FRANCE, PARIS:
Denis Ketchedjian
LYON: Michel Sandjian
MARSEILLE: Bernard Besoian
NICE-COTE D'AZUR: Chakée Hagopian-
Clausen
PARIS: Richard Abdalian,
Sam Najarian (as of Jun 2006)
ST. CHAMOND/ST. ETIENNE: Leonardo
Basmadjian
VALENCE: Philippe Panossian
VIENNE: Soukias Soukiassian

GREECE

DISTRICT COMMITTEE OF GREECE,
ATHENS:
Dikran Abassian, Hagop Fesjian (as of Apr
2006)
THESSALONIKI: Haigouhi Portukalian

IRAN

TEHRAN: Roupen Ter Poghosian

IRAQ

BAGHDAD: Hampartzoum Shehranian

ITALY

MILAN: Haig Alexanian

LEBANON

DISTRICT COMMITTEE OF LEBANON,
BEIRUT:
Avedis Demirdjian

SOUTH AFRICA

JOHANNESBURG: Jacques Adanalian

SWITZERLAND

GENEVA: Taline Avakian

SYRIA

DISTRICT COMMITTEE OF SYRIA, ALEPPO:
Bedros Boyadjian
ALEPPO: Varoujan Tenekejian
DAMASCUS: Takvor Boyadjian
KAMISHLY: Yervant Mirzoyan
LATAKIA: Hagop Attamian
YACOUBIEH: Kevork Khatchadourian

URUGUAY

MONTEVIDEO: Hagop Chamikian

USA

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA DISTRICT
COMMITTEE, LOS ANGELES:
Vahe Imasdounian

HYE GEEN LOS ANGELES, CA:
Sona Yacoubian
ORANGE COUNTY, CA:
Krikor Mahdessian
PALM SPRINGS: Mary Beloian
SAN DIEGO, CA:
Ani Kalayjian-Lanuza
SAN FERNANDO VALLEY, CA:
Hovig Antabian
GLENDALE/PASADENA:
Raffi Elmajian (2006),
Shahe Seuylemezian (2007)

FRESNO, CA: Berj Kalamkarian
(2006),
Zaroohi Der Mugrdechian (2007)
OAKLAND-SAN FRANCISCO, CA:
Ashken Mouradian
SILICON VALLEY, CA: Yervant Zorian
CHICAGO, IL: Leona Mirza
NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT, MA:
Souren Maserejian
DETROIT, MI: Nadya Sarafian,
David Terzibashian
CLEVELAND, OH: Sebouh Setrakian
PHILADELPHIA, PA: Elizabeth Barone,
Clara Samelian
PROVIDENCE MEN, RI: William
Aznavourian
HOUSTON, TX: Sarkis Ohanian
PRESIDENT'S CLUB: Vartkess &
Rita Balian



NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

Special milestone accolades go to the Alexandria⁽¹⁾ and Valence Chapters (100th and 75th anniversaries respectively), and the Plovdiv Ereboundi Choir⁽²⁾ (35th anniversary). In 2007, AGBU also applauded Maestro Alvaro Hagopian⁽³⁾, a graduate of the Manogian-Nubarian School who was appointed conductor of the Montevideo Philharmonic Orchestra, and Alexis Govciyan⁽⁴⁾, a longtime member who received the French Legion of Honor and became the chairman of the newly formed AGBU Europe District. Moreover, the organization continues to support and encourage non-Armenian scholars who contribute to the propagation of Armenian heritage, literature, language and history through the annual AGBU Garbis Papazian Award. Recipients of the award in 2006 and 2007 were Wolfgang Gust⁽⁵⁾, Peter Cowe⁽⁶⁾ and G.H. Guarch⁽⁷⁾.



FOCUS 2007

Over 700 participants from 15 countries attended the fourth and largest FOCUS biennial affair in New York from July 26 to 29, 2007. The four-day event included networking, fundraising and social activities in Manhattan and garnered over \$85,000 through pre-event fundraising, which will go toward a special scholarship endowment fund for the New York Summer Intern Program in honor of its 20th anniversary.

Guests of honor at the sold-out Gala evening with 540 guests were Mr. & Mrs. Vartkess and Rita Balian, New York Summer Intern Program founders and co-chairs of the AGBU President's Club, which oversees the Intern Program's fundraising initiatives.

Now highly anticipated by young Armenian professionals around the world, FOCUS serves as a weekend event for global young Armenian professionals to unite and share their international perspectives, as well as provide a venue to showcase notable contributions and achievements made by AGBU's diverse youth programs.



FOCUS Captions: (clockwise from top): A scene from the Gala; Gala honorees and Co-chairs of the President's Club, Mr. & Mrs. Vartkess Balian; Members of the FOCUS 2007 Organizing Committee; FOCUS on Art.

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

The only Armenian network of its kind spanning five continents, the AGBU Young Professionals (YP) make Armenian communities around the world thriving, better places to live through civic involvement and international cooperation.

Inspiring their peers to get involved and stay involved, the open-door policy of AGBU YPs has garnered them a worldwide reputation for promoting a sense of community and belonging for young Armenians ages 22 to 40.

Proof positive, the AGBU YP Network expanded to 21 groups over the past two years with new chapters emerging in Detroit, London, São Paulo, Sydney, Toronto, Vienna, Washington, D.C., Yerevan and Zurich.

Substantive and always making an impact, the network collectively sponsored 180 cultural, educational and benefit events in 2006 and 2007, representing 20% of AGBU worldwide activity. Sharing the fruits of their labor, the groups also invested \$74,000 back into the community with over 80% of the funds earmarked for worthwhile AGBU programs in Armenia and Karabakh.



YP Yerevan



YP Greater New York



YP Sofia



YP Sydney



YP Lebanon



YP Los Angeles

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS CHAIRS 2006-2007

ARMENIA

YEREVAN: Shushanik Ghaltakhchyan

AUSTRALIA

SYDNEY: Kris Boghossian

AUSTRIA

VIENNA: Hrayr Sarikyan

BRAZIL

SÃO PAULO: Paulo Bilezikjian

BULGARIA

PLOVDIV: Suzanna Arutyunyan
SOFIA: Kevork Marashlyan (2006),
Hermina Emiryan (2007)

CANADA

TORONTO: Haigo Derian

ENGLAND

LONDON: Armine Afrikian

FRANCE

PARIS: Vanessa Ketchedjian (2006),
Aurélie Deyirmendjian (2007)

IRAN

TEHRAN: Armen Khachikian (2006),
Maria Ghazarians (2007)

LEBANON

BEIRUT: Shant Ohanian (2006),
Guy Markarian (2007)

SWITZERLAND

GENEVA: Karineh Manaserian-Cattin
ZURICH: Raffael Leuch

USA

LOS ANGELES, CA:
Cynthia Simonian (2006),
Jenny Kiljian (2007)
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA, CA:
Ed Minasian (2006),
Aline Ekmekji (2007)
ORANGE COUNTY, CA:
Greg Sermabeikian (2006),
Talin Babikian (2007)
BOSTON, MA: Alexis Butler (2006),
Areg Bagdasarian,
Antranig Mardiros (2007)
DETROIT, MI: Merrily Toroyan
GREATER NEW YORK, NY:
Natalie Gabrelian
PHILADELPHIA, PA:
Robin Barone (2006),
Vicky Evereklian (2007)
WASHINGTON, D. C.:
Leana Movsessian

CAMPS

When it comes to exciting summer fun, young Armenians will often say that they can't wait to go back to their AGBU camps, whether in Buenos Aires, the mountains of southern France or upstate New York.

For the past two summer seasons, thousands of youngsters participated in the organization's day and sleep-away camps, with youth often traveling from other countries to join in.

The France District also organizes a well-attended weeklong ski camp every winter for youth.



Hautes-Alpes, France



Buenos Aires, Argentina



Sofia, Bulgaria



Kessab, Syria



Andes, New York, United States



Toronto, Canada



Plovdiv, Bulgaria



Antelias, Lebanon

Established eight decades ago, AGBU's scouting program teaches discipline, courage and survival skills to young Armenians starting as cubs or brownies, and graduating all the way to leadership positions. Many of the global groups organize annual trips in the summer and/or winter seasons to practice their skill sets, strengthen the bond among troop members and enjoy wilderness settings. The Buenos Aires Antranik troop celebrated its 20th anniversary in June 2006 with a special event attended by over 500 supporters. Montreal's scouts were recognized by their peers in May 2007 at the annual Gala of Excellence for the Scouts of Metropolitan Montreal with several awards, including the coveted Inukshuk, which is awarded to senior scouts for a singular achievement that serves as a model of excellence for the entire scouting movement. The Montreal troop earned the Inukshuk for their second humanitarian mission to Armenia.

SCOUTS



Buenos Aires-Antranik Scouts



North American 2007 Games, Toronto, Canada.

ATHLETICS

AGBU's many athletic teams proved that hard work and team spirit always pay off. After winning the Lebanese National Championships for the fifth and sixth years in a row, the unbeatable AYA Antranik Beirut Girls Basketball Team went on to represent their country in the Arab League Championships and take home the gold. The win came as AYA Lebanon celebrated its 75th anniversary.

In Egypt, the Cairo Men's Basketball Team won the annual HMEM Basketball Tournament. In California, the SCDC Glendale/Pasadena teams celebrated their 15th anniversary. The Ararat Futsal team from Nicosia, Cyprus received numerous trophies during the 2006-2007 season.

Regional games in North and South America united over a thousand Armenian youth in four cities. Montevideo (2006) and Sao Paolo (2007) hosted the annual South American Games held annually in July, a three decades-long tradition. And for the first time in many years, teams from Los Angeles participated in the biannual Canadian Games, which took place in Toronto in July 2007.



Arab League Champions Beirut AYA Girls Basketball Team.

AGBU South American 2007 Games, São Paolo, Brazil.



UGAB



AGBU South American 2006 Games Montevideo, Uruguay.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES



France youth ski trip.

Year after year, AGBU's numerous youth groups demonstrate their commitment to their heritage.

Aleppo AYA initiated a dance group, 15-member chamber orchestra and children's choir. In Beirut, the local AYA dance group performed for a large audience at the UNESCO Palace in March 2007 in honor of International Women's Day and the Cairo Dziadzan Children's Choir performed a repertoire at the local children's cancer hospital in December 2007.

The France District once again organized its "Young Pioneers" trip to Armenia for teenagers (ages 15 to 18), which reconnects diasporan youth with their ancestral motherland. In December 2007, the Paris Youth group organized a three-day art exhibit featuring Italian Armenian artist Vahram Aghazarian.

In May 2006, AGBU Silicon Valley initiated a Kids Club, aimed at Armenian children aged 6-12. The group focuses on connecting youth to their culture through educational and enjoyable activities, including field trips, games and pen pal communication with children in Armenia. Now hosting monthly gatherings, the Kids Club has grown to 30 members.

In South America, AGBU's four youth leagues (known as Liga de Jóvenes) organized their 6th and 7th annual Woodstokian music festival that attracted a thousand young Armenians in Buenos Aires with hundreds of others watching the event on the popular YouTube video-sharing website. In March 2007, Cordoba hosted the third annual AGBU Armenian Inter-provincial Festival with a goal of building social connections between Argentinean communities that are geographically distant from one another. The Festival welcomed individuals from Buenos Aires, Cordoba, Corrientes, Mar del Plata, Misiones, Neuquén and Rosario. In August 2007, AGBU Cordoba's Ararat Dance Ensemble held a performance that attracted over 500 people.

MONTEREY BAY AQUARIUM



AGBU Silicon Valley Kids Club during their sleepover at the Monterey Aquarium.



Woodstokian organized by Buenos Aires' Liga de Jóvenes.



Aleppo AYA Antranik Dance Group performance.

CENTENNIAL

On April 15, 1906, at the residence of Boghos Nubar in Cairo, Egypt, the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) was born when 10 prominent individuals signed the first Article which formed the AGBU Central Board of Directors. One hundred years later, the organization continues to stand at the forefront of the Armenian nation with its longstanding educational, cultural and humanitarian endeavors, and exciting new projects underway to educate and motivate global youth about their heritage. Throughout 2006 and 2007, dozens of worldwide activities took place to commemorate this milestone event for AGBU, toast its accomplishments, and look forward to another bright century filled with promise.

Among the highlights of AGBU's Centennial were special events organized in Cairo, the birthplace of AGBU; Paris, where a Gala Evening was held in the Palace of Versailles; and Armenia and Karabakh, a most fitting locale to close the Centennial festivities and look ahead to the future.



Centennial Event at the New York Historical Society in Manhattan, USA.



A Centennial cultural showcase in Athens, Greece.



Centennial festivities in Kamishly, Syria.



A Centennial celebration in Damascus, Syria.



AGBU President Berge Setrakian, Armenian Foreign Minister Vartan Oskanian and Chairman of the District Committee of Syria Bedros Boyadjian during the ribbon-cutting for the new Gulbenkian center in Aleppo, Syria. The event coincided with AGBU Aleppo's Centennial celebration.



A Centennial exhibition and celebration in Montreal, Canada.



AGBU Egypt Centennial guests visit the pyramids of Giza near Cairo, Egypt.



AGBU Central Board Members, guests and friends at the grave of AGBU founder Boghos Nubar in Paris, France.



Special Guests at the French Gala at Chateau Versailles.



The Centennial Gala at the Chateau Versailles near Paris, France.



Centennial Ball in San Diego, USA.



A Centennial concert in Vienna, Austria.



A Centennial concert in Sofia, Bulgaria.



The Southern California District Committee honors AGBU Trustee Richard Manoogian for his lifetime of service to AGBU and Armenians during the Los Angeles gala event.



The Southern California District Committee gala in Los Angeles, USA.



The opening of the exhibition "Armenians: In Search of Refuge," at St. Joseph University in Beirut, which was curated by the AGBU Nubarian Library.



On April 8, 2007 after Easter Sunday services, the AGBU Centennial Time Capsule, to be opened in 2106, was buried on the grounds of The Holy See of Etchmiadzin. AGBU members were in Armenia to attend the finale of the AGBU Centennial festivities in Yerevan, Armenia.



Young Professionals during the Centennial festivities in Karabakh.



On April 8, 2007, AGBU sponsored a grand Centennial cultural showcase at the Opera House in Yerevan, Armenia.

MEDIA & PUBLICATIONS

With 15 print and online publications in 2006-2007, AGBU reaches close to 100,000 Armenians annually with information about activities and news of interest to all Armenians.

In response to the growing role of the Internet in people's lives, AGBU continues to develop its online presence. From Facebook to Flickr and from LinkedIn to YouTube, AGBU has in the last two years expanded its online services to attract a global cross-section of Armenians.

PUBLICATIONS

- AGBU News Magazine (USA)
- AGBU Voice (Bulgaria)
- Ararat Quarterly (USA)
- Deghegadou (Egypt)
- Desilk (Canada)
- ENewsletter (USA)
- Generación 3 (Argentina)
- Hayatsk (Syria)
- Hoosharar (USA)
- Khosnag (Lebanon)
- Mioutune (Australia)
- Nor Tsayn (Australia)
- Revue Arménienne (France)
- UGAB Méditerranée (France)
- Yeram (Syria)

WEB SITES

FLAGSHIP SITES

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

DISTRICT SITES

- agbuca.org Los Angeles, USA
- agbueurope.org Paris, France

CHAPTER SITES

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

SCHOOL SITES

- agbuscdc.org Los Angeles, USA
- agbumds.org Canoga Park, USA
- alexmanoogian.qc.ca Montréal, Canada
- agbutorontoschool.com Toronto, Canada
- manoogian.org Southfield, USA

COMMITTEE SITES

- antranig.org New York, USA
- agbu.co.nr Damascus, Syria
- usnubar.org Paris, France
- agbugennext.org Glendale (CA), USA

ADDITIONAL WEB SERVICES

- agbu.org/facebook
- agbu.org/flickr
- agbu.org/linkedin
- agbu.org/youtube
- agbu.org/xing

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

This Week in Photos



The Ardavazt Theater Company of Southern California performed the plays "The Venetian Twins" in September and October in Pasadena, Fresno and Orange County.

[Click Here for the Complete THIS WEEK IN PHOTOS](#)

AGBU E-NEWSLETTER



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...with we are pleased to announce that the Young ... Washington, DC have officially ... AGBU's burgeoning ... Their inaugural ... to click ... U-funded ... to tour ... performances in ... guaranteed them ... of these young ... ed to AGBU by ... that will link you to ... LinkedIn, and ... up-to-date news or

Articles en français
Conférence annuelle à l'UNESCO
Inauguration du bureau à Francfort
Inauguration du bureau de l'UGAB-HAIK à Francfort
La rénovation de l'Académie d'Arménie
La disparition de l'Académie d'Arménie
Colloque à Erevan les 2, 3 et 4 octobre, 2008
Mission économique en Arménie

Articles in English
AGBU Germany extension
Annual Conference in UNESCO
UN Conference in Paris
AGBU-HAIK Officially Celebrated
AGBU-HAIK Officially Celebrated

AGBU EUROPE

100th Anniversary 1906-2006

General Benevolent Union

28

2006 & 2007 AGBU PROGRAMS

ALUMNI ASSOCIATIONS (3)

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

ART ACADEMY (1)

Sarian Academy (Aleppo, Syria)

CAMPS & DAY CAMPS (10)

Antranik Day Camp (Antelias, Lebanon)
Arevik Day Camp (Toronto, Canada)
Camp Nubar (NY, USA)
Camp Unger (Sofia, Bulgaria)
Colonia de Vacaciones (Buenos Aires, Argentina)
Colonie de Vacances (Hautes Alpes, France)
Green Camp (Plovdiv, Bulgaria)
Kessab Camp (Kessab, Syria)
Summer Day Camp (Cordoba, Argentina)
Summer Day Camp (Kamishly, Syria)

CHORAL GROUPS (9)

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

DANCE ENSEMBLES (7)

Akhtamar Dance Ensemble (Kamishly, Syria)
Antranig Dance Ensemble (New Jersey, USA)
Antranik Dance Ensemble (Aleppo, Syria)
Antranik Dance Ensemble (Antelias, Lebanon)
Ararat Dance Ensemble (Cordoba, Argentina)
Dance Ensemble (Thessaloniki, Greece)
Mirage Jazz Ballet Ensemble (Plovdiv, Bulgaria)
Sardarabad Dance Ensemble (CA, USA)

INTERN PROGRAMS (3)

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

LIBRARY/RESEARCH CENTER (1)

Bibliothèque Nubar/Nubarian Library (Paris, France)

MEDICAL CENTERS (2)

Medical Dispensary (Beirut, Lebanon)
Ultrasound Center (Yerevan, Armenia)

MENTORSHIP PROGRAM (1)

Generation Next Mentorship Program (CA, USA)

MUSICAL GROUPS (8)

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

RADIO SHOWS (2)

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

SPECIAL COMMITTEES (6)

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

THEATER GROUPS (6)

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



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