

# AGBU

BIENNIAL REPORT

# 2012 - 2013

PRESENTED AT THE 88<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
ON APRIL 4, 2015 IN YEREVAN, ARMENIA





## OUR MISSION

**T**he Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) is the world's largest non-profit organization devoted to upholding the Armenian heritage through educational, cultural and humanitarian programs. Each year, AGBU is committed to making a difference in the lives of 500,000 people across Armenia, Nagorno-Karabakh and the Armenian diaspora.

Through the vision of its leaders and the generous support of devoted donors and members over the years, AGBU has played a significant role in upholding Armenian traditions and values by adapting to the needs of the worldwide community and the demands of the times. Since 1906, AGBU has remained true to one overarching goal: to create a foundation for the prosperity of all Armenians.

AGBU currently operates with an annual budget of over \$36 million, made possible by our countless benefactors. Headquartered in New York City, AGBU has an active presence in 30 countries and addresses the needs of Armenians with traditional and progressive programs worldwide —from schools, scouts, camps and support for the arts to internships, virtual learning and young professional networks.

AGBU strives to foster a deep sense of national identity and pride in our youth in order to prepare them for preserving our rich national heritage and to instill in them a vested interest in continuing the traditions that will benefit our people for generations to come.

*Cover photo: A participant of the AGBU Discover Armenia Program.*

*Top photo: Delegates from AGBU's 87<sup>th</sup> General Assembly held in Armenia on October 20, 2012.*



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## OUR HISTORY

**D**riven by a sense of national duty, Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) founder and first president Boghos Nubar boldly set out with nine members to form an organization to serve all Armenians and preserve the Armenian identity.

Since its founding in Cairo, Egypt in 1906, the organization's reputation for integrity resonated and supported the Armenian people during genocide, natural disaster, repatriation, resettlement, revival and national independence. Thanks to the support of our members and donors, AGBU has flourished into an exemplary organization with the resources and goodwill to serve Armenians in Armenia and across the diaspora.

AGBU's first century of service has redefined the landscape of the Armenian nation. With an emphasis on educational, cultural and humanitarian programs, AGBU is comprised of over 69 districts and chapters, 47 community centers and offices and 27 young professionals (YP) groups; operates 25 day and Saturday schools; and supports various programs, including the American University of Armenia, senior dining centers, children's centers, scholarship programs, summer camps, athletics, scouts, internships, performing arts and 14 publications in 6 languages.

Having crossed the threshold into the 21st century, AGBU is committed to upholding its legacy of service to the Armenian people with unparalleled foresight and direction. Rooted in its very origins, AGBU provides educational and cultural opportunities to Armenian youth today for the growth of the community tomorrow.

# CENTRAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2012 – 2013

## **PRESIDENT**

Berge Setrakian

## **VICE PRESIDENTS**

Sam Simonian, Sinan Sinanian

## **TREASURER**

Yervant Demirjian

## **SECRETARY**

Berge Papazian

## **VICE SECRETARY**

Sarkis Jebejian

## **HONORARY MEMBER**

His Holiness Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians

## **MEMBERS**

USA: Noubar Afeyan, M. Michael Ansour, Carol Bagdasarian Aslanian, Joseph L. Basralian, Nazareth A. Festekjian, Arda Haratunian, Levon Nazarian, Dickran Tevrizian, Yervant Zorian  
ARGENTINA: Ruben Kechichian FRANCE: Aris Atamian SWITZERLAND: Vahe Gabrache  
SYRIA: Vasken Yacoubian UNITED KINGDOM: Joseph Oughourlian

## **COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES**

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

## **IN MEMORIAM**

Boghos Nubar, Founder  
Alex Manoogian, Honorary Life President

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

TO OUR MEMBERS, DONORS AND FRIENDS,



**F**rom Beirut to Boston, Milan to Melbourne, Cairo to Córdoba, the Armenian General Benevolent Union has always made it its mission to ensure the prosperity of Armenian communities worldwide. Continuing a commitment to educational, cultural and humanitarian initiatives that has only grown stronger with each passing year, 2012 and 2013 saw the expansion of the organization in promising new directions. This 88<sup>th</sup> General Assembly Biennial Report serves as a hallmark and a testament of each member, donor and supporter of our organization. The unwavering commitment pledged by each individual amounts to the great advancement we have achieved as an entire community.

Our successes did not come without hardship. There have been a great number of challenges facing Armenia and the diaspora on the global and regional fronts. One of the gravest issues confronting the Armenian nation during this period was the ongoing crisis in Syria. AGBU responded to the turmoil by creating the AGBU Humanitarian Emergency Relief Fund for Syrian Armenians, delivering \$1.5 million in aid during this two year-period alone to safeguard the survival of this historic community. The conflict resulted in the emergence of a new diaspora from Syria, as the Armenian community was obliged to take refuge in Armenia, plant new roots in Nagorno-Karabakh or restarting life in Beirut, Montréal and other cities. It is at these historic junctures that we must recognize our calling and respond by providing support to global humanitarian causes, because every one of our actions counts.

**As we look past the centenary of the Armenian Genocide, AGBU will go beyond upholding its traditional mission of preserving and promoting Armenian heritage to enhance the potential of Armenians worldwide and ensure their success on the global stage**

In 2012 and 2013, AGBU continued to uphold its responsibility to Armenia and

Nagorno-Karabakh, while also nurturing diasporan communities worldwide. The sheer number and diversity of events in each one of AGBU's districts and chapters is evidence of the bond and strength of the global AGBU family. During this period, the groundwork was laid for the AGBU Yerevan Center, which serves as the headquarters of the AGBU Armenia office. This five-story energy-efficient facility, equipped with cutting edge green technology, will be a hub of activity in downtown Yerevan. The development of the first AVC multimedia e-book series also came about during these years. Today, the project has come to fruition with 10,000 downloads, through *The Armenian Highland*, an e-book available for download in seven languages. In 2012, the new Performing Arts Department was unveiled and since then has connected Armenian talent worldwide, introducing Armenian art to diverse audiences. In 2013, Camp Nubar celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and reunited generations of campers, counselors, alumni and friends from all over the world.

Investment in the new generation remains one of AGBU's greatest priorities. The growth of the scholarship program for Armenian students worldwide, the expansion of youth programs—internship, mentorship and leadership initiatives—and the evolution of schools to keep pace with technological advancements all contribute to forming Armenian leaders who are prepared to guide the community into the future.

Our organization takes pride in the way it faces pressing political, social and economic challenges with conviction and resolution. As we look past the centenary of the Armenian Genocide, AGBU will go beyond upholding its traditional mission of preserving and promoting Armenian heritage to enhance the potential of Armenians worldwide and ensure their success on the global stage. It will require sharp focus and determination, but our leadership and members are prepared for the task.

AGBU is at a crossroads. In recent years, we have been taking important steps towards major

organizational restructuring by establishing programs and developing partnerships worldwide. For our new vision for the organization to succeed, we are calling on our constituents to embrace these changes and take part in the projects that will make a difference in the lives of all Armenians.

It continues to be my great honor to stand at the helm of AGBU and work alongside members, donors and friends who share a similar commitment to the advancement of Armenian culture. I am proud that 2012 and 2013 have been such a dynamic period in the life of our organization and can say with certainty that the coming years will prove to be even brighter for AGBU and for the larger Armenian community.



Berge Setrakian  
President



# FINANCIAL REPORTS

## 2013 - 2012

### CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

#### December 31

<b>ASSETS</b>	2013 (**)	2012
<b>Current Assets:</b>		
Cash	\$ 9,914,439	\$ 12,991,151
Investments - at cost (*)	57,135,609	47,319,824
Contributions/Accounts receivable	5,011,538	5,552,029
Interest receivable	420,441	654,888
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>72,482,027</b>	<b>66,517,892</b>
<b>Investments - non-current - at cost (*)</b>	<b>186,226,898</b>	<b>191,089,763</b>
<b>Real Estate - at cost (***)</b>	<b>87,288,005</b>	<b>84,705,237</b>
<b>Furniture, equipment and leasehold improvements, net</b>	<b>1,919,745</b>	<b>1,950,669</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$347,916,675</b>	<b>\$344,263,561</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>Liabilities:</b>		
Accounts payable	\$7,255,202	\$7,766,780
Notes payable	263,534	369,432
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>7,518,736</b>	<b>8,136,212</b>
<b>Net Assets:</b>		
Unrestricted	45,193,337	46,763,558
Temporarily restricted	63,076,190	62,986,291
Permanently restricted (Endowments)	232,128,412	226,377,500
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>340,397,939</b>	<b>336,127,349</b>
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</b>	<b>\$347,916,675</b>	<b>\$344,263,561</b>

(\*) Total fair market values of current & non-current investments as of 12/31/2013 and 12/31/2012 are **\$265,243,970** and **\$251,020,323** respectively.

(\*\*) Consolidated financials for 2013 & 2012 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 2013 were estimated based on 2012 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 considerably higher than the historical cost reported on the U.S. GAAP basis in the financial statements.

### FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

#### Biennial Financial Report: 10-year Comparatives

	2013	%(a)	2012	%(b)	2002
<b>Total Assets</b>	\$347,916,675	1.07%	\$344,263,561	46.34%	\$235,247,104
<b>Total Income</b>	49,810,477	11.04%	44,858,378	67.31%	26,811,319
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	45,539,887	<1.28>%	46,128,182	53.43%	30,064,590

(a) Yearly % Increase (Decrease)      (b) 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

#### 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, 2013 (\*\*)

Year Ended December 31, 2012

Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
\$ 4,084,676	\$ 7,338,177	\$ 5,525,577	\$ 16,948,430	\$ 3,973,273	\$ 10,028,515	\$ 2,484,401	\$ 16,486,189
316,594	-	-	316,594	311,254	-	-	311,254
5,071,004	36,232	-	5,107,236	4,565,469	32,620	-	4,598,089
<b>9,474,274</b>	<b>7,374,409</b>	<b>5,525,577</b>	<b>22,372,260</b>	<b>8,849,996</b>	<b>10,061,135</b>	<b>2,484,401</b>	<b>21,395,532</b>
11,309,629	-	-	11,309,629	7,398,909	-	-	7,398,909
1,860,116	19,719	-	1,879,835	1,873,456	19,860	-	1,893,316
14,248,753	-	-	14,248,753	14,170,621	-	-	14,170,621
<b>27,418,498</b>	<b>19,719</b>	-	<b>27,438,217</b>	<b>23,442,986</b>	<b>19,860</b>	-	<b>23,462,846</b>
<b>36,890,772</b>	<b>7,394,128</b>	<b>5,525,577</b>	<b>49,810,477</b>	<b>32,292,982</b>	<b>10,080,995</b>	<b>2,484,401</b>	<b>44,858,378</b>
12,219,381	(12,219,381)	-	-	13,223,073	(13,223,073)	-	-
<b>49,110,153</b>	<b>(4,825,253)</b>	<b>5,525,577</b>	<b>49,810,477</b>	<b>45,516,055</b>	<b>(3,142,078)</b>	<b>2,484,401</b>	<b>44,858,378</b>
23,705,478	-	-	23,705,478	21,368,716	-	-	21,368,716
11,552,831	-	-	11,552,831	12,142,665	-	-	12,142,665
2,031,314	-	-	2,031,314	3,721,616	-	-	3,721,616
3,419,210	-	-	3,419,210	4,227,419	-	-	4,227,419
<b>40,708,833</b>	-	-	<b>40,708,833</b>	<b>41,460,416</b>	-	-	<b>41,460,416</b>
3,931,345	-	-	3,931,345	3,485,324	-	-	3,485,324
521,601	-	-	521,601	286,517	-	-	286,517
378,108	-	-	378,108	895,925	-	-	895,925
<b>4,831,054</b>	-	-	<b>4,831,054</b>	<b>4,667,766</b>	-	-	<b>4,667,766</b>
<b>45,539,887</b>	-	-	<b>45,539,887</b>	<b>46,128,182</b>	-	-	<b>46,128,182</b>
3,570,266	(4,825,253)	5,525,577	4,270,590	(612,127)	(3,142,078)	2,484,401	(1,269,804)
(5,140,487)	4,915,152	225,335	-	(5,599,447)	5,511,386	88,061	-
<b>(1,570,221)</b>	<b>89,899</b>	<b>5,750,912</b>	<b>4,270,590</b>	<b>(6,211,574)</b>	<b>2,369,308</b>	<b>2,572,462</b>	<b>(1,269,804)</b>
<b>46,763,558</b>	<b>62,986,291</b>	<b>226,377,500</b>	<b>336,127,349</b>	<b>52,975,132</b>	<b>60,616,983</b>	<b>223,805,038</b>	<b>337,397,153</b>
<b>\$45,193,337</b>	<b>\$63,076,190</b>	<b>\$232,128,412</b>	<b>\$340,397,939</b>	<b>\$46,763,558</b>	<b>\$62,986,291</b>	<b>226,377,500</b>	<b>\$336,127,349</b>

# HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND FOR SYRIAN ARMENIANS



**Y**ears of fighting and instability have left the country and the Syrian Armenian community facing the largest humanitarian crisis today. A contingent of more than 100 volunteers have helped carry out AGBU's humanitarian work in support of Syrian Armenians. The AGBU, particularly volunteers in Syria, Lebanon and Armenia, has shown incredible altruism and dedication since this conflict began and has been instrumental to the organization's emergency relief efforts. In 2012 and 2013, AGBU donors contributed a total of \$1.5 million in support of the AGBU Humanitarian Emergency Relief Fund for Syrian Armenians. AGBU's relief efforts provided emergency assistance to thousands of Armenian families who were displaced within Syria and those who were forced to flee to Armenia and Lebanon.

Through the collaborative efforts of chapters, centers, schools and volunteers in the region, AGBU address the growing needs of the community and the escalating humanitarian crisis. AGBU administered critical aid to thousands throughout the country by providing medical aid and medicine; shelter; safe

drinking water; food; milk and baby formula; and other basic supplies, such as butane gas for cooking and clothing. As part of the relief mandate, AGBU has also subsidized school tuition and children's activities. Refugees who settled in Armenia and Lebanon were also provided with relocation support in the form of financial assistance, free medical services, university scholarships and AGBU school tuition subsidies. Families who settled in rural regions of Nagorno-Karabakh were also given agricultural supplies as part of the resettlement support system.

AGBU's assistance has reached vulnerable Syrian Armenians and has helped to secure their safety and survival. Over the last two years, as the needs of the population have grown, AGBU expanded its work and extended its reach to ensure that every Syrian Armenian in need had access to necessary assistance.



# ARMENIA & NAGORNO-KARABAKH





Children from the Nork Children's Center in Yerevan.



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



The **Karabakh Chamber Orchestra** performed in Moscow in April 2013.



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

**FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF AGBU SPONSORED PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS IN ARMENIA AND NAGORNO-KARABAKH, PLEASE REFER TO PAGE 18.**

# AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF ARMENIA (AUA)



In 2012, AGBU and AUA began a continuing education program to increase local employment and stimulate stagnant rural economies in Nagorno-Karabakh. To achieve this goal, AGBU committed \$575,000 over five years to support a comprehensive Continuing Education Program (CEP) in Nagorno-Karabakh through the AUA Extension Program. CEP offers six levels of English language instruction and four certification tracks in strategic management; executive leadership; public policy planning and administration; and tourism and hospitality management. The new AGBU Nagorno-Karabakh Campus offers a range of programs, including training in creative arts, media and technology. These classes are available to high school and college students, local businesses, entrepreneurs and government officials. On the campus, CEP also offers university test preparatory courses, seminars in management, public speaking and computer software as well as workshops for career development, resume writing and interviewing.

In 2013, AUA launched a four-year undergraduate degree program in Yerevan with 281 students enrolled. The new bachelor's degree in computational sciences includes topics in applied mathematics and computer science as well as courses in computer techniques relevant to science and engineering. The coursework for the bachelor's degree in business includes a grounding in economics, finance, accounting, marketing, and management, while the bachelor's degree in English and communications includes courses in journalism, public relations, writing, and translation. AUA also established a new master's program in quantitative economics in partnership with the Central Bank of Armenia.

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.

## CHILDREN'S CENTERS

The AGBU Children's Centers in Nork, Arapkir and Malatya continued their classes in arts and crafts,



computers, dance, gymnastics, history and music as well as their performances throughout Yerevan. All three centers house a chapel and host weekly church services and Bible studies. Nearly 2,000 students—ages four to twenty-five—are enrolled in the Children's Centers, which are overseen by an administrative staff of over 175. Students at the Children's Centers also participate in various festivals, exhibitions and award ceremonies as well as cultural and sporting events. In 2012 and 2013, AGBU Children's Center students participated in the Junior Eurovision Contest, the Pomegranate Seed Republican Theatrical Festival, the Delphi International Games and the International Children's Games.

In 1993, AGBU—in partnership with the Mother See of Holy See of Etchmiadzin—transformed the Yerevan's former Soviet youth palaces into three facilities. Since then, the center has provided a range of afterschool instruction and summer programs for children and young adults.

# HYE GEEN PREGNANT WOMEN'S CENTERS

In 2012, Hye Geen opened the Arshagouhi Tavitian Pregnant Women's Center in Yerevan. The center provides free prenatal and postnatal care to women in the city and is staffed by a team of professionals who equip women with education and training to improve their own well-being and that of their children. The counselors, lawyers, medical practitioners, psychologists and social workers conduct regular one-on-one consultations with the women and facilitate group sessions to create solidarity networks that are essential to their empowerment. The opening of the Arshagouhi Tavitian Pregnant Women's Center, which coincided with AGBU's 87<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, sets forth a new phase of Hye Geen's growth. This fruitful accomplishment marks the establishment of the fourth Pregnant Women Center in Armenia (Yeghvard, Vanadzor, Talin and Yerevan) where over 1660 healthy babies and their mothers receive support and health care services.

Since the first center opened in 2002, AGBU Hye Geen Pregnant Women's Centers have played an important role in ensuring the delivery of over 1,500 healthy babies and creating networks of support for Armenian women.



# INTERSCHOOL REPUBLICAN CHESS TOURNAMENT

In 2012 and 2013, the number of student participants in the Interschool Republican Chess Tournament totaled more than five thousand and over one thousand schools were represented. Winners of the AGBU-sponsored competition received chess sets, chess clocks and projectors for their schools as well as gifts from the Chess Academy and their local municipality.

Since 2008, AGBU has sponsored the annual Interschool Republican Chess Tournament across Armenian schools in Armenia, Nagorno-Karabakh and the Javakh region of Georgia. It is an initiative spearheaded by the Armenian Chess Federation, under the auspices of the Republic of Armenia's Ministry of Education and Science.





## KARABAKH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

In 2012, the Karabakh Chamber Orchestra was invited by the Fridtjof Nansen Foundation to perform in Bergen, Norway. The performance was in celebration of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Nansen's birth. The orchestra began its 2013 season with a concert made up of selections by Verdi, Lucci, Tosti, Schubert, Shnorhali, Pahlavouni and Bach-Gounod. The orchestra was led by Maestro Gevorg Muratyan, who has directed the orchestra since its founding. In 2004, the Karabakh Chamber Orchestra was founded by Muratyan and twelve other musicians who moved from Yerevan to Stepanakert, Nagorno-Karabakh to form the 19-member ensemble. Since then, the orchestra has contributed to developing the musical talent of the region's youth.

With the continuing support of AGBU, the Karabakh Chamber Orchestra helps perpetuate a love of classical music throughout the community by training both performers and teachers of aspiring musicians.

## NEW EDUCATIONAL STRATEGY (NUR) PARTNERSHIP

In 2012, Argentinean-Armenian entrepreneur and philanthropist Eduardo Eurnekian officially launched the New Educational Strategy (NUR) in Nagorno-Karabakh. With AGBU's support, Eurnekian and his non-profit organization, the Fruitful Armenia Fund, distributed over 3,500 laptops in elementary schools across the region. The project is part of an international movement to bring cutting-edge technologies to disadvantaged students. The partnership between NUR and AGBU has given laptops to 1st through 4<sup>th</sup> graders in Stepanakert, Shushi and Qarin Tak. The device, which was developed by the educational program One Laptop per Child (OLPC) at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), gives students the opportunity to both play and learn, emphasizing creativity over instruction. Environmentally-friendly features allow students to use the laptop outdoors, where they can read its screen in direct sunlight and power its battery through solar energy.

In 2011, the Fruitful Armenia Fund partnered with AGBU to implement the One Laptop per Child program to provide students in developing countries with low cost, low power laptops equipped with advanced educational software.







## SENIOR DINING CENTERS

Since Armenia's independence, AGBU has sponsored Senior Dining Centers, which provide hot meals to more than 600 pensioners and orphans daily. The three centers are housed within the AGBU Children's Centers in Nork,

Arapkir and Malatya. The centers also arrange volunteers to deliver meals to seniors who are bedridden and cannot travel to the centers.

## L'UNIVERSITÉ FRANÇAISE EN ARMÉNIE (UFAR)

In 2012 and 2013, AGBU continued its annual scholarship program for UFAR students, awarding \$60,000 to the university's top 46 students in the form of AGBU Excellence Scholarships. Since the beginning of the partnership between AGBU and UFAR in 2007, over 120 students have received funding. In 2013, 11 fourth-year UFAR students participated in one month internships at companies in Lyon, Paris and Valence in collaboration with the AGBU France District and AGBU Lyon. Students had the opportunity to gain professional experience, practice their French and immerse themselves in French culture. Visits were comprised of meetings and tours of the National Assembly, the Embassy of the Republic of Armenia and the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh in Paris, the AGBU Nubarian Library, the Palace of Versailles, the Louvre and the Musée d'Orsay.

The partnership between AGBU and UFAR dates to 2004, when the AGBU France District hosted the first contingent of UFAR interns in Paris. Since then, 73 of the university's students have participated in four-week to six-week internships in Grenoble, Lyon, Paris and Valence with the financial support of AGBU.





# AGBU-SPONSORED PROGRAMS & PROJECTS IN ARMENIA & NAGORNO-KARABAKH

## ONGOING PROGRAMS

### ARMENIA

American University of Armenia  
Armenian Chess Federation  
Armenian Virtual College  
Children's Centers (3)  
Hye Geen Pregnant Women's Center (4)  
Senior Dining Centers (3)  
Ultrasound Center  
Yerevan State University

### Nagorno-Karabakh

AGBU/TUMO Center  
Agricultural Assistance Grants  
American University of Armenia Extension Project  
Karabakh Chamber Orchestra  
Karabakh Hospital  
New Educational Strategy (NUR) Partnership

### YOUTH PROGRAMS

Armenia Scout Movement  
Young Professionals of Yerevan

### DIASPORA YOUTH PROGRAMS

Antranik Scout Camp  
Discover Armenia Youth Trip  
Yerevan Summer Intern Program  
Musical Armenia Program

## MAJOR PROJECTS

AGBU/TUMO Center - Gyumri  
Holy Etchmiadzin Arapkir Church  
Holy Etchmiadzin Armenia Programs  
Holy Etchmiadzin Cathedral  
Holy Etchmiadzin Children's Center  
Holy Etchmiadzin Clergy Housing & Assistance  
Holy Etchmiadzin HH Karekin I Religious Education Center  
Holy Etchmiadzin Library/Repository (Matenadaran)  
Holy Etchmiadzin Museum (Alex Manoogian Gandzaton)  
Holy Etchmiadzin Museum (Old Veharan)  
Holy Etchmiadzin Oshagan Diocese/Church  
Holy Etchmiadzin Seminary  
Holy Etchmiadzin Service Center  
St. Nerses Hospital  
Vanadzor Children's Center & Senior Dining Center  
Vaskenian Theological Seminary

## SPECIAL GRANTS

Arapkir Institute for Children & Adolescents  
"ArmeniaNow" (on-line publication)  
Armenian Philharmonic Orchestra  
Gyumri Renaissance Festival  
Gyumri School #3  
Gyumri School for Disabled Orphans  
Gyumri State Conservatory  
L'Université Française en Arménie (French University)  
"Meronk" TV Program  
National Academy of Sciences  
Nor Malatia School  
Nvirir-Kyank (Gift of Life) Organization  
"On the Ways of Diaspora" TV Program  
Open Music Festival  
Peniamin Jamgotchian School  
Various Publications  
"Yerevan My Love" Project

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

Aragatsotn Region: Norashen Village Kindergarten Reconstruction  
Aragatsotn Region: Project in Ashnak  
Aragatsotn Region: Project in Hnaberd  
Ararat Region: Project in Ararat Town  
Ararat Region: Zangakatur Village - Paruir Sevak Museum Reception & Book Depository Construction  
Armavir Region: Project in Voskehat  
Gegharquniq Region: Artsvanist Village Water System and Reservoir Construction  
Gegharquniq Region: Martuni Village Music School Overhaul  
Gegharquniq Region: Project in Geghamaban  
Gegharquniq Region: Tsovazart Village School - Heating System  
Gegharquniq Region: Vagashen Village Cultural Center Renovation  
Kotayk Region: Charentsavan Village Kindergarten Renovation  
Lori Region: Arevashogh Village Community Center Construction  
Lori Region: Dsegh Village - Tumanian Museum - Heating System  
Lori Region: Hartagyugh Village Community Center Construction  
Lori Region: Teghut Village Kindergarten Construction  
Shirak Region: Amasia Village Cultural Center Reconstruction  
Shirak Region: Ashotsh Village Kindergarten Overhaul  
Shirak Region: Maralik Village Health Center Rehabilitation  
Shirak Region: Pemzashen Village Kindergarten Renovation  
Syunik Region: Halidzon Village Reconstruction Projects  
Syunik Region: Lor Village Hamo Sahyan's Museum Renovation  
Syunik Region: Project in Goris  
Tavoush Region: Nerkin Kamraghbyur Village Kindergarten Reconstruction  
Tavoush Region: Project in Paravakar  
Tavoush Region: Vazachen Village Cultural Center Overhaul  
Tavoush Region: Voskepar Village Community Center Construction  
Tavoush Region: Voskevan Village Kindergarten Construction  
Vayotz Dror Region: Getap Village Kindergarten Overhaul  
Vayotz Dror Region: Gladzon Village Kindergarten Renovation  
Vayotz Dror Region: Malishka Village Kindergarten #2 Reconstruction  
Vayotz Dror Region: Rind Village Potable Water System Construction  
Yerevan: Installation of heating system at Chess Academy

# EDUCATION



*The 2012 graduating class of the Manoogian-Demirdjian School in Canoga Park, California.*

**F**or over 80 years, AGBU has developed a global educational network that today boasts 15 day schools, along with numerous Saturday and summer schools. Together, these initiatives provide young people with a solid education and a strong sense of cultural identity, while preparing them for top-tier universities. Since the beginning of the humanitarian crisis in the Middle East, AGBU schools in Syria have carried out their mission as educational havens for hundreds of children, while schools in Lebanon have provided

displaced children a nurturing environment to help ease their transition. AGBU schools in North America are characterized by their strong academic standing, visibility and active role in their respective communities. In 2012 and 2013, 235 students and 258 students, respectively, graduated from AGBU high schools around the world, with a total enrollment of over 4000 students.

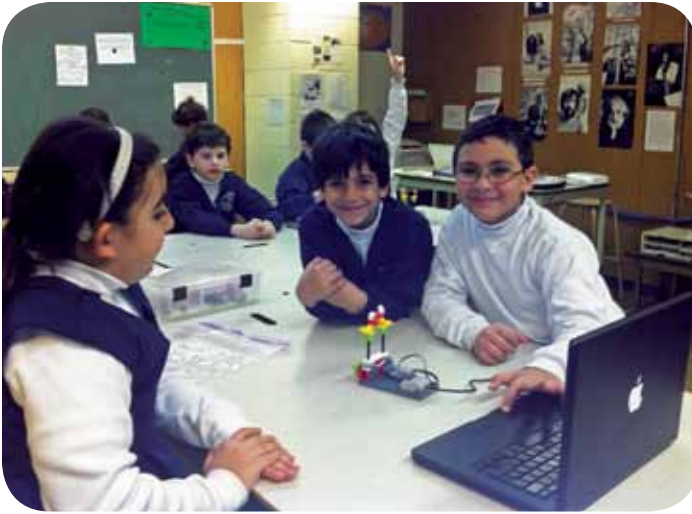
## AGBU SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

### **ARGENTINA: MARIE MANOOGIAN INSTITUTE**

In 2012, the Marie Manoogian Institute in Buenos Aires unveiled two new classrooms for its Serpuhí Ekshian Kindergarten. The rooms are now equipped with new desks and furniture, overhead projectors and computers. 2012 marked the highest level of enrollment in the school's history, with nearly 400 students from pre-kindergarten

to 12<sup>th</sup> grade. During the year, the school also expanded and upgraded its computer lab where students take part in the Armenian Virtual College (AVC) hybrid language and culture courses and teachers from numerous classrooms are supported by the AVC instructors and a specially tailored curriculum.





**CANADA: ALEX MANOOGIAN SCHOOL**

With an enrollment of 300 students from pre-kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade, the Alex Manoogian School in Montréal went through a restructuring process. The school established a new governing board and a separate pre-school section. It made strides in its outreach to the community, improved communication with parents

and is focused on strengthening its academic program, which stands out for its school-wide implementation of technology. In 2012 and 2013, several major improvements in the infrastructure of the school were realized through successful local fundraising and sponsorship.

**IRAN: NEVART GULBENKIAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOR BOYS AND MARIE MANOOGIAN SECONDARY SCHOOL FOR GIRLS**

AGBU has two schools in Tehran: the Nevert Gulbenkian Elementary School for Boys, established in 1966, and the Marie Manoogian Secondary School for Girls, established in 1975. The schools had an enrollment of 119 students

at the elementary level and 170 at the secondary level. 35 graduates of the Marie Manoogian School successfully passed the entrance exam and planned to attend university.

**LEBANON: LEVON G. NAZARIAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, BOGHOS K. GARMIRIAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND AGBU TAROUHY-HOVAGIMIAN SECONDARY SCHOOL**

AGBU schools in Lebanon had a total enrollment of 489 students and were focused on maximizing their efforts at standardizing the instructional process among the three schools and improving the academic performance of the elementary schools. In 2012, the Tarouhy-Hovagimian School was equipped with a new technology lab and smart boards and teachers were trained to incorporate the new technologies into their instruction. The AGBU schools in Lebanon were also instrumental in helping displaced Armenian families from Syria by covering the tuition and fees of 120 students, providing transportation, after-hour and Saturday tutoring and support to the curricular requirements. The Levon G. Nazarian School was proud to celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2013.





**SYRIA: GULLABI GULBENKIAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND AGBU LAZAR NAJARIAN-CALOUSTE GULBENKIAN SECONDARY SCHOOL**

In the midst of war, the AGBU schools in Syria continued to operate with reduced and fluctuating enrollment—600 at the Lazar Najarian–Calouste Gulbenkian School in Aleppo and 125 at Gullabi Gulbenkian School in Damascus. No student was turned away because of his or her ability to pay tuition. The activities and academic achievements at the AGBU schools in Syria, the number of graduating students, the outstanding success rate and performance

on the official exams and the nurturing familial atmosphere of the schools reflect the devotion of the teachers and governing bodies, the quality and scope of the numerous cultural, social and scouting activities that have taken place under the most unlikely of circumstances. 53 students from the elementary school and 50 students from the secondary school graduated from the Lazar Najarian–Calouste Gulbenkian Secondary School.

**URUGUAY: NUBARIAN-MANOOGIAN SCHOOL**

The Nubarian-Manoogian School, with an enrollment of over 300 students, celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a number of cultural events and student performances. A commemorative stamp to mark the milestone was also released and launched at a formal event. The City Council of Montevideo held a special event at City Hall with a proclamation recognizing the school’s social and cultural

contributions to the city. In 2012, the school also added a pre-school section and allocated specially equipped classrooms to accommodate the incoming toddlers. A collaborative program was initiated with the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders of the Marie Manoogian Institute in Buenos Aires during which the students worked on an annual thematic project and exchanged visits.

**CANOGA PARK, CA: MANOOGIAN-DEMIRDJIAN SCHOOL**

The Manoogian-Demirdjian School continued to be AGBU’s flagship school in California with an enrollment of nearly 800 students. Each year, students competed in the Southern California Private School Academic Decathlon, winning a total of 26 medals—10 gold medals—in 2012 and competing in ten categories. In the essay part of competition, the Manoogian-Demirdjian School students competed against nearly 200 students, winning five of the nine gold medals. In 2013, a creative production entitled “Voices from the Genocide,” combining dance, music and art, was developed by the seniors of the performing arts department and presented to the community as well as to local schools through several performances. During this period, 87 students graduated and moved on to the University of Southern California and the University of California-Los Angeles as well as out-of-state universities.



## PASADENA, CA: VATCHE AND TAMAR MANOUKIAN HIGH SCHOOL

The Vatche and Tamar Manoukian High School continued to expand enrollment with over 150 students and offered a diverse academic program. A wide array of elective classes were added to the curriculum, such as law and society; robotics; AP biology; AP calculus; speech and debate; Armenian enrichment and theater; and international issues

and journalism. In 2013, 32 students were inducted into the National Honor Society. 78 students graduated from the school and were accepted to the University of California-Berkeley, the University of California-Los Angeles and the University of California-Irvine, among others.

## SOUTHFIELD, MI: ALEX AND MARIE MANOOGIAN CHARTER SCHOOL

In 2013, the Alex and Marie Manoogian School, with an enrollment of 422 students, continued for the second consecutive year to be ranked among the bronze medal recipients of the nation's high schools by *US News and World Report*. The school was also named Charter School State Academic Champion by *Bridge Magazine* in the 4<sup>th</sup>

grade math and reading bracket. The graduating class of 2013, comprising 30 students, earned four-year college scholarships totaling \$1.6 million. All of the students applying to the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor were accepted with scholarships.



## AGBU DAY SCHOOLS & SATURDAY SCHOOLS

### ARGENTINA

BUENOS AIRES: Marie Manoogian Institute (pre-k - 12)

### AUSTRALIA

SYDNEY: Alexander Primary (K - 6)  
Alex Manoogian Saturday School

### BULGARIA

DOBRICH: Saturday School  
HASKOVO: Saturday School  
PLOVDIV: Saturday School  
ROUSSE: Saturday School  
SILISTRA: Saturday School  
SLIVEN: Saturday School  
YAMBOL: Saturday School

### CANADA

MONTREAL: Alex Manoogian (pre-k - 8)

### FRANCE

PARIS: Alex Manoogian Saturday School  
VIENNE: Wednesday School

### GREECE

ATHENS: Artaki Kalpakian (pre-k - 6)

### IRAN

TEHRAN: Marie Manoogian (9 - 12)  
Nevart Gulbenkian (1 - 5)

### LEBANON

BEIRUT: Boghos K. Garmirian (pre-k - 6)  
Demirdjian Center Saturday School  
Levon G. Nazarian (pre-k - 6)  
Tarouhy-Hovagimian (7 - 12)

### SYRIA

ALEPPO: Lazar Najarian-Calouste Gulbenkian (pre-k - 12)  
DAMASCUS: Gullabi Gulbenkian (pre-k - 6)  
KAMISHLI: Saturday School

### URUGUAY

MONTEVIDEO: Nubarian-Manoogian (pre-k - 12)

### USA

CANOGA PARK: Manoogian-Demirdjian (pre-k - 12)  
CHICAGO: Sisag H. Varjabedian Saturday School  
CLEVELAND: Saturday School  
COSTA MESA: Orange County Saturday School  
PASADENA: Vatche & Tamar Manoukian High School (9 - 12)  
SOUTHFIELD: Alex & Marie Manoogian Charter School (pre-k - 12)



Artists supported by AGBU's Scholarship Program performing classical and traditional Armenian music at the Boston fundraiser; raise \$60,000 to support local youth programs.

## AGBU SCHOLARSHIPS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

In January 2012, AGBU launched a new AGBU Scholarship Program website ([www.agbu-scholarship.org](http://www.agbu-scholarship.org)). All applications are received and processed electronically at the Central Office in New York through an online application system, eliminating the need for paper applications. Students are also notified of their application decision through their online account.

With the introduction of the new scholarship website and online application system, the number of applicants more than doubled. In 2012, over 1,000 students enrolled at institutions worldwide applied for AGBU scholarships – compared to an average of 400-500 applicants in previous years. This trend was seen again in 2013.

**AGBU US GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS** were awarded to students pursuing graduate studies in the fields of architecture; dentistry and medicine; computer science; education; graphic and industrial design; health policy and

- Columbia University
- Harvard University
- Johns Hopkins University
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)
- New York University (NYU)

**AGBU PERFORMING ARTS FELLOWSHIPS** were awarded to aspiring musicians, composers, actors, directors and screenwriters from conservatories and

- Cleveland Institute of Music
- Colburn School of Performing Arts
- Columbia University
- Jacob's School of Music
- The Juilliard School

In each of the 2012-2013 academic years, close to 500 undergraduates, graduate students and professionals studying in nearly 35 countries, received AGBU scholarship assistance totaling over **\$750,000 USD** in 2012 and **\$1.1 million USD** in 2013.

In addition to these individual scholarships, AGBU allocated over \$500,000 USD each year in the form of grants to various universities in Armenia, including the American University of Armenia (AUA) and L'Université Française en Arménie (UFAR), among others.

public administration; finance and economics; international relations and diplomacy; and law. Recipients were enrolled in highly selective colleges and universities in the United States, such as:

- Stanford University
- Tufts University
- University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)
- University of Southern California (USC)
- Yale University

universities in Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States. Institutions included:

- Royal Academy of Music
- Maastricht Academy of Music
- New England Conservatory of Music
- San Francisco Conservatory of Music
- The Vienna Conservatory



**AGBU RELIGIOUS STUDIES FELLOWSHIPS** were awarded to candidates for priesthood from St. Nersess Armenian Seminary in New Rochelle, NY and parishes affiliated with the Western Diocese of California as well as

other theology students pursuing masters and doctoral degrees in Christian education; divinity; pastoral theology and counseling; and youth ministry.

**AGBU INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS** comprised the largest category of individual scholarships and were awarded to students pursuing higher education outside the United States. Many are graduates of AGBU schools

around the world. In providing the necessary outreach and support to this program, the AGBU chapters play a vital role in identifying and evaluating potential candidates. Recipients were enrolled at:

- American University of Beirut
- Bogaziçi University
- Central European University
- École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne
- ETH Zurich
- Haigazian University
- Imperial College London

- McGill University
- Moscow Institute of Physics & Technology
- University College London
- University of Oxford
- Université de Paris
- University of Toronto
- Vienna University of Technology

**AGBU HERITAGE SCHOLARS GRANTS** were awarded to outstanding students from each of the three AGBU high schools in the United States who display academic excellence, school spirit and community involvement. Recipients included honors and advanced placement (AP) students, valedictorians, salutatorians, varsity athletes and active leaders in their cultural and religious communities.

Recipients are enrolled at California Polytechnic State University; University of California, Berkeley; University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA); and the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. They are pursuing undergraduate degrees in biochemistry; cell and molecular biology; history; journalism; neuroscience; and political science.

For almost a century, the AGBU Scholarship Program has championed the higher education of tens of thousands of

promising young Armenian university students enrolled at some of the world's top-ranked universities.



*A Swiss production of "Le Huron" starred opera singer Aram Ohanian, who is pursuing an MA in specialized music performance with an AGBU scholarship.*



*An AGBU scholarship allows Rima Karapetyan to attend Leiden University in the Netherlands, where she is receiving her LLM before returning to Armenia to work for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.*



*AGBU scholarship recipient Raffi Elchemmas (right) joins the President of Nagorno-Karabakh Bako Sahakyan at a Michigan fundraiser in support of Nagorno-Karabakh.*

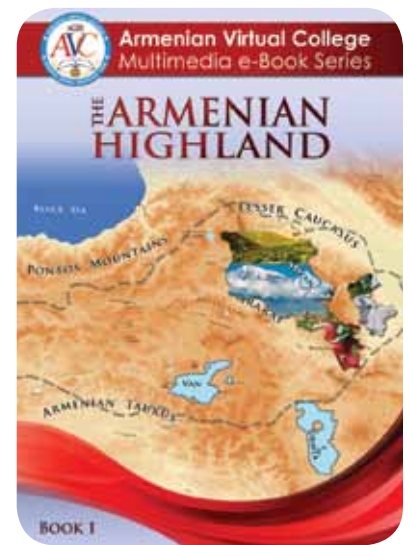


*Dr. Yervant Zorian (left), founder and president of AGBU's Armenian Virtual College, introduces AVC's newest programs at a global forum, at which Armenia's Minister of Education and Science Armen Ashotyan also spoke.*

## ARMENIAN VIRTUAL COLLEGE

In 2012 and 2013, the AGBU Armenian Virtual College (AVC) continued to broaden its e-learning offerings and global outreach to individuals and groups. In addition to its existing online courses on Armenian language, history and culture, AVC ventured into several new initiatives during this period. AVC laid the groundwork for a new multimedia e-book series on themes in Armenian history, culture, tourism and economy told through images, 3D, panoramic views and videos. The first e-book,

*The Armenian Highland*, is now available in seven languages. In 2012, AVC began an online chess learning program in collaboration with the Chess Academy of the Republic of Armenia. The effort started in 2012 to develop interactive courseware based on the Armenian methodology for chess learning. The launch of the chess program attracted over 300 students



from Armenia and the diaspora. AVC also partnered with Armenian communities, educational institutions and other organizations around the globe to help establish AVC labs and hybrid classroom. This program has reached 12 Armenian schools and community centers in 2012 and 2013. During this period, AVC also partnered with Ayb International School in Armenia to provide the chess course to elementary school students.

The mission of Armenian Virtual College (AVC) is to provide learners around the world with the opportunity to receive a full-fledged education in Armenian studies, regardless of their age, country of residence or knowledge level.



*Students at the Marie Manoogian School in Buenos Aires take advantage of Armenian Virtual College courses that are a part of their current curriculum.*

# INTERNSHIPS & MENTORSHIPS



*The AGBU New York Summer Internship Program's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Committee gathers outside Battery Gardens for the gala reception on Saturday, July 21, 2012.*

## NEW YORK SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM (NYSIP)

In 2012, the New York Summer Internship Program (NYSIP) celebrated 25 years of providing young Armenians with professional opportunities in the heart of New York. In 2012 and 2013, 64 interns from **Armenia, Canada, Lebanon, Russia, Syria, the United Kingdom** and the **United States** spent eight weeks working in their chosen field in positions secured through AGBU's vast network of host institutions. Interns were placed in organizations and companies such as Columbia University Medical Center, Deutsche Bank, Merrill Lynch, Mirrorball and NYU Langone Medical Center, among others.

In 2012, the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee organized a host of fundraising activities, including the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala to honor NYSIP founders and long-time AGBU supporters Rita and the late Vartkess Balian as well as supervisors who have hosted interns for past sessions. Each year NYSIP honors the internship supervisors and their invaluable, longstanding support of the program at the Supervisor's Reception. NYSIP has a network of over 400 supervisors over its 26 year history.

The New York Summer Internship Program was established in 1987 and has growing network of approximately 900 alumni. For over 25 years, NYSIP has hosted interns from 21 countries in virtually every professional field and given high-achieving university students valuable work experience to help them lay a solid foundation for their professional success.



### MENTORING PARTNERSHIP WITH YP GREATER NEW YORK

Since 1999, NYSIP has benefited from a partnership with the Young Professionals of Greater New York (YPGNY) group. The most significant component of this partnership was the mentoring program that pairs each intern with a YP working in his or her field of interest. In 2012 and 2013, mentors and mentees provided guidance and acted as role models, meeting several times throughout the summer, in groups and individually, to discuss various topics relating to their fields of expertise.



*AGBU YSIP interns shadow a doctor at the Arapkir Children's Hospital as they prepare for their careers in medicine.*

## YEREVAN SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM (YSIP)

The Yerevan Summer Internship Program (YSIP) provides university students with a rich cultural curriculum in addition to a meaningful professional experience in the homeland. The 2012 and 2013 summers saw the addition of 56 alumni to its growing ranks from **Canada, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Lebanon, Russia, Syria, the United Kingdom** and the **United States**. The following institutions and organizations hosted the interns: Ameria Bank, the American University of Armenia (AUA), the Armenian Center for Contemporary Experimental Art, Arapkir Medical Center, Children of Armenia Fund, Civilitas Foundation, Deem Communications, Grant Thornton, Golden Apricot International Film Festival, Hetq Online, IDS Design Studio, RepatArmenia Foundation, Republic of Armenia Human Rights Defender's Office, National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia, the National Gallery, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), TUMO Center for Creative Technologies, Ministry of Diaspora of the Republic of Armenia and St. Nerses the Great Hospital. The students were housed at a private residence in Yerevan during their six-week stay. They also participated in various cultural activities, met with young entrepreneurs, attended Armenian language and folk dance classes, visited monuments and became acquainted with the programs spearheaded by AGBU in Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh.

Since 2007, the Yerevan Summer Internship Program (YSIP) has provided a valuable link between academic learning and professional employment by allowing students to experience work in a particular field, teaching them important tools and skills that will shape their future.



## MOSCOW SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM (MSIP)

In 2012, the Moscow Summer Internship Program (MSIP) brought together young Armenians for a summer of professional development. Six interns had the opportunity to work at top companies, such as the Association of Russian Banks, Cigar Clan Magazine, the Moscow Diagnostics Center and the SKOLKOVO School of Management. They spent their evenings meeting with Armenian entrepreneurs, mixing with local university students and attending lectures. As cultural immersion was also an important aspect of the program, interns participated in Russian language courses and Armenian dance classes. The interns also took trips to St. Petersburg where the group explored the Hermitage Museum, the Peterhof Summer Palace, the Peter and Paul Fortress and St. Isaac's Cathedral. Throughout the program, the interns were joined by members of AGBU's partner in Russia, the Organization of Young Armenian Professionals of Moscow (SIVAM), which has played an indispensable role in the program's growth. Since MSIP's inception, SIVAM has provided critical support, contacts and resources. In 2012, SIVAM volunteers helped interns navigate the city and served as mentors, translators and friends.



The Moscow Summer Internship Program held its final session in 2012.

## MUSICAL ARMENIA PROGRAM (MAP)



In the summer of 2012, the AGBU Performing Arts Department debuted its Musical Armenia Program (MAP), an initiative geared toward young musicians who are given the opportunity to train and perform with renowned musicians in Armenia. Since its inception, MAP has brought together talented young composers, singers and instrumentalists from **Bulgaria, Canada, Greece, Syria** and the **United States**. For three weeks in July and August, MAP students take private lessons with some of the best musicians in the country and attend

classes with experts on subjects ranging from the Armenian medieval music to Armenian classical music. Participants also visit local institutions, such as the Yerevan Komitas State Conservatory, the Gyumri Conservatory and Sayat Nova Music School and tour the country's historic landmarks. At the close of the session, the participants perform at a gala concert hosted by the Khachaturian Museum, where they showcase their talents.

# GENERATION NEXT MENTORSHIP PROGRAM



The Generation Next Mentorship Program (GenNext) continued to make significant strides in providing positive role models, guidance and support to at-risk Armenian teenagers in Southern California. In 2012, 80 GenNext students graduated from the program and 30 new mentees and mentors were accepted to begin a new cycle of mentorship. In the local community, Generation Next continued to work with the school district and local organizations. GenNext also joined forces with the Didi Hirsch Community Center, Glendale Community College and Glendale Healthy Kids. These collaborations built on the program's existing partnerships with the YMCA, YWCA and the Glendale Police Department. In 2013, GenNext was honored by the City of Los Angeles at its annual Armenian Genocide Commemoration ceremony held at the Los Angeles City Council Chamber for its outstanding contributions to the Armenian and the greater community of Los Angeles.

Generation Next Mentorship program matches Armenian youth 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.

# GORIZ LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

In 2012, the GORIZ Leadership Program held its fourth annual seminar, which brought together young leaders with exceptional academic and professional backgrounds and trained them to represent their Armenian diasporan communities throughout Europe. The 2012 seminar revolved around the themes of communication and the media, during which participants learned how to harness the media to put Armenian issues in the international spotlight. Working alongside top journalists, the 22 participants—arriving from **Armenia, Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Romania, Spain, Turkey, the United Kingdom and Ukraine**—developed strategies for interviewing on television and engaging with media. In 2013, GORIZ took place in Istanbul and focused on the challenges faced by the Armenian community in Turkey. Throughout the four-day seminar, the 22 GORIZ participants explored ways that Armenian heritage is being preserved in Istanbul, particularly through education and the media. Previous seminars have included topics in European Union citizenship, democracy and civil society reinforcement and lobbying strategies.



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

# UNIVERSITY OUTREACH

University Outreach continued to build and strengthen its relationships with Armenian university students around the world. With a focus on North America, University Outreach hosted presentations on AGBU's youth programs in partnership with the Armenian student associations at Columbia University, New York University and various campuses of the University of California. Events were also held at AGBU high schools and community centers in the United States and Canada. In an effort to foster academic, professional and social growth, University Outreach joined other organizations in introducing opportunities for Armenian students at the annual Mentoring Program, hosted by the Armenian Engineers and Scientists of America at Fordham University. The program also collaborated with various community organizations to co-sponsor an array of educational, cultural and commemorative events throughout New York. These included a screening of the PBS documentary *The Armenian Genocide* and discussion with producer/director Andrew Goldberg; a presentation and photo exhibit entitled "Nagorno-Karabakh: From Sumgait Memories to Independent State;" and a film screening showcasing the work of up-and-coming Armenian directors Jesse Soursourian and Saro Varjabedian. In



2013, University Outreach launched its e-newsletter, providing Armenian college and university students with tips and articles to help them to succeed, while keeping them updated on AGBU's activities worldwide.

University Outreach aims to build and strengthen relationships between AGBU and Armenian student organizations around the world through seminars and workshops to promote professional growth.

# ACADEMICS



In 2012 and 2013, AGBU Academics hosted presentations in **Moscow, Paris, London, New York, and Yerevan**, to introduce students to the online network and resources for Armenian students as well as AGBU's various youth programs. In 2013, the site broadened its reach and expanded membership from university students to the larger AGBU network, with a special focus on creating alumni groups.

Since 2011, Academics ([www.agbuacademics.com](http://www.agbuacademics.com)) has provided a social networking forum for Armenian students to connect and support each other in their academic pursuits.

# CHAPTERS







# AFRICA & THE MIDDLE EAST



Homenetmen Nubar Sports Club's soccer field opening on November 9, 2013.

Awards were presented to Cairo's Armenian students for the 2011-2012 school year.

**EGYPT DISTRICT**  
**ALEXANDRIA**  
 Youth  
**CAIRO**  
 Dziadzan Children's Choir  
 Humanitarian Program  
**HELIOPOLIS**  
 Youth

**ETHIOPIA**  
**ADDIS ABABA**

**SOUTH AFRICA**  
**JOHANNESBURG**

## EGYPT

**CAIRO:** In 2012, AGBU Cairo published the Arabic translation of historian George Bournoutian's *A Concise History of the Armenian People*, a much needed resource on Armenian history. In 2013, the chapter realized a two-year-long project of creating a bibliography and discography of the Armenian works of classical singers. Recordings were collected from different sources and were digitized in mp3 format. AGBU Cairo's Dziadzan Children's Choir also continued its theatrical performances and concerts, delighting the Cairene and Alexandrian Armenian community with their lively shows. It also continued its social and medical support to the members in need of the Egyptian Armenian community through its Medicare program and through the pensions and grants it allocates to underprivileged Armenians in the fields of education, social welfare and health. 2013 also saw the opening of AGBU Cairo's Homenetmen Nubar Sports Club's state-of-the-art soccer field.



AGBU Cairo's Dziadzan children's choir performed in Alexandria on November 2, 2012 in a performance organized jointly by AGBU Cairo and AGBU Alexandria.

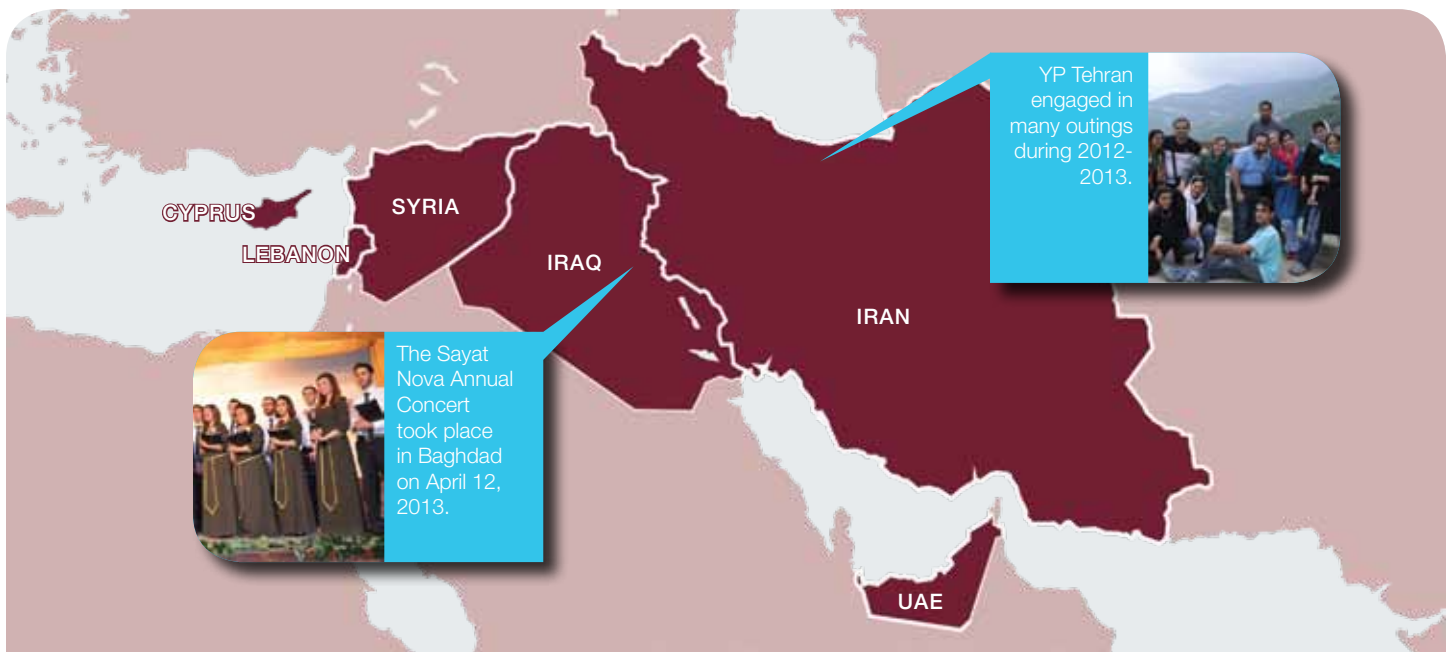
**CYPRUS**

**LARNACA:** In 2012, AGBU Larnaca hosted a presentation of hand-drawn panoramic maps by world-renowned Armenian cartographer Ruben Atoyan, at the new Armenian Cultural Center, which was opened in 2011. The event included an exhibition of over twenty maps of Berlin, Lviv, Minsk, Moscow, Venice and Yerevan, among other cities. In 2013, the chapter held a charity food bazaar to benefit families facing hardship due to the economic crisis in Cyprus.

**NICOSIA:** In 2012, AGBU Nicosia held a lecture by prominent geneticist Constantinos Deltas on the genetics of the Cypriots. His lecture focused on the genetic similarities between the Eastern Mediterranean peoples of Cyprus, Greece, Turkey and Armenia. Cyprus was also the site of a meeting of the Pan-Armenian Games Central Committee for which AGBU Nicosia organized a welcome event. At the event, members of the Central Committee were joined by the local Cyprus Games Committee and the Armenian ambassador to Cyprus.



*AGBU Nicosia chairman Vicken Kesterlian (left) with Hampig Mardirossian on February 16, 2012.*



**CYPRUS**

**LARNACA**  
**NICOSIA**  
Youth

**IRAN**  
**TEHRAN**

Marie Manoogian School  
Nevart Gulbenkian School  
Paros Theater Group  
Youth  
YP Tehran

**IRAQ**  
**BAGHDAD**

AYA Ohan Choir  
Yerchanik Tajirian Summer School  
Youth

**LEBANON DISTRICT**

**AMANOS/ANTELIAS/ASBEDS/BEIRUT/  
SIN EL FIL**

AYA Arine Dance Ensemble  
AYA Junior Choir  
AYA Vahram Papazian Theater Group  
Boghos K. Garmirian School  
Demirdjian Center Day Camp  
Demirdjian Center Saturday School  
Levon G. Nazarian School  
Tarouhy-Hovagimian School  
Medical Dispensary (2)  
Youth  
YP Lebanon  
**ZAHLE**

**SYRIA DISTRICT**

**ALEPPO**

Aram Khachaturian Conservatory  
AYA Antranik Dance Ensemble  
AYA Antranik Marching Band  
AYA Bedros Attamian Theater Group  
AYA Big Band  
AYA Gomidas Chamber Orchestra  
AYA Pountch Children's Dance Ensemble  
AYA Spendarian Choir  
Lazar Najarian-Calouste Gulbenkian School  
Sarian Academy  
Youth

**DAMASCUS**

Gullabi Gulbenkian School  
Youth

**KAMISHLI**

Akhtamar Dance Ensemble  
Saturday School  
Summer Day Camp  
Youth

**KESSAB**

Summer Camp

**LATAKIA**

**YACOUBIEH**

**UAE**

**DUBAI**

YP UAE



*The cultural affairs committee of the AGBU Baghdad honored Armenian-Iraqi violinist Nubar Pshdigian and his daughter artist Shaghig Pshdigian-Vartanian on March 8, 2013.*

## IRAQ

**BAGHDAD:** In 2013, AGBU Baghdad honored Armenian Iraqi violinist Nubar Pshdigian and his daughter artist Shaghig Pshdigian-Vartanian during its Evening of Arts and Letters. The event included a performance by the Iraqi National Symphony Orchestra, which interpreted pieces by Aram Khachaturian. The concert was held under the patronage of the Primate of the Armenian Church of Iraq, Archbishop Avak Asadourian and drew community members to the AGBU Kaprielian Hall. The chapter also continued its Yerchanik Tajirian Summer Camp, which welcomed elementary-school age children to enrich their studies in sciences, language, Armenian culture and heritage.

## LEBANON DISTRICT

In 2012 and 2013, AGBU Lebanon District organized numerous fundraising events, including a concert by soprano Hasmik Papian and the Lebanese Philharmonic Orchestra; a *Glittering Evening of Music*, featuring internationally acclaimed artists Mikhail Simonyan and Vahan Mardirossian; and collaborations with the Ministry of Culture of Lebanon and the Embassy of the Republic of Armenia to mark the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of composer Aram Khachaturian's birth. AGBU *Khosnag Monthly* hosted a series of lectures, which touched upon various subjects from Armenian literature to the commemoration of the Armenian Genocide. In 2012, AGBU Lebanon District celebrated the opening of the AGBU-AYA Ahranjian Center in Amanos, Lebanon as its new cultural center. At the AGBU Demirdjian Center, the AGBU Lebanon District saw an increase in the number of members attending its various activities, particularly at the Armenian Language Saturday School.



*In memory of the Armenian Genocide, scouts and members of AGBU-AYA attended a mass on April 24, 2013 at the Catholicosate of Antelias followed by a march from Bourj Hammoud to Martyrs' Square.*



*The Lebanon Ladies' Auxiliary Committee organized a mid-Lent Lunch to benefit AGBU Lebanon schools on March 6, 2013.*

## SYRIA

**ALEPPO:** In 2012, nearly 500 people gathered at the AGBU Gulbenkian Hall in Aleppo to celebrate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the AGBU Aleppo Armenian Youth Association (AYA). The event was composed of a rich cultural program that recalled the achievements of the organization's past eight decades with video, dance, theatrical and musical tributes. The AYA Gomidas Chamber Orchestra, AYA Spondiarian Choir, AYA Antranik Dance Ensemble and the AYA Attamian Theater Group all performed for the audience. The evening also marked the unveiling of the newly published the *AYA Commemorative Book*, a large folio volume edited by Aleppo chapter chairman Hagop Mikayelian and Zepure Ghibligian Tamerian. Throughout 2012 and 2013, AGBU-AYA Aleppo continued its Aram Khachaturian Conservatory, teaching piano, violin, viola, guitar, flute, *kanun* and wind instruments during the school year and summer term. In 2012, the conservatory included 180 students, many of whom are training to become teachers.



*Students at the Sarian Academy in Aleppo.*



*The Bedros Attamian Theatre Group in Aleppo.*



*AGBU-AYA Aleppo boys' basketball team with their coaches in 2012.*



*AGBU Aleppo members received and distributed aid from the AGBU Humanitarian Emergency Relief Fund for Syrian Armenians.*

# EUROPE



AGBU Sofia Chamber Orchestra May Spring Jazz Concert was part of the European music festival on May 19, 2013.



AGBU's partner organization HAIK celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2013.

The Plovdiv chapter organized a charity gala to celebrate its 103<sup>rd</sup> anniversary.

**AUSTRIA**  
**VIENNA**

Garod Dance Ensemble  
YP Vienna

**BELGIUM**  
**BRUSSELS**

Inside Europe (Partnership)

**BULGARIA**

**BURGAS**  
**DOBRICH**  
Saturday School  
**HASKOVO**  
Saturday School  
Youth Theater Group  
**PLOVDIV**  
Erebouni Choral Ensemble  
Green Camp  
Saturday School  
Youth  
YP Plovdiv

**ROUSSE**

Saturday School  
**SILISTRA**  
Saturday School  
**SLIVEN**  
Saturday School  
**SOFIA**  
Camp Unger  
Chamber Orchestra  
Nur Dance Ensemble  
YP Sofia  
**YAMBOL**  
Aravod Choir  
Saturday School

**FRANCE DISTRICT**

**LYON**  
Armenian Radio Program  
Youth  
**MARSEILLE**  
Youth  
YP Marseille  
**NICE**  
**PARIS**  
Academics  
Alex Manoogian Saturday School  
Ahazank Theater Group  
Colonie de Vacances  
Goriz Leadership Program  
Koghtan Choir  
Nubarian Library  
Youth  
YP Paris  
**ST. CHAMOND/ST. ETIENNE**  
**VALENCE**  
**VIENNE**  
Wednesday School

**GERMANY**

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

**GREECE**  
**CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF GREECE**

**ATHENS**  
Artaki Kalpakian School  
Youth  
YP Athens  
**THESSALONIKI**  
Dance Group

**ITALY**  
**MILAN**

**NETHERLANDS**  
**ALMELO**

**RUSSIA**  
**MOSCOW**  
Internship Program  
Organization of Young Armenian Professionals of Moscow (Partnership)

**SPAIN**  
**BARCELONA**  
Asociación Cultural Armenia de Barcelona (ACAB)

**UK**  
**LONDON**  
YP London

## EUROPE DISTRICT

In 2012 and 2013, AGBU Europe developed its program of activities with the goal of making the voice of AGBU heard across Europe and providing support to European Armenian communities. AGBU Europe's programs included the GORIZ Leadership Program, the Senior Leadership Network and activities relating to genocide remembrance and European Union (EU) advocacy. In March 2012, following the successful completion of the *Armeniaca* project, which is dedicated to the preservation, digitization, and development of archives related to Armenian architectural heritage, an event was organized at the European Parliament and featured an exhibition hosted by member of European Parliament Michèle Rivasi. AGBU Europe has also sought to enhance cooperation between AGBU chapters in Europe and developed relationships with organizations and communities, establishing ties with groups in Poland, Romania, Turkey and Ukraine. An AGBU delegation was invited to Ukraine in February 2013 by Arsen Avakov, member of Parliament and president of the Renaissance Foundation. The delegation met the



*Industry leaders and lawmakers from across Europe spearhead a new Armenian leadership network at an AGBU-sponsored seminar in Warsaw in September 2013.*



*From left to right: AGBU Central Board members Yervant Zorian and Vasken Yacoubian, Ukraine Parliament member Arsen Avakov, AGBU Strategic Advisory Council member Guy Markarian and Mr. Avakov's adviser Tigran Avagyan discuss plans for establishing a new AGBU Chapter in the Ukraine.*

leadership of the country's parliament in Kiev as well as leaders of the Armenian community in Ukraine. In April 2013, AGBU Europe led the first European delegation to take part in commemorations of the Armenian Genocide in Taksim Square in Istanbul. In September 2013, a seminar convened senior Armenian leaders and professionals in Warsaw by the invitation of Polish senator Lukasz Abgarowicz to explore issues relating to Armenian immigration in the European Union.

## BULGARIA

**PLOVDIV:** In 2012, AGBU Plovdiv organized a launch event for the release of the Bulgarian translation of Hrant Dink's *Two Close People, Two Far Neighbors*. The Hrant Dink Foundation granted the rights of the book to the AGBU Plovdiv chapter for translation into Bulgarian, which was made possible by AGBU and the Baklaian Foundation of Burgas. Dink's widow, Rakel, traveled to Plovdiv for the event, which was covered by numerous Bulgarian media outlets. In 2013, AGBU Plovdiv celebrated the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its musical ensemble, Erebuni. The event began with a film screening documenting Erebuni's journey from 1978 to the present day. Also in 2013, the chapter celebrated its 103<sup>rd</sup> anniversary with a charity gala, *Children and Youth – Our Future*, to raise money for Bulgarian Armenian children to participate in summer programs in Armenia.

**SOFIA:** AGBU Sofia Chamber Orchestra held 14 performances, 12 of which were supported by the Culture Department of the Municipality of Sofia. The orchestra welcomed guest soloists Hayk Arsenyan from the United States, Sarkis Zakarian from London and Sofia Melikyan from Spain. In 2012, the 10<sup>th</sup> European Armenian Games were held in Sofia with competitions for boys and girls in backgammon, badminton, basketball, chess, soccer, table tennis and volleyball. 2012 also marked the beginning of Camp Hayler, a summer camp in Sofia for children from Plovdiv, Sofia and Rousse.

## FRANCE DISTRICT

**PARIS:** In 2013, the AGBU Alex Manoogian Center in Paris became a hub of major cultural events, highlighting both the historic Armenian community in Nagorno-Karabakh as well as Armenian art and literature. Historian George Bournoutian presented his book, *The 1823 Russian Survey of the Karabakh Province: A Primary Source on the Demography and Economy of Karabakh in the Early 19<sup>th</sup> Century* at an event hosted by AGBU Paris and presented by AGBU Bibliothèque Nubar director Raymond Kévorkian. The AGBU Paris chapter also welcomed guests for a conference entitled *Armenian Art Treasures Saved from the Genocide*, which was led by Yerevan State University art history professor and UNESCO chair of Armenian art history, Levon Chookaszian. The year continued with a presentation of twentieth-century Turkish Armenian writer Zaven Bibérian's novel *Le crépuscule des fourmis* [The Twilight of the Ants] by its translator, Hervé Georgelin. For the fifteenth and sixteenth consecutive year, AGBU France District organized a weeklong skip trip for two dozen French Armenian young adults. The students spent the week skiing near the Swiss border in the French town of La Vallée d'Abondance and enjoyed a variety of activities, including lively debates on Armenian identity, Armenian dance lessons and information sessions about AGBU and its global programs.

**LYON:** AGBU Lyon continued its mission to foster intercultural dialogue between the Turkish and Armenian communities with a series of cultural programs. Events included a lecture and discussion of Armenian-Turkish reconciliation with Turkish journalist and playwright Sedef Ecer, author of the play *The Descendants*; a concert with the Collectif Medz Bazar, a band comprised of Armenian, Kurdish and Turkish musicians; a photography exhibit entitled "The Armenian Treasures of Anatolia;" and a screening of Eric Nazarian's film *Bolis*.

**MARSEILLE:** In 2012, AGBU Marseille hosted a meeting that gathered delegations from all AGBU France chapters. The meeting culminated in a strategic plan to address local activities, aid for the Armenian community in Syria, events for the centenary of the Armenian Genocide and the role of Armenian youth in the diaspora. In 2013, the chapter hosted an event to honor French Armenian director Henri Verneuil (né Ashod Malakian), welcoming actors Omar Sharif and Jacky Nercessian along with over 150 guests for an tribute to the director's career.

**VALENCE:** In 2012, AGBU Valence celebrated its 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a gala dinner. On the occasion, AGBU Europe chairman Alexis Govciyan presented French Armenian sculptor Toros Rastkian with the AGBU France Honorary Member Certificate in recognition of his many year of service to the Armenian community of France. In 2013, historian Maxime Yevadian delivered a lecture entitled "A Key to Understanding Armenian Art: The Grammar of



*The Paris chapter hosted meetings between the Nagorno-Karabakh president and Armenian organizations in 2013. (left to right) Karabakh benefactor Hayk Maghakelian, AGBU president Berge Setrakian, Ambassador Viguen Tchitetchian, and NKR President Bako Sahakyan.*



*Screening of Eric Nazarian's film Bolis in Lyon.*



*Gala dinner honoring French Armenian director Henri Verneuil in Marseille.*

Decorative Art" on the four pillars of Armenian decorative art: architecture, carpets, illuminated manuscripts and *khatchkars* or large stone crosses. In conjunction with Yevadian's lecture, AGBU Valence also held a day-long course on Armenian history and culture later in the year.



## GERMANY

**FRANKFURT:** In 2012, AGBU's partner organization *HAIK-Deutsch Armenischer Studentenclub e.V.* hosted a film premiere of the documentary, *Armin T. Wegner, der Fotograf des Genozids* and a concert that brought together Armenian children and young adults from Cologne to perform. HAIK, a network of German students, scholars, and young professionals of Armenian descent, also

participated in the Frankfurt Book Fair for the Armenian stand and held a charity concert with Armenian classical musicians, Diana Sahakyan, Astghik Beglaryan, David Tonoyan and Lusine Khachatryan. The proceeds from the concert were donated to a special fund established by the Central Council of Armenians in Germany with the aim of building an Armenian Central Library in Berlin.

## ITALY

**MILAN:** In 2012, AGBU Milan celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding. The occasion also served as an opportunity for the AGBU Europe District to hold a board meeting during which the members discussed global youth programs and activities in Europe, Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh. The chapter also held two artistic programs at Milan's Hye Doon to celebrate its milestone: a poetry reading in Italian and Armenian by Salpi Darakjian and piano recital by Nune Karapetian. In 2013, AGBU Milan commemorated the 98<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Armenian Genocide with an evening dedicated to the memory of the victims.



*AGBU Milan members at a cultural event in March 2013.*



*AGBU Holland participating in a genocide commemoration.*

## THE NETHERLANDS

**ALMELO:** In 2013, AGBU Holland formed a partnership with the Dutch non-governmental organization (NGO) PAX Kinderhulp Apeldoorn, which provides aid to underprivileged children outside the Netherlands. Together they organized a three-week trip to the Netherlands for Armenian children to learn about Dutch culture and society. In February, AGBU Holland held a charity fundraiser for the Armenian children and PAX Kinderhulp Apeldoorn. The celebration was attended by AGBU members as well members of the wider Armenian community.

## SPAIN

**BARCELONA:** In 2012, AGBU's partner organization Asociación Cultural Armenia de Barcelona (ACAB) held an Armenian film festival; renovated its cultural central Hay Tun and catalogued the books in its library; participated in the Pan Armenian Educational Conference in Armenia; and hosted a lecture to honor the 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary of Armenia's independence. In 2013, an ACAB delegation traveled to Geneva to participate in the European Armenian Games. Throughout the two years, ACAB continued its Armenian dance and language classes for children as well as music classes where students learned to play the duduk.



*Members of the Asociación Cultural Armenia de Barcelona (ACAB).*

## UNITED KINGDOM

**LONDON:** In 2012 and 2013, AGBU London and YP London collaborated on its annual classical concert featuring young Armenian musicians. In 2012, the concert featured flautist Nairi Azejian, pianist Nazig Azejian, tenor Sipan Hakopyan, vocalist Tereza Gevorgyan, violinist

Ani Karapetyan and pianist Varastad Khachatryan who performed pieces by Haydn, Babadjanian, Borne, Gomidas and Prokofiev, among others. The concert was held under the artistic direction of Sarkis Zakarian.

# NORTH AMERICA



Members of the Western District Special Events Committee that organized the 2013 annual gala which raised \$125,000 for local youth programs



The AGBU World Games took place in Los Angeles in 2012.

In 2013, longtime member Hagop Altounian launched two books in Toronto.



The Central Office in New York held a book launch for author Taner Akçam's new work in 2012.



## CANADA

- MONTREAL**
- Alex Manoogian School
- Canadian Armenian Political Affairs Committee (CAPAC)
- Golden Age Committee
- Internship Program
- Manuel Keussayan Armenological Lecture Series
- Marching Band
- University Outreach
- Youth
- YP Montreal
- TORONTO**
- Youth
- Youth Vocal Group
- YP Toronto

## USA

- CHICAGO, IL**
- Sisag H. Varjabedian Saturday School
- YP Chicago
- CLEVELAND, OH**
- Saturday School
- DETROIT, MI**
- Alex & Marie Manoogian School
- Youth
- HOUSTON, TX**
- NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT**
- PROVIDENCE, RI**
- YP Boston
- NEW YORK, NY**
- AGBU Central Office
- Antranig Dance Ensemble
- Camp Nubar
- FOCUS Advisory Board
- Internship Program
- NY Special Events Committee
- United Nations Special Interest Group
- University Outreach
- YP Greater New York
- PHILADELPHIA, PA**
- YP Philadelphia
- SAN FRANCISCO, CA**
- YP Northern California
- WASHINGTON, DC**
- YP Washington, DC

## WESTERN DISTRICT

- ASBEDS**
- GLENDALE/PASADENA**
- Generation Next Mentorship Program
- Hye Herosner Marching Band
- Krikor Satamian Theater Group
- Sardarabad Dance Ensemble
- Vatche & Tamar Manoukian School
- Youth
- YP Los Angeles
- FRESNO**
- LOS ANGELES HYE GEEN**
- ORANGE COUNTY**
- Saturday School
- YP Orange County
- SAN DIEGO**
- SAN FERNANDO VALLEY/ASBEDS**
- Manoogian-Demirdjian School
- Youth
- SILICON VALLEY**

## CANADA

**MONTRÉAL:** In 2012, AGBU Montréal partnered with the Zoryan Institute and other Armenian organizations to host the launch of Vahakn Dadrian and Taner Akçam's new book, *Judgment at Istanbul: The Armenian Genocide Trials*. The book was a product of eleven years of research and marks the first book on the Armenian Genocide co-written by a Turkish and Armenian scholar. The chapter also continued its AGBU Manuel Keusseyan Armenological Lecture Series, adding distinguished speakers on arts and culture to its roster. In 2013, AGBU Montréal welcomed pianist Tigran Hamasyan for a performance at AGBU Jirair and Elise Dervishian Hall. In a concert organized by the Cultural Committee of the AGBU Montréal chapter, the pianist delighted the audience with his performance of jazz pieces as well as compositions by Gomidas Vartabed.



*The Montréal chapter organized a lunch to thank its supporters and volunteers on March 14, 2013.*

**TORONTO:** AGBU Toronto has always had a penchant for cultural events. In 2012, visual artist Neery Melkonian presented her exhibit "Accented Feminist: Armenian Women and Art from Representation to Self-Representation" to the Toronto chapter; AGBU Sydney's Vahram Papazian Theatre Group performed *Inkagotch Yerjishte* [The Self-Proclaimed Musician], its Canadian debut; and visual artist Alina Sahakyan exhibited her work, which employed the ancient art of felting, at the AGBU Alex Manoogian Center. In 2013, AGBU Toronto hosted a presentation by novelist Nancy Kricorian on her book *All the Light There Was*, a historical novel about an Armenian family during the Nazi occupation of Paris; partnered with the Armenian Association of Toronto to stage "Tales of Hovhanness Toumanian," a performance of seven vignettes directed by Varazh Stepanian; and sponsored a lecture by pianist-musicologist Sahan Arzruni on Gomidas Vartabed. Throughout 2012 and 2013, AGBU Toronto also held Armenian language classes for adults, its annual talent show and a range of sports and youth programs for children and teenagers, including organizing seven boys and girls basketball teams.



*Author Nancy Kricorian presented her novel All the Light There Was at the AGBU Alex Manoogian Center in Toronto center on June 26, 2013.*

## UNITED STATES

### CALIFORNIA

**WESTERN DISTRICT COMMITTEE:** In 2013, AGBU Western District Committee raised \$125,000 for local youth programs at its annual gala banquet. The youth programs include scouts, the Generation Next Mentorship Program, sports teams and marching bands. The banquet also honored AGBU Central Board vice president Sam Simonian and his wife Sylva for their educational initiatives in Armenia. The Simonians are the founders of the Tumo Center for Creative Technologies in Yerevan. At the banquet, Hermine Janoyan, the chair of the AGBU Western District Special Events Committee, was honored with an AGBU Lifetime Honorary Member Award to recognize her three decades of service.



*The Pasadena chapter hosted Contemporary Armenian Art 2013.*

**GLENDALE/PASADENA:** In 2013, AGBU Glendale-Pasadena held an exhibit entitled *Contemporary Armenian Art 2013* at the AGBU Vatche and Tamar Manoukian Center in Pasadena, California. The event featured 14 Armenian artists, who presented works in oil, mixed media, photography and sculpture. The artists represented Armenia, Lebanon and Mexico as well as the United States. The showing included works by painters

Hermine Demirtshyan-Demiro, Felix Eghiazarian, Gagik Ghazanchyan, Ruben Grigorian, Manuella Guiragossian, Sarkis Hamalbashian, Suren Khorenyan, Marat Margarian, Tigran Matulian, Carlos Sayadian, Lilit Soghomonian and Kayts Vanikian as well as sculptor Dikran Ekizian and photographer Peter Carapetian. Over forty pieces were purchased at the event.



*Paintings by renowned Armenian American artist Seeroon Yeretizian fill the walls of the AGBU-AYA Nazarian Center in Canoga Park, California.*

**LOS ANGELES-SAN FERNANDO VALLEY:** In 2012 and 2013, AGBU Los Angeles-San Fernando Valley held a variety of lectures and events. During this period, the chapter hosted a lecture about the consecration of the newly reconstructed Church of Sourp Giragos in Dikranagerd; an exhibition by visual artist Seeroon Yeretizian; a film screening of *Lost and Found in Armenia*; an art auction;

and presentations on Armenian contributions to American culture and Armenian Genocide reclamation at the AGBU Manoogian-Demirdjian School. The chapter also continued its focus on athletics, organizing a victory celebration for the AGBU World Games, a basketball academy and its annual women's volleyball tournament.



*Asbeds 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration on March 2, 2013.*

**ASBEDS:** In 2012, the AGBU Asbeds welcomed Edward Djerejian, diplomat and former American ambassador to Syria and Israel, as part of its *Evening with a Scholar* series. Djerejian's talk focused on the uprisings in the Arab world, the Turkish role in the region and the future of the Armenians in the Middle East. In 2013, the group

celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. AGBU Asbeds provides a space 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.

**HYE GEEN COMMITTEE:** In 2012, Hye Geen opened two pregnant women's centers in Armenia: the Nora Injijian Pregnant Women Center in Yeghvard and the Arshagouhi Tavitian Pregnant Women Center in Yerevan. The pregnant women's centers in Yeghvard and Yerevan joined locations in Talin and Vanadzor. Over the course of 2012 and 2013, Hye Geen organized three seminars at the Vatche and Tamar Manoukian Center in Pasadena, California. In May 2012, Sarmen Keshishian, Virginia Gulesserian, Cynthia Kossayan and Yeghig Keshishian participated in a round table discussion entitled "Youth and the Search for Fulfillment." In November 2012, Rachel Goshgarian presented on Turkey and the memory of Armenians and in November 2013, Baydzig Arabian Kalaydjian, executive secretary of Tekeyan Cultural Association, hosted a seminar comparing the Armenian diasporan communities in the United States and Middle East. Hye Geen Young Circle also continued to grow. The committee published two issues of its magazine *Hye Geen* and held two conferences at Woodbury University in Burbank, California: "Symbolism in Art, Architecture and Design" in 2012 and "Cuisine, A Culture's Ambassador: How Food Introduces a Culture and Its People" in 2013. AGBU Hye Geen celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the St. Leon Cathedral of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church in Burbank in June

2013. The celebration was dedicated to the survival of the Armenian people and included recitations of the poetry of Baruyr Sevag. 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.



*Hye Geen Presentation: The U.S. Armenia Diaspora should Replicate Success of the Middle East. November 2, 2013*

**LAS VEGAS:** In 2013, the AGBU Las Vegas chapter was launched, led by chapter chair Vazrik Makarian. In its inaugural year, the chapter organized a gala dinner that

featured an internationally acclaimed comedy show by member Krikor Satamian.

**CHICAGO:** In 2012, AGBU Chicago celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its establishment. On this occasion, the chapter announced the launch of the Kooyumjian-AGBU/Chicago Armenian Humanities Festival, an ongoing series of cultural events for the community, including lectures, concerts, theatrical performances and exhibits. AGBU

Chicago is also partnering with the University of Chicago to promote events featuring Armenian artists to the local community. The highlight of the centennial celebration was a performance by the Zulal Trio, a female *a cappella* ensemble that performed traditional Armenian folk music.

**NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT:** In 2012, the AGBU New England District held a concert to benefit youth programs in the Boston area. The concert, co-organized by the New York Special Events Committee (NYSEC), featured

recipients of the AGBU Performing Arts Fellowship, who performed classical and Armenian works. The event raised \$60,000 and featured pieces by Khachaturian, Mendelssohn and Rachmaninoff, among others.

**NEW YORK:** In 2012, the Central Office in New York held a cocktail reception to celebrate the launch of the AGBU Performing Arts department. In 2013, the Central Office celebrated the cultural legacy of Nagorno-Karabakh at a special commemorative event, "Nagorno-Karabakh: From Sumgait Memories to Independent State." The evening also featured a screening of the documentary *The Ordinary Genocide: Sumgait, February 1988* as well as a collection of photos from before, during and after the war. Later in the year, the chapter hosted book presentations by Matthew Karanian, author of *Armenia and Karabakh: The Stone Mountain Travel Guide*; Roger Kupelian, author of *War Gods*; and Chris Bohjalian, author of *The Light in the Ruins*.



*Roger Kupelian, author of War Gods, presented his book at the New York Central Office on June 27, 2013.*

# SOUTH AMERICA



40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the AGBU Nubarian-Manoogian School in Montevideo.



Hello Balukian, was honored with "Person of the Year" by São Paulo in 2012.



## ARGENTINA

**BUENOS AIRES:** In 2012, AGBU Buenos Aires launched the Krikor Satamian Theater Company. The company debuted with three performances of *Hairus Ov Eh?*, the Armenian version of Ray Cooney's play *It Runs in the Family*. The idea for the theater company emerged during the annual exchange between the AGBU Marie Manoogian Institute in Buenos Aires and the AGBU Manoogian-Demirdjian School in California. In 2013, the chapter organized the *Buenos Aires Celebrates Armenia Festival* in collaboration with the City of Buenos Aires, featuring Armenian food stands, local and visiting choir and dance groups and a tribute to Aram Khachaturian by the Banda Sinfónica de la Ciudad de Buenos Aires. In the same year, AGBU Buenos Aires also



Celebration of the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Sayat Nova on September 4, 2012.

### ARGENTINA

#### BUENOS AIRES

Cinema Circle  
 Colonia de Vacaciones  
 Krikor Satamian Theater Company  
 Marie Manoogian School  
 Youth  
 YP Buenos Aires

#### CÓRDOBA

Ararat Dance Ensemble  
 Colonia de Vacaciones  
 Dzirani Band  
 Youth

### BRAZIL

#### SÃO PAULO

Youth  
 YP Brazil

### URUGUAY

#### MONTEVIDEO

Erevan 50 Band  
 Grung Choir  
 Nubarian-Manoogian School  
 Youth

put on a concert in honor of Gomidas Vartabed. All proceeds from the concert were donated to the AGBU Humanitarian Fund for Syrian Relief. The chapter also continued its focus on athletics, hosting summer (Colonia de Vacaciones) and winter sports camps that attracted more than 200 athletes along with year round sports competitions.

**CÓRDOBA:** In 2013, AGBU Córdoba participated in the AGBU South American Olympic Games in Brazil and held a variety of activities, including classes in Armenian language; sporting events (basketball, futsal, volleyball, etc.); a commemoration for the independence of the Republic of Armenia; a conference with Paola Caradaghian and Gabriela Yeremian on traveling to Armenia; and a concert in honor of Gomidas Vartabed. The chapter also continued to hold its Ugabitos group for children ages 4 to 12 and summer camp for children, Colonia de Vacaciones.



*The Córdoba chapter presents a lecture of Armenian cooking.*



*More than 350 people attended AGBU Brazil's 48<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration on September 23, 2012.*

## BRAZIL

**SÃO PAULO:** In 2012, AGBU São Paulo celebrated its 48<sup>th</sup> anniversary with an event that drew guests from the Brazilian community. At the event, Ari Geudjenian, chairman of the Armenian Community of Osasco, was given the Person of the Year Award for his role

in strengthening the Armenian community. Benjamin Distchekenian, one of AGBU Brazil's founding members, was also honored. Distchenekian has worked to advance social welfare and create educational opportunities for Brazilian Armenians.

## URUGUAY

**MONTEVIDEO:** In 2012 AGBU Montevideo observed its 106<sup>th</sup> anniversary with an event that honored the organization's work in Uruguay. Verquine Bedikian, a former chapter chair, led the event with a discussion of her book *Memories of AGBU in Uruguay: 1938-1998*. In 2013, the chapter marked the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the AGBU Nubarian-Manoogian School in Montevideo with a performance by the AGBU Grung Choir. As part of the event, the students buried a time capsule with pictures, letters, school uniforms and other memorabilia to be opened in 2053.



*AGBU Montevideo hosts a lecture by Professor Claude Mutafian on September 5, 2013.*

# AUSTRALIA



*In 2013, AGBU Sydney and the AGBU Alexander Saturday School celebrated their 50th anniversary*

## AUSTRALIA

**MELBOURNE:** In 2012, AGBU Melbourne held a comedy night for theater enthusiasts composed of original plays and scenes from the work of Ottoman Armenian satirist Hagop Baronian. The chapter also hosted a film screening of a documentary about the life of Armenian poet, Yeghishe Charents entitled *In Search of My Armenian Poet* and a tribute to troubadour Sayat Nova on the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth. AGBU Melbourne also sponsored the “Refugee Relief in the Near East” photography exhibit at a city library. In 2013, the chapter held its annual picnic for Australia Day and an event to honor chapter volunteers and committee members.



*The Melbourne chapter hosted a volunteer appreciation night in 2013.*

**SYDNEY:** In 2012, AGBU Sydney’s Vahram Papazian Theater Group toured the United States and Canada with performances in Los Angeles, Toronto and Montréal. In the same year, AGBU Sydney Youth Group’s basketball

**AUSTRALIA**

<b>MELBOURNE</b> Armenian Radio Program Youth	<b>SYDNEY</b> Alex Manoogian Saturday School Alexander Primary School Vahram Papazian Theatre Group Youth YP Sydney
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team also travelled to North America to participate in the AGBU World Games. In 2013, AGBU Sydney and the AGBU Alexander Saturday School celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. To mark the occasion, the chapter held a dinner to recognize veteran members of the community and the school organized an exhibit to showcase the history of the chapter.



# 2012 – 2013 DISTRICT & CHAPTER CHAIRPERSONS

## ARGENTINA

BUENOS AIRES: Ruben Kechichian  
CORDOBA: Javier Petenian (until  
June 2013); Nicolas E. Amalian

## AUSTRALIA

MELBOURNE: Maral Tchorbadjian  
SYDNEY: Toros Boghossian

## AUSTRIA

VIENNA: Jirair Balmanian

## BRAZIL

SÃO PAULO: Krikor Manukian (until  
April 2012); Helio Balukian

## BULGARIA

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

## CANADA

MONTRÉAL: Aram Yacoubian  
TORONTO: Knar Basmadjian

## CYPRUS

LARNACA: Stepan Kamakian  
NICOSIA: Vicken Kesterlian

## EGYPT

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

## ETHIOPIA

ADDIS ABABA: Vahakn Karibian

## EUROPE DISTRICT

DISTRICT COMMITTEE OF EUROPE,  
PARIS: Alexis Govciyan

## FRANCE

DISTRICT COMMITTEE OF FRANCE,  
PARIS: Philippe Panossian  
LYON: Michel Sandjian (until June  
2012); Camille Mesrobian  
MARSEILLE: Sahag Karalekian  
(until June 2013); Patrick  
Malakian  
NICE-CÔTE D'AZUR: Chakée  
Hagopian-Clausen  
PARIS: Sasun Saugy  
VALENCE: Jean-Jacques  
Vartanian  
VIENNE: Charles Paltobedrossian

## GREECE

CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF GREECE,  
ATHENS: Dickran Abassian

## IRAN

TEHRAN: Astghik Babaian

## IRAQ

BAGHDAD: Skender Melconian (until  
May 2012); Pakram Derhagopian

## ITALY

MILAN: Gueguel Khatchadourian

## LEBANON

DISTRICT COMMITTEE OF  
LEBANON, BEIRUT: Gerard  
Tufenkjian

## NETHERLANDS

ALMELO: Harout Palanjan

## SOUTH AFRICA

JOHANNESBURG: Jacques  
Adanalian

## SYRIA

DISTRICT COMMITTEE OF SYRIA,  
ALEPPO: Nerses Nersoyan  
ALEPPO: Hagop Mikayelian  
DAMASCUS: Ara Yacoubian  
KAMISHLI: Zareh Simonian  
LATTAKIA: Hagop Attamian  
YACOUBIEH: Kevork  
Khatchadourian

## UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

DUBAI: Hratch Borghossian

## UNITED KINGDOM

LONDON: Noushig Setrakian (until  
May 2013); Jirair Kevorkian

## URUGUAY

MONTEVIDEO: Haigazun Moumdjian  
(until October 2013); Benjamin  
Kemanian

## USA

WESTERN DISTRICT COMMITTEE:  
Haig Messerlian (until Dec 2012);  
Krekor Karaguezian  
GLENDALE/PASADENA: Shahe  
Seuylemezian (until Sept 2012);  
Tzoler Oukayan-Saghenian (until  
Dec 2013);  
Aleen Khanjian (until Oct 2013)  
HYE GEEN LOS ANGELES, CA:  
Sona Yacoubian  
ORANGE COUNTY, CA: Krikor  
Mahdessian  
SAN DIEGO, CA: Ani Kalayjian-  
Lanuza  
SAN FERNANDO VALLEY, CA:  
Ara Yessaian (until Nov 2013)  
FRESNO, CA: Zaroohi Der  
Mugrdechian  
SILICON VALLEY, CA: Yervant Zorian  
CHICAGO, IL: Sona Diorio  
NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT, MA:  
Ara Balikian  
NEW YORK (NY) SPECIAL EVENTS  
COMMITTEE: Nila Festekjian  
DETROIT, MI: Nadya Sarafian  
CLEVELAND, OH: Sebouh Setrakian  
PHILADELPHIA, PA: Elizabeth  
Barone, Clara Samelian  
PROVIDENCE MEN, RI: William  
Aznavourian  
HOUSTON, TX: Sarkis Ohanian

# SPOTLIGHT



In February 2013, **Sam Simonian** was elected co-vice president of the AGBU Central Board of Directors to serve alongside **Sinan Sinanian**, who was elected for a second term. Simonian, who previously served as treasurer, is the president of INET, a Dallas-based company and the founder of the Tumo Center for Creative Technologies in Yerevan. **Yervant Demirjian**, the vice chairman of Interaudi Bank in New York, was elected treasurer of the organization.

In March 2013, President Serzh Sargsyan awarded the Moses Khorenatsi Medal to Lebanese Armenian AGBU benefactor **Garbis Nazarian** in recognition of his contribution to educational, cultural and public endeavors on behalf of Armenian communities throughout the world. Nazarian was awarded the medal—the Republic of Armenia’s highest cultural distinction—in a ceremony at the Armenian Embassy in Beirut.



Former AGBU Montréal chairman **Viken L. Attarian** was given Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II’s Diamond Jubilee Medal for his work on the advancement of his field in Canada. During the ceremony, Canadian member of Parliament Stéphane Dion praised Attarian’s contributions to the telecommunications industry and his wide-ranging intellectual and political activism.



In 2012, the Armenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs hosted a book launch for AGBU Egypt chairman and AGBU Cairo chapter honorary chairman **Berdj Terzian**. The book, *The Genesis of the Embassy of the Republic of Armenia in Egypt*, is dedicated to the beginnings of Armeno-Egyptian diplomatic relations. Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian praised Terzian for his particular contribution in the establishment of the Armenian embassy in Egypt and the realization of its activities.



The Embassy of the Republic of Armenia in Greece hosted an award ceremony during which AGBU Greece Central Committee chair **Dickran Abassian** was given the Republic of Armenia Diaspora Ministry’s Boghos Nubar Medal for his longstanding devotion and contributions to strengthening ties between Armenia and the diaspora. Abassian, a key figure in the Greek Armenian community, has served as AGBU chair of Athens over the past two decades.



In 2013, Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians, awarded **Nazar and Artemis Nazarian** the Knight of Holy Etchmiadzin Medal, the highest honor in the Armenian Apostolic Church. They were given the medal in recognition of their philanthropic and humanitarian assistance to Armenia and the diaspora.



AGBU Sofia Chapter Chair Sonia Avakian-Bedrossian presents **Dr. Petar Goliyski** with the 2011 Garbis Papazian Award. Dr. Goliyski is a Bulgarian philologist and head of the Armenian Sciences Department at the Sofia State University.



In 2012, **Viken Tchertchian** succeeded Garo Djeghelian as the chairman of AGBU-AYA Lebanon. An alumnus of AGBU schools in Lebanon, Tchertchian has also been an active scout in the AGBU Zareh Noubar Scouts Troupe and Alex Manoogian Center.



In 2013, **Hermine Janoyan**, the chair of the AGBU Western District Special Events Committee, was honored as an AGBU Lifetime Honorary Member at the Western District Committee's Annual Gala Banquet. She has been the driving force in organizing numerous AGBU fundraising events in Southern California for 20 years. Janoyan has been instrumental in overseeing the annual banquets since they began in 2010 which have raised nearly \$100,000 and drew over 900 guests.



In 2013, **Sam and Sylva Simonian** were honored at the Western District Committee's Annual Gala Banquet for their groundbreaking educational initiatives in Armenia. The Simonians are the founders of the Tumo Center for Creative Technologies. The Tumo Center is a free, hands-on program, which compliments and strengthens the formal education of thousands of children in Armenia. It is designed to inspire a generation of creators and thinkers through workshops and mentorship.

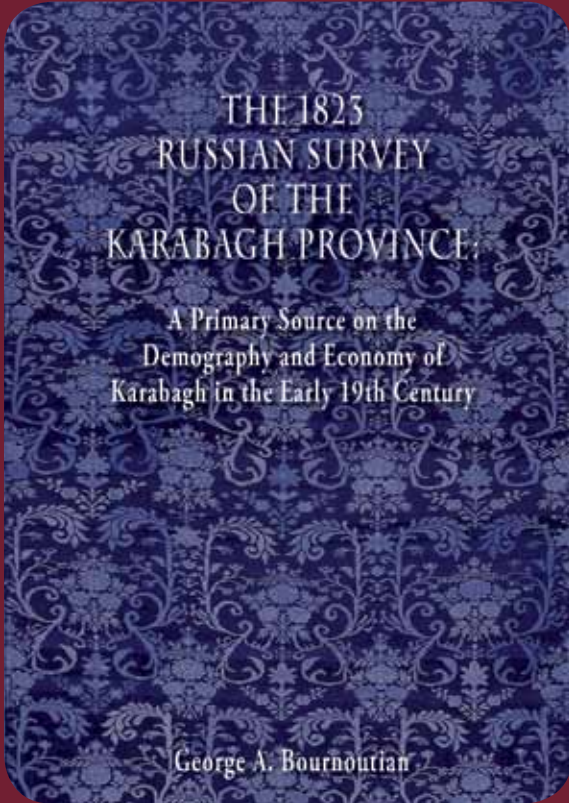


The School of Public Health at the **American University of Armenia (AUA)** received the only seed grant awarded in Europe from Grand Challenges Canada, funded by the Canadian government, to implement its "Innovative Approach in TB care in Armenia Project," in collaboration with the Ministry of Health's National Tuberculosis Control Program.

# MILESTONES

**100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY:** Chicago chapter • Milan chapter **80<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY:** Aleppo Armenian Youth Association (AYA) • Valence chapter **50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY:** Aleppo Bedros Attamian Theater Company • Beirut Demirdjian Center Summer Day • Beirut Levon G. Nazarian School • New York Camp Nubar • Sydney chapter • Sydney Alexander Saturday School **40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY:** Plovdiv Erebuni Musical Ensemble • Montevideo Nubarian-Manoogian School **30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY:** France Colonie de Vacances **25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY:** New York Summer Internship Program (NYSIP) **20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY:** Western District Hye Geen Committee • Montevideo Grung Polyphonic Choir **10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY:** Western District Asbeds

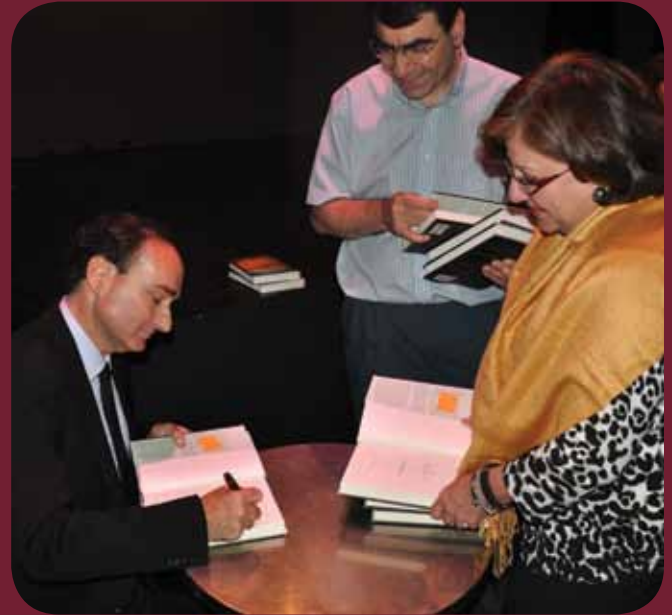
# SPECIAL TOURS



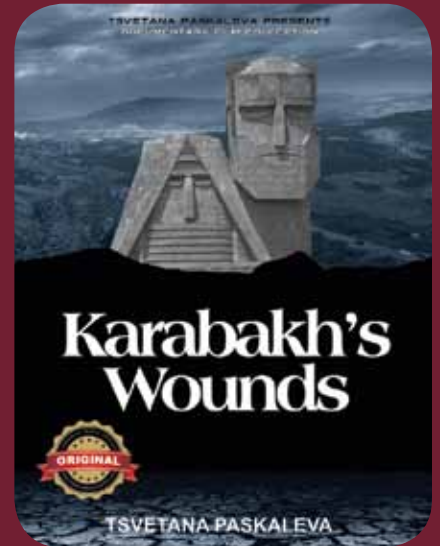
In 2012, AGBU published the Armenian edition of **George Bournoutian's** *The 1823 Russian Survey of the Karabakh Province: A Primary Source on the Demography and Economy of Karabakh in the Early 19<sup>th</sup> Century*. In February, March and April of 2012, Bournoutian traveled to six cities in North America to present his book. Lectures took place in Cleveland, Detroit, Montréal, New York and Toronto. Bournoutian is also the author of *A Concise History of the Armenian People*. AGBU commissioned the English original in 1993. Since then, AGBU Buenos Aires has had it translated into Spanish and AGBU Cairo has had it translated into Arabic.

In 2012, AGBU coordinated a book tour of the United States and Canada for **Aline Kamakian** and **Barbara Drieskens**, authors of *Armenian Cuisine*. The cookbook, which includes photos essays and oral histories, was developed by Kamakian, the Lebanese Armenian chef and owner of *Mayrig*, a restaurant in Beirut. In April, Kamakian and Drieskens visited Montréal, Boston, New York, New Jersey, Philadelphia and Los Angeles.





In 2012, AGBU co-sponsored a book tour for **Chris Bohjalian**, the author of *The Sandcastle Girls*. The book is set during the Armenian Genocide. Bohjalian presented his book and held question and answer sessions in New York and Massachusetts in August.



In 2013, AGBU France sponsored a tour for Bulgarian journalist **Tsvetana Paskaleva** to screen her documentary, *Wounds of Karabakh*. The film was composed of Paskaleva's dispatches from the conflict between 1988 and 1994. The tour began in Valence and continued in Marseille and Lyon. Paskaleva was the recipient of the Garbis Papazian award in 2009.

# PERFORMING ARTS HIGHLIGHTS





*Arto Tunçboyaçyan at the Performing Arts Department's Armenian Jazz Series in October 2013.*

## PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT

In 2012, AGBU officially unveiled its Performing Arts Department (PAD) and has since expanded its reach broadly to support rising artistic talents. Since its inception, PAD has founded the Musical Armenia Program (MAP); established the Armenian Jazz Series, which saw world renowned musician Arto Tunçboyaçyan play alongside rising stars in the local New York jazz scene; hosted the Armenian Composers of the Ottoman Empire concert at Columbia University; teamed up with the New York Special Events Committee (NYSEC) to bring the Performing Artists in Concert Series to Carnegie Hall; and joined forces with AGBU Paris to continue to hold the Sayat Nova International Composition Competition. In New York, PAD's Salon Nights—organized at the

AGBU Central Office—gave local artists the opportunity to network and collaborate. At its launch event, guests enjoyed a screening of Sergey Parajanov's film *The Color of Pomegranates*, based on Sayat Nova's life. The Performing Arts Department is directed Hayk Arsenyan, pianist, composer and former AGBU Performing Arts Scholarship recipient.

The AGBU Performing Arts Department (PAD) seeks to connect Armenian artists worldwide and introduce Armenian art to diverse audiences through various initiatives, including a series of international events that bring music lovers and performers together.

## CHORAL AND MUSICAL GROUPS

### AYA GOMIDAS CHAMBER ORCHESTRA (ALEPPO)

In 2012, the AGBU AYA Gomidas Chamber Orchestra, composed of 24 young singers, gave two concerts in Aleppo. The first was comprised of pieces by Vivaldi, Haydn and Bach, while the second had a more international flair with pieces by Bartok, Abdulrahim, Khatchurian, Piazzolla and Spendiarian. In 2013, the orchestra performed under the direction of Sarkis Isgenian at a new year's event held by the Armenian Church.



### KOGHTAN CHOIR (PARIS)

In 2012 and 2013, the Koghtan Choir gave six concerts in Paris. In 2012, the choir performed at the historic Réfectoire des Cordeliers in Paris for a crowd of nearly 400 people. The concert was organized by the Department of Culture of Paris in conjunction with La Sorbonne as part of its *Spring of Poets* program. The choir performed a selection of classical and contemporary pieces and introduced the largely non-Armenian audience to the works of Gomidas, Hovhannessian and Babadjanian. Also in 2012, the choir performed at the AGBU Paris Cultural Center as part of the *Armeniaca* exposition. 2013 highlights included performances with the Music School of Antony and a French choir near the town of Chinon in the Touraine region. AGBU Koghtan Choir has continued to promote Armenian musical heritage in France and abroad for nearly two decades.



### GRUNG POLYPHONIC CHOIR (MONTEVIDEO)

In 2012, Grung Polyphonic Choir in Montevideo was visited by Maestro Hohvannes Chekijian, director of the State Choir of Armenia. The choir had the opportunity to rehearse with him and discuss his personal and artistic trajectory, as well as investigate different rehearsal techniques and musical curricula. Also in 2012, the choir performed at the Nubarian School's Uruguayan Heritage Day, where the local community came to learn about Armenian culture and art. The choir was also featured on the Armenian television show *The Diaspora's Path*. In 2013, the choir celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a sold out performance at Montevideo's Teatro Ateneo. During the year, it also performed at the 107<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of AGBU Montevideo's founding and the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Nubarian School.



## DANCE ENSEMBLES

### AYA ARINE DANCE GROUP (BEIRUT)

AGBU-AYA Arine Dance Group, a troupe of more than 200 young dancers, put on two performances in 2012 and 2013: *The Golden Gramophone* and the *Call of the Highlands*. The performances were in collaboration with the artistic director, Gagik Ginosyan, and paid tribute to the great composer Aram Khachaturian on the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth. In July 2012, following an invitation from the Ministry of Diaspora, the dance group participated in the *Im Hayastan* [My Armenia] Cultural Festival.

*A scene from the AYA Arine Dance Group's performance on May 9, 2013.*





## ANTRANIG DANCE ENSEMBLE (NEW YORK)

In 2012, the AGBU Antranig Dance Ensemble was invited to Chicago to perform its latest original production, *Reflections*. The ensemble performed 22 dances for an audience of 300 guests. The evening was organized jointly by Pavev Monthly, the Armenian newspaper of Chicago, and AGBU Chicago as part of the chapter's centennial celebration and the Chicago Armenian Humanities Festival. Established in 1969, the Antranig Dance Ensemble has performed at venues such as Lincoln Center in New York and the State Opera House in Yerevan.



## THEATER COMPANIES



### AHAZANK THEATER GROUP (PARIS)

In 2012, the AGBU Ahazank Theater Group staged a production of *The Honorable Beggars* by Ottoman Armenian satirist Hagop Baronian at the Alex Manoogian Cultural Center in Paris. Over the course of 2012 and 2013, the

theater group staged 20 performances. Founded in 1991, Ahazank gathers Armenians from Armenia, France, Lebanon and Turkey for theatrical performances that represent the diversity of the Armenian diaspora in style and delivery.

### VAHRAM PAPAIZIAN THEATER GROUP (SYDNEY)

In 2013, AGBU Sydney's Vahram Papazian Theater Group performed their *Inknagotch Yerajishte* [The Self-Proclaimed Musician] abroad for the first time. The cast, led by writer and director Noubar Gharibian, travelled to Canada and drew an audience of nearly 500 people to the Emile Legault Hall of Saint-Laurent College in Montréal and the AGBU Alex Manoogian Cultural Center in Toronto. At the Toronto performance, the group raised funds to support the AGBU Humanitarian Relief Fund for Syria.





**KRIKOR SATAMIAN THEATER GROUP (PASADENA)**

In 2012, the AGBU Ardavazt Theater Company was renamed to the Krikor Satamian Theater Group and continued its mission of presenting Armenian-language productions to the greater Los Angeles community with ten performances of Yervant Odian’s two-act comedy, *Ser yev Dzidzagh* [Love and Laughter]. Featuring a cast of sixteen performers, the production was interspersed with renditions from Dikran Tchouhadjian’s operetta *Leblebidji Hor-Hor Agha* as well as folk music by John Bilezikjian. The success of its initial performances led the theater group to schedule four additional performances in Pasadena, Orange County and Fresno.



**KRIKOR SATAMIAN THEATER COMPANY (BUENOS AIRES)**

In 2013, the Krikor Satamian Theater Company in Buenos Aires offered a performance of *Ser yev Dzidzagh* [Love and Laughter] by Ottoman Armenian satirist Yervant Odian. The proceeds from the performance went to support the AGBU Humanitarian Relief Fund for Syria. The theater company was founded in 2011 to revive the use of Armenian in theater and expand awareness of Armenian literature in the Argentinean Armenian community.



**BEDROS ATTAMIAN THEATER COMPANY (ALEPPO)**

In 2012, the AGBU-AYA Bedros Attamian Theater Company celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a series of events, beginning with an exhibit detailing the history of the group. The celebration also included a lecture by theater expert Levon Moutafian, followed by a performance with current

and former cast members with music by the AGBU-AYA Gomidias Chamber Orchestra. In the 2012 season, the company, comprised of 25 actors, staged a production of Arpiar Arpiarian’s novel *Garmir Jamouyts* [The Red Offering] under the direction of Hagop Mikayelian.

# NYSEC PERFORMING ARTISTS IN CONCERT SERIES

In 2012 and 2013, the fifth and sixth annual New York Special Events Committee (NYSEC) Performing Artists in Concert was held at Carnegie Hall. Thanks to the generosity of AGBU donors, these concerts raised over \$100,000 for the AGBU Performing Arts Fellowship Program and for Performing Arts programming. The 2012 concert was dedicated to Sayat Nova. Premiered at the concert was "The Universe In A Nutshell," the winning piece of the 2006 Sayat Nova International Composition Competition, composed by Artur Akshelyan. For the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Spitak earthquake, NYSEC and the AGBU Performing Arts Department collaborated in organizing a special concert. The evening's program featured a number of well-known Armenian works as well as original pieces prepared especially for the NYSEC concert. Making its world premiere was Tomás Barreiro's "Rossignol Mecanique," a variation of "The Death of the Nightingale," a piece that won Barreiro the AGBU 2012 Sayat Nova International Composition Competition. The featured musicians in the concert series were recipients of AGBU Performing Arts Fellowships, which allows them to pursue higher education at some of the world's most prestigious conservatories and universities, including the Juilliard School of Music, Yerevan State Komitas Conservatory, the Vienna Conservatory and the National Conservatory of Paris.

Since 2008, the AGBU New York Special Events Committee (NYSEC), under the auspices of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Armenia to the United Nations, 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 2012, AGBU France and the AGBU Performing Arts Department (PAD) collaborated to hold the second AGBU Sayat Nova International Composition Competition, which brought submissions by composers from 18 countries. Applicants were asked to arrange an original composition, layering both traditional and modern elements: five Western classical instruments, the *duduk* and a quote from a Sayat Nova poem. The competition jury, comprised of local artists, was presided over by composer and inspector at the French Ministry of Culture, Laurent Chassain. Prizes were awarded to composer Tomás Barreiro of Mexico and Ernest Dulgaryan of Armenia. In December 2012, over 400 guests gathered in Paris to honor Sayat Nova at a gala concert. The competition's gala concert was organized under the auspices of the Armenian Embassy in Paris in association with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The second half of the concert showcased AGBU Performing Arts scholarship recipients from Europe and the United States.



# FOCUS WEEKEND: SAN FRANCISCO



400 FOCUS attendees gather in San Francisco's historic City Hall for a gala event honoring the AGBU Generation Next Mentorship Program.

## A RECORD-BREAKING \$80,000 RAISED FOR AGBU'S GENERATION NEXT (GENNEXT) MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

**F**rom August 1-4, 2013, AGBU FOCUS held its seventh biennial celebration in San Francisco. Close to 400 young Armenians worldwide traveled to California for a sold-out weekend of networking, culture and philanthropy. This year's event brought to San Francisco guests from 115 cities and 18 countries, including **Argentina, Australia, Bahrain, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Monaco, Russia, Spain, the United Arab Emirates** and the **United Kingdom**. Guests enjoyed an array of events, showcasing both the culture of the host city and their shared Armenian heritage. Proceeds from fundraising efforts supported the AGBU Generation Next (GenNext) Mentorship Program—a volunteer-driven initiative designed to make a positive difference in the lives of at-risk Armenian youth in Southern California through one-on-one mentorship.

Hotel Adagio in San Francisco's Union Square served as the hub for AGBU FOCUS 2013 (FOCUS). The highly-anticipated weekend kicked off Thursday evening with an engaging panel discussion and networking opportunity known as *Perspectives* at Spur Urban Center, a non-profit that promotes good planning and good government through research, education, and advocacy. The evening's panel attracted over 160 people who participated in an open conversation on what it means to be Armenian. Throughout the discussion, moderator Lara Setrakian—journalist and founder of SyriaDeeply.org—brought the audience back to one key question: how can the diaspora preserve traditions in today's rapidly changing world?





The excitement continued on Friday with a scenic tour of the Sonoma Valley and wine tasting at the Château St. Jean vineyard. Guests enjoyed some of San Francisco's finest nightlife at one of the city's premier venues.

Saturday's *FOCUS on Art* featured sculptures, sketches and tapestry designs by celebrated Armenian American artists, including the late Haig Patigian, Nadine Takvorian, Jacques Terzian and Leslie Terzian Markoff. Also exhibited was artwork by William Saroyan which hung alongside the work of GenNext's own rising talent, 19-year-old Arpa Shirvanyan.

San Francisco's stunning City Hall set the scene for the *Gala* on Saturday evening. Guests dined and danced at this historic venue while celebrating the successes of their fundraising for AGBU. GenNext program director Saro Ayvazians presented exciting plans for the coming year. FOCUS co-chairs Steven Cherezian and Greg Nemet thanked the crowd and the FOCUS committee for their efforts in putting together the four-day affair.

The farewell brunch on Sunday morning gave friends, old and new, a chance to recount their FOCUS memories, snap some photos, exchange numbers, connect on Facebook and say one last goodbye.

Since its inception in 2001, AGBU FOCUS has united over 2,500 Armenians worldwide in New York (2001 and 2007), Montréal (2003), Miami (2005), Chicago (2009) and Paris (2011). To date, FOCUS has raised \$330,000 for AGBU programs focused on education, women's health and youth.



### YP NETWORK AT FOCUS

During the FOCUS weekend, the Young Professionals (YP) Assembly was held to provide a leadership forum for global delegates to convene, brainstorm and exchange ideas as well as to discuss areas of opportunity for cross cooperation and collaboration. The local host of FOCUS—YP Northern California—was honored with a Teamwork Award in appreciation of the group's service and commitment to AGBU. Through fundraising and promotional activities, the YP Network helped support FOCUS by building momentum in the months preceding the event.

# YOUNG PROFESSIONALS



*Global participants at the YP Assembly in San Francisco over AGBU FOCUS weekend which was hosted by YP Northern California in 2013.*

The AGBU Young Professionals (YP) is a growing network of YP groups and supporters around the world who preserve and promote the 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 2012 and 2013, the YP Network made meaningful contributions to the larger community by:

- Engaging 17,000 YPs worldwide in 300 educational, cultural and social events, representing nearly one-third of AGBU worldwide activity.
- Donating over \$147,000 to initiatives with half of the funds allocated to Armenia, including \$45,327 to the YP Endowment Fund for the AGBU Children's Centers. Since the network's inception, AGBU YPs have raised over \$519,000 for various causes.
- Uniting worldwide YP groups and partners to implement its second global project of developing greenhouses for families in the village of Barekamavan, Armenia.
- Launching YP groups in Athens, Greece and Lyon-Rhône-Alpes, France.

YP groups also partnered with AGBU districts, chapters, schools and programs, as well as Armenian and non-Armenian organizations, on numerous projects and events, including YP Los Angeles's collaboration with the AGBU Western District Committee on the AGBU World Games and YP Greater New York's collaboration with the AGBU New York Summer Internship Program (NYSIP) on its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.

The YP Network convened at AGBU's 87<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in Yerevan in 2012 where a study room was dedicated to the YPs by the American University of Armenia (AUA), and at AGBU FOCUS in San Francisco in 2013 where YP Northern California was honored with a Teamwork Award in appreciation of the group's service and commitment to AGBU. Both occasions served as platforms for delegates to share best practices, discuss collaborative efforts, and set groundwork for continued success.



*The YP Network implemented its second global project in 2013 building greenhouses on the fertile land of Barekamavan, Armenia.*

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND MENTORING

With an increased focus on professional and skill development, numerous groups, including YP Athens, YP Chicago, YP Hamburg, YP London, YP Lyon Rhône-Alpes, YP Plovdiv, YP Toronto, YP Washington, D.C. and YP Yerevan, provided educational and networking events for local YPs in their communities on relevant topics, such as career building, entrepreneurship, innovation, information technology, banking, finance and the creative arts.

YP groups also nurtured the career aspirations of younger generations of Armenians, holding events such as YP Boston's resume building workshop at Bentley University, YP Buenos Aires's career workshop for AGBU Marie Manoogian Institute students, YP Greater New York's Mentoring Program for AGBU NYSIP summer interns, YP Los Angeles's career exploration panel discussion with AGBU University Outreach and the UCLA Armenian Student Association and YP Montréal's Junior Achievement Program at the AGBU Alex Manoogian School.

## FUNDRAISING AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

YP groups make it a priority to give back to the community by investing in programs and causes that are deserving of the greatest attention.

Funded by fifteen YP groups and partners and implemented by YP Yerevan, greenhouses were constructed for families in Barekamavan to help promote economic self-sufficiency and sustainability. To this end, many groups organized benefits to raise funds for the project, such as YP Boston's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Armenian Christmas Party and YP Marseille's Classical Concert.

Certain groups also fundraised for other important AGBU programs in Armenia through signature events, such as YP Greater New York's Silent Auction & Cocktail Reception for the AGBU Children's Centers and YP Northern California's 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Winter Gala Weekend for the AGBU Hye Geen Pregnant Women's Center. Additionally, YP Athens, YP Boston, YP Greater New York, YP Los Angeles, YP Northern California and YP Toronto rallied to provide financial support for AGBU's relief campaign for Syrian Armenians.

Embodying the civic spirit of the YP Network, YP Tehran spent time visiting Armenian seniors and disabled children, YP Greater New York performed for Armenian seniors with the AGBU summer interns, YP Boston participated in clean-up efforts at a local park and YP Buenos Aires highlighted volunteer service opportunities in Armenia through its "What I Did in Armenia" series.



*YP Greater New York's 11<sup>th</sup> annual Silent Auction and Cocktail Party raised a record \$25,000 for the AGBU Children's Centers.*



*YP Northern California's 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Winter Gala Weekend raised \$8,500 for AGBU Hye Geen Pregnant Women's Centers in Armenia.*

## ARMENIAN CULTURE AND AFFAIRS

YP events were held around the world on topics ranging from Armenian cuisine, archaeology, art, film, travel and the environment. There was a particular focus on promoting young Armenian artists as seen by YP Lebanon's Rising Arts Fair and YP Northern California's Emerging Artists Art Exhibit. In addition, YP Greater New York, YP Lebanon, YP Montréal and YP Philadelphia all hosted cooking demonstrations by Aline Kamakian and Barbara Drieskens, authors of the cookbook *Armenian Cuisine*.



*YP Northern California Emerging Artists Art Exhibit*



*YP Study Room  
Dedicated by AUA*



*YP Athens Nature  
Escape Weekend*



*YP Toronto LinkedIn Lecture*



*YP Sofia Benefit Dinner for  
the Greenhouse Project*



*YP Yerevan Armenian  
Bone Marrow Donors*



*YP Montréal Junior Achievement Program for  
AGBU Alex Manoogian School students*



*YP Lyon Rhône-Alpes Communications Lecture in partnership  
with ONLY LYON*



*YP Lebanon Rising Arts Fair*





## SNAPSHOT OF 2012-2013 BENEFICIARIES OF YP DONATIONS

American University of Armenia (AUA)  
 AGBU Camp Nubar  
 AGBU Children's Centers  
 AGBU Generation Next Mentorship Program  
 AGBU Schools in Lebanon  
 AGBU Humanitarian Relief Fund for Syrian Armenians  
 AGBU Hye Geen  
 AGBU New York Summer Internship Program  
 AGBU Young Professionals Barekamavan Greenhouse Project

## 2012-2013 YP DONORS

YP Athens  
 YP Boston  
 YP Buenos Aires  
 YP Chicago  
 YP Greater New York  
 YP Lebanon  
 YP London  
 YP Los Angeles  
 YP Marseille  
 YP Montréal  
 YP Northern California  
 YP Philadelphia  
 YP Plovdiv  
 YP Sofia  
 YP Tehran  
 YP Toronto  
 HAIK Partner (Frankfurt)

# YOUNG PROFESSIONALS CHAIRS & COORDINATORS 2012-2013

### ARGENTINA

BUENOS AIRES: Ignacio Balassanian

### ARMENIA

YEREVAN: Harutyun Poghosyan

### AUSTRIA

VIENNA: Hrayr Sarikyan

### BRAZIL

SÃO PAULO: Mariana Mekbekian (2012), Aram Apovian (2013)

### BULGARIA

PLOVDIV: Haik Garabedian, Nora Radoslavova  
 SOFIA: Silva Chemedikian

### CANADA

MONTRÉAL: Sarine Chitilian (2012), Maral Kassemjian (2013)  
 TORONTO: Karen Papazian (2012), Mihran Egavian (2013)

### FRANCE

MARSEILLE: Maral Hékimian  
 PARIS: Armen Seropyan  
 LYON RHÔNE-ALPES: Gregory Gazarian

### GERMANY

HAMBURG: Armen Chamlaian

### GREECE

ATHENS: Setrak Abassian

### IRAN

TEHRAN: Maria Ghazarians

### LEBANON

BEIRUT: Sarine Karajerjian

### UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

DUBAI: Mossine Koulakzian

### UNITED KINGDOM

LONDON: Ara Yeromian

### USA

LOS ANGELES, CA: Aleen Torikian (2012), Taline Guevrekian (2013)  
 NORTHERN CALIFORNIA, CA: Steven Cherezian, Greg Nemet  
 ORANGE COUNTY, CA: Dora Gulesserian  
 CHICAGO, IL: Arina Mavilian (2012), Susan Cholakian (2013)  
 BOSTON, MA: Laura Michael (2012), Irina Nanagoulian (2013)  
 GREATER NEW YORK, NY: Alexis Halejian (2012), Lindsey Hagopian (2013)  
 PHILADELPHIA, PA: Karina Ambartsoumian, Colette Seter (2012), Armena Ballard (2013)  
 WASHINGTON, D. C.: Megan Karanfil (2012), Aram Verdiyan (2013)

# YOUTH PROGRAMS



# SUMMER AND 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.

From Beirut to New York, Baghdad to Haute-Savoie, young Armenians gain an appreciation for their culture in a fun, nurturing and exciting environment.



## OUR CAMPS

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

## LEBANON: DEMIRDJIAN CENTER SUMMER DAY CAMP

In 2012, the Demirdjian Center Summer Day Camp in Lebanon celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Since its foundation, it has tripled its enrollment, attracting a record number 165 children in 2012. The camp wrapped up the 2012 season with a Fiesta Night, during which parents

and supporters came to watch a special program and performance organized around the theme *Magic of Books*. A bake sale organized by the campers and counselors helped raise money for the libraries of AGBU's three schools in the greater Beirut region.



## FRANCE: COLONIE DE VACANCES

In July 2013, Colonie de Vacances celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a celebration that gathered 100 participants, ages seven to fifteen, from **France**, **Armenia**, **Russia** and the **United Kingdom** in France's Bonnevaux

Mountains. Each year, campers spend three weeks learning Armenian songs and dances, participating in outdoor activities and preparing a memorable performance for their parents.



### USA: **CAMP NUBAR**

In 2012 and 2013, Camp Nubar welcomed over 600 youth from **Armenia, Bulgaria, Canada, England, France, Germany, New Zealand, Russia** and **Turkey**. The record number of campers enjoyed activity favorites, such as archery, Armenian dance, Armenian language, boating, horseback riding, photography, swimming, tennis and waterskiing, while trying out new basketball classes focused on developing fundamentals and a hockey league to encourage competitive spirit. In 2013, Camp Nubar marked its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. A year of reunions and special activities culminated in a festive weekend in which every generation of Camp Nubar campers, counselors, alumni, friends and family came together for two significant events: a celebratory evening at Guastavino's in New York City where over 600 guests had the chance to relive five decades of memories, and a special Open House Day at the camp, that brought over 500 back to camp's home in the Catskills. At the Open House, a blessing service and rededication of the camp's Lake Arax took place and was presided over by His Eminence Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern). The year-long efforts raised \$400,000 to benefit current and future campers.



# ATHLETICS



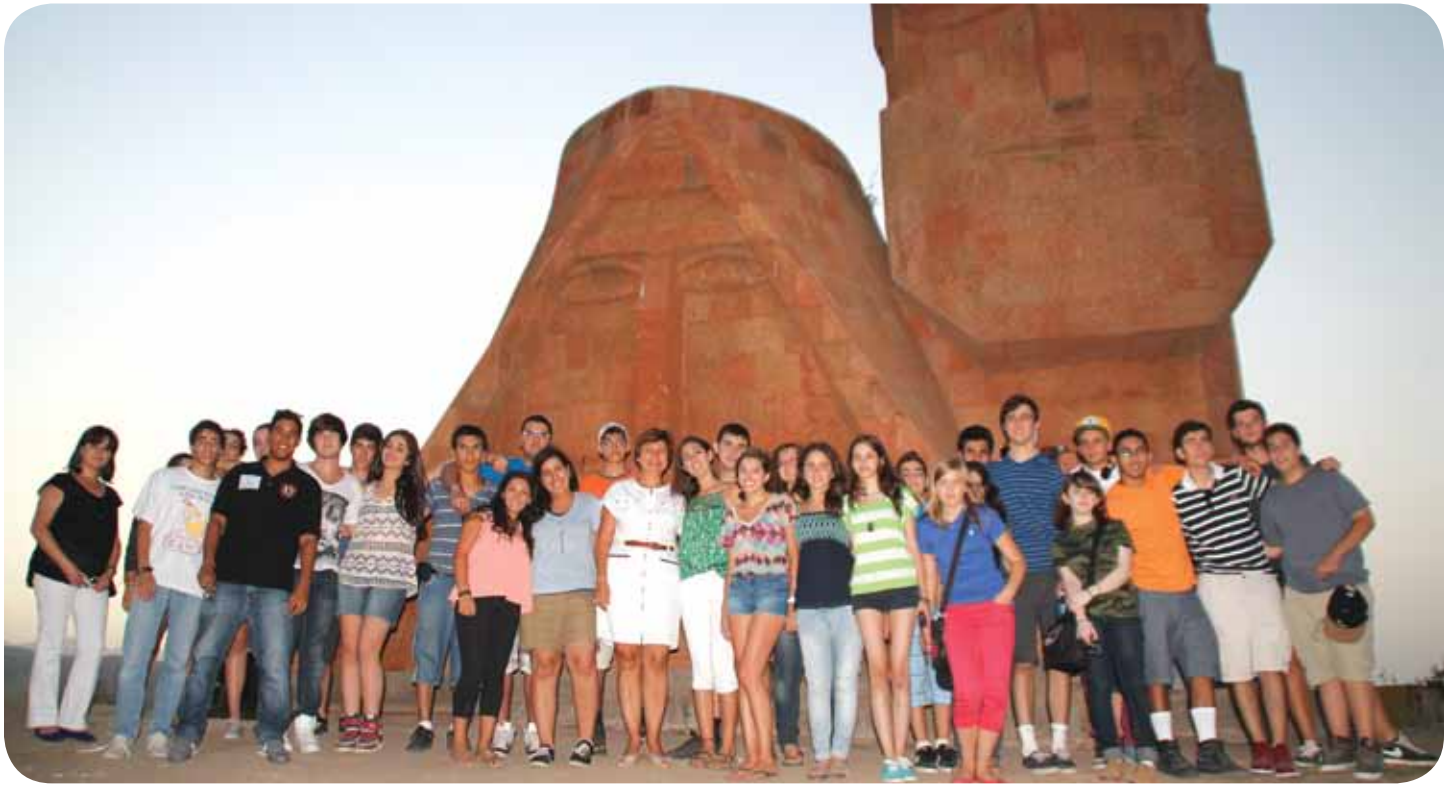
In July 2012, over 500 young Armenian athletes from **Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Egypt, France, Uruguay** and the **United States** gathered in Los Angeles for the AGBU World Games. Throughout the week, the youth displayed their talents and skills in an array of team and individual sports. Competitions included basketball, chess, futsal, swimming, table tennis, tennis, track and field, and volleyball, all of which drew hundreds of enthusiastic spectators. As part of the festivities, over 1,700 AGBU athletes, coaches, family members, fans and supporters from over a dozen cities came together at Universal Studios for the AGBU 2012 World Games Victory Ball—the culmination of a week of athletic competitions

and social activities that once again reinforced the strong bonds among AGBU youth. Since 1955, the AGBU World Games has brought together thousands of youth from around the world to participate in sports competitions and create lifelong bonds. Over the years, the event has been held in numerous cities, such as Beirut, Buenos Aires, Geneva, Los Angeles, Paris and Sydney.

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.



# EXPLORING ARMENIA



## DISCOVER ARMENIA

In 2013, Discover Armenia celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Nearly 60 participants from **Belgium, Canada, France, Great Britain, Russia, Switzerland, the United Arab Emirates, the United States** and the island of **Réunion** gathered in Armenia to take part in the programs. For many years, Discover Armenia has worked with the Fuller Center for Housing in Armenia to help families in need. In 2012-2013, Discover Armenia groups helped build two homes in the villages of Verin Bazmaberd and Ujan. Following a long-standing Discover Armenia tradition, the participants also visited the Children's Library in Stepanakert, Nagorno-Karabakh and donated new foreign language books. The foreign language section of the library was founded by Discover Armenia in 2009. In 2013, the Discover Armenia group traveled to Gyumri to visit the Terchoonian Orphanage and School, where they presented the orphanage with \$3,000. The funds were raised by Philippe Tarjan, one of the program participants, who organized a fundraiser at his home to benefit the orphanage. At the end of the program, the participants performed with the children of the AGBU Children's Center in Nork. Over the course of the program, the participants also visited AGBU Yerevan, the American University of Armenia, the AGBU Arapkir Soup Kitchen, the Armenian Genocide Memorial and Museum, AGBU Armenian Virtual College, Holy Etchmiadzin, the Madenataran Institute of Ancient Manuscripts, the Noravank Monastery, the Tumo Center for Creative Technologies and spent a weekend in Nagorno-Karabakh.





### TERRE DE VIE

UGAB Jeunes [AGBU Youth of France] started Arménie, Terre de Vie [Armenia, Land of Life] in 2011, gathering 32 Armenian and French young adults to volunteer their time and service to construction, education, environment and health programs in various regions of Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh. Two years later in 2013, UGAB Jeunes returned to Armenia to undertake a similar mission. 27 volunteers from Belgium and France, ages 19 to 30, renovated part of the AGBU Malatya Children’s Center in Malatya. The participants spent their time sanding, painting and priming walls; installing new sinks and toilets; and transporting furniture. Throughout their month-long stay, the volunteers distributed books at a school in Nagorno-Karabakh, led an oral hygiene workshop for dozens of Yerevan youth and organized a cleanup of Lake Sevan. The volunteers also mounted signs in four languages to discourage littering, a campaign that they proposed to the political officials of Sevan.



### SCHOOL TRIPS TO ARMENIA

Many AGBU students and youth embarked on their annual trip to Armenia in 2012 and 2013. 35 seniors at the Marie Manoogian Institute in Buenos Aires took a trip to Armenia as part of their graduation celebration. 40 students at the Vatche and Tamar Manoukian High School in Pasadena, California also traveled to Armenia and were hosted by AGBU staff in Yerevan. Upon their return, they chronicled their experiences during a presentation to their fellow students. Seniors and juniors from the Alex and Marie Manoogian School in Southfield, Michigan also made the trip to Armenia and returned with a greater appreciation of their history and heritage.



### SCHOOL TRIPS TO ARMENIA 2012-2013

- Manoogian Demirdjian School – Canoga Park, California, USA • Vatche and Tamar Manoukian High School – Pasadena, California, USA • Marie Manoogian School – Buenos Aires, Argentina
- Alex and Marie Manoogian School – Southfield, Michigan, USA • Marie Manoogian School – Tehran, Iran
- Tarouhi-Hovagimian School – Sin El Fil, Lebanon

# SCOUTS



AGBU scout groups place a strong emphasis on leadership, community service and respect for others. These are the core principles that inspired the first scout groups in **Egypt, Lebanon** and **Syria** in the 1940s and have been maintained in newer groups in **Argentina, Armenia, Canada, Iraq, Lebanon, Syria, Uruguay** and the **United States**. All AGBU scout groups teach Armenian youth learn outdoor skills, engage them in educational talks and strengthen the Armenian community by cultivating solidarity across generations.



## ANTRANIK SCOUT CAMP

The AGBU-Antranik Scout Camp gave diasporan Armenian and local Armenian youth the opportunity to meet and share experiences for its fifth and sixth seasons. Since 2008, more than 1,600 boys and girls from AGBU Youth chapters and affiliated groups worldwide have participated in the scout summer camp in the Lori region of Armenia. In July and August 2012, the camp brought together 202 scouts from the AGBU-AYA Syria and Lebanon chapters as well as members of the Hayartoun Youth of Tbilissi, Georgia and youth from Javakh, Georgia. Joining them were the AGBU Yerevan scout group and representatives from Nagorno-Karabakh. In 2013, the camp welcomed 250 scouts from **Armenia, Georgia, Iran, Lebanon, and Syria**. The camp program was as diverse as it was educational. Sightseeing tours, a visit to the TUMO Center for Creative Technologies and performances by the Hayotats and Kohar choirs were all on the agenda.





# 2012 & 2013 AGBU PROGRAMS

## ALUMNI ASSOCIATIONS (2)

Lazar Najarian-Calouste Gulbenkian School Alumni Association  
(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 (12)

Antranik Scout Camp (Vanadzor, Armenia)  
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)  
Green Camp (Plovdiv, Bulgaria)  
Kessab Camp (Kessab, Syria)  
Pasadena Day Camp (Pasadena, USA)  
Summer Day Camp (Kamishli, Syria)  
Yerchanik Tajirian Summer Camp (Baghdad, Iraq)

## 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 (10)

Akhtamar Dance Ensemble (Kamishli, Syria)  
Antranig Dance Ensemble (New Jersey, USA)  
AYA Antranik (Arine) Dance Ensemble (Antelias, Lebanon)  
AYA Antranik Dance Ensemble (Aleppo, Syria)  
Ararat Dance Ensemble (Córdoba, Argentina)  
Dance Ensemble (Thessaloniki, Greece)  
Garod Dance Ensemble (Vienna, Austria)  
Nur Dance Ensemble (Sofia, Bulgaria)  
Pountch Children's Dance Ensemble (Aleppo, Syria)  
Sardarabad Dance Ensemble (California, USA)

## INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS (4)

New York Summer Internship Program (NYSIP)  
Moscow Internship Program (MSIP)  
Musical Armenia Program (MAP)  
Yerevan Summer Internship Program (YSIP)

## LEADERSHIP PROGRAM (1)

Goriz Leadership Program (Paris, France)

## LIBRARY/RESEARCH CENTER (1)

Bibliothèque Nubar/Nubarian Library (Paris, France)

## PREGNANT 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)

## MEDICAL CENTERS (2)

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

## MENTORSHIP PROGRAM (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, Karabakh)  
Erebuni Musical Ensemble (Plovdiv, Bulgaria)  
Erevan 50 Band (Montevideo, Uruguay)  
Gomidas Chamber Orchestra (Aleppo, Syria)

## PARTNERSHIPS (3)

Asociación Cultural Armenia de Barcelona (ACAB) (Barcelona, Spain)  
HAIK-Deutsch Armenischer Studentenclub e.V. (HAIK)  
(Frankfurt, Germany)  
Organization of Young Armenian Professionals of Moscow (SIVAM)  
(Moscow, Russia)

## PUBLICATIONS (13)

AGBU Armenia Newsletter (Yerevan, Armenia)  
AGBU-AYA News Quarterly (California, USA)  
AGBU News Magazine (New York, USA)  
AGBU Newsletter (New York, USA)  
AGBU Voice Newspaper (Plovdiv, Bulgaria)  
Deghegadou Quarterly (Cairo, Egypt)  
Hayatsk Quarterly (Aleppo, Syria)  
Hoosharar Magazine (New York, USA)  
Khosnag Quarterly (Beirut, Lebanon)  
Mioutune Newsletter (Sydney, Australia)  
Nor Tsayn Newsletter (Melbourne, Australia)  
Revue arménienne des questions contemporaines  
semi-annual journal (Paris, France)  
Yeram Newsletter (Damascus, Syria)

## SHOWSBROADCASTS (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)  
Children's Theatre Troupe (Plovdiv, Bulgaria)  
Krikor Satamian Theater Company (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 Theater Group (Sydney, Australia)

## UNIVERSITY OUTREACH PROGRAMS (2)

Academics (Paris, France)  
University Outreach (New York, USA)

## YOUTH TRIPS TO ARMENIA (2)

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



# AGBU YEREVAN CENTER

In 2012, AGBU Yerevan broke ground on its new state-of-the-art facilities. The center incorporates the latest in green technologies, such as thermal insulation and solar panels to generate electricity. In addition to office space, the AGBU Yerevan Center includes a lecture hall and exhibition space for events. The façade of the building replicates the old дума, or Parliament, that once stood on its grounds.



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