AGBU CENTRAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2004-2005

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Berge Setrakian
Vice Presidents
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Nazar Nazarian
Secretary
Joseph Basralian

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Vice Chairman
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FRANCE: Aris Atamian (2005), Levon Kebabdjian.
SYRIA: Karnig Yacoubian.

DIRECTORS EMERITI
Haygachen Ouzounian*, Barry Zorthian.

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

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FRONT COVER - Row 1 (left to right): New York Summer Intern Program participants at Columbia University; Colonie de Vacances in Ancelle, France; American Red Cross Senior Major Gifts Officer Barbara O’Reilly presenting a plaque to Central Board Member Michael Ansour in recognition of AGBU’s $100,000 donation to the 2004 Red Cross Katrina Fund. Row 2: California’s Manoogian-Demirdjian High School graduates; London Chapter Chairman Harout Agbajanian and Treasurer Bedros Aslanian (both center) survey the Pareshen site in Karabakh with local officials; Montréal’s newly renovated Alex Manoogian Community Center. Row 3: Vaskenian Seminary, Lake Sevan in Armenia; New York Summer Interns in Washington, D.C.; Soprano Isabel Bayrakdarian taking a bow after a performance with the Armenian Philharmonic Orchestra. Row 4: Ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new dormitory of the Vaskenian Seminary on Lake Sevan; Students carving woodwork at one of the three Children’s Centers. Row 5: Alexander Primary School Winners of an Interschool Debating Competition in Sydney; Students at the Children’s Centers learning computer skills; AGBU-sponsored performance of Anush opera in Yerevan. Row 6: Central Board Member Levon Kebabdjian and France District Committee Member Ara Habanian discussing a village plan for the Karabakh Repopulation Project with one of the local contractors; Armenian folk dance from the ‘Sounds Armenian’ event staged by the Melbourne Chapter; Pensioners receiving hot meal at one of the six Soup Kitchens in Armenia. Row 7: Young Professionals of Tehran visiting Iran’s historic town of Kashan; Paris Summer Intern Program participants in the French capital; Generation Next Mentorship Program mentors and mentees pitch in to clean up their local community.

BACK COVER - Row 1 (left to right): Cordoba Fathers Committee inaugural event; Southern California District Annual Society Dinner; Antranig Dance Ensemble performance in honor of its 35th Anniversary. Row 2: Pianist Sahin Arzruni with Cairo Chapter Chairman Onnig Beleckianian and Egypt District Chairman Berdj Terzian during AGBU’s Aram Khachaturian @ 100 Tour; Sydney Chapter hosts Vartan Tashdjian Art Exhibit; American University of Armenia Memory Plaque. Row 3: Tehran Scouts at the local Center; Participants of the 83rd General Assembly in Armenia; Construction of the Monastic Dorms of Holy Etchmiadzin. Row 4: Graduating class of the Alex & Marie Manoogian School in Southfield, MI; Committee members of the Southern California District Annual Society Dinner; Irind village school in Armenia. Row 5: Alex Manoogian Memorial on Alex Manoogian Street in central Stepanakert, Karabakh; Nork Children’s Center performance in New York; Participants of the New York Summer Intern Program. Row 6: Young students at a Children’s Center; AGBU President Berge Setrakian with Ultrasound Training Center Co-Directors Dr. Hambardzumian and Dr. Sisakian and two physicians from India who receive training at the facility; Members of the Young Professionals of Los Angeles. Row 7: Duduk Master Djivan Gasparyan and dancer Sophie Devoyan taking their final bows after a performance hosted by the Lebanon District; 83rd General Assembly session in Armenia; São Paulo Chapter Chairman Carlos Mathues Der Haroutian and Buenos Aires Chapter Chairman Vehram Hainabedian and São Paulo Chapter Vice Chairman Ricardo Buron. All photos were taken in 2004 and 2005.
His Holiness Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians, AGBU President Berge Setrakian, AGBU Board Members, Chairpersons, donors, members and staff in front of the Veharan in Holy Etchmiadzin on the occasion of the 83rd General Assembly in 2004.
As President of AGBU, I have been privileged to observe the far-reaching life of our organization as few are able to do. Visiting Chapters and Schools in recent years around the world and communicating with our enthusiastic Chairpersons and Representatives, I have been overwhelmed time and time again by the dedication and spirit of our members, donors and staff. In this biennial report, you have the unique opportunity to see the world of AGBU as I do and appreciate our many accomplishments throughout the past two years. It is a world that AGBU founder and first President Boghos Nubar could never have envisioned as he set out a century ago to form an organization to serve all Armenians and preserve and perpetuate the Armenian identity. It is a community that has extended to six continents and touched so many lives in so many ways. Today, we continue to be proud of AGBU and all it stands for as we celebrate its milestone Centennial anniversary. As you read this report, I hope you gain inspiration from the tremendous positive force that defines AGBU.

With assets totaling $272 million and an annual budget of $36 million as of 2005, AGBU stands strong as the largest Armenian non-profit organization in the world. Providing a full spectrum of educational, cultural and humanitarian programs, AGBU remains active on the frontlines every day, reaching out to over 400,000 Armenians through a global network of 73 Districts and Chapters, 48 Community Centers and Offices, 13 Young Professional Groups, 33 Day and Saturday schools, Student Scholarships, Summer Camps, Athletics, Scouts & Youth Groups, Internship Programs, Performing Arts and 14 publications.

Transforming the donations and bequests entrusted to it for the benefit of the Armenian people, AGBU has been hard at work making lasting change all around the world. Renovations and expansions to centers in Buenos Aires and Montreal, schools in Canoga Park, Detroit and Montevideo, and Camp Nubar in New York served to reinforce our presence in these robust Armenian communities. With an eye on expansion in Europe, AGBU has also laid important groundwork by bolstering

Keeping Armenians Informed
During 2004 and 2005, four new publications (Revue Arménienne des Questions Contemporaines, UGAB Méditerranée, YP Corner and Yeram) in three countries began circulating information to Armenians about local, global and historical issues.

Showcasing Armenia
Students from AGBU’s Nork Children’s Center in Armenia perform during the New York premiere of their North American tour that traveled to eight cities during October 2005. AGBU is proud to support the rich artistry of Armenian culture.
the 21st century, AGBU remains poised to uphold its legacy of service
and pave the way with unparalleled foresight.

With over 70% of expenditures allocated to education and youth programs, the new generation is the leading beneficiary of
AGBU's goodwill. As advocates for our ancient language, culture,
history and religion, we must continue to develop innovative,
cutting-edge programs that appeal to younger generations, rein-
force their identity as proud Armenians, and build enduring links
which unite them with our homeland. Each new generation
inherits the responsibility for safekeeping the Armenian identity,
and we must prepare them for the task ahead.

Please remember that AGBU needs your continued support,
and the good we can achieve depends on you. We are proud to
say that donor confidence is increasing every year, as evidenced
by our growing endowments: 946 total endowments have been
established at AGBU as of 2005, compared to 599 endowments as
of 1995. Through your generous donations, you fulfill an indis-
penisible role by ensuring AGBU programs are carried out for gen-
erations to come. Our numerous achievements would also not
have been possible without our many partners in governmental,
Church and civic organizations, as well the countless individual
volunteers who share our passion to preserve the Armenian iden-
tity. Through cooperation and solidarity, I urge all organizations
and individuals to join AGBU in this universal mission to embrace
the opportunities that lie ahead.

As goodwill ambassadors to our society at large, we will show
the world the power of the Armenian spirit and the positive
results when Armenians work together as one.

Berge Setrakian, President

Our long-term investment in the diaspora is pivotal to the develop-
ment and strengthening of our ties with Armenia, which has experi-
enced substantial growth since its joyous declaration of independ-
ence 15 years ago. Paramount to the preservation of our national
identity, AGBU has invested over $100 million in the homeland since
independence and almost $15 million in the last two years on a range
of educational, religious, cultural and humanitarian programs, includ-
ing the Children's Centers, Soup Kitchens, special projects in Holy
Etchmiadzin, the Ultrasound Center, and the Armenian Philharmonic
Orchestra. Highlights include contributions to the expansion of the
American University of Armenia with the addition and construction of
two new buildings, and the announcement of our future plans to build
an AGBU educational and cultural center in Armenia for diaspora
youth to discover their origins with local peers.

Several projects over the last two years stand witness to AGBU's
ongoing commitment to restoring the war-torn infrastructure of
neighboring Karabakh, including the establishment of an AGBU office
in the capital city of Stepanakert, the founding of a Chamber
Orchestra and the repopulation of border villages. With the support of
Chapters worldwide, the first rebuilt village of Norashen is now home
to 100 residents, the construction of the second village Pareshen is on
track, and fundraising for the third village Jrakn is underway.

In its commitment to move forward with the evolution of the inter-
national Armenian community, AGBU Central Board was also faced with
the most trying decision to discontinue the Melkonian Educational
Institute. With increasing challenges in delivering education to an
Armenian nation that continues to change demographically, economi-
cally and socially, AGBU has since reinforced its dedication to its mis-
sion and, in 2005, AGBU Central Board was pleased to announce plans
to open a second high school in the Southern California area. Difficult
decisions inspire growth and advancement, and as we cross into the

Honoring All Generations

Some of the 1,200 pensioners who benefit from AGBU’s six Soup Kitchens in
Armenia. AGBU’s humanitarian projects help those most in need.

Strengthening Local Communities

Students at Marie Manoogian Institute in Buenos Aires gather for a special welcome
for His Holiness Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians, during the Pontiff’s 2005
visit to Argentina. AGBU chapters, schools and centers form the backbone of
Armenian communities across the globe.
AGBU reaches 400,000 Armenians annually with its educational, humanitarian and cultural programs.
**Consolidated Statement of Financial Position**

**December 31**

### ASSETS

**Current Assets:**

- **Cash:** $5,635,600
- **Portfolio investments:** 182,759,988*
- **Contributions/Accounts receivable:** 11,392,153
- **Interest receivable:** 1,656,530
- **Total Current assets:** 201,444,271

**Real Estate:**

- **Furniture, equipment and leasehold improvements, net:** 69,038,791

**Total Assets:** 272,356,620

### LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

**Liabilities:**

- **Accounts payable:** $5,519,636
- **Notes payable:** 641,756
- **Total Liabilities:** 6,161,392

**Net Assets:**

- **Unrestricted:** 55,939,248
- **Temporarily restricted:** 36,044,965
- **Permanently restricted:** 174,211,015
- **Total Net Assets:** 266,195,228

**Total Liabilities & Net Assets:** 272,356,620

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*These amounts represent book value as of 12/31/04 and 12/31/05. Total market value as of 12/31/04 and 12/31/05 are $185,769,957 and $187,772,570 respectively.

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**PUBLIC SUPPORT & REVENUE**

**Public Support:**

- Contributions
- Membership dues
- Special events

**Revenue:**

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

**Satisfaction of program restrictions**

**Management income, reserve and capitalization**

---

**TOTAL PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE**

**PROGRAM AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES**

**Programs:**

- Educational
- Cultural
- Religious
- Humanitarian

**Administrative**

**Fundraising**

**Foreign exchange/Translation adjustment**

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**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**

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**HIGHLIGHTS**

**Biennial Financial Report 10-year Comparative Totals**

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<th>%</th>
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**Yearly (**) Increase/(Decrease) 10-year (***) Increase/(Decrease)**

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**All Figures are in U.S. Dollars.**
# ARTEMVAN GENERAL BENEVOLENT UNION

## Consolidated Statement of Activities

<table>
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<td>$55,939,248</td>
<td>$36,044,965</td>
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**Programs**

**Armenia**
- American University of Armenia
- Armenian Philharmonic Orchestra
- Children’s Centers (3)
- Soup Kitchens (6)
- St. Nersess Hospital
- Ultrasound Center
- Vaskenian Theological Seminary
- Yerevan State University

**Karabakh**
- Karabakh Chamber Orchestra
- Karabakh Repopulation Project

**Major Projects**

**Armenia**
- Arapkir Church
- Clergy Housing in Etchmiadzin
- Erebouni Church
- Etchmiadzin Children’s Center
- Gyumri Pregnant Women’s Center
- Holy Trinity Church
- Outside Altar in Etchmiadzin
- St. Gregory of Narek Church
- St. Gregory the Illuminator Cathedral
- St. Hakop Church
- St. Sarkis Church
- Vanadzor Children’s Center

**Karabakh**
- Housing complex for veterans and war widows
- Stepanakert Secondary School #7

**Special Grants**

**Armenia**
- Academy of Science
- Aintab School #2
- Amasia Village
- Armenia State Opera Theatre
- Gyumri School #3 for the Disabled
- Gyumri School for Visual Disorders
- Irind Village School
- Meghri Kindergarten
- Peniamin Jamgotchian School
- Travel video program for television
- Writers Union of Armenia

**Karabakh**
- Karabakh Diocese
- North-South Highway construction
- Rehabilitation Center

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**American University of Armenia**

*Preparing Graduates to Lead Armenia’s Future*

In October 2004 and 2005, close to 300 graduates joined the ranks of alumni numbering almost 1,400 at the 13th and 14th Graduation Ceremonies of the American University of Armenia. The university’s most recent achievements include the acquisition of the Vartkes & Hasmig Barsam Building, which complements AUA’s regional and international student recruitment campaign through the provision of housing, and the groundbreaking for the construction of the new Paramaz Avedisian Building, which will include expanded educational and research facilities. Annually, about 400 students enroll in AUA’s two-year program, earning Master’s degrees in Business Management, Conservation and Environmental Science, Engineering, Law, Political Science and International Affairs, Public Health and Computer Science.

**Armenian Philharmonic Orchestra**

*Delivers Two More Outstanding Seasons*

The Armenian Philharmonic Orchestra galvanized Yerevan’s cultural scene with an impressive array of weekly concerts during the 2004 and 2005 seasons. Traveling to Ankara in October 2004, APO, along with the State Academic Choir of Armenia, performed together for a sold-out audience of over 2,000 under the direction of Istanbul-born maestro Hovhannes Tchekidjian. The program was the first of its kind in Turkey’s cultural capital. The APO’s Chamber Orchestra was also invited to perform at Lebanon’s Byblos Festival in July 2005. Highlights of APO, under the direction of APO Artistic Director and Principal Conductor, Eduard Topchjian, from 2005 included sold-out performances by the famous Italian baritone Renato Bruson and Canadian soprano Isabel Bayrakdarian.

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*View of the AUA campus, including the main building on the right and the Paramaz Avedisian building under construction in the center.*

*His Holiness Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians, AGBU President Berge Setrakian and AGBU Board Members attending the 83rd General Assembly in Yerevan, Armenia, in 2004.*

*American maestro Alexander Treger guest conducts the APO during a performance on July 3, 2005.*
During the past two years, the generosity of thousands of benefactors and donors once again supported AGBU’s longstanding presence in the homeland. Through representation offices in Yerevan and Stepanakert, the organization administers a vast array of educational, humanitarian and cultural programs that serve countless individuals.

**NORK, ARAPKIR AND MALATYA CHILDREN’S CENTERS**

*Educating a Generation of Talented Youth*

Since 1993, the Arapkir, Malatya and Nork Children’s Centers have provided after-school instruction to over 3,000 talented youth, ages 6-16, in art, computers, crafts, dance, gymnastics, history, languages and music, in addition to participating in weekly church services and Bible study courses, which are held in the adjoining chapels. In September 2004, two gymnasts from the Nork Center’s Circus Group traveled to the Delphi Games in Moldova and returned home with a gold and silver medal. At an international chess competition in Tehran, Iran, that same month, the Arapkir Center’s Chess Class won the gold medal. In addition, during the month of October in 2005, the Nork Children’s Center toured eight cities in North America (featured on page 16).

**Soup Kitchens**

*Lending a Helping Hand*

AGBU’s six Soup Kitchens in Yerevan, Sevan, Etchmiadzin and Hrazdan continue to provide a daily meal to over 1,200 pensioners and orphans. In addition, recipients often take home the ample portions to share with family members and friends, and volunteers deliver meals to those who are ill or housebound.

**Ultrasound Center**

*A State-of-the-Art Medical Facility*

Recognizing the need for Armenia’s physicians to keep pace with advances in modern medicine, an AGBU benefactor donated a CT Scan machine to the Ultrasound Center in 2005. Dr. Levon Nazarian, Professor of Radiology at Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia, established the Center at the Yerevan State Medical Institute in 2000 for both students and doctors, some of whom come from as far as China, India and Russia to receive instruction. Since then, the Center has trained some 50 medical personnel in the certificate program and more than 30 students in the internship program.

**Vaskenian Seminary**

*A Spiritual Oasis on Lake Sevan*

The donor-sponsored dormitory of the Vaskenian Seminary on Lake Sevan was inaugurated in October 2004. The brand-new facility includes staff rooms, offices, library and living quarters for a hundred seminarians, and is part of the larger campus that provides religious education and training to clergy who go on to serve Armenian communities throughout the world.

**AGBU Opens New Representation Office in**
Given AGBU’s extensive support of Karabakh’s efforts to rebuild its economic, educational and cultural infrastructure, a new office in Stepanakert was the next step during 2004.

**Karabakh Chamber Orchestra**

*Plays First Concert and Tours Armenia*

At the request of Karabakh President Arkady Ghoukassian, AGBU established the Karabakh Chamber Orchestra (KCO) in 2004 to encourage cultural life in the budding republic. While KCO’s premier concert took place in Stepanakert in October 2004, after AGBU’s 83rd General Assembly in Yerevan, it performed its first Yerevan concert in July 2005. In order to help local youth develop their talents, several of the 17 KCO musicians, 11 of whom relocated to Karabakh from Armenia, have begun teaching at the Stepanakert Music College and at music schools in Shushi and Lachin.

**Karabakh Repopulation Project**

*Bringing Armenians Home*

The Karabakh Repopulation Project continues to expand significantly in the Hadrut region with wholehearted support from worldwide Districts and Chapters, sharing AGBU’s vision to repopulate the country’s war-torn villages with tens of thousands of Armenians.

**Norashen:** In 2002, the France District spearheaded AGBU’s first village in Karabakh and built 23 houses for 100 residents, including 32 school-aged children and 14 pre-schoolers. In May 2005, a medical center, made possible through the gifts of AGBU France donors, the Union of French Armenian Doctors (UMAF) and the financial support of the Karabakh government, opened in Norashen.

**Pareshen:** Through the generous donations of members of the U.K. Armenian community and matching funds from AGBU London Trust, the London Chapter volunteered for the significant undertaking of a second village with Phase One underway. Karabakh authorities and the London Chapter have taken the joint responsibility of supplying water and electricity to Pareshen, and the local authorities will also build a road that will connect it to other villages and regions.

**Jrakn:** Fundraising began in 2005 for this third AGBU village, with $100,000 already allocated and additional pledges promised from US members. The initial goal of ten houses will launch the village and bring more Armenians to the region.

The three AGBU villages will share Norashen’s medical center, kindergarten and primary school, along with a secondary school, which was sponsored by the Southern California District and the Sydney Chapter.
prepare young Armenians in more than 37 countries for successful futures, AGBU’s educational endeavors serve close to 7,000 students each year. Starting from the decades-old Scholarship Program, which awards grants and loans to highly qualified candidates, to the New York and Paris Summer Intern Programs, AGBU staunchly believes in the importance and value of education. In fact, counted among the organization’s institutions are the two largest day schools outside of Armenia—the Lazar Najarian-Calouste Gulbenkian School in Aleppo (Syria) and the Manoogian-Demirdjian School in Southern California (USA) with over 1,400 and 950 pupils respectively.

**Scholarship Program**

Well over 1,500 students from 29 countries (listed below) received grants and loans totaling over $2,043,000 during 2004 and 2005 to pursue their collegiate studies, in fields ranging from medicine to the arts and from law to Armenian studies. Almost half of this sum was allocated to scholarships for graduate degree candidates at the American University of Armenia.

- **Argentina**
  - Buenos Aires: Marie Manoogian Institute (K-12)
- **Australia**
  - Sydney: Alexander Primary (K-6)
  - Alex Manoogian Saturday School
- **Bulgaria**
  - Dobrich: Saturday School
  - Haskovo: Saturday School
  - Plovdiv: Saturday School
  - Rousse: Saturday School
  - Silistra: Saturday School
  - Sliven: Saturday School
  - Yambol: Saturday School
- **Canada**
  - Montréal: Armen Québec-Alex Manoogian (K-8)
  - Toronto: Daniel & Alice Zaroukian (K-6)
- **Cyprus**
  - Nicosia: Melkonian Educational Institute (6-12)
- **France**
  - Paris: Alex Manoogian Saturday School
  - Lyon: Saturday School
  - Vienne: Saturday School
- **Greece**
  - Athens: Artaki Kalpakian (K-6)
- **Iran**
  - Tehran: Marie Manoogian (1-5)
  - Nevart Gulbenkian (9-12)
- **Iraq**
  - Baghdad: Pourasdan Friday School
- **Lebanon**
  - Beirut: Boghos K. Garmirian (K-9)
  - Tarouhy-Hovagimian (7-12)
  - Levon G. Nazarian (K-6)
- **Syria**
  - Aleppo: Lazar Najarian-Calouste Gulbenkian (K-12)
  - Damascus: Gullabi Gulbenkian (K-6)
  - Kamishli: Saturday School
- **Uruguay**
  - Montevideo: Nubarian-Manoogian (K-12)
- **USA**
  - Canoga Park, CA: Manoogian-Demirdjian (K-12)
  - Detroit, MI: Alex & Marie Manoogian (K-12)
  - Chicago, IL: Sisag H. Varjabedian Saturday School
  - Cleveland, OH: Saturday School
  - Costa Mesa, CA: Orange County Saturday School

Day schools are displayed in white, weekly schools are displayed in gray.
Students In the Spotlight 2004/2005

High school students from Buenos Aires’ MARIE MANOOGIAN INSTITUTE and Canoga Park’s MANOOGIAN-DEMIRDJIAN SCHOOL took turns visiting California and Argentina as part of their established exchange program, which was created to foster AGBU’s mission to expose its youth to the common values that bind Armenians together.

For two school years in a row, a combined total of 80 students at the MANOOGIAN-DEMIRDJIAN SCHOOL received high marks on the college-level Advanced Placement Program (AP®), which earned them the designation of AP Scholar by the College Board.

Exemplifying the importance of philanthropy and compassion for their fellow Americans, the student body at the MANOOGIAN-DEMIRDJIAN SCHOOL raised $12,000 in September 2004 for a Red Cross donation assisting victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Two students from Sydney’s ALEX MANOOGIAN SATURDAY SCHOOL received the “Minister’s Award for Excellence in Student Achievement” during a ceremony attended by 2,000 guests in September 2005. Sponsored by the local government, the award recognizes students from community language schools for their achievements and contributions to Australian society.

School Milestones

RENOVATIONS & EXPANSIONS

APRIL 2004—Over 300 community members gathered at the NUBARIAN-MANOOGIAN SCHOOL in Montevideo, Uruguay, for a ribbon-cutting ceremony of the expanded complex, which includes two kindergartens, five classrooms and the Sam Simonian Hall.

JUNE 2005—His Holiness, Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians, blessed and dedicated six classrooms and a teachers lounge in the MANOOGIAN-DEMIRDJIAN SCHOOL in Canoga Park, California, during a special ceremony to unveil the new facilities. While substantial fundraising, including $300,000 raised by the school’s Parent Teacher Organization, and the expansion construction began in 2003, an additional $100,000 was pledged for four of the classrooms.

SEPTEMBER 2005—The ALEX & MARIE MANOOGIAN SCHOOL in Detroit completely renovated its elementary and secondary school facilities to continue serving the greater Detroit community as a charter institution. In addition, the school received a $153,000 academic excellence grant from the Walton Family Foundation in 2004, which was allocated to the upgrading of the science and computer labs.

ANNIVERSARIES

SEPTEMBER 2004—The LAZAR NAJARIAN-CALOUSTE GULBENKIAN SCHOOL in Aleppo, Syria, celebrated its 50th Anniversary with some 4,000 participants during a weekend of events honoring five decades of achievement at AGBU’s largest school.

OCTOBER 2004—The ALEX & MARIE MANOOGIAN SCHOOL commemorated its 35th Anniversary in Detroit, Michigan with a special banquet attended by 400 alumni, faculty and parents.

MAY/JUNE 2005—Several joint events between Canada’s Toronto Chapter and the local ZAROUKIAN SCHOOL celebrated the School’s 20th Anniversary and AGBU’s 99th Anniversary. Attended by over 250 members and friends, the festivities culminated with a banquet at the Alex Manoogian Cultural Center.

JUNE 2005—As a testament to its three and a half decades of teaching excellence, the ARMEN QUÉBEC-ALEX MANOOGIAN SCHOOL in Montréal, Canada, honored its 35th Anniversary with a banquet attended by hundreds.

Alumni Giving Back

MAY 2004—Over 300 guests attended a fundraising banquet organized by the Los Angeles alumni of the LAZAR NAJARIAN-CALOUSTE GULBENKIAN SCHOOL in Aleppo, Syria. Staying true to its mission for the last 15 years, such as providing scholarships and other grants on a near annual basis, the group raised $30,000 through this event.
New York Summer Intern Program

Making a difference in the lives of over 450 global university students for 18 years, the AGBU Presidents Club-sponsored NYSIP offers young Armenians the opportunity to spend a summer in Manhattan at the New York University dorms and intern at renowned institutions and companies to broaden their professional horizons. In addition, participants gain knowledge of their heritage and learn the importance of volunteerism through a well-rounded curriculum of cultural and educational lectures, and community service projects.

From June to August of 2004 and 2005, the 18th and 19th sessions of NYSIP brought together a combined 66 university students from Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, England, France, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates and USA.

Paris Summer Intern Program

In 2005, PSIP welcomed five university students from Armenia and Switzerland, who were housed in la Maison des Étudiants Arméniens—funded by AGBU Founder Boghos Nubar. During their stay, students had the opportunity to gain valuable work experience in leading Paris-based institutions and explore the Armenian side of the French capital.
### CHAPTER PROGRAMS

#### ART ACADEMY
- Syria, Aleppo: Sarian Academy

#### CHORAL GROUPS
- Argentina, Buenos Aires: Shnorhali
- Bulgaria, Haskovo: Gomidas
- Bulgaria, Yambol: Aravod
- France, Paris: Koghtan
- Iraq, Baghdad: Choir
- Lebanon, Beirut: Junior Choir
- Uruguay, Montevideo: Grung

#### DANCE ENSEMBLES
- Argentina, Cordoba: Ararat
- Bulgaria, Plovdiv: Mirage (Jazz Ballet)
- Greece, Thessaloniki: AGBU Dance Ensemble
- Lebanon, Beirut: Antranik
- Syria, Kamishli: Akhtamar
- USA, New York: Antranig

#### LIBRARY/RESEARCH CENTER
- France, Paris: Nubarian Library

#### MEDICAL CLINICS
- Lebanon, Beirut: Medical Dispensary

#### MUSICAL GROUPS
- Bulgaria, Plovdiv: Erebouni
- Syria, Aleppo: Marching Band
- USA, Pasadena: Marching Band

#### SPECIAL COMMITTEES
- Canada, Montréal: Golden Age
- Lebanon, Beirut: Asbeds
- Syria, Aleppo: Asbeds
- USA, Pasadena: Asbeds
- USA, Pasadena: Hye Geen
- USA, New York: NYSEC

#### THEATRE GROUPS
- Bulgaria, Haskovo: Youth Troupe
- France, Paris: Ahazank
- Lebanon, Beirut: Vahram Papazian
- USA, Pasadena: Aravod

### CELEBRATING MILESTONES

**25th Anniv.**
- 2004: Coro Shnorhali (Buenos Aires, Argentina)
- 2005: Ardavazt Theater Group (Pasadena, USA)

**30th Anniv.**
- 2005: Golden Age Committee (Montréal, Canada)

**35th Anniv.**
- 2004: Antranig Dance Ensemble (New York, USA)

**40th & 41st Anniv.**
- 2004 & 2005: São Paulo Chapter (São Paulo, Brazil)

**50th Anniv.**
- 2005: Sarian Art Academy (Aleppo, Syria)

**95th Anniv.**
- 2005: AGBU’s 95th Anniversary (Cordoba, Argentina)
- 2005: AGBU’s 95th Anniversary (Montréal, Canada)
- 2005: AGBU’s 95th Anniversary (Toronto, Canada)

### DISTRICT & CHAPTER CHAIRS 2004 – 2005

**ARGENTINA, BUENOS AIRES**—Vahram Hairabedian. **CORDOBA**—Ricardo Erezian.

**AUSTRALIA, MELBOURNE**—Maral Tchorbadjian. **SYDNEY**—Aram Hagopian.


**RUSSE**—Edmon Dogramajian. **SILISTRA**—Mgrdich Kalustdian. **SLIVEN**—Varta Garabedian. **SOFIA**—Sonia Avakian-Bedrosian. **VARNA**—Vanuhi Arakelian.


Chapters

AGBU’s over six dozen Chapters dedicated their multifold efforts to fundraising for both local and Central Board initiatives, celebrating milestones, planning informative events and engaging the local community. Moreover, the organization’s cultural groups dazzled tens of thousands of spectators worldwide through concerts, performances and special programs that brought together young and old alike.

Looking Forward

Renovations—Expansions—Special Events

MARCH 2004—As part of its youth endeavors, the Buenos Aires Chapter renovated the gymnasium in its Center and held a reopening ceremony. The facility serves over 300 young athletes.

SEPTEMBER 2004—The Southern California District (SCDC) sponsored its first Society Gala Dinner with over 200 guests and generated $144,000 for SCDC’s initiatives in the region.

OCTOBER 2004—Hundreds of Armenians gathered at the newly renovated Montréal Center for a weekend of activities celebrating the local Chapter’s renewed commitment to the community and the completion of its $1 million renovation. Highlights of the weekend included a cultural performance with close to 600 audience members and a gala banquet.

JULY 2005—The Marseilles Chapter, in addition to commemorating its 95th Anniversary, honored Serge Tchuruk, Chairman and CEO of the multinational corporation Alcatel and one of the world’s most prominent business leaders of Armenian descent. Over 250 AGBU Central Board members, supporters and friends from six countries attended the gala dinner.

OCTOBER 2005—The SCDC Second Annual Society Gala Dinner, attended by 300 guests, raised over $200,000, which was allocated to the development and administration of youth programs within Southern California.

Cultural Activities

Lebanon District Gathers Over 6,000 Attendees in Beirut—Theatre Group Travels to Armenia

MAY 2004—With members of the AGBU-sponsored Armenian Philharmonic Orchestra from Armenia and the local Beirut Symphonic Orchestra, world-renowned New Age musician Ara Gevorgian delighted a capacity crowd of over 2,000 for two nights at the invitation of the Lebanon District.

AUGUST 2004—Traveling to the homeland, the Lebanon District’s V. Papazian Theater Company participated in Armenia’s “One Nation One Culture” Festival and staged performances in Yerevan, Gyumri and Stepanakert (Karabakh).

NOVEMBER 2004—Internationally acclaimed duduk virtuoso

Left, Duduk Master Djivan Gasparyan and dancer Sophie Devoyan from Armenia take their final bows in Beirut, Lebanon. Right, One of three sold-out matinee performances to 1,000 Lebanese Armenian school students.

Some of the 4,000 spectators that attended the “Megaevento” event in Buenos Aires, Argentina.
Djivan Gasparyan played to audiences numbering over 3,000 at the President Emile Lahoud Exhibition Hall. A matinee of this performance also took place for 1,000 students from AGBU and other local Armenian schools.

**Antranig Dance Ensemble Marks Milestone with Performance**

**JUNE 2004**—More than 1,000 capacity audience members applauded as the Antranig Dance Ensemble returned to Lincoln Center and marked its 35th Anniversary with a performance entitled "Journey Through Dance."

**AGBU Ardavazt & Lark Musical Society Present Acclaimed Tchouhadjian Operetta**

**OCTOBER 2004**—Over 7,000 attendees attended three sold-out performances of Dikran Tchouhadjian’s widely acclaimed operetta, "Leblebiji Hor-Hor Agha." Performed as a joint venture between the AGBU Ardavazt Theater Company and the Lark Musical Society, this large-scale event raised funds for both cultural organizations.

**Geneva Chapter Accompanies Swiss Canton Delegation to Armenia**

**APRIL 2005**—Representatives from the Geneva Chapter accompanied the Geneva Canton Minister of Education, Mr. Charles Beer, on his first trip to Armenia in April 2005 to supervise the implementation of the city’s Armenia programs. Partners of the Geneva Canton in their Armenia projects are the Geneva Chapter and the Armenian Social Investment Fund.

**Melbourne Chapter Sponsors "Sounds Armenian" Cultural Performance**

**AUGUST 2005**—Showcasing the rich musical heritage of Armenia’s history, "Sounds Armenian," presented by the Melbourne Chapter, assembled an array of artists both local and from the homeland for a unique program incorporating projected visual and sound effects that was attended by hundreds of guests.

**Buenos Aires "Megaevento Cultural" Attracts Thousands; 1,000 Tune in Online**

**SEPTEMBER 2005**—Approximately 4,000 spectators gathered at the Buenos Aires Exhibition Center to enjoy "Megaevento Cultural," a live spectacle of song and dance with 500 performers. Held under the auspices of the City of Buenos Aires and the Embassy of the Republic of Armenia, and organized by the local Chapter, this program united all Armenian cultural groups within South America for the first time, including AGBU’s Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay Chapters. Utilizing web technology to maximize exposure of "Megaevento," a live Web broadcast, AGBU’s first ever, took place with 1,000 viewers online.

**Nork Children’s Center Troupe Attracts 7,000 in North America**

**OCTOBER 2005**—Taking the United States and Canada by storm, the AGBU Nork Children’s Center Performing Arts Troupe launched their much-awaited North American debut. Charming sold-out audiences totaling over 7,000 in New York, Richmond (VA), Washington, D.C., Racine (WI), Chicago, Boston, Montréal and Toronto with their irresistible spirit and enthusiasm, the 52 talented youth, ages 10-19, completed a whirlwind one-month tour. The award-winning troupe - comprised of the Haykazounk Folk Ensemble, Narek Dance Ensemble, Nork Circus School and Vahagn Drum Ensemble - presented a remarkable repertoire of traditional Armenian and contemporary art forms, including song, dance, instrumental music, dramatic recitation and gymnastics. Joining AGBU in hosting this large-scale endeavor in honor of the 1600th Anniversary of the creation of the Armenian Alphabet were the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern) and the Diocese of the Armenian Church of Canada.
Young Professionals

Responding to the lifestyle of young, career-oriented Armenians, the global network of thirteen Young Professional (YP) Groups mobilizes ambitious volunteers dedicated to AGBU, who enrich the greater community through innovative events and programs. Whether mentoring college students, sponsoring cultural events or raising funds for AGBU programs, YPs inspire thousands of Armenians every year to get involved and stay involved.

New Beginnings

Celebrating its 10-year anniversary in 2005, the worldwide YP network welcomed the establishment of new groups in Boston, Paris, Plovdiv, Sofia and Tehran, nearly doubling its number. In addition, the first YP Conference held outside of North America took place in July 2004 in conjunction with the XVII AGBU World Games in Bulgaria (see page 18), which, along with a special YP itinerary during the 2004 General Assembly in Armenia, provided an ideal opportunity for YPs to connect with their global peers.

Fundraising Highlights

Benefiting the Young Professional Endowment Fund for the AGBU Children’s Centers, the YOUNG PROFESSIONALS OF GREATER NEW YORK (YPGNY) sponsored its signature Armenian Christmas Reception & Silent Auction in January 2004 at the Mercedes Benz Showroom in Manhattan with over 150 supporters in attendance.

The YOUNG PROFESSIONALS OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA (YPNC) hosted its Winter Gala Getaway Weekend, the largest YP event worldwide, in the heart of San Francisco during February 2004 and 2005, attracting 500 guests and adding funds to the YP Endowment.

Reaching out to students in the United States and Armenia, the YOUNG PROFESSIONALS OF LOS ANGELES (YPLA) fundraised to provide scholarships to participants of the New York Summer Intern Program and an allocation towards the American University of Armenia’s Digital Library subscription.

All in all, the worldwide YP network raised over $25,000 for a variety of AGBU programs during 2004 and 2005.

FOCUS

Initiated in 2001 as a weekend event and organized entirely by a new generation of AGBU beneficiaries and members, FOCUS unites global young Armenian professionals to share their international perspectives and pay tribute to the programs that have positively impacted their lives. From July 14-17, 2005, close to 600 young Armenian professionals flew in from Belgium, Canada, England, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Lebanon and Switzerland, in addition to over 20 U.S. cities, for the third biennial FOCUS in South Beach (Miami), Florida. With a program comprised of a networking evening featuring a panel discussion, a silent auction of art from the Children’s Centers, and a sold-out Gala at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel, the event raised $25,000 for the Scholarship Program through pre-event fundraising.

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS CHAIRS 2004 – 2005

Youth

Summer Camps

The Buenos Aires (Argentina) Chapter’s COLONIA DE VACACIONES attracted hundreds of children from December to February with its annual day camp. Offering a host of indoor and outdoor facilities, the local Center’s summer session united youngsters ages 3-12 for swimming, music lessons and a monthly camping trip.

The Plovdiv (Bulgaria) Chapter sponsored young children in the renowned village of Markovo for its weeklong GREEN CAMP in June 2005, offering Armenian language, culture and religion instruction, and other outdoor activities.

Initiated in 2003 by the Sofia (Bulgaria) Chapter, CAMP UNGER brought together children, ages 10-12, for an opportunity to meet Armenian peers and take a break from city life.

The France District’s Camp, COLONIE DE VACANCES, established in 1979, had full capacity during its annual three-week sessions in July, attracting campers from all parts of France, in addition to other European countries, Russia and the United Arab Emirates.

Continuing its 37-year tradition, the Aleppo (Syria) District’s KESSAB CAMP sponsored some 200 children, who would not otherwise have been able to attend, at the camp for two weeks each summer. In addition, well over a thousand AGBU youth flocked to the site for their annual camping sessions.

A combined 579 campers, including 60 new children, from Canada, France, Germany, Lebanon, Turkey and USA participated in CAMP NUBAR (New York, USA), AGBU’s longest-running camp, during 2004 and 2005. Several new additions to the grounds, including an art barn, adult staff building and lounge, three tennis courts, two girls’ cabins, girl counselors’ cabin, and sailboats and tubes at the lake, ensure that Camp Nubar remains a state-of-the-art facility.

Athletics

XVII AGBU World Games Held in Albena, Bulgaria with Over 350 Participants

For a full week in July 2004, 350 athletes, YPs and supporters from Argentina, Austria, Canada, Cyprus, Bulgaria, Egypt, France, Italy, Lebanon, Spain, Syria and the United States journeyed to the Black Sea
Exemplifying their great skill in basketball, the BEIRUT (LEBANON) AYA ANTRANIK GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM won the national championship title for the third and fourth consecutive years in 2004 and 2005. In addition, the BEIRUT (LEBANON) AYA MEN’S TABLE TENNIS TEAM proved victorious by also winning the Lebanese championship title in 2005.

Traveling to Damascus for the Syrian national swimming competitions in mid-July 2004, eleven members of the ALEPPO AYA GIRLS SWIMMING TEAM participated in a range of races, including 50-meter backstroke, 200-meter butterfly, and 400-meter freestyle, and came home with 16 gold medals, 18 silver medals and 17 bronze medals.

Youth Group Activities

Recognizing the need to perpetuate the Armenian identity in Argentina beyond the capital and Cordoba, the BUENOS AIRES (ARGENTINA) LIGA DE JÓVENES organized the first Interprovincial Visit to smaller Armenian communities. In February 2004, some 300 people witnessed the official establishment of the Armenian community of Posadas (1,000 km from the capital). In 2005, in addition to celebrating their group’s 65th Anniversary, the local youth made another interprovincial visit, this time to Rosario. Liga also mounted its immensely popular annual Woodstokian concert in 2004 and 2005, where hundreds of youth heard the sounds of emerging Armenian Argentinean bands.

Generation Next Mentorship Program

Modeled after the Big Brothers Big Sisters of America program, Generation Next Mentorship Program has been working with the Glendale Unified School District (GUSD) in greater Los Angeles since 1997. During the 2004-2005 academic year, the group continued to bring together more than 30 volunteer mentors and their assigned mentees at least twice a month for joint activities. The mentor relationship served as a role model for students, and offered them the guidance and tools necessary for success in all aspects of their lives.
In February 2005, the **TORONTO (CANADA) SPORTS & YOUTH COMMITTEE** sponsored a charity concert at the Manoogian Cultural Center, raising funds for its sports and youth programs. Three Armenian Canadian bands performed for over 175 fans.

During the month of August 2005, over a dozen French Armenian teenagers, ages 15-18, had the opportunity to visit AGBU projects and witness firsthand the positive outcome of the organization’s homeland endeavors through the **FRANCE DISTRICT’S ANNUAL YOUTH TRIP TO ARMENIA AND KARABAKH**. More importantly, they also traveled to Norashen in Karabakh, where they helped build a nursery and forged friendships with local youth. Back in France, the **PARIS UGAB JEUNES** youth group brought together over 70 participants from England, Italy, Switzerland and all corners of the French republic for "WEJ 2005" (Weekend Jeunes/Youth Weekend). The event provided an ideal backdrop not only for an exchange of ideas among AGBU’s European youth, but also to launch an enhanced level of cooperation among its youth groups. Further south, in the Provence region, young members of the **VALENCE CHAPTER**, who are alumni of Colonie de Vacances, initiated a new **UGAB JEUNES** group in 2005 that organizes weekly theatrical exercises, sports, cultural, and recreational activities.

During the month of September 2005, members of the **BEIRUT AYA DANCE GROUP** traveled to Armenia to reconnect with the homeland. The highlight of the trip was visiting the Nork Children's Center, where they met with the dance students and spent an afternoon choreographing a dance together.

Demonstrating their graceful talent, the **KAMISHLI (SYRIA) CHAPTER’S AKHTAMAR DANCE GROUP**, comprised entirely of local youth, placed third in a Syrian dance competition in 2005.

During the months of September and October 2004, the **SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA DISTRICT’S (USA) ARDAVAZT JUNIORS THEATER GROUP** staged five original one-act plays for eight evenings to capacity audiences totaling well over 2,200. To accommodate the demand, extra seats were often added, and three additional performances were staged after the production's close.

**Scouts**

The **BUENOS AIRES (ARGENTINA) GRUPO SCOUT GENERAL ANTRANIK** celebrated its 19th Anniversary at the local Center with some 500 guests.

The **BAGHDAD (IRAQ) AYA OHAN SCOUTS** organized several activities to unite AGBU youth in the Middle East, such as participating in the Lebanon District’s Annual Scouts Trip to Mount Lebanon in 2004. The following summer, 100 Baghdad Scouts joined the Aleppo Scouts on their annual camping excursion to Kessab, Syria.

Celebrating 20 years of AGBU scouting activities in the Southern California District (USA), hundreds of supporters of the **SAN FERNANDO VALLEY SCOUTS** gathered for a banquet in July 2005.
The organization’s 14 publications spread the word to some 100,000 individuals globally, from local newsletters to AGBU News Magazine, which is published through the New York Central Office and has the largest circulation of any Armenian periodical in the world.

During 2004 and 2005, newsletters were created in Beirut (YP Corner), Damascus (Yeram) and Marseilles (UGAB Méditerranée), a new scholarly publication emerged from the Nubarian Library in Paris (Revue Arménienne des Questions Contemporaines) and the Sydney Chapter sponsored two directories for its local community, The Almanac of Armenians in New South Wales and The Bilingual Community Guide.

AGBU.org continues to be the organization’s premier source for online information, forms, photos and events for 10,000 monthly users.

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