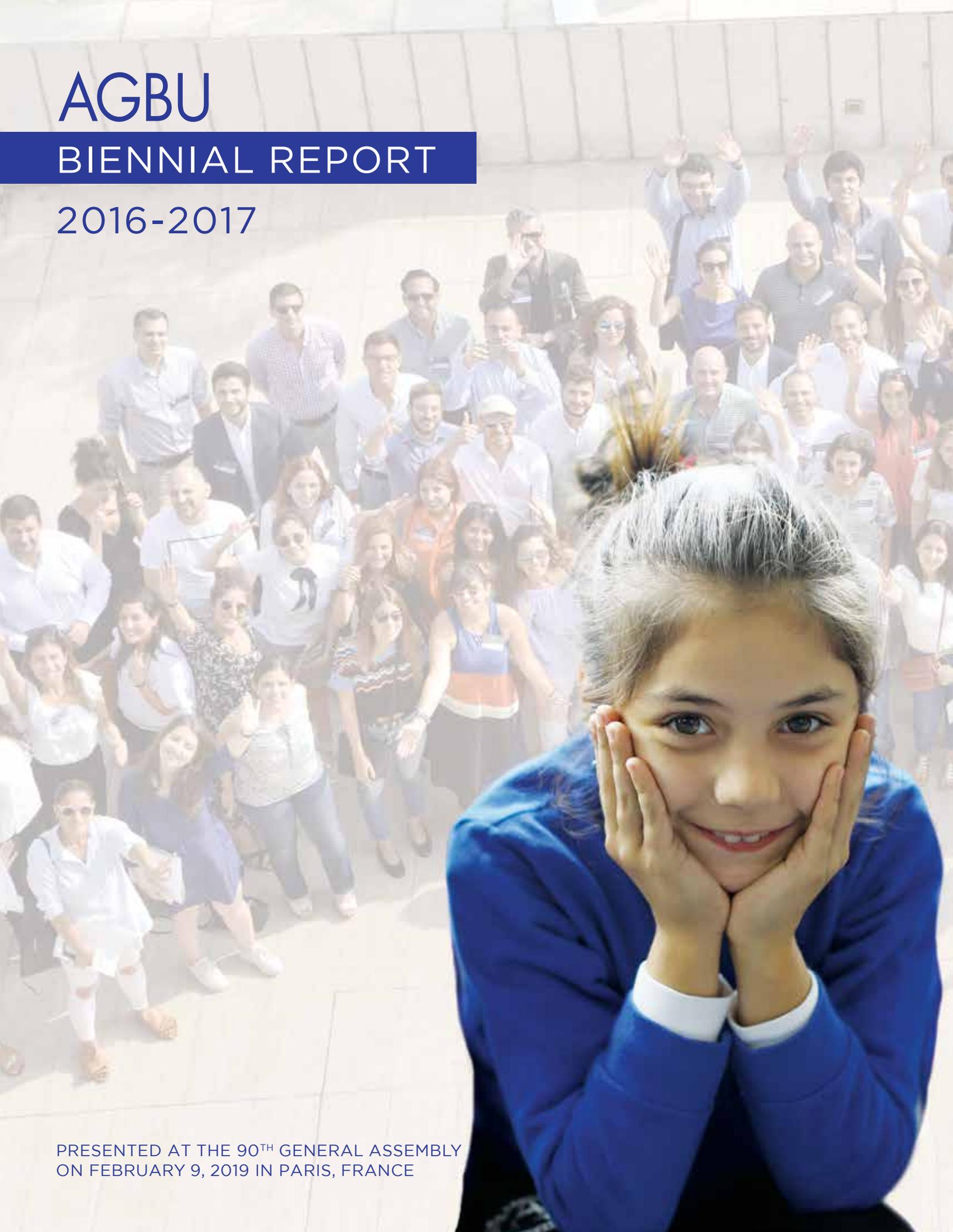


AGBU

BIENNIAL REPORT

2016-2017



PRESENTED AT THE 90TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ON FEBRUARY 9, 2019 IN PARIS, FRANCE

While AGBU has made every effort to achieve complete accuracy in all the content provided herein, we apologize in advance for any inadvertent errors that may appear in this report.

Table of Contents

President's Message	4
Central Board of Directors	6
Financial Reports	7
Acting as One Armenian Nation	10
Leading as Global Citizens	18
Telling Our Stories on the Screen	22
AGBU 110 <i>Celebrating Our Illustrious History</i>	28
AGBU Armenia <i>Forging the Relationships that Help Build a Nation</i>	32
AGBU Regions <i>Promoting Culture and Community Across the Diaspora</i>	40
AGBU Young Professionals	60
AGBU Schools	66
AGBU Programs	72
Honorees	96



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

To our Members, Donors and Friends:

The years 2016 and 2017 marked a fundamental shift in how AGBU engages and interacts with its diverse constituencies throughout the world. During this two-year cycle, exceptional opportunities, both circumstantial and technological, came our way to add dimension to our mission and reframe our image as an agent of change.

The time was right for us to make strategic moves that propelled us outward, focusing on areas of commonality between Armenians and the world at large. And, thanks to our expanded footprint in the homeland, a surge in activity at our AGBU Armenia offices opened new doors for constructive relationships among Diaspora, Armenia and Artsakh.

In the pages to follow, you'll see how we applied our human capital, financial resources, digital tools and strategic partnerships to act on urgent issues as one global Armenian nation, to lead important conversations with international counterparts, and to tell our compelling Armenian story to general audiences. These inroads branched out across the AGBU network as local chapters created a wide array of events, along with signature projects and programs suited to specific needs in their communities.

These years also put the spotlight on particular sectors of Armenian society: Syrian Armenian refugees; the people of Artsakh; a new generation of female entrepreneurs and civil society organizations emerging in Armenia. At the same time, we continued to serve the half million Armenians whose lives we touch every year through our vast network and programs, including camps and youth discovery tours, sports teams and scout troops, schools, scholarships, and summer internships. We also broadened our cultural horizons globally through the AGBU Performing Arts Department and AGBU-supported local ensembles and troupes in music, dance and theater.

The Spring of 2016 realized a long-awaited ambition of all Armenians with the worldwide release of the Hollywood produced, all-star feature film about the 1915 Genocide called *The Promise*. Not only did AGBU take the lead in raising awareness and box office sales in our local communities, but we also leveraged the film's universal message with our *The Promise to Educate* nationwide campaign—bringing history into public classrooms and libraries across the United States. Other film screenings, including documentaries and shorts, were held across the AGBU network, reinforcing the power of film to show how our Armenian story is relevant to the universal struggle for human dignity.

Reflecting on our accomplishments in 2016 and 2017, I can state with confidence that AGBU emerged from these two years stronger in its capacity to embrace innovation, better prepared to rise to tough challenges and uniquely positioned to deepen the Armenian imprint on humanity through outreach, partnerships and collaborations.

We also had the pleasure of showcasing a different kind of promise—that of Armenia’s youth as the new vanguard of the nation’s cultural life. With the premiere of HOKIS, a spectacular event featuring some of the star students and graduates of AGBU Children’s Centers in Yerevan, the Armenian Spirit was on full display during our 110th Anniversary Gala celebration in 2016. It fortuitously coincided with our 89th General Assembly in New York City, drawing 500 guests from 24 countries.

The year 2016 will also be known for the introduction of *AGBU Webtalks*, a groundbreaking short-form video series bringing great minds on important subjects to online audiences around the world. In addition, we advanced our Armenian Virtual College (AVC) to reach more students, teachers and culture enthusiasts via the “hybrid” classroom.

In 2015, the United Nations designated December 9th as the International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime. One year later, we were ready to lend our own voice to the issue by organizing insightful conversations about human rights, genocide and refugee assistance with international panelists in three key locations across the globe.

This turning point in how AGBU relates to the world reverberated across the AGBU network. Quickly adapting to new themes and trends, our districts and local chapters added their own voices and sensibilities, enabling AGBU to occupy a unique space in the realm of global humanistic concerns.

No report on these dynamic two years would be complete without addressing the crisis in Syria. In 2016 and 2017, escalating atrocities forced more Syrian Armenians to flee their once-comfortable lives to brave the unknown. Acting as one nation, Armenians worldwide answered our call to step up the support we began providing in 2012. The response across our network and social media unleashed an outpouring of creative ways to raise more funds to help save and rebuild lives.

Another unforeseen event gripped the attention of the Armenian world in April 2016, when Azerbaijan suddenly attacked Artsakh. While the aggression was short-lived, fatalities on the Armenian side were a reality check on the high stakes involved. AGBU heeded the warning by fortifying its emergency medical relief to civilian and military hospitals, while providing financial assistance to families of the fallen and wounded.

On behalf of AGBU, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to every donor and benefactor who supported these vulnerable populations as well as the AGBU volunteers on the frontlines of such efforts. They remain the heart and soul of our organization.

I also wish to acknowledge the extraordinary members of our AGBU Central Board during these years. Together, they made the critical decisions necessary to advance our mission in an ever more complex, interconnected world, fraught with challenges but also rich with opportunities. We also applaud those on AGBU special committees, who translated our mission into enriching Armenian experiences. The same is true for our regional centers, districts, chapters and Young Professional groups across six continents. Individually and collectively, they kept the Armenian identity and culture vibrant and meaningful while raising the profile of Armenians as global citizens and taking part in nation-building initiatives in Armenia. Last but not least, we salute our AGBU staff, whose dedication to professional excellence and application of new technologies helped turn promising ideas into inspired action, every day of these productive two years.

Reflecting on our accomplishments in 2016-2017, I can state with confidence that AGBU emerged from these two years stronger in its capacity to embrace innovation, better prepared to rise to tough challenges and uniquely positioned to deepen the Armenian imprint on humanity through outreach, partnerships and collaborations.

Sincerely,



Berge Setrakian
President of AGBU

CENTRAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2016-2017



©Tina Tcholakian Photography

Members of the AGBU Central Board during the 89th General Assembly held at the Harvard Club in New York.

PRESIDENT

Berge Setrakian

VICE PRESIDENTS

Sam Simonian, Sinan Sinanian

TREASURER

Nazareth A. Festekjian

ASSISTANT TREASURER

Yervant Demirjian

SECRETARY

Sarkis Jebejian

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Arda Haratunian

HONORARY MEMBER

His Holiness Karekin II,
Catholicos of all Armenians

MEMBERS

ARMENIA: Armen Sarkissian, Vasken Yacoubian

CANADA: Lena Sarkissian

FRANCE: Aris Atamian

RUSSIA: Ruben Vardanyan

SWITZERLAND: Vahe Gabrache

UNITED KINGDOM: Arnaud Attamian,
Joseph Oughourlian

UNITED STATES: Noubar Afeyan,
Eric Esrailian, Ani Manoukian, Lori Muncherian,
Levon Nazarian, Yervant Zorian

COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES

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

IN MEMORIAM

Boghos Nubar, Founder
Alex Manoogian, Honorary Life President

FINANCIAL REPORTS 2017 – 2016

All figures are in U.S. Dollars.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	December 31	
	2017 (*)	2016
Assets		
Current Assets:		
Cash	\$8,384,617	\$12,255,760
Investments - at cost (**)	20,747,161	18,393,408
Contributions/Accounts receivable	15,540,604	10,344,284
Interest receivable	301,475	555,121
Total Current Assets	44,973,857	41,548,573
Investments - non-current - at cost (**)	226,340,030	223,001,026
Real Estate - at cost (***)	97,702,834	96,777,387
Furniture, equipment and leasehold improvements, net	2,070,667	2,086,692
Total Assets	\$371,087,388	\$363,413,678
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$5,344,737	\$5,354,085
Notes payable – current and long-term	55,452	161,350
Total Liabilities	5,400,189	5,515,435
Net Assets:		
Unrestricted	50,323,765	53,156,392
Temporarily restricted	54,264,482	46,981,840
Permanently restricted (Endowments)	261,098,952	257,760,011
Total Net Assets	365,687,199	357,898,243
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$371,087,388	\$363,413,678

(*) Consolidated financials for 2017 and 2016 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 2017 include estimates based on 2016 actuals, as a number of reports of local entities were not yet available at the time of the preparation of this booklet.

(**) Total fair market values of current and non-current investments are **\$266,806,777** and **\$256,526,494** as of **12/31/2017** and **12/31/2016** respectively.

(***) The Board of Directors estimates that the current market value of the properties is significantly higher than the historical cost values reported in the financial statements.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Biennial Financial Report: 10-year Comparatives

	2017	%(a)	2016	%(b)	2006
Total Assets	\$371,087,388	2%	\$363,413,678	27%	\$286,162,612
Total Revenue	55,404,865	10%	50,279,740	5%	47,759,992
Total Expenses	47,615,909	10%	43,327,096	29%	33,510,010

(a) Yearly % Increase (Decrease)

(b) 10-year % Increase (Decrease)

FINANCIAL REPORTS 2017 – 2016

All figures are in U.S. Dollars.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES — YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2017(*)

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE				
Public Support:				
Contributions	\$ 2,684,706	\$ 15,608,799	\$ 2,945,294	\$ 21,238,799
Membership dues	85,810	-	-	85,810
Special events and other income	7,118,878	1,340	-	7,120,218
	9,889,394	15,610,139	2,945,294	28,444,827
Revenue:				
Investment income	10,199,688	7,818	-	10,207,506
Rental income	1,871,201	2,025	-	1,873,226
Tuition and other school income	14,879,306	-	-	14,879,306
	26,950,195	9,843	-	26,960,038
	36,839,589	15,619,982	2,945,294	55,404,865
Satisfaction of program restrictions	11,228,544	(11,228,544)	-	-
TOTAL PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE	48,068,133	4,391,438	2,945,294	55,404,865
PROGRAM AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES				
Programs:				
Educational	21,984,610	-	-	21,984,610
Cultural	17,677,337	-	-	17,677,337
Religious	1,843,021	-	-	1,843,021
Humanitarian	1,138,557	-	-	1,138,557
	42,643,525	-	-	42,643,525
Administrative	4,164,578	-	-	4,164,578
Fundraising	552,861	-	-	552,861
Foreign exchange/Translation adjustment	254,945	-	-	254,945
	4,972,384	-	-	4,972,384
TOTAL PROGRAM AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	47,615,909	-	-	47,615,909
Change in net assets, from operations	452,224	4,391,438	2,945,294	7,788,956
Inter-fund transfers	(3,284,851)	2,891,204	393,647	-
Change in net assets	(2,832,627)	7,282,642	3,338,941	7,788,956
NET ASSETS, beginning of year	53,156,392	46,981,840	257,760,011	357,898,243
NET ASSETS, end of year	\$50,323,765	\$54,264,482	\$261,098,952	\$365,687,199

FINANCIAL REPORTS 2017 – 2016

All figures are in U.S. Dollars.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES — YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE				
Public Support:				
Contributions	\$ 7,764,341	\$ 13,441,477	\$ 4,064,913	\$ 25,270,731
Membership dues	103,373	-	-	103,373
Special events and other income	3,931,316	16,105	-	3,947,421
	11,799,030	13,457,582	4,064,913	29,321,525
Revenue:				
Investment income	6,681,810	9,367	-	6,691,177
Rental income	1,330,734	2,077	-	1,332,811
Tuition and other school income	12,934,227	-	-	12,934,227
	20,946,771	11,444	-	20,958,215
	32,745,801	13,469,026	4,064,913	50,279,740
Satisfaction of program restrictions	12,689,003	(12,689,003)	-	-
TOTAL PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE	45,434,804	780,023	4,064,913	50,279,740
PROGRAM AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES				
Programs:				
Educational	20,874,647	-	-	20,874,647
Cultural	15,009,798	-	-	15,009,798
Religious	2,073,712	-	-	2,073,712
Humanitarian	916,087	-	-	916,087
	38,874,244	-	-	38,874,244
Administrative	3,695,281	-	-	3,695,281
Fundraising	491,555	-	-	491,555
Foreign exchange/Translation adjustment	266,016	-	-	266,016
	4,452,852	-	-	4,452,852
TOTAL PROGRAM AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	43,327,096	-	-	43,327,096
Change in net assets, from operations	2,107,708	780,023	4,064,913	6,952,644
Inter-fund transfers	(6,212,171)	5,326,904	885,267	-
Change in net assets	(4,104,463)	6,106,927	4,950,180	6,952,644
NET ASSETS, beginning of year	57,260,855	40,874,913	252,809,831	350,945,599
NET ASSETS, end of year	\$53,156,392	\$46,981,840	\$257,760,011	\$357,898,243



ACTING AS ONE ARMENIAN NATION

When trouble visits Armenians in one corner of the world, borders dissolve, walls disappear and we are reminded of all that we share by virtue of ancestry, history and culture, rather than what separates us through geography and ideology. For more than a century, AGBU's strength has always been our commitment to fostering unity, mobilizing the Armenian people to face both triumph and tragedy together. Such interdependence was sharply delineated in 2016-2017, when humanitarian crises occurred on two major fronts.

Four Day War in Artsakh

In April 2016, the Republic of Nagorno-Karabagh (officially renamed the Republic of Artsakh in 2017) was suddenly attacked by Azerbaijan. This unexpected and unprovoked act of aggression signaled to the Armenian world that military vigilance and emergency preparedness are paramount for the national security of Artsakh and Armenia. AGBU mobilized quickly by raising the necessary funds from key donors to deliver emergency medical relief to soldiers and civilians in harm's way.

#ArtsakhStrong Campaign

With swift action, communities across the globe joined together to raise awareness and funds. AGBU quickly raised over \$325,000 through individual donations and special allocations by the AGBU Central Board.

One month after the cessation of hostilities, the AGBU Armenia leadership visited severely injured soldiers and volunteer fighters at the Central Clinical Military Hospital and the Rehabilitation Center of the Armenian Red Cross Society in Yerevan. In Armenia, the team also visited the homes of discharged soldiers and families of fallen soldiers in the regions of Shirak and Ararat. In Artsakh, the team visited the Military Hospital in Stepanakert and the homes of fallen soldiers in Martakert, Martuni and Hadrout. Any families in need were provided with \$1,000 in financial assistance. AGBU also provided support to more than 70 displaced Armenians, including 30 children, by hosting them at the Nairi Hotel in Stepanakert. AGBU also signed a contract with the Armenia Ministry of Defense to provide medical equipment to the army, including 2,000 C.A.T. tourniquets, 2 digital mobile X-rays machines, and 2 stretchers fully equipped with intensive care treatment devices for helicopter airlifts.



Continued Education and Awareness

In June 2017, AGBU Europe launched an appeal entitled "We Want Europe in Artsakh" calling for a change in EU policy. It released a video and information package explaining the case for EU engagement in Artsakh. In Amsterdam, Barcelona, Chicago, and many of our global cities, workshops and conferences often found Artsakh a recurring theme.



Syrian Crisis

As the war in Syria raged on, tens of thousands of Syrian Armenians continued to be affected by the crisis in their country. While many found themselves searching for safer homes abroad, some chose to remain. Despite the volatility on the ground, the resilience of our communities was something to behold. AGBU Kamishli welcomed 90 children to its annual summer school program. In Aleppo, the graduating classes of the AGBU Lazar Najarian-Calouste Gulbenkian School were celebrated.

In the meantime, AGBU volunteers risked the streets of Aleppo and other Armenian-populated towns to deliver emergency services and supplies.

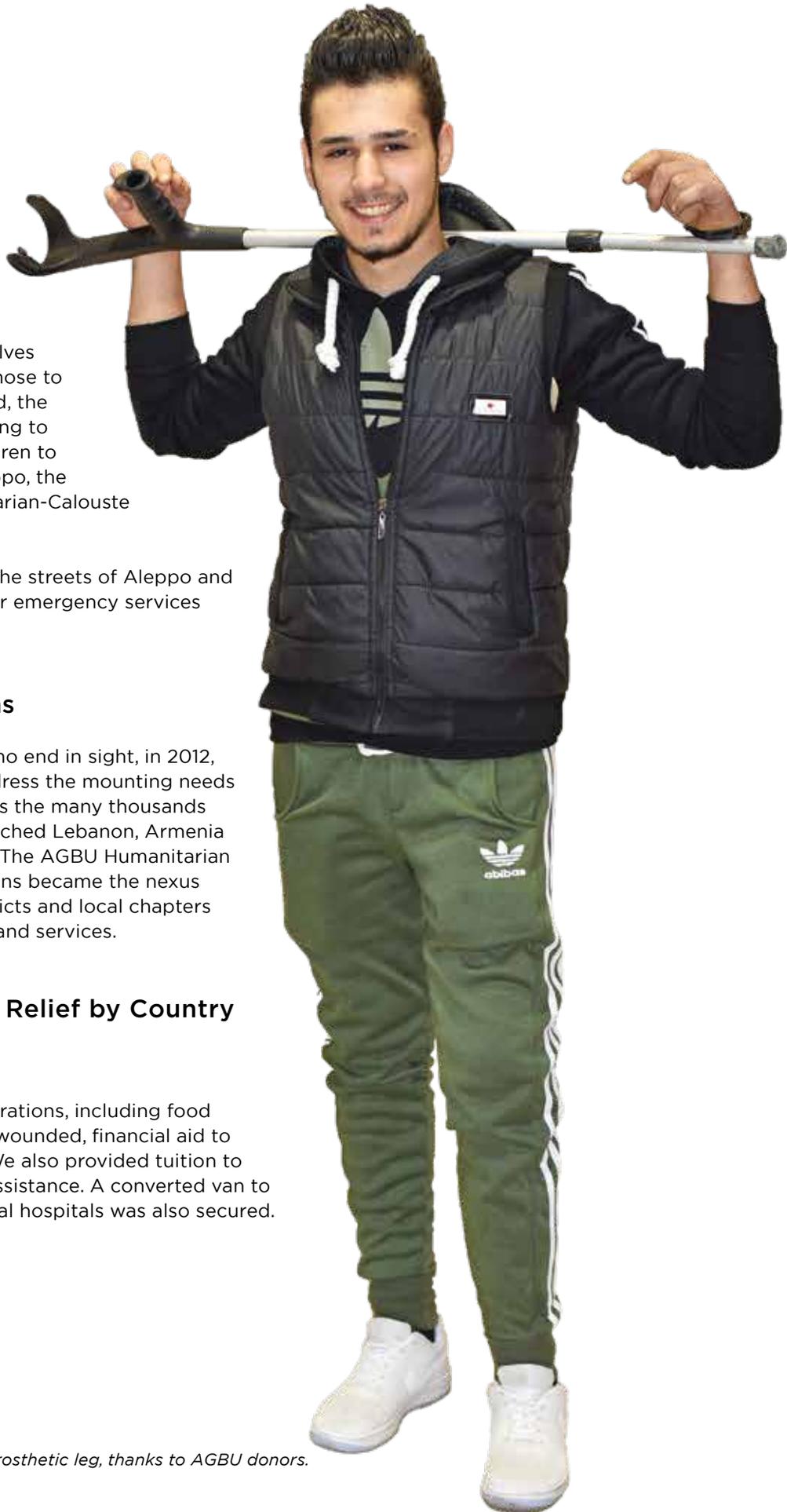
AGBU Fund for Syrian Armenians

Five years into the crisis in Syria and with no end in sight, in 2012, AGBU established a dedicated fund to address the mounting needs of Armenians still in the war zone as well as the many thousands of Armenian refugees who had already reached Lebanon, Armenia and Canada, struggling to begin life anew. The AGBU Humanitarian Emergency Relief Fund for Syrian Armenians became the nexus for donors and volunteers as regional districts and local chapters mobilized to provide urgently needed aid and services.

Syrian Armenian Humanitarian Relief by Country



AGBU Aleppo continued with its relief operations, including food packages, survival kits for the elderly and wounded, financial aid to families, orphans, and homeless shelters. We also provided tuition to schools, trauma counseling, and medical assistance. A converted van to serve as an ambulance for transport to local hospitals was also secured.



Manuel Tanigian of Aleppo, is a recipient of a prosthetic leg, thanks to AGBU donors.

 **Armenia and Artsakh**

Armenia continued its outreach to refugees with tuition scholarships to universities, trauma counseling, and funding medical procedures, distributed through the newly opened Vahe Karapetian Center in Yerevan. In 2017, the AGBU Claudia Nazarian Polyclinic opened to serve the needs of 1,000 Syrian Armenian refugees, with Armenian physicians from Syria offering free medical treatment and advice. In addition, Syrian Armenian farmers who resettled in Artsakh were able to apply for micro-loans for fuel and seeds, as well as make use of a free tractor and agro-supplies in collaboration with the Cherchian Family Foundation. This resulted in 1,135 hectares of sown lands. During this time, Armenia's Minister of Education and Science Levon Mkrtchyan and AGBU Armenian Virtual College (AVC) founder Dr. Yervant Zorian marked the launch of a joint initiative to provide Armenian language instruction for refugees in Armenia.

 **Lebanon**

AGBU Lebanon also extended its efforts to create a sense of stability and belonging. They provided full and partial tuition scholarships at AGBU schools, free transportation to and from school, remedial classes to prevent students from falling behind and subsidized participation in the annual local camp, community events and other activities. AGBU Lebanon also administered two medical dispensaries.

 **Canada**

During 2016-2017, AGBU renewed its commitment to provide refugee services—from temporary housing and basic assistance with official paperwork to job searches and settlement issues, in addition to scholarships to the AGBU École Alex Manoogian. Special classes to help refugee children integrate into their host country and improve their French and English language skills were also offered. Saturday schools in Montreal and Toronto also welcomed these vulnerable youth.

In the summer of 2016, AGBU Montreal opened its new NOVA Summer School for Syrian Armenian students, staffed by nine volunteers. Fifteen students practiced French vocabulary and conversation in a comfortable environment. AGBU École Alex Manoogian offered French immersion classes during the school year. It was also the first year of AGBU Montreal's free scouts program for Syrian Armenian youth. Scholarships were also provided to the Montreal School of Gemology in partnership with the Armenian Jewelers Association of Montreal, in addition to seminars and job fairs organized by AGBU Young Professionals of both Montreal and Toronto.

Rachida Cheouf, Elementary School Teacher at the AGBU École Alex Manoogian in Montreal.



Syrian Armenian Relief at a Glance

How AGBU donors helped save and rebuild lives in 2016 and 2017*

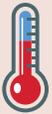
In 2016-2017, **1,700** donors worldwide contributed **\$2 million** USD to Syrian Armenian relief. Since 2012, **\$5 million** USD has been allocated directly to relief efforts and programs.



21 refugee families received agriculture subsidies in Artsakh



100+ AGBU Saturday School scholarships were given to refugee children in Montreal and Toronto



250 families in Armenia received heating subsidies in Armenia (2017)



609 Armenian refugees received financial aid and food coupons



3,282 Armenian refugees attended the AGBU Claudia Nazarian Medical Polyclinic in Yerevan



2,162 tuition reimbursement awards were given to Syrian Armenian students enrolled in universities in Armenia



15,000 refugees in Armenia received winter clothing



15,000+ civilians received medical assistance (medication/surgical) in Syria



166,000+ food baskets were distributed in Syria



\$505,000 USD in AGBU Day School scholarships were awarded to 385 refugee students in Lebanon

*From 2012-2017



#ICareICan Campaign

At the heart of the AGBU relief efforts was the #ICareICan campaign, based on the idea that even the smallest initiative can make a big difference. The campaign was launched on social media platforms, asking participants to take a photo of themselves holding a sign reading #ICareICan and post it on their personal Facebook, Twitter and/or Instagram pages with a short description of their initiative. Pledges ranged from donating money normally spent on coffee to organizing a local fundraiser.

Aleppo resident with one of the many humanitarian aid packages that were distributed throughout the city by AGBU volunteers.



AGBU Local Outreach and Fundraisers

During 2016-2017, our network of AGBU committees and other groups was instrumental in fundraising and providing assistance to Syrian Armenians under the #ICareICan theme.

1. YP Toronto organized a job fair for over 200 Syrian Armenian refugees at the local AGBU Center. Canada was put in the spotlight with the resettlement of over 20,000 refugees from Syria, among them many Armenians.
2. In New York, artist and hair stylist Vartan Geudelekian held a fundraiser, *Art at Vartali*, at his salon, with a total of \$20,000 raised from the sale of his paintings.
3. The AGBU London Gala raised \$325,000 for Syrian-Armenian refugees. (Left) Keynote speaker Lord Ara Darzi with his wife Lady Wendy Darzi. (Right) AGBU Central Board member Joseph Oughourlian, who hosted the event with his wife, Jenny, addressed the guests.
4. YP Greater New York raised \$50,000 at its 2017 Silent Auction and Cocktail Party.
5. YP Northern California dedicated its Winter Gala to Syria Relief in 2017 and raised \$20,000.
6. Over 250 teachers, students, parents and members of the Armenian community of Los Angeles were treated to a unique performance by AGBU Vatche & Tamar Manoukian High School students, raising over \$8,000.
7. AGBU Sofia's Charity Ball at the Sheraton Sofia Balkan Hotel was attended by many notable guests, among them Vice Foreign Minister of Bulgaria Hristo Angelichin, Ambassador of the Republic of Armenia to Bulgaria Arsen Shoyan, Ambassador of Syria to Bulgaria Nadra Sayaf, and many AGBU Sofia supporters.
8. YPs in Lebanon enjoyed a workout during their spin-a-thon fundraiser which took place in April 2016.







LEADING AS GLOBAL CITIZENS

The Centennial of the Armenian Genocide in 2015 brought the Armenian world out of its shell to share its truth through mass communications. We recounted our story in novel and refreshing ways that resonated with mainstream audiences, including the global media and renowned, influential figures in politics, religion and culture. As these efforts gained support from broader sectors of society, AGBU acted to sustain interest by organizing panel discussions on related themes in the global context. These inclusive dialogues with Armenian and non-Armenian panelists presented insightful perspectives.

AGBU's extended outreach forged new partnerships and collaborations that broadened our connections and impact on the Armenians and beyond. In Armenia, we continued to work on a regular basis with the Holy See of Etchmiadzin as well as the European Union Delegation, Armenia's ministries of Education and Defense and many aligned local civil society organizations (CSO's). AGBU also collaborated on projects and events with the Smithsonian Institution, the Eurasia Partnership Foundation, and American University of Beirut (AUB) Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs, to name a few.

United Nations Genocide Prevention Initiative

In 2015, the United Nations, led by the Republic of Armenia, formally drew a line in the sand with a resolution that genocide must be prevented by taking measures swiftly and forcefully before this crime against humanity overtakes voices of protest. The U.N. designated December 9th the International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime. In 2016 and 2017, AGBU organized panel discussions across cultures and nationalities, amplifying the conversation globally.



Beirut

In December 2016, AGBU Lebanon organized a one-day seminar entitled "The Crime of Genocide and the MENA Region: Lessons Learned for Prevention or Protection" in collaboration with the United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner (OHCHR), the Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs at the American University of Beirut (AUB), the Foundation for Human and Humanitarian Rights in Lebanon, and the Lepsiushaus Potsdam Research Center for Genocide Studies in Germany.

Participants developed recommendations for the prevention of genocide, including basing rules on natural laws and on the principle of justice; questioning, regulating, and holding politicians accountable for their actions; looking for the root cause of radicalization; exploring alternatives, such as capacity-building awareness sessions to prevent radicalization; and furthering the role of civil society.



Top: Panelists in Beirut discussed the role of civil society in raising awareness of human rights violations. **Opposite Page:** Dr. Keith David Watenpaugh, Professor of Human Rights Studies at University of California, Davis, opened the conference with a keynote speech.

The following year, AGBU Lebanon organized another day-long seminar on “Preventing and Combating Human Rights Violations: A Responsibility for All,” which examined the role of education, civil society and media in genocide prevention. The event took place at the American University of Beirut (AUB), in partnership with the Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs at AUB in collaboration with the Foundation for Human and Humanitarian Rights in Lebanon, UMAM Documentation and Research Center, CEMAM Research Center for the Modern Arab World at the Saint Joseph University, and L’Orient-LeJour.

New York

In 2017, before a packed crowd at the Harvard Club, AGBU and News Deeply co-hosted a panel discussion on “Advancing Civilian Protection: Human Rights in Times of Upheaval” to shed light on past and ongoing atrocities with the goal of encouraging stakeholders and the public to take action. The panel focused on the importance of documenting crimes against humanity as they happen, listening to the communities on the ground, ensuring a timely response, and most critically, preventing such atrocities in the first place.



Panelists in New York included: (left to right) award-winning director Evgeny Afineevsky; Omer Ismail, Enough Project; former international journalist Sherine Tadros; Akshaya Kumar, Human Rights Watch; Evan Cinq-Mars, Center for Civilians in Conflict; Dr. Bridget Moix, Peace Direct; and Oscar-winning director Terry George.

Paris

On December 9, 2017, AGBU Europe, the European Grassroots Anti-racist Movement (EGAM)/Elie Wiesel Network and *Nouvelles d’Armenie* held a conference “How to Stop the Killing.”

Three panels featuring practitioners, scholars, journalists and observers explored topics ranging from the responsibility to protect civilians and early prevention to post-conflict reconciliation and eyewitness accounts about crimes in the Central African Republic, Iraq and Syria. Speakers also highlighted the controversy about the legitimacy and effectiveness of external interventions to protect the victims of atrocities.



(Left to right) Dr. Cristina Stefan, Jack Mayerhofer, MEP Frank Engel and moderator Nicolas Tavitian. Speakers explored topics ranging from the responsibility to protect and early prevention to post-conflict reconciliation tools.

Global Forums by Local Chapters

Recognizing the importance of exchanging ideas and transferring knowledge to counterparts in non-Armenian circles, AGBU chapters started the conversation on universal issues relating to human rights, genocide and other topics relevant to Armenian life.



Berlin

October 2017: AGBU Europe presented its “A Europe of Diasporas” project to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) 2016 conference on tolerance and diversity, joining representatives of civil society groups and organizations to discuss current affairs regarding representation and civic engagement of diaspora communities. Proposals made for more dynamic education and involvement in politics were advanced and incorporated into the final recommendations of the civil society segment of the OSCE conference.



Brussels

May 2016: AGBU Europe co-organized a conference at the European Parliament that called for the rediscovery and valorization of Europe’s many diasporas through its “A Europe of Diasporas” network. The conference discussed education and the need for inclusive narratives in response to the lack of representation of diaspora communities in media, education, entertainment and public discourse. “A Europe of Diasporas” is a network of diaspora communities on the continent, established by AGBU Europe, Phiren Amencia and the European Union of Jewish Students.

April 2017: The Armenian Community of Belgium, in partnership with AGBU Europe and the Secular Jewish Community Centre (CCLJ), with the support of the Boghossian Foundation, organized a seminar on teaching the Armenian Genocide in French-speaking Belgian high schools. They also held a conference on the contemporary significance of the Genocide. This initiative, financed by the Belgian government, was the first step toward expanding knowledge of the Armenian Genocide in the Belgian school system.



Yerevan

September 2017: AGBU Yerevan co-sponsored an International Conference on Women and Genocide with the Women in War (Paris) and the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography (Yerevan). The conference, entitled “After Genocide: From Trauma to Rebirth—a Gendered Perspective” focused on the Armenian Genocide, The Holocaust, and the genocides in Bosnia, Cambodia, Central America, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Middle East, Nanking and Rwanda.

Hurricane Harvey Disaster

In August 2017, in the United States, the catastrophic flooding of Houston and southeast Texas uprooted the lives of thousands of residents. In response, AGBU donated \$50,000 to support the rescue and recovery efforts. These acts of generosity helped burnish the image of Armenian-Americans as socially-responsible citizens, who are mindful of the groundswell of humanitarian relief provided to their ancestors by American philanthropies and the American people during the 1915 Armenian Genocide.





TELLING OUR STORIES ON THE SCREEN

The Centenary of the Armenian Genocide in 2015 called for a new vision of how the Armenian story fits into the human struggle for justice, human rights and genocide prevention. Carving out a space for Armenians in the mainstream media helped set the stage for the following year, with the release of the long anticipated Hollywood feature *The Promise*, which opened at the Toronto International Film Festival and the Virginia Film Festival in 2016, followed by its North American release in April 2017.

The heavily promoted and widely distributed heroic saga, set against the horrors of the Armenian Genocide, revealed the power of the moving image to change hearts and minds and raise awareness of a just cause.

To this end, AGBU mobilized all channels of communication to help build momentum at the box office and sustain the film's core message by turning mass entertainment into mainstream education.

The Promise to Educate Campaign

In 2017, following the success of our grassroots outreach for *The Promise*, AGBU, in collaboration with the film's production company Survival Pictures, and its social impact partners, spearheaded *The Promise to Educate* (thepromisetoeducate.org). The outreach campaign was aimed at addressing the gaps in genocide education in the U.S. and raising public awareness of the Armenian Genocide.

Working with *The Promise* team and Armenian Genocide education institutions, including The Genocide Education Project, the Armenian National Institute (ANI) and The Zoryan Institute, AGBU's Alternative Education Department developed the *Keep the Promise Educational Package*. It includes a DVD of the film, a letter from director Terry George, a tailored study guide to the film, and an Armenian Genocide resources guide.

In collaboration with these organizations and working together with the USC Shoah Foundation, Human Rights Watch, Facing History and Ourselves, the Enough Project, Jewish World Watch, Amnesty International and others, AGBU distributed over 1,000 packages free of charge by request to public schools, universities, museums, libraries, human rights organizations, and educators at large across the U.S.



Promoting *The Promise* Globally

As *The Promise* traveled from North America to overseas markets, AGBU was instrumental in organizing local Armenian communities in support of regional events surrounding the premiere of the film, not only by helping to spread the word in the Armenian world but also generating awareness among all audiences. Rallying the support of our global network, AGBU was responsible for designing promotional material, booking theaters for screenings across the world and encouraging moviegoers to #KeepThePromise. Internationally, our chapters and YPs from Brazil to Los Angeles organized special events and private screenings to support the film.

Yerevan, Armenia

Coinciding with the film's premiere in Yerevan, AGBU arranged for the director of *The Promise*, Oscar-winner Terry George, along with executive producer Eric Esrailian, to visit the Republic of Armenia in September 2016 for a series of events dedicated to the film.

They attended a musical tribute to the film's theme song "The Promise" by American singer-songwriter Chris Cornell. It was performed at the Opera Theater in Yerevan by the Armenian National Philharmonic Orchestra, along with pop stars and dancers, many of whom were students at AGBU Children's Centers.

Later that day, over 150 guests, including Armenian filmmakers and journalists, attended a two-hour masterclass held by Esrailian and George, hosted by AGBU Armenia and Creative Armenia (now an AGBU partner). The session was followed by a private dinner at Yerevan's Cafesjian Center for the Arts, during which AGBU President Berge Setrakian presented the guests of honor with a "book of gratitude"

containing congratulatory letters and notes from Armenians as far away as South Africa, Jordan and Australia. He also presented Esrailian and George with a sculpted replica of the camera used by Chris Myers, the character played by award-winning actor

Christian Bale, who delivered the now famous line, "Without journalists, there would be no Armenians."



"We Promise," a musical tribute featuring the Armenian National Philharmonic Orchestra, pop stars and dancers premiered at the Opera Theater.



*Terry George receives a sculpture made to resemble the camera of journalist Chris Myers, Christian Bale's character in *The Promise*.*

Regional events supporting *The Promise*

In 2017, AGBU sponsored events and group sales in support of the premiere of *The Promise* regionally, including Australia, Brazil, France, London, New York and Western District (USA).

1. Members from YP Los Angeles attended a screening of *The Promise* in North Hollywood.
2. A screening in San Matteo, California was among one of many North American screenings organized by AGBU during the opening week of the film.
3. AGBU São Paulo chapter chairman Haig Apovian gave an interview during the Brazil premiere of *The Promise*.
4. Actress Charlotte LeBon with Charles Aznavour at *The Promise* premiere, co-organized by AGBU France.

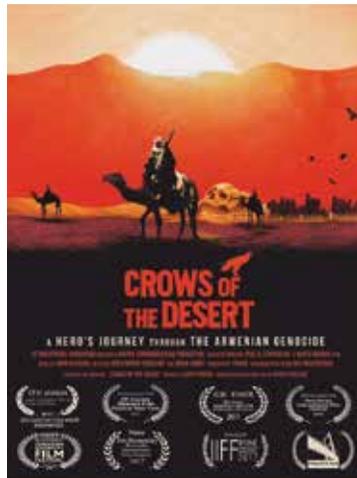


Supporting Armenian Filmmakers and Stories on Screen

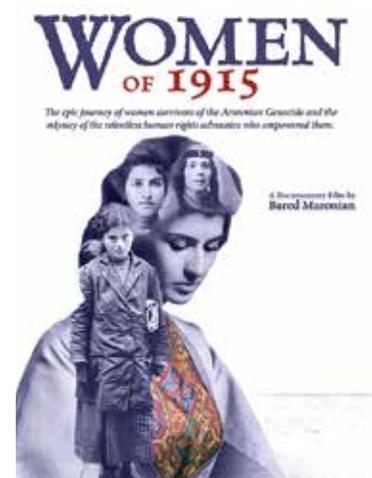
Throughout 2016 and 2017, AGBU chapters and YP groups held screenings of other films on Armenian themes in local communities. The net effect sent a resounding message that the Armenian story is still worth telling, as the quest for human dignity around the world continues.



In 2016, **AGBU Performing Arts Department (PAD)** held its annual screenings by Armenian filmmakers at the Film Society of Lincoln Center. Films included: *Our Turn*; *Fifth Column*; *Syrian War*; *Man of God*; *My Dad Cries at Movies*; and *Red Apple*. The following year, films presented included: *A Void*; *Echoes of Survival*; *Foreign Sounds*; *Levon: A Wondrous Life*; *You Can't Go Home Again*; *Worn Children of War*.



In 2017, **AGBU Western District** premiered the film, *Crows of the Desert*, a documentary about the Armenian Genocide told through the moving memoirs of Urfa-born survivor Levon Yotnakhparian, with its producer Paul Turpanjian in attendance. The film toured to many AGBU chapters, including **AGBU Toronto** and **AGBU Chicago**.



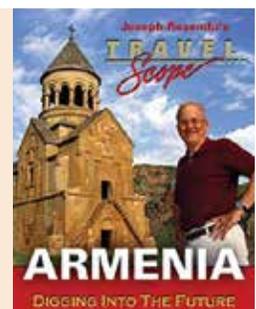
AGBU New York Special Events Committee (NYSEC) and **AGBU Performing Arts Department (PAD)** presented the director's cut of *Women of 1915* in New York, and **AGBU Melbourne** organized two screenings. This Emmy-nominated documentary by Bared Maronian, who had received an AGBU Young Visionaries Mini Grant toward the film's completion, was a breakthrough for raising awareness of and paying tribute to the heroism of Armenian women during and post-Genocide.



Films like Garin Hovannisian and Alec Mouhibian's *1915: The Movie*, Arnaud Khayadjanian's *Story Paths*, and Joe Berlinger's *Intent to Destroy*—a documentary companion film to *The Promise*—helped shape the public discourse on issues of genocide denial, visibility, and civic response to crimes against humanity. Local AGBU chapters across the global network made these films accessible to their communities by hosting screenings and panel discussions.

Digging Into the Future: Armenia

In March 2016, *Digging Into the Future: Armenia*, produced by Emmy-award winning Joseph Rosendo's Travelscope's archeology series, received an Emmy nomination. The TV special about the cultural history of Armenians was sponsored by AGBU and the Kazanjian Foundation and presented multiple screenings on public broadcasting stations across the U.S.

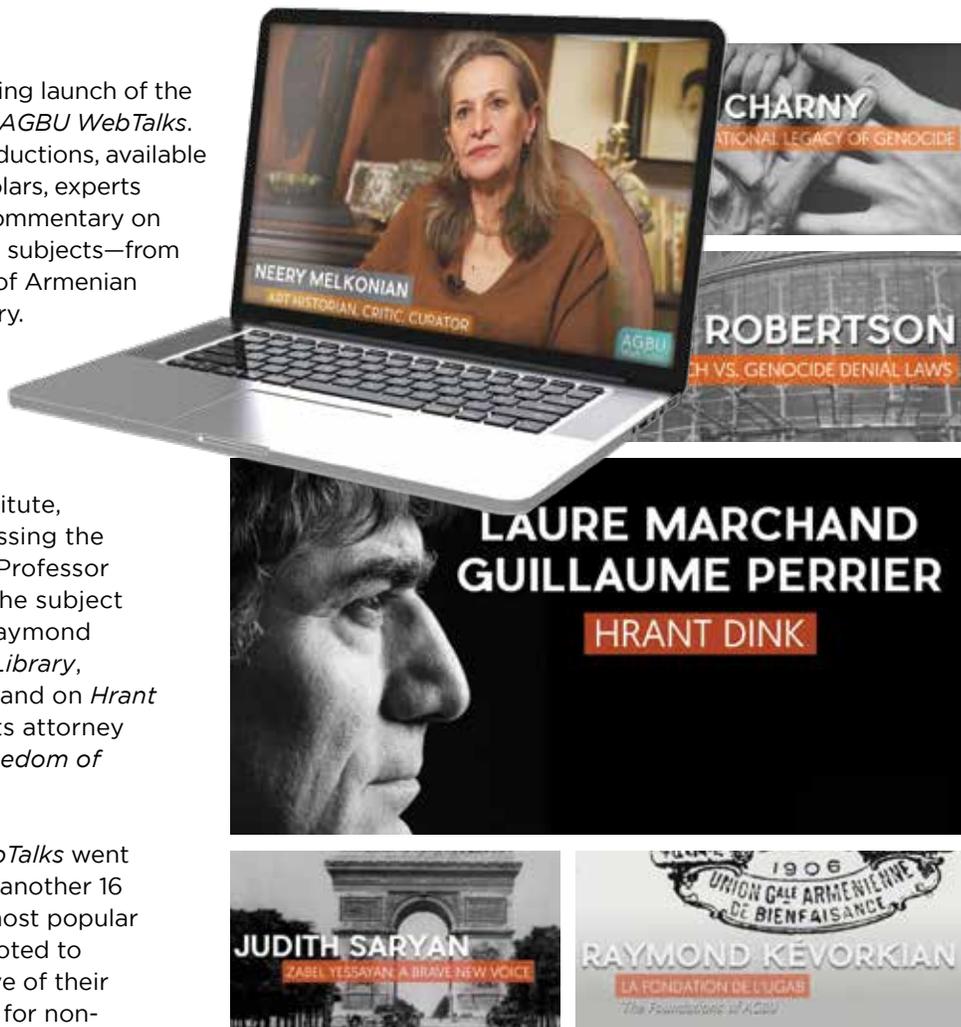


Digital Storytelling

The year 2016 saw the groundbreaking launch of the AGBU signature online video series *AGBU WebTalks*. These original short-form video productions, available on demand, feature on-camera scholars, experts and thought leaders who provide commentary on diverse historical and contemporary subjects—from illuminated manuscripts to the role of Armenian women at the turn of the 20th century.

Apropos to the 100th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide in 2015, the first set of installments, produced in partnership with the Zoryan Institute, featured Dr. Israel W. Charny discussing the *Psychology of Denial*, followed by Professor Richard Hovannisian speaking on the subject of *Pioneering Armenian Studies*, Raymond Kévorkian on the *AGBU Nubarian Library*, Guillaume Perrier and Laure Marchand on *Hrant Dink* and international human rights attorney Geoffrey Robertson discussing *Freedom of Speech vs. Genocide Denial Laws*.

With its instant success, *AGBU WebTalks* went on to release 17 videos in 2016 and another 16 in 2017, becoming one of AGBU's most popular alternative education offerings devoted to providing Armenians with an archive of their history. The content is also suitable for non-Armenian universities and schools.



AGBU Nubar Library Goes Digital

AGBU Nubar Library in Paris has served Armenians since 1928, preserving historic documents and photographs, and publishing research papers. The year 2017 marked a new digital age for the Library with a complete relaunch of its online presence with a trilingual website in French, English, and Armenian (bnulibrary.org) and another site for its journal (journals.openedition.org).



Learning on Screen

Keenly aware of the power of digital technology to connect people globally, AGBU's Armenian Virtual College (AVC) continued to grow as a strategic tool to revitalize the Armenian identity. In 2016-2017, AVC increased its lifetime base of individual students to over 10,000. It also witnessed the spread of its Hybrid Education Program to 22 schools, universities and community centers. Over 20,000 e-book readers turned a new page in Armenian education.



AGBU 110: CELEBRATING OUR ILLUSTRIOUS HISTORY

In 2016, AGBU celebrated 110 years of service to the Armenian nation. Over that year, chapters, schools and youth groups across the world found unique ways to celebrate this important milestone. Tributes ranged from live performances and festive galas to group discussions about where the organization is headed in the next decade and beyond.

That same year, the AGBU 89th General Assembly coincided with our anniversary, each adding greater dimension and significance to the other. AGBU leadership, members and supporters assembled in New York City from October 27-29 for a weekend of workshops and panels aimed at developing new strategies to reflect the changing landscape of Armenian life. These conversations served as a framework for local AGBU communities to organize their own conferences and mobilize for action at both the grass roots and leadership level.

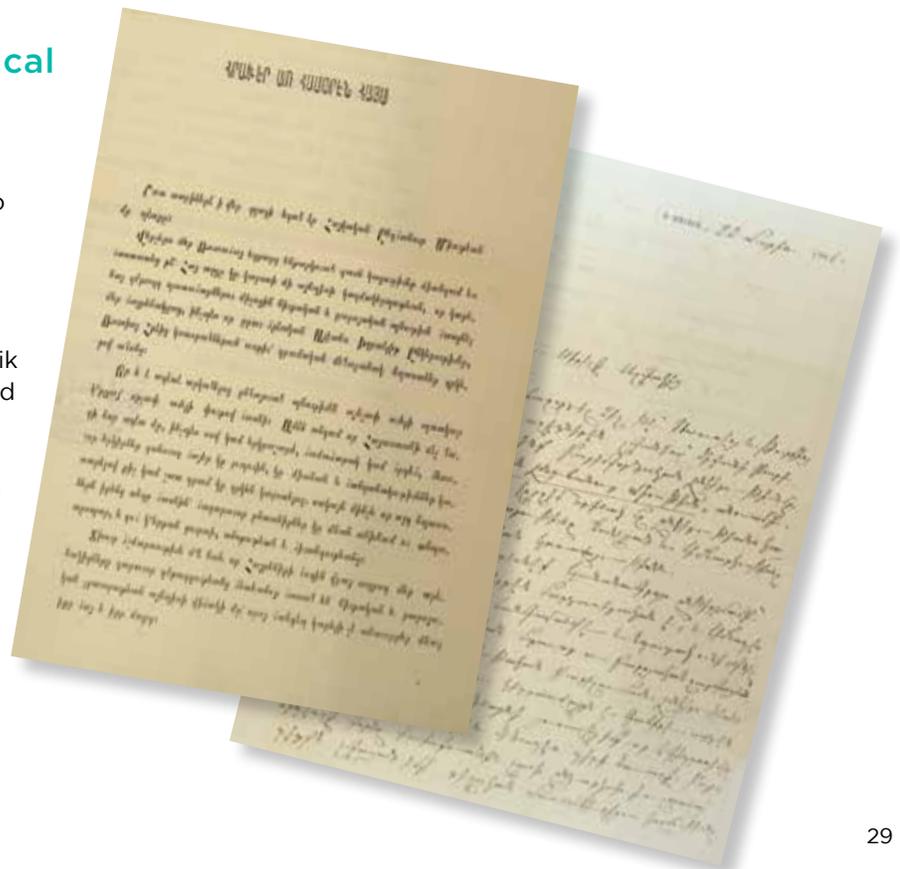
A highlight of the weekend was the sold-out premiere of the musical spectacular HOKIS at New York City Center. The talents of over 70 young musicians, dancers, acrobats and technology students were drawn from several AGBU partner programs in Armenia: the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin and AGBU Children's Center in Nork, and the TUMO Center for Creative Technologies. The dazzling showcase of artistic mastery, under the direction of French-Armenian producer Patrick Malakian, went on to perform in Armenia and internationally.

During the 110th Anniversary Gala, held at the renowned Jazz at Lincoln Center Frederick P. Rose Hall, AGBU recognized the achievements of five Armenians who epitomize the concept of the Global Armenian. Awards were presented to: designer Michael Aram; financier Nigol Koulajian; human rights lawyer Sheila Paylan; and singer/activist Serj Tankian. Each was recognized for inspiring national pride across the Armenian world. We also paid tribute to George Avakian, one of the greatest producers of jazz recordings of the 20th century whose 60-year career at Columbia Records and Warner Brothers Records redefined the music industry. Then, in a surprise finale, AGBU President Berge Setrakian was honored by fellow Central Board members with a tribute presentation. The gala evening and surrounding weekend events cemented the timeless values of AGBU as it looked ahead to the future.



Presentation of Recovered Historical AGBU Documents

AGBU's 110th Anniversary celebration was capped by a donation of two 110 year-old documents of national historical significance, discovered by Hayk Demoyan, former Director of the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute, and Gabriel Jambarjian, benefactor and Honorable President of Pyunik Benevolent Foundation. One document, dated May 1, 1906, is a printed copy of the famous "Call to All Armenians" bearing the stamp of the first AGBU Cairo chapter announcing the official establishment of the newly formed organization and its mission and activities. The second document, dated May 22, 1906, is the original handwritten letter by AGBU founder and its first president Boghos Nubar, encouraging Armenians to establish AGBU chapters in the countries of their residence.



110th Anniversary Events Around the World

Toronto, Canada



Beirut, Lebanon



Sydney, Australia



Aleppo, Syria



Milan, Italy



New York, USA



©Tina Tcholakian Photography

New York, USA



©Tina Tcholakian Photography



Paris, France



©Raffi Hagopian

Athens, Greece



AGBU ARMENIA 2016-2017



AGBU ARMENIA

FORGING THE RELATIONSHIPS THAT HELP BUILD A NATION

The years 2016 and 2017 were marked by rapid developments and important challenges for the Armenian homeland.

New realities and changing conditions on the ground and in the diaspora were catalysts for realigning our priorities to ensure continued progress in fostering Armenia-Diaspora relations, with the ultimate goal of integrating two worlds into one Armenian nation. In meeting the needs of both the citizens of Armenia and Artsakh, as well as those of their diasporan counterparts, AGBU Armenia found itself front and center in the dynamic and inspiring enterprise of nation building.



Developing Partnerships and Strategic Alignments

AGBU Armenia's impact was made all the more effective through partnerships with government and non-governmental agencies, other non-profit organizations and reputable international institutions. This helped create a reliable platform for engaging the diaspora as a source of expertise, collaboration and support for those in Armenia seeking to become effective leaders in their local communities. In turn, hundreds of young people from the Diaspora, who arrived in Armenia to participate in AGBU summer programs were exposed to activities and inspired to put their academic and/or professional skills to work in Armenia.

New Initiatives

Cultivating a New Generation of Local Entrepreneurs

AGBU's Women's Empowerment Program in Armenia is a comprehensive initiative launched in November 2017 to provide a full cycle of support to Armenian women seeking to realize their dream of starting and running a small business. The program provides participants with opportunities to upgrade their education, develop market competencies and gain skills to help integrate them into the established business community.

The pilot program included 25 candidates selected for the Entrepreneurship Course, under the guidance of an instructor from the American University of Armenia (AUA) Extension Program. The classes took place at AGBU Armenia headquarters at which five guest speakers delivered lectures on topics ranging from marketing, leadership, and assertive behavior to public speaking and business networking.

Strengthening Armenia's Civil Society Movement

BRIDGE for CSO's is an acronym for Bringing Real Impact with Diaspora and Global Engagement. This three-year program is designed to build the capacity of local Armenian civil society organizations (CSOs) to better respond to citizens' needs. The centerpiece is linking local organizations with experts from the Diaspora through a free web-based platform called Together4Armenia, developed in coordination with the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF).

Implementation began with setting-up the program office and recruiting staff, developing a communication plan, creating a database of civil society organizations, and conducting an assessment of the vertical needs of Armenia-based CSOs. With the beneficiary feedback collected during the first year, a program was designed for vertical, thematic capacity-building trainings for the second year. This would include education, social enterprise development with an emphasis on marketing skills, youth empowerment and civic participation, design and branding for social campaigns, proposal writing, business management, and logical structure of environmental interventions, etc.

AGBU selected the American University of Armenia (AUA) to work with them during the second year to develop a sustainable and comprehensive CSO Management Certificate Program. In addition, a sub-granting process was initiated with two competitions for sub-grants of between €20,000 and €30,000. Pro-bono consultancies

also were established to include diasporan mentors through an online matching system. The program also calls for Good Will Ambassadors (GWA). Two such cases were completed in 2017, one national and the other community based. Dr. Yervant Zorian of the Synopsys corporation represented the Armenia Technovation Challenge World Pitch Summit. Lyuba Tatevosyan, a French language vocal coach from Moscow, served as a GWA for the Pahapan Foundation's Tavush regional project.



Hoa-Binh Adjemian, Head of the Cooperation section of the EU Delegation, addresses the participants of the Technovation Challenge in September 2017.

Supporting the Creative and Cultural Industry Sector

In 2017, AGBU took an important first step in developing a Creative and Cultural Industries (CCI) sector in Armenia. It began with a full day event uniting key stakeholders and players—from artists and creative start-ups to international organizations working to improve infrastructure. Together they collaborated in creating a vision of the CCI space in Armenia over the next ten years. AGBU facilitated this brainstorming session to help to define the ideal eco-system for young innovators and develop an action plan for transforming ideas into realities. Presentations were given on Creative Gastronomy, Creative Oenology, as well as an exclusive preview of the UP Design Pavilion, an exhibition inviting Armenian designers and artisans to re-think the future of design in Armenia.

Another session focused on “Building Industry: Creative Tomorrow,” which examined on contemporary art and education, design and architecture, photography and communication. Participants explored how to boost creativity and innovation in sectors vital for the development of Armenia’s economy. This event was organized by AGBU in partnership with the British Council, the German GIZ and other organizations. It was moderated by Marine Mkhitaryan, head of the UNDP’s Kolba Innovations Lab.



Participants at one of many master classes with The Promise Director Terry George, hosted by AGBU Armenia in 2017.



National Geographic photographer John Stanmeyer shared his more than two-decades of experience working for some of the world’s leading publications and offered advice on self-publishing through the Internet and social media.



In 2016, AGBU Yerevan hosted a conference titled “After Genocide: From Trauma to Rebirth - A Gendered Perspective.” This conference brought together international researchers and activists united by their commitment to documenting the gender dimension in past and present genocides.

Signature AGBU Programs in Armenia

AGBU Hye Geen Pregnant Women's Centers

In 2016 and 2017, over 200 newborns were delivered by participants of the Hye Geen Women's Centers in Armenia. During these years, the centers expanded their services by adding dental care and nutrition classes for new moms and their infants. The Hye Geen Committee, based in Los Angeles, originated the Hye Geen model and administers the five centers in Vanadzor, Talin, Yeghvard, Charentsavan, and Yerevan.



AGBU Children's Centers

In both 2016 and 2017, approximately 1,700 students attended three afterschool programs located in the districts of Nork, Arapkir and Malatya. Some students from the Nork Children's Center were selected to perform in HOKIS, which premiered in New York for AGBU's 110th Anniversary in 2016.



AGBU Senior Dining Centers

Located on the premises of the AGBU Children's Centers, these facilities provided a hot, nutritious meal as often as 6 days a week to approximately 600 senior citizens living below the poverty line in Armenia.

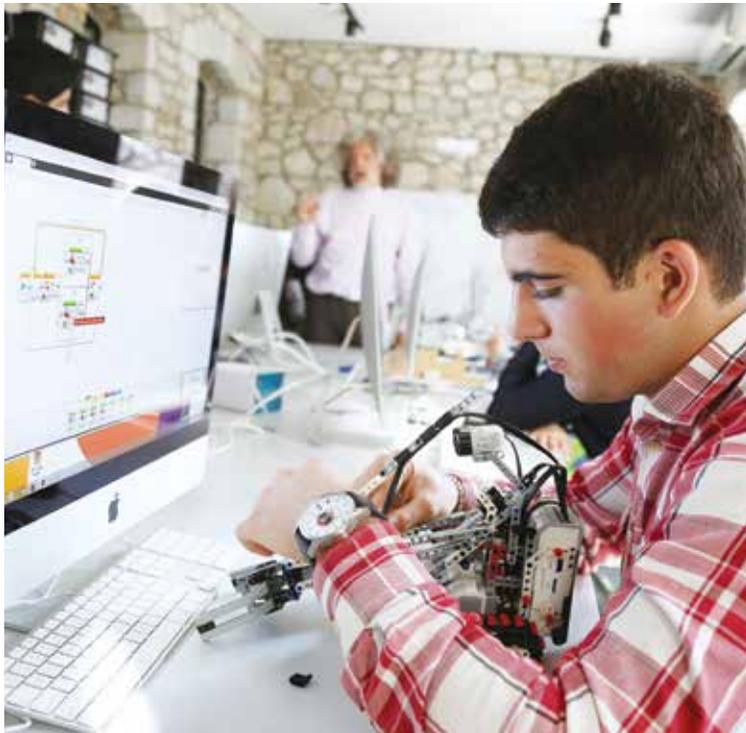
American University of Armenia (AUA)

Over the years 2016 and 2017, AGBU continued to provide substantial funding to AUA, supporting the University and empowering the institution to extend scholarships to students at both the undergraduate and graduate level. In Artsakh, AGBU allotted resources to the Continuing Education Program (CEP) through AUA Extension courses, which offer six levels of English language instruction and certification tracks in Governance and Leadership, Tourism and Hospitality Management and Advancing Women in Leadership and Decision Making, among others. Since its founding in 1991, AUA has operated with this support to provide students access to a competitive higher education.

Interschool Chess Tournament

AGBU continued to sponsor the annual Interschool Republican Chess Tournament across schools in Armenia, and Artsakh, bringing together over 15,000 talented youths from more than 1,500 schools throughout the region.

Between 2016 and 2017, there were 24 and 300 tournament winners respectively and the schools that trained them each received awards from AGBU.



TUMOXAGBU Centers in Stepanakert and Gyumri

In 2016, this new branch of the TUMOXAGBU Center for Creative Technologies opened to Artsakh youth, offering 22 free workshops to 600 students.

Curriculum ranged from animation to programming, in addition to seven learning labs with guest instructors from around the world, including Armenia, France, Italy, Russia, Spain, and the U.S. The TUMO labs also hosted three Luys scholars involved in research and teaching. During the military flare-up in April 2016, the center was transformed into a resource center for journalists. There were approximately 1,200 students enrolled in both years.

In 2016, the TUMOXAGBU in Gyumri offered 52 permanent workshops to 2,000 students as well as nine learning labs with guest instructors from various countries. The following year, 2,000 students were enrolled at the center.

AGBU Scouts of Yerevan

In 2016 and 2017, Armenian boys and girls participated in scouting events including camping, hiking and other activities that expose youth, especially those from Yerevan, to nature. Scouts were given the opportunity to earn over 150 different merit badges.



Enlarging the AGBU Footprint in Armenia

To meet the growing demand for its services, AGBU Armenia both consolidated its resources and widened its scope, updating existing programs and initiating new ones aimed at improving Armenia's socio-economic outlook, enriching community life, increasing capacity for local civil societies and overseeing AGBU program participants from the diaspora. These efforts necessitated increasing staff and operations at AGBU's spacious office building located in the center of Yerevan as well as fully utilizing the 5,500 sq. ft. at the AGBU Vahe Karapetian Center, for a total of 35,000 sq. ft of available space. As a result, AGBU Armenia established itself as a bustling center of creative and social activity—hosting, organizing and co-sponsoring an array of special events while implementing programs in education, humanitarian relief and socio-economic development.

A Welcome Space for Creative Interaction

AGBU Armenia's impressive auditorium and exhibition gallery earned it a reputation as a vibrant hub for the creative community of Yerevan. The multi-level premises afforded it the opportunity to host over 100 cultural events in 2016-2017 alone: 30 concerts and 28 film screenings; 20-plus master classes, guest speaker talks, arts exhibitions, special presentations, panel discussions, conferences and other forums for ideas and talent. Nearly 15,000 visitors benefited from these open-to-the-public events.

During this time, AGBU Armenia was proud to help nurture the revival of intellectual and cultural pursuits among up-and-coming generations seeking to connect with the outside world while sharing the gifts of their own national inheritance with likeminded counterparts from abroad.



In 2017, AGBU Armenia's BRIDGE for CSOs program hosted an Evening of French Opera. The event was organized by Pahapan Development Foundation, with the support of singers of the Young Artists Opera Program.

The AGBU Vahe Karapetian Center

The AGBU Vahe Karapetian Center reached full capacity in its second year of operations, not only by providing accommodations to Diasporan youth groups visiting the homeland but also by stepping up its operations as a distribution center for Syrian Armenian refugees who fled to Armenia at the height of combat in the Syrian war zone. In 2017, the Claudia Nazarian Medical Center opened on the premises of the Center. The new health facility offers Syrian Armenians access to free medical consultations with a focus on gynecological, cardiological, ophthalmological, and pediatric services.



AGBU Sponsored Programs and Projects in Armenia and Artsakh

ONGOING PROGRAMS

ARMENIA

AGBU Armenia Scouts
American University of Armenia (AUA)
Armenian Virtual College (AVC)
Claudia Nazarian Polyclinic
Children's Centers (3)
Humanitarian Emergency Relief - Syrian Armenians
Humanitarian Programs
Hye Geen Pregnant Women Centers (5)
Interschool Chess Tournament
Senior Dining Centers (3)
TUMOXAGBU Gyumri
Women's Empowerment
Yerevan State University (YSU)
YP Yerevan

DIASPORA YOUTH PROGRAMS

Antranik Scout Camp
Musical Armenia Program (MAP)
Yerevan Summer Internship Program (YSIP)
Discover Armenia Program
Terre de Vie

ARTSAKH

AUA Extension Program
TUMOXAGBU Stepanakert
Humanitarian Relief Projects
Karabakh Chamber Orchestra
Sourp Hovaness Mgerdich Church-Martakert (Grant)

MAJOR PROJECTS

Holy Etchmiadzin - Candle Chapel Construction
Holy Etchmiadzin Cathedral
Holy Etchmiadzin - Gandzatur (Repository)
Holy Etchmiadzin - Grants
Holy Etchmiadzin - Old Veheran Maintenance
Holy Etchmiadzin - Pontifical Fund for Pastoral Development
Holy Etchmiadzin/Seminary
Holy Etchmiadzin - Clergy Support
Holy Etchmiadzin - Elderly Homes
Holy Etchmiadzin-Vagharshabad Children's Center
Holy Etchmiadzin-Vanadzor Children's Center & Senior Dining Center
Izmirlian Hospital (formerly: St. Nersess Hospital)
Vaskenian Theological Seminary

SPECIAL GRANTS

Ararat Region: Kindergarten Renovation - Village of Marz
Armenian National Philharmonic Orchestra (ANPO)
Armenia Now
AYB School
Cultural Programs and Festivals
Educational Advancement - Army Cadets
Gyumri Project Hope Foundation
Impact Hub
Medical Assistance - Children
Merona TV Program
Nor Ayntab School #2 - Ararat District
Nvirir-Kyank (Gift of Life) Organization
Peniamin Jamgotchian School
Reimagine Armenia: Educational & Technical Renaissance
Retirement Home - Yerevan
Teach for Armenia
Université Française en Arménie (UFAR)
UWC Dilijan College

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

Aragatsotn Region, Ohanavan Village
Village Reconstruction

Ararat Region, Nor Ughy Village
Reconstruction of Kindergarten

Ararat Region, Abovyan Village
Reconstruction of Kindergarten

Kotayk Region, Marmarik Village
Reconstruction of Potable Water Distribution Network

Shirak Region, Arevik Village
Reconstruction of Kindergarten

Shirak Region, Aygabac Village
Reconstruction of Kindergarten

Shirak Region, Geghamavan Village
Reconstruction of One Kindergarten Building

Shirak Region, Haykadzor Village
Renovation of School Building

Shirak Region, Lernakert Village
Reconstruction of External Water Supply System

Syunik Region, Akhlatyan Village
Construction of Water Intake and Supply System

Syunik Region, City of Goris
Reconstruction of Sero Khanzadyan House/Museum

Syunik Region, Tech Village
Reconstruction of Community Center

Syunik Region, Noravan Village
Water Pipeline Reconstruction

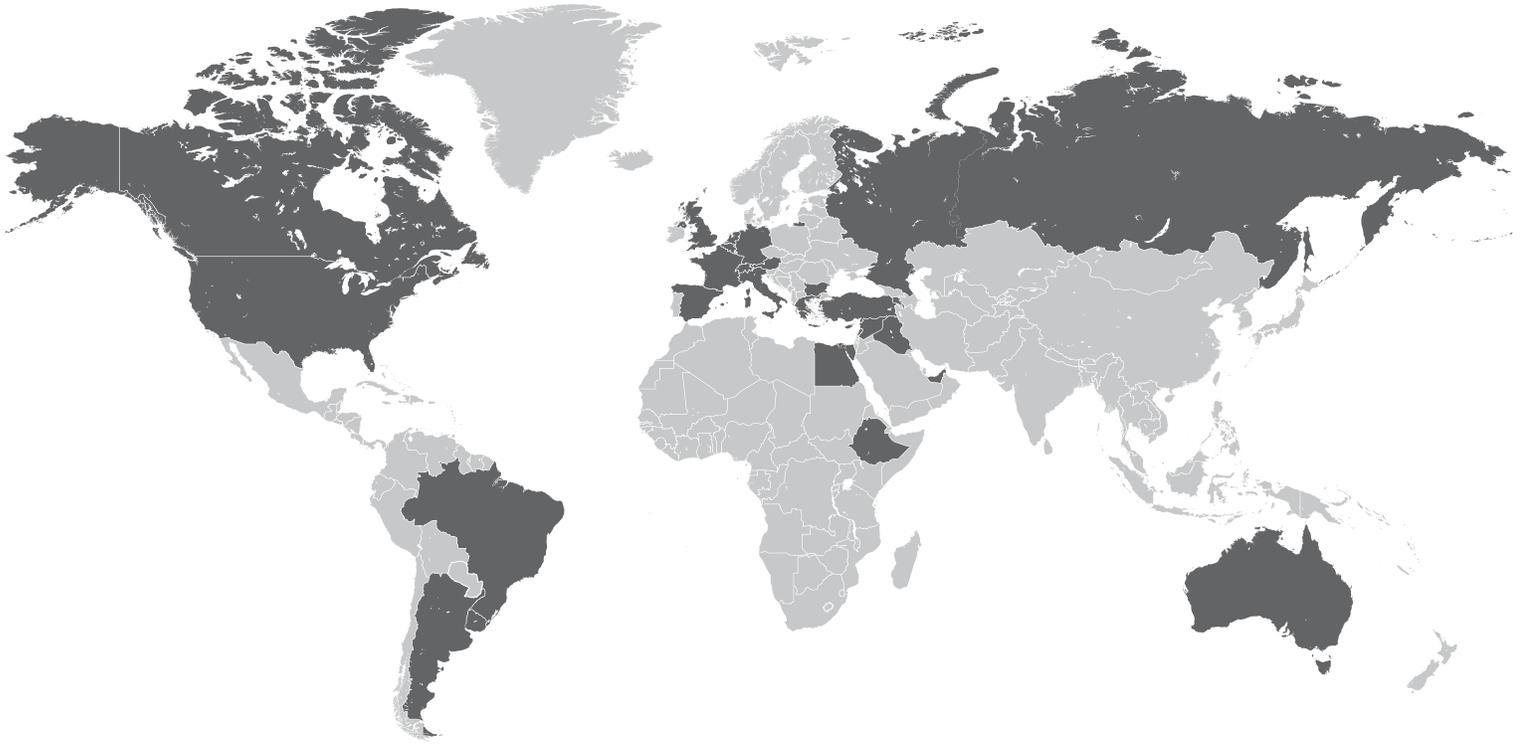
Tavush Region, Karmir Aghbyur Village
Community Center Renovation

Tavush Region, Ptghavan Village
Reconstruction of School

AGBU REGIONS 2016-2017



AGBU REGIONS PROMOTING ARMENIAN IDENTITY AND COMMUNITY IN THE DIASPORA



Keeping the Armenian Spirit alive under the weight of a dominant mainstream culture is the challenge of every generation in our worldwide diaspora and the quest of the AGBU for over a century.

With the understanding that identity formation and cultural appreciation take root on the community level, AGBU empowers its regions, districts and chapters to develop their own creative ways to celebrate our rich heritage, cultivate the next generation of leaders, and meet the special needs of their constituencies through signature programs and initiatives.

In 2016 and 2017, AGBU chapters across five regions filled their calendars with diverse opportunities for their members to affirm their treasured traditions, share a sense of belonging, and showcase the best of Armenian life—culturally, intellectually and socially—while participating as active members of the broader society in which they live.



AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST

EGYPT

The seat of our organization's origins, AGBU in Egypt presented its communities in Cairo, Alexandria and Heliopolis with ample opportunities to celebrate Armenian history, heritage and culture in the years 2016 and 2017. Cairo's unique distinction of being the first AGBU chapter in the world gave its 110th Anniversary of AGBU events in 2016 special significance. The following year, the celebration was extended with a reunion concert featuring current and past members of the AGBU Cairo Dziadzan Children's Choir—another marker of the legacy this chapter represents to the AGBU global family.

On the educational front, 2016 and 2017 also saw AGBU Cairo celebrate its first class of graduates from the Armenian Virtual College (AVC) online learning course, while honoring exceptional students around the country at their annual Award Ceremony for the Top Egyptian-Armenian Students, presented at the Nubar-Cairo Club. The chapter continued to engage and enlighten its local community: organizing a chess tournament at HMEM Nubar-Cairo; publishing "Armenia and Armenians in the Arab Press 1876-1923," the third volume of a 7-volume history project; presenting Raymond Kévorkian's new book "The Armenian Genocide."

Added to these intellectually stimulating events was a series of lectures. Dr. Nairy Hampigian presented a talk on Amenhotep III at HMEM Heliopolis, Raffi Bedrosyan spoke on "The Return of Converted Armenians to Their Roots," and Dr. Hermin Varjabedian also shared insights on "Self Awareness."

IRAQ

In 2016 and 2017, the Armenians of Iraq found a welcoming place of friendship and community at AGBU Baghdad. Throughout these years, a variety of community-building activities, social and cultural events were organized on a regular basis, from casual get togethers, and family picnics to holiday parties, Saturday bingo nights, and camping trips. The tight-knit community also gathered for special occasions like the Gomidas commemorative ceremony and dinner party, a concert for International Women's Day with performances by members of the Iraq National Symphony Orchestra, a recital by pianist Dr. Ahmad Mahmood, and a unique Folk Poetry Festival dedicated to the victories of Iraqi armies in Mosul and fallen Iraqi and Armenian-Iraqi soldiers. Harissa lunches were also arranged on the occasion of the 96th and 97th anniversaries of Hagen Heroes.



AGBU Iraq's Women Committee held an Armenian cultural event on December 2, 2016.

One of the largest and oldest chapters in the AGBU network, AGBU Lebanon kept its finger on the pulse of the Armenian society of Beirut and its environs, including those Armenians in border countries with ties to the Lebanese-Armenian community. As such, it filled the years 2016 and 2017 with a full agenda of cultural activities appealing to the cosmopolitan tastes of its constituents, while exposing children and youth to their Armenian birthright through education, scouting, sports, summer camps and other identity-affirming experiences. New dimensions were added to its youth development initiatives, including the opening of a new art studio for children and a digital learning overhaul of its schools. As the host of FOCUS in 2017, the chapter invested heavily in welcoming Armenians from all over the world into their community. At the same time, AGBU Lebanon held its customary yearly and seasonal events, including its Annual Blood Drive, along with theatre, dance and musical performances, lectures and book events that drew audiences from across the community.

In 2017, AGBU's Antranik Youth Association (AYA) hosted the launch of "Brief Overview," an archival book highlighting the activities of AGBU and AYA since they were established. The book was compiled and edited under the direction of Kevork Santourian, the managing director of the AYA, with the support of Shahe Katchadourian, Armen Urneshlian, and the technical supervision of Sevag Seropian. Over 200 guests of all ages flocked to the AGBU Demirdjian Center's Asbed Hall to celebrate the completion of this commemorative publication that coincided with the 110th and 85th anniversaries of the AGBU and AGBU-AYA, respectively.

In that same year, the AGBU-AYA hosted an Art Exhibition and Fundraiser Auction to support local youth activities. The exhibition and auction, held at the Le Yacht Club, Zaitunay Bay in Beirut, featured dozens of paintings in multiple genres by world-renowned Armenian artists. In the musical sphere, AGBU Lebanon also paid tribute to famed Lebanese-Armenian composer Boghos Géralian through an event organized as part of the "Mois de la Francophonie," in collaboration with the Embassy of Armenia in Lebanon and the patronage of the Lebanese Minister of Culture, Ghattas Khoury. Another such event was organized to showcase the impact of Armenian architecture in Lebanon with a French-language lecture delivered by Raffi Gergian, conservator of the World Heritage Archeological site of the city of Anjar, called "Armenian Architecture in Lebanon: A Question of Identity."

With a passion for the arts so prominent in the AGBU Lebanon community, in 2016, the district launched its very own AGBU Art Studio to help prepare the next generation of Armenian artists. Designed for children ages 4 to 12, the studio offers such fundamentals as the principles of drawing and painting as well as crafts like ceramics, stained glass, and mask making. Theater lovers were treated to a colorful season of plays performed by the Vahram Papazian Theater Group of AGBU-AYA Lebanon, with the works such as "Arants Dapadi Antsnasbane," "Hayots Hovig," and "Sarnaran, Tram, Pakhlava."



The 85th Anniversary celebration of the AYA was attended by distinguished guests, including AGBU President Berge Setrakian, Armenian Ambassador to Lebanon Samuel Mkrtchyan, Prelate Bishop Shahe Panossian and others.



The new AGBU Art Studio offers children a range of inspiring art projects while also teaching them the principles and history of art.

Another turning point occurred in the field of education, when AGBU Lebanon Schools took the lead with their aptly named “iPad-iLearn” Project, in partnership with the EDUVATION (Education Innovation) School Network. With its plan to integrate e-books and related interactive technologies into its pedagogical process by 2023, the entire IT infrastructure of the schools were upgraded in preparation for the overhaul. In the meantime, the Tarouhy Hovagimian Secondary School boasted 9 of the 28 Armenian students receiving outstanding scores on their official government-based exams, while 98 students from 15 Armenian schools in Lebanon participated in the Interschool Recitation and Drawing Competition organized by AGBU-AYA *Khosnag Monthly*.

MILESTONES

Antranik Youth Association (AYA)
Beirut, Lebanon
85th anniversary (2016)

Armenian Studies Saturday School at AGBU Demirdjian Center
Beirut, Lebanon
20th anniversary (2017)

In 2016, the AGBU Lebanon District held a Reception for the New Ambassador of Armenia to Lebanon at its AGBU Demirdjian Center, attended by officials and dignitaries from the Lebanese government.



The years 2016 and 2017 were fraught with turmoil, upheaval and severe distress for the Armenians in Aleppo, Kamishli and Latakia, due to the escalated conflict and violence in war-torn Syria. While the attentions of in-country AGBU chapters naturally turned toward providing emergency humanitarian relief to families and victims, they also worked valiantly to provide a modicum of normalcy and consistency—especially for the children and youth unavoidably exposed to the carnage in their midst.

AGBU Gullabi Gulbenkian and AGBU Lazar Najarian-Calouste Gulbenkian schools forged ahead with celebrations of AGBU’s 110th Anniversary, as well as an End of Year Celebration for students, parents and friends of the AGBU Gullabi Gulbenkian School. In Latakia, the community was treated to performances by both the AGBU Latakia Karoun Children’s Choir and the AGBU-AYA Aleppo Bedros Atamian Theater Group, among other activities and events that helped uplift spirits and create safe spaces for the remaining Armenian community.

AGBU PRESENCE IN AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST

EGYPT

DISTRICT COMMITTEE*

ALEXANDRIA*

Youth (HMEM Nubar Sports Club)

CAIRO*

Deghegadou Quarterly

Dziadzan Children’s Choir

Youth (HMEM Nubar Sports Club)

HELIOPLIS

Youth (HMEM)

ETHIOPIA

ADDIS ABABA*

IRAQ

BAGHDAD*

Yerchanik Tajirian Summer School

LEBANON

DISTRICT COMMITTEE*

AMANOS/ANTELIAS/BEIRUT/SIN EL-FIL/ZAHLE*

Asbeds

AYA Antranik

AYA Arine Dance Ensemble

AYA Lebanon e-Newsletter

Boghos K. Garmirian School

Demirdjian Center Armenian Studies Saturday School

Demirdjian Center Day Camp

Khosnag Monthly

Levon G. Nazarian School

Medical Dispensaries

Tarouhy-Hovagimian School

Vahram Papazian Theater Group

Youth (AYA Antranik Sports, Scout and Youth Groups)

YP Lebanon

SYRIA

DISTRICT COMMITTEE*

ALEPPO*

Aram Khachaturian Conservatory

AYA Antranik Dance Ensemble

AYA Big Band

AYA Marching Band

AYA Spendirian Choir

AYA Bedros Atamian Theater Group

Gomidias Chamber Orchestra

Hayatsk Quarterly

Lazar Najarian-Calouste Gulbenkian School

Pountch Children’s Dance Ensemble

Mardiros Sarian Academy

Youth (AYA Antranik Scouts & Sports)

DAMASCUS*

Gullabi Gulbenkian School

Hai Amar Summer School

Yeram Newsletter

Youth (AYA Arakadz)

KAMISHLI*

Summer School

Youth (AYA Scouts)

KESSAB*

Kessab Camp

LATAKIA*

Karoun Children’s Choir

TURKEY

ISTANBUL

UTI (affiliate)

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

DUBAI*

YP UAE

*Denotes the Presence of a District or Chapter Committee



AUSTRALIA



Melbourne

Fostering Armenian community life is driven by hospitality and diversity at AGBU Melbourne. For 30 years, the chapter created a hub for families, senior citizens, youth, newcomers and distinguished guests alike. In both 2016 and 2017, countless opportunities were created for connecting, making new friends, and exploring pastimes like backgammon, lawn bowling, baking, winetasting, and casino fun, all in good company.

Golden Age gatherings for seniors, weekly Family Nights with homemade dinners, a Melbourne Cup Family Picnic, and festive “Taverna” and “Mezze” Nights furthered the sense of togetherness and belonging in this tight-knit but welcoming community.

Other highlights of 2016 included welcoming newly arrived Syrian and Iraqi Armenian refugees on Australia Day, a series of AGBU Youth KHOOMP activities and Armenian Cultural Nights. The following year added more exciting moments—AGBU Alexander School’s Armenian Cultural Day, which attracted over 1,000 guests, the AGBU Melbourne Hagop Baronian Theatre Group performance of a one-act comedy, and an enlightening evening with Professors Peter Balakian and Armen T. Marsoobian.



On September 4, 2016, AGBU Melbourne welcomed director Bared Maronian for a screening of his documentary Women of 1915.

Sydney

Four hundred miles from Melbourne, AGBU Sydney built up its own impressive roster of memorable moments for the 2016 and 2017 calendars. Its popular AGBU Lecture Nights featured guests such as Dr. Hrayr Jebejian, Professors Peter Balakian and Armen T. Marsoobian, and Nuran Zorlu, as well as author Sassoon Grigorian for his “Smart Nation” Book Event.

This lively chapter also organized a Mother’s Day Concert, End-of-Year School Concerts for both the AGBU Manoogian Saturday School and the AGBU Alexander Day School, the premiere of the AGBU Sydney Tamzara Dance Group, a Sports Gala Night, and a Boat Cruise and Reception for the Sayat Nova Ensemble, among many other commemorations, celebrations, with gatherings appealing to all ages and interests.

AGBU PRESENCE IN AUSTRALIA

AUSTRALIA MELBOURNE*

Armenian Radio Program
Hagop Baronian Theatre Group
Nor Tsayn Newsletter
Youth

SYDNEY*

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

*Denotes the Presence of a District or Chapter Committee

EUROPE

AGBU EUROPE

Hosting conferences, presentations and meetings in Belgium, France, Germany, Romania, Poland, Turkey and the United Kingdom, the AGBU Europe Committee and Office offered meaningful cross-cultural dialogue in 2016-2017. AGBU conferences united delegates from all chapters in Europe, exploring themes like leadership, networking and stewardship, language and prosperity for Armenia. AGBU Europe also worked with like-minded organizations to host and participate in conferences outside of the AGBU-leadership, holding discussions during conferences and ancillary events under the title of “A Europe of Diasporas.”

AGBU Europe spearheaded many campaigns in support of Artsakh, encouraging various bodies of the EU to take notice of the current situation on the ground for the native population. Similarly, there were considerable steps taken to encourage education about the Armenian Genocide in schools throughout Belgium. Working with the Secular Jewish Community Center and the Armenian Community of Belgium, with the support of the Boghossian Foundation, AGBU organized a seminar for French-speaking Belgian high schools to provide them with direction and proposed content in their classrooms.

On April 24 of both years, AGBU Europe organized a delegation to travel to Istanbul to attend public Armenian Genocide commemorations. This support to the local Armenian and minority community marked a critical step of solidarity in the most significant of locations.



AGBU Europe co-organized a seminar in Brussels on teaching the Armenian Genocide in French-speaking Belgian high schools as well as a conference on the contemporary significance of the 1915 Genocide.

AUSTRIA

AGBU Austria focused on education during this term, working with AVC to provide chess lessons for the community in 2017. The same year, they organized a tutoring project called “Street of Knowledge” aimed at helping local Armenian children excel in their daily school curriculum. The program brings together adult and peer tutors who focus on assisting students ages, 5-17, with mathematics, as well as German and English language assignments. Individual tutoring was also made available upon request.

Plovdiv

AGBU Plovdiv remained inspired by and focused on two key themes: youth engagement and cultural appreciation. In 2016, a set of dance ensembles was established: *Astghigner* for children and *Nreni* for their parents. In addition, a new Youth Club was founded for students ages 14-29. The chapter also provided numerous opportunities for education with the AGBU Plovdiv Saturday School, holding regular sessions with AVC to not only illuminate the history of certain holidays like Vartanants, but also connect students with their peers at other AGBU schools, like those of the Hayortyats Saturday program in Montreal. The Saturday School students also had many outings and concerts engaging the greater community. During the summer session, the Hay Ler camp proved once again to appeal to families, with many community leaders finding time for special meetings and activities with campers.

Equally invested in cultural events, AGBU Plovdiv's Erebuni Vocal-Instrument Band held multiple performances, touring the country and traveling to Komotini, Greece. The chapter also hosted a series of charity galas to raise funds for various causes, including programs organized by the Ministry of Diaspora in Armenia, Syrian-Armenian relief efforts and local initiatives.

Sofia

Cultural events took center stage during these years for AGBU Sofia. In addition to the regular classes on Armenian language, dance and music through the Hay Ler Sunday school and extracurricular groups, the chapter hosted a series of exhibitions, book readings, film screenings and performances, including a jazz concert in honor of the 25th anniversary of Armenia's Independence and the 110th Anniversary of AGBU. That same year, the chapter also hosted a dance and traditional costume fashion show entitled "Reflecting on the Armenian Spirit and Soul." Armenian talents continued to be showcased in art exhibitions like 2016's "Journey to Armenia" and 2017's "Colors of Love." Even the youngest members of AGBU Sofia embraced culture as Sunday school students dutifully continued to attend classes and AGBU Hay Ler participated in local cultural events like the city's Second Spring Festival and International Children's Day.



Jazz concert hosted by AGBU Sofia in September 2016.

AGBU Sofia welcomed many esteemed guests to the region with separate visits from His Excellency Armen Sarkissian, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia Eduard Nalbandian and AGBU Central Board Member and President of AGBU Armenia Vasken Yacoubian. The chapter also hosted Hripsime Sargsyan, Miss World Peace in 2016.

CYPRUS

 Nicosia

Traditional celebrations and festivals are a regular part of the AGBU Nicosia calendar. The chapter committee ensures that the classic traditions of Herisa Nights and many other Armenian holidays remain a constant for community members as a vehicle to come together. In January 2017, they planned a Children's Carnival successfully inviting families to engage with one another. This program built on the momentum of an already exciting Christmas celebration just a month earlier. Finding unique ways to weave Armenian traditions into everyday life, the Ladies' Group organized regular "Armenian Dance Workout" sessions, using the intricate dance moves of traditional Armenian dance as a bonding weekly cardio exercise opportunity. As a collective, the same Ladies' Group also organized service initiatives, assembling humanitarian aid packages to families in need and spending time with the elderly at a local retirement home. The chapter also promoted new forms of culture, offering film screenings of *The Promise* and a book presentation by novelist Eve Makis.

France District

AGBU France District managed many regional activities and programs incorporating themes of education and investment in Armenia. With seasonal programs like the Sejour de Ski and Colonie de Vacances, youth throughout France could assemble and build friendships among a new generation of French Armenians. The district also presented a series of events with the French publication *Nouvelles d'Arménie* which inspired intriguing debate and conversation. In 2017, topics included: Turkey-Russia relations, the autonomy of Nagorno Karabagh and the Russian strategy as it pertains to the nations of the Southern Caucasus. In addition, the Nubar Library hosted conferences on various subjects related to Armenian history, collaborating with local institutions and individuals. The France District also launched its HyeTech Europe program, providing mentorship and guidance to Armenian start up entrepreneurs.

Lyon

Lyon was buzzing with activity thanks to AGBU Lyon and its initiatives. During this term, the community engaged in multiple conferences, discussions, film screenings and exhibitions. The chapter hosted separate and stimulating public discussions with journalist Varoujan Mardikian, AGBU Central Board Member and Founder of AVC Yervant Zorian, president of the Association of Armenian Lawyers Virginie Dusen, and French geopolitical expert Gerard Chaliand. In addition, the local YP Lyon group served as the host for the YP Europe conference in both years. Exhibition openings dotted the calendar, with the Armenian ceramic art of Gyumri on display in 2016 and "The Path of Guiragos" show presenting paintings featuring Pascal Maguesyan and Jacques Avakian later that year.

Marseille



In 2016, AGBU Marseille held a charity dinner "Mobilization for Artsakh" with its proceeds going to AGBU's relief efforts in Artsakh.

Armenian and French culture was on display throughout 2016 and 2017 with AGBU Marseille organizing an assortment of events. The chapter invited thoughtful presenters to accompany film screenings, providing platforms for important dialogue around media, history and social justice. Screenings of *Peindre après le genocide* with historian Claude Mutafian and *1915: The Movie* with actress Angela Sarafian, also of *The Promise*, amplified the impact both films had on the audience. Equally thought-provoking were conferences, discussions and dinners bridging the Armenian and French cultures. In 2016, the chapter hosted an event entitled "Armenian Language and French Culture," piquing interest intergenerationally. The following year, a presentation on the "History and Destiny of the French Crown Diamonds" brought the past to life for eager participants. The chapter's efforts to fuse their two cultures seamlessly in a proud identity was also demonstrated during their fundraising dinner for Artsakh in June of 2016, hosted at the studio of the

popular French TV show "Plus Belle La Vie." Of course, one of the highlights of the night was when Marseille's own committee member Ara Khatchadourian returned from his triumphant climb to the top of Mount Everest, welcomed by peers. He spoke of his journey and presented the film *Un pas après l'autre*. Khatchadourian continued to tour AGBU chapters around the world to share his story.

Paris

Fireside chats, concerts, film screenings and classes were all offerings provided by AGBU Paris during 2016 and 2017. Their lecture series featured distinguished speakers including Monseigneur Norvan Zakarian, Elie Barnavi, Aram Mardirossian and Patrick Donabédian, to name a few. From 2016-2017, a series of jazz concerts featuring the talents of the Alexis Avakian Quintet, Miqayel Voskanyan & Friends and Macha Gharibian presented an exciting rendez-vous occasion. In addition, guests were treated to a master class by violinist Jean-Marc Phillipps-Varjabédian. AGBU Paris' many performance troupes also entertained in a number of prestigious venues during these years.

Valence



Celebration of AGBU Valence's 85th anniversary in October 2016.

In 2016, AGBU Valence held numerous events including a photo exhibition and community holiday gatherings. The highlight of the year was without a doubt the 85th Anniversary Gala, a multigenerational affair that provided the chapter with an opportunity to look to the future while honoring the past. Through the following year, community events continued to attract community members, with dinners as well as a film screening of *Un pas apres l'Autre*. AGBU Valence also organized weekly gatherings to support bonding, cultural education and promote health. From singing to dancing, piano lessons to duduk lessons, and even a bit of Zumba, the community connected as they nurtured old bonds and created new friendships.



HAIK



AGBU's partner HAIK in Frankfurt presented a range of activities including the first AGBU-HAIK Symposium co-organized with AGBU Europe in the fall of 2016. Hosted at Goethe University in Frankfurt, the discussions focused on career development with a session on successful leadership, career planning and economic opportunities in Armenia. In 2017, HAIK committee members merged the cultures of their ancestral heritage with their national German culture, presenting a German-Armenian music event in Rostock. The same year, they invited their community to explore Armenian art and architecture by organizing a successful presentation.

AGBU-HAIK Symposium at Goethe-Universität Frankfurt, moderated by Stepan Hayrapetyan. Panelists: Dr. Ara Abrahamyan; Jörg-Matthias Butzlaff; Manfred Leonhard; Johannes Kärcher; and Derenik Grigorian.

Athens



The works of Armenian cartoonist Alexander Saroukhan was on display in Athens for four days in 2017. This was due to a joint effort by the Athens chapter and YPs.

AGBU Athens invested in activities and events for all ages. In 2016, they hosted Hellenic Parliament Member Liana Kenelli upon her return from Armenia and Artsakh. Sharing her impressions of the country, she talked about her meetings with President of Artsakh Bako Shakyan and Deputy Speaker of the Armenian National Assembly Eduard Sharmazanov. Later that year, they hosted a screening of the film *1915: The Movie*, which attracted audiences that represented all ages. The beginning of 2017 saw both chapter and YP members united, showcasing a unique exhibition of works by famed Armenian cartoonist Alexander Saroukhan. Proving to be very popular, the exhibition ran for four days in the Greek capital. That same year, the Ani Dance Ensemble, which had performed throughout the term, set off on a bonding excursion to the mountains of Arcadia.

 SPAIN

AGBU's longstanding partnership with ACAB brought regular programming to Armenians in Barcelona. ACAB hosted a weekly Armenian school, offering dynamic language, dance and chess courses. The chapter also planned events for major Armenian holidays each of the two years. Lectures continued to be organized and the beginning of this term saw a series of topics focused on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and presentations on Armenia-Spain relations, "Armenophobia" and prejudice, as well as Armenian religion and traditions. The ACAB committee also ensured that culture was embraced in a lively format with open dance classes, along with participation in both the Catalan Cultural Festival and the Barcelona International Dance and Music Festival.



ACAB's 2016 end of year "Hantes."

 THE NETHERLANDS

AGBU Holland provided opportunities for cultural promotion and community congregation virtually every month of the two year term. Activities ranged from the celebration of local and Armenian national holidays to lectures by community leaders, culminating in group trips to nearby Germany, Belgium and regions throughout the Netherlands. On the 10th anniversary of the assassination of Hrant Dink, the committee hosted a special evening, inviting the community to celebrate his legacy and celebrate the future of Armenians he fought for. Providing levity and an outlet for the community, AGBU Holland also hosted a very successful night of entertainment with famed stand-up comedian Vahe Berberian.

London

AGBU London, YP and London Trust committees all contributed to a truly diverse array of events during the term. 2016 saw both an eloquent literary evening dedicated to Assadour Guzelian and a passionate YP spin-a-thon for Syrian Armenian relief. In May of that year, members from AGBU Europe leadership converged on the city along with the Central Board for a workshop session and a Gala Evening at the Landmark Hotel, featuring keynote speaker Lord Ara Darzi of Denham. The evening was a success in raising funds for Syrian Armenians.

The following year presented an equally varied set of activities starting with the AGBU London chapter film premiere of *Voskan Yerevantsi*, an eponymous documentary about the first Armenian publisher of the Bible and the effect his efforts had on Armenian identity. The chapter also hosted a presentation by Dr. Randall Rhodes, provost of the Armenian University of Armenia entitled “AUA: Diaspora’s Best Investment in Armenia.” Dr. Rhodes engaged the audience, speaking both about the institution historically and prompting an interesting dialogue on the potential for its future. 2017 also saw an evening of networking entitled “Armenians in Finance.” Held at the luxurious Bulgari Hotel, with presentations by AGBU Central Board Members Arnaud Attamian and Ruben Vardanyan, guests connected through riveting dialogues on recent trends in the Financial Services industry. In fall of the same year, the AGBU Central Board returned for a series of strategic meetings with European YP leadership, followed by a dinner hosted at the Dorchester Hotel by His Excellency Armen Sarkissian and his wife Nune.



In 2017 AGBU London hosted a special reception for Dr. Randall Rhodes, the provost of the American University of Armenia (AUA).

AGBU PRESENCE IN EUROPE AND RUSSIA

AUSTRIA

VIENNA*

Garod Dance Ensemble
Saturday School
YP Austria

BELGIUM

BRUSSELS

AGBU Europe Office
YP Belgium
Goriz Leadership Program

CYPRUS

LARNACA*

NICOSIA*

Ararat Futsal Team
YP Cyprus

BULGARIA

BURGAS*

DOBRICH*

HASKOVO*

Prof. Krikor Azaryan Theater Group
Saturday School

PLOVDIV*

AGBU Voice

Astghigner Dance Group
Camp Hayler
Erebuni Musical Ensemble
Malvina Manukyan Children’s Theater Group
Nreni Dance Group
Saturday School
Youth
YP Plovdiv

ROUSSE*

SLIVEN*

SOFIA*

Camp Hayler
Chamber Orchestra
HayLer Sunday School
Nur Dance Ensemble
Youth

YP Sofia

YAMBOL*

Aravod Choir

FRANCE DISTRICT*

Colonie de Vacances
HyeTech
Nubar Library
Études Arméniennes Contemporaines
Paris Summer Internship Program (PSIP)
Séjour de Ski
Terre de Vie
UFAR Internship Program

LYON*

Youth
YP Lyon Rhône-Alpes

MARSEILLE*

Youth
YP Marseille
NICE-CÔTE D’AZUR*
PARIS*
Ahazank Theater Group
Alex Manoogian Saturday School
Koghtan Choir
US Nubar Paris
Youth
YP Paris

VALENCE*

Youth

VIENNE*

Wednesday School
Youth

GERMANY

FRANKFURT

HAIK* (affiliate)

GREECE

ATHENS*

Ani Dance Ensemble
Artaki Kalpakian School
Youth
YP Athens

THESSALONIKI*

ITALY

MILAN*

NETHERLANDS

ALMELO*

AMSTERDAM

YP Amsterdam

RUSSIA

MOSCOW

YP Moscow

SPAIN

BARCELONA

Asociació Cultural Armenia de Barcelona (ACAB) (affiliate)

SWITZERLAND

GENEVA

YP Switzerland

UNITED KINGDOM

LONDON*

London Summer Internship Program (LSIP)
YP London

**Denotes the Presence of a District or Chapter Committee*

NORTH AMERICA



Montreal



The AGBU Montreal chapter hosted Garo Paylan, member of the Grand National Assembly in Turkey for the People's Democratic Party.

With its thriving school and community life, AGBU Montreal continued to offer a well-rounded program of activities with something for everyone to enjoy. The chapter coordinated its activities with those of the École Alex Manoogian school in many instances, bridging generations. Both devoted serious attention to bringing Syrian Armenian families into the fold with a range of assistance services, including opportunities to share in the cultural life of fellow Armenians. Many of the regular activities, including those at the Saturday "Day of Armenian Youth" program, "Hayortyats Or," were adapted to engage newly immigrated children in the community, providing a safe haven for the streams of refugee families. To that end, in January 2016, the chapter held a New Year's Banquet for Syrian Armenian Families, a festive celebration attended by 500 people.

At the AGBU Montreal Center, special events ranged in themes to promote different elements of Armenian culture. Presentations and exhibitions filled the evenings like the mounting of two art exhibitions in 2017: photo exhibition "La Syrie de l'avant-guerre" and "Art: The Essence of Life," featuring the works of contemporary diasporan artists.

The chapter celebrated 60 years of service with multiple events, many of which involved the government and people of Canada. In March of 2017, the Canadian House of Commons issued a statement in recognition of the anniversary. The following month, AGBU Montreal launched the Cardinal Angelo Maria Dolce Scholarship for students pursuing the field of Genocide Studies, Prevention and Awareness. In June, the Canadian Postal Service issued a commemorative stamp on the occasion of the milestone anniversary. Of course, a memorable gala event brought together hundreds of supporters with AGBU President Berge Setrakian and AGBU Central Board Members Lena Sarkissian and Nazareth Festekjian.

Toronto

In 2016 and 2017, AGBU Toronto mobilized its resources to meet the needs of Syrian Armenian refugees whose struggles in a new land called for the embrace of the established Toronto Armenian community. However, these priorities did not disrupt the chapter's proud tradition for bringing high quality cultural experiences to the local and wider audience with the goal of inspiring youth, deepening appreciation of the Armenian heritage and finding fresh and novel ways to express the Armenian spirit—with music the highlight of the chapter's cultural agenda. True to form, in both years, over 40 children participated in its annual Musical Talent Show, which treated the audience to a variety of musical genres, from classical and Broadway tunes to Armenian folk. In 2017, a strictly Classical Music Concert was organized, featuring the violin virtuosos The Karapetyan Brothers along with piano soloist Hasmik Manukyan. This set the stage for later that year when AGBU Toronto held an inspiring concert for Canada 150, celebrating the formation of the nation's confederation. A variety of works by Armenian and European masters was performed to reflect the diversity of Canadian citizens. The Honorable John McKay, Member of Parliament for Scarborough-Guildwood, was in attendance.



Literary Evening with Maral Boyadjian, author of As the Poppies Bloomed.

As a complement to its rich musical fare, AGBU Toronto presented compelling lectures including one by Dr. Richard Hovanissian on the communities of Musa Dagh, Dort Yol and Kessab and another by Dr. Sona Haroutyunian and Dr. Alan Whitehorn on literature and history. Equally compelling was the literary evening hosted for Maral Boyadjian, author of the debut novel *As the Poppies Bloomed*, a fictional love story based on the life and times of her ancestors. These special presentations coupled with ongoing activities like Armenian language lessons and family-centric events kept the community engaged at all levels.



Chicago

AGBU Chicago presented a series of intriguing events during these years. Interesting lectures ranged in themes from current events including a presentation by journalist Tatul Hakobyan on the Four Day War in Artsakh to more traditional Armenian Studies themes with highly regarded speakers like Professor Richard Hovannisian and Judith Saryan. The chapter also hosted book readings and film screenings, such as Mary Terzian reading from her book *Politically Homeless* and a screening of *Crows of the Desert*. Adding to the diverse range of topics, the chapter explored historic themes like “Armenian Silversmiths of Kayseri,” and more contemporary ones like a presentation on Armenian genealogy by George Aghjayan. In addition to these lectures, the chapter also co-hosted many cultural events in the area including an illustrated presentation in 2017 entitled “Remembering Armenia and Reimagining a Lost Armenian Home: The Dildilian Photography Collection,” featuring an 18-panel exhibition of photography and a presentation by Professor Armen T. Marsoobian. Another cultural highlight that year was a concert featuring cellist Kate Kayaian who directs chamber music for the Boston Youth Symphony Orchestra.

New England

The oldest AGBU chapter in North America spent considerable time hosting events for some of the youngest constituents—college students. AGBU New England became a second home for many studying in the Boston-area universities as they hosted multiple gatherings at their center including an annual Thanksgiving Dinner for those who are unable to travel back to their families for the holiday. In addition, the chapter spent considerable time on family activities bringing the community together. In 2016, they hosted a Jazz Night and raised over \$13,000 for the AGBU Humanitarian Emergency Relief Fund for Syrian Armenians and for the people of Artsakh. The emphasis on performances continued the following year with a concert of music from Ethiopia and another jazz night. In 2017, they collaborated with the Luys Foundation and the MIT Armenian Society for an event marking the 8th anniversary of the Luys Foundation, which had funded many scholarships to students in the Boston area.

New York

In New York, local committees, along with departments within the Central Office, spent considerable time coordinating efforts for relief campaigns as well as on preparations for the 110th anniversary of AGBU and global outreach for *The Promise*. Yet there was still time for promotion of literature, history and the arts for the Greater New York area community. In 2016, award-winning author Chris Bohjalian returned to AGBU for an exclusive presentation of his latest book *The Guest Room*. In addition, Internship Program alumna Monique Svazlian Tallon spoke to a packed room about women in leadership with the release of her book *Leading Gracefully*. The following year, a North American tour of the book *Forced Into Genocide*, a memoir by Adrienne G. Alexanian, was launched. Literature was not the sole launching pad for discussion as many compelling speaker events were held including a presentation by Dr. Richard Hovanissian and, the following year, one by Professor Ümit Kurt, who spoke about two perpetrators of the Armenian Genocide: Ahmed Faik and Yasin Beys.

The New York Special Events Committee and AGBU Performing Arts Department collaborated again to present the ninth AGBU Performing Artists in Concert at the famed Weill Recital Hall in Carnegie Hall. The evening was dedicated to the 85th anniversary of the Union of Composers of Armenia and the concert raised over \$50,000 for AGBU performing arts scholarships and global initiatives. Other highlights during this term included the *Luys i Luso* multimedia concert by Tigran Hamasyan and a performance by Miqayel Voskanyan and Friends. The AGBU Central Office also collaborated to promote the premiere of the film *They Shall Not Perish: The Story of the Near East Relief* honoring the 100th anniversary of the relief efforts of the organization. Finally, the AGBU Access group presented an intimate fireside chat and dinner with celebrity chef Geoffrey Zakarian at his restaurant The Lamb's Club.



AGBU Access held an exclusive event that featured celebrity chef Geoffrey Zakarian in May 2017.

Western District



The Western District hosted its annual gala in September 2017 at the Globe Theater in Universal Studios, Hollywood. The gala's honoree was longtime Central Board member and AVC Founding President Dr. Yervant Zorian.

California's Western District saw a period of growth in this term with new signature events and programs, notably the launch of the Mock Trial Program in 2016 and the Los Angeles Media Internship Program in 2017, both of which provide high school and college students, respectively, with hands on experiences as they build their academic and professional portfolios. Also this term saw a surge in attendance at the Pasadena Day Camp (now Camp Amaras), which reached a record 200-plus enrollment in 2017.

With a truly impressive roster of events during these years, AGBU Western District celebrated the 110th anniversary of AGBU at The Reef in Los Angeles in 2016 with keynote speaker Ruben Vardanyan and over 1,000 guests in attendance. The evening also featured a showcase of young artists and a life-sized timeline of AGBU's impact. Later that fall, the district also had the honor of premiering the film *Crows of the Desert*, produced by Paul Turpanjian. A panel discussion with the team who created the film took place after the screening. The film is based on the true stories of AGBU member Levon Yotnakhparian and his journey to save Armenian lives after the genocide.

In 2017, the Western District Committee partnered with the City of Glendale in California on multiple projects, namely the "Meet Us On Maryland" series which brought free cultural programming to a community paseo in Glendale, now known as Artsakh Street. The City also allotted space at a local park for an afterschool program held by the Generation Next Mentorship Program (GenNext). In the fall of that year, GenNext secured a permanent home at the local YWCA, which now serves as an afterschool center for students in middle school and high school. The committee also hosted a sold-out gala event at Universal Studios Hollywood's Globe Theatre, honoring AGBU Central Board Member Dr. Yervant Zorian for his work with the AGBU Armenian Virtual College and AUA.

Hye Geen

The dynamic Hye Geen Committee held awareness presentations and conferences in the Los Angeles area and continued its support of the Hye Geen Pregnant Women's Centers in Armenia. In 2016 alone, 232 babies were born thanks to the centers and by the end of 2017, the fifth center in Charentsavan was opened. Back in Los Angeles, the Hye Geen Committee, together with the group's Young Circle, hosted conferences like "Facing Reality in Armenia" in 2016 and, in 2017, "Evaluating the Changes within the Armenian Family," which focused on changes affecting the central family in both Armenia and the diaspora. The group also held an important meeting with His Holiness Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians where they discussed the issue of selective abortion in Armenia. The end of December saw the 9th publication of the Hye Geen Magazine and a celebration honoring Mrs. Arshagouhie Tavitian, a founding member of AGBU Hye Geen.



AGBU Hye Geen and AGBU Hye Geen's Young Circle held a landmark conference, entitled "Armenian Youth and Higher Education: Challenges and Opportunities" in March 2016.

Fresno

The oldest AGBU chapter on the West Coast continued to provide opportunities for cultural promotion. Cosponsoring many events during this term, the Fresno Chapter featured presentations including a collaboration with California State University's Fresno Armenian Studies Department to host a lecture by Dr. George Bournoutian. In addition, they presented a Community Lecture Series featuring Dr. Roberta Irvine, Dr. Khatchig Mouradian, Dr. Abraham Terian and Dr. Yektan Türkyilmaz. They also hosted Adrienne G. Alexanian for a book reading of her title *Forced Into Genocide*. The chapter also kept music and theater at the core of its activities cosponsoring Armenian line dancing lessons, and performances by pianist Sofya Melikyan and the Chilingirian, Bagratuni, Hakobyan String Trio. The Fresno chapter also hosted the Krikor Satamian Theater Group for a performance of *Funny Money*. In addition to these special activities, the chapter continued to sponsor Armenian language classes and worked with local festivals and ceremonies, including the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Armenia with the Honorary Consul of the Republic of Armenia in Fresno.



Author Adrienne G. Alexanian presented her book *Forced Into Genocide* at California State University, Fresno in 2017. AGBU hosted similar events throughout California, Massachusetts and New York.

MILESTONES

Montreal Chapter
Montreal, Canada
60th anniversary (2017)

Asbeds of Los Angeles
Los Angeles, CA, USA
15th anniversary (2016)

AGBU PRESENCE IN NORTH AMERICA

CANADA

MONTREAL*

Athletics
Ecolé Alex Manoogian
Garni Dance Ensemble
Hayortyats Camp
Hayortyats Or Saturday School
NOVA Summer School
Scouts
YP Montreal
TORONTO*
Athletics
YP Toronto

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

ARIZONA

Scottsdale*

YP Arizona

CALIFORNIA

Western District*

Generation Next Mentorship Program
Hye Geen
Hye Geen TV Program
Los Angeles Media Internship Program (LAMIP)
Pasadena Day Camp
Western District Office

Fresno*

Glendale-Pasadena*

Athletics
Krikor Satamian Theater Group
Scouts
Vatche & Tamar Manoukian School
YP Los Angeles (YPLA)

Orange County*

Saturday School

San Fernando Valley*

Asbeds
Athletics
Manoogian-Demirdjian School
Scouts

San Francisco

YP Northern California (YPNC)

Silicon Valley*

Youth
Kids' Club

ILLINOIS

Chicago*

Sisag H. Varjabedian Saturday School
YP Chicago

OHIO

Cleveland*

MICHIGAN

Detroit*

Alex & Marie Manoogian Charter School
YP Detroit

NEVADA

Las Vegas*

NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT*

YP Boston

NEW YORK

AGBU Access
AGBU Headquarters Office
AGBU Insider
AGBU News Magazine
AGBU Scholarship Program
Antranig Dance Ensemble
Camp Nubar
New York Special Events Committee (NYSEC)
New York Summer Internship Program (NYSIP)
United Nations Special Interest Group
YP Greater New York (YPGNY)

PENNSYLVANIA

YP Philadelphia

TEXAS

YP Houston

WASHINGTON, D.C.

YP Washington, D.C. (YPDC)

*Denotes the Presence of a District or Chapter Committee

SOUTH AMERICA



Buenos Aires

AGBU Buenos Aires celebrated both new beginnings and anniversaries of grand traditions in 2016 and 2017. While the Buenos Aires Summer Internship Program welcomed its first five participants, connecting them to a global network of Armenian interns, Liga de Jóvenes and the General Antranik Scouts celebrated their 75th and 30th anniversaries in Buenos Aires respectively. Particularly where youth involvement was concerned, the chapter delivered impressive numbers of attendance among AGBU Sports, Colonia de Vacaciones and the AGBU Marie Manoogian School, which participated in an exchange program with the AGBU Manoogian Demirdjian School of California in 2017.



AGBU President Berge Setrakian and board members Sam Simonian and Ruben Vardanyan toured the Argentina chapters in 2016.

The chapter's popular weekend restaurant continued to be the favorite place for Armenian cuisine in Buenos Aires, catering to hundreds monthly. On stage, the Krikor Satamian Theater Company enchanted audiences with its performances of *Ur e Kohar Mairike?*, an adaptation of Jacobo Langsner's work. In print, new issues of *Generación3* were published, expanding readership and providing valuable insights on Armenian affairs throughout the world, most notably the Four Day War in Artsakh. As the Armenian community rallied around Artsakh, AGBU Buenos Aires organized "¿Qué Haces Tú por Artsaj?" (What are You Doing for Artsakh?), a series of concerts with renowned violinist Samvel Yervinyan benefitting music schools in the region, with the Armenian Ministry of Diaspora. Working collaboratively, *Generación3*, Liga de Jóvenes and YP Buenos Aires programmed #UGABtalks to engage the community in ongoing conversations around identity, activism and professional development.

Córdoba

Throughout 2016 and 2017, AGBU Córdoba revitalized its engagement with a broader Argentine community, sharing Armenian culture through food, music and dance. The chapter continued to organize their Restaurant Armenio to prepare diverse Armenian food, offer homestyle meals and serve as a gathering place for Armenians and non-Armenians alike. As much a social club as it is a restaurant, Restaurant Armenio is an intergenerational enterprise: the food is prepared by the mothers and grandmothers in the community and served by the chapter's youth. In 2016, the chapter's Liga de Jóvenes celebrated its 45th anniversary.

Continuing to entertain, the AGBU Ararat Armenian Dance Ensemble passionately performed traditional dances for Córdoba's Una Ciudad Todos los Pueblos Festival alongside the city's diverse cultural groups.

São Paulo

2016 and 2017 proved to be pivotal years in AGBU Brazil’s commitment to reaching a larger audience and fortifying engagement through media. With the release of *The Promise* in the country, the chapter along with YP São Paulo orchestrated an impressive preview screening, gathering community members and news outlets alike. Harnessing the impact of media, AGBU Brazil launched the new online series *Armênia em 1 Minuto* (*Armenia in 1 Minute*). The videos cover a diverse range of Armenian topics, vibrantly illustrating little known facts about history and heritage throughout the Diaspora. Equipped with English subtitles and as brief as the title suggests, these videos continue to make Armenian culture more accessible.

In 2017, AGBU Brazil’s efforts shifted from the screen to successfully raise over \$3,000 USD for demining efforts in Artsakh, working with ONEArmenia. From investing in media to gathering funds for Artsakh, AGBU Brazil continued to find unique ways to involve its communities in meaningful pursuits.

MILESTONES

Liga de Jóvenes
Buenos Aires, Argentina
75th anniversary (2016)

General Antranik Scouts
Buenos Aires, Argentina
30th anniversary (2016)

Liga de Jóvenes
Córdoba, Argentina
45th anniversary (2016)

Liga de Jóvenes
Montevideo, Uruguay
70th anniversary (2016)

Montevideo

AGBU Uruguay spent 2016 and 2017 nurturing the foundations of their community, enrolling students into institutions like the Nubarian-Manoogian School, while welcoming new community members. In this period of time, the chapter celebrated the 70th anniversary of the establishment of Liga de Jóvenes in Montevideo, continuing to add generations of Armenian leaders to their ranks. Empowering scout leadership by providing new courses on Armenian history and AGBU programming worldwide, the chapter laid the foundation for more informed and invested youth development. As part of this new consciousness, Liga de Jóvenes and the Ereván 50 scouting movement kicked off their year with a historic tour through Montevideo, retracing the steps their Armenian ancestors would have taken upon immigrating to Uruguay as refugees between 1918-1925.

AGBU Uruguay also saw the launch of the first series of #UGABtalks, community forums discussing all things Armenian, including repatriation, volunteer opportunities and the Diaspora experience. The chapter hosted hundreds of attendees who were eager to strengthen their ties to the homeland. Bringing Armenia to Uruguay—at least musically—Montevideo’s Grung Choir continued to provide a platform for vocalists to collaborate, holding performances throughout the country, notably at the Torre de las Telecomunicaciones in 2017.



AGBU Uruguay hosts #UGABtalks, a community forum.

AGBU PRESENCE IN SOUTH AMERICA

**ARGENTINA
BUENOS AIRES***

Athletics
Antranik Scouts
Buenos Aires Internship Program
Colonia de Vacaciones
Generación 3
Instituto Marie Manoogian
Krikor Satamian Theater Group

Liga de Jóvenes
YP Buenos Aires

CÓRDOBA*

Athletics
Ararat Dance Ensemble
Colonia de Vacaciones
Liga de Jóvenes

**BRAZIL
SÃO PAULO***

Athletics
Youth (Sports)
YP Brazil

Colegio Nubarian
Erevan 50 Scout Band
Grung Choir
Liga de Jóvenes

**URUGUAY
MONTEVIDEO***

Athletics

**Denotes the Presence of a District or Chapter Committee*

2016-2017 DISTRICT AND CHAPTER CHAIRPERSONS

ARGENTINA

BUENOS AIRES: Hampartzoum Haladjian (until May 2017);
Ruben Kedikian
CÓRDOBA: Nicolas Analian

AUSTRALIA

MELBOURNE: Maral Tchorbadjian
SYDNEY: Toros Boghossian

AUSTRIA

VIENNA: Jirair Balmanian (until August 2017); Lousin Balmanian

BRAZIL

SÃO PAULO: Helio Balukian (until September 2016); Haig Apovian

BULGARIA

BURGAS: Hagop Movsesian
PLOVDIV: Roupen Chavoushian
CHAPTERS ASSOCIATED WITH PLOVDIV:

DOBRICH: Eduard Kokonyan
HASKOVO: Srpuhi Derandonayn
ROUSSE: Boghos Garjarian
SLIVEN: Arshavir Hulian
YAMBOL: Sonya Arshavir Hovnanyan (2016)

SOFIA: Sonia Avakian-Bedrosian (until February 2017);
Arno Kuiuimdjian

CANADA

MONTREAL: Chahé Tanachian
TORONTO: Knar Basmajian (until November 2016), Mihran Egavian

CYPRUS

LARNACA: Stepan Kamakian
NICOSIA: Missak Kouyoumdjian

EGYPT

DISTRICT COMMITTEE OF EGYPT, CAIRO: Onnig Belekdanian
ALEXANDRIA: Sarkis Vartzbekian (until August 2017);
Berj Jebejian
CAIRO: Viken Djizmedjian

ETHIOPIA

ADDIS ABABA: Vahakn Karibian

EUROPE DISTRICT

Nadia Gortzounian

FRANCE

FRANCE DISTRICT: Nadia Gortzounian
LYON: Camille Mesrobian (until August 2017); Viken Kojakian
MARSEILLE: Patrick Malakian
NICE-CÔTE D'AZUR: Chakée Hagopian-Clausen
PARIS: Raphaél Der Agopian
VALENCE: Jean-Jacques Vartanian (2016); Philippe Panossian
VIENNE: Charles Paltobedrossian (2016); Philippe Beylerian

GREECE

CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF GREECE, ATHENS:
Dickran Abassian (until March 2016); Hampig Sahag Manoukian
THESSALONIKI: Haigouhi Portukalian

IRAQ

BAGHDAD: Pakram Movses Derhagopian

ITALY

MILAN: Gueguel Khatchadourian

LEBANON

LEBANON DISTRICT: Gerard Tufenkjian
ANTELIAS: Vatche Avedikian (2016); Krikor Keshishian (2017)
SEVAN (SIL E-FIL): Hagop Telvzian (2016);
Varoujan Margossian (2017)
ZAHLE: George Deyirmendjian

NETHERLANDS

ALMELO: Harout Palanjian

SYRIA

SYRIA DISTRICT: Nerses Nersoyan
ALEPPO: Manuel Varjabedian
DAMASCUS: Ara Yacoubian
KAMISHLI: Zareh Simonian
KESSAB: Vasken Tchaparian
LATAKIA: Hagop Atamian (2016); Nicola Madani (2017)

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

DUBAI: Hratch Borghosizian

UNITED KINGDOM

LONDON: Jirair Kevorkian (until July 2016); Armine Afrikian

URUGUAY

MONTEVIDEO: Benjamin Kemanian (until September 2017);
Jose Geozucarian

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

CHICAGO, IL: Sona Boghosian Diorio (until February 2017);
Vahan Janjigian
DETROIT, MI: Nadya Sarafian
NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT: Ara Balikian
CLEVELAND, OH: Sebouh Setrakian
PROVIDENCE, RI: William Aznavourian (until November 2016)
WESTERN DISTRICT: Talin Yacoubian
SCOTTSDALE, AZ: Karekin Kaprelian
FRESNO, CA: Zaroohi Der Mugrdechian
GLENDALE/PASADENA, CA: Hrant Vartzbekian
HYE GEEN, LOS ANGELES, CA: Sona Yacoubian
ORANGE COUNTY, CA: Krikor Mahdessian
SAN FERNANDO VALLEY, CA: Hrag Ohannessian
SILICON VALLEY, CA: Yervant Zorian
LAS VEGAS, NV: Vazrik Makarian

AGBU YOUNG PROFESSIONALS (YP)



For over two decades, the AGBU Young Professionals (YP) network has empowered ambitious and civic-minded individuals and socially responsible groups to make a positive difference in their communities and the world while reflecting the core values of AGBU.

Thanks to its open-door policy, this network, comprised of individuals between the ages of 22 to 40, has quickly grown into the largest of its kind today with a worldwide reputation for fostering a sense of community, belonging and purpose among diverse participants.

The first YP group was formed in 1995 in Los Angeles. During 2016 and 2017, the network reached as many as 33 groups with new committees in Nicosia (Cyprus), Moscow (Russia), Detroit (Michigan, USA), Houston (Texas, USA) and Phoenix (Arizona, USA) joining in those two years alone. AGBU also partners with like-minded young professional organizations in Frankfurt, Germany (HAIK) and Istanbul, Turkey (UTI). In 2016-2017, the YPs made meaningful contributions to the larger community by organizing and supporting both local and regional events.

Benevolent Generation

As always, our YP groups continued to shine their benevolence throughout the world. In 2016-2017, they raised over \$130,000 for multiple causes including: AGBU Children's Centers in Armenia, TUMOXAGBU Centers, AGBU Humanitarian Emergency Relief Fund for Syrian Armenians, AGBU Scholarship Program and AGBU Artsakh Fund. Annual traditions like the Winter Gala in Northern California, the Christmas Fundraiser in Toronto, the Pre-Poon Paragentan Mixer in Chicago, or the Armenian Christmas Silent Auction event in New York generated broad regional support. Localized efforts like mixers, spin-a-thons and concerts encouraged fundraising on a grassroots level, all carrying on the tradition of AGBU committees banding together to raise money for worthwhile causes.

In addition to raising funds, YP groups truly rolled up their sleeves to give back to their local communities. Whether running marathons or spending time with less-fortunate members of their cities, they put the needs of others before their own, setting a stellar example for all.

Encouraging Dialogue

In these two years, the groups broke the mold by presenting a record number of discussions and conferences, proving that this generation is one with much on their minds and much to share with the world. In addition to participating in regional leadership summits in Europe and North America, these self-starters organized impressive speaker and fireside chats on wide-ranging topics of interest.

Always interested in issues concerning the homeland, YP groups held meetings with multiple NGO leaders and local ambassadors. YP Belgium, for example, met with the Head of the Mission of Armenia to the EU, Ambassador Markarian, who spoke with the group on a range of foreign policy matters. YP of Greater New York hosted the "Imagine Armenia" forum aimed at opening the eyes of their peers to the lives and positive realities of those who have repatriated to Armenia. YP Amsterdam challenged guests with a brainstorming session on how they can activate their personal networks to benefit Armenia, Artsakh and the Diaspora.

YP Paris invited Damien Morin, tech entrepreneur and founder of SAVE, a mobile startup, for an intimate discussion





YP Moscow held its first EduChat, a series of talks aimed at educating the YP community in Moscow.

Enhancing Professional Development

This fast-growing network defines itself by two words—young and professional. As such, our committees make time for unique professional development opportunities. While the conferences and summits certainly open the proverbial rolodexes of those who attend, localized events are critical for career advancement. Groups in Buenos Aires and Philadelphia, for example host annual YP professional development events. In Yerevan, YPs joined forces with MBA students from the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth College for a collaborative exchange.

Embracing Culture

AGBU YPs have demonstrated that Armenian culture thrives with the younger generation. Not only do they promote traditional Armenian art and music with concerts, exhibitions and cooking classes, but they equally encourage new artistic expression by hosting film screenings, comedy nights and photography shows. They have also found ways to leverage the culture surrounding them by inviting fellow YPs to explore local cultural treasures together.



YP Los Angeles held its first Mural Crawl, a walking tour of East Hollywood to view the artwork of Artoon Gozukuchikyan.



YP Northern California (YPNC) hosted the Bay Area premiere of comedienne Lousine Shamamian's "Shake The Earth."

AGBU FOCUS

Beirut 2017

Every two years, AGBU FOCUS brings together hundreds of young Armenians from around the world for a weekend of unforgettable events aimed at broadening the Young Professionals (YP) network and promoting AGBU's numerous programs and initiatives. At the helm is a strong YP committee ready to mobilize their peers.

YP Beirut took on the arduous task with grace and planned a memorable weekend from August 2-6, 2017, where over 400 guests from 23 countries, as far as Australia, Brazil, Thailand and beyond, gathered for the first time to experience FOCUS in the Middle East.



Members of the AGBU FOCUS 2017 Organizing Committee celebrate the unforgettable FOCUS 2017 weekend with a farewell brunch at the Beirut Waterfront.



Attendees of the FOCUS 2017 gala at The Legend, nestled on the bank of the Lycus River.

New in 2017 was the inaugural FOCUS Conference in which over 200 participants brainstormed new concepts for programs after learning how grassroots ideas evolved into signature programs within the AGBU landscape of activities.

The Conference supplemented the already popular events, among which were "Perspectives," a panel discussion by YPs who shared professional entrepreneurship journeys, and "FOCUS on ART," held at the famous Sursock Museum, which featured world-renowned architect Bernard Khoury, who has left his indelible mark on the Beirut landscape and designed the TUMO Center for Creative Technologies in Yerevan. Reflecting on the resilience of the city, his design process and ideology, Khoury noted that his mother's Armenian roots remain ever present in his mind.

The highlight of the weekend was the gala held at The Legend, nestled on the bank of the ancient Lycus River. The night began with a dedication to the AGBU Scholarship Program, the designated beneficiary of the FOCUS fundraising drive, for which over \$100,000 was raised, a testament that the spirit of giving is strong in the current generation of YPs.

Since the premiere of FOCUS in 2001, the culturally and socially enriching biennial weekend has united over 3,000 young Armenians in eight cosmopolitan cities around the world, raising over \$530,000 in donations for various AGBU programs.





1. YPs ran the 2017 Yerevan Half-Marathon to raise money for AGBU Children's Centers in Armenia.
2. In 2017, the executive committee of YP Montreal met with the mayor of Montreal, Denis Caderre, at a conference titled "The Youth at the Heart of the Development of Metropolis."
3. YP Houston celebrated its launch in July 2016.
4. The Young Professionals of Cyprus held its inaugural happy hour in December 2017.
5. YP Buenos Aires held its third annual professional development conference. The event, which took place in November 2016, offered an opportunity for young professionals in the Armenian community of Buenos Aires to network and learn from the expertise of specialists in various fields.
6. In 2017, the Armenian Committee of Belgium, in collaboration with AGBU YP Belgium and Hayasa, held its first Armenian Youth Congress of Belgium. The congress brought together more than 80 Armenian students and young professionals to discuss sociopolitical topics that directly affect their lives as Armenians in Belgium.

Young Professionals Chairs and Coordinators

AMSTERDAM

Vahag Avakian

ARIZONA

Zari Panosian (2017)

AUSTRIA

Karoush Ghazelian (2016)
Puzant Chorbajian (2017)

ATHENS

Setrak Abassian

BELGIUM

Sarkis Petrosian (2016)
Sevak Abelian (2017)

BOSTON

Justine Drabicki

BRAZIL

Aram Apovian (2016)
Natália Ortiz Hazarian (2017)

BUENOS AIRES

José Djeredjian (2016)
Maria Sol Torosian (2016 and 2017)

CHICAGO

Ani Grigorian

CYPRUS

Natasha Der Avedissian (2017)

DETROIT

Shant Korkigian

FRANKFURT (HAIK)*

Sahak Artazyan (2016)
Shushanik Aprikyan (2017)

GREATER NEW YORK

William Nazarian

HOUSTON

Anais Babajanian

INSTANBUL (UTI)*

Katya Kaya
Aren Semerciyan

LEBANON

Natacha Keuchgeurian

LONDON

Angéline Najarian Seropyan (2016 and 2017)
Nathalie Piranian (2017)

LOS ANGELES

Ani Torosyan

LYON RHONE-ALPES

Viken Kojakian

MARSEILLE

Maral Hekimian

MONTREAL

Jean Akkoyan (2016)
Olga Markarian (2017)

MOSCOW

Anna Sharoyan

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

David Ojakian

PARIS

Hermine Samuelian

PHILADELPHIA

Sara Selverian

PLOVDIV

Haik Garabedian

SOFIA

Seta Zadikian

SWITZERLAND

Rubina Yacoubian-Balyozyan

TORONTO

Mihran Egavian (2016)
Christine Kavazanjian (2017)

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Hakob Stepanyan (2016)
Vilen Khlgatyan (2017)

YEREVAN

Isabella Merabova

UAE

Arina Maljian

*Denotes affiliate

AGBU SCHOOLS



AGBU's well recognized global network of over two dozen schools has always strived for academic excellence. Every year, their comprehensive and increasingly innovative curricula, with a focus on the arts, humanities and sciences, keep over 4,225 students constantly challenged.

In addition to our day schools that span a range of grade levels from PreK-12 and boast a 15% non-Armenian enrollment rate, the AGBU one day schools and summer academies engage students, featuring more creative project-based experiential programs. This guarantees that youth—both Armenian by blood and Armenian by choice—around the world receive a high-quality education and embrace an Armenian identity, no matter the day or season.

In 2016-2017, AGBU schools celebrated milestone anniversaries, hosted visits from dignitaries and honored guests, and made headlines with noteworthy achievements, all while ensuring no student is deprived of the basic need of education even in the most trying times.

Education as a Basic Need

Syria

Recognizing the generosity of the AGBU community worldwide during challenging times in the history of their country, the **AGBU Gullabi Gulbenkian School** in Damascus marked the 110th anniversary of the founding of the organization. The school has been a haven for students who not only follow the state curriculum but have vowed to continue upholding their Armenian identity through language, religion and culture.

In June 2016, the **AGBU Lazar Najarian-Calouste Gulbenkian School** in Aleppo held an end-of-year celebration for its 23 graduates who also paid tribute to AGBU's 110th anniversary with a special musical program. Despite difficult circumstances, these students excelled in their studies.

In the summer of 2016, **AGBU Kamishli** welcomed 90 children to its **annual summer school** at the AGBU Karnig Yacoubian Hall. The school was organized on the initiative of the chapter's Ladies and Young Women's Committee with the goal of gathering the Armenian children in the community and creating a safe environment for them despite political unrest.

Canada

Aimed at engaging youth and the younger generation in the life of the Montreal community, in the summer of 2016, AGBU Montreal debuted its new **NOVA Summer School** for Syrian Armenian students. While École Alex Manoogian day school offers French immersion classes during the school year, NOVA is a free program that allows students to practice their new language skills when school is not in session.



Highlights

Buenos Aires, Argentina

Students of Instituto Marie Manoogian in Buenos Aires celebrated Armenian cultural month in October with a series of events and projects focused on art, music, literature, dance and history, some in collaboration with other local Armenian schools.



Sydney, Australia

In November 2016, Sydney's **Alexander Primary School** welcomed over 1,000 guests to explore Armenian Cultural Day with an "Armenian Food Safari" featuring master chef Sedrak Mamulyan and acclaimed musicians invited from Armenia especially for the occasion.



Montreal, Canada



As part of the celebrations for Canada's 150th anniversary, the school choir of Montreal's **École Alex Manoogian** was chosen to sing in the Canadian Senate on the occasion of National Child Day in November 2017.

Beirut, Lebanon

In October 2016, AGBU Lebanon announced that in the next six years, **AGBU Lebanon schools**, in partnership with the EDUVATION (Education Innovation) School network, will integrate e-books, software instruction and related interactive technologies to enrich the English, Arabic, French, mathematics, science and social studies curriculum of elementary grades 1-6. By 2023, this iPad-iLearn Project will put AGBU Lebanon schools at the forefront of educational innovation as they will be among the very few in the country to use this technology for teaching and learning.

Southfield, MI - USA



AGBU Alex & Marie Manoogian students with principal Hosep Torossian (right) and teacher Steve Scott (left) in front of their award-winning electric car.

In 2016, students in the Automotive Engineering class at the **AGBU Alex & Marie Manoogian School** in Southfield, MI, led by their science teacher Steve Scott, built an electric car from scratch, and took part in a competition organized by Square One Education Network at M-City, on the campus of the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Out of 25 high schools, the Manoogian School's electric car placed second for endurance, speed and energy efficiency and also won first place for innovation and presentation. In 2017, the school welcomed prominent executives from the General Motors Corporation who admired the winning car and shared stories of their path as students and later professionals at one of the largest auto manufacturers in the world.

Canoga Park, CA - USA

In March of 2017, three students (Andrew Demirdjian, Derrick Davidian, and Johnny Kamakian) from **AGBU Manoogian-Demirdjian High School** ventured across the Pacific to participate in the 2017 Pacific Rim Model United Nations conference in Kawasaki, Japan. There they presented papers and debated policies pertaining to the Syrian refugee crisis along with over-fishing and other threats to marine ecosystems. With Principal Arpi Avanesian, they learned as much as possible inside and outside the conference with site visits to Japan's religious, cultural and historical sites.

MILESTONES

AGBU Demirdjian Center Armenian Studies Saturday School

Beirut, Lebanon
20th anniversary (2017)

AGBU Manoogian-Demirdjian School

Canoga Park, CA, USA
40th anniversary (2016)

AGBU One-Day Schools, Worldwide

The growing number of AGBU one-day schools, with their expanding curricula and engaging activities, continued to bring together communities with new initiatives, leveraging experiential education and innovative technology—all in an effort to foster a strong national identity among the new generation.



Students of the Hayortyats Or (Day of Armenian Youth) Saturday School in Montreal are taught Armenian culture, language and skills like photography.

From the **AGBU Plovdiv Saturday School** and Sofia's **HayLer Sunday School** in Bulgaria to the **AGBU Vienne Wednesday School** in France and Montreal's **Hayortyats Or (Day of Armenian Youth) Saturday School**, programs old and new around the world inspired creativity through Armenian dance, music, theatre and photography. Armenian language, heritage and chess were taught through a mix of the classic to the contemporary using AGBU's Armenian Virtual College (AVC). Celebrating its 20th anniversary, the **AGBU Demirdjian Center Armenian Studies Saturday School** in Beirut rejoiced in the more than 1,000 young lives it has impacted since its establishment in 1997.

Honoring Service

Canoga Park, CA - USA

In February 2016, AGBU Vice President and longtime Board Chairman of the **AGBU Manoogian-Demirdjian School** in Canoga Park, CA, Sinan Sinanian was honored for his decades of extraordinary and prolific efforts to elevate the joy and excellence of the school with the Saint Gregory the Illuminator Medal, the highest honor bestowed by His Holiness Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians, during the school's 40th anniversary gala. The event was attended by 700 guests, including AGBU President Berge Setrakian, Primate of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church Hovnan Derderian, school alumni and members of the greater AGBU community. Since its first graduating class in 1987, the school has been home to over 1,400 alumni.



Honoree Sinan Sinanian and wife Angele look on proudly as Archbishop Hovnan Derderian presents them with the pontifical encyclical from his Holiness Karekin II.

Pasadena, CA - USA



Garo Kelleyan, a senior at the Vatche & Tamar Manoukian High School, welcomed all to the Vatche & Tamar Manoukian Center.

In October 2017, His Holiness Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians, blessed the newly completed AGBU Vatche & Tamar Manoukian Performing Arts Center and adjacent **Vatche & Tamar Manoukian High School** in Pasadena, CA. His Eminence Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Primate of the Western Diocese, benefactors Vatche and Tamar Manoukian, AGBU President Berge Setrakian, AGBU Central Board members, other dignitaries and around 400 guests were in attendance. Students from the Vatche & Tamar Manoukian High School and the AGBU Manoogian-Demirdjian School offered a warm welcome to His Holiness and guests, with greetings of bread and salt and a showcase of their talents.

AGBU Schools 2016-2017

ARGENTINA

BUENOS AIRES

Instituto Marie Manoogian (PreK-12)

AUSTRALIA

SYDNEY

Alexander Primary School (PreK-6)
Alex Manoogian Saturday School

AUSTRIA

VIENNA

Vienna Saturday School

BULGARIA

HASKOVO

Saturday School

PLOVDIV

Saturday School

SOFIA

HayLer Sunday School

CANADA

MONTREAL

École Alex Manoogian (PreK-8)
Hayortyats Or (Day of Armenian Youth) Saturday School
NOVA Summer School

FRANCE

PARIS

Alex Manoogian Saturday School

VIENNE

Wednesday School

GREECE

ATHENS

Artaki Kalpakian School (PreK-6)

IRAQ

BAGHDAD

Yerchanik Tajirian Summer School

LEBANON

ANTELIAS

Boghos K. Garmirian School (PreK-9)
Demirdjian Center Armenian Studies Saturday School

SIN EL FIL

Levon G. Nazarian School (PreK-6)
Tarouhy-Hovagimian School (7-12)

SYRIA

ALEPPO

Lazar Najarian-Calouste Gulbenkian School (PreK-12)

DAMASCUS

Gullabi Gulbenkian School (PreK-6)

KAMISHLI

Summer School

URUGUAY

MONTEVIDEO

Colegio Nubarian (PreK-6)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

CANOGA PARK, CA

Manoogian-Demirdjian School (PreK-12)

CHICAGO, IL

Sisag H. Varjabedian Saturday School

COSTA MESA, CA

Orange County Saturday School

PASADENA, CA

Vatche & Tamar Manoukian High School (9-12)

SOUTHFIELD, MI

Alex & Marie Manoogian Charter School (PreK-12)

AGBU PROGRAMS 2016-2017





AGBU ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION

AGBU continued to enhance Armenian education through excellence in innovation and key institutional partnerships that helped us reach new audiences while realigning our strategic priorities in the digital age. As a result, AGBU Alternative Education programs and resources were elevated to new heights, exponentially expanding our global reach.

Armenian Virtual College (AVC)

Building Bridges with New Communities

AVC's outreach and program design proved an ideal vehicle for connecting new communities around the world. Whether enrolled in individual courses, participating in AVC's Hybrid Education program, or joining the new eHangOut Program for conversational Armenian, students participated from Australia, Bulgaria, Chile, New Zealand, Spain and the UAE. In 2016-2017, AVC enrollment expanded with representation in 93 countries around the world.

In a joint effort aimed at preserving the national culture and identity, AVC, together with the Support to Javakh Foundation (JAH), continued to raise awareness about its many e-learning opportunities among Armenians from the Javakhk region in Georgia.

A menu of virtual experiences, including visits to museums in Armenia, lectures on Armenian holidays and walking tours of Yerevan, attracted users from neighboring regions, including the Hayartun Center in Tbilisi (Georgia), Ararat School in Krasnodar (Russia), the Armenian Community Center in Rostov (Russia), and Tarkmantchats Varjaran in Istanbul (Turkey).



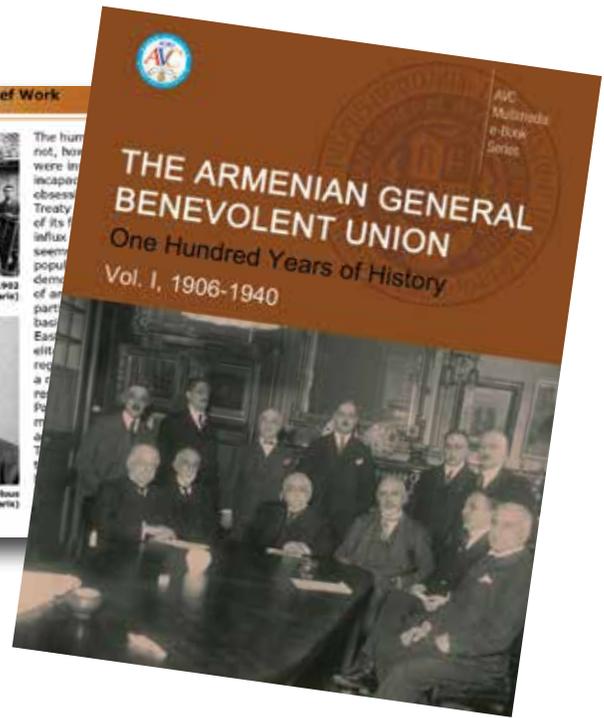
AGBU Manoogian-Demirdjian School students using AVC in their classroom.

AVC Growth in Armenia

In 2017, AVC initiated a special program to provide Armenian language education for new refugees and long-term emigrés to Armenia, including Syrian-Armenians. Based on a partnership between AVC, the Armenia Ministry of Education, and the Armenia Migration Unit, this groundbreaking program, utilizing the hybrid teaching model, combines classroom and online approaches.

E-books

In 2016, to coincide with the 110th anniversary of AGBU, AVC developed e-book versions of the two-volume hardcopy set, “The Armenian General Benevolent Union: One Hundred Years of History (Vol. 1: 1906-1940 and Vol 2: 1941-2006),” authored by historians Raymond Kévorkian and Vahé Tachjian, adding to its existing multimedia e-book series. Available in English, Armenian and French, these e-books offer mobile access to AGBU’s vast accomplishments, programs and services.



AVC Partnerships

USAID and Smithsonian Institution

In 2016, in an effort to expand cultural heritage tourism in Armenia’s regions, AVC entered into an official partnership with My Armenia, a program funded by USAID and implemented by the Smithsonian Institution. Both parties agreed to co-publish three multimedia e-books on rural Armenia, offering tourist-friendly interactive content on Vayots Dzor and two additional regions. Through research, scholarship, support for artisan crafts, capacity building and strong tourism development, AVC would now share stories about Armenia’s cultural, historic and artistic riches with international visitors.



On October 21, AGBU Armenian Virtual College (AVC) officially partnered with My Armenia and announced plans to co-publish a multimedia e-book on the region of Vayots Dzor in Armenia.

Armenia’s Ministry of Diaspora

In 2017, the long-standing partnership between AVC and Armenia’s Ministry of Diaspora provided many opportunities to preserve and reinforce Armenian language, history, culture and identity, reaching over 2,500 potential Diasporan ambassadors through the Ari Tun (Come Home) Program for Homeland Recognition for youth, the Spyrk (Diaspora) Summer School program for educators, the UNESCO Mother Language Day Conference and the 6th Armenia-Diaspora Conference.

Republican Chess Academy

AVC expanded its partnership with the Republican Chess Academy of Armenia by introducing two new courses. Over 45 public schools in Armenia met the required curriculum mandated by the Ministry of Education through these AVC courses.

AGBU WebTalks

In January 2016, AGBU introduced a new online video series called *AGBU WebTalks*, 2 to 10-minute original videos, available in English, Armenian and French. Accessible free of charge on a dedicated website (agbuwebtalks.org), *WebTalks* provides easy access to reliable information to meet the demands of an increasingly connected and visual world. Designed for general audiences, they cover a range of Armenian-related subjects, delivered in a conversational style to appeal to the novice yet still interest the expert. From 2016-2017, 33 videos were released, creating a rich repository of knowledge for all ages.

WebTalks Partnerships

AGBU WebTalks was launched with a set of videos produced in partnership with the Zoryan Institute, an international academic and scholarly center devoted to the documentation, study and dissemination of material related to issues of universal human rights, genocide, diasporas and Armenia.

In April 2017, AGBU partnered with the USC Shoah Foundation-The Institute for Visual History and Education, a nonprofit founded by Steven Spielberg, dedicated to recording audio-visual interviews with survivors and witnesses of the Holocaust and other genocides. All videos from the *AGBU WebTalks* series, some with lesson plans, were integrated into the USC Shoah Foundation's award-winning educational website IWitness, reaching more than 100,000 secondary school educators and students in 80 countries.



AGBU Apps

AGBU's four learning apps—*Gus on the Go: Eastern Armenian for Kids*, *Gus on the Go: Western Armenian for Kids*, *Armenian Holidays & Traditions*, and *Im Armenia: Travel Guide for Kids*—all continued to serve learners of all ages and locations. In 2017, catering to the large concentrations of Armenians in the Brazil, Canada, France, Lebanon, the United Kingdom and the United States, the English language *Im Armenia* app was updated to feature Portuguese and French options.

ANI

ANI connects middle school students in Armenia with native English speakers from the Armenian diaspora to assist young learners improving their English language proficiency. In 2016, AGBU partnered with Australian-Armenian siblings and AGBU alumni Ray and Meline Nazloomian, the founders of ANI, to expand the reach of the program.

Coaches and students participate in free weekly one-on-one Skype sessions broken into 12-week blocks. Students and coaches can work together for as many blocks as they choose. By December 2017, the program included over 400 students from Armenia and Artsakh. Over 300 coaches volunteered from Australia, Canada, Europe, the Middle East and the United States.





AGBU SCHOLARSHIPS

In 2016-2017, the AGBU Scholarship Program for Higher Education continued its century-old tradition of helping worthy Armenian university students enrolled at some of the world's top-ranked universities further their educational pursuits. Awards, including undergraduate scholarships, fellowships and grants for institutions both in the US and internationally, covered areas of study as diverse as theology, science, the performing arts and Armenian Studies, as well as professional aspirations like medicine, dentistry, law and architecture.

Funds are generated through endowments, restricted or general, other income-producing sources and individual donations. In addition to individual scholarships, every year AGBU allocates funds for various institutions in Armenia for discretionary distribution in-country.

In 2017, students of the Matenadaran Institute of Ancient Manuscripts received AGBU scholarships to advance their scientific research and develop their professional skills in the fields of art history, manuscripts, historiography and archiving.



AGBU Scholarships at a Glance

2016 and 2017 Academic Years



Total Scholarship Awards in USD
2016: **\$890,000** 2017: **\$803,000**



Total Scholarship Funds Distributed to Institutions in Armenia*
2016: **\$323,000** 2017: **\$294,000**



Number of Scholarship Recipients
2016: **518** 2017: **464**



Number of Countries in which Studies were Pursued
2016: **28** 2017: **33**

**Includes scholarships to Syrian Armenian university students in Armenia, the American University of Armenia (AUA), the AUA-NKR Extension Project, French University of Armenia, AUA-MOD Cadets, Yerevan State University Endowments and the Matenadaran.*

2016-2017 Scholarship Spotlights



Narek Dshkhunyan
*Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT),
Masters in Computer Science and
Molecular Biology*



Karen Berberyan
*Columbia University,
Masters in Architecture*



Julia Hintlian
*Harvard University (Harvard Divinity School),
PhD in the History of Christianity*



Hayk Barseghyan
*UCLA Medical School,
PhD in Human Genetics*



Narek Arutyunian
*Manhattan School of Music,
Masters in Classical Clarinet*



Vatche Jambazian
*The Juilliard School,
Masters in Piano*

TYPE OF SCHOLARSHIP	NUMBER OF SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED	
	2016	2017
US Graduate Fellowships (Graduate study in U.S.)	70	62
Performing Arts Fellowships (Undergraduate and graduate study worldwide)	51	63
Religious Studies Fellowships (Graduate study worldwide)	13	13
International Scholarships (Undergraduate and graduate study worldwide)	321	342
Heritage Scholars Grants (AGBU HS seniors pursuing undergraduate study in U.S.)	4	3

United States Scholarships

AGBU U.S. Heritage Scholars Grants were awarded to outstanding seniors from each of the three AGBU high schools in the United States: AGBU Alex & Marie Manoogian School (Southfield, MI); AGBU Manoogian-Demirdjian School (Canoga Park, CA); and AGBU Vatche & Tamar Manoukian High School (Pasadena, CA), who displayed academic excellence, school spirit, and community involvement. Recipients include honors and advanced placement (AP) students, varsity athletes and active leaders in their cultural and religious communities.

Top 4 Fields of Study:

- Biology
- Business
- Medicine
- Psychobiology

Undergraduate Schools:

- University of California, Los Angeles
- University of Detroit, Mercy

AGBU U.S. Graduate Fellowships were awarded to students pursuing graduate studies at highly selective institutions in the United States.

Top 5 Fields of Study:

- Business Administration, Economics, Finance
- Engineering/Computer Science
- Law (various specializations)
- Medicine & Health Sciences
- Public Administration & Policy

Sampling of Schools:

- Columbia University (NY)
- Dartmouth College (NH)
- Duke University (NC)
- Georgetown University (DC)
- Harvard University (MA)
- Johns Hopkins University (DC)
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MA)
- Stanford University (CA)
- University of California (several locations) (CA)
- University of Southern California (CA)

AGBU Performing Arts Fellowships were awarded to students pursuing undergraduate and/or graduate studies in music, composition, acting, directing and screenwriting from conservatories and universities worldwide.

Sampling of Schools:

- Brussels Royal Conservatory (Belgium)
- Columbia University (NY)
- The Juilliard School (NY)
- Manhattan School of Music (NY)
- New England Conservatory (MA)
- San Francisco Conservatory of Music (CA)
- University of Paris, Sorbonne (France)

AGBU Religious Studies Fellowships were awarded to students pursuing graduate studies in theology, ministry and Christian education worldwide, including seminarians from St. Nersess Armenian Seminary in NY.

Sampling of Schools:

- Andover Newton Theological School (MA)
- Fordham University (NY)
- Harvard Divinity School (MA)
- Kent State University (OH)
- St. Nersess Armenian Seminary/St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary (NY)

International Scholarships

AGBU International Scholarships were awarded to students pursuing undergraduate and graduate studies in 33 countries.

Top 5 Fields of Study:

- International Relations/Economics/Political Science
- Languages and Culture Studies
- Mathematics/Computer Science/Physics
- Medicine/Health Sciences
- Psychology/Social Science

Sampling of International Schools:

- American University of Beirut (Lebanon)
- KTH Royal Institute of Technology (Sweden)
- Katholieke Universiteit (KU) Leuven (Belgium)
- Ludwig-Maximilian-Universität München (Germany)
- McGill University (Canada)
- Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology (Russia)
- University of Cambridge (UK)
- University of Groningen (The Netherlands)
- The University of Hong Kong (Hong Kong)
- University of Oxford (UK)
- University of Toronto (Canada)
- University of Vienna (Austria)





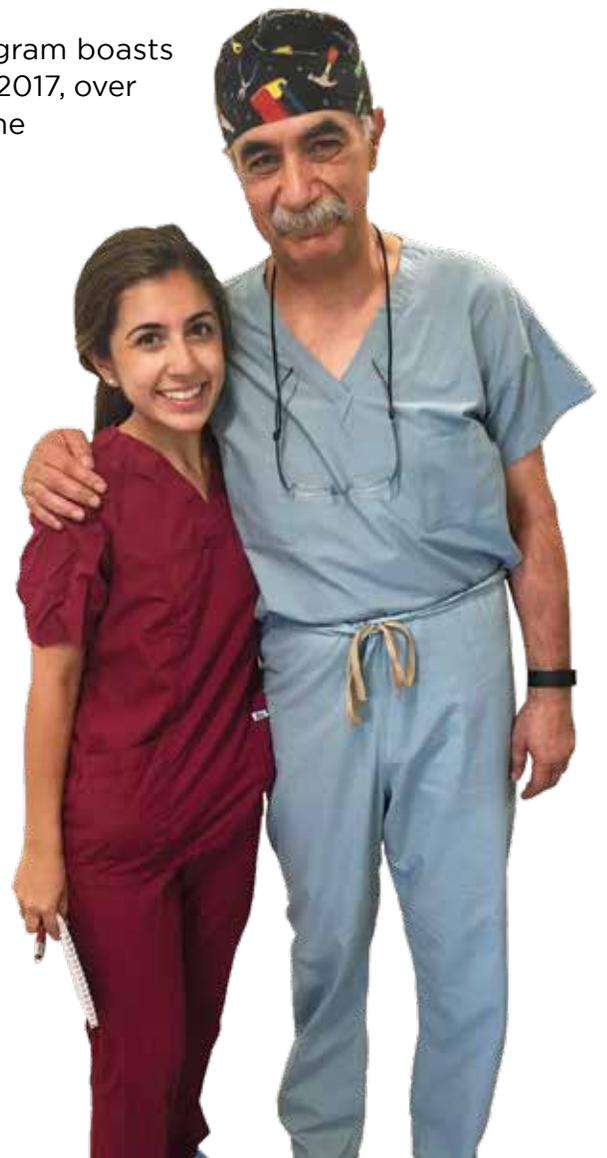
AGBU SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Established in 1987, the AGBU Summer Internship Program boasts a growing network of over 1,258 alumni. In 2016 and 2017, over 140 participants hailed from 12 countries, exceeding the success of previous years due to the increased breadth and scope of internship placements and host cities, secured through AGBU's vast network.

The program continued its focus on career building and personal development, as well as facilitated more interaction between students and program alumni serving as mentors and potential job referrals in their respective fields.

Interns were placed at **98 host institutions**, among them such global brands as Amazon, Merrill Lynch, Michael Aram, and Microsoft, as well as the Izmirlian Medical Center and the Tateossian Group.

In 2017, **Buenos Aires** joined the established set of international host cities including **London, New York, Paris** and **Yerevan**, officially bringing the program to a third continent.



Seminars, Meetings and Network Building

An increased focus on developing the leadership and mentorship components of the program, all cities saw a surge of new initiatives. **New York** offered a new series to the program called “Panel of Possibilities” which provided thematic panels with industry professionals and leaders. This bolstered the already successful mentorship activities provided by the **Young Professionals of Greater New York** each season. In **London** and **Paris**, interns held exclusive meetings with entrepreneurs and experts in the finance and luxury goods sectors. In Yerevan, interns participated in meetings with several government officials and community leaders in high-ranking positions in both Armenia and Artsakh.

Tours and Regional Discoveries

Exploring the local culture is a key component to the summer activities. Whether spending a day in Oxford or Brighton in England, or traveling on the weekend to Versailles or Fontainebleau in France, or even walking across New York’s historic Brooklyn Bridge, each group had their share of amazing experiences.

In **Yerevan**, in addition to visits to key historic and religious landmarks, interns enrolled in language classes with the AGBU AVC and participated in dance classes led by the instructors of the AGBU Nork Children’s Centers. They also toured various regions; their stays in Gyumri and Artsakh, involved social projects designed to build civic engagement.

Buenos Aires brought its own flair to the cultural portion of the program. In addition to integrating with the local Armenian community, the group also explored Argentina with excursions and sightseeing trips, including a dinner show at the internationally known Señor Tango, a visit to the Teatro Colón and a trip to the estancias (ranches) in San Antonio de Areco.

MILESTONES

Yerevan Summer Internship Program
Yerevan, Armenia
10th anniversary (2016)

New York Summer Internship Program
New York, NY, USA
30th anniversary (2017)



Vartkess Knadjian, CEO of Backes & Strauss, meets with the participants of the London Summer Internship Program.



The New York Summer Internship Program held an interview workshop in July 2017.

Day Internship Programs

Los Angeles Media Internship Program

The summer of 2017 also marked the launch of the **Los Angeles Media Internship Program** sponsored and administered by AGBU Western District. The program, inspired by the last iteration of the Los Angeles Internship Program from the early 1990s, allows students residing in Los Angeles, with a keen interest in media, a chance to intern in competitive companies in the heart of the film and television industry. Five students participated in the inaugural class.

AGBU France-UFAR Internship Program

Since 2005, through a partnership agreement between AGBU France and the French University in Armenia (Université française en Arménie), AGBU France provides the University's distinguished fourth-year students with seven-week internships, from January to March, in companies and public institutions in Paris each year. Interns are fully immersed in such industries as business, management, law, and finance, thereby promoting the international mobility of Francophone Armenian students. Since its inception over 200 students have participated in the program. In 2016 and 2017, 27 students enrolled.



London interns visited the Facebook headquarters in London, organized and hosted by David Zokhrabyan, Head of Facebook Product Growth in Russia and CIS. (2017)

Dikran Knadjian Memorial Medical Internship

The summer of 2016 also marked the establishment of the Dikran Knadjian Memorial Medical Internship at Queens' College in Cambridge, England. The Knadjian family joined forces with AGBU and Queens' College to initiate an exchange experience for one medical student each year to pursue a fully funded hands-on internship in Armenia with the intent of introducing Armenia and its culture to the participants.





AGBU MUSICAL ARMENIA PROGRAM

Musicians of all backgrounds seized the opportunity to hone their craft in Armenia with the **Musical Armenia Program (MAP)**. A total of 27 participants from Argentina, Greece, Lebanon, the Netherlands, Russia, Sri Lanka, Syria and the United States engaged in one of Armenia’s most compelling cultural contributions—its music.

The 3-week program included one-on-one lessons with professors from the Komitas State Music Conservatory, lectures and repertoire studies on Armenian music, auditions, performances in local festivals, meet-and-greets with local artists and a gala concert performance at the end of the summer. Participants were exposed to top virtuosos and instructors, including Edward Topchjian, the artistic director and principal conductor of the Armenian National Philharmonic Orchestra, and legendary Soviet Armenian pianist Svetlana Navasardyan. Renowned soprano Anna Mayilyan and ECM recording artist Lusine Grigoryan added to the experience in these two summers, ensuring a truly meaningful experience. Another highlight was the invitation by jazz pianist Vahagn Hayrapetyan for participants to collaborate with his students for live performances in popular jazz venues in Yerevan.

Participants supplemented their musical exploration with discovery of many of Armenia’s famous sites, including trips to Tatev and Lake Sevan. The growing network of musicians continues to give back to the arts in their local communities.





AGBU PERFORMING ARTS

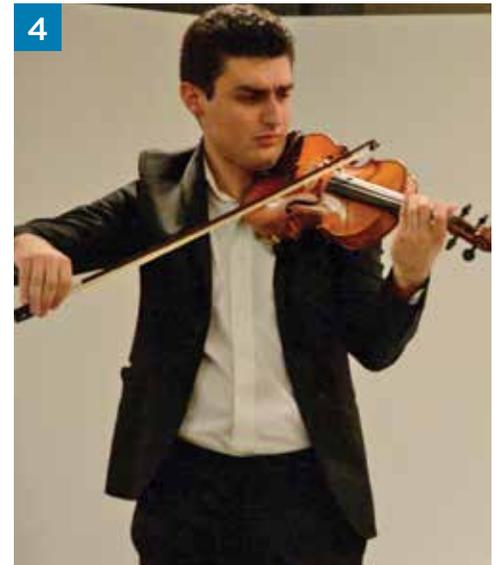
AGBU's commitment to the arts did not waiver with the growth of the **Performing Arts Department (PAD)** on multiple continents. Our chapters saw a surge of new ensembles, performances, film events and art exhibitions in their communities, while AGBU Armenia hosted countless events promoting local artists at their spacious facilities in Yerevan.

AGBU also continued to focus on talent development with the biennial **Sayat Nova International Composition Competition**, our summer **Musical Armenia Program** and targeted scholarships and mini-grants for curators and filmmakers alike. PAD also worked closely with the Carnegie Hall Weill Music Institute's Musical Explorers program to bring Armenian music to public schools throughout New York City.

In 2016 and 2017, it became clear that Armenian culture was thriving. And thanks to our communities, it continues to gain exposure in Armenian and non-Armenian circles across the globe.



In November 2017, hundreds of guests gathered at the Weill Recital Hall in Carnegie Hall to listen to the ninth AGBU Performing Artists in Concert. Dedicated to the 85th anniversary of the Union of Composers of Armenia, the concert, the flagship event of the AGBU New York Special Events Committee (NYSEC), raised over \$50,000 for AGBU performing arts initiatives worldwide.



1. PAD reached South America with a set of benefit performances entitled “What Have You Done for Artsakh?” in New York and Buenos Aires. Proceeds were allocated to music schools in Artsakh (2017).

2. PAD France hosted a performance by violinist Lusine Harutyunyan and pianist Vahan Mardirossian at the Alex Manoogian Cultural Center in Paris (2016).

3. PAD featured a US tour of Armenian Jazz with Miqayel Voskanyan and Friends, featuring Sevana Tchakerian. The tour was hosted by YP Northern California, AGBU Western District and the Central Office in New York City (2017).

4. “Open Stages” was launched by AGBU PAD France to provide an artistic venue for AGBU Performing Arts Scholarship recipients in Paris (2017).

5. A sold-out crowd gathered for Tigran Hamasyan’s *Lusy i Luso* Multimedia Installation and Concert at the BRIC venue in Brooklyn (2016).

For many generations, AGBU cultural ensembles have been a unifying force for Armenian communities across the globe, breathing new life into age-old traditions and inspiring performers and audiences alike. In 2016 and 2017, new groups emerged, such as AGBU Sydney's **Tamzara Dance Troupe**. In 2016, the **Erebuni Band** of AGBU Plovdiv celebrated its 45th anniversary and there was an increase of theatrical performances, including the notable and uplifting return of the **AGBU-AYA Aleppo Bedros Atamian Theater Group**, which had to cease performances due to the Syrian conflict.

1. The AGBU Antranig Dance Ensemble (Greater New York) continued entertaining throughout the 2016-2017 season and extended its reach with the launch of the **Antranig Juniors Ensemble** for children.

2. The Koghtan Choir of Paris gave six concerts from 2016 through 2017 in such prestigious venues as the halls of the French Senate, the Saint-Denis Basilica and the 10 de Choeur Festival.

3. In 2016 the AGBU Córdoba Armenian Dance Ensemble participated in Festival Una Ciudad Todos los Pueblos (One City All Nations Festival), organized by the Municipality of the City of Córdoba. Along with folk dancers from a variety of countries, including Japan, Peru, Italy and Poland, the ensemble performed traditional dances and contributed to sharing Armenian culture with the larger Argentinean community.

4. The AGBU Krikor Satamian Theater Group in California performed the British comedy *Funny Money* in Los Angeles and New Jersey and the American comedy *Lend Me a Tenor* for a 10-night run in 2017. That same year, they collaborated with the Armenian Christian Outreach and Paznaz in California for the "Community Concert: Triumph of the Human Spirit" Symphonia Pasadena, conducted by Maestro Arto Tchiftchian.

5. In 2016, AGBU Plovdiv dance groups Nreni and Astghigner were established in Armenia.

6. The AGBU Sofia Chamber Orchestra performed baroque and classical music in 2017.

7. The Erebuni Band of AGBU Plovdiv performed at a gala concert celebrating the AGBU 110th anniversary, the 25th anniversary of Armenia's independence and its own 45th anniversary in 2016. The next year, they released their fifth album *Havadum Yem*.

8. AGBU Sydney's Tamzara Dance Troupe held a sold-out premiere performance in 2017.

9. The AYA Arine Dance Ensemble of Lebanon dazzled audiences at the Emile Lahoud Convention Center in 2016. They did it again with their spectacular "Hayots Hovig" and "Carousel" performances in 2017. The dance ensemble also performed for an international audience of young professionals at AGBU FOCUS 2017 in Beirut.





2

MILESTONES

Erebuni Band

Plovdiv, Bulgaria
45th anniversary (2016)

Ahazank Theatre Group

Paris, France
25th anniversary (2016)

AGBU Sofia Chamber Orchestra

Sofia, Bulgaria
10th anniversary (2016)



5



7



8



9



AGBU SCOUTS

AGBU Scouts continued setting an outstanding example of community leadership and outreach. Deeply rooted in a tradition dating from the 1940s, our groups in Argentina, Armenia, Canada, Iraq, Lebanon, Syria, Uruguay and the United States build on timeless values, teaching participants the importance of teamwork, perseverance and service.

Our scout troops in each country truly raised the bar with their service in 2016-2017 and rolled up their sleeves in their local communities. Caring for the environment has been mainstay for scouts for generations and continued in these years when the **AGBU Pasadena-Glendale Scouts** visited Armenia and performed clean-up on the shores of Lake Sevan. In Montreal, scout leaders brought their service home, helping to renovate their new headquarters space at the AGBU Alex Manoogian Center.

Spending time with and giving to those in need, our scouts demonstrate the meaning of compassion. **AGBU Yerevan Scouts** put children on their list each year, visiting the Arabkir Medical Center around Christmas to deliver gifts. On the other side of the globe, the **Grupo Scout General Antranik** from Buenos Aires collaborated with a

After participating in the annual Walkathon on Veterans Day in 2016, AGBU-AYA LA-SFV Scouts in California presented their fundraising results to show their support in building a better Armenia for all.



local foundation to cook for and provide supplies to the homeless in 2016. Taking their interest in world issues one step further, the Buenos Aires group participated in many workshops on gender equality and global human rights.

Always true to the tradition of camping, our **AGBU Antranik Scout Camp** welcomed over 450 scouts from Armenia, Georgia, Iraq, the UAE and the USA to Armenia's Lori region. In addition to survival skills and trainings, all scouts benefited from cultural tours throughout the homeland. During the year, scout troops around the world take what they learn onto the field with outdoor camping trips. The **AGBU-AYA Antranik Antelias** and **Antranik Sevan Scouts** embark on 15 days of outdoor camping each year, with 600 scouts participating in 2016 alone.



MILESTONES

AGBU Antranik Scout Camp

Lermontovo, Armenia
10th anniversary (2017)

Argentina Scouts

Buenos Aires, Argentina
30th anniversary (2016)

1. **AGBU Yerevan** scouts.

2. Members of **AGBU-AYA Scouts** took part in the 2017 Beirut International Marathon and distributed medals to the winners at the end of the race.

3. The **AGBU Antranik Scout Camp** welcomed 200 scouts from Armenia, Georgia and Lebanon to Lermontovo, Armenia for the annual summer season.

4. New to the international AGBU scouting community were excited 5-7 year olds in Montreal who joined the newly formed "Bees" group initiated in 2016.





AGBU SPORTS

Teaching the fundamentals of fitness, sportsmanship, teamwork and trust, AGBU unites Armenian youth throughout the world with its many sports leagues and athletic competitions, teaching invaluable skills on and off the field. From chess to taekwondo, soccer to table tennis, AGBU has invested in youth development through diverse athletic disciplines, giving the community much to cheer about.



These two years marked a series of championship wins and uniting of spirits on and off the field. In 2016, **AGBU Cairo's HMEM Nubar Sports Club** unveiled its renovated basketball court ahead of a multi-day Egyptian Pan-Armenian tournament, inviting teams and players of all ages. Across the Atlantic, **AGBU Toronto Sports and Youth Committee** celebrated AGBU's 110th anniversary, assembling generations of their basketball club's players, coaches, volunteers and supporters at its Sports Alumni Gala. And in **Buenos Aires**, over 200 Armenian athletes gathered from **Montevideo, Córdoba** and **São Paulo** for the Olimpiadas Sudamericanas Interligas (South American Interleague Olympics), an event that fortified bonds through not only sport, but also music and dance. **US Nubar Paris** also joined international championships throughout Europe, celebrating victories in the Euro Armenian Games in Amsterdam with their illustrious futsal team winning the finale in both 2016 and 2017. In California, athletes from the **Los Angeles-San Fernando Valley** and **Pasadena-Glendale** chapters, as well as the AGBU Manoogian-Demirdjian School, participated in the 4th Annual

Armenian Celebration Night hosted by the Los Angeles Sparks at the world-famous Staples Center.

Being involved in any athletic pursuit through AGBU has guaranteed each athlete access to a deeper understanding of themselves and how they fit into a much larger team than just the one they play on.

MILESTONE

AGBU Sports in Montreal
Montreal, Canada
50th anniversary (2017)

1. Olimpiadas Sudamericanas Interligas (South American Interleague Olympics) in Buenos Aires.
2. AGBU Antranik youth soccer team in Beirut.
3. Pasadena-Glendale girls volleyball team.
4. AGBU Manoogian-Demirdjian School boys basketball team.





AGBU SUMMER CAMPS

AGBU day and overnight camps allow children across the globe the chance to discover new interests and innate talents, while gaining a sense of independence in a warm, nurturing and safe environment. In 2016-2017, a record number of campers enrolled in AGBU camps with sold out sessions at **Camp Nubar**, **Colonie de Vacances** and the **Demirdjian Center Day Camp**. In all, over a 1,000 campers and counselors had the chance to connect with their ancestral heritage and make lifelong friendships with peers.

With truly spectacular backdrops like the French Alps and the New York Catskill Mountains or state-of-the-art centers in Beirut, traditional outdoor settings in Bulgaria and poolside facilities in Argentina, our camps provide the perfect environment for campers and counselors alike.



Campers hailed from diverse countries: Armenia, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, China, France, Haiti, Lebanon, Mexico, Monaco, Northern Ireland, Poland, Russia, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, and across the USA.

Pasadena Day Camp (California, USA)



MILESTONE

Pasadena Day Camp
Pasadena, CA, USA
5th anniversary (2017)

Camp Hayler (Sofia, Bulgaria)



Colonie de Vacances (Haute-Savoie, France)



Camp Nubar (New York, USA)



Demirdjian Center Day Camp (Antelias, Lebanon)



Overnight Camps

ARMENIA, Vanadzor: Antranik Scout Camp
BULGARIA, Plovdiv: Camp Hayler
BULGARIA, Sofia: Camp Hayler
FRANCE, Haute-Savoie: Colonie de Vacances
SYRIA, Kessab - Kessab Camp
USA, New York: Camp Nubar

Day Camps

ARGENTINA, Buenos Aires: Colonia de Vacaciones
ARGENTINA, Córdoba: Colonia de Vacaciones
CANADA, Montreal: Hayortyats Camp
IRAQ, Baghdad: Yerchanik Tajirian Summer Camp
LEBANON, Antelias: Demirdjian Center Day Camp
SYRIA, Damascus: Hai Amar Summer School (2017 only)
USA, California: Pasadena Day Camp (Now Camp Amaras)

Terre de Vie

In 2017, 34 volunteers traveled to Armenia to join this popular service trip which focuses on improving local villages in the areas of education, environment and health. Translated as “Armenia, Land of Life,” the group followed in the tradition of the three prior teams that participated since 2011.

The volunteers, who were Armenian and non-Armenian post-college students, spent three weeks in the Tavush region renovating the Sarigyugh village primary school. They also spent considerable time working with the children to educate them on oral health and caring for the environment. Living among the locals, the participants experienced the homeland at a deeper level.



Volunteers help renovate the primary school in Sarigyugh village in Tavush.

School and Scouting Trips

Allowing students and scouts to explore their homeland with peers from their Armenian schools has become a growing tradition. While the schools arrange for an annual trip for certain grades, the AGBU scouts from different international troupes come together at the AGBU Antranik Scout Camp each summer.

Discovering traditional sites, students and scouts become acquainted with AGBU programs in Armenia by meeting with AGBU Armenia leadership, attending performances by talented youth of AGBU Children’s Centers, visiting TUMO Centers for Creative Technologies, serving meals to AGBU Senior Dining Center guests, and more.



AGBU Marie Manoogian School students met with His Holiness Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians, during their 2016 student trip.

Students from these schools traveled to Armenia:

- AGBU Alex and Marie Manoogian School (Southfield, MI - USA)
- AGBU Marie Manoogian School (Buenos Aires, Argentina)
- AGBU Manoogian-Demirdjian School (Canoga Park, CA - USA)
- AGBU Vatche and Tamar Manoukian School (Pasadena, CA - USA)



AGBU Manoogian-Demirdjian School students in front of the Yerevan Opera House during their 2017 trip to Armenia.

HONOREES: 2016 AND 2017



Sylvia Aghabekian tirelessly devoted her time and efforts to the AGBU as the former Principal of Sydney's Alex Manoogian Saturday School. For almost four decades, she connected students and staff, first as a teacher and then as a Principal, fostering a new generation of leaders that grew through her service. Her contributions distinguished her as an AGBU Honor Member in 2017.

Recognized as an AGBU Honor Member in 2017, **Berge Azadian** offered decades of his brilliant leadership to the AGBU London Trust starting in 2005, and serving as Chairman from 2007-2014. His innumerable contributions and unwavering dedication for over a decade have impacted both the local and global Armenian community.



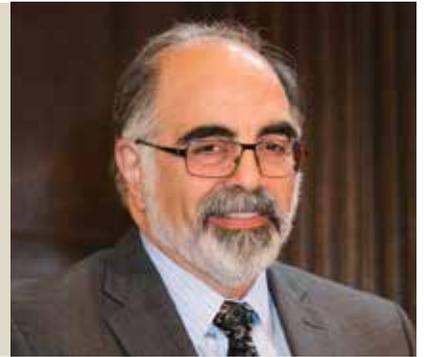
Helio Balukian served the AGBU São Paulo for many years before acting as its Chairman from 2012 to 2016. Instrumental in nurturing young visionary leadership, he ushered in a new wave of involvement and activism in the chapter, building on respected community traditions of the past.

An alumnus of the AGBU Hovagimian School, **Armen Bechakjian** became involved in the AGBU community in his native Beirut, Lebanon. Since moving to Canada, he has held several leadership positions within the AGBU community, first as the Chairman of the Executive Board of the AGBU Montreal Chapter (2007-2011), then as both the Chairman of the Alex Manoogian School Board (2011-2017) and Chairman of the Armen-Quebec Board of Trustees (2011-2017). In 2017, his untiring diligence distinguished him as an AGBU Honor Member.



A former trustee of the AGBU London Trust, **Assadour Guzelian** was awarded as an AGBU Honor Member in 2017 for his impeccable dedication to the Armenian community worldwide. Having served the AGBU London Trust diligently for a decade from 2007 to 2017, he has also used his passion for music and art to enrich the cultural life of the London Armenian community. Organizing numerous concerts and mobilizing prominent Armenian musicians, Guzelian continues to introduce new talents to eager audiences.

Andrea and Barry Halejian have both been dedicated leaders of the AGBU community, investing in youth development through their generous contributions to Camp Nubar and community activism. The Halejians come from a Camp Nubar legacy: both of their parents were instrumental in the founding of the camp. In 2016, the couple's involvement, care and principled support of AGBU awarded them an AGBU President's Award, honoring Andrea posthumously.



After nearly two decades of steadfast service, **Vahe Kiljian's** contributions were recognized in 2016 with an AGBU President's Award. A spirited alumnus of Lebanon's AGBU Hovagimian Manougian School, he began working as a Financial Controller at the AGBU Central Office in New York in 2000. Now, he is its Director of Finance.

Patrick Malakian was awarded the AGBU President's Award in 2016 for his dynamic social and artistic contributions to AGBU over the course of many years. Mobilizing youth from the AGBU Nork Children's Center in Armenia to develop *Éternels*, a performance in honor of the Centennial of the Armenian Genocide, and stage it in Marseille, he set the foundation for HOKIS. Serving diligently and creatively as the AGBU Marseille Chapter Chairman and the Creative Director of HOKIS, he has worked to unify the Armenian community through the arts.



Involved with AGBU throughout her life, both in Lebanon and Canada, **Silva Jikerian Mangassarian's** passion for arts and culture have made her an accomplished organizer of cultural events, promoting and encouraging Armenian artists from across the world. Her transcontinental commitment to the cultural and social committees she served, sitting on the AGBU Montreal Chapter Executive Board for more than a decade and being the Board's Vice-Chairperson since 2011, distinguished her as an AGBU Honor Member in 2017.

Lawrence H. Pitts is the chair of the American University of Armenia's Board of Trustees, having assumed this post in 2012 after retiring from his position as Provost and Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs at the University of California (UC). His commitment to AUA and elevating its academic standing internationally distinguished him as an AGBU Honor Member in 2016.



HONOREES: 2016 AND 2017



One of the most recognized faces of Scouting throughout the Armenian World, **Kevork Santourian** has been Lebanon's AGBU Armenian Youth Association-Antranik Executive Director for more than 20 years. During his tenure, AGBU cultural programs like the Arine Dance Group and the Vahram Papazian Theater thrived. In 2008, he helped establish Camp Antranik, the first AGBU Camp in Armenia, and was its first director. For his attention to and care of generations of Scouts, he was bestowed the AGBU President's Award in 2016.

Chahé Tanachian's first commitment to AGBU came through Montreal's Youth Committee and Young Professionals. From there, he went on to serve as a Board Member of AGBU Montreal from 2005 to 2007, then as a Vice-Chairman from 2011 to 2013; he has been Chairman since 2014. He has also been Director of the AGBU Manuel Keusseyan Armenian Studies Program since 2007; the late scholar and poet Manuel Keusseyan created this popular forum for the Armenian community and under Tanachian's leadership, the program continues to attract prominent politicians and academics. A graduate of Montreal's Alex Manoogian School himself, he has been its Principal since 2011. In 2017, he was presented an AGBU President's Award for his outstanding work.



Arshagouhie Tavitian's tireless efforts and dedication to empower women through the Hye Geen committee earned her an AGBU President's Award in 2017. Established in 1993 in Southern California, AGBU Hye Geen is an organization dedicated to improving the quality of life of Armenian women through education, advocacy and health care. To date they have established six Pregnant Women's Centers in Armenia, one of which was established by Tavitian's children in honor of their mother, bearing her name.

Jacqueline and Avo Tevanian have consistently lent their generous support, time and effort to programming initiatives for both the Sydney Chapter and the Alexander Primary K-6. The Tevanians have invested in keeping Armenian heritage alive and well on the Australian continent. In 2016, their invaluable contributions distinguished them as AGBU Benefactor Members.



In 2017, **Aram Yacoubian** became an AGBU Honor Member for his unrelenting dedication to and passion for his community. A committed leader, he has been both Vice-Chairman (2007-2011) and Chairman (2011-2013) of AGBU Montreal. From 2011 to 2017, he served as the Vice-Chairman of both the Alex Manoogian School Board and the Armen-Quebec Board of Trustees

At the 89th General Assembly, **Ara Khatchadourian**, an AGBU Yervant Demirdjian School alumnus, was recognized by the AGBU leadership and community for his perseverance and bravery on the occasion of his ascent to the top of Mount Everest. His climb in May 2016 was dedicated to the memory of the Armenian Genocide. Atop the world's highest peak, he raised the flags of Armenia and Artsakh, also ceremoniously placing the AGBU flag at the summit as a gesture of loyalty and pride in AGBU. Welcomed by chapters on nearly every continent, Khatchadourian toured to AGBU communities worldwide, sharing his story.



WITH PROFOUND GRATITUDE

We salute AGBU Central Board members who completed their tenure with distinction.



Board Members (left to right) **M. Michael Ansour**, **Carol Aslanian** and **Joseph Basralian** were recognized for their innumerable contributions to AGBU and their resolute dedication to our communities worldwide. Their years of leadership (M. Michael Ansour [1994-2016], Carol Aslanian [1994-2016], Joseph Basralian [1997-2016]) have expanded our impact, empowering the global Armenian community.

AGBU CENTRAL OFFICE

55 East 59th Street, New York, NY 10022-1112

(212) 319-6383 | agbuny@agbu.org

www.agbu.org