

AGBU

ARMENIAN GENERAL BENEVOLENT UNION @ MAR. 2018

Armenia Discovered

*Why the world is waking up to the wonders of
Armenia as a global tourism destination*



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Mission

To preserve and promote the Armenian heritage through worldwide educational, cultural and humanitarian programs

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Forty-six million dollars (USD)

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24 primary, secondary, preparatory and Saturday schools; scholarships; alternative educational resources (apps, e-books, AGBU WebTalks & more); American University of Armenia (AUA); AUA Extension—AGBU NKR Program; Armenian Virtual College (AVC); TUMO x AGBU

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Argentina: YP Buenos Aires; **Armenia:** YP Yerevan; **Austria:** YP Austria; **Belgium:** YP Belgium; **Brazil:** YP Brazil; **Bulgaria:** YP Sofia, YP Plovdiv; **Canada:** YP Montréal, YP Toronto; **Denmark:** YP Copenhagen; **France:** YP Lyon Rhône-Alpes, YP Marseille, YP Paris; **Germany:** HAIK (Frankfurt); **Greece:** YP Athens; **Iran:** YP Tehran; **Lebanon:** YP Lebanon; **The Netherlands:** YP Amsterdam; **Russia:** YP Moscow; **Switzerland:** YP Switzerland; **Turkey:** (UTI) Istanbul; **United Kingdom:** YP London; **United States:** YP Arizona, YP Boston, YP Chicago, YP Detroit, YP Houston, YP Los Angeles, YP Greater New York, YP Philadelphia, YP Northern California, YP Washington, D.C.

Editorial

The tourism industry is one of the largest economic drivers in the world, accounting for approximately 10% of global GDP and one in ten jobs. The flow of people and goods fuels not only economic growth, but promotes national development, cultural awareness and tolerance through the exchange of ideas and social interaction.

Armenia is just beginning to realize its largely untapped potential as a unique tourism destination that combines staggering natural beauty with a rich cultural heritage. Home to three UNESCO World Heritage sites—with several more under consideration—Armenia offers an extraordinary travel experience that will enchant every kind of visitor from adventure seekers to art aficionados. Throughout the world, Armenians are also renowned for their welcoming generosity, which never fails to leave a memorable impression.

There are more than 700 possible tourist attractions in Armenia, representing enormous potential for growth and sustainable development, particularly in rural towns and villages with dwindling populations in need of alternative sources of income. Many of these attractions, however, remain underdeveloped and difficult to access.

As exciting as the past year may have been for Armenia's international reputation, 2018 promises to be even more exceptional. The election of new President Armen Sarkissian as head of state under the new constitution presents a new face of the nation to the world. Armenia's ambassador to the United Kingdom and former Prime Minister, Sarkissian will now serve as a symbol of unity and integrity of the Armenian nation at home and abroad. Throughout the year, the global

spotlight will reach new heights as two of the world's most prestigious research centers and museums—the Smithsonian Institution and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York—focus on Armenia with feature exhibitions. On May 28th, Sadarabad Day, the Armenian nation will honor an historic expression of its sovereignty by marking the 100th Anniversary of the establishment of the first Armenian Republic since 1375 and commemorate the 30th anniversary of the birth of the Karabakh movement.

On October 13th, Yerevan will celebrate its remarkable 2800th Anniversary with a calendar of special events expected to attract large numbers of foreigners and Armenians from the diaspora. At the same time, the capital will host over 50 heads of state and governments as part of the largest international summit ever held in the nation, La Francophonie. Combined with an exciting number of annual art, film, music and wine festivals and exhibitions, there has never been as many dynamic opportunities for developing sustainable tourism markets in the country.

We all have a role to play in ensuring this golden opportunity is not squandered. It is not something we can do. It is something we must do. Armenians

worldwide can serve as ambassadors to help fuel the growth of tourism. Encourage your family members and non-Armenian friends to visit this year and discover the wonders of Armenia. By working together with government organizations, private sector companies, NGOs and grassroots movements to help raise the country's international profile, Armenia will in turn reap the benefits of a stronger economy, job growth, and a greater connection to the world beyond its borders. ■



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Setrakian', written over a horizontal line.

Berge Setrakian
President

AGBU

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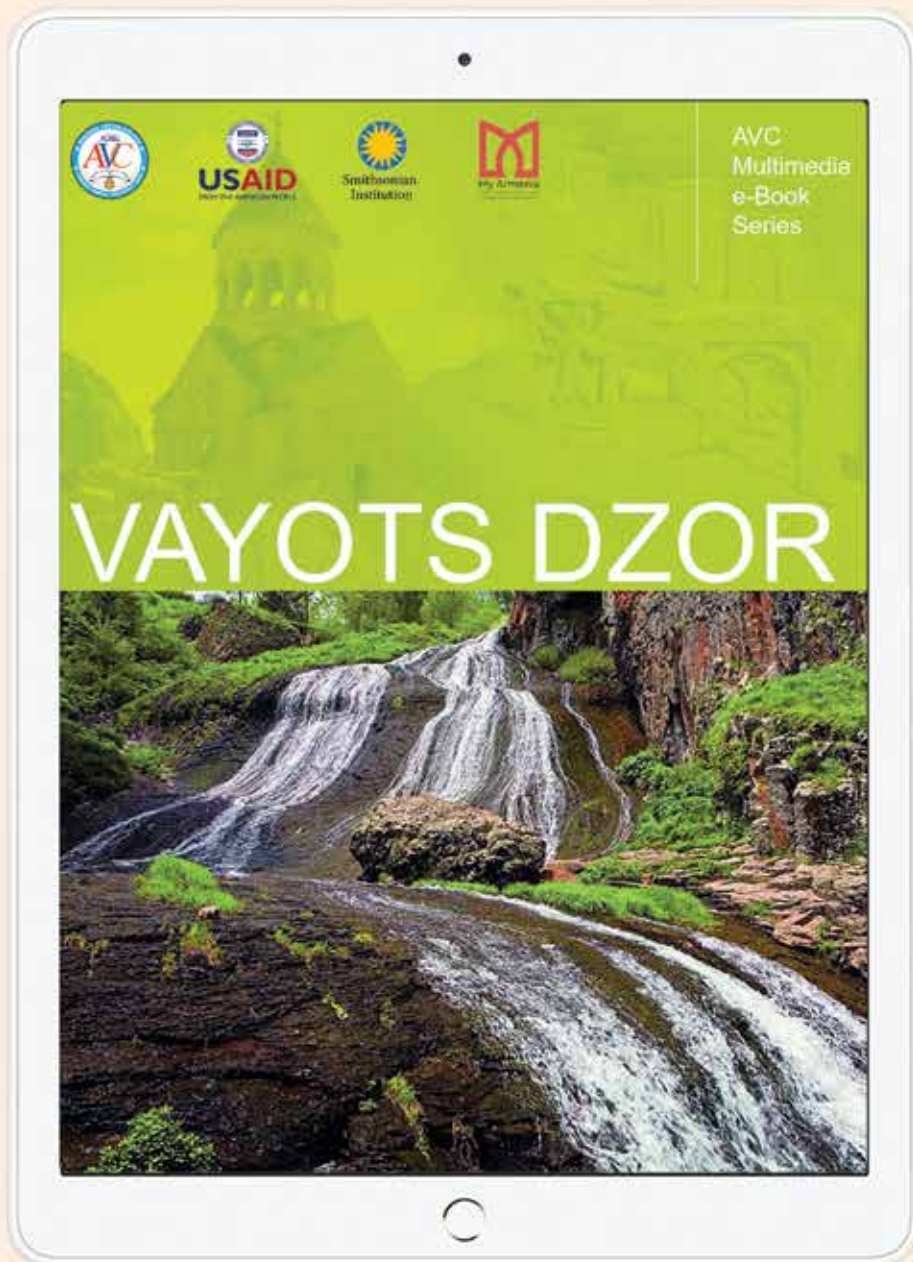
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Presidential Election

What the new power shift in governance means for Armenia

On April 9, 2018, Armen Sarkissian, the newly elected president of the Republic of Armenia will be sworn into office for a term of seven years. Following the French model of establishing a new republic with every change in the structure of governance, this historic milestone will mark the establishment of Armenia's Third Republic, succeeding the first republic in 1918 and the second in 1991, with the soviet system in between. It will also define a new era in the governing affairs of the state under the terms of a revised constitution adopted in 2016. This change effectively shifts powers to the Prime Minister who will be subject to confirmation by majority vote of the Parliament.

While the executive powers of the new President are limited under the new law,

the reverse applies to the prime minister who will now assume decision-making authority affecting the daily lives of the people and policies concerning the country as a whole. As a third pillar of spiritual governance, His Holiness the Catholicos of All Armenians will continue to lead the Armenian Church, catering to the worldwide structure of, historically, the most important institution of the Armenian people.

With the shift to a parliamentary system, Armenia's new president will assume the role of head of state, representing the stability and continuity of the nation's institutions and the image of the overall national ideal. The president will be called upon to integrate the three main constituencies of the nation under one umbrella to include the Country, the Church and the Diaspora, thereby safe-

guarding the unity of all Armenians worldwide and reflecting their collective aspirations and values as a people.

Elevating the function of the presidency beyond governance, however, now leaves Armenia's prime minister at the mercy of political forces. Based on a comparative study of various democracies with the same system of government, such as the United Kingdom and Germany, the prime minister and the ruling party's fates are sometimes subject to parliamentary politics beyond their control.

On behalf of AGBU's Central Board, president Berge Setrakian stated that, "We welcome the election of the new president Armen Sarkissian and wish the prime minister all success. We look forward to a new era of long term stability and continuity of Armenia's institutions so that prosperity and peace can uplift the people and the nation." ❧

Inset: *Armen Sarkissian, President of the Republic of Armenia. Below:* *The Parliament building, Yerevan.*





The splendor of the Khor Virap Monastery at night. Originally built in the 7th century in the shadow of Mount Ararat, the monastery is one of Armenia's most popular pilgrimage sites.

Armenia Discovered

*How Armenia is becoming a
premier travel destination*

By **DANIEL HALTON**



For the past quarter century, tourism in Armenia has been largely limited to either business travelers or Armenians from the Diaspora, visiting the homeland more out of a sense of duty than as a preferred vacation destination. Much has changed in just the past few years, however, bringing encouraging signs Armenia may be on the verge of a tourism renaissance, emerging from the shadows of international obscurity and embracing its potential to become a popular global travel destination. In 2017, a record high of 1,494,779 tourists visited the country, an 18.7% increase over the year before. Perhaps even more remarkable than the overall

number of visitors is just where they are hailing from. While neighboring Russia continues to account for as much as one third of tourists to the country, for the first time in 2017 some of the largest gains came from unexpected non-diasporan sources in Asia and the Middle East, including the Philippines, India, China and the United Arab Emirates.

The surge in tourism is the result of a combined influence of globalization and technology that has rendered the remote country more accessible, a concerted effort on the part of the government, NGOs, private-sector and individual entrepreneurs to restore and develop the nation's tourism infrastructure, and an aggressive marketing campaign on the part of the recently-established State Tourism Committee to promote Armenia as a vacation destination. Traveling to the historically closed country has never been easier, with Armenia's 'open sky' immigration policy, internal passports for Russian citizens, visa facilitation agreements for the citizens of Iran, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Japan and free Schengen agreement short stay visas for the citizens of more than 50 European and Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries. There are now 34 direct flights to Armenia from cities in Europe, the Middle East, Gulf States and



Russia, bringing in 1.5 million people through Armenia's two major airports in 2017. Over the past year tourism officials furthermore launched a new marketing campaign with a dynamic new website (Armenia.travel), an active social media presence, and attended several travel expos inviting more than 100 international journalists and bloggers from 15 countries to visit. Judging by the the real estate Armenia occupied in the pages of international travel magazines and newspapers, the strategy has more than paid off. Armenia was the focus of more than one hundred articles in the past year, and was featured prominently in a dozen movies and TV episodes, including renowned chef and best-selling author Anthony Bourdain's popular television show *CNN Parts Unknown* and an in-depth photo tour in *National Geographic Russia*. Trip Advisor furthermore ranked the nation second after Egypt as the most preferred destination among Silk Road countries, while the U.S. State Department listed Armenia as one of the safest countries for leisure and travel.

"We want to create a demand for Armenia," says Zarmine Zeitountsian, Chairperson of the State Tourism Committee. "Our goal is to raise awareness and we are confident we can double the number of tourists to 3 million annually in the next five years. But right now the percentage of people around the world who are familiar with Armenia is very low." According to Zeitountsian, even among Armenians throughout the diaspora, there is a lack of information and outdated impressions that there is little to do in Armenia other than visit a handful of historical landmarks and churches. "A lot of Armenians don't see Armenia as a vacation destination," she says. "Rather they come to visit friends and family or see it as a duty that they have to come visit the homeland for certain Armenian causes. We are working very hard to change that mindset."

Armenia in fact has a wealth of dynamic activities and authentic experi-



ences to offer visitors. Home to some of Europe's most unspoiled natural habitats, the country is a paradise for eco and adventure tourism, with 33 national parks, world-class hiking trails, mountain climbing treks, bike paths and more bird species per square kilometer than anywhere else on the continent. With its rich and diverse cultural heritage, Armenia boasts more than 700 potential tourist attractions, including three UNESCO World Heritage sites, medieval monasteries, monuments, contemporary art galleries and museums. It is also increasingly developing a reputation as an affordable destination for religious, medical, wine and gastro tourism. *National Geographic* recently included Yerevan on its list of 'six unexpected cities for food lovers.'

As it begins to reap the rewards of



development and outreach, Armenia is responding well to the increase in tourism. Its hospitality sector has witnessed a boom since 2013, with the construction of 31 hotels including the Hyatt Place, Radisson Blu, and Doubletree by

the nation. “In 2015, when the hotel opened, it was called the Sign Hotel. But as Armenia developed a certain quality of customer service we were soon able to apply to Hilton to bring this international brand to Armenia. As

Left: *The Cascade monument and gardens in Yerevan. Right:* *Strolling by the shops and cafes along Yerevan’s Northern Avenue at night.*

“It’s an undiscovered land for an American tourist. You find out so much just by talking to people. I came to view the Caucasus through a very different, more complex lens.”

Hilton, with 50 more hotels scheduled to be built over the next few years. Lusine Safaryan of the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel partly attributes the arrival of high-end hotels in Armenia to an outstanding culture of hospitality in

one of the biggest hotel chains in the world with properties in over 100 countries and more than 50 million loyal members all over the world, opening in Yerevan means being available to those 50 million people, providing the

same high level of service in all Hilton chain hotels.”

The quality of services and choice of activities geared toward tourists and travelers have improved considerably not only in the capital of Yerevan but throughout the country. Visitors can choose from a diverse range of accommodations including luxury bed and breakfasts, Airbnb apartments and budget hostels. Renewed investment in recreational, spiritual and cultural attractions in rural Armenia is gradually attracting more tourists, who now choose to spend only a day in the capital in favor of exploring Armenia’s hidden gems in the mountainous countryside. In the picturesque southern region of

Syunik for instance, a large-scale project to restore and preserve the thousand year-old Tatev monastic complex, complete with the world's longest cable car, is a successful example of how public-private partnerships are revitalizing Armenia's infrastructure and tourism industry based on local community needs.

The project is part of a more focused government policy toward tourism development, working with the private sector and international organizations to create growth along strategic corridors of investment. This 'big picture' approach includes investing in new infrastructure, restoring cultural landmarks, revitalizing urban areas, and building skills in local communities to diversify and expand tourism channels connecting multiple sites of interest, as opposed to looking at individual proj-

Winter skiers at Tsaghkadzor resort, a popular skiing destination less than an hour's drive from Yerevan.

ects in isolation. A key example is the World Bank-led "Local Economy and Infrastructure Development" project, which involves a 55 million USD investment in several scenic, architectural, and natural attractions across four regions of Kotayk, Ararat, Vayots Dzor and Syunik. Two World Heritage sites in the Northern corridor, Haghpat and Sanahin, will also be restored and developed to attract tourism and boost the local economy.

The tourism sector is also benefitting from a series of recent legislative policies including membership in the Eurasian Economic Union and the pursuit of closer ties with neighboring Georgia, Iran and Russia, which has traditionally been the country's largest source of tourism dollars. Attempting to account for the increasing appeal of Armenia to the outside world is a question with as many answers as tourists. While Armenians from the diaspora have always come to reconnect with their roots or rekindle re-

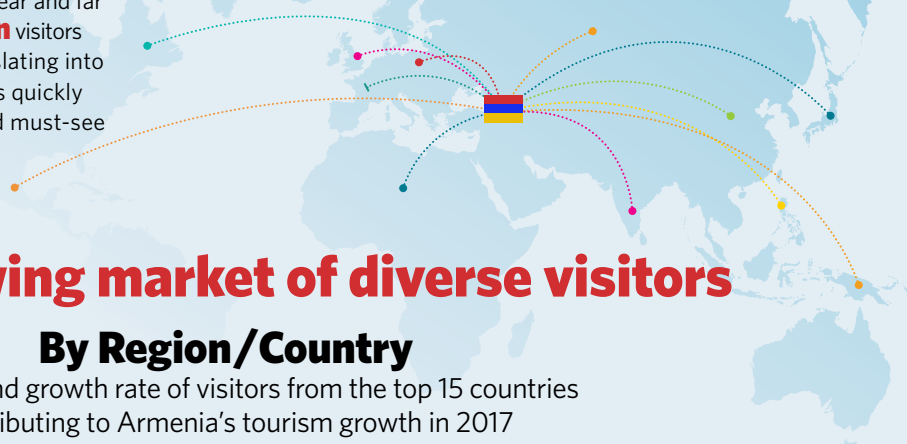
lationships with old friends and family, the country's emphasis on raising its international profile and developing its tourism industry is attracting a more diverse array of visitors from new, dynamic growth markets in Germany, the United Arab Emirates, India and the Philippines. Travelers from the predominantly Christian country are attracted to Armenia's religious heritage and status as the first nation to adopt Christianity. Religion-specific tourism sees some 330 million people travel worldwide each year, and is growing into an important niche market in Armenia, with exclusive tours and packages catering to exploring the nation's ancient spiritual roots. From the Middle East, a growing number of travelers are flocking to Armenia for its affordable yet high-quality medical services, including dentistry, reconstructive surgery and infertility treatment. The greatest market for tourism growth in Armenia, however is adventure and eco tourism, a 260 billion dollar industry



Armenia's Tourism Appeal Goes Global

Armenia is attracting foreign visitors from near and far as never before. With an influx of **1.5 million** visitors from across the globe in 2017 alone—translating into **1.2 billion** in gross receipts—Armenia is quickly gaining traction as a universally recognized must-see destination.

Source: National Statistics Service, January-December 2017



A fast growing market of diverse visitors

By Region/Country

Number and growth rate of visitors from the top 15 countries contributing to Armenia's tourism growth in 2017

Asia/Southeast Asia

These avid travelers seek a new vacation destination offering authentic and experiential opportunities.*



Philippines

22,007 | +159%

Dynamically Developing Market



India

11,585 | +181.5%

Dynamically Developing Market



China

5,747 | +75%



Japan

3,026 | 18.2%

USA/Europe

Older travelers seek cultural and religious experiences while younger visitors enjoy hiking, adventure, authentic and experiential opportunities.*



USA

44,587 | +39.5%



France

21,881 | +21%



Germany

21,011 | +21%



Poland

13,378 | +40%



UK

9,005 | +29.9%

Middle East/Gulf Countries

Visitors appreciate direct and short flights, family safety, hospitality, medical/wellness treatments and shopping. For neighboring Iran, the no-visa, safety aspects plus Iranian travel expo drew the third largest number of visitors in 2017.*



UAE

8,299 | +132.8%

Dynamically Developing Market



Iran

220,147 | +16.5%



Syria

3,089 | +4.4%

Regional Neighbors

In addition to a large diaspora, all age groups appreciate the close proximity, internal visas (for Russians) and social and business prospects.*



Russia

584,561 | +28.8%



Georgia

19,902 | +11.9%



Ukraine

29,709 | +20.4%

Source: National Statistics Service, January-December 2017

*Source: State Tourism Committee of Armenia's Ministry of Economic Development and Investments



Above: Monument to Aleksander Spendiaryan by prominent Armenian architect Ghukar Chubaryan located in Yerevan's Freedom Square. **Below:** A glimpse of the impressive collection inside the History Museum of Armenia in Yerevan.



worldwide. According to the State Tourism Committee, Armenia is attracting more and more tourists from Austria, Germany and the Scandinavian countries looking for an authentic experience. “These are countries where the traveling trends are very much in line with what Armenia can offer,” says Zeitountsian, “and cultural, adventure and eco tourism activities are really at the core of our tourism strategy right now.” Among younger travelers—non-Armenian and Arme-

nian alike—Zeitountsian adds that they have little or no idea what to expect when they come to Armenia. “It’s an undiscovered land for an American tourist,” confirms Nava Rastegar, an Iranian American visiting Armenia for the very first time. Impressed by the extent of the Armenian hospitality she encountered at every turn, she adds that “you can learn so much just by talking to people. I, for one, came to view the Caucasus through a very different, more complex lens.”

Boosting the Economy

While exact figures on the tourism industry’s contribution to Armenia’s GDP have yet to be published for 2017, officials estimate the total contribution of travel and tourism exceeded \$1.8 billion USD, or more than 16.4% of GDP last year. The travel and tourism industry directly supports nearly 50,000 jobs in Armenia, or more than 3% of total employment. Revenue generated through tourism is a vital source of income in many rural towns and remote villages struggling with dwindling populations. While Armenia’s burgeoning tourism industry has a long way to go before it is considered competitive internationally, the country is already outperforming many larger, wealthier nations. Although the World Economic Forum’s Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Report 2017 ranked Armenia 84th out of 136 nations, on several key indicators the country stood out among the competition, including ranking 34th for safety and security and 39th for the quality of its business environment.

2018 and Beyond

The year ahead is full of promise and potential, with high expectations to surpass 2017 in the number of foreign visitors. The government is already developing a special calendar of activities to mark the First Republic of Armenia’s 100th and Yerevan’s 2800th anniversaries, which will attract greater numbers of visitors from the diaspora. For the first time, Armenia will host the Francophonie Summit in the fall, expected to attract as many as 5000 participants including more than 80 heads of states and governments. The highly-anticipated summit will be accompanied by galas, exhibitions, and cultural exchange events all showcasing Armenian culture and cuisine, emphasizing its attractiveness as a vacation destination. Finally, the year will come to an end with a very special ceremony in the nation’s second-largest city, Gyumri, to commemorate 30 years since the tragic earthquake that devastated the city on December 7, 1998. In true Armenian spirit, municipal officials say the day will not be a lament, but a celebration of the resilience of the Armenian people, heralding a new page for the cultural capital. As the world awakens to its many wonders, Armenia is welcoming the world with open arms, embracing the challenge ahead. **A**

WITH FILES FROM NARÉ NAVASARDYAN

Yerevan 2800

Honoring the capital's exceptional past with an eye toward the future

"By the greatness of the God Khaldi, Arghisti, son of Menua, built this mighty stronghold and proclaimed it Erebuni for the glory of Biainili (Van) and to instill fear amongst the King's enemies."

The cuneiform inscription carved in basalt stone that greets visitors to the ruins of Erebuni is a testament to Yerevan's ancient origins as a fortress built to defend the kingdom's borders from invaders from the north. Today, the arms

portant hub for caravans traveling from Asia to Europe. "Yerevan is the symbol of the past, present, and certainly the future of our people," declared Mayor Taron Magaryan, who pledged to "do our best to make the capital of all Armenians more recognizable."

As part of its jubilee program, the municipality is planning a series of special events, entertainment, and cultural activities throughout the city. With the concept of a technologically advanced 'smart city' in mind, upgrades to infrastructure and

record influx of visitors, major roads leading to and from Yerevan, Gyumri, Vanadzor and other provincial capitals throughout the nation are expected to be the focus of renewed investment. President Serzh Sargsyan recognized the magnitude of the challenge. "We don't have such experience," he noted. "This requires hard work, accurate calculations and great discipline... It is a challenge because we must be able to carry it out at the highest level, and it is a chance because if we succeed in holding such a big



of the Armenian capital are stretched wide in welcome, as the world awakens to its wonders. One of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the entire world, Yerevan is experiencing a renaissance of late, growing more prosperous and lively each year. The city's charm, blending the old world and the new, is now poised to be proudly displayed as never before in what will be a banner year in the history of the capital, and the nation as a whole.

In the coming months, Yerevan will celebrate a truly remarkable anniversary commemorating 2800 years since the Araratian King Argishti I founded the ancient fortress and citadel in 782 BC. Erebuni, as Yerevan was then known, even predates Rome, serving as an im-

portant hub for caravans traveling from Asia to Europe. "Yerevan is the symbol of the past, present, and certainly the future of our people," declared Mayor Taron Magaryan, who pledged to "do our best to make the capital of all Armenians more recognizable."

As part of its jubilee program, the municipality is planning a series of special events, entertainment, and cultural activities throughout the city. With the concept of a technologically advanced 'smart city' in mind, upgrades to infrastructure and transportation are also being developed, along with the construction of a new park in the city dedicated to the 2800th anniversary. Municipal planners are consulting with dozens of other cities worldwide and eight international organizations to help implement all the improvements.

The pressure to succeed is compounded by the fact that in addition to the celebrations—including the 100th anniversary of the proclamation of the Republic of Armenia and the May Heroic Battles—Yerevan will also host the Francophonie Summit in October. The largest international summit ever to take place on Armenian soil, the city will play host to more than 100 international delegations and up to 50 heads of state.

A view of the renowned Republic Square in the Armenian capital of Yerevan.

forum once, then subsequent ones will follow shortly."

As the nation prepares itself for an unprecedented year of celebration that will test both its organizational capacity and its hospitality, a sense of excitement is slowly building throughout Yerevan while its residents anticipate the opportunity to showcase their culture to the world in 2018. And with so much already to offer—from unique architectural treasures, modern museums and art galleries to lively outdoor cafes open late at night where visitors will be warmly welcomed by friendly and sophisticated locals—it is clear the world will not be disappointed. **▲**



Blazing a Trail

How Armenia's innovative hiking culture is preserving the environment while boosting the economy

There may be no better way to experience Armenia's natural beauty, diverse landscape and welcoming generosity than a hike along the growing number of recently opened and renovated trails that are transforming the country into a world-wide trekking destination.

This past year, the country's famed Dilijan National Park, stretching across

the mountains of the Tavush region in the northeast, became home to the newest section of the Transcaucasian Trail (TCT)—a world-class, long-distance hiking trail intended to eventually connect some two-dozen current and planned national parks throughout the Caucasus region across more than 2,000 kilometers of dense forests, pristine lakes and rocky mountains few have had the chance to explore.

The recently completed trail in Dilijan offers visitors the chance to admire some of the park's more than 1,000 native plants and 45 species of mammals, including brown bears, bobcats and wolves in their natural habitat. More adventurous explorers can follow the trail up to Parz Lake, an alpine lake more than 4,000 feet above sea level filled by clean and cool mountain springs. The lake is ideally suited for boating, fishing and



camping expeditions. From the lake, along narrow paths through five miles of dense forest, hikers will discover one of the nation's hidden architectural gems: the medieval Goshavank Monastery built in the late 12th century.

Armenia's vast natural treasures and ancient historical landmarks have long enthralled and inspired intrepid souls who have ventured to visit the remote, and largely untouched Armenian countryside. Adventure-seekers embarked on a high-alpine trek to the summit of Mount Aragatz, the country's highest point at 13,418 feet; explored the 100-foot-high Lastiver caves atop a series of waterfalls that cascade into the river near Agapa; and beheld the beauty of the Tatev Monastery in the picturesque Syunik region—one of Armenia's most iconic monastic complexes—before trekking down the gorge where a new swinging bridge has made it possible to visit the Khndzoresk Cave village, an

ancient settlement inhabited for a thousand years where traces of cave life can still be found.

What has changed in recent years, however, is how growing numbers of local and international hikers, volunteers and conservationists are working together as one community to help revitalize and preserve Armenia's precious landscapes and regional

Resting after a long trek, a hiker takes in the beauty of the sunset at the Arapan Reservoir.

recommendations, GPS coordinates, points of interest and details about the difficulty level of hiking trails throughout the country. The app also connects tourists with local guides and accommodations, helping provide a much-needed boost to the local

“One of the things that inspires me is the inclusive and egalitarian philosophy at the heart of the movement...the guiding principle is that anyone can get involved.”

heritage for future generations to enjoy.

Leading that effort is HIKEArmenia, an ongoing project to boost the tourism industry by developing hiking infrastructure and providing resources and information, including a free app that provides recom-

mendations, GPS coordinates, points of interest and details about the difficulty level of hiking trails throughout the country. The app also connects tourists with local guides and accommodations, helping provide a much-needed boost to the local

HIKEArmenia is the driving force be-



The breathtaking vista of Mount Aragatz from Mount Hatis.

hind the TCT project, along with several partner organizations and NGOs including OneArmenia, the Hovnanian Foundation, Caucasus Nature Funds (CNF) and ARK Armenia, which work together to help transform Armenia into a prime hiking, adventure travel and ecotourism destination. Its founder, Tom Allen, a Royal Geographical Society fellow originally from England, was inspired to map the country's first ever long-distance hiking trail after a summer spent traversing the countryside. On his blog, he emphasizes the grassroots, communal involvement behind the project that is focused on providing public hiking infrastructure as opposed to commercial tours. "One of the things that inspires me is the inclusive and

egalitarian philosophy at the heart of the movement. The team is growing fast, and although visionaries are needed to steer the ship, the guiding principle is that anyone can get involved, giving what time, energy, skills and resources they can to make the Transcaucasian Trail happen."

In the process of creating world-class hiking standards and trails, trail tourism is helping boost rural economic development in Armenia. Many recently renovated trails in the Tavush region run through remote villages with dwindling populations. Tourists represent a much-needed market for fruits and vegetables. As part of a growing number of eco-camps, locals are also being employed in upscale hostels and other accommodations that are being built to meet the needs of the growing number of visitors to the region. The hope is that the burgeoning trail and ecotourism industries

will offer a viable alternative source of income for rural communities, helping to improve socio-economic conditions in sparsely populated villages that are struggling to sustain themselves.

Trail tourism has provided a new venue for international tourists to appreciate the appeal of the country's incredible natural beauty, but also that of its people, and the welcoming generosity for which they are renowned. It is a tradition dating back to Armenia's historic role along the Silk Road, as a gateway for merchants and travelers connecting the East to the West. Centuries later, the act of traversing the country is once again helping to bridge Armenia's ancient culture to the rest of the world. **A**

The swinging bridge in Khndzoresk connects ancient history with the modern world.



ARTHUR LUMENGEVORGYAN; A SHOT ARUSHANYAN



Group portrait of the presidents and chiefs of delegation at the 16th Francophonie Summit in Antananarivo, Madagascar in 2016.

Vivre Armenian Hospitality

Yerevan selected host of this year's La Francophonie Summit

If ever there were a seismic shift in Armenia's standing as a global player, hosting the next summit of the *International Organization of La Francophonie* could be it. This international, high-profile celebration of the French language and culture is held every two years in a different location—from Madagascar, Lebanon and France to Romania, Senegal, Vietnam and Canada. With the heads of state and governments of all the organization's 57 member countries attending, the competition to be named host is fierce.

This past January, in a surprise upset, Armenia blindsided Tunisia in its bid to become the official host of the weeklong *La Francophonie Summit 2018* in early October. As such, Armenia is expected to assume full responsibility for the event until the next summit. This entails hosting leaders of member states as they hold high level discussions on international issues and develop strategies to ensure the influence of the French culture in world affairs. Along with them will be an

entourage of hundreds of aides, media outlets and journalists, as well as thousands of Francophiles from diverse countries, further swelling Armenia's peak tourist season to record numbers.

AGBU president Berge Setrakian, who happened to be visiting Armenia when the selection was announced, had an opportunity to ponder the weight and substance behind such an honor when meeting with Armenia's minister of the diaspora, the foreign minister of the Republic of Armenia, as well as the French minister. Recognizing that high visibility also comes with wide exposure, Mr. Setrakian expressed his resolve to capitalize on AGBU's strong presence in French speaking countries to help ensure the venture's unqualified success.

To that end, upon returning to the states, Mr. Setrakian held strategy sessions with representatives from AGBU Armenia, Canada, Europe, France, and Lebanon. He urged them to mobilize their resources and expertise in support of Armenia.

"As a nation, by our history, we are close to the Francophone countries. It is more than just the language. The Armenian communities in Europe and elsewhere can play an important role by taking initiatives to publicize and create a supportive atmosphere through parallel events for the conference," said Mr. Setrakian.

AGBU Europe, headed by Nadia Gortzounian, has very strong ties and positive relations with the French government. It was agreed that this milestone event demanded sustained attention between now and October 2018, working in close collaboration with their counterparts at AGBU Armenia.

"This is an incredible opportunity for the government of Armenia to leverage AGBU's deep understanding of the French culture and language to ensure maximum impact and success. AGBU is ready to provide all the necessary intellectual and organizational resources to do justice to an event of this magnitude and stature," stated Mrs. Gortzounian. **■**





Armenia!

Medieval Armenian art takes center stage at The Metropolitan Museum of Art

By **DANIEL HALTON**

On September 21, 2018, Armenian Independence Day, Armenian art and culture will take center stage at one of the largest and finest art museums in the world. The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York—renowned for its extensive permanent collection of art including ancient Egyptian artifacts, classical Greek and Roman sculptures and paintings from virtually all the European masters—will open *Armenia!*, the first museum exhibit in America to feature all forms of medieval Armenian art, including a treasure trove of exquisite works from major repositories of Armenian culture around the globe. With more than seven million visitors annually to the museum, the feature exhibit offers an unprecedented opportunity for the world to discover Armenia's ancient culture, rich heritage and relevance to the world of art.

Curated by Helen C. Evans, the Mary and Michael Jaharis Curator for Byzantine Art at The Met, with the support of Griffith Mann, the Michel David-Weill Curator in Charge of the Department of Medieval Art and The Cloisters, the highly anticipated exhibition is also the first at the prestigious museum to focus exclusively on the art of one Eastern Christian culture in depth, and is already generating buzz throughout the art world.

"I am especially excited—after having

first been introduced to the splendid artistic treasures of medieval Armenia some twenty years ago—to help make this important culture and its heritage the focus of a dedicated special exhibition," says Mann. "We have received wonderful support from lenders, and I know that visitors to the exhibition will be astonished and moved by the works on view."

The prestigious New York museum is responsible for some of the world's most critically acclaimed art exhibitions, including 'The Treasures of Tutankhamen' and

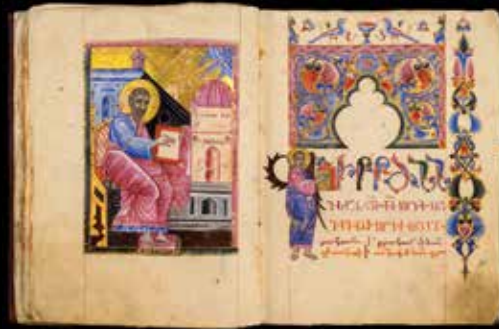
'Mona Lisa'—both of which generated more than a million visitors—and more recently in 2015, 'China Through the Looking Glass.' With prominent placement off the main hall on the first floor of the Museum, *Armenia!* will mark the first time Armenian art will hold court in the Metropolitan Museum, resonating alongside masterpieces of Greek and



Helen C. Evans

Roman art. The exhibition is the product of four years of planning, travel and meticulous preparation, and the culmination of a long-standing interest for Evans, who wrote her doctoral dissertation on manuscripts from the Armenian kingdom of Cilicia and has since devoted much time and effort to featuring Armenian works of art in the medieval galleries at The Met. "It is a great pleasure to be able to present *Armenia!*, an exhibition whose generous loans from so many major Armenian institutions enables us to demonstrate the quality and breadth of Armenian art. Philippe de Montebello, a former director of the Museum, wrote in his book *Rendez-vous with Art* that the presence of the *khachkar* on loan from the

Reliquary of the Holy Cross of Khotakerats', 1300 at the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin in Vagharshapat, Armenia.



A sample of Armenian relief sculptures, textiles, manuscripts and jewelry that will be displayed at the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Armenia! exhibit.

Republic of Armenia at The Met offered Armenian art 'a place in the canon [of art history]. Our ambition is to have Armenia! encourage everyone to recognize Armenian art's place in the 'canon' of art history."

The unique exhibition transports audiences through centuries of medieval Armenian art featuring some of the nation's most prized artistic treasures and religious artifacts, most of which have never been displayed before in the U.S., including highly valuable pieces that have never travelled outside Armenia. "This exhibition speaks to the Armenian people's preservation of their own culture," noted Mann. "I would add that for non-Armenians it will provide a level of awareness of the Armenian culture and the distinctive ways it has interacted with other cultures and the territories that have always surrounded it."

Among the works to be displayed, there are ornate reliquaries and hangings on loan from The Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin that represent Armenia's unique Christian faith, including the True Cross of Ashot II, the reliquary of the Holy Cross of Khotakerats and the reliquary of the Holy Lance. Also not to be missed is an elaborately embroidered depiction of the "vision of the establishment of the

great cathedral at Etchmiadzin by Christ with Saint Gregory the Illuminator and King Tiridates in attendance." Its images represent the unique tradition of the conversion of the Armenians to Christianity at the beginning of the fourth century, making its people the first Christian nation. The rich fabric also conveys the extent of the wealth acquired by Armenian merchants in New Julfa and Constantinople (Istanbul) in the intervening centuries as they dominated trade routes that stretched from China to England, Russia to India and beyond, even reaching America.

Cilicia's role as the major western end of the Armenian trade routes across the east until its fall in the late fourteenth century will be one of the major themes of the exhibition. Manuscripts from the Matenadaran, ranging from one of the earliest examples of Armenian script to elaborate texts from New Julfa, will help trace the expansion of Armenians from their homeland west to Cilicia and beyond to the Crimea and Italy, then back to Greater Armenia and east to the Armenians in New Julfa, the Armenian section of Isfahan beginning in the era of Shah Abbas. "I am very interested in what cultures exchange with others and how they intersect," said Evans. "Having studied Byzantine art, I believe Armenia played a very compelling role during the Middle Ages. Armenia is where the Silk Road began if you were coming from the West or ended

if you were coming from the East. I thought it was important that this culture be studied more in depth so it would be more broadly appreciated."

Armenia's exceptional architectural tradition from its beginnings to the later medieval centuries will also form a large part of the exhibition, with several outstanding scriptural works loaned from the History Museum of Armenia on display, including capitals from early churches and impressive relief carvings and khachkars. The works will be presented together with photographs of their sites by Hrair Hawk Khatcherian to ensure recognition of their original contexts. The History Museum is also lending a jewelry hoard from Dvin that will introduce the importance of the Armenians as a dominating force on trade routes from east to west.

Not limited to works of art from the Armenian homeland, the exhibition seeks to convey the historically broad reach and impact of Armenian art and culture beyond its borders. Impressive works from Europe and the Middle East include a number of exceptional manuscripts from the Cilician era loaned by the Brotherhood of St. James (Jerusalem) that reflect both the greatness of medieval Armenian art and the long history of the Armenian presence in Jerusalem. Among the Brotherhood's collection are works that have never traveled before by Armenia's greatest artist, T'oros Roslin. One will join the



canon tables by Roslin from The Getty Museum. From Italy, the Mekhitarist Congregation of San Lazzaro degli Armeni in Venice will also lend again to The Met. Their important manuscripts represented medieval Armenia in The Met's 1997 exhibition *The Glory of Byzantium: Art and Culture of the Middle Byzantine Era* (A.D. 843-1261). For *Armenia!*, the fathers under His Eminence Archbishop Levon Zekiyán are sending major works from Skevra, the only known model book to survive, and the first book printed in Armenian in 1512. The Calouste Gulbenkian Museum in Lisbon, Portugal, the Armenian Museum of America, the Alex and Marie Manoogian Museum, and the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America are also all participating in *Armenia!*

After years of attempting to curate an exhibition focused solely on Armenian art, Evans says what made it feasible now was the interest and participation of the Armenian government. From an initial list of all the important works of art that could be moved, Evans and Mann worked closely for several years with the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Armenia to select 84 works tracing the importance of the conversion of the Armenian people at the beginning of the fourth century and their powerful influence on international trade routes. In addition to the close collaboration with the Armenian govern-

ment, curators at The Met reached out to a number of specialists and scholars around the world, primarily in the U.S., for their assistance in writing the catalogue of *Armenia!* Authors will include Helen C. Evans as curator of the exhibition; Christina Maranci, Arthur H. Da-



A majestic presence on New York's Fifth Avenue, the Metropolitan Museum of Art houses a wealth of world-class collections and many special exhibitions a year.

dian and Ara T. Oztemel Professor of Armenian Art and Architecture at Tufts University; Ina Baghdiantz McCabe, Professor of History and Darakjian and Jafarian Chair in Armenian History at Tufts University; Dr. Sylvie Merian of the Morgan Library and Museum; and Pro-

fessor Rachel Goshgarian of Lafayette College, all of whom have actively encouraged recognition of the importance of Armenian art and culture.

To help recreate a sense of Armenian spirituality, the exhibition will also include an evocation of the church at Lake Sevan, where Evans and Mann attended a Sunday service during one of their visits to Yerevan and were so impressed that they later had the church interior photographed in detail by Khatcherian to facilitate its recreation at The Met. Liturgical chants will also be played in the church-like space in order for the public to hear the unique nature and beauty of the Armenian language.

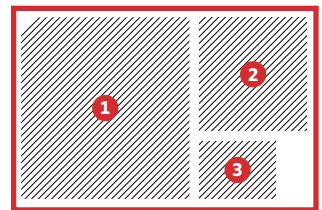
The four-month long exhibition, which will close on January 13, 2019 to include Armenian Christmas, will also feature a vibrant roster of performing arts events, concerts and several educational programs for children and adults, all underwritten by and in collaboration with AGBU. There will also be a full-day symposium on medieval Armenian art and culture and a website with an interactive map of Armenian trade routes. "We are aiming to present an exhibition that Armenians, broadly speaking, will be proud of, as well as an exhibit that will introduce the long history of Armenian art to non-Armenian audiences," noted Mann. "That will be the key measures of its success." ■

Homeland as Wonderland

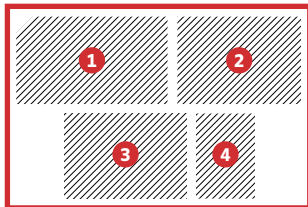
*There's so much more to explore in
Armenia than first meets the eye*

Photographs by **ARTHUR LUMEN PHOTOGRAPHY**

Levon Badikyan, Gevorg Gasparyan, Zhanna Baroyan,
Ashot Arushanyan and Arthur Lumen Gevorgyan



1. Lake Sevan, known for its beauty and mesmerizing colors, is one of the most famous alpine lakes in the world and a favorite destination for local and foreign visitors. **2.** Armenian markets have an abundance of a variety of tasty fresh and dried fruits throughout the year. **3.** Azat Reservoir, located just 16 miles south of Yerevan, in Ararat Province, showcases the beauty of Armenia's mountainous scenery.



1. Martiros Saryan House Museum exhibits works by famous Armenian artist Martiros Saryan known for his colorful and mesmerizing portrayal of the Armenian landscape and nature. **2.** Lake Parz, located in the Dilijan National Park, just 47 miles from Yerevan, is surrounded by dense forests. **3.** The Wings of Tatev, the longest reversible aerial tramway in the world, connects the village of Halidzor to the strikingly situated Tatev Monastery. The cableway runs over the gorge of the Vorotan River, offering visitors magnificent panoramic views. Skydivers jump from cable cars at an altitude of 3,200 meters. **4.** A spectacular countryside view captured on the way from Yerevan to Syunik Province.





Two years ago, Arthur Lumen Photography, a team of photographers, founded the *Awesome Armenia* project to showcase the beauty of the Armenian landscape and monuments. *Awesome Armenia* aims to put Armenia on the map as an attractive tourism destination.

Arthur Lumen Photography was established by photographer and filmmaker Arthur Lumen Gevorgyan who is also the founder and director of Lumen Photo Studio in Yerevan, Armenia. Since 2011, he has organized photography workshops and trained 150 students in the art of landscape and portrait photography. **▲**

A Model for Success

The AGBU Alex Manoogian School in Montreal pioneers a Welcome program for Syrian Armenians

By ANNA BIANCA ROACH

Every morning at 10:10 a.m., the school bell rings and children pour into the courtyard of the AGBU Alex Manoogian School, nestled in the north end of Montreal. Here, schoolyard chatter flows in no fewer than three, sometimes four languages with students constantly switching with ease between English, French, Armenian, and occasionally Arabic as well.

The fact that the students at this AGBU school speak a minimum of three languages with full native-level fluency is an afterthought here. What the faculty is really proud of is that their educational institution is home to a pioneering model for integrating Syrian and other Middle-Eastern refugees into Canadian society.

The Alex Manoogian Integration Model

When Armenians fleeing civil war in Iraq started arriving in Canada as refugees around 2008, Principal Chahé Tanachian understood that the AGBU Alex Manoogian School was in a unique situation within Canada. Most of the faculty at the school spoke Armenian, a significant advantage to accommodate the academic needs of students and their families who in most cases spoke neither English nor French.

Perhaps more importantly, as a private school, the administration had the freedom to adjust the curriculum to the needs of new students in a way that public schools could not. In fact, the school was able to overcome some of the biggest

hurdles that Tanachian saw within the public integration system.

The traditional Québécois model places foreign students first in a *classe d'accueil*, or welcoming class, for French as a second language for up to two years, at which point the students are required to join their native-speaking French classmates in the rest of the school. However, the French language classes often lacked the resources necessary to help students adequately learn the language, leaving many with an insufficient level of French by the end of their second year. Even if some students developed a strong enough grasp of the French language within the timeframe, they then had to face the challenge of not having been exposed to other subjects such as math, history or science for however long they were in the *classe d'accueil*. “They’re constantly behind in something academically,” Principal Tanachian explains—by no fault of their own. To resolve this education gap, “we created a new *classe d'accueil*, where everything—French, Armenian, arts—was [taught] in that classroom with the same group.”

The next issue they confronted was the fact that classes were simply too big for teachers to give each student the attention he or she needed. As a private school, Alex Manoogian was able to cap the number of students to 17 per class; just over half of the average public school stu-

A student at the AGBU Alex Manoogian School in Montreal takes notes during class.







The principal of the AGBU Alex Manoogian School Chahé Tanachian.

dent limit. The administration also ensured that each class had one full-time and one part-time teacher

Going Beyond Academia

Faced with an influx of students fleeing war in their home countries, the AGBU Alex Manoogian School took the addi-

the job: her calm demeanor and welcoming tone, combined with her native Arabic helped her put the children at ease.

It came naturally to her to try to offer the students the type of help they needed, but it's the education she received with the rest of the faculty that helped her understand exactly what the children needed. "I saw myself in the students, but I was also learning, and as Ms. Papazian-Zohrabian spoke, I kept thinking of ex-

"Sometimes, they couldn't follow, so I stopped teaching, and I asked what they wanted to do... We danced often, we sang. I taught them yoga—they loved it. Gradually, I saw their smiles come back."

tional step of providing every one of its faculty members with psychological counselling training conducted by Montreal-based doctor of clinical psychology Garine Papazian-Zohrabian. Rashida Chenouf, who joined the school to teach the *classe d'accueil* and is now a French teacher, is one of the very few teachers at the school who does not speak Armenian. After a casual conversation, it becomes readily apparent why she was chosen for

amples—"Oh, that's why this child acts this way."

The integration model designed at the AGBU Alex Manoogian School also gave her the freedom to tailor her classes to exactly what the students need. "Even though they had left war in Syria, some of them wanted to go back because they didn't feel good." Her solution was to include Canadian history in the curriculum. "I told them: 'Don't worry, we're all im-

migrants here. I'm an immigrant too, just like you.' I taught them history to show them that in Canada, they're not alone: they may be new, [...] but they just needed time, and that we are all Canadian."

She adapted the curriculum not only to provide them with material to make them feel more at home, but also to help mitigate symptoms of trauma. "I was a teacher, but I was also a mom and a psychologist. Sometimes, they couldn't follow, so I stopped teaching, and I asked what they wanted to do. [...] We danced often, we sang. I taught them yoga—they loved it. [...] Gradually, I saw their smiles come back."

Not Just for Students

Chenouf also highlighted another crucial part of the school's approach to integration—the inclusion of families as part of the process. "If the parents were uncomfortable, the children were too." One of the biggest sources of stress for arriving families was finding money; so the AGBU Alex Manoogian School partnered with the family support organization Hay Doun to help provide for families. The first thing they did was to help find apartments; but soon after that, they began coordinating job fairs and making

arrangements with local businesses and organizations. One such example was how the Armenian community reached out to the prestigious Canadian jewelry company Birks, which agreed to provide two grants of \$25,000 CAD for arriving parents to become jewellers and integrate into the Canadian market. To date the funds have allowed for more than 30 professional certifications.

Ani Mardirossian is the mother of the first students to attend the school's *classe d'accueil*. Her family came to Montreal from Aleppo via Beirut and, with the support of AGBU, were able to send all three of their children to learn French at the school. Her daughter, who has since graduated from the school and is excelling academically at a Francophone public school, often drops in to shadow some of the arts and photography classes the Alex Manoogian's Sunday School has to offer. "She is very nostalgic for Alex Manoogian because it was like a family for her when she came."

"My children are very happy. And as parents, seeing our children happy makes

Rashida Chenouf, Arabic Language Welcome Class Teacher.



us happy too." For Mardirossian, the aid provided to their children made a big difference already; but they further helped her integrate into the community as well. Another big part of the support provided by the Armenian community is a weekly event hosted for Syrian Armenians. This event, with special chefs hired to cook Syrian food, is attended by both new-

Edouard Bagdassarian, Student Life Coordinator.

comers and established Canadians—and together with some holiday festivities, it serves as both a fundraiser and a space for Syrian Armenians to find comfort. Here, Mardirossian met and befriended many Canadians, but she also became reacquainted with people she had known in passing back in Aleppo.

Catalysts for Conversation

With some alumni who have gone on to be valedictorians at Francophone public schools, it is undeniable that the tight-knit Armenian communities both in Canada and in Syria and the involvement of AGBU have made a huge difference for Armenians who came to Montreal as refugees. But the impact of Alex Manoogian as a school is more profound than that.

Ever since the start of the refugee crisis resulting from Syria's civil war, grassroots organizations across Canada have been engaged in the same conversation Principal Tanachian has noted. That while it is important to provide refugees a safe haven, it is just as important to offer them a support system for integration.

The AGBU Alex Manoogian School may have had the financial freedom to implement its own model, but the resulting resounding success has provided much hope not only for the Syrian Armenian community of Montreal, but also the education system across the country. Demonstrating that there are integration models that work exceptionally well and that human lives benefit from them, leaves no doubt that it is worth the investment. **A**





Conversation Piece

ANI finds a shortcut to English fluency for Armenia's youth

For ANI founders and siblings Ray and Meline Nazloomian, natives of Sydney, Australia, young people in Armenia—where English traditionally was not a mainstream language—should become fluent in English in order to compete globally in business and industry. Ray explains that they are focused on “radically transforming English proficiency in Armenia and opening up Armenian youth to the social and economic opportunities that come from speaking fluent English in the 21st century.” Short of sending every Armenian student on a study abroad program, the Nazloomians have found an effective shortcut—bringing English conversation and one-on-one cross-cultural engagement directly to the student, via their smartphone or other digital device.

Founded in 2015, ANI is an online platform designed to complement the English school curriculum and boost children's conversation skills by pairing them with fluent English speakers from the diaspora, based on their interests and preferences. The Nazloomians' focus on conversational training is based on a proven fundamental essential to any serious foreign language curriculum—real-world conversational practice.

ANI volunteer coaches sign up to converse with Armenia's young people, ages 10 to 16, in real time once a week over 12 weeks. The program is divided into learning modules at three levels of proficiency. Students and coaches can take as many modules as they deem helpful. For Vicken Asadourian, a data analyst from the U.S., coaching is not only an exciting experience but also a serious enterprise in helping Armenia's youth become competitive on a global scale. “This is particularly important as Armenia's burgeoning IT and tourism industries continue to grow,” said Asadourian. He coaches 11-year-old Gabriel Adamyan from Stepanakert, Artsakh, who also shares his passion for IT and math. “I loved that I was able to make an impact in someone's life. And I gained a great friend out of the experience,” added Asadourian.

Many coaches have daytime jobs but make the time to engage with a young person in Armenia, which also helps strengthens ties with their ancestral homeland. Taleen Khoury


Moughamian, a San Francisco-based nurse practitioner and mother of two who has been to Armenia several times as a volunteer, yearned for that continued connection, saying that ANI gave her “the opportunity to engage with Armenia on a very meaningful level—by creating a relationship with a young person living there.” Moughamian coaches 15-year-old Anna Torosyan from the north-eastern city of Dilijan, in Armenia.

Through ANI sessions, students gain the confidence to communicate in a foreign language while learning about the world beyond their classrooms and hometowns. “ANI was a new window to help me find a new and trusted friend with whom I can talk about any subject, being convinced that she is always ready to support me and of course I improved my English,” said Anna.

Coaches also make the experience more of a friendly exchange rather than a tutorial session, which facilitates the learning process. “I enjoy the positive atmosphere during the lessons and I like the connection between my teacher and me,” said Gabriel. “And I really appreciate the innovative and interactive method of teaching.”

With over 85 students across Armenia and Artsakh, the Nazloomians seek to expand ANI to reach more students in rural and economically disadvantaged areas of Armenia. “On the student side, we want to go deeper into more remote parts of Armenia and Artsakh to reach students who are the neediest. On the coaching side, we want to spread our wings wider and continue recruiting amazing everyday coaches from across the globe,” said Ray. Right after its inception, ANI started a partnership with AGBU, which has been instrumental in spreading the word and helping involve new coaches through its vibrant members and friends across the globe.

Among their goals for 2018 is also to develop a full curriculum that includes sharing of culture and traditions. This invariably enriches the substance of the conversation on both sides and makes it more appealing to those considering joining the program, either as student or coach.

To learn more about ANI and sign up to become an English language coach, go to www.myani.org. 

AGBU Endowments 1910-2017

Since 1906, AGBU endowments have been the backbone of our organization. We owe a world of gratitude to all our donors and benefactors whose extraordinary generosity is helping to provide a steady stream of annual income to support our diverse programs and initiatives.

These supporters have demonstrated their trust in AGBU to positively impact the lives of over 500,000 Armenians in 33 countries annually through education, culture and identity, humanitarian relief and socio-economic development.

Whether a family foundation, an individual bequest or a gift made to honor or memorialize a loved one, endowments enable us to plan and provide quality results for diverse beneficiaries—from campers, students and young professionals to parents, seniors, victims of war and disaster and many more.

The following list of endowments denotes the date of inception for each fund in its original amount; accrued interest is not reflected. New or additional donations are highlighted in red. **■**

Endowments as of December 31, 2017.

1910	Setrag Tavitian Memorial	\$	802.48	1936	Stepan Kargodorian Memorial	\$	1,600.00
1911	His Holiness Sahag II Khabayan Memorial		2,523.93	1936	Vagharchag Topalian Memorial		95,000.00
1912	Kevork Sarkissian Memorial		18,363.75	1936	Rev. Arsen Torossian Memorial		10,270.17
1913	Msgr. Nerses Danielian Memorial		6,088.85	1937	Peter Hovanesian Memorial		2,050.85
1913	Hagop Kirkyasharian Memorial		24,280.35	1937	Megerditch Pavletzian Memorial		360.00
1913	Samuel Topalian Memorial		833.65	1938	Peter M. Crete Memorial		6,884.85
1914	Arakel Berberian Memorial		1,021.40	1938	Avedis G. Epikian Memorial		22,616.88
1915	Mardiros Kazandjian Memorial		7,161.53	1939	Mardiros M. Apcar Memorial		27,084.65
1918	Mirza Marcar Memorial		2,677.00	1939	Avedis Ekmanian Memorial		700.00
1919	Devlett Dadrian Memorial		9,590.86	1939	Oussourmassiratz Society		1,559.90
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1920	Gadarineh Limongelli Memorial		60,980.80	1940	Stephen Berberian Memorial		19,520.46
1921	Tarouhi Agopian Memorial		238,150.02	1940	Bedros Gumuchian Memorial		23,970.38
1921	Mikael Samuelian Memorial		18,100.00	1942	Serop Verdanian Movsesian Memorial		16,708.45
1922	Krikor Boghosian Memorial		16,012.50	1943	Garabed Hekimian Memorial		11,230.00
1922	Raphael Margossian Foundation		627,325.30	1943	Bedros H. Markarian Memorial		509,321.40
1924	Dr. John Arschagouni Memorial		6,794.24	1943	Haik Vemian Memorial		17,965.19
1924	Nigoghos Mordjikian Memorial		12,592.50	1945	Moses H. Lucinian Memorial		10,500.00
1924	Boghos Nubar Memorial		84,800.00	1945	Sophie & Zarouhi Manissalian Memorial		16,393.22
1924	Marie Nubar Memorial		89,942.08	1946	AGBU Milk Fund		81,542.38
1925	Meguerditch Allahverdi Memorial		17,116.34	1946	Haroutiun G. Balakian Memorial		35,067.80
1925	Nishan Kazazian Memorial		8,936.50	1946	Dr. Joseph Johns Memorial		4,392.50
1925	Garabed & Krikor Melkonian Memorial		4,647,020.63	1946	Aram Schahinian Memorial		308,171.98
1926	Noemi Capamadjian Memorial		565,780.00	1948			1,448,896.00
1926	Atanik Eknayan Memorial		38,838.86	1948	Simon & Eranouhi Kaiserlian Memorial		1,576,203.18
1926	Leon V. Semerdjian Memorial		11,209.57	1949	Napoleon Hantzian Memorial		151,583.31
1927	Gabriel Boyadjian Memorial		1,612.64	<hr/>			
1929	Marthe Bonaime Memorial		2,500.00	1950	Hagop & Arousiak Avakian Memorial		4,305.00
1929	Akabi Cheridjian Memorial		11,419.54	1950	Archbishop Matheos Indjeian Memorial		5,503.47
1929	Paul Esmerian Memorial		138,350.00	1951	Hagop Hamalian Memorial		725.00
1929	Adrienne Oundjian Memorial		38,758.52	1951	Dr. Vartkes Migrdichian Memorial		1,104,652.98
1929	Hagop A. Sarraf Memorial		10,000.00	1951	Kevork Moonedig Memorial		1,811.57
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1930	M. Leon Roman Dundess Memorial		13,995.20	1952	Charles G. Aramian Memorial		19,928.16
1930	Serope Sevadjian Memorial		147,439.00	1952	Arakel M. Julian Memorial		6,387.73
1932	Manoug Aslanian Memorial		10,000.00	1952	Zareh Nubar Memorial		49,978.65
1932	Rev. Khoren Lazarian Memorial		8,813.65	1953	Hagop Atchabahian Memorial		20,082.41
1932	Rev. Dirair Marcarian Memorial		5,822.85	1953	Mardiros & Makrouhi Bulbulian Memorial		38,000.00
1933	Aroussiag Der Zakarian Memorial		14,059.71	1953	Peter Kazarian Memorial		45,000.00
1933	Takouhi Djanikian Memorial		22,891.70	1953	Assadour Maniassian Memorial		4,457.78
1934	Agopian & Ohanik Bondjoukian Memorial		48,067.36	1954	AGBU Educational Endowment		2,151,358.56
1934	Hetoum Setian Memorial		237,000.00	1954	Haig & Annik Lemonjian		10,551.70
				1954	Hrant & Violet Lemonjian		10,551.70

AGBU Endowments 1910-2017

1954	Stephen I. Mouradian Memorial	\$ 3,613.31	1966	Araxie Dilsizian Memorial	\$ 10,123.13
1954	Albert Serabian Memorial	7,500.00	1966	Aznive & Astra Funduklian Memorial	53,653.00
1954	Dr. Nerses Tullian	5,275.86	1967	Andon Andonian Memorial	15,800.64
1954	Walter H. Vartan	10,300.00	1967	Siran Dilsizian Memorial	6,000.00
1955	Haig Boyajohn Memorial	7,000.00	1967	Aghavni Soghikian Memorial	28,894.73
1955	Dikran & Haiganoush Diradourian Memorial	269,556.50	1967	Levon Tashdjian Memorial	1,033,204.00
1955	Antranik & Alice Gurdjian	256,388.61	1967	Hagop & Madeleine Tchavouchian Memorial	35,823.32
1955	Hovannes & Repega Issacoulian Memorial	13,000.00	1967	Zkon Tchavouchian Memorial	39,837.00
1955	Garabed Kazarossian Memorial	25,000.00	1968	M. H. Aram Memorial	151,000.00
1955	Elizabeth Khantzian Memorial	10,268.41	1968	Nushan & Victoria Asadorian Memorial	10,000.00
1956	Karnig & Arto Funduklian Memorial	47,655.00	1968	Violet Jebejian Memorial	2,398.08
1956	Serpouhi A. Karagheusian Memorial	100,000.00	1968	Armen R. Manougian Memorial	25,000.00
1956	George Shamlan Memorial	1,000.00	1968	Ourfa Ladies Union of Aleppo	2,877.70
1956	Hagop G. Topalian Memorial	31,019.01	1968	Maksoud Sarkissian Memorial	94,827.74
1957	Aristakes Habeshian Memorial	6,000.00	1968	Yorganjian Foundation	120,514.25
1957	Aram A. Handjian Memorial	1,482,887.84	1969	Dicran & Ardem Atamian Memorial	26,450.00
1957	Dr. Moses & Mrs. Makrouhie Housepian Memorial	101,594.43	1969	Richard K.Gregory & Alice Karakashian Memorial	132,069.47
1957	Aram H. Mugardichian Memorial	15,051.73	1969	Makrouhie Jedidian Memorial	16,700.00
1957	Avedis K. Sarafian Memorial	8,552.51	1969	Aram Jerahian Memorial	2,000.00
1958	Hagop Chopourian Memorial	7,512.70	1969	Aram N. Karagheusian Memorial	53,853.00
1959	Asadoor Der Bedrossian Memorial	24,720.79	1969	Sam Saroyan Memorial	4,386.65
1959	Garabed & Haiganoush Ohanian Memorial	11,748.33	1969	Arshague & Evelyn Toprahanian Memorial	231,035.39
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1960	AGBU Intellectuals & Teachers	16,570.00	1969	Ghazar Yesseian Memorial	34,474.13
1960	John H. Balian Memorial	4,249.49	1970	Puzant Beshgeturian Memorial	11,164.13
1960	Seth H. Vakas Memorial	13,442.98	1970	Aghaeg & Elizabeth Dagavarian Memorial	190,700.19
1960	Haiganoush Varzhabedian Memorial	4,756.88	1970	Nishan & Mildred Dagavarian Memorial	317,385.15
1960	Hermine Zohrab Memorial	10,034.44	1970	Kevork Nalbandian Memorial	21,700.00
1961	Vahan Bedrossian	10,000.00		
1961	Nazareth Boyajian Memorial	6,612.92	1970	Vosgian Zegelian Memorial	15,400.00
1961	Mateos Mouradian Memorial	1,500.00	1971	Gaidzag & Mihran Chapiian Memorial	251,415.79
1961	Peter J. Tarzian Memorial	14,244.57	1971	Hagop Jamjian Memorial	20,000.00
1962	Stephen G. Clarkson (Yazijian) & Heghia Yazigian Memorial	20,930.80	1971	Arshavir Nersessian Memorial	10,432.37
1962	Parsegh Karamanian Memorial	5,143.84	1971	Massis N. Thomason Memorial	7,270.00
1962	Paul Klijian Memorial	59,108.26	1971	Leon Toutgalian Memorial	48,976.23
1962	Bedros Sahag Merakian Memorial	60,000.00	1971	Nvart Zahimen Memorial	8,745.40
1962	Meguerditch Torossian Memorial	37,450.00	1972	Suren & Virginia Fesjian Memorial	432,552.00
1963	Boghos & Nazlie Jafarian Memorial	5,700.00	1972	Mike Garabedian Memorial	4,500.00
1963	Hagop Nalbandian Memorial	5,000.00	1972	Harry Katcherian Memorial	41,785.15
1964	Melkon & Negdar Aijian Memorial	70,000.00	1972	Missak & Arpine Kouyoumdjian Memorial	1,085,404.81
1964	Stepan Hagop Astardjian Memorial	25,000.00	1972	Eliza Melkon Memorial	196,790.12
1964	Agop Ohan Couyoumdjian Memorial	14,558.58	1972	Aram & Rose Mendikian Memorial	10,000.00
1964	Setrak & Azniv Der Bagdasarian Memorial	5,000.00	1972	Levon & Satenig Nazarian Memorial	1,936,526.24
1964	Avedis Garabedian Memorial	71,953.51	1972	Armen & Vartanoush Soultanian Memorial	82,325.00
1964	Setrak Iskenderian Memorial	51,413.83	1972	Hovnan & Edward N. Tashian Memorial	448,009.24
1964	Mourad M. Kazarian Memorial	47,638.86	1972	Yenofkian Brothers Memorial	455,011.20
1964	Diran & Eugenie Patapanian Memorial	18,650.77	1973	Anonymous "MM"	95,588.71
1964	Khatchig H. Tertsagian Memorial	176,466.49	1973	Mourad & Elizabeth Bedrosian, Krikor & Marina Egoyan Memorial	11,845.00
1965	Leon Handjian Memorial	148,987.50	1973	Nicholas & Berj Der Manuelian Memorial	12,151.00
1965	Souren Hanessian Memorial	724,541.00	1973	Harry Hairabedian Memorial	20,678.00
1965	Haig & Haigouhi Kashian Memorial	20,000.00	1973	Yervant Hussissian Memorial	500,000.00
1965	Krikor H. Koutnouyan Memorial	309,595.28	1973	Gadarine Kulhanjian Memorial	18,795.30
1965	John Mooradian Memorial	21,000.00	1973	Sarkis Melikian Memorial	25,000.00
1965	Raymont Paul	26,800.74	1973	Mard & Rose Peloian Memorial	200,000.00
1966	Steven Avyan Memorial	121,906.00	1973	Hovannes Telian Memorial	52,700.00
1966	Haik Demir Memorial	39,927.22	1973	Kissak Vrouyr Memorial	20,012.41
			1974	Grant V. Athanas Memorial	20,000.00

1974	Hrant Bardoony Memorial	\$ 108,325.08	1976	Sirouhi Benlian Memorial	\$ 19,141.26
1974	Haig Berberian Memorial	258,520.13	1976	Kazar Chutjian Memorial	54,200.00
1974	Alan Fenner Memorial	125,868.20	1976	Hovhannes & Yeghisapet Doudouyan Memorial	60,000.00
1974	Nazar D. Funduklian Memorial	56,155.00	1976	Mardiros & Haiganoush Hagopian Memorial	26,741.86
1974	Krikor Hurmuzian Memorial	23,400.00	1976	Gabriel Hamparzumian Memorial	109,700.00
1974	Nazareth Jedidian Memorial	57,825.90	1976	Ardashes Lajikian Memorial	4,052.30
1974	Zabel & Elmast Movsessian Memorial	74,655.44	1976	Louis Mugerdichian Memorial	512,912.63
1974	Minni Pap Papazian Memorial	17,044.90	1976	Mary A. Neghosian Memorial	38,246.98
1974	Edward H. Touloukian Foundation	571,813.55	1976	Edward G. Nishan Memorial	50,000.00
1975	Hagop B. Barsamian Memorial	17,081.97	1976	Mariam Baltaian Sarkissian Memorial	10,250.00
1975	Joseph Bastian Memorial	29,443.97	1977	AGBU Alumni "Sanootz"	61,364.67
1975	Hampartsoum S. Kaloyan Memorial	10,580.00	1977	Anonymous "V"	1,683,951.95
1975	George Marderosian Memorial	8,487.89	1977	Michael & Marion Avsharian	11,000.00
1975	Louis N. & Aznif Melikian Memorial	35,043.82	1977	Mihran Exerjian Memorial	10,000.00
1975	John Gregory Moskoffian Memorial	18,986.24	1977	Mathew O. Najarian Memorial	5,200.00
1975	Esther Solakian Memorial	54,313.56	1977	Satenik & Adom K. Ourian Memorial	50,500.00
1975	Hovanes & Vartouhie Ter Hovanesian Memorial	261,600.00	1977	Nerses Papazian Memorial	57,782.98
1976	Hagop & Mariam Arzoumanian Memorial	1,601,162.79	1977	Victoria Tchertchian Memorial	39,787.00
1976	Garabed Avedikian Memorial	54,650.00	1978	Hagop & Mary Booloozian Memorial	481,177.18
1976	Karnik & Sirarpi Babayan Memorial	12,000.00	1978	Marderos Chebolian Memorial	13,815.29

TENNYTATUSIAN

A Thirst for Life and Journalism

If you are fond of the *Los Angeles Times*, you have most likely come across Tenny Tatusian's compelling work. A curious news editor, Tenny had a great passion for journalism and was her colleagues' favorite for her professionalism and sunny personality. "She was so very proud of her Armenian heritage, proud to be making a difference in the world as a journalist," says her friend Joe Bel Bruno, the managing editor of *Variety Magazine*.

Born in Iraq in July 1969, she grew up in Madison, Wisconsin. As the political situation deteriorated in Iraq, following the revolution of 1968, her parents, Aram and Alice Tatusian, moved to the United States. From childhood, Tenny expressed interest in reading and stayed focused on her studies. A gifted student, she majored in journalism, enrolled in a class taught by Walter Cronkite at the Arizona State University (ASU) and received an AGBU scholarship to continue her studies. Immediately after graduation, Tenny was hired to work for *The Orange County Register*, where she began reporting the news and launched a food column. Her career progression led to editorial positions at CNN and the *Los Angeles Times*, as she helped expand and improve their digital presence. Although Tenny was a fine cook, she continued enthusiastically nourishing her professional interest in culinary and spent a few months in France, excelling in baking and learning the secrets of a French pâtissier.



Straightforward and outgoing, she brought meaning to everything she did, whether it was traveling, writing or volunteering. In her father's words, "She was interested in life itself." For many years, Tenny volunteered to support people in need in their quest to obtain affordable housing. After workdays, she spent weekends volunteering for Habitat for Humanity. "She was really interested in helping people," says Tatusian, describing

his daughter's long-time service. Tenny's thirst for life and optimism was on display after she was diagnosed with melanoma a few years ago. She did not give up and continued working and traveling. A trip to Japan was one of her last adventures. She also loved spending time with her friends and family, bringing warmth and love into their lives. "She always acted as a bridge between our family's Armenian and Iraqi roots and our assimilated lives, filling in cultural gaps and making us and others feel more comfortable," says her cousin Alex Tatusian. "I think everyone who knew her feels a distinct empty feeling and will continue to on some level."

After Tenny left us in July 2017, Aram and Alice Tatusian found a touching and meaningful way to honor her life and legacy. Wishing to support Armenian students who pursue degrees in journalism, they established a scholarship with AGBU in memory of Tenny. "We owe AGBU a lot, it's about the courtesy they have shown," says Aram Tatusian with hope their gift will have a positive impact on young Armenians. ❏

AGBU Endowments 1910-2017

1978	Edward & Larry Egavian Memorial	\$ 20,000.00	1982	Harry V. Babaian	\$ 50,250.00
1978	Garabed Ehikian Memorial	8,411.00	1982	Silas Bozigian Memorial	50,000.00
1978	Sarkis Fereshetian Memorial	5,000.00	1982	Aznive Georgian & Hagop Kaprielian Memorial	8,200.00
1978	Garabed & Ara Hodaghian Memorial	47,900.00	1982	Hirair & Anna Hovnanian	110,000.00
1978	Gulbenk & Nver Juknavorian Memorial	17,411.86	1982	Mourad Karaguesian Memorial	7,500.00
1978	Hovannes & Hnazart Khashkhashian Memorial	20,000.00	1982	Hovhannes, Zartar, Hagop & Makrouhi Koushian	60,526.47
1978	Haigaz Mekhalian Memorial	5,000.00	1982	Marie Kupelian Memorial	6,813.00
1978	Manoog & Mary Aharonian Savajian Memorial	40,200.00	1982	Norma Kurkjian Memorial	341,032.25
1978	Edward & Marguerite Shabazian Memorial	8,825.00	1982	Paul C. Manoogian Memorial	5,000.00
1978	Charles & Arshalous Shukloian Memorial	5,000.00	1982	Marshall H. Medzorian Memorial	10,000.00
1978	Stephen G. Svajian & Haroutun Najarian Memorial	16,697.30	1982	Maryam Moutafian Memorial	134,556.00
1978	Tashjian & Lamson Memorial	111,047.71	1982	Zabelle Aram Panosian Memorial	756,939.45
1978	Haigaz & Flora Tombouljian Memorial	72,007.95	1982	Hovhannes Sheohmelian Memorial	137,340.00
1979	Vahan Beloian Memorial	16,075.93	1982	Joseph Tahmazian Memorial	27,000.00
1979	Dr. Avedis M. Casparian	819,982.02	1982	Sone Torosian Memorial	4,770.00
1979	Zareh & Koharig Davuloglu Memorial	15,000.00	1982	Armenouhi Boyajian Yertzian Memorial	87,712.01
1979	Dickran K. Deyrmanjian Memorial	398,310.45	1982	Lucy & Garabed Zartarian Memorial	120,000.00
1979	Mannig Ghazarossian Memorial	28,000.00	1983	AGBU District Of France	413,544.00
1979	Haroutune K. Goekjian Memorial	85,671.03	1983	Garabed Ohanes Berberian Memorial	140,603.41
1979	Vahan & Srpouhi Jirian Memorial	5,000.00	1983	Cayane Boyajian Memorial	34,458.00
1979	Panos & Katherine Killabian Memorial	31,317.84	1983	Gabriel & Eugenie Chakarian Memorial	69,300.00
1979	Stephen Hakemian Mathews Memorial	145,137.55	1983	Chunkoosh Compatriotic Union	11,898.52
1979	Nevart Mavian Memorial	58,800.00	1983	Yervant & Alice Demirdjian Memorial	57,571.16
1979	Manuel Melikian Memorial	14,142.57	1983	Garabed & Eugenie Der Stepanian	4,744.61
1979	Arsene Papazian Memorial	377,000.00	1983	Vahe G. Funduklian Memorial	513,150.00
1979	John & Araxie Samelian Memorial	14,878.95	1983	Rev. Nuchan & Mrs. Gladys Hachian Memorial	52,070.56
1979	Mihran & Parantzem Sherbetian Memorial	110,194.64	1983	Takvor & Zabelle Kafesjian	20,575.00
1980	Vahram Abdalian Memorial	88,550.73	1983	Manuel Khatchadourian Memorial	3,894.19
1980	Dr. Gregory H. Adamian	21,862.44	1983	Nishan M. Minassian Memorial	22,618.46
1980	Clark Dinjian Memorial	11,100.00	1983	Hagop Mukhjian Memorial	44,078.00
1980	Avedis Don & Armine Donelian Memorial	21,680.00	1983	Vahan Jacques Pascal Memorial	42,710.77
1980	Haroutiun Gasparian Memorial	47,600.00	1983	Nigoghos & Mary Tekian	36,710.50
1980	Haig Ghazarossian Memorial	725,000.00	1983	Harutune & Kohar Topalian Memorial	12,948.57
1980	Beatrice Krikorian Memorial	10,568.00	1983	Sisag Varjabedian Memorial	33,306.53
1980	Harry & Ethel Mangurian Memorial	93,980.84	1984	Edward N. Alexanian Memorial	25,000.00
1980	Edward & Helen Mardigian	270,000.00	1984	Haig & Syrvart Artan	13,035.00
1980	Minas Missak Memorial	1,361,724.65	1984	John Ayvazian Memorial	40,500.00
1980	Dikran Missirlian Foundation	19,292.17	1984	Martin & Newart Baloyan Memorial	36,443.51
1980	Alice & George Philibosian	20,000.00	1984	Peter Marcus Boghosian Memorial	50,000.00
1981	Krikor Aivazian Memorial	11,987.56	1984	Sarkis M. Casparian Memorial	250,783.39
1981	Arthur & Eliza Avedian	13,058.84	1984	Leon & Matilda Giridlian Memorial	15,417.00
1981	Anita Bishop	3,900.00	1984	Edward & Mary Jerjian	25,176.63
1981	Thomas O. & Alice Dakessian Memorial	557,370.37	1984	Krikor Kasabian Memorial	109,662.12
1981	Esther Eksouzian Memorial	6,000.00	1984	Sarkis & Vava Katchadourian Memorial	102,170.40
1981	Charles Garjian Memorial	33,360.96	1984	Nevart & Hasmig Krikorian Memorial	307,920.00
1981	Harry Kurkian	5,000.00	1984	Garabed Ovanessian Memorial	40,959.08
1981	Mihran & Mary Melekian Memorial	29,283.59	1984	Harry Papelian Memorial	20,791.65
1981	Krikor N. Roupelian Memorial	583,848.82	1984	Hrand Vakilian Memorial	13,569.33
1981	Hmayak & Mayda Semerjian Memorial	113,555.00	1984	Arshag Vassilian Memorial	28,836.99
1981	David B. & Lois Shakarian	263,364.62	1985	AGBU Detroit Men's Chapter	13,050.00
1981	Nerses Zohrab Memorial	61,282.95	1985	Garabed, Hagop & Artine Agopian Memorial	100,000.00
1982	AGBU Friends of Alex & Marie Manoogian School	17,558.50	1985	Mr. & Mrs. Souren Aprahamian	5,000.00
1982	AGBU Friends of Camp Nubar	372,164.82	1985	Madeline Cashian Memorial	9,434.60
1982	Aintab Union	53,145.24	1985	Margaret Gayzagian Memorial	196,397.84
1982	Napoleon S. Alajajian Memorial	306,613.92	1985	Lucas & Rose Gregory	20,928.00
1982	Arsen Artinian Memorial	25,480.63	1985	Mardiros & Margaret Hatcherian	10,000.00
			1985	Mihran & Rosemary Hoplamazian	52,350.00

1985	Dickran Kelekian Memorial	\$ 329,100.00	1989	Henry Bahlavooni Memorial	\$ 84,500.00
1985	Alice Krikorian Memorial	189,315.80	1989	Walter Baronian Memorial	28,000.00
1985	Dikranouhi Maronian Memorial	44,500.00	1989	Avedis O. Boyajian & Rev. Arsen A. Georgizian Memorials	2,257.00
1985	Mr. & Mrs. Albert Papoyans	5,000.00	1989	Rose Yessaian & Christopher Costa Memorial	14,952.50
1985	Sahag & Satenig Sahagian Memorial	100,561.27	1989	Anna Der Vartanian Memorial	21,223.72
1985	Mushegh & Arshaloos Shamalian Memorial	181,302.26	1989	Levon Hagopian Memorial	41,087.13
1985	George & Ivy Sharigian Memorial	12,000.00	1989	Ronald Jameson Memorial	7,525.00
1985	Takouhi Torigian Memorial	9,576.00	1989	Haig Kasbarian Memorial	127,686.00
1986	Anonymous "BP"	96,702.10	1989	Krikor & Neouver Keldjian	179,860.50
1986	Kevork & Verjin Arslanian	15,000.00	1989	Mirjan Kirian Memorial	20,020.00
1986	Ashod Badmakrian Memorial	33,126.78	1989	Leon Kirk Memorial	15,000.00
1986	Caesarian Benevolent Association Inc.	18,489.55	1989	Charles H. Kouzoujian	20,000.00
1986	Sarkis & Beatrice Chekerdjian Memorial	354,525.29	1989	Sarkis Mekjian Memorial	37,898.14
1986	Aram Hejinian Memorial	2,443.81	1989	Melkonian Fund Memorial	119,444.44
1986	Dikranouhi Hoplamazian Memorial	5,102.50	1989	Krikor Meutemedian Memorial	1,560.82
1986	Serope Kardash Memorial	5,596.00	1989	George & Gula Mutevalian Memorial	23,277.49
1986	Sarkis Kassabian Memorial	70,600.00	1989	Michael Nazarian Memorial	30,300.10
1986	Kegham Y. & Dickranouhi M. Koltoukdjian Memorial	436,300.00	1989	Mihran Nazarian Memorial	51,780.62
1986	Parantzem Margosian Memorial	14,009.79	1989	Alice Pakrad Memorial	165,650.00
1986	Hemayak & Rahan Mateosian	30,000.00	1989	Antranik & Angele Poladian Memorial	259,900.00
1986	Matilda Nakkashian Memorial	24,890.64	1989	Dorothy A. Poladian Memorial	41,970.62
1986	Nigoghos A. Nigosian Memorial	194,147.90	1989	Oksin Sinamian Memorial	45,011.27
1986	Garbis Papazian	56,920.00	1989	Karl & Emma Sogoian	15,000.00
1986	Mihran Toumajan Memorial	24,426.67	1989	Onnig & Peruze Tabibian Memorial	13,000.00
1986	Noubar Vartian Memorial	50,000.00	1989	Yesayan Foundation	1,340.00
1986	Zakeyan & Dumanian Family Memorial	101,424.15	1989	Victoria Zamanigian Memorial	25,032.50
1987	AGBU Friends of Ararat Magazine	52,540.85			
1987	Ghevont & Siranoush Bakalian Memorial	347,234.55	1990	AGBU Women's Central Committee	13,000.00
1987	Vartkess & Rita Balian	450,000.00	1990	Anonymous "HAG"	653,308.82
1987	Dicran Berberian Memorial	40,220.05	1990	Anonymous "KI" Memorial	323,984.00
1987	Arthur Dadian Memorial	130,000.00	1990	Baidzar & Haroot H. Arootian Memorial	12,510.64
1987	Bedros Hintlian Memorial	10,000.00	1990	Yenova Betian	7,603.00
1987	Boghos P. Jelebjan Memorial	698,905.00	1990	Harry Demerjian Memorial	25,000.00
1987	Ena Berjouhi Kenadjian Memorial	23,545.00	1990	Vahe, Nerses & Mary Gulesserian Memorial	498,263.88
1987	Arthur Kradjian	10,000.00	1990	Gabriel Inejikian	100,000.00
1987	Hagop Krikorian Memorial	130,000.00	1990	Onnig & Hrant Isbenjian Memorial	1,005,326.63
1987	Vartouhi, Asadour, Armen & Aram Mirjanian Memorial	14,000.00	1990	Krikor Kasarjian	1,200.00
1987	Parsek K. Parsekian Memorial	387,932.63	1990	Lucille Kasbarian Memorial	120,235.34
1987	Louise Salverian Memorial	53,005.93	1990	Arshag & Azniv Kirazian Memorial	591,586.00
1987	Rose Shafer Memorial	6,050.00	1990	George & John Kurkjian	4,709.00
1987	Mihran M. Simidian Memorial	643,018.30	1990	G & K Melkonian Memorial	197,867.84
1987	Wilhelmina Suren Memorial	259,976.06	1990	Arthur Moorad Memorial	72,350.90
1987	Haroutun Tchertchian Memorial	14,050.00	1990	Esther K. Parseghian Memorial	96,320.97
1988	AGBU Athletic Games	75,000.00	1990	Nishan & Mary Shimshirian Memorial	56,494.59
1988	AGBU Chicago Chapter	343,335.00	1990	Saruhi Vartian	10,000.00
1988	AGBU Detroit Women's Chapter	50,000.00	1990	Stephen & Chouchane Yeghiayan Memorial	50,000.00
1988	AGBU Hovagimian-Manougian School/Ara Topdjian	65,045.81	1991	Mihran & Elizabeth Agbabian	55,000.00
1988	Mildred Dagavarian Memorial	95,030.10	1991	AGBU Melkonian Alumni	112,660.30
1988	Hovannes Gulbenkian Memorial	66,800.00	1991	Yervant Minas & Patricia Aghajanian Memorial	715,388.94
1988	Dikranouhi & Karnig Hajinlian Memorial	149,157.98	1991	Arsilia Akian Memorial	654,786.00
1988	Sam Hakemian Memorial	75,000.00	1991	Fimi Avedisyan Memorial	10,712.18
1988	Rouben & Achkhen Iguidbashian Memorial	35,090.00	1991	Astghig Nassibian Balikian Memorial	25,000.00
1988	Arthur Janigian Memorial	25,000.00	1991	Antranik Demirdjian Memorial	35,549.00
1988	Kevork Keklikian Janjigian Memorial	10,000.00	1991	Armen & Nelly Der Kiureghian	12,000.00
1989	Martin & Varsenig Apkarian	17,150.00	1991	Simon Derderian Memorial	14,795.00
1989	Agop Azarian	10,000.00	1991	Keghanoush Douzaklian & Leon Bedighian Memorial	69,181.89
1989	Mr. & Mrs. Karnig Bahadurian Memorial	10,000.00	1991	Armen & Salpie Haroutunian	54,296.28

AGBU Endowments 1910-2017

1991	Arshalouis Tavrejian Hartune Memorial	\$ 320,276.87	1992	Karakashian Family	\$ 892,447.25
1991	Dick & Mary Horigian Memorial	100,154.85	1992	Adrine A. Kenadjian Memorial	10,000.01
1991	Artemis Karagheusian Memorial	20,456.99	1992	Kegham & Haigouhi Kradjian Memorial	27,870.00
1991	Albert H. Mouradian Memorial	7,409.47	1992	Haig Mardirian Memorial	57,568.14
1991	Barkev Nalbandian Memorial	10,185.00	1992	Hrant Melikian Memorial	10,000.00
1991	Simon Arman & Pinna Papazian Memorial	1,000,000.00	1992	Nazar & Artemis Nazarian	10,100,000.00
1991	Margaret Simonian Memorial	32,740.00	1992	Armand O. & Marilyn Norehad	10,000.00
1991	Ara Solickian Memorial	11,333.64	1992	Prof. Parounag & Angele Tomassian Memorial	25,162.44
1991	Armen L. Tertsagian Memorial	10,000.00	1992	Barry & Margaret A. Zorthian Memorial	34,753.95
1991	Helen & Hagop Zakarian Memorial	6,700.00	1993	Altounian Brothers Memorial	907,742.83
1992	AGBU AYA Lebanon	176,133.79	1993	Ruben & Marion Barsamian	6,100.00
1992	David Asher Memorial	54,378.00	1993	Krikor & Sylvia Galbedian Memorial	68,224.04
1992	Edmond Azadian	10,000.00	1993	Nerses Galbedian Memorial	34,112.02
1992	Michel Baghdassarian Memorial	91,149.00	1993	Aram Hashashian Memorial	11,241.48
1992	Yvonne Kashian Banks Memorial	17,677.82	1993	Stepan & Haiganoush Kabasakalian Memorial	28,650.87
1992	Nevart Couyoumjian Memorial	45,000.00	1993	Haig Kanjian Memorial	100,000.00
1992	Sarkis & Seta Demirdjian	253,147.30	1993	Alice Nemzar Khashmanian Memorial	80,409.00
1992	Hagop S. Derderian Memorial	100,000.00	1993	Dr. Levon Kurkjian Memorial	30,075.00
1992	Levon Donigian	5,370.18	1993	Marie Manoogian Memorial	257,622.40
1992	Flora & Diane Galoostian Memorial	45,000.00	1993	Leon S. Peters Foundation	233,000.00

ALICE MARTIN

Continuing Her Family Legacy

Alice Martin's (née Fereshetian) entire life was tied to Arlington, Massachusetts where she was born and raised. A first-generation Armenian American, Alice was born in 1923 to Sarkis and Nartoohie Fereshetian and had three siblings: Helen, Robert and Dorothy, whom she remained close to throughout her entire life.

Although the large influx of Armenians to the United States began after the Hamidian Massacres and swelled in the aftermath of the genocide, a small number of Armenians had settled in the country by the late nineteenth century. Early Armenian immigrants moved to the United States—particularly to Massachusetts—largely with the help of Protestant missionaries from New England. The majority of early Armenian immigrants were from the province of Kharpert. Alice's father was one of these immigrants. Sarkis was born in 1882 in Kharpert and arrived in Boston in 1900 at the age of 18. He soon opened a grocery store in East Cambridge and married Nartoohie.

A gifted child, Alice skipped a grade in elementary school and played the violin for a few years. After graduating from Arlington High School, she worked as a secretary at several well-known law firms in Boston, ending her career at Goodwin, Proctor and Hoar. Alice was

known for her many interests and hobbies: a music fan, traveler, philatelist and keen reader, among others. She nurtured a love of music throughout her life and was a frequent concert-goer. Reading was one of her favorite activities. She enjoyed both fiction and nonfiction and was fond of crossword puzzles. Alice also had an extensive collection of American stamps; several Armenian stamps were a significant addition to her collection. A lover of animals, Alice had a dog or a cat for most of her life. She was especially fond of her cat Benji who remained a faithful companion until her death in February 2016.

Alice and her family were members of the First Armenian Church of Belmont, one of the oldest Armenian churches in Massachusetts. Her family used to make several generous donations to the church. Continuing her family legacy, Alice, an AGBU member, was a committed donor. She made contributions to the AGBU

Senior Dining Centers in Armenia and the AGBU Humanitarian Emergency Relief Fund for Syrian Armenians. It comes as no surprise that Alice included AGBU in her will. Her gift will be directed to AGBU humanitarian, cultural and educational programs in memory of Sarkis and Nartoohie Fereshetian, making a difference in the lives of Armenians today. **■**



1993	Rev. Toros Sahagian Memorial	\$ 10,000.00	1995	Puzant & Marie Markarian Memorial	\$ 76,940.00
1993	Osep & Nadya Sarafian	30,000.00	1995	Victor Menayan	100,000.00
1993	Garabed Sarian Memorial	11,696.00	1995	Merrill Lynch & Co. Foundation, Inc.	20,000.00
1993	Mannig Simidian Memorial	10,000.00	1995	Richard G. Mosteller	150,000.00
1993	James B. & Mary Sinclair	26,400.00	1995	Gregory M. & Maritza M. Mugar	12,000.00
1993	Abraham Soghigian Memorial	226,411.06	1995	Nevart R. Najarian Memorial	10,000.00
1993	Nerses Tamamian Memorial	58,193.27	1995	Agop Jirair Ovanessian Family	56,000.00
1993	Hagop Dirane Topalian Memorial	12,335,902.00	1995	Rouben & Nina Terzian	25,000.00
1993	Ovsanna K. Vartivarian Memorial	3,188.76	1995	Jack S. Torosian	125,000.00
1993	Ohanes Vekilian Memorial	23,500.18	1995	Samuel Valenti III	150,000.00
1993	Haig B. Yardumian Memorial	10,000.00	1995	Mr. & Mrs. Hagop Vanerian	8,786.32
1993	Satenig Yardumian Memorial	10,000.00	1995	Esteban & Sada Zarikian	125,500.00
1994	AGBU President's Club Summer Intern Program	402,895.00	1995	Zartarian Foundation	9,500.00
1994	Garabed Andonian Memorial	474,873.00	1996	Mr. & Mrs. Sarkis Acopian	2,045,000.00
1994	Armenag Arabian Memorial	95,449.00	1996	AGBU Manoogian-Demirdjian School	183,526.51
1994	Harold A. Arsenian Memorial	55,487.50	1996	AGBU Noubar Nazarian YP Innovators Fund	100,000.00
1994	Susan Avakian Memorial	10,575.00	1996	Amar Murad Andranigian Memorial	384,042.25
1994	Mary Aydenian Memorial	257,777.36	1996	Antranig Berberian	132,500.00
1994	Dickranouhi & Armen P. Baltian Memorial	120,790.11	1996	Zaven P. Berberian	85,045.23
1994	Dickran S. Chobanian Memorial	10,000.00	1996	Artine & Rose Boyajian Memorial	9,905.00
1994	Choulian/Zovickian Memorial	10,000.00	1996	Nelly Boyajian Memorial	7,732.50
1994	Gregory Mark Gargarian, Ph.D. Memorial	25,500.00	1996	Leon Chahinian	105,000.00
1994	Gaspar A. Goshgarian	100,100.00	1996	Mr. & Mrs. Shavarsh Demirdjian	25,000.00
1994	George Gurdjian Memorial	350,000.00	1996	Donchian, Hajeian & Chirkinian Memorial	85,500.00
1994	Seda Voskanian Haroutunian Memorial	59,158.45	1996	Peter B. Gabrielian Memorial	500,000.00
1994	Vicki & Raffy Hovanesian	20,000.00	1996	Richard & Beatrice Hagopian Memorial	100,000.00
1994	Peter Hiak Jacobson Memorial	100,000.00	1996	Christophe H. Hatchikoff Memorial	250,000.00
1994	Albert H. Jamentz Memorial	50,000.00	1996	Melkiset & Isgouhi Jamgotch Family Memorial	160,693.91
1994	Loosazine Kazanjian Memorial	11,690.00	1996	Dirouhi B. Jingoizian Memorial	244,305.26
1994	Gerald A. Kearns	449,677.06	1996	Girar K. & Hasmik Kaprelian	39,151.00
1994	George Makinisian Memorial	76,427.00	1996	Alice Kashian Memorial	10,000.00
1994	Manoogian Manor	1,000,000.00	1996	Mac John Lucas Memorial	302,428.00
1994	Manoogian Simone Foundation	2,950,000.00	1996	Alex Manoogian Memorial	1,014,465.78
1994	Valentine Mazlounian Memorial	10,000.00	1996	Masco Corporation	60,000.00
1994	Mr. & Mrs. John C. Nicholls, Jr.	50,948.66	1996	Richard Nalbandian Memorial	29,535.00
1994	Mgrditch Papazian Memorial	143,769.00	1996	Vahe Nishanian Memorial	50,125.00
1995	Krikor Aghegian Memorial	59,112.00	1996	Astrid Papazian	15,000.00
1995	Francois S. & Suzy Antounian	17,040.00	1996	Elizabeth Phillian Memorial	6,357.87
1995	John Aranosian Family	48,500.00	1996	Aram Sander Memorial	35,000.00
1995	Armenouhi Bagdasarian Memorial	39,200.00	1996	Boghos & Arusiag Sanoian Memorial	10,000.00
1995	Leo & Elaine Bakalian Memorial	10,115.00	1996	Henry P. Sanoian & Nancy Manoogian	25,000.00
1995	Dickran Barsam	14,000.00	1996	Sam & Sylva Simonian	112,000.00
1995	Melkon & Soorpoohi Chiefgjan Memorial	1,000.00	1996	Leon & Shake Tokatlian	10,000.00
1995	Sarkis & Nora Dadourian Memorial	113,500.00	1996	Charles G. Uligian	75,294.33
1995	Digranaguerd Reconstruction Union	31,923.61	1996	G. S. Ani Vapurciyan	11,766.23
1995	Epram & Alice Djirdjirian Memorial	324,245.00	1997	AGBU Detroit Chapter	6,000.00
1995	George K. & Lucy L. Eguinlian Memorial	358,696.55	1997	AGBU Friends of AUA	471,362.16
1995	Arthur K. & Araxse Enjaian Memorial	49,080.38	1997	AGBU Orange County Chapter	3,000.00
1995	Eugene A. Gargaro Jr.	85,000.00	1997	Grace Alexanian Memorial	25,000.00
1995	Dr. & Mrs. Samuel Haig Jameson	151,287.07	1997	Mable V. Altoonjian Memorial	20,000.00
1995	Nishan & Arshalous Janigian Memorial	3,000.00	1997	Arabkir Union Inc.	487,314.19
1995	Dickran & Haigouhi Kashian Memorial	201,401.97	1997	AUA Dr. Mihran Agbabian	311,400.00
1995	Khachadourian Brothers Memorial	746,811.13	1997	John J. Bandeian Memorial	263,382.61
1995	Anthony Kushigian Memorial	3,203,776.45	1997	Johnny O. Barber Memorial	70,000.00
1995	Dolores Zohrab Liebmman Memorial	457,727.47	1997	Joseph L. & Jacqueline S. Basralian	155,200.00
1995	Wayne B. Lyon	150,000.00	1997	Akhayeg Bedrosian Memorial	11,000.00
1995	Khosrof & Varsene Mansourian Memorial	25,000.00	1997	Antranik & Sheny Bobelian	28,975.00

AGBU Endowments 1910-2017

1997	Eli Y. & Zavart Demirdjian Bogosian Memorial	\$ 8,745.00	1998	Dr. & Mrs. George Bannayan	\$ 67,500.00
1997	Budakian Family	20,918.72	1998	Sarkis & Ruth Bedevian	2,820,500.00
1997	Cafesjian Family Foundation	635,000.00	1998	Rev. Fr. & Mrs. Bob J. Bethoney	2,000.00
1997	Harry T. Chouljian Memorial	80,000.00	1998	Sarkis Bogosian Memorial	206,066.67
1997	Vahe & Aline Donikian Memorial	7,625.00	1998	Jack O. Charshafian Memorial	11,935.00
1997	Kevork B. Garmirian Memorial	37,300.00	1998	Hagop & Hranoush Dabanian Memorial	10,000.00
1997	Dr. Assadour Gulvartian Memorial	11,151.87	1998	Mr. & Mrs. Zaven Dadekian	20,000.00
1997	Roxie Hagopian Memorial	261,216.26	1998	Fredrick Danelian	41,772.00
1997	Rev. Fr. Carnig A. Hallajian	319,591.63	1998	Vagharshag Danielian Memorial	38,000.00
1997	Sarkis Hovagimian Memorial	255,138.60	1998	Art Darian Memorial	144,035.00
1997	Col. Manuel Hovnanian Memorial	22,300.00	1998	Kerop & Amalia Der Avedisian	10,000.00
1997	Avedis V. & Yerchanig Janjigian Memorial	27,110.00	1998	Kevork & Nazeni Deukmedjian Memorial	9,855.00
1997	Noubar & Anita Jessourian Memorial	272,536.97	1998	Garo N. Dorian	5,389.85
1997	Garabed & Tourvanda Jooharigian Memorial	5,000.00	1998	Dr. Pauline Goodian Memorial	974,106.92
1997	Mark & Rose Kandarian Memorial	100,837.09	1998	Dr. Pauline Goodian & Dr. Yervant Harrian Memorial	324,687.12
1997	Kazazian Family	73,539.21	1998	Mariam & Boghos Goodian Memorial	324,687.12
1997	Boghos Kerbeykian Memorial	36,340.00	1998	Arshalouys Goudian Memorial	2,000,000.00
1997	Varujan & Sirpuhi Kesenci	2,500.00	1998	Ashod Hadjian	70,000.00
1997	Elizabeth Kondazian Memorial	664,159.49	1998	Michael & Katherine Halebian	105,000.00
1997	Hagopos & Imasid Kurkjian Memorial	10,821.68	1998	Norair Hovaghimian Memorial	25,000.00
1997	Yeranouhie Mamourian Memorial	15,000.00	1998	Mr. & Mrs. Krikor Istanboulli	85,000.00
1997	Hagop & Takouhy Mangerian Memorial	122,075.00	1998	Maria Jinishian Memorial	10,000.00
1997	George & Marge Manoogian	69,521.05	1998	Charley Kademian Memorial	56,641.30
1997	Meghriqian Family Scholarship	100,000.00	1998	Hagop & Anna Kalaydjian Memorial	6,798.12
1997	Hagop Mendikian & Rose Mendik Meschke Memorial	412,119.55	1998	Shahan Karakash Memorial	50,000.00
1997	Anush Nazarian & Suzanne Toufayan	28,399.94	1998	Dr. & Mrs. Artine Kokshanian	15,050.00
1997	Satenig Ouzounian Memorial	54,652.70	1998	John & Theresa Korenian	20,056.03
1997	Soukias & Koogas Ovagimian, Khachadour N. Magarian Memorial	10,000.00	1998	Terenik & Rita Koujakian	12,000.00
1997	Avedis H. & Azadouhie and Hagop Piandarian Memorial	22,500.00	1998	Kurdian-Manoukian	33,640.36
1997	Grace & Charles Pinajian	140,000.00	1998	Azniv A. Malootian Memorial	57,534.69
1997	John S. & Mariam Rahanian Memorial	10,000.00	1998	Ruby Markarian	10,000.00
1997	Dorothy Sahroian Robinson Memorial	112,600.60	1998	Hagop Maxian	26,000.00
1997	Varujan & Silva Sahakyan Memorial	3,128,365.06	1998	Jeffery & Mary Parsigian	60,000.00
1997	Elmas M. Saraf Memorial	9,587.47	1998	Daniel Saglamian	222,636.00
1997	Dr. & Mrs. Sarkis M. Shaghalian	50,000.00	1998	Mr. & Mrs. Antranig Sarkissian	9,000.00
1997	Iva Shaljian Memorial	2,954,266.36	1998	Sarkis Soultanian Memorial	14,815.00
1997	Queen P. Essayan Silva Memorial	10,000.00	1998	Sarkis Spanjian Memorial Scholarship	40,000.00
1997	David & Louise Simone	72,500.00	1998	Vartan G. Telian Memorial	40,000.00
1997	Zabel and Tavit S. Soultanian & Zallakian Family Memorial	21,477.50	1998	Hagop Tellalian Memorial	315,200.00
1997	Berge Tatian	28,749.94	1998	Arshag & Isgouhi Barsamian Topalian Memorial	13,500.00
1997	Kevork & Pamela Toroyan	7,200.00	1998	Marie Veledian	175,320.00
1997	Loussentak Vartanian Memorial	22,490.00	1999	AGBU Manoogian-Demirdjian Student Council	5,000.00
1997	Vartkes Yeghiayan Memorial	4,008.21	1999	Noubar & Maro Agopian	29,094.20
1997	Zeronian Family Memorial	148,488.21	1999	Jane M. Alexanian Memorial	74,930.51
1997	Israel & Vartouhi Zokian Memorial	13,815.00	1999	Zauvart Alexanian	20,000.00
1998	Dr. & Mrs. Daniel H. Abdulian	28,500.00	1999	Anonymous "K"	47,579.38
1998	AGBU General Fund	477,187.02	1999	Marie K. Ansourian Memorial	20,730.00
1998	Norair M. & Elizabeth M. Ajamian Memorial	198,908.40	1999	Noubar & Anna Ashjian Memorial	130,067.97
1998	Yervant & Marie Akian	10,000.00	1999	Haratune & Avedis Avedisian Memorial	5,000.00
1998	Nvart H. Alexanian Memorial	174,494.65	1999	Bedros & Nvat Ayvazian Memorial	184,866.54
1998	Hrant Altunian Memorial	10,000.00	1999	Aram & Arpina Aznavorian Memorial	335,776.81
1998	Mr. & Mrs. Robert Apelian	31,125.00	1999	Osby Balderian Memorial	58,096.13
1998	Kaspar, Soultan, Paul & Johann Apkarian	50,000.00	1999	Albert & Tove Boyajian	110,000.00
1998	Armand P. Avakian	5,000.00	1999	Fred R. & Hazel W. Carstensen Memorial	13,000.00
1998	Aram & Berjohie Balekjian Memorial	10,775.00	1999	Mr. & Mrs. Levon Cepkinian	5,000.00
			1999	Armenette A. Christie Memorial	105,608.50
			1999	Gesaria Compatriotic Benevolent Assoc.	5,000.00

1999	Dr. & Mrs. Vicken Gulvartian	\$ 5,136.11	1999	Mr. & Mrs. Edward Peters	\$ 12,000.00
1999	Edouard Yervant Gureghian	26,800.36	1999	Vera Rooopenian Memorial	121,484.44
1999	Kaspar & Kohar Hagopian Family	111,293.08	1999	Nubar Sayarman Memorial	53,609.98
1999	Raymond & Mildred Hagopian	18,000.00	1999	Leon & Victoria Shaldjian Foundation	2,400,502.65
1999	Arshavir & Arpik Jagaspanian Memorial	10,000.00	1999	Minas Shirvanian Memorial	7,095.49
1999	Dr. Aram Janigian Memorial	200,281.69	1999	Knarik & Sirarpi Sislian	22,000.00
1999	Haroutune Kenadjian Memorial	131,809.74	1999	Dr. Krikor Soghikian	25,000.00
1999	Richard & Jane Manoogian Foundation	400,000.00	1999	Nishan Tamezian	27,000.00
1999	Hagop & Iroula Manuelian	27,169.57	1999	Avedis & Loussazine Tcheurekdjian	24,800.00
1999	Margos & Elizabeth, Andranic, Knaric Clara & Grace Margossian	120,000.00	1999	Berj Topjian Memorial	30,534.00
1999	Serop & Vartoohie Mashikian Memorial	25,000.00	1999	Sarkis & Zarouhi Touloukian, Arsine Selian Memorials	197,717.87
1999	Mr. & Mrs. Varto Mazmanian	7,838.42	1999	Astine Vartanian Memorial	10,975.00
1999	Dr. Diran O. Mikaelian	47,148.97	1999	Haiganoush Agnes & Haig R. Yazijian Memorial	1,006,921.46
1999	Suzy Minassian Memorial	5,119.96	1999	Souren, Ara, Tzolak Yeramian Memorial	360,300.00
1999	Arthur Musurlian	4,522.72	1999	Krikor Youredjian	6,223.53
1999	Mr. & Mrs. Edward Nahabet	5,000.00	2000	AGBU Friends of Children's Centers	367,068.28
1999	Harry Orbelian	2,000.00	2000	AGBU Southern California Youth Activities	69,505.00
1999	Togo Pachaian	111,976.00	2000	Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Ajamian	76,255.20
1999	Lucy J. Parsek Memorial	10,000.00	2000	Adrienne G. Alexanian	25,000.00

ROSE AND BERDJ TANELIAN

Keeping Their Ancestors' Memory Alive

Rose and Berdj Tanelian were born to survivors of the Armenian Genocide who were fortunate enough to find refuge in Cairo, Egypt. They both have treasured memories of their childhood and youth in Egypt in the 1940s and 1950s when the Armenian community had a strong presence. Egypt, however, did not remain their lifelong home. Worried about possible persecution after Gamal Abdel Nasser came to power, the young couple moved to Canada in 1964 and made it their new home. In Canada, they immediately became involved in community organizations, including AGBU and the Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Toronto, increasing their engagement over time. Knar Basmadjian, a friend and former chair of AGBU Toronto, describes them as generous individuals devoted to Armenian causes. "Berdj and Rose Tanelian have been a foundation for the Armenian community in Toronto," said Basmadjian.

Rose and Berdj enjoyed successful careers in Canada. Specializing in taxation, Rose worked at the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC) for 34 years and retired in a managerial position. For many years, Berdj was the go-to professional portrait photographer for the Armenian community and also shot for the corporate world. "I loved photography. It was very creative, especially before the digital age," says Berdj who inherited his passion for photography from his father and uncle.



Now in their early 80s, Rose and Berdj are enjoying a peaceful life. However, over a century after the Armenian Genocide, its open wounds still torment them. Guirguis Manoushi Zada, Rose's late grandfather, has a special place in her heart. Zada was one of thousands of Armenians from Mardin in Ottoman Anatolia who was killed in 1915. Rose never met him, saw his photo or heard stories about him.

Rose's grandmother, a genocide survivor, was a quiet woman focused on her children and grandchildren. The trauma of loss kept her silent for years—she never talked about the genocide or about her late husband. For Rose, this silence was painful and haunting: "People cannot perish without a trace. There should be evidence of their life and presence. It has always hurt me that there is no cemetery or cross that bears his name," she says. "It feels as if he did not exist." As Rose and Berdj were thinking of a meaningful way to honor Zada and create a lasting memory, they decided to contribute to humanitarian efforts in the Middle East. "It's a great idea to have his name written so that people will remember it," says Berdj. In 2016, they established the AGBU Guirguis Manoushi Zada Memorial Endowment in support of the AGBU Humanitarian Emergency Relief Fund, which has provided considerable assistance to Syrian Armenian families since the outbreak of conflict. Thanks to Rose and Berdj, hundreds of Syrian Armenians have received the support necessary to start a new life. **■**

AGBU Endowments 1910-2017

2000	Araxie C. Anjoorian Memorial	\$ 10,000.00	2001	Howard Family Philanthropic Fund	\$ 15,000.00
2000	Anonymous "OC"	10,000.00	2001	Mardo & Seta Kaprealian	10,000.00
2000	Hoseb & Lilly Arathoon Trust	205,146.12	2001	Sculptor Bruce Sanoian Kueffer Memorial	5,000.00
2000	Ardemis, Arpy & Armenoohy Arsenian Memorial	79,141.28	2001	Madeline Manoogian Memorial	5,000.00
2000	Yervantouhi, Khoren & Michael Asdoorian	112,199.48	2001	Andre Manoukian Memorial	659,414.54
2000	Mr. & Mrs. Jim Avakian	97,285.00	2001	Katherine & Avedis Miridjanian Memorial	41,000.00
2000	Nourhan Balian	2,000.00	2001	Hagop J. Nazerian Memorial	21,714.75
2000	Ara & Georgette Boyajian	16,122.56	2001	John & Grace Brady Nicoll Memorial	36,701.97
2000	Dickran Bozajian Memorial	25,000.00	2001	Angelina Ohanian Memorial	5,000.00
2000	Gosdan Bozajian	25,000.00	2001	Arpeen Mangerian Sullivan	51,434.00
2000	Kevork Cachaznouni Memorial	112,633.35	2001	Jorge Tchinnosian	5,000.00
2000	Aram & Sarkis Chapiian Memorial	57,900.00	2001	Aspet & Zevart Vartenissian Memorial	513,056.96
2000	Ara & Valerie Cherchian	47,350.46	2001	Christina & Araxie Zorian Memorial	32,631.79
2000	N. Dedeyan	11,205.00	2002	AGBU YP	180,849.00
2000	Nazaret & Meline Demirjian Memorial	42,000.00	2002	Jack & Ani Anserian	37,500.00
2000	John & Stella Eshkonian, Krikor & Mariam Eshkonian, Mary Eshkon Magmer Memorial	50,000.00	2002	Yertvart Arzumanyan Memorial	727,170.74
2000	Drs. Garabed & Peter Fattal, Nora Gibbs, Corinne Farrell	42,519.40	2002	Alexan Attarian Memorial	5,490.00
2000	Loulou Fermanian Memorial	10,250.00	2002	Hratchia & Adrine Chamlian Memorial	10,000.00
2000	Sarkis Gabrellian Memorial	10,000.00	2002	Simon A. Cholakian Memorial	115,921.62
2000	Flora & Valarshak Mackertich Galoostian Memorial	50,000.00	2002	Mr. & Mrs. Vartan Hartounian	11,000.00
2000	Murad Guchigian Memorial	26,500.00	2002	Jeffrey S. Kerbeykian Memorial	10,052.00
2000	Beatrice A. & Burgess Charles Harpoot Memorial	10,000.00	2002	Boghos Mekhedjian Memorial	7,400.00
2000	Isabelle Aranosian Hodgson	5,000.00	2002	Maritza Parechianian Mousaian Memorial	10,200.00
2000	Clara Ignatius Memorial	10,000.00	2002	Narthoee Nahigian Poloshian Memorial	14,499.91
2000	Hagop Daniel Janoyan Memorial	10,400.00	2002	George H. Shahbazian	4,000.00
2000	Dikranouhi Jernukian Memorial	5,000.00	2002	Anahid & Kourkin Stepanian Memorial	177,054.00
2000	Berj B. Kalaidjian	7,000.00	2002	Vartkes & Berjouhi Tamzarian	50,000.00
2000	Arcpase Kilerjian Memorial	71,841.90	2002	Bishop Papken Varjabedian Memorial	60,033.00
2000	Thomas A. Kooyumjian Family Foundation	80,435.00	2002	Jacqueline Yedibalian	5,000.00
2000	Bartloff Kosrobian Memorial	348,071.02	2002	Victor Zarougian & Judith A. Saryan	161,050.00
2000	Novart & Arsen Markarian Memorial	10,266.78	2003	Marie-Louise Le Roy Agabekian	2,135,643.00
2000	John & Paris Minosion Memorial	83,591.25	2003	AGBU Friends of Armenia Education	82,941.92
2000	Noubar & Dikranouhi Mkhsi-Kevorkian	10,000.00	2003	Souren Aghajanian Memorial	3,919.46
2000	Dertad Y. Mooradian Memorial	25,000.00	2003	Anonymous "AK", NY	3,000.00
2000	Leon A. Najarian Memorial	7,500.00	2003	Nevart Balekjian Memorial	10,000.00
2000	Ohannes & Zabel Najarian Memorial	25,500.00	2003	Rafi H. & Zela K. Balouzian	18,500.00
2000	James & Servart (Guregian) Parechianian Memorial	55,755.00	2003	Bar G. Baron Memorial	2,250.00
2000	Asdine & Barkev Sagatelian Memorial	642,085.65	2003	Zadour Berberian	44,555.00
2000	Linda Shahinian	5,000.00	2003	Arshalouys Chakrian Memorial	10,000.00
2001	AGBU Montreal Educ Aid	6,540.00	2003	Enkrud Chemkerten	3,560.00
2001	Armenag Aprahamian Memorial	143,633.00	2003	Chomaklou Compatriotic Society Inc.	60,000.00
2001	Vartan A. Arkanian Memorial	164,929.06	2003	Simone Djarikian	179,414.00
2001	Azniv Arslanian	7,412.40	2003	Leah Garabedian Memorial	25,000.00
2001	Sarkis & Susan Arzoumanian	10,000.00	2003	Paul & Rose Hachigian	200,380.00
2001	Mr. & Mrs. Ara Barmakian	19,000.00	2003	Hairapetian & Hairapetian	75,000.00
2001	Norma Der Mugrdchian Memorial	18,300.00	2003	Dr. Leo Hamalian Memorial	6,075.00
2001	Dr. & Mrs. Heratch Doumanian	35,000.00	2003	Armen & Gloria Hampar Family	70,000.00
2001	Educational Society of Malatia	50,403.14	2003	Arsen B. Haroutunian Memorial	5,000.00
2001	Seroon Egavian Memorial	52,454.00	2003	Mardiros Iskenderian Memorial	20,045.00
2001	Paris, Garbis, George & Jerry Essayian, Rose B. Vereen, Agnes B. Solline Memorial	80,744.00	2003	Puzant H. Jeryan Memorial	6,241,428.28
2001	Katherina Ghazarian Memorial	336,249.50	2003	George V. & Aznive Kaplan Memorial	20,000.00
2001	Armenak & Iskoohi Andrias Ghoukassian Memorial	10,000.00	2003	Roupen & Verjine Karakhanian Memorial	27,000.00
2001	Toros & Zabelle Gosyan Memorial	376,563.40	2003	Krikor & Nevart Kiladjian Memorial	2,215.00
2001	David M. Horne Memorial	5,000.00	2003	Harry & Suzanne Mangoian	11,565.62
2001	Buck Hovsepian Memorial	775,476.53	2003	George Mekjian	20,000.00
			2003	Karekin Melidonian Memorial	19,530.00
			2003	Mike Partayan	144,000.00

2003	Mugerditch & Marie Selvia Memorial	\$ 25,000.00	2005	Nehmat Y. Kilajian Memorial	\$ 37,000.00
2003	Stephan Ter-Poghossian Memorial	30,000.00	2005	Levon & Vartoohi Menasian Kouyoumjian Memorial	14,780.00
2003	Peter G. & Elizabeth Torosian Foundation	10,000.00	2005	Garabed & Aghavni Kouzoujian Memorial	66,300.00
2003	Drs. Yervant & Rita Zorian	11,500.00	2005	Varteres Maroukian Memorial	29,394.45
2004	AGBU District Committee of France	103,504.00	2005	Harry, Lucy & Alice Mooradian Memorial	25,300.00
2004	Haiganoosh Mengushian Ajemian Memorial	594,332.68	2005	Naomi Pekmezian Memorial	212,866.03
2004	Dorothy B. Avakian	20,000.00	2005	Jirair Sarian Memorial	25,000.00
2004	Ohannes & Veron Aznavoorian Memorial	25,000.00	2005	Paris Terzian Memorial	51,973.28
2004	Parsegh Balekdjian Memorial	107,220.00	2006	AAIC Endowment Fund	2,000,000.00
2004	John Basmajian Memorial	363,404.21	2006	AGBU Nork Children's Center	118,044.05
2004	Carl B. & Gladys L. Dockmejian Memorial	97,997.83	2006	Mr. & Mrs. Manoog Altoonjian Memorial	213,041.34
2004	Greta M. & Drs. John H. & Leo R. Doumanian	10,000.00	2006	George & Sybille Aprahamian	25,000.00
2004	George & Mary Esajian Memorial	10,000.00	2006	Maral Ani Avakian Memorial	36,570.00
2004	Krikor & Aghavni Geogorian Memorial	5,000.00	2006	Tokmun & Lucy Bakalian, Leo & Elaine Bakalian Memorial	224,478.12
2004	Raffi George Memorial	13,000.00	2006	Hasmig Barsoumian	20,000.00
2004	B. Hekimian & Melkonian Memorial	137,000.00	2006	Elise Basmadjian	65,000.00
2004	Kirkor Imirzian Memorial	11,595.00	2006	Takoohe (Queenie) J. & Delemak A. Basmajian Memorial	13,780.00
2004	Roy G. Kelegian Memorial	5,995.00	2006	Gordon & Virginia (Kazanjian) Bedrosian & Kazanjian Families of Lowell, MA Memorial	35,643.50
2004	Richard R. Markarian Memorial	100,000.00	2006	Viken & Nora Bedrossian	13,000.00
2004	Andon & Vartanoush Noraian Memorial	5,000.00	2006	Joseph Chalmers Memorial	13,217.46
2004	George & Agnes Noraian	7,000.00	2006	Ohannes Donelian	38,132.00
2004	Vicki, Gary & Nora Noraian	5,000.00	2006	Ethel J. Duffett Memorial	399,600.00
2004	Garnik & Hilda Ohanian	9,500.00	2006	Haton & Hachadoor Erganian Family	123,032.98
2004	Mary Mangerian Onanian Memorial	91,597.06	2006	Daniel Janeves Memorial	179,499.54
2004	Mary Mangerian Onanian & George Mangerian Memorial	70,000.00	2006	Peter & Clare G. Kalustian Memorial	24,986.07
2004	Hampartzum & Turvanda Kurkjian Parechanian Memorial	5,555.00	2006	Ashot Kazaroff Memorial	50,000.00
2004	Sahin Satin	30,157.00	2006	Keuleyan/Miguian	267,799.00
2004	Olympia Jamgochian Shahbaz Memorial	5,000.00	2006	Berdj & Margaret Kiladjian	30,000.00
2004	Anahid & Tony Diran Memorial Tevrizian	60,060.02	2006	Jerry Kouyoumjian Memorial	2,535,112.27
2004	Earl & Charlotte Van Hise, Albert French Memorial	12,500.00	2006	The Harry T. Mangurian Jr. Foundation Inc.	360,000.00
2004	Daniff Yazijian Memorial	32,793.70	2006	Berj & Lusine Mikaelian	7,025.00
2005	Rose Agajan Memorial	10,200.00	2006	Ann Mooradian Memorial	830,237.04
2005	AGBU Friends of Armenia & Karabakh	50,287.69	2006	Mullian Family Memorial	6,043,066.52
2005	Anonymous "A & T"	10,000.00	2006	Dr. Robert M. Nalbandian Memorial	6,100.00
2005	Anonymous "AM"	357,659.68	2006	Joseph & Jenny Oughourlian	62,500.00
2005	Anonymous "BG"	100,000.00	2006	Varsenig Z. Pasternak Memorial	523,537.30
2005	John & Rose Apalakian Memorial	17,763.00	2006	Armineh Simon & Hagop Elmayer Memorial	5,000.00
2005	Paul & Grace Arslanian Memorial	104,814.77	2006	Meguerditch Miguel Tchavoushian Memorial	20,000.00
2005	Ervand & Dshkhui Arutunian Memorial	50,000.00	2006	Artin & Yeghisapet Toorinjian Memorial	11,000.00
2005	Helen Arutunian Memorial	50,000.00	2006	Turpanjian Family	250,000.00
2005	Kazaros Arutunian & Nina Kazaroff Memorial	50,000.00	2006	Harry Zekian Memorial	8,000.00
2005	Sevan Aslanyan	6,000.00	2007	Z. Paul & Sonia Akian	10,000.00
2005	Alexander Jirayr & Isabella Lori Balikian	5,575.00	2007	Anais Bagdassarian	81,332.00
2005	Ari Balouzian	11,950.00	2007	Sarkis Chakardjian	117,600.00
2005	Shoghig Bardakjian Memorial	29,265.00	2007	Dr. Peter H. & Joachim H. Yesek Darpin	41,470.12
2005	Harold R. & Betty G. Battersby	25,000.00	2007	Arsen & Varteni Diran Family Memorial	2,832,588.30
2005	Jeffrey Stephen Berliner & Karen Shahbazian Berliner	5,250.00	2007	George Hovanesian Memorial	10,000.00
2005	Haig Milton Boyajohn & Frances Boyajohn		2007	Garo Hussenjian Memorial	11,500.00
	Cuniberti Family Memorial	1,084,365.89	2007	Dikran & Marie Iskenderian	6,900.00
2005	Karekin & Arousiag Demirjian Memorial	5,000.00	2007	George & Flora Manavian Memorial	25,000.00
2005	Louise Doumanian Memorial	12,500.00	2007	Haik Mangerian Memorial	5,656.00
2005	Armen, Ann & Arden Giligian	31,612.06	2007	Hemanyag Mangerian Memorial	10,000.00
2005	John & Bessie Kazanjian Guregian & Gerald Guregian Memorial	13,160.82	2007	Oscar & Irene Mazmanian Memorial	10,000.00
2005	Harry & Armine Hagopian Memorial	195,811.49	2007	Gerald McKay	12,250.00
2005	John H. Hagopian Memorial	25,000.00	2007	Sukias N. & Haigouhi Arukian Mooradian Memorial	10,000.00
2005	Sarkis Kaloustian Memorial	10,000.00	2007	Berge & Evelyn Papazian	16,300.00

AGBU Endowments 1910-2017

2007	Anahid Ann Pridjian Memorial	\$ 419,100.00	2008	Nishan & Lucy Paul Memorial	\$ 91,750.00
2007	Michel Khandjian Sabbagh	36,750.00	2008	Dr. Nubar & Aida Sethian	10,000.00
2007	Shnorhig (Grace) Tahmazian Memorial	569,407.83	2008	Agnes Tarpinian Memorial	10,626.72
2007	Hratch & Suzanne Toufayan	2,228,525.00	2008	Onnig Torossian Memorial	494,000.00
2007	Gary & Nina Turpanjian	10,750.00	2008	Carnig & Virginia Tususian Memorial	50,000.00
2008	AGBU Focus 2007 NYSIP Scholarship	55,000.00	2008	Helena & Mikael Yadegarov	408,132.60
2008	AGBU France	500,000.00	2009	Sahag & Rose Akgulian Memorial	10,000.00
2008	Margaret Ajemian Ahnert	37,000.00	2009	Haig Allahverdian Memorial	234,835.96
2008	Anonymous "HN"	1,352,227.72	2009	Vartkess M. Balian Memorial	9,500.00
2008	Michael & Rose Assarian	5,000.00	2009	Leon Richard Caprielian Memorial	226,927.25
2008	Garo & Margaret Gazurian Memorial	7,417.86	2009	Albert Jr. Demirjian Memorial	1,099,648.56
2008	Green & Gedigian Family	10,000.00	2009	Dr. Arshavir Gundjian	30,455.00
2008	Florence Lee Hampartz Memorial	27,211.52	2009	Rose Kalajian Memorial	10,000.00
2008	Chavarche Aida & André Hartounians Memorial	5,492,989.40	2009	Sarkis H. Kashkashian Memorial	10,000.00
2008	Kalfayan Orphanage Foundation	254,692.97	2009	Margaret H. Merguerian Memorial	93,385.02
2008	Delemek & Eugenie Kurkjian Memorial	811,223.21	2009	Gerald G. Norian Memorial	11,881.97
2008	Hovanes Lalikian Memorial	11,350.00	2009	Berj & Beatrice Sandruny Educational Trust	90,886.00
2008	Toros & Gacia Mangassarian	256,000.00	2009	Krikor & Ovssana Soghomonian Memorial	100,000.00
2008	Donald S. & Carolyn C. Michaelian	5,900.00	2009	Rusan Sysoyev Memorial	665,697.11
2008	Ned J. & Corinne Parsekian & Family	9,000.00	2009	Dr. Elizabeth Boghossian Weller Memorial	23,000.00

KRIKOR ERMONIAN

A Lifetime of Dedication to Education and Philanthropy

A love for education, history and philanthropy was in Krikor Ermonian's DNA. A man of great intellectual curiosity, he never stopped learning and was a donor to many organizations throughout his life. Krikor was born in Worcester, Massachusetts, in 1921 to Simon and Satenig (née Yeghiayan). His father found refuge in the United States after losing his family during the Armenian Genocide and deserting the Ottoman army into which he had been conscripted. Settling in Massachusetts, Sarkis worked as a barber and provided for his family of four.

Krikor's cousin Jacob Pilibosian has cherished memories of spending Sunday afternoons together as a family. "I remember my father saying that Krikor was a very naughty child, but he changed in high school and became interested in books," says Pilibosian. Krikor, a World War II veteran, studied at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst and majored in engineering. Although after graduation he joined the Army Corps of Engineering as a civil engineer, history was his true passion. Since the late 1980s, he completed over 100 courses at the Harvard University Division of Continuing Education, remaining a keen reader and spending hours in libraries.

He never married and along with his brother Mitchel, who predeceased him, lived a private life in his parents' home in Arlington, Massachusetts. Settling into a routine, Krikor ad-

hered to minimalism in his day-to-day life—he did not accumulate belongings or have much furniture in his house. Krikor enjoyed frequent bus rides and long walks, often walking from his native Arlington to Harvard Square. He found inspiration in his nonmaterial values and true happiness in helping others. He was a long-time benefactor of the Holy Trinity Church in Cambridge, the St. James Armenian Church in Watertown



and the Church of Our Savior in Worcester. He cherished the time he spent at his alma mater the most and established the Simon and Satenig Ermonian Scholarship Fund in memory of his parents in UMass Amherst, supporting students majoring in history and engineering. Despite his generosity and countless donations, Krikor did not seek the spotlight and when UMass Amherst offered him an honorary doctorate, he declined. "He was a humble man and did not want any publicity," says Pilibosian. Months after Krikor's death, his trustees continued to receive letter after letter from the organizations he supported. "My wife and I made over 250 phone calls to different charities to

tell them that he was gone and that there was no need to send more mail," says Pilibosian.

Krikor was an AGBU member and contributed to its programs over the years. It came as no surprise that he included AGBU in his trust. After Krikor passed away in May 2017, the donation was directed to AGBU programs that honor his generosity and create a lasting memory. ❏

2009	Garnik Yefremian Memorial	\$ 5,355.00
2010	H. Hrant & Alidz Agbabian	50,000.00
2010	Puzant & Zartoohy Ajemian Memorial	30,000.00
2010	Dr. Ellie Andreassian	9,515.00
2010	Harry Haroutioun Artinian Memorial	150,686.57
2010	Yervant & Seran Shamlan Bajakian Memorial	10,000.00
2010	Haig Barigian	74,596.00
2010	Albert & Terry Bezjian	5,000.00
2010	Ohaness Dellakian Memorial	10,000.00
2010	Levon & Angele Dermenjian Memorial	15,000.00
2010	Robert K. & Agnes Devejian Memorial	999,886.29
2010	Helen Hajinian Memorial	12,149.18
2010	Jerry Jemelyan Memorial	27,745.07
2010	Carl B. Melikian Memorial	35,645.60
2010	John & Patricia W. Merchant Memorial	20,000.00
2010	Anthony Mooradian Memorial	3,000.00
2010	Artemis Agnes Odjakjian Memorial	10,000.00
2010	Margaret Ohanian Memorial	124,611.58
2010	Stephan Tatusian	20,500.00
2011	Walter V. Abbey Memorial	215,770.19
2011	Anonymous "HK"	361,529.65
2011	Anonymous "PAP"	801,069.78
2011	Dr. Gerard Balakian Memorial	50,000.00
2011	Rose Eliazarian Memorial	24,095.88
2011	Lucia Kalfaian Family	100,000.00
2011	Mary M. Mast Memorial	179,025.14
2011	Alice & Stefan Ourlian	48,500.00
2011	Harry S. Sarkisian Memorial	12,476.71
2011	Haig & Nounia Sirooni Memorial	279,115.83
2011	Ani Vapurciyan Memorial	236,387.01
2011	Giragos Vapurciyan Memorial	709,161.02
2012	Hagop Avedisian Memorial	10,100.00
2012	Shant Kamer Basmajian Memorial	42,897.89
2012	Paul Arakel & Margaret Boggian Memorial	12,010.00
2012	Haig & Elza Didizian	100,000.00
2012	Ayda Ihmalian Memorial	69,015.63
2012	Arsine Kassakhian Memorial	15,000.00
2012	John Kazanjian Family Foundation	159,624.72
2012	Charlotte A. Koomjohn Memorial	17,280.04
2012	Azad & George Melkonian Memorial	50,000.00
2012	Frances Poloshian Memorial	46,335.68
2012	Krikor & Anna Sarafian Memorial	53,773.88
2012	Arsen S. Sayan	50,000.00
2012	Arine Tchertchian Memorial	23,419.00
2012	Helen Movesian Vartanian Memorial	786,196.16
2013	Gladys Z. Ashjian Memorial	947,874.20
2013	Khosrov & Siranoosh Dabbaghian Memorial	25,000.00
2013	Pergruhi & Garabet Hamparian Memorial	10,050.00
2013	Jeannette Kouyoumjian Ilanjian	10,005.00
2013	Peter Kayajanian Memorial	109,792.54
2013	Bobby & Virginia Akkashian Kazaroff Memorial	50,000.00
2013	Shmavon & Seranoosh Manoogian Memorial	200,778.58
2013	Martha Mirigian Memorial	1,368,561.00
2013	Nazar Norsigian Memorial	22,828.26
2013	Haroutioun Nerses Ohanian Memorial	70,000.00
2013	Aram A. & Luz Papasian Memorial	2,883,922.21

2013	Berge & Vera Setrakian	\$ 200,000.00
2013	Adrienne Simonian Memorial	12,361.83
2013	John Varjabedian	50,000.00
2014	Anonymous "T"	1,000,000.00
2014	Barbara Apisson Testamentary Trust	315,000.00
2014	Jamil M. & Marie J. Arslanian Memorial	14,950.00
2014	Anne Balemian Memorial	219,054.97
2014	Dr. Zareh N. Demirjian Memorial	46,845.00
2014	Yervant & Melissa Demirjian	100,000.00
2014	Francis T. Devian Memorial	100,000.00
2014	Dr. John H. Doumanian	5,000.00
2014	Harry & Satenig Gray Family	100,000.00
2014	Armenouhi A. Isbirian Memorial	10,000.00
2014	Arax & Satenig Karagosian Memorial	93,566.72
2014	The Simon Kechechian Trust	893,807.28
2014	Knights of Vartan-Detroit Chapter	10,000.00
2014	Hagop & Eratica Kouyoumdjian	100,000.00
2014	Haig & Sunya B. Kysayian Memorial	72,473.71
2014	Lucille Makarov Memorial	16,088.86
2014	Vatche & Tamar Manoukian	2,500,000.00
2014	Anonymous "BM"	1,993,000.00
2014	Therese Ohanian	400,000.00
2014	Okutan Varjabedian Family	19,500.00
2014	Estate of Edith Santourian	19,179.56
2014	Hemayak Setrakian Memorial	100,000.00
2014	Joseph, Esther, Richard & Rose Tashjian Memorial	818,791.32
2014	Berjoohe Zakarian Memorial	10,843.67
2015	Michael Amirkhanian	20,000.00
2015	Dr. Vahram & Mrs. Rose Bakamjian	14,500.00
2015	The Ghugasian, Seferian, Kalfayan Memorial	100,000.00
2015	Shnork Gregory Kasparian Memorial	580,867.58
2015	Samuel & Victoria Magzarian Memorial	15,300.00
2015	Garbis & Arek Nazarian Fund	100,000.00
2015	Hovannes Haroutioun Ohanian Memorial	60,000.00
2015	Astor & Veronica Naman Sarkisian Memorial	26,000.00
2016	Judge Y. Gladys Barsamian	40,000.01
2016	Garabed Djeghelian Memorial	40,700.00
2016	Annie & Vasken Kassabian	68,126.73
2016	George Andrew Krikorian Memorial	1,284,757.83
2016	Sam Mardian Jr. Memorial	10,000.00
2016	Flora Mirzaian Memorial	100,100.00
2016	Grace Paregian Memorial	343,487.96
2016	Annette Anaide Tcholakian Memorial	97,730.93
2016	Elizabeth M. Toomajian Memorial	92,465.74
2016	Isabel Toomajian Memorial	303,986.73
2016	Guirguis Manoushi Zada Memorial	24,640.34
2017	Armenian-American Veterans of Greater Boston	650,000.00
2017	Professor Vahé Baladouni Memorial	25,000.00
2017	Charles Joseph Churukian Memorial	50,000.00
2017	Woodrow Michael, Victoria & Megerdich Kehyaian Memorial	500,200.00
2017	Meleke Ohanian Memorial	50,000.00
2017	Katherine P. Tayian Memorial	101,193.02

We sincerely apologize if there are any omissions or errors in the list. If your name has been misspelled, please call 212-319-6383 and we will correct it in our next issue.



WORLDWIDE

AGBU Commemorates 30th Anniversary of the Artsakh Liberation Movement

In February 1988, mass rallies in Stepanakert and Yerevan sparked the Artsakh Liberation Movement. Thus, began the journey of independence for the Armenians of Artsakh, which, in turn, set the stage for a free and independent Armenia, won the support of the worldwide Armenian diaspora and reshaped geopolitics in the Caucasus. To mark the significance of this watershed moment in modern Armenian history and to reaffirm its unwavering commitment to Artsakh's state-building efforts, AGBU organized a series of commemorative events in North America and Europe.

In Brussels, AGBU Europe and European Friends of Armenia (EuFoA) held a conference on February 28th in the European Parliament entitled "The EU and

Nagorno-Karabakh:1988-2018." With over 200 people in attendance, the conference engaged Members of European Parliament and other thought leaders in a conversation about the future of EU involvement with Artsakh, followed by audience participation. "This conference opens up a space for a constructive discussion on a sensible European policy with regards to Artsakh and we will continue to work in that direction," said AGBU Europe Director Nicolas Tavitian.

Hosted by MEP Frank Engel (European People's Party), the program was divided into two sessions featuring six speakers. The first panel included Bulgarian journalist Tsvetana Paskaleva, as well as MEPs Jaromir Stetina (European People's Party) and Eleni Theocharous (European Con-

servatives and Reformists Group). They reiterated their support of the right to self-determination for the Armenians of Artsakh. Stetina and Theocharous shared their experiences working on the ground during the conflict in the early 1990s, as a journalist and a military surgeon respectively. Theocharous called upon the European Parliament to further contribute towards a better understanding of the conflict and the peace process. Paskaleva shared a personal account of reporting from Artsakh.

In the second session, MEP Lars Adaktusson (European People's Party); Paul Meerts, senior associate at the Clingendael Netherland Institute of International Relations, and Licinia Simao, assistant professor at the University of Coimbra, Portugal, opined

AGBU Highlights



Tsvetana PASKALEVA
Journalist



Far Left: Permanent Representative of Artsakh in the United States Robert Avetisyan presents recent developments for Artsakh in New York. **Above:** AGBU Europe and European Friends of Armenia at the European Parliament. (From left) AGBU Europe Director Nicolas Tavitian; MEPs Eleni Theodorarous; Frank Engel; Jaromir Stetina; and Tsvetana Paskaleva. **Below:** Armenia's Consul to Canada Sasun Hovbannisyan; photojournalist David Hakobyan and AGBU Montreal President Chabé Tanachian in Montreal.

tional opportunities in Europe. While Paul Meerts focused on the importance of confidence-building measures in the region, Professor Simao spoke about the need to improve cooperation between the EU and the OSCE Minsk Group to ensure all entities have a common policy, especially regarding peacekeeping activities. The speakers also discussed the 10 proposals presented by the conference organizers—recommendations for European Union involvement in paving the way for peace in Artsakh.

On February 22, the AGBU Central Office commemorated the 30th anniversary with a presentation and photo exhibition at its New York headquarters. Davit Hakobyan, the official photographer to the President of Armenia, portrayed the lives and service of Armenian soldiers through photos he took over the course of eight years. His book titled *The Trembling Soil Under Their Feet* is a collection of around 70 photos, including some of the images on display.

Among the attendees were Permanent

that the EU should at least support demining activities and human rights monitoring in the region. Adaktusson called for a more proactive role of the European Union in conflict resolution and human rights protection, as well as the direct involvement of Artsakh in negotiations, together with Armenia

and Azerbaijan. "In other cases, the EU has been able to carry out humanitarian work in the territory of unrecognized entities which also should be possible in Nagorno-Karabakh," said Adaktusson adding that Artsakh's isolation has a negative impact on the young generation who are often deprived of educa-



Opening of St. Gevorg Church in Nerkin Horatagh, Artsakh.



Cadet in training at Vazgen Sargsyan Military Institute.

AGBU Highlights

Representative of Armenia to the UN Ambassador Zohrab Mnatsakanyan and Permanent Representative of Artsakh in the United States Robert Avetisyan. In his opening remarks, Ambassador Mnatsakanyan stated that, “This exhibition is about young boys who are defending their homeland.” He urged the audience to take action. “I would ask you to appeal to as many as you can about this exhibition and Artsakh.”

Avetisyan offered a compelling presentation about the political structure and recent developments in Artsakh, stressing that it’s a democratic country in a tough neighborhood. “It has proved over decades—non-recognized yet—that we are a reliable partner in negotiations and we are very efficient in using our resources, including the financial resources,” said Avetisyan in an interview. “Artsakh is free. It deserves to be recognized as an independent country and it deserves to have a more open and wide relationship with the United States,” he added.

He also mentioned that the “United States is the only country which has assisted the Republic of Artsakh since 1988.” Avetisyan is confident that American assistance could be allocated to various projects beneficial for the entire region.

Commenting on his first personal exhibition in New York, Hakobyan said: “This event means a lot to me, and I am impressed that people appreciate photo-journalism.”

Hakobyan’s photos were displayed by AGBU Montreal a few days later. One hundred guests, including Montreal city councilors, the Consul of the Republic of Armenia to Canada, AGBU benefactors and community members attended the exhibition. AGBU Montreal Chairman Chahé Tanachian gave a brief introduction to the history of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, saying: “The men and women serving in the Artsakh army are in reality guarantors of peace.”

Consul of the Republic of Armenia to Canada Sasun Hovhannisyan spoke on behalf of Ambassador Levon Martirosyan, congratulating AGBU and Davit Hakobyan on the event. Robert Avetisyan joined the discussion via Skype and delivered his presentation remotely.

Artsakh became the new official name of the republic in 2017. **A**



NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Retreat Inspires Conversation on Armenian Spirituality

Over 30 young professionals from across the United States gathered in New York from February 3 to 4 for a thought-provoking retreat on the Armenian faith and spirituality. The topic, along with issues related to human rights and women’s empowerment, was raised by participants of the inaugural AGBU FOCUS conference last summer as an area of interest.

“One of the takeaways from this past summer’s international conference was that we could leverage the AGBU network to continue thought-provoking conversations. This urban retreat aimed to create a safe environment for young professionals to learn more about Armenian spirituality through our history, culture music and traditions and facilitate our generation’s spiritual journey,” said mezzo-soprano Solange Merdinian who convened the retreat together with Michelle Nahabedian and journalist Lara Setrakian.

The retreat explored the Armenian faith from various perspectives, ranging from monastic educational traditions and heritage to personal journeys and Christian meditation. Moderated by Setrakian, the retreat featured Father Daniel Findikyan, director of the Krikor and Clara Zohrab Center; Eric Vozzy, a deacon at St. Vartan Armenian Cathedral; Dr. Roberta Ervine, professor of Armenian Studies at St. Nerses Armenian Seminary, and Father Mersrop Parsamyan, the director of ministries at the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America.

Father Findikyan identified one of the challenges for the continuation of Armenian religious education in the diaspora as the decline of Armenian monasteries in the Ottoman Empire and how it affected the modern-day Armenian theological instruction. “The Armenian monasteries were the theological engines of the Armenian church. They were the intellectual engines of the Armenian people,” said Findikyan stressing that monasteries provided a network of religious scholars who kept a dialogue with the communities and maintained the continuity of traditions. Intrigued by Findikyan’s speech, attendees posed important questions on youth involvement, church modernization and creationism.

The retreat also served as an open forum for personal sharing and created an opportunity for attendees to explore otherwise new topics. Dr. Roberta Ervine notably spoke about six noble women from the historical Armenian Kingdom of Syunik who channeled their faith into action and supported the construction of several monasteries, some of which became jewels of Armenian architecture. Participants were treated to a short meditation session with Fr. Parsamyan, who presented the basic techniques of Christian meditation and offered his insight on the topic.

“The forum provided participants an opportunity to share their spiritual journeys and make suggestions on ways of bringing the Armenian church closer to youth,” said Merdinian. “It is the beginning of continued opportunities for such discussion and contemplation.”

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WORLDWIDE

AGBU Marks International Day of Commemoration of Victims of Genocide

AGBU continues to stand with the United Nations in its efforts to raise awareness on genocide and human rights issues through thought-provoking discussions across the globe.

To broaden the discourse of genocide and crimes against humanity and to help spark action to prevent future atrocities, AGBU held insightful events in Beirut, New York and Paris, featuring well-known activists, pundits, journalists, scholars and witnesses of war crimes.

“December 9, the United Nations-designated day for remembrance of genocide victims, is another opportunity for us, as one Armenian nation, to be a leading voice in this global conversation and to help shape a world free of these preventable human tragedies,” said AGBU President Berge Setrakian. “AGBU remains committed to supporting the efforts of

the international community to prevent genocides and crimes against humanity, and to promote a critical dialogue based on lessons learned through our history of survival.”

In September 2015, the United Nations passed a resolution—introduced by Armenia—declaring December 9 as the International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime. It aims to raise awareness of the UN Genocide Convention.

Beirut

On December 7, a day-long seminar titled *Preventing and Combatting Human Rights Violations: A Responsibility for All* took place in the American University of Beirut (AUB), focusing on the role of education, civil society and media in genocide prevention. The seminar was

held in partnership with the Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs at AUB and 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-Le Jour*.

Dr. Keith David Watenpaugh, professor of human rights studies at University of California, Davis, opened the conference delivering a keynote speech on satirist Yervant Odian, who was among the few Armenian intellectuals to survive the genocide. Watenpaugh further examined comparative genocide studies during the first panel, which also included scholars Dr. Vicken Tcheterian, a lecturer in history and international relations at the University of Geneva and Webster Uni-



Above: Omer Ismail, a native of Darfur and senior advisor at Enough Project, shares his experience as an activist working on relief efforts during the panel in New York. **Below:** Former journalist Sherine Tadros talks about the importance of having journalists on the ground.



sented a pilot project in Lebanese schools, which helps teach children about the Lebanese Civil War. “We wanted to encourage dialogue between the generation of war and the younger generation to know what has happened and to avoid possible future war and violence,” she said.

The conference concluded with a panel featuring Youmna Fawaz, a prominent investigative reporter and journalist at Al Jadeed TV; Jeanine Jalkh, of the Grand Reporter and *L’Orient-Le Jour*; Preethi Nallu, the founder of Refugees Deeply; and Ayman Mhanna, the executive director of the Samir Kassir Foundation, who shed light on the role of the media in genocide prevention and the incitement of hatred. Fawaz shared her experience covering conflicts and examined journalists’ alignment and objectivity. “I am biased to humanitarian issues and I do not believe in neutrality,” said Fawaz.

The panels were moderated by Dr. Ohannes Geukjian, the acting chairman of AUB’s Political Science and Public Administration Department; Wail Kheir, the managing director of the Foundation of Human and Humanitarian Rights in Lebanon, and Habib Battah, the founder of Beirut Report and an instructor at AUB.

New York

Advancing Civilian Protection: Human Rights in Times of Upheaval, which took place on December 6 before a packed crowd at the Harvard Club in New York, shed light on past and ongoing atrocities with the goal of encouraging stakeholders and the public to take action. The panel event co-hosted by News Deeply focused on the importance of documenting crimes against humanity as they happen, listening to the communities on the ground, ensuring a timely

On December 7, AGBU Lebanon held a day-long seminar entitled Preventing and Combatting Human Rights Violations: A Responsibility for All at the American University of Beirut (AUB), focusing on the role of education, civil society and media in genocide prevention.

versity Geneva, and lawyer Dr. Nidal Jurdi, the deputy regional representative at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. They emphasized the importance of including genocide and human rights themes in university and school curricula as it would promote transitional justice and end impunity.

Speakers on the second panel discussed the role of civil society in raising awareness of human rights violations and shared Lebanon’s experience of overcoming the consequences of the civil war. It featured Leila Zahoui, a founding member and secretary general of the Lebanese Association of History (LAH); Carmen Hassoun Abou Jaoude, a professor at the Holy Spirit University of Kaslik and a researcher at the Saint Joseph University’s Research Center for the Modern Arab World (CEMAM); Hoda Barakat, the regional human rights education project manager at Amnesty International; Lokman Slim, the political activist and founding member of the UMAM Documentation and Research; and Fadi Abi Allam, Lebanese Prime Minister’s consultant on human security issues. Abou Jaoude pre-





response and, most importantly, preventing the atrocities before they even happen.

Both sessions were moderated by Anna Therese Day, an award-winning independent reporter and social media researcher. The first session featured Evan Cinq-Mars, the United Nations advisor at the Center for Civilians in Conflict; Omer Ismail, senior advisor at Enough Project; Akshaya Kumar, deputy United Nations director at Human Rights Watch; and Dr. Bridget Moix, US senior representative at Peace Direct. The speakers explored ongoing crimes against humanity, early warning signs and the role of local experts and civil society activists in the prevention of mass crimes.

In the second session, the conversation focused on the power of storytelling and the role of film and the media in documenting atrocities and educating the public, as well as encouraging people to take action. Award-winning directors Evgeny Afineevsky (*Winter on Fire* and *Cries from Syria*) and Terry George (*The Promise* and *Hotel Rwanda*), as well as Sherine Tadros, representative and head of the New York (United Nations) Office of Amnesty International, engaged in a meaningful discussion, sharing their experiences of shaping narratives around human suffering.

Paris

On December 9, AGBU Europe, the European Grassroots Antiracist Movement (EGAM)/Elie Wiesel Network and Nouvelles d'Arménie held a conference entitled *How to Stop the Killing*.

The conference was comprised of three panels and featured practitioners, scholars, journalists and eyewitnesses who explored topics ranging from the responsibility to protect and early prevention to post-conflict reconciliation and eye witness accounts about crimes in the Central African Republic, Iraq and Syria. Speakers also highlighted the continuing controversy around the legitimacy and effectiveness of external interventions to protect the victims of atrocities.

The conference featured Frank Engel, member of the European Parliament and chair of the Elie Wiesel Network for the Prevention of Mass Crimes; Dr. Cristina Stefan, director of the European Centre for the Responsibility to Protect (ECR2P); Jack Mayerhofer, chief of staff at the Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (USA); Delkhwas Hacı, director of the global Yazidi non-profit Yazda (Sweden); Godefroy Mokamanede, board member of the Interfaith Platform in the Republic of Central Africa; Beate Klarsfeld, a well-known German activist; Nadia Gortzounian, President of AGBU Europe;

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

and Benjamin Abtan, President of the European Grassroots Antiracist Movement (EGAM).

Among the many excellent points raised, Jack Mayerhofer focused on the practice of establishing task forces responsible for the prevention of atrocities in Latin America. "Genocide is a process; it requires planning and organization. The good thing about that is that planning can be interrupted. The earlier you start, the more effective you can be," said Mayerhofer. Hacı, a young Yazidi woman originally from Iraq, shared a harrowing account of the Sinjar massacre by the Islamic State, saying, "Although it has been over three years since the attack on Sinjar, thousands of Yazidis remain in the Islamic State's captivity, but the Iraqi authorities and the international community have failed to take meaningful action to assist or rescue them."

The panels were moderated by Nicolas Tavitian, director of AGBU Europe; Christopher Metz, staff coordinator and development officer at EGAM, and Ara Toranian, editor-in-chief of Nouvelles d'Arménie. **A**

YEREVAN, ARMENIA

Armenia Offers a Warm Welcome to Academy Award-Winning Director Terry George and Producer Eric Esrailian

Armenians honored *The Promise* director Terry George and producer Eric Esrailian who arrived in Yerevan on September 21 to join a series of memorable events devoted to the movie and its producers, including the late Kirk Kerkorian. The trip began on Friday afternoon with a press conference. George and Esrailian shed light on the main challenges of producing and distributing the movie, as well as its educational impact. “I want to thank the people of Armenia and AGBU because it is a tremendous honor for us to be in Armenia, especially after the long journey of the film,” said Esrailian. “It would not have been possible without the dedication, courage, bravery and generosity of the late Kirk Kerkorian. This was entirely his vision and passion.”

Inspired by the movie and its original score, “We Promise,” a musical tribute featuring the Armenian National Philharmonic Orchestra, pop stars and danc-

ers—students of the AGBU Children Centers—premiered at the Opera Theater in Yerevan on Friday evening. Tigran Petrosyan joined Swiss singer Veronika Stalder to perform “Sari Siroun Yar” arranged and recorded by Grammy-winning artist Serj Tankian and Stalder for the film. Armenian pop stars, including Iveta Mukuchyan, Tigran Petrosyan and Narine Dovlatyan, took the stage to sing a touching rendition of the title song “The Promise,” written by the late Chris Cornell who believed strongly in the film’s social action movement. Armenia’s President Serzh Sargsyan, Prime Minister Karen Karapetyan, His Holiness Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians, His Holiness Aram I, Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia, AGBU President Berge Setrakian along with foreign ambassadors and dignitaries attended the performance.

Above all, the visit to Tsitsernakaberd on Saturday morning held a symbolic

meaning for both guests. In George’s words, it was a true highlight of his efforts in recent years. “This visit sums up everything that I worked for over the last four years and brings into focus what real cinema and the power of cinema can be about: to try to commemorate the loss of lives and the horrible crime that were committed. So, this is the most emotional moment of the whole production of *The Promise* itself, the most important moment of the project,” he said.

Later, over 150 guests, including filmmakers and journalists, attended a two-hour masterclass held by Terry George and Eric Esrailian and hosted by AGBU Armenia and Creative Armenia, a cultural non-profit. George shared his approach to storytelling and filmmaking. At the masterclass, finalists of George’s filmmaking challenge, who told human

In Armenia, Terry George and Eric Esrailian attend a series of events devoted to The Promise.



AGBU Highlights

rights stories through 60-second videos, were honored.

During an intimate dinner at Yerevan's Cafesjian Museum, AGBU President Berge Setrakian presented Terry George and Eric Esrailian with a meaningful and touching gift: a book of gratitude. Armenians from as far as South Africa, Jordan and Australia sent letters and notes sharing their feelings and appreciation for the film. *The Promise* was profoundly moving for those who saw a striking resemblance between the sufferings of their ancestors and the movie's characters. The guests were also given a sculpture made to resemble the camera of journalist Chris Myers, Christian Bale's character in the movie, who said, "Without journalists, there would be no Armenians." The sculpture symbolizes the great service of journalists and others rendered during the Armenian Genocide, documenting the atrocities and exposing the truth to the world.

"We dedicate this book to the many individuals who stood up and gave a voice to our story," reads the gratitude letter of AGBU President Berge Setrakian. "For seventy-seven days, the talented production team and actors filmed a series of images that pulled directly from our collective history. The gratitude of the Armenian people cannot be quantified, but we have compiled here for you, a symbolic collection of seventy-seven letters and notes from around the world demonstrating how your efforts have touched our lives."

The meeting with His Holiness Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians, on Sunday was another important highlight of the trip. Appreciating the significance of *The Promise* and its producers' tremendous efforts, His Holiness awarded George and Esrailian the Order of Saint Sahag-Saint Mesrop. His Holiness told the guests that he acknowledges the challenge of making such an impressive motion picture that depicts the great tragedy of the Armenian people. The guests also attended Divine Liturgy and a requiem service for the late Catholicos of All Armenians, Karekin I, Kirk Kerkorian and Chris Cornell at the Mother Cathedral of Holy Etchmiadzin. **A**



WARSAW, POLAND

Poland Celebrates the 650th Anniversary of its Local Armenian Community

On September 19, the Polish Senate held a conference to celebrate the 650th anniversary of the Armenian community in Poland. The event was held in collaboration with the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences and the Armenian Cultural Association. The Speaker of the Polish Senate Stanisław Karczewski, the Ambassador of the Republic of Armenia Edgar Ghazaryan, AGBU Europe President Nadia Gortzounian, and President of the European Armenian Federation for Justice and Democracy Kaspar Karampetian delivered welcome speeches. Karczewski said that the centuries-long Armenian presence in Poland shows the country's openness and tolerance towards other nations. In his speech, Karczewski acknowledged the contribution of some of the most well-known Polish artists of Armenian descent to Polish culture, including painter Teodor Axentowicz, composer Krzysztof Penderecki, poet Zbigniew Herbert, film director Jerzy Kawalerowicz and actress Anna Dymna.

In her speech, Gortzounian emphasized the significance of Poland's Armenian community as one of the oldest communities in Europe, adding: "In the age of migration, diversity and conflict, I am convinced that the Armenian experience is worth learning from."

The conference also brought together Polish and Armenian scholars, including Professor Claude Mutafian from University of Paris 13, Dr. Tatewik E. Sargsyan from Simferopol's Crimea Research Center, Professor Krzysztof Stopka, Dr. Paweł Skibiński from Warsaw University and others. The academic discussion focused on the Armenian cultural and religious heritage in Poland.

The Armenian community is one of Poland's officially recognized minority groups. Armenians first arrived in Central Europe and Poland in the 11th century, following the fall of the Armenian Kingdom of Ani. In 1367, the Polish king Casimir III the Great granted a special status to the Armenians.



Armen Sarkissian



Vahé Gabrache



Vasken Yacoubian



Vatche Manoukian

YEREVAN, ARMENIA

Armenia Honors Four Members of the AGBU Central Board

Four members of the AGBU Central Board—Vahé Gabrache, Vatche Manoukian, Armen Sarkissian and Vasken Yacoubian—were honored with reputable awards for their tireless commitment to the diaspora and their contribution to the development of Armenia. In 2017, President Serzh Sargsyan presented them with medals on the occasion of Armenia's Independence Day and

the 99th anniversary of the first republic.

Vahé Gabrache received the Movses Khorenatsi Medal, Armenia's highest cultural award, for his significant contribution to the development of links between Armenia and the diaspora. Vatche Manoukian received the Order of Saint Mesrop Mashtots for his remarkable contribution to Armenia's economic development and upholding of the Armenian heritage.

Armen Sarkissian received the First Degree Medal for Services to the Motherland for years of social and political activity and significant achievements in economy and culture. AGBU Armenia President Vasken Yacoubian was awarded the President's Medal of Gratitude for his considerable contribution to the development of Armenia-diaspora ties and years of service to the Armenian nation. **AI**

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

His Holiness Karekin II Brings His Blessing to the AGBU Vatche and Tamar Manoukian High School

On October 26, His Holiness Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians, who was in California for a pontifical visit, blessed the newly completed AGBU Vatche and Tamar Manoukian Performing Arts Center in Pasadena and the AGBU Vatche and Tamar Manoukian High School. His Eminence Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Vatche and Tamar Manoukian, AGBU President Berge Setrakian, AGBU Central Board members, other dignitaries and around 400 guests were in attendance. Students from the AGBU Vatche and Tamar Manoukian High School and the AGBU Manoogian-Demirdjian School offered a warm welcome to His Holiness Karekin II and guests by greeting them with bread and salt and a performance. In his opening remarks, Berge Setrakian reaffirmed AGBU's support for the Church. "We are proud of the history of our organization but it is a top priority for us to back the Armenian Church," said Setrakian.

His Holiness Karekin II praised AGBU's contribution to the development of Armenian education and schools across the diaspora and thanked Vatche and Tamar Manoukian for their generosity and philanthropy. "A nation without education is like a body without a mind," said His Holiness Karekin II, emphasizing the significance of Armenian schools. "We are confident that graduates of this school will become strong pillars of Armenian life," he added, thanking the school's trustees and teachers. His Holiness Karekin II also presented the school with a special gift: a miniature of an Armenian cross-stone.

In 2009, Vatche and Tamar Manoukian made a landmark donation of 11 million dollars to the AGBU Vatche and Tamar Manoukian High School and Performing Arts Center in Pasadena. The two-story Performing Arts Center has been fully renovated and updated with modern equipment. It has a main auditorium that can be used for various events and a small hall with dressing rooms.





NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Ninth AGBU Performing Artists in Concert Raises Over \$50,000

On November 3, hundreds of guests gathered at the Weill Recital Hall at 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.

Along with young musicians, the concert featured well-known artists including tenor Berj Karazian, an Honored Artist of Armenia and a soloist of the Yerevan State Opera Theater, and conductor and pianist Vahan Mardirossian, who served as the artistic director of the concert. “Carnegie Hall is a dream stage for many musicians,” said Berj Karazian who studied at the AGBU Lazar Najarian-Calouste Gulbenkian School in Aleppo, Syria and later received a scholarship from AGBU to master his vocal skills at the Yerevan State Conservatory. “It is important that tonight’s concert features Armenian artists from all over the world who have had AGBU’s support for years.”

AGBU Performing Arts Scholarship recipients from Armenia, France, Lebanon, Switzerland and the United States, including Tamar Eskenian (shvi/flute), Lusiné Harutyunyan (violin), Ani Karapetyan (violin), Albert Newberry (piano), Cara Pogossian (viola), Edvard Pogossian (cello), and Matthew Taylor (dance) formed the ensemble. They are students or graduates of well-known educational institutions, namely Haute École de Musique in Lausanne, the Yerevan State Conservatory, London’s Royal Academy of Music, Mannes School of Music in New York, the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, the Juilliard School and the New York University Tisch School of the Arts.

“For the first time this year, we expanded the scope of AGBU Performing Artists in Concert by introducing an interdisciplinary collaboration with a dancer,” said Hayk Arsenyan, director of the AGBU Performing Arts Department. “By featuring the new generation of talented Armenian artists, the concert creates artistic opportunities for performers and builds enduring bonds for future collaboration.”

The eclectic program was comprised of favorites of Western classical and Armenian music, including Beethoven, Chopin, Dvořák, Schuman, Tigranyan and Mirzoyan. It also included three premieres: “Waltz” by Aram Satyan, president of the Union of Composers of Armenia, who specially arranged the piece for the chamber ensemble of the evening, Newberry’s “Shalakho” and Alexandr Iradyan’s “Frames.” The latter earned Iradyan the special Carnegie Hall Award in the 2016 AGBU Sayat Nova International Composition Competition. The dazzling evening captivated the audience, drawing a standing ovation.

AGBU Highlights



LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

AGBU Western District Gala Pays Tribute to Yervant Zorian

On September 9, at the AGBU Western District annual gala, AGBU Central Board member Dr. Yervant Zorian was honored for his contribution to the Armenian community. Held at the Globe Theatre at Universal Studios Hollywood, the gala raised around \$170,000 and drew almost 500 guests.

An avid supporter of science, technology and innovative education, Zorian is the founder of the AGBU Armenian Virtual College and Synopsis Armenia. For Zorian, the Armenian identity has been essential for keeping the diaspora alive for years, “And that comes with education, with the understanding of our heritage, and with learning about our language and history, our church, our culture,” said Zorian. “It is a necessity in order to maintain our identity in the diaspora of seven million Armenians around the world which is exactly why we created the Armenian Virtual College. To bring all that knowledge to any Armenian who desires to learn.”

The Western District’s two new projects—the Los Angeles Media Internship Program and the International Short Film Contest—were the highlight of the evening which also offered special recognition to Paul Turpanjian, executive producer of the documentary *Crows of the Desert*. The documentary is based on memories of Levon Yotnakhparian who joined the Ottoman Army during the Armenian Genocide.

The gala also featured folk singer and pianist Areni Agbabian and cellist Artyom Manukyan who performed their vocal and instrumental renditions of well-known Armenian and American songs. Super Sako and DJ Sevag began performing, the guests took the dance floor.

BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA

AGBU Buenos Aires Donates Musical Instruments to Schools in Artsakh

AGBU Buenos Aires donated around 160 musical instruments to schools in Artsakh, through a series of benefit concerts entitled *What Have You Done for Artsakh?* From May to September, ten concerts were held in three cities across Argentina, as well as in New York and Yerevan. The concert series featured over 350 artists, Armenian and non-Armenian, and all proceeds were directed to purchasing musical instruments for children. The project was carried out with the efforts of Antonio Sarafian, AGBU Buenos Aires vice chairman, and duduk player Gagik Gasparyan who also served as the project’s artistic director. The series concluded with a sold-out concert at the Paronyan Theater of Musical Comedy in Yerevan, with 800 guests in attendance. The evening featured singers Alla Levonyan, Arsen Grigoryan and Vartan Badalyan, Gagik Gasparyan, the Orchestra of National Instruments of Armenia, the Ararat Dance Ensemble of AGBU Córdoba and the State Dance Ensemble of Armenia. Alongside the closing concert, a benefit exhibition took place at the Yerevan Municipality.

As the concert series wrapped up, AGBU Buenos Aires received the Gold Medal of the Ministry of Diaspora, while Sarafian and Gasparyan were awarded the Boghos Nubar and Komitas Medals, respectively.



AGBU Young Professionals

The AGBU YP is a dynamic and growing network of like-minded young leaders between the ages of 22 and 40 who serve their local communities and collaborate globally to uphold the Armenian heritage. The YP movement began in 1995 with the first group in Los Angeles. Since then, the network has expanded to include chapters and partnerships in North America, South America, Europe and the Middle East.



PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

YP Philadelphia's Networking Evening Features State Senator Daylin Leach

On September 27, YP Philadelphia held its second annual networking evening entitled *Networking the Armenian Way*. The event took place at Philadelphia's historic City Hall and drew 25 young people. State Senator Daylin Leach, Pennsylvania legislature's leading voice on progressive issues, was the keynote speaker. A staunch supporter of the Armenian community, Sen. Leach reflected on his connection to the Armenians and his children's upbringing—his wife Jennifer Mirak is of Armenian descent. The evening also featured Luke Bowen, co-founder of Evil Genius Beer, who spoke about his business experience.



LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

YP LA Hosts Armenia's Development Foundation CEO Armen Avakian

On August 22, YP Los Angeles hosted Armen Avak Avakian, CEO of the Development Foundation of Armenia, which has been promoting economic growth in Armenia since its establishment in 2015. Avakian introduced the audience to his approach for attracting investments in Armenia and talked about what makes Armenia special. He encouraged the AGBU Young Professionals to mull over how they can contribute to the Foundation's goal of enhancing Armenia's international ranking, recognition and competitiveness.



OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

AGBU YP Northern California Holds Third Annual Comedy Night

On November 18, the AGBU Young Professionals of Northern California (YPNC) held its third annual AGBU Comedy Night at the Starline Social Club in Oakland, California. The event featured comedian and fellow YP, Antic Margaryan. Around 200 young people attended the popular comedy night which also launched the YPNC's fundraising efforts for the AGBU Children's Centers in Armenia. YPNC will donate a portion of the event's proceeds to centers and early education programming. Fundraising for the Children's Centers will culminate during the 18th annual AGBU San Francisco Winter Gala in February 2018.

YEREVAN, ARMENIA

YP Yerevan Launches Grqabats Project to Foster Reading Among Children

YP Yerevan opened the first classroom as part of its Grqabats project, launched to promote reading through positive learning spaces. YP Yerevan committee members renovated a classroom at the Ashot Navasardyan School N196 in Yerevan and painted favorite book heroes on the walls. They also donated 100 books—collected at a charity concert—for the classroom. “We want to preserve reading culture at schools,” says Nane Shahverdyan, a member of the YP Yerevan committee. “We want to broaden their outlook through these reading corners and we want them to read and love books,” she added.

YPs plan to expand the project by opening new reading rooms in the provinces. They will also engage Armenian celebrities in the project who would regularly visit Grqabats classrooms and read for children, promoting a culture of reading.



MOSCOW, RUSSIA

AGBU YP Moscow Launches EduChat Talk Series

On August 13, AGBU Young Professionals of Moscow held the first EduChat, a series of talks aimed at educating the YP community in Moscow. The first EduChat took place at the Skolkovo Institute of Science and Technology (Skoltech), a research university in a suburb of Moscow, established in collaboration with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 2011. The event drew around 50 young people. Five speakers—all graduate students, alumni or employees of Skoltech—shared their stories of establishing a start-up and how a background in technology helps to do business or work in corporations.



NEW YORK, NEW YORK

AGBU Holds Annual Film Screening by Armenian Filmmakers at Lincoln Center

On November 16, the AGBU Performing Arts Department (PAD) held its annual *Armenians in Film: 6 Short Films* at the Francesca Beale Theater in the Film Society of Lincoln Center, among the most famous movie venues in the United States. In its third year, the event featured works by young Armenian filmmakers.

“PAD is committed to supporting our artists at the highest level,” said Michael Sarian, PAD coordinator, emphasizing the significance of showcasing works of Armenian artists at iconic venues. “This famous venue attracts many film enthusiasts and tourists, providing our artists more exposure,” added Sarian.

The program included six short films: *A Void* by Raffi Wartanian; *Echoes of Survival* by Avo John Kambourian; *Foreign Sounds* by Eric Shahinian; *Levon: A Wondrous Life* by Emily Mkrtichian and Anahid Yahjian; *You Can't Go Home Again* by Ovsanna Gevorgyan and *Worn* by Garen Barsegian. Haunted by the issue of Armenian identity, Kambourian featured Armenian American artists—oud player Ara Dinkjian, painter Jackie Kazarian, photojournalist Scout Tufankjian and others—in his documentary series, showing how Armenian culture has survived through their works. “I’m excited to bring my film *Echoes of Survival* to PAD’s annual film screening series at Lincoln Center,” said Kambourian. “I couldn’t think of a better platform to showcase my work, which deals with the journey of artists in our communities. I’m humbled to be featured among such talented filmmakers as well.”

Guests also enjoyed a special screening of *Children of War*. Composed of four sixty-second films, it tells human rights stories without dialogue. All movies are finalists of the human rights challenge presented by Oscar-winning director Terry George and Creative Armenia, an innovative nonprofit production organization. A panel discussion moderated by Garin Hovannisian, Creative Armenia’s founding director and co-writer and director of the film *1915*, concluded the evening. Actors Ara Wolland and Tamara Sevunts, as well as Scout Tufankjian, along with five filmmakers, joined the discussion and shared their experiences of working on their projects. “These short films put on display the talents of six very different filmmakers,” said Hovannisian. “They represent a new generation of voices and visions for our culture.”

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

AGBU Pasadena-Glendale’s Third Armenian Festival Draws Over 200 Young Athletes

From September 29 to October 1, AGBU Pasadena-Glendale held its third Armenian Festival. Young athletes played over 30 basketball and volleyball games and attended a kids’ magic show and a comedy night. During the closing ceremony, His Eminence Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Primate of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America, and Talin Yacoubian, AGBU Western District Committee chairwoman, addressed participants, parents and guests. During the ceremony, AGBU San Fernando Valley’s marching band played the anthems of AGBU, Armenia, AYA and the United States.



AGBU Chapters



PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

AGBU Hye Geen Opens Fifth Women's Center in Armenia

AGBU Hye Geen opened a Pregnant Women's Center in the town of Charentsavan. AGBU currently runs five Women's Centers across Armenia. Specialized physicians, including gynecologists, psychologists and nurses provide necessary services and educate women on prenatal and postnatal care. The centers also ensure women have nutritious meals and are in a positive environment. "I hope others will be encouraged and come forward to enlist in our efforts to encourage our sisters in the homeland to have safe and healthy pregnancies," said Sona Yacoubian, Hye Geen chair.

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

AGBU Hye Geen Committee Members Meet His Holiness Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians

On October 27, four members of the AGBU Hye Geen Committee met with His Holiness Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians, who was in California for a pontifical visit. The discussion focused on human rights issues, including abortion, especially sex-selective abortion, and domestic violence in Armenia. After a long and detailed discussion with His Holiness Karekin II, it was proposed that AGBU Hye Geen would work with the Social Services Office of the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin to start a campaign against selective abortions.



LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

AGBU Satamian Theater Group Honors Renowned Actor and Director Berge Fazlian

On October 15, the AGBU Satamian Theater Group paid tribute to renowned actor and director Berge Fazlian who passed away in Beirut last year. The evening featured publicist Hagop Vartivarian; Kevork Soghomonian, an actor at the AGBU Vahram Papazian Theatre Group; and Krikor Satamian, the artistic director of the AGBU Satamian Theater Group. While Vartivarian focused on presenting the stage legacy of Fazlian and Satamian reflected on his qualities both as a man and a director, Soghomonian shared his personal experience of working under Fazlian's leadership. The evening concluded with the screening of a few clips from Hagop Baronian's play "Baghdasar Aghpar," featuring Fazlian and renowned actor Mher Mkrtichyan. Fazlian was the first artistic director of the AGBU Vahram Papazian Theater Group in Beirut, which was founded in 1959. He directed 15 plays for the theater between 1959 and 1970. He was instrumental in the development of professional theater in Beirut.



PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

AGBU Hye Geen Member Honored for Dedication

On December 9, Arshagouhi Tavitian, a long-time devoted member of AGBU Hye Geen, was honored during a fundraising dinner. She was recognized for her continuous support and dedication to AGBU and the Armenian community. She was awarded a Certificate of Blessing and Appreciation on behalf of His Eminence Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Primate of the Western Diocese. Tavitian also received certificates from AGBU President Berge Setrakian, the AGBU Western District and the Glendale City Council.

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

Long-Time AGBU Member Rides on Award-Winning Float in 2018 Rose Parade

Hermine Janoyan, a veteran member of AGBU and former chairwoman of the Western District Special Events Committee, was one of nine women who rode on the float of the American Armenian Rose Float Association (AARFS) in the 2018 Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parade on January 1. This year's parade was dedicated to women who are making a difference in their communities. Janoyan, a respected community leader, has been serving the local Armenian community through AGBU and the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church over many years.

Telma Ghazarian Altoon, Sirvard Chimayan, Alina Dorian, Carmen Azinian Libaridian, Ramella Markarian, Sylvia Minassian, Alice Petrossian and Grace Stepanian were also on AARFS's float themed "Armenian Roots," which received the Judges Award.



LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Celebrated Director Krikor Satamian Honored with St. Sahag-St. Mesrob Medal

On November 1, His Holiness Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians, bestowed the St. Sahag-St. Mesrob Medal of Honor and Holy Encyclical upon popular actor and director Krikor Satamian, who was honored for his lifelong dedication to the arts and contribution to Armenian theater. Surrounded by friends, family and colleagues at the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church, Satamian accepted the award, thanking His Holiness Karekin II and the Diocese. "Receiving this medal of honor is an unparalleled moment for me. It has been a great journey and I feel lucky to have had this unique opportunity to do what I love," said Satamian. "I am proud to serve the Armenian people through Armenian theater and the cultural programs of AGBU."

Satamian's decades-long commitment to his craft has had a significant impact on the development of theater across the diaspora. In 1960, he first joined the famous AGBU Vahram Papazian Theater Company in Beirut, Lebanon as a young actor and later was appointed its artistic director. In the following years, he became AGBU's national artistic director in New York and has since established several AGBU theater companies in Boston, Detroit, New York, Philadelphia, Los Angeles and Buenos Aires. Since 2013, Satamian has been the artistic director of the AGBU Krikor Satamian Theatre Group in Los Angeles, previously known as the AGBU Ardavazt Theatre Company.

Satamian has directed over 87 plays, three operettas and has acted in over 70 plays, shows and films, including *24*, *Subterfuge*, *Mad TV* and *Suddenly Susan*. He has also worked with celebrities like Brooke Shields, Joey Travolta and John Cusack. He also taught drama at the American University of Beirut (AUB), his alma mater, and the AGBU Manoogian-Demirdjian School in Canoga Park for thirteen years.

His Holiness Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians, bestowed the St. Sahag-St. Mesrob Medal of Honor and Holy Encyclical upon popular actor and director Krikor Satamian.



MESA CASA, CALIFORNIA

AGBU Orange County Saturday School Holds Camping Trip

AGBU Orange County held its third annual camping trip for students and family members of the AGBU Armenian Saturday School. Around 50 students and parents took part in the trip which encouraged students to unplug from technology and explore nature. They spent three days in tents at the Newport Dunes Waterfront Resort, enjoying several outdoor activities such as hiking, swimming, cooking, boating and others. In the evenings, the children enjoyed roasting marshmallows over the fire while parents shared stories and jokes.

AGBU Chapters

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

AGBU Chicago Holds the Annual Kooyumjian/AGBU Chicago Armenian Humanities Festival

With the generous support of the Thomas A. Kooyumjian Foundation, AGBU Chicago held the annual Kooyumjian/AGBU Chicago Armenian Humanities Festival comprised of several cultural events featuring Armenian talents. The festival began on September 8 with a recital by pianist and composer Karen Hakobyan, a recipient of an AGBU Performing Arts Scholarship. The evening's program included works by Chopin, Debussy, Liszt, Rachmaninoff and Stravinsky, among others. On September 24, Chicago-based photographer and attorney Kristen Cass and her daughter, journalist Cristina Cass, held a photo exhibition and talk on the province of Tavush in Armenia. They traveled to Armenia to document the lives of people affected by the violence on the border. On October 13, Professor Armen Tsolag Marsoobian presented images from his second book based on the unique photos and journals of his family, who documented the life of Armenians in the eastern provinces of the Ottoman Empire during the genocide. Marsoobian's work has been shown throughout Turkey and translated into Turkish. The fall series concluded on October 22 with a concert by Boston-based cellist Kate Kayaian and pianist Sarah Bob.



TORONTO, CANADA

AGBU Toronto Holds Screening of *Crows of the Desert*

On September 24, AGBU Toronto held the screening of *Crows of the Desert*, a documentary about the Armenian Genocide. The movie's executive producer Paul Turpanjian flew from Los Angeles to present the film in Toronto. The film is based on the moving memoirs of Urfa-born Levon Yotnakhparian and depicts his story of resistance.

The enthusiastic round of applause at the end of the film was followed by a question and answer session. Moderated by Silva Basmajian, the session again displayed the audience's enthusiasm for the film.



TORONTO, CANADA

AGBU Toronto Celebrates Canada 150 with Inspiring Concert

On September 10, AGBU Toronto held a concert to celebrate Canada's 150th anniversary. John McKay, a member of Parliament, addressed the audience, speaking at length about the positive contribution of several Canadian Armenians to the country. AGBU honored several Canadian Armenians, including: former MP Sarkis Assadourian; Silva Basmajian, a retired executive producer for the National Film Board of Canada; and composer Levon Ichkhanian. Basmajian and Ichkhanian received the AGBU Distinction Award. Both expressed their gratitude to AGBU and attributed their success to the positive and welcoming atmosphere that reigns in Canada.

The evening's program featured soprano Irina Zakyan and baritone Krikor Jangeosian, pianist Narine Mardoyan, violinist Lilit Zakaryan and cellist Gayane Sahakyan. The evening's diverse program comprised of works by western and Armenian composers, including J. Brahms, A. Stradella, A. Babajanian, Komitas, A. Spendiarian displayed the talents of the performers.



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MONTREAL, CANADA

AGBU Montreal's 60th Anniversary Celebrated with Concert

On October 22, Maestro Nurhan Arman led Sinfonia Toronto, one of Canada's finest chamber orchestras, at a concert dedicated to the 60th anniversary of AGBU Montreal. The concert featured violinist Haik Kazazyan, a winner of many international competitions, including the XV International Tchaikovsky Competition.

Beethoven's *Violin Concerto*, specially arranged by Arman for solo violin and chamber orchestra, opened the evening. Kazazyan's interpretation of the piece was the highlight of the evening. The program also included compositions by Aram Khachaturian, Eduard Mirzoyan and Komitas. Kazazyan's rendition of "Tsirani Tsar" by Komitas was another highlight of the event.

MONTREAL, CANADA

AGBU President Honors Community Leaders in Montreal

In the summer of 2017, during the AGBU Montreal 60th Anniversary Gala, AGBU Montreal chairman and the leadership of the AGBU Alex Manoogian School were recognized for their tireless service and work. AGBU President Berge Setrakian bestowed the AGBU President's Award on Chahé Tanachian, chairman of AGBU Montreal, in appreciation for his continued dedication to the organization and the community at large. On the same occasion, Armen Bechakjian, chairman of the AGBU Alex Manoogian School Board of Trustees and Aram Yacoubian, the board's vice chairman, received AGBU honorary memberships for their determined service to AGBU and the school.

On October 22, on behalf of AGBU President Berge Setrakian, Tanachian, awarded an AGBU honorary membership to Sylva Mangasarian for her ongoing service to the organization.



MONTREAL, CANADA

AGBU Montreal's Art Exhibition Benefits Educational Initiatives

From November 17 to November 23, AGBU Montreal's Alex Manoogian Center hosted an art exhibition entitled "Art: The Essence of Life." It was organized by AGBU Montreal and Noah's Ark Art Gallery which provided 50 paintings and sculptures. The exhibition featured eight well-known Armenian artists including Vahram Davtian, Edik Pertian, Vahan Roumelian, Dr. Megerditch Tarakdjian, Berdj Tchakedjian, Arto Tchakmakjian, Suren Voskanyan and Yuroz. Dr. Mosses Herkelian, the owner and director of Noah's Ark Art Gallery and an AGBU scholarship recipient, encouraged art lovers to purchase the displayed works and support the educational endeavors of Armenian youth. Artwork worth over \$130,000 was sold and the proceeds were directed to AGBU Montreal's educational projects. The event wrapped up a series of events celebrating the 60th anniversary of AGBU Canada.





SÃO PAULO, BRAZIL

AGBU São Paulo Launches Armenia in One Minute video series

In September, AGBU São Paulo launched the *Armenia in One Minute* video series on a diverse range of Armenian topics. Released in Portuguese, these inspiring and engaging videos will help AGBU São Paulo reconnect Brazil's Armenian youth to their roots. The second and all subsequent episodes will also be available in English, Spanish and Western Armenian. The first animated episode showed the history of AGBU.



LONDON, ENGLAND

Over 120 People Attend AGBU London's Inaugural Armenians in Finance Conference

On November 2, AGBU London held the first Armenians in Finance conference and brought together over 120 participants. The event encompassed three presentations and a panel discussion. Pierre Gurdjian, a philanthropy partner with the RVVZ Foundation and former senior partner at McKinsey & Company, made a presentation about investments in Armenia, while Arnaud Attamian, managing director of TAP Advisors and an AGBU Central Board member, talked about AGBU's socio-economic and education programs in Armenia. A panel discussion comprised of Anush Simonyan, head of the investment banking department of UBS Russia and CIS; Philippe der Megreditchian, a managing partner at OLMA Capital Management and Gagik Apkarian, managing director of Tetrad Capital Partners, followed. The speakers talked about their careers in the financial sector and discussed the challenges of the industry. Sponsored by Amber Capital, Boghossian Jewels and Polixis, the conference was a unique networking opportunity for Armenian professionals in finance.



PARIS, FRANCE

AGBU France and Nouvelles d'Arménie Host Andrei Grachev

On September 22, Nouvelles d'Arménie (NAM), in cooperation with AGBU France, held the seventh Rendez-vous des NAM with a guest speaker Andrei Grachev, former adviser and spokesperson of Mikhail Gorbachev, the last leader of the Soviet Union. Moderated by Gaidz Minassian, a journalist for *Le Monde*, the talk focused on Russia's interests in the South Caucasus. Grachev reflected on Gorbachev's policy towards Nagorno-Karabakh (Artsakh) when the Soviet Union was on the edge of collapse. The former spokesman also discussed the conflict in the international context and mentioned that Russia feels concerned about NATO's expansion plans. He noted that Russia has an important responsibility for peace in Europe and the Middle East.

AGBU Chapters

PARIS, FRANCE

AGBU France Holds Inaugural Open Stages Concert

On October 18, the AGBU France Performing Arts Department kicked off its 2017-18 season with the inaugural concert of Open Stages, a new program aiming to provide a free artistic platform to AGBU Performing Arts scholarship and grant recipients.

The concert featured violinist Hrayr Karapetyan and pianist Hasmik Manukyan, both recipients of AGBU Performing Arts scholarships or grants. The concert program included Edvard Grieg's *Violin Sonata* Op. 45, excerpts from Sergey Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet* ballet and Khachaturian's *Gayane* ballet, Pablo de Sarasate's *Zigeunerweisen* and Suren Zakaryan's *Humoresque*.

Open Stages is a new platform for AGBU Performing Arts scholarship and grant recipients that organized concerts, recitals, master classes and other events at the AGBU Alex Manoogian Cultural Center.



BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

AGBU Europe Leadership Meet with President of Artsakh in Brussels

On 19 October, AGBU Europe President Nadia Gortzounian and AGBU Europe Director Nicolas Tavitian met with President of Artsakh Bako Sahakyan in Brussels, Belgium. Artsakh's Minister of Foreign Affairs Masis Mailyan, Spokesman for President David Babayan and Ombudsman Ruben Melikyan participated in the discussion. President Sahakyan spoke highly of AGBU's projects in Artsakh, mentioning that TUMOXAGBU Center is a model of quality education. He also encouraged AGBU to develop new housing and educational projects—priority fields where aid is much needed. The discussion further centered around other needs of the people of Artsakh.

Gortzounian and Tavitian gave details about AGBU Europe's "We want EU in Nagorno-Karabakh" campaign which calls on the European Union to engage with the people of Artsakh and provide assistance. In June 2017, AGBU Europe launched the campaign to raise awareness of Artsakh's international isolation and encourage a global humanitarian presence in the area. "The safety and welfare of the people of Artsakh are a priority for us. We are looking forward to stepping up our work and assistance to Artsakh," said Gortzounian.

WARSAW, POLAND

AGBU Europe Enters into Partnership with Polish Foundation for Armenian Heritage and Culture

On September 19, AGBU Europe and the Polish Foundation for Armenian Heritage and Culture (Fundacja Kultury i Dziedzictwa Ormian Polskich) signed a partnership agreement. This partnership is part of AGBU Europe's overarching strategy. Through the agreement, the parties agreed to promote the Armenian culture and history, uphold the Armenian heritage in Europe and implement social, educational and cultural programs, among others. "I very much look forward to our center working closely with the Armenian Heritage Foundation in the future, as we do with other similar centers in Armenia and elsewhere, for the benefit of research and the understanding of the Armenian experience," said AGBU Europe President Nadia Gortzounian.



ATHENS, GREECE

AGBU Ani Dance Group Members Explore Cultural Sites in Greece

On October 8, members and friends of the AGBU Ani Dance Group took a trip to the mountainous areas of Arcadia in the Peloponnese. The group visited various historical and cultural sites on their way to Dimitsana and Stemnitsa villages, including the Corinth Canal, the Kernitsa Monastery in Vytina and the Open-Air Water-Power Museum in Dimitsana.

SOFIA, BULGARIA

The AGBU Sofia Chamber Orchestra Holds Concert

On November 5, the AGBU Sofia Chamber Orchestra, led by Maestro Bedros Papazian, held a concert featuring violinist Makruhi Hagel, cellist Li Li and horn player Yassen Theodosiev. The evening featured works by Western and Armenian composers, including M. Arnold, A. Arutiunian G. Handel, W. A. Mozart, N. Paganini and A. Vivaldi. It was the second concert of the 2017-18 season and was on the 2017 Cultural Calendar of Sofia Municipality, alongside other concerts of the AGBU Sofia Chamber Orchestra.



BEIRUT, LEBANON

AGBU Demirdjian Center Summer Day Camp Celebrates its 20th Anniversary

2017 marked the 20th anniversary of the AGBU Demirdjian Center Summer Day Camp. “As the celebrations of our camp’s 20th anniversary are taking place, we continuously take pride in looking at our current campers who sing, dance and celebrate our heritage,” says Anita Lebiar, executive director of AGBU Lebanon. Since 1997, the camp has touched the lives of over 3,000 campers. Not only did the camp become the first Armenian summer camp in Lebanon, but also it is the only one that distinguishes itself by its new, annual educational theme. Over the years, the camp has been in high demand due to activities related to Armenian heritage and an opportunity to forge Armenian friendships.

On its 20th anniversary, the Summer Day Camp sets a record by bringing together over 245 campers from as far as Armenia, France, Italy, Kuwait, Switzerland, Thailand, the United Arab Emirates, the United States and Zimbabwe. Camp alumni joined the end-of-season celebration dedicated to the camp’s anniversary.



BEIRUT, LEBANON

AGBU Demirdjian Center Armenian Studies Saturday School Celebrates its 20th Anniversary

Last year, the AGBU Demirdjian Center Armenian Studies Saturday School celebrated its 20th anniversary. Founded in 1997, it offers students—regardless of their age or knowledge—full-fledged education in Armenian studies. The school’s mentor Hasmig Avedikian helps guide their studies. Since its establishment, the school has had an impact on more than 1,000 students and prepared them to uphold the Armenian language, history, culture and traditions. The curriculum includes various areas of study, such as reading, written and oral language, grammar, vocabulary, spelling, geography and history.



YEREVAN, ARMENIA

AGBU Claudia Nazarian Medical Center Treats Syrian Armenians Free of Charge

For ten months, the AGBU Claudia Nazarian Medical Center has been providing free healthcare services to Syrian Armenians. Located at the AGBU Vahe Karapetian Center in Yerevan, it employs four Syrian Armenian doctors and serves a growing number of patients. On average, 404 patients per month have exams and receive general and specialized treatment through the center's ophthalmology, gynecology, cardiology and pediatric departments. The majority of patients seeks cardiological exams and treatment.

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

AGBU Melbourne's Armenian Cultural Night Draws Over 300 Guests

On October 8, AGBU Melbourne held an Armenian Cultural Night to showcase Armenian talents in the performing arts. The evening featured the Azad Gharibian Dance Group, the Armenian Church's Zvartnots Choir and individual performers. The AGBU Melbourne Hagop Baronian Theatre Group performed a one-act comedy with English subtitles which allowed non-Armenian-speaking guests to get the sense of Armenian humor. The event, organized in cooperation with local Armenian organizations, drew over 300 people.

"We are mindful that it is our duty to not only keep but to nourish Armenian culture, otherwise we condemn our community to a cultural standstill," said Maral Tchorbadjian, chairwoman of AGBU Melbourne.



AGBU Summer Programs



ANDES, NEW YORK

Camp Nubar

In 2017, Camp Nubar hosted over 350 campers in its three, two-week-long camp sessions. Campers arrived to New York from 14 countries, from as far as Armenia, Australia, China, France, Poland, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States. Campers enjoyed traditional activities such as archery, basketball, chess, horseback riding, photography and tennis. They also attended Armenian dance, language and culture workshops, improved their arts and crafts skills and had several performing opportunities. “Camp Nubar is special because I met lots of friends and counselors. I have great memories with me,” said camper John Balian.



BEIRUT, LEBANON

AGBU-AYA Antranik Antelias and Antranik Sevan Scouts

The AGBU-AYA Antranik Antelias and Antranik Sevan Scouts in Lebanon held their annual camping season, gathering more than 450 members for 15 days of scout activities. The season concluded with the traditional campfire ceremony at the Bzebdine and Kfarmatta campsites. Scout leadership, butterflies, brownies, cubs, boy scouts, girl scouts, caravelles and rovers all prepared for the campfire ceremony programs, which were composed of dances, songs, poetry recitations and skits. The ceremonies were attended by the AGBU-AYA Central Committee chairman and members, overseas guests, Executive Committees' chairmen and members, representatives of various AYA committees and a large number of parents and friends.

AGBU Summer Programs



PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

Summer Day Camp

Over 200 children attended the sixth summer day camp held in Pasadena, California, by AGBU Western District. As the enrollment grew, the camp was extended by a week to accommodate all interested children throughout the eight-week program. Each week had a specific topic, such as Hollywood, Amazing Race, Mad Science, Sportstacular and AGBU spirit. All activities, projects and field trips were tailored to match the weekly themes.

Some activities, including a Pirate's Dinner Adventure Show, scavenger hunt and water sports, were among the favorites.

SOFIA, BULGARIA

Camp HayLer

Last summer, AGBU Sofia's Camp HayLer hosted 70 children from several Bulgarian cities, including Plovdiv, Haskovo, Ruse and Sofia. Campers spent ten days in Semkovo in the Rila Mountains and were engaged in a range of activities, including mountain climbing, sightseeing and Armenian dance. They learned the basics of mountaineering, particularly survival techniques. Children also played football, volleyball and enjoyed swimming and chess. A choreographer from Athens also taught the campers traditional Armenian dances. Campers also had a meeting with Rev. Archimandrite Isahak Poghosyan, Primate of the Armenian Diocese of Bulgaria.

Participants left the camp equipped with new skills and unforgettable memories.



PLOVDIV, BULGARIA

Camp HayLer

Last summer, AGBU Plovdiv's Camp HayLer welcomed 43 children from various cities in Bulgaria, including Burgas, Haskovo, Plovdiv, Stara Zagora and Varna, as well as Moscow, to Villa Viviana in the Rhodope Mountains. For eight days, campers, ages five to fifteen, enjoyed a diverse array of activities including arts and dance workshops, Armenian language classes through the AGBU Armenian Virtual College, as well as survival and first-aid trainings. Children also participated in thematic evenings honing their creative skills and talents.

Campers attended a number of lectures and meetings with Ruben Chavoushian, AGBU Plovdiv chairman, and Rev. Archimandrite Isahak Poghosyan, Primate of the Armenian Diocese of Bulgaria, who spoke about Armenian traditions.



HAUTE-SAVOIE, FRANCE

Colonie de Vacances

AGBU France held the 34th season of Colonie de Vacances in the mountains of Haute-Savoie. From July 7 to 25, 83 children from Armenia, Belgium, France, Russia, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom built lasting bonds through a diverse range of common activities. They enjoyed Armenian dance and singing classes, attended arts and crafts workshops and took part in sports and outdoor activities, including rafting, tree-climbing and scavenger hunts, among others. Established in 1979 by AGBU Marseille, Colonie de Vacances touches the lives of around 100 children every year.



YEREVAN, ARMENIA

Discover Armenia

In its fourteenth year, the Discover Armenia program brought 53 high school students to Armenia for a three-week enriching experience. Participants, ages 15-18, from Bulgaria, Canada, France, Lebanon, Russia, Switzerland, the United Arab Emirates, the United States, Turkey and Venezuela engaged in a number of community service projects. For three days, they helped build a home for a family in need in the town of Nerkin Bazmaberd in Aragatsotn province through the Fuller Center for Housing Armenia. They served hot meals to pensioners of the AGBU Senior Dining Center in Nork and spent a day with children at the Vanadzor orphanage. "We don't just show them around the country. First and foremost, we educate them, not just by teaching history," said Hermine Duzian, the program's founder and coordinator. "We teach children to support and take care of each other."

Participants also had an opportunity to take music, dance and woodcarving classes at the AGBU Nork Children's Center and stage a performance at the end of their studies. They toured across Armenia and Artsakh, discovering beautiful sites and monasteries, including Haghartsin, Noravank, Tatev and Khor Virap, among others.

AGBU Summer Programs



YEREVAN, ARMENIA

AGBU Antranik Scout Camp

The AGBU Antranik Scout Camp welcomed 200 scouts from Armenia, Georgia and Lebanon to Lermontovo, Armenia for the annual summer camp. Over two weeks, they enjoyed traditional scout activities, including hiking and excursions, and spent its meaningful time building shared experiences. On July 16, the anticipated campfire ceremony celebrated the camp's 10th anniversary and drew over 750 guests.

YEREVAN, ARMENIA

Arménie, Terre de Vie

For the fourth time, the biennial Arménie, Terre de Vie welcomed 34 participants—Armenian and non-Armenian—from France, Switzerland and Turkey to Sarigyugh village in Armenia's Tavush province. Over three weeks, young volunteers renovated four classrooms and two halls at the school in Sarigyugh which has over 200 pupils. "Months ago, you wouldn't have thought that these classrooms would look like this. It was with true heroic efforts that young people here transformed this place. What I see is not a mere renovation of some building; I see a renovation of morale here," said Bishop Bagrat Galstanyan, the primate of the Diocese of Tavush.

The program promotes education in Armenia by ensuring children have better conditions at school and encourages the protection of nature. Volunteers displayed informative posters about the dangers of pollution to raise awareness of the environmental issues among locals. Volunteers were fully immersed in Armenian culture through a unique common living experience. They lived in a modest cottage for the first two weeks before staying with families in Sarigyugh which helped them develop trust and friendship.





LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles Media Internship Program

In its first year, the Los Angeles Media Internship Program welcomed five students who were offered placements in several organizations, including a talent agency, television studio and post-production company. Nazan Titizian, a student at Glendale Community College, had a placement in the KMR Talent Agency's social media and marketing department. Upon completing her internship, the agency offered her a part-time job. "AGBU has awarded me with an experience of a lifetime," said Titizian. "They have inspired me to provide similar opportunities to future Armenian youth."

The program creates new opportunities for Armenian students and guides them as they embark on their careers in the entertainment and media industries. Beyond the hands-on experience, the Los Angeles Media Internship Program offers networking opportunities that allow students to meet like-minded peers and professionals in the field.



NEW YORK, NEW YORK

New York Summer Internship Program

The New York Summer Internship Program (NYSIP) reached a significant milestone in 2017, celebrating its 30th anniversary and hosting 25 participants from Armenia, Russia, Argentina, Lebanon, Canada and the United States. They were offered placements in major host organizations and institutions, including AXA Advisors, Children's Museum of the Arts New York, Fitch Ratings, Michael Aram Studios, NewsDeeply and the Permanent Mission of Armenia to the United Nations. Houshig Kaymakamian, of Lebanon, saw diplomacy in action while interning at Armenia's Permanent Mission to the UN and the Lebanese Consulate in New York. "International affairs wasn't just a concept or theory in a textbook; it was real work that adds real value to the world," said Houshig. "At various UN meetings, I witnessed diplomats negotiating with skill and grace and I realized that one day I want to be in their shoes."

Interns also grew through professional workshops and meetings with mentors and dignitaries, including Ambassador Zohrab Mnatsakanyan, Armenia's Permanent Representative to the United Nations; and His Eminence Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church in America. Through various social activities, the NYSIP interns learned more about the local Armenian community and discovered the diverse culture of New York City. Varujan Beledkianian, of New Jersey, interned at the Cardiovascular Research Department of Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, "Though we come from different places, we have something in common. We are all young Armenians who want to excel in our careers and we're bonded by this unique experience of NYSIP."

AGBU Summer Programs



LONDON, ENGLAND

London Summer Internship Program

In its third year, the London Summer Internship Program (LSIP) was comprised of 14 Armenian interns from Belgium, Canada, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States. Over six weeks, the LSIP interns grew both professionally and personally, gaining hands-on experience in some of the United Kingdom's major companies and organizations like Amber Capital, Backes & Strauss, Gomidas Institute, the Embassy of Armenia, Newscap, OTS Solicitors, StoneHedge Partners, Tufenkian Carpets and Wigmore Medical.

Interns also attended a leadership talk delivered by Vartkess Knadjian, CEO of Backes & Strauss, the world's oldest diamond company. They visited the Facebook headquarters in London and took trips to the iconic landmarks of the United Kingdom, including Oxford, Manchester and Brighton. Kristina Ayanian, of Boston, made new friends in London, connecting with them on a deeper level. "I have never felt so close to a group of people in such a short period of time. I will always treasure the bond our group had and I am looking forward to a reunion soon," she said. "Working for Newscap Capital Group was one of the best experiences of my professional career. I was able to gain experience in a side of finance I was not familiar with. I finally figured out what I want to do with my career."

Buenos Aires, ARGENTINA

Buenos Aires Summer Internship Program

In its first year, the Buenos Aires Summer Internship Program (BASIP) welcomed five interns from the United States, China and Estonia providing valuable and memorable experiences. For four weeks, the BASIP participants interned in some of Argentina's major organizations including Merval (Mercado de Valores de Buenos Aires), E-Planning, Bolivia y Divina, Cámara Argentina de Comercio e Industria, Fundación Luisa Hairabedian and Estudio Singerman & Makon. Interns were introduced to the Argentinean and South American business environment and gained first-hand experience. "The professionals we spent time with were very helpful and knowledgeable. I really learned a lot from these individuals. They really showed interest in us," said Simon Nahigian, a student at the University of Southern California.

The four-week program was comprised of a diverse array of activities, including talks by the AGBU Buenos Aires leadership and meetings with local community leaders and mentors. The BASIP interns participated in several educational and cultural events and attended Armenian cooking classes. From its rich history and eclectic neighborhoods to its vibrant arts and culture scene, cosmopolitan Buenos Aires provided the BASIP participants with a valuable and memorable internship experience. They also took trips to Argentina's most well-known landmarks, including Tigre and San Antonio de Areco.



PARIS, FRANCE

Paris Summer Internship Program

In 2017, the Paris Summer Internship Program (PSIP) hosted four francophone interns from Canada, France and the United States who were placed in Daniel Rosange & Associates; Kafard Films; Southside Interactive, a digital solutions company and Pauline Véron's office at the City Hall in Paris. During the six-week program, the PSIP interns had inspiring meetings with Eric Dadian, a member of the Board of Directors of AGBU France and a committed entrepreneur and co-founder of Wikipme, a digital platform for entrepreneurs; Boris Adjemian, director of the AGBU Nubar Library; and the Primate of the Armenian Apostolic Church in France. They also discussed current developments in Armenia and Artsakh during meetings with the Armenian Ambassador to France and Artsakh's Permanent Representative in France. Carl Kilajian, a third-year student at the University of Montreal, learned a lot about finance and accounting during his internship. "Professional experience within Daniel Rosange & Associates, a Parisian accounting firm, is very valuable because I have been supervised and trained by energetic specialists in the field for the full duration of the program," said Kilajian. Students took the opportunity to visit museums and landmarks in Paris and its suburbs, including the Louvre, Musée d'Orsay and the Palace of Versailles.



YEREVAN, ARMENIA

Yerevan Summer Internship Program

The summer of 2017 was much anticipated for 28 students from Syria, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States who joined the AGBU Yerevan Summer Internship Program (YSIP) and spent a meaningful six weeks in the homeland as they gained hands-on professional experience and discovered Armenia.

In 2017, YSIP continued the established tradition of offering students top-level placements and access to great expertise in Armenia's leading organizations and companies, including the American University of Armenia, Arabkir Medical Center, Archangel Architectural Studios, Deem Communications, Europe in Law Association, Grant Thornton Armenia, International Child Development Center, Izmirlian Medical Center, Heratsi Hospital N1, Center, Malayan Eye Center, Microsoft Armenia, National Instruments, Storaket, Synopsys Armenia, Vardanants Medical Center and Orran NGO.

Each year, YSIP expands its scope, involving new industries and partner organizations. It also encourages participation from non-Armenian students. For the second year in a row, YSIP hosted a non-Armenian medical student from Queens' College, University of Cambridge, who pursued a fully funded internship in the neurology department of Heratsi Hospital.

YSIP was an exceptional opportunity for George Tarabelsi, a student at the University of Massachusetts. "This internship has been educational and has exposed me to various types of operations. As an aspiring physician, shadowing doctors in different departments has allowed me to gain a better understanding of what specifically I would like to pursue in medicine," said George.

Interns not only had fulfilling professional experiences, but were captivated by rich culture. Every day, they discovered new things about life in Armenia and its history through a wide array of activities ranging from hiking trips, lectures, classes in Armenian language and folk dance to meetings with His Holiness Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians, and Karen Mirzoyan, minister of Foreign Affairs of Artsakh. Visits to Artsakh and Gyumri were particularly memorable for the interns. While in Artsakh, interns went to an orphanage, presenting children with gifts and giving presentations on healthy lifestyles. In Gyumri, they joined forces with the team of Tuff Armenia—designing housing for people living in makeshift homes—to help purchase a kanun for a local teenager.

Lucine Boloyan, student at University of Massachusetts, Amherst, admits that YSIP helped her to immerse herself in Armenian culture. "The diverse array of opportunities provided by the Yerevan Summer Internship Program helped me grow in empathy and cultural awareness. In just six weeks, I experienced Armenia from various angles—as a tourist, as a student, and as a worker," said Lucine.





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YEREVAN, ARMENIA

Musical Armenia Program

For over five years, the Musical Armenia Program (MAP) has been drawing dozens of professionals and music enthusiasts to explore rich Armenian music traditions and hone their skills in a three-week intensive training in Yerevan. In 2017, MAP welcomed 17 participants from Argentina, Greece, Lebanon, Syria, Russia and the United States. Participants, aged from 15 to 52, were of diverse backgrounds. Swamini Samwidananda Saraswati, an Argentine Buddhist monk and music teacher, joined the program because she is passionate about Gurdjieff and Komitas' music and over three weeks learned to play the kamancheh and dap.

Participants were involved in diverse professional and cultural activities. Besides attending various lectures and one-on-one classes with renowned musicians and professors of the Yerevan State Conservatory—Tigran Mansourian, Anna Mayilyan and Bagrat Vardanyan and others—they worked with Armenia's well-known state ensembles and orchestras, such as the National Chamber Choir and the Orchestra of the Yerevan State Opera and Ballet Theater. They showcased their works and performing skills at the Gala Concert held at AGBU Armenia Hall. Weekly trips to the countryside, visits to museums and historical monuments, courses in Armenian music, dance and food and countless concerts allowed participants to immerse themselves in Armenia's cultural life.

For clarinetist and saxophonist Marat Avanesian, a graduate of the Moscow Conservatory, participation in the Alexander Arutiunian International Wind Festival was a remarkable opportunity. "The AGBU Musical Armenia Program creates a unique platform for young musicians," said Avanesian. "Thanks to MAP, I was able to participate in the Alexander Arutiunian International Wind Festival and give a solo concert. It provided me with a full scholarship and helped with organizational issues."

Check out our favorite children selections

My First Armenian Songbook

Item Number: 038 \$35.00



In this unique songbook, English-language songs are presented along with their Armenian translations in order to celebrate both traditions. This comprehensive edition includes original translations of traditional songs from English to Armenian and one from Armenian to English. The book is ideal for children who are learning Armenian or are being exposed to Armenian culture. The rich English texts and the colorful original illustrations make it appealing to children of all backgrounds.

Author: **Karenn Chutjian Presti**

Publisher: **Natabella Press**

Format: **Paperback With CD**

Treasure Chess of Armenia

Item Number: Game1 \$30.00



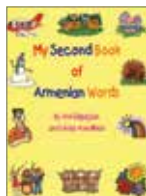
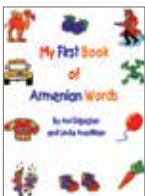
The object of this board game is to bring families together to learn about Armenia and its unique treasures! The game highlights the treasures

of Armenia and it is fun to play, as well as educational. We recommend it for ages 6+. Knowledge of chess not required.

Publisher/Developer: **Hrant and Arlene Jilozian**

My Book of Armenian Words—2 Issues

Item Number: 032 \$32.00



My Second Book of Armenian Words: A wonderful way for children to learn Armenian. Colorful pictures accompany each word with English, Armenian and English transliteration letters. *My Second*

Book of Armenian Words: This book, a follow-up to *My First Book of Armenian Words*, has streamlined pronunciation guides and covers words associated with everyday activities.

Author: **John M. Evans**

Publisher: **Gomidas Institute**

Format: **Hardcover**

Ambassador Morgenthau's Story

Item Number: 028 \$28.00



These are memoirs of the American ambassador to Constantinople between 1913 and 1916. They were written in 1918. Morgenthau was an astute observer who had good contacts with the leaders of Ottoman Turkey, as well as their allies. His memoirs cover WWI in the Middle East, including the Turco-German alliance, the Allied Gallipoli campaign and the Armenian Genocide.

This critical edition of Morgenthau's work includes a critical introduction by Ara Sarafian with reference to Morgenthau's private papers.

Author: **Henry Morgenthau**

Publisher: **Gomidas Institute**

Format: **Paperback**

Armenian-Italian Architectural Influences

Item Number: 038 \$95.00



The architectural works of the Armenian nation have been appropriated by the Italian and other European nations and are represented as their own creations. This book will confirm that in the architectural designs of churches, built in Italy between 12th-15th centuries, have been included as architectural elements of churches that were built in Armenia between 5th-12th centuries and which still exist today. Thus, it is time to justly recognize the influence of the Armenian architectural elements on Italian churches.

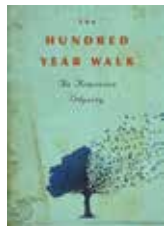
Author: **Varoujan Aksherialian**

Publisher: **Moughni Publishers**

Format: **Paperback**

The Hundred Year Walk—An Armenian Odyssey

Item Number: 022 \$25.00



In the heart of the Ottoman Empire as World War I rages, Stepan Miskjian's world becomes undone. *The Hundred-Year Walk* alternates between Stepan's saga and another journey that takes place a century later. Reading this rare firsthand account, his granddaughter Dawn MacKeen finds herself first drawn into the colorful bazaars before the war and then into the horrors Stepan later endured. Inspired to retrace his steps, she sets out alone to Turkey and Syria, shadowing her resourceful, resilient grandfather across a landscape still rife with tension.

Author: **Dawn Anahid MacKeen**

Publisher: **Mariner Books**

Format: **Paperback**

Treasured Armenian Recipes

Item Number: 101 \$20.00

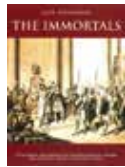


Arranged according to categories, from appetizers to desserts, these recipes will conjure up memories for many and awaken others to the pleasures of Armenian cooking.

Author: **Marie Manoogian**
 Publisher: **AGBU**
 Format: **Paperback**

The Immortals

Item Number: 317 \$100.00



The Immortals is the third book by accomplished author Alice Navasargian that surveys the many contributions of the Armenian people. Drawing on extensive research from as early as the 12th century to the present, Navasargian profiles key figures in Armenian history. They include names such as Mkhitar Heratsi, the famous medieval doctor; Arakel Davrizhetsi, the 17th century Armenian historian; and Hovhannes Masehyan, the celebrated translator of Shakespeare.

Author: **Alice Navasargian**
 Publisher: **Alice Navasargian, California**
 Format: **Hardcover**

From a High Place: A Life of Arshile Gorky

Item Number: 231 \$35.00



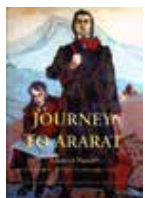
In this deeply felt and penetrating biography, Matthew Spender—himself a sculptor and the husband of Gorky's elder daughter—writes with extraordinary sympathy and perception, and he gets to the heart of his elusive subject.

As an artist, Gorky bridged the generation of the surrealists and that of the abstract expressionists and was a very influential figure among the latter. His work was an inspiration to Willem de Kooning and Mark Rothko, among others. Matthew Spender illuminates this world as he tells the story of Gorky's life and career.

Author: **Matthew Spender**
 Publisher: **Alfred A. Knopf**
 Format: **Paperback**

Journey to Ararat

Item Number: 029 \$30.00



In February 1828, the Russian Empire annexed the historical Armenian province of Erivan (Yerevan) from Persia. The province included Mount Ararat, never before been scaled in recorded history.

Author: **Friedrich Parrot**
 Publisher: **Gomidas Institute**
 Format: **Paperback**

Aivazovsky

Item Number: 937 \$25.00



A towering figure in his day, Aivazovsky shot to international fame at an early age. His exhibitions drew enormous crowds from all over the world and earned him the admiration of Veret and Turner. He was elected a member of five European academies and was personally acquainted with most of the crowned heads of his day. Throughout his long and colorful career

Aivazovsky claimed to have painted over 6,000 pictures.

Author: **Shahen Khachaturyan**
 Publisher: **ColorFX Inc. U.S.A.**
 Format: **Paperback**

Truth Held Hostage: America and the Armenian Genocide —What Then? What Now?

Item Number: 032 \$32.00

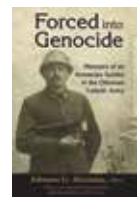


Ambassador John Evans' *Truth Held Hostage* is the most important work about the Armenian genocide by a US diplomat since Henry Morgenthau's groundbreaking *Ambassador Morgenthau's Story* in 1918. Evans writes with an elegant clarity that allows us to experience his journey into a major personal and political ethical dilemma concerning the truth of history and the untruth of US government protocol in the name of foreign policy politics.

Author: **John M. Evans**
 Publisher: **Gomidas Institute**
 Format: **Hardcover**

Forced into Genocide

Item Number: 037 \$35.00



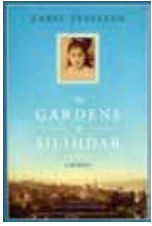
Alexanian was forced to become an onlooker while he watched the atrocities unfold. His story of resourceful action and fateful turns is a suspenseful "insider's account" of a genocide survivor. From his singular position, Alexanian was able to document the tragedy of his people in his journals and diaries, but he also offers us a behind-the-scenes look into the motivations and actions of Turkish military officials as they committed the atrocities. His story continues after the war as we follow the trail of his journey through Europe and finally to America, where he found solace and was able to start anew with fellow survivors.

No comparable account exists in the literature of the Armenian Genocide. This edition, translated from Alexanian's hand-written Armenian-language chronicle by Simon Beugekian, includes never-before-seen documents and photos that the author preserved. Through his eyes we relive the astonishing cruelty of the genocide's perpetrators—but also rare, unexpected acts of humanity between victim and oppressor.

Editor: **Adrienne G. Alexanian**
 Publisher: **Transaction/Routledge**
 Format: **Hardcover**

The Gardens of Silihdar

Item Number: 004 \$20.00



From her earliest years until her tragic death, Zabel Yessayan championed social justice and women's rights. Yessayan authored several novels, short stories, newspaper articles an eyewitness account of the aftermath of the 1909 massacres of the Armenians. Her 1935 memoir, *The Gardens of Silihdar*, is a narrative of her childhood and a vivid account of Armenian community life in Constantinople (Istanbul) at the end of the nineteenth century. Zabel Yessayan (1878-1943) is recognized today as one of the greatest writers in Western Armenian literature.

Author: Zabel Yessayan
 Publisher: Armenian International Women's Association
 Format: Paperback

There Is Only the Earth: Images from the Armenian Diaspora Project

Item Number: 017 \$40.00



Despite this history of exile, today's Armenian diaspora is strong and vibrant with over eight million Armenians living in more than eighty-five countries across the globe. The story of these survivors, however, has been largely untold. Until now. With more than 160 photographs, this book is a beautiful and loving portrait of the global Armenian community captured in joyful detail by an exceptional photographer highlighting this ancient community's strength, versatility, and ability to survive.

Author: Scout Tufankjian
 Publisher: Melcher Media Inc; Slp edition
 Format: Hardcover

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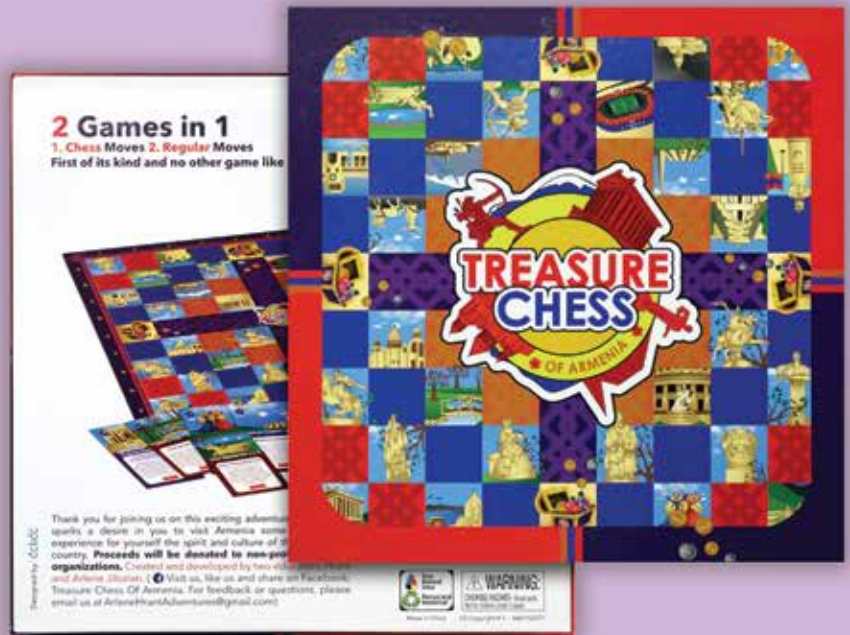
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