

*PRESIDENT'S NEW YEAR MESSAGE*

As we begin the year 2011 with hopeful anticipation and a resolute stand to face the many challenges these eventful and exciting times bring to us, I would like to convey to the members, benefactors, donors, and friends of the Armenian General Benevolent Union my best wishes for a peaceful, happy, healthy, and successful New Year.

I am pleased to assert that the year 2010 was another benchmark for AGBU's prominent service and contributions to our nation, through the numerous and multifaceted initiatives of our chapters, the achievements of our schools with hundreds of our graduates moving to higher education, the many and expanding activities of our Young Professionals worldwide, and our ongoing humanitarian, social, cultural, youth and educational programs and new projects in the Diaspora, Armenia and Karabakh.

The past year was also noted for AGBU's 86th General Assembly in Buenos Aires, which highlighted our Armenia-centered expanding programs including the American University of Armenia, the Armenian Virtual College, various summer activities and our efforts at harnessing the potential of our youth to our Union's mission of service. With the welcome emergence of newly organized diasporan communities and the establishment of new chapters, it is necessary for us to extend our resources to new constituencies. This implies enlisting the capabilities of our established western chapters calling on them to become self sufficient and contributing entities to lend support to the organization's global initiatives.

Dozens of new graduates from our summer internship programs of New York, Paris, Yerevan and most recently Moscow joined the ranks of young professionals whose groups continue to expand especially in Europe where our district committee intensified its efforts in collaboration with our Nubarian Library and various political and scientific institutions to bring key Armenian issues to the forefront at international influential forums.

Numerous networking corporate and social events were organized by the Young Professionals Groups. Their substantive contributions to programs in Armenia were noteworthy. Our various mentorship and social programs have been expended to reach an ever increasing number of individuals. Our scholarship program, through its focus, supported hundreds of promising talents in performing arts, competitive scholarly and professional endeavor, and among others, priesthood and public service. We shall continue deploying our resources more and more toward such initiatives that cultivate our future leadership and promote outstanding role models in our global communities. The Armenian Virtual College continued to expand its offerings and outreach with a growing enrollment and a diverse menu of language and cultural themes offered to schools and students in distant corners of the world.

Guided by a clear mission, we have set our sight on the future and are diligently directing our efforts toward the youth and the fundamental historical tenets of our national existence – our Homeland, Living Culture, and our Mother Church.

AGBU's strong and illustrious path over the past decades inspires us to face the future with confidence. Let us all join hands to make the year 2011 a year of significance for our Great Union.

With Best Wishes



Berge Setrakian  
President

January 1, 2011