



Հայ Կրթական Հիմնարկություն Armenian Educational Foundation, Inc.

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President's Message

Welcome to our first newsletter.

Not many things impress me as much as reading about the many accomplishments of Armenian Educational Foundation over the last 58 years. Perhaps it is the AEF mission of "...advancement of the Armenian heritage through the support of education..." which brings the best in all, who are involved with its activities.

Working with AEF sub-committees and witnessing their energy and dedication, I am certain that their accomplishments will match the legacy set by the Armenian Educational Foundation's founders and the board members who came before us.

Like any other organization we feel that it is our duty to communicate to our board members and friends, information about our plans and activities. We hope that this exchange of information will result in increased involvement by our membership in our activities, and will motivate our friends who share our vision to become members.

In the past we relied on our events and press releases as the means of communicating with you. This year, we decided to publish newsletters as another form of communication; we hope these newsletters will provide the means for some members who are not able to attend our events to become informed about AEF activities and plans.

I am very excited about the recipient of the AEF's 2008 Lifetime Achievement Award. Mr. Vartkes Yeghiayan, is known in our community for his many outstanding achievements and most recently, for his role in winning the judgment against New York Life and AXA Insurance companies. This event will be held on September 28, 2008, at Sheraton Universal Hotel at 12:30PM.

Mr. Yeghiayan has written a number of books, including: The British Foreign Office Dossier on Turkish War Criminals, Vahan Cardashian Advocate Extraordinaire For the Armenian Cause, Raphael Lemkin and the Armenian Genocide, The Case of Soghomon Tehlirian and The Case of Misak Tortlakian.

On July 15th we had our most recent event; our second general membership meeting in 2008. We look forward to these meetings since these meetings allow us to meet our members, share our plans and receive feedback on our activities. We were proud to have with us our new members, Sarkis and Virginia Zeitjian and new guests, Vartkes and Leonig Shekherdian and Bedik and Anita Araradian.

For an on-line version of this newsletter please visit www.aefweb.org; the on-line version of this newsletter contains links to AEF's most recent brochure.

Alec Baghdasaryan

Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1
September 2008

Upcoming Events:

- Lifetime, Achievement Award: Mr. Vartkes Yeghiayan, September 28, 2008, Sheraton Universal Hilton.
- General Membership Meeting & Board Elections: October 14, 2008 at AEF Office.

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Recent Events

In 2008 AEF launched several new programs and projects, in addition to its already very successful projects in Armenia and Diaspora. Read the details of our activities in subsequent pages.

Public Relations of AEF was very busy in issuing over 10 press releases in Armenian and English to all Armenian media outlets and we are very grateful for their support. We noticed some of our press releases appearing on www.Asbarez.com and www.Gibrahayer.com websites as well.

AEF is in the process of preparing a video and filming will start in Armenia next month, followed by some filming in USA. Some archived material will be used in the new video.

This newsletter is another first for AEF and we hope you will like it and give us your feedback.

Additional topics to appear in our next Issue:

- Member Comments
- Donations Made
- AEF Programs & Projects Members
- What is aefweb?
- AEF Board Members
- Useful Web links
- Bilingual: Armenian and English

Matching Gifts Program

The Armenian Educational Foundation announced its matching gifts new program in 2007.

This recent AEF initiative reaches out to our supporters by matching their contribution of "in-lieu of present" gifts to AEF from their private parties and receptions. We happily match these gifts to further the valuable gift of education. In 2007 AEF received \$26,995 in gift matching donations, and matched \$26,995. In 2008, year-to-date AEF has received \$34,620 in gift matching donations and has matched \$34,620, bringing the total for this program to \$61,615.



Scholarships

Many of our members and supporters have asked us to establish scholarships worldwide and have been generous donors to this cause. AEF has two categories of scholarships: Endowment Scholarship Funds and Individual Scholarships.

Endowment Scholarship Funds

Fidianian Scholarship Fund
Jorjorian Fund
Shrikian Anjar Fund
Tufenkian Scholarship Fund

Jemaran Fund
Movsessian Scholarship Fund
Shrikian Antillias Fund
Pestilmajian Bulgaria School Fund

Currently AEF manages Endowment Scholarship Funds totaling \$969,298. Annual scholarship distribution is \$39,500.

Individual Scholarships

Pakhanians Shirvanian Sahakian Papayans
Shabanian Issaians

In 2007, individual scholarship donations totaled \$7,500.

NEW PROGRAM - Armenia Full Tuition University Scholarships

In 2007, AEF initiated a new program to provide full tuition university scholarships in Armenia. We started this pilot project seeking benefactors who would join us in sponsoring \$1,000 per year scholarships for students attending universities in Armenia. In 2007, 33 scholarships were awarded; AEF sponsored 25 scholarships, Richard Tufenkian Fund (2), Movsessian Fund (2), Sheila Papayans (1), Ara & Tina Shabanian (1), George & Bella Issaians (1), Hacob & Mina Shirvanian (1). In 2008 our goal is to increase the number of scholarships. To date we have increased to 36 scholarships thanks to Bobken & Hasmik Amirian, Ara & Tina Shabanian, Hrand & Violet Mikaelian.



Armenia Project

The Armenian Educational Foundation has been very successful with its Armenian School Renovation Project that started in 1997 and since then has renovated over 170 schools in Armenia, Artsakh and Javakhk with over \$4,000,000 spent for this program. We appreciate all our sponsors of this program who made this program successful. The following are year-to-date 2008 sponsors with their school names:

- 1- Haigoush Keghinian Kohler, Mesheni Kashatagh
- 2- Daniel Harutunian, Zardarashen, Martuni
- 3- Hacob & Mina Shirvanian, Karahounj, Martuni
- 4- Hacob & Hilda Baghdassarian, Karintak, Shushi
- 5- Isaac & Frieda Vartanian, Sali, Vayots Dzor
- 6- Gevorg & Arax Voskanian, Herman, Vayots Dzor
- 7- Keureghian Family, Bovadzor, Lori
- 8- Diko & Andrea Kassabian, Medovka, Lori
- 9- Christopher & Melody Petrossian, Debet, Lori
- 10- Rafik & Helly Khatchaturian, Kirants, Tavoush
- 11- H. Baghdassarian & M. Akelian, Pokr Mher (Orphanage), Kotayk
- 12- Harmik & Tereza Hacobian, Toofashen, Shirak
- 13- Abnous Family, Shaghik, Shirak
- 14- Vahe & Anahid Terpanchian, Arbi Terpanchian School (Orgov)
- 15- Albert Babayan, Dzaghkashad School
- 16- Anahit & Peter Cowe, Arevatsag (Ghachaghan), Lori



School Supplies Project

In 2007, AEF launched a new program called school supplies project for AEF renovated schools in Armenia, Artsakh and Javakhk. Through this program, students in US schools are able to help students in Armenia by donating supplies and enjoying the fruits of their efforts by seeing their donations go to the very needy students in Armenia and see the pictures of appreciative students receiving these supplies. In 2007 31 cases of supplies were sent to Armenia of which 4 cases were forwarded to two Javakhk schools and the rest were distributed among 27 schools in Armenia. In 2008 year-to-date 37 boxes were sent to Armenia of which 7 boxes were forwarded to Artsakh and 6 boxes were forwarded to Javakhk, and the rest were distributed among 14 schools in Armenia. There are 21 additional cases that are ready to be shipped in coming weeks. We appreciate the support we get from all students, their parents and contributing organizations.



New York Life Project

AEF was one of the original nine organizations selected to receive a portion of the New York Life settlement fund for descendants of the 1915 Armenian Genocide for humanitarian projects. As a result of this allocation AEF was able to provide new classroom furniture to 55 AEF renovated schools in Armenia. Additionally, AEF provided full university tuitions to 12 orphans until their graduation, renovated 4 schools, bringing the total expenditure to \$345,000 to date.

Davidian & Mariamian, and CASPS

Davidian & Mariamian Educational Foundation

We continue to be proud supporters of this worthy organization who strives to provide after-school Armenian language, history and cultural education to students in the public schools in Glendale, Burbank and North Hollywood.

CASPS - The Committee for Armenian Students in Public Schools

Each year through CASPS, AEF provides scholarships for high achieving Armenian students in public schools in Glendale, Burbank and North Hollywood.



The AEF Chair in Modern Armenian History

The Armenian Educational Foundation is honored for its continued support and for allying itself with The AEF Chair in Modern Armenian History, University of California, Los Angeles.

Dr. Hovannisian has been a leader in Armenian studies and we are proud to be associated with his important works. AEF hosts an event to honor participating scholars for UCLA's semi-annual conferences.

AEF in the News

In 2008 AEF published over 10 press releases in Armenian and English to inform the public about its various projects and programs. Almost all Armenian newspapers printed AEF press releases. Additionally, couple of our press releases appeared on www.Asbarez.com and our latest PR appeared in www.Gibrahayer.com. We thank all our news media for their support of AEF.

Last General Membership Meeting

AEF's latest General Membership meeting was held on July 15, 2008 at Glendale's Phoenicia Restaurant where over 80 members and supporters were present. AEF president Alec Baghdasaryan presented the latest status of the organization, along with financial report and year-to-date figures. Then, project and program managers presented their reports and familiarized the audience with the latest activities and encouraged the participants to join the projects of their preference. Armenia project for school renovations, Gift Matching Program, New York Life Project, Diaspora Projects, Scholarships, etc. were presented, several questions were asked, answers were provided, and new ideas were discussed. Several pledges were made on the spot for school renovations, new scholarship program, school supplies, and other programs.

For information or contributions contact the AEF home office in Glendale, CA at (818)242-4154. www.aefweb.org