Welcome to our first 2009 newsletter.

I am glad to report that we were able to successfully complete our planned projects for 2008. In 2008 AEF completed 17 school renovation projects totaling $278,250 dollars and, paid $139,934 in scholarships in Armenia, Artsakh, Javakhk, US, Bulgaria and Lebanon.

I am proud to report that after one of our longest board meetings, the board decided to keep the funding for 2009 at the same level as 2008 for most AEF projects. Given the state of the economy, this budget was not approved without taking a hard look at our fund raising activities, and discussions regarding the need to plan more activities to raise additional funds for our projects. Neshan and the Armenia Committee members are hard at working on compiling the information needed for the selection of the schools to be renovated in 2009.

I am delighted about AEF’s participation in the 35th anniversary conference of the Society for Armenian Studies as the Gala Banquet Sponsor. This event was held on the UCLA campus, March 26-28, with the participation of Armenia’s Consul General, Honororable Grigor Hovhannisyan, and Rector of Yerevan State University, Dr. Aram Simonyan.

Later this month, AEF will be working on the next planned school supply shipment to Armenia. This year we are grateful to Aram Yerman from Alco Printing to allow us to store and box the supplies in his warehouse.

I am very pleased to announce that our new AEF’s activities presentation DVD will be ready for release shortly. This will allow AEF to communicate in the most effective way our accomplishments to the public and our friends. Special thanks to Christina Hacopian, Sevag Vrej, Razmik Hovanessian and our Public Relations committee members for their efforts to make this a reality.

Newsletter
Volume 2, Issue 1
May 2009

Upcoming Events:
General Membership Meeting - July 2009
Board Elections - October 2009
at AEF Office

I am excited to report that our newly formed Computer Committee is hard at work. Please refer to the article in this newsletter for the details.

In conclusion, I would like to thank you and all of our friends for their continued support and participation in our projects. Your participation will give us the resources needed to take on more projects and better serve the Armenian Educational Foundation’s mission worldwide.

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

Alec Baghdasaryan

AEF in the News

AEF Board Meets with Diaspora Minister

In November 2008, Diaspora Minister of Armenia Hranoush Hakopyan met with AEF Board members in an exclusive meeting to explain the new ministries objectives and future plans in preserving Armenian identity and using Diaspora’s Armenian potential for the advancement of our nation. She talked about AEF showing her awareness about AEF’s good work in Armenia, and expressed her gratitude and hoped to further cooperation in future. Armen Liloyan, Consul General of Armenia in Los Angeles, was also present in the meeting.
Asbarez Organization’s 100th anniversary special issue booklet

On the occasion of 100th Anniversary of Asbarez a special commemoration booklet was published that included various organizations short biographies and activities. AEF sponsored a three page advertisement where it published Armenia Projects school renovators names, school names and locations since this project’s inception until the end of year 2008. Additionally, a two page article presented AEF and its programs along with the group photo of the current Board members.

Ասպարէզ Օրաթերթի 100 ամեակի յատուկ գրքույկ


AEF President meets Armenia’s newly appointed Consul General

In February 2009, Armenia’s newly appointed Consul General Grigor Hovanessian was hosted by ARF Central Committee of US Western Region to become familiar with various organizations. AEF was represented by president Alec Baghdasaryan.

242-ին Սուրբծննդյան Ընդեմառության իշխանություն Հիմնադրման տարելից

2009-ի Փետրվարին Հայաստանի նորանշանակ Կուսանի Ֆրեդրիկ Յովհաննիսյանը ընտրվեց ՀՅԴ Արեւմտեան Ամերիկայի Կեդրոնական կոմիտէի կողմից հիշատակի զանազան կազմակերպութիւնների ու իրենից իրականացված գործիքները եւ Հերթամերգի նորադրանքը.

Gift Matching Program Update

Two years ago, Armenian Educational Foundation (AEF) established a Gift Matching Program to encourage its members and friends to hold events in support of AEF’s charitable activities. Many individuals responded by hosting events, such as birthdays, anniversaries, and asked their guests to make a tax deductible donation to AEF in lieu of gifts and flowers. As you can see from the enclosed list, the program was a resounding success. The funds raised at these events and matched by AEF provided financial support for educational projects in Armenia, Artsakh and Javakhk. We thank everyone who participated for their support and generosity.

Our youth in Armenia continue to need our help. This year AEF has decided to dedicate Gift Matching funds to the following three programs, with the associated budget limits:

1. Purchase of school supplies, budget $5,000
2. Purchase of computers for village schools in Armenia, Artsakh and Javakhk, budget $10,000
3. Provide full tuition scholarships for students attending public universities in Armenia and Artsakh - $4,000 per student, budget 20 students.

We, therefore, once again request your support for these programs. If you have any upcoming events (birthday, anniversary, graduation, christening, house warming, etc) please consider asking your guests to make a tax deductible donation to AEF in lieu of gifts or flowers. AEF will match 50 cents for every dollar you raise up to $10,000. If you wish to participate, please contact the AEF’s Gift Matching Coordinator, Vahik Petrossian at (818) 956-0423 prior to your event.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Donations Received</th>
<th>(Before AEF match)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Albert &amp; Diane Cabraloff - Anniversary</td>
<td>$ 2,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anahit Terpanchian - in memory of</td>
<td>$ 3,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haig Kelegian - Birthday</td>
<td>$ 5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lily Savadian - Thanksgiving Party</td>
<td>$ 380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harmik &amp; Tereza Hacobian- Anniversary</td>
<td>$ 15,615</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 26,995</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arman Peroomian- welcome new baby</td>
<td>$ 1,795</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seda Babayan - in memory of</td>
<td>$ 2,350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ara Shabanian - Birthday</td>
<td>$ 3,050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anahid &amp; Peter Cowe - Birthday</td>
<td>$ 3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diane Cabraloff - Birthday</td>
<td>$ 6,150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hacop Baghdassarian - Birthday</td>
<td>$ 18,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aghavel Abnous - In lieu of flowers</td>
<td>$ 3,025</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ralph &amp; Savey Tufenkian - Anniversary</td>
<td>$ 15,650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hacob Shirvanian - Birthday</td>
<td>$ 2,450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haig &amp; Argine Kelegian - Anniversary</td>
<td>$ 10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christopher J. Petrossian - Christening</td>
<td>$ 3,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alec Baghdasaryan - Birthday</td>
<td>$ 15,050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petros Grigoryan - in memory of</td>
<td>$ 1,170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lily Savadian - Christmas Party</td>
<td>$ 580</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 85,720</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The equipment was purchased in memory of Petros Grigoryan for Pembak village school.
During the first quarter of 2009 Armenia Projects Committee led by Neshan Peroomian has been busy preparing this year’s list of potential schools to be renovated in 2009. All potential schools were analyzed for selection based on several factors; such as the priority of the renovation of the roof, windows, etc. This will be followed by the cost estimate, which region, which contractors, the cost of materials and who will manage each project. The list is almost compiled, and is under going final checks and controls. Several sponsors have come forward to participate, and new sponsors are encouraged to join this program. AEF will match the donations to support the total cost of the renovation of each school. Sponsors’ names will appear on AEF plaque after the renovation is completed, and it will be placed on the entrance of the school. Sponsors are encouraged to attend the opening ceremony of the renovated schools in Armenia, Artsakh and Javakhk to enjoy the fruits of their good deeds and encourage the local population to understand that we are one nation. This will also encourage them to support our homeland and care about the people and their well being.

PR Update

Video Project

In 2008, the AEF PR Committee started a video project to prepare a one hour video about AEF mission, recent activities and statement of some of AEF longtime members and supporters with the objective of encouraging new members to join and participate in supporting AEF activities. All interviews are completed and the video team has created a 32 minute first draft version. The PR team and the Board reviewed and provided feedback that will lead to the final version. This video will be used in most of AEF PR activities and will be distributed to all members, supporters, organizations in Diaspora and Armenia, Artsakh and Javakhk.

Armenia Projects

During the first quarter of 2009 Armenia Projects Committee led by Neshan Peroomian has been busy preparing this year’s list of potential schools to be renovated in 2009. All potential schools were analyzed for selection based on several factors; such as the priority of the renovation of the roof, windows, etc. This will be followed by the cost estimate, which region, which contractors, the cost of materials and who will manage each project. The list is almost compiled, and is under going final checks and controls. Several sponsors have come forward to participate, and new sponsors are encouraged to join this program. AEF will match the donations to support the total cost of the renovation of each school. Sponsors’ names will appear on AEF plaque after the renovation is completed, and it will be placed on the entrance of the school. Sponsors are encouraged to attend the opening ceremony of the renovated schools in Armenia, Artsakh and Javakhk to enjoy the fruits of their good deeds and encourage the local population to understand that we are one nation. This will also encourage them to support our homeland and care about the people and their well being.

School Supplies Project

Thanks to Lily Savadian and her team, in November 2008, we arranged shipment of 62 boxes full of supplies; including 1000 backpacks, calculators, pen, paper and supplies to our schools in Artsakh. Supplies were collected from Armenian Schools and a large portion were purchased in the USA. The AGBU school in Canoga Park donated boxes of sweat shirts. Teenage volunteers, AEF school sponsors, boy scouts and many AEF board members including Ara Shabanian, Alec Baghdasaryan, Vahe Hacopian and Parour Acopian helped in packing. United Shipping handled the shipping and delivery of all boxes by mid February 2009. The shipping company did a great job.

Our next shipment of April/May 2009 is for our schools in Lori and Shirak pending school count and the shipping company accepting the location of delivery.

CASPS Art Competition

In February 2009 “The Committee for Armenian Students in Public Schools” CASPS held its Second Annual Art Contest where AEF presented its $500 first place scholarship to Arotin Hartounian. Razmik Hovanessian and Ara Shabanian attended the event and CASPS thanked AEF for its continued support of their activities.
Davidian & Mariamian, Appreciation Night

In December Alec Baghdasaryan, Ara Shabanian, Vahe Hacopian and Razmik Hovanessian attended Davidian & Mariamian Appreciation Night where AEF was recognized for its continued support of D&M.

Scholarships

Herand Der Sarkissian with seven of the eleven students of the Mer Doon in Etchmiadzin who are currently receiving full tuition from the New York Life settlement fund.

The Society for Armenian Studies (SAS) celebrated its 35th Anniversary with a three day conference from March 26-29, 2009 at The University of California, Los Angeles and followed by a Gala Banquet. There were 12 sessions with over 60 speakers from North and South America, Europe, the Middle East and Armenia representing Armenian Study Chairs and Programs in over 12 countries. The AEF was the Banquet sponsor and participated in organizing the Gala Banquet where over 350 community members and supporters along with guest speakers attended. Professor Richard G. Hovannisian, the holder of the AEF Chair in Modern Armenian History at UCLA, was recognized as a major contributor to the advancement of Armenian studies programs in the United States. Professor Hovannisian is one of the founders of the SAS, and is the local chair of the SAS organizing committee.

2008 Disbursements

In 2008, the Armenian Educational Foundation allocated $419,000 to Armenian educational institutions and students. Over 75% or $330,000 of this amount was allocated for projects in Armenia, including $248,000 for the renovation of 15 village schools, $58,000 in scholarships and $24,000 in miscellaneous educational related disbursements. Another $89,000 was allocated for scholarships and financial assistance to Diaspora Armenia educational institutions.

Computers in Every AEF School Program

AEF believes that the key to the success of our students in Armenia is to arm them with Information Technology knowledge and skills. With IT skills, our students will find it easier to find jobs in the business world, and will be more effective in their career. To that end, the AEF has started its “Computer in every AEF School Program”. Our plan is to provide 2 to 5 computers to each village school that the AEF has renovated. The number of schools are approximately 160. Through our donors, the goal is to place computers in 20% of the schools each year over the next 5 years. We will be providing the hardware, software (both productivity and educational), installation and training. AEF has identified the appropriate hardware, software and services to ensure an effective program. All past donors and all future donors of AEF school renovation projects are encouraged to donate computers to the schools. The approximate cost per computer is $1000 and includes hardware, software and training. We expect this program to have huge benefits for our young generation in Armenia, Artsakh and Javakhk.

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