

# Team Gargar

**Luys Scholars:** Arin Balalian, Kristina Arakelyan, Emma Nolan-Abrahamian, Naira Setrakian, Arev Papazian, Shaunt Kevork, Edward Ansour

**Mentees:** Ani Baldryan, Ani Petrosyan, Lilit Galstyan, Monika Antonyan



THREE THINGS WE GAVE TO GARGAR:

1. KNOWLEDGE
2. NETWORK
3. EXCITEMENT

THREE THINGS WE RECEIVED FROM GARGAR:

1. WARMTH AND LOVE
2. ENTHUSIASM
3. EXPERIENCE

# Gargar Fest

Offered the opportunity to hear the result of our collaborative work

- Concert included 5 Songs (Kristina's choir), 3 Dances (Arev and Lilit's group) and recitations by Gargar children
- Photography and drawing exhibition (Emma's and Ani Baldryan's groups' results, respectively)
- Chess and skipping-rope games
- Food tents (food provided by locals)



# **INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS:**

## **Turning Stories to Opera by Kristina Arakelyan**

### **Goal:**

- Collecting stories
- Finding an interesting story and creating a libretto
- Writing an opera over the course of the year
- Plan is to have a premiere both in London and in Yerevan in 2018/2019

### **Execution:**

- Found the legend about the Surb Nshan Chapel through talking with locals
- One of the Gargar children helped by writing a story about Surb Nshan legend which I will turn into a libretto
- Proposed concert on the 3rd August with Gargar children and members of the Armenian Philharmonic Orchestra

## **Choir Project by Kristina Arakelyan**

### **Goal:**

- To teach Gargar children the Armenian Liturgy
- Teaching basic solfege to the children

### **Outcome:**

- Performance in the Gargar Fest
- Taking part in the liturgy during Sunday mass and enjoying it
- We were so excited to be part of a documentary film shot in St. Hovhannes church and the Gargar Arts Centre



# Documentary Photography Workshop by Emma Nolan-Abrahamian

## Goals:

- Teach students digital storytelling and digital literacy skills.
- Learn to communicate effectively through documentary and portrait photography; gain self-confidence through the design and production of personal photography projects.
- Create student-produced narratives of life in Gargar.

## Outcomes:

- Participating students completed an interview and portrait project of Gargar residents who have positively impacted their lives.
- This project culminated in a student-curated and designed photography exhibition at the Gargar Festival.



# Armenian Traditional Dance Class by Arev Papazian

**Goal:** To take the children of Gargar out of their daily routine and teach them Armenian traditional dances, offering them by that self-confidence and courage to participate in collective events and public gatherings.

**Outcome:** Inspired by Monika's will to learn the Armenian dances, and with the help of Lilit (mentees), I started giving daily lessons to a group of 9 to 13 girls. As a result, the group performed 3 Armenian traditional dances at the Gargar fest on the last day. The participants were very enthusiastic and eager to learn more.



# **Gender dynamics in Gargar and Gyulagarak by Arev Papazian**

## **Goal:**

- In the circles of Arin's project 'Fatherhood starts today': to observe the reaction of the participants and their opinions on fatherhood and the role of men in their communities.
- To conduct a participant observation of the gender dynamics in the villages and people's ideas about gender roles and expectations.
- Long term goal: To form an idea of the socio-cultural context of the villages and make recommendations for future projects.

## **Outcomes:**

- The turn-out of fathers was very small, participants in Gargar were not interested; and despite being interested themselves, the participants in Gyulagarak said that most of the men have more important stuff to worry about.

# **Fatherhood Starts today by Arin Balalian**

## **Goals:**

1. To design a booklet for future fathers about pregnancy and their role in taking care of their wives.

- 2.To present the designed booklet for fathers to the Gargar community and hear the community members' suggestions and criticism.

The booklet will be given free of charge to NGOs and International organizations including: Fund for Armenian Relief, Save the Children, World Vision Armenia, COAF.

#### **Succeses:**

- 1.The booklet was designed and printed successfully thanks to Luys foundation and Zhanna Kitbalyan.
- 2.The booklet was distributed not only in Gargar but also in Gyulagarak.
- 3.Overall positive reactions from the training participants.

#### **Weaknesses**

- 1.Lack of interest from the community in Gargar.
- 2.Misinterpretation of the aim of the project in the municipality.
- 3.Target audience (future fathers) were represented poorly in the training sessions.



# Gargar Water Project by Shaunt Kevork and Arin Balalian

- Met with Mayor Zalinyan to discuss Gargar's long-standing water problem
- Interviewed locals to better understand problems of water shortage and poor water quality
- Significant water shortage (drinking, irrigation, etc.)
- Took water samples from source and basin and sent to Pepsi
  - Clean water delivered
  - Water contaminated in outdated storage system



# **Solar Power: Renewable Energy Electrification of Gargar By Edward Ansour**

## **Research on how solar energy could raise the quality of life in Gargar**

- Based on the established infrastructure, and the relatively limited Solar Potential of the region, solar power should not be explored as a complete replacement to traditional sources of energy.
- Instead, solar power should be implemented as a supplementary energy source to address specific needs.
- Looked into solutions that do not require vast installation of expensive infrastructure

## **Specific Problems - Practical Solutions**

Discovered through conversations with the mayor and citizens of Gargar.

### **Solar Powered Water Heaters**

Heating water requires an intensive energy expenditure

- Solar powered water heaters can be installed to offset this cost

### **Solar Powered Pumps**

Addresses two problems faced by the villagers: energy and water

needs

## Electrification of Outlying Facilities

For months, people perform farming operations in elevated facilities not connected to centralized electrical sources

- Solar generators should be installed to meet basic needs and increase productivity.

## Implementation - Looking Forward

Affordable ways to implement solar power that do not require charity or third party funding.

- Variety of methods to achieve this goal, one example:

### 'PAY AS YOU' GO MODEL

- Companies install solar home systems that individuals can pay to access when they need to.
- After a certain point the household has bought the solar generator and can use it for free.

# Nourish by Naira Setrakian

**Short-term goal:** To educate children about feasible healthy eating habits to improve nutrition practice.

**The long-term goal:** To decrease the prevalence of stunted growth by improving nutrition practices among children and families.

- The prevalence of stunted growth in Armenia has more than doubled since the 1990s, and recent studies show that 19% of Armenian children under 5 are stunted.

## Part I:

- Conducting household surveys
- Collecting growth charts of children from the clinic
- Conducting dietary recall surveys
- Consulting local markets about the prices and availability of food
- Meeting with farmers to ask about what fruits and vegetables are grown locally

## Part II:

- Conversing with parents about what their children eat and should eat on a daily basis
- Planning and engaging in activities for children to learn about healthy eating habits





## Group Activities

- Documentary film made by award-winning director Aren Malakyan, who spoke with Shaunt, Arin and Kristina's projects
- Painting the playground
- Hobby-activities (on top of the lessons) as a groups such as football, visiting the broccoli fields (interviewed by the H1 Channel [LINK: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RiNwJzgY450](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RiNwJzgY450) ), playing chess, badminton and soccer with the kids, climbing the mountain, saw the beautiful Gargar lakes
- We all went to see the Sunday Mass together At the St. Hovhanness church in Gargar