

ARMENIAN GENERAL BENEVOLENT UNION
Հայկական Բարեգործական Ընդհանուր Միություն
LONDON BRANCH
EST 1910

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NEW YEAR PARTY ON 31ST DECEMBER 2004

We are breaking with tradition this year after requests to hold a party on New Year's Eve itself. You should have received a flyer for our party at the Marriott Hotel on 31st December and we hope you will come with family and friends to make this a spectacular evening! Tickets are limited, so book quickly.

If you can offer a prize for the raffle this would be greatly appreciated. Please telephone Annie Kouyoumdjian on 020 8997 2969 or Bedros Aslanyan on 020 8886 3625

SUMMER 2005 INTERNSHIPS PARIS & NEW YORK

AGBU New York Internship: Application deadline - 14th JANUARY 2005

AGBU Paris Internship: Application deadline - 31st JANUARY 2005

Information about these two excellent 8-week programmes for university students wishing to gain experience in their respective fields can be obtained and an application form downloaded from the AGBU website www.agbu.org

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Dear Member,

As Christmas and the New Year approach once again, I would like to thank, on behalf of the working members of the AGBU London Executive Committee, those members and their families who have continued to support and attend AGBU London activities and events this year and also to thank the handful of dedicated volunteers who assist us in our work.

I would like to make a special mention of the fact that much support has come from non-AGBU members in the UK community and their contribution is welcome and support and hugely appreciated as always.

I am delighted and proud to report that again much has been achieved by AGBU London during 2004, especially in two main areas – firstly, in bringing together many young Armenians in the UK through parties and clubs and secondly, in raising more funds to help our homeland.

I would like to give you a brief outline of our activities during 2004:

1) AGBU Armenian New Year Party at Al Fawar Lebanese Restaurant

Fun was had by all those who attended, dancing the night away to music of the Aravod Band from Philadelphia. We also managed to raise some funds for the Norashen Project.

2) AGBU hye Oktane Club

Sport & Socialising: We currently have around 20 young Armenians meeting on Sundays at the Reynolds Sports Centre for a 2-hour session of badminton, basketball and football and the chance to chat and socialise.

If anyone wishes to join the weekly Sunday session, the cost is £25 per six-month period.

Lake District Hike: Many of you will know that a small number of this group raised over £1,500 in sponsorship money for a Gyumri orphanage, when they climbed Fleetwith Pike during the summer. Each participant met the cost of the trip themselves, ensuring that all monies collected would go to the children. More such activities are planned to give young UK Armenians the opportunity to meet, enjoy new pastimes and at the same time to contribute to Armenian good causes.

3) Sunday School Football

The Executive was very pleased to meet the cost of hiring the sports hall at the Reynolds Centre for after-school football for youngsters from the K Tahta Sunday School, until the Sunday school transferred to Twyford in September.

4) AGBU London Lecture Series

- **Poverty, Transition and Democracy in Armenia (Hayashen)**
Speaker: Onnik Krikorian, British photojournalist living in Armenia
- **The AGBU Norashen Centennial Project - A Progress Report (Hayashen)**
Speakers: Harout Aghajanian, Chairman and Bedros Aslanyan, Hon. Treasurer, AGBU London following their visit to Armenia and Artsakh
- **Armenians in the EU (Hayashen)**
Speaker: Nicholas Tavitian, AGBU European Programmes Co-ordinator
- **The Impact of Diasporic Assistance on Armenia's Post-Soviet Transition (LSE)**
Speaker: Dr A Ishkanian, Lecturer in Social Policy at the Centre for Civil Society, LSE

5) The AGBU Centennial Project – Fundraising Efforts Continued For London's New Village in Artsakh.

In August the Hon. Treasurer and I visited Armenia & Artsakh for the purpose of progressing the project. We financed the visit from personal funds so that every penny of the donations could be used for the Artsakh development.

At our meetings with the Prime Minister of Artsakh, Government officials and the AGBU Yerevan office, we covered all aspects of the project, with checks and balances at agreed stages. The project has the support of the Artsakh government, the personal backing of the

Prime Minister and the Repopulation Department, in addition to oversight by AGBU Yerevan and London and a Stepanakert-based AGBU Project Manager.

Following our week-long visit, we outlined progress and answered questions at Hayashen in September (as part of the AGBU Lecture Series). A summary of the evening's main points was then circulated to all members and donors and further donations were invited.

Dinner in Honour of the Prime Minister of Artsakh

Prior to a brief visit to London, Prime Minister Danielyan asked to meet AGBU during his visit. A dinner was held in November at the Noura Restaurant, which raised additional funds for the project.

Village Name Competition We also organised a village name competition, inviting anyone who wished to do so to submit a name for the new village. The winner will be announced shortly. A small number of competitors also offered donations.

The total, including London AGBU contributions, currently stands at over £49,000.

6) AGBU Assembly in Armenia

The Hon. Secretary and I attended the AGBU General Assembly in Yerevan in October, the cost of which was again borne personally.

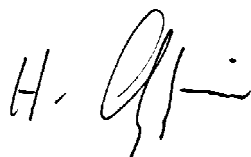
7) AGBU London Party for Armenian Students & Young Graduates

A very enjoyable party for Armenian students and young graduates was organised for the Halloween weekend in November at the Sound Club in Leicester Square, where many UK students and graduates met other like-minded Armenians from Armenia, the USA, Canada, France and elsewhere. The feedback was extremely encouraging and AGBU London will continue to create opportunities for this group to meet and to expand in number and scope.

Anyone wishing to contribute practical ideas or to offer help is invited to contact the Hon. Secretary at the above address.

And finally, AGBU London would like to wish all its members, friends and supporters a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year. We look forward to seeing many of you at our New Year Party.

With every good wish,



Harout Aghajanian
Chairman, AGBU London

5th December 2004