

ARMENIAN GENERAL BENEVOLENT UNION
Հայկական Բարեգործական Ընդհանուր Միություն
LONDON BRANCH
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1 December 2005

Dear Members & Friends,

It doesn't seem so long ago that I was writing to you all last Christmas, to convey seasonal greetings from AGBU London. Yet during this year there have been so many global and personal tragedies – from the tsunami in the Pacific and the pain and suffering of those caught up in war, conflict and terror, both here and abroad, to the personal loss of a loved one. For each it is an individual loss and our prayers are with those who are grieving.

We remember, in particular, George Kurkjian OBE, former Trustee of AGBU London and a lifelong loyal supporter of AGBU and benefactor. To George's family and to all the other families who have suffered loss this year, we send our sincere condolences.

At this time of year I would like to take the opportunity to thank, on behalf of the AGBU London Executive Committee, those members, their families and other members of the community, who have continued to support and attend AGBU London activities and events and also to thank the handful of dedicated volunteers who assist us in our work.

You will have recently received a mailing from us that included updates on various AGBU London activities:

The Youth Zone
Helping Armenian Children in Need
Education
Building the New Village of Pareshen in Artsakh
Commemoration of the 90th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide
Sponsorship of other events

Since then we have held yet another highly successful youth party on 19th November with 60 young people attending. From the comments and thanks received on and after the party, there is clearly a great need for such AGBU-organised youth events to continue and expand (photo gallery enclosed). We are very glad that these young people are demonstrating their wish to participate and welcome them very much.

I am pleased to note that we now have a broader range of youth activities including fundraising, outdoor activities and social gatherings as well as sport.

With regard to our forthcoming events, I would like to draw your attention to the following:

- **AGBU LONDON LECTURE @ Armenian House on 9 December 2005**
Details are enclosed for the lecture "Poverty, Transition and Democracy in Armenia: An Update" by Onnik Krikorian.
- **NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY @ Jurys Hotel on 31st December 2005** (Details sent previously and again enclosed)
Last year's party, the first to be held on New Year's Eve itself at the request of some members (rather than having a party in January for the Armenian Christmas), was a sell out and a great success. In the coming year 2006, AGBU worldwide will celebrate 100 years of humanitarian, educational and cultural service to Armenians in Armenia and the Diaspora. Do come with family and friends to make this year's party a special one.

If you can offer a prize for the raffle this would be greatly appreciated. Please telephone Bedros Aslanyan on 0208 886 3625 or Annie Kouyoumjian on 0208 997 2969. We already have some very desirable prizes!

- **PARESHEN CHRISTMAS APPEAL** (Details enclosed)
- **SUMMER 2006 AGBU INTERNSHIPS IN PARIS & NEW YORK**
Information about these two excellent 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
The application deadline for the New York Internship is 14 December 2005 and for the Paris Internship 13 January 2006.

AGBU London would like to wish all its members, friends and supporters a very happy Christmas and a safe, healthy and happy New Year. We look forward to seeing you all at the New Year's Eve Party.

With every good wish,



Harout Aghajanian
Chairman, AGBU London

Information about AGBU London activities can be found at www.agbu.org.uk. A new website has been constructed and will be up and running very soon.