

## LETTER FROM ANRC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**Karla H. Fleming**  
ANRC Executive Director

Here at ANRC, one of our most revered and longest serving colleagues is Ruth W. Kane, RN-BC, who celebrated her 22nd anniversary as Director of Nursing Services on January 22, 2018.

One of the reasons Ruth was been so effective in her role from the very beginning of her tenure is her strong affinity for the Armenian-American experience. Like so many Armenians whose family members were lost in the Turkish massacres, Ruth's mother and father were among the very few in their respective families to survive the Holocaust, fleeing Nazi Germany and

arriving in Israel in 1935. When she and her brother were 14 and 11 respectively, her family immigrated to Boston. With only rudimentary knowledge of English, Ruth entered Brighton High School. Upon graduation, she was accepted to the prestigious Beth Israel Hospital School of Nursing, earning her RN in 1965. "I always knew I wanted to be a nurse. There was never a doubt in my mind about my vocation."

Ruth's nursing career began as a staff nurse at Children's Hospital in Boston. In 1971 she moved to Norwood Hospital, working as an RN in the surgical and medical intensive care units, and later as nursing supervisor. After a 10-year hiatus from nursing during which time she raised her three children and helped her husband manage a small business, Ruth returned to the nursing profession as a manager in long-term care. She earned her Board Certification in Geriatric Nursing in 1998.

Ruth's broad and deep clinical expertise has been a tremendous asset to the Center these many years. Equally important is

the trust and affection she has inspired in ANRC residents, families, and staff alike. Residents and families will tell you that "Ruth runs a tight ship" and that there's not much that gets by her watchful eye.

She is also known for her wisdom and compassion in all matters involving the care and comfort of ANRC residents. The consummate teacher, Ruth personally delivers bi-annual "Oasis" lectures to all staff to remind us of what everyone must do to provide the highest quality care for those of our residents who are living with dementia. Very few leave these presentations with dry eyes. Staff know that fairness is her guiding light as a manager; that she will never ask anyone to do anything that she herself is not willing

to do; and that she is always available for hands-on help. At Christmas, everyone looks forward to the staff lunch she prepares for the whole building - especially her signature squash soufflé, a special favorite of the residents too.

An ANRC treasure, we salute Ruth's part in our tradition of caring. ■

*"I always knew I wanted to be a nurse. There was never a doubt in my mind about my vocation."*



**Ruth W. Kane, RN-BC**

## ARMENIAN WOMEN'S WELFARE ASSOCIATION

435 POND STREET  
JAMAICA PLAIN, MA 02130



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# AWWA today

A PERIODIC NEWSLETTER OF THE ARMENIAN WOMEN'S WELFARE ASSOCIATION | WINTER 2018

## A MESSAGE FROM THE AWWA PRESIDENT

AN OCCASION TO REFLECT AND RENEW



**Brenda J. Khederian,**  
AWWA President

As my six years as a member of the AWWA Board of Directors draws to a close, tenure that has included four years as President, I have been taking time to reflect and renew. I would like to take this opportunity to share with you, our stakeholders, my assessment of our progress and update you on the implementation of the last phase of the Association's strategic planning process begun in 2014. Though there is still work to be done, I am very proud of our accomplishments.

### HERE IS WHERE WE ARE TODAY:

- Hired an interim Executive Director and administrative support staff
- Adopted two annual operating budgets
- Established cash management policies
- Streamlined our process for wire transfers of funds to the Hanganak Clinic
- Developed and distributed an AWWA Member Handbook
- Developed new AWWA bylaws, ratified by the membership in January, 2017
- In accordance with the new bylaws, formed a new AWWA Governance Committee and developed associated policies and procedures
- Seated a new Needs Assessment committee to discern whether there are unmet social service needs in our local area that would

be appropriate for the Association to consider

- Created a new AWWA web site
- Renovated new office space at 435 Pond St.
- Created our new newsletter, *AWWA today*, of which this is your third issue

Reflecting on the past renews my optimism for the future of the AWWA. As a Board of Directors, we are responsible for the governance of our organization and are entrusted with maintaining the health of our association in today's non-profit environment. No easy task. However, I am confident that the changes to our operating policies and procedures that were guided by our strategic plan will assure that the AWWA conforms to modern day standards for non-profit organizations and secure our future. You build a house from the ground up and I am confident that the foundation the Board of Directors has poured will be strong enough to hold up for the next 100 years.

Thank you to Board members, past and present, advisors, and the membership for the time you have given this process and the support you have given me during my AWWA Presidency. Karla Fleming, you are a treasure and I thank you for all your support and guidance these many years.

Change is not easy but is often necessary to move forward. Though we continue to be a work-in-progress we are moving forward. Thank you for the opportunity to serve and God Bless. ■

-- Brenda

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

<i>Message from the AWWA President</i>	1
<i>Remembering Janet Jeghbelian</i>	1
<i>Letter from Hanganak Clinic Director</i>	2
<i>1st Annual Member/Friends Dinner</i>	2
<i>In Memorium</i>	2
<i>41st Annual Luncheon/Auction</i>	3
<i>AWWA Board of Directors</i>	3
<i>Upcoming Events</i>	4
<i>2017 Donations</i>	4
<i>Message from the ANRC Executive Director</i>	5



AWWA members and friends were saddened to learn that Janet Jeghbelian passed away on February 3, 2018. In addition to serving as Association President from 2005 to 2006, Janet was an AWWA Officer and Director for many years. For the last three years, Janet served as Advisor to the Board of Directors. In 2017, she was also an active member of the Board's newly formed Needs Assessment Committee.

We especially remember Janet for her many years of service as Mistress of Ceremonies for the AWWA's signature event, the annual Luncheon/Auction.

A loyal, dedicated, and tremendously hard-working Association member, Janet's contributions and can-do attitude are irreplaceable. We offer our condolences to her family and to the many who considered themselves blessed by her friendship.

## ARMENIAN WOMEN'S WELFARE ASSOCIATION

*Please Help Support Our Mission!*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my unrestricted donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  Enclosed is my check for one-year membership dues: \$25.00

Enclosed is my donation  in memory of |  in honor of | \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Paypal donations and dues may also be made at: [www.AWWA.US](http://www.AWWA.US)

Send this form with your check to: AWWA, Inc. | 435 Pond Street, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

*(Please make checks payable to AWWA) Thank You!*

# AWWA today

# ASSOCIATION, INC.

# WOMEN'S WELFARE

# ARMENIAN



## LETTER FROM DR. GOHAR HOVHANISYAN, *Hanganak Clinic Director*



**Dr. Gohar Hovhanisyan**  
Hanganak Clinic Director

*I would like to share with you the story of one of our beneficiaries:*

Lilit Gashkoyan was born in 1950 in Artsakh's Kichan village. She graduated from Kichan secondary school and got married. She moved to Baku with her husband. However, later she got divorced

with no children and, unfortunately, her personal life has not been settled and she remains alone with her elderly mother.

Lilit had wonderful talents in music and art. She studied in Yerevan and later in Moscow. She received theatrical and art education. She has worked as a staging artist in Stepanakert Drama Theater. During the Artsakh war she, with a group of talented young men and women, made a artistic troupe that were on tour in the border villages of Armenia and Artsakh, at military positions, in military units. They could raise the soldiers' mood and military spirit with their patriotic songs and dances, as well as theatrical performances.

Lilit has taken care of her sick mother for many

years. After she passed away Lilit was left alone.

Lilit says: Hanganak became our paternal house. Moreover, the staff members have become like my family members. Here I rest, communicate with different people who are alone like me, and we became friends with each other. We spend a lot of time here; we take part in excursions they organize for us. The support I receive in Hanganak is a great help to me. Food and medication supply has made my livelihood a lot easier. And the heating compensation has warmed my home for which I am very grateful. We are grateful to our sponsors that they give light and hope to our drab and sad lives. ■



*"Here I rest, communicate with different people who are alone like me, and we became friends with each other."*

## AWWA HOLDS FIRST ANNUAL MEMBER AND FRIENDS DINNER

On Monday, September 18, 2017, about 40 women attended the AWWA's first annual "Member and Friends Dinner" at Nubar Restaurant in Cambridge. AWWA members and their guests enjoyed re-connecting and hearing brief presentations about their careers from young Armenian professional women who have been AWWA supporters in the past.



*(L to R): Talene Tarvezian Choly, Melanie Khederian, Emily Bedrosian, Melissa Giragosian*

The speakers included:

Jamie Bogosian  
Alexa Diranian  
Melissa Diranian  
Julie Giragosian  
Christine Hovsepian  
Rachel Jackson  
Melanie Khederian  
Martha Mensoian  
Talene Tarvezian Choly  
Sara Janjigian Trifiro.

## IN MEMORIAM

The AWWA extends heartfelt condolences to the families of the following Life Members of the AWWA who passed away in 2017:

Mary Atamian  
Gladys Clinton  
Rose Muggerridge

2017/ANRC Residents who passed away July 1 to December 31, 2017

Risto Durgutov	Etya Markov
Beatrice Griffin	Arthur Papazian
Grace Ham	Margaret Reid
Sophie Horwitz	Nancis Rivera
Paul Hourihan, Sr.	Dina Rodriguez
Siranus Hovanesian	Alice Skinner

## 41ST ANNUAL AWWA LUNCHEON/AUCTION

The AWWA's 41st Annual Luncheon/Auction was held on November 18, 2017, at the Oakley Country Club in Watertown. Food - close to the heart of all Armenians - was our theme this year. Lucky winners of the super raffles were:

**First Prize**  
\$1,000 Market Basket Gift Card  
Mrs. Charles G. Talanian

**Second Prize**  
\$500 Stop & Shop Gift Card  
Diane Kouyoumjian

**Third Prize**  
\$250 Whole Foods Gift Card  
Aram Hintlian

WCVB Radio's Jordan Rich served as guest auctioneer for the live auction. Bidding was spirited for baskets including:

Wine, Dine, and Escape  
*Valued at \$1,450*

Armenia & Beyond  
*Valued at \$750*

Noshing on the North Shore  
*Valued at \$850*

Tailgate  
*Valued at \$800*

A Trip through Italy  
*Valued at \$1,300*

Healthy/TLC  
*Valued at \$1,250*

Armenian Delicacies  
*Priceless*

A final surprise live auction of two tour packages of America's Test Kitchen's new headquarters in the Boston Seaport district also drew much enthusiasm.

The AWWA is very grateful to the 121 businesses and individuals who provided gifts and financial support, as well as the many volunteers whose commitment of their time and talents made this event possible. ■



**Sonya Nersessian, bidder**



**Anne Tarvezian**



*(L to R): Ellie Daly, Vera Skinner*



*(L to R): Sara Janjigian Trifiro, Andrea Southard, Rachel Jackson*



**Jordan Rich, WCVB Radio, Guest Auctioneer**



*(L to R): Salpy Yeterian, Helda Shirinian, Seta Jilian, Sossy Yogurtian, Elisa Corra, Vartuhie Yildizian, Maria Corra, Anaïda Akopyan*

## 2017-2018 AWWA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Brenda J. Khederian, *President*  
Susan Giragosian, *Vice President*  
Cynthia Kazanjian, *RD, LDN, Treasurer*  
Annie Youssoufian, *Secretary*  
Karen Koumjian, *OD*  
Susan Deranian  
JoAnn Janjigian  
Nancy D. Kasarjian  
Cheryl Panjian

### ADVISORS

Karen Diranian  
Janet Jeghelian  
Seta Nersessian, Esq.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 2018 Annual Informational Meeting for Members

Saturday, 4/28/18 | 9:00 AM  
ANRC • 431 Pond Street • Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

### AWWA Annual Picnic

Sunday, 6/24/18 | Noon - 3:00 PM  
ANRC • 431 Pond Street • Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

### 42nd Annual Luncheon/Auction

Saturday, 11/17/18 | 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

## AWWAtoday

Please help us keep our mailing list current. Simply use this form to update your mailing address and email or send it to AWWA | 435 Pond Street | Jamaica Plain, MA 02130. Thank you.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Email your changes to: <http://www.awwa.us/contact-us>.

## 2017 DONATIONS TO AWWA AND ANRC

### Gifts were Received in Memory of:

Karlo Ashchian  
Barkev Bablouzian  
Armine Bagdiken  
Araxie & Manoug Beurekjian  
Robert Daly  
Alexander F. Fleming  
Nazir Grigoryan  
Madeline Koumjian  
Charles Nahabedian  
Sarah Nuzzolo  
Paula Bagley  
Edward O'Brien  
Arthur Papazian  
George Romanos  
Elizabeth Shadbegian  
Norman Silver  
Valeria Siwicc  
Regina Skenderian  
Hagop Tanashian  
Hratch Tashjian

### Gifts from Organizations:

Armenian American Pharmacists Association  
Armenian Memorial Church  
King Arthur Flour Co., Inc.  
Society of Istanbul Armenians of Boston  
Zartarian Foundation

### Gift in Honor of:

Siran Salibian's Retirement

### Bequests from the Estates of:

Albert Auburn  
Elizabeth Koorkanian  
Anne Marderosian

### Gifts from Individual Donors:

H. Michael Abladian	Arpie Maksoudian Highas	Mr. & Mrs. Steven Paul
Rose Akeke	Rose Hovsepian	Joanne A. Peterson
Kate Anderson	Florence Jigarjian	Evelyn Petrossian
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Beatrice Deranian	Martine & Tom Murphy	Arawalous Soghomonian
Sona Derbekyan	Robert Nahabedian	Surpig Stepanian
Mr. & Mrs. Charles DeWitte	Mr. & Mrs. Berj Nercessian	Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Stephanian
Maryanne Dinell	Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Nowd	Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Storro, Sr.
Beth Dressler	Maureen O'Brien	Sona Tashjian
Roberta Egidio	Maureen O'Donnell	Joyce Townsend
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Maria Gheridian	Cheryl Panjian	Hasmig Yankelovich
Beatriz Gheridian	Bedros & Zabel Panosyan	Annie Youssoufian
Arlene Gilden	Albert Parseghian	Albert Zouranjian
Marguerite Gleason	Hrip Parsekian	

**Total Donations: \$109,512**