

ARMENIAN NURSING & REHABILITATION CENTER (ANRC)



Karla H. Fleming
ANRC Executive Director

2016 was an exciting and rewarding year for the Armenian Nursing & Rehabilitation Center (ANRC). After completing a major addition in 2015 that included a new rehab suite, dining room expansion, new elevator, ceiling lifts on the second floor, plus many infrastructure and technology improvements, ANRC completed another major building project in 2016: expansion of

our beautiful patio with much-needed storage space underneath. Residents enjoy this outdoor space year round and the new storage area makes staff access to critical equipment and supplies much more efficient. (Doesn't every home need a

bigger deck and more closets?) Once again, we contracted with Chia Ming Sze Architects and Carr Enterprises to design and construct this wonderful building addition.

We were also thrilled to receive a major donation from the CPL Paul S. Marsoubian AmVets Post 41 in Watertown to provide ceiling lifts in eight resident rooms on the first floor. These ceiling lifts allow our first-floor residents to age in place even if they can no longer to bear weight for bed-to-chair transfers. We are so grateful to these Veterans for this extraordinary gift.

Not only did we continue to make significant improvements to the environment of care, our quality of care was once again recognized by federal

and state regulators. We retained our 5-Star CMS rating and also continued for a sixth year our

record of deficiency-free surveys by the Department of Public Health. According to data maintained by the Mass. Senior Care Association, only 20% of skilled nursing facilities are found to be deficiency-free during their unannounced annual inspections. It is even more rare that a facility maintains this rating over such an extended period of time.

We are looking forward to 2017 with a strong resolve to continue making quality improvements that embody our commitment to person-centered care for all residents we have the privilege to serve. ■

“We retained our 5-Star CMS rating and also continued for a sixth year our record of deficiency-free surveys by the Department of Public Health.”

ARMENIAN WOMEN'S WELFARE ASSOCIATION

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AWWA today

A PERIODIC NEWSLETTER OF THE ARMENIAN WOMEN'S WELFARE ASSOCIATION | FEBRUARY 2017

A MESSAGE FROM THE AWWA PRESIDENT



Brenda J. Khederian,
AWWA President

Welcome to the first issue of our new newsletter, AWWA Today!

In 2015 the Armenian Women's Welfare Association (AWWA) celebrated its 100th Anniversary having been founded in 1915 by nine first generation Armenian women. Anniversaries can be occasions to reflect and

renew. The Board of Directors has been engaged in a Strategic Planning exercise to do just that. As the non-profit world changes and the needs of the Armenian community evolve, we know that we need to be positioned for the next 100 years.

Here is where we are today. The AWWA is proud of its flagship initiative, the Armenian Nursing & Rehabilitation Center (ANRC). Founded in 1948 as the Armenian Home for the Aged in Jamaica Plain, the Home for the Aged was replaced by The Armenian Nursing Home in 1960. The ANRC has provided quality care to the elderly Armenian community for over 65 years. The AWWA expanded its mission of caring over 10 years ago by underwriting the Haganak Elderly Clinic in Nagorno-Kharabagh and continues to

contribute to projects affecting the well-being of the Armenian community at large. We could not accomplish this without the support of our membership and Board of Directors who selflessly volunteer their time and the community at large who support our fundraising endeavors.

Look what's inside our January 2017 issue. You will meet the Executive Director of the ANRC and the Director of the Haganak Clinic who will share their accomplishments of the past year. You'll also get to see the work of our membership through this year's Annual Luncheon Auction fundraising event.

Reflecting on the past and reviewing the present renews my optimism in the future of the AWWA. As the

needs of the community change we will be positioned to adapt and realize another 100 years of successful service through our existing initiatives and others that may emerge.

I appreciate your continued support as we move forward.

— Brenda

“As the non-profit world changes and the needs of the Armenian community evolve, we know that we need to be positioned for the next 100 years.”

ARMENIAN WOMEN'S WELFARE ASSOCIATION

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Name: _____

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Enclosed is my donation in the amount of \$ _____

Send this form with your check to (Please make checks payable to AWWA):
AWWA, Inc. | 435 Pond Street, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

Thank You!

AWWA today

ARMENIAN WOMEN'S WELFARE ASSOCIATION, INC.

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ABOUT DR. GOHAR HOVANNISYAN, DIRECTOR OF THE ELDERLY PROJECT (HANGANAK) IN STEPANAKERT, NAGORNO-KARABAGH

by: Karen L. Koumjian, OD

Dr. Gohar Hovannisyian, Director of the Elderly Project of the Hanganak NGO in Stepanakert, was born in Stepanakert in 1965. After graduating from Stepanakert high school in 1982 with honors, she matriculated straight into Yerevan State Medical University, where she received a medical diploma to begin a year long internship at the Stepanakert Maternity House. For the next three years she practiced as an obstetrician-gynecologist at the Martakert Regional Medical Center, and then spent two years in residency in obstetrics-gynecology in Saratov State Medical University in the Russian Federation. Dr. Hovannisyian returned to Artsakh to practice as an obstetrician-gynecologist at the Stepanakert Maternity House. Then in 1999, she was accepted to the American University of Armenia and graduated with a Masters in Public Health. The next five years were spent as the Health Sector Manager of the



Dr. Gohar Hovannisyian
Hanganak Director

USAID funded FAR/AUA HAPNK Project.

In 2004, with the help of Dr. Carolann Najarian and Rachael Nadjarian, Dr. Hovannisyian conceived of a public health project providing medical and social support to the elderly living alone in Stepanakert. Thus, a six-month pilot program (Hanga-

nak Non-Governmental Organization) was born. Today the clinic delivers services to 200 elderly living alone in Stepanakert. Such services include monitoring of their health status, delivery of drugs, monthly food supplies, and social services to those who cannot perform the basic activities of daily living, such as bathing, shopping, dressing or eating. The Hanganak staff is now made up of administrative and medical/social services personnel, who are all overseen by Dr. Gohar Hovannisyian.

“Today the clinic delivers services to 200 elderly living alone in Stepanakert.”

In 2006 Hanganak NGO participated in the grant competition between local non-governmental organizations announced by the NKR government and received funds which were used to purchase equipment for movie showings. Since 2006 the movie showings are held every Tuesday, and are accompanied by refreshments. Those elderly who can get to the clinic enjoy the opportunity to mingle and socialize.

And 12 years later Dr. Hovannisyian is ready to expand this project into Shushi, a more rural area, where there are estimated to be 26 single elders. The funding for this rural expansion is through the Armenian Fund USA.

In addition, since 2009, Dr. Hovannisyian continues to practice medicine as an obstetrician-gynecologist at the Stepanakerk Maternity Hospital. Dr. Hovannisyian not only helps to enhance the quality of lives for so many elders on a daily basis, but also helps to bring new life into Stepanakert. ■



AMVETS DONATE CEILING LIFTS TO ANRC

On Monday, October 17, 2016, the CPL Paul S. Marsoubian AmVets Post 41 in Watertown presented the Armenian Women's Welfare Association (AWWA) with a check for the Armenian Nursing & Rehabilitation Center (ANRC) in Jamaica Plain to install eight ceiling lifts in resident rooms on the first floor. The check was accepted with gratitude by representatives of the AWWA, President Brenda Khederian, Vice-President Susan Giragosian and Director JoAnn Janjigian. The eight lifts will help 16 patients who are unable to bear weight have more comfortable transfers in and out of bed. It is also a tremendous help for the staff of the nursing home and creates a safe environment for all concerned.

Watertown Amvets Post 41 was founded in 1952 by a group of 11 charter members, all WWII veterans led by Kasper (Casey) Bejoian. The Post is open to veterans of all U.S. wars and military conflicts

40TH ANNUAL AWWA LUNCHEON/AUCTION

On Saturday, November 19th, the AWWA held its 40th Annual Luncheon/Auction at the Oakley Country Club in Watertown. The gorgeous, spring-like day filled the venue with sunshine that made the updated event even more enjoyable for the nearly 200 attendees who turned out to support the AWWA.

The members of the committee included Annie Youssoufian, JoAnn Janjigian, Nora Aroyan, Susan Deranian, Melanie Khederian, and Louise Chobanian. Janet Jeghelian, long-time member, acted as our Mistress of Ceremony with her usual grace and skill. Funds raised at the auction will be used to support the Association's mission and initiatives, including the ANRC and the Elderly Project of the Hanganak Clinic in Stepanakert, Nagorno-Kharabagh.

A live auction offered tickets to the Boston Bruins, accommodations at local hotels and inns, a Thanksgiving basket, and a gold, diamond and ruby Armenian Cross, beautifully crafted by jeweler, Chris Kebabdjian. Middlesex County Sheriff, Peter J. Koutoujian and State Representative David K. Muradian, Jr. of Grafton, who represents the 9th Worcester district, were the auctioneers who kept the bidding high and lively.

The event also included a raffle featuring a Louis Vuitton pocketbook and smaller bags. To commemorate the 40th year, the committee also introduced a new event, "The Forty Prizes for Forty Years," a specially curated selection of donated gifts, which were wrapped in ruby red and raffled to guests. The Forty Prizes, valued from \$50 to \$100 each, included restaurant gift certificates, fine wines from Karas of Armenia and Sakonnet Vineyard of Rhode Island, spa gift cards, paintings, and more.

In 1976, the first AWWA Luncheon/Auction was held in the lower level of the ANRC (at that time the "Armenian Nursing Home"). Member Cynthia Kazanjian, acting as Chef du Jour, prepared Chicken Divan, served by members to 150 guests. Funds raised at that

event were used to construct an elevator in the Home. Some other early auctions were held at the Fantasia Restaurant in Cambridge and the Sydney Hill Country Club in Brookline.

Friends/Volunteers and Members continued over the last 40 years to hold the Luncheon/Auction for the purpose of supporting the ongoing work of the AWWA. We wish to thank all our supporters and all our volunteers over the years. ■



Front, L to R: Sivart Mellian, Cynthia Kazanjian, and Susan Diranian



Front, L to R: Annie Youssoufian, JoAnn Janjigian, Nora Aroyan, Susan Deranian
Back, L to R: Melanie Khederian, David Muradian, Jr., Peter J. Koutoujian, Brenda Khederian



Auctioneers (Above): David Muradian, Jr., and Peter J. Koutoujian
Mistress of Ceremony (Inset): Janet Jeghelian



Karla H. Fleming
ANRC Executive Director

UPCOMING EVENTS

Annual Meeting
April 8, 2017

AWWA Picnic at ANRC
June 25, 2017

Annual AWWA Luncheon/Auction
November 18, 2017

IN MEMORIUM

The AWWA Board was deeply saddened to learn of the unexpected passing of Norman Silver, husband of 32 years of Jeanne Karagosian Silver, life member of the AWWA. Norm and Jeanne were actively involved and strong financial supporters of the Association and the ANRC for many years. Karla Fleming, ANRC Executive Director recalled that during a brief rehab stay at ANRC in 2014, Norm identified the need for a wide screen TV and separate viewing area for short-stay residents and their families. The couple immediately purchased the TV that is enjoyed by residents and their families to this day. Most recently, Jeanne and Norm were generous donors to the 40th AWWA Luncheon/Auction. The AWWA sends Jeanne and her family deepest sympathy for their loss. ■

IN MEMORIUM | ANRC 2016

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|--------------------|-------------------|
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AWWAtoday

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