

LETTER FROM ANRC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Karla H. Fleming
ANRC Executive Director

On May 31, 2017, residents, staff, and many guests including ANRC Board members and volunteers, bid farewell to Siran Salibian, Activities Director, at an ice cream social in honor of her retirement from her position as Activities Director after nearly forty years of dedicated service to the Center.

Residents, staff, and guests took turns at the microphone to speak of Siran's hard work that "came from her heart." Marlene Sabio, C.N.A., said, "Siran is a

wonderful person. The staff counted on her every day and she never let us down. She was always there for the residents." Ruth Kane, Director of Nursing, commented on her seemingly infinite supply of energy: "Siran only knows how to run – she never walks!" JoAnn Jangijian, long-time AWWA Board member, spoke of Siran as the "heart of the ANRC" and that she is "irreplaceable." Resident Josephine Grove said, "Siran, we will truly miss you and will never forget how much you did for us every day."

Siran then addressed the gathering and



(L to R): Salpy Yeterian, Vartuhi Yildizian, Anaida Agopyan

expressed her love for the residents and her colleagues and how much she would miss working here. She spoke of her early days here that as a newly arrived immigrant were very hard. She also expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to serve her community and the ANRC residents whom she has loved so much. The best news was her announcement that upon her return from California where she will spend the summer with family, Siran plans to return to Boston in September and become a regular volunteer. As far as this Executive Director is concerned, the fall can't come soon enough! ■



Wayne Sakovich, Social Worker, bids farewell to Siran

ANRC Activity Team

Salpy Yeterian, ADC, long time ANRC Activities Coordinator, has been promoted to Activities Director.

Her team includes Vartuhi Yildizian and Anahid Akopyan. Anahid previously worked as ANRC Rehabilitation Aide, but has now joined the Activities department.

ARMENIAN WOMEN'S WELFARE ASSOCIATION

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AWWA today

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

A MESSAGE FROM THE AWWA PRESIDENT



Brenda J. Khederian,
AWWA President

In keeping with the AWWA's new bylaws, ratified by the membership in January, and to kick off implementation of the last phase of the strategic planning process begun in 2014, the Association held its first Annual Informational Meeting for Members on April 8, 2017, immediately following the Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors. Karla Fleming, ANRC Executive Director, and Interim Executive Director of the AWWA, moderated the meeting. She reported on the highlights of important activities and events that took place during the period March 2016 through April 2017 for both entities. Other speakers included Nancy Kasarjian, Director, who gave an historical perspective of the two organizations' strategic planning activities. The first project, which started in 2006, explored the possibility of re-siting the nursing home. Then, beginning in 2014, a planning process that aimed to modernize the AWWA commenced. Directors Karen Koumjian and JoAnn Janjigian gave an update on the Hanganak Clinic, and Annie Youssoufian, Director, gave a fundraising update and presented the results of the 2016 Luncheon/Auction. Jonathan Langfield, CPA, reviewed 2016 audit results and financial performances of both the ANRC and AWWA.

Among the Association's key goals for this year is the establishment of a new Governance Committee whose charge it will be to set forth policies and procedures that conform to modern day non-profit

standards that will assure a strong foundation for decades to come. Another priority the Board has already moved ahead with is the seating of a "Needs Assessment" Committee under Karla Fleming's direction. Sarah Glatt, a professional consultant in the field of nonprofits, has been engaged to conduct a formal survey of the Armenian community to identify social service challenges, especially among non-institutionalized Armenian elderly and new immigrants, to determine where new AWWA programming would make a difference. We want and need to hear from you!

In the coming months, the AWWA's flagship initiative, the Armenian Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, will face the challenges of new health care mandates that especially impact smaller facilities such as ours. This should not be news to anyone since the funding of health care is the hot topic of the day. The Board of Directors along with the Executive Director will work together to make sure our Center continues to meet the highest quality standards despite financial pressures and regulatory challenges.

Our Haganak Elderly Clinic in Norgorno-Kharabagh continues to flourish, providing aid and comfort to 200 Armenian elderly, primarily women. Cynthia Kazanjian, Treasurer, visited the clinic for three days this spring. It was an opportunity for a first hand assessment of the program and its impact on the beneficiaries. We do make a difference in their lives. Read her reflections on page two of this issue.

Consider joining the AWWA. Membership is open to all Armenian women, by birth or marriage. Help us set our course for the next 100 years. ■

-- Brenda

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ARMENIAN WOMEN'S WELFARE ASSOCIATION

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Enclosed is my unrestricted donation of \$ _____ Enclosed is my check for 2017 membership dues: \$25.00

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Paypal donations and dues may also be made at: 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!**

PLEASE REMEMBER THE ARMENIAN WOMEN'S WELFARE ASSOCIATION IN YOUR WILL

REFLECTIONS ON MY VISIT TO THE HANGANAK CLINIC

by: Cynthia Kazanjian

Imagine hair-pin turns, lush green mountains (not many trees), mostly unpaved roads with lots of pot holes, and panoramic vistas! Herds of cows, goats, and wild horses travel the same road you are on. That's what one sees on the eight-hour ride from Yerevan, Armenia to Nagorno Karabagh Republic (NKR) to finally reach Stepanakert, the capital city and home of Hanganak Clinic. Now, try to visualize this in extreme winter conditions! I was lucky to be traveling in the middle of May, in the warmth of a sparkling, spring sun!

I was greeted at my hotel by a taxi driver who was awaiting my arrival to rush me off to a special reception with 50 beneficiaries of the Hanganak Clinic.

As I walked into the Clinic, a TV camera was positioned to interview me about my visit to Karabagh. What pearls of wisdom and what insight could I give? As the Treasurer of the Armenian Women's Welfare Association, I was an honored guest. So, I spoke about the history of the program from its inception in 2004 as a pilot project to the thriving program it remains today. In return, the beneficiaries expressed their gratitude with poems, songs, and lots of hugs and kisses.

These humble homes remain vivid in my mind. Some were shrouded in plastic sheets to keep out the cold; one had a curtain over the front door to shield against insects -- there are no screens. Floors mostly had simple coverings such as a piece of linoleum or wooden slats to keep one's feet from falling through broken floor boards. Roofs were typically made of corrugated metal. Winter in Armenia is cruel and there are minimal sources of heat. Some homes have a stove to provide some warmth but in most cases, the elderly use many thick blankets or comforters to keep them warm. Women wrap themselves in head scarves, sweaters around their bodies, and then an apron as they prepare meager meals from the non-perishable food supplies such as white rice, lentils, oil, sugar, tea, and bulgur provided by Hanganak. Some months they may receive other seasonally plentiful items. Because of the cruelty of winter, AWWA sends additional monies for fuel allowances to help keep the beneficiaries warm in their homes.



The extreme poverty I witnessed tugged at my heart. Why wasn't the government doing more for these elders? I posed this question to each of the officials Dr. Gohar Hovanesian, Hanaganak Clinic Director, had arranged for me to meet. First, I asked Artak Beglaryan, press secretary to the NKR Prime Minister, who is blind and who studied at Tufts' Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. He is very, very smart, and a great person. Readers -- you would have loved him! I also asked Suren Grigorian, Mayor of NKR, and Ashot Ghulyan, Chairman of the National Assembly of NKR. Sadly, no good answers were forthcoming from anyone. Instead, they focused on thanking me and the Armenian Women's Welfare Association for the financial support that we have given over the past 13 years. ■

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The Armenian Women's Welfare Association has been the principal funding source for the Hanganak Clinic since it was begun as a pilot project in 2004. The project provides medical care, food, and social support including spiritual and community activities, to 200 elderly, impoverished women and men living alone in Stepanakert, Armenia. Since 2014, the AWWA has also provided fuel assistance to help the clinic's beneficiaries endure the long, cold winters.

The AWWA Board of Directors oversees the program by reviewing monthly reports submitted by the program director and by conducting periodic site visits. In 2007, then AWWA President, JoAnn Janjigian, visited the Hanganak Clinic and the homes of several beneficiaries. In 2014, a delegation including board members Susan Giragosian, Annie Youssoufian, and JoAnn Janjigian, and two AWWA members-at-large, Sara Janjigian Trifiro and Andrea Southard, visited the Clinic and conducted a program evaluation. In May, 2017, Cynthia Kazanjian, AWWA Treasurer, visited the Clinic and conducted both a programmatic and financial operations review. The AWWA remains committed to funding this thriving program.

Inspired by the success of the Hanganak Clinic, The Armenian Fund USA early this year began its own pilot project in Shushi, Artsakh which currently serves 30 people.



I saw elderly faces that told of their age, but also of their amazing spirit. The Armenian music that was playing inspired solo dancing. One couldn't just sit there and watch, so of course I joined right in. It was a fun afternoon with good food including their traditional turnover, Jhinalov Hatz, a flat bread filled with many different herbs and spices, and cooked on a flat cast iron griddle, that has now become a favorite in all over Armenia.

My second day in Karabagh was filled with visits to homes of the elderly, who are not able to go to the Clinic. The nurse who accompanied us took vital signs, administered medicines, and brought food supplies.

AWWA ANNUAL PICNIC

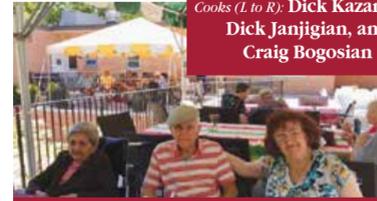
The 2017 AWWA Annual Picnic took place on Sunday, June 25, 2017, a sunny but breezy day, just perfect for enjoying the outdoors. Thanks to the patio addition that was constructed last year, the tents were laid out in such a way as to bring everyone, especially the residents, closer together to enjoy the great food and music. A fine time was had by all. A great big thank you to the all the volunteers who made the day such a success. ■



Cooks (L to R): Dick Kazanjian, Dick Janjigian, and Craig Bogosian



(L to R): Constantino and Maria Corra



(L to R): Luiza Kazandjian, George Kazazian, Taline Kazazian



Musicians (L to R): Ed Kazanjian, Hagop Alabachian, Jack Giragosian, Robert Vartanian, Kevin Magarian, Carl Narsasian



(L to R): Karen Koumjian and Susan Deranian

41ST ANNUAL AWWA LUNCHEON/AUCTION

Dedicated AWWA members have begun planning the 2017 Luncheon Auction, which is set for Saturday, November 18th at the Oakley Country Club located at 410 Belmont Street in Watertown.

Additional volunteers are needed to help make this event a success. If you are interested in having fun while working on AWWA's signature event, please call Annie Youssoufian at 609-933-5280, or JoAnn Janjigian at 781-724-6705.

The next Luncheon/Auction meeting will take place in August. ■



L to R: Karen Koumjian, OD, Cynthia Kazanjian, Cheryl Panjian, Susan Deranian, Susan Giragosian, Annie Youssoufian, JoAnn Janjigian, Melanie Khederian (not pictured)

ARMENIAN MEMORIAL CHURCH DONATION

Each year parishioners of the Armenian Memorial Church select a charity to share a portion of the proceeds from the Church's Annual Fair. This year, the Armenian Nursing & Rehabilitation Center was selected to receive this extraordinarily generous donation. ■



Reverend Avedis Boynerian presents Karla Fleming with a check for \$1900



ANRC residents enjoy the hospitality of the Armenian Memorial Church Fair

UPCOMING EVENTS

2017 AWWA Members and Friends Dinner

Monday, September 18, 2017 | 6:00 PM
Nubar Restaurant
Sheraton Commander Hotel
138 Garden Street
Cambridge, MA 02138

ANRC Halloween Party

Tuesday, October 31, 2017 | 2:00 PM
431 Pond Street
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

AWWA 41st Annual Luncheon/Auction

Saturday, November 18, 2017 | 10:00 AM
Oakley Country Club
410 Belmont Street
Watertown, MA 02472

AWWA Christmas Caroling at ANRC

Saturday, December 9, 2017 | 2:00 PM
431 Pond Street
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

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