



International Women's
Association of Yerevan

Reflections

2017-2018 Years

Dear Ladies,

It has been a great year for IWAY. Your dedication and hard work have allowed us to sponsor many upcoming projects. Our goal of *"helping women and children in Armenia"* is such a simple sentence and yet such a powerful ideal. It has been proven that supporting women has a ripple effect as they have such an impact on the children and the community. I know for example, that in Aghin, we haven't just put doors and windows in a school, we have provided a comfortable and desirable place where learning can be the focus. A place that the children, teachers and community are proud of. A place where self-esteem has been bolstered because they have an Association of "strangers" who care for them and want to help. And the benefit is felt by every IWAY member as well. It is so inspiring to be able to do something, anything at all that we can. Someone told me that what IWAY does is just "a drop in the bucket". But that's how the bucket gets filled up! Never doubt that you are making an impact.

It has been a great year for me personally as well. I have really enjoyed working with all of you. We are such a diverse group of women and I appreciate what every individual brings to the IWAY table. I have enjoyed every trip, meeting, event, cup of coffee, lunch and dinner that we have shared. Your warm welcome and kindness were so appreciated and I loved seeing Armenia through your eyes. I send each of you and your families my best wishes for health, happiness and peace. I wish IWAY all the best for growth, strength and camaraderie. Thank you all for making my time in Armenia so full and joyous. I will take all of you with me. Much love.

Maureen Carreau
President





Farewell gathering for Maureen Carreau at The Wine House in city center

Path to International Visitors Leadership Program



Hayasa Tahmazyan

As the vice president of the Aleppo Compatriotic Charitable Organization-NGO, I had the distinct pleasure of participating in the “Integrating the Needs of Refugees into Social Policy” by the International Visitors Leadership Program (IVLP) in the United States. The program is sponsored and organized by the United States Government. The Aleppo Compatriotic Charitable Organization-NGO is one of the leading organizations protecting,

assisting, empowering, and advocating for Syrian refugees in Armenia.

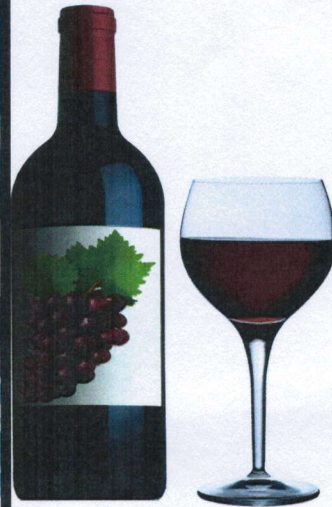
The IVLP is the US Department of State’s premier professional exchange program. Through short-term visits to the America, current and emerging foreign leaders from a variety of fields, experience the United States firsthand. Lasting relationships are cultivated with their American counterparts.

As an IVLP participant, I have been in five states, examined US refugee policy, current system for refugee resettlement, as well as interagency efforts/standards for processing and resettling refugees into the United States. I had meetings at the US Department of State and organizations dealing with refugees and immigrants issues. I got acquainted with federal, state, local and NGO support as well as public-private support for refugee communities.

I explored government and private sector efforts to combat discrimination and integrate refugee and immigrant communities. I learned how institutions such as: social services agencies, schools, medial clinics, etc. integrate the needs of refugees and migrants into their work. I, also, learned how they partner with non-profit groups to meet local needs.

I am back in Armenia and plan to share my gained experience with my colleagues and organizations, who deal with issues of refugees in my country. IVLP provided a great opportunity for me to expand my knowledge of international best practices, and to develop and implement the protection and promote the rights of refugees. I learned the operational methodology of the US government and non-government institutions that have focused on the development of lasting projects that offer durable livelihood and integration solutions for refugees.





ARENI WINE FESTIVAL

Jenny Krikorian

On October 7th IWAY ladies traveled to the Areni Wine Festival.

It was held in the Village of Areni, in Vayots Dzor region of Armenia. The village has been hosted this festival for almost 15 years.

When we arrived to the village the locals had actively prepared the festival by lining up the tables with wine, fruits, cheese and other home-made products along the road.

The villagers were offering us their home wine which was made of warmth and love.

The traditional Armenian dances were performed in the village main square.

There was singing, dancing, drinking and having fun.

The IWAY ladies enjoyed tasting the wines, Rose, apricot wine, sweet and semi-sweet wines. In fact, we had many glasses, but we were a great team of wine drinkers. The IWAY ladies had so much fun. When you are in a group of amazing ladies, everything you do is fun!, We really enjoyed the event and returned home with many different kinds of wine.



2017-2018 IWAY OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS



ISRAEL-ARMENIA CONSULATE INVITED IWAY MEMBERS TO THEIR CELEBRATION OF 69TH YEAR OF FREEDOM

NAIRIAN TOUR



ROSE TYLER



A day trip was taken to the fields of NAIRIAN Cosmetics. We were shown each step in their process of production. We were taken to the fields in Armenia's beautiful highlands, where they grow ingredients for their natural products. The tour included the laboratory with their scientific staff working on perfecting the NAIRIAN cosmetics. Also, we were shown the process of how they make essential oils. At the end of the tour, we were treated to teas and cake. I was a fabulous day for all the naturally beautiful ladies of IWAY.



AYGEZARD SUMMER SCHOOL CLASSES

Margaret-Rose Dally/Rose Tyler

Margie Rose requested and was granted funds to host a summer program in the village of Aygezard. During the four weeks of July 2017, 40 students attended summer classes. Students studied English, world geography, Japanese and origami. They learned how to make paper flowers. They painted their school hallway to put their flowers on a new surface.

IWAY purchased each student a green dictionary(English to Armenian and Armenian to English). They learned how to use the dictionary to look up the meaning of words and translate them. For some students, it was the first book that they have owned. They cherished the books.

Irina Margaryan and IWAY member came one day a week to teach English through songs and games. The children loved Irina, who is a professional teacher and it showed in her teaching skills.

Varditer Harutyunyan, also an IWAY Member came for a week, and stayed with my host family. They loved her as much as the 40 students did! She taught geography of the Far East, Japanese writing and its meaning. Varditer also taught Japanese songs and dances. The students especially enjoyed the origami they learned.

One student attending class was from the Republic of Artshak (Karrabaugh region). He was visiting his grandparents. He took his knowledge, his experience, and his dictionary back to RA. Through the funding of this project IWAY reached the future of Armenia-





IWAY joined the students in class.

Students eager to learn



Students loved selecting colors for origami project.



2017 CHARITY CHRISTMAS BAZZAR





2017 IWAY Christmas Bazaar

Asdghig Panossian

The IWAY international Christmas Bazaar is one of the most important Charitable Fundraising event, which helps our Association to collect funds to support and help philanthropic projects in the remote villages Last year in 2017 our Bazaar took place on December 2nd at Ani Plaza. We had two projects: one in Ararat region Sourenavan village to buy a large Water Tank for the school children and second Shirak region in Aghin village to renovate Bathrooms for the school children. Thanks and appreciate those who participate for this Charitable projects.





CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON DECEMBER 2017

NEW PROJECT: SURENAVAN SCHOOL

IWAY's new project is for a water holding tank, pipes and pump to provide water to the new kitchen and toilets. The project should be completed before the start of School year and benefit 330 students.





TOUR OF THE SCHOOL IN SURENAVAN



THE FUTURE OF ARMENIA IS ALIVE IN THE HEARTS OF THE WOMEN OF IWAY.

CHILDREN'S LIVES ARE BEING IMPROVED THROUGH IWAY'S CHARITABLE PROJECTS.

**OUR GOAL:
A BETTER FUTURE FOR ARMENIAN CHILDREN**

AGHIN VILLAGE PROJECT

Aghin is located at the Akhuryan reservoir near the ancient Armenian capital of Ani and is just a few kilometers from the Turkish border. Shirak province is the coldest in Armenia with an average temperature of 6°C. In winter it can reach -30°C. The current village school was constructed in 1989 and has never been renovated. IWAY sponsored the replacement of all the school's doors and windows to ensure that the children have a warm and comfortable environment for learning.

