

International Women's Day Celebration in Laval, Quebec



March 8th marked International Women's Day around the world. Laval "Shousi" and Montreal "Sossé" chapters of the Armenian Relief Society held an event to celebrate this important day on Sunday, March 10th at the "Palace" reception hall in Laval, where around 220 women of all ages met for brunch and enjoyed the excellent program planned by the organizing committee. The brunch was followed by an official program. Engerouhi Maria Kassabian, Chair of the organizing committee welcomed everyone including Mrs. Maria Yeganyan, wife of Mr. Armen Yeganinan, the Armenian Ambassador to Canada, members of the ARS Regional

Committee and other special guests.

Young artists Huri Zohrabian and Melissa Harutunian sang beautifully and Mrs. Shoushanik Melkonian mesmerized the crowd with her beautiful and remarkable recitation of a few Armenian poems.

Talented Rita Bankian performed a comedy sketch representing the adventures of Digin Siroun, a homouhi going on a bus ride with ARS! It was hilarious and everyone enjoyed it.

Guest speaker Engerouhi Ani Hotoyan-Joly, invited from Toronto, presented "Challenges Facing Women in the 21st Century". The speech was very interesting and stimulating. Once again Engerouhi Ani proved to be an engaging, knowledgeable, passionate, and witty speaker.



The event was also an opportunity to highlight the contribution of three extraordinary women who, through their volunteer work, help improve their communities and make a significant impact on the lives of the people around them. Congratulations to Engerouhi Hasmig Kadkhodazadé, Engerouhi Askanoush Hadidian and Mrs. Aida Tavitian-Chamelian.

Special thanks to:

- the organizing committee members: Maria Kassabian, Rita Ekmekjian, Margo Melkonian, Christine Afarian, Sossi Bankian, Diko Kevorkian, Dzovag Chamelian and Annie Boyajian,
- the Master of Ceremonies Araz Boyajian and Lelag Vosguian,
- Photographer Ara Samson
- Melina Bankian for preparing the poster and the beautiful centerpieces
- Our sponsors and donors
- The artists, the event's guest speaker, and to everyone who, in one way or another, contributed to the success of this event.



We would like to thank all those who supported us and attended this event. We look forward to seeing you soon at the next event.