

Join us for an evening you must see and hear

Armenia thru my eyes . . .

Tzoler Aghamal and Maral DerSarkissian

Just back from a Summer in Armenia, as Birthright volunteers, Tzoler and Maral bring back so much more than memories. Theirs is a message of hope, dreams and passion.

Guaranteed to Inspire!

Friday, October 9, 7:30 p

Armenian Church Youth Ministries Center

632 W. Stocker St., Glendale, CA 91202

Admission: Free

All ages are welcome, youth are highly encouraged

Q&A to follow presentations

Tzoler Aghamal always wanted to use her talents to help children. This past summer, after receiving her teaching Credential in Elementary Education, she received an opportunity like no other - to volunteer her talents in the city of Gyumri. In her words...

"Gyumri is part of the Shirak region of Armenia. It is located in the northwest part of Armenia, bordering with Turkey to the west, and Georgia to the north. This city was damaged severely by the horrific earthquake in 1988. While walking in the city you could see the ruined buildings and unfinished structures. Despite the need for renovation, the city has beautiful museums, historic churches, boundless pride and hospitality which is significant among its people. During my stay in Armenia I worked with children teaching English in two different locations. Yet, I learned much more than I expected. I learned how to weave a carpet and how to use the correct words of the Gyumri dialect. I learned about the latest music stars in Armenia and about my students and their difficult life circumstances. Some of my students have lived in makeshift housings for nearly 20 years. Each day that I continued teaching I learned something new about Gyumri and for that I am grateful to have had such amazing little teachers. In Gyumri, we had volunteers from the U.S, Canada, Argentina, Lebanon and France. On Saturdays our organization, Birthright, would take us all to excursions which gave us the possibility to see the different regions of Armenia; the churches, beautiful nature and most of all gave us a familiarity of how the local people live in these regions. I highly recommend young adults to volunteer and serve."

Maral DerSarkissian was born and raised in Los Angeles, attending Chamlian Armenian School and Crescenta Valley High School and completed her undergraduate studies at UC Berkeley with a major in Public Health and minor in Demography. Currently she is a PhD student in the department of epidemiology at UCLA. Maral has been active in the Armenian community through various organizations including the Shushi Music School Society, Armenian Relief Society, and Armenian Youth Federation. She has traveled to Armenia as a volunteer to serve as a camp counselor at the Daniel Ghazaryan Music School in Shushi with her fellow young Armenian Diasporans. She spent her past summer living in Gyumri and serving as a Birthright volunteer at the local health department and at a health promotion non-profit organization. She considers this past summer to be the best of her life and hopes to return to Gyumri soon.

More information on this event: InHisShoes.org