

# APPLE BITS

ALMATY INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S CLUB

AIWC Monthly Magazine  
May 2017





## Almaty International Women's Club

### AIWC Membership

2016-2017

01/09/2016-31/08/2017

75 USD

Renewal

100 USD

New members

The AIWC is an English language social organization supporting the expat community living in Almaty and giving back to the local community through Charities.

Founded originally in 1994 by four members, the AIWC has grown to over 180 members from 50 countries including our host country of Kazakhstan.

It is a wonderful asset to expatriates living in Almaty. Members are able to share their experiences and help other members with the difficulties facing them when arriving and living in a foreign country. There are many activity groups and social events organized for members to help make new friends, from bridge to golf and hiking to Russian Conversation.

The other aim of Club is to raise money for Charities and to help people in need in Kazakhstan. We have recently clarified the rules concerning membership: all foreign passport holders females & males and all Kazakh passport holders married to expatriates are accepted. Moreover Kazakh Passport holders having lived abroad more than one year, (which means they know what it means to be expatriate) can also ask for membership. In order to be fair, all old members that are not meeting these requirements would be accepted if they register in September, the first month of the new season.

As most of other Women's Clubs around the world, our common language is English and a minimum level of English is asked in order to better exchange and act together.

The Board would like to thank all members for your continued support to the club and hope that you will continue to support us while the club grows and changes, while remaining a focal point for our international community to get information, have fun and give back to the community.

### AIWC MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS FOR LOCALS / KAZAKHS

Local/Kazakh people can only become a member, if:

- 1) You are Married to an Expat
- 2) You have lived, or studied in another country (countries) for at least one year.
- 3) You have been recommended by two Expat members of the Club.
- 4) You can speak and understand English well.

### AIWC Trustee Board Members 2017

#### General Director

Aigul SHAMSHILDAYEVA  
[director.aiwc@gmail.com](mailto:director.aiwc@gmail.com)

#### President

Bettina FALKENBERG-ROBIOU  
[president.aiwc@gmail.com](mailto:president.aiwc@gmail.com)

#### Vice President

Catherine LOPEZ  
[vp1.aiwc@gmail.com](mailto:vp1.aiwc@gmail.com)

#### Treasurer

Stéphanie POLLONO  
[treasurer.aiwc@gmail.com](mailto:treasurer.aiwc@gmail.com)

#### Secretary

Yasaman PARISHAN  
[secretary.aiwc@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.aiwc@gmail.com)

#### Membership

Dominique DUBOIS  
[membership.aiwc@gmail.com](mailto:membership.aiwc@gmail.com)

#### Hospitality

Rubina MAJIDULLA  
[rubinainkz@gmail.com](mailto:rubinainkz@gmail.com)

#### Charity

Elena SHESTOPALOVA  
[charity.aiwc@gmail.com](mailto:charity.aiwc@gmail.com)

#### Fundraising Chair

Svetlana BENES  
[fundraising.aiwc@gmail.com](mailto:fundraising.aiwc@gmail.com)

#### Communications

Natalie MAHON  
[communication.aiwc@gmail.com](mailto:communication.aiwc@gmail.com)

#### Program Coordinator

Nadezhda YEREMINA  
[presentations.aiwc@gmail.com](mailto:presentations.aiwc@gmail.com)



AIWC



AIWC.ALMATY



AIWC@AIWCAlmaty1



AIWC Almaty



AIWC Almaty



[communication.aiwc@gmail.com](mailto:communication.aiwc@gmail.com)



<https://sites.google.com/site/almatyiw/>



Apple Bits editor : Aurelie Arnaudon  
Cover : Adam Domenico

### Reminder from the AIWC Trustee Board

*"The AIWC is an international club involved in social and charity event. Promotion of business for members and third parties will be conducted only in certain conditions and with pre-approval of the Trustee Board Members. Any members, who will not follow this process, will have their membership revoked (cancelled) with immediate effect. For further details, please contact the AIWC Trustee Board Members.*

*It is mandatory to obtain a prior approval of the AIWC Trustee Board Members for use of the Club's name and/or logo"*

*"During AIWC activities and public events, pictures of you and your guests may be taken and published to promote the club and its projects in publications, press articles and websites. In case you do not accept this waiver form, we kindly ask you to inform the photographer on site of the event. The AIWC will be not held responsible for any inconvenience."*

Dear Members,

On Wednesday 19th of April we had our **2nd Annual Charity Art Auction** and it is a pleasure for me to announce that the event was a big success. We raised 1,300,000 KZT that will be used for our charities. Thank you to an incredible team, which put this event together with so much passion; Anna Pastukh, Farida Jubayeva-Allen, Elena Doudina, Nata Gavrilova, Irina Daniel and her husband Walter, and also to Elena Shestopalova, Svetlana Benes Stephanie Tardy, Dominique Dubois and Natalie Mahon. Thank you to all the artists that believe in our charities and supported us by donating their beautiful art pieces, to SnowQueen for sponsoring us with delicious cocktails, to Art Lane Café & Gallery for hosting our event and to everybody who came to support the auction and took home some beautiful local art pieces. Congratulations again!

We are already in May; wow time really is marching fast.

The best thing about May is the beauty of the nature here in Almaty, the colors of the blossoming tulips and the bright green trees, the smell of fresh grass mixed with the drops of occasional rain and looking at the light of the sunshine mixed with the ice in the top of the mountains makes me feel full of life, warmth and happiness. I really love this city. May is a very busy month for us, not only somehow it is a month full of public holidays, but also for most of us, who have children, it is a month that is heading towards the end of the school year and final exams, lots of tension and stress, then with a blink of an eye it will be summer break....

Forget about personal issues, May at the AIWC is also a busy month with some big events coming up before summer break.

- 1) Twice a year, women from the AIWC participate in packing and delivering 100 **baskets of groceries for babushkas** in and around Almaty. This time we will get together on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> of May. You can come and join us packing or if you don't have time, you can contribute to this noble cause by donating KZT 5,000 per basket. The baskets will be delivered to the babushkas on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> and Friday 19<sup>th</sup> of May. You can read more about this project in this edition and also contact Svetlana Benes (+77052091163) or our charity team for more information.
- 2) On Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> of May, we will have a very special **LUNCH BUNCH**. We have invited 30 of our BABUSHKAS for LUNCH after our weekly Wednesday meeting. Please join us at Café Zhibek at 12:30 pm to have the opportunity to spend time with our babushkas while having a very nice lunch, with music and entertainment (fixed menu KZT 3,500). If you are interested in joining our Lunch Bunch, please confirm to Yasaman Parishan (+77011100918) by 10<sup>th</sup> of May - Thank you.
- 3) On Friday 19<sup>th</sup> of May, the board members of the club will be organizing a small get together in honor of all our Activity Coordinators, our Event Coordinators and their Teams and Charity Volunteers, who have helped make our club a better one during this year!
- 4) AND the most important event for our club and for our charities is in June, it is important for me to mention it now, as the next Apple Bits will probably be released after our grand **CHARITY GLITTER GALA**, which will take place on Friday, 2nd of June at the Ritz-Carlton. If you liked the party last year, you will love our Glitter Gala even more. We promise lots of dancing and fun!

We will start with with cocktails at the terrace of the Ritz-Carlton which has a breathtaking view to the mountains, followed by a gourmet four-course-dinner in the Ballroom. We will be serving cocktails, beer, white and red wine, a nice prosecco and soft drinks all night long and there will also be served a snack at midnight. Lots of live entertainment and incredible raffle prizes!

Please come and join us. Contact Elena Vlasova (+77777318232) or Yasaman Parishan (+77011100918) to buy your tickets!

So please mark your calendars and come along and join us for some great fun for a noble cause!

Have a happy spring

Lots of love

Bettina



*Bettina F.R*

Bettina FALKENBERG-ROBIU  
AIWC President  
[president.aiwc@gmail.com](mailto:president.aiwc@gmail.com)

# CONTENTS

**05** **MONTHLY EVENTS**  
Mark your calendar for upcoming events

**06** **GROUP ACTIVITIES**  
Come join our monthly activities

**08** **AIWC MEMBER**  
This month Yasaman Parishan

**11** **AIWC CHARITIES**  
News

**16** **TRADITION**  
Victory Day

**17** **EXPLORE**  
Spring in Almaty

**18** **EXPLORE IN KAZAKHSTAN**  
Druzhba

**19** **TRAVEL**  
India with kids



**12** **AIWC CHARITIES**  
Seven Trees

**13** **AIWC EVENTS**  
About Art Auction event

**15** **FOOD**  
Italian recipes cooking class

**21** **TRAVEL**  
Harrogate - North Yorkshire

**22** **ALMATY EVENTS**  
Time to explore the city

**23** **CULTURAL**  
What to see, listen, visit

# MONTHLY EVENTS

## Wednesday Meetings



Meetings are normally held every Wednesday from 10:30am until 12:00pm

at the Bosphorus Restaurant  
on the Mezzanine Level  
in the InterContinental Hotel, Almaty  
Meeting, companies or associations presentations or event like for Nauryz

*AIWC*  
*New Comers*  
*Coffee*

Please join us on  
**the 15th of May**  
from 10:30 am until 12:30 pm  
At 278 Zhamakaeva st  
Gornigigant  
For further information or to  
RSVP  
Rubina +7 777 21 57 509  
rubinainkz@gmail.com



## Lunch Bunch

The third Wednesday of each month, all members can share a lunch together in a different restaurant each time

### May 2017

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1 Italian Conv	2 Playgroup Bridge Spanish Conv	3 AIWC Meeting G. Francophone Russian conv	4 Knitting G Golf * German Conv French Conv	5 Chinese Conv. English G. Batik * Tennis * Art Group* Yoga* Cultural club*	6
7	8 Hiking G. Italian Conv	9 Playgroup Bridge	10 AIWC Meeting G. Francophone Russian conv	11 Knitting G Golf * German Conv French Conv	12 Chinese Conv. English G. Batik * Tennis * Art Group* Yoga*	13
14	15 Hiking G. Italian Conv New comers	16 Playgroup Bridge Spanish Conv Babushkas baskets packing	17 AIWC Meeting G. Francophone Lunch Bunch with babushkas* Russian conv	18 Knitting G Golf * German Conv French Conv	19 Chinese Conv. English G. Batik * Tennis * Art Group* Yoga* Thank you lunch	20
21	22 Hiking G. Italian Conv Cooking Class*	23 Playgroup Bridge	24 AIWC Meeting G. Francophone Russian Conv	25 Knitting G Golf * German Conv French Conv	26 Chinese Conv. English G. Batik * Tennis * Movie Group Art Group* Yoga*	27
28	29 Hiking G. Italian Conv	30 Playgroup Bridge	31 AIWC Meeting G. Francophone Russian Conv			

\* Activities with fees

# GROUP ACTIVITIES

## FREE OF CHARGE ACTIVITIES



**Hiking Group**  
**Monday 10am**  
Hanna LAINE  
Anne CHAMONAL  
[aiwc.hiking@gmail.com](mailto:aiwc.hiking@gmail.com)  
AIWC Hiking Group



**AIWC Playgroup**  
**Tuesday 10am-12pm**  
Natalie MAHON & Tina Fielder  
[tinaf296@hotmail.com](mailto:tinaf296@hotmail.com)  
[aiwcplaygroup@gmail.com](mailto:aiwcplaygroup@gmail.com)  
AIWC Playgroup



**English Conversation**  
**Friday 10.30am**  
Costa Café, Dostyk Plaza  
**New leader : Susan Senior**  
[sue@desandsusan.plus.com](mailto:sue@desandsusan.plus.com)



**German Conversation**  
**Thursday 14:00**  
**Stolichni (Kabenbai batyr - Abylai Khan)**  
**New leaders : Ruma and Dominique**  
[domidubois75@yahoo.fr](mailto:domidubois75@yahoo.fr)



**French Conversation**  
**Thursday 12:30**  
Veronika KUBIKOVA  
[veronika.kubikova@gmail.com](mailto:veronika.kubikova@gmail.com)



**Russian Conversation**  
**Wednesday 12:30**  
**New leader : Svetlana Benes**  
[sbenes@altynor.com](mailto:sbenes@altynor.com)  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/306851423040649/>



**Groupe Francophone**  
Dominique Dubois  
[groupefrancophone@gmail.com](mailto:groupefrancophone@gmail.com)



**Chinese Conversation**  
**Friday Lunch Time**  
**New leader wanted**  
Fiona Xing +77478386133  
[xytxmx@gmail.com](mailto:xytxmx@gmail.com)



**Book & Film Group**  
**Last Friday of the month 11am**  
Nadia Yeremina  
[yereminanadia@gmail.com](mailto:yereminanadia@gmail.com)



**Spanish Conversation**  
**The 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month 12.30**  
Cafe Roma, Dostyk Plaza  
Judith Cardenas  
[jucara@hotmail.fr](mailto:jucara@hotmail.fr)



**Bridge**  
**Tuesday 10 am**  
Anna PASTUKH  
[tshevtsova@hotmail.com](mailto:tshevtsova@hotmail.com)



**Italian Conversation**  
**Monday morning**  
Elisabetta Veneri  
+77057265511  
[veneri.elisabetta@tiscali.it](mailto:veneri.elisabetta@tiscali.it)  
Carmela +77757993540



**Knitting & Crocheting Group**  
**Thursday 9am- 11am**  
Marie-Noëlle BOGNON  
+7 701 763 7720  
[jelumano@gmail.com](mailto:jelumano@gmail.com)

# GROUP ACTIVITIES

## ACTIVITIES WITH FEES / PARTICIPATIONS

AIWC doesn't charge any money for these activities.

The purpose of the Fees is to directly cover teachers, materials, court rental...



**Tennis**  
**Friday 10am-11am**  
Baganashil, 14 Sanatornaya Str.  
Baganashil Village  
Monika MOLNAR  
[fam.molnar@arcor.de](mailto:fam.molnar@arcor.de)



**Batik decorative Art class**  
**Friday 12pm**  
Anna Pastukh  
[tshevtsova@hotmail.com](mailto:tshevtsova@hotmail.com)  
2500 Kzt your materials  
3500 Kzt materials included



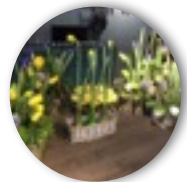
**Golf**  
**Thursday 10am-11am**  
Nurtau Golf Club  
Monique ROGGENKAMP  
+7 702 714 0164  
[monique.roggenkamp@gmail.com](mailto:monique.roggenkamp@gmail.com)  
5000 KZT/class



**New ! Cultural Club**  
**First Friday of the month 10:00 am**  
Farida Jubayeva-Allen  
+7 701 314 00 53  
Tickets to buy depend on the activity



**Art Group**  
**Friday from 10:00 till 12:30**  
Nata GAVRILOVA  
+7 777 128 1973  
[natadizel@ya.ru](mailto:natadizel@ya.ru)  
4000 Kzt/2 hours class



**New ! Art floral masterclass**  
**Every 2 months**  
Marie Noelle Bognon  
+7 701 763 7720  
[jelumano@gmail.com](mailto:jelumano@gmail.com)  
All material included 10 000 kzt



**Iyengar Yoga**  
**Start the second week of January**  
Maria Cristina [mcmajo@gmail.com](mailto:mcmajo@gmail.com)  
Teachers:  
- Irina Ivanova (+7 777 235 0087)  
[rinsulu@mail.ru](mailto:rinsulu@mail.ru)  
-Natalya Kozlovskaya (+7 701 733 57 05)  
[natakoza74@mail.ru](mailto:natakoza74@mail.ru)



**New ! Cooking class**  
**First monday of the month**  
Elena Vlasova  
Price of ingredients to share



**Lunch bunch**  
**Third Wednesday of the month 12:30 am**  
Yasaman Parishan  
[secretary.aiwc@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.aiwc@gmail.com)  
Price of the menu you choose

# AIWC MEMBER

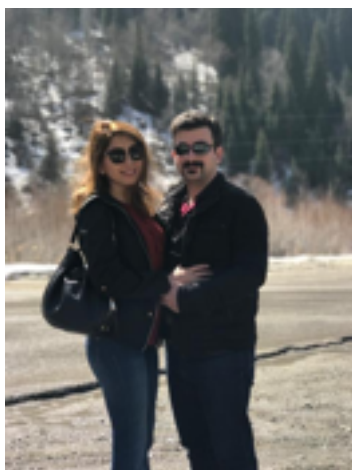
## Focus on Yasaman Parishan

Dear Members,

It is quite challenging to write a profile which is both interesting and at the same time is covering all points; first I heard about Almaty when back in 2013 right two days after our wedding my husband left for three weeks business trip to Almaty. Destination was unknown to us so I really asked him to explore all around as much as possible because this could be the only chance to visit a city in Kazakhstan. As life showed I shouldn't have worried at all as here we are living in Almaty almost for two years! :)

I am Yasaman Parishan, selected as a Secretary of AIWC board member 2017. I am Iranian and born in Tehran, capital of Iran. I studied Economics at the university and though I have never worked as economist, but it helped me in my career in Human Resources. I love working with people, resolving problems, helping to find the better solutions. It makes me really happy when I know I can support the team around me and at the same time learn from them. While working in HR department of Carrefour Hypermarket in Iran, I have met my dear future husband. We got engaged in 2012 and after 6 months when we have already decided to marry he has been transferred to Yerevan, Armenia . In 2013 I had to resign and joined him there. I loved Yerevan, magnificent city with years of history and warm people ready to help. There I had an amazing chance to work for Carrefour Armenia and again became part of HR family. I will never forget that wonderful feeling of being useful, contributing to overall process of store opening and helping to set up HR systems and supporting my colleagues. I will always remember Armenia and my friends there, those two years were filled with warmth and fun, friends and nice time.

August 2015 another page in our family history began and we moved to Almaty.. I didn't know anyone here, no friends, no acquaintances, no job. Frankly it was quite scary for me and just by chance I met one amazing Iranian guy who told me about AIWC (huge thanks to Saman Hamidi ) and since then my life in Almaty has been changed. My life was filled with new activities, lovely friends, wonderful events , all of a sudden I felt that city is smiling at me and accepting me in return, this is how you start feeling at home. And yet let me tell you little bit about my homeland where my roots are from, where my heart is from.



Iran..it is difficult to put centuries of history in couple of sentences, but here is what you should know about Iran, population of Iran is 82million, out of which 12 million live in Tehran, our capital is certainly must visit place for sure. Really amazing place, huge, big, noisy, crazy, sometimes with lack of air :) and yet beautiful, gorgeous, welcoming and interesting. Majority of population are Muslims, but Iran is a country of diversity combining different religions, cultures and languages.

You can ask me if are we allowed to talk with men, can we drive in Iran, do we always have to wear hijab and etc... (I have been asked ;) ) I don't want to praise freedom of Iranian women, but we do have certain level of freedom and our new generation is successfully mixing fashion and modernity creating unique and innovative Islamic style.

To wrap up myself (and I will happy to tell more to anyone interested) Iranians are extremely hospitable and open. Iran is a safe travel destination and cheap to travel around, don't miss the chance while there is 3 times direct flight from Almaty to Tehran. The only thing you need to know is that you would want to visit Iran again and again...and again. So, you already know me, you already have one friend happy to guide you through an amazing and unique land!







Almaty International Women's Club

# AIWC VENDOR'S DAY

**Takes place every first Wednesday  
Meeting of the month between 10.30 am and  
12.00pm at Intercontinental Hotel, Almaty**

**Local crafters will be there every month. Come with your friends it is open to  
members AND non-members!**





Almaty International Women's Club

# Adopt a Babushka

"We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give."  
Sir Winston Churchill



We plan to collect 45000 Tenge/year for a Babuschka.  
You can invite friends to contribute and jointly to support a grandmother  
who you can get to know and choose!

For more information, please contact [charity.aiwc@gmail.com](mailto:charity.aiwc@gmail.com).

Donations for adopting a Babushka goes towards helping them with food,  
medicines and other general needs as well as towards the staff costs of  
Hands of Mercy.

HoM  
Hands of Mercy

# AIWC CHARITIES

## News

By Olga Salimova

### News from the Charity Committee

AIWC has committed to sponsor a project of the charity fund Mercy run by A. Sain a series of TV shootings for a TV programme featuring orphans and children left outside of parental care “Kazakhstan without orphans”. The programme is aimed to promote the idea that orphans and children left outside of parental care should be in a family (adoption/foster care/guardianship).

In fact, in Kazakhstan the waiting list of parents willing to adopt is far greater than the number of kids in orphanages.

Inclusion of a child in the database for orphans and children left outside of parental care on the portal [www.usynovite.kz](http://www.usynovite.kz) gives a good chance for him/her to be adopted. The main problem is an attempt to look for a child to adopt - scarce information about kids - age, traits, etc. No one really knows how a family which prepares to adopt understands he/she is “their child”. Adoptive parents usually describe that something “flinches” when they found out about a particular child.

So, a possibility to get to know the child before an actual meeting, increases the child’s chances to be in “his/her family”. The main idea of the TV programme: the audience is given a 10 minutes’ video profile with the child’s story as the voice over and a short lively interview from which viewers learn about the child’s character, virtues and shortcomings, as well as what they like and dislike.



### Babushka Basket

Soon it will be the time again for one of our most regular and favourite charity projects - “Babushka Basket”. We help elderly people of Almaty who are in urgent need; they have very limited income, physical or mental disabilities, and are often socially isolated requiring assistance with basic needs.

We are asking all members and their friends to help pack around 100 baskets and assist with the delivery of them to Babushkas. So let’s come together for a good cause! Not only will you be helping someone in need, but you may even make a new friend!

The specific volunteer duties will be to pack the baskets and deliver them later (same day or next day) directly to Babushkas’ address. The delivery lists usually are arranged by the city districts allowing you to complete delivery in short time.

The average price of the basket is 5000 tenge. We welcome everybody to donate and to buy their own basket/baskets for this small amount which will make a big difference to somebody in need.

On May 16, 2017 we invite all volunteers - for packing and delivery on May 16-18 the grocery baskets to the Babushkas or Dedushkas. The location will be announced later.

Please contact AIWC Charity group with any question or suggestions you have concerning this project.

[frundraising.aiwc@gmail.com](mailto:frundraising.aiwc@gmail.com)

# AIWC CHARITIES

## Seven Volunteers at Seven Trees!

By Dolores Maisonneuve

**“To Plant a Garden is to believe in tomorrow” - Audrey Hepburn**

The “Hope Garden” at Seven Trees is an ongoing project that started in the summer of 2014, when my friend Olenka Rug came to visit from the UK. Ola has worked for many years with diverse groups in London, helping people learn to grow plants as a way to develop healthier lifestyles and to engage communities. Prison programs around the world have supported gardening for inmates as a way of becoming more sustainable, teaching life skills, creating a sense of self-worth and sanctuary, increasing empathy and for rehabilitation.

These ideals were considered in the original design and development of the Seven Trees gardening project. The vision of the Seven Trees garden was to create an oasis that would be both healing and a food supply for the staff and clients who work and live at the half-way house. Since gardening is a never-ending process, there was still a small patch of land at Seven Trees that needed attention. On April 1<sup>st</sup>, seven volunteers gathered to work in making the front garden into a welcoming and friendly place.

Lead by world traveller and AIS teacher Alex Eton and his team from the “Mongolia Nonstop: Limitless Adventure Road Trip Expedition”, the group were soon hard at work, moving tree trunks, moving rocks and paving stones, digging up trees and turning the soil. It was a hard day of work, with short breaks for tea and a home-cooked lunch provided by the Seven Trees ladies. At the end of the day, the garden structure was created, with a pathway, hills mimicking the steppes, and native trees planted. Now the Garden of Hope just awaits the planting of flowers and other drought-resistant plants plus a bench for contemplation and good neighbourhood gossip!

A special thank you to Alex Eaton and his team, Zhanel Mussakhanova, Alisher Abdiyev, Aydin and Dulat Zhumabekov, Aiganym Shinaliyeva, plus my friend Dasha Bityuskaya, who all gave their time willingly and with good humour.

(If you are interested in the next phase of planting at the “Garden of Hope” for Seven Trees, or donating some flower seeds, please send me an email at [Dolores.Maisonneuve@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Dolores.Maisonneuve@yahoo.co.uk))



# AIWC EVENTS

## Art Auction on the 19 of April

By Anna Pastukh

### Thoughts after Art Auction

Art Auction - what a brilliant idea! To get money for charity, to let international community know local artists and buy artworks with low prices, to let artists meet potential clients and of course to have unforgettable evening!

This year it was second time we organize such event. Many artists decided to participate this year, and a level of the event increased because more artists liked this idea. Such beautiful and different artworks this year, such famous artists! Artworks prices were 4-5 times less than the real value, so many opportunities!

Sounds good, but why do I feel myself unsatisfied? I believe that we should be more active on our biddings to promote great artists we invited and, of course to collect more funds for our activities. Probably crisis is on place, may be we are not in full realizing also the fact that cost of the pieces of the art is not just a memory but also investment. It's a pity that many of you ignored the event - it was only 40 participants registered for bidding. Come on, people, it sounds ridiculous; we pay more for the restaurant bill. This year artists, who are not rich and nicely payed, were generous and many of them come to the event, but I am not sure that next time we could collect them again - and same time we spend more time chatting among ourselves rather then talking to the artists.

Anyway, I made my bids and even missed in auction my favorites Utkin and Fridlin. We returned home with 8 artworks, but not with Utkin whom I like so much. That's why next day I wrote him and visited his studio and have chosen the painting I admire (for the real price).

Everything is good that ends good we collected more than 1,300,000 tenge for charity!

And life continues.





**Almaty International  
Women's Club**

THE ALMATY INTERNATIONAL  
WOMEN'S CLUB  
CORDIALLY ASKS YOU TO JOIN ITS

*Annual Charity  
«Glitter Gala»*

**ON FRIDAY 2ND OF JUNE, 2017  
AT THE RITZ-CARLTON, ALMATY  
FROM 7:00 PM TO 1:30 AM**

MEMBERS: KZT 33,000  
NON-MEMBERS: KZT 38,000

DRESS CODE: BLACK TIE  
[charityball.aiwc@gmail.com](mailto:charityball.aiwc@gmail.com)

# FOOD

## Greek Moussaka

By Svetlana

### Ingredients:

- 3 eggplants, peeled and cut lengthwise into 1/2 inch thick slices
- Salt
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 1 pound lean ground beef
- salt to taste
- ground black pepper to taste
- 2 onions, chopped
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon • 1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1/2 teaspoon fines herbs • 2 tablespoons dried parsley
- 1 (8 ounce) can tomato paste • 1/2 cup red wine
- 1 egg, beaten
- 4 cups milk
- 1/2 cup butter
- 6 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- salt to taste
- ground white pepper, to taste
- 1 1/2 cups freshly grated Parmesan cheese • 1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg



### Process

Cooking stats • Prep 45 min • Cook -1h  
Ready In 1h 45 m

• Lay the slices of eggplant on paper towels, sprinkle lightly with salt, and set aside for 30 minutes to draw out the moisture. Then in a skillet over high heat, heat the olive oil. Quickly fry the eggplant until browned. Set aside on paper towels to drain.

• In a large skillet over medium heat, melt the butter and add the ground beef, salt and pepper to taste, onions, and garlic. After the beef is browned, sprinkle in the cinnamon, nutmeg, fines herbs and parsley. Pour in the tomato sauce and wine, and mix well. Simmer for 20 minutes. Allow to cool, and then stir in beaten egg.

• To make the bechamel sauce, begin by scalding the milk in a saucepan. Melt the butter in a large skillet over medium heat. Whisk in flour until smooth. Lower heat; gradually pour in the hot milk, whisking constantly until it thickens. Season with salt, and white pepper.

• Arrange a layer of eggplant in a greased 9x13 inch baking dish. Cover eggplant with all of the meat mixture, and then sprinkle 1/2 cup of Parmesan cheese over the meat. Cover with remaining eggplant, and sprinkle another 1/2 cup of cheese on top. Pour the bechamel sauce over the top, and sprinkle with the nutmeg. Sprinkle with the remaining cheese.

• Bake for 1 hour at 350 degrees



# TRADITION

## The Victory Day celebration

By Farida

The annual celebrations of the Victory Day will be taking place on the 9th of May. The holiday is dedicated to remembering the victory of the Soviet Union over Nazi Germany in 1945 in the Great Patriotic War as WWII is known in the former Soviet states. The surrender documents were signed late in the night on 8 May 1945. It was already May 9 Moscow time. Celebrating this day has become a tradition in Kazakhstan.

During the War, along with all other 15 Soviet republics, the Kazakh Soviet Republic was wholeheartedly engaged in the war effort. More than 1 million 200 thousand soldiers were mobilized from the republic. They formed 12 rifle and 4 cavalry divisions, 7 rifle brigades, and about 50 separate regiments and battalions.

In the beginning of the War the Soviets suffered defeat after defeat. The loss of lives reached millions. In this situation, the Kazakhstanis were sent to the most dangerous parts of the front line.

The first major victory for the Soviets was the pushback of the German forces in the defense of Moscow. Panfilov's Men took part in the defense of Moscow at the critical point of the World War II. The bravery of the Panfilov division is remembered far beyond Kazakhstan and one of its officers' words became legendary. He was a political officer named Klochkov who declared: "Russia is great, yet there is nowhere to retreat - Moscow is behind us!" His words resonated all across the Soviet Union. The beautiful park with cathedral in the center of Almaty is named after the Panfilov division. And the powerful monument is dedicated to those heroes.

Other well known heroes of WWII from Kazakhstan are - Baurzhan Momyshuly, Talgat Bigeldinov and many more. Two Kazakh girls became famous in the Soviet Union. They are commonly known as Alia and Manshuk. Every family in Kazakhstan lost someone in this war, parents or grandparents. Their acts of bravery stopped the most terrible war in history. Victory Day on May 9th will always mean a lot for Kazakhstan people. In memory of this day thousands of citizens come to Panfilov park to the monument to celebrate it and to recall all lost soldiers.





# EXPLORE

## Spring is in the air

By Ruma (Anindya Bose Shrivastava)

I sat at the window watching it fall. At first softly, then in sheets, lashing the window with large, wet drops. Spring was in the air but not in the way I had expected. The bright, sunshine-filled fall days when I arrived in the city last year had turned to cold, wintry ones which seemed to stretch endlessly till last month. So, when the temperatures quietly rose a few weeks back and the apartment caretakers decided it was time to turn off the heating, I honestly expected sunshine, and more sunshine. The rain ... it was an unwelcome reality.

Nothing had quite prepared me for it. Perhaps it was the couple of fleeting days of warm sunshine, perhaps it was all the gaiety and color of Women's Day and Nauryz, or perhaps it was just the knowledge that Almaty always has gorgeous weather that had raised my expectations. Now, as I looked out, it felt gloomy and dreary. I grumbled and complained to all who cared to listen. Where oh where was the sun?

"Mom!! Come quick! Look at this!" is the frantic shout I hear. I rush over to the window expecting to witness some unfolding calamity but instead hear my son say, "The trees!! They're green again!" And sure enough, as I look from high up, the city is suddenly awash with green, the bare bones of the tree branches having sprouted feverishly until one could barely see the brown. Panfilov Park had gone from being a Winter Wonderland to a Spring Garden Fiesta. The painstakingly dug up and planted patches were beginning to show the first shoots and leaves of tulips and roses. In the Green Market the majority of the hibernating stalls had returned, piled high with fruits and vegetables. The majestic Alatau had all but shed its snowy white cloak exposing the green-brown landscape underneath. In the rain one could barely see it at times, enveloped as it was with swirling misty clouds with a few peaks jutting out from here and there.

I decide that I will not sit around waiting for the lovely sunny season. I simply cannot forgo the beauty of this time of the year. Where did I start to dread the rain anyway, I ask myself. Perhaps those years in the West had finally changed me. The constant fear in the background of rain being a dampener - of spoiling a long-awaited picnic in the Appalachians, of destroying the fragile cherry blossoms in DC or the endless switching over from a winter to summer (and back again) anorak in England or even of interrupting the otherwise perfect Italian weather during a road trip from Rome to L'Aquila - it all had finally taken its toll. It had made me pray fervently for the sun and forget my childhood filled with the beauty of rain in India - the monsoons, when the heavens opened up and poured down life-giving water, drenched the parched earth and refreshed streams and rivers. Yet, strangely, after all these years, with the differences between tropical and temperate climates blurring in my head, I am beginning to feel the same way again.

I am delighting in the sudden downpours and the hurried loud splashes. I am loving stepping into large puddles and little rivulets (while of course admonishing my son who is doing the same). I am enjoying looking up at the dark skies welling up with rain-laden clouds. But most of all, I am enchanted, sitting at the window watching the drops fall and listening to The Cascades crooning a childhood favourite - "Listen to the Rhythm of the Falling Rain".

If you have always loved the unexpected, gentle spring rain ... enjoy! If, like me, you're rediscovering a long-lost love, let it wash over you. And if you don't like it no matter what anyone says ... just be patient ... months of dazzling sunshine are around the corner anyway.



# EXPLORE IN KAZAKHSTAN

## Druzhba

By Dennis Keen

A Uyghur Village Behind Highrises

I don't know how I first noticed that something was different about Druzhba. Maybe it was all the wolves that I saw in windshield decals or the abundance of crescent moons. Maybe it was the dome-shaped samsa cooked streetside in tandyr ovens, or the blue-tipped minarets of the mosque behind the stands. Or maybe it was the people I encountered, like the white-bearded men sitting on handcrafted benches outside their homes, their heads bedecked in skullcaps. It wasn't until I told local friends where I was walking that I learned what Druzhba was known for: "Oh, that's a Uyghur neighborhood," they said, giving the word Uyghur a certain strange intonation to accent its otherness. Ah, Uyghur. I had travelled amongst these Turkic-speaking Muslim people in Western China earlier this year, and I had grown fond of their shreddy music and natural ebullience. I went back to Druzhba two more times, now armed with this crucial context, trying to connect the dots between those moons and wolves, to try to grasp what that phrase "Uyghur neighborhood" should even mean.

"No, it's not a Uyghur neighborhood," one woman named Gulraushan told me emphatically. "It's called 'Druzhba,' after all." Druzhba [Дружба] means "Friendship" in Russian, as in "Friendship of the Peoples," and she went on to say that these days this region in western Almaty was quite diverse. Yet she also admitted that there were several different generations of Uyghurs just on her street, some like her whose relatives came decades ago and speak "clean" Russian, and still others who are more recent arrivals from China and send their kids to the Uyghur language school nearby. She came from a Soviet age where all "peoples" should be melded into a homogenous Sovietman, and so when she told me she was Uyghur, she said it offhandedly, like she was nervous about revealing any national pride.

Gulraushan was probably right to downplay the "ethnic enclave" angle, anyways. Sure, there were those little visual clues I had first picked up on, the Muslim and Turkic imagery and so on, but many other differences were domestic and indoors, like the languages spoken inside these homes or the backgrounds on their family photos. Mostly the streetscape was anonymous and familiar; homes had the same maroon tin roofs I've seen elsewhere, the same plaster diamonds, the wooden filigree. The differences, like the shoddy benches running along the fences, could be easily overlooked if you weren't vigilant. Yet I was sensitive to these things, always looking for a way to distinguish one place from another. After walking in so many corners of the city, that's what I hungered for: some way to keep every place distinct in my mental travelogue. So for me, Druzhba became a Uyghur village, and in my mind I branded it so convincingly that I might as well have called it "Little Kashgar" and put up a kitschy gateway arch.

Maybe it was that "village" part that also got me set on Druzhba's otherness. After all, it never even used to be part of Almaty. Talking to some other men down the street from Gulraushan, I learned that it was once upon a time a collective farm called, in that herky-jerky Russian way, "The Collective Farm Named After Stalin," and they could remember when there used to be stables where giant gas pipes now stand, and when the highrises next door were just corn fields. As those microdistricts sprouted to the east, it became Druzhba, and it became Dostyk as private landownership blew up in the independence period and big homes started to hedge in the former farm from the west. Yes, it was now officially called Dostyk, the Kazakh translation of Druzhba, "friendship," but nobody seemed to use the word so I won't either. Calling it "Stalin" would be just a little too nostalgic, so Druzhba it has stayed. Just as the old name has stuck, so has its old reputation. Though it had been surrounded and become a suburb, it is still a village in the imagination of Almatians

# TRAVEL

## India with kids

By Stéphanie Pollono

Discovering India and the maharadja's country was always a dream ! And being at only 3 hours and half by plane, only thirty minutes... of time difference, we couldn't resist !!

So we planned in September 2 trips :

- One trip in October to discover Rajasthan and Agra
- One trip in December to relax in Goa and visit Delhi

### 1 - Rajasthan :

We spent time in India from a Friday to Sunday to visit : Jodhpur, Udaipur, Jaipur, Ranthambore National Park and Agra (Taj Mahal). It was a very very busy trip, organized by a french travel agency.

We are not used to travelling with a tourist tour, but with kids (and 4 kids from 9YO to 2YO), it is really mandatory : have a driver + a car + a guide who will help you with all the entrances of palaces and also the « safe restaurants ». Some people could say that we should skip one city, but it is really a pity not to visit in a same trip the pink city (Jaipur), the blue city (Jodhpur) and the white city (Udaipur). It was very nice with kids to explore also the Ranthambore National Park and see tigers. And I think you couldn't go to India without seeing the Taj Mahal !!

All our visits were feerics. Because most of the visits are more outside than inside, it was nice to visit with kids, specially for example in Jaipur where you HAVE TO ride elephant to enter into the Amber Fort !! But don't expect coming back relaxed, you will come back over exhausted !!

But if you have only 10 days, no choice, and it's worth it ! for sure !!

If you go there with young girls, you will find indian princess clothes and bracelets and henna, and they will be in paradise !!



### 2 - Goa and Delhi :

In December, we wanted to come back to India (because so convenient and cheap flight tickets), we wanted sun, relax, a little bit culture and the sea !! Goa was the perfect place : no clouds during five days, coconut trees everywhere, and the first catholic churches in Asia.

But beaches were not as expected !!! Anyway, spending time in swimming pool with kids in front of the ricefield with some slow buffalos, and then visiting the old portuguese neighbourhood, or the old white churches on the sunset was a great relaxing program ! We also spent 3 days in Delhi to visit the Humayun tomb, the Qutub Minar, a sikh temple, and the spice market in Old Delhi.

This time in India, we were without guides and without tour, and it was nice to do it in our rhythm, specially with kids.



Some tips :

-NOBODY WAS SICK !! I know it is incredible, specially with four kids, and two small ones who can touch everything and put everything in the mouth !!

We was more carefull than usual when we travel :

I took dozen of sanitharized soap, wet anti-bacteriological tissu, and also javellized wet tissue (for toilets if not very clean) !!

I took 3 or 4 kg of medicine anti-diarrhea for adult and for kids + to cure, antiseptique spray, roll on of Arnica, and I took the hypothesis of everybody would be sick during 5 days at least !! Also paracetamol, nurofen for adult and for kids. And I came back home without using any medicine !!

Of course, we cleaned the hands as much as possible, I cleaned the seat belts in the plane, and eveything what a kid can touch. We cleaned some tables in a restaurant or some toilets.... But we was not « maniac » either !! and we didn't go to hospital because my daughter drunk the water of fontain in the garden of the hotel !!!

-FOOD and WATER : In Rajasthan we was with a guide who knows where we can eat safe, we didn't buy anything in the street except cookies or chips. We took water only in hotel, and be careful that the bottle was well closed. I thought having a small diet in Indian in being sick and in fact I came back with 2 kg more (the cheese nan and the butter masala are very good but quite heavy food !!). In december without guide, we have preferred staying in the hotel, or check in the Lonely planet. It is true that we didn't try anything in the street (compare to Thailande or the other countries in Asia, where you can try everything). For the kids, I took some fruits compots from here, cookies and candies for some snacks, and one babyfood per day for my last one to be sure to have at least one meal ! But in India you have rice and chicken and it is not too spicy !! In the hotel (not luxurious hotel, but not budget hotel also), we eat fruits and vegetables, what it as not recommended, but without any problems !

-Clothes : in opposite of Asia (where we are used to travelling a lot), I felt incomfortable to wear short and short skirt, specially in Rajasthan, I was happy to buy (also because I love shopping !!) traditional pant and kurta with beautiful colors, nice coton, and very nice also with a white jeans !! In Goa, I felt less incomfortable, it is more relax !!

-With kids : in Rajasthan it is very crowded, you should hold the hands of your kids, mandatory on the street, it is more relax inside palace or temple (except Taj Mahal !!).

To conclude : if you want exotism closed to Almaty, fly to India, and dont be afraid to go there with kids, they will love it also !!

And we will come back in India beginning of may for Keralaand Pondicherry !!!

# TRAVEL

## Harrogate - North Yorkshire

By Natalie Mahon

Every Christmas for the past 7 years we have headed back to the UK to celebrate with my husband's family. We chose to take a small stay-cation in this period, to get away and have some time on our own. The past few years we have chosen North Yorkshire - it's close to Manchester where we are based so only 1-1.5 hours to drive and there is plenty and nothing to do - depending on your mood. This Christmas we stayed in a great house from Airbnb, in central Harrogate. A beautiful Victorian English town, that has the perfect blend of old and new.

**History** - The Harrogate name can be found as far back as 1332 according to surviving documentary evidence. By 1399 Harrogate became Royal property when the possessions of the Duchy of Lancaster merged with the English Royal Crown.

Harrogate sprang from two hamlets, only known for their relation to the historic town of Knaresborough. William Slingsby discovered the first Harrogate mineral well in 1571. Believing it to possess the same qualities as spa water, Tewit Well was likened to Belgium spa waters and was said to have health properties. Dr Bright dubbed Harrogate "The English Spa" in 1596.

By 1660, the town of Harrogate was expanding rapidly. Public bathing houses soon sprang up around the town. Doctors wrote about Harrogate waters and their health benefits, driving more people to seek medical cures in the town. People came from far and wide to bathe and drink the waters.

Already well-established as a spa town, The Enclosure Act for the Forest of Knaresborough saw the protection of 200 acres of land, including the springs and The Stray parkland visitors came for the waters and enjoyed countless walks through the parks which was a breath of fresh air compared to inner city smog.

Between 1830 and 1841, local businessmen and hoteliers tried to profit from the wells by siphoning the precious waters into their own wells for visitors. As a result of this vandalism, locals petitioned for an Act of Parliament to protect the wells that were so instrumental to the town's survival.

### Harrogate - North Yorkshire

In 1897 The Royal Baths was opened to offer spa treatments and hydrotherapy to visitors. Today, the Turkish Baths is all that is left of the working spa. Many similar institutions followed but as 1914 brought the First World War, a decline in spa treatments caused many to suffer.

By the 1940s, Harrogate had reinvented itself as a conference town. The Old Swan Hotel secured the International Toy Fair for the town in the 1960's, cementing Harrogate as a place for business and congregation. Today the town hosts many internationally renowned fairs and meetings at the International Conference Centre.

Towns close by to visit - Ripon (for all you Downton Abbey fans), Knaresborough, Pateley Bridge, Masham, Boroughbridge

### Top things to do -

1. Betty's Tea Rooms - great for morning tea/lunch
2. Harrogate Turkish Baths
3. Valley Gardens - wonderful place to let the kids run free
4. Ripon Cathedral
5. Royal Theatre
6. Royal Pump Room
7. Brimham Rocks



For more ideas visit: <http://www.harrogate.co.uk/things-to-do-in-harrogate/> <http://www.visitharrogate.co.uk/things-to-do>



# ALMATY EVENTS

## Exhibitions around the city

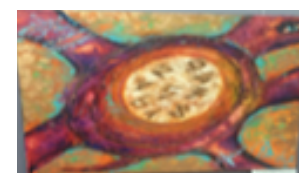


### Aspan Gallery

What: Modern Art Exhibition

Where: Villa Expo, 140 A Al-Farabi ave When: April 20 - June 4

Free entrance



### Kasteev Museum

What: opening of an international exhibition The Stars Shine Only for Happy People . The different art works (tapestry, paintings, graphic, jewelry, etc. ) of artists from Kazakhstan, Russia, Ukraine, Romania, Georgia, USA, Italy, Israel and Japan will be on display.

Turtle is a symbol of Wisdom and Luck.

Where: 22/1 Koktem-3

When: The exhibition will run till May 12 Ticket Price: 500 KZT



### Central Exhibition Hall

What: a famous photographer from Tbilisi ( Georgia) will present his new collection "Georgia.Double Pages". Black and white photos will be arranged in rows next to each other like in an album. This project is dedicated to his native city Tbilisi

Where: 137 Zheltoksan, 11:00- 19:00 When: May 5- 19

Ticket cost: 200-300 KZT

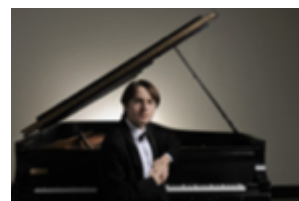


### Abay Square

What: Singing together with Turetsky Choir in front of the Palace of Republic

Note: Turetsky Choir is a famous choir from Russia. The project is sponsored by Almaty City Akimat.

Where: Abay/Dostyk Avenues When: May 1, 19:00



### Kasteev Museum

What: A laureate of the republican and international contests, pianist Oleg Pereversev will present his musical album Dudarai. He will perform his own compositions and instrumental arrangement of Kazakh songs.

Where: 22/1 Koktem-3 When: May 4, 19:00

Ticket Price: 2,500 KZT. It includes: concert, access to museum from 5p.m. to 6 p.m., and a coffee-break at 6.30 p.m.



### KELT (Kazakhstan English Language Theater)

What: the first licensed Broadway show ever to be produced in Kazakhstan...

"Cinderella" (director- Lora Pachini, local and foreign actors)

Beautiful singing, ballroom dancing, magical transformations, elegant costumes and well-placed humor will make Cinderella a truly magical and unforgettable experience for the whole family. In English!

Where: Children's Palace (124 Dostyk Avenue/ Satpaev) When: May 5,6,9- 19:30; May 7- 15:00

Ticket price: 1,000 - 3,000 KZT



### Kurmangazy Conservatory

What: International Festival of classical music " Forte Music Fest" Participants from Germany, Kazakhstan, Romania, Greece, Russia, Ireland, USA, Colombia, Ukraine, Georgia

Opening ceremony: May 25, 17:00 Festival: May 25-28 19:00 Where: 86 Ablay Hana/ Bogenbai batyra



### Arovana Gallery

What: exhibition/sale of the group " Travel Bag"

Ceramics, paintings, leather items, Jewelry, art works on wood etc. Where: 104Kurmangazy/Baitursynova

When: May 6-7

# CULTURAL

## ZHAMBYL STATE PHILHARMONIC

May 3, Wednesday Small hall Concert “From Verdi to Bernstein”

May 4, Thursday Concert of Marat Bisengaliev’s Symphony orchestra 18:30

May 5, Friday Concert of the State Orchestra of Wind Instruments dedicated to Victory Day Songs from our heroic past 19:00

May 6, Saturday Small hall Night of chamber music

May 7, Sunday Concert “ Passion” 18:30

May 8, Monday Concert “Spring is here again...” 19:00

May 10, Wednesday Concert “ Kunaev’s Favorite Songs” FREE! Note: Kunaev became First Secretary of the Communist Party in Kazakhstan in 1964 and remained in this position for 22 years. 18:30

May 16, Tuesday Night of chamber music Murat Natbekov( cello) < erbulat Saparbaev (violin),, Darhan Sadvakasov (alt) 18:30

May 17, Wednesday Night of vocal music Soloists” Gulnar Nurgalieva and Gulzhan Uzenbaeva 18:30

May 19, Friday Season pass State Symphony orchestra Soloist: I.Podgoryanu 19:00

**Zhambyl State Philharmonic: 35 Kaldayakova st./Tole bi**  
**For more information please call: +7 (701) 130-9189**

## OPERA and BALLET at ABAY THEATER

May 4, Thursday “Abay” by A.Zhubanov/L.Khamidi Opera in 2 acts 19:00 2.15 hours

May 5, Friday “Gizelle” by A.Adan 19:00 2 hours

May 6, Saturday “Merry Widow” by. F.Lehar Operetta in 2 acts 17:00 2.40 hours

May 7, Sunday Concert 17:00

May 12, Friday Concert “ Magic of romance” Soloist: Sara Ishanova 19:00

May 13, Saturday Concert of classical opera music 17:00

May 14, Sunday Concert “Best Melodies from Musicals” 17:00

May 19, Friday Concert “ Music about Love “ 19:00

May 20, Saturday Coppelia” by L. Delibes **Premier!** Comic ballet in 2 acts

**Opera Prices: 600 Tg–1,700 Tg / Ballet Prices: 600 Tg–4,000 Tg**  
**Abai Opera and Ballet Theatre: 110 Kabanbai Batyr Street, corner of Panfilov Street**  
**For more information please call: +7 (727) 272-7963 <http://www.gatob.kz/>**



# Recycle for Ark Village

UNWANTED PAPER AND NON-CONFIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS CAN HELP THEM  
TO MAKE A CHANGE.

FATHER GUIDO AT ARK VILLAGE WILL ACCEPT PAPER/DOCUMENTS AND CAN GET MONEY  
FOR IT. HE USES THE FUNDS TO BUY MEDICINE AND FOOD FOR THE ELDERLY HERE IN  
ALMATY. PLEASE SHARE THIS WITH FRIENDS/SPOUSES/BUSINESSES. WE CAN EVEN  
ARRANGE COLLECTION.

YOU WIN, PEOPLE WIN, THE EARTH WINS.

Contact : Natalie Mahon : [communication.aiwc@gmail.com](mailto:communication.aiwc@gmail.com)