



CELEBRATING
YEARS OF
SUCCESS
1979-2009

30





ASSEMBLY OF TURKISH AMERICAN ASSOCIATIONS

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Dear Members of the Assembly of Turkish American Associations and Friends:

This is my last message as President of the ATAA to you. It has been an honor to serve as **ATAA's First Woman President** since November of 2006. Within the course of these past two and a half years, I as your President

and the ATAA Board of Directors, have been working continuously to ensure that the voice of Turkish-Americans are heard in the United States and their interests are addressed fairly and accurately.

2009 is a very special year **as we celebrate the 30th Year Anniversary of the ATAA**. Since its foundation in 1979, ATAA has been the largest umbrella organization assisting, uniting and uplifting our Turkish-American Community and Component Associations. We thank our founding fathers that had the vision to start this organization.

First and foremost, I would like to **thank our members**, who bestowed upon us their trust and gave what strength, energy and creative spirit we had. We strived to serve the needs and expectations of our members and sought to continue building a powerful organization for our community. I am grateful to our members and donors for helping us bring ATAA back to the respectful position it deserves.

For those of you who are not members yet or who have not renewed your membership, we ask you to **join the ATAA family**. Please visit our website www.ataa.org to become a member or renew your membership. We look forward to creating a growing and an even stronger community, to preserve the legacy of opportunity for the next generation by continuing our culture and heritage that protects our values and principles.

I have labeled my term of Presidency in ATAA, **THE SIX C's**. The first part of my term have been of **challenges, choices** and **changes** for ATAA, its community, members and the Board of Directors. Second part focused on **communication, contribution** and **cooperation**.

CHALLENGES

There is an old saying by Phillips Brooks, "Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers. Pray for power equal to your tasks". We did a lot of praying for power, because ATAA had been given a lot of challenging tasks. With your support and confidence,

ATAA faced the challenging tasks with strength and courage and put ATAA back on track.

We were faced with crucial times in the history of Turkey, as well as Turkish-American relations. At no time in history have Turkey and Turkish-American relations faced greater challenges, such as the Armenian Resolutions and Greek Cypriot Resolutions in Congress, rise in PKK terror, and the terrible situation of Iraqi Turkmen. ATAA's leadership role as the flagship Association in representing Component Associations and its membership were, unfortunately, affected by internal as well as external negative forces.

At the time I accepted my role as President, ATAA was suffering from recent year's erosion in adherence to By-laws as well as in operating procedures. We were left with no funds for the organization and only one staff member.

Before my Presidency, a dispute had arisen regarding the conduct, validity, and outcome of the elections in the fall of 2006 for new officers to serve on the Board of Directors. Furthermore, significant procedural irregularities occurred with respect to the annual meeting of ATAA's Assembly of Delegates. Although we received much valued support and positive feedback from most of you, a handful of people decided to subject us to unfounded lies, accusations, attacks and criticism to intimidate us to submit to their unethical ways.

Then we were hit with a frivolous and malicious lawsuit by persons who wanted to invalidate votes, remove elected officers, and install officers they prefer. Be assured that we have rigorously defended against this lawsuit to protect ATAA, your organization.

CHOICES

We made the choice of putting ATAA back on track, by using already established sound values and principles of the foundation of ATAA's mission and purpose. We dedicated our efforts to function as an exemplary organization and further our mission.

We made the choice of being objective, transparent, constructive and consistent with our Bylaws, Washington DC non-profit laws and the Roberts Rules of Order. We made sure that all our actions were properly and ethically executed.

Despite the challenges we faced in our own community, we chose to maintain our programs and continuing our mission of education and advocacy during the challenging times of ATAA and for the Turkish American community.

To underscore our objectivity and democracy and to resolve all lingering disputes from the previous two elections, we made the choice to carry out new elections with strict adherence to the ATAA Bylaws with the help of our legal counsel. The results showed the memberships confidence in us. The elections were completed in early June of 2007.

CHANGES

With the limited sources and continuing challenges, ATAA had accomplished so much. Let me mention a few of the positive changes:

From the start of my Presidency term we had put together three strategic plans. One is the Public Outreach Strategic Plan up to 2015 and the second is the Two Year Strategic Plan for my term and the third is the Vision 2023 Plan.



ATAA Day in Las Vegas, January 2008.

Following our **Public Outreach Strategic Plan**, we had seen a true transformation amongst us, in that we have become proactive citizens. We build relationships and educated people on the issues that concerned us. We educated ourselves. We become better advocates for our cause. ATAA has facilitated this change by presenting grassroots networking events "Turkish Americans Gaining Power through Grassroots". These events were geared at activating the Turkish American community, as well as sharing information with the community on how to be more civically minded citizens.

Through our **Two Year Strategic Plan**, we re-build a professional office having hired two more staff members and evaluated and updated and implemented management procedures. We have created strategies to make ATAA the first resource for all. We have expanded our database and developed a broader member base.

We had put together a third strategic plan called Vision 2023, which because of limited resources we were not able to carry it out. Realizing that volunteers can only do so much, **Vision 2023** will be a professional institution with the right budget and infrastructure to be run by paid professionals. This plan will inspire, energize, educate, coordinate and empower the Turkish-American community into a coherent, motivated and respected advocacy institution through paid, trained and well supported professionals located at strategically selected areas around the United States.

We have set up committees to improve our operations, mission and goals. ATAA became a more compliant and transparent 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. We have changed our accounting procedures to make it more efficient for our Board of Directors and members. We hired an independent Accountant to do a full audit on our financials, who gave us a clean bill of health.

We held events each month to continue our mission of education and advocacy. Later on in this report you will find more detail of the events.

COMMUNICATION

We revisited and redefined the ATAA operating philosophy. We improved our communication through our Grassroots Information Services (GIS) E-mails and our active web based communication system. We redesigned and upgraded our website www.ataa.org, which increased to 95,000 hits per week.

We increased our correspondence with the media, Congress, Senate on variety of issues. We provided the Congress with books, brochures and papers on different topics to educate them on our issues. We had many GIS's (Grassroots Information Service) sent to inform our members and the Turkish American Community. We had Press Releases sent to inform the public on various issues.

We established a fax campaign to make it easy for all of you to voice your objections to Congressional members. This is a free service to our community, sponsored by the Turkish Coalition of America, to send a fax to your members in Congress. Please visit the website at www.capwiz.com/tca to utilize this.

In each of the cities we visited we set up Grassroots Committees with our local Component Associations to ensure continued grassroots efforts and an organized method of communication and networking together. This way we will not have duplication of efforts and will be more productive.



President Nurten Ural's Opening Remarks at the 28 Annual ATAA Convention.

As one of our most important strategic goals, ATAA continued to focus on empowering Turkish American Associations and individuals across the United States by equipping the ATAA Community with necessary tools and resources to achieve their own goals and missions. We provided communication platforms to facilitate this process via our Grassroots seminars and Leadership Conferences.

CONTRIBUTION

Turkish Americans for the first time are contributing and taking ownership of the issues and contacting their governmental officials and media in unprecedented numbers. They are contributing to candidates and volunteering on campaigns. Turkish Americans are contributing to their local organizations as well as contributing their efforts on non-Turkish organizations in their Communities.

COOPERATION

ATAA increased the coordination between not only our local Component Association but all Turkish American Organizations, by holding joint event, inviting them to receptions and meetings at the ATAA Building and more importantly, arranging joint meetings on Capitol Hill with the representatives of these organizations. ATAA has taken initiative to coordinate, solidify and formalize cooperation between not only all these organizations but other communities such as the Azerbaijanis, Macedonians, Bosnians, Jewish, Lebanese, Ahiska Turks, Chaldeans, Indians, etc.

ATAA's priority was to be the link between all Associations, to help all our Associations. We worked with other organizations and formed partnerships on projects of mutual benefit and interest. As we work together, we will be more efficient, productive and have more power.

We are open to your ideas and constructive suggestions. Please remember, we all work as volunteers for our organization. We, the leadership of ATAA, **challenges** the Turkish American Community, to make the **choice** of joining us and help to **change** what needs to change. We still have many tasks, and there is much to do. We ask you to **communicate** with each other, **contribute** your time and money to the Turkish and other causes you believe in and **cooperate** with one another. We hope you will help us by becoming a member, joining our committees so that together we can accomplish all that needs to be done. If you are willing to work hard and play by the rules, you are a part of our family, and we are honored to have you with us.



ATAA President Nurten Ural receiving "Gobustan" International award, March 2008.

Challenges, choices and changes..... just like you in life face every day. The trick is to take the **challenges**, make the right **choices** and make the **changes** before someone else's changes catch us unaware and choose for us. Let us continue to **communicate, contribute and cooperate**. We recognize and applaud the tireless work of those of you that have contributed greatly in many ways to ATAA. We thank you for your continued support.

As for me, I will be an active member of the Board of Directors as a Past President for the coming two years. I am not going away, I hope to help our incoming new President and Board of Directors in any way that I can.

Sincerely,

Nurten Ural
President
Assembly of Turkish American Associations

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



On the occasion of its 30th anniversary, I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to the executives and members of the Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA) and component associations, our citizens and American friends for their contributions to the development of cooperation and friendship between Turkey and the United States.

Relations between Turkey and the United States thread forward on a positive basis. Developing and deepening these relations with the United States, friend and ally, is essential for regional and global peace and prosperity. Sharing common values and interests, Turkey and the United States should work together to address the challenges of the 21st century. During President Barack Obama's recent visit to Turkey, our commitment to further strengthen the strategic partnership between the two countries has been reaffirmed.

Since its establishment in 1979, ATAA has grown steadily and managed to bring more than 60 local Turkish associations under the same roof as a result of the devotion and the dedicated efforts of the Turkish community in the United States. This fact alone demonstrates the value Turkish community attributes to the Assembly.

Today, ATAA, through its activities nationwide, has not only become a well-known organization within the Turkish community but also in the United States. I am indeed pleased to observe the widespread and respected coverage ATAA receives in the American media.

It is important that ATAA pursues its activities on the basis of common objectives and ideals, enlightens and organizes the Turkish community in the United States, achieves unity and solidarity among our citizens and kinsmen in their efforts to improve their status in American society.

Members of the Turkish community, through their personal and communal richness, contribute significantly to the political, economic, scientific, and social and cultural life of the United States. It is essential for Turks in the United States to integrate fully into the American society without compromising their indigenous national characteristics. Over the last 30 years, ATAA has assumed an important role to better integrate and reinforce the positive visibility of Turks in the American society.

I would like to extend my thanks to the executives and the members of ATAA and its component associations and to my fellow citizens for their endeavors in promoting Turkey before the American Administration, the U.S. Congress and the wider public, and, thereby, for their important contributions to Turkish-American relations.

Abdullah Gül

President of the Republic of Turkey

PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE



On the occasion of its 30th anniversary, I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to the executives and members of the Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA) as well as our citizens and kinsmen living in the United States of America.

The Turkish-American relations have a strategic quality. The relations between Turkey and the United States are of special importance not only for the mutual interests of the two countries and the peoples, but also for the accomplishment of regional and global peace, stability and prosperity. President Barack Obama's visit to Turkey on April 5-7, 2009 provided an opportunity to confirm our shared determination and will in advancing the Turkey-United States cooperation to a higher level.

It is essential for the Turkish community in the United States to come together on the basis of their common ideals through unity and harmony. ATAA has made valuable contributions in developing the cooperation and understanding between Turkey and the United States as well as in strengthening the bonds of friendship between the Turkish and American peoples. By virtue of its committed work, ATAA succeeded in bringing many associations under the same roof and contributed significantly to building organizational awareness of the Turkish community. ATAA's contributions are important for the promotion of Turkey in the United States and for the efforts of the Turkish community members who wish to have better positions in the American society.

I would like to extend my thanks to the executives of the Assembly of Turkish American Associations, component associations and members, as well as to our citizens and American friends for their valuable endeavors.

Recep Tayyip Erdoğan

Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey

FOREIGN MINISTER'S MESSAGE



On the occasion of its 30th anniversary, I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to the executives and members of the Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA) and to our kinsmen and citizens.

The relationship between Turkey and the United States has always enjoyed a privileged status in Turkish foreign policy. The close friendship between our two countries is based on shared values of democracy, respect for human rights, rule of law and free market economy. The Turkish-American relationship, which endures on the basis of a shared vision and develops in a positive agenda, has reached its present state by successfully surmounting the challenges of time.

The fact that President Barack Obama made his first overseas bilateral visit to Turkey in a short time after taking office and qualified the strategic partnership between our countries as "a model partnership", demonstrates the determination of the new Administration to advance its relations with Turkey.

ATAA's contributions are of great importance for the promotion of Turkey in the United States and the integration of the Turkish community into the American society while preserving its national values.

It should not be forgotten that the Turkish community in the United States, alongside Turkey, will be harmed directly should the efforts to prevail prejudices against Turkey and the Turkish nation succeed. Therefore, it is essential for the Turkish community and the associations in the United States to act on the basis of team spirit, solidarity and common understanding with a view to promoting Turkey properly.

Since its establishment 30 years ago, the Assembly of Turkish American Associations has reached beyond the Turkish community and developed into an organization recognized nationwide by the American public. We are also pleased to see that ATAA's activities are receiving increased coverage in the American media. We strongly wish to see this momentum continue.

I would like to extend my thanks to the executives of the Assembly of Turkish American Associations, executives and members of the component associations for their valuable work and wish you success.

Prof. Ahmet Davutoğlu

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey

AMBASSADOR'S MESSAGE



Dear Members of the Assembly of Turkish American Associations,

Congratulations on the 30th anniversary of the inauguration of the ATAA.

Turkey and the United States are two strategic partners sharing the same values and ideals. This special relationship between the two countries has been characterized by strong bonds of friendship, alliance, mutual trust and unity of vision.

The year 2009, in which the ATAA is celebrating its 30th anniversary, will also be remembered with the historic visit President Obama made to Turkey. It provided a unique opportunity to demonstrate that the fundamentals of the Turkish-American strategic partnership are strong and both sides are poised to further deepen and expand this relationship.

Turkish Americans have been an important dimension of this ever growing relationship by serving as a valuable bridge between Turkey and the United States. As a result of their success in all walks of life, they have been a net contributor to the well being of the American society.

Turkish Americans and their organizations play a vital role in promoting both the Turkish-American friendship and the Turkish culture and heritage in the US. Since its inauguration 30 years ago, ATAA has been one of the prominent Turkish American organizations. Having had the opportunity to witness the first years of the ATAA, today I am pleased to see that the Assembly is widely recognized beyond the Turkish community across the US.

I applaud the achievements of the ATAA at its 30th anniversary.

Nabi Şensoy

Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey

THE ASSEMBLY OF TURKISH AMERICAN ASSOCIATIONS



The Assembly of Turkish American Associations is the preeminent umbrella organization of Turkish American associations throughout the United States, Canada and Turkey, dedicated to pursuing the interests of Turkish Americans and Friends of Turkey in Washington and beyond.

Founded in 1979 in Washington, DC, ATAA has established itself as an influential player in strengthening the relationship between the United States and Turkey.

To fulfill its mission, objectives and strategic plans, ATAA follows an outline that includes a wide array of activities. These activities include educational seminars on grassroots advocacy and civic leadership; conferences on contemporary political, social and economic issues related to Turkey and Turkish American relations; cultural events to share Turkey's rich traditions, art and heritage; leadership seminars aimed at guiding component associations in compliant operation; as well as numerous charitable activities for Turkish and American causes.

As the principal umbrella organization for Turkish Americans, ATAA regularly publishes reference material on issues that affect the Turkish American community, including position papers, power

Established in 1979, the Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA), is an Internal Revenue Code 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to public education and advocacy on issues that effect Turkish American and U.S.-Turkish

point presentations, booklets and electronic communications. ATAA also has an extensive reference center, in which educators, the media and the general public may purchase materials by prominent authors on Turkey-related issues.

The Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA), is an Internal Revenue Code 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to public education and advocacy on issues that effect Turkish Americana and U.S.-Turkish relations.

The ATAA is a District of Columbia corporation, and governed by the corporate laws and practices of the District of Columbia. Though a non-profit organization, the ATAA is in the process of harmonizing its internal laws and practices with the Public Company Accounting Reform and Investor Protection Act of 2002.

ALL STARTED IN 1979

On August 19, 1977, the President of the Maryland American Turkish Association (MATA), Dr. Ülkü Ülgür, in his letter to the membership, stated "it is no news that Turkey and Turkish-Americans in this

instructed them to work jointly with a similar committee so that a solution can be found to realize the goal of uniting these two respected organizations."

The ad hoc committees of ATA D.C. and MATA met on November 5, 1978. ATA D.C. was represented by President Yavuz Somen, Suat Başaran, and Loren Myers while MATA was represented by President Ülkü Ülgür, Cenap Kıratlı, and the late Alp Karahasan.

By 1979, there was a crying need to address the attacks, the distortions of history, and the discrimination the Turkish-American community was facing every day in their jobs, at schools their children attended, and in their daily lives. Isolated local, Turkish American organizations were unable to cope with the massive work that needed to be done nationwide. Upon his arrival in Washington to take up the post of Ambassador from Turkey, Dr. Sükrü Elekdağ was met by members of both ATA D.C. and MATA at a special reception held at the Navy Officers Club in Bethesda, Maryland on September 23, 1979. He inspired both communities with his dynamic approach to U.S.-Turkish relations. Now the two communities were no longer talking merely

ATAA Founders: Former President of ATA D.C., Yavuz Somen and ATAA Former President, Dr. Ülkü Ülgür (1979)

country are beset by many problems and recently have been subjected to unfair treatment and discrimination by some other ethnic groups and their political representatives. Your new Board of Directors believe that we clearly need to intensify our efforts for better and more effective representation of our views, especially in the light of growing criticism and hostility from many quarters." Another part of the same letter stated that, "we have reached a tentative agreement with the new president of ATA D.C., Mr Yavuz Somen, to collaborate and work together in these crucial and vital areas."

Similar letters and notes in the American Turkish Association of Washington, D.C. (ATA D.C.) reflected the concern of this community to the problems faced by Turkish-Americans in this country.

On June 29, 1978, MATA President, Dr. Ülgür, in his letter to ATA D.C. President Yavuz Somen stated, "In our recent Board of Directors' meeting we have discussed the possibility of bringing our associations together by affiliating them in some official form. We, as members of the Board of Directors of the Maryland American Turkish Association, believe that such an affiliation will be a giant step forward for better representation of the Turkish community in the Mid-Eastern United States. Therefore, we have unanimously elected three of our distinguished members to form an ad-hoc committee and have



(LtoR) Former Ambassador Sükrü Elekdağ, ATAA Founder and Former President, Dr. Ülkü Ülgür (1981)

about regional cooperation. Visions of a national umbrella organization were forming.

In the aftermath of threats of yet another arms embargo passing through Congress with virtually no Turkish-American voice raised in opposition, a series of meetings were held in the Washington, D.C. area. A steering committee was formed in November 1979, headed by ATA D.C. President Yavuz Somen with the late Yurdakul Göker and Taşkın Atıl and by MATA President, the late Dr. Alp Karahasan, with Dr. Ülkü Ülgür, Cenap Kıratlı and Sengun Nuri. The advisor associates were Erol Gürün, Aydın Çağınalp, Hasan Akdemir, Tuncer Kuzay, and Özcan Tuncel. Out of their meetings came an agreement to establish the nationwide Assembly of Turkish American Associations.

Washington, D.C. was chosen to be the headquarters of the new organization to utilize the vast opportunities for promoting U.S. - Turkey relations among policy makers. A Secretariat for the Assembly was established to coordinate the activities, publish a nationwide publication and generally be the central source of information on Turks and Turkey. For this purpose office space was provided by Adil Araboğlu, a Washington business leader, and the Assembly was in business. Clearly the tasks that lay ahead were enormous and the resources limited.

The first ball was a fundraising activity sponsored by ATA D.C. and MATA, and held on December 29, 1979 at the Turkish Embassy. One hundred and forty-six people managed to raise \$17,470 for the Assembly.

ATAA's first publication, ATA-USA was published in February 1980 and news about Turks and Turkey premiered nationwide. With coordinating committee members Yavuz Somen, Ekrem Bulgur, and Yurdakul Göker from ATA, and the late Alp Karahasan, Ülkü Ülgür, and Cenap Kıratlı from MATA, planned for convening the general assembly on May 17-18, 1980 in the nation's capital pressed forward with great speed.

More than 120 people representing 24 organizations and 5 student associations gathered at the Embassy



Turkish Express, ATAA Annual Convention 1982.

Row Hotel during this two-day conference and brought plans on the drawing board into reality. The delegates elected the Coordinating Committee members to a special Steering Committee. Their task was to draw up a constitution and bylaws for the Assembly to be presented to the delegates at the next annual convention. Founded to deal with issues confronting the community, the Assembly was not to be given time to grow and mature slowly, but rather would have to come on as an adult and face Armenians crying "genocide," and trying to include their grievances in a national museum dedicated to the memory of six million Jews murdered by the Nazis during World War II. The "Midnight Express" image of Turks and Turkey was constantly being shown with even President Carter giving it free advertising.

Now there was an organization that was writing letters with the weight of the whole Turkish-American community behind it. Publications were giving the members information about the issues to enable them to set the record straight when they encountered distortions and attacks on their Turkish heritage.

GAINING POWER THROUGH GRASSROOTS



ATAA traveled to Los Angeles as part of its “Turkish Americans Gaining Power through Grassroots” program. Honored guests in Los Angeles included Consular General Hakan Tekin and Congresswoman Virginia Foxx (R-NC).

For too long, Turkish Americans in the United States have taken a passive role in pursuing their interests, whether it is on Capitol Hill, in the media or in other institutions. Turkish Americans, of course, became reactive when it was deemed “absolutely necessary”, and of course there were pockets of activity around the country. However, until last year, there was not a coordinated effort to bring together the individuals and associations throughout the country, armed with an abundance of information on the issues, confident in themselves and able to speak with one voice and one objective.

From this necessity, the idea for a nationwide program was initiated by ATAA. Titled “Turkish Americans Gaining Power Through Grassroots,” this program is geared at activating the Turkish American community, as well as sharing information with the community on how to be more civically active citizens. It is a comprehensive and hard-hitting plan, aiming to shift the mentality from: “I’m one person—I can’t make a difference,” to “As one person I can make all the difference.”

In cooperation with local Turkish American Associations, ATAA presented two-hour seminars to the community, sharing general information about ATAA, its strategic and public outreach plans, as well as educating participants on specific skill sets and methodologies for Turkish Americans to be more effective advocates for Turkey and Turkish American issues. The presentations were followed

by Q&A sessions, where attendees asked pertinent, timely and engaging questions. Often the audience was honored by the presence of Regional Turkish Consul Generals or Honorary Consul Generals. In addition to this presentation, we arranged meetings with local congressional offices, editorial boards of the local newspapers, public radio and television stations, and other organizations with whom Turkish Americans built constructive relationships.

ATAA kicked off the grassroots tour in New York in October 2007. Since then, ATAA has visited a total of 19 cities, including: Pittsburgh, Detroit, Chicago, Indianapolis, Cleveland, Denver, Seattle, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Phoenix, Houston, Philadelphia, Kansas City, Milwaukee, Atlanta, Miami, and Tampa. In each city, following the seminar, a grassroots committee is established to implement the topics discussed in the presentation. Each grassroots committee is connected to the ATAA Headquarters electronically. In their online forum, ATAA can advise, guide and apply the overall grassroots plan with each city, through action alerts, talking points and other useful documents. This online forum also allows grassroots chair-people from each city to communicate and share best practices for advocacy activities.

ATAA ADVOCACY IN THE US CONGRESS

As the principal voice for Turkish Americans in the United States, ATAA has increasingly and actively pursued the interests of the Turkish American community on Capitol Hill. ATAA has implemented a rigorous and comprehensive plan to educate Members of the US House of Representatives and Senate on the wide array of issues that concern Turkish Americans. In cooperation with numerous organizations in the Washington, DC area, ATAA has been in regular communication with Members of Congress, including regular visits to the congressional offices, as well as distributing numerous documents, books, DVDs and articles, including the following:

Book and Summary of Gunter Lewy's book "The Armenian Massacres in the Ottoman Empire: A Disputed Genocide"; Book and Summary of Justin McCarthy's book "The Armenian Rebellion at Van"; "The Turcomans and Kirkuk" by Yücel Güçlü; Martyr Callaghan's "The Armenian Revolt"; "Dear Colleague" letter from Congresswomen Virginia Foxx (R-NC); "Dear Colleague" letter from Ed Whitfield (R-KY); Letters regarding the Armenian issue, geared towards the newly elected members of the US Congress (post-2008 elections).

In spite of ATAA's rigorous efforts in educating Members of Congress regarding the history and matters of fairness and justice related to H.Res.106, the resolution passed the House Foreign Relations Committee, although by the slimmest margin in history. The success of the work of ATAA and Turkish Americans lies in the fact that 25 members of congress have removed their names as co-signers of the resolution, resulting in a number that would not result in the passage of the resolution, should it be brought before the entire House of Representatives. In the passage of H.Res.106, the resolution which was titled "Affirmation of the United States Record on the Armenian Genocide." Of course the events of 1915 aren't the only subject on which ATAA spoke on behalf of Turkish Americans. ATAA also spent countless hours meeting with Congresspeople and Congressional Staff, sharing Turkish Americans' condemnation of the Peshmerga militia and terrorist attacks on the Iraqi Turkmen in northern Iraq; the increase in terrorist activity from the PKK (Kurdistan Workers Party), and the manner in which they are referred to in the media—as "seperatists" or "rebels", rather than the terrorist organization that they are, and have been recognized as by the United States Government. ATAA also issued a statement of

concern on convicted terrorist, Murad Topalian, in his recent involvement in the Armenian National Committee's (ANCA) meetings on Capitol Hill.

In the spring of 2007, as part of ATAA's Capitol Hill forum, in cooperation with the Terror Free Tomorrow Group and ARI Foundation, Mr. Ken Ballen presented the results of a survey regarding the negative ramifications of the passage of an Armenian resolution on US-Turkey relations.



In September 2007, prior to the House Foreign Affairs Committee vote on H.Res. 106, ATAA and groups from NY and NJ come to DC to distribute books and other documents and visit their congressional representatives to educate them on the facts surrounding the events of 1915.

ATAA EDUCATES MEDIA

With a view toward keeping the importance of Turkey to the US on Washington and other national radars, ATAA has made a dedicated effort to garner media coverage, both independently and in cooperation with its component associations. In September 2007, ATAA commenced the Capital Forum electronic summaries of all major think tank events on Turkey, for example the Wilson Center's program with Ambassador Oğuz Çelikkol regarding Turkish perspective on Iraq. To report these activities, ATAA volunteers attend the events and draft the summaries. These reports were then disseminated to through ATAA's Grassroots Information Service (GIS).

In order to further educate the media regarding the face of Armenian Terrorism, ATAA initiated a memorial campaign dedicated to the victims of Armenian Terrorism as somber reminders of these tragedies around the world. ATAA worked diligently to secure media placement of stories on Turkish American issues in national media outlets, including meetings with numerous editorial boards throughout the country. These successes include a meeting with



ATAA has been very successful in the past year in earning greater media coverage for Turkish Americans and the issues that concern them. While in Los Angeles, ATA met with representatives of the editorial board of the LA Times, which resulted in the first ever coverage of the Turkish American perspective on the events of 1915.



ATAA, in cooperation with TACAM met with the board of WWJ Detroit radio, to educate the station about an unfair and biased essay contest the station was hosting. As a result, the contest was cancelled.

to ensure greater accuracy and broader coverage of Turkish American concerns. For example, ATAA President Nurten Ural and President-Elect Günay Evinch, in cooperation with representatives of the Turkish American Cultural Association of Michigan (TACAM), met with the board of WWJ Detroit Radio in response to a biased essay contest regarding the alleged Armenian "genocide." As a result of the meeting, the contest announcement was cancelled. Furthermore, ATAA, in cooperation with the Turkish Coalition of America (TCA), coordinated Turkish American Associations throughout the country as co-signatories on a statement sent to the PBS and CNN networks, which had been airing partial and inflammatory documentaries against the Turkish people.

representatives from the Editorial Board of the Los Angeles Times—a publication that is officially on the record when referring to the events of 1915 as "genocide"—that resulted in the first ever fair and accurate coverage of the Turkish American position on these issues. ATAA President-Elect Günay Evinch also met with the Washington Times, which resulted in a feature story in the newspaper on ATAA's Grassroots Advocacy Activities. ATAA representatives also met with the Editorial Board of the Washington Diplomat to pitch stories on ATAA and Turkish American relations. Additionally, President Elect Gunay Evinch's response to an article in the Turkish Daily News regarding Turkish American advocacy activities, was published.

ATAA has also cooperated with its component associations and other Turkish American associations

THE TURKISH REPUBLIC DAY

ATAA is pleased to announce that 6 members of the Congress attended Turkish Republic Day events organized throughout the United States between October 25 and November 1. The grassroots campaign for inviting US Congressmen to the annual October 29 celebrations was designed by the Turkish Coalition of America (TCA) and carried out roughly between June and November 2008 as a collaborative initiative with the Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA) coordinating local associations from DC. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to the 6 Turkish American Associations in the below mentioned cities and thank

them for their close cooperation and willingness in this project. We also thank the congressmen who honored the Turkish American community by being with us in our most valued day of the year.

Congressman John Culberson (R-TX/7th)
Houston, TX/November 1, 2008
Congressman Alcee Hastings (D-FL/23rd)
Deerfield Beach, FL/October 25, 2008
Congressman Jeb Hensarling (R-TX/5th)
Dallas, TX/October 24, 2008
Congressman Jim McDermott (D-WA/7th)
Seattle, WA/October 25, 2008
Congressman Michael Rogers (R-MI/8th)
Farmington Hills Manor, MI/Nov. 1, 2008
Congressman Dana Rohrabacher (R-CA/46th)
Long Beach, CA/October 25, 2008

In addition to these 6 cities, Mike Hoffman, the Secretary of State and Republican Candidate for Colorado's 6th Congressional District attended the Republic Day Ball organized in Colorado on October 26, 2008. Please note that Coffman won on November 4th and will replace Congressman Tom Tancredo (R) who did not seek reelection.

We also thank the co-chairs of the Congressional Turkish Caucus - Congressman Robert Wexler (D-FL/19th), Congressman Ed Whitfield (R-KY/1st) and Congresswoman Kay Granger (R-TX/12th) - and Congressman Rob Wittman (R-VA/1st) who have kindly sent congratulatory letters that were read at Turkish Republic Day Events. Likewise we thank Congresswoman Jean Schmidt (R-OH/2nd) for receiving the Turkish American Delegation in Cincinnati, OH on October 22, 2008 on the occasion of the 85th anniversary of the founding of the Turkish Republic.

Last but not the least, we thank several other ATAA components and local associations for their efforts and time to invite their representatives, who unfortunately were not able to attend (a total of 38 US congressmen) due to their hectic campaign schedule for the upcoming congressional elections.



TACAM celebrated the 85th Anniversary of the Turkish Republic on November 1st, 2008. (LtoR) Mexican Consul General, Mr. Vicente Sanchez, TACAM President Didem Şeyhoğlu, Congressman Michael Rogers and CEO & President of LACC, John Akouri.



Hon. Consul General John Ufuk Gökçen and ATAA NW VP Gökçe Sezgin. In the background: Congressman Jim McDermott and Antonio Sanchez from Governor's Office.

30TH YEAR SOLIDARITY BANQUET



On May 1 2009, ATAA celebrated its 30th anniversary with a joint Solidarity Banquet organized in tandem with the American Turkish Association, Washington D.C. at the magnificent Turkish Ambassadorial Residence.

Ambassador Şensoy and Madam Şensoy generously hosted the Banquet, where many Turkish Americans and friends of Turkey celebrated the materialization of their will and unity in 1979 under ATAA's umbrella.

We take this opportunity to thank ATA-DC, our partner at this event, which is one of the oldest Turkish American Associations in the United States and a founding member of the ATAA. The 2009 Solidarity Banquet was not merely a delightful event for the attendees but one that cemented the network between leading activists of our community.



ATAA President-Elect Günay Evinch and his wife Senem Evinch, ATAA Treasurer Oltaç Ünsal, ATAA Capital Region V.P. and ATA-DC President Demet Cabbar.

The revenues of the solidarity event will be used to finance ATAA's Public Outreach Plan, which was established in 2006 due to increased ethnic lobby campaigns and attacks in the media against Turkish Americans and Turks on various issues, but especially focusing on the Armenian allegations of genocide.



ATAA President Nurten Ural, ATAA Secretary General Oya Bain, ATAA Past Presidents Tunca Iskir and Dr. Ülkü Ülgür.

Founding fathers and leading members of the ATAA - Dr. Ülkü Ülgür and Tunca Iskir - as well as Oya Bain, who served in different capacities at the ATAA since its establishment have been awarded by our President Nurten Ural for their invaluable contributions over the years.

ATAA DELEGATION TRIP TO TURKEY AND TRNC

ATAA's 11th Delegation Trip to Turkey and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus turned out to be the most lucrative one in recent years. The numerous official visits conducted between 12 – 22 October 2008 provided us with a huge momentum and expertise in our quest to diversify bilateral channels of communication between Turkey and the United States. During the course of our meetings, which were held in three different places - Istanbul, Ankara and the TRNC - we found the opportunity to discuss a broad range of issues with the respective government, media, university, and private sector representatives. Having exchanged views on the current state of Turkish-American affairs, we discussed possible ways to initiate cooperative projects in the near future.

The first stop in our trip was Istanbul (12-15 October 2008), where we held meetings with the following leaders and institutions: Turkish Industrialists' and Businessmen's Association (TUSIAD), Young Executive and Business People Platform (GYIAD), Universal Group, Yeniüzyıl University, Turkish Airlines, Turkish Cultural Foundation Istanbul office, Hürriyet's chief editor Mr. Oktay Ekşi, and the Newsweek magazine's Istanbul bureau representatives. We strongly believe that Istanbul meetings turned out to be mutually enlightening; President Nurten Ural and President-Elect Günay Evinch started off with brief presentations on the general role, recent accomplishments and future ventures of the ATAA, while the whole delegation gradually gained an invaluable insider's perspective on the essentials of Turkish political, social and economic life thanks to each one of our generous hosts. Perhaps a more fruitful event was organized by Bahçeşehir University in honor of our delegation, which was preceded by a conference entitled "The Importance of Advocacy in the United States." President Nurten Ural, President-Elect Günay Evinch and David Saltzman were panelists in this conference.

The Istanbul part of our 11th Delegation Trip was followed by a second set of meetings held in the nation's capital, Ankara, between 15-18 October 2008, which turned out to be equally enlightening. Led by President Nurten Ural, our delegation paid several official visits to key offices of the Turkish state, from the presidency to the prime ministry, from major government officials to the general staff, universities, think tanks as well as the major opposition party. The meetings almost exclusively focused on the general role, recent accomplishments and future ventures of the ATAA, and sought to reinforce the cooperation between our assembly and the Turkish state. Having stressed the importance of our institution in uniting the Turks of America, we managed to convey our short term strategies for

strengthening the solidarity within our community. We also managed to secure a larger audience both within and outside the government sphere regarding our grassroots activities.



ATAA Delegation with TUSIAD Chair Arzuhan Yalçındağ.

Our first day in Ankara started off with an official visit to Mr. Deniz Baykal, leader of the Republican People's Party. We discussed such critical matters as the future of Turkish-American relations, the US presidential elections and possible problems that may appear in our bilateral affairs during the next decade or so. Following our meeting with Deniz Baykal, we visited the US embassy in Ankara and discussed similar issues with H.E. Ambassador Ross Wilson. Ambassador Wilson once again emphasized the crucial importance of Turkey's role in the region and asserted that Turkey's geo-strategic importance will become even more vital as witnessed a few months ago, in the crisis between Georgia and Russia. Our final meeting was with H.E. Ambassador (ret.) Faruk Loğoğlu at his office in the Center for Eurasian Strategic Studies (ASAM). Ambassador Loğoğlu provided our delegation with the recent developments in Turkish foreign policy and the current state of diplomatic affairs between the US and Turkey from the latter's point of view.

The next day ATAA delegation received a briefing at the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, led by H.E. Ambassador Ertuğrul Apakan, which was followed by another meeting at the Directorate General of Press and Information with Mr. Salih Melek. Mr. Melek and our delegation contemplated on the



ATAA Delegation visits Atatürk's Mausoleum at Anıtkabir.

possible ways in which we can diversify existing channels of cooperation between the Assembly and the Directorate. Thanks to Mr. Nevzat Gökçınar, President of the Promotion Fund, we found an opportunity to convey our long-term strategic outreach plan more thoroughly with a presentation entitled "Vision 2023". The project received very positive reviews. Perhaps the most important event on Thursday was our meeting with Prime Minister Tayyip Erdoğan, who kindly agreed to discuss the means to enhance the solidarity among the Turkish community living in the United States. Mr. Erdoğan underlined the high educational level of most Turkish-Americans as the major privilege of our community within the broader spectrum of Turks living abroad and shed light on the possible ways to utilize the successful professional careers of most members of our community. Our next visit to the Minister of State and Vice Prime Minister Mr. Cemil Çicek's office was essentially a succinct examination of recent events pertaining to the various aspects of US-Turkey relations and turned out to be very fruitful. Our final meeting on Thursday was at the TOBB (The Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges), where we received several presentations vis-a-vis the financial dynamics of the country and exchanged views to improve the cooperation between our two institutions in particular and between Turkey and the United States in general. In the aftermath of these intensive meetings, the ATAA delegation attended a dinner at Başkent University, organized by the President of the Board of Trustees Prof. Mithat Çoruh and Figen Çoruh in honor of our trip.

In their last day at our nation's capital the ATAA delegation visited Atatürk's Mausoleum at Anıtkabir for a wreath laying ceremony. Having observed

a minute of silence, President Ural signed the Anıtkabir special notebook. The next stop on our final day in Ankara was the official residence of President Abdullah Gül. President Gül emphasized the importance of having a strong and active Turkish community in the United States and stressed the key role of the Assembly in matters of advocacy and grassroots activities. Following our meeting with the President we had a second meeting on this issue, this time with Minister of State Said Yazıcıoğlu at the Prime Ministry, regarding the circumstances of the broader Turkish community living abroad. Minister Yazıcıoğlu and our delegation sought to formulate new solutions for cementing the cooperation between local Turkish associations operating in different continents. The Ankara part of our trip came to an end with a final meeting with the leaders of the Ipekyolu University Foundation under the leadership of Mr. Mustafa Gür, who plan to establish a state of the art institution of higher education in Trabzon.

The final third of the ATAA Delegation Visit was dedicated to the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) to show support for Turkish Cypriot self-determination. The ATAA Delegation flew Cyprus Turkish Airlines from Ankara to Ercan Airport



ATAA Delegation with President Abdullah Gül.

in Northern Cyprus.

ATAA Delegate group met with political leaders starting with President Mehmet Ali Talat, Prime Minister Ferit Sabit Soyer, Foreign Affairs Minister Dr. Turgay Avcı, Speaker of the Parliament Dr. Fatma Ekenoğlu, opposition leaders Tahsin Ertuğroğlu, and Dr. Mehmet Çakıcı. Former TRNC Washington Representatives Honorable Osman Ertuğ and Honorable Naci Korhan were also among the officials.



ATAA Delegation with Former TRNC Washington Representatives Honorable Osman Ertuğ.

The officials stress that the solution to the Cyprus issue must bring political equality and fairness for the Turkish Cypriots. Since the Turkish Intervention of 1974, there has been no bloodshed, but security and freedom for the Turkish Cypriots. TRNC will not accept a "forced" resolution but a correct and just resolution to the issue.

Some members of the ATAA Delegation met Turkish Cypriot business owners and consumers, and learned that despite the higher per capita income of Turkish Cypriots, many products were up to three times more expensive in Northern Cyprus because due to the embargo Turkish Cypriot retailers were not able to purchase directly from their international counterparts. In response, some Turkish Cypriots were buying in Southern Cyprus. As for products where Northern Cyprus was more competitive, exportation via Turkey increased prices, and Greek Cypriots who would otherwise shop in the North, did not because they were subject to threats and sanctions by the Greek Cypriot Administration.

At a luncheon hosted by the internationally recognized Turkish Cypriot Chamber of Commerce, the ATAA Delegation learned that fares for flights from Europe to Northern Cyprus were not competitive because foreign airlines, which, for legal reasons, do not fly directly to Northern Cyprus and which make a stop in Turkey, pay expensive airport usage fees to Turkish airports and use more fuel.

Academic freedom and cultural exchange between the United States, Turkey and Northern Cyprus is an ATAA priority. The reasons are simple. Through international studies and cultural exchanges, issues stand a higher chance of being understood objectively and addressed effectively. Secondly,

there are over 40,000 students from Africa, the Middle East and Asia in Northern Cyprus's six universities, as Northern Cyprus aims to grow its foreign education industry to 60,000 students by 2010.

ATAA visited the NEU Main Library, some of whose special features include ancient archives, several million bound or electronic sources, conference facilities, and an "American Room" which was donated by the "People of the United States." In 2008, NEU's library hosted over 2000 scientists in various conferences, while only five percent cancelled due to threats from the Greek Cypriot Administration. ATAA also visited the Dental School, Medical School, and Public Communications and Broadcast School. The Dental School included state of the art facilities and equipment exported by European companies. The Public Communications and Broadcast School included one of the fastest Super Computer Systems in the world - ranked 16th in Europe and 60th in the world - donated by IBM



ATAA Delegation with President Mehmet Ali Talat.

despite Greek and Greek Cypriot threats. Among many projects, the NEU Super Computer is used for one of the world's most extensive cancer research data collection and analysis projects, in cooperation with the global University Health Network.

American law school human rights classes teach the Turkish Cyprus intervention of 1974 as one of two military interventions that actually protected human rights and brought democracy; the second is the British intervention in the Falkland Islands ATAA paid tribute to the fallen in the 1974 Peace Operation at the Point of Intervention where the Turkish Amphibious Special Forces paved the way for the

THE 28TH ANNUAL ATAA CONVENTION



The ATAA Convention is the leading annual conference organized by a Turkish-American organization located in Washington D.C. with over 700 participants, comprised of Turkish-Americans throughout United States, including government officials, diplomats, and representatives of non-profit organizations foreign policy institutions, and businesses interested in Turkey.

The theme for 28th Annual convention was "PEACE AT HOME, PEACE IN THE WORLD". The Convention took place on May 15-17, 2008 at the Sheraton Hotel in Arlington, Virginia. The Conference covered a full day of advocacy education and advocacy activities, and discussions on, "Turkish Americans, A Key Heritage Community", "PKK Terrorism and Iraq", "Anti-Turkish Sentiment", "Armenian Allegations: Past, Present and Future".

It is a well known fact by many Americans that Turkey and Turkish-Americans have been advancing towards embodying the ideals of secular democracy and its fight against terrorism. In doing so, it has never departed from its peace line. Ironically, despite this vested spirit of camaraderie, tax paying Turkish American constituents are faced with an onslaught of non-factual, unsubstantiated accusations about a Turkish historical event that supposedly took place during Ottoman rule with the Armenians. The question posed by ATAA and Turkish Americans is, why is, The Congressional Foreign Affairs

Committee taking a position on an event that supposedly took place 100 years ago. Why is Ottoman Turkish history being discussed by the United States Congress? Should not this be a discussion for academicians and scholars? And, why did the U.S. Congressional Committee pass a 27-21 vote on October 10, 2007 on a historical event that has yet to be proven?

The Armenian and Ottoman Turkish topic is of high concern for ATAA and Turkish Americans at large. First and foremost, the accusations are untrue, inaccurate and politically motivated. Second, Turkish Americans care deeply about U.S. Turkish relations and want Turkey to continue on its democratic reform. Third, the gravity of this charge has the potential to have negative repercussions on America's key NATO ally, which is Turkey. Fourth, at this juncture, Turkey is a friend of America in its fight against terrorism and the war in Iraq. Fifth, why is a group of elected United States officials embracing a policy that would be counter-productive for Turkish-US relations?

These questions became our major foci throughout the convention, during the Congressional Visits, Congressional Luncheon, Ambassadors Reception, Ambassadors Luncheon and, our annual Convention Gala. The Conference also provided valuable networking opportunities. This was also a great opportunity to witness and appreciate the commitment and dedication within our communities.



ATAA Supporters Fevziye and Ali Manizade, Tristate Turkish American Association President Ahmet Gültekin.

EMPOWERING TURKISH AMERICAN LEADERS

ATAA successfully held the first-of-its-kind leadership conference on November 16-17, 2007 at the Washington Plaza Hotel in Washington, DC. Local component association, ATA-DC helped out in kicking off the event with a happy hour in the Georgetown Harbor for the DC-area Turkish American community and friends of Turkey, as well as the many guests that had arrived for the leadership conference. The two-day conference began with opening remarks by ATAA President Nurten Ural. President Ural's remarks focused the Public Outreach Strategic Plan that ATAA is following and on the panels and activities of the first day of the conference. She noted that she was delighted to see the room filled with ATAA's current and future leaders who are so eager to learn the skills necessary to be better advocates for Turkish Americans and Turkey.

The first panel of the conference was a panel discussion with six former congressmen, Dennis Hertel (D-MI), George Hochbrueckner (D-NY), Jim Moody (D-WI), Michael Flannagan (R-IL), Robert Livingston (R-LA), and Jay Rhodes (R-AZ). The panel was moderated by former Turkish American Federal Congressional Candidate from Maryland, Oz Bengur. Thanks to the generous assistance of Mr. Lincoln McCurdy of the Turkish Coalition of America (TCA), ATAA was able to bring such capable and accomplished Former Congressman to the table. The congressman highlighted the importance of building personal relationships with congressional offices-both staff and the congressional representative, noting that this includes visits to the local offices, inviting representatives to Turkish American events, and of course, writing personal letters and faxes. The congressmen also gave tips for communicating with representatives, emphasizing the importance of keeping communications short, simple and without emotion. Another important point that was stressed by each panelist was the value of being an active member in the community and conveying this fact to the representatives.

Following a buffet luncheon, participants enjoyed a comprehensive Power Point presentation by ATAA President-Elect Günay Evinch regarding the current issues that Turkey and Turkish Americans are facing, including the PKK issue and the events of 1915. The presentation is an important component of educating Turkish Americans on the issues. That afternoon,

the group travelled to Capitol Hill to visit the offices of their respective representatives in Congress. This gave them an opportunity to educate their representatives on issues that concern Turkish Americans, such as the events of 1915 and the PKK issue. Participants that were unable to schedule meetings with their congressperson visited the office of Congressman Ed Whitfield (R-KY), the co-chair of the Turkish Caucus. There visitors learned about the legislative process, the role of the Turkish Caucus, and the func-



tions of each congressional staff member. On Friday evening, H.E. Ambassador Nabi Şensoy and his wife Gülgün Şensoy kindly opened their residence for a fundraising dinner for ATAA. The dinner was the first time that the Ambassador and his wife had hosted an event for the Turkish American community at the recently renovated residence on Sheridan Circle. Guests enjoyed a cocktail reception, followed by a dinner. The evening ended with remarks by President Nurten Ural and Ambassador Şensoy, commending the Turkish American community for the work that they have done to impact legislation, adding that cooperation amongst the community was a major factor to doing so. Finally six ATAA Past Presidents: Ülkü Ülğür, Tunca Iskir, Bülent Başol, Nuri Sabuncu, Tolga Çubukcu, and Ali Ferda Sevin, were awarded for their service to ATAA and Turkish Americans.

Saturday morning again began with inspiring opening remarks by ATAA President Nurten Ural, giving more insight on ATAA's two-year strategic plan, through which ATAA started setting in place the

During the ATAA Leadership Conference, participants went to Capitol Hill to visit their elected officials and educate them on the concerns of Turkish American constituents.



ATAA presented past presidents of ATAA with a special award at a dinner and reception, graciously hosted by H.E. Ambassador and Mrs. Nabi Şensoy at their residence.

systems for the organization to be a more compliant and transparent 501(c)3 organization. She noted that this is the primary reason for this leadership conference for ATAA and its component associations to become more compliant, active and growing organizations. The first panel of the morning gave the audience ideas on how to gain more financial strength for local Turkish American organizations. The panel was moderated by Marilyn (Mickey) Katz-Pek, Partner Emerita of Biotechnology Business Consultants (BBC), who was also instrumental in facilitating

ATAA's Public Outreach Strategic Plan. Ms. Katz-Pek's extensive experience in non-profit fundraising served the panel well, as she was able to add perspective to the panelists' presentations.

The panel began with a presentation by Mr. Marc Breslaw, VP for Development and Communications of the Jewish Social Service Agency. Mr. Breslaw gave the audience a great deal of insight on online fundraising, the different types of fundraising strategies and the most effective methods. He also suggested many resources from which non-profits can draw on from the corporate world to fundraise. One important point that he added was that fundraising should involve all components of the organization—not just a fundraising person. Next, Mr. Lee MacVaugh, Director of Development and Fundraising of the Character Education Partnership spoke about fundraising for non-profit organizations. Finally, Mr. Bill Gaut, President of Gaut, Inc., gave a lot of insight and tips for grant writing—a major source of funding in the hundreds of thousands of dollars that is available for non-profit organizations that has been largely untapped by the Turkish American community.

Participants were again honored by H.E. Ambassador Nabi Şensoy as the keynote luncheon speaker. The ambassador gave insight to the current issues that face Turkey and Turkish Americans. Also, the ambassador addressed the audience with a call to action to the Turkish American community regarding the importance of cooperating under the Turkish American umbrella associations, namely ATAA. The Ambassador also took questions from the audience about the issues that concern Turkish Americans in the United States and how Turkish Americans can best communicate these issues.

The luncheon was followed by an afternoon panel, moderated by ATAA Advocacy Director on Non-Profit Compliance and Volunteerism. Becky Ballard, Law Fellow at the Alliance for Justice, gave a thorough and timely presentation to the group about non-profit activity compliance. Her power point presentation gave the participants the parameters around which grassroots activists can operate. Patricia O'Malley, Senior Manager at Rubino & McGheein brought with her more than 15 years of non-profit financial compliance work, and shared her wealth of knowledge on the subject in her portion of the presentation. She spoke about how non-profit organizations should keep financial records and accurately report financials with the IRS. The second portion of the panel included a presentation by Rhonda Watson, Director of Volunteer Initiatives at the American Kidney Foundation, Volunteer Development. She gave tips on volunteer recruitment and management and the most effective ways to retain and supervise volunteers in nonprofit organizations. Hatice Dinç, Vice President of the Midwest Region for ATAA, followed up with a presentation on volunteerism and unveiled ATAA's volunteer plan, which is a comprehensive plan for ATAA and its component associations that will log volunteer hours completed by Turkish Americans in their local communities.

The afternoon concluded with an Interactive Networking Event, where leaders in the Turkish American non-profit community served as moderators in small groups to facilitate discussion on "best practices" in non-profit management for their own Associations and ways ATAA can improve. Mickey Pek also showed by example of how to ask for funds and collected over \$2,500.00 from the participants. The conference closed with a reception hosted by the George Washington University Turkish Student Association's Reception and Film Screening of "Armenian Revolt", for which they were honored to have the film's producer, Marty Callaghan as the guest of the evening to give commentary.

Over the past years, ATAA has vigorously pursued relationships with other associations, and shown its support for those which it has relationships, in the Washington, DC area and beyond, in order to be more effective in relaying concerns of Turkish Americans to our target audiences. ATAA has collaborated with George Washington University on numerous occasions in the past year, including sponsorship of film screenings including: "The Armenian Revolt," after which ATAA President-Elect Günay Evinch presented Fulbright research with a PowerPoint presentation and legal scholar Bruce Fein discusses freedom of speech on the matter; "Blood and Oil; World War I in the Middle East," after which ATAA President-Elect Evinch presented Fulbright research with a PowerPoint presentation. In cooperation with ATAA's Azerbaijani friends, various activities were executed. ATAA participated in the Azerbaijan Turkey Businessmen Association Trilateral Business Forum and Symposium Conference, after which ATAA hosted a round table discussion focusing on a joint strategy of Turkey and Azerbaijan, particularly focusing on issues related to Armenia.

ATAA President Nurten Ural was also awarded the "Gobustan" International Award at the meeting of the Coordination Council of World Azerbaijani and Turkish Diaspora Organizations in Berlin, along with ATAA Vice President, Tomris Azeri. Contributing to other Turkish American Associations in the United States, ATAA President and Staff participated in TASSA '08 (Turkish American Scientists' and Scholars') Meeting in Boston. Additionally, ATAA President and Staff participated in the American Turkish Council Conference in Washington, DC. President Nurten Ural spoke on a panel titled, "Empowering the Turkish American Community" alongside representatives of the Turkish Coalition of America, Turkish Anti-Defamation League and the Federation of Turkish-American Associations. ATAA also partnered with Bahcesehir University to meet with Think Tanks to discuss Turkish American relations and issues. ATAA recently hosted a delegation of Turkish young leaders from the WLEP. Also in cooperation with another internationally focused organization, the World Affairs Councils, ATAA President-Elect Günay Evinch presented Fulbright Research that under the law and facts, the Armenian case does not constitute genocide, at World Affairs Councils in Kansas City, Chicago, Detroit and New York.

The principal organization with which ATAA has cooperated this year has been the Turkish Coalition of America (TCA). The two organizations have collaborated on projects, first and foremost, the grant that was given to ATAA to implement its Public

Outreach plan. In addition to this, ATAA and TCA have jointly carried out a number of projects ranging from Capitol Hill distributions, lecture series, counter-demonstrations, and many other forums.

Over the course of Fall 2008 and Spring 2009 ATAA President Nurten Ural and President-Elect Günay Evinch paved the way for cooperation with other Turkic Associations and cemented our friendship with two major communities: Macedonians and Azerbaijanis. ATAA and UMD held their first "Macedonian-Turkish Friendship Happy Hour" at the Turkish House in Washington DC on December 17, 2008 hosted by ATAA. United Macedonian Diaspora United Macedonian Diaspora (UMD)



is a Washington based "international non-governmental organization addressing the interests and needs of Macedonians and Macedonian communities throughout the world." Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA) is "the largest umbrella organization in the US embracing regional Turkish American organizations in the United States, Canada and Turkey to be a link between all communities and pursue their interests in Washington and beyond through empowering Turkish Americans and cultivating Turkish American Relations." Anticipating a fast introduction of yet another Armenian Resolution to the US congress, ATAA more recently initiated a series of joint Action Plan Meetings with the representatives of the Azeri community, determining the short term and long term steps to be taken.

2007

JANUARY 2007

- ATAA commences President Nurten Ural's ATAA Public Outreach Program;
- Establish Armenian Research Committee;
- President's letter to each Member of Congress and Senator regarding upcoming Armenian resolution;
- ATAA Regional VP Letter to each Member of Congress and Senator from his/her region regarding upcoming Armenian resolution;

FEBRUARY 2007

- Armenian Research Committee summarizes Guenther Lewy's book, "The Armenian Massacres in the Ottoman Empire; A Disputed Genocide" and commends the book with a cover letter/summary to each Member of Congress and Senator.

MARCH 2007

- Armenian Research Committee summarizes Justin McCarthy's book, "The Armenian Rebellion at Van," and commends the book with a cover letter/summary to each Member of Congress and Senator;
- Armenian Research Committee analyzes and critiques Taner Akcam's book, "A Shameful Act," and publishes its first Public Outreach Position Paper in response. ARC distributes the publication to each Member of Congress and Senator, as well as to think tanks and academicians throughout the nation.
- ATAA participates in the Turkish American and Azerbaijani Diaspora Forum in Baku, with a view toward consolidating resources to oppose the upcoming Armenian resolution;

APRIL 2007

- ARC sponsors George Washington University Turkish Students Association documentary showing of "The Armenian Revolt". Günay Evinch presents Fulbright research with PowerPoint presentation. Bruce Fein discusses freedom of speech on the matter.
- ARC sponsors George Washington University Turkish Students Association documentary showing of "Blood and Oil; World War I in the Middle East". Günay Evinch presents Fulbright research with PowerPoint presentation.
- Günay Evinch presents Fulbright Research that under the law and facts, the Armenian case does not constitute genocide, at World Affairs Councils at Kansas City, Chicago, Detroit and New York.
- ARC sponsors ATAA Capitol Hill Forum with the Terror Free Tomorrow Group and ARI Foundation; Ken Ballen presents Turkish public survey result regarding negative ramifications of the passage of an

Armenian resolution on U.S.-Turkish relations.

MAY 2007

- With a view toward underscoring the importance of Turkey in the unity and stability of Iraq, ATAA hosts extensive visit of the Iraq Turkmen Front leaders, particularly Honorable Sadettin Ergeç, in Washington, DC, (Pentagon, State Department, National Security Agency, and Senator Clinton, Turkish Embassy) and New York (UN Permanent Missions of Russia, United Kingdom and Turkey). The ATAA program includes a Town Hall Meeting with the Chaldean and Arab communities of Michigan.



JUNE 2007

- ATAA participates in the National Director of Intelligence (NDI) Heritage Summit, which underscores the ever-growing importance of Turkey in confronting the security interests of the next century. Günay Evinch discusses the threat of PKK terrorism and an Armenian resolution on the national security interests of the United States in the region.
- ATAA President submits to each Member of Congress and Senator, a letter reporting on Günay Evinch's participation in the NDI Summit and regarding the threat of PKK terrorism to Turkey and Iraq,
- ATAA and TCA sponsor seminar on political activism, "Life in American Politics", in order to define and coordinate a team of activists for a probable resolution.

JULY 2007

- ATAA President submits to each Member of Congress and Senator, a letter condemning Peshmerga militia and terrorist attacks on the Iraqi Turkmen in northern Iraq.
- ATAA structures team with TCA, TUSIAD, and ATC to coordinate efforts regarding the upcoming Armenian resolution. ATAA also approaches Aze-

2007-2008

ris, Albanians, Macedonians, Arab and Chaldean Americans for support.

- ATAA assists TCA in the distribution of Guenther Lewy's book, "The Armenian Massacres in the Ottoman Empire; A Disputed Genocide" with a cover letter/summary to each Member of the Foreign Affairs and Armed Services Committees.

AUGUST 2007

- ATAA receives substantial grant from TCA for the ATAA Grassroots program, which includes Cap-Wiz – electronically generated letters from ATAA Members to their respective legislators. ATAA/TCA research and draft the letters. To date, thousands of letters have been submitted to Congress and the Senate.

- ATAA receives substantial grant from TCA for the ATAA Grassroots program, which includes BlastFax – electronically generated faxes of onepage position papers drafted by ATAA/TCA on various issues regarding the Armenian allegation of genocide, Armenian terrorism, Armenian resolution, and U.S.-Turkish relations.

SEPTEMBER 2007

- With a view toward keeping the importance of Turkey to the US, ATAA commences Capital Forum electronic summaries of all major think-tank events on Turkey, for example the Wilson Center's program with Ambassador Oguz Celikkol regarding Turkish perspective on Iraq. ATAA volunteers attend the events and draft the summaries.

- ATAA assists TCA in distributing Guenther Lewy's book, "The Armenian Massacres in the Ottoman Empire; A Disputed Genocide" with a cover letter/summary to each Member of the Foreign Affairs and Armed Services Committees.

OCTOBER 2007

- ATAA and TCA distribute folder including information regarding the Armenian Resolution, as well as Marty Callaghan's "The Armenian Revolt" documentary to each member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

- ATAA coordinates with TCA, FTAA, TUSIAD, and ATC educational visits to all House Foreign Affairs Committee members as well as over 150 legislators, including those identified as "Soft Votes."

- ATAA and FTAA coordinate Turkish American turn-out on Capitol Hill for the House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing. More than 40 Turkish American private citizens show up. ATAA reserves top spots in the line, starting at 6am. Turkish Americans travel overnight from as far as New York and North Carolina to participate.

- ATAA Kicks Off its project "Turkish Americans Gaining Power through Grassroots"—a series of meetings planned for more than 30 cities across the United States geared at activating the Turkish American community, as well as sharing information with the community on how to be more civically active citizens. The first cities visited in October and November included Pittsburgh, New York, and Chicago.

NOVEMBER 2007

- ATAA hosts the first ever Leadership Conference in Washington, DC. The two-day conference attracted more than 100 leaders from the Turkish American community as well as representatives from the Embassy of the Republic of Turkey, the Embassy of Azerbaijan, the Embassy of Kyrgyzstan, and the Office of the Representative of Northern Cyprus. The first day was devoted to educating the community on congressional relations, including a trip to Capitol Hill to meet with Congressional Representatives. That evening, H.E. Ambassador Nabi Sensoy graciously opened his residence for a fundraiser for the Turkish American community. The second day of seminars consisted of presentations by experts in the non-profit community, in which they shared information on non-profit compliance (financial and activity), fundraising, volunteering, and volunteerism. Attendees also participated in a networking event to share best practices from each association.

- ATAA continues its Grassroots program in Cleveland, Indianapolis, Detroit and Denver.



DECEMBER 2007

- ATAA initiates a memorial campaign dedicated to the Turkish victims of Armenian Terrorism by sending out announcements as somber reminders of the face of Armenian Terrorism.

- ATAA distributed 30 minute calling cards to the wounded soldiers at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, DC.

2008

JANUARY 2008

- ATAA continues its "Turkish Americans Gaining Power Through Grassroots" program on the West Coast: Seattle, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Phoenix and Houston.

FEBRUARY 2008

- ATAA continues its "Turkish Americans Gaining Power Through Grassroots" program on the West Coast: Seattle, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Phoenix and Houston.
- ATAA President Nurten Ural and President Elect Günay Evinch, and TACAM (Turkish American Cultural Association of Michigan) representatives meet with board of WWJ Detroit Radio in response to a biased essay contest regarding the alleged Armenian "genocide." As a result of the meeting, the contest was cancelled.
- ATAA writes thank you to Washingtonian magazine for its coverage of the Turkish Embassy in Washington, also correcting the magazine's error regarding its description of the Turkish Flag.
- ATAA President Nurten Ural and Advocacy Director meet with Editorial Board of Washington Diplomat to introduce ATAA and pitch possible stories on ATAA and Turkish American relations.
- Washington Times publishes feature story on ATAA's Grassroots Advocacy Activities.
- ATAA, in cooperation with the Turkish Coalition of America, coordinate Turkish American Associations throughout the country as co-signatories on a statement regarding Presidential Candidates in the United States.

MARCH 2008



- ATAA continues its "Turkish Americans Gaining Power Through Grassroots" program in Philadelphia, Kansas City and Milwaukee.
- For the first time ever Turkish Americans' voices appear in Los Angeles Times, in a transcript of the

meeting with Web Editor of Editorial Pages Tim Cavanaugh.

- ATAA issues statement of concern on convicted terrorist, Murad Topalian his recent involvement in the Armenian National Committee's (ANCA) meetings on Capitol Hill.

APRIL 2008

- ATAA continues its "Turkish Americans Gaining Power Through Grassroots" program in Atlanta, Miami and Tampa.
- ATAA President and Staff participate in TASSA '08 (Turkish American Scientists' and Scholars') Meeting in Boston.
- ATAA President and Staff participate in American Turkish Council Conference in Washington, DC. President Nurten Ural speaks on a panel titled, "Empowering the Turkish American Community" alongside representatives of the Turkish Coalition of America, Turkish Anti-Defamation League and the Federation of Turkish-American Associations.
- ATAA Advocacy Director is a featured panelist for World Learning Visitor Exchange Program on non-profit advocacy in ethnic communities.
- President Elect Günay Evinch responds to article in Turkish Daily News regarding Turkish American advocacy activities.
- ATAA Advocacy Director returns to Denver as part of the "Turkish Americans Gaining Power Through Grassroots" program to further meet with the Turkish American community there and elected officials, and other organizations, as well as solidify the grassroots community activities.

MAY 2008

- ATAA hosts delegation of Turkish young leaders from World Learning Exchange Program.
- ATAA hosts 28th Annual Convention in Washington, DC.
- ATAA hosts DC based think-tanks.

JUNE 2008

- ATAA and TCA initiates a collaborative project to invite representatives from the US congress to nationwide Republic Day celebrations that will be held in October 29. Please see activities list for the month of October.
- Reputable scholar Professor Türkaya Ataöv of Ankara University was invited to the ATAA office to deliver a speech on "The Holocaust and Turkey's Armenian Problem."

2008-2009

JULY 2008

- Sophistication of Grassroots Information Service (GIS) messages and expansion of GIS recipients database.
- ATAA organized a counter-protest against Greek Cypriots' demonstrations in front of the Turkish embassy on the anniversary of TRNC's independence day.

AUGUST 2008

- Preliminary meetings with IT experts on the expansion of ATAA database. We are aiming to bring together 50,000 contacts and relevant communication addresses by August 2009.
- The ATAA is a party in the case of *Griswold v. Massachusetts* to stop the censorship of scholarly material that opposes the Armenian allegation of genocide. The case was initiated in 2006. The state of Massachusetts requested the court to dismiss the case. The plaintiffs opposed. If the case is not dismissed, the matter will proceed to trial. If the case is dismissed, the plaintiffs will appeal to the Court of Appeals and possibly the Supreme Court.

SEPTEMBER 2008

- ATAA hosts the "Board of Directors Strategy Meeting" of the Turkish-American Scientists and Scholars Association (TASSA) at the Türk Evi in Washington DC. TASSA seeks to promote educational, scientific and technological cooperation between the USA and Turkey and to facilitate the advancement of science in Turkey and the USA through scientific exchange, educational programs and increased networking. ATAA welcomed this event, which turned out to be a major corner stone for cementing the newly emerging partnership between the two organizations.
- ATAA hosted the Board of Trustees of the Azerbaijan Turkey Historical Research Foundation (ATAF). The meeting was followed by an opening reception of the U.S. Azeris Network (USAN) 2008 Conference, held at George Washington University. President Ural and President-Elect Evinch were selected to the ATAF Board of Trustees, joining 56 Turkish and Azerbaijani private and public sector leaders. ATAA plans to further strengthen its ties with the Azeri-Americans as well as other Turkic communities in the United States through undertaking similar workshops and meetings.

OCTOBER 2008

- Delegation Trip to Turkey and TRNC: ATAA's 11th Delegation conducted official visits in Istanbul,

Ankara and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus between 12-22, October 2008.



- Turkish Republic Day Celebrated: 6 members of the US Congress attended Turkish Republic Day events organized throughout the United States between October 25 and November 1. The grassroots campaign for inviting US Congressmen to the annual October 29 celebrations was designed by the Turkish Coalition of America (TCA) and carried out roughly between June and November 2008 as a collaborative initiative with the Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA) coordinating local associations from DC.

NOVEMBER 2008

- ATAA Celebrated the 25th Anniversary of the Founding of Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.
- ATAA hosted the Chairman of the Turkish Language Institute (TDK), Prof. Şükrü H. Akalın in Washington, DC for a series of lectures regarding the Turkish language. The Akalın Program was a local initiative by Florida Turkish Radio.



- A joint conference, held by the ATAA President Nurten Ural and the American Jewish Committee

2009

in Detroit, took place on November 19 2008 at the Birmingham Townsend Hotel. Ambassador (ret) Mustafa Akşin and the Vice President of the 500. Yıl Vakfı Naim Gülyüz were the keynote speakers of this conference.

- ATAA's sends congratulatory letter to President-Elect Barack H. Obama.

DECEMBER 2008

- ATAA shows the "Kayıp Otobüs", award winning Turkish Cypriot documentary.
- ATAA hosts Greater Washington DC area Turkish Community leaders.
- ATAA holds a joint friendship event with United Macedonian Diaspora.

JANUARY 2009

- Informative Letters to the Congress and Senate were sent out regarding the Turkish perspective and historical facts on the Armenian issue.
- ATAA congratulates Hillary Clinton on her appointment as Secretary of State.
- Action Alert on CNN and PBS Documentaries: ATAA pioneered a widespread letter campaign protesting the biased documentaries aired on PBS and CNN in the month of December.

FEBRUARY 2009

- ATAA coordinates National Azerbaijani and Turkish Associations to formulate ways to deal with the Armenian Problem in tandem.
- ATAA joined forces with FTAA, TOBB and Ari Foundation representatives under the leadership of Turkish Coalition of America, to represent our members at the Capitol Hill on February 26, 2009, to show solidarity and emphasize on the importance of the Turkish American relations at these critical times.

MARCH 2009

- ATAA sends a letter to all the representatives at Capitol Hill on March 6, 2009 to commend Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson for her "Dear Colleague" letter of February 25, 2009.
- ATAA hosts Young Turkish Political Leaders at Turk Evi.

APRIL 2009

- ATAA sends a letter to California State Senate, Business and Professions Committee Members expressing its disagreement with 'A.B. 961' which contravenes good history, good law, and good social responsibility in business on April 20, 2009.

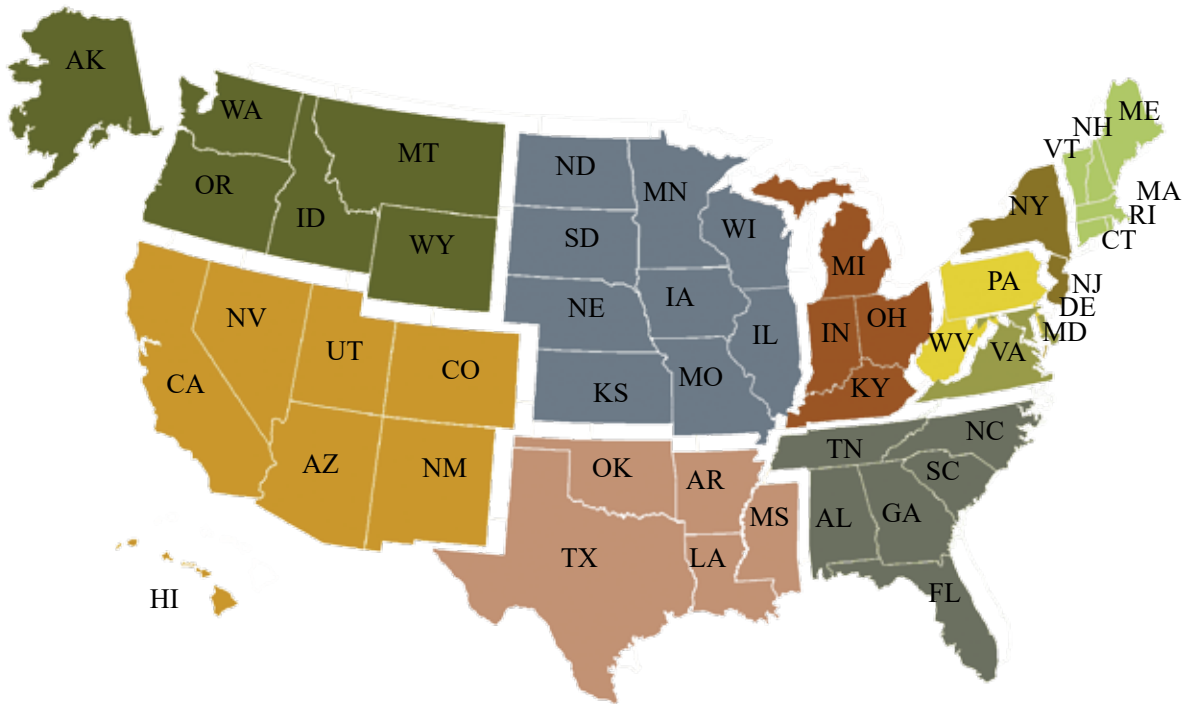


- ATAA remembers the Victims of Armenian Political Violence in front of the Turkish Embassy on Friday, April 24, 2009.
- ATAA sends a letter to California State Senate Education Committee Concerning 'S.B. 234'

MAY 2009

- ATAA celebrated its 30th anniversary with a joint Solidarity Banquet organized in tandem with the American Turkish Association, Washington D.C. at the magnificent Turkish Ambassadorial Residence on May 1, 2009.
- ATAA hosts Prof. Dr. Kemal Çicek of the Turkish Historical Association. Prof. Çicek gave speech on the Armenian issue at the ATAA Türk Evi on May 4 2009.
- ATAA joins Azerbaijani American Council, Azerbaijan Society of America Center for Energy of the School of International & Public Affairs (SIPA) of Columbia University for the First Pax Turcica Conference at Columbia University.
- ATAA attends a Wreath-Laying Ceremony, which was held on Monday, 18 May 2009, at the Victims of Communism Memorial to commemorate the 65th anniversary of the deportation of Crimean Tatars and other nationalities from Crimea in 1944.

ATAA REGIONAL MAP



- MID CENTRAL REGION**
Indiana (IN), Kentucky (KY), Michigan (MI), Ohio (OH)
- MID WESTERN REGION**
Illinois (IL), Iowa (IA), Kansas (KS), Minnesota (MN), Missouri (MO), Nebraska (NE), North Dakota (ND), South Dakota (SD), Wisconsin (WI)
- METROPOLITAN NY REGION**
New Jersey (NJ), New York (NY), Canada
- NORTH CENTRAL REGION**
Delaware (DE), Pennsylvania (PA), West Virginia (WV)
- NORTHEASTERN REGION**
Connecticut (CT), Maine (ME), Massachusetts (MA), New Hampshire (NH), Rhode Island (RI), Vermont (VT)
- SOUTH SOUTHWESTERN REGION**
Arkansas (AR), Louisiana (LA), Mississippi (MS), Oklahoma (OK), Texas (TX)
- WESTERN REGION**
Arizona (AZ), California (CA), Colorado (CO), Hawaii (HI), Nevada (NV), New Mexico (NM), Utah (UT)
- CAPITAL REGION**
Washington DC (DC), Maryland (MD), Virginia (VA), Türkiye
- SOUTHEASTERN REGION**
Tennessee (TN), Alabama (AL), Florida (FL), Georgia (GA), North Carolina (NC), South Carolina (SC)
- NORTHWESTERN REGION**
Alaska (AK), Oregon (OR), Montana (MT), Washington (WA), Wyoming (WY), Idaho (ID)



Assembly of Turkish American Associations

1526 18th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036
202.483.9090, 202.483.9092 fx
www.ataa.org, assembly@ataa.org