



MARCH 12-14

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ATAA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Turkish-Americans, Turkic-Americans, and Friends of Türkiye,

Welcome to our 35th Annual National Leadership Conference!
This year is a very special year for us, the centenary of the Battle of Gallipoli in Canakkale.

100 years ago, British, French and the ANZAC Troops (Australia-New Zealand Army Corps) disembarked onto the shores of Canakkale in a bid to destroy Turkish artillery units, after failed naval attack by British and French, but were defeated in bloody combat that continued until December 1915. This is known the Battle of Gallipoli.

The Gallipoli Campaign cost the Turks 195,000 and Allies 141,113, killed and wounded. It was a defining moment in the Turkish history: a final surge in the defense of the motherland as the Ottoman Empire crumbled. The struggle formed the basis for the Turkish War of Independence and the founding of the Republic of Turkey.

The campaign is also considered as marking the birth of national consciousness in Australia and New Zealand. The date of the landing, 25 April, is known as "Anzac Day" which is the most significant commemoration of military casualties and veterans in those two countries. Out of Gallipoli there was not legacy of hatred and revenge. On the contrary, the three nations created a legacy of friendships and mutual respect. In fact, in 1934 Atatürk wrote the following tribute to the Anzacs killed at Gallipoli:

"Those heroes that shed their blood and lost their lives... You are now lying in the soil of a friendly country. Therefore rest in peace. There is no difference between the Johnnies and the Mehmets to us where they lie side by side now here in this country of ours... you, the mothers, who sent their sons from faraway countries wipe away your tears; your sons are now lying in our bosom and are in peace. After having lost their lives on this land they have become our sons as well."

In this conference, we have tried to address challenges and opportunities that Turkish and Turkic-American Communities have. We, the Turkish-Americans and Turkic-Americans, will unite and overcome our challenges with the resiliency demonstrated by our ancestors 100 years ago with the leadership of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk.

In fact, this year, the first time in Turkish-American history, fifty-three Turkish and Turkic-American organizations have been able to sign letters and sent to members of the Congress and Senate to express Turkish and Turkic-American views on the Armenian issue, and sent to CEO of Starbucks Coffee Company to reinstate Starbucks' Turkish diversity posters in Los Angeles.

I thank you all for being with us and I am grateful for your support. Also, I would like to thank the tireless efforts of our volunteer leadership, staff and interns who made this conference a reality. Our community and people are forever indebted to your dedications and sacrifices.

I close my remarks by saluting martyrs of the Battle of Gallipoli and Mustafa Kemal Atatürk.

Mehmet Toy, Ph.D.
President
Assembly of Turkish American Associations



TURKISH PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to the Assembly of Turkish American Associations for successfully enhancing partnership and for bringing all members and executives of Turkish associations in the United States together on the occasion of ATAA's 35th Annual Conference.

The Turkish-American community's dedicated efforts play a crucial role in expanding the relations between Turkey and the United States in every capacity as friends, partners and allies. As we are going through critical times, both regionally and globally, Turkish-American organizations' partnership efforts are especially significant.

This year, we are recognizing the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Canakkale, which is one of the greatest touchstones of our history. 2015, at the same time, is going to be a year when certain groups are going to increase their activities against Turkey and spread untruths. It is vital that there is a firm stance against these assertions which are not based on historical facts and are only voiced in order to cause political flux, and destabilize Turkish-American relations.

Similarly, in recent years these groups have been uncomfortable with Turkey's humanitarian, confident, and independent foreign policy. They have tried to project a negative image of our country via international media, think tanks and their local biased news organizations. I confidently believe that with their expansive knowledge, steady attitude and exclusive members, Assembly of Turkish American Associations is going to be first in line to fight the prejudice against our country.

The Turkish-American community needs to act in solidarity and with an "all for one and one for all" approach in order to overcome the difficulties facing Turkey.

Once again, I would like to thank and congratulate everyone who played a role in ATAA's 35th Annual Conference and wish you a successful conference.

Recep Tayyip Erdoğan
President of the Republic of Turkey





TURKISH PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE

On the occasion of Assembly of Turkish American Association's 35th Annual Conference, I would like to take the opportunity to welcome the executives and members of ATAA, Turkish citizens, and American friends of Turkey.

The United States-Turkish relations are moving forward with a "Model Partnership" vision politically, socially and economically. As important global and regional developments occur, we understand, once again, the significance of the friendship between the US and Turkey, we share common values and concerns.

I have been watching with great attention, first and foremost ATAA, but also each and every single individual of the Turkish-American community who has put an immense effort to thwart the negative images of Turkey generated by certain groups. I have complete faith that you will continue to do what needs to be done regarding your duty in this sphere. Essentially, the best way to impede prejudice against Turkey in the United States is for the Turkish-American community to reach certain political, socio-economic levels and assume executive roles in these platforms. I would like to see ATAA's 35th Annual Conference take an invaluable step in this regard.

I would like to extend my thanks to executives and members of the Assembly of Turkish-American Associations, the executives and members of its chapters, as well as to our citizens and American friends for their valuable support to Conference and I wish you success.

Ahmet Davutoğlu
Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey





TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER'S MESSAGE

This year we mark the occasion of the 35th Annual Leadership Conference led by the prominent umbrella organization, Assembly of Turkish American Associations. I am pleased to witness, with this conference, the joint efforts of the Turkish American community in the United States, and their success in promoting Turkey.

Today, the efforts of Turkish- Americans are more critical than ever. It is extremely important especially these days, to outline the strategic alliance that exists between the U.S. and Turkey. Also of import is to create an understanding of partnership and to counter balance anti-Turkish lobbying activities.

In turn, Turkish-American leaders must assume large responsibilities. I have no doubt that students, professors, young entrepreneurs and businessman; every single member of this community will collaborate to do their roles in cultivating and enhancing a better image of Turkey in the United States.

I would like to comment Turkish-Americans for adapting to the American society and becoming a part of the social and political platform in their community; without losing their connection to their Turkish culture and heritage. We truly believe that the Turkish diaspora in the United States, coupled with its sister Diasporas, will continue to champion Turkey's interests to the United States government.

On this occasion, I congratulate Assembly of Turkish American Associations and their members for their voluntary hard work in making this Conference a great success.

Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu
Foreign Minister of the Republic of Turkey





TURKISH AMBASSADOR'S MESSAGE



Welcome to the 35th Turkish-American National Leadership Conference in Washington, DC.

I congratulate the leaders and members of the Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA) for organizing this conference with a broad grassroots participation and an impressive line-up of speakers.

In an era when the solidarity among Turks in the United States is needed more than ever, this conference is yet another manifestation that the Turkish-Americans strengthen their ties each and every day while building closer ties with sister communities.

As two close allies and friends, Turkey and the US continue to develop their relationship in every field and on many critical issues. This strong and long-standing partnership requires multiple connections and intense interactions between the two countries at all levels. While official co-operation and coordination is essential, people to people contacts and exchanges through civil society initiatives are instrumental to further Turkish-American friendship. In this regard, I believe that the ATAA has played a crucial role for many years towards this goal. ATAA also deserves appreciation for its activities within the Steering Committee of Turkish American Community, as well as for the "Turkish-American Networking Seminars" it has organized to date.

Today, it is vital that the Turkish-American community work effectively with an understanding that each member in their community has a role to play for contributing to the Turkey-US friendship and for containing the potential risk elements. Within this framework, as "citizen diplomats", your activities and visibility in American society will make sense for many aspects of this partnership - be it economic, scientific, cultural or political.

This year, again, the line-up of speakers in the conference is impressive. Along with the valuable members of the US Congress and the Administration, Turkish-American scientists, community organizers, young student leaders and Turkic diaspora will showcase their contributions to American society and all of us will learn more from their experiences.

I applaud the convening of the Turkish-American National Leadership Conference, commend its organizers and wish its members a successful event.

Serdar Kılıç
Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to the United States



TRNC REPRESENTATIVE'S MESSAGE

As the Washington, DC Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, I congratulate you on the 35th ATAA Annual Convention and Turkish American National Leadership Conference (NLC).

This year's conference theme, "Turkish Americans Unite: Challenges and Opportunities," reminds us that all who are in attendance — women and men, younger and older, prosperous and less affluent — must continue to have their voices heard to ensure that the strategic relationship between the United States and Turkey is strengthened during these increasingly troubled times.



More than 50 years have elapsed since the start of the Cyprus dispute following Greek Cypriot attacks on the Turkish Cypriot people to unite the island with Greece. However, to this day, to remain isolated from the rest of the world, a most inhumane act that demands comprehensive relief once and for all.

As part of this isolation, no direct flights to the TRNC are permitted, meaning that all aircraft must originate in Turkey. The same is true for cruise ships and other pleasure craft, thereby crippling what should be a robust tourist trade. Meanwhile, Turkish Cypriot passports are not recognized, which makes the attaining of foreign visas for our citizens difficult, and sometimes impossible.

All TRNC imports and exports have to transit Turkish ports, which results in higher costs for the goods and insurance coverage, as well as longer wait times. Turkish Cypriot goods don't receive the European Union's preferential tariff rates given to Greek Cypriot products. No major international companies are permitted to open directly in the TRNC. All Internet communications, telephone services, packages, and letters to and from the TRNC must go through Turkey.

Even our professional, sport, and cultural endeavors are detrimentally affected. Doctors, engineers, scientists, historians, and political scientists are prohibited from participating in international events.

The cruel irony is that successive Turkish Cypriot governments have consistently supported reconciliation efforts and, despite the latest Greek Cypriot walkout of United Nations-backed peace talks, we continue to support a just and a lasting solution.

We urge ATAA members, once more to help us bring to the attention of the American people the facts and realities of Cyprus question. I am confident that through your tireless efforts and passion we can succeed.

On behalf of my government, I wish all of your organizations — ATAA, FTAA, TACC, AAC, AFOT, ATACC, ATC, TABA/AmCham, TACCI, TASSA, and TCA — much success in the months to come.

Thank you for all of your support. The people of the TRNC will never forget.

Ahmet Erdengiz
Washington Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus



YTB PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Siyasi, sosyal, kültürel, ekonomik alanlarda başarılı ve saygın bir toplum olmanın şüphesiz en önemli koşullarından birisi güçlü bir sivil toplum örgütlenmesine sahip olmaktır. Gönüllülük esasıyla kurmuş oldukları sivil toplum kuruluşları vesilesiyle ülkemizi en iyi şekilde temsil eden Türk-Amerikan Toplumu, Amerikan Toplumu içerisinde yükselmekte aynı zamanda kendi kültür ve kimliklerini korumaya devam etmektedir. Bütün dünyada olduğu gibi ABD’de de vatandaşlarımız tarafından kurulmuş olan sivil toplum kuruluşlarının başarılarını iftiharla takip etmekteyiz.

Türk-Amerikan Toplumunun geleceğini oluşturan çocuklarımızın ve gençlerimizin kültürümüzün temel direği olan Türkçeye hâkim olmaları ve ülkemiz ile olan bağlarını güçlü tutmaları son derece önem arz etmektedir. Geleceğe umutla bakmamızı sağlayan bu gençlerimiz, iki ülke arasındaki köklü ilişkilerin teminatı olan gönül köprülerinin güçlenmesine de katkı sağlayacaktır.

Göçmenlerin kurmuş olduğu ABD’ye, Türk-Amerikan Toplumu ile benzer göç serüvenleriyle gelen birçok topluluk (kin community) bulunmaktadır. Tarihsel paydaşımız olan bu toplulukların ABD’de yaşayan diasporaları günümüzde de Türk-Amerikan Toplumu ile benzer bir kaderi paylaşmaya devam etmektedir. Dolayısıyla aynı topraklardan göç eden bu toplulukların ABD’de yakın işbirliği içerisinde olmasının, ortak sorunlara daha güçlü bir şekilde çözüm aramak adına önemli olduğunu bir kez daha vurgulamak isterim.

Toplumu ilgilendiren ortak konular çerçevesinde bir araya gelerek sorunlara çözüm üretmek ve imkânları fırsata dönüştürmek için birbirinden destek alan Türk-Amerikan Toplumu bir kez daha tebrik ediyor, çalışmalarında başarılar diliyorum.

Doç. Dr. Kudret BÜLBÜL
Yurtdışı Türkler ve Akraba Topluluklar Başkanı

35th ANNUAL TURKISH AMERICAN CONFERENCE

Turkish Americans Unite: Challenges and Opportunities

MARCH 12-14, 2015 | WASHINGTON PLAZA HOTEL | WASHINGTON, DC



ASSEMBLY OF TURKISH AMERICAN ASSOCIATIONS

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

Established in 1979, the ATAA represents over 500,000 Turkish and 300,000 Turkic Americans nationwide at the nation's capital. ATAA, based on the universal principles of secular democracy, plural society, and human rights, works to empower Turkish Americans through civic engagement education and training. ATAA works to support strong US-Turkish relations. ATAA serves as a trusted interlocutor between the United States and Turkey, holding periodic meetings with Members of Congress, the Department of State, and representing the Turkish American community at the U.S. Office of the Director of National Intelligence Heritage Council and Department of Commerce Census Bureau. ATAA activities include providing educational seminars on grassroots advocacy, civic engagement and integration into American society; hosting events on contemporary political, social and economic issues relating to US- Turkish relations, serving as a clearinghouse of information and expert opinions relating to US-Turkish relations; and supporting cultural events that enrich American diversity with Turkish culture. ATAA e-bulletins -- Community Information Services (CIS), Grassroots Information Services (GIS) and Monthly Newsletter, reach tens of thousands of readers from the United States to Turkey, from the Balkans to the Caucasus, Central Asia and the Middle East. ATAA is governed by a Board of Directors and financed by a Board of Trustees comprising Turkish Americans from diverse backgrounds from across the nation. ATAA is a tax-exempt, non-profit organization that relies on private donations, as well as private and public grants. ATAA also has an Endowment Fund which was established to secure the long-term growth and efficacy of the organization.

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AMERICAN FRIENDS OF TURKEY, INC.

1111 14th St NW # 1050, Washington, DC 20005
(202) 783-0449 | www.americanfriendsofturkey.org

In 1982, The American Friends of Turkey, Inc. was incorporated as a 501(c) (3), a charitable not-for-profit organization. By 1990, many AFOT members were corporations and the organization became two entities, the second being The American Turkish Council. The two non-profits remain sister organizations, sharing office space and personnel. Today, AFOT is expanding into new people-to-people programs across the country, co-sponsoring programs with other organizations and reaching a broader cross-section of American society, aiming to strengthen the links of friendship and common interests that bind our two peoples.

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AZERBAIJAN SOCIETY OF AMERICA

103 Elwood Avenue, Newark, New Jersey 07104
info@azeris.com | www.facebook.com/AzeriSociety

ASA was established in 1957 in New Jersey by the first wave of the post-World War II era Azerbaijani immigrants to the United States. Many of these settlers represented the generation of Azerbaijan's first independence and secular democracy (1918-1920), later persecuted and exiled by the Soviet Bolshevik regime. As their homeland remained under the Soviet occupation, the founders of ASA were, in fact, the first Azerbaijani group to raise the national tricolor in North America for nearly 35 years prior to Azerbaijan's second independence.

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AHISKA TURKISH AMERICAN COMMUNITY

1306 East Fifth Street, Dayton, OH 45402
(937) 760-8029 | info@ataccdayton.org | ataccdayton.org

Ahiska Turkish American Community Center (ATACC) is a non-profit organization established in 2010 and dedicated to helping our community through social, cultural and educational activities by equipping our members with the education and tools needed to succeed and become quality citizens of the United States of America; Encourage the identification, protection and preservation of cultural values considered to be of outstanding value to humanity. Contribute to establishment and furtherance of cross-cultural tolerance in the community. Work on attaining peace and helping bring about the long awaited cooperation of the world civilizations by working together.

Islom Shakhbandarov
President

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FEDERATION OF TURKISH AMERICAN ASSOCIATIONS

825 Third Avenue, 28th Floor, New York, NY 10022
(212) 682-7688 | (888) 352-9886 | (646) 290-6171 fx | www.tadf.us

The Federation of Turkish American Associations, Inc., a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization, was established in 1956 for the purpose of uniting and supporting the Turkish community within the United States. FTAA is the oldest Turkish American Umbrella Organizations in the United States. Since its conception, it has successfully established a vital link between the Turkish and American communities. The Federation has evolved with the changing times and has expanded in size, membership and purpose. The Federation is an umbrella organization consisting of over 55 member associations that consists of associations of different ethnic, technical, and social backgrounds. Each association serves to support its own members through various functions and events and improve the Turkish-American relationship at all levels.. The Federation operates as a conduit within the network of member organizations. The Federation also strives to provide maximum exposure of Turkish culture, music, history and overall knowledge of Turkey to the U.S. public.

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TABA-AmCham

TURKISH AMERICAN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION
AMERICAN CHAMBER of COMMERCE in TURKEY

TURKISH AMERICAN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Trump Towers, 1. Kule, No:406 Şişli-İstanbul-TURKEY
(+90) (212) 284 10 10 | www.amcham.org

Established in 1987, The Turkish American Business Association (TABA-AmCham) is a non-profit organization and the official representative of the United States Chamber of Commerce in Turkey. TABA-AmCham's mission is to foster and develop increased communication, coordination and investment between businesses in the United States and Turkey. Therefore, we provide our members with information on doing business in Turkey and schedule meetings with high-level executives in the Turkish business community. TABA-AmCham represents the concerns and interests of the Turkish American business community at the highest levels of government. Being a member of TABA-AmCham provides the opportunity to be a part of a powerful voice supporting continual development of the Turkish American business environment. Currently, TABA-AmCham represents nearly 500 member companies from the United States and Turkey. TABA-AmCham's members include Microsoft, Shell, DHL, Motorola, Philip Morris International, Turkcell and many more.

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TURKISH AMERICAN COMMUNITY CENTER

9470 Annapolis Road, Unit:317, Lanham MD 20706
(301) 459-9589 | (301) 459-3887 fax | info@taccenter.org | www.taccenter.org

The Turkish American Community Center (TACC), a non-profit organization, was founded in 2003 and is based in Greenbelt, Maryland. TACC was originally the Turkish American Islamic Foundation (TAIF) which was founded in 1993.

Our Values are:

- People – to respect the contribution and dedication of our community and our members.
- Culture – to share the facets of Turkish culture with society as well as our community and our members.
- Religion – to practice and convey the teachings of Islam.
- Communication – to encourage open and honest dialogue amongst our community and our members.
- Goals – to make our vision a reality.
- Teamwork – to work together in order to achieve our goals.

Our Vision is “to build a Turkish-American Cultural Center to foster the needs of the Turkish population in the Washington DC Metropolitan area”

Our Mission is “to unite the Turkish-American community within the Washington DC Metropolitan area, strengthen relations with the surrounding population, and provide a cultural home for the Turkish people.”

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TURKISH AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

2 W 45th Street, Suite 1709, New York, NY 10036
(212) 354-5470 | (212) 354-8050 fx | www.turkishchamber.org

Founded in New York in 2002, the Turkish American Chamber of Commerce & Industry (TACCI) is a private, not-for-profit membership organization aiming to promote and increase the bilateral trade potential and investment levels between Turkey and the United States. TACCI's diverse membership includes representatives from all segments of the business community and organizations which ranges from individual entrepreneurs to large corporations. It is this diversity that makes TACCI the preeminent Turkish-American business association dedicated to advancing the commerce and industry relations between Turkey and the United States. As the leading Turkish American independent business support and networking organization, TACCI functions to help its members improve their success, gain business expertise and introduce them to potential customers and suppliers. The Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) and Ministry of Economy of Republic of Turkey are both represented on TACCI's Board of Directors and are also the strongest supporters of the organization. TACCI has over 100 established companies and individuals in its membership body.

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Turkish Americans Unite: Challenges and Opportunities
MARCH 12-14, 2015 | WASHINGTON PLAZA HOTEL | WASHINGTON, DC



TURKISH AMERICAN SCIENTISTS AND SCHOLARS ASSOCIATION

1526 18th Street, NW Washington, DC 20036
(855) 827-7204 | ed@tassausa.org | www.tassausa.org

Turkish American Scientists and Scholars Association (TASSA) is an independent, non-profit and non-political organization established in June 2004 in Washington, DC. TASSA's first Board was officially seated on February 18, 2005, after the announcement of the results of the elections.

TASSA's vision is to build a sustainable science bridge between the U.S.A. and the Turkish Republic. This bridge would facilitate the flow of people (scientists and scholars), knowledge, and technology and help link science and technology institutions in the two countries.

TASSA operates exclusively as a non-profit organization to achieve the following objectives:

- Contribute to the social welfare and the industrial development in the U.S.A. and the Turkish Republic through education and science.
- Promote educational and scientific cooperation between the U.S.A. and the Turkish Republic.
- Facilitate communication and interaction among Turkish scientists and scholars in all disciplines.
- Disseminate information on the scholarly work and achievements of Turkish scientists and scholars.
- Cultivate the next generation of scientists and scholars.

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Washington, DC 20005
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Phone: 978.318.0047
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The Turkish Coalition of America (TCA) was founded in 2007 as an educational, charitable organization and works to:

- Foster friendship, understanding and cooperation between the United States and Turkey
- Expand Turkish American outreach to American public and private entities
- Promote and advance the interests of the Turkish American community and Turks
- Protect the character and ensure a realistic portrayal of Turkey and Turkish Americans in the media and the arts
- Identify and recognize the achievements of Turkish Americans in academia, arts, business, education, government, public service and science.

TCA's work is undertaken by a professional team, interns and volunteers from offices in Boston, Washington, DC and Istanbul.

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G. Lincoln McCurdy, President
Guler Koknar, Vice President
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Turkish Philanthropy Funds is a tax-exempt organization described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and your gifts are tax-deductible to the full extent provided by law. Tax ID: 20-8392006. TPF seeks to maximize the impact of giving, with a particular focus on Turkey. With the plethora of NGOs, knowing where to invest your charitable dollars is a challenge. TPF finds and funds the most effective programs, and partners with them to maximize results. Our aim is to take philanthropy beyond the “feel good” into significant and measurable impact. TPF does this by strengthening individual giving and by providing information, solutions and community. Trust is our guiding principle.

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THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2015 | CIVIC ENGAGEMENT DAY

11:30am-1:30pm **Congressional Day Planning Luncheon**
Location: 1510 H St., NW, Washington, DC

2:00pm - 5:00pm **Meetings with Members of Congress – United States Congress**

FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 2015 | U.S. TURKISH RELATIONS DAY

8:00am-5:00pm **Registration**

8:00am-9:00am **Breakfast**

9:00am-9:15am **Opening Ceremony and Welcoming Remarks**
Welcoming Remarks by Mehmet Toy, Ph.D., President, ATAA

9:15am-10:15am **Session 1: U.S. - Turkey Relations: Building up Trust**
Ambassador (Ret.) James F. Jeffrey, Visiting Fellow of the Washington Institute, Former US Ambassador to Turkey and Iraq
Amanda Sloat, Ph.D., Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs for Southern Europe and Eastern Mediterranean Affairs, U.S. State Department
Gönül Tol, Ph.D., Founding Director, the Middle East Institute's Center for Turkish Studies
Moderator: Kenan Çağlar, Treasurer, ATAA

10:15am-10:30am *Coffee Break*

10:30am-11:30am **Session 2: Transatlantic Trade Investment Partnership (TTIP): Status of Turkey**
Doreen Edelman, Shareholder, Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz PC
Kemal Kirişci, Ph.D., TUSIAD Senior Fellow and Director, the Center on the US and Europe's Turkey Project at Brookings
Ambassador (Ret.) Miriam E. Shapiro, Former Deputy United States Trade Representative, Founder, Summit Strategies International
Beşir Kemal Ustaoglu, Chairman, Turkish American Business Association, (TABA-AmCham)
Moderator: Nurten Üral, Honorary Consul General of Turkey for the State of Michigan, Past President, ATAA

11:30am-12:00pm *Conference Break*

12:00pm-12:30pm **Luncheon**

12:30pm-1:15pm *Keynote Speaker: Ambassador (Ret.) Alev Kılıç*, Director of the Center for Eurasian Studies (AVİM) and Former Turkish Ambassador to Yugoslavia, European Council, Switzerland and Mexico

1:15pm-2:00pm *Conference Break*

2:00pm-3:45pm **Session 3: Plenary Session: Armenian Cause: Legal and Historical Perspectives**
Bruce Fein, Esq., Bruce Fein & Associates, Inc.
Christopher Gunn, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Middle Eastern History, Coastal Carolina University
Michael Gunter, Ph.D., Professor of Political Science, Tennessee Technological University
David Saltzman, Esq., Saltzman & Evinch
Hakan Yavuz, Ph.D., Professor, Political Science Department, University of Utah
Moderator: Gunay Evinch, Esq., Trustee and Past President, ATAA



FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 2015 | U.S. TURKISH RELATIONS DAY

3:45pm-4:00pm *Coffee Break*

4:00pm-5:00pm **Session 4: Turkish American Community Workshop: Roundtable Discussions**

Coordinator: Lale Iskarpotyoti, Former Executive Director, ATAA

Guests will be able to choose from a variety of important topics and participate in one or more round table discussions.

5:00pm-5:15pm **“Building a Strong and Vibrant Turkish American Community: Keeping the Identity and Integrating with the Community”**

Yavuz Atila, Former Western Region VP, ATAA; Founder, Turkish Festival Committee Chair, TAAC Monterey Bay Chapter

5:15pm-6:15pm *Conference Break*

6:15pm-6:30pm **Wreath Laying at Atatürk Monument at Sheridan Circle**

(Near Turkish Embassy Residence, 1606 23rd Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.)

6:30pm-8:30pm **Ambassador's Reception at Turkish Embassy**

(2525 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C.)

SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2015 | U.S. TURKISH AMERICANS DAY

7:00am-5:00pm **Registration**

7:30am-8:00am **Breakfast**

8:00am-8:30am *Keynote Speaker: Ambassador Elin Süleymanov*, Ambassador of Azerbaijan to U.S.

8:30am-10:00am **Session 5 (Plenary Session): Anti-Turkish Resolutions in Congress: Getting Turkish American Voices Heard**

Günay Evinch, Esq., Trustee and Past President, ATAA

Burak Güvensoylar, Judiciary Legislative Advisor at U.S. House of Representatives, Office of Congressman Randy Forbes (VA-4)

Javid Hüseyinov, Ph.D., Co-Founder, Executive Director of the Pax Turcica Institute

Demir Karsan, Ph.D., Project Director, AMEC Foster Wheeler

Lincoln McCurdy, President, Turkish Coalition of America (TCA)

Tayfun Selen, Candidate for New Jersey State Assembly

Moderator: Lale Iskarpotyoti, Former Executive Director, ATAA

10:00am-10:15am *Coffee Break*

10:15am-10:45am **Session 6: The Gallipoli Centennial: 100 Years of Peace**

Erden Eruç, President, Around-N-Over

Introduction by Kayhan Yılmaz, Vice President-Elect, (Capital Region), ATAA

10:45am-11:15am *Keynote Speaker: Ambassador Altay Cengizer*, Director General for Policy Planning,

Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Former Turkish Ambassador to Ireland

Introduction by Ali San, Vice President, (Western Region), ATAA



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SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2015 | U.S. TURKISH AMERICANS DAY

11:15am-11:30am *Coffee Break*

11:30am-12:15pm **Session 7: Women in Science and Engineering – TASSA - WISE**
Canan Dağdeviren, Ph.D., Postdoctoral associate, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Duygu Kuzum, Ph.D., Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Pennsylvania
Moderator: Candan Tamerler, Ph.D., Wesley G. Cramer Associate Professor, the University of Kansas

12:30pm-1:00pm **Luncheon**

1:00pm-1:45pm *Keynote Speaker: Ambassador Serdar Kılıç*, Turkish Ambassador to the U.S.
Ambassador John R. Bass, U.S. Ambassador to Turkey (*video message*)
Congressman Brendan F. Boyle, U.S. House of Representatives

2:00pm-2:45pm **Session 8: Diversity Partnerships - Building Bridges with Other Communities in the U.S.**
Ayla Bakkalli, U.S. Representative of the Crimean Tatar Mejlis at the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
Ajla Delkic, Executive Director, Advisory Council for Bosnia and Herzegovina
Ahmed Scego, Somali Community Services Coalition
Emre Oruç, U.S. Desk Specialist, Turkish Prime Ministry Overseas Turks and Relative Communities (YTB)
Moderator: Zhikica Pagovski, Representative, United Macedonian Diaspora (UMD)

2:45pm-3:00pm *Coffee Break*

3:00pm-3:45pm **Session 9: Turkish American Community Workshop: Roundtable Discussions**
Coordinator: Lale Iskarpatyoti, Former Executive Director, ATAA
Guests will be able to choose from a variety of important topics and participate in one or more round table discussions.

3:45pm-4:00pm *Coffee Break*

4:00pm-4:45pm **Session 10: Entrepreneurship in the US: Success Stories**
Varol Ablak, CEO, Vocelli Pizza
Güniz Alkan, President, A La Turca Textiles, LLC
Moderator: Füsün Bubernack, North Central Region VP, ATAA

4:45pm-6:00pm *Conference Break*

6:00pm-7:30pm **Congressional Receptions**

7:30pm-10:30pm **Annual Gala & Awards Banquet**

Contemporary and Traditional Turkish Music by Turkoise
Fatosh Arabacıoğlu (flute and vocal), **Cansu Kalaycıoğlu** (clarinet and vocal),
Kaan Çelebi (guitar and vocal), **Nejat Sarandal** (guitar and vocal) and **Serdar Çobanoğlu** (guitar and vocal)



VAROL ABLAK

At 24 years old, Varol opened his first business, an all-you-can-eat pizza buffet franchise in Chalmette, Louisiana, a suburb of New Orleans. The venture was very successful so Varol's father, Harry, and the family moved from Pittsburgh to New Orleans to also learn the pizza business. Within 6 months, Varol expanded the family business and opened a second store with his father in Covington, Louisiana.

Varol and Harry sold their two stores in Louisiana and headed back to Pittsburgh, taking with them the lessons they had learned as franchisees. Challenged with developing his own quality recipes, Varol created his new products from the finest ingredients available. All of Varol's award-winning, artisan pizzas, are crafted from family recipes.

On January 30th, 1988, Varol and his family opened the first store in Mt. Lebanon, a suburb of Pittsburgh. That same year they opened a second location in McMurray, and a third location in Oakland came just four months later. Over the next four years, there would be 20 restaurants open in the Pittsburgh area. The focus on a high quality pizza delivered and an aggressive marketing plan quickly put the small company on a path to success.

In 1993, Varol began to realize the potential of the business and the first franchise was sold. The rest, as they say, is history. Today, Vocelli Pizza has approximately 2,000 employees and over 100 stores open and in development. Varol has built a winning support team at the Franchise Support Center and a team of successful franchisees. "For us to succeed, the franchisees must succeed" says Varol.

GÜÑİZ GÖNEN- ALKAN

Born in Erzurum, Turkey in 1963, Guniz traveled many towns in Turkey due to her father's work as a Liaison Officer for Turkish and US Governments. After finishing elementary school in four different schools, they finally settled in Izmir during her middle school years. She went to 9 Eylul University, Tourism and Hotel Management. At the peak of political unrest her family decided to move to USA and during her 2nd year in college, in 1981 family found themselves in Lehigh Valley, PA.

Guniz later continued her education in Hotel and Restaurant Management. Her work includes a working as a contractor for the State Dept. as an interpreter and sales manager for a canned food export company in Turkey. In 2000, her father and mother, Erbay and Muyesser Gonen, approached the family with the idea

of starting a company of manufacturing and importing luxurious Turkish towels and bathrobes. After a year of research and preparation, ThirstyTowels.com was born and shortly after that the wholesale division, A la Turca Textiles was founded which is now run by her and younger sister Sultan Gonen-Griffin. Guniz is happily married to her husband Ismail, they have two girls and a boy all of whom have taken part in helping the business at different times, which ranges from modeling, customer service to cleaning the warehouse.

YAVUZ VURAL ATILA

Yavuz is a founder, and Charter President of the Rotary Club of Monterey Cannery Row, since 2012. He joined Rotary in 2005 and served as the President in 2010-11 and Assistant Governor in 2011-12. In 2009, he founded the STAR (Silicon Valley Turkish American Rotary) Club in Sunnyvale, and was recently elected to serve as the Rotary International District 5230 Governor to lead 59 Rotary clubs. In 2014, he took six Rotarians to Turkey for a 10-day Rotary Friendship tour, visiting Rotarians in Bodrum, Soke, Kusadasi and Istanbul.

Yavuz was born in 1962 in Duragan/Sinop, Turkey. He graduated from the Turkish Naval Academy in 1984 as the top officer. After an 8-year Navy career, he received his M.S. degree from the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey and worked as the Information Systems Director for the Center for Nonproliferation Studies at the Monterey Institute of International Studies. In 2003, he founded his own IT consulting company, Monterey Bay Technologies, Inc.

Yavuz served as the President of the Turkish American Association of California (TAAC) for five years, established five more TAAC chapters and founded the California Turkish Festival in Monterey where he serves as the committee chair since 1998. He organized the 1st California Turkish American Business Conference in Santa Clara in 2001, served as the ATAA Western Regional VP for 2000-2002 term, and established the Monterey-Kusadasi Sister City program in 2007. He also founded the Horon Turkish Folk Dance Ensemble in 1993 and had performances for many cultural festivals and parades.

During his TAAC presidency, TAAC received ATAA's Component Association of the Year Award twice; one in 1998 following the first California Arts and Culture Festival in 1998 in Monterey, and the second one in 2000 for organizing two festivals in San Mateo and Monterey, and the earthquake relief efforts in 1999 for raising \$653,700. He received ATAA's Meritorious Service Award in 1999. In 2000, TAAC awarded Yavuz



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with the “Lifetime Achievement Award” for his service to the Turkish- American Community. In 2011, he received the “Turk of America” magazine’s Golden Turk Award, recognized as the “Most Successful Turkish American Community Leader.”

AYLA BAKKALLI

Ayla Bakkalli, USA Representative of the Crimean Tatar Mejlis at the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues since 2007, Adviser to the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations on Indigenous Matters and former President of the American Association of Crimean Turks, currently serves as an Executive Member of the World Congress of Crimean Tatars, Ukrainian Non-Governmental Organization since 2009.

Bakkalli is a graduate of New York University and under its consortium program attended Princeton and Columbia University with a Master of Arts Degree in Turkic History.

Bakkalli is very active in the advocacy of indigenous Crimea Tatars. Since the occupation of Crimea, Ukraine she has been working all across sectors within the Ukrainian and Crimean Tatar community, Congress, Senate and the United Nations. She has worked with media, Ukrainian American, American Crimean Tatars and Turkish Americans to promote the territorial integrity of Crimea, Ukraine.

Bakkalli has moderated multiple panels on indigenous Crimean Tatar, Azeri, Uyghur Turks and youth leadership conferences in Washington DC and mentored young adults on democracy and human rights topics. Bakkalli successfully hosted her own live radio program for three (3) years, Ayla Bakkalli’s Democracy Hour – Evolving Democracy in Crimea, Ukraine and the Former Soviet Union.

LYDIA BORLAND

Lydia A. Borland has more than 30 years of public and private sector experience in international business and government relations. She has a keen understanding of how US policy can reflect the views of the business and non-profit community.

She is currently President of LB International Solutions, LLC, an international consulting firm which provides consulting services to the The Gephardt Group, The Livingston Group, and other companies. She has also been a Washington Representative for a military aircraft parts supply company, and a lobbyist with the Embassy of Turkey since 1989.

Ms. Borland served as Washington Representative for the Turkish-U.S. Business Council (TAİK/DEİK) from 2000-2007, and Deputy Executive Director of the U.S. Azerbaijan Chamber of Commerce for several years.

Ms. Borland speaks fluent Turkish as well as Spanish, Italian, Azerbaijani, and French. She has earned a B.A. in International Affairs from George Washington University and a M.B.A. in Finance from Virginia Polytechnic Institute.

CONGRESSMAN BRENDAN F. BOYLE

Brendan F. Boyle was born and raised in the Olney neighborhood of Pennsylvania’s 13th Congressional District. As the son of a janitor and school crossing guard, Congressman Boyle was the first in his family to attend college. He went to the University of Notre Dame on an academic scholarship, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in Government and completed the Hesburgh Program in Public Service. Congressman Boyle later attended graduate school at Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy School of Government. He graduated from Harvard in 2005, earning a master’s degree in Public Policy.

Elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 2008, Brendan was the first Democrat to represent Pennsylvania’s 170th state legislative district, which includes parts of Montgomery County and Philadelphia. In 2010, he was joined in the state legislature by his brother, Representative Kevin J. Boyle, making them the first brothers to serve together in the Pennsylvania State House of Representatives.

In 2014, he was elected to Congress by the citizens of the 13th Congressional District, representing Northeast Philadelphia, part of North Philadelphia, and approximately half of Montgomery County, PA. Since first entering public service, Congressman Boyle has served as a champion for working and middle class families, in particular issues relating to social and economic justice.

Congressman Boyle served as an adjunct professor at Drexel University’s Graduate School of Public Policy. In 2011, he was named an Aspen Institute-Rodel Fellow.

DEMET CABBAR

Demet Cabbar is a Financial Officer at the World Bank Treasury. Born in Istanbul and raised in Tekirdag, Demet moved to the US in 1996 to continue her education. She has been a Board Member of the American Turkish Association of Washington, DC since 2003 and has been serving as the President since 2007. As a board member



Demet launched ATA-DC's monthly networking happy hours which grew into a broad network of young professionals. As President, she has been involved in developing partnerships and programs for ATA-DC that strengthen the Turkish-American Community as well as recruiting volunteers and building teams that successfully plan, organize and deliver ATA-DC activities. Demet has been involved in the organization of the DC Turkish Festival since its inception and has held one of the critical leadership roles in growing and expanding the festival into a vibrant DC tradition. During her Presidency, she launched the Turkish Cuisine and Restaurant week in DC as well as ATA-DC's International Women's Day Activities that raise awareness of domestic violence and honor crimes against women and raise funds for organizations that deal with these issues. Demet served as the Capital Region VP for the Assembly of Turkish American Associations. She also co-founded the Washington, DC Turkish Folk Dance Troupe and the Kardelen Turkish Dance Ensemble. In January 2011, Middle East Technical University Alumni Association awarded Demet a Service Award for her outstanding commitment to the Turkish-American Community. Demet holds a BS degree in Management Engineering from Istanbul Technical University. She earned a Joint MBA/MA Degree in International Affairs and International Business and a MS Degree in Finance from the George Washington University.

KENAN ÇAĞLAR

Kenan Çağlar currently serves on the ATAA Executive Committee and Board of Directors as Treasurer. Kenan also serves as the Chairman of the Investment Committee which oversees the ATAA Endowment Fund, as well as on the Education, Anti-Discrimination, National Leadership Conference 2015, and Fundraising Committees. Prior to being elected as Treasurer, Kenan served on the Board of Trustees of ATAA. Kenan received his B.A. Degree in International Marketing at Marmara University, Istanbul. After immigrating to the United States in 1992, he continued at Virginia Commonwealth University, where he obtained certification in Information Systems. He joined Wells Fargo, where he is currently Vice President in Enterprise Technology. His background also includes the construction business in Turkey. Kenan and his wife Havva, have three daughters and a son, and reside in Charlotte, North Carolina.

AMBASSADOR ALTAY CENGİZER

Ambassador Altay Cengizer was born in Istanbul in 1954. He is a graduate of TED Ankara College and Bosphorus University, Istanbul. He holds a M.A. degree from London School of Economics in International History

and a diploma on Preventive Diplomacy and Crisis Management from Columbia University. Between 2007 and 2009, he was Fellow of the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs at Harvard University. Mr Cengizer began his career at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1979. Following various postings at home and abroad, he was appointed in 1994 as Deputy Chief of Cabinet to then President, Mr. Süleyman Demirel. In 1996 he was appointed as Consul General of Turkey in Chicago. From 2000 to 2005 he served as Deputy Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations in New York, and left for Tajikistan as Ambassador. In 2006 Mr Cengizer was appointed as Special Advisor to then Foreign Minister President Mr. Abdullah Gül. In 2007 he served as Director General for Policy Planning, later on moving to Harvard to make pure research on the international politics of the decade preceding the Great War of 1914 and during the War itself. He served as Ambassador to Ireland between 2009 and 2013. After serving as Director General for Overseas Promotion and Cultural Affairs in 2013, he was appointed, once again, as Director General for Policy Planning. Mr Cengizer is married and has three daughters. He is an avid reader of history. Mr Cengizer has been published in Turkish, and English.

LIZ CLARK

Liz Clark is a Project Coordinator at the Turkish Coalition of America (TCA), where she manages the TCA youth programs and handles congressional outreach. She organized the 2014 First Annual TCA Turkish American Youth Leadership Congress, and has coordinated TCA's Minority Scholarship Program and Washington Summer Internship Program. She received a Masters of Public Policy from Georgetown University and an M.A. in Middle East Studies from the University of Utah.

CANAN DAĞDEVİREN

Canan Dagdeviren was born in 1985 in Istanbul, Turkey. Canan obtained her B.Sc. in Physics Engineering from Hacettepe University in Ankara. She was awarded with full-scholarship throughout her M.Sc. studies in Materials Science and Engineering at Sabanci University in Istanbul. As being the top of the list in her field to be entitled to a Fulbright Doctoral Fellow, which was given for the first time in Turkey in 2009, she pursued her Ph.D. in Material Science and Engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Canan received her Ph.D in August, 2014. Dagdeviren is currently a postdoctoral research associate in The David H. Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research of MIT. She also collaborates with Prof. Michael Cima



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and Prof. Ann Graybiel at McGovern Institute for Brain Research of MIT.

Recently, Canan has been named a Junior Fellow of Harvard University, Society of Fellows (SoF); as being selected the first scientist from Turkey in the history of SoF. Currently, she has 18 journal papers, is inventor on 1 patent application, and holds over 30 prestigious awards including; Materials Research Society Grad Student Awards, MIT Technology Review Award for Innovators under 35 (MIT TR35) in Turkey, Named as The Innovator of 2014 among the first generation MIT TR35 Turkey, Illinois Innovation Prize, Turkish American Scientists & Scholars Association (TASSA) Young Scholar Award, Racheff-Intel Award for Outstanding Materials Research, Forbes 30 Under 30 list in Science: Young Scientists Who Are Changing the World.

AJLA DELKIC

Ajla Delkic serves as the Executive Director of the Advisory Council for Bosnia and Herzegovina and is responsible for day-to-day operations of the organization. Her previous experience includes working at a law firm, non-profit organizations, and with the women's center Krajina Tear in Sanski Most, Bosnia and Herzegovina where she focused on women's and children's rights. Prior to her current position, Ms. Delkic worked with conflict analysts, professional filmmakers, photographers, and local community leaders in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Albania on projects to foster unity and understanding amongst youth who have recently emerged from violent conflict. In collaboration with The Center for Peacebuilding and the Balkans Peace Park Project, Ms. Delkic along with her colleagues is one of the founders of the Balkans Peace Photography Project. She is the recipient of the Rumi Peace and Dialogue Award for her Extraordinary Commitment to Peacebuilding. Ms. Delkic holds a B.A. in Political Science from the University of North Florida and an M.A. in Conflict Analysis and Resolution from the George Mason University.

KÜRSAD DOĞRU

Born in Ankara, Kursad graduated from Ankara koleji, received Bachelors degree in City Planning from METU, and continued graduate studies with a Master of Business Administration degree from Uni. of Texas at Arlington. He served ATAA as a regional VP under Dr. Kaymakcalan's presidency. Appointed to ATAA BOT during Bonnie Kaslan's chairmanship, Kursad served in the advisory boards of Turkish American Association of Northern Texas & ATAA and has been METU Alumni Association's Dallas representative since 2001 and

Chairman of the Board of Trustees of ATAA since 2009. He is the President of NEXT International, Inc.(www.neqx.com) since 1995. He served Town of Addison in 2011 as Council appointed Bond Advisory Committee member which makes recommendations on potential projects. He was a member of Turkish National junior track team with 6th rank of the world in 400M. Hurdle in juniors in 1984. He is married to Bengu Dogru and has 2 children.

DOREEN EDELMAN

Doreen Edelman is a shareholder in the Washington, D.C. office of Baker Donelson and is a co-leader of the Firm's Global Business Team. Ms. Edelman has more than 20 years of experience counseling companies on import and export matters and global expansion. Ms. Edelman has a well-established relationship with OFAC officials inside the Department of Treasury and has successfully obtained numerous licenses for transactions involving embargoed and sanctioned countries. She also assists with customs, FCPA and export compliance issues in mergers and acquisitions due diligence.

Ms. Edelman works with U.S. companies entering new markets overseas and foreign companies doing business in the U.S. She helps companies establish global business structures to increase market share and reduce costs and business risks. She is General Counsel to the American Turkish Council, a bilateral trade organization comprised of major U.S. and Turkish companies.

Ms. Edelman's work has carried her to all corners of the world, whether helping to establish a natural gas facility in Turkey, protecting a client's intellectual property in Japan, or watching out for the interests of a major fast-food chain franchisor in Latin America. She is co-author of a comprehensive analysis of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and many trade-related articles Follow Ms. Edelman on LinkedIn.

ALEV ERHAN

Alev Erhan is a sophomore at the University of Pennsylvania, where she is studying International Relations with a focus in International Development and Human Rights. After graduation she plans to study international law and work in diplomatic affairs. After several years of involvement with a number of Turkish American organizations she served as a delegate to the first Turkish American Youth Leadership Congress in Washington DC last fall. Outside of the Turkish Student's Association, her leadership roles with student groups include Amnesty International, Democracy Matters, and the Penn Society for International Development.



ERDEN ERUÇ

Long-time Seattle resident, Erden Eruç is the founder of the Seattle based 501(c)(3) nonprofit Around-n- Over with a mission to educate and inspire children. Human powered journeys are the source of their dispatches from the field. To date, Around-n-Over has raised and applied over \$100k toward educational projects. Erden recently completed the first solo circumnavigation by human power which took 5 years and 11 days. Erden is the leading ocean rower in the world today. He is the recipient of the 2013 Citation of Merit from the prestigious Explorers Club, and one of the 2013 Adventurers of the Year – “nine individuals changing the face of global adventure” selected by the Outside Magazine. He is already listed in the 2009, 2012 and 2014 Guinness books of World Records.

Erden is teaming up with Australian and British partners in May 2015 to take his rowboat from New York to Gallipoli in Turkey. This will commemorate the Centenary of Gallipoli Campaign. Multiple flags will be flown on the rowboat to honor shared sacrifices, to celebrate reconciliation and to emphasize value of peace. By the summer of 2016, this memorial project may be over unless further funding enables rowing the boat back to the USA. Each of these rows will establish historic firsts and break existing Guinness records, making them worthwhile endeavors.

For more information: Please see: www.Around-n-Over.org Google “Erden Eruç” or look it up on Wikipedia.

GÜNAY EVINCH

Gunay Evinch was born in 1963 in Chicago, Illinois, to immigrants from the Turkish Aegean. He is a principal at the Washington DC law firm of Saltzman & Evinch, which was established 1994. Among its clientele, Saltzman & Evinch represents the Turkish Republic, Turkish Defense Ministry, Turkish Central Bank, Turkish Republic Ziraat Bank, and Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus in federal litigation, and as General Counsel to the Turkish Embassy, Turkish Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges (TOBB), and Turkish Defense Technologies and Engineering (STM/SSM).

Evinch was a U.S. Fulbright Scholar in International Law in Turkey (1991-93) in anti-terror and the Armenian matter. In 2014, he was inducted to the Washington DC Cosmos Club as its first Turkish American jurist.

Evinch has served as President of the Assembly of Turkish American Associations (2009-11), Member of the Board of the National World Affairs Councils of

America (2009-11), and since 2007, on the Heritage Council of the Office of the United States Director of National Intelligence.

Evinch completed his Juris Doctorate at Washington & Lee University in Virginia (1991), EU Legal Studies at the University of Madrid (1989), and Bachelor Degrees in Economics and Public Service at the University of California, Davis (1986). He received the Washington & Lee Law Grant as well as the UC Regents Outstanding Senior Award. Günay Evinch is married to Senem Atalay who is a principal at Atalay & Spade Group interior architects. They have a daughter, Lara, who is 10, and son, Arda, who is 4.

BRUCE FEIN

Bruce Fein was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts in 1947. He attended Swarthmore College (1965-67), and the University of California at Berkeley (1967-1969), and graduated Phi Beta Kappa with a degree in political science. He graduated with honors from Harvard Law School (1969-1972).

Mr. Fein served as special assistant to the Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Legal Counsel in the U.S. Department of Justice, assistant director for the Office of Policy and Planning, special assistant to the Assistant Attorney General for Antitrust, and Associate Deputy Attorney General under President Ronald Reagan. Mr. Fein was next appointed general counsel to the Federal Communications Commission under Chairman Mark Fowler and later as Research Director for the House Republicans on the Joint Congressional Committee on Covert Arms Sales to Iran. He also served as Visiting Fellow for Constitutional Studies at the Heritage Foundation.

In 1987, Mr. Fein began the private practice of law and commenced more than two decades of weekly law and foreign policy columns for The Washington Times.

Mr. Fein has testified before congressional committees on scores of occasions at the invitation of both Democrats and Republicans. He regularly delivers lectures to visiting jurists from foreign countries under the auspices of the State Department. His most recent books are *Constitutional Peril: The Life and Death Struggle for Our Constitution and Democracy*, and *American Empire Before The Fall*. Mr. Fein appears regularly on national and international television and radio and in the print media.



TUĞBA GÜLER

Tugba Guler was born in Izmir, Turkey, in 1985. She had grown up in Adana and Afyonkarahisar because of her father's job. She graduated from the elementary school in Adana and Milli Piyango Anatolian High School in Afyonkarahisar. She has a Bachelor's degree from Ege University in the major of Math and Computer Science. After her graduation, she worked in the Education Center of Science as a math teacher for five years in Izmir, Turkey. She came to US in 2013 after her marriage.

MICHAEL GUNTER

Michael Gunter is a professor of political science at Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville, Tennessee where he teaches courses on international relations, international organizations, international law, American foreign policy, European politics, and American politics, among others. He is one of only two others who have won the two most prestigious faculty awards at his university: The Outstanding Faculty Award in Teaching and the Outstanding Faculty Award in Research (The Caplenor Award). He also is the Secretary-General of the EU Turkey Civic Commission (EUTCC) headquartered in Brussels. In the past he taught courses on international and comparative politics for many years during the summer at the International University in Vienna, as well as courses on Kurdish and Middle Eastern politics, among others, for the U.S. Government Areas Studies Program and U.S. Department of State Foreign Service Institute in Washington, D.C. He is the author of 13 critically praised scholarly books on the Armenian issue and the Kurdish question. He has also published numerous scholarly articles on these topics and many other issues in such leading scholarly periodicals. He was a former Senior Fulbright Lecturer in International Relations in Turkey and also has held Fulbright awards for China and Israel. He has been interviewed about the Kurdish question on numerous occasions by the international and national press. His most recent book is *Out of Nowhere: The Kurds of Syria in Peace and War*, London: Hurst Publications, 2014.

BURAK GÜVENSOYLAR

In January, Burak joined the Office of Congressman Randy Forbes (R-VA) as his Judiciary Legislative Advisor, where he currently manages the Congressman's technology policy portfolio, which impact the public and commercial sectors. Prior to joining Congressman Forbes' legislative staff in Washington, D.C., Burak was the Director of Government Affairs at the Technology Association of America, (a.k.a. TechAmerica). Burak was responsible for promoting TechAmerica's international trade policy agenda, managing its policy

priorities in human services IT modernization, energy, environmental policy standards, and China policy. Burak was also active in developing, managing, and advocating member company goals and objectives within multilateral free trade negotiations, such as the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), Trade in Services Agreement (TiSA), and the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). He also co-authored TechAmerica Foundation's report titled "Tech Trade in the States," which highlights the impact of technology exports on the U.S. economy. Before working at TechAmerica, he interned for Congressman Ed Whitfield (KY-01) through the Turkish Coalition of America, and the United States Commercial Services in Izmir, Turkey. Burak is a graduate of the University of Georgia, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science.

BELMA ERDOGAN-HAUG, PH.D.

Dr. Belma Erdogan-Haug was born in Ankara and grew up all over Turkey. She received her BS and MS from METU and her PhD from Georgia Tech before completing her Postdoctoral Research in Univ. of Massachusetts-Amherst. In 2006, she started at 3M and currently leads the efforts in Optically Clear Adhesives for Electronics as a New Platform Development Specialist. Through her research, she has generated 13 journal articles and over 18 patent applications. Belma has been very active in the 3M Tech Forum, 3M's global network for technical employees where she served as a senator and chair for various committees. This year, she is leading a program under Women Leadership Forum and is chairing 3M Team Turkey – a Business Resource Group in which she is a co-founder. Since moving to US, she has been actively involved in Turkish American Organizations in Columbia-SC, Atlanta-GA and Amherst-MA and served in various positions. Recently, she completed her 6 year term in Turkish American Association of Minnesota where she served as President (2011- 2013). Besides work and Turkish Association activities, she is passionate about helping her community and is involved in many outreach programs including being a volunteer tutor for high school students, mentoring women and underrepresented minority college students about science and career development. Her last Discovery Education-Young Scientist Challenge program mentee, a 14 year-old middle school student from NY, became one of the finalists in this program and visited President Obama. She has been frequently invited to speak about her research, career development and women in leadership as well as Turkish American Issues. She lives in St. Paul, MN with her husband Andrew and their son Teoman Ata.



LALE ISKARPATYOTI

Lale Iskarpatyoti has spent over 30 years as a senior consultant, practice leader and client manager for top global consulting firms including Towers Watson, Price Waterhouse Coopers and Mercer. She has advised dozens of Fortune 500 companies in the design and implementation of customized programs in health care and human resources. After completing high school at Robert College in Istanbul, she received a full scholarship to attend college in the US where she holds a B.A. degree from Hamilton College (1978) and an MBA from New York University (1981). Lale has served the Turkish Friendship Society of US (TAFSUS) based in Philadelphia and the Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA) in a variety of roles for many years.

DEMİR KARSAN, PH.D.

Dr. Demir Karsan has a Master of Engineering diploma from Technical University of Istanbul (1965) and a Ph.D. from Rice University in Houston, Texas (1968). He was a Fulbright Scholar in 1965-1970. He has over forty years of experience in the project management, technical development, analysis, design, construction, maintenance, verification, and safety assessment of fixed, compliant and floating offshore platforms and production systems. During his earlier career, he was in charge of Brown & Root's Research and Development and Offshore Platforms Departments, followed by employment with and retirement from Conoco Inc.

Currently, Dr. Karsan is a Project Director with AMEC Foster Wheeler Oil and Gas Americas, in charge of large or groups of offshore projects for mostly offshore oil and gas companies. Dr. Karsan, who is registered as a professional engineer in the states of Texas, California, and Alaska, is a member of the Society of Petroleum Engineers, American Society of Civil Engineers, Sigma Xi Research Society, and the American Petroleum Institute. He authored over 40 technical publications and two books.

Dr. Karsan's major hobbies are History, Archeology and charitable work for the needy and the Turkish American community. He has published a number of articles on the Middle Eastern History with emphasis on Asia Minor, and traveled to a large number of archeological sites in this region. He is a member of the Rotary club of Houston, ATAA, the past President and Chairman of the Board of the ATA Houston, and the Current President of the TurkishPAC.

AMBASSADOR JAMES FRANKLIN JEFFREY

Ambassador James F. Jeffrey retired from the Foreign Service with the rank of Career Ambassador in June, 2012. At present he is the Philip Solondz Distinguished Visiting Fellow at The Washington Institute for Near East Policy, a Visiting Instructor at George Washington University, energy consultant, and member of the Secretary of Defense's Defense Policy Board.

Ambassador Jeffrey has held a series of senior posts in Washington, D.C., and abroad. Prior to his service as Ambassador in Ankara, 2008-2010, and Baghdad 2010-2012, he served as Assistant to the President and Deputy National Security Advisor in the George W. Bush Administration. Previously he served as Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs at the Department of State, where his responsibilities included leading the Iran policy team and coordinating public diplomacy. Earlier appointments included service as Senior Advisor on Iraq to the Secretary of State; Chargé d'affaires and Deputy Chief of Mission in Baghdad; Deputy Chief of Mission in Ankara and Kuwait; Ambassador to Albania, and Deputy Coordinator for Bosnia.

A former infantry officer in the U.S. Army, Ambassador Jeffrey served in Germany and Vietnam from 1969 to 1976. His wife Gudrun and he have two children, Julia, and Jahn.

KEMAL KIRIŞCI

Kemal Kirişci is the TÜSİAD senior fellow and director of the Center on the United States and Europe's Turkey Project at Brookings, with an expertise in Turkish foreign policy and migration studies.

Before joining Brookings, Kirişci was a professor of international relations at Boğaziçi University in Istanbul. His recent publications include *Syrian Refugees and Turkey's Challenges: Going Beyond Hospitality* (Brookings, May 2014) and "TTIP and Turkey: The Geopolitical Dimension" in *The Geopolitics of TTIP: Repositioning the Transatlantic Relationship for a Changing World*, Daniel S. Hamilton, ed. (Washington, D.C. Center for Transatlantic Relations, 2014; distributed by Brookings Institution Press). His first paper for Brookings was *Turkey and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership: Boosting the Model Partnership with the United States* (Brookings, September 2013).

Kemal Kirişci is the author of several books on Turkey including *Turkey and Its Neighbors: Foreign Relations in Transition* (co-authored with R. Linden et al; Lynne



Reinner, 2011), Land of Diverse Migrations: Challenges of Emigration and Immigration in Turkey (co-edited with A. İçduygu; Bilgi University Press, 2009), Turkish Immigrants in the European Union: Determinants of Immigration and Integration (co-edited book with R. Erzan; Routledge, 2007), Turkey In World Politics: An Emerging Multi-Regional Power (Co-edited with B. Rubin; Lynne Reinner, 2001) and The Kurdish Question and Turkey: An Example of a Trans-State Ethnic Conflict (co-authored with G. Winrow; Frank Cass, 1997).

Kirişçi earned a Ph.D. in international relations from the City University, London; an M.A. in international relations from the University of Kent at Canterbury, England; and a B.A. in finance and management from Boğaziçi University, Istanbul.

AMBASSADOR ALEV KILIÇ

Ambassador Kılıç was born in 1946 in Seyitgazi, Turkey. He joined the foreign service in 1969 upon graduation from Ankara University, Faculty of Political Sciences. Having served in Jordan and Germany, he returned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as deputy head of department in 1983. He served as first counselor at the Turkish Embassy in Sofia 1985 to 1991 and was deputy director general in the ministry until 1996 when he was appointed as ambassador to Belgrade. He served as ambassador and permanent representative to the Council of Europe 1998 to 2002, as deputy undersecretary in Ankara 2002 to 2004, as ambassador to Bern, Switzerland 2004 to 2009 and as ambassador to Mexico 2009 to 2011 whereupon he retired. Since 2013, he chairs the Eurasian Research Center.

AMBASSADOR SERDAR KILIÇ

Ambassador Serdar Kılıç was appointed as the Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to the United States in April 2014. He previously served as Ambassador to Japan (2012-2014) and Lebanon (2008-2010) and he was the Secretary-General of National Security Council of The Republic of Turkey from 2010 to 2012.

Ambassador Kılıç joined the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1984. After working at the Department of Eastern Europe (1984-1987) as Attaché, he was posted to Kuwait as Third Secretary (1987-1989). He then served as Deputy Consul General at the Consulate-General of Turkey in Los Angeles from 1989 to 1992. After returning to Turkey, Ambassador Kılıç worked at the Department of Gulf and Muslim Countries as Second Secretary and later as First Secretary during 1992-1993.

Ambassador Kılıç has a distinguished career with NATO. He first served as a First Secretary at the Permanent Delegation of Turkey to NATO (1993-1997) and later as the Chief of Section and the Acting Head of Department at the Deputy General Directorate of NATO and Euro-Atlantic Security and Defense Affairs in Ankara (1997-1999). In 1999, he was appointed as Counselor to the Permanent Delegation of Turkey to NATO where he stayed until 2003.

In 2003-2006, Ambassador Kılıç served as the Head of Department at the Deputy General Directorate of Balkans and Central Europe in Ankara and later he was appointed as the Acting Deputy General Director and Minister-Plenipotentiary Deputy General Director at the Deputy General Directorate of NATO and Euro-Atlantic Security and Defense Affairs (2006-2008).

Ambassador Kılıç was born in 1958 in Samsun. He is a graduate of Ankara University's Faculty of Political Sciences. Ambassador Kılıç is married and has one son.

MAZLUM KOŞMA

Mazlum Koşma is a graduate of Teacher Training Institute (İlköğretmen Okulu) and 19 Mayıs Sports Academy in Ankara. He taught in public schools in Turkey before coming to the USA in 1984 to pursue his graduate degrees at University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and Florida State University. He lived and worked in the Olympic Village for the 1996 Olympic Games. Since then, he has been working at Georgia Institute of Technology. He has traveled extensively in Turkey, Europe and the USA with Turkish Folkdance groups participated in cultural events as a dancer, musician, teacher and group director; and gave lectures and seminars on Turkish culture.

Mazlum Koşma has held various positions and leadership roles at various student and professional organizations, and Turkish-American Associations; including chair of 23 Nisan Children's Day Committee, board member and most recently as the president of Turkish American Cultural Association of Georgia (TACAGA). Currently, he is serving his second term as ATAA VP for Southeastern region. He is married to Winnie and they have a daughter Eda who is graduating from Georgia Tech this year with International Affairs major.

HÜRRİYET OK

Founder of Turkish-American Television (TATV), Hürriyet Ok has been producing monthly TV programs together with an enthusiastic team of volunteer professionals since 2005. Awards winning TATV programs are aired by public access televisions over cable



channels in Washington DC area. An active participant in the Turkish-American community organizations since 1987, he has worked on strengthening relations between the American society and the people from Turkey living in America. Mr. Ok was a co-founder and the first president of GWU Turkish Student Association, which is now one of the most influential student organizations in the Nation's Capital. He was among the first parents who sponsored the establishment of ATA-DC Turkish School for teaching Turkish language for children since 1998. Mr. Ok was also one of the founders of Turkish Music and Choral Society of Greater Washington DC, which exhibited many public performances in community events, international celebrations, and festivals, between 2003 and 2005.

Hurriyet A. Ok currently works for an international organization in Information Technology field and holds B.S. and M.S. degrees in Computer Science from Hacettepe University in Ankara, Turkey, and a D.Sc. Degree in Computer Science from George Washington University in Washington, DC.

EMRE ORUÇ

Emre Oruc was born in 1986. He graduated from Ankara University - Faculty of Political Science in 2009. His area of study was International Relations. He continues his studies in the Latin America Research Center of Ankara University. He also is associated with the "Turks Abroad and Related Communities" Department in the Turkish Prime Ministry where he works as a specialist in the U.S.A. section

ZHIKICA ZACH PAGOVSKI

Zhikica Zach Pagovski is United Macedonian Diaspora's Regional Representative for Washington D.C., Maryland, and Virginia. He works as a Program Coordinator at the German Marshall Fund of the United States. He holds an M.A. in International Affairs from American University's School of International Service and a B.A. in European Studies and Political Science & International Relations from the American University in Bulgaria. In his previous professional capacity, Pagovski worked at the United Nations, Young Professionals in Foreign Policy, and the Government of Macedonia. Pagovski was also a consultant for the Challenge Future think tank organization in Slovenia.

DAVID S. SALTZMAN, ESQ.

David Saltzman is a principal member of Saltzman & Evinch PLLC, which is based in Washington, DC. For over 20 years he has represented a variety of clients whose issues cross international borders. He has litigated land claims stemming from the 1970's war on Cyprus

and is currently representing parties in claims extending back to World War I. He has represented parties in cases concerning terrorism as well. Among his matters were a series of cases seeking to legally protect the freedom of expression to hold and promote minority viewpoints in genuine historical controversies.

David has authored numerous papers and articles, including, Ten Years of Litigation by Heirs of Ottoman Armenians for Unpaid Insurance Proceeds: An End in Sight? published in Fall 2011 issue of Middle East Critique and An Empire Has Died, Who Pays for the Funeral? to be published this fall. He also enjoys public speaking and has lectured at the National Foreign Affairs Training Center regarding the U.S. and foreign judicial systems.

Prior to forming Saltzman & Evinch PLLC, Mr. Saltzman was an associate at Chadbourne & Parke LLP in New York. Mr. Saltzman received his Juris Doctor degree from Washington & Lee University and conducted his Bachelor's studies at the College of William & Mary in Virginia and the Université Paul Valéry in Montpellier, France. He is married and has three children.

AMBASSADOR MIRIAM SAPIRO

Ambassador Miriam Sapiro is the founder of Summit Strategies International and a Non-Resident Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution in the Global Economy and Development program. Miriam served as Deputy U.S. Trade Representative from 2009 to 2014 and as Acting U.S. Trade Representative in 2013. As Deputy U.S. Trade Representative, Miriam led trade negotiations and enforcement with countries in Europe, the Middle East, North Africa and the Americas. Miriam was instrumental in launching negotiations on a new Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) with the European Union. She played a leading role in securing strong bipartisan support for Congress' approval of the U.S.-Colombia and U.S.-Panama trade agreements, integrating Canada and Mexico into the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), strengthening U.S. economic engagement with the Middle East and North Africa, and concluding Russia's entry in the WTO after nearly two decades of negotiations. She served on the Board of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) and on the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS).

Previously, Miriam worked in the White House as Special Assistant and Counselor to President Clinton. She served as Director of European Affairs at the National Security Council, developing and coordinating security and economic issues. She joined the NSC from



the State Department, where she was a member of the Secretary's Policy Planning Staff and the Office of Legal Adviser, where she worked with Ambassador Holbrooke to negotiate the Dayton Peace Accords that ended the war in Bosnia. Miriam is the recipient of two Superior Honor Awards from the Department of State.

Miriam earned her B.A. from Williams College and her J.D. from New York University School of Law, where she served as an editor of the Law Review. She was awarded a Rotary Fellowship to Oxford University and taught international law at Colombia University's School of International and Public Affairs, New York University School of Law and Georgetown University Law Center. She is on the Boards of Project HOPE and the Association of Women in International Trade (WIIT). She is also a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

AYLİN KARAKAS SARMAZ

Aylin Karakas Sarmaz was born in Ankara, Turkey in 1989. She graduated from Middle East Technical University High School in 2006 and received her B.S. degree in Industrial Engineering from Bilkent University in 2010. Aylin was an active member of Industrial Engineering Community Association, Operational Research Club, TDP-Social Awareness Projects and Bilkent Dance Club during her education. After graduation, she worked as a consultant for Girisim Training and Education Center in the field of Strategic Management until 2013. Her specialties are in Strategy Planning and Business Development, Business Process Development and Improvement, Future Search Methodology, Start-ups and Entrepreneurship projects. She is married to Olcay Sarmaz, and has been in United States since 2013.

AHMED A. O. SCEGO

Ahmed Scego has more than 30 years of experience in the United States and Africa, in project management and implementation of programs. He has worked on projects funded by US Government, State and local Governments and private and not for profit organizations. His main areas of expertise include: private sector development, monitoring and evaluation, not for profit organizations, capacity building, coordination between U.S. State Department, U.S. public and private-sector hosts and foreign governments. He works in very difficult and complex political and ethnic environments. He is a Somali native speaker, fluent in English and Italian, with moderate ability in French, and Spanish.

TAYFUN SELEN

Tayfun Selen is an architect, accountant, and businessman who lives in Chatham Township, NJ. Tayfun has worked for an architectural and engineering firm in Cedar Knolls, Montclair State University and joined CB Richard Ellis in 2006. At CBRE / Bank of America he was responsible for the New Store Program, developing 250+/- new branches across the country in 4 years. When the financial crisis occurred Tayfun was transferred to a national account and worked as the Global Director of Project Management.

Tayfun currently works for Lincoln Educational Services as the Vice President of Procurement and Real Estate. His team delivered Lincoln's first LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified 212,000 square feet, \$30 million, Automobile Training School in Denver, CO.

Tayfun previously served on his local Board of Adjustment and supports several local nonprofits. Tayfun also holds a seat on the Montclair State University School of Business Advisory Board and is a member of the Morris County Republican Committee.

Tayfun holds Bachelors of Science in Architecture from Istanbul Technical University and an MBA degree from Montclair State University. He achieved certification as a Six Sigma Black Belt by Rutgers University and Lockheed Martin and is a licensed real estate professional in NJ. Tayfun is also a LEED Accredited Professional certified by US Green Building Council and a Certified Public Accountant. He resides in Chatham Township with his wife Tulin and daughter Defne, who attends the Chatham public schools.

AMANDA SLOAT, PH.D.

Amanda Sloat assumed her duties as Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs in September 2013. In this capacity she is responsible for issues related to Greece, Turkey, and Cyprus, as well as for coordinating with Europeans on our engagement with the countries of the Middle East and North Africa. Most recently, she served as Senior Advisor to the White House Coordinator for the Middle East, North Africa and Gulf Region. Dr. Sloat worked previously at the U.S. Department of State, serving as the Senior Advisor to the Assistant Secretary for European and Eurasian Affairs. Earlier, she was a member of the staff on the U.S. House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee, with responsibility for European policy. Her earlier work was as a senior program officer with the National Democratic Institute (NDI), including work in Iraq with the Council of Representatives. Prior to joining



NDI, Dr. Sloat was a post-doctoral research fellow with the Institute of Governance, Queen's University, Belfast, Northern Ireland. During this time, she held visiting fellowships at the Academy of Sciences in the Czech Republic, the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, and the Jean Monnet Center at New York University Law School. She also served as a special advisor to the Scottish Parliament, Northern Ireland Assembly, and European Commission.

Dr. Sloat earned a Ph.D. in Politics from the University of Edinburgh and a B.A. in Political Theory from James Madison College, Michigan State University. She has published a book (Scotland in Europe: A Study of Multi-Level Governance) and numerous academic articles on comparative European politics.

AMBASSADOR ELIN SULEYMANOV

In October of 2011, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev appointed Elin Suleymanov as Azerbaijan's Ambassador to the United States of America. Prior to that, for over five years, Mr. Suleymanov had been the nation's first

Consul General to Los Angeles and the Western States leading the team, which established Azerbaijani diplomatic presence on the West Coast. Earlier, he served as Senior Counselor at the Foreign Relations Department, Office of the President in Baku, Azerbaijan and as Press Officer of the Azerbaijani Embassy in Washington, DC. Mr. Suleymanov's experience before joining diplomatic service includes working with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Azerbaijan and Glaverbel Czech, a leading manufacturing company in East-Central Europe.

A graduate of the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy in Medford, Massachusetts, Mr. Suleymanov also holds graduate degrees from the Political Geography department of the Moscow State University, Russia, and from the University of Toledo, Ohio. Mr. Suleymanov has authored numerous articles and is a frequent presenter at academic events. He speaks Azerbaijani, English, Russian languages.

ESEN AKTER TEKINEL

Esen Akter Tekinel is the first international person elected to be the Chief Operating Officer and Vice Chair of the largest Project Management Institute of the world, PMI-Washington, DC. While managing the Operational Board of Directors, Mrs. Tekinel also provides strategic guidance to the chapter initiatives. She additionally provides professional development support and mentoring to the board of a Washington, DC

intelligence community association, provides workshops to the US Department of State and has given speeches at the prestigious National Press Club and international conferences in the EMEA region. Her videos on project management reach all the US embassies in the world encouraging the use of project management by US foreign services professionals. She has published articles and attended radio talk shows on similar topics.

Mrs. Tekinel's career has developed on all aspects of IT, from developing software to testing, Quality Assurance, teaching and practicing project/program/portfolio management, as well as IT Infrastructure and enterprise-level outsourcing transition. She has worked on various projects covering release management, process development, democracy-technology, medical education, criminal justice, and power and automation fields.

Mrs. Tekinel graduated in 1990 from the Middle East Technical University in Ankara, Turkey, with a BSc degree in Electrical-Electronics Engineering. She pursued her MBA in Turkey followed by her Master's degree in Operations Research/Industrial Engineering minor from North Carolina State University. She received her certificate in Project Management in 2008 from Georgetown University. She lives in Takoma Park, MD with her husband Erdem. Outside of her professional work and time spent volunteering, she enjoys animations, gardening, and sewing historical dresses.

GÖNÜL TOL

Gönül Tol is the founding director of the Middle East Institute's Center for Turkish Studies. She teaches at George Washington University's Institute for Middle East Studies. She received her Ph.D. degree in Political Science from Florida International University where she was a graduate fellow at the Middle East Studies Center. She was formerly an adjunct professor at the College of International Security Affairs at the National Defense University. She writes a weekly column for the Turkish daily Radikal.

MEHMET TOY

Mehmet Toy received his BS and MS in Electronics and Communications Engineering from Istanbul Technical University and Ph.D degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering from Stevens Institute of Technology, Hoboken, NJ. He is currently a Distinguished Engineer at Comcast involved in Computer Networking Architectures and Standards. Prior to his current position, Dr. Toy held executive, managerial and technical positions at ADVA Optical Networking,



Intergenix, Intel Corp., Verizon Wireless, Axiowave Networks, Fujitsu Network Communications, AT&T Bell Labs and Lucent Technologies. He contributed to research, development and standardizations of Cloud Services Architectures, Data Center Network Virtualization Overlays, Self-Managed Networks, Metro Ethernet, DOCSIS Provisioning of EPON (DPoE), IP Multimedia Systems (IMS), Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM), optical, IP/MPLS, and wireless.

He published numerous articles, standards contributions, five books and a video tutorial in these areas and Signal Processing. He has four US Patents pending. He served as a tenure-track and adjunct faculty member of Electrical and Computer Engineering Departments of Stevens Institute of Technology, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, New Jersey Institute of Technology, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, and Dokuz Eylul University. Dr. Toy also served in IEEE Network Magazine Editorial Board, IEEE-USA and IEEE ComSoc at various capacities. He is a member of Cloud Ethernet Forum Board, Sr. Member of IEEE and Chair of IEEE ComSoc Cable Networks and Services Committee, and a Guest Professor of Inonu University, Malatya, Turkiye.

Dr. Toy received various awards from Comcast, IEEE-USA and AT&T Bell Labs, including multiple "Inventor Awards" and "Exceptional Contribution Awards", and was a recipient of scholarships from Turkish Government, TUBITAK and Koc Holdings. He also holds "Docent" title from YOK.

Dr. Toy served as an ATAA Trustee, the Chair of Investment Committee in ATAA, and President-Elect of ATAA from 2008 to 2014. Since July, 2014, he has been serving as the President of ATAA. By "Turkish Forum & Dünya Turkler Birliği", he was recognized as one of the most successful Turkish professionals in 2014 due to his contributions to Turkish-American Community. Dr. Toy lives with his three sons and wife in Allendale, NJ.

ERİN ELLIOTT USTAOĞLU

Erin Elliott Ustaoglu, Esq. is an award-winning immigration attorney practicing in Atlanta, Georgia. She represents individuals, families and companies in obtaining various temporary visas as well as permanent immigration and citizenship. Erin was raised in the Washington DC area, attended college at Agnes Scott College in Decatur, Georgia and graduated from Loyola Law School in New Orleans in 2006. Erin began her practice specializing in business and corporate law for clients ranging from Fortune 500 companies to small start-ups. While assisting such clients, she became

aware of the difficulties in obtaining and keeping foreign worker employees. Also during this time, Erin met her Turkish husband and was personally exposed to the green card and naturalization process. Erin opened her own immigration law practice in 2011. She is an active member of American Immigration Lawyers Association and in good standing with the State Bar of Georgia.

GİZEM ŞALCIGİL WHITE

Gizem Şalcigil White is the founder of the "Turkish Coffee Truck" project which promotes Turkey through engagement and cultural diplomacy. The friendship project, which is a volunteer initiative to promote world-renowned Turkish coffee culture and to engage people in "coffee conversations", has been honored in the United States House of Representatives Congressional Record in May 2012. The volunteer team travelled to five major states in the U.S. in 2012 and European countries in 2013 including Netherlands, Belgium and France. From March 2011 to March 2012, she worked at the Press Counselor's office at the Turkish Embassy in Washington D.C. and currently is working at Turkish Airlines Washington D.C. office as a Sponsorships and PR Coordinator. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Banking & Finance from Bilkent University and a Master's degree in Global Marketing Communication & Advertising from Emerson College, Boston. Her professional interests include nation branding, international affairs and social media. Mrs. White has been donating her time and energy to the Turkish-American community in DC since 2009. She is the Vice President of Capital Region for ATAA and also serves as the President of American Turkish Association of Washington D.C. (ATA-DC).

SELİM YARGICI

Floor Manager and Camera operator at TATV, Selim Yargici has been assisting with the production of TV programs at Fairfax Public access since 2006. Mr. Yargici has been active within the Turkish community in the DC area since 1995. He was the president of the Turkish student organization at Georgetown and contributed as a technical advisor to the Turkish American Scientists and Scholars Association (TASSA)

Selim Yargici is the president and founder of BidBox LLC, a software development company that specializes in mobile educational programs. BidBox LLC has over 130 products for learning languages, music, math, chemistry, and many other subjects. BidBox currently has over 550,000 customers worldwide. Mr. Yargici holds a Computer Science degree from Georgetown University and an MBA from the R. Smith School of Business at the University of Maryland.



DR. EROL YORULMAZOĞLU

Dr. Erol Yorulmazoglu was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Dr. Yorulmazoglu is a board certified medical oncologist/hematologist and a partner in a large oncology practice in the northwest suburbs of Chicago. While he was studying chemistry and biochemistry in Arizona, he was involved in Turkish American cultural activities. He served as president for a Turkish American organization as well as instructor for Turkish folk dancers. After moving to Midwest he became involved in Turkish American grassroots activities. He is a member of Turkish American Cultural Alliance of Chicago (TACA). He has given lectures on the subject of the alleged Armenian genocide issue. Moreover, he has written numerous articles in response to anti-Turkish attacks by lobbies unfriendly to Turkey and the Turks. For one term he served in the executive committee of ATAA. At present time he is engaged in making Turkish history presentations to Turkish American children under TACA educational program. He is currently working on a project to establish a web site with information on Turkish history and culture. He has written educational articles on cancer for major Turkish newspapers. He has provided voluntary/free medical services in cancer care in Turkey. He published a book on the topic of cancer in Turkey to educate the public. He is married and a father of three children, currently residing in the suburbs of Chicago. Erol is fluent in Turkish, English, Spanish and French.

Coordinator for ATAA, teaches music at her private studio, and lives with her husband Adam Hirsch in their Washington, DC home.

Kaan Celebi was born in New York in 1969. Took classical guitar lessons from Firat Kiziltug, a highly regarded classical Turkish music scholar from 1977 to 1984. Received his BA degree in Architecture in 1995 from the Academy of Fine Arts in Istanbul and moved back to the United States the same year. Completed his graduate studies at North Carolina State University with an MBA degree in 1998. Currently resides in the Washington DC metro area with spouse Cheryl Celebi and 4 daughters, Alara, Aleyna, Maya and Derya; works as a project manager for Turner Construction Company.

Serdar Cobanoglu was born in Istanbul in July 1973. Lived in izmit Kocaeli and graduated from Özal Seymen Koleji in 1990. Lived in Cyprus between 91 and 96 and graduated from EMU in 96 with a BS degree in Mechanical Engineering. Started playing guitar in early college years. Serdar has been living in the USA since 1998 and working as engineer and PM in steel construction industry. Married to Dilek in 1998. They have 2 boys; Kaan (14) and Arda (12).

Cansu Kalaycioglu began her music career at the age of eleven at Istanbul Technical University Turkish Music State Conservatory where she studied classical Western music as well as Turkish traditional and folk music. She has given various solo, orchestra and chamber music concerts in Turkey, Europe and the USA. After completing Bachelor's of Music in clarinet performance at Istanbul Technical University Turkish Music State Conservatory, she received her Master's degree in Master of Science in Arts Management from Shenandoah University in Winchester, VA. She worked as a Program Associate and Concert Manager at the Washington Conservatory of Music. Currently she works at Classical Movements.

Nejat Sarandal was born in Ankara, Turkey in June 1974. He started playing guitar and keyboard during high school years. In 1993, Nejat came USA for college education and graduated from University of Arkansas majoring in Computer Information Systems. Obtained his MBA degree from Webster University in 2006. Nejar is currently, working for Nokia Networks as an Account Manager. He has been happily married to Bensen for 18 year with two kids Emre (11) and Aylin (4).

GROUP TURKOISE

Fatosh Arabacioglu was born in North Cyprus and started playing piano at the age of nine. Two years later Fatosh was accepted into Bayrak Radio Television Corporation's (BRTK) Children Choir and Orchestra where she performed weekly on television and radio. Inspired by Cypriot Folk Music, Fatosh began playing accordion, and for the last 20 years she has been traveling Europe and America representing Cypriot Folk Music at international cultural festivals. After studying violin performance at Eastern Mediterranean University in Cyprus, Fatosh moved to Tucson, AZ to continue her studies at the University of Arizona. In 2012, Fatosh completed her degree in music performance for flute at Middlesex University in London. During this time, Fatosh studied with artists from John Hopkins University - Peabody Institute, Hacettepe University, Royal Academy of Music, Université Paris Sorbonne - Paris IV, and the Royal College of Music. Today, Fatosh is a Program



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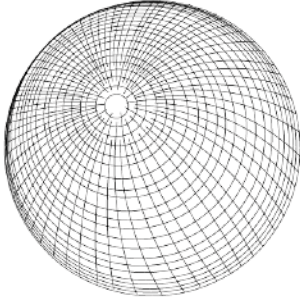
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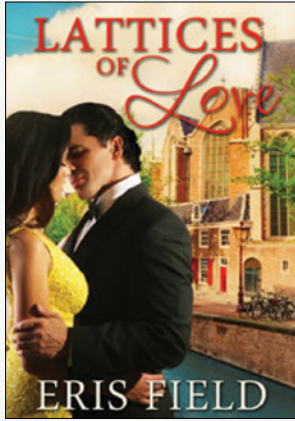
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