



ASSEMBLY OF
TURKISH AMERICAN
ASSOCIATIONS

36th ANNUAL TURKISH AMERICAN NATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

TURKISH AMERICAN VISION:
Today and Beyond



FEBRUARY 25-27, 2016 | WASHINGTON DC

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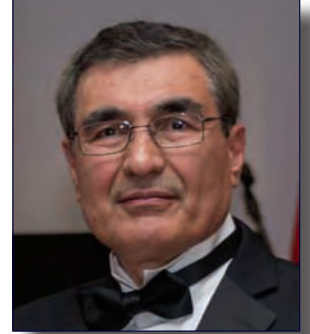


36th ANNUAL
TURKISH AMERICAN
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CONFERENCE

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

Welcome to our 36th Annual National Leadership Conference!

This year our theme is “**Peace at Home and Peace on Earth**” which was first pronounced by the founder of Turkish Republic, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk on the 20th of April, 1931. In the last few years, terrorism has become the number one issue in the world, threatening peace both at home and abroad. It is time to respect each other, stand-up against terror wherever it comes from, and uphold universal rights and values.



The Syrian civil war has caused the death of a quarter million people. Over 3.45 million Syrians have fled the country since the conflict began in 2011. While the world community has been trying to respond to this conflict, the vacuum of power in Syria and Iraq has been filled by DAESH. Under the name of Islam, DAESH killed many innocent people barbarically. Three million refugees have crossed Turkish borders. DAESH killed hundreds in Istanbul, Ankara and Paris. As Turkish Republic was trying to figure out how to handle this huge refugee crisis and combat DAESH terror, PKK terror erupted and killed hundreds in Turkey since July 2015 to gain control of the eastern provinces of Turkey by using the same terror tactics in Syria. To complicate anti-terror efforts of Turkey and its NATO allies even further, Russian forces moved into Syria in September, 2015. Russians has attacked mostly Syrian opposition forces instead of DAESH and invaded Turkish airspace many times. Now, Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev talks about possibility of World War III. It is the time to remember Mustafa Kemal Atatürk's principles.

In this conference you will have the opportunity to listen to experts discuss how we can contribute to a peaceful resolution of this ongoing conflict. You will also have the opportunity to learn about both of our ongoing and new programs designed to improve the relationship between Turkey and the USA, and our educational efforts to strengthen our local organizations and civic activities, including how to become more active as a community in the forthcoming presidential elections.

I thank you all for being with us and I am grateful for your support. Also, I'm very proud of ATAA's activities and programs and would like to express my gratitude to our hard-working and dedicated staff and volunteers.

Best Regards,

Mehmet Toy, Ph.D.

President

Assembly of Turkish American Associations



ASSEMBLY OF TURKISH AMERICAN ASSOCIATIONS

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 Caucuses, 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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AMERICA**

TCA Grant Awards to Dynamic Local Turkish American Associations

This year at ATAA's 36th Annual Conference, the Turkish Coalition of America (TCA) is awarding grants to three outstanding ATAA component associations that are in good standing with ATAA and are represented at the Leadership Conference. The purpose of these grants is to promote and recognize excellence in grassroots organization, engagement with the Turkish American community, and outreach to elected officials in the United States. Further, TCA hopes that the recognition of these local associations will serve as a roadmap for success for Turkish American organizations and the Turkish American community as a whole.

Selection of the three local associations is based on the results of the Turkish American Association Survey conducted by TCA and ATAA. The three associations that receive the highest marks will each receive a \$5,000 grant that will be presented at the Annual Gala and Awards Ceremony on Saturday evening, February 27.

Local ATAA component associations participating in the survey had to describe their programs in 7 key criteria:

1. Membership in Turkish American organizations
2. Promoting Turkish culture and heritage through Republic Day galas, conferences, street festivals, trips to Turkey, media outreach, and dinners
3. Engaging in dialogue with elected officials including promotion of the Congressional Caucus on U.S.-Turkey Relations and Turkish Americans, trips to Turkey, and invitations to Turkish American events
4. Monitoring history teaching in schools and taking appropriate actions against anti-Turkish materials
5. Teaching Turkish to younger generations
6. Establishing Turkish Centers, Turkish Rooms, or permanent exhibitions
7. Creating sister city partnerships between Turkey and the U.S.

TURKISH COALITION *of* AMERICA

Highlighting the Achievements of the Ten ATAA Regions*

The results of the Turkish American Association Survey are also reflected in the Report Card of the Ten ATAA Regions. The regional report cards are an effort to provide a more complete picture of the activities and accomplishments of Turkish Americans across the country. The scores for each of the ten regions will be announced on Saturday morning, February 27, at the first conference session.

In addition to the questions on the survey, TCA has collected information per region on financial support of the:

- Turkish Philanthropy Funds (TPF) and Bridge to Turkiye for charitable causes such as support for schools, scholarships, disaster relief, Turkish civil society, etc.**
- 5 Turkish American Political Action Committees (TC-USA, TC-Northeast, TC-Midwest, TC-California and Turkish American Heritage-Texas PACs) and political candidates who understand the importance of strong U.S.-Turkey relations**

Finally, the Report Card takes into account the number of Members of Congress from each region who are members of the U.S. Congressional Caucus on U.S.-Turkey Relations and Turkish Americans.

*Regions: (1) Northeast – 6: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont / (2) New York - 2: New Jersey and New York / (3) North Central - 3: Delaware, Pennsylvania and West Virginia / (4) Capital – 2 and 1 territory: Maryland, Virginia and Washington, DC / (5) Southeast – 6 and 2 territories: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virgin Islands / (6) Mid Central - 4: Kentucky, Indiana, Michigan and Ohio / (7) Midwest - 9: Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin / (8) Southwest - 5: Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma and Texas / (9) Western – 7 and 3 territories: American Samoa, Arizona, California, Colorado, Guam, Hawaii, Nevada, New Mexico, Northern Mariana Islands and Utah / (10) Northwest - 6: Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington and Wyoming

**Note: Charitable and political contribution figures were not included in the Turkish American Association Survey.



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is grateful to



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CHARITABLE TRUST

AZERBAIJAN
EMBASSY

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Vinkara



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for their support of the 36th Annual Turkish American Conference

Thursday, February 25, 2016 | **CIVIC ENGAGEMENT DAY**

- 11:30am-2:00pm **Congressional Day Planning Luncheon**
Location: 1510 H St., NW, Washington, DC
- 2:30pm-5:00pm **Meetings with Members of Congress**
Location: United States Congress
- 6:30pm-8:30pm **American Friends of Turkey (AFOT) Embassy Lecture**
“Restoration of the Turkish Ambassador’s Residence” by **Caroline Mesrobian Hickman, PhD**
Wine Tasting by Vinkara Wines
Location: Turkish Embassy, 2525 Massachusetts Ave., NW Washington, DC

Friday, February 26, 2016 | **U.S. TURKISH RELATIONS DAY**

- 7:30am-8:30pm **Breakfast**
- 8:00am-9:00am **Opening Ceremony & Welcoming Remarks**
Mehmet Toy, PhD, President, ATAA
Amb. Francis J. Ricciardone, Jr., Vice President, Atlantic Council, Former U.S. Ambassador to Turkey
- 9:00am-9:15am Coffee Break
- 9:15am-10:15am **Session 1: US and Turkey Alliance in its Many Contexts**
Moderator: **Kenan Caglar**, President Elect, ATAA
Speakers: **Reva Bhalla**, Vice President of Global Analysis, Stratfor
Philip S. Kosnett, Director, Office of Southern European Affairs, US Department of State
Amb. Richard Morningstar, Founding Director, Global Energy Center, The Atlantic Council
- 10:15am-10:35am **Keynote Speech**
The Honorable Anne C. Richard, Assistant Secretary of State for Population, Refugees, and Migration, U.S. Department of State
- 10:35am-10:45am **Session 2: TTIP: What’s at Stake for U.S. - Turkey Relations?**
Moderator: **Mark Meirowitz**, Secretary General, Turkish American Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Speakers: **Howard G. Beasey**, President, American-Turkish Council
Bora Gurcay, President, Turkish American Business Association
Jennifer Miel, Executive Director, U.S.-Turkey Business Council
H.E. Ambassador David O’Sullivan, Ambassador of the European Union to the U.S.
- 11:45am-12:00pm Conference Break
- 12:00pm-1:00pm **Luncheon**
- 1:00pm-1:15pm Conference Break



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Friday, February 26, 2016 | U.S. TURKISH RELATIONS DAY

1:15pm-2:00pm Session 3: Turkish Israel and Turkish Jewish Relations

Moderator: **Gunay Evinch**, Esq., Saltzman & Evinch, PLLC, Member of the Board of Trustees, ATAA

Speakers: **Arthur C. Abramson**, PhD, Executive Director, The Baltimore Jewish Council
Prof. Brenda Shaffer, Georgetown University
Alan Makovsky, Senior Fellow, Center for American Progress

2:00pm-2:15pm Arzum Okka Presentation by **Alp Somyurek**, Export and Business Development Director, Arzum

2:15pm-3:15pm Session 4: Prospects for Resolution and Reconciliation - Armenian Issue

Moderator: **Sevgin Oktay**, ATAA New York Region Vice President

Speakers: **Tal Buenos**, PhD Candidate in Political Science, University of Utah
Prof. Justin A. McCarthy, Professor of History, University of Louisville
David Saltzman, Esq., Saltzman & Evinch, PLLC
Prof. Refik Turan, President, Turkish Historical Society

3:15pm-3:30pm Coffee Break

3:30pm-4:00pm Session 5: Turkish Americans Unite: Success Story

Moderator: **Mehmet Toy**, PhD President, ATAA

Speakers: **Murat Guzel**, Board Member, Independent Industrialists' and Businessmen's Association
Derya Taskin, Deputy Mayor of City of Paterson, NJ, President, Turkish Institute for Progress

4:00pm-4:15pm Coffee Break

4:15pm-5:30pm 1915 Movie Screening

Serkan Koc, Producer, 49/51 Film Production

5:30pm-6:15pm Roundtable Discussions

Coordinator: **Hande Ayan**, Secretary, American Turkish Association of Washington, DC
(See page 13 for the list of Roundtable Topics)

Saturday, February 27, 2016 | TURKISH AMERICAN DAY

7:30am-8:30pm Breakfast

8:30am-9:45am Session 6: How Grassroots and Political Activism Work and Why It is Important

Moderator: **G. Lincoln McCurdy**, President, Turkish Coalition of America

Speakers: **Andrew Aydin**, Digital Director & Policy Advisor, Rep. John Lewis
Lydia Borland, President, LB International Solutions
Gunay Evinch, Esq., Saltzman & Evinch, PLLC, Member of the Board of Trustees, ATAA
Katre Soran, TCA 2015 Summer Intern

9:45am-10:00am Coffee Break

Saturday, February 27, 2016 | **TURKISH AMERICAN DAY**

10:00am-10:45am **Session 7: Participatory Democracy: Public Advocacy, Media, and Voter Engagement**

Moderator: **Ergun Kirlikovali**, Former President of ATAA

Speakers: **John Alpay**, Member of the Board of Trustees for the Capistrano Unified School District, CA
Javid Huseynov, PhD, Executive Director, Azerbaijan Society of America and Co-Founder, The Pax Turcica Institute

10:45am-11:00am *Coffee Break*

11:00am-11:45pm **Session 8: Turkish American Businesses and the American Dream: Success Stories**

Moderator: **Fusun Bubernack**, ATAA Mid-Atlantic Region Vice President

Speakers: **Jennifer Miel**, Executive Director, U.S.-Turkey Business Council
Derya Taskin, Deputy Mayor-City of Paterson, NJ, President, Turkish Institute for Progress
Nurten Ural, CEO, Turkish Resource Center of North America, Former President of ATAA

11:45pm-12:00pm *Conference Break*

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

Amb. John R. Bass, Ambassador of the United States to Turkey (*Video Message*)

Aydan Karamanoglu, First Counselor, Embassy of Turkey, Washington, DC

1:30pm-1:45pm *Conference Break*

1:45pm-2:00pm **Keynote Speech**

Haluk Unal, PhD, President, Turkish American Scientists and Scholars Association

2:00pm-2:45pm **Session 9: Diversity Partnership**

Moderator: **Murat Tas**, ATAA Southwest Region Vice President

Speakers: **Omar Hossino**, Public Relations Director, Syrian American Council
Osam Ali Ozkan, Executive Director and CEO, Canadian Iraqi Turkmen Culture Association
Yusif Babanly, Co-Founder and Board Member, US Azeris Network

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

3:00pm-3:15pm **Keynote Speech**

H.E. Amb. Elin Suleymanov, Azerbaijan Ambassador to the United States

3:15pm-4:00pm **Session 10: Turkish American Women Stars**

Moderator: **Dr. Esma Akin**, Member of the ATAA Board of Trustees, Chief of Nuclear Medicine at the George Washington University Medical Center

Speakers: **Sema Basol**, Co-Founder, Turkish Women's Initiative
Sumru Belger Krody, Senior Curator, Museum and The Textile Museum, The George Washington University
Prof. Banu Onaral, H.H. Sun Professor and Director, Drexel University

4:00pm-4:15pm *Coffee Break*



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Saturday, February 27, 2016 | U.S. TURKISH AMERICAN DAY

4:15pm-5:00pm **Session 11: ATAA Bright Future Online Education**

Moderator: **Lale Iskarpatyoti**, Vice President, Turkish American Friendship Society of US

Speakers: **Asst. Prof. Ahmet Demir**, Baskent University

Asst. Prof. Halil Ersoy, Baskent University

Hulya Koc, ATAA Education Committee Member

Cennet Kose Rivera, President, Maryland American Turkish Association

Dr. Ulku Ulgur, Member of the ATAA Board of Trustees

Kayhan Yilmaz, Chairman, ATAA Education Committee, ATAA Capital Region VP

5:00pm-5:45pm **Roundtable Discussions**

Coordinators: **Ayca Altintig**, PhD, ATAA Western Region VP, **Ceren Olga Sayan**, Secretary, ATAA
(See page 13 for the list of Roundtable Topics)

6:30pm-7:30pm **Reception**

Cash Bar & Wine Tasting by Vinkara Wines

7:30pm-11:00pm **Annual Gala & Awards Banquet**

Contemporary and Traditional Turkish Music by Turkoise

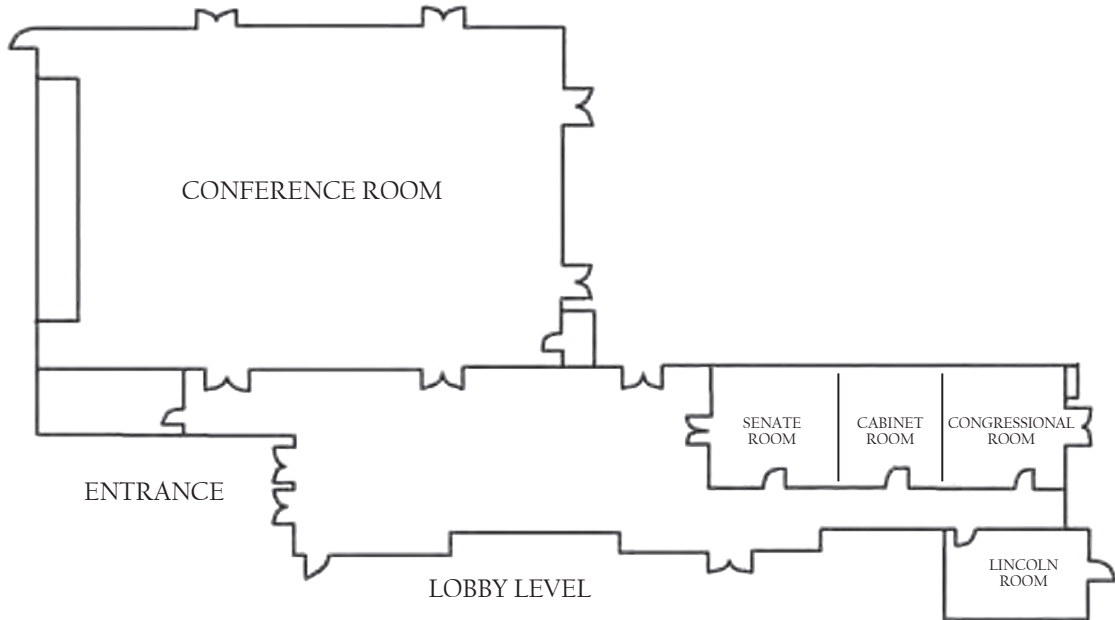
Serdar Cobanoglu, Acoustic Guitar & Vocal

Nejat Sarandal, Classic Guitar & Vocal

Tuna Yildiz, Clarinet, Reed (Ney), Oud

Duygu Kirdar Aydin, Vocal

Zafer Boybeyi, Percussion



Friday, February 26, 2016 | 5:30pm-6:15pm
Coordinator: **Hande Ayan**, Secretary, ATADC Board of Directors

Roundtable F1: Ahsen Turan, PhD: Making of the oral testimony film: “**The Scream of Anatolia**”

Roundtable F2: Serkan Koc: Making “**1915 Based on Armenian Documents**” film

Roundtable F3: Lincoln McCurdy, Liz Clark, Sezan McDaniel and Katre Soran
(TCA Programs, including Turkish American Youth Outreach and the Regional Report Cards.)

Roundtable F4: Hande Ayan, Secretary, ATA-DC Board of Directors: Media Relations for Non-profits

Roundtable F5: Cennet Kose Rivera: Teaching Turkish to Adults

Roundtable F6: Can Ozcan: Politics of Armenian Memory: Historiography, Oral Narratives and Memoirs

Saturday February 27, 2016 | 5:15pm-6:00pm
Coordinators: **Ayca Altintig**, PhD, ATAA Western Region VP and **Ceren Olga Sayan**, ATAA Secretary

Roundtable S1: Sevgin Oktay: Meet the panelists on the Armenian issue
(Tal Buenos, PhD and Prof. Justin McCarthy.)

Roundtable S2: Ayca Altintig, PhD: How to build a Turkish House in your region

Roundtable S3: Mazlum Kosma: Organizing a visit to your Representative

Roundtable S4: Ali San: Organizing a Turkish American Film Festival

Roundtable S5: Gunay Evinch Esq: Starting a Turkish American organization
(Incorporation, Bylaws, elections etc. Permissible political activity for 501c3 organization)

Roundtable S6: Lincoln McCurdy, Liz Clark, Sezan McDaniel, and Katre Soran
(TCA Programs, including Turkish American Youth Outreach and the Regional Report Cards)

Roundtable S7: Lydia Borland: Political Fundraising

Roundtable S8: Murat Tas, PhD: Connecting with Diversity

Roundtable S9: Demet Cabbar: Getting a job in World Bank



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ARTHUR ABRAMSON

Arthur Abramson has been the Executive Director of the Baltimore Jewish Council since 1990. He was previously the Community Relations Director for the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston. Prior to that, he was the Washington State Area Director for the American Jewish Committee (AJC). He has also served as an Assistant Area Director for the AJC in its Los Angeles office. Before joining the American Jewish Committee, he taught political science for four years at the University of California at Los Angeles and the California State University at Northridge. His areas of expertise include the international relations and politics of the Middle East, American foreign policy and American government. A native of New York City, he attended Queens College of the City University of New York where he received his B.A. degree. He earned his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees at UCLA in the field of political science.

DR. ESMA AKIN

Dr. Esma Akin is an Associate Professor of Radiology in the Department of Radiology at The George Washington University Hospital, Washington DC. After graduating from Hacettepe University School of Medicine in Ankara, Turkey, Dr. Akin has completed both Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine residencies at Georgetown University Hospital in Washington DC. She is board certified by ABR and ABNM and has been the director of the Division of Nuclear Medicine at the George Washington University Hospital for the past 15 years. Dr. Akin has been elected as a director to the American Board of Nuclear Medicine, which is the certifying body for Nuclear Medicine physicians in the USA. She chairs the Nuclear Medicine section of the annual case based review course at the American Roentgen Ray Society. She is a contributor to ACR CPI modules in Nuclear Medicine and is involved in ACR educational courses as instructor in PET-CT. She is a lecturer in Nuclear Radiology at the annual meeting of the Radiological Society of North America. Dr. Akin is the past president of the Washington DC Chapter of the American College of Radiology and a fellow of the American College of Radiology. She serves as an alternate counselor to the American College of Radiology from Washington DC. She has authored numerous peer reviewed publications including a Nuclear Medicine textbook. She is the recipient of the 2008 Radiology Golden Apple teaching award in Nuclear Medicine and PET-CT at GWUH. Dr. Akin has been repeatedly named top Nuclear Medicine Specialist in Washington

DC Metropolitan area by Washington Consumers' CHECKBOOK. Dr. Akin serves at the board of trustees of the Maret School in Washington DC where her two daughters attend high school. She also serves at the board of trustees at the American friends of Turkey. Dr Akin has been a member of the ATAA Board of Trustees since 2011.

OSAM ALI OZKAN

Osam Ali Ozkan, Ph.D Candidate, is the executive director of Canadian Iraqi Turkmen Culture Association acting as a civil society activist. Originally from Kirkuk city, the capital of Turkmen region in Iraq, Ali focuses on providing systematic approaches to build a sustainable and active Turkic and Iraqi ethno-cultural institution as part a of multicultural model in Canada. He also helps newcomers and skilled immigrants overcome their cultural and educational barriers, and have a successful career path in their new country. Ali has taken an active role in thought leadership to resolve discrimination issues and raise awareness concerning human rights and diversity of visible minorities. He actively supports community efforts aiming to make Canada a more inclusive and welcoming society. He also works proactively to inform the general public about the violation of human rights in the Middle East, especially the humiliation, displacement, oppression, and ethnic cleansing of peaceful Turkmen in Iraq and Syria by terrorists and separatists in areas of conflict. Father of two boys and a girl, Ali is pursuing his Ph.D. degree in Computer/Software Engineering and Health Informatics at the University of Western Ontario. During his academic career of more than 12 years, he taught multiple computer courses at Iraqi and Libyan colleges and universities. Currently he works full time as Business Intelligence and Decision Support specialist at Chatham-Kent Hospital in Canada and follows his passion to improve healthcare systems and processes for better patient care.

JOHN ALPAY

John is currently a member of the Board of Trustees for the Capistrano Unified School District, the eighth largest school district in California. First elected in 2010, he has served two consecutive terms as President. From 2011 to 2015, John was a member of the governing board of the South Coast Regional Occupational Program, where he also served two terms as President. Since 2013, John has participated as a member of the Community Engagement Panel for the decommissioning of the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station. Recognized as Outstanding General Counsel of the Year by the

Orange County Business Journal, John is currently Executive Vice President & General Counsel for Performance Designed Products LLC. He holds degrees from UCLA School of Law, UCLA Anderson Graduate School of Management and the University of California, Berkeley.

AYCA ALTINTIG

Ayca Altintig was born and raised in Istanbul. She graduated from Uskudar American Academy, and then received her B.Sc. in Business Administration from Bogazici University. She came to the US for her graduate studies, and completed her M.Sc. and Ph.D. in Finance at Louisiana State University. She is currently an Assistant Professor of Finance at the Drucker School of Management in Claremont Graduate University. Dr. Altintig is well published of scientific articles on corporate governance and entrepreneurial finance. An active volunteer since her high school days for various organizations ranging from orphanages to Lions clubs in Istanbul, Dr. Altintig has been involved with the Turkish American community in Southern CA since she moved to the region in 2003. Being an educator, she feels a great draw to the education of Turkish American children in the US, and has worked very actively with the Orange County Turkish School as a teacher, treasurer and director for close to five years. She has also been very active on the Board of directors of the Orange County Turkish American Association and served as the secretary of the umbrella association ATASC. Currently she is the President-Elect of ATASC and will continue to serve this umbrella organization for the next three years. She has been the VP of West Coast for ATAA since 2015.

ANDREW AYDIN

Andrew Aydin is co-author of the #1 New York Times best-selling graphic memoir series, MARCH, which chronicles the life of Congressman and civil rights icon John Lewis. Co-authored with Rep. Lewis and illustrated by Nate Powell, March is a recipient of the Robert F. Kennedy Book Award Special Recognition and the Coretta Scott King Book Award Author Honor. The Washington Post called March “a must read monument.” Andrew serves as Digital Director & Policy Advisor to Congressman Lewis in Washington, D.C. A graduate of Trinity College in Hartford and Georgetown University in Washington, Andrew wrote his master’s thesis on the history and impact of Martin Luther King & The Montgomery Story. His best-selling graphic novels March: Book One and March: Book Two are taught in high schools and colleges across the country. Andrew

frequently lectures about the history of comics in the civil rights movement and has appeared as a guest on the Rachel Maddow Show, National Public Radio, CBS This Morning, CNN, the BBC and many other programs. He is a popular presenter at Comic-Con and at U.S. corporations and recently appeared as a guest speaker at Google and at the Apple headquarters in California. President Bill Clinton has said of Congressman Lewis that, through March, “he brings a whole new generation with him across the Edmund Pettus Bridge, from a past of clenched fists into a future of outstretched hands.” And Apple CEO Tim Cook has said that March is “a very unique way to present what is probably the most important story of my entire lifetime. My hope is that everyone reads this, and I would love to see the day that it is required reading in every school.”

YUSIF BABANLY

Yusif Babanly is the International Correspondent and Chief of Washington Bureau of Azerbaijan State Information Agency (AZERTAC). He holds Bachelor’s degrees in International Studies and Political Science, and a Master’s degree in Finance. Mr. Babanly is co-founder of several Azerbaijani-American organizations including the U.S. Azeris Network (USAN), U.S. Turkic Network (USTN), and Houston Azerbaijanis (HA). With extensive knowledge of Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict, he has authored numerous articles and has spoken on the issue at various forums and roundtables.

SEMA BASOL

Sema is an executive with over 30 years of diverse work experience both in the U.S. and in Turkey. She has worked with multi-billion dollar corporations such as Mattel Inc. and Koç Holding (in Turkey), small businesses, and non-profit educational and cultural institutions. Since 2008, she has been focused on building Turkish Women’s Initiative (TWI) based in the U.S. and Değişim Liderleri Derneği (DLD), meaning Change Leaders Association, based in Turkey. TWI creates innovative and sustainable leadership development programs for girls and women who have overcome formidable economic, social and cultural barriers. These programs are managed in Turkey by its partner organization DLD. As the founder of these organizations, Sema is deeply committed to improving the status of Turkish women and brings a unique cross-cultural perspective to both. Formerly at Mattel Inc., as Director of Consumer Products, she built Mattel brands into new businesses that generated annual retail sales of over half billion



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dollars in international markets. Subsequently, as Executive Director of a U.S. based nonprofit, Global Friendship Through Space Education, she launched an innovative distance-learning program connecting Turkish and American educators and their students in partnership with Space Camp Turkey, NASA and U.S. school districts. Sema is a frequent speaker for a wide range of organizations such as academic institutions and women's organizations both in Turkey and the U.S. She is also the recipient of Soroptimist International's Ruby Award given to women who have worked to improve the lives of women and girls through their professional and/or volunteer work. Sema has a B.A. degree from Boğaziçi University and an M.B.A. from UCLA Anderson School of Management. She has been living in California for more than 35 years.

AMB. JOHN R. BASS

John Bass was confirmed by the U.S. Senate on September 17, 2014 as the U.S. Ambassador to Turkey. A career Senior Foreign Service officer, he served as Executive Secretary from 2012 to 2014, and U.S. Ambassador to Georgia from 2009 to 2012. He began his diplomatic career in 1988 and has also served in positions in U.S. missions in Iraq, Italy, Belgium and Chad. In Washington, Ambassador Bass's assignments have included service on Vice President Cheney's staff, as Chief of Staff and advisor to Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott, as Director of the State Department's Operations Center and in several assignments focused on European security issues. He has received numerous State Department performance awards. The son of a public servant and a U.S. Air Force officer, Bass was born and raised in upstate New York. Prior to joining the Foreign Service, Bass worked as a newspaper editor and as a political campaign consultant. A graduate of Syracuse University, he speaks Italian and French. He is married to U.S. diplomat Holly Holzer Bass, and they share their home with "Tako," a Georgian Shepherd they adopted in Tbilisi.

HOWARD G. BEASEY

Mr. Howard Garrett Beasey is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the American-Turkish Council, a bilateral, non-profit organization dedicated to the strengthening of U.S.-Turkish trade, investment, defense and cultural relations, and to the promotion of awareness and understanding of U.S.-Turkish issues. Howard G. Beasey is an Iraq and Afghanistan war veteran and retired United States Marine. Enlisting in the Marine Corps in 1993 and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in August 2000,

having completed his undergraduate education at North Carolina State University. For more than two decades Mr. Beasey served as an infantryman, combat engineer platoon and company commander. In 2006, he attended the Naval Post Graduate School in Monterey, CA completing his Master of Arts in National Security Affairs and Foreign Policy and attended the Defense Language Institute and completed Turkish language instruction. Designated as a Turkish Foreign Area Officer and assigned to the region, he developed a deep respect for Turkish culture, diversity, and international engagement. Upon returning from Afghanistan in 2010, Mr. Beasey was assigned to the Pentagon as the European Affair Officer for the International Affairs Branch of Headquarters Marine Corps. Retiring in 2014 he joined Goldman Sachs as a Corporate Security Associate. Mr. Beasey joined American-Turkish Council in February 2015 as the President and CEO.

REVA BHALLA

Reva Bhalla is a leading global strategic analyst who keeps her pulse on emerging trends around the world. Ms. Bhalla leads Stratfor's team of analysts and plays an integral role in applying a forward-looking, strategic lens to Stratfor's coverage of global events. She is also a sought-after speaker who regularly addresses executives and investors from industries that include energy, finance, commercial real estate and agriculture. Ms. Bhalla has been featured in numerous publications and broadcasts, including Bloomberg, National Public Radio, CNN, The Associated Press, National Public Radio, Time Magazine, Al Jazeera English, Fox News, Haaretz, The New York Times, The Hindustan Times, Agencia Estado, Xinhua, Veja and Business Week. Ms. Bhalla holds a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Texas and a master's degree from the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service's security studies program in Washington, D.C.

LYDIA BORLAND

Ms. 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 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. She successfully matched international

companies with Native American businesses. Ms. Borland served as Washington Representative for the Turkish-U.S. Business Council (TAIK/DEIK) from 2000-2007, and Deputy Executive Director of the U.S. Azerbaijan Chamber of Commerce for several years. She also is an avid fundraiser for Members of Congress on key committees. 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. Lydia Borland was chosen as one of the most influential Turkish American women by Turk of America Magazine in 2015.

FUSUN BUBERNACK

Philanthropist, mentor and technology driven business executive, Fusun Bubernack is the president of Eastern Telephone & Telecommunications, Inc. (ET&T) located in the Lehigh Valley. Fusun graduated from the University of Pittsburgh where she met her husband Mike. They have been married for 27 years and share a business partnership together. Fusun and Mike have two daughters. Merjan is a senior at Georgetown University and Sirma is a freshman at St. Joseph's University. Fusun Bubernack volunteers her time as a board member for the American Red Cross of the Greater Lehigh Valley, and is a member of the Tocqueville Society of United Way. Fusun Bubernack is also one of the founders of Lehigh Valley Turkish American Association and currently an active member. She has been the VP of Mid-Atlantic region for ATAA since 2015.

TAL BUENOS

Tal Buenos is a scholar of international politics. He is a PhD candidate in Political Science at the University of Utah. Tal has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Tel Aviv University, where he studied Jewish thought, history, and mysticism. He then earned a Master's degree in Theological Studies at Harvard Divinity School, where he developed his interests in biblical studies, the modern history of religion in North America, and interreligious discourse. Tal's current area of focus is the fall of the Ottoman Empire and its narration. His analysis of this historical period in the context of international relations involves the evaluation of concepts such as power, genocide, historiography, national identity and memory, cultural imperialism, political realism, and multiculturalism. Tal has written articles for several newspapers, including The Jerusalem Post in Israel, and Daily Sabah in Turkey.

DEMET CABBAR

Demet Cabbar is a Financial Officer at the World Bank. 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 served as its President for three terms between 2007 and 2013. Demet has been involved in the organization of the award-winning 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, Turkish Heritage Month and ATA-DC networking happy hours 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 (ATAA) between 2008 and 2013. In 2008, ATAA awarded Demet the President of the Component Association of the year. Demet is a co-founder, active dancer and instructor of the Kardelen Turkish Dance Ensemble. In January 2011, Middle East Technical University Alumni Association recognized Demet with a Service Award for her outstanding commitment to the Turkish-American Community. Demet holds a B.S. degree in Management Engineering from Istanbul Technical University. She earned a Joint MBA/MA Degree in International Affairs and International Business and a M.S. Degree in Finance from the George Washington University.

KENAN CAGLAR

Kenan Caglar serves on the ATAA Executive Committee and Board of Directors as President-elect. Mr. Caglar also serves as the Chairman of the Investment Committee, which oversees the ATAA Endowment Fund. He is currently on the Education, Anti-Discrimination, and Fundraising Committees. Mr. Caglar received his B.A. Degree in International Marketing from 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 Vice President in Enterprise Technology. His background also includes the construction business in Turkey. As Chairman of the ATAA Investment Committee, Kenan helped marshal considerable growth in the Endowment Fund, based on the principals of prudent investing and disciplined spending. As Treasurer, he



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worked with all budget items to reduce operating costs, bringing thousands of dollars in savings annually. Prior to being elected as President-elect, Mr. Caglar served on the Board of Trustees of ATAA and on the Board of Directors as Treasurer. Kenan and his wife Havva, have three daughters and a son, and reside in Charlotte, North Carolina.

ASST. PROF. DR. AHMET DEMIR

Assist. Prof. Dr. Ahmet Demir is an academician at department of Turkish Language Education at Başkent University. His academic focus is centered on Turkish language and literature. He received his graduate and doctorate degrees in the same field from Gazi University in 2000 and 2006 respectively. He is currently the chair of the Department of Turkish Language Education and also the assistant chair of the Institute of Educational Sciences at Başkent University.

ASST. PROF. DR. HALİL ERSOY

Assist. Prof. Dr. Halil Ersoy is an academician at the department of Computer Education & Instructional Technologies at Başkent University. His studies are focused on distance education technologies, video conference systems, and digital learning materials. He received his graduate and doctorate degrees in the same field from the Middle East Technical University in 2003 and 2009 respectively. He is currently the assistant chair of the department and assistant director of Distance Education Center of the University.

GUNAY EVINCH

Gunay Evinch was born in Chicago, Illinois, to immigrants from the Turkish Aegean and Ottoman Macedonia regions. He grew up in San Francisco, and has resided in the Washington Metropolitan Region since 1993. Evinch specializes in public international law, corporate and business law, civil rights, and non-profit legal consulting. He also has extensive experience in representing foreign countries. In 2013, Evinch was inducted into the Cosmos Club for Distinction in International Law and Foreign Relations. Since 2013, Evinch has served on the Board of Trustees of the Assembly of Turkish American Associations. From 2009-11, Evinch served as ATAA's 14th and first American-born President. Evinch also served on the Board of Directors of the World Affairs Councils of America National Board alongside Chairman Ambassador Marc Grossman in 2009-11. He has represented the Turkish American community on the Heritage Council of the U.S. Office of the Director of National Intelligence since 2007. Evinch completed his Juris Doctor at

Washington & Lee University in Virginia (1991), EU Legal Studies at the College of William and Mary Program at the University of Madrid (1989), and Bachelor Degrees in Economics and Public Service at the University of California, Davis (1986). Between 1991-93, Evinch was a U.S. Fulbright Scholar in International Law and Sasakawa Scholar in Foreign Relations in Ankara, Turkey. Evinch received the Lee Law Grant as well as the UC Regents Outstanding Senior Award. Evinch interned with the Federal Public Defender in Sacramento and San Francisco District Attorney in 1985.

BORA GURCAY

Bora Gurcay was born in Istanbul in 1977. He holds a Business Administration degree from Istanbul University and a master's degree in Finance and Marketing from Yeditepe University. Bora Gurcay is Motorola Turkey Country Manager and responsible for all Motorola Turkey operations and major projects. Prior to joining Motorola, Bora Gurcay served as the General Manager in Brother Industries and Regional Sales Coordinator at IBM Turkey. He has over 12 years' experience in Information Technology. Additionally, he volunteers for AKUT and is a board member of Turkish-American Business Association American Chamber of Commerce (TABA-AmCham).

OMAR HOSSINO

Omar Hossino is the Director of Public Relations and Outreach at the Syrian American Council (SAC) where he focuses on strategic communications, and coalition building with interest groups, advocacy organizations, and think tanks. He also serves as a liaison between local chapters and the national office to organize letter-writing, call-in, and district meeting campaigns to Congress. Omar has over five years of research experience working in think tanks and policy organizations in Washington D.C. including working for two years for at the Middle East Program of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace where he focused on Syria and Egypt. He also worked as a Summer Associate in the U.S. House of Representatives at the Congressional Budget Office's National Security Division where he worked on analyzing U.S. defense policy. He has briefed policymakers in the executive branch, Congress and the United Nations on the Syrian crisis and has spoken at Princeton University, the Open Society Institute, and Freedom House. He is the author of many reports on Syria for numerous think tanks which have been quoted in the New York Times, Reuters, NPR, and the Associated Press. His articles

have appeared in Foreign Policy, Syria Deeply, Al-Hayat, and other publications. Omar holds a J.D. in law from Catholic University, a M.A. in U.S. Foreign Policy focusing on counter-terrorism from American University, and a B.S. in Political Science from Radford University.

DR. JAVID HUSEYNOV

Dr. Javid Huseynov has been involved in Turkic American grassroots since 1990s. Originally from Azerbaijan, he is an executive director of Azerbaijan Society of America (ASA), the oldest Azerbaijani-American community organization. Dr. Huseynov had been a chapter president for the American Turkish Association of Southern California. In 2014-15, he served as planning commissioner in Fountain Valley, California, and was elected a state assembly district delegate for the California Democratic Party. Dr. Huseynov is a graduate of the University of California Irvine (UCI) with a doctorate degree in Information and Computer Science, and of the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) with Master's degrees in Information Technology and Engineering Management. He currently works as a data scientist for ESPN, the Walt Disney Company. Dr. Huseynov is also the author of a number of scientific publications and patents in the U.S., Canada, and China, as well as numerous editorials on the Caucasus region, Russia, and Turkey.

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. She holds a B.A. degree from Hamilton College (1978), where she received a full scholarship to attend after completing high school at Robert College in Istanbul, 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 since 1996.

HULYA KOC

Hulya Koc is a global serial entrepreneur, accredited investor and mentor to international entrepreneurs with 40 years of experience. She began her career as a banker and worked for international banks such as Wells Fargo Bank and continued on to become an entrepreneur in Silicon Valley and in Turkey. In

addition to founding and successfully exiting three award winning companies, Hulya also co-founded two nonprofit organizations - Bay Area Turkish Community School in 1990 and Turkish American Business Connection (TABC) in 2004. Both of these non-profits have been successfully serving the Bay Area Community in California for decades. In her over 35 years of residence in Silicon Valley, Hulya has also contributed to the Turkish Community as the President of TAAC - Turkish American Association of Northern California. Now, for the last two years she has been serving on ATAA's Bright Future Education Committee. Dedicated to educating and improving the lives of children as well as entrepreneurs in especially underprivileged neighborhoods, Hulya volunteers extensively for many organizations. Hulya holds a graduate degree in business administration and education.

SERKAN KOC

Serkan Koc was born in 1976 in Istanbul. In 2000, Koc started his journalism career at National Channel television, where he held various managerial tasks. Koc produced his first documentary "Hidden Ataturk" in 2006. To date, Koc has prepared nearly 50 documentaries in political and historical issues and many television programs.

PHILIP S. KOSNETT

Philip S. Kosnett, a career Senior Foreign Service Officer, has served since 2014 as Director of the State Department's Office of Southern European Affairs, responsible for U.S. relations with Turkey, Greece, and Cyprus. Much of Kosnett's career has been focused on international security and political reconciliation. He has served as Deputy Chief of Mission in Uzbekistan and in Iceland; and in political, economic, and political-military positions in Afghanistan; Iraq; Kosovo; The Netherlands; and Japan. Washington assignments include a detail to Congress's National Commission on Terrorism and tours in the State Department's European, Counterterrorism, Political-Military, and Intelligence & Research bureaus. He began his diplomatic career as a political officer and consul in Ankara in the 1980s. Kosnett is a multiple recipient of the State Department Superior Honor and Meritorious Honor Awards, and a recipient of the Secretary of Defense Medal for Exceptional Civilian Service and the Army Medal for Outstanding Civilian Service. He graduated from Harvard in 1982. His wife Alison Kosnett is an international business consultant; son Alex an environmental planner; daughter Nicole a social media producer.



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SUMRU BELGER KRODY

Sumru Belger Krody is Senior Curator at the George Washington University Museum and The Textile Museum. She has worked in curatorial capacity on more than fifteen exhibitions for The Textile Museum. Among them were *The Sultan's Garden: the Blossoming of Ottoman Art* (2012, co-curated with Prof. Walter B. Denny); *Colors of the Oasis: Central Asian Ikats* (2010); *Ahead of His Time: The Collecting Vision of George Hewitt Myers* (2007); *Harpies, Mermaids, and Tulips: Embroidery of the Greek Islands and Epirus Region* (2006); *Floral Perspectives in Carpet Design* (2004); *The Classical Tradition in Anatolian Carpets* (2002 co-curated with Prof. Walter B. Denny); and *Flowers of Silk and Gold: Four Centuries of Ottoman Embroidery* (2000). She has authored and co-authored four books written to accompany some of her major exhibitions: *The Sultan's Garden: the Blossoming of Ottoman Art* (2012), *Colors of the Oasis: Central Asian Ikats* (2010), *Harpies, Mermaids, and Tulips: Embroidery of the Greek Islands and Epirus Region* (2006) and *Flowers of Silk and Gold: Four Centuries of Ottoman Embroidery* (2000). Sumru is involved with many professional organizations including Centre International d'Etude des Textiles Anciens, Textile Society of America, Historians of Islamic Art Association, Middle Eastern Studies Association, Turkish Studies Association, Association of Art Museum Curators, College Art Association, and the Archaeological Institute of America. She was co-chair of the organizing committee for The 13th Biennial Textile Society of America Symposium (September 2012, Washington, DC). She has also served on the board of Textile Society of America. Born in Izmir, Turkey, Sumru received her B.A. and her M.A. in Classical Archaeology from Istanbul University and the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia respectively. Her specific research interests are the late antique and Islamic textiles with special focus on influence of textile technique and structure on artistic, social and economic power of textiles.

PROF. JUSTIN A. MCCARTHY

Justin A. McCarthy, who holds the appointment of Distinguished University Scholar, arrived at UoFL in 1978 immediately after receiving his Ph.D. from U.C.L.A. He is a nationally and internationally recognized scholar of the Ottoman Empire, modern Turkey and the Middle East. He has published eleven books, most recently *The Armenian Rebellion at Van* (2006). In 1996, UoFL recognized him with the Award for Outstanding Scholarship, Research, and Creative Activity.

G. LINCOLN MCCURDY

Mr. McCurdy has served as president of the Turkish Coalition of America (TCA) since 2007. TCA is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization based in Washington, DC that fosters understanding of Turkish American issues through public education. Mr. McCurdy has over 35 years of leadership and management experience in both U.S. government service and the private sector. He has extensive experience in dealing with bi-national boards; working with senior officials of the governments and military of the United States and Turkey; leading trade/investment missions and U.S. congressional delegations to Turkey; co-sponsoring activities with the State and Commerce Departments, Environmental Protection Agency, Smithsonian Institute and National Public Radio; and fundraising. He served as the senior advisor to the Turkish American Chamber of Commerce and Industry in New York in 2005 and 2006. Mr. McCurdy was the president and chief executive officer, 1998 - 2004, and executive director, 1989 - 1998, of the American-Turkish Council (ATC) in Washington, the leading business association in the United States devoted to the promotion of U.S.-Turkish commercial, defense and cultural relations. Before joining ATC, Mr. McCurdy served in the American Consulate General in Istanbul as the Consul for Commercial Affairs, 1980 - 1984. In this capacity, he received the Department of State's Meritorious Honor Award for "re-establishing American pre-eminence in the Istanbul International Business Community." After government service, he consulted in Istanbul for five years for the Bank of Boston and several Turkish companies. In the late 1970s, he worked at the U.S. Department of Commerce in Washington, DC, organizing trade shows in Brazil. G. Lincoln McCurdy received his B.A. at Hanover College in Indiana and holds a M.A. in International Management from The George Washington University. He is also a graduate of the Foreign Service Institute's Turkish Language and Culture Program. In May 2001, Mr. McCurdy received Hanover College's Alumni Achievement Award. He is married with two daughters and one granddaughter.

MARK MEIROWITZ

Dr. Mark Meirowitz is Assistant Professor at SUNY Maritime College. He holds a doctorate in Political Science and is an expert on Turkish Foreign Policy and US-Turkish Relations. He is writing a book on Turkish Foreign Policy for an academic press. He is a

Board Member and Secretary General of the Turkish American Chamber of Commerce and Industry (TACCI) and a member of the Advisory Board of the American Turkish Council. He is also a business lawyer in New York City who has been in law practice for over 30 years.

JENNIFER MIEL

Jennifer Miel is the Executive Director of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's U.S.-Turkey Business Council, the home of the bilateral commercial relationship between the United States and Turkey. In this capacity, Jennifer works closely with senior business leaders from more than 50 U.S. companies to advance their interests in Turkey. She directs the Council's policy and programmatic agenda, including the releasing the report, "Upgrading the U.S.-Turkey Commercial Relationship: A Shared Vision toward a U.S.-Turkey Free Trade Agreement," in Ankara in September 2015. Jennifer manages the U.S.-Turkey Business Council's engagement with senior level U.S. and Turkish government officials. In 2014, she led the U.S. Chamber of Commerce to open its Regional Office in Istanbul in partnership with the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB). She also serves as the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Turkey and Middle East Affairs Director with responsibilities to support programming and policy formulation across Egypt and the Gulf Cooperation Council countries. Before joining the U.S. Chamber, Jennifer worked as a financial analyst at Jones Lang LaSalle for nearly three years. There, she advised the U.S. Army on a \$12.7 billion portfolio of real estate assets. Jennifer earned a B.S. in urban and regional planning and a B.A. in Spanish literature from Cornell University. She completed her graduate studies in public policy at Georgetown University. Additionally, she serves on the Women in International Trade for Middle East programming Committee.

AMB. RICHARD MORNINGSTAR

Richard L. Morningstar is the Founding Director of the Global Energy Center at the Atlantic Council. He served as the US Ambassador to the Republic of Azerbaijan from July 2012 to August 2014. Prior to his appointment, since April 2009, he was the Secretary of State's Special Envoy for Eurasian Energy. Prior to that, Morningstar lectured at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard and Stanford Law School. From June 1999 to September 2001, he served as United States Ambassador to the European Union. Prior to this, Morningstar served as Special Adviser to the President and Secretary

of State for Caspian Basin Energy Diplomacy, where he was responsible for assuring maximum coordination within the executive branch and with other governments and international organizations to promote US policies on Caspian Basin energy development and transportation. From April 1995 to July 1998, he served as Ambassador and Special Adviser to the President and Secretary of State on assistance for the new independent states of the former Soviet Union, where he oversaw all US bilateral assistance and trade investment activities in the NIS. From 1993 to 1995, he served as Senior Vice President of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation. Morningstar also served as Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of the Costar Corporation from 1990 to 1993 and as President and Chief Executive Officer from 1981 to 1990. He was an Attorney with Peabody and Brown (now Nixon and Peabody) in Boston from 1970 to 1981, where he became a Partner in 1977. Morningstar served as a Commissioner of the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws (1989–1993). Prior to returning to the government in 2009, he served as Director of the American Councils for International Education, a Trustee of the Kosovo-America Educational Foundation, and a Trustee of the Eurasia Foundation. He is a Member of the Council on Foreign Relations. Morningstar received his BA from Harvard in 1967 and JD from Stanford Law School in 1970.

SEVGİN OKTAY

Sevgin Oktay has been Vice President of the World Affairs Council of the Mid-Hudson Valley. He has been involved with both the World Affairs Councils of America and Turkish Cultural Foundation in sending high school teachers to Turkey to inspire them introduce Turkey in their classrooms. He also co-founded a group called "Concerned People To Set The Record Straight," and an associated website, where he has published monographs about the Armenian allegations. Active in local politics, he was successful in having a US congressman join the Congressional Turkey Caucus. Born in Tekirdağ, Turkey, he came to the US in 1955 after graduating from Tarsus American High School with honors. He received his B.S. degree from Antioch College, Ohio and his Master's and Professional Mechanical Engineering Degrees from Columbia University, NY. After graduation, he joined IBM T.J. Watson Research Laboratories of the International Business Machines Corporation as a research scientist. He has more than 40 published inventions and holds 13 U.S. Patents. During his tenure at IBM, he held



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various technical and managerial positions ranging from research, development and manufacturing to Senior Product Program Manager at IBM Headquarters in Somers, NY. After retiring from IBM in 1993, he became a registered U.S. patent agent and held various patent consultant and advisory positions at Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP, Connecticut and White & Case LLP in New York prior to expanding his own business at Oktay Enterprises International, LLC. Sevgin Oktay is a founding and honorary member of the Society of Turkish American Architects, Engineers and Scientists and served as its president in 1994. He is an elected Life Fellow of American Society of Mechanical Engineers and Life Member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. Mr. Oktay is an avid flyer and a Flying Patent Agent. He is a member of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association and Experimental Aircraft Association.

DR. BANU ONARAL

Dr. Onaral is H. H. Sun Professor of Biomedical Engineering and Electrical Engineering at Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA. She holds a PhD [1978] in Biomedical Engineering from the University of Pennsylvania and BSEE [1973] and MSEE [1974] in Electrical Engineering from Bogazici University, Istanbul, Turkey. Dr. Onaral joined the faculty of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and the Biomedical Engineering and Science Institute in 1981. Since 1997, she has served as the founding Director of the School of Biomedical Engineering Science and Health Systems. Her academic focus is centered on information engineering with special emphasis on complex systems and biomedical signal processing in ultrasound and optics. She has led major research and development projects sponsored by the National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health, Office of Naval Research, DARPA and Department of Homeland Security. She is the recipient of a number of faculty excellence awards, including the 1990 Lindback Distinguished Teaching Award of Drexel University, the EDUCOM Best educational Software award, and the NSF Faculty Achievement Award. Her professional responsibilities have included service on the Editorial Board of journals and the CRC Biomedical Engineering Handbook as Section Editor for Biomedical Signal Analysis. She served as President of the IEEE Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society, the largest member-based biomedical engineering society in the world. She organized and chaired the 1990 Annual International Conference of the EMBS

and Co-Chaired the 2004 Annual Conference of the Biomedical Engineering Society. She is a Fellow of the IEEE Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and a Founding Fellow of the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE). She served on the inaugural Board of the AIMBE as publications chair and as Chair of the Academic Council. She currently serves as the President of the Turkish American Scientists and Scholars Association.

AMB. DAVID O'SULLIVAN

Prior to arriving in the United States, David O'Sullivan served as the Chief Operating Officer of the European External Action Service. The EEAS supports the High Representative/Vice President of the European Commission, in fulfilling her mandate to ensure the consistency of the Union's external action. The EEAS also assists the President of the European Council and the President of the European Commission in the area of external relations. David O'Sullivan was Director General for Trade from 2005 to 2010. Previously he was Secretary General of the European Commission from June 2000 to November 2005, Head of Cabinet of Commission President Romano Prodi and Director General for Education and Training. He started his career in the Irish Foreign Ministry and spent four years in the Commission Delegation in Tokyo. He also has extensive experience in EU social and employment policy. David O'Sullivan has a background in economics, graduating from Trinity College, Dublin and having completed post graduate studies at the College of Europe, Bruges. He holds an Honorary Doctorate from the Dublin Institute of Technology. He is also a Member of the Consultative Board of the Institute for International Integration Studies at Trinity College, Dublin. He is a visiting Professor at the European College of Parma and was awarded Alumnus of the Year 2013 by the College of Europe, Bruges. In June 2014, David O'Sullivan was awarded the EU Transatlantic Business Award by the American Chamber of Commerce. He was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from his Alma mater Trinity College, Dublin in December, 2014. He is married with two children.

AMB. FRANCIS J. RICCIARDONE

Francis J. Ricciardone is an Atlantic Council Vice President and the Director of the Rafik Hariri Center for the Middle East. Before joining the Council, he was a career Foreign Service Officer in Washington, the Middle East, Europe, and Asia, including

assignments as Ambassador to Turkey (2011-14), Chargé d'Affaires and Deputy Ambassador to Afghanistan (2009-10), Ambassador to Egypt (2005-8), and Ambassador to the Philippines and Palau (2002-5). As Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's Special Coordinator for the Transition of Iraq (1999-2001), Ambassador Ricciardone supported the reestablishment of the democratic opposition to the Saddam Hussein regime. Secretary of State Colin Powell assigned him in 2004 to organize the new US Embassy in Baghdad to replace the Coalition Provisional Authority. He worked with Egyptian, Israeli, and other international military forces as Chief of the Civilian Observer Unit of the Multinational Force and Observers in Egypt's Sinai Desert (1989-91). In 1993, he served as Political Adviser to US and Turkish generals commanding Operation Northern Watch in northern Iraq, based in Turkey. Before joining the Foreign Service, Ambassador Ricciardone held a Fulbright Scholarship in Italy, and taught at international schools in Italy and in Iran. He graduated summa cum laude from Dartmouth College in 1973. He speaks Italian, Turkish, Arabic, and French. He is married to Dr. Marie Ricciardone, a molecular biologist.

ANNE C. RICHARD

Anne C. Richard was sworn in as Assistant Secretary of State for Population, Refugees, and Migration on April 2, 2012. Prior to her appointment, Ms. Richard was the vice president of government relations and advocacy for the International Rescue Committee (IRC), an international aid agency that helps refugees, internally displaced and other victims of conflict. She was also a non-resident Fellow of the Center for Transatlantic Relations at Johns Hopkins University/SAIS and a board member of the Henry L. Stimson Center. From 1999 to 2001, Ms. Richard was Director of the Secretary's Office of Resources, Plans and Policy at the State Department. From 1997 to 1999, she was the deputy chief financial officer of the Peace Corps. Earlier, she served as a Senior Advisor in the Deputy Secretary's Office of Policy and Resources at the State Department and as a Budget Examiner at the U.S. Office of Management and Budget. From 1993 to 1994, Ms. Richard was an International Affairs Fellow of the Council on Foreign Relations and was part of the team that created the International Crisis Group. From 1985 to 1986, she was a fellow of the Robert Bosch Foundation in Germany. She first joined the U.S. government in 1984 as a Presidential Management Intern. Ms. Richard has authored several monographs and reports and numerous opinion pieces on topics including:

international coordination of foreign assistance; combating terrorism; strategies to make foreign aid more cost effective; and specific humanitarian crises from Haiti to South Sudan to Afghanistan. Ms. Richard has a B.S. in Foreign Service from Georgetown University and an M.A. in Public Policy Studies from the University of Chicago. She has lived overseas in Austria, Germany and France. She is married with two children.

CENNET KOSE RIVERA

Cennet Kose Rivera was born and raised in Turkey, where she lived until her departure for the U.S.A. in August 2008. In June 1996, she received a Bachelor of Arts in Arabic Language and Literature from the Department of Foreign Languages of Gazi University in Ankara, Turkey. As part of the Master Adjunct Faculty of the Howard Community College (HCC), she currently teaches beginning and intermediate Turkish language classes on campus in Columbia, Maryland. A strong advocate for interactive, computer-aided instruction, she has implemented CANVAS (Learning Management System) modules containing the syllabi for the five Turkish courses that she teaches. Cennet also works as a part-time Turkish language contractor for Virtual Learning Twenty-Four Seven, LLC (VL247). As such, she teaches single or multiple (simultaneous) students via broadband internet, utilizing the eMentor real-time, interactive, on-line, audiovisual training platform. Ms. Kose Rivera's professional interests focus on foreign culture and language, history and architecture, and the field of International Hospitality. She worked at the American Research Institute in Turkey (ARIT) as Administrative Assistant, Librarian and Assistant Director from 1989 to 2003 and was the General Manager of the Ankara Residence Hotel from 2004 to 2008. Additionally, as part of her extracurricular activities, she serves as President for the Maryland American Turkish Association (MATA); a non-profit, charitable, cultural, and educational organization that strives to convey a sense of community to those individuals of Turkish-American heritage, and those individuals interested in Turkish language and matters. In that capacity, since May 2014, she has been actively assisting in the coordination, development and implementation of the lesson content of the Assembly of Turkish American Associations' (ATAA) Turkish Online Learning Program (Bright Future Project) as a voluntary member of their e-Learning Education Committee.



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DAVID SALTZMAN

David Saltzman specializes in private and public international law litigation, arbitration, and negotiation, mainly at the federal district and appellate levels. He has assisted several foreign countries in successfully overcoming complex and politically sensitive legal and commercial challenges. He also handles matters involving civil liberties and the rights of individuals to freely speak and write about genuine historical and political controversies. Saltzman's experience includes matters involving the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act, the Alien Tort Statute, and other federal immunity statutes, the First Amendment, joint ventures and long-term contractual relationships, real estate development and finance, and antitrust. He has handled high-profile cases in the federal courts of the District of Columbia, California, and Minnesota. From 1991 to 1993, Saltzman was an associate in the Commercial Litigation Group at Chadbourne & Parke, LLP in New York. There, he worked on a wide variety of complex matters, ranging from occupational safety and health to the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act. Saltzman received his Juris Doctor from Washington & Lee University School of Law in 1991. Saltzman conducted his Bachelor's studies at the College of William & Mary in Virginia and the Université Paul Valéry in Montpellier, France.

PROF. BRENDA SHAFFER

Prof. Brenda Shaffer is a specialist on energy and foreign policy, global energy market trends, Azerbaijan, the Caucasus, ethnic politics in Iran and energy in the Caspian and Eastern Mediterranean regions. Prof. Shaffer is a Senior Fellow at the Atlantic Council's Global Energy Center. She is also an Adjunct Professor at Georgetown University, on leave from the University of Haifa. She has served as an advisor to Israel's Ministry of Energy and Water, and to the "Zemach Committee" that was appointed by the Prime Minister of Israel to recommend natural gas policy. She is the author of a number of books, including: *Energy Politics* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2009), *Borders and Brethren: Iran and the Challenge of Azerbaijani Identity* (MIT Press, 2002) and *Partners in Need: The Strategic Relationship of Russia and Iran* (Washington Institute for Near East Policy, 2001). Shaffer's opinion columns have appeared in numerous publications, including the *Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Post*, and *CNBC*. She has provided testimony before the U.S. Congress on issues related to European energy security and the Caspian region.

AMB. 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.

ALP ASLAN SOMYÜREK

Alp Aslan Somyürek is the director of International Sales and Business Development and also the head of newly-formed Okka Business unit. He received his B.Sc. degree in Electrical and Electronics Engineering from Bogaziçi University in 1990 and his MBA from The Open University, United Kingdom in 2013. Following his role as an engineer at Vestel Electronics between 1990 and 1996, Alp Somyürek joined the Vestel Foreign Trade team in 1996. In his new role, Alp was in charge of non-TV sales and overseas production operations. Alp later became International Marketing and Planning Manager, Planning and non-EU Sales Manager, VP for Sales and Marketing and VP for Marketing and Business Development in the same organization. During his time, Vestel became the first company exceeding the USD 1 billion mark in export sales in its sector in Turkey. Alp worked as Deputy Managing Director at Cabot Communications Ltd. of the UK between 2001 and 2007. This was the period when Cabot held almost 80 per cent of the interactive digital TV client software market in the UK's digital terrestrial TV market. After 2007, Alp fulfilled the Sales and Business Development directorship roles at the UK-based Tvonics Solutions Ltd. and the Luxembourg-based Inverto Digital Labs. Alp Somyürek joined Arzum Electrical Appliances Ltd. in 2010.

KATRE SORAN

Katre Soran was born in Pittsburgh in 1998 to a cardiologist mother and a surgeon father. By the age of 9 she knew that she wanted to major in both business and political science. She has been progressing towards her goals by doing internships in both sectors. At the age of 9 and again at 10 she represented the US along with four other nationally ranked high school gymnasts at the International Children's festival in Antalya and Izmir, respectively. Their stories got published in Tribune review and Pittsburgh post-gazette. She has been a member of the debate team for the last 3 years. This year, however, she has created the Congress event and has been appointed as the event leader. She not only recruited but also trained her fellow congress members. She competes both locally, where she has gotten awards by placing multiple times, and nationally at schools such as Harvard and Yale. She is also a 3year consecutive member of the tennis team where she has become the JV team captain this year. In 2015, she served for the Democratic Party campaign and her service was highly praised by campaign leaders. In the summer of 2015, she was accepted as an intern at the Turkish Coalition of America in Washington DC. She was the first high school student who got accepted to do this internship and was able to persuade Congressman Rothfus of Pittsburgh to join the Turkish Caucus who had declined the offer in the past. She was invited to give speeches as an invited speaker at the 2nd Annual Turkish American Youth Leadership Congress held in November 5-8, 2015 in Washington, DC and at the World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh held in Pittsburgh, PA in December 16th 2015. Her goal is to be a CEO of a Global company and then run for United States Congress.

DR. MURAT TAS

Dr. Murat Tas was born in Ankara, Turkey, and moved to San Antonio, TX in 1992. He received his AAS degree in both Computer Science and Records management from the San Antonio College, BS degree in Occupational Education from the Wayland Baptist University, MBA degree from the Wayland Baptist University and Ph.D. degree from the University of the Incarnate Word. Dr. Tas has been teaching at San Antonio College – Business department since 2001 and has been working as a consultant at the University of the Incarnate Word since 1997. He has been awarded Business Teacher of the Year 2005 in Texas. He is also affiliated with Ankara Baskent University, Atilim University, and the Caucasus Universities Association. He currently serves as Vice President for ATAA. He is one of the

founders of ATA (American Turkish Association) of San Antonio. He also actively serves in World Affairs Council of San Antonio and City of San Antonio International Visitors group. He is married to Sevda Tas with two daughters, Melodi Damla, and Melissa Su.

DERYA TASKIN

Derya Taskin is the President of the Turkish Institute for Progress (TIP). Born in Turkey, Ms. Taskin moved to the United States in 1995 to attend high school and, later, Seton Hall University, where she attained a B.S. in Diplomacy and International Relations and a B.A. in Criminal Justice. Prior to her leadership of TIP, she spent time working with the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations and the Turkish Grand National Assembly's Turkish Mission to the European Union. She also served as a translator for high profile speeches before the United Nations General Assembly. Ms. Taskin currently owns her own consulting company focused on staffing and business consulting, and in this role she also aids small businesses interested in moving their products to Turkey or selling within the Turkish market. Among her many boards and professional memberships, Ms. Taskin is a member of the Turkish American Chamber of Commerce and Industry, where she previously sat on the Board of Directors, and she also previously served as Vice President of the Federation of Turkish American Associations – the nation's oldest umbrella organization for Turkish American Organizations in the United States. She is also the President of the Paterson Turkish American Association of Paterson, NJ – a position she has held for the previous three years. She was also appointed by the Mayor of Paterson, NJ to serve as Commissioner of the Library and Museum Board. Ms. Taskin is fluent in English and Turkish and speaks conversational French.

DR. MEHMET TOY

Mehmet Toy received his B.S. and M.S. in Electronics and Communications Engineering from Istanbul Technical University, Istanbul, Turkiye 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, Intergerix, Intel Corp., Verizon Wireless, Axiowave Networks, Fujitsu Network Communications, AT&T Bell Labs and



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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 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 & Dunya Turkler Birligi", 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.

ASSOC. PROF. FATMA A. TURAN

Fatma Ahsen Turan is an associate professor in the department of Turkish Language and Literature at the Gazi University. She graduated from Ankara University, Faculty of Language, History and Geography, the department of Turkish Language and Literature in 1984. She completed her master's degree and doctorate's degree at the Institute of Social Sciences at Gazi University, Turkey. She worked as Turkish Language Instructor at Ankara University from 1985 to 1991. She has been working at the department of Turkish Language and Literature at the Gazi University since 1991. She earned a scholarship from the German Government (DAAD) in 2007 to attend Berlin Free University. In 2009, she was at the New Delhi Jamia Millia University as a visiting Turkish Language scholar. She managed more than 30 MA and PHD theses at Gazi University. Turan's research area is Turkish folklore and folk literature. In particular, her focus areas include folk beliefs, rituals, mythology, and history of Turkish women. She has attended many

symposiums and congresses both in Turkey and abroad. She has written 10 books and more than 65 articles. She writes a radio program about Turkish culture for Turkish Radio and Television Corporation every week. The program is translated to Spanish, German, Romanian, Arabic, Uzbek, Kazakh etc. Turan won the Turkish Folk Culture service award and TUBITAK publication award in 2011-2012. She is married and has two children.

PROF. DR. REFIK TURAN

Dr. Turan was born in Isparta in 1956. In 1978, he graduated from the Department of History, in the Faculty of Language, History and Geography at Ankara University. He prepared his M.A. thesis on General Turkish History at the same faculty. In 1983, he completed his Ph.D. thesis on the Institution of the Office of Vizier at the Anatolian Seljuk's State. In 1984, Dr. Turan was appointed as an assistant professor in the Program of History Teachers Education at the Department of Social Sciences Education, Gazi University. He was promoted to associate professor in General Turkish History in 1989. He became professor in 1995 and was appointed dean of Education Faculty at Gazi University in Kastamonu in the same year. He worked as a faculty member at the Program of History Teachers Education at Department of Secondary Level, Social Sciences Education, Gazi Faculty of Education from 1984 to 2015. In March 2015, he became president of The Turkish Historical Society. His research area is General Turkish history. In particular, his focus areas include the history of the Seljuks, the Ottomans and the Republic of Turkey. He is a member of the editorial board of the International of Eurasia Social Science. He has attended many symposium and congresses both in Turkey and abroad. He has written books and more than 100 articles. He managed more than hundred MA and PHD theses at Ankara University and Gazi University. Currently, he serves as president of the Turkish Historical Society. He is married and has two children.

DR. ULKU ULGUR

Dr. Ulku Ulgur, co-founded the Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA) in 1979 and served as its First president (1980-84). Later, during his tenure as Chairman of Board of Trustees he initiated and developed ATAA Endowment Fund. Dr. Ulgur is currently a member of the ATAA Board of Trustees. Dr Ulgur is one of the founders and Past President of the Maryland American Turkish Association (MATA). He also served as President of Turkish

American Neuropsychiatric Association. Dr. Ulgur completed his Primary Education in Darussafaka Lisesi and his undergraduate and medical education at the University of Istanbul Turkey. He came to USA in 1959 for his specialty training in Psychiatry. After finishing, he had an additional two-year Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Fellowship at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. In 1965, following his child training he joined the University's full-time faculty serving for ten years as Director of its inpatient, outpatient, and hospital consultation services. While he continued his teaching activities as a member of clinical faculty he developed and maintained an active office and consulting practice in Maryland. Dr. Ulgur is an active teacher and lecturer who has given many regional and international talks and wrote many scientific papers and book chapters. He is a Distinguished Life Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association and American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. He also served as President of Maryland Regional Council of the AACAP. He has received awards for his services to children and families from the University of Maryland and the City of Baltimore. Dr. Ulgur and his wife Marilyn have four daughters and live in Owings Mills, Maryland.

PROF. HALUK UNAL

Haluk Unal is a Professor of Finance, at the Robert H. Smith School of Business, University of Maryland, Special Advisor to the Center for Financial Research of the FDIC, and Senior Fellow at the Wharton Financial Institutions Center. He is also the Managing Editor of the Journal of Financial Services Research. Mr. Unal holds doctorates in finance from The Ohio State University and in economics from Istanbul University, where he did his undergraduate work as well. Mr. Unal also earned an MS degree in accounting from The Ohio State University. He previously taught at The Ohio State University and The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. He teaches corporate finance, management of financial institutions, and fixed income securities courses. His current research focuses on executive compensation, corporate bonds, bank mergers, pricing default risk, risk management, and bank resolution costs. He is widely published in top-tier finance and economics journals. Mr. Unal has been a consultant to the World Bank, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, and the Department of Justice. He is also on the academic council of Standard and Poor's. Internationally, he delivered invited lectures in China, Greece, Italy, Mexico, Peru, Poland, Spain, Switzerland, and Turkey. Mr.

Unal has been the President of the Turkish-American Scientist and Scholars Association (TASSA) since 2010 and organized the 2012 and 2014 TASSA Conferences.

NURTEN URAL

Nurten Ural is the CEO and Managing Member for the Turkish Resource Center of North America. Ms. Ural currently owns Ural LLC, a consulting firm and previously owned Ural Interiors, Inc., a commercial interior design company for 32 years. In 2004 Ms. Ural was appointed as Honorary Consul General for the Republic of Turkey and now serves on the Executive Board as President of the Consular Corps of Michigan. She also serves on the Board of the Metropolitan Museum of Design Detroit and on the International Committee for Crimea, Inc. In the past she has served as President for ATAA, President of TACAM, President for Farmington Chamber of Commerce and served on the boards of other Chambers of Commerce and on the board of the National Association of Women Business Owners. She also served on the board of the Detroit Institute of Arts. Her great accomplishments include receiving the 1998 Athena Award, 1992 and 1995 Business Accomplishment Award, the 2002 Daughter's of Ataturk-Women of Distinction Award, 2001 Republican of the Year Award, 2002, 2004 & 2005 Service awards from ATAA, the 2008 "Gobustan" International award by Azerbaijan Prime Minister in Berlin and an award from Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan for being an accomplished Turkish American business woman. In 2012 she received the Charles A. Gliozzo International Award for Public Diplomacy.

KAYHAN YILMAZ

Kayhan Yilmaz is currently a North and South America Senior Manager with Cyient Inc., a technology solutions firm where he's responsible for building new communication services, pre-sales and delivery. He was previously with Accenture, where he was working as Business & Systems Integration Manager for large global accounts. He has over 15 years of telecommunications experience and has worked with industry leaders such as Century Link, Verizon, T-Mobile, AT&T, Sprint, Comcast, HP and many others. Kayhan has been an active member of the Turkish American community in Washington DC. He's currently the Chairman for ATAA's Online Education Program (Bright Future Project). Kayhan graduated from Portland State University with a degree in BA/BBA Technology Marketing, and holds a MS/MSC Information and Telecom Systems degree



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from Johns Hopkins University of Carey Business School. He's currently planning to complete an Executive MBA degree from Boston University.

TURKOISE

Duygu Kirdar Aydın was born in Kocaeli in August 1986. She lived in İzmit Kocaeli and graduated from Atafen Koleji. She lived in İstanbul between 2004-2010 and graduated from University of Marmara as a French teacher. She took classical ballet lessons when she was 6 years old and became a ballet teacher by completing the Royal Academy of Dancing and several other art academies. She lived in France in 2010 to have her master degree on FLES. She worked as a teacher in several schools and married to Gürkan in 2013.

Dr. Zafer Boybeyi is a globally recognized and well published scientist. He received his B.S. degree in meteorological engineering from Istanbul Technical University, M.S. degree in atmospheric science from San Jose State University, and Ph.D in atmospheric science from North Carolina State University. He is currently a professor in Atmospheric, Oceanic, and Earth Sciences Department at George Mason University working on natural disasters and numerical weather prediction. He supervised and graduated many Ph.D students. He published over 120 journal articles, books, and conference proceedings. His interest in music started in his early ages. He played the string instruments and drum, and sang in İstanbul Technical University classical Turkish music chorus. He has recently joined the Turkoise group as drummer.

Kaan Celebi was born in New York in 1969. He took classical guitar lessons from Firat Kiziltug, a highly regarded classical Turkish music scholar, from 1977 to 1984. He received his BA degree in Architecture in 1995 from the Academy of Fine Arts in İstanbul and moved back to the United States the same year. He completed his graduate studies at North Carolina State University with an MBA degree in 1998. He currently resides in the Washington DC metro area with spouse Cheryl Celebi and 4 daughters, Alara (8), Aleyna (6), Maya (6) and Derya (4). He works as an operations manager for TA Group, Inc.

Serdar Cobanoglu was born in İstanbul in July, 1973. He lived in İzmit Kocaeli and graduated from Özel Seymen Koleji in 1990. He also lived in Cyprus between 91 and 96 and graduated from EMU in 96 with a BS degree in Mechanical Engineering. He started playing the guitar in early college years. Serdar has been living in the USA since 1998 and working as engineer and PM in steel construction industry. He married to Dilek in 1998. They have 2 boys; Kaan (14) and Arda (12).

Nejat Sarandal was born in Ankara, Turkey in June 1974. He started playing the guitar and keyboard during high school years. In 1993, Nejat came to the USA for college education and graduated from University of Arkansas majoring in Computer Information Systems. He obtained his MBA degree from Webster University in 2006. Nejat 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).

Tuna Yıldız was born in Ankara in 1984. He started playing wind instruments during high school years. He played instruments in well-known orchestras all over the world. He graduated from the School of Business Administration, Anadolu University in 2006 and earned his double major from Anadolu University State Conservatory. He also studied Interior Design in İstanbul. He has been running his own construction business for seven years.

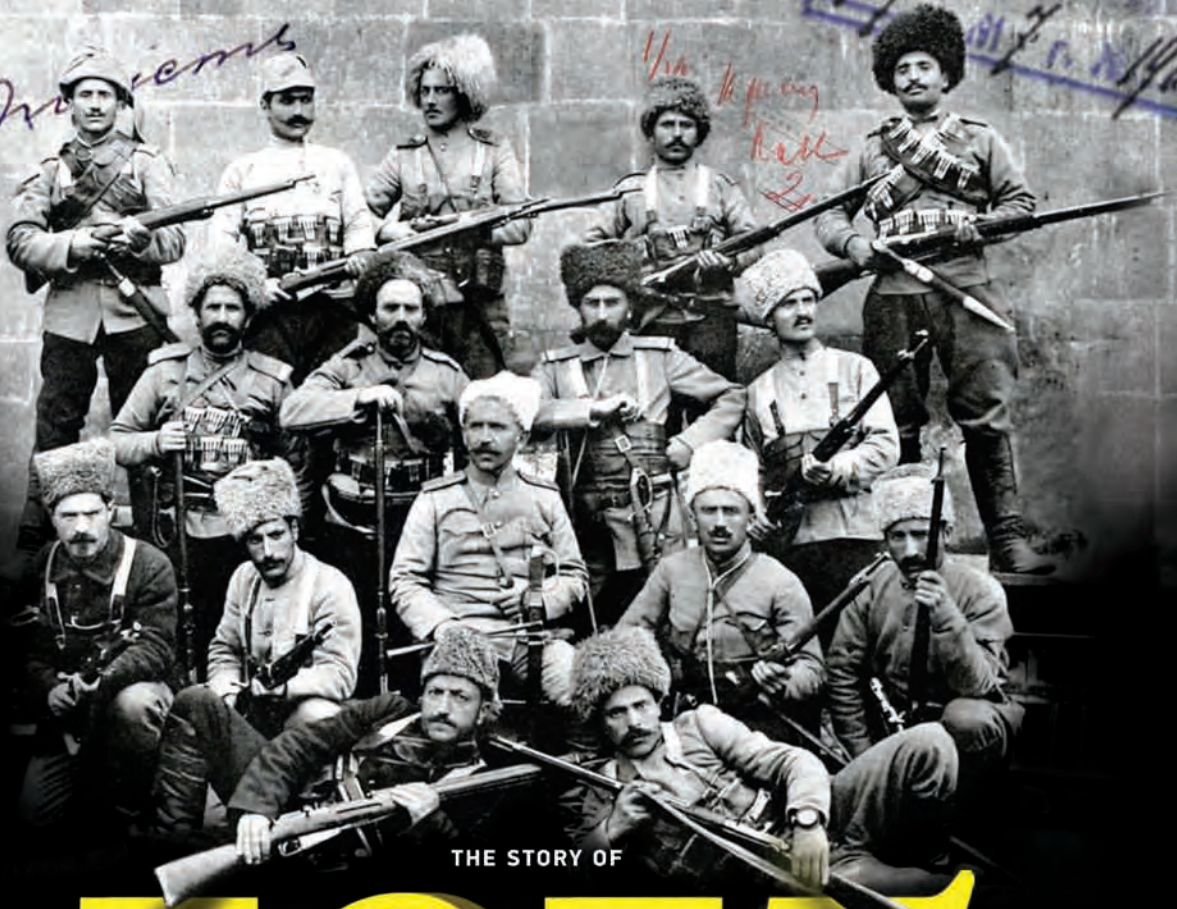


WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY SERKAN KOÇ

Armenians

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1918*



THE STORY OF

1915

IN
ARMENIAN DOCUMENTS



TALAT PAŞA
KOMİTESİ

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REMEMBERING THE KHOJALY TRAGEDY

On February 26, 1992 the people of Azerbaijan witnessed what the Human Rights Watch later described as the “largest massacre to date in the conflict” between Armenia and Azerbaijan. Armenian armed forces backed by former Soviet 366th Motor Rifle Regiment attacked the Azerbaijani town of Khojaly, in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Republic of Azerbaijan. It was resulted in the slaughter of unarmed civilian population, predominantly women and children.

Armenian armed forces brutally murdered 613 innocent Azerbaijanis, including 106 women, 63 children, and 70 elderly people. Among the dead, 487, including 76 young children, had horrific injuries and 56 were killed by methods classified as 'severe cruelty.' Civilians were shot at point blank range, scalped and burned alive. Those wounded who escaped the gunfire were forced to run for safety through the mountains with many freezing to death. The remaining 1275 people were taken hostage. Armenia continues to occupy Nagorno-Karabakh and seven surrounding districts, all within the internationally-recognized borders of Azerbaijan. The Nagorno-Karabakh conflict resulted in more than 20,000 Azerbaijani deaths, with many thousands being wounded or maimed, and hundreds of settlements were looted and burned.

Altogether, around one million Azerbaijanis became internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees – nearly one ninth of the total Azerbaijani population, which constituted the highest number of refugees per capita in the world at the end of hostilities in 1994.

Recognition of the Khojaly massacre as a crime against humanity is a debt owed to the memory of those perished and a necessity for building long-term peace for in the region.



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Şükrü Elekdag Award

ENGİN İNEL HOLMSTROM

*In Recognition of her lifelong dedicated work for empowerment of
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Turkish American of the Year Award

PROFESSOR AZİZ SANCAR

*In recognition of his lifelong dedication to science
and being the first Turkish American scientist awarded
The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2015*

Special Award

ATA ERİM

*In recognition of his ongoing support of the ATAA,
and his service to Turkish American Community*

Appreciation Award

RIDVAN SEZER, TURKISH NY

*In recognition of his ongoing support of the ATAA,
dedication and service to Turkish American Community*

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**BASKENT UNIVERSITY, FACULTY OF EDUCATION
BAŞKENT ÜNİVERSİTESİ, EĞİTİM FAKÜLTESİ**

*In recognition of the outstanding dedication and service
to the Bright Future Project and tirelessly working
with the ATAA Education Committee*



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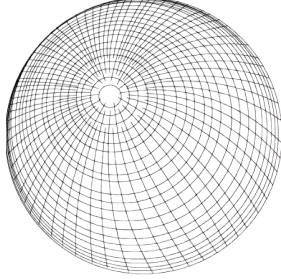
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