

Buralarda

The Newsletter of Arkadaşlar, Friends of Turkey



Number 35, April 2012

Retrospective on the 2011

Reunion by Sandy Anderson (T-13)



Group photo at the March of the Flags

The Peace Corps's 50th Anniversary and our Arkadaşlar Global Reunion were a really big deal for us. Looking back at those September 22-24, 2011 events, I see a blur, a fast-forward film of a lot of people, all smiling, going to activities, then, on the last day, pausing. "People I haven't seen for years. If we only had a little more time to sit and talk." They were right - a three-day weekend was just too short for all we wanted to do.

Friday, some early birds caught a Peace Corps retrospective where Steve Allen (T-1) spoke as one of the "Kennedy's Kids" panelists.

Friday night, everyone was anxious because we were invited to the Turkish ambassador's residence, but our number of attendees (313) vastly exceeded earlier estimates and perhaps 50 people were biting their nails on a waiting list. In the end, with persistence from our president, Mike Jewell (T-1), everyone was allowed to attend.

The Turkish staff outdid itself, and we soaked up the grandeur of the ambassador's residence, a mansion.

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We were dressed in our travel best, and we looked good. There were some speeches, but with the large crowd many couldn't hear. We clapped when everyone else did and hung out around the meze table. (Tabii).

Later that evening, some of our members and former staff attended a reception for all Peace Corps that Ken Hill (T-9) pulled together. I hear he's still in recovery; he did a fantastic job.

Saturday morning some people were able to attend some Peace Corps events, while others were still registering. We had 361 people, with 271 being our volunteers. This is a full third of the 800 members we know about.

A young professor from Turkey, Gökhan Eşel, showed up to help Linda Scheffer (T-8), Margaret Patterson (T-4) and others with registration. Linda enjoyed this new friendship and the helping hand. He's planning to write a dissertation on the Peace Corps in Turkey this spring and publish a book next fall.

That afternoon we made our way to Key Bridge Marriott and our grand plenary session. We sat at tables as speakers fanned our nostalgia and pricked our sensibilities about current events. All good speakers and a long afternoon, but hardly enough time to pack in all the topics. One speaker particularly engaged our attention: Professor Zafer Parlak, who is also writing a book about us, from our and the Turks' perspectives. He

*Please see Retrospective on the Reunion
on page 2*

Sayın Arkadaşlar

By Mike Jewell



Sayın Arkadaşlar;

It's late March, looks and feels like mid-May, so it must be time to send out our first newsletter for 2012 (Happy New Year)! I'll take the blame for the lazy start, but of course the usual suspects (Sandy, Linda, Peggy, Steve *et. al.*) are ignoring my lethargy, busy getting this newsletter out, planning for our 2012 edition of the Membership Directory and, (surprise!!) another reunion. This one isn't as accessible as last year's global reunion in D.C., but promises to be as memorable for those who can make it. Think of it as another volunteer opportunity. Fifty years ago we needed 29 TEFL teachers and nine Agricultural specialists in Turkey. Now, we need as many volunteers as we can get to help us ancient Turkey I volunteers climb the steps at Gazi University where we trained in country FIFTY years ago.

I want to welcome John Gallivan (T-2) and Tom Kral (T-4) as new Board members. Our next meeting is at 6 pm May 1st at Atilla's in Arlington. Any members in the area or just visiting are welcome to join us, but let me know by April 29th if possible.

İnşallah, Ankarada görüşürüz
Mike Jewell

Retrospective on the Reunion

Continued from page 1

came just to meet these people with whom he'd been corresponding. We were entranced as he told us about ourselves. Pictures of the plenary session including panelists are at the homepage of our website, www.arkadaslar.info. Other reunion photos are at http://www.arkadaslar.info/photo_gallery.htm.

That evening each of the groups gathered at a separate Turkish restaurant for a chance to finally spend time becoming reacquainted with others who trained and served with us. That took a half second, then we launched into "Ne var, ne yok? What's happened over all these years?" Some groups had met earlier and attended the NPCA Gala with all the glitz and celebs.

Sunday, our final event: Most of us wore our Arkadaşlar shirts, in dark blue with a Turkish tile logo, designed by Allan Gall (T-1). We began by attending a ceremony at the amphitheater at Arlington Cemetery, then we migrated to the Memorial Bridge to begin the Walk of Flags to the Lincoln Memorial. We were such a large group, especially compared to other groups toward the end of the alphabet (Think Tajikistan, Turkmenistan ...), that someone commented that there should be some limitations on group numbers. We could only smile.

But it was a sad smile, too, for this was our parting activity. People went off in little groups, some arranging to meet later and most promising to keep in touch. Maybe with refreshed memories we can hold on to our positive feeling for all that we were able to do in Turkey, and our enduring Peace Corps friendships.

New Arkadaşlar Directory Coming for 2013

It is time to publish a new directory for Arkadaşlar; although it doesn't seem like three years have passed. If any of your information has changed -- name, address, home phone, email address, group, years, sites -- please let Linda Scheffer know. Also, let her know if you DO NOT want that information published. She's at LMScheffer@aol.com. The theme will be "Bir Varmış, Bir Yokmuş," or "Once upon a Time." Please find photos and stories from back then. Send your photos and stories electronically or by mail to Sandy Anderson,

TurkeyDost@aol.com. Sandy can also locate pictures you've sent for other projects and use them. The directories help us keep up with ourselves, a surprisingly mobile group.

Thanks,
Sandy

Cumhuriyet Bayram Dinners – 2011

Cumhuriyet Bayram Dinners 2011: We celebrated the Bayram in six sites this year. These were fewer than normal gatherings as the bayram followed so closely the Global Peace Corps Reunion in Washington, DC that more than 300 Arkadaşlar attended. Let's look forward to more celebrations in 2012.



Sixteen New York Area Arkadaşlar met on the day after the October blizzard. We had a great time together talking about the reunion, the Bridges of Hope Project and other issues. We enjoyed some superb Turkish food at Sahara's Turkish Cuisine Restaurant in Manhattan.



Milwaukee, Wisconsin RPCV photo taken Oct 29, 2011 at Tulip, a really fine Turkish restaurant in Milwaukee

Left-to-right: Ann Wilson & David Wilson (T-15), Russ Whitsel (T-9), Paul Kinsley (T-9), Liz Whitsel, Ephraim Frankel (T-9) & Marian Frankel-Vieux.

"It was a nice memory to return to the exact place where in early April, Dan Leahy (T-9) , Paul Kinsley (T-9), and I hatched the idea of bringing Zafer Bey to the Reunion." -- Ephraim Frankel (T-9)

In Memoriam:

Michael Bash (T-13) passed away at his home in Thessaloniki, Greece on Jan 30, 2012.

Marcia Demkowicz Gnuse (T-13) passed away Feb 1, 2012.

Julie Auer (T-8) passed away on New Year's Day of this year in Naples, Florida.

Lael Swinney Stegall (T-6) passed away from pancreatic cancer on October 25, 2011 in Deer Isle, Maine.

Helen M. Johnson (T-12), who attended our Sept 2011 Arkadaşlar reunion, died suddenly of heart failure on Oct. 1, 2011, just days after our reunion.

Iris Shuey (T-16) on April 24, 2011.

Please visit the Arkadaşlar website obituaries page for information about these friends who have recently passed away. <http://www.arkadaslar.info/obituaries.htm>

RENEW YOUR ARKADAŞLAR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2012

Remember Turkey from the 1960s? Want to keep up-to-date on Turkey today? Want to reconnect with friends from your Peace Corps Turkey experience? If you have not yet done so, renew your membership in Arkadaşlar for the year ahead.

WHAT ARKADAŞLAR DID FOR YOU IN 2011

- Held a fun-filled reunion in Washington, DC in September with about 350 people in attendance
- Held Cumhuriyet Bayram dinners in various states
- Maintained and updated a national database of former Peace Corps Turkey volunteers, friends, and staff
- Added new pictures and features to the Arkadaşlar Website: www.arkadaslar.info pertaining to the Peace Corps 50th Turkey Reunion
- Posted many stories and anecdotes about Turkey on the Arkadaşlar Listserv at ArkadaslarFriends@yahoo.com
- Increased linkages with the Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA), and the American Turkish Association of DC (ATA-DC)
- Donated \$9,500 to nonprofits in and/or for Turkey
- Donated \$2,000 for the Van Earthquake Relief Fund

WHAT YOU WILL GET FOR YOUR 2012 DUES

- *Buralarda*: three issues of our newsletter featuring news of Arkadaşlar and updates on old friends from your Peace Corps Turkey days
- The 2009-2010 Membership Directory featuring names (including maiden names), addresses, and listings by city/state/country, with information about groups of service and sites, if you are paying dues for the first time
- Invitation to a regional Bayram Dinner
- Access to and participation in our listserv and web site
- Opportunity to donate funds to noteworthy nonprofits serving Turkey

DURING 2012, ARKADAŞLAR WILL

- Continue to search for others who served in Peace Corps Turkey
- Mail a 2009-2010 Membership Directory to those members who pay 2012 dues for the first time
- Continue to support educational, economic and health causes in Turkey

Please make your check (\$25/\$35 singles & couples respectively, - and add some more as a voluntary donation to our projects) payable to “Arkadaşlar.”

Mail it to: Linda Scheffer

Contact Linda at LMScheffer@aol.com for mailing address or other information about membership.

Arkadaşlar Projects Make a Difference: HasNa, Inc.

By Steve Poppick

HasNa, Inc. is a Washington, DC-based 501(c)(3) organization, to which Arkadaşlar contributed \$1,000 in 2011. Much of the information in this article comes from the organization's website www.hasna.org.

HasNa's mission is to promote cross-cultural understanding and economic empowerment in culturally divided areas of the world and to encourage individuals and communities in such areas to work together toward advancement and peaceful coexistence. Its goal is to strengthen relationships through increased understanding. Its projects in Turkey and Cyprus reflect some of the types of rural community development work that we did as Peace Corps Volunteers.

In southeastern Turkey, HasNa is executing its model of combining conflict resolution and professional skills training through programs that involve a variety of participants. HasNa has trained businessmen, rural women, farmers, farm extension workers, English language teachers, chairmen and members of the local water users association, and government representatives from the region. HasNa's programs in Turkey bring together individuals from different backgrounds and offer a chance for them to interact and at the same time acquire useful technical and communication skills. Arkadaşlar Pat Lowther and Kathy Scruggs (both T-2) inaugurated a three week English Training project for HasNa for 20 participants in Diyarbakir in May 2011. Sandy Pfunder (T-9) and Carl Nelson (T-13) taught this month with HasNa in Diyarbakır.

Over the past two years projects have included improving the skills and techniques of farmers raising citrus crops and pistachios. In Southeastern Turkey, agriculture is the only source of income for many poor farmers. Nevertheless, the climate in the region is ideal for growing many agricultural products, including pistachios. Farmers have been cultivating the plant in Turkey for centuries; however traditional pistachio cultivation techniques in Turkey are outdated, leaving many pistachio producers at a disadvantage in the marketplace. To illustrate, a 25-30 year-old pistachio tree in Turkey yields an average of 15 pounds of pistachios per year, whereas a tree in the U.S. yields 40-44 pounds!

In June 2010, HasNa welcomed six pistachio farmers, two government officials, and two farm extension workers to its Pistachio Farmers Training Program. The



HasNa Cyprus Youth Training Program

program exposed the participants to modern pistachio farming techniques in the U.S., which they will be able to use to improve their pistachio yield when they return to Turkey.

At the University of California's Kearney Agricultural Research Center near Fresno, CA participants attended a training program that addressed every stage of pistachio production. Experts in the field shared their knowledge and experience during a week filled with in-depth seminars on growing and harvesting pistachios and visits to pistachio orchards, nurseries and processing plants.

In Cyprus HasNa has been involved in peace-building programs since 2001, and has developed a unique training approach that includes pre- and post-training support focusing on conflict resolution and communication skills. Since recognizing the impact of media on public opinion in Cyprus, HasNa has worked with local NGOs on programs particularly focused on the media. Realizing the misunderstandings and prejudices created by distorted facts and biased news reporting, HasNa aims to promote open dialogue, which facilitates conflict resolution and reconciliation.

Past projects have included training workshops for young journalists in unbiased journalism methods, a media symposium in Cyprus, as well as the Reconciliation Now Project and the launch of the Talk of the Island radio program. In addition, HasNa launched the Cyprus Friendship Program in 2009. CFP aims to bring teens from both the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities together to develop friendships while working on their peace, reconciliation and leadership skills. The program's focus is to break the cycle of fear and mistrust between the two communities on Cyprus by building understanding and promoting peaceful interaction.

This is indeed an organization worthy of our support.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS SINCE THE PEACE CORPS ARRIVED IN TURKEY: 1962-2012

By Peggy Hanson (T-1)

On September 6th of this year, members of Turkey I and groups who followed them will stand in Ankara at Anıt Kabir and other sites to mark the 50th anniversary of the Peace Corps' beginning in Turkey. Arrangements are being made for a reception by the US Ambassador and perhaps another hosted by the Turkish government. It will be a solemn moment and a tribute to the country which has changed every returned volunteer's life.

The 1960s were tumultuous years in our adopted land, as they were in our native country. In the US we had assassinations, civil unrest, expansion of the Vietnam War, and the new freedom of the pill. And LSD. In Turkey, the military was The Force. Just a year before Turkey I arrived, a military court had sentenced Prime Minister Menderes to hang, allegedly for his "economic policies."

While we were in the country - and I'm talking about all groups now - tanks came into the streets from time to time, Leftist groups carried out terrorist attacks and security forces put them down with severity. Cyprus simmered and came to a boil in 1963 when Turkish media were full of atrocities against Turks in Cyprus, and the US government said Turkey could not use F-16s from the United States to retaliate. Until that moment, in December 1963, Americans were universally loved in Turkey. After that, until the Peace Corps was virtually terrorized out in 1970, the Turks did not take for granted American friendship.

And yet, the reunion in Washington last September drew 350 former volunteers and spouses. The friendship is lasting and real.

The organizers of this year's 50th anniversary celebrations in Turkey hope as many of you as possible will join us in Ankara, İstanbul and a special north-central Anatolian trip designed by George Park. Plans are still underway for the Ankara and İstanbul portions - except we know there will be activities in Ankara on September 6th and 7th. Please contact Peggy Hanson (hanusa2@yahoo.com) if you are interested in our arranging something for you in Ankara or İstanbul or between the two cities.

Our Anatolian trip is pretty full but we may be able to accommodate one or two more. Here are the details of that trip, including prices. If there is demand, we can run a second trip the opposite direction at the same time. We are staying in boutique hotels and traveling in two small vans either direction. Haydi, Türkiye'ye gidelim!

Here are some details from Cengiz Tekin at Barefoot Travel, our travel agent in İstanbul:

Haydi, Türkiye'ye gidelim!

Net cost of the following itinerary:

1350 USD per person (B&B Accommodation, English speaking tour leader, Private minibus, fuel, parking fees, Driver and guide meals, insurance, Museum entrance fees, Lunches, dinners (drinks excluded) Single supplement 200 USD per person

Days 1 & 2: (Sept 8,9) Ankara to Amasya via Hattusa and Yazılıkaya: The first day of the trip starts with a tour of Hattuşa, the Hittite Capital (from about 1375 to 1200 BC) and Yazılıkaya the Hittite Empire's most sacred site. The tour will stay two nights in Amasya at Emin Efendi Konak www.eminefendi.com

Day 3: (Sept 10) Amasya to Sivas: We will stay two nights in Sivas to give the tour time to travel to and from Divriği on Day 4. After our arrival we will have time to explore the town's large number of historical buildings, many of them dating from the Selçuk period, including the impressive Gök Medrese (sky-blue seminary) with its two minarets and façade decorated in blue tiles. Overnight at Paşabey Hotel

<http://www.pasabeyotel.com/>

Day 4: (Sept 11) Sivas to Divriği and return

Day 5: (Sept 12) Sivas to Ünye on the Black Sea Coast: we spend the night in Ünye, which is a resort town and small port. Sebile Hanım Konağı www.sebilehanimkonagi.com.

Day 6: (Sept 13) Ünye to Sinop along the Black Sea coast: Sinop Antik Hotel

<http://www.sinopantikotel.com.tr/hakimizda.asp?id=h1>

Day 7: (Sept 14) Sinop to Amasra: From Sinop we continue along the Black Sea Coast to Amasra. This part of the tour is expected to take from seven to eight hours on a road which hugs the coastline and offers breathtaking scenery of sea and mountains. Hotel to be arranged.

Day 8: (Sept 15) Amasra to Safranbolu: (overnight in Safranbolu) Gülevi Hotel

*Please see Türkiye'ye gidelim!
On page 7*

Türkiye'ye gidelim!

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<http://www.gulevisafranbolu.com/en/home> or
Cinci Han <http://www.cincihan.com/eng/alt.htm>
Day 9: (Sept 16) Safranbolu to Ankara or İstanbul

To whet your appetites for the trip:

MARY LEE SETTLE, TURKISH REFLECTIONS

On her trip to Sivas and Divriği in 1989:

"The passion of scholars for tracing sources is up, literally, against a stone wall there. They tend to leave out the element of play, and the north door of the mosque is nothing but play, as if the carvers had

woven an embroidered tapestry and turned it into stone cat's cradles of designs, vines, an exuberance of flowers. Eight-pointed stars seem to roll across the top of the door. Baroque leaves curl; swirls of stone arabesques burst their bounds and are flung across the façade from one staid line of carvings to another. The stone was soft, the carver was left alone, and the monument is a work of joy, the color of a deer pelt in the sun."

I suggest everyone get a copy of Mary Lee's book, Turkish Reflections, whether you go on the trip or not!

Notes from the Arkadaşlar Board Meeting January 17, 2012

The Arkadaşlar Board of Directors met at Atilla's Restaurant on January 17, 2012. In attendance were Sandy Anderson, Elliot Eisenberg, Ellie LeBaron, John Gallivan, Peggy Hanson, Mike Jewell, Tom & Kathy Kral, Valerie Olson, Linda Scheffer, Dave Weinman, and John Wintrol.

Treasurer's Report

We have 159 members for 2012. Of those, 30 are also members of NPCA.

Election of Board Members

Returning Board Members are:

2012 Ken Hill (T-9)
2012 Mike Jewell (T-1)

2013 Sandy Anderson (T-13)
2013 Valerie Olson (FOT)
2013 Peggy Hanson (T-1)
2013 Elliot Eisenberg (T-12)

2014 Linda Scheffer (T-8)
2014 John Wintrol (T-2)
2014 Steve Poppick (T-10)

With John, Linda and Steve willing to continue for a new term, there are three additional vacancies. Mike and Dave phoned around and held some exploratory conversations. New members recommended for 2012-2014 are Tom Kral and John Gallivan.
2014 Tom Kral (T-4)
2014 John Gallivan (T-2)

They were approved by acclamation.



Board Members Sandy Anderson, Mike Jewell, Elliot Eisenberg, Tom Kral, Dave Weinman, Linda Scheffer

Mike said that he felt the presidency should be passed around; however he's willing to serve one more year since it's the year that the T-1s will have their 50th reunion in Turkey. Mike was elected president for the coming year.

Photo Credits:

Group Photo at the March of Flags : Mike Miller, T-5
New York Area Bayram Dinner: Steve Poppick, T-10
Wisconsin Bayram Dinner: Eph Frankel, T-9
Arkadaslar Board Members: Ellie LeBaron, T-15



Buralarda

The Newsletter of Arkadaşlar,
Friends of Turkey

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.arkadaslar.info/

*"Buralarda" means "hereabouts" or "somewhere around here" in Turkish.
It comes from an early dialogue in some of our Turkish language lessons:*

"Buralarda bir benzinci var mı?"

("Is there a gas station somewhere around here?")