

Buralarda

The Newsletter of Arkadaşlar, Friends of Turkey



Number 27, January 2009

Arkadaşlar – Why? How?

By Peggy Hanson



Dave Amca at
Bayram celebration
October 2008

The Arkadaşlar organization has become the gold standard of returned Peace Corps volunteer groups. RPCVs from other countries are amazed when they learn that we get together in such numbers, with obvious pleasure in each other's company. And since its inception in the 1990's, Arkadaşlar has quietly funded a number of charitable organizations - to the tune of nearly 70 thousand dollars in a decade!

To understand the Arkadaşlar phenomenon better, *Buralarda* went straight to the horse's mouth – David "Amca" Weinman. Volunteers in later groups may not fully understand Dave Amca's role in holding us together.

Dave Weinman was a law student and Near East Studies graduate student at the University of Michigan when Presidential candidate, John F. Kennedy, first broached the idea of the Peace Corps there in 1960. Dave was immediately inspired. His chance to serve came in 1962, when he was recruited

IN THIS ISSUE:

Arkadaşlar – Why? How?	1
Let's Get Together and Feel All Right	1
"Dear Friends of Turkey" – Mike Jewell	2
Cumhuriyet Bayram Gatherings around the Country	3
Preparing for a New Arkadaşlar Directory	4
45 th Anniversary Reunion of Turkey 2	5
Join the Listserv – Visit the Website	5
President Obama and MorePeaceCorps – Ken Hill	6
Anatolian Artisans	7
Present at the Inaugural Parade	7

to go to Turkey as the first Peace Corps country director. For the first years of Peace Corps in Turkey, 1962-64, the entire presence in the country consisted of 39 volunteers – with Dave as our young director in Ankara. Over the years, Dave served twice in the Turkey program and he has adopted every volunteer who ever served in Turkey as a "niece" or "nephew." He can pretty well tell you exactly who served where, and when.

So I suggested lunch with Dave to get the story of how his interest in keeping volunteers together led to the formation of Arkadaşlar. He says it took about ten years after the idea of having organized get-togethers was first floated by Jeri Mayer, the wife of one of the three Peace Corps doctors in the mid-sixties, when the Peace Corps

*Please see Arkadaşlar – Why? How?
on page 2*

Let's Get Together – And Feel All Right!

By Sandy Anderson

We want to get in touch with and contact all of our fellow missing Peace Corps Turkey members, especially so that they can be included in the 2009 directory. We would also like to invite all RPCV's and former staff members to join the listserv and to visit our Arkadaşlar website, and we are beginning to prepare for the Global Reunion from Sept. 22-25, 2011 in Washington, D.C. to coincide with the Peace Corps' 50th Anniversary. Each Turkey PC group will plan at least one activity for itself at this huge reunion.

It's time to start pulling our groups together and find our missing fellow volunteers. In the past,

finding everyone and reconnecting has been best done by fellow group members, and we have volunteer coordinators for most of the groups:



*Please see Let's Get Together
on page 4*

Dear Friends of Turkey

By Mike Jewell



Thanks for your continued participation and support of Arkadaşlar. Some 17 years ago, I became the President of our first Board. Thanks to you, communications technology, and some really amazing fellow Board members, we are a much more dynamic, active organization than we were then.

One predecessor, Ken Hill (T-9), guided the Board masterfully, extending our reach externally, deepening our ties to the Turkish organizations we support, and keeping the organization focused and on track. All this was done in his personable, good-humored manner. His lone unfulfilled promise despite repeated efforts was getting John Wintrol (T-2) to pick up the dinner tab for our quarterly dinner/Board meeting. I am making no such promise. [Ed. Note: All members are invited to those dinner meetings. Indicate your interest and we will keep you informed.] Susan Bayley and Dave Weinman have also served well recently to lead us and hold us together.

We try, but can't say often enough, how central to Arkadaşlar's existence Sandy Anderson (T-13) and Linda Scheffer (T-8) are. They keep us connected electronically; handle membership, dues collections, addresses, donations and much more. Thank you, thank you!! Finally, I want to thank Ellie LeBaron (T-15) for minding our website with intelligent intuition (from Qatar, no less!) and Peggy Hanson (T-1) and Steve Poppick (T-10) for rejuvenating *Buralarda*. And we never forget that Arkadaşlar would not be in its vibrant state today without the patient, faithful commitment of Dave Weinman, our "Amca" and the first director of PC Turkey.

We have a busy year ahead as we update our Membership Directory and begin getting ready for the big one: a reunion gathering to coincide with the 50th Peace Corps Anniversary celebration in 2011!

So, if you haven't yet done it, please renew your membership and stay connected! Dues checks for \$20, plus any additional donations for our projects, can be mailed to Linda Scheffer.

Arkadaşlar – Why? How?

Continued from page 1

presence in Turkey amounted to more than a thousand volunteers.

Dave's close relations with members of Turkey I and Turkey II had already led to reunions of those groups. Some members of early groups had helped train subsequent arrivals, so lateral ties had been cemented. The Peace Corps 25th reunion in 1986 in Washington was attended by quite a few Turkey returnees. We were on our way, using the formula, "*Yarın, inşallah!*"

Finally, in 1991, formative planning took place, the name *Arkadaşlar* was chosen, and in 1992 a constitution was drafted, and officers were elected. Mike Jewell, our current new president, became our first president. Sandy Anderson and Linda Scheffer began their steady support in developing the member database and the accounting system, without which Arkadaşlar would never have grown and flourished.

Dave feels that the *raison d'être* for Arkadaşlar is the need for Turkey PC volunteers to get together to re-live those formative years and the life-changing experiences we all had in Turkey. "They want to keep the experience going!" He feels that we need to get together to share our bi-cultural viewpoint, hard-won even in a country as beautiful and hospitable as Turkey.

The fact that these same volunteers want to contribute something to Turkey and to Turks now is part of the volunteer spirit, according to Dave. This explains the motivation for our charitable donations, which have made a big difference to several small organizations. (Please check out the Arkadaşlar website for details, and think about what you can give to these groups by adding something extra to your dues payment!)

Arkadaşlar owes a big debt to Dave Amca. As a group, we say "Teşekkürler!" and wish him a HAPPY 75th BIRTHDAY!

"They want to keep
the experience going"

Cumhuriyet Bayram Gatherings from around the Country

Reports on two of the many Arkadaşlar celebrations

New York - by Bob McCord

There were 33 festive attendees at the Turkish Cumhuriyet Bayram luncheon that lasted from about Noon to 4PM on Sunday, October 26, 2008. About an hour was spent enjoying the sunny fall day and getting acquainted before we sat down for lunch at one o'clock.

Bob McCord, T-8 - Adapazari, spoke to the Americans and Turks assembled at the table about the Peace Corps and why our relationship with Turkey has always been so important. Huseyin Unver, who lives in New Jersey, works in New York City and learned English from a Peace Corps Volunteer in his school near Konya long ago, explained that his organization, Bridges of Hope, helps build and support libraries and schools in eastern Turkey (see bridgesofhopeproject.org for more information). Huseyin is a member of the Board of Directors at Bridges of Hope. Cigdem Acar founded the organization and is the executive director. Eight Turkish members of that organization came to the Bayram luncheon. We went around the table and introduced ourselves.

Steve Poppick (T-10) spoke about *Buralarda*, and many regular attendees were there, including Jean Arrington (T-17), Tom (FOT) and Shelley Bock, Todd Boressoff (T-10) and Judy Farbman, Mike (T-4) and Nihal Green, Barbara Bryan (T-13), Dan Callahan (T-16) and his daughter, Deirdre, (a former PCV in Micronesia), Sally Caslon (T-5), Donna Chmara (T-13), Liz Glass(T-6), Leo Hogan (T-10), Al (T-12) and Kathy Handy, Henry (T-8) and Elaine Levy, Bob McCord (T-8) and his wife, Kathy Moskal, their friend, Calvin Kiffner (RPCV Nigeria), Peter Nulty (T-8), Janet O'Hare (T-5), and Mary Ann Stevens (T-8). We were joined by eight members of the Bridges of Hope group. A variety of conversations and networking took place. Good food and good times were had by all.



Todd Boressoff (T-10) and his wife, Judy Farbman



Henry (T-8) and Elaine Levy



Mucahide Kocak from Bridges of Hope and Nihal and Mike Green (T-4)

Photos by Kathy Moskal

Oregon - by Melissa Stewart

The Reunion of Turkey 2's and the DC area Bayram dinner lured Melissa Stewart (T-2 the Portland organizer) east in October, so our dinner was held later - November 9th at Jan & Steve Katz' home.

We have been gathering since 1993 (our 15th Anniversary). Conversations begin as soon as we cross the doorstep - catching up on each others' lives; finding out news from Turkey; sharing book information, and, of course, the election results!

Since we don't have a Turkish restaurant in our area, it is nice to have many good cooks in our group (both female and male). As usual, we shared and enjoyed a variety of delicious Turkish and Mid-east dishes.

Attending were: Jan (Bergman, T-14) and Steve Katz, Corinne (Merkel) and Joe Christy (T-16), Betsy (Hakkinen) Galloway (T-12), Mimi (Jones T-3) and Jack Sanders, Mija Sanders - Jack and Mimi's daughter (She spent last year studying in Turkey and will go to Ankara in the spring as an intern at the Embassy.) Also present were Melissa Stewart (T-2) and Kathy White - who lived in Turkey during the last three months and who won 3rd place in a Turkish cooking class, and Gökçe Tosun - an exchange student from a town near Istanbul.

We have 2 dinners a year - the next will be in May or June to celebrate "Youth Day."

Preparing for a New Arkadaşlar Directory

In addition to a complete, updated listing of names and contact information, we need stories and pictures for our 2009 Arkadaşlar Directory, which will be published this summer. We would like to build it around the theme of what Turkey was then, and what it is now --- what you were then, and what you are now.

Think about contributing photos and short pieces about:

- People doing interesting things then and now
- Stories of then and now
- How Turkey affected your life, travel, career ...

Have you returned to Turkey?

Have you maintained friendships over the years?

Have you been involved with activities at your sites or with other projects in Turkey?

Do you have stories or testimonials from Turks about us?

Can you share examples about how Turkey never left us?

Send stories and pictures to:

[Sandy Anderson](#) (contact for mailing address)

For questions please email her at TurkeyDost@aol.com.

Please send photos in hard copy or on a disc. We would like pictures of both people and scenes, with as many pixels in the photos as possible.

We'd like everything by mid-March.

Thanks, so much.

Let's Get Together – And Feel All Right!

Continued from page 1

Some groups already have teams who will pitch in to find their missing members. Turkey-5's beat all of us with 6 volunteers. Note that some groups (T-4, T-6 & T-11) do not have any volunteer coordinators. Members please step up! It won't be done otherwise.

If you have a new address, phone number or email, please contact and give the information to your group coordinator. You can share contact information of any volunteers or members you know of who are missing out on the pleasures of *Buralarda*, the website, and the listserv. You can also volunteer to help locate people via google, anywho.com, telephone calls and letters.

For any help you offer, we say,
Çok Teşekkür Ederiz.

To contact
your
Group Coordinator
contact [Sandy Anderson](#)

Arkadaşlar Group Coordinators:

Group	Name
1	Mike Jewell
2	Kevin McCarthy
3	Chris Lair
4	
5	Carolyn Omo
6	
7	Michal Cox Zuehlke
8	Linda Scheffer
9	Russ Whitesel Sandy Pfunder
10	Mary Helen Madden
11	
12	Cathy McCutcheon
13	Barbara Bryan Beverly Ausfahl Jeff Thompson
14	Janice Bergman Katz
15	Karolyn Bragg
16	Lynn Maichle
17	Moses Silverman
Staff	Dave Weinman

45th Anniversary Reunion of Turkey 2

By John Wintrol

Turkey 2 volunteers celebrated the 45th anniversary of our arrival in Turkey with a reunion in Washington, DC over the Cumhuriyet Bayram weekend (October 24-26). 32 volunteers made it to the festivities and many others participated with written bios and phone calls.

Activities included a dinner Friday night at John and Jan Wintrol's home, a presentation Saturday on current Turkish political and economic issues by former Ambassador James Holmes (now President of the American Turkish Council) hosted by David and Barbara Bloch, and a catered dinner Saturday night arranged by Kathy and Max Scruggs. The weekend concluded with the traditional Bayram dinner Sunday evening at a restaurant with Washington area volunteers from other groups.

Volunteers came from all over the country, from California, the Pacific Northwest, Texas, Florida, Michigan, New York and many places in-between. One of our Turkish language instructors, Bulent Atalay, participated as did "Amca" Dave Weinman. Wonderful memories were recalled, stories told and retold (some undoubtedly embellished over the years), friendships renewed, and substantial quantities of Kavaklidere wines and Efes beer consumed. One thing was very clear: over the years we Turkey 2 volunteers had not forgotten how to party and have a good time.

Kevin McCarthy (Professor Emeritus University of Florida) is taking the bios, written memories of our group's experiences and pictures, both from the reunion and during our PC service, and turning the material into a book which each of us will receive. A special thanks goes to Kathy Scruggs who headed the reunion effort and was responsible for making it all come together.

Join the Listserv – visit the Website

By Steve Poppick

According to our records, over 500 of our almost 800 members receive their Arkadaşlar news solely from *Buralarda*.

If you are among this group, you've been missing out on some very interesting news, bits, pieces and themes of discussions that have ranged from our favorite Turkish expressions and words (e.g. "kolay gelsin" and "işte"), to listings of many cultural events and travel tips for Turkey, to the Turkish origin of the shoes that were thrown at George Bush, to the possible Turkic origin of the Christmas tree, to whether we were government agents or guinea pigs for rabies vaccines.



Top from left: Mugs Mast, Chuck Mast, Frank Creel, Tony Venegoni

Middle l-r: Margaret Hamill Patterson (T-4), John Gallivan, Terry Brandt, David Bloch, Rosie Suit, Linda Lee Dominik, Jim Lay, Betty Hanks Leonard, David Bringedahl, Kevin McCarthy, Pat Mitchell Lowther, Dave "Amca" Weinman, John Wintrol, Bill Whitman (staff)

Bottom l-r: Charlie White, Marie Zeller, Melissa Stewart, Jim Hogan, Kathy Markley Scruggs, Doris Whitman (staff)

Sitting front: Ann Loughran Hearn

"Volunteers came from all over the country ... wonderful memories were recalled ..."

Turkey 2 had not forgotten how to party"

Mosaic in Gaziantep
Museum
Photo by Sandy Pfunder
From Arkadaslar website

Visit the website at:
www.arkadaslar.info



It has been fascinating observing how when one or two members raise a point or pose a question, a stream-of-consciousness phenomenon takes over and the discussion leads in very interesting directions, sparking ideas and bringing back a wide variety of memories.

To join the listserv, send an email request to Sandy Anderson at Turkeydost@aol.com.

If you join us online, you're in for a real treat, and we too will benefit from your contributions!

President Obama and “MorePeaceCorps”

By Ken Hill



President Obama expressed his values about serving one's community, nation and world early in his campaign for the Presidency. Aided by former Peace Corps leader and Senator, Harris Wofford, then-Senator Obama voiced his desire to see a much larger Peace Corps as part of a more involved citizenry. Given President Obama's heritage, it was not surprising that he would value the Peace Corps. Inspired by Obama's vision, the MorePeaceCorps (www.morepeacecorps.org) campaign was born to help fulfill his pledge to double the Peace Corps. Donald K. Ross (Nigeria-1) founded MorePeaceCorps. Donald is the founder of M+R Strategic Services, a

provider of campaign and communications services to the not-for-profit world. At an early point, MorePeaceCorps aligned itself with the National Peace Corps Association to amplify its capabilities and expand its reach.

Donald hired RPCV Rajeev Goyal to coordinate the MorePeaceCorps campaign. Rajeev graduated law school with honors after his return from Peace Corps service in Nepal and became active in city and neighborhood organizations in New York. Rajeev's efforts to develop public support for a “bigger, better, bolder” Peace Corps have been intense and effective.

I became involved in MorePeaceCorps along with John Chromy, (India RPCV) former PC staff and long-time friend. We believed that Peace Corps growth had to be consistent with solid programming realities and accompanied by significant improvements in the way Peace Corps does business. The talk of doubling the size of the Peace Corps by 2011 - its 50th anniversary - was troubling to us.

John and I crafted a “kick start” plan for the campaign which incorporates the following goals and principles for growing the Peace Corps:

- *To establish a robust, dynamic, growing Peace Corps that reflects America's renewed commitment to a positive partnership with peoples and countries around the world.*
- *To achieve a level of at least 15,000 Volunteers while improving the quality of volunteer assignments, preparation and support with requisite safety and security by following these principles:*
 - *The Host Country remains the preeminent partner in determining volunteer roles.*
 - *The quality of volunteer roles, preparation and support is the highest priority.*
 - *Peace Corps remains an independent agency.*
 - *Requisite increases in appropriations must precede expansion.*

The MorePeaceCorps campaign is impacting decisions about the future of the Peace Corps. As an advisor to the Obama transition at Peace Corps, I was gratified to see that the Transition report for Peace Corps reflected the goals and principles we had recommended.

An online petition of nearly 20,000 names, including thousands of former and current volunteers and family members, is proving a powerful tool in the campaign. MorePeaceCorps is also supported by an Advisory Council of many prominent Americans including a former President, members of the Senate and House, former Peace Corps Directors and senior staff, and leaders in business, government and the not-for-profit sector. MorePeaceCorps advocates are meeting with key appropriations staff in the House and Senate about funding increases for Peace Corps. Some individuals involved in the MorePeaceCorps campaign are under consideration as the next Peace Corps Director. I believe the nomination is imminent.

We hope that the goals and principles of the MorePeaceCorps campaign will be the focus of efforts to achieve the resources for the substantial and responsible growth of Peace Corps. If you support these efforts, please go to www.morepeacecorps.org, sign the petition, share your views and contribute a lira or two...

Ken Hill (T-9) served as a rural development volunteer in Tokat Vilayet and is on the Arkadaşlar Board. Returning to Peace Corps in 1994, Ken was Country Director for programs in Eastern Russia, Bulgaria and Macedonia. He was made Chief of Operations for Peace Corps programs in Europe and Asia and was appointed Peace Corps Chief of Staff in 2001. Elected to the Board of the National Peace Corps Association, Ken served as its Chair from 2003 to 2006. A longtime resident of Alexandria, Virginia, he is active in civic and political affairs. Ken's wife, Winnie is a CPA and specialist in the financial management of not-for-profit organizations and served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Nepal.



Anatolian Artisans — Helping Women in Turkey Preserve Turkish Arts and Crafts

By Peggy Hanson

**Yildiz Yagci, founder of
Anatolian Artisans**

Since Arkadaşlar was formed in 1991, we have donated more than \$66,000 to selected projects and groups. This charitable effort is seen as a natural continuation of our volunteer spirit. Buralarda plans to highlight our sponsored projects in subsequent issues – hoping this will inspire you to donate more generously so that we can expand this outreach. This is especially important as the world sinks into recession and those on the edge of poverty find fewer economic options.

Yildiz Yagci founded Anatolian Artisans (AnArt) to help low-income artisans (mostly women) develop skills that can bring money to their families while preserving traditional Turkish arts and crafts. Her work was featured in the Winter 2008 issue of *Worldview*, The magazine of the National Peace Corps Association. AnArt participates in southeastern Turkey's CATOM (Multipurpose Community Center) project. Yasemin Bileci, a project participant in Urfa, spoke with Yildiz about how learning to make salable felt products has changed her life. We share the essence of some of Yasemin's comments here: "I never imagined starting my own business. I was working to make bags out of felt at our CATOM. But we didn't know exactly what to make that people in other countries would buy.

Anatolian Artisans sent a designer to our CATOM center to design and to show us how to use old patterns in new ways—like making Christmas stockings. We copied the designs and AnArt then helped us sell the felt bags and stockings in America. AnArt also gave us some training in how to use micro-credit. I began to dream. A shop owner said he could give me felt and a place to work, so I borrowed a little money and began to hire women. Amazingly, this has turned into a real business! I now hire nearly half the women from the CATOM and we are making a living. Also, we are very proud."

With last year's \$1,200 contribution from Arkadaşlar, Anatolian Artisans bought a sewing machine which is used every day by several women in the felt crafts project and indirectly supports at least 80 struggling families in Southeastern Turkey. Let's make it more for next year! [You can just add more to your \$20 annual dues payment]

Present at the Inaugural Parade

By Sandy Anderson

I've been to inaugural parades before because I live in the Washington area, but this one was different. For this one I had to be there, even if I was the billionth person. I bugged the people at NPCA to learn where the Returned PCVs would be standing, and the message finally got posted: 12th and Pennsylvania. - the corner where I had worked for 20 years for the DC Public Schools.

Getting onto the Mall was a breeze, compared to the parade route where they were doing the full metal-detector, no bottles, no bags scans. 12th Street at Pennsylvania was packed with humanity. A National Guardsman commented, "There's no one over at Constitution and 10th. I don't know why you all came here." I was one of the few who took him at his word and found a reasonable line over on 10th Street. This was 9:30. By 10:00 I was through and standing at Pennsylvania, trying to cross, along with another large bunch of people. Finally, they let us cross, and at 11:20 I was there. But nary an RPCV was in sight.

The parade wasn't due to start for three more hours, but even then, I was in the 4th or 5th row back. And in front of me were tall men. It didn't start that way, but after we waited 4 ½ hours, they had sidled into my viewing space. I could see just above where their shoulders met and between their heads. Do you want some insight into watching today's parades? At the



critical moment, everyone in front of you puts his/her arm into the air to take a picture, and all you see is arms. I was guilty of that, too.

Once President and Mrs. Obama had gone by, half the crowd left and I had a front row view. From there I waited for the Peace Corps' March of the Flags. I held up my "PEACE CORPS TURKEY" sign and got lots of waves from the RPCVs marching by.

In all, it might not have seemed worth the standing in 38° temperature for 11 hours, but now and for the rest of my life I can look back and say, "I was there when..."



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.”
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?”)*