

Buralarda

The Newsletter of Arkadaşlar, Friends of Turkey



Number 41, June 2015

From Star to Star in the Arkadaşlar Universe: Our New President

By Peggy Hanson



Mike Jewell and John Wintrol

Our outgoing Arkadaşlar president, Mike Jewell, has been the leader of Arkadaşlar since 2009. Fortunately for us, Mike has always been a problem-solver. Back in 1963, when Turkey I had finished a year of teaching English and helping with forestry, Mike was selected to become a Volunteer Leader. (He was chosen by our overall leader, Dave Weinman.) Mike took on the solitary and often hair-raising job of visiting volunteers who had just been sent to the East (think Artvin!), of sorting out thorny personal problems (come on, you know who you are!) and advising volunteers on Dave's favorite project: toilets.

He went on to work for the government with people in need, and, with his wife Nanci, to found an organization to help homeless veterans. As president of Arkadaşlar, Mike has led us through our 50th reunions, our relations with the Turkish Embassy and with groups such as American Friends of Turkey and the Peace Corps itself. Under Mike's leadership (and with the ever-present help of Sandy Anderson and Linda Scheffer), our group has become more

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connected, more outgoing with projects, and Arkadaşlar is counted as one of the stars of former volunteer groups. Çok Teşekkürler, Mike!

Fortunately, our group is blessed with many distinguished leaders, and so the transition at the top is accomplished with nothing but a "güle güle" and good wishes. As of the board meeting in March (pictured above), John Wintrol, Esq., has become the new president of Arkadaşlar. John (T-2), served at METU and Ödemiş, starting in 1963. After service in Turkey he worked for PC Washington, and he helped train volunteers at the University of Texas in the mid-sixties, before attending Georgetown University Law School.

John has worked for prestigious law firms and still keeps a hand in an active law practice, primarily in international arbitration matters. His work included much travel, including trips back to Turkey. He also teaches at George Washington University Law School. Both he and his wife Jan have made enormous contributions to the Washington area.

We are so lucky to welcome John Wintrol as our new president!

Hoş geldiniz, John!



Sayın Arkadaşlar

By Mike Jewell

Mike then: a handsome devil...



Mike now: Still, sort of...

Six years ago, I missed a Board meeting and ended up “railroaded” into the vacant Presidency spot. I was our first President back in the 80’s and assumed I was inoculated from further duty for life. But with people like Sandy Anderson, Linda Scheffer, Ken Hill, Peggy Hanson, Steve Poppick, John Wintrol and others at work, I mostly just scheduled and ran meetings while the rest of the Board ramped up our activities. They vastly improved our communications with you through an ever improving newsletter, the website (thank you Ellie LeBaron), the growing number of annual Bayram Dinners, the Listserve, and two wonderful Membership Directories.

Our strong ties to projects we support deepen with time, and our relationships with the Peace Corps and the Turkish community state-side thrive. My most recent contribution was to persuade John Wintrol to become President. He is already providing excellent leadership!

But it is you, our members whose energy and enduring friendship for Turkey and each other that makes possible the frequent reunions, group trips to Turkey and inspires the efforts of the Board. The ties that bind us remain exceptional.

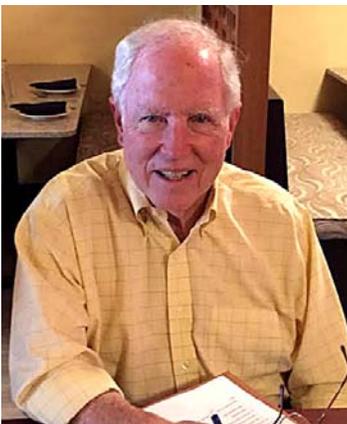
Perhaps my favorite memory from the 50 year anniversary convention in DC in 2011 is of the reception at the Turkish Ambassador’s residence. Most of the over 300 former volunteers coming to DC attended. In the months leading up to the reception, my embassy liaison to work out arrangements and logistics kept changing as the arrival of the Turkish Prime Minister in New York for the opening of the UN General Assembly coincided with our reception. At times, I worried how and whether our event would even occur.

Of course, the embassy and Turkish hospitality came through. During the evening, the polite, mannerly demeanor of our hosts warmed as the excitement and enthusiasm of our members rubbed off on them. Several junior staff I worked with told me that we were much more fun than guests to most of their receptions. In 1962, Turkey I volunteers were received in that same building and also experienced a very enthusiastic, unscripted reaction from our hosts. We may be old and gray now, but the vitality and energy still shines through!

Sevgilerle,
Mike

President’s Corner

By John Wintrol



I am honored and excited to take over as president of Arkadaşlar, following in the illustrious footsteps of our long-time leader, Mike Jewell.

Arkadaşlar means so much to all of us. With our *Cumhuriyet Bayram* dinners, it brings us together with those who served in the same way we did. It offers us a chance to stay in touch with Turkey, our beloved *memleket*. Through our projects, it allows us to continue to play a small role in improving the lives of a few Turks, young and old. With our website tended by Ellie LeBaron, our listserv monitored by Sandy Anderson, and our *Buralarda* newsletter edited by Steve Poppick and Peggy Hanson, we are building up an archive of what Peace Corps Turkey was all about.

I want to remind everyone that next winter the always-anticipated new directory will once again be mailed out to all DUES-PAYING members. Be sure to send in your 2015 dues to Linda Scheffer, if you have not already sent them. Could you also please add a contribution to our projects, which though small, offer great assistance to recipients?

I look forward to working with the Arkadaşlar board and membership to keep our organization vibrant and meaningful. Such an endeavor requires the best that each of us can offer—just as it did in the 1960s when we were a bit younger.

Arkadaşlar Archives and the New Directory

By Sandy Anderson

Arkadaşlar Archives

One small footprint, a record of our lives in Turkey, that's why we archive. The Arkadaşlar Board has tried for many years to find a way of archiving our history and records of individuals, of Arkadaşlar, and of the Peace Corps in Turkey. Finally, two opportunities for our members have emerged:

The John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum

The Kennedy Library will accept documents from all volunteers with a special interest in the years 1961-1963, relating to Peace Corps nationally, the office in Ankara and volunteer experiences. Members who submitted oral histories are Andy Coughlin (T-13), Jackie McKee Day (T-8), Ephraim Frankel (T-9), Harlan Green (T-5), Dorien Grunbaum (T-6), Ken Hill (T-9), and Paul Kinsley (T-9); and others who submitted such items as personal correspondence, diaries, reports, commentaries, publications, and news clippings, as well as photographs, slides, video footage, and audio cassettes, are Jim McHenry and Sue McHenry Holm (T-13), Paul and Barbara Bussey (T-5), and Julie Woods Smith Olson (T-5).

<http://www.jfklibrary.org/Asset-Viewer/Archives/RPCV.aspx>

American University Archives

American University wants original documents, flat artifacts that can be digitized, such as diaries, photos, reports, and letters. Our one participant thus far is Karen (Thode) DeAntoni (T-4). She answered a series of interview questions and provided letters and photos about her marriage to Edward (T-4) in Turkey.

<https://blogs.library.american.edu/pcca/category/turkey/>

The archivist at AU, Susan McElrath, archives@american.edu, reported that the National Archives holds Peace Corps records, and that American University holds the NPCA archives.

It's the Year of the Directory!

It is hard to believe, but it's been three years since we prepared the last directory. We will be working on a 2016 edition during the fall months and hope to complete it before January 1. The theme this year is: **Hayatım**, and by that we're thinking of the affectionate phrase for "Turkey is my life," as well as sharing the touches of Turkey in our lives since we were there. As usual, we are eager to receive photos and stories. If you have already submitted photos for the Photo Book or other projects, we can probably locate and use them. Also, please let us know of any updated information - address, preferred phone, email, and sites in Turkey, and help us find any missing members. Çok Şekkür from your directory team: Linda Scheffer, Lynn Maichle and Sandy Anderson.

In Memoriam: During the past few months we became aware of the passing of the following Arkadaşlar. Our condolences and heartfelt best wishes go out to their family members and friends.

Kristine Marie Kononen (T-8)	December 8, 2014
Kent Haruf (T-8)	November 30, 2014
Michael Donohoe (T-12)	December 14, 2012
Tom Molloy (T-2)	December 10, 2010
Herbert George Cohen (T-11)	September 2005



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

RENEW YOUR ARKADAŞLAR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2015

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 so, renew your membership in Arkadaşlar for the year ahead.

WHAT ARKADAŞLAR DID FOR YOU IN 2014

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

Posted many stories and anecdotes about Turkey on the Arkadaşlar Listserv. For more information, contact Sandy Anderson: TurkeyDost@aol.com

Increased linkages with the Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA), and the American Turkish Association of DC (ATA-DC)

Donated \$10,150 to nonprofits in and/or for Turkey

WHAT YOU WILL GET FOR YOUR 2015 DUES

Buralarda, our newsletter featuring news of Arkadaşlar and updates on old friends from your Peace Corps Turkey days

The 2013 Membership Directory featuring names (including maiden names), addresses, and listings by city/state/country, with information about groups of service and sites. You will get this if you are paying dues for the first time since 2012.

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 2015, ARKADAŞLAR WILL

Continue our search for others who served in Peace Corps Turkey

Mail a 2013 Membership Directory to first-time new members

Continue to support social, educational, and economic causes in Turkey at the same level of support given in 2014

For further information about membership in Arkadaşlar, contact Linda at LMScheffer@aol.com. Also, please email Linda with contact information for other RPCVs who served in Turkey but who have yet to know about Arkadaşlar.

Projects: Arkadaşlar continues to lend a hand

Arkadaşlar has donated funds to selected non-governmental organizations in Turkey or the United States. When renewing your membership or joining for the first time, please consider donating additional funds so that Arkadaşlar can continue donating funds on your behalf to these organizations:

From 1993 through 2014, we have given over **\$133,000** to projects and another **\$28,000** to Earthquake Relief and mine disaster relief, for a **total of over \$161,000!** Note that the same amounts (except for the mine disaster relief) will be given to these organizations in 2015.

Postsecondary Scholarships (\$3,200 in 2014)

C. Erik Olson Memorial Fund (\$1,000 in 2014)

HasNa, Inc (\$1,000 in 2014)

Bridges of Hope Project, Inc. (BOHP) (\$1000 in 2014)

Sevinç Abı School (\$2,000 in 2014)

Anatolian Artisans (\$1,300 in 2014)

Nature Türkiye, the foundation arm of KuzeyDoğa (\$650 in 2014)

American-Turkish Association - for Soma, Manisa mine disaster relief (\$2,000 in 2014)

May 12, 2015 Board of Directors Meeting Notes



Arkadaşlar Board members and attendees at an earlier meeting:

Top row: Elliot Eisenberg, Tom Kral, Linda Scheffer, Dave Weinman, John Wintrol, Lynn Maichle, Kathy Kral
Front row: Mike Jewell, Peggy Hanson

John Wintrol called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm. Present were John, Doug Shifflet, Elliot Eisenberg, Sandy Anderson, Valerie Olson, Ken Hill, Dave Weinman, Peggy Hanson, Linda Scheffer, Ellie LeBaron, and Mike Jewell.

1. The minutes from the February meeting were approved unanimously.
2. Linda presented the Treasurer's report noting an increase to \$16,380.51 of cash on hand, resulting from dues contributions from 44 more members, and project contributions from 25 since the January report. To date, 350 members have paid current year dues. We ended 2014 with 395 members. Linda urged us to emphasize in the upcoming edition of Buralarda that dues paying members this year will receive the new Membership Directory in 2016. Projecting expenses for the Directory and other activities this year, Linda does not expect that we will be able to consider expanding the number of projects that we support. A motion to accept the report was made and seconded and approved unanimously.
3. Linda reviewed the projects currently supported by Arkadaşlar. A brief discussion of our approach to choosing projects and making funding decisions followed. We discussed a candidate organization not currently supported and were very pleased to learn that a current project, the Erik Olson Memorial project at Hacettepe Hospital in Ankara is receiving new funding from a family closely associated with the program since its inception.
4. Two motions were made, seconded and approved unanimously. A. No additional projects will be funded this year. B. Projects will be funded at their current level, assuming no major changes.
5. Mike, Sandy, and Elliot reported for their committee conclusions to the question raised at our last meeting: "Should we expand Arkadaşlar to include participation from individuals beyond our RPCV community who have volunteer experiences in Turkey similar to ours?" The three concluded that interest would be limited but that organizations sending volunteers, interns or fellows could be contacted and asked to alert returning members to our existence so they could check us out and consider participating in Arkadaşlar. An extended discussion on what level and kind of participation we would welcome made clear that most present would welcome limited participation but were unsure what beyond current involvement of non-RPCV's the working group had in mind. Membership? Bayram Dinner invites? Board service? John, Sandy and Mike will come up with a motion for the group to consider.
6. Ken attended the annual ATAA conference. Their membership enjoys our presence, past service and our ongoing involvement in Turkey.

Information item: The Board is looking for a webmaster for the Arkadaşlar website as Ellie LeBaron is seeking to "retire." If you are interested, please contact Ellie and Sandy Anderson

7. Next meeting - August 18th

CUMHURİYET BAYRAM DINNERS – 2014



Peggy Hanson (T-1) with Peace Corps Director Carrie Hessler-Radelet



Sandy Pfunder (T-9), Valerie Olson, Margaret Pfunder

The Washington, DC Metropolitan area held its Cumhuriyet Bayram dinner on Sunday, November 2nd, at the Kazan Restaurant in McLean, VA. The owner, Zeynel Uzun, informed us that he has prepared this dinner for us for 29 years! Maşallah! He provided us with a medley of mixed appetizers, döner kebab, a plate of assorted desserts, and soft drinks, wine, tea, and coffee. Needless to say, we did not go home hungry!

We had 73 people in attendance. Honored guests included two representatives from the Turkish Embassy, Behiç Hatipoğlu, First Counselor, and Ersin Aydoğan, Second Secretary; the Director of the Peace Corps, Carrie Hessler-Radelet; President of the American Turkish Association of DC (ATA-DC), Gizem Salciğil White, and her husband, Nathan White; President of the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA), Glenn Blumhorst, and his wife, Cathy Blumhorst; and President of the Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Washington (RPCV/W), Mariko Schmitz, and its Cultural Director, Elizabeth Trenga.

Mike Jewell (T1), Arkadaşlar President, provided welcoming remarks and then turned over the Emcee duties into the capable hands of Ken Hill (T9). Yıldız Yağcı, of Anatolian Artisans, brought lovely handmade Turkish items to sell, and made around \$630 for her organization. We raffled off baskets of Turkish goodies, bottles of wine, etc., and thanks to the persuasive efforts of the ticket seller, Kathy Kral (T4), we made \$200. We also held a Silent Auction of Turkish items that people donated, such as jewelry, copperware, ceramics, bedspreads, pillows, a tavla set, a Turkish Monopoly game using lira with Turkish street names, i.e., İstiklal Caddesi, and a framed piece of a kilim. The winning bid for the kilim was the Director of the Peace Corps, who said she was going to hang it in her office. We made \$379 on the Silent Auction, and thanks go to all those who donated items, and to Peggy Hanson (T1), for coordinating it. Dave (Amca) Weinman concluded the evening's events with some fond memories of Peace Corps Turkey.

Everyone had a great time meeting old and new friends, sharing stories, reminiscing about some of those "only in Turkey" experiences, and dining on the delicious Turkish food. We are looking forward to our 30th year of being hosted by Zeynel Uzun at the Kazan Restaurant in 2015.

Linda M. Scheffer (T8)

NPCA Homepage Feature of the Month

NPCA has invited all its member groups to submit a photo story about itself. One group is featured each month on their Community News homepage. We are hoping one of our Arkadaşlar members will volunteer to prepare our story. The Board can assist in finding photos, people, events, etc.

Here are two examples: India - XXIII, <http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/2015/02/eleven-peace-corps-reunions-and-counting-india-xxiii/>, shows a series of pictures at their reunions since 1964 and provides a brief narrative. Another group of South Florida RPCVs replies to a set of formal questions to explain what they have done and includes pictures. <http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/2014/11/npc-featred-group-rpcvs-of-south-florida/>. Perhaps our submission could be a little of both. Please contact Sandy Anderson at TurkeyDost@aol.com or one of our Board Members if you're willing to pull together the Arkadaşlar story. Çok teşekkür ederim.

Arkadaşlar and Harry Belafonte

The following was a thread of Arkadaşlar listserv emails from three T-10 Volunteers this past March:

Arkadaşlar,

Yesterday I saw the film *Selma*, which is the chronicle of Martin Luther King's three-month campaign to secure equal voting rights via an epic march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama in 1965. It was excellent by any standard, and I wouldn't hesitate to recommend it. But that is not the only reason I am sending this post today.

Turkey X (rural community development, 1966-1968) was a group of what turned out to be a minority of Peace Corps trainees to participate in a relatively short-lived special training program.

So, there we were, 40 or so of us in the summer of 1965, enduring the daily rigors of six a.m. gym workouts and intensive training in the Turkish language at Portland State College (now University). Given the countless entertainment opportunities in a city the size of Portland, Oregon, I don't recall ever being at a loss for enjoyable things to do, especially on weekends.

No doubt most Turkey Ten-ers recall the evening in early August 1965 when we managed to secure a bloc of tickets to attend the Harry Belafonte show - he was touring with Nana Mouskouri - at the Paramount Theater. Perhaps you also remember that Harry Belafonte was a member of the first National Advisory Council to the Peace Corps. Clearly, someone had alerted him to our presence in the audience. Not only did he generously greet us from the stage, way up in the "nose-bleed section" as he described the top-row cheap seats where we were sitting; after the show, we were also ushered back stage to meet him in person (Nana was no where in sight).

Back, briefly, to the film *Selma*. Even if you have not already seen it, you won't be surprised to know that some of the original black & white film footage from 1965 was interspersed with today's dramatization. This included during the last few minutes of the film when "Glory," the 2015 Oscar winner for Best Song, was featured. And there, among the familiar celebrities of the period who had gone to Selma to support MLK was the solemn-faced man we had had the pleasure of meeting back stage that summer evening in Portland nearly 50 years ago.

James Akre

Hi Jim and T-10 Arkadaşlar,

Thanks so much for remembering the Harry Belafonte concert in Portland. It remains as one of my fondest memories of the training program in 1965. Somewhere in my archives is a photo of Harry backstage. I guess we could have figured out what our two year experience would be like when in its wisdom the Peace Corps first invited us all to Portland on the July 4th weekend, when no training was planned. So what did we do? Enterprising members rented some minivans and one group went to the Pacific Ocean for a cold overnight on the beach, and another group went to Mt. Hood.

That summer, as part of our training, most of us managed to climb to the top of the Middle Sister of the Three Sisters Mountains outside of Bend, OR. The other memorable concert was the Rolling Stones. What a great time we had that summer, trying to get through the PC "deselection" process.

Steve Poppick

Hi all,

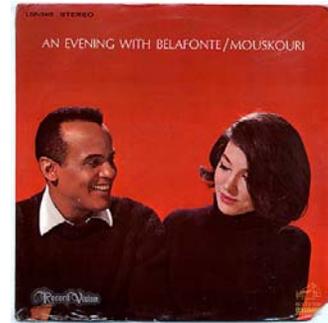
I have the answer to the mystery about how Harry Belafonte knew that we Turkey 10 volunteers were in the audience.

The afternoon before the show, Bob Perlstein and I, believing ourselves to be budding organizers, talked our way into the theater where Mr. Belafonte was to perform. We said we were Peace Corps volunteers in training and that since he was on the national advisory committee we were certain he would be pleased to meet us.

After getting past perhaps three levels of protectors we entered the small room that he was rehearsing in. He was absolutely furious to see us and told us to get the hell out.

Fortunately, some of his staff wrote down that a group of us would be attending that evening, which led to our being generously invited backstage.

Todd Boressoff





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?”)