

Buralarda

The Newsletter of Arkadaşlar, Friends of Turkey



Number 32, March 2011

Turkey-3 Memories of Training and Service

By Carol LaMotte



T-3 Trainees at Portland State University in Portland, Oregon, August-November 1963

Many of the Turkey-3 group had survived the Outward Bound training in Puerto Rico before coming to PSU for further training, winning the admiration (and relief) of those of us who had been invited too late to make it there when we saw the bruises and insect bites some of them still sported.

This photo must have been taken a bit later in our training, as one of the three (only three!) males in the original group is missing. Jesse Arnelle (back, left) had come to meet with us before he departed for his PC staff job in Ankara. Ah, the Campbell Court dorm and its single (freight) elevator; the PSU cafeteria that served the worst food in Portland; the 'Y' where we and the Royal Canadian Air Force (according to their exercise book) worked out; the Neşeli Kaplumbağa (known to locals as the Happy Tortoise), where cold beer awaited.

We were an overwhelmingly female group because of the nature of the program and the professional demographics of the times. The group

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consisted of nurses, child development specialists, home economics teachers, social workers and business education teachers, and ranged from new graduates to experienced professionals, covering a wide span of ages. We worked in high schools for girls, hospitals, orphanages, schools of nursing, professional schools, teacher training programs and in one case as guinea pigs for upcoming community development groups in a Konya village.

During training in Portland there were the trials of Friday-afternoon vaccinations, where we lined up in alphabetical order and friendships grew between those who passed out and those who caught them before they hit the floor; a group television appearance where we sang the Turkish national anthem for local amusement and edification (why?); care packages from a Nabisco connection that nourished his daughter and roommates; a guardian angel who oversaw our introduction to the Neşeli Kaplumbağa, who also had helped recruit our Turkish language teachers, and who happily kept popping up in Turkey afterwards and has stayed in touch since and probably should be considered an honorary T-3 (you know who you are, Feeney!); and, God bless them every one, our language teachers, who made sure we knew all the lyrics to *Üsküdar'a gideriken* before we were let loose on the Turkish nation.

We lost two or three members to the infamous de-selection, and it seems that one volunteer defected at the airport as we were departing from New York. Just a few days after our arrival in Ankara, while some of us still

*Please see Turkey-3 Memories
on page 2*

Sayın Arkadaşlar

By Mike Jewell



The year is still young, but already full of news with planning for the Peace Corps' 50th Anniversary in September, and the death of founding Peace Corps Director Sargent Shriver. See related articles elsewhere in the newsletter on these topics.

Our first Board meeting for the year was held on February 2nd. We filled Board seats for four expiring terms, heard from Linda Scheffer that our membership is now at 412, compared to 378 in 2009 and 358 in 2008, and resolved other agenda items. Membership is the highest in years. Most of the meeting was spent planning for what we expect will be our largest reunion ever. We will meet again in early March in hopes of being able to provide a more detailed draft agenda for the reunion to share soon after.

The January, 1964 Shriver visit to Turkey was a poignant reminder for me that a brief era was ending. One that started with an inspirational call to service from a young charismatic President that placed Peace Corps service at what Sarge called "the point of the lance." As a nation we were determined to balance the strength needed to prevail in the Cold War with a generous sharing of our energies and talent with aligned and non-aligned countries alike.

During his visit I spent a day travelling with Shriver and other staff in western Turkey visiting volunteers and their hosts. We dined with about 30 volunteers in Izmir that evening. Shriver's energy and unflagging belief in the Peace Corps was strengthened by seeing us in action. He not only helped lift our spirits so soon after the assassination of President Kennedy, but he also strengthened the legacy of international service that lives on in the Peace Corps today.

See you at the reunion! İnşallah.

Mike Jewell

Turkey-3 Memories

awaited our assignments, we experienced the incredible shock of the JFK assassination. The flow of visitors offering us condolences on the declared national day of mourning was an indication of the tremendous warmth that would characterize so many of our experiences in Turkey.

The assignments to our sites required considerable coordination between the local PC administration staff and the ministries involved; this was the first Turkey group that was dedicated to working in areas other than teaching English, and there were a number of re-assignments, re-re-assignments and other hiccups that were eventually resolved (or not) by the second half of our tours.

Our accomplishments ranged from the sublime to the ridiculous, but that needs a book to relate, and personal contributions from other T-3's. We have not kept in close touch as a group, but enduring friendships were formed and the courses of our lives were changed.



Peace Corps Director Sargent Shriver meets with student nurses in Konya, Turkey.

L to R: Two Turks then Patricia Grigaitis Schappert (T-3), Dorine Goulette Meade (T-3), Sargent Shriver, the late Susan Cleveland Altshul (T-3) and a Turk.

This photo and caption is part of the official Peace Corps' website tribute to Sargent Shriver, who passed away on January 18, 2011.

Aaron S. Williams, the director of the Peace Corps, stated, "The entire Peace Corps community is deeply saddened by the passing of Sargent Shriver." He further noted that Shriver "served as our founder, friend, and guiding light for the past 50 years" and that "his legacy of idealism will live on in the work of current and future Peace Corps Volunteers."

Cumhuriyet Bayram Dinners – 2010

Seattle Area - by Dale Hultengren T-15

Everyone in the picture is smiling. That pretty well sums it up.

Continuing a long-standing and very successful tradition, Seattle area volunteers gathered for a potluck of wonderful Turkish food at the home of Ruth and Dale Hultengren in Shoreline, a north Seattle suburb. Thirty-five people attended. A record!

Much good conversation and reminiscing highlighted the evening but, yes, there was plenty of food. And we did very well without having to go to a restaurant. Our menu included four trays of börek, two trays of yaprak dolması, patlıcan, fasulye, meyva salata, tabouli, domates salatası, mercimek çorbası, Adana kebab (served with cacık, haydari, soğan, maydanos and grilled domates). For dessert, we had baked quince and two trays of baklava. And forgive me for what I've forgotten! There was so much food!

Special thanks to photographer Devon Carroll, who gave up his spot at the table so the rest of us could be photographed; and to Elinor Vandegrift who, likewise gave up a spot and, with much good humor, held the dining room table chandelier out of the way so that we could all be seen. Lastly, special thanks to David Hultengren, for baking two trays of baklava and for grilling the Adana kebab that his father had prepared but was too tired to put on the barbecue.



Pictured, left to right; Sitting: Yasemin San, Seher Öner, Barbara Van Dyke Shuman, Diana Pearce, Patty Anderson, Rana San, Ruth Hultengren
Standing, middle: Zeynep Kaslı, Phil Konkell, Ali San, Hannah Eulenberg and Omaira Borges
Standing, back: Bob Eschenbach, Michael Eulenberg, Zeynep Seviner, Tom Snoeburger, James Stark, Jim Shuman, Dave Vandegrift, Marilyn Stark, Pat Anderson, George Wright, Dale Hultengren, Don Quinichette, Dana Marmion, Laraine Hong, Julie Eulenberg and Kent Breidenstein
Not pictured: Babette and John Thompson, Gretchen and Gary LaTurner, Devon Carroll, Elinor Vandegrift, and David Usta

Nine Bayram Celebrations were held around the country last fall.

Please see other Cumhuriyet Bayram Dinner reports on page 7

In Memoriam:

A Sarge story:

By Allan Gall

It was early 1980's, a late fall Sunday evening, dusk and a little cold, as I edged my way into the main traffic circle in front of National Airport through traffic made unusually dense by a stalled, older model, large Cadillac in the right lane, its hood high and its owner with his head under it. I dropped off my passenger just behind the stalled car and then nudged my way left into the traffic to get around the disabled vehicle, noticing as I did so, the

owner's face now raised up from under the hood and looking in my direction.

"Hey, Sarge," I yelled. "Need help? I'm one of your former Volunteers." Sarge broke into a huge smile and put his head into his car to say, "How about that, Eunice! No matter where you go, there's a Volunteer to help you out!" He was delighted and delightful. After a quick exchange about where I'd served, I got out my jumper cables, and we gave it a shot. The car wouldn't start, but about that time the tow truck he had called for earlier was fighting its way into the circle, so we shook hands and said our goodbyes. He was generous and effusive in his words, as always, and once again made me feel as though, if he called, I'd answer.

RENEW YOUR ARKADAŞLAR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2011

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 2010

- Held Cumhuriyet Bayram dinners in ten 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 at ArkadaslarFriends@yahoogroups.com
- Increased linkages with the Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA), and the American Turkish Association of DC (ATA-DC)
- Donated \$7,500 to nonprofits in and/or for Turkey

WHAT YOU WILL GET FOR YOUR 2011 DUES

- *Buralarda*: three issues of our newsletter featuring news of Arkadaşlar and updates on old friends from your Peace Corps Turkey days
- 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 2011, ARKADAŞLAR WILL

- Continue to search for others who served in Peace Corps Turkey
- Publicize the Peace Corps' 50th Anniversary Celebration in 2011
- Organize activities for Turkey RPCVs participating in the Peace Corps' 50th Anniversary on Sept 23-25 in Washington, DC
- Mail a 2009 - 2010 Membership Directory to those members who pay 2009, 2010, or 2011 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 other information about membership.

Arkadaşlar Projects Make a Difference:

Mustafa Soykan's Dream: Üniversite Öğrencilerine Yardım Derneği The Association for Assistance to University Students

By Peggy Hanson



Mustafa Soykan at the Arkadaşlar DC Bayram Dinner

Mustafa Soykan came from the town of Biga, near Çanakkale. Through dint of hard work, he attended university and went on to become an economist with the World Bank in Washington. When he retired in 2000, Mustafa thought about what he had learned from his years in international development—and in Biga. Clearly, he thought, education was key to everything—especially education for women, since they raise the children, educate them and give them their values.

He looked at his town of Biga. The ratio of girls to boys in post-secondary education was 14 boys to 8 girls. This meant that after high school, girls could not go out on their own, attend university, get good jobs, or do anything independent. Boys from rural areas were only somewhat less-disadvantaged because of their families' lack of funds.

He decided to set up a foundation, Üniversite Öğrencilerine Yardım Derneği, to give rural Turkish students the opportunity to study past high school through a scholarship program. He started by sponsoring ten students with his own money. This has grown, and to date, Mustafa Soykan's foundation has allowed 68 students to continue their educations. The amount the students get is modest -- \$50/month—but it allows a needy student to leave his or her village, pay a

small rent, and attend a university in a larger city. Students are selected by rigorous criteria, including grades, attitudes and financial need. Every year ten times the number of students who can be accommodated apply!

In 2001, Mustafa Bey presented his ideas and what he had begun to the Arkadaşlar board. We felt that helping students meshed well with Arkadaşlar's goals, and agreed to allocate \$400 to sponsor one student. We did this again in 2002 and then began to raise our level of sponsorship of students. Between 2006 and 2010 we allocated \$3,200 per year, thus helping eight students each year. One of the Arkadaşlar-sponsored students, Sitki Keçeci, has become a leading veterinarian in Biga, taking care of pets and farm animals alike.

Mustafa Soykan's Üniversite Öğrencilerine Yardım Derneği is trying to expand beyond the Çanakkale region and thus to help a widening group of students raise their sights to university. Our donations to Arkadaşlar, in addition to our dues, will help that happen faster!

If any of our readers care to do so, they can contribute on their own to scholarships for students through Mustafa's organization.

His address is:

Mustafa Soykan

500 Belmont Bay Drive, Apt. #415

Woodbridge, VA 22191-5448.

Email: Mustafa Soykan <MSOYKAN@aol.com>



Mr. Sitki Keçeci - now a very successful veterinarian in Biga - Çanakkale. He is also a board member at UOYD. His education was supported by Arkadaşlar.

Plans for the Peace Corps' 50th Anniversary September Reunion

By Mike Jewel for the Board

Peace Corps Turkey is gathering for its 7th Global Reunion September 23-25, 2011 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Peace Corps. The weekend will include Peace Corps and National Peace Corps Association events and our own Arkadaşlar PC-Turkey activities, *i.e.* dinner in individual PC-Turkey groups.

Hotel: We have reserved a block of 80 rooms at the Virginian Suites in Arlington, VA starting at \$109 for one-bed studios on Friday and Saturday nights (only). The rooms have a microwave, refrigerator, plasma TV, Wi-Fi, free parking and extended continental breakfast. The subway is a short distance, and there is a shuttle upon request to and from the subway. Call 1-866-371-1446 or go to reservations@virginiansuites.com to make reservations. Tell them you are with Arkadaşlar, the Peace Corps Turkey group, booking code _____. Make your plans soon. **Early is better!**

Draft Peace Corps Global Reunion Agenda September 22 -25th 2011

Thursday evening September 22: A welcome gathering for early Turkey RPCV arrivals will be held at a location in Arlington near the hotel.

Friday September 23: We expect most people to arrive during the day. Individual group members are encouraged to connect at the hotel to have time to catch up, have lunch, or sightsee in the afternoon.

Friday evening, Friday evening has been set aside for individual groups to gather. Please contact your Group Coordinator, listed below. A PC 50th Staff Reunion, being organized by Ken Hill T-9, will also be held Friday evening, 6 or 7 to 9pm.

Saturday September 24: During the day, we will hold a plenary session to discuss what is happening in Turkey today. This will involve one or more outside speaker(s) and someone from the Embassy. Possible topics of interest include:

1. Tourism - share experiences of going back
2. Political/Economic Update on Turkey
3. Foreign Policy of Turkey, and Turkey's emergence on the world stage
4. Q&A. with speaker(s) - Discuss areas where Turkey and the U.S. see eye-to-eye or differ

We will be discussing some kind of event with the Turkish Embassy, perhaps with them hosting the plenary session, or hosting an Embassy reception Saturday afternoon.

Saturday evening, A Peace Corps 50th Anniversary Gala will be held at the Ronald Reagan building with a celebrity host. Ticket cost is \$250 for NPCA members. Information is at www.peacecorpsconnect.org.

Sunday September 25: A ceremony at JFK's gravesite and program at Arlington Cemetery will be followed by a parade of country flags to the Mall for demonstrations, booths and entertainment.

Group Coordinators: We need people to step up and coordinate the groups without coordinators.

Coordinators are asked to network among the group's members to try to find all missing persons, conduct a straw poll of who is coming to the Global Reunion, and to make the group arrangements with a home or local Turkish restaurant for Friday evening's dining and gathering. **We need coordinators for Turkey- 2,3,6,9,10,11,14 & 17.**

T-1 Dave Hopkins
 T-4 Jill Diskan
 T-5 Hank & Jean Webb
 T-7 Michal Cox Zuehlke
 T-8 Linda Scheffer
 T-12 Warren Master
 T-13 Beverly Ausfahl
 T-15 Karolyn Bragg
 T-16 Louise McMaster

For all groups, contact:
 Sandy Anderson (T-13) for more information: turkeydost@aol.com

Details will follow as they are determined. This event promises to be a blast!! So don't miss it.

Visit the Website for updates on the Global Reunion Plans

Cumhuriyet Bayram Dinners

Continued from Page 3

Central Florida by Paul Kirwan T-8



Central Florida RPCV's celebrated Cumhuriyet Bayram with a delicious luncheon at the new Anatolia restaurant in Orlando on Saturday, October 30th. From left to right: Judith Altuğ (T-4) and her daughter Deniz Johnson, Henry Webb and Jean Dunlap Webb (both T-5), Magali Kirwan (Thai-40), Burnell Hoekstra and Lynda Özgür (T-6), Paul Kirwan (T-8).

North / South Carolina Saturday, October 30, at Something Different Restaurant, Asheboro, NC,



Find more photos and the names of these celebrants on the Arkadaşlar website

Washington Metropolitan area

by Linda Scheffer T-8

The Washington DC Metropolitan area held its Cumhuriyet Bayram dinner on Sunday, October 31st, at the popular Turkish restaurant, "Kazan," in McLean, VA. There were 83 people in attendance. We dined on delicious meze, döner kebab, dessert, and had a choice of beverages. Yıldız Yağcı, of Anatolian Artisans, sold lovely Turkish handmade wares, and Süleyman Kalcı had wonderful Turkish carpets for sale. We also raffled off baskets of goodies and raised \$272 for Arkadaşlar Projects.

In addition to the usual MD, VA, and DC attendees, we also had people from PA, MI, TN, NJ, FL, and WA. There were also RPCVs from Brazil, Cameroon, Ghana, Nepal, Sierra Leone, Thailand, and Uzbekistan. We welcomed newcomers Tom and Kathy Waljeski Kral (T-4), Pat Gleason Chase (T-8), Linda Dominik (T-2), and Bruce Eberle (T-10). Ken Marion (T-8) came again with his wife, Janese Trivette, their daughter, Minta Marion Trivette. Gerry Karey (T-8) also came with his daughter, Emma.

We were pleased to welcome Michelle Peters, daughter of the late Monty Peters (T-1). Michelle brought some photo albums of pictures her father had taken during his Peace Corps stint. She enjoyed meeting with the T1s and others who knew her father back then, and hearing about his activities in the Peace Corps.

We were also pleased to have Vivien Ash Gallagher, and her husband, Jeff Gallagher, attend the dinner. Vivien is the sister of the late Rick Ash (T-2). She was happy to meet with the T2s before the dinner and hear stories of Rick's Peace Corps service. Arkadaşlar also presented Vivien with a plaque and certificate in honor of Rick that another PCV, Bill Surbaugh (T-9), obtained for Rick from the Rotary Club.

Süleyman Gökçe, Deputy Chief of Mission at the Turkish Embassy, was also in attendance and offered a few remarks. He was very pleased to learn of the many "goodwill ambassadors" Turkey has around the country. He made note of the Peace Corps' 50th Anniversary next year, and said he anticipated that Ambassador Tan would probably host us in some fashion at the Turkish Embassy. İnşallah.

Visit the Website for more Bayram Dinner Stories and Photos!



<http://www.arkadaslar.info/>
Check it out for great memories, travel tips,
and up-to-date information!

Arkadaşlar
c/o Linda Scheffer



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?")