

Buralarda

The Newsletter of Arkadaşlar, Friends of Turkey



Number 39, March 2014

Story of Your Arkadaşlar Database

By Sandy Anderson

After all these years of building a database that has been essential in keeping us in touch with each other, I thought that we should all know the information it contains and how we protect it. In 1984 Dave Weinman convened a group of Turkey RPCVs from the Washington, DC area to form our group, Arkadaşlar. His purpose was to bring people together before we totally lost track of each other.

His little black book of volunteers was one place to start, and we had some names, remnants from a fire at the Peace Corps office. Linda Scheffer and I recognized the need to set up a database in those early days of computers. We worked from Dave's list, the Peace Corps, and people that the initial Arkadaşlar Board Members knew. We also began to accumulate group training "mug books," some of which contained addresses we could use and colleges we could contact.

We began networking, "Who else do you know? Do you have contact information?" This was before 1993 and the days of email. Dave had organized an annual bayram dinner in the DC area, and we used the database to begin organizing dinners in other parts of the country.

We needed certain information- first name, maiden name, last name, middle initial, address, home phone, work phone, email address, group, service years, type of program and notes.

We never give contact information, except to a member, and always explain to an outsider that we will "attempt to contact" the person. That allows our members to not respond, should they so choose. "Notes" is a catch-all category - extra email addresses, spouse's name, occupations or places of work. These serve as a way for Linda and me to know and remember people as individuals, so that Arkadaşlar is able to be more than an impersonal organization. Is there such a thing as an organization that cares? That's who we want to be.

More recently we've added a section for those who are deceased, and one called "restricted," where we note when people choose not to receive mail or to share their email addresses.

I've worked with computers and data for a long time, and am almost fanatical about protecting member information. Along with webmaster Ellie LeBaron, we do not publish any contact information except the emails of Board Officers. We share electronic contact information only with bayram dinner, group and project coordinators.

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Amca Passes A Milestone!!



Dave "Amca" Weinman
and Pat Schoeni

It was a cold winter's night at Atilla's restaurant in Arlington, but the 60 people attending Dave Weinman's 80th birthday party were warm. If you think those aren't enough numbers, add in the representatives of the ten government agencies that Dave has worked for, as well as family and friends from college years—and try to add up the glasses of wine drunk to his honor.

People from all the different agencies acknowledged something Dave has made plain to us in the Peace Corps. We really are his first and best love. Buralarda would like to take this opportunity to toast Amca Dave, Arkadaşlar's founding father, for playing such a big role in keeping us together all these years.

He is tek bir adam!

Everything else remains on my computer, or in hard copy in Linda's and my hands. It does not get into email, not on the web, not in the cloud.

Every member has a right to know what information we have about him or her, and can order us to delete it. If you are interested in the notes for your entry, send me an email at TurkeyDost@aol.com or phone 410-586-3090 (Maryland).

Sayın Arkadaşlar

By Mike Jewell

This edition contains many written and photographic reminders of the good times at Bayram Dinners and other reunions. Turkey 1 recently began planning for a reunion this coming August, first motivated not by the good times, but by deeply sad news. Walter Salmen, a loved and gifted member of our group passed away recently (see obituaries). We were devastated.



A special element of our service in T-1 was answering a question: Could we as individuals prove to our gracious, if skeptical, hosts that our presence in Turkey was desirable or worthwhile?

A "yes" answer was made easier for teachers of a highly desired commodity, (English) provided in a respected and structured setting, (the schools).

Walter and 8 other T-1 volunteers had a bigger challenge. Most had strong technical skills in forestry and agriculture, but uncertain roles in less certain settings. After a year in the field, Walter impressed our hosts sufficiently to be transferred to the national ministry in Ankara responsible for planning the reforestation of areas across the country. There, and in his service on staff in-country with CARE, Walter and the T-1 "Ag guys" helped Turks see the promise of using trained volunteers in non-TEFL settings. I believe they helped shape decisions that made possible Turkey Community Development volunteer programs.

Walter's gentle kindness, enormous talent, hard work and friendship are sorely missed, and his passing a reminder that we need to appreciate each other while we can.

Kudos for New 2013 Arkadaşlar Directory

Once the new 2013 Arkadaşlar Directory was mailed out in early November, the editors received many notes of thanks and congratulations. Among them was this one:

This Membership Directory is extraordinary!

It's a treasure.

Thank You All --

I spent days days, savoring it, page by page, slowly, from back to front (a typical ADD symptom), until I worked my way back to the early pages, and the table of contents, just this morning, suddenly discovering some of my stories printed from our time in Turkey. Thanks for that - I hadn't expected it.

Whatever it is now, quite different from then, it all brought tears to my eyes.

While so many people from all the Groups made so many contributions, and generated so many stories of our connections with our hosts, whether in the villages, towns, or cities, like Amca Dave reminded us in 2011 at the Global Reunion, I found myself glued to page Groups / 9 which is Group 1, and its list of names.

I also found myself feeling a keener regard, respect, appreciation, and awe for all their path-breaking work, courage, and perseverance, and for the few people in



Directory mailing work party: Lynn Maichle, Kathy Kral, Tom Kral, "Amca" Dave Weinman, Linda Scheffer. The photo was taken by Ken Hill, who also hosted the work party.

that Group I had the pleasure of meeting and knowing, among them Mike, Warren P, Warren K, Walter, Allan, and Peggy.

When the cold Wisconsin winter snows arrive, I know I'll be curling up next to a fire and making more trips thru Arkadaşlar - Bir Varmış Bir Yokmuş, and with great thanks to everyone.

Eph Frankel / Turkey 09

Cumhuriyet Bayram Dinners – 2013

Cumhuriyet Bayram Dinners 2013: We celebrated the Bayram in ten sites this year. Here is a sample of three of the gatherings - in Washington, DC, Freeport, Maine and Madison, Wisconsin. Let's look forward to more celebrations in 2014.

The Washington, DC Metropolitan area held its Cumhuriyet Bayram dinner on Sunday, October 27th, at the Kazan Restaurant in McLean, VA. The owner, Zeynel Uzun, prepared a delicious meal of meze, salad, döner kebab, an assortment of desserts, and soft drinks, beer, wine, tea and coffee.

There were 73 of us in attendance. Honored guests included three representatives from the Turkish Embassy, the Deputy Chief of Mission, the 2nd Counselor, and an Economic Consultant and his daughter; the Chief of Staff of the Peace Corps, and his wife; the President of the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) and his daughter; the present and past Presidents of the American Turkish Association of DC (ATA-DC), and the President of the Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Washington (RPCV/W) and a friend.

Also in attendance were representatives from three of the organizations that Arkadaşlar supports. Mustafa Soykan, of Üniversite Öğrencilerine Yardım Derneği (ÜÖYD) and his wife, Mariette. Through ÜÖYD, we provide four-year post-secondary scholarships to eight (8) students in Turkey; Kate Belling, of HasNa, Inc. which helps groups with different ethnic and cultural backgrounds to work together to address common interests and achieve mutual goals; and Yıldız Yağcı, of Anatolian Artisans. Yıldız sold lovely handicraft wares made by artisans in Turkey, and raised \$600 for the



DC Group listens to Dave Weinman speak

organization from the sales.

We held raffles and thanks to the efforts of Lin Lougheed (T-16), Ken Hill (T-9), and Joanne Omang (T-4), who sold the raffle tickets, Arkadaşlar raised \$314. We also held a Silent Auction of items donated by Jill Diskan (T-4), Lynn Maichle (T-16), Margaret Hamill Patterson (T-4), Kris Kononen (T-8), Ken Hill (T-9), and Peggy Hanson (T-1), which raised \$846. Thanks for everyone's participation.

Once again, we had a wonderful time renewing old Peace Corps friendships, making new ones, and celebrating Turkey's 90th anniversary of becoming a Republic, with great Turkish food, wine and rakı. Yaşa!

By Linda M. Scheffer (T-8)

Maine/New Hampshire

We had 21 for Bayram lunch, decorated tables and displays of Turkish artifacts, a case of red and white Turkish wine, really wonderful food at Maine's only Turkish restaurant in Freeport, and notes from folks determined to be there again next year. We were joined by an "OLIE" class from the University of Southern Maine headed later this month to Turkey. Joan Grant had roped them in.

If I would spell the acronym properly, it would be OLLI (Osher Life Long Learning Institute), a non-degree enrichment program for "seasoned" students....old folks.....at many universities across the country.

Cheers! Ron Stegall (Staff) - Maine/New Hampshire

Wisconsin

We met for *hors d'oeuvres* and conversation at Russ and Liz Whitesel's house feasting on spinach börek, yaprak dolmas, mercimekli köfte, dates and humus with pide. From there we went to Oliva, a restaurant owned by a Turkish family, for a delicious authentic dinner. Our waiter was the college-student son of the owner whose Turkish was less advanced than our rusty Turkish--but he was planning to go to Turkey for an extended visit after his graduation. It was a wonderful evening. Russ Whitesel (T-8/9)

Please look at the website for more Bayram reports and photos
(<http://www.arkadaslar.info>).

Arkadaşlar Projects Make a Difference: Üniversite Öğrencilerine Yardım Derneği Scholarships

By Mustafa Soykan, founder of ÜÖYD

Mustafa Soykan came from the town of Biga, near Çanakkale. Through dint of hard work, he attended university (PhD in economics from Sorbonne University in 1973) 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.

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 2013 we allocated \$3,200 per year, thus helping eight students each year. 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!

Dear Members of the Board of Arkadaşlar,
Hepinize Merhabalar:

Please accept our belated congratulation for the 50th anniversary of the PEACE CORPS.

What a success and wonderful achievements your PEACE CORPS accomplished all over the WORLD!

Regarding your continuous contributions to the Turkish students for their higher education, you cannot imagine what a happy and grateful youth you are creating every year in Biga - Turkey.

All of the students financed by Arkadaşlar are very successful and become productive members of a fast developing modern Turkey. Some of our students who become working professionals are then also contributing to our foundation.

Arkadaşlar finances \$50/month for each student during the 8 months of the school year. This represents a total of \$400/year per student. Based on a survey among the students, the \$50/month scholarship represents about 1/4 to 1/6 of their monthly financial needs, depending on the cities/universities where they

2013-2014 Arkadaşlar Scholarship Recipients



Beste Gergin, born 1994 (19 years old)
City of residence: Biga - Çanakkale
University: Sakarya Üniversitesi - Hendek / İzmit
Branch Studying: Eğitim Fakültesi – Primary School
Math Teacher
Graduation Date: 2014
Years Financed by Arkadaşlar: 4 years



Guray Cintir, born 1990 (23 years old)
City of residence: Biga - Çanakkale
University: Mimarlık ve Mühendislik Fakültesi - Eskişehir
Branch Studying: Electrical, Electronic Engineering
Graduation Date: 2013
Years Financed by Arkadaşlar: 5 years

are studying. The rest of their education financing is coming from different sources, including central government, local government, municipalities, individuals, families or part time work. Like you say, all our students are a healthy looking young crowd!

Herşey için sizlere teşekkürler.
Hoşcakal ve çok çok selamlar.
Mustafa.

Arkadaşlar Projects Make a Difference: Üniversite Öğrencilerine Yardım Derneği Scholarships 2013-2014 Arkadaşlar Scholarship Recipients



Nilsu Erdemli, born 1994 (19 years old)
City of residence: Susurluk / Balıkesir or Biga / Çanakkale
University: Gazi University - Ankara
Branch Studying: Industrial Engineering
Graduation Date: 2017
Years Financed by Arkadaşlar: 1 year



Ethem Tezcan, born 1993 (20 years old)
City of residence: Biga - Çanakkale
University: 9 Eylül Üniversitesi - Buca - İzmir
Branch Studying: Eğitim Fakültesi - English teacher for middle/high school
Graduation Date: 2015
Years Financed by Arkadaşlar: 2 years



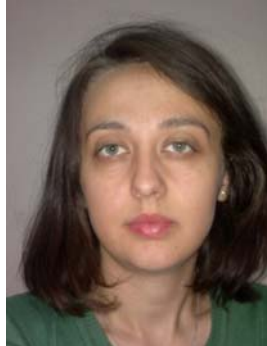
Mesut Tok, born 1990 (23 years old)
City of residence: Biga - Çanakkale
University: Yıldız Teknik Üniversitesi - İstanbul
Branch Studying: Mechanical Engineering /with English
Graduation Date: 2013
Years Financed by Arkadaşlar: 5 years



Ayşe Tuba Kosucu, born 1994 (19 years old)
City of residence: Ağaköy / Biga / Çanakkale
Name of University: Marmara University - İstanbul
Branch Studying: High School math teacher
Graduation Date: 2016
Years Financed by Arkadaşlar: 1 year



Ahmet Tarık Gursoy, born 1994 (19 years old)
City of residence: Yeniceköy / Biga / Çanakkale
Name of University: Medical School - TIP Fakültesi - Eskişehir
Branch Studying: Medical School
Graduation Date: 2018
Years Financed by Arkadaşlar: 1 year



Mine Koyuncu, born 1992 (21 years old)
City of residence: Biga - Çanakkale
University: Ege Üniversitesi - İzmir
Branch Studying: Agricultural Engineering
Graduation Date: 2014
Years Financed by Arkadaşlar: 3 years

Notes from the Arkadaşlar Board Meeting January 28, 2014

Notes taken by Lynn Maichle

Attending: Mike Jewell, Linda Scheffer, Peggy Hanson, John Wintrol, Elliot Eisenberg, Thomas Kral, Lynn Maichle,
Guests: Dave Weinman, Kathy Kral

1. Meeting was called to order by Mike Jewell at 6:15
2. 50th Reunion: Thomas and Kathy Kral will coordinate T-4-5-6 on how to celebrate this occasion
3. Financial Report:
Linda Scheffer presented the financial update.
4. Board Elections:
 - a. There are 5 vacancies on the Board due to 4 terms expiring and 1 resignation
 - b. Elliot Eisenberg, Peggy Hanson and Sandy Anderson would agree to remain on the Board; response from Valerie Olson is pending
 - c. Lynn Maichle will ask Pat Findikoğlu and Laurie Richardson if they'd be interested in joining the Board
 - d. **MOTION**: John Wintrol made a motion to re-elect Elliot, Peggy and Sandy to a three-year term; seconded by Tom Kral and passed unanimously
5. Officers:
 - a. The following nominations were made for Arkadaşlar Board Officers:
 - President: Mike Jewell
 - Vice-President: Lin Loughed
 - Treasurer: Linda Scheffer
 - Database Manager: Sandy Anderson
 - Buralarda Co-editors: Peggy Hanson & Steve Poppick
 - Secretary: Lynn Maichle

MOTION: Mike Jewell moved to to accept these nominations; seconded by Lynn Maichle and passed unanimously.
6. Next Meeting: planned for Tuesday, April 22nd, 6:30 pm at Atilla's Restaurant. Come at 6:00 if you want to chat and mingle before the Meeting.



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

Fiftieth Anniversary Approaches for Turkey Groups 4, 5, and 6

By Thomas Kral, T-4

This year marks the fiftieth anniversary for the Volunteers who were a part of Peace Corps Turkey, groups 4, 5 and 6. Joining groups 2 and 3 in the second half of 1964, they brought the total number of Peace Corps Volunteers in the country to well over 300, serving in every major city, region and numerous towns and villages throughout Turkey.

Several members of Turkey 4, 5 and 6 have talked of making a sentimental journey back to Turkey this year; but as of Buralarda's press date, no large group travel plans have been announced. If you are thinking of organizing a 50th anniversary celebration of the start of your Turkey adventure, please use the Arkadaşlar listserv to publicize the event. Perhaps members of the 3 groups could consolidate into just one reunion. Memorable reunions have taken place celebrating the 50th anniversary of the first three groups' arrival. Why not this year?

RENEW YOUR ARKADAŞLAR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2014

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. Go to the website or contact Linda Scheffer to renew your membership.

WHAT ARKADAŞLAR DID FOR YOU IN 2013

- 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, anecdotes, and news items about Turkey on the Arkadaşlar Listserv. For more information, and to join the listserv 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 nonprofit organizations for Turkey

WHAT YOU WILL GET FOR YOUR 2014 DUES

The new **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 your dues for the first time since 2012. This directory is the largest we have produced, more than 144 pages, with a collection of 115 of our very best photos and 18 wonderful stories written by members about their experiences in Turkey. Another classic photo from Dick Janzig adorns the front cover. Yours for only the \$25 membership fee.

Opportunity to donate funds to noteworthy nonprofits serving Turkey

DURING 2014, ARKADAŞLAR WILL

- Send three issues of our newsletter, *Buralarda*, featuring news of Arkadaşlar and updates on old friends from your Peace Corps Turkey days
- Extend an invitation to a regional Cumhuriyet Bayram Dinner
- Provide participation on our listserv and access to our web site
- Search for others who served in Peace Corps Turkey
- Support social, educational, and economic causes in Turkey

In Memoriam:

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

Margaret Simpson, T-2, Aug. 1941 - Nov. 2011

Ann Long, T-8, Nov. 1943 - Feb. 2013

Mat Halonen, T-12, June 1940 - Feb. 2013

Sid Maurer, Staff, (age 80) May, 2013

Judith Anne Ohnesorge Allee, T-16, June, 2013

Walter Salmen, T-1 and Staff, April 1939 - Dec. 2013

Jim Hogan, T-2, (age 76) Jan. 2014

Charlotte (Miller) Jirousek, T-5 and Staff, 1938 - Feb. 2014

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



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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?")