

Buralarda

The Newsletter of Arkadaşlar, Friends of Turkey



Number 37, May 2013

Turkey Peace Corps Honored To Receive “Distinguished Service” Award from ATAA

By Peggy Hanson



Mike Jewell, Ken Hill & Ellie LeBaron

April 27th was a beautiful spring day and the banquet hall at the Washington Plaza Hotel was full of tables, which in turn were filled with Turks and Turkophiles of all ages, sipping delicious Turkish coffee from little paper cups—who knew they even existed? This was the annual convention of the Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA). The air of hospitality reminded one of all of those social events, where we as Volunteers learned to love Turks and their country. Ahhh....fifty years ago...And still today!

Among some interesting panel discussions, including with Turkish volunteer groups, young Turkish writers and artists, came one of particular interest to Arkadaşlar: two illustrious members of our own Board and our beautiful webmaster were asked by ATAA Vice President Ali San to talk about aspects of our eight years in Turkey.

After President JFK's sonorous voice from 1961 (courtesy the video we saw at our reunion) reminded everyone of his dream for how the Peace Corps would be set up and what it might accomplish, Mike Jewell spoke about the early days in 1962, when Turkey-1 arrived in Ankara. He joked about our inept language abilities, our fear at facing 80 students to a classroom, our worry that somehow we would not fit in or be accepted. Each group that came after T-1 had some version of the same experience, though, as Ken Hill (T-9) explained, living in a village, helping

IN THIS ISSUE:

ATAA Award	1
Sayın Arkadaşlar – Mike Jewell	2
T-2 Turkey Trips	2
New Arkadaşlar Directory Coming	2
Cumhuriyet Bayram Dinners	3
In Memoriam	3
Reminder – Renew Your Membership	4
Arkadaşlar Projects: KuzeyDoğa Society	5
Arkadaşlar Board Meeting Notes	6
Note of Thanks	7



Mike Jewell & Ken Hill accept award for Arkadaşlar

with rural development strategies, and working towards change with local officials, was quite different from teaching English. He described long-lasting friendships that many of us carry to this day. Ellie LeBaron (T-15) spoke eloquently of what she had gained from living and working in Turkey as a volunteer. Internationalism, cultural sensitivity, life-changing concepts were just a few. Ali San, ATAA Vice President for the Pacific Northwest organized the panel and helped us get our thoughts organized.

That evening, at the gala dinner of this amazing convention, Mike and Ken gratefully accepted the Distinguished Service Award on behalf of Arkadaşlar.

Following the awards ceremony, Mike joined others from the audience in traditional folk dancing to the music from a Turkish ensemble. "Hopa!!"

Sayın Arkadaşlar

By Mike Jewell



May Day! May Day! Entering the 5th month of the year, we are just finally having real spring weather here in the Washington D.C. area.

Compared to the last two years with reunion gatherings, important anniversaries and trips to Turkey, it seemed quiet. But along with spring we are coming to life! As you see elsewhere in this edition, Turkey 2 is busy planning a two-part trip to Turkey! This year is the 50th anniversary for Turkey 2 and Turkey 3 but everyone is invited, so if you haven't been back lately, think about joining them!

Also, the Board hopes to add an important new project this year to those we support in Turkey. Don't miss Lin Lougheed's article on KuzeyDoğa, a foundation trying to establish a protected nature habitat in eastern Turkey. Speaking of Lin, I'm delighted to have a former President of Arkadaşlar back on the Board, and that Lin has agreed to be our first Vice President.

It is really good news!

On April 27th the ATAA-led Turkish American National Leadership Conference just awarded Arkadaşlar its Distinguished Service Award in honor of our service as Peace Corps Volunteers in Turkey!! Ken Hill, Ellie LeBaron and I described our experiences as volunteers at a panel during the conference.

Finally, we have a new Membership Directory coming out this year.

If you haven't yet done it, renew your membership!

Trips to Turkey Planned by T-2

By Kevin McCarthy (T-2)

A group of T-2 volunteers is planning two week-long trips to Turkey in the fall in honor of the 50th anniversary of their arrival to begin working in the Peace Corps.

One trip, the "Western Trip," September 23 - 30, will visit these sites: İstanbul, Edirne, Çanakkale, Gallipoli, Assos, the Turkish village where PCV Carol LaMotte (T-3) is living, Pergamum, Ephesus, the House of Mary, Sirince, Bursa, and then back to İstanbul.

The other trip, the "Southern Trip," October 3 - 10, will visit these sites: Ankara, Cappadocia, Kahta, Mount Nemrut, Gaziantep, Urfa, Harran, Göbeklitepe, Mardin, Hasankeyf, Darulzafran, and on to the airport for flights to İstanbul.

Interested Peace Corps Arkadaşlar (and family members) can do one or both trips. For more information about details, including prices, please contact Kevin McCarthy (T-2) at this address: kevinkadin@yahoo.com.

Haydi, Türkiye'ye gidelim!

New Arkadaşlar Directory Coming for 2013

It is time to publish a new Arkadaşlar Directory, although it doesn't seem like three years have passed. If any of your contact information has changed -- name, address, home phone, email address, group, years, sites -- please let Linda Scheffer know.

Now will be your last chance to update for the next few years. Also, let Linda know if you DO NOT want that information published. She's at LMScheffer@aol.com. The directory was scheduled for publication earlier this year and is now planned to be sent out by early summer.

The team of Linda Scheffer (T-8), Sandy Anderson (T-13) and Lynn Maichle (T-16) is diligently working on it. They promise that the cover is as dramatic as the last one (front cover photos by Dick Janzig T-15), and the directory will include more of our stories than in past issues. The directory is sent to anyone who has paid dues for 2012 or 2013, and it's worth the wait!

Cumhuriyet Bayram Dinners – 2012

Cumhuriyet Bayram Dinners 2012: We celebrated the Bayram in ten sites this year. Here are samples of two of the gatherings - in Washington, DC and in Wisconsin. Please look at the website for more photos (<http://www.arkadaslar.info>).

Let's look forward to more celebrations in 2013.



Washington DC area celebrants:

Left - Jim Hanson, Patricia Lowther (T-2),
Right - Nanci Jewell, Peggy Hanson (T-1), Kathy Scruggs (T-2)

We were joined by the Acting Peace Corps Director, Carrie Hessler-Radelet, at this wonderful event.



Wisconsin celebrants:

Sitting: Marian Vieux-Frankel, Sue Spitz (T-8), Bill Surbaugh (T-9), David Wilson (T-15), Ann Wilson, Cheryl Surbaugh, Howard and Joanne Scott.
Standing: Mike Spitz (T-8), Eph Frankel (T-9), Erv Rockhill and Lois Rockhill (both T-9).

Photo by Liz Whitesel

In Memoriam:

Willard Mallalieu 'Bill' Whitman Jr.

Our colleague and friend, Willard "Bill" Whitman passed away on December 19, 2012 at his home in Alexandria, Virginia. Bill was 95 and suffered from heart ailments. He is survived by Doris Clark Whitman, his wife of 67 years and his two daughters, Jean Heimer, and Doreen McGill; a sister; and five grandchildren.

Many of us will remember Bill as the director of training for PCV English Teachers at Robert College in 1964 and subsequently of Turkey-9, the CD program which trained in 1965 at Yalincak village on the campus of the new Middle East Technical University outside Ankara.

Kathy Reidmiller (T-8)

Kathy passed away peacefully in the company of her husband on Friday, March 22, 2013. A pivotal experience in Kathy's life was her service in the Peace Corps from 1965 to 1967 in Lüleburgaz, Turkey, where she taught English to 60-student classes, and to adults in night classes. She maintained heartfelt ties with many of her Turkish friends all through her life.

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

RENEW YOUR ARKADAŞLAR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2013

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 2012

- Held Cumhuriyet Bayram dinners in various states
- Facilitated a celebration and tour in Turkey to mark the 50th Anniversary of the T-1's arrival in country on September 6, 1962
- 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 \$9,500 to nonprofits in and/or for Turkey

WHAT YOU WILL GET FOR YOUR 2013 DUES

- *Buralarda*: three issues of our newsletter featuring news of Arkadaşlar and updates on old friends from your Peace Corps Turkey days
- 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, 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 2013, ARKADAŞLAR WILL

- Continue to search for others who served in Peace Corps Turkey
- Mail a new 2013 Membership Directory to those members who pay 2012 or 2013 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: KuzeyDoğa Society

By Lin Logheed (T-16)

WHAT DOES A TURKISH BEAR REALLY DO IN THE WOODS?

Last fall, Linda Scheffer, Peggy Hanson, and I gave, in the name of Arkadaşlar, a small amount of money to Nature Türkiye, the foundation arm of the KuzeyDoğa Society. Usually with most charitable gifts, you never have any proof that your money was well spent. With KuzeyDoğa, our rewards are both emotional and tangible. Not only do we feel good for helping Turkey's nascent environmental conservation efforts, but we have a YouTube video that showcases the results of our gifts. The video lightens our hearts... as it puts us to sleep. (see link below)

From the KuzeyDoğa website:

The vision of KuzeyDoğa Society is to prevent extinctions and consequent collapses of critical ecosystem processes while making sure that human communities benefit from conservation as much as the wildlife they help conserve.

To reach this vision we integrate conservation education, research, capacity building and income generation, increase the contribution of ecotourism, especially bird watching, to community-based conservation in the developing world, and strive to improve the role of the private sector in the conservation of biodiversity.

Our small contribution helped fund critter cams and GPS tracking devices on 10 bears that Dr. Çağan Şekercioğlu and his team of international scientists are using to track bear movements through the newly created Wildlife Corridor from Kars to the Turkey-Georgia border. Linda, Peggy, and I each adopted one of the 10 bears, but we didn't tell the scientists since they frown on such things. Peggy's bear, featured in an 11-minute YouTube video, ambles through the Sarıkamış Forest. Linda's bear faced down a wolf; mine sat on her critter cam -- not a pretty video. Dr. Şekercioğlu refers (very unromantically) to a bear by number: Bear 87, for example, walked 100 km up and back the original length of the Wildlife Corridor that Çağan had proposed to the government in 2008.

The Turkish brown bear, which is the same species as the North American grizzly, is not a very romantic creature. (With the exception of the Turkish bear whose critter cam captured her watching a sunrise for 20 minutes.) And it's impossible to romanticize the



Turkish Brown Bear – from KuzeyDoğa Society

destruction of the bears' habitat.

The bears' health and well-being is the key to the study. As a large carnivore, the bear is at the top of the forest food chain. A stress-free, well-fed bear means the whole forest ecosystem is in harmony. The plants, the insects, the small animals, and the large animals like the bears, wolves, and wild cats (even leopards) in the Wildlife Corridor all depend on the robustness of the same habitat.

Dr. Şekercioğlu and his team have a lot more data to collect and more work to do to convince decision-makers that protecting native habitats is good for everyone, not just the bears. We know from our experience in America how difficult it is to raise people's consciousness to the plight of our ecosystem. Dr. Şekercioğlu has a lot of work to do; we're glad to be a small part.

The Arkadaşlar Board plans to consider whether to add KuzeyDoğa to our list of projects to support. However, if any other Arkadaşlar wish to adopt a bear that Dr. Şekercioğlu will tag (or try to tag!) with cameras, please contact Lin Logheed: lougheed@lougheed.com

Link to KuzeyDoğa website:

<http://www.kuzeydoga.org/index.php/en/about-us/who-are-we>

Peggy's bear video: (12 exciting minutes of a bear's chin walking through the woods)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=twhwmpd30BU&list=UUzi6eiOeoZpxzk6fmA4EAVw&index=2>

Here is a link to Dr. Çağan Şekercioğlu's National Geographic report:

<http://newswatch.nationalgeographic.com/2013/01/13/happy-125th-national-geographic-brown-bears-film-their-lives-with-turkeys-first-crittercams/>

Notes from the Arkadaşlar Board Meeting January 22, 2013

Notes taken by Sandy Anderson

In Attendance: Sandy Anderson, Elliot Eisenberg, Peggy Hanson, Mike Jewell, Tom and Kathy Kral, Lin Lougheed, Lynn Maichle, Valerie Olson, Linda Scheffer, Dave Weinman, and John Wintrol

Treasurer's Report

We have \$16,596.91. We had 401 members in 2012 and spent \$5,755.69. For 2013 we have 263 members, 96 of whom have donated \$3,250 for our projects, and 42 of them have also joined NPCA. Our major expense for 2013 is the directory which is estimated to cost \$5,565 for which \$6,000 has been set aside.

KuzeyDoğa Project

Lin reported on the KuzeyDoğa project. Three of our Board Members contributed \$750 to the project, and Arkadaşlar may consider donating in the future.

Election of Officers

Board Members nominated for 2013 through 2015 terms were Mike Jewell, Ken Hill, Lynn Maichle and Lin Lougheed. Mike and Ken completed previous three-year terms; Lynn filled in a one-year term and is returning. Lin is joining the Board after being away for a while. All were elected unanimously.

Mike entertained the prospect of someone volunteering to become president. He described the work and said we were a good board to work with. Mike was nominated to continue as president in an interim capacity, hoping a new president will step forward.

Lin Lougheed volunteered to share responsibilities. In the ensuing discussion, Sandy expressed concern that she needed someone in an official capacity in case Mike cannot be reached. She made the motion that we establish a position of Vice President and John Wintrol seconded. Eight (8) current members voted for, and one (1) opposed.

Lin Lougheed was approved to be Vice President. NPCA should be notified.

Directory

The team working on the directory consists of Lynn, who is coordinating the stories and photos to be

used, Linda who receives new information and carefully edits, and Sandy who manages the data base and preparation of information. We have received 22 stories, and can use about half of them. We hope to have the directory out in the next few months.

Visit and Work in Turkey, New Idea

Sandy introduced an idea borrowed from NPCA that we become involved with projects where we go to Turkey and work as volunteers for a week. She said she thought that NPCA had only tried it in Central America thus far, and that a travel agency handled it. Participants gave good reports.

Peggy considered that we could go as individuals to some of our projects. Mike was wondering about who would do the interface between the Turkey site(s) and us. Peggy wondered about Hacettepe and visiting the homes of students we sponsor.

We suggested that this be put into *Buralarda* for members to think about. John would like to tie it into what NPCA is doing, and Mike worried about costs. Sandy said that people pay their own way. She also said that she was trying to follow up to learn more from NPCA.

John made the motion that we share this idea with members in *Buralarda*, and Lynn seconded. The vote was unanimous to contact the newsletter editors.

KuzeyDoğa

The question came up about whether we wanted to take an advocacy position opposed to dams being proposed for the KuzeyDoğa corridor and near Kars. Lin would like letters sent to four influential persons including Turkey's president and several ministers. We agreed that Lin can post it as an individual on the listserv.

Listserv

Sandy would like to give up responsibility for the listserv. She said that she does not have time to monitor all the postings, nor check on the links in the postings. She mentioned that Ken Hill had volunteered to monitor last spring. After she described the responsibilities which are not onerous, the Board felt that she should check with Ken to see if he is continuing to monitor.

Note of Thanks from the Grandson of a Former Student

*Note received by
Sandy Anderson in
February, 2013*



**Sevgili Amcacığım
(My Dear Uncle),**

Father, Grandfather & Hüseyin Yüksel

My name is Hüseyin Burak Yüksel. I live in İstanbul. But, my homeland is Beyşehir, KONYA / TURKEY. I was planning to get a connection with you about a returned peace corps volunteer from Turkey. Because I was so curious about who they are? I was grow up listening stories about foreign teachers (residents were defining them as different people) from my grandfather. I was making a research to reach them. But I couldn't find their or her/his name until one month ago. I found a new book when I was investigating and I was lucky to have her name at the very first page of the book. The writer of the book was signed his book for her name.

That book was a teaching book of english for the turkish people. So I am so happy to find her name who really helped our fathers (a lot of people) to learn english. Also they shared their culture to our children (my ancestors) who didn't know anything about it. I believe that all these efforts is more than teaching english it goes beyond it and it is obvious to see what was happened is a proof of your friendship without any expectation from the turkish people.

Many Thanks to All of You.

I want to come to the point, name of our teacher is Jenny Nicklas. I search her from the photos in the arkadaslar website. I also found her name from the list of RPCV's by Group. She was at the Turkey 16. I will appreciate if you forward my e-mail to her in order to inform her that I was looking for her and other teacher (blonde, thin, and male by the description of my grandpa).

Special thanks to Mrs Jenny and Other male teacher for this priceless collection of books they left to us. In particular, I would like to thank my grandfather saved all the books from being incinerated in soba :) (stove) .

I will attend some of photos of books. Maybe, she could remember. (I Apologize for my English).

Have a good day,
Best Regards

Dear Hüseyin Bey,

What a wonderful treasure you are sharing with us, the officers of Arkadaslar -- Peace Corps, Turkey. I will try to contact Jenny Nicklas; she will be pleased to hear from you, as we are. I am the person answering because I keep the computer database.

When we went to Turkey we were given a large box of books to read in the evenings. I believe your books come from that. And the special book with the inscription from the author will bring memories, I am sure. Thank you for the photos of the three books.

It is very good of you to write. We love Turkey and these memories are dear to us.
Sandy Anderson

Dear Sandy Hanım

My grandfather is still living. He couldn't remember the exact names of two english teacher but he remembered "tom and jen" as their name. But we couldn't confirm their name until I reach Jenny's book. He described them as if they are in front of him. He told about where they live, their clothing style, physical appearance, etc.

I also talked with my father this evening to refresh my memories. My father said that they (his family) also know about their staff like they had silver spoons, forks, knives and they also had a kind of printing machine I think they used it for the preparing materials for their students. A cowboy hat from the Male teacher. Teacher left a big commode my grandparents are still using it. My father's favorites were Christmas decorations because they had no other toys like them. :)) Of course a lot of books :) and many other things. My grandfather and father know all these because my grandfather was the buyer of half of the remainings from teachers when they left the city. They don't know the certain reason of their leaving and my father adds, "I couldn't reach the times that we had a chance to learn English from the American teachers who are the real owner of that language. In the following years after the program ends, we needed for only a few pages of English material to learn. I appreciate them about what they left to us as learning material. I will be grateful until the end of my life."

I am waiting for your orders
Türk oğlunuz
Hüseyin Burak Yüksel

Note: both Jenny Nicklas Herre (T-16) and Tom Doerr (T-8) have corresponded with Hüseyin Bey.



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?")