

Buralarda

The Newsletter of Arkadaşlar, Friends of Turkey



Number 36, October 2012

BACK TO TURKEY 50 YEARS LATER: A celebration of Peace Corps Turkey, 2012

By Peggy Hanson (T-1)



Several RPCVs from the Turkey-1 group, some spouses, and friends at mosque in Divriği. The group visited Turkey to mark the 50th anniversary of the arrival of the first Turkey-1's in Ankara in Sept. 1962.

Photo courtesy of Peggy Hanson

It was a beautiful early fall evening in Ankara when US Deputy Chief of Mission Jess Baily and his wife Capie and many other Embassy staff members greeted us in the DCM's garden. The time was 6:30 pm, September 6, 2012—50 years to the minute from when Turkey I disembarked from Pan Am Flight 01 to begin the Peace Corps' relationship with Turkey. On hand to help celebrate were some of our colleagues and students and friends from 1962-1970. Also present were 67 fresh-faced young Americans just setting out for 9 months of assisting English teachers all over

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Turkey as part of a Fulbright program.

The years dissolved and focused like a slide-show passing from one picture to another. Who were we? Who were they? That hopeful, nervous anticipation we saw in the Fulbrighters could have been us. Grey hair? Half a century of experience? Mere surface differences. Idealism is alive and well!

Idealism was the theme of "Amca" Dave Weinman's message to the volunteers, too. Alas, he could not be with us, but his words conjured up the amazing changes our time in Turkey made in all of us (see page 2).

That spirit of idealism and optimism accompanied us on the trips we made before and after the Ankara reception. Atatürk's mausoleum has changed since our day. The trees have grown up. There is a museum under the vast courtyard. We were touched to be on hand as members of Turkish armed forces performed the changing of the guard, stone-faced and disciplined. Whatever political winds are blowing these days, no one can ever take the place of Atatürk in Turkey.

At Hacettepe Hospital--where we presented the Pediatric Neurology Department our annual Arkadaşlar donation to the C. Erik Olson Fund and saw the hospital wing that will bear Erik's name--we were thrilled to see technical and medical advances our adopted country has made in 50 years. Dr. Haluk Topaloğlu and his staff provided guided

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Sayın Arkadaşlar

By Mike Jewell



This is about three miracles. In a valiant effort to make time stand still, some of our number celebrated the second 50th anniversary in a 13 month span; this time the 50th to the day and hour of Turkey I's touchdown at Esenboğa Airport in Ankara.

The miracle of Skype allowed RPCV's in Ankara and a small group of RPCV's in Northern Virginia to toast each other live within minutes of that original Pan Am landing.

A second miracle from a 1962 perspective is that the Ankara group was at an American Starbucks and the DC area group was at a Turkish restaurant, an impossibility fifty years ago. Peggy Hanson, George Park, and Linda Scheffer have my eternal gratitude for

making this and so much else happen to make this celebration possible!

As a proud T- I RPCV, it's hard to express how much I missed being in Ankara that day, but in the end I was in the perfect place; sitting next to Dave Weinman at Kazan Restaurant.

Dave was the key person in the middle of realizing the original miracle. Obtaining agreements, sites and placements from three Turkish Ministries over one summer for 39 young Americans to serve, and then actually getting everyone in place in time qualified as a miracle in those days. As we learned over time how agonizingly slow official actions could take, we realized the enormity of Dave's achievements.

As we finished our Skype communication, Amca just shook his head looking at Ellie LeBaron's laptop and said "Isn't that something!"

Yes it is, and yes it was. Thanks Amca!

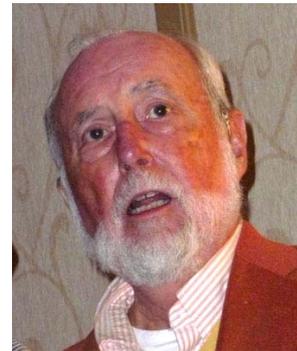
Mike

Message from Dave Weinman to all Turkey PCV's on the 50th Anniversary Trip

Dear Peace Corps Colleagues:

Congratulations to all of you for returning to our second country on this important occasion. It is difficult to believe that fifty years have passed, since the first Pan Am Flight landed at Esenboğa airport to begin the process of bringing Peace Corps volunteers to Turkey. There is no doubt in my mind that that event forecast a major change in how we would henceforth view the world, our nation, and ourselves in a much broadened context. You had accepted a challenge without understanding in detail the demands to be made, the frustrations to be endured, and, not least, the growth and accomplishments to be achieved.

The best news is that today, as we mark half a century, most of us can still muse, laugh, occasionally marvel, and rate the events in Turkey among the most meaningful in our lives. We were so-called "change-agents," and we did in fact change in many ways. That is not to say that without Turkey we would not have grown up, but I believe there are few who would argue that Anatolia did not leave its own special set of imprints on us.



And so, my friends, on this celebratory occasion I wish to thank you again for taking the risk in going, providing the service you did, whether in a classroom, village, orphanage, medical facility, agricultural/forestry or tourism office, and helping to make Peace Corps the honored concept it has become.

Thanks to you, Peace Corps/Turkey still lives in all of us!!!

Wishing I were there with you,
Amca

New Arkadaşlar Directory Coming for 2013

The new Arkadaşlar directory should be ready by the turn of the year. Let us know if you have a changed address, phone or email, and please tell us if you do not want that information printed.

The theme this year is "Bir Varmış, Bir Yokmuş" or "Once Upon a Time," so dig out your stories from back then and send them in to our publishing team: Linda Scheffer, Lynn Maichle, and Sandy Anderson. For convenience, you can use Linda's contact information:
Linda Scheffer
LMScheffer@aol.com

We are planning to include a picture of each group together in the US or in Turkey. If you have one of those pictures, please share it electronically or by mail to Sandy Anderson, TurkeyDost@aol.com, Sandy can also locate pictures you've sent for other projects and use them. The directories help us keep up with ourselves, a surprisingly mobile group.

Be sure to pay your 2012 dues so you'll receive this new directory!

Reminder: RENEW YOUR ARKADAŞLAR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2012

If you have not yet done so, renew your 2012 membership in Arkadaşlar!

Please make your check (\$25/\$35 singles & couples respectively, - and add some more as a voluntary donation to our projects) payable to "Arkadaşlar."

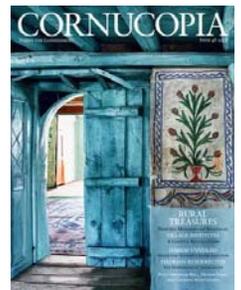
Mail it to:

Linda Scheffer

Contact Linda at LMScheffer@aol.com for other information about membership.

Cornucopia Magazine, Turkey for Connoisseurs

Some of our members are familiar with Cornucopia Magazine, published three times per year, filled with fascinating articles and stunning photos and artwork. Here is a link to the website: <http://www.cornucopia.net/>, and here is a link to getting a discount on a subscription: <http://www.cornucopia.net/store/offer/introductory-offer>
You may want to check it out.



In Memoriam:

Nesim Abuaf (T-8 Turkish Language Instructor) Nesim Abuaf passed away from a brain tumor on December 3, 2011, in Portland, OR. He was 72. In the summer of 1965, while a graduate student at Princeton University, he worked as a Turkish Language Instructor to the T-8 Peace Corps Volunteer Trainees. Nesim's wife, Nancy Raymond Abuaf, was a T-8 PCV Trainee. They have two daughters, Dona and Lisa, and two grandchildren, Ava and Max, with a third grandchild on the way.

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

Turkey Eco-Projects Make a Difference: Balyolu and KuzeyDoğa

By Karen Reiter (T-17), Ellie LeBaron (T-15), and Lin Lougheed (T-16)



Balyolu

Turkey RPCVs who did their volunteer work in a small village, or any Volunteer who is curious about those times, should consider going on Balyolu. This is a challenging, unique, fantastic eco-tour, which supports an NGO. The founder of this endeavor is Cat Jaffee, National Geographic's Young Explorer of the year 2012.

Turkey is trying to revive its honey industry, after being forbidden to export honey. The NGO wants to teach village women how to become responsible bee-keepers, in order to bring in funds to help support their families. The tour is a hiking tour of NE Anatolia, beginning in Kars and visiting various villages which have successful bee-keeping industries. The village Turks welcomed us into their remote, at times very small and stark homes with the warmth, graciousness, total acceptance and generosity of the Turks I came to know and love.

This tour supports such a heartening and deserving cause because of its PCV-like desire to contribute something to the World. Of course if you visit Turkey's large cities, or even some of the previously small villages you can be shocked by the loss of many of the so-charming aspects of Turkish culture. My husband and I were thrilled to be able to step back into the Turkey of 40 or so years ago on the Balyolu tour. We were not disappointed in a single aspect of our tour. We have been to Turkey every 10 years since the late 60's. This trip to Istanbul and Ankara on the way to the tour was, I will admit, shocking. And yet, who could expect anything different? Balyolu was refreshing in so many ways. If you are interested go to <http://balyolu.com>. This is a cause most worthy of our donations, presence, and Peace Corps support.

Karen Reiter (T-17)

Dear Arkadaşlar,

I second Karen's comments and enthusiasm for a fantastic trip. If you can hike 8-10 miles a day for a week then you couldn't find a more perfect location, varied scenery, hiking companions (though I ended up having a private tour!), hosts, and guides. Even the shepherds welcomed us and gave us tea!

I first saw that area in 1971 with some Turkey-1's and remember thinking at the time that I'd love to be able to just take off hiking over the hillsides and enjoy the wildflowers and scenery, and that's exactly what we did. I learned a lot about bees and honey, met some wonderfully warm villagers, got some great exercise, used my rusty Turkish daily, and thoroughly enjoyed myself. It was an outstanding tour and I'm seriously thinking about repeating it next summer!

Ellie LeBaron (T-15)

KuzeyDoğa Organization

Individual Arkadaşlar members have sent support to KuzeyDoğa, a biodiversity and habitat conservation program located in Kars. KuzeyDoğa (North Nature) is a play on the words doğu (East) and doğa (nature). The organization was founded by Çağan Şekercioğlu, a Robert College and Harvard educated scientist who divides his energies between teaching obligations at the University of Utah and conservation activities in Kars.

KuzeyDoğa is developing Turkey's first wildlife corridor between the Kars region and the Caucasus forest on the Turkey-Georgia border. Working with a small staff, the organization conducts ecology research and monitors the biodiversity of the corridor with the goal of establishing other wildlife corridors across Turkey. In a 2012 index published by Yale University, Turkey ranked 109th among 132 countries: in the bottom 8% of biodiversity and habitat conservation. There is a lot of work to be done.

More information about Şekercioğlu and KuzeyDoğa can be found at <http://www.kuzeydoga.org>

Lin Lougheed (T-16)

Editor's Note: You may want to open Google Chrome and "Google Translate" to get a translated version of articles on this website - and on other Turkish language sites.

BACK TO TURKEY 50 YEARS LATER: A celebration of Peace Corps Turkey, 2012

(continued from page 1)

tours of the intensive care units and hosted us on the renovated Hacettepe campus.

After Ankara, the 25 former volunteers and spouses who had come to celebrate went their separate ways. Some went to visit the villages where they had served. Some went to see how Cappadocia has changed. Others spent extra time in Istanbul.

Turkey I's and members of other groups, with lots of help from Cengiz Tekin of Barefoot Travel in Istanbul, went on an "Appreciate Anatolia" journey (designed by George Park) from Ankara to Hattuşaş, the huge Hittite capital under excavation, to Amasya, a spectacular and scenic town on the Yeşilirmak. The Emin Effendi hotel along the river proved a comfortable and convenient place to stay. From there we headed to Sivas--a bustling city which blends the modern and the traditional, with young professionals and students filling its cafes and tea houses alongside women in head scarves (albeit far fewer than in Istanbul)...We stayed at the brand new Paşa Bey Hotel. A highlight was the trip out of Sivas to ancient Divriği, site of the 13th Century Grand Mosque and Hospital, now a World Heritage site protected by UNESCO. The magnificent doorways' intricate carvings competed favorably even with the best *kaşarlı pide* we had ever tasted in the small Konak restaurant in Divriği.

The only downside to that Sivas-area trip was a stop in Kangal to check on the government's attempt to save the Kangal breed of sheep dog. To our dismay, we found a form of "puppy mill"—exhausted mother dogs trying to nurse their cute puppies in small caged enclosures. This Kangal "preservation" is an area that animal activists in Turkey may want to address at some point.

Ironically, the best examples of magnificent Kangal dogs we saw were in the mountains between Sivas and Ünye on the Black Sea, in the Akkuş area. Free, confident, proud—these dogs knew they had a job of guarding their families and were accorded the respect they deserve from their owners. And how beautiful those mountains! Green, forested, majestic. The roads wound from one verdant valley to the next. Tea stops—needed quite often with travelers of our vintage—never failed to refresh. The brand new Atik hotel in Ünye, on the coast, refreshed in a different way—panoramic views of the Black Sea, great food, good staff.

Travelling along the Black Sea Coast from Ünye to Sinop and then on to Amasra was somewhat challenging. Although Turkey is building a four-lane road along the coast (complete with tunnels) most of the roads we drove on were still the old twisting mountain roads. So our two excellent drivers, Hussein and Ali, spent two long days winding their way to our various destinations. We stopped first in Samsun to visit the replica of the *Bandırma* -- the small coastal freighter that brought Atatürk to Anatolia to begin the War for Independence.

In Sinop we met other members of our group who were traveling the other way around and they warned us of the roads between İnebolu and Amasra. Worse than today?! Impossible, we thought. But yes, it proved much worse than "today." But enroute, on the stop in İnebolu, we saw a pod of dolphins swimming serenely past in the Black Sea. What good luck! What an amazing testament to how much the once almost-dead Sea has been cleaned up. Hearts lifted up, we traveled on, up into the mountains toward Kastamonu, then west, stopping at a mountain pull-off featuring bubbling urns and tea pots being wielded by a lady named Şukran.

Only 10 hours after leaving Sinop, we arrived in Amasra and were entranced by a bright red sun setting in its peaceful, historic harbor, framed by Genoan and Ottoman fortresses. Our rooms that night looked over an all-purpose family park filled with happy children, and parents and grandparents contentedly drinking tea along the harbor. And yes, in Amasra, we had Black Sea *hamsi*, crisp and fried the way we used to eat it.

The short trip the next day to Safranbolu was uneventful. Cem, our guide, encountered a little resistance when he suggested we should go to visit the Yörük Village outside town. "We want to see Safranbolu!" But Cem prevailed and what a lucky chance that he did! Yörük Village, in which 118 houses are also on the World Heritage preservation list, was far more of a delight than Safranbolu, which is charming but has become rather touristy.

Ali Rıza Bey took us on a tour of the village, including the 300-year old *çamaşırhane* and his own house which he has opened up to visitors. He explained the origins of the village (it was settled by nomads from Central Asia) who lived first in tents but then went to Istanbul to work and build the lovely homes now being preserved. He also gave us a primer on the Bektashi sector of Islam pointing out the Bektashi origins of the village. We sat in his hand-

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Back to Turkey 50 years later

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painted corner room spellbound. That night was spent at the beautiful Havuzlu Amazlar Konağı in Safranbolu, where we had a farewell dinner in the garden, nostalgic already for the group travel we'd enjoyed.

On the way back to Istanbul, we passed again the many, many Atatürk Ormanları that had been planted before and during our time. The planting is still going on. Atatürk's dream of a forested Anatolia has come much farther in half a century than any of us had thought possible. Of course, so has Turkey! Just think of the high-tech advances, the number of cars and

construction sites, the excellent roads in every part of the country, the rapidly-expanding network of higher education, the middle class comforts now enjoyed in every town and in many villages, the highly-developed tourist facilities. What has not changed in Turkey include the many values we picked up and integrated with our own—hospitality toward guests, responsibility for those less fortunate, honor in its finest forms. Our friendships with Turks and with Turkey are what make us call ourselves, with pride, “Arkadaşlar.”

CUMHURİYET BAYRAM DINNERS - 2012

Celebrate the 50th anniversary of Peace Corps arriving in Turkey! We've been partying since last fall with the Global Reunion in Washington, DC and the recent reunion in Ankara. There are stories to tell, pictures to show and adventures to share, not to mention our personal stories from the past year. If one thing describes us, it's that we don't sit still. Join your nearest Bayram Dinner. Bekliyoruz!

MASSACHUSETTS/NEW ENGLAND: Sunday, October 28, 1:00 at the Brookline Family Restaurant, 305 Washington Street, Brookline MA, 617-277-4466. Lynn Maichle. Also hosted by Suzanne Rom, and Margaret Fearey.

NEW YORK CITY: Sunday, October 28, 12:00-3:00. Sahara's Turkish Cuisine, 513 Second Avenue, NYC (between 28th-29th Streets), 212-532-7601. Steve Poppick.

WASHINGTON, DC: Sunday, October 28, 5:30-8:00, at Kazan Restaurant, 6813 Redmond Drive, McLean, VA, 703-734-1960. \$45. Linda Scheffer.

NORTH CAROLINA/SOUTH CAROLINA: Weekend of October 27-28, Turk Evi, 743 East Franklin Street, Chapel Hill, NC. For additional information contact Jordan Scepaniski.

FLORIDA: Date and Location to be determined. Those who wish to attend should contact Paul Kirwan and Lynda Özgür.

OHIO: Saturday, October 27, Time not confirmed, Istanbul Grill, Professor St., Tremont, Cleveland. If interested contact Cathy or Ron McCutcheon.

OREGON/SOUTHERN WASHINGTON: Sunday, October 7, 4:00 at the home of Mimi and Jack Sanders. Please bring a food dish to share. Betsy Galloway has found a delicious recipe for simit, and promises to bring some. If interested, contact Melissa Stewart.

WASHINGTON: Saturday, October 27, 4:00, potluck at the home of Dale & Ruth Hultengren.

WISCONSIN: October 20, 2012, Meet at the home of Bill and Cheryl Surbaugh, at 4:30 p.m. **Or** meet at 6:30 p.m. at The Shoreline Restaurant, 12747 State Highway 42, Gills Rock 54234 ([920-854-2950](tel:920-854-2950)), *RSVP to Russ Whitesel.

"The Mid-Night Ride Revisited"

By Eph Frankel (T-9)

We all know about Paul Revere's midnight ride. Yet, how many of us are familiar with the 1:00 am Ankara-Afyon ride?

In late May I left for Istanbul with my son in tow on our trip to visit with my daughter who was finishing up her teaching assignment at Afyon Kocatepe U. What we didn't know was that we were flying into the THY workers' strike. The 6:50 pm flight to Ankara was at first delayed 10 minutes; then 20 minutes; then 30 minutes.

These delays went on for six times, over three hours, along with gate changes, giving rise to the spectacle of a herd of 150 passengers moving, shifting en masse, from one gate to another. Tempers were rising. Finally, sometime after 10:00 pm, we boarded for the Ankara flight. For some reason, telephone network connections didn't connect, and there was no letting daughter know about our delays.

Arriving in Ankara around 11:30 pm was bizarre: in a large airport, we 150 passengers were the only ones there. No daughter. Passengers were clearing out fast. I spoke to some airport people about my predicament not able to contact daughter: with concern, I was told I could pick her up at the 'lost luggage office'. WOW: had my Turkish gotten that bad??

I was hesitant to leave the area proper, but had no other choice. The waiting area outside was nearly empty; no telephone connection; no daughter -- it's about midnight now. It's been a very long flight from Chicago. I finally asked the only security guard if he would call my daughter on his phone, having explained the situation to him, which he correctly perceived as a little frantic. In that unique Turkish hospitality, we talked, he understood, and he used his phone, contacted Ale, who had been instructed to wait for us in the "domestic terminal" since we were coming in from Istanbul. For whatever reason, we de-planed in the "international terminal", and what was apparently the last flight into the airport that night.

We immediately boarded the airport shuttle to the Ankara Otogar, the bus station designed like an airport, a 35 minute ride away, and went from one ticket office to another, searching for a bus to Afyon. I'm thinking, this is very unlikely, given the time, but daughter informs us: This is Turkey - there's always another bus, don't you know? OK. Well, it's almost 1:00 am now, and, we discover that Kara Deniz Otobusleri has a 1:00 am scheduled for Izmir, with a stop in Afyon. I'm still skeptical. Nevertheless, at 1:20 am, we board a beautiful bus and we're on the road! and the roads were fabulous, especially compared to what we have in Milwaukee.



Eph Frankel with his children and Zafer Bey & wife

The seats were so comfortable, designed like airplane seats, I kept reaching for my safety belt, which actually was there, but unnecessary. Now this was shocking to my sensibilities: each seat had its own screen monitor for movies, news, sports, etc., just like the airplane. Then another surprise: a server starts making his way down the aisle, just like on the airplane, serving hot tea, coffee, and nearly all manner of other drinks, along with cookies, cakes, and candies. Gone is the limon suyu, but the scent is there, having been vaporized into the air cooling system for the bus. WOW!

This is all very good and well, but does the bus make a "rest" stop? just like in the old days! Well, the server says, not really, it's very late. Well, some things can wait, and others cannot. Down the road, about 3:30 am, the bus pulls into a benzin/petrol station. There's the dash to the station doors. Locked. Station Empty! Fortunately, the area behind the station was unlocked and available. The dash back to the bus. Bus crew smiling with a "way 'ta go" smile, cheer, and a clap.

At 4:30 am we arrive at the Afyon Otogar: I'm thinking, a taxi? at this time?? Daughter re-informs me, This is Turkey, there's always a taxi. Sure enough, two or three taxicis materialize out of nowhere and now we're in a taxi, heading for Aycin Sitesi, home away from home.

I found Afyon a fascinating place, where the first battle in the struggle for independence was fought by Atatürk. Afyon seemed removed from the more urban hustle and bustle, yet friendly, more of the Turkey I remembered, replete with an old quarter just beneath the famous Kale, of Hittite origins. Another story for another time.

We later went to Izmir and visited for a wonderful few days with Zafer Bey, whose family, hospitality, and generosity were cosmic and heart warming. His book on the Peace Corps in Turkey will likely be finished this fall. He is working on the title. I think it will be a blockbuster, at least for us; and I'm very curious about its reception in Turkey.



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?”)