

Buralarda

The Newsletter of Arkadaşlar, Friends of Turkey



Number 38, October 2013

March on Washington, 1963 and 2013

By Melissa Stewart, Kathy Scruggs, Tony Venegoni,
Joan Weeks and Marie Zeller



Photo courtesy of National Peace Corps Association

March on Washington notes, 1963 and 2013 Compiled by Sandy Anderson

Melissa Meacham Stewart, a Turkey-2 member, mentioned that she and other T-2s had participated in the March on Washington, August 28, 1963.

To see an extraordinary interview of Kathryn Markley Scruggs and Patricia Mitchell Lowther on their 50th Anniversary of the March on Washington copy and view this link in your web browser:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KK1w5xMweHA>

Many of us never had the opportunity to be part of it - but here are memories of the day from five Arkadaşlar members:

50 years ago many of the Turkey-2 group participated in the March on Washington, August 28, 1963. Turkey 2's were training at Georgetown in the summer of 1963. Since we were not listening to the news, we were not aware of what was happening. Someone came in at breakfast time

IN THIS ISSUE:

March on Washington	1
Sayın Arkadaşlar - Mike Jewell	2
March on Washington Photos	2
Dan Leahy Returns to Memleket	3
In Memoriam	3
Turkey Eco-Projects - KuzeyDoğa	4
Reminder - Renew Your Membership	4
March on Washington (cont.)	5 & 6
Turkey 15 Washington Reunion	6
Cumhuriyet Bayram Dinners - 2013	7
2012 Boston Bayram Dinner Note	7

and told us that there was a march for equality going on in downtown Washington. The food service packed lunches for those of us who wanted to go. Marianne Bartin Kane and I were together that day. We rode the bus downtown and when we got off we were in an area where there were many buses parking, arriving from all over the country (some people had been on the bus for several days). People were very peacefully coming out of the doors and joining the throng singing "We shall overcome." We joined the crowd and moved slowly and peacefully up to the mall. We could see M.L. King as we were in the front section - but he looked about 6 inches tall. It is an experience that stays with me. At the time I did not realize what a big event this would be in history. I would like other Turkey 2s to comment on their memories.

We probably were the only P.C. group that was part of that. One never knows when history involves you and you don't realize what an event it was until later.

Melissa Meacham Stewart, Turkey-2 1963-1966,

We probably recall slightly different variations of the event with the passage of 50 years. I was sure we had learned about the march a day or two earlier because we needed to tell our TEFL teachers we would not be in class. In fact, Sol Rosen was refused "permission" to be absent but I think he walked anyway. I thought we

*Please see photos on page 2 and
March on Washington article on page 5*

Sayın Arkadaşlar

By Mike Jewell



Those of you who have read this newsletter over time may wonder why so little mention is made of one constant in recent years: Each edition of Buralarda gets better and better. Better photos, better layouts and better articles. In part that may be because many of us are retired and spend more time doing interesting things we enjoy telling each other about. Maybe it's the coincidence of big anniversaries, more reunions, and more travel to our other memleket.

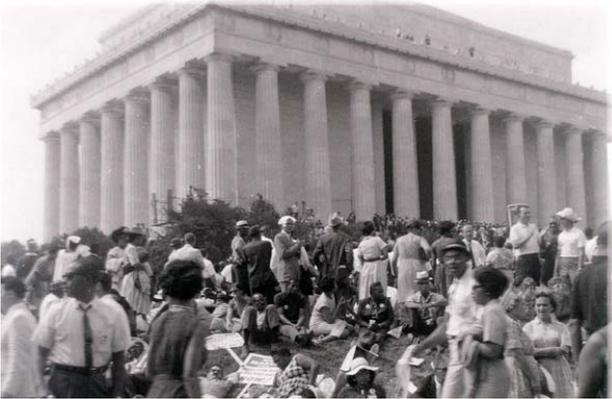
Also, with the passage of time we savor the unique set of experiences that brought us together in the past and linger longer over stories of the new experiences we create together in the present.

But sappy sentiments aside, let's give credit where it most belongs. Lead editor Steve Poppick and lead story generator/editor Peggy Hanson do a really fantastic job! Sandy Anderson, Linda Scheffer and Ellie LeBaron deserve extended applause and kudos as well for story ideas, great back-up for photos, information and much more.

Thanks, you guys!!

Mike

March on Washington 1963 Photos



Joan Weeks: We arrive at the Lincoln Memorial and wait for the speeches to start



T-2 members, including Pat Mitchell Lowther, Jim Smith, Cindy Wardle Basile, Nancy Bouse and Marianne Kane Martin, march with Georgetown U group



Joan Weeks: I picked out this sign and marched for Integrated Schools



Marie Zeller with Church of the Brethren members

Dan Leahy Returns to Memleket

In May 2013 during a visit to Prof. Zafer Parlak's İzmir University class, Dan Leahy (T-9) made a presentation in Turkish about his Peace Corps service.

I was on my way to Mongolia on a THY flight out of Istanbul on May 20th and decided to fool around in Turkey before I left. After I visited my village and İbrahim's resting place, I headed for İzmir via Kaş and Ölüdeniz. (İbrahim was the fantastic Agriculture Extension teacher who worked with Korkuteli volunteers.)

I had remained in touch with Zafer since DC, and he asked me if I would talk in his class about my Peace Corps service. I came to Izmir on the 16th of May, stayed in his home and gave my talk to his class the next morning. The class was full (maybe 50) plus some faculty members Zafer had invited.

It was great fun to talk in Zafer's class. As was my teaching practice, I asked Zafer to gather questions from his students before my talk. This gave me an outline and also time to look up needed words in Turkish. Then, Zafer and I organized my old PC photos that we projected onto the classroom screen. These photos gave an order and context to my talk which greatly assisted my broken Turkish.

He said I could speak in English if I wanted to, or in Turkish. I started in Turkish and stayed in it, although it was far from perfect. Nevertheless, the students appeared very interested, attentive and ready to laugh with me. Zafer's gracious introduction and follow-up to



my talk really helped to solidify what I had been attempting to say. Some of the questions were: why did you come, did you make friends, what did you do in your village, what did you do after the Peace Corps, why didn't you live in Istanbul, etc.

My talk followed my pictures. I talked about arriving in Antalya, my main projects like my chicken project, my main disaster - the washing machine, İbrahim Bey and our community development camps, my draft refusal when I went home and my full ride to NYU graduate school.

After the class, there were photo sessions with most of the students. One student thanked me for helping his country. Another student thanked me for refusing to go to Vietnam.

Zafer and I also visited the Provost who had learned his English from a Peace Corps Volunteer. In private session with the Provost, I told him we would appreciate it if he would give Zafer time to complete his book on the Peace Corps.

In Memoriam:

Judy Ohnesorge Allee (T-16) died June 28, 2013 in Kent, Washington. She taught at the Maarif Kolej in Diyarbakir in 1968-1969. After the Peace Corps she taught English in Seattle while pursuing advanced degrees in Child Psychology. She joined the Kent School District outside of Seattle as a school psychologist in 1979. She worked tirelessly with special needs students to place them in existing programs and created appropriate programs where none existed. Her son Jason Allee organized a celebration of her life at which colleagues told stories about her fierce dedication to her students and their families.

Dr. Sidney W. Maurer Jr. (PC Doctor) died Wednesday, May 15, 2013 at the age of 80. Sid received his B.A., B.S., and M.D. degrees from the University of Minnesota. Sid served as a Peace Corps physician in Turkey. He later worked in Washington, D.C., for the Office of Economic Opportunity, directly under Sargent Shriver, to set up neighborhood health clinics nationwide. He was an early champion of the nurse practitioner model that has been adopted throughout the country. He devoted over 44 years to his work as a pediatrician and an emergency room doctor in Mendocino and Lake Counties, CA.

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

Turkey Eco-Projects Make a Difference: KuzeyDoğa

By Lin Lougheed (T-16)



Follow that Migrating Bird

Arkadaşlar has formalized its commitment to KuzeyDoğa, the Turkish environmental organization which has created a wildlife corridor near Kars. Last year individual Arkadaşlar members privately donated three CritterCams. Attentive readers of Buralarda will remember the adventures of our adopted bears revealed through CritterCams suspended around their necks. This wildlife intelligence-gathering network is expanding. Arkadaşlar is donating funds (matched by an Arkadaşlar member) for a camera trap to monitor the wildlife populations in the forest and a new 1 gram GPS device to track small songbirds migrating across Turkey to Africa. This network is under the supervision of ecologist and conservationist, Dr. Çağan Şekercioğlu, who was named “Risk Taker of the Year” by the National Geographic Society. Dr. Şekercioğlu’s work was cited in the *New York Times* article “Crowdsourcing, For the Birds” (August 19, 2013). His “citizen-scientists” use eBird, an app for recording bird observations. *The NY Times* quotes

Dr. Şekercioğlu as saying: eBird [is] “a phenomenal resource” and ... that it was “getting young people involved in natural history, which might seem slow and old-fashioned in the age of instant online gratification.”

Sandy Anderson, Arkadaşlar Board Member, compared the work of KuzeyDoğa to the work of the Peace Corps. The understaffed and underfunded group has the same altruistic spirit shown by the 17 groups of Americans who worked in Turkey from 1962-70. Indeed, a recent posting on the KuzeyDoğa website is a call for volunteers to help band migrating birds between August 15 and October 15, 2013. To date, over 200 volunteers from over 20 different countries have donated two weeks of their time to track the migrations through the Aras River wetlands. Although it’s too late for you to sign up this year, put it on your calendar for 2014. Information can be found on www.kuzeydoga.org.

As photos and data from the camera trap and the GPS device become available, we will post links on the Arkadaşlar listserv. The director, Çağan Şekercioğlu, suggests we follow the Facebook and Twitter links. “I have only 4 staff, all of whom and I are in the field 24/7. I am currently running around all field sites shooting 2 documentaries with 2 TV stations while meeting with dozens of officials to save the Aras.” KuzeyDoğa operates on the shortest of shoestrings; the chronically understaffed organization does not have the personnel or the time to create newsletters. Social media is the way we can track their activities.

<https://www.facebook.com/kuzeydoga>

<https://twitter.com/kuzeydoga>

Reminder: RENEW YOUR ARKADAŞLAR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2013

If you have not yet done so, renew your 2013 membership in Arkadaşlar!

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

Mail it to:

Linda Scheffer



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

March on Washington

(Continued from page 1)

had walked to the mall with the Georgetown U group behind their banner, but Melissa's probably right about the bus. I can see Mae Turner leading "We Shall Overcome." It was very hot and very crowded at the memorial but there was great joy and a feeling of anticipation. We heard some musical performers. I was next to 2 others in our group and one started to feel faint. I figured we had to leave and knew that the best solution would be a slice of pie at Reeves on F St. After the pie we walked back to the campus and entered Loyola Hall to find others watching a large TV and there was Martin Luther King, Jr. in the middle of his speech. I tell folks that I was in the March and heard his speech, all true -- and if I know them well I clarify that I actually heard the speech on TV.

Kathy Markley Scruggs, Turkey-2 1963-1965

I can recall less than Kathy or Melissa. I don't remember going to the march, just being there. It was very hot and crowded and we couldn't see much as we were so far away. I thought, "Nuts with this. I am going to take the bus back to Georgetown and watch it on TV." Which I did. Like Kathy, I tell people I was there and I heard the speech. True! Had I known it would be one of the great historic speeches of the century I might have stayed.

Tony Venegoni, Turkey-2 1963-1965

50 years ago on Aug. 28, 1963, I was going into my junior year in college but was home for the summer. Peace Corps was on my mind but I knew I wanted to graduate first. I really wanted to go to the March on Washington but everyone around me, especially my family, was trying to leave town or stay home because they feared riots. I told everyone I was going to visit a friend at the beach, which I did - only much later in the day. I got on a bus in Falls Church and rode down to Arlington Towers near the Lincoln Memorial Bridge. I walked across the bridge and down along Constitution Ave., and on every street corner there were soldiers with guns on their shoulders.

Thousands of people were assembling but everyone was dressed like they were going to church on a Sunday. Ladies had hats and nice dresses, stockings and heels. Men had white shirts, coats and ties even though it was a hot August day. Everyone was so

helpful and so considerate. Each group was assembling ready to march to the Lincoln Memorial. I was on my own so I asked a group of teachers from Prince Edward County if I could join them. Nearby I found a sign "We March for Integrated Schools Now!"

We moved out on Constitution Ave. and everyone started singing "We shall Overcome." I just kept moving forward once we got in the range of the Lincoln Memorial until I could go no farther. There was a small fence separating us from those with special invitations. We sang and shared food then finally the program began. After many speakers and hymns Dr. King appeared and his voice carried over the silent crowd with "I have a dream." I was so moved and so inspired that I just knew I had to get involved in the civil rights movement. In my senior year I wrote my thesis on an analysis of Gandhi's Siddhartha non-violent teachings, and how they influenced Dr. King's non-violent movement.

After Peace Corps, I joined the Teacher Corps in West Virginia and started my first year (1968) in a rural school. There were many civil rights protests in Huntington, W. Va., and on the weekends I became a tester trying to rent an apartment after a black family had been turned down. I was ready to go on a freedom ride when on April 4th the horrible news came that Dr. King was dead. I was in tears. The next day in the rural school they were cheering and saying he got what he deserved. I immediately went into Huntington and asked the Teacher Corps office to transfer me to Huntington to an inner city school job.

The 1963 March on Washington had a profound impact on me. I put together a webpage with my photos at: <http://faculty.cua.edu/weeks/marc/march63.html>. I still have my sign and button and plan to go down to the mall and do it all over again 50 years later.

Post script: I went back to the Lincoln Memorial yesterday for the 50th anniversary with my sign, photo and badge and ended up getting interviewed on Fox 5 news.

Joan Strickler Weeks, Turkey-9, 1965-1967

I was in Washington DC for the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom on August 28, 1963. It was a big deal. My recollection consists of images and feelings, as much if not more than the specifics of the actual march. I do recall the heat of the day, the images of

*Please see March on Washington
On page 6*

March on Washington

(Continued from page 5)

people who had dressed up with ties and suits, dresses and high heels as if going to church, the crowd swaying together while singing a song we had just heard, and the feeling that I was participating in a very important public showing of unity and that it was possible to live and work together.

I was walking with the Peace Corps group training at Georgetown to go to Turkey and Iran. As we got closer to the Reflecting Pool, I paired up with a tall black guy who was training for Iran and we proceeded to about the middle of the pool half way between the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument when I saw signs saying -- Church of the

Brethren. This is the church in which my father was a minister and in which I had been raised. We went over to talk to them and realized that they had staked out a position approximately in the middle of the 200,000 people who were there that day.

That day was a great day -- even bearing in mind that events in our lives can take on a greater meaning the more time passes. As we look around, we know that here and now -- 50 years later -- there is still much more that needs to happen -- for fairness and human interaction and peace.

Marie Zeller, Turkey-2 1963-1965

Turkey-15 Washington Reunion - May 2012

By Karolyn Bragg (T-15)



Front row left to right: Ilsa (Duke) Dickinson, Kay Albright, Karen Hagewood, Priscilla Murray, Beverly (Larson) Farlow, Mary Meacham, Hannah (Eulenberg) Snoeberger, Chris Pilotti. Middle row starting behind Karen Hagewood: Ray and Karolyn Bragg, John Hoover, Pete Nadell, Mujgan Matterson, Phil Konkel, Carolyn (James) Bridge, with Dave Wilson looking around her, Margaret (Gallagher) Lutkoski, Bob Lutkoski (T13), Bryan DeLeo. Back row: Dale Hultengren, Dick Erdman, Charlie Matterson, Charlie Matterson is resting his hands on Mujgan's shoulders. Philip Bridge, Ellie LeBaron, Doug Gilzow, Tom Snoeberger.

It was about 45 years since we gathered in either Los Angeles, California or Austin, Texas, in 1967, for Peace Corps training. It was five years since our last reunion in San Francisco. Twenty-three T15's (accompanied by an assortment of spouses and friends) gathered in Washington DC to celebrate. Once again we chose upscale hotels or friends' homes over dorm rooms; taxis and the metro over dolmuş rides (which were not to be found); and speaking English over Turkish. Although favorite Turkish phrases abounded, some things just sound better in Turkish.

We started out on Friday night with a welcoming buffet and lots of reminiscing at Dick and Sibyl Erdman's home in Chevy Chase. Saturday included a picnic lunch and visit to Dumbarton Gardens for those who were interested. Saturday night was our main "Turkish" event and dinner at Meze Restaurant in the Adams Morgan section of DC. We even managed to serve Kavaklıdere wine along with never-ending meze dishes. The event ended with a reading of a thank you and congratulatory letter from the Turkish Ambassador to the USA. Our official weekend ended much too soon with Sunday brunch catered by Ridgewells at the home of Bryan DeLeo and Doug Gilzow.

Note: See more pictures on the website: http://www.arkadaslar.info/t15_2012_reunion.htm

CUMHURIYET BAYRAM DINNERS – 2013

Celebrate over 50 years of the Peace Corps arriving in Turkey! 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. Contact the location host for details. Bekliyoruz!

MAINE/NEW HAMPSHIRE: Sunday, October 27, 1:00, Mediterranean Grill, 10 School Street, Freeport, ME, 207-865-1688. Ron Stegall.

MASSACHUSETTS/NEW ENGLAND: Sunday, October 27, 1:00, Anyone wanting to get together for the Bayram at the Family Restaurant, 305 Washington Street, Brookline MA, 617-277-4466, should email Margaret Fearey no later than October 20 saying that they will attend. Margaret will make the appropriate reservation.

NEW YORK CITY: Sunday, October 27, 2:00-3:00, Istanbul Park Restaurant, 293 7th Ave (between 7th and 8th Streets) in Park Slope, Brooklyn, NY 11215, 718-832-3400. About \$30, cash bar. Steve Poppick.

WASHINGTON, DC: Sunday, October 27, 5:30-8:00, at Kazan Restaurant, 6813 Redmond Drive, McLean, VA, 703-734-1960. \$50. Linda Scheffer, LMScheffer@aol.com.

NORTH CAROLINA/SOUTH CAROLINA: Sunday, October 27, afternoon/evening in Chapel Hill. Further details forthcoming. Contact Jordan Scepaniski.

FLORIDA: Sunday, November 3, 12:30 at the Bosphorus Restaurant, 108 South Park Ave., Winter Park, 407-644-8609. Those who wish to attend should contact Paul Kirwan or Lynda Özgür.

WISCONSIN: Saturday, November 2, meet 5:30 at the Whitesel's home, then group will move to Olivia Restaurant, 751 N. Highpoint Road, Madison, 608-831-7776. Please contact Russ Whitesel, or Ephraim Frankel.

KANSAS: Saturday, October 26, Potluck at the home of Susan (McHenry) Holm and David Wexler. Please RSVP to Susan.

WASHINGTON: Saturday, October 26, 4:00, potluck at the home of Dale & Ruth Hultengren. Please RSVP.

OREGON/Southern Washington: Sunday, November 10, 4:00, at the home of Bob and Sylvia Staab,. RSVP Melissa Stewart.

Note from Suzanne Rom (T-5) about last year's Boston Bayram Gathering:

This year it was held on Sunday, October 28, at The Family Restaurant in Brookline, MA. Along with the following RPCVs, Gene Blanchard (T-4), Colleen Clark (T-4) and John Clark (T-4) - and their son John Clark and family, Buffy Dewey (T-5), Lynn Maichle (T-16), and Suzanne Rom (T-5), we had the honor of being joined by jurists from Turkey who are in the Boston area: Judge Fuat Kara, Judge Emre Yavaş, Judge Mehmet Çabuk, Judge Cem Doğan, Judge Kütlan Menderes, Judge Mesut Çeken, and Judge İbrahim Kaylan. They are sent here for the year by the Adalet Bakanlığı to learn English. Margaret Fearey (T- 12) had told them of our annual gathering to celebrate Cumhuriyet Bayram, and it turned out to be a wonderful exchange in getting to know a bit about each other, practice speaking Turkish, and sharing stories and current news about Turkey. Needless to say, the food at this great Turkish restaurant added to the ambiance. We really did have a terrific time.



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?")