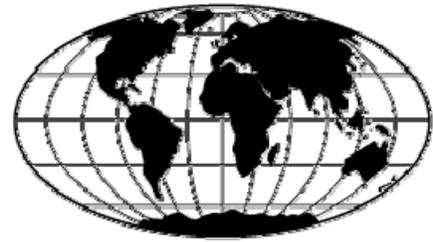


Buralarda

The Newsletter of Arkadaşlar, Friends of Turkey



Number 40, October 2014

ON REUNIONS, PEACE CORPS REUNIONS

Why we need to get together

By Peggy Hanson



Turkey I group reunion in Maine – August 2014

This issue of *Buralarda* always focuses on the Cumhuriyet Bayram dinners being held around the country. Peace Corps Turkey must have the best record of any group in this regard. Still gathering in more than ten cities to celebrate Turkey's independence, when the last volunteer left service in Turkey in 1970?? Amazing tribute to Turkey.

But these reunions have even more meaning than showing our love of our adopted "*memleket*." They take us back to when we were young and idealistic, knew everything/knew nothing, and blithely jumped off cliffs trusting that someone would be there to catch us... They take us to those who shared that experience with us—the only ones, really, who can understand.

Turkey I got together this summer for three days in Portland and Pemaquid, Maine. In 1962, there were 39 of us. Now we are down to 25. Eleven (plus Dave Amca and Terry Nichols' wife, Linda) actually made it to the Maine reunion. In 1962, most of us were 22 years of age,

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just out of college. Our director, Dave Weinman, was 27. Now, we are not 22, and Dave is not 27.

I say that age thing advisedly. We still feel like new college grads when we get together. When we look at each other, we see the prim and proper-looking kids we were. I did say "proper-looking!" The teasing and jokes are raucous at times, and slightly ribald. 52 years of familiarity breed comfort; no one takes offense.

Joan Hammer Grant and Nan Borton hosted the event with all the aplomb one would expect from Nor'easterners. From August 19 to 21 we ate lobster and blueberries, enjoyed the Maine scenery, and took a puffin cruise. Dave and Pat were there. Jean Zettlemoyer Gerber came from Canada and Nina Selz from Arkansas. (Madam Mayor, I should say. Nina leads a town of 100 to greater glory ever since she helped the town council with its tax returns.) Warren Pritchard came from Atlanta, Warren Kinsman from Costa Rica. Steve Allen made it from California. Peggy (Gall) Hanson and Allan Gall came from DC. Kay Koschnick came for her first reunion since 1964.

As we always do when we get together, we had a moment of silence for those members of our group we have lost, and we named them off: Terry Nichols, Walter Salmen, Eric Olsen; Jim Lepkowski,

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Sayın Arkadaşlar

By Mike Jewell



Over the years, Autumn has always meant MLB play-offs, first frosts, pumpkins, and Halloween. For us, Cumhuriyet Bayram celebrations punctuate the end of the colorful phase of the season as we turn the corner toward Thanksgiving and the year-end holidays. Though the years have reduced our numbers, our celebrations of this common bond have increased with Bayram Dinners across the country, 50th reunions, and in some cases

we've held reunions just because we still can. This year, Turkey IV, and V together with VI celebrated that milestone. I was at almost every training site as a staff member in those years, and T-V enjoyed the loveliest setting, the Experiment for International Living at Putney Vermont.

Being chauvinistic for my own group for a second, hail to Turkey I for a terrific two day plus gathering in Maine last month to celebrate those of us still here, those who couldn't make it, and those we have lost. Nan Borton and Joan Hammer-Grant arranged a lovely time. See Peggy Hanson's article in this edition for details.

In the words of our immortal Amca, "Ever Onward!"

Peace Corps Reunions

Continued from page 1



Nina Selz, T-I, Mayor of St. Paul, Arkansas

Elise Lauren and Alan Shaw; Bob Nunn, Monty Peters, Sal di Blasio, Leonard Flanders, and Al Carpeno.

To top off the poignant part of our reunion, a young (50ish) writer of Jewish songs staying at the inn brought her guitar into the parlor and sang us a blessing she had composed. With tears in her eyes, she said her generation would always look up to our generation for the pioneering international work we had done in the Peace Corps.

With special thanks to Dave Weinman, who has held us together, Turkey I, with a few tears in its collective eyes, shares that tribute with all the rest of the dynamic group called "Arkadaşlar."

SILENT AUCTIONS—A FANTASTIC WAY TO RAISE MONEY AT YOUR CUMHURİYET BAYRAM DINNERS!

For the last couple of years, the Washington area Bayram dinner has featured a silent auction in addition to our more raucous selling of tickets for chances to win baskets full of Turkish goodies. And guess what? The silent auction is making much more money for Arkadaşlar and for our projects!

This article is an appeal for anyone coming to the Washington dinner that has Turkish treasures from the past that they are willing to donate for a great cause. Please contact one of us: Peggy [hanusa2@yahoo.com], Linda [LMScheffer@aol.com], or Jill [jilldiskan@comcast.net]. This note is also a suggestion for something you could try at other dinners. (And then send the money to Linda!) It is nice but not crucial to have digital pictures of the items and whatever history you can remember about where you got them, etc.

You may donate the items with a particular Arkadaşlar project in mind or mark them for the general budget. Remember, the budget goes only for things like projects we support, for our directory every three years, and for Buralarda. Arkadaslar exists only because our members love Turkey and love each other!

Last year we auctioned off a beautiful carpet, some copper mugs, Istanbul etchings, and even a Meerschaum pipe.

Mustafa, the Carpet Guy

By Sandy Comstock Anderson, T-13

“Merhaba, this is Mustafa. I’ll be in your town to deliver two small rugs to Kay Russell who bought them from me in New York.”

“How did you get my name?” I asked.

“From Turkish times in the Peace Corps, from my Uncle Haluk. I will come to your place, maybe have some Turkish coffee, and I will show you some rugs. I have nice Ottoman ones, very rare.”

I explained that I really would be wasting his time, and he didn’t push it.

As I hung up, the wheels started turning: We don’t have a member named Kay Russell. So, I went to our Arkadaşlar listserv.

Twenty of our Arkadaşlar, from Massachusetts to Florida had heard from Mustafa over several years, and some had bought rugs. The quality and price after bargaining were normal for carpet dealers. Arkadaşlar members told their stories. For example,

“I got a call from Mustafa. He was a rug salesman who just happened to be in a town next to mine. He had a truck full of rugs that he wanted to show me. I declined.”

“He said he knew us from Peace Corps. I started asking him about people in the village, hoping for news (!). When he said that a nine year old I knew was his uncle, I realized something was amiss.”

This September I got a follow-up call. I pressed him, and Mustafa confirmed that he had bought a Xerox copy of our directory from another rug dealer. That dealer had opened a new carpet shop, and one of our members had loaned him a directory. I called that member who confirmed the story, not dreaming that the dealer copied the directory before he returned it.

The rug dealer has since closed shop and moved to the West Coast, and we can’t locate him. One Arkadaş in Washington State has heard from a rug salesman and an architect.

Arkadaşlar does not support nor condone this use of our private directory, but there is little that we can do except alert you. Moral: Do not treat your directory casually.

My feeling about Mustafa is captured by another member’s observation:

“What irked me is the scam part of it. If he had just been truthful and said, ‘I got your name through a Peace Corps directory and thought you might be interested,’ that would be different.”

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

Terry Nichols (T-1) July, 2014

Gene Paslov (T-2), June 2014

Cem Alptekin (PC Training Staff) April 2014

Louis Currier (T-8) May 1944 - March 2014



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

Turkey Peace Corps Biographical Books

By Sandy Anderson, T-13

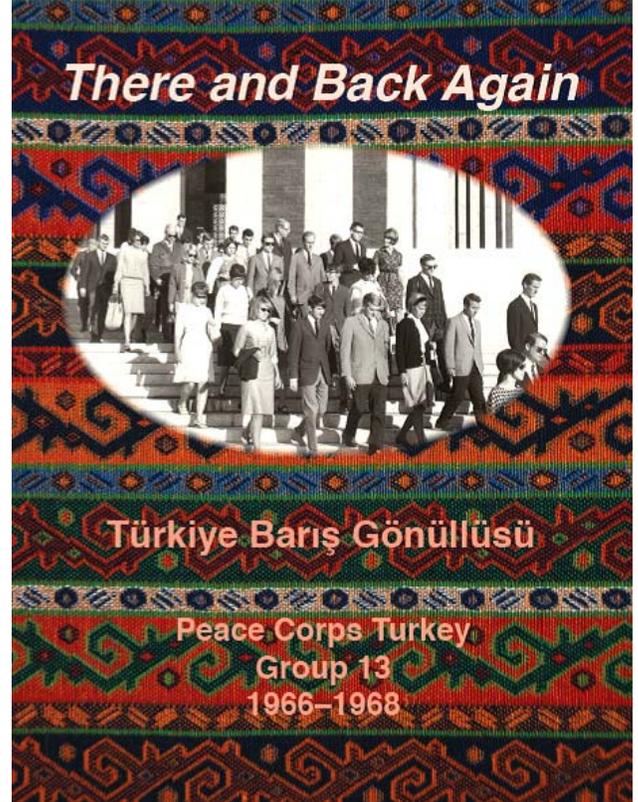
Following up on the Global Reunion in the fall of 2011, we T-13s committed to producing a biographical book about ourselves, what Turkey meant to us while we were there, and how our lives have evolved since we left Turkey.

We were following in the footsteps of the T-2s whose fine book was compiled by Kevin McCarthy, and the T-4 book with color portraits prepared by Karen and Ed DeAntoni for the Global Reunion. The T-12s have a link to their memoirs at http://www.arkadaslar.info/turkey_12.htm. The T-1s and T-15s prepared versions in earlier years and might want to update them. Let me know if I've missed any other efforts.

We formed a team of four: Beverly Ausfahl handled the finances and shipping; Barbara Bryan edited; Dale Evans prepared the layout for publication, and I communicated. We borrowed ideas from both the T-2s and T-4s. For our cover we used Antep kumaş (cloth). Dale gets credit for all the design and layout. He is willing to work with others for their books, evans@hawaii.edu.

Thirty-seven of us worked with two pages each for our stories and pictures. Michael Thompson and I, both T-13s, and Dick Janzig, T-15, contributed engaging photos. The book includes brief bios of our trainers, and nice bios with photos of those who have passed away. It's a beautiful book, in color, glossy, 88 pages and only cost \$25.

You can see sample pages for Linda Harris Budan, Ed Klinger and Ann Boylston Violi at our website, http://www.arkadaslar.info/turkey_13.htm.



Reading through everyone's story brings our friendships closer, like we're rediscovering each other. It's a good feeling, and I enjoyed being able to talk about myself to people who understand.

Reminder: RENEW YOUR ARKADAŞLAR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2014

If you have not yet done so, renew your 2014 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.

Arkadaşlar Board of Directors Notes



**Arkadaşlar Board members and attendees at the May 2014 meeting:
Top row: Linda Scheffer, Dave Weinman, Peggy Hanson, Sandy Anderson, Ken Hill.
Bottom row: Valerie Olson, Mike Jewell, Elliot Eisenberg, John Wintrol.**

Your Arkadaşlar board meets three or four times a year to make decisions on budget allocation (mostly involving projects that we support) and other matters that arise. There are 14 voting members. Dave Amca and our webmistress Ellie LeBaron sit in with sage advice.

Mike Jewell (T-1) is our president, Lynn Maichle (T-16) vice president, and the ever-faithful Linda Scheffer (T-8) is treasurer. At the August meeting, Linda announced our total balance on hand after subtracting the Soma mine disaster donation we made, and a few administrative details. Part of the budget each year is set aside for the Directory mailings every three years. It should be noted that in directory years, we often get increased dues-paying membership, too. We thus have approximately \$10,000 to donate to our projects this year and are hoping to raise substantial funds with our Cumhuriyet Bayram dinner and the silent auction, as well as from members PAYING THEIR DUES. Teşekkürler from your board!

Projects: Arkadaşlar continues to lend a hand

Arkadaşlar has donated funds to selected non-governmental organizations in Turkey or the United States. When renewing your membership or joining for the first time, please consider donating additional funds so that Arkadaşlar can continue donating funds on your behalf to these organizations:

From 1993 through 2014, we have given over **\$133,000** to Projects, and another **\$28,000** to Earthquake Relief and mine disaster relief, for a **total of over \$161,000!**

CUMHURİYET BAYRAM DINNERS – 2014

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 26, 1:00, Mediterranean Grill, 10 School Street, Freeport, ME, 207-865-1688. RSVP George and Cathy Wilson.

NEW YORK CITY: Sunday, October 26, 12:00-3:00, Istanbul Park Restaurant, 293 7th Ave (between 7th and 8th Streets) in Park Slope, Brooklyn, 718-832-3400. About \$30, cash bar. RSVP Steve Poppick, Stephan.Poppick@gmail.com.

WASHINGTON, DC: Sunday, November 2, 5:30-8:00, at Kazan Restaurant, 6813 Redmond Drive, McLean, VA, 703-734-1960. \$50. RSVP Linda Scheffer, LMScheffer@aol.com.

NORTH CAROLINA/SOUTH CAROLINA: Sunday, November 2, afternoon/evening in Chapel Hill. RSVP Jordan Scepanski.

FLORIDA: Sunday, November 2, 1:00 at the Bosphorus Restaurant, 108 South Park Ave., Winter Park, 407-644-8609. RSVP Paul Kirwan or Lynda Özgür.

WISCONSIN: Saturday, October 25, 6:30 at Olivia Restaurant, 751 N. Highpoint Road, Madison, 608-831-7776. RSVP Russ Whitesel.

OHIO: Saturday, October 25, 6:00 at Anatolian Café, 2270 Lee Road, Cleveland Heights, 216-321-4400. RSVP Cathy or Ron McCutcheon.

KANSAS: Saturday, October 25, 6:30. Potluck at the home of Susan (McHenry) Holm and David Wexler, Topeka. RSVP to Susan.

WASHINGTON: Saturday, October 25, 4:00, potluck at the home of Dale & Ruth Hultengren. RSVP Dale & Ruth.

OREGON/SOUTHERN WASHINGTON: Sunday, November 2, 4:00, potluck at the home of Mimi & Jack Sanders, Portland. RSVP Mimi and Jack or Melissa Stewart.

[Webmaster's note: for contact information, please check your directory or contact Sandy Anderson: turkeydost@aol.com]



In October, 2013 about thirty of the New York City area Arkadaşlar met to celebrate the Cumhuriyet Bayram at a Brooklyn restaurant, Istanbul Park. We were joined by the NYC Turkish Consul General, Mustafa Levent Bilgen.

We introduced him to our group and explained the kinds of work we had done in Turkey and the support we have given since then. He spoke with admiration about the work we had done and for the relationships we had formed with Turkey and Turkish friends.

Photo by Harry Poppick

Thoughts from the National Peace Corps Association Meeting, June 20–21 2014, Nashville, TN

(by Jack Barkenbus, T-13)

Jack Barkenbus attended NPCA's Annual Meeting on June 20-21. We paid his registration. He prepared this report. Sandy Anderson

First of all, I would like to say I believe the Peace Corps is in good hands with the official appointment of Carrie-Hessler Radelet as Director. She gave her first talk since becoming Director at the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) gathering in Nashville, and it was very inspirational. You can tell she deeply believes in the Peace Corps mission and will devote all her energy to making it better in the future. Her background is in public health and she is determined to bring this focus (while maintaining others) to the Peace Corps agenda.

As you know, she comes from a family of PCVs, and she gave special recognition to her aunt, our own Ginny Kirkwood (T-5). She said Ginny is her “best friend” and “mentor.” It is always wonderful to learn about the impact our Turkey volunteers have made, and this is a splendid example.

I found the Group Leaders session at the NPCA gathering most interesting and my comments below are primarily gleaned from it. The theme of the session was generational differences. Amy Lynch of *Generational Edge* gave a fascinating presentation of the behavioral differences between generations: the Silent Generation (pre-1946 born); Boomers (1947-1962); Gen X (1963-1983) and; Millennials (1984-2000). It is clear that a lot of local- and country-based Peace Corps organizations (like Arkadaşlar) are struggling to reconcile the differences amongst the generations in terms of operating styles and belief systems. My thought initially was that Arkadaşlar is indeed fortunate not to have this problem since all of us are either of the Silent Generation or “cuspers” (i.e. those on the border of the Silent Generation and Boomers). But, of course, what we lack as a result is the dynamism and energy that comes along with the generational issue, and that is not so positive.

We are not the only group facing this situation, and I took special interest in joining the membership breakout session in which individuals representing groups from Korea and Malaysia were represented. Korea has not had a new PCV since the early 1980s and Malaysia since the mid-1970s. Not surprisingly, these groups have been seeking new membership and have had some success. Not being on the Arkadaşlar Board, I do not know if recruitment of new members is a high priority or even a priority at all, but believe it or not, we are not getting any younger and the organization will wither if this is not addressed. Perhaps that is fine, everything has a “shelf life,” but assuming our aging membership is perceived as a concern, I can make the following observations:

1) Both the Malaysian and Korean groups have made overtures to other groups (with younger participants). The Korean group, in particular, has grown substantially I am told. This includes university student groups and broader cultural groups. There are certainly a large number of Turkish students in the U.S., but I don't know how one would recruit them for membership in Arkadaşlar. I was particularly interested in the discussion of the English Teaching Assistant (ETA) program within the Fulbright Association. The Korean and Malaysian representatives claim this, in effect, is the successor to the English language programs that previously took place under Peace Corps auspices in their respective countries. I went on-line and discovered that Malaysia has 100 ETA participants this year and Korea another 80. These are the largest ETA programs globally, although Turkey matches the Korean number of 80 active participants. This raises the question to me as to whether anyone from *Arkadaşlar* has sought to engage ETA-Turkey alumni. Perhaps you already have, but if not, it would be a natural step to do so.

2) Both the Malaysian and Korean groups are registered 501(c)(3) programs. I recognize that it takes a level of effort and determination to jump through all the IRS hoops required to achieve this designation, but it might be worth it if someone wanted to take it on.

3) I could only sigh with envy when the Malaysian and Korean representatives described organized efforts to honor former PCVs by bringing them back for short-term country visits...all expenses paid. Both countries have made enormous economic advances over the past few decades and the contributions of PCVs to this development appear to be recognized and worthy of celebration. I told them that I know of no such initiatives in Turkey. Their response was that there had to be former students of PCVs now in positions of authority in Turkey who would sponsor such visits. They suggested we perhaps work through the Cultural Affairs Officer in the U.S. Embassy to see if such a program could be started.

As I commented earlier, I am not sure any of this is of interest to the Board. I should say, however, that a couple of PCVs at the meeting told me that they hold Arkadaşlar in high regard as an organization, so you are obviously doing something right. And, virtually everyone told me how Turkey was one of their favorite countries...of course, that didn't surprise me.



Buralarda

The Newsletter of Arkadařlar,
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?")