

Buralarda

The Newsletter of Arkadaşlar, Friends of Turkey



Number 42, October 2015

Cumhuriyet Bayram Dinners

By Peggy Hanson



Washington, DC Area Arkadaslar Bayram Preparations at Kazan Restaurant

As fall descends, we in Arkadaşlar begin to plan for our annual rites of passage all over the country at the regional Cumhuriyet Bayram dinners. It is a moment when we think of what Arkadaşlar has meant to us over the years and what it still has to offer. It has, with the dedication of Dave Amca, Sandy Anderson, and Linda Scheffer in DC, and with so many more around the country, cemented bonds that are often stronger than most others in our lives. Only former Turkey Peace Corps volunteers can fully understand this side of us.

But the dinners, where we honor our adopted country with Turkish flags, Turkish music, Turkish food, are not just a chance for us to connect with old friends (I do mean old, at this point!). They are an important source of funding for our organization.

The Washington DC dinner often has as many as 70 attendees. Arkadaşlar receives a portion of the ticket cost to attend the dinner. We also enhance our relations with the Turkish Embassy, other groups which foster US-Turkish friendship, and with the Peace Corps itself.

Along with membership dues, the DC dinner raises money for our many projects, which *Buralarda* focuses on in every issue. This issue, we are featuring Turkey Nature with an article by Lin Loughheed (T-17).

It must be noted that Lin has offered Arkadaşlar a very large donation this year, as he closes out his

IN THIS ISSUE:

Cumhuriyet Bayram Dinners	1
President's Corner - John Wintrol	2
Silent Auctions	2
Arkadaşlar Projects	3
In Memoriam	3
Fiftieth Anniversary Celebrations	4
Cumhuriyet Bayram Dinners - 2015	5
Reminder - Renew Your Membership	5
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes	6
Some Memories of Turkey Fifty Years Ago	7

Washington house. For our Silent Auction in Washington, he has donated a large selection of beautiful fabrics, including kilims and donkey bags that he has collected over the years. In addition, there are four spectacular paintings by Turkish artists on framed ceramics, gifted to Lin by the Eczacıbaşı family. We will offer a link to Lin's treasures, along with the minimum price we are placing on them, so that RPCVs outside of Washington can bid on them prior to the dinner. (Shipping and handling would be arranged here in Washington.)

Since we have the large donation from Lin (and limited space at the Kazan Restaurant in which to display it) we are not soliciting donations from other Arkadaşlar this year.

We're looking forward to seeing you at a dinner or hearing about your reunions!

Thanks to the efforts of Dave Amca, Ken Hill and John Wintrol, the following guests plan to attend the Washington Cumhuriyet Bayram Dinner on November 1:

- Turkish Ambassador, Serdar Kılıç;
- Peace Corps Director, Carrie Hessler-Radelet;
- President/CEO of Nat'l Peace Corps Association, Glenn Blumhorst;
- President of RPCV/Washington, Chris Robinson;
- President of American Turkish Association of DC, Gizem White;
- Lynn & Phil Lilienthal, representing RPCVs of No. Virginia.

To All Arkadaşlar: Haydi, buyrun, join us!

President's Corner

By John Wintrol

Sayın Arkadaşlar,
Once more I get to salute you, the members, who make Arkadaşlar what it is. We all look forward to celebrating Turkey and our connections to each other at our Cumhuriyet Bayram dinners.



Sandy Anderson is doing a great job (again) in organizing groups outside Washington, as are the folks who make the arrangements all over the country. Please do let us know how your dinners go. One regrettable aspect of our communications at this point in our lives is obituaries. With every issue of Buralarda, we are forced to make a

few sad announcements. As we say in Turkish, “Alın yazısı varmış.” (It’s written on our foreheads.) Each of these valued members is missed and remembered. Perhaps that kind of communal feeling of sympathy and comfort is one of the purposes of Arkadaşlar.

Once more, I urge you to renew your memberships—especially since next year we will have a beautiful new Directory now being prepared by Sandy Anderson, Lynn Maichle, and Linda Scheffer. The membership dues also help to support our useful projects in Turkey. You will receive the new Directory only if you renew your memberships!

Thanks again to those who make enormous effort in making Arkadaşlar one of the most active and effective of RPCV groups!
Güle güle to you all.

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

By Lin Loughheed (T-17)

It’s here: the great downsizing moment. It seems unfair to tease you all with things you’ve also been trying to give away, but the auction proceeds will help us sustain and maybe increase our level of giving to our Turkish charities.

I am offering to the Silent Auction a variety of Middle Eastern and North African textiles, rugs, pots, postcards, books, brass candlesticks, etc. that I have collected since 1968 to now. All of the proceeds of the Silent Auction will benefit Arkadaşlar’s charities, with the arslan-share going to Nature Türkiye Foundation. In addition, I not only am giving the items, but I will match the price you offer. (BTW, Nature Türkiye is a 501(c)3 so any contribution you make to it is tax-deductible.)

Nature Türkiye is the US foundation of the Turkish KuzeyDoğa organization. You can google KuzeyDoğa and read the Wikipedia description. KuzeyDoğa just recently lost a major non-profit sponsor so any help we can give them to continue their work with the Wildlife Corridor and its other conservation programs is vital to continue the organization’s good works. Arkadaşlar recently adopted three vultures through Nature Türkiye that we can monitor as they fly from Turkey to South Africa and back.

The items for the Silent Auction are listed on a DropBox site (URL: Below). You can see the items, dimensions, and starting bid prices. Not all of the items may be available by Nov 1. A few of the textiles were selected by the Metropolitan Museum of Art for its Near Eastern collection... and other institutions are still making their decisions.

In addition to these craft items, there are five paintings by famous Turkish artists reproduced on ceramics.

I’ve kept the suggested prices very low because I want them to be sold. Good luck and use them “smilingly”.

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/locczxfpbxgz41i/AAAFilBpQph1k6Ls5D0F9m_5a?dl=0

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!**

Postsecondary Scholarships (\$3,200 in 2014)

C. Erik Olson Memorial Fund (\$1,000 in 2014)

HasNa, Inc (\$1,000 in 2014)

Bridges of Hope Project, Inc. (BOHP) (\$1,000 in 2014)

Sevinç Abla School (\$2,000 in 2014)

Anatolian Artisans (\$1,300 in 2014)

Nature Turkiye, the foundation arm of KuzeyDoğa (\$650 in 2014)

American-Turkish Association - for Soma, Manisa mine disaster relief (\$2,000 in 2014)

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.

Ann T. Weick, T-3	(May 31, 2014)
Fred Thompson, T-15	(February 6, 2015)
Fred Bueche, T-4	(April 17, 2015)
John Gallivan, T-2	(August 25, 2015)
Tarry Davis, T-13	(August 31, 2015)



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

Fiftieth Anniversary Celebrations

By Sandy Pfunder (T-9)

Many of our Peace Corps Groups are celebrating their fiftieth anniversary this year. We congratulate them all! This story was shared by Sandy Pfunder (T-9) on the Arkadaşlar listserv about his group's half century benchmark.

Fifty years ago (that is, on October 2, 1965), a half dozen volunteers, having completed their training program at Yalıncağ, boarded a bus in the Ankara terminal and headed for Trabzon. Collectively we had so much baggage that Peace Corps had purchased a half dozen rows of seats in the rear of the bus to accommodate our community development "tools." I remember having one sewing machine per couple, two cases of glass Ball jars, a set of long handled gardening tools. We had suitcases full of clothing and other paraphernalia from our month-long training in Portland and two plus months in Yalıncağ. We also had our sea freight, which had been sent to Ankara from our homes in the U.S. (The book lockers came later.)

Our group included Tom Turner, Ephraim Frankel, and Carol Franz, who were assigned to villages in the subprovince of Maçka, and Allen (Neill) Schauffler and I were headed for a village in the subprovince of Tonya.

Because we avoided traveling at night, the trip to Trabzon took two days. We stayed overnight at a hotel near the bus station in Samsun. I have a vague recollection that the bus company folks found it unnecessary to unload our belongings and reload them the following morning.

Following our arrival in Trabzon, we checked into the Benli Palas Hotel, where we stayed for several days, meeting some of "the officials that we would be working with." The "Benli" has seen more glorious days, but as of the last time I was in Trabzon (in 2013), the place was still open for business. Over the next few days, our "community development" group visited each other's assigned villages, accompanied by the Adult Education Director (who was theoretically our "boss") and other local officials. We also did some informal touring of local sites of historic interest and had time for some shopping for "pots and pans" and other provisions for the village.



T-9 Volunteers arrive in Trabzon in October, 1965, under the portico of Aya Sofya church in Trabzon. Tom Turner and Allen (Neill) Schauffler are in the back row, Carol Franz and Ephraim Frankel in the front row. Director Ertuğrul bey is on the far left with the welcoming committee.

On Saturday, October 9, our group split up and moved out to our respective villages. It happened that Saturday was market day in Tonya, so the streets were crowded with people from the dozen or so surrounding villages. It also happened to be the day before national elections. While waiting for transportation to our village, Allen and I played bridge in the "city club" with the kaymakam and one of his friends, as sound trucks noisily importuned the local populace to their respective political candidates.

Eventually a large truck from our village arrived, and our mounds of possessions were loaded into the back, to share the ride with several dozen villagers and many large sacks of grain and other provisions. The distance between Tonya and the village was only 8 km. but the road was so uneven that the trip took more than an hour.

Süleyman Demirel's Justice Party won the national election the next day, and Allen and I met many of the villagers for the first time when they came to the local school house to vote. Many of them became our best friends over the sixteen months that we lived in the village.

Of course, the story only begins there.

CUMHURİYET BAYRAM DINNERS – 2015

Join your local Bayram Dinner this year! We'll be taking pictures to include in the upcoming directory. We're encouraging each group to use this chance to gather. And we're experimenting with selling and buying our Turkish items to raise funds for worthy causes. Haydi gel!

MAINE/NEW HAMPSHIRE: Sunday, November 1, 1:30, Mediterranean Grill, 10 School Street, Freeport, ME, 207-865-1688. RSVP George and Cathy Wilson.

MASSACHUSETTS/NEW ENGLAND: Sunday, October 25, 1:00, Anyone wanting to get together for the Bayram at the Family Restaurant, 305 Washington Street, Brookline MA, 617-277-4466, should email Suzanne Rom by October 20.

NEW YORK CITY: Sunday, November 1, 12:00-3:00, Peri Ela Restaurant 1361 Lexington Ave. (90th–91st St.), NYC, 212-410-4300. RSVP Barbara Bryan.

WASHINGTON, DC: Sunday, November 1, 5:30-8:00, at Kazan Restaurant, 6813 Redmond Drive, McLean, VA, 703-734-1960. \$55. RSVP Linda Scheffer.

NORTH CAROLINA/SOUTH CAROLINA: TBA. RSVP to Jordan Scepanski.

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

WISCONSIN: Saturday, November 7, 5:00, hors d'oeuvres at the home of Russ & Liz Whitesel. Dinner at 7:00, Olivia Restaurant, 751 N. High Point Rd., Madison, 608-831-7776. RSVP Russ & Liz Whitesel.

OHIO: Saturday, October 24, 6:00 at Anatolian Café, 2270 Lee Road, Cleveland Heights, 216-321-4400. RSVP Cathy or Ron McCutcheon.

KANSAS: TBA. RSVP to Susan (McHenry) Holm.

WASHINGTON: Saturday, October 24, 4:00, potluck at the home of Dale & Ruth Hultengren. RSVP Dale & Ruth.

OREGON/SOUTHERN WASHINGTON: Thursday, November 15, 4:00 potluck at the home of Bob & Sylva Staab. RSVP Mimi Sanders.

Reminder: RENEW YOUR ARKADAŞLAR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2015

If you have not yet done so, you can renew your 2015 membership in Arkadaşlar!

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

Mail it to: Linda Scheffer

Contact Linda for other information about membership.

August 18, 2015 ARKADAŞLAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES



Attendees at the August Meeting: Doug Shifflet, John Wintrol, Linda Scheffer

John Wintrol (president) called the meeting to order. Present were Lin Lougheed (Vice-President), Linda Scheffer (Treasurer), Sandy Anderson, Ken Hill, Valerie Olson, Peggy Hanson, Elliot Eisenberg, Doug Shifflet, Lynn Maichle, Dave Weinman (Amca); and via Telecon, Jill Diskan, Ellie LeBaron and Steve Poppick.

1. The minutes from the May 12 meeting were approved.
2. Linda Scheffer noted that our cash on hand after disbursements for *Buralarda*. Current membership is 376; 87 of these are also members of NPCA. Contributions so far to projects in 2015 are \$6,210, an increase of about \$1,000 over 2014.
3. The Washington, DC, Virginia and Maryland Bayram Dinner will be Sunday, 1 November at Kazans. This will be our 30th Year!
4. For the silent auction, Lin Lougheed will donate 5 ceramic art pieces, more than 60 textiles and kilims, and 4 paintings from Tunisia. Proceeds from the ceramics will go to Arkadaşlar's project with Kuzey Doğa, and Lin will match that amount. Other proceeds will go to all Arkadaşlar projects. The Board decided not to accept other donations for this year. Anatolian Artisans is welcome to participate at usual, and Linda will contact them. Lin, Peggy Hanson and Jill Diskan will work out the details for the auction.
5. The Board voted that the number of non-paying guests be limited to 7: 2 from the Turkish Embassy, Peace Corps Director, President of ATAA, President of ATAA/DC, President of NPCA, and President of RPCV Washington. Ken Hill will invite the guests.
6. Other dinner activities will include taking photos at all the Bayram dinners around the country to be used in the 2016 Directory with a maximum of 20 people per photo.
7. Co-Editor, Steve Poppick wants to continue to produce *Buralarda* despite the illness he is combating.
8. Concerning the website, Ellie LeBaron previously informed the Board that she wanted to be relieved of its duties and responsibilities which she has handled since the beginning. She obtained a proposal from Bowman Kelley, the son of Turkey-8 volunteers, to update the website and make it easy to maintain. The Board discussed whether an updated website, Facebook, the NPCA website or a combination of options would be best for Arkadaşlar. The Board voted to table the issue. John Wintrol appointed a committee to investigate and analyze the cost of updating and maintaining the website, and/or switching to a Facebook platform or other alternative. Members are Ellie LeBaron, Sandy Anderson, Elliot Eisenberg and Steve Poppick.
9. Linda Scheffer, Lynn Maichle and Sandy Anderson have begun preparing the directory. They will update information, select photos and gather stories. They also will ask members to specify if they want their home or cell phone to be listed in the directory.
10. The next Board meeting will be Tuesday, 17 November at 6:30 at Atilla's Restaurant. All members wishing to attend are welcome to do so.

Some Memories of Turkey Fifty Years Ago

By Peggy Hanson



Small shops along cobbled streets. Chairs around the coal stove in the middle of the room. Men gather, to gossip, to remake the world. Saz müzik in the background, or Zeki Müren. Outside, smells of roasting chestnuts and cobs of corn. Streets are slippery. We carry packages of lamb chunks and yeşil fasulya in little string bags. It's time to go home, build a fire in the coal stove there! (Picture by George Park, T-1)



A young director, Dave Weinman, supervises us from Ankara and sends our living allowances. We got TL 750 per month in 1962. Dave came by with visitors from time to time.

Bill Moyers came, ate in the local restaurant, got terribly sick, and later told Dave it was one of his most interesting trips ever! (Picture by Peggy (Gall) Hanson, T-1)

Ah, the öğretmen odası! Çay or hot Tang for refreshment. Little cubes of sugar, tan, not white. Çaycı comes by with his tray balanced on little chains, subservient, respectful. Teachers drink and talk.

Ladies do not cross their legs. Oh, oh. The bell is ringing. Time for class. How to manage that massive group of talebeler, 3 to a desk?

(Photo courtesy Tahta Köprüsü, a Cankırı Facebook group.)





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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?”)