

# Buralarda

*The Newsletter of Arkadaşlar, Friends of Turkey*



Number 26, September 2008

## Hoş Geldiniz – Again

By Stephan Poppick and Peggy Hanson

For better or for worse, each of us responded to Sandy Anderson's email request in July for volunteers to serve as new editors of a revived *Buralarda*. From Sandy's initial message we learned our mission:

"Our job is to figure out the best ways to share information with our members. News items come from everyone and are very welcome. *Buralarda* has a particularly important role because it is the only communication received by our members who are not on the listserv. In actual numbers, we have a mailing address for 789 people. On our listserv there are 277 members. So, among us, 512 get their Arkadaşlar news only from *Buralarda*."

So especially for you 512 returned Peace Corps Turkey Volunteers, and for all others who also stay in touch by electronic means, here we are again, still active and ready to bring you up to date with our far-reaching community.

We agreed on several goals for the newsletter:

- To work to keep our group together
- To develop stronger linkages with the Arkadaşlar listserv and website
- To serve as a platform for looking back and reflecting on our experiences as young adults.

We hope to be as interactive as possible with all of you—which means, we want to hear from you!

## Cumhuriyet Bayram Dinners – 2008

By Sandy Anderson

Nine sites around the country will be holding Bayram Dinners around October 29 this year. We have one new site, and a couple more almost were able to pull it together. Think about joining one of the groups, and contact the coordinators listed below to learn about the arrangements:

**BOSTON:** Sunday, October 26, 1:00, Brookline Family Restaurant, 305 Washington Street, Brookline (617-277-4466). Lynn Maichle. Also hosted by Suzanne Rom and Margaret Fearey.

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Tell us about your reunions, your thoughts looking back, what you learned from Peace Corps/Turkey. If you have made a recent trip back to Turkey, please send us an article, as has Leo Hogan (T-10) in this issue. Include pictures, of course. Relatively short pieces are good. Longer pieces can appear as a summary in the paper edition, with the full article on the website.

*Buralarda* issues will be mailed to everyone on the mailing list. Those members on the listserv will get an early heads up to visit the website: [www.Arkadaslar.info/](http://www.Arkadaslar.info/) to see a copy of the newsletter. A note here about our wonderful Webmaster, Ellie Le Baron (T-15), who will provide links to and from *Buralarda* from her position as wife of the Ambassador to Qatar. Check out the Arkadaslar website often—it is most impressive, thanks to Ellie!

**NEW YORK CITY:** Sunday, October 26, bar at 12:00, Sit down at 1:00, at Turks and Frogs, 458 Greenwich Street, NYC, south of Canal in Tribeca, 212-966-4774, web: [TurksnFrogs.com](http://TurksnFrogs.com), \$45, cash bar. Bob McCord.

**WASHINGTON, DC:** Sunday, October 26, 5:30-8:00, at Kazan's Restaurant, 6813 Redmond Drive, McLean, VA. \$40. Linda Scheffer. Also hosted by Mary Helen Madden.

Please see *Cumhuriyet Bayram Dinners – 2008*  
on page 6

## “You Just Have to Do Your Part”

An appreciation of Dave “Amca” Weinman

By Peggy Hanson

The day is September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Dave and I meet at Kazan’s, the site of the Washington area’s Cumhuriyet Bayram dinner every year. “Do you want to write something, or shall I ask you questions?” I begin.

“Ask questions,” is the answer. Dave takes a sip of his Cankaya.

“OK. What would you like to tell the volunteers who served in Turkey?”

“I’d say that 46 years after the fact, setting up that Peace Corps program was just about the most important thing I’ve done in my life. Certainly one of the most important.”

“How so?”

He thinks and swirls the wine in his glass. “Because it put me in contact with people who were willing to risk new, untried experiences. I mean, the idea of going to a foreign country and trying to serve was such a challenge. In the case of Peace Corps Turkey, it was a challenge well-met in the end.”

“How would you define the challenge?”

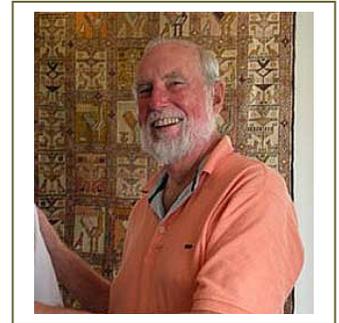
“Well, living in small towns in Turkey, living without being in control, is a hard thing to do. These volunteers said ‘I can do that.’”

“What about as a staff person. Did you feel you had control?”

“Yeah, we had more control. We had more comfort. The challenge was in making it all come together. And my only previous overseas experience had been as a Navy officer in the Caribbean in the 50’s. Turkey had a special psychological challenge for volunteers and staff—it wasn’t “hair shirt” like some of the countries in Africa. You sometimes wondered if you were doing what President Kennedy and Sarge Shriver really had in mind. I didn’t particularly like that hair shirt image.”

“Were the psychological challenges greater than the physical, then, in your mind?”

“Oh, yes. There was the segregation of races and sexes. You couldn’t mix easily. You couldn’t date. It was a completely different culture.”



*Dave Weinman,  
September 2008*

“Were there a lot of problems with the volunteers in Turkey?”

“No. No. We were very lucky with our volunteers. I love our volunteers. They’re fun people. Good people. Caring people.” Dave sips more wine.

“What did you get out of your experience as the first leader?”

“It was a chance to design and build something from the ground up. I’ve been lucky in my career to have this chance a number of times. I’ve worked in 11 organizations and have had to build up 8 or 9 from scratch. Peace Corps and OEO (Office of Economic Opportunity) were the tops of those.”

“What role do you see for the Peace Corps in today’s world?”

“Even in a world of globalization, the Peace Corps can introduce provincial Americans to the outside world. The task is never done. You have to be careful about planning to do great things: change is incremental, not massive. You just have to do your part.”

We click glasses and stand up to part. As Dave often says at his birthday parties: “Onward!”

*“It was a chance to design and build something from the ground up”*

*We extend a special note of thanks to Marcia Gnuse who worked so hard as the editor of Buralarda for many years.*

*We hope to carry on the fine example she set for us!*

*Steve & Peggy*



*Footnote on Dave Weinman: For volunteers in later groups or those not in the Washington area, Dave Weinman was the first director of Peace Corps Turkey (1962) and remained on staff for subsequent years. Arkadaşlar can be said to be Dave’s creation, as he has been the touchstone of keeping us together over the years. Dave’s position as “Amca” is more than deserved--it is the highest compliment we can give him!*

## Emails Home from Turkey

Leo Hogan (T-10) sent a series of emails during his summer 2008 trip to Turkey to family and friends, and he's given Arkadaslar permission to re-print his edited emails for all to read.

Friday evening, Aug. 22, 2008.....New York City.

Hi Steve,

I'm glad you asked me to begin to put my memories down onto paper now, because time is already ticking by. It took me nearly 3 days, at least, to just re-orient myself with the jetlag changes and things. I mean, in the morning I was still in Istanbul, but by dinner time, I was in The Bronx. Ha, ha. I must have transversed the Pacific nearly 25, 30 times during my 20 years in Australia. But the emotional shift from Turkey to The Bronx is more 'jolting'.

But taking all this into consideration, and since I anticipated writing about my trip even before I left New York on July 30, I've decided to forward to you my first 'fresh' impressions of when I first arrived into Istanbul.

Subject: Wow!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Date: Friday, August 1, 2008,

5am... Uyan Hotel, Sultan Ahmet neighborhood, sandwiched between the great Blue Mosque and Hagia Sofia.....the muezzin has just called the city to prayer. Imagine it echoing all around these ancient buildings and passageways? Magic.

This city is so clean you would not believe it. It's MAGNIFICENT. And the food is as good as ever, but it's just "expensive" now, that's all.

I'm taking a ride on every means of transport today. Tramway, Metro, (new) Ferryboat, of course, and Funicular (underground tram up the side of the hill from Kabataş to Taksim). Brilliant. Boy this city has really come a long way.

*"Breathtaking view of the Bosfor, Sea of Marmara, and all of God's creation!"*



*On the hotel deck, overlooking Sultan Ahmet Mosque*

I'm having a great time. And.....here comes the sun.

Later Friday morning here in Istanbul ... A brilliantly sunny, dry, absolutely gorgeous day here in the Sultan Ahmet area, in the hotel's computer room. It's really no more than a tiny office on the 4th floor next to the breakfast, (kavaltı) room. Breathtaking view of the Bosfor, Sea of Marmara, and all of God's creation! (I'm now sending this to you before the power shuts off---this is still Turkey, you know.)

Sunday morning, 03 August, 2008.....Sultan Ahmet, Istanbul.

I'm staying here in Istanbul just one more day - a total of 3 days - then I head off to Adapazarı by train to stay there for a week. I'll be staying at the brand new hotel on the international campus of the University of Sakarya. The university campus with nice buildings was built on the northern shore of Lake Sapanca, 15 minutes by city bus outside Adapazarı. Check the web site: [www.hotel.sakarya.edu.tr](http://www.hotel.sakarya.edu.tr). From there, I'll be taking day trips out to my village.

Here, today, I'm at the hotel in Sultanahmet. This "boutique" hotel has a little computer room up on the top floor terrace roof garden overlooking the Sea of Marmara and the Sultan Ahmet Mosque out one window and the Hagia Sofia out the other. I'm sitting here overlooking the rooftops of the ancient city and thinking back to how it was when we were all here in 1966 as Barış Gönüllüleri.

And at this very moment, while I'm looking out from this open sunlit window, watching all kinds of ships passing up and down the Bosphorus, to and from the Sea of Marmara, the muezzins are calling everyone to prayer all across the city for the morning session of prayer.

Please see *Emails from Turkey* on page 5

## Arkadaşlar Projects for 2007 by Linda Scheffer

The following projects and organizations were supported by Arkadaşlar funds and contributions last year. If you wish to contribute, you can contact Linda at the Buralarda return address, or at: [LMScheffer@aol.com](mailto:LMScheffer@aol.com)

**Postsecondary Scholarships** (\$3,200 in 2007)  
Arkadaslar now is providing four-year post-secondary scholarships to eight students in Turkey.

**C. Erik Olson Memorial Fund** (\$1,000 in 2007)  
To honor this Turkey I volunteer, a memorial fund was established in 1999 to support the Pediatric Neurological Laboratory specializing in childhood epilepsy at the Hacettepe University Hospital in Ankara

**Beekeeping Project** (\$1,500 in 2007) This rural economic development program supports beekeeping and the production of honey among farmers in Eastern Anatolia.

**Ashoka** (\$2,000 in 2007) Ashoka is a US-based 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to support social entrepreneurship around the world. Arkadaslar supports its new program in Turkey, i.e., four fellows working with runaway children; a women's center in southeastern Anatolia; women and families in poor urban areas; and raising awareness of organic food production. For more information about Ashoka, see [www.ashoka.org](http://www.ashoka.org).

**Sevinç Abla School** (\$2,000 in 2007). This school in Adana serves children with various mental and physical challenges. Our Website has pictures at [www.arkadaslar.info/sevinc\\_abla\\_school.htm](http://www.arkadaslar.info/sevinc_abla_school.htm)

**Anatolian Artisans** (\$1,300 in 2007)  
This US-based 501(c)(3) organization supports the maintenance and development of local crafts from Turkey, with profits from US sales sustaining this effort. For more information, see [www.anatolianartisans.org](http://www.anatolianartisans.org).

## Buralarda's new editors

Co-editor Peggy (Gall) Hanson, T-1 Çankiri, was a correspondent for Voice of America. She is active in the Washington area Arkadaşlar and has been a member of the board. When Peggy's not working for Obama, (Yes, We Can!) she writes mystery novels which someday she will try to publish. She also takes small groups to Turkey on demand. Peggy is married to Jim Hanson, a World Bank economist who has worked on Turkey. You can reach Peggy at [hanusa2@yahoo.com](mailto:hanusa2@yahoo.com). She would love to receive your news for Buralarda. (The photo is at Sirinçe, a village just above Selçuk and Ephesus.)



Co-editor Steve Poppick, T-10 Dereköy & Antalya, was a Halk Eğitim Muduru (Adult Education teacher, supervisor and Director) for 36 years in New York City's best kept secret of a program that serves over 30,000 adult students each year. His wife May is active in the movement to bring freedom to Burma, her native land. They live near Prospect Park in Brooklyn, NY with their son, a high school sophomore. Steve can be reached at [stephan.poppick@gmail.com](mailto:stephan.poppick@gmail.com).



## Emails from Turkey – from page 3

Remember our first morning, T-10, in the hotel in Ankara, when we woke up to the same sounds? Some things just don't change!!



*Leo Hogan at the Akçakamış village coffeeshop*

Mon, 8/4/08,

Subject: I WENT TO THE VILLAGE TONIGHT!!!!!!

Ok the story is that I took the train today here to Adapazari and at the station called the adopted daughter of the L... family. She lives in Izmir. But her brother, Oral Gözlu, meaning, "Oral with good eyes," lives here. He is a medical equipment sales rep. and he loves to talk. He has been to the USA many times to visit his daughter who has immigrated to California.

So he took me out of town and drove me up this huge mountain to the new campus of the university, where he helped me check in. We drove back down the mountain with a view overlooking the entire Adapazari plain. This trip was not possible 40 years ago, because there was no road up here then. The sprawling campus, overlooking the huge Lake Sapanca, was built here because the hill is solid rock and earthquake resistant.

After a typical meal of köfte, mixed salad, yoğurt, stacks of fresh Turkish bread and cheese with lots of tea, he offered to drive me around town. Well, in his enthusiasm, we ended up taking the road out towards my old village, Akçakamış..... The die was cast.

It was getting dark. We kept going and asking directions. We finally stopped at a tea house and the men said that the turnoff to the köy was only 100 meters up the road. So he turned off and took this bumpy but paved farm road into the darkening sky. A crescent moon hung low over the dark purple sky. It was 8:30pm....we drove and all we could see on both sides of the winding road were very high corn stalks.

Then suddenly we came to a village. Guess where????

We were smack on the outskirts of Akçakamış....and my heart began to race.

Suddenly we pulled up to a coffee house and one of the men yelled out: "Hasan! Sen has arrived".... after 42 years. I know now how the American GIs feel when they return to the hedge rows of Normandy.

But for me, it was more so. It was like I had never left....except everyone is now older and has either a weather-beaten face and beard, or glasses and no teeth.

They all said I have not changed. The Turkish words and sentences came out of my mouth like never before.

Oral was so kind to take me there and he has offered to take me back there tomorrow afternoon. Wow, I am so lucky.

We will see how the rest of the week goes. Every day is a new adventure. I can't say that I recognize much of Adapazari because so much of it was destroyed in the earthquake, so all the old buildings have been replaced in different locations, too. But it is still the same Adapazari in spirit....a provincial farming town of 400,000 Turks.

The trip back to the village was one of the greatest things I've done in years. But I had to be ready to make the journey, and this past summer the conditions were right. I had the time and mind-set to do it. In many ways, it had not changed. Not the spirit of the place, or the joy, or the happiness of the people, or their overwhelming hospitality to see me once again.

*For more emails and photos from Leo, please visit [www.Arkadaslar.info/](http://www.Arkadaslar.info/)*

## Cumhurriyet Bayram Dinners – 2008 from page 1

**NORTH CAROLINA:** Saturday, November 10, 4:00 at the Colony Hills Club House, 3060 Colony Road, Durham, NC (919-493-1802). Jordan and Lea Scepanski.

**FLORIDA:** Sunday, November 9, 1:00 at the Bosphorus Restaurant, 108 South Park Ave., Winter Park, FL, 407 644 8609. Lynda Wycoff Özgür.

**MILWAUKEE:** Saturday, October 25, 7:00, at the Tulip Restaurant, 117 N. Jefferson St., Milwaukee, WI, 414-273-5252. Russ & Liz Whitesel. Also hosted by Ef Frankel.

**OHIO:** Saturday, October 20, 7:00, sponsored by the Turkish American Society of Northern Ohio, Gates Mills

Community House, 1460 C. River Road, Gates Mills, OH. Reservations required. For information call Cathy & Ron McCutcheon.

**PORTLAND:** Sunday, November 9, 4:00, potluck at the home of Jan and Steve Katz, Portland. Melissa Stewart. also may contact Jan or Steve.

**SEATTLE:** Saturday, October 25, 4:00, potluck at the home of Dale & Ruth Hultengren. Shoreline,

## Last Year's Bayram Dinners

Many of our regional groups held Bayram luncheons and parties last year. This is one of the important activities that helps maintain contacts among Arkadaşlar members. Here is a summary of the report sent by Bob McCord (T-8), who has organized the get-togethers in New York City for many years.

There were 27 attendees at the Bayram luncheon held October 28, 2007 at the Turks & Frogs Restaurant in the Tribeca neighborhood of New York City. Our group came from MA, TN, PA and NY to be here. The party ran from about 12:30 in the cocktail area until 4:00 when the last cup of tea was drunk. We had a nice mix of regulars, out-of-state RPCV's, offspring & guests and Turkish friends.

We've included a few photos of some of the attendees, and brief notes about them:

Bob McCord (T-8) taught in Adapazari and co-founded and worked on a summer camp with Ken Marion. Bob is now working with his wife, Kathy Moskal, on Vere (veregoods.com), a "green" chocolate company based in New York City

Todd Borresoff (T-10) is retired from a long career in the New York City University system, and is working as a consultant specializing in childcare and early childhood education.

Ken Marion (T-8) taught and co-founded a summer camp for junior high school boys in Adapazari. Ken works for the US Postal service in Tennessee, and is active in union affairs while tending to his 125 acre farm.

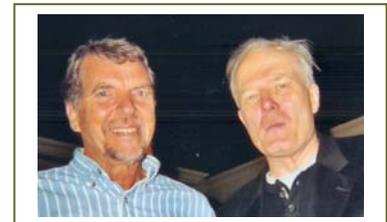
Liz Glass (T-6) lives in Brooklyn and has been working for the past 16 years at Community Action Inc., a non-profit that provides housing and other services in Manhattan, the Bronx and Brooklyn.

Janet O'Hare (T-5), a Bayram regular, lives in Queens, NY and has been active in the historic preservation movement, among other things.

All attendees seemed to enjoy the ambiance, the restaurant & food.



*Bob McCord, Kathy Moskal,  
& Todd Borresoff*



*Ken Marion & Bob McCord*



*Liz Glass & Janet O'Hare*

## 2007 Turkey–15 Reunion in San Francisco

by Karolyn Bragg

*(This article also appears on the Arkadaşlar website, where you can find names of those in the photo)*

Almost 40 years to the day that we arrived in Turkey in 1967, twenty Turkey 15's (accompanied by an assortment of family and friends) recently gathered in San Francisco to celebrate our 40<sup>th</sup> reunion.

There were no dorm rooms, no dolmuş rides, and clearly it wasn't a remote, single site. Instead, we stayed at an upscale, new environmentally "green" hotel downtown and right next to Chinatown.

We started out on Friday night with a lavish meze and Turkish wine at Karen Hagewood's home that included Tony Venegoni's son, Nick, serving as waiter, and a local Peace Corps recruiter who let us know the PC was alive and thriving and actually found a few interested parties.

The weekend that followed was full of more fun, food, drink and lots of camaraderie and included a sumptuous dinner overlooking San Francisco Bay, a champagne brunch on the hotel rooftop garden, and several impromptu meals because we just couldn't stop reminiscing and didn't want the weekend to end. Our Saturday night dinner included the reading of a thank you and congratulatory letter from the Turkish Ambassador to the USA.

We picked up our friendships and conversations just where they left off those many years ago. After all these years, we still remembered clearly: The Rolling Stones, shoeshine boys and their brass stands, "Light My Fire", METU dorms, "The Graduate", visiting the PC office in Ankara for shots, the \$24,600 house, the death of Robert Kennedy, and the Vietnam War. Some even remembered their Turkish. And, we all remembered the good and the bad about training (after all it was what had bonded us).

But mostly, we remembered the wonder of serving in the Peace Corps and becoming lifelong friends with an awesome group of people who have common bonds that have lasted a lifetime. Many of us had also attended our 20<sup>th</sup> reunion in Seattle. But, it was agreed, that for obvious reasons (our ages), that we wouldn't wait 20 more years for the next one. Two among us have offered to host the next reunion, five years hence, in Washington DC. We are putting it on our calendars, and we hope even more old friends will show up for the next reunion.





## **Buralarda**

The Newsletter of Arkadaşlar,  
Friends of Turkey

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*We're on the Web!*

*Visit us at:*

*[www.arkadaslar.info/](http://www.arkadaslar.info/)*

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*“Buralarda means, “hereabouts” or “somewhere around here.”  
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?”)*