

Buralarda

Newsletter of Arkadaşlar, Friends of Turkey



FALL 1998

ARKADAŞLAR TRIP TO TURKEY IS A GO!

Under the leadership of new President Ed Block (Turkey 8), Arkadaşlar is sponsoring a "reunion trip" to Turkey next May. All members should by now have received a mailing providing the complete set of details about this venture. Contact a Board member if for any reason you did not get the mailing. The travel agency assisting with trip, Key Tours of Fairfax, Virginia, is available at any time to answer questions--ask for Kuzma Kopano, whose phone number is 1-800 576 1784, extension 106.

The trip will basically involve:

- leaving for Zurich, Switzerland, on Sunday, May 16,
- travelling together from Zurich to Ankara on Monday the 17th,
- spending Tuesday the 18th in Ankara for a program being planned by Arkadaşlar members who are on the staff of the American Embassy in Ankara,
- taking the next ten days to do your own thing in Turkey, and
- getting back together in Istanbul on Friday the 28th, for a return flight on Sunday the 30th.

An \$899 price covers the trans-Atlantic legs of the travel, airport /hotel transfers, two nights in the Dedeman hotel in Ankara and two nights in an Istanbul hotel--a very good deal. Swissair is a partner with Delta Airlines, so that Arkadaşlar members with Delta frequent flyer plans can credit all the mileage on this

trip to Delta accounts.

An extra \$100 will cover the costs of the first day's eating and sightseeing in an Ankara drastically changed from the city we knew; and, on May 18, a Bosphorous cruise under the two bridges that now span that waterway, with a stop at Kanlica, for some of the world's best yogurt.

Arkadaşlar Causes in Turkey

Hacatepe Pediatric Neurology Lab

The Department of Pediatric Neurology at the Hacatepe University Faculty of Medicine in Ankara recently honored the late Erik Olsen of Turkey 1 with a memorial plaque. Eric had maintained contacts over the years with Turkish-American friends of doctors at the Department's laboratory, which specializes in research and treatment of childhood epilepsy and other neurological disorders.

When Erik's wife Valerie informed the Arkadaşlar Board about Hacatepe's initiative in honoring Erik's memory in this way, and about a continuing need for financial support for the lab's electroencephalograph monitoring work, the Board voted to donate \$500 to the lab. Pictured below, standing near the plaque in the hospital, are Valerie Olsen and Dr. Yavuz Renta, Dean of the Faculty. The Arkadaşlar recently received a formal thank from Dr. Renta for this contribution.



Sevinç Abla School

Previous Arkadaşlar donations to **Sevinç Abla School** for the Disabled in Adana have been used for general operating expenses and to buy equipment such as toys, art supplies, desks, shop, kitchen, and exercise rooms. Sevinç recently informed Sandy Anderson that the government is requiring that the school's program be expanded by 2 grades, and so the Board voted contribute \$1500, the amount as in previous years, to help with the expenses associated with the expansion.

ARKADAŞLAR MEMBERS HAVE THEIR OWN LISTSERV

Former President Sandy Anderson (Turkey 13) has created a Listserv for Arkadaşlar members. A Listserv is an electronic bulletin board where members can post messages which can then be read on-line by anybody who is in the loop. The service came on line on October 10, 1998, with the following message from Sandy:

Merhaba!

This is our first communication on the Arkadaşlar listserv. A listserv is a type of bulletin board where members can post messages which are read by everybody. Among members we have 279 with e-mail addresses, yours included. Ours will be an unmoderated list, but members are encouraged to avoid profanity, dirty jokes, and language that is offensive to any cultural or ethnic groups.

The sky is the limit. Postings can be read around the world. We can discuss whatever we want, take advocacy positions, network to find old friends, develop our fledgling writers' group, share ideas with the ArkadaşlarBoard,...

*To post a message, you send it (all lower case) to: arkadaslar@travel-net.com
To get on or off the listserv, send your request to: arkadaslar-request@travel-net.com, and for the message write: subscribe <<e-mail address>> or unsubscribe <<e-mail address>>*

We owe a great deal of appreciation to Muharrem Sev and Mark Knox with Unibit Computer Systems in Canada for the effort and time they gave to establish our listserv. Onlara çok çok teşekkür ederiz! Many, many thanks. If you have questions, write me at TurkeyDost@aol.com. This should be fun!



Pictured above are Sandy Anderson and Muharrem Sev at the October 11 Washington-area Arkadaslar bayram dinner. Muharrem Bey brought the Turkish flag in the background, modified to reflect the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Turkish Republic.

FROM THE E-MAIL BAG

The messages on the following two pages--one sad, one happy-- were recently posted on the Arkadaslar ListServ by Turkey 9's Janet Bachman Turkey 2's Kathy Markley. We supply them here for those who don't do E-mail. -Ed.

Imre, 'moved, address unknown'

--Janet Bachman

Dearest Arkadaslar,

I am sending this in Memory of a friend and colleague, Imre Kushu, a native of Turkey who worked with at least some of us in Turkey 9.

One of our Turkey 9 RPCV's, Jeannie Stern Lavid, was so kind and diligent as to maintain a newsletter for our group for many years. And one of the people on the list was Imre, whose address was given as 'moved, address unknown.' Rumor had it that he had immigrated to Canada.

Well, maybe about a year ago, the phone rang just as I was about to sleep. It was Imre! He had finally gotten in touch with Jeannie, after 30 years, And from her, obtained a list of the rest of our group. I expect I was called just because Bachmann falls near the top alphabetically.

Memories of Imre include:

1. His help as an interpreter as my site-mate Tony DeSimone met with the Halk Egitim Muduru to discuss our assignments. (By the way, Tony is also moved, address unknown.)
2. His advice to me in my village, which he visited with our site rep., 'Do not use the pronoun 'sen' when talking to Turkish men. Use 'siz', otherwise they will take it as an invitation to become more familiar!
3. His admonition 'Don't drop bread on the floor. It is 'ayip!' (Or 'gunah?') (I gave my cat pieces of bread.) Obviously grain had

more value to Turkish villagers who raise, thresh, and grind, and cook it themselves than to those of us who can so easily purchase ready-to-eat anything.

4. Going out on the Black Sea in a couple of motor boats in February during a toplanti or something in Trabzon. It was freezing. For some insane reason, Imre wanted to drop anchor and stay awhile. For what? I was so glad when the anchor didn't touch bottom and we made for the shore.

(Passengers included Clarence Falk and his site mate Paul, my site mate Tony, Marcia Pearson and her husband who were lost in an avalanche during a skiing vacation

I miss you all. And Turkey. Land of the boncuk.

As for our friend, Imre, . . . we talked on the phone a few times during the winter of 97-98. He told me his health was bad. Diabetes, bad heart, failing eyesight. . . Also that he had lived in Vancouver, B.C., since 1969, was married and had a daughter in her 20's. (I also was living in Vancouver, for most of 1969 . . .)

On May 30, after waiting to hear from Imre for a couple of months or more, I called. Someone named Greta (I assume she was his wife) answered. 'Imre passed away on March 6 . . . ' 'NO! I said. .'

Well, my dear friends, all I can say is that I am holding the thought that Imre has just moved again, address unknown.

Introducing the Prez At a White House Education Event

-Kathy Markley Scruggs

October 1st was a gorgeous day in Washington DC . President Clinton was asking Congress for One Day and One Vote for Education. Secretary of Ed. Riley, V-P Gore, and 60+congressmen would also be on the stage with Clinton.

I am a reading specialist in Arlington and active in our association, but certainly never thought I'd have the chance to address an audience at the White House about education.

Two days earlier, Arlington was invited by NEA to send 15 teachers to be in the audience on the South Lawn for the White House event, and I accepted the invitation immediately.

The day before the event I was called by a woman in the Domestic Policy office and queried about the situation in my school as far as overcrowding, access to the Internet, state of the facilities, reading abilities of my students, etc. I naturally had something to say about each issue--next thing I knew she asked me to be on the program, give remarks and introduce the Prez.

That was the most challenging writing assignment I'd ever had--to write a speech a few hours, fax it to the White House for editing and approval! I wouldn't get final word back until noon on the day of the 2:30 p.m. event.

It all was thrilling--I followed Clinton, Gore and Riley down the outside stairs while the Marine Band played *Hail to the Chief*. Gore spoke, introduced me and, after my 3 minutes, I introduced Clinton.

Unfortunately, the media wasn't (isn't) very interested in education and so I don't believe any networks carried any of the event--except a few minutes on CNN in Dubuque, IA. At least I now have the White House videotape of the event so I'll be able to show my mom and best friends.

I don't think it quite qualifies for those 15 mins. of fame we're all supposed to have, but it was the greatest experience I've ever had. If anyone is interested, just ask and I'll e-mail my remarks

The purpose of Arkadaşlar is to foster communication, continued friendships, gatherings and any social projects or other activities chosen by the members--those who served in Turkey as Peace Corps Volunteers or staff, and their family members and friends. As of November, 1998, 295 members had paid 1998 dues, and there was \$2500 in the treasury. The current policy is to send this newsletter to all the addresses in our database. A 1999 dues payment of \$20 may be sent to Arkadaşlar's tireless treasurer: Linda Scheffer,

SEAN KILEEN, TURKEY 8, ALERTED US TO A REMARKBLY WELL-WRITTEN, IN-DEPTH SERIES OF FEATURE ARTICLES ABOUT TURKEY TODAY THAT HE RECENTLY FOUND AT THE WEBSITE OF RADIO FREE EUROPE/LIBERTY, WHOSE ADDRESS IS WWW.REFERL.ORG. THE BULLETED, UNDERLINED HEADINGS BELOW CONSTITUTE BOTH A TABLE OF CONTENTS FOR THE SERIES AND, ON THE WEB PAGE, LINKS TO THE ARTICLES.

Turkey At A Crossroads

Turkey is geographically both in Europe and the Middle East -- but hasn't been fully accepted by either. Politically rejected by the European Union in part for shortcomings in its treatment of minorities, the Turkish government is fending off attempts by fundamentalists to overturn the country's secular tradition. Additionally, soon to be exploited Caspian oil has increased Turkey's importance in the region and complicated relations with other countries. RFE/RL veteran correspondent Jolyon Naegele recently travelled throughout Turkey, from Istanbul in the west to the Armenian border and mostly Kurdish regions in the east, and filed the following reports.

Politics & Religion

- [Relations With The EU Deteriorating](#)
- [Military Upholds Secularist Tradition](#)
- [The Veil Is A Symbol Of The Rise Of Islamism](#)
- [Head Scarf Debate Has Parallels Abroad](#)
- [Caspian Oil Presents Challenge To The Straits](#)

Minorities

- [Kurds Drive For Self-Determination Perceived As A Perennial Problem](#)
- [Laz Minority Passive In Face Of Assimilation](#)

Economics

- [Eastern Shopping Tourism Gives Way to Trade](#)

Foreign Relations

- [Turkey: Foreign Policy Plan Aims For Pivotal Role In Eurasia](#)
- [Turkey: Foreign Relations Good With Two Of Eight Neighbors](#)
- [Armenian 'Genocide' Issue Stirs French-Turkish Ties](#)
- [Ancient City of Ani Is So Close, Yet So Far](#)
- [Burden Of History Blocks Turkish-Armenian Border](#)

turkishpress.com.

Arkadaşlar members who want to keep up with developments in Turkey and who have access to the internet may want to know about a web site called *Turkishpress.com*. This site, updated daily, provides succinct summaries in English of stories Turkish newspapers are covering. (There's even a daily update on the current exchange rate for the Lira--on Nov. 30 the figure was 260,500 lira to 1 dollar!) Here are some samples from the Nov, 30 edition:

SIKORSKY HELICOPTER SHOT DOWN BY PKK

Members of the PKK terrorist organization on Friday shot down a Sikorsky helicopter killing 16 soldiers, according to a written statement released by the Turkish General Staff. The helicopter was shot down in Hakkari in the Southeast killing 16 of the 18 soldiers on board. One soldier is still missing and another was injured. "The helicopter crashed when the pilot was shot by gunfire from terrorists on the ground and he lost control of the aircraft" a written statement said. /Sabah/

OVERSEAS WORKERS REMIT \$3.9 BILLION TO TURKEY

Remittances from Turkish workers employed abroad, particularly those in Germany, totalled \$3.88 billion during the first nine months of 1998. According to Central Bank data obtained by the Anatolia news agency, the revenue generated and sent to Turkey by Turkish workers employed overseas from January to September of this year increased by 26.8 %. In the same period of 1997, Turkish workers sent \$3.06 billion to Turkey. According to research conducted by the Association of European Turkish Businessmen and Industrialists (ATIAD), the number of Turkish entrepreneurs, now 45,000, will exceed 100,000 by the year 2000. /All papers/

\$5 BILLION EXPECTED FROM PRIVATIZATIONS IN 1999

The Privatization Administration Chairmanship (OYK) has an ambitious programme for 1999. According to information the Anatolia news agency obtained from the OYK, 24 state-owned companies are earmarked for privatization in 1999. In addition to these 24 companies, the OYK will try to wind up privatization of state-run companies for which bidding began in 1998. These companies are as follows: Petrol Ofisi AS (POAS), Petkim, Turkish Airlines (THY), Tupras Refinery, Erdemir, Tugas and Isdemir. Revenues expected to be generated from the privatization deals in 1999 amount to approximately \$5 billion, of which \$4 billion is expected to be received in 1999. /All papers/



SAVE THE DATE-MARCH 2, 1999 PEACE CORPS DAY!

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(all are area code 202)

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Fellows USA Programs-692-1440

World Wise Schools-692-1450

Crisis Corps-692-2250

Peace Corps Partnership-692-2170

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