

BURALARDA....

JEANNE STERN LAVID, [T-9], IS NEW Arkadaşlar PRESIDENT

by Dave Weinman, Amca

A well-oiled electoral machine again moved Arkadaşlar into a new phase on January 22 in a Turkish café on Capitol Hill. SANDY ANDERSON performed her last presidential responsibility as the Board met to elect her successor, JEAN STERN LAVID. Sandy assured us she is not going far away, and the Board was delighted to hear that.

Her two-year tour as president was epochal in its significance, as she guided us to our first "global" reunion last July, refined the data base culminating in our first directory, and encouraged the groundwork for possible organizational ties with returning Central Asian volunteers.

In short, Arkadaşlar was again blessed with the type of leadership every volunteer organization must have to thrive. Many thanks, Sandy. Your living allowance is on the way!

We are pleased to welcome Jean Stern Lavid, CD volunteer 1965-67, to the presidency. Jeany has been a Board member for the past two years and long before that was instrumental in publishing an annual PC newsletter for her colleagues in T-9. She has a strong background in education, first as a teacher in New York and later as a school administrator in Kansas.

Jean has been in the Washington DC area since 1993, where she has worked in several educational positions. She is currently Center Director for Childrens World learning Centers Inc. We look forward to working with her and moving Arkadaşlar into the next step of its evolving future.

The Board of Directors has added a few and lost a few. Leaving after serving since the beginning is SANDY PFUNDER [T-9], who has contributed much wise counsel and effort toward Arkadaşlar's growth. Sandy, an anti-trust lawyer working locally, will be greatly missed.

Leaving the Board after a year is Bob McCord [T-8], who resides in New York City. Bob has been helpful in developing regional Arkadaşlar efforts. Thanks, Bob, for your work.

Leaving and rejoining the Board is CLAUDIA LIEBLER [T-14], who has been a Board stalwart since the beginning. Claudia has been active as the link to the Turkish Development Foundation, and was a major contributor to the planning for the reunion. We are delighted to retain her services for a while longer.

Finally, two new members join the Board. The first is MARCIA DEMKOWICZ GNUSE, a [T-6] volunteer secretary.
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Arkadaşlar

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, staff, and their family members.

In 1995, Arkadaşlar had 310 dues-paying members--annual dues are \$15--and as of January 22, 1996, the organization had a checking-account balance of \$2,623.23.

Peace Corps 35th Anniversary Celebration

Arkadaşlar members may have received information from the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) about the event to be held in Washington from Thursday, February 29 to Sunday, March 3 to celebrate the 35th anniversary of President Kennedy's issuance of the Executive Order that got the Peace Corps started.

Included on the calendar of this celebration is a teach-in/fix-up day in Washington DC schools. Sandy Anderson, outgoing Arkadaşlar president, is serving as coordinator between the NPCA and the DC school system (where Sandy does curriculum development) for this program.

On Saturday morning there is a general meeting at George Washington University of everybody attending the event, featuring a keynote address by the new Peace Corps Director, Mark Gearan, and foreign affairs seminars geared to specific regions where volunteers have served.

On Saturday afternoon there are country-specific gatherings. Arkadaşlar is sponsoring a lunch gathering at the Mediterranean Cafe, 633 Pennsylvania Avenue South East on Capitol Hill, with all Turkey RPCVs welcome. Efforts have been made to include in this lunch volunteers attending the event who have newly returned from the Central Asian Turkic countries. After lunch, the group will walk to Ron and Lael Steegal's home (712 East Capitol St. Northeast), for informal presentations on Central Asia. An expert on the area may also attend.

There will be a concert Saturday night, and on Sunday a march of flags is planned for the National Mall.

Arkadaşlar Member Survey

At the Global reunion last July, discussions at the last session focused on future directions for Arkadaşlar. We agreed that we would try to use a survey instrument to help in setting priorities.

The survey form was included in last Fall's issue of Buralarda.... We received 64 responses, and Sandy Anderson has synthesized the results as follows:

A.) Four areas of involvement for the organization fell into a "first tier" of support from the respondents:

- 1) political action, such as providing support before Congress for Peace Corps, for Turkey, for alleviation of world hunger, for foreign aid, for sustainable development, or for the Central Asian Turkic nations;
- 2) providing news about Turkey and Turkish cultural events in the US;
- 3) providing assistance to projects in Turkey;
- 4) getting together-- reunions, dinners, networking

B.) Into a "second tier" of support fell activities about:

- 1) helping PCVs in the Central Asian republics; and
- 2) linkages with Turkish organization in the US.

C.) The least amounts of support were shown for activities focused on small projects in the US, such as

local service projects or organizing presentations about Turkey.

The survey also picked up numerous other responses that don't fit neatly into the tiers but caught Sandy's attention:

- A Turkey 8 30th reunion, open to all, is being planned in Seattle, summer of 1997
- Have a contest for the best Turkish proverb
- let's not get too ambitious; organizing RPCVs is like herding cats
- We are RPCVs from Turkey; why dilute our efforts by charging off to do "good works" in the former Soviet Union?
- Initiate the Goreme Gourmet competition of varied recipes
- provide information about employment opportunities in Turkey and the Turkic Republics
- Arkadaşlar should remind us about the 12 million Kurds in Turkey
- There is an English woman in Antalya who would love to arrange a block of rooms in a luxury hotel at good prices for a group of RPCVs
- you are doing a good job, but be careful about taking on too much

MARGARET P. HALFPENNY

--from Dave Weinman

With great sadness I report the death of Marge Halfpenny, the first Peace Corps/Turkey secretary, on January 1 in Washington DC, from complications due to a stroke.

Marge arrived in Ankara in the fall of 1962, to join Ali Yonceova and me, and will long be remembered by volunteers from Turkey 1, 2 and 3 for her indomitable spirit, humor, and hospitality.

"Secretary" was the job label, but Marge represented so much more to those of us who worked closely with her. When all hell was breaking loose in typical PC fashion, Marge was the glue... unflappable, hardworking, and unafraid of adding to her job description to get the real job done.

She came to the Peace Corps from AID, for whom she had worked in Afghanistan and Sierra Leone. After Turkey she returned to the U.S., and our paths luckily crossed again at the Office of Management and Budget, where she worked until the mid-'80s, before returning overseas for one last tour, in Geneva with the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency.

As the saying goes, "they don't make them like that anymore." Marge was an angel of mercy when she appeared at Esenboğa Airport, a rock while she was in Ankara, and one of the best friends you could ever have.

Dave Weinman was the first Peace Corps Director in Turkey

ATTENTION: TURKEY 1's, 4's, 5's, 7's, 11's and 15's

We still need copies of your training "Mug Books"/"Rogues' Galleries"--the books they made in training with all our bio's and pictures. (For the Turkey 4's, we only need the group that trained in Istanbul.) We use them at Arkadaşlar to establish the data base and later to verify peoples' groups and maiden names. And we almost have a complete set.

IF YOU ARE A TURKEY 1,4,5,7, 11 OR 15---look through your memorabilia, and if you can find the training book, please make a copy or send the original to Sandy Anderson

She's very reliable at sending them back.

SHE'S FAMOUS

Susan (McHenry) Holmes' contribution to the Arkadaşlar Global Reunion's "Hatirlama" compilation is about to be published by the Peace Corps. Susan (T-13) wrote "A Conversion Story", about being delivered by her Erzurum neighbors to the "Imam" to be converted, rather than to the "hamam" for a bath. The story will be included in a second volume of To Touch the World: The Peace Corps Experience, after Sandy Anderson responded to a request, on an Internet conversation board for RPCVs, for "memorable, touching, enlightening or profound Peace Corps stories".

Additional copies of the "Hatirlama" are still available for \$15 through Linda Scheffer

NEREDELER?

This edition of Neredeler? contains primarily--but not exclusively--items about the several bayram dinners that Arkadaşlar members have held acrosss the country recently. The column welcomes any and all news items about members' whereabouts and doings. Jerry Karey [T-8] edits Neredeler?; send news to Jerry at

Arkadaşlarımız celebrated Cumhuriyet Bayramı from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Among the gatherings reported to Buralarda were:

Hallowell, Maine -- Joan Hammer Grant (T-1) and Geoff Robinson (T-8), Geoff's wife, Michael Dions and Kathy Brandes, who taught in Turkey between 1991 and 1993 (non-Peace Corps, obviously), as well as a Turkish couple living in the area, a Turkish high school teacher and his American wife, and two Turkophile friends of Joan's, had dinner at a Lebanese restaurant. "Our first annual Cumhuriyet Bayram gathering on Oct. 28 was small but fun," Joan writes. "Maine's on the move now. . ."

Madison, Wisconsin -- Carolyn Holm Emmerson (T-1), and her husband, Mike and Susie Spitz (T-8), Russ Whitesel (T-8), and his wife, Kevin Cronin (T-8), Ellen Mary Rafferty (T-13), and her husband, and David Wilson (T-15), met Nov. 11 at Husnu's Restaurant, which offers a primarily Turkish menu, on the University of Wisconsin campus. "Other Turkey RPCV's in our area wanted to attend but were unable to do so for one reason or another [possibly including] our record snow fall the night before," Kevin

Cronin writes. Kevin and Russ Whitesel organized the dinner.

Portland, Oregon -- Seven RPCVs met at Abou Karim, a Lebanese Restaurant, Oct. 27, and wound up closing the place, realizing "it was time to leave even if we had many more thoughts to share." Attending were: Pat Dillon (T-2), Melissa Stewart (T-2), Mimi Jones Sanders (T-3), and her husband, Pat Dillon (T-4), Betsy Hakkinnen Galloway (T-12), and Jan Bergman Katz (T-14), and John Pederson (T-?).

Seattle, Washington -- Ed Elenbaas (T-8), and Dave (T-8) and Elinor Vandegrift, hosted a dinner at Ed's place on Nov. 4. Cafe Meze, in Kirkland, did the catering (borek, babaganus, humus, yaprak sarma, etc.). Attendees were Lyle (T-2) and Ann Bjork, Marilyn Barbour Stark (T-4) and James Stark, Eric Hutchinson (T-5), Gretchen Nist LaTurner (T-8) and Gary LaTurner, Jerry (T-8) and Renate Schipper, Gordon Taylor (T-8), Barbara Van Dyke Shuman (T-80, Dana Marmion Breidenstein (T-15) and Kent Breidenstein, and Pat and Patricia Anderson (T-16). "Wine and that other anise-flavored drink--no raki here--flowed freely and platters of meze made several (continued on next page)

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circuits of the table as father Ed played genial host and the eaves dripped steadily on into the night," Dave writes. Well, it is Seattle, after all. Word is that the Seattle area RPCVs are planning to host a reunion for the rest of us in 1997.

New York City -- "A small but boisterous group" of New York area volunteers convened Dec. 3 at The Ottoman Restaurant on Amsterdam Avenue on Manhattan's upper West Side. They were Mike Green (T-4), Janet O'Hare (T-5), Elisabeth Glass (T-6), Pat Kelly and Bob McCord (T-8), Leo Hogan (T-10), Barbara Bryan (T-13), Janet Bress Arica (T-14), Ann Wilbert (T-16), and Moses Silverman (T-17). "The waiters, led by Zaya Kerkorun, the gracious host, and Zerine, the hostess who correctly read Leo Hogan's Turkish coffee fortune, made everyone feel at home."

Arlington, Virginia -- Thirty six Arkadaşlar gathered at John and Catherine Gallivan's house on the Bayram weekend. The caterer set up a vertical doner kebab grill in the back yard, and the result was incredible. After dinner, everyone in the group, with minimal prompting, recounted a favorite Turkey story.

Ed Block (T-8), country director for the three Baltic countries, writes that the program now has 124 volunteers teaching English and serving as business advisors. "Unfortunately, our budget has

been reduced while our volunteers numbers have been increased," Ed writes. "But we'll manage somehow, as always." Ed and Cathy can be reached via Peace Corps/US Embassy . . . Regular US postage will do.

Hollis Burke, a TEFLer in Turkey 8, a newspaperman in central New Jersey, and a good guy, died Thanksgiving weekend, Nov. 25, 1995.

Mike Dallas (T-4) sends word of a second-generation PCV, his son Brendan, who began service as an English teacher in Turkmenistan in December. Brendan's training was entirely in country, and included a visit to his eventual site. Getting things to Brendan is problematic; packages are confiscated, mail is opened, but some stuff gets through fine. Meanwhile, Mike himself is starting preparations for this year's "Ride the Rockies," a week-long 400-mile group bike ride in June that that he has been organizing through the *Denver Post* in recent years. Call Mike on [redacted] if you'd like to know more about it.

We understand that Jerry Leach (T-4) has recently joined the Association of World Affairs Councils as its Executive Director. Jerry, a former Regional Director at Peace Corps headquarters, has been a hardworking volunteer for Arkadaşlar, along with with his equally hardworking wife, Marianne, a Board member and noted T-shirt designer.

NEW PRESIDENT, NEW BOARD MEMBERS CHOSEN

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Marcia put in long hours helping with reunion arrangements. She resides with her husband and family in Arlington, Virginia.

DAVID BLOCK [T-2], comes to the Board after a long career as a Foreign Service Officer. He is currently a consultant, and still enjoys the chance to work overseas when assignments are available. He looks forward to wrestling with "Arkadaşlar nereye."

We should also not that John Clark [T-4], the most mobile board member, has returned to Kyrgyzstan in an educational venture for the next year or so. He remains through E-Mail and we look forward to hearing of John's latest adventures when he returns.

Arkadaşlar

President: Jean Stern Lavid [T-9]

Board Members:	Marianne Leach [T-4]	1996
	Mary Helen Madden [T-10]	1996
	Linda Scheffer [T-8]	1996
	John Clark [T-4]	1996
	Gerry Karey [T-8]	1996-97
	John Gallivan [T-2]	1996-97
	Mike Jewell [T-1]	1996-97
	Claudia Liebler [T-14]	1996-98
	Marcia Demkowicz Gnuse [T-6]	1996-98
	David Block [T-2]	1996-98

Dave Weinman, Amca
 Sandy Anderson [T-13], President Emeritus,
 Database Manager
 Linda Scheffer, Treasurer/Membership
 John Gallivan, Newsletter Editor

1996 DUES ARE DUE

**Please send your \$15 check to:
Linda Scheffer**
