



# Buralarda

Newsletter of Arkadaşlar, Friends of Turkey Number 15, JANUARY, 2002

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## **BOARD NEWS AND PRESIDENTIAL SUCCESSION**

The annual transition is underway, as Arkadaslar officers and Board Members gear up for the 2002 season. Leaving the Board after years of good and faithful service are Ed Block (T-8) and Dave Bloch (T-2). Ed Block took on the task of being President of Arkadaslar in 1998 and 1999. As well as being an ex-PCV, Ed has served the Peace Corps as the Director in the Baltics and Slovakia. He now lives on Tighlman Island, Maryland and was the guiding spirit behind the organization's 1999 reunion in Turkey. We thank Ed very much for his active participation and guidance. Dave Bloch has also served Arkadaslar well. Dave's greatest contribution is his ability to bring a "thinking filter" to most discussions. His thoughtful approach is much needed in any organization. After PC/T and service in Ceylon, Dave spent a full career as a Foreign Service Officer until his retirement several years ago. Gentlemen, many thanks for your contributions.

Returning to the Board for additional terms are Sandy Anderson (Ms. ListServe)(T-13), Mike Jewell (T-1), and Marcia Gnuse (Buralarda Editor)(T-13). Needless to say we are pleased to have such experienced members willing to offer their services for one more round.

In addition to the above, we continue to have Board Members SUSAN BAYLEY (T-4), WHO IS ABOUT TO ASSUME AN EVEN MORE IMPORTANT ROLE AS PRESIDENT, Peggy Hanson (T-1), Lin Lougheed (President Emeritus)(T-16), Ken Hill (T-9), Judy Jerald (T-8), Linda Scheffer (The glue which holds it and us together)(T-8), Pat Fesci (T-4), and Mike Metrinko (T-16) now serving temporarily in Afghanistan.

In conclusion, we add a note to thank Lin Lougheed most appreciatively for his recent two-year term as President. Lin took over the position with several goals in mind. He wanted to lead Arkadaslar to broaden its contact with other Turkey-oriented organizations, and he has been most successful in doing that. He has also helped the organization to review its objectives in terms of Turkey projects to support. Finally, he was most active in supporting the 40th anniversary activities so suddenly terminated by Sept. 11 events. In brief, cok tesekkur ederiz, Lin!!!

Submitted by Dave Weinman

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Turkey 1 Reunites in September

SEPTEMBER 22, 2001

The day, which was intended to be the celebration of the Peace Corps' 40th anniversary, took on a more somber tone falling barely a week after September 11. In respect, the Peace Corps and NPCA planners chose to limit the day's events to two. First was a volunteer service project to clean up a park in Southeast Washington, D.C. and build a new playground nearby. The playground was called "Peace Park" in honor of Sargent Shriver, first Peace Corps Director. A "Peace Corps Family" vigil was also held at the Lincoln Memorial with RPCVs holding the respective flags of their countries. Arkadaslar was represented at both events. Sargent Shriver spoke both times, and was accompanied by Eunice Shriver and some younger Kennedy's. Attending the vigil and holding the Turkish flag were Lin Lougheed (T-16), and Sandy Anderson (T-13). In addition to Shriver, Dan Smith, President of NPCA spoke. Songs were sung and quotations shared from many sources. One was from Sarah Parker (T-4) currently a judge on the North Carolina Supreme Court. The day was beautiful and the crowd upbeat and enthusiastic.



## REUNION DESPITE TERRORISM

There is no question September 11 disrupted our lives, our plans, and the Peace Corps 40th anniversary. It was an awful time. But quite large numbers of Turkey volunteers made it to Washington anyhow and got together in various ways over the weekend of September 20th.

Turkey 1's reaction to the disaster was typical. "If we have to drive, we're coming." "Meet my plane from California." "Find a good bar where we can sit around and reminisce." "We were together for JFK and we'll be together for this." It turned out members of other groups felt the same way.

The first "official" event was a dinner for 63 at the Anatolian Cafe on Capitol Hill, largely arranged through the efforts of Dave Weinman and Linda Scheffer. The proprietors had turned down the lights and decorated the place and arranged tables for different groups. The menu was doner kebab. It was wonderful to see people we'd been out of touch with for as many as 39 years. For an evening, anguish over what had happened and worries of further terrorism couldn't touch us. We were cocooned in the past. Nazar degmezsin!

On Saturday afternoon, we gathered again at Kazan's Restaurant in McLean for some meaty discussions of the politics and economics of Turkey, and hopeful talk of the spring trip to Turkey for Arkadaslar. Speakers including Jim Hanson brought us up to date on problems and solutions in our beloved ikinci memleket. Yildiz Yagci of Anatolian Artisans told us of her group's

efforts to help artisans in Turkey--and sold plenty of work from those artisans! Again, we felt refreshed and renewed for being together, and ready to face the difficult autumn having been reminded that we are part of a tightly-knit group. difficult autumn having been reminded that we are part of a tightly-knit group. difficult autumn having been reminded that we are part of a tightly-knit group.

Submitted by Peggy Hanson (T-1)

#### SEATTLE BAYRAM DINNER

The Pacific Northwest "Arkadaslar" met for a fabulous potluck dinner at Barbara Van Dyke Shuman's home on Mercer Island, near Seattle. We feasted on "Imam Bayildi", "Bamya" stew, baklava and too many other wonderful Turkish delights. Pat Anderson brought samples of beer from his micro brewery. We were particularly impressed with stories of recent trips to Turkey, and Patty Anderson's trip to a Krispy Kreme Donut shop. Photo names are: (left to right) Gary LaTurner (Gretchen's husband), David Smith, Dick Denda, Kent Breidenstein (Dana's husband), Dana Marmion, Jim Shuman (Barb's husband), Pat Anderson, Patty Anderson, Barbara Van Dyke Shuman, Gretchen Nist LaTurner, Ann Smith, Chris Smith, Dave Vandegrift.

Submitted by Barbara Van Dyke Shuman



#### PORTLAND BAYRAM DINNER

The Arkadaslar of Portland, Oregon regularly meet every fall and spring. This past fall their Cumhuriyet Bayram dinner was held at the home of Janice (Bergman T-14) and Stephen Katz. Also celebrating were Mimi (Jones T-3) and Jack Sanders, Melissa Stewart (T-2), Pat Dillon (T-4), Joseph and Corinne Merkel Christy (both T-16), Betsy Hakkinen Galloway (T-12), Tim and Carolyn Armstrong who taught in Turkey for four years and went back last year, and a Turkish-Egyptian guest, Tayfun Gurbuz. Participants contribute different dishes, this year including mercimek corbasi, pide, and Turkish Delight. The group enjoyed a video of Turkish dances made by Mimi Sanders last summer when she was in Turkey. She was visiting her daughter who was attending a Turkish high school for half a year.

Submitted by Janet Bergman Katz

#### NEW YORK BAYRAM DINNER

The New York city Bayram Dinner was held at the Pasha Restaurant on West 71st Street. Attendees were: Leo Hogan, Janet O'Hare, Henry and Elaine Levy, Peter Nulty, Dan Callahan, his daughter Diedre (PC Micronesia), Jim and Elizabeth Hogan, Rosemarie Klaus, Bob McCord, and Kathy Moskal (friend). A good time was had by all.

Submitted by Bob McCord

## BOARD REAFFIRMS MAY REUNION TRIP

The Arkadaslar board, among the other items discussed at their recent meeting, reaffirmed their support for the Turkey 2002 reunion trip in May. The response through year-end indicates there will be at least 50 people on the trip, and there has been a quickening of interest since the first of the year that suggests a larger group is likely. In contrast with other years, travel and tourism conditions allow for more flexibility this close to the trip dates, and there is still time to get on board.

A separate mailing went out recently with all the details of the trip. If you did not get a letter, please get in touch with Dave Hopkins at

## PEACE CORPS DAY

Arkadaslar supports participation in Peace Corps Day, March 1, 2002. It's an opportunity to speak out about your experiences as a Volunteer to your children's classmates (grandchildren for some of us), colleagues at work, your church congregation, a scout troop, etc. Peace Corps will send you a free presentation kit if you contact them at [pcday@peacecorps.gov](mailto:pcday@peacecorps.gov) or call them at (800) 424-8580, press 2 then ext. 1961. Relive your excitement and encourage others to have the same one.

## ART EXHIBIT

Barbara Van Dyke Shuman is exhibiting her artwork at Carrillon Point in Kirkland, Washington. Four office buildings feature Barbara's paintings in the lobby areas. Doors are open during regular business hours. The show will run through the month of March until April 6.

Barb's next art fair will be "Best of the Northwest", at Sand Point, Seattle, April 26-28.

## METRINKO TO AFGHANISTAN

Mike has departed for Afghanistan to serve as "Political-Military Officer" for 3 to 4 months. The Embassy staff is a very small one, but there is a very large US Marine detachment assigned to the Embassy grounds. He will be dealing with the Afghan government on a variety of political and military matters. Conditions are reportedly a bit primitive. He was chosen for the position because he speaks Farsi which is very close to the Dari spoken in Afghanistan and because of his general mid-East background. Thus far he has served 4 years in Turkey (2 with Peace Corps and 2 with the Embassy), half a year in Syria, 7 years in Iran (3 with Peace Corps and 4 with the State Department), 3 years in Poland as Principal Officer in charge of the Consulate in Krakov, 4 years as Consul General in Tel Aviv, and most recently, a temporary position as Chief of the US Office in Aden, Yemen. His jobs in Washington at the State Department include 2 years as Deputy Director of Northern Gulf Affairs (dealing with Iran and Iraq), and 3 years as an Office Director in the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration, where he was responsible for refugee

assistance in Europe, South Asia and the Middle East.

## JANUARY BOARD MEETING

The Board met at Atilla's Lokantasi in Arlington, Va. on January 8.

It was announced that the new Turkish Ambassador to the United States, Faruk Logoglu, helped train several Volunteer groups, including T-8.

Support was reaffirmed for the May, 2002 reunion trip to Turkey.

Officers and Board members were elected. See article on Page Two.

Arkadaslar will nominate Ken Hill (T-5) to serve on the NPCA Board.

Plans were discussed for the Peace Corps 40+ anniversary celebration. See the next article.

This past year Arkadaslar sent \$5,000 as scholarships for university students affected by the earthquake, and we committed to a five-year \$400 per year scholarship for a young woman.

Gonul Atici was born in 1983 in Biga-Canakkale. Her father is unemployed and her mother is working in Biga's hospital sweeping floors. Her mother's monthly income is TL 48,000,000 which is the only income of the family and equivalent to about US\$32.00. Gonul has always been the best student in her classes during her three-year high school (Mehmet Akif Ersoy Lisesi). She graduated from high school as the number one student with a 4.94 GPA out of 5.00. She participated in the general entrance exams for the

FYI:

131 members contributed \$5,500.00 to Turkish Earthquake Relief.

Arkadaslar had 298 members in 2001.

69 members joined NPCA in 2001.

96 members sent in extra contributions to projects in 2001

63 people attended the Reunion dinner in September.

universities and was accepted at one of the best universities in Istanbul (Galatasaray Universitesi) in the Industrial Engineering branch. Her studies will go for five years because of a one-year preparatory language requirement.

We heard that the other four students have all passed their exams.

#### PEACE CORPS 40+ ANNIVERSARY

The Peace Corps 40th anniversary has been rescheduled for June 20-23, 2002 in Washington D.C., with the theme, "The Peace Corps Family: Bringing the World Together." The conference schedule has not been publicized yet, but most likely will include:

- times for meeting with Senators/Congressmen
- receiving updates on country of service
- holding a large meeting to honor volunteers and volunteer organizations for outstanding service
- workshops of interest
- booths with products from different countries
- service project for the community
- an event with the national flags
- meeting times for country of service, like Arkadaslar

Arkadaslar has not begun planning for the rescheduled anniversary, but will most likely reserve one evening for each Turkey group to get together at a local restaurant, and a day or half day of meeting with topics of special interest to us. **ALERT: CONTINUE TO SEND YOUR BIOGRAPHIES TO YOUR GROUP COORDINATOR!!!** Each group will compile these for sharing

among themselves, and we will collect them for the whole of Arkadaslar with the possibility of preparing something for everyone. To mail or email your biographies, contact your group coordinators. They're listed on the last page.

#### OBITUARIES:

The following deaths have been reported to Arkadaslar:

CLIFY (CRYSTAL) HOLME was a T-7, Home Economics. She had been living in Eugene, Oregon and died at age 58 on March 2, 2001 of ovarian cancer.

JOSEPH DALEY, JR. was a T-12 in Urban Community Development. He had been living in San Carlos, Calif. and died in January, 2002.

PIERETTE COUNTRYMAN who died in August, 1999 was known as a friend to volunteers of the T-14 Child Care group and was considered an "honorary volunteer."

CAROLINA BAYRAM DINNER

Former volunteers from seven Turkey PC groups, along with family and friends, gathered at the home of Jordan Scepaniski (T-5) to celebrate Cumhuriyet Bayram on Saturday, October 27, 2001. Judith (Rusnock) Jenkins (T-4) of Leonardtown, Maryland and her husband were this year's out-of-state guests, taking advantage of the Chapel Hill location to visit their daughter and son-in-law while seeing old friends and meeting others who served in Turkey. Participating for the first time in the event was Mary (Lewis) Cameron (T-12), newly elected to the city council of Clemons, North Carolina. (Two other North Carolina public officials--Flicka (Tate) Bateman, a member of the Chapel Hill city council and Sara Parker, NC Supreme Court Justice--were unable to attend but sent greetings.) Regulars who made it (this was the 6th Cumhuriyet gathering of the group) included Lucille (Mayes) Carter (T-3) from Statesville, John Thomas (T-4) of Welcome, Al and Sally Poland (T-6) from Raleigh, Ann Ringland (T-8/9) of Garner, and Jean Arrington (of the foreshortened T-17 group) also from Raleigh. Sampling middle eastern fare and enjoying Turkish spirits, a fine time was had by all. An even larger party is planned for this coming year and friends from other Arkadaslar groups are invited to come south and join in the October celebration.

Submitted by Jordan Scepaniski

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