

Spring 1994

1994 MERHABA'LAR

We have received 253 Arkadaşlar \$15 dues payments for 1994. These 253 dues payers are receiving with this edition of the newsletter a 76-page first-of-its-kind Arkadaşlar directory.

The directory contains alphabetical, Peace Corps group-number, and current place of residence listings for the 701 Peace Corps Turkey people we think we have good addresses for.

If you sent in dues and are not receiving a copy of the directory with this mailing, let us know.

If you did not send in dues and would like a directory, please send onbeş dollar.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Sayın Arkadaşlarım:

This should prove to be an exciting year. Building on our initial efforts of 1993, we now have a network to find old friends and make new ones, a process to bring all suggestions to the table through representatives on the Board, and two projects we are supporting--our way of continuing to help Turkey.

With directory copies available--including a geographical listing-- we should more than several Cumhuriyet Bayramı dinners across the country--and possibly the world--next fall.

Several groups are talking about reunions, and others of you may wish to get together at the national Peace Corps Association's meeting in Atlanta at the end of July.

Please take advantage of the directory to increase your own network; give us your opinions on projects in Turkey we might support, and share your suggestions for Arkadaşlar.

Selamlar,

Sandy Comstock Anderson, T-13

A New CEO for Arkadaşlar

by *Dave Weinman*

FAIRFAX, VA...In a suitably dark room of the TopKapi restaurant here, a not too covert election recently saw a changing of the guard for Arkadaşlar for 1994.

Out of no dissatisfaction and much regret at his leaving, Ken Hill [T-9] was replaced by Sandy Anderson [T-13] as the new CEO.

Arkadaşlar is actually twice blessed. Under Ken's strong leadership, the organizational guise of our fledgling entity has continued to develop. We have forwarded two small grants to Turkey, and even sent out a dues bill. Ken will be with us in spirit, as he moves to new responsibilities as the Peace Corps Rep for Russia/Far East, residing in Vladivostok. Ken, for a job well done, çok teşekkür ederiz.

Acceding to the helm is Dr. Sandy Anderson (T-13), who has been very active on the Arkadaşlar board, and has almost single-handedly developed a current computerized list of Peace Corps/Turkey people together.

Sandy, a long-time Washington resident, has worked for the D.C. government in the educational field for a number of years. She brings to the job a strong interest in furthering the Peace Corps and Turkey. We also owe a debt of thanks to her husband, Charlie, who has provided computer expertise to us for some time.

Arkadaşlar lives, and the next chapter begins!

In addition to Sandy's election, there have been some changes on the Arkadaşlar

Board. All members will now serve a specified term. The 1994 Board members and their terms are:

Sandy Anderson, President
[T-13] 2 yrs.

Ed Block [T-2] 1 year

John Clark [T-4] 3 yrs.

John Gallivan, Newsletter Editor, [T-2] 1 year

Mike Jewell, President Emeritus, [T-1] 1 year

Jean Stern Lavid [T-9] 1 yr.

Mary Ann Leach [T-4] 3 yrs.

Claudia Liebler [T-14] 2 yrs.

Mary Helen Madden, Non-Washington Member, [T-10] 3 yrs

Albert Nekimken, Secretary
[T-13] 2 yrs.

Sandy Pfunder, Counsel
[T-9] 2 yrs.

Linda Sheffer, Treasurer,
[T-8] 3 yrs.

We want to thank Suzanne Grelson [T-4] and Dr. Heath Lowry [T-5] for their contributions over the first two years of Arkadaşlar's existence. Suzanne recently moved to Boston, where she serves as our New England coordinator, and Heath is completing a first year as the newly minted Atatürk Professor of Ottoman and Modern Turkish Studies at Princeton University. We'll hope to see both Suzanne and Heath at least once a year at the annual Cumhuriyet Bayramı dinner. Equally large thanks to Ed Block (T-8) and Albert Nekimken (T-13). Ed rejoins the Peace Corps as Rep in the Baltics, and Albert will be Director of Research for Global Securities Inc. in Istanbul.

Dave Weinman, first Peace Corps Director in Turkey, is the founding father of Arkadaşlar.

NEREDELER?

Neredeler needs a new editor. Albert Nekimken left the following material off on his way to the hava alanı en route to a new job in Istanbul. Any volunteers?

GWEN CATTLE SOLYOM (T-8) reported on her life since leaving Turkey: graduated with a Masters from Georgetown; taught school, and now lives in Lynchburg, VA, with husband Tony and teenaged son Alex. She serves on the boards of community civic organizations and would love to hear from other RPCVs!

BARBARA GOLDSMITH (T-8) wrote from Studio City, California. She has been a "Goldsmith" for 23 years since marrying husband Bill, a psychiatrist. Son Joel is 20 and a junior at Penn; son Alex, age 14, is in 8th grade. She has been an elementary school teacher for the past 23 years... also, a bookstore salesperson, part-time graduate student, full-time mother before beginning a new career as travel agent. PC name while in Turkey was "BARBARA GANCHER"--she was married to DAVID GANCHER, who now lives in Oakland, CA. She hasn't been back to Turkey since her original tour, but vows "I will return one day soon..." Would like to get together with other RPCV Turkey in the Los Angeles area.

SEAN KILLEEN [T-4B] is publisher of the "Lead Belly Society Newsletter." Sean sent a letter on official "Lead Belly" stationery, along with a promo card. He married

Madeline Paul (T-4, Trabzon) in June 1966. After extended sojourns in Germany, Ireland and Iran, they have been in Ithaca, New York, for 20 years while rearing three children, who promptly left for England, Kenya and Indonesia. Madeline is an antiques dealer and appraiser, covering the East from Boca Raton, Florida, to Bangor, Maine. Sean, who is on long-term leave from Cornell University, is writing the definitive biography of Huddie "Lead Belly" Ledbetter, as well as editing the *Lead Belly Newsletter*.

LESLIE PEIRCE (T-4) is also in Ithaca teaching Near Eastern Studies at Cornell. Charlotte (Miller) Jirousek (T-5) lives around the corner from the Kileens and also teaches at Cornell.

KEN HILL (T-9) pushed his Turkish aside, stuffed his head with Russian, and departed at the end of February with his long johns for Vladivostok, Russia, where he is taking up residence (reportedly without servants) as the new Peace Corps Country Director for the Eastern half. He expects to have an APO box forthwith so that we can remain in contact with him and his wife Winnie, who will join him after the thaw. They know what to expect as Ken was selected, in part, after demonstrating his abilities as

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

The National Peace Corps Association (successor organization to the National Council of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers) will hold a 17th annual conference on July 28-31 in Atlanta. A full schedule of plenary sessions, special speakers, workshops and volunteerr projects is planned.

Jill Diskan, [T-4], is serving on the Association's staff, and plans to be centrally available as a focal point for any Turkey folk in attendance. Anyone wanting further information on the conference can call Jill at 202-293-RPCV.

Meanwhile, Jill and other Turkey-4 members are hatching plans for a 30th reunion late in October.

DFT

Arkadaşlar received a nice acknowledgement of last year's \$300 donation to the Development Foundation of Turkey (DFT). The Foundation's Secretary-General, Altan Ünver, recently led the organization in the celebration of its 25th anniversary. Altan remembered the help that Claudia Liebler and other Community Development volunteers provided in helping get various projects started during a crucial 18-month period just prior to DFT's founding. Alan asked to be remembered to all the volunteers who who worked with him at that time.

SEVINÇ ABLA SCHOOL

The director of the school, Sevinç Eraslan, sent a card together with photos of the equipment that she purchased for her hearing-impaired students with the \$700 that Arkadaşlar sent her last year.

For those who tuned in late, the Adana-based "Sevinç Abla Özel Eğitim İlkokulu" represents a pioneering effort to bring education to children with various physical, mental and emotional handicaps who would otherwise find no place in the state public school system. (Typically, such children have been left at home and ignored.)

The school is chartered by the Ministry of Education and receives partial support from it. Other operational funds are raised by independent support groups and a small amount from fees paid by some parents.

Sevinç Eraslan hopes to change the attitude of the public, of parents, and the children themselves; while they have not been accustomed to thinking of these children as capable to achieving much, she has set high expectations and proven that, with love, attention, support, dedicated teachers and some minimal resources, wonders can be accomplished.

For those who would like to correspond directly the school's address is:

Sevinç Abla Çocuk Gelişimi ve Eğitim Merkezi ve İlkokulu
Çınarlı Mah. 125, Sok. no. 7
01120 Adana, Turkey

BOOK REVIEW

Islam and the West, by Bernard Lewis
Oxford University Press, 1993

by Albert Nekimken [T-13]

Those among us who teach Middle Eastern studies or with other professional interests in Turkey and the Middle East need no introduction to the work of Bernard Lewis. Most Arkadaşlar members were introduced to him through his masterful book, *The Emergence of Modern Turkey*, which was used in readings during Peace Corps training.

Although the bibliography of Lewis's publications is formidable, this short volume of 186 pages proves Lewis once again to be a master as well of brevity.

Written in a clear, unencumbered style, the book includes short essays on topics such as:

- "Europe and Islam";
- "The Ottoman Obsession" that is, the obsession of the Europeans with the "pagan menace" from the East;
- "The Question of Orientalism" (in which he skewers Edward Said's *Orientalism* (1978), which achieved some popularity, despite being--in Lewis' view--a travesty of serious scholarship. Lewis grants Said his right, as a Palestinian and as a member of the Palestine National Council to a partisan political position, but charges Said with gross distortions of history, scholarship and common sense.

Another chapter, "The Return of Islam," appeared as well in a recent issue of *Atlantic Monthly* and deals delicately with the "threat"

of Muslim and Arab radicalism, attempting to clear away distortions and misconceptions common in the West. The essay concludes in Lewis' droll, understated style: "Islam is a powerful but still undirected force in politics. As a possible factor in international politics, the present prognosis is not favorable."

From the point of view of those familiar with Turkey, one of Lewis' most refreshing attributes is his application of a profound knowledge of Turkey--with historical and religious depth--to broader discussions of Islam and the Middle East, discussions that often give the impression that "Arab" and "Middle East" are synonymous terms.

He reminds the reader frequently of the Turkish (and Iranian) contributions to Islamic civilization. Secular (so far) modern Turkey is often adduced as having achieved successes in national development to which the surrounding Arab countries are still aspiring.

We and Lewis together continue to hope that Turkey is able to tilt the "prognosis" positively. This book makes an important and pleasurable contribution to our understanding of current trends by putting a solid foundation with historical dimension under discussions that might otherwise float into space.

