

Ed Klinger

Occidental group



I sometimes reflect that almost two minutes of every hour that I have lived was spent in Turkey. From time to time, the memories of the people and my fellow volunteers cascade into my mind and help define my existence. I have been lucky enough to maintain contact with a number of fellow volun-

teers and even have a Turkish lady living in my neighborhood to practice my now-limited Turkish.

Growing up in the Bronx, I never thought that I would end up living in North Carolina via a 35-year career in Fargo, North Dakota. My Peace Corps experience enabled me to make moves to less populated places.

After the Peace Corps, I went to law school and came to Fargo through a clerkship with a federal judge. I thought that I would stay only one year. I quickly realized that Fargo was a progressive community and a great place to raise a family. I joined a local law firm in 1972, and through various ideations in personnel I remained with the group until my complete retirement in 2008.

I truly enjoyed the practice of law. I was involved in many interesting cases. I felt that law was one of the few things that I could do with some success. Unfortunately, hard-driving and over-striving for success, among other issues, ended my first marriage, to Marjut, whom I met while on vacation in Rhodes in 1967. With that marriage I had two wonderful children: Jessica, who works in Los Angeles with CBS, and Jeremy, who practices

law in northern Minnesota. Jeremy and his wife Michelle have a special-needs child, Wyatt.

I am now married, since 1990, to the love of my life, Mary Jo, and through her I have two wonderful stepchildren, Jenel and Jeff. Jeff has a son, Alex, and Jenel has three children, Natalie, Lindsey, and Zack. I am truly blessed to have a life companion—one with whom I can navigate the ups and downs of life. We enjoy visiting all our children and grandchildren. We love being together in our community and enjoy our activities. I cannot imagine being without Mary Jo.

We settled in North Carolina quite by accident. Friends of ours from Fargo retired here, and we visited them quite on a lark. Seeing the coastal area between Wilmington, North Carolina, and Myrtle Beach immediately made us want to settle here. We live in a commu-



Ed, on left, wife Mary Jo on right, former student Hasan Üstün and wife Fetiye, center, Kuşadası, 2010



nity known as St. James. Mary Jo and I live in a vibrant, active community that is replete with activities and opportunities to volunteer to help the surrounding area.

I keep up with two of my students, Alkan and Hasan. Alkan works for the National Institute of Science and Technology in D.C. and Mary Jo and I visited him and his wife while at the reunion. Hasan, a doctor in Muğla, has had heart problems, and I keep up with his condition. Hasan and Alkan were the two students I brought to Adapazari during the summer program in 1967. How

can any of us forget the earthquake that summer? The memory of that experience and its aftermath are always with me.

Since 2009, I have been afflicted with scleroderma. It has limited my activities to some degree, but I do what I can. I truly enjoy the things I can do. We are all aging and many of us are slowing down. I enjoy thinking of the fond memories and friends from my Peace Corps years. I think often of the almost two minutes of every hour of my life spent in the Peace Corps.



Bosphorus ferry at Bebek

MIKE THOMPSON