



TENTH CONVENTION  
OAKLAND CALIFORNIA  
MAY 20-22, 1988



## What Is ATAA?

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The Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA) was founded in 1979 as a non-profit, tax-exempt organization with the goal of promoting a more positive image of Turks and Turkey in the United States through cultural and educational activities. Currently, ATAA unites the Turkish-American community in 44 component associations across the United States and Canada to disseminate information on the history, culture, customs and traditions of the Turkish people.

The Assembly is governed by a Board of Directors and a Board of Trustees, who oversee the financial management of the organization. Ultimate authority rests with the Assembly of Delegates which convenes once a year at the annual convention.

Through community schools, children of Turks in America are educated in the Turkish language, history and traditions. ATAA is actively promoting packets of information on Turkey to be included in school curricula. Through the local organizations teachers of social studies are receiving workshops on how to teach about Turkey. Textbook review committees are forming to remove passages in books which are inaccurate or distort history and include sections where little or nothing is written. The goal is to have our children develop a deep love and knowledge of their Turkish heritage, and have them attend schools where they learn about Turkey's accomplishments.

ATAA's major publication is a quarterly journal *ATA-USA* which brings members up-to-date on the activities of the Assembly, the associations, and presents items of historical, cultural and social interest to the community. At various times ATAA publishes special books, articles and reports on issues that are confronting Turkish-Americans in their daily activities.

The Political Action Committee of the Assembly of Turkish American Associations (PAC-ATAA) was formed to find ways of improving U.S. Turkish relations with respect to the U.S. Congress. Those who do not understand Turkey or who are inimical to Turks and Turkey, for whatever reason, do not go unchallenged when they present their legislation which is designed to undermine close U.S. Turkish ties. Congressmen are advised of the negative ramifications passage of this legislation will have.

Membership in ATAA is automatically conferred on an individual when he or she becomes a member of one of the component associations spread across the United States. The Assembly also accepts applications from individuals at-large. For further information on membership or on other activities, please call the Central Office of the Assembly at (202) 293-4670, or write to ATAA at 2010 Massachusetts Ave., N.W. Washington, D.C. 20036.



## Component Associations of the Assembly

- Turkish American Association of Phoenix, AZ
- American Turkish Association of Southern California, CA
- Hilal Turkish American Islamic Cultural Society, CA
- Turkish American Association of California, CA
- Turkish American Cultural Society, CO
- American Turkish Association, Washington, D.C.
- Florida Turkish American Association, FL
- Florida Turkish American Association Women's Club, FL
- Turkish American Cultural Association, GA
- Turkish American Friendship Association, HI
- Turkish American Cultural Alliance, IL
- Turkish Mosque and Culture Center, IL
- United Turkish Americans, IL
- Turkish American Association, LA
- Turkish American Cultural Society of New England, MA
- Maryland American Turkish Association, MD
- Turkish Children Foster Care, MD
- Turkish American Cultural Association, MI
- Turkish American Neuropsychiatric Association, Inc., MI
- Minnesota Turkish American Association, MN
- Turkish American Association, Greater Kansas City, MO
- Turkish American Friendship Club, St. Louis, MO
- American Association of Crimean Turks, NY
- American Turkish Islamic and Cultural Center, NY
- Anadolu Club, NY
- Turkish American Physicians Association, NY
- Turkish Cultural Alliance, NY
- Turkish Cypriot Aid Society, NY
- Turkish Society of Rochester, NY
- Turkish Women's League of America, NY
- Turkestanian American Association, NY
- Azerbaijan Society of America, NJ
- Karaçay Turks Mosque and Culture, NJ
- Society of Turkish Architects, Engineers and Scientists, NY
- Türkocağı Association, NJ
- Turkish American Association of Central Ohio, OH
- Pittsburgh Turkish American Association, PA
- Turkish American Friendship Society of U.S., PA
- American Turkish Association, Houston, TX
- Turkish American Association of Dallas, TX
- West Texas Turkish American Association, TX
- Turkish American Cultural Association, Seattle, WA
- Turkish American Association of Milwaukee, WI
- Turkish Culture and Folklore Society of Canada



## President's Message

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May 20, 1988  
Hyatt Regency Hotel  
Oakland, California

Dear Friends

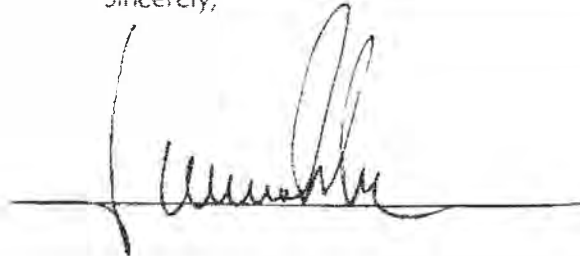
From all across The United States, Canada and Turkey, we have gathered in Oakland, California this year to celebrate our tenth year of service to our Turkish American community, as well as chart our course in the next decade. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all of you who were able to come to Oakland and participate in the convention, and I would like to thank all of those whose contributions, support and hard work, through the years, have given us the Assembly.

As we look back on the road we have come along, we find that the hurdles are higher, and the pitfalls and obstacles have increased and become more difficult to overcome, but our strength and resolve have intensified and our numbers increased. We are speaking with a much stronger, more effective and unified voice. Our members are facing their detractors with documented facts and figures that prick holes in their faulty arguments.

We are still a long way from our goal of an America where Turks are known and respected for their accomplishments rather than defamed in distorted versions of history. We are having an impact in the fields of education, business, government, and the media but in this next decade it must increase dramatically. We must grow in numbers of dedicated, hard-working members, not just countering charges and attacks, but also giving the American public positive images of Turks and Turkey, and an appreciation of our rich cultural heritage.

Let us go back into our communities with the resolve that in the next ten years the tide is going to turn very much in our favor and that we will have these days of accusations and allegations behind us. As I serve as President, I look forward to working with all of you on this challenge we face together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tunca Iskir', written over a horizontal line.

Tunca Iskir  
President

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 13, 1988

I am delighted to greet the members of the Assembly of Turkish American Associations as you gather at your 10th Annual Convention.

I would like to congratulate you on your role in enhancing the part that Turkish Americans play in our great country and in the preservation of your heritage. You also remind all Americans of the important place of Turkey in NATO and the Western Alliance and of the invaluable role it has played in the fight for democracy in the world. Americans and Turks fought side by side in Korea to preserve freedom for the Korean people, and today, Americans and Turks are joined together as partners in the NATO Alliance.

You have my best wishes for a pleasant convention in my home State of California and for continued success.

*Ronald Reagan*



## Message from His Excellency Kenan Evren President of the Turkish Republic

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I am pleased to have the opportunity to address this message to all the Turkish-American associations as well as my fellow citizens and Turkish-Americans on the occasion of the 10th Annual Convention of the Assembly of Turkish American Associations.

I am following with pleasure the achievements of my fellow citizens and Turkish-Americans aimed at promoting our culture and making the voice and the strength of the Turkish presence heard and recognized in the United States.

Currently we are going through a period of a series of efforts designed to promote the friendly and allied relations existing between Turkey and the United States in a manner mutually beneficial to both of these countries, a period in which various circles, because of their ill-willed intentions and narrow-interest calculations, are disturbed by these efforts and they are exerting extensive pressure with an aim to adversely affect such relations.

For this reason, it is of greater importance than ever before that you continue your activities in unity and intensify your efforts with faith and determination in order to prevent the initiatives of these circles from succeeding. Your efforts will be, as they have been in the past, an important contribution toward making our country better known in the United States and in overcoming the problems that we face there.

I am fully confident that your activities, which are deeply appreciated, will continue to expand. With such confidence, let me wish all the success to the Assembly of Turkish American Associations and extend through you to all my fellow citizens and Turkish-Americans, as well as to all our American friends, my affection and warmest regards.

Kenan Evren  
President of the  
Turkish Republic



## Message from His Excellency Turgut Özal Prime Minister of Turkey

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On the occasion of the 10th Annual Convention of the Assembly of the Turkish American Associations, it is indeed a great pleasure for me to address, once more, my fellow citizens and Turkish Americans, living thousands of miles away from their native land.

I closely follow your efforts, aimed, on the one hand, at increasing the number of our American friends through living in complete harmony with the American society of which you are a part; and on the other hand, at maintaining your cultural identity and passing on to your children Turkish national and cultural values and virtues.

However, I also follow, with concern, the activities of certain circles aimed at damaging Turkish-American friendship and the Turkish image in America as well as impeding your continuing activities. Therefore, I expect that, not only you, but all of our fellow Turks in the United States will strengthen, hand-in-hand, their unity and solidarity. Moreover, taking into consideration the great importance of your efforts aimed at uniting Turkish Americans with our other American friends in order to forestall the initiatives of those ill-motivated circles which are conducting a propaganda campaign against Turkey and to protect the common interests of Turkey and the United States, I sincerely believe that your efforts should be further intensified. Do not forget that in all your efforts, Turkey is with you and is ready to provide you with support and assistance.

On this occasion, I would like to emphasize my belief that ATAA, as an organization setting an example for Turkish associations in other countries, will make Turkey's voice more effectively heard and her presence recognized. I wish you the greatest success for your 10th Annual Convention and I convey my respects and affection.

Turgut Özal  
Prime Minister of the  
Turkish Republic

TURKISH EMBASSY

WASHINGTON, D C

Dear Turkish Americans and Members of the Assembly of Turkish American Associations,

It is always an honor to greet the members of the Assembly of Turkish American Associations as you gather for your annual convention. Never have I been as pleased to offer my salutations than on the occasion of the ATAA's 10th convention.

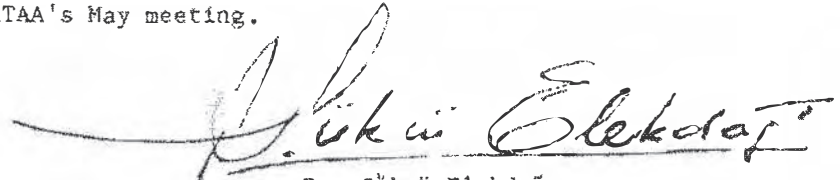
As you celebrate this milestone anniversary gathering, it is with great pride that I congratulate each one of you for your contributions to American society placing Turkish Americans in the forefront of civic activity.

Since its inception ATAA has provided a strong educative function in U.S. society, acting as a beacon to your fellow citizens in countering forces hostile to Turkey which seek to undermine the important Turkish-American relationship, a cornerstone of NATO.

ATAA's involvement in the political and public life of the U.S. is crucial to the future positive relationship between the United States and Turkey. In this important election year in the U.S., it is an appropriate time to take stock of ATAA's past accomplishments and its plan for the future. What is the most useful role for ATAA as we enter a new century? What actions will benefit ATAA's goals and those of Turkish Americans? What issues are of greatest relevance to insuring the strength and resilience of the U.S.-Turkish alliance?

ATAA has been enormously successful against formidable odds in strengthening the bonds of friendship between Turkey and the U.S. ATAA has managed to battle old myths and those dedicated to perpetuating them. It has provided increased understanding and enlightenment in areas long marked by misrepresentation and confusion. Recently, for example, ATAA handled the adaptation of a new film "Myth of Terror" to dispel old and untrue accusations about Turkey and the Ottoman Empire, dating from early in the 20th century. These activities are essential in providing historical accuracy to pertinent issues which threaten to needlessly undermine mutual understanding and growth between the Turkish and American people.

I salute ATAA and the organization's past success. I also welcome and respect ATAA's willingness to always be at the forefront of successfully meeting new challenges. My gratitude and kudos extend from the East Coast to the West Coast and back again and I wish you every success for ATAA's May meeting.



Dr. Şükrü Elekdağ  
Ambassador of the  
Turkish Republic



## Board of Directors

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Armağan Sanver	First Vice President
Cüneş Karahasan	Secretary General
Korkut Onal	Treasurer
Dr. Kemal Gökner	Past President
Dr. Engin Holmstrom	V.P. Capital Region

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Dr. Tamer Açıkalin	V.P. South & Southwest Region
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Dr. Bülent Başol	V.P. Western Region
Acar Caner	V.P. Midcentral Region
Birtan Aka Collier	V.P. Northcentral Region
Şadi Dinlenç	V.P. New York Metro Region
Dr. Altan Kodanaz	V.P. Midwest Region
Dian Pekin	V.P. Northwest Region

## Board of Trustees

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## Committee Chairpersons

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Dr. Hasan Akdemir	Bylaws
Bülent Başol	Membership
Geraldine Hakimoğlu	Central Fund Raising
Bonnie Kaslan	Council on Education and Public Affairs
Osman Soyer	Political Action Committee



## Endowment Fund Contributors of Distinction

To insure the economic well-being of the Assembly in the years ahead an endowment fund was established for the Assembly in 1986. Ambassador Club members have contributed over \$5,000.00 to the fund. For a contribution of between \$2,500.00 and \$4,999.00, a person becomes a member of the President's Club. Those in the Benefactor's Club have contributed from \$1,000.00 to \$2,499.00. Patron's Club members have contributed from \$500.00 to \$999.00.

### Ambassador's Club

Remzi Ağan	'86	Albert Nahum, M.D.	'86
Tarhan Danişman	'86	İbrahim Günyüzü	'86
Lenny Epperson	'86	Mustafa Onal, M.D.	'86
Ender Erenoğlu	'86	Gültekin Ovacık, M.D.	'86
Ahmet Erteğün	'86	Nuri Sabuncu	'86
Tunca Iskir	'86	Osman Soyer	'86
Robert Gray	'86	Nevzat Türkmen, M.D.	'86
Ahmed Kafadar	'86	Erol Üçer, M.D.	'86
Alp Karahasan, M.D., Ph.D.	'86	Aytekin Ülgen, M.D.	'86
Victor Kent, M.D.	'86	Ülku Ülğur, M.D.	'86

### President's Club

Süleyman Sarpel, M.D., '88

### Benefactor's Club

M.S. Akaydın, M.D.	'86	Ali İsmailoğlu, M.D.	'86
Sümer Aygen, M.D.	'86	Altan Kodanaz, M.D.	'86
Vedii Ayyıldız, M.D.	'87	Zülfıye Köymen	'86
Ömer Başer	'87	Ali Manızade	'86
Yılmaz Durudoğan, M.D.	'86	Mike Saraç	'86
Ender Erenoğlu, M.D.	'87	Suphi Sürmeli, M.D.	'86
Namık Ersöz, M.D.	'86	Yusuf Süveyke	'86
Yılmaz Eryasa, M.D.	'86	Orhan Tanrıku	'87
Mucel Fuad (Team Machine)	'87	Mahir Tekin, M.D.	'86
Seçuk Gencer	'86	Şerafettin Tombuloğlu, M.D.	'86
M.F. Göklen, M.D.	'86	Cevdet Turan, M.D.	'86
Naside Gwin	'87	Orhan Yirmibesh	'86

### Patron's Club

Hasan Akdemir, M.D.	'86	Sami Tekiner	'87
Ender Kaya	'86	Engin Tilev	'88
Cevat Neziroğlu, M.D.	'87	Turhan Tilev	'88
Vicdan Şenler, M.D.	'86		



# History of ATAA

by Joan Weeks

In 1979, there was a crying need to address the attacks, the distortions of history, and the discrimination the Turkish-American community was facing every day in their jobs, at schools their children attended, and in their daily lives. Isolated local, Turkish-American organizations were unable to cope with the massive work that needed to be done nationwide.

In the aftermath of threats of yet another arms embargo passing through Congress with virtually no Turkish voice raised in opposition, a series of meetings were held in the Washington, D.C. area. Under the auspices of His Excellency the Ambassador of Turkey, Dr. Şükrü Elekdağ, members of the Board of Directors of the American Turkish Association of Washington, D.C. with its president, Yavuz Somen, and the Maryland American Turkish Association, headed by the late Dr. Alp Karahasan, agreed to establish the nationwide *Assembly of Turkish American Associations*.

Washington, D.C. was chosen to be the headquarters of the new organization to utilize the vast opportunities for promoting U.S. Turkish relations among policy makers. A Secretariat for the Assembly was established to coordinate the activities, publish a nationwide bulletin and generally be the central source of information on Turks and Turkey. For this purpose office space was provided by Adil Araboğlu, a Washington business leader, and the Assembly was in business.

Clearly the tasks that lay ahead were enormous and the resources limited. The first ball was a fund-raising activity sponsored by ATA DC and MATA, and held on December 19, 1987 at the Turkish Embassy. One hundred and forty-six people managed to raise \$17,470 for the Assembly. The first *ATA-USA* was published in February, 1980 and news about Turks and Turkey premiered nationwide.

With coordinating committee members Yavuz Somen, Ekrem Bulgur, and Yurdakul Göker from ATA, and the late Alp Karahasan, Ulkü Ülgür, and Cenap Kıratlı from MATA, plans for convening the general assembly on May 17-18, 1980 in the nation's capital pressed forward with great speed. More than 120 people representing 26 organizations and 5 student associations gathered at the Embassy Row Hotel during this two-day conference and brought plans on the drawing board into reality. The delegates elected the Coordinating Committee members to a special Steering Committee adding Sengun Nuri and Taşkın Atıl. Their task was to draw a constitution and bylaws for the Assembly to be presented to the delegates at the next annual convention.

Founded to deal with issues confronting the community, the Assembly was not to be given time to grow and mature slowly, but rather would have to come on as an adult and face Armenians crying "genocide," and trying to include their grievances in a national museum dedicated to the memory of six million Jews murdered by the Nazis during World War II. The "Midnight Express" image of Turks and Turkey was constantly being shown with even President Carter giving it free advertising. Now there was an organization

that was writing letters with the weight of the whole Turkish-American community behind it. Publications were giving the members information about the issues to enable them to set the record straight when they encountered distortions and attacks on their Turkish heritage.

The second general meeting of the Assembly was held on November 15th and 16th, 1980 at which time the bylaws were adopted, officers were elected and Articles of Incorporation were filed. During this time 21 Turkish American Associations ratified the bylaws and became official members of the Assembly. Dr. Ulkü Ülgür became the first President assisted by Yavuz Somen, Vice President; Ali Ferda Sevin, Secretary; and Sengun Nuri, Treasurer.

A gala New Year's Eve Fundraising Ball held at the Turkish Embassy got the Assembly off to a very good start in 1981, raising over \$24,000. Now the Turkish voice was being heard in new areas of the United States with letters protesting unjust or one-sided views of Turkey, letters congratulating elected officials and information in response to inquiries about Turkey sent out regularly.

To permit wider participation in the general meeting, it was decided to hold the third convention April 11-12, 1981 in New York. At the opening session, held at the Sheraton Centre Hotel, Armenians demonstrated and marched outside on 7th Avenue. However, delegates and members attentively listened to presentations by Representative Stephen Solarz (D-NY) and Representative Fred Richmond (D-NY) as well as prominent Turkish diplomats. Ambassador Elekdağ emphasized the fraternity of Turkish-Americans in his speech.

May 19, 1981, marked the launching of year-long celebrations for the centennial of Atatürk's birth. Several American cities, including New York, Chicago, San Francisco and Pittsburgh issued proclamations honoring Atatürk, thus raising public awareness of the immense contributions of our great leader.

This year also saw more Turks taking part in T.V. debates, sending letters to their congressmen and initiating letter campaigns on issues that concern them. One of the main issues was the Armenian attempts to have their exhibit included in the Holocaust Museum, which was intended to commemorate the Nazi destruction of over six million Jews. Dr. Leon Picon, a long-time friend and hard working volunteer for ATAA was at the forefront of a campaign to present the highly positive picture of Turkish-Jewish relations and explain the very erroneous and detrimental nature of the Armenian attempts to include their materials in the museum.

By the end of 1981, 27 regional and national Turkish-American associations and 6 student organizations had joined the Assembly. The collaboration and increased communication among the component associations of the Assembly had markedly improved the representation of the Turkish community in the U.S.

1982 started off on a very sad note when Armenian terrorism took a deadly turn on January 28th



with the assassination of the Turkish Consul General of Los Angeles, Kemal Arıkan. Our community knew now that the survival of our ideals, our liberties and even our lives were in jeopardy. ATAA published an ad in the Washington Post and Los Angeles Times to publicize the vicious and vindictive nature of Armenian terrorists to a largely unaware American public.

Dr. Ülgür made a trip to Turkey to meet with government officials and members of the business community, especially those associated with TÜSIAD. He was received by the Prime Minister and other officials concerned with U.S. Turkish relations and was encouraged by their pleasure at ATAA efforts to promote better relations between the two countries.

All aboard the Turkish Express joined their compatriots in Chicago for the fourth annual meeting, April 17-18, 1982. Originating in Washington, D.C. and joined by contingents from New York and other cities along the way, the Turkish Express train brought conventioners to a two-day, highly profitable annual meeting. Speakers featured were Senator Charles Mathias, Jr. from Maryland and Congressman Paul Findley from Illinois.

A return trip to Turkey, August 20-30, 1982, was in the offing for a seven-person delegation at the request of the Turkish Head of State, Kenan Evren. Armenian terrorism and the image of Turks in America formed the primary focus of the discussions.

As 1982 came to an end the Assembly now numbered 34 member associations. Public education and public affairs, civil rights and legal representation of Turkish-Americans were the most important activities undertaken in the past year.

The process of building a national Turkish-American unity was carried to a new plane with the construction of a national agenda for the Assembly at the Fifth Annual Convention held in Atlanta, Georgia from April 15-17, 1983, at the world famous Westin Peachtree Plaza. Congressman Larry McDonald of Georgia gave a very well documented presentation on international terrorism. Senator John Chafee of Rhode Island spoke on the status of the proposed security assistance for Turkey in Congress. Four new associations joined the Assembly for a total of 38 member organizations. On April 16th as part of the Assembly's Fifth Annual Meeting, a charter for the Council on Education was accepted and this important division of ATAA was inaugurated under the chairmanship of Armağan Sarver. Its agenda was far reaching in scope, performing services for the community on a national level. It would synthesize the major issues confronting the community and coordinate the efforts to resolve the problems brought to it by the associations.

Although the Assembly was still a young organization its voice was being heard. On May 27, 1983 T.V. Channel 26 (WETA, Virginia) aired a movie titled, "The Forgotten Genocide." The Assembly asked for and received equal time. On June 24, 1983, the First Vice President, Taşkın Atıl, and Dr. Justin McCarthy debated two members of the Armenian community and successfully presented the Turkish point of view.

To protest the inclusion of Armenian materials in the Holocaust Museum the Assembly submitted articles to major Jewish newspapers, effectively

communicating the facts behind this effort to more than a million Jewish-Americans.

1983 also marked the inception of a major fundraising drive to build a Turkish-American Cultural Center in the Nation's Capital. In the initial phase over \$20,000 was collected for this project. Additionally to raise funds, Mrs. Ayla Elekdag opened the doors of the Embassy and held a very successful Turkish bazaar in November with all profits going to the Assembly, as she has done every year since the beginning of ATAA. In December, Ambassador and Mrs. Elekdag hosted a Turkish Republic Sixtieth Anniversary Fund Raising Ball with all profits going to the Assembly's educational and cultural programs. ATAA spearheaded a fundraising drive for the victims of a devastating earthquake in Eastern Turkey that claimed over 7,100 lives as 1983 came to an end and a check for \$41,000 was presented to Mrs. Elekdag at this ball to be forwarded to the survivors in Turkey. Through the years she has been a tireless and highly successful fundraiser for the Assembly.

Cyprus came to the forefront of the issues confronting the Assembly as 1984 began. In Congress, a bill was introduced to ban aid to Turkey until it withdrew its recognition of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

On May 17-20, 1984 the Assembly held its Sixth Convention at the Washington Hilton in the Nation's Capital. Dr. Kemal Gökner became ATAA's second President. A White House conference was a highlight of the convention, organized in response to a President Reagan meeting with Greek and Armenian community members. A fashion show by Zuhal Yorgancıoğlu gave attendees a great deal of pride in their Turkish cultural heritage.

On September 10, 1984, the House passed Resolution 247 designating April 24th as an Armenian National Day of Remembrance and not a single representative raised a voice against it. The time had come to have the Turkish-American voice effectively heard in Congress. Under the guidance of Taşkın Atıl the Political Action Committee of the Assembly was formed. Now the members of the community could make contributions to the congressional campaigns and put the weight of all Turkish-Americans behind them.

To bring the Assembly closer to the membership, a series of regional meetings were held in 1984. In New York the focus was on the lack of Turkish history in the American school system. On October 6-7, 1984 members gathered in Chicago for the Midwest Regional meeting and discussed "Youth and Grass Roots Activities of Turkish-American Associations."

Again, Armenian terrorists struck with deadly aim—this time at the Turkish Embassy in Canada where a guard was killed and the Ambassador injured. Immediately following this attack on April 1, 1985 Ali Ferda Sevin, ATAA's First Vice President at the time, appeared on the MacNeil Lehrer News Hour to debate and analyze the attack with an Armenian spokesman. Sevin, with clear precise, very factual statements, was able to expose viewers to the treacherous and far reaching consequences of Armenian terrorism.

Prime Minister Özal visited the United States in April and ATAA hosted an elegant dinner in his honor at the Washington Hilton. Also in attendance were



over 60 members of the Grand National Assembly and many prominent Turkish businessmen.

New Orleans, famed for its hospitality, left no one disappointed at the Seventh Convention, held May 2-5, 1985 at the Sheraton. The issues discussed focused on the American academic response to Armenian claims and on youth concerns. Creole cuisine, jazz and Turkish folk dancing made the annual banquet a huge success.

The issue of greatest concern in 1985 was the Armenian resolution before Congress. One of the most beneficial and crucial documents that was presented to congressmen was the declaration by 69 eminent American Scholars of Ottoman and Turkish history that refuted the basic tenants of the resolution. The Assembly published this declaration in *The Washington Post* and *The New York Times* to draw public attention to this insidious resolution. 1985 ended on an upbeat note with the defeat of this resolution on December 12th.

In February, 1986 a very special Strategic Planning Group comprising members of the Board of Trustees, Board of Directors and Committee Chairpersons assembled and issued a communique detailing areas where the Assembly needed to grow and where the organizational structure needed fine tuning.

In the Spring of 1986, ATAA issued a Special Report on the suffering of the Turkish minority in Bulgaria. Members were informed on actions to take with human rights organizations to focus world public opinion on the Bulgarian Government gun-point assimilation campaign. At the Eighth Convention, held in Washington, D.C., a resolution was passed by the delegates condemning the human rights abuses of the Bulgarian Government and which set in motion a protest campaign.

Another major issue presented at the Convention was the current status of U.S. Turkish relations. Ajda Pekkan was the superstar entertainment attraction at the annual banquet, much to the delight of everyone. During the delegates meeting the reins of leadership passed to Tarhan Danişman who became the third President of the Assembly, and the Assembly gained three new associations for a total of 41 under the umbrella.

In September an international bazaar for trade and business was held at New Hampshire College. College educators and local business leaders were amazed at the stumbling blocks Turkey's foes put into U.S. Turkish relations. In Newark, NJ, members of the ATAA Board of Directors met with the leadership of the New York Federation to issue a unity communique.

A major trip to Turkey by the Assembly leadership provided high visibility of ATAA's activities in the United States to the Turkish public. Both President Evren and Prime Minister Ozal received the delegation, as well as ministers and parliamentarians.

During November a North Central Regional Conference was held in Michigan bringing the Assembly in touch with Turkish-American psychiatrists from around the country. Also in November, a community forum was held in New York to point out how vital community involvement is in solving the problems faced by Turkish-Americans.

ATAA visited Florida in January and in March participated in a Southern Regional Conference in New Orleans. A highly successful First Youth Convention held in Princeton, N.J. followed in April. The young Turkish-Americans left with a deep pride in their Turkish heritage and a resolve to carry on the Assembly's work in their communities.

With the magnificence of Süleyman in Washington, D.C. the venue for the Ninth Convention had to be the Nation's Capital. With this backdrop the convention took on a special elegance. Four congressmen really drove home the point that Turkish-American input was welcome and desperately needed when issues concerning Turkey came up in Congress. Delegates admitted three new associations and the Assembly now numbers 44 component associations.

In June President Danişman stepped down having a different set of goals and objectives for the Assembly than those agreed upon by the Board of Directors. The treasurer, Tunca Iskr, was nominated by the Board and became the fourth ATAA President.

Waiting until many were on vacation and the Congress was just about to adjourn, the Armenians made their major thrust to run their resolution through Congress. With a night and day major letter writing, telephoning, and visiting campaign by all of Turkey's admirers, this legislation was defeated on August 7, 1987.

The Armenians lost this one but were more active than ever in California trying to put their version of history into the social studies curriculum. New York has a similar curriculum under study. A second printing of *Armenian Allegations: Myth and Reality* has just been published and will give us a valuable tool as we confront this unceasing attack on our very essence.

As we hold our special 10th Convention here in California, let us strengthen our resolve and deepen our commitment to our work in the next decade.

## **Distinguished Service Award Recipients**

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Each year the Assembly bestows its Distinguished Service Award on the person or persons who have given extraordinary service to the Turkish-American community.

RALPH ROPP	1984
TARHAN DANIŞMAN	1985
LEON PICON	1986
BONNIE JOY KASLAN & BEKİR ONURSAL	1987
ALP KARAHASAN, M.D., PH.D.	1988

## **Turkish-American of the Year Award Recipients**

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This exclusive award is presented each year to a person of Turkish descent who has come to this country or was born here and has achieved an outstanding degree of success in his field to the point that it has brought honor to our Turkish-American community. Also, this person has to have made an outstanding contribution toward the pursuit of our Assembly goals. They are a role model for all of us to follow.

AHMED KAFADAR	1984
AYHAN HAKİMOĞLU	1985
EROL ONARAN	1987
NURİ SABUNCU	1988

## **Assembly's Gold Medal of Honor Award**

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Each year the Assembly has honored those individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to ATAA and to the Turkish American community. However a special award was created to honor an individual whose accomplishments had a nationwide impact on all Americans.

DR. ESİN ATIL	1987
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Altinyıldız Group  
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is proud to wish  
the Assembly every  
success

Altinyıldız  
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Borusan Holding A.Ş.  
join to wish further  
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ESKA  
with best wishes  
in this 10th year  
to the Assembly of  
the Turkish American Association

Eska Construction  
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Congratulations  
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BEST WISHES FOR THE  
ASSEMBLY OF  
TURKISH AMERICAN  
ASSOCIATIONS

YUSUF ÖZER



# PROFILO İHRACAT A.Ş.

Congratulations to the  
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with thanks for great service  
to our countries.

Profilo İhracat A.Ş.  
2. Taşocağı Sok. 26-28  
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Turkey

Best wishes for continued  
success  
to the  
Assembly of Turkish American  
Associations

Süzer Dışticaret AŞ  
Yol Sokak, Süzer İşhanı  
Esentepe, İstanbul



Tekfen Mühendislik A.Ş.  
wish to extend their  
best wishes and congratulations  
to  
the Assembly of Turkish American  
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Vitreous ceramic wall and floor tiles.

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All types of coated and uncoated writing/printing paper, tissue/wrapping paper, special papers.

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Extraction and supply of various minerals and industrial raw materials.

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Wishing the  
Assembly continued  
success

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ULUSOY TURİZM VE  
SEYAHAT KOLL. ŞTİ.  
extend their best wishes  
for another year of growth  
and success to the  
Assembly

ULUSOY TURİZM VE  
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KASIMPAŞA CADDESİ NO. 5  
SAMSUN, TURKEY





Arrivals from the "Turkish Express" train are welcomed to Chicago for the fourth Convention, April 17-18, 1982.



Conventioners listen to issues affecting the community at the fifth Convention in Atlanta, Georgia, April 15-17, 1983.

# Şimdi İstanbul'da yaşamak hayal etmekten daha güzeldir.



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Congratulations to  
the Assembly of Turkish American Associations  
on its 10th Anniversary

 + IBM x 50





Turkish dancers delight the audience at the Chicago Convention.



Ottoman History is featured at the Ninth Convention in Washington, D.C., May 8-10, 1987.





BRUCE WALDMAN

## ARAS INTERNATIONAL

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ŞADI AND GÖNÜL DİNLENÇ  
congratulate the Assembly  
for their 10th Anniversary  
and wish continuation  
of its success

FISHKILL ENGINEERING, P.C.  
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General Dynamics salutes the  
Assembly of Turkish-American Associations  
for a decade of service to promote  
U.S.-Turkish friendship.

**GENERAL DYNAMICS**  
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# Amerika'daki TÜRK'ün “Gözü, Kulağı ve Sesi..”



# Hürriyet

GÜNLÜK MUSTAKİL SİYASÎ GAZETE

“BÜYÜK GAZETE”





Young Turkish Americans Aylin Albayrak and Kerem Çetinbaş remember their heritage at the bicentennial celebrations.



Delegates gather tourism information about Turkey from the 1986 Washington Convention.

*"Compared to the Past, we shall work harder. We shall accomplish greater deeds in less time. I have no doubt that we shall achieve greatness once more. Because, the moral standards of the Turkish nation are high. The Turkish nation is hard-working, the Turkish nation is intelligent. Because, with national unity and pride, the Turkish nation has always been able to overcome the obstacles."*

*M. Kemal Atatürk*

(from the speech commemorating  
the 10th anniversary of the Turkish  
Republic, October 29, 1933)

TURKISH SOCIETY OF ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

Nory Construction Co.  
gives best regards  
to the  
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Associations





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*Congratulations to the  
Assembly of Turkish  
American Associations for  
their sincere efforts in  
promoting the image of  
Turkey over the last ten  
years.*



The M.W. Kellogg Company, the technology-driven engineering and construction arm of Dresser Industries, Inc. – and a proud member of the Turkish-U.S. Business Council and the American Turkish Association – salutes ATAA on its decade of service.



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CONGRATULATIONS  
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on its  
10TH ANNIVERSARY

**ATA-SC**  
NİCE SENELERE

The Assembly of Turkish American Associations has many achievements  
to its credit, yet there is so much to be done.

The Assembly needs your time, your help, and your financial support.

*Please send your tax-deductible contributions to...*

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