

ATAA



Assembly of Turkish American Associations

13th Annual Convention

New York City, NY, U.S.A.

June 4 - 7, 1992



ATAA

**ASSEMBLY OF
TURKISH AMERICAN ASSOCIATIONS**

Turkey
Kazakhstan
Azerbaijan
South Azerbaijan
Baskirdistan
Karaçay-Malkar
Dagistan
Çeçen-Ingush
Turkmenistan
Uzbekistan
Kirgizistan
Tajikistan
Yakutistan
Uigurs
Tatars
Crimea
Gagavuz
Karaim
Hazar
Cyprus
Germany
France
England
Austria
Holland
Greece
Bulgaria
Yugoslavia
Kosova
Iraq
Israel
Australia
Belgium
Sweden
Bosna-Herzegovina
Canada
USA

Ready for the The Turkish Century of Peace & Prosperity

This Convention is dedicated to all Turks Around the World

What is ATAA?

The Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA) is the national grassroots organization of Turkish Americans and friends of Turks in the United States. ATAA was founded in 1979 as a non-profit, 501(c)(3) corporation that develops and implements educational programs.

ATAA represents its constituents vis-a-vis the U.S. Congress, Executive Branch, media, Federal and State governments, and the general public. The Assembly is composed of Turkish American organizations and individual members. It maintains a headquarters office in Washington D.C.

The Assembly is governed by a Board of Directors and a Board of Trustees, who oversee the financial management of the organization. Its Assembly of Delegates, members and friends convene once a year at the annual convention.

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 Turkish culture. Textbook review committees work 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 the bi-weekly *The Turkish Times*, in print since January 1989, which brings the American public up-to-date on news relating to Turkey and the Turkish World, the activities of the Assembly, the associations, and presents items of historical, cultural and social interest. At various times ATAA also publishes special books, articles and reports on issues that are confronting Turkish-Americans in their daily activities. *ATAA Bookstore* makes available six times a year -- through its Catalog published in *The Turkish Times* -- hard-to-find books on Turkish history and culture.

The national *Media Watch and Media Response Committee* monitors the top 50 markets for accuracy in their coverage of Turkish and Turkish-American issues, and responds when necessary via grassroots.

In 1989, ATAA, through its *Business Network Council*, has begun serving the individuals both in Turkey and the United States by acting as a liaison and center for businessmen to develop contacts and obtain information.

The President-elect and Board of Directors are elected for two-year terms while members of the Board of Trustees are elected for four-year terms.

In its central office, ATAA has a full-time staff and employs other professionals on an "as-needed basis." It also utilizes the services of volunteer workers throughout the United States and Canada.

ATAA has proven its worth since 1979 by courageously standing up to the well-financed anti-Turkish agendas and has done so by relying exclusively on the generous tax-deductible donations of its members.

ATAA
1522 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036
(202) 483-9090

ATAA President's Message to the 13th Annual Convention

It has been my pleasure and honor to preside over the work of ATAA for the last two years. This organization has kept constant vigil on Turkish interests in the nation's capital, speaking for Turkish-Americans and friends of Turks for the last 13 years. The last two years have been especially exciting and rewarding as we witnessed a watershed event in the collapse of Soviet hegemony over populations that include more Turks than those in Turkey and the anchor role Turkey played in the Gulf crisis.

We were in New York for our third convention in 1981. It was the first away from Washington. New York is home again to our thirteenth. On the way back to New York, we have been to Chicago, Atlanta, New Orleans, and San Francisco with Washington, D.C. alternating as the headquarters host in the intervening years. Along the way, each convention has found us with new challenges. When the military intervened to prevent total collapse of Turkish society and Lebanonization of Turkey under terrorists who were out of control, we had to explain that the military in Turkey was not what most Americans imagined from visions of some banana republics. Explaining the unique role of the military in building democracy in Turkey was one of our first challenges. Clarifying the difference between lawful intervention and imperial invasion was another challenge when the Greek lobby came out full force in the Cyprus situation. The yearly ritual of congressional deliberations on the "Armenian genocide" resolution gave us a continuing challenge in defining the difference between genocide and civil war. We have explained the difference between Kurds in general and the Marxist terrorist Kurds in PKK, and the difference between illegal police brutality and state sponsored torture. All of these have been reactions to the anti-Turkish activists who continue to confuse the unsuspecting Americans by code words such as "invasion," "torture," and "genocide."

We also took up the plight of Bulgarian Turks and Turks in Greece whose civil rights were brutally violated. We embarked upon an ambitious program of educating the teachers of America and taking anti-Turkish propaganda out of textbooks so that future generations of Americans, including elected officials, will not be as gullible as the past generations to believe the enemies of Turks. The books we have sponsored and those we have endorsed, too numerous to mention here, reach every inquiring mind with information about Turks. The issue papers we develop on significant issues of concern to us inform our constituents to prepare them for individual grass roots action. *The Turkish Times*, our newspaper, reaches every important corner of the U.S. every two weeks with news about and opinions of Turks.

In the last two years of my service, we have appeared on C-SPAN concerning the Gulf crisis, on CNN concerning human rights, on National Network Radio concerning the Armenian issue, and on a British documentary film to be aired by London's Channel 4 in the fall concerning the Armenian issue. We have testified in the U.S. Congress for aid to Turkey in the aftermath of the Gulf crisis. We have continued to actively pursue correspondence with the media and the U.S. government, taking full advantage of the work of our *Media Watch and Media Response Committee* that keeps tabs on major newspapers that address 80 percent of the population. We celebrated the *Turkish Heritage Week* in 1991 and 1992 with cultural programs throughout nation's capital, ending with the 3-day showcase held in the Washington Convention Center featuring the theme "*Istanbul on the Potomac.*" With our newly established committees on *Culture* and on *Turks Around the World*, we have begun to reach out to our cousins in the Eurasian nations that have found their freedom since the collapse of Soviet communism.

The challenges in the future will be every bit as demanding and the Assembly will need to continue attracting new talent and to improving its funding sources to carry on its work. With the incoming leadership, I have every expectation that it will do so.

Ali Ferda Sevin
President

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(as of June 5, 1992)

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(as of 1991)

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Hasan Yumuk -- Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

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Suphi Saatçi -- Iraqi Turcomans Hearth

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Cabbar Göklenoglu, Ph.D. -- Turkmenistan Turkish Republic

Abdürrahim Polatov, Ph.D. -- Uzbekistan Turkish Republic

Muhammet Salih -- Uzbekistan Turkish Republic

Olcas Süleymanov -- Kazakhstan Turkish Republic

Sabitkazi Akatayev, Ph.D. -- Kazakhstan Turkish Republic

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Raif Amirov, Ph.D. -- Baskirdistan Autonomous Turkish Republic

Mustafa Cemiloglu -- Crimea Autonomous Turkish Republic

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Georgi-Güngör Ratkoglo -- Gökoguz Autonomous Turkish Republic

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Reyhan Ismail -- Romanian Turks

Musa Serdar Çelebi -- European Turks

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(continues)

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Member Associations of the ATAA

American Association of Crimean Turks, Inc.
American Turkish Association of Houston
American Turkish Association of North Carolina
American Turkish Association of Southern California
American Turkish Association of Washington, D.C.
American Turkish Islamic and Cultural Center, Inc.
Anadolu Club
Azerbaijan Society of America
Balkan Turks of America
Florida Turkish American Association
Florida Turkish American Association Women's Club
Hilal Turkish American Islamic Cultural Society
Karaçay Turks Mosque and Cultural Association
Maryland American Turkish Association
Minnesota Turkish American Association
New England Turkish American Cultural Society, Inc.
Pittsburgh Turkish American Association
Society of Turkish Architects Engineers and Scientists
Solidarity of Balkan Turks of America, Inc.
Turkestanian American Association
Turkish American Association of Ankara, Turkey
Turkish American Association of California
Turkish American Association of Central Ohio
Turkish American Association of Greater Kansas City
Turkish American Association of Izmir, Turkey
Turkish American Association of Louisiana
Turkish American Association of Milwaukee
Turkish American Association of Phoenix
Turkish American Cultural Alliance
Turkish American Cultural Association of Alabama
Turkish American Cultural Association of Florida, Inc.
Turkish American Cultural Association of Georgia
Turkish American Cultural Association of Michigan
Turkish American Cultural Association of Seattle
Turkish American Cultural Society of Colorado
Turkish American Society of Northeastern Ohio
Turkish American Federation of Northern Texas
Turkish American Friendship Association of Hawaii
Turkish American Friendship Club of St. Louis
Turkish American Friendship Society of the United States
Turkish American Neuropsychiatric Association
Turkish American Physicians Association, Inc.
Turkish Children's Foster Care
Turkish Cultural Alliance
Turkish Culture and Folklore Society of Canada
Turkish Cypriot Aid Society
Turkish Mosque and Culture Center
Turkish Society of Rochester
Turkish Women's League of America
Türkocagi Association
Washington Turkish Women's Association

**Strength
of
ATAA
Comes
from the
Strength
of
Individuals**

ATAA 1992 AWARD RECIPIENTS

Distinguished Service Award

Each year the Assembly bestows its Distinguished Service Award to the person or persons who have given extraordinary service to the Turkish-American community. This year two Congressmen have received this award for their years of standing up against the defamation and claims put forth on the floor of the House. They have worked long hours to promote strong U.S.-Turkish relations. The Turkish-American community and friends of Turks thank all of you.

HON. FRANK HORTON (R-NY)

LEYLA KAZAZ
BONNIE JOY KASLAN
AYTEN SANDIKÇIOGLU
RACHEL AMADO BORTNICK

Meritorious Service Award

This award is presented to people who have made a significant contribution to work of the Assembly. Thank you

SADI DINLEŇ
REYAN AKBAY

Board of Directors' Medal of Honor Award

This Award given by the Assembly to the scholars, artist, writers, journalist and others who have contributed substantially to Turkish and Turkish-American history, art, culture, literature and social life through work in their field.

Prof. KENAN ERIM (Posthumously)

PAST RECIPIENTS OF ATAA AWARDS

Assembly's Gold Medal of Honor Award

Each year the Assembly has honored these 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.

HON. ROBERT BYRD 1990
H. E. SÜKRÜ ELEKDAG 1989
AYLA ELEKDAG 1989

DR. ÜLKÜ ÜLGÜR 1989
DR. ESIN ATIL 1987
HON. EKREM PAKDEMIRLI 1984

Turkish-American of the Year Award

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.

PROF. HASAN ÖZBEKHAN 1991
ARİF MARDİN 1990
NURI SABUNCU 1988

EROL ONARAN 1987
AYHAN HAKIMOGLU 1985
AHMED KAFADAR 1984

The Turk of the World Award

ATAA gives this special award to a person of Turkish descent who has gained worldwide recognition and esteem for his or her achievements.

NAIM SÜLEYMANOGLU 1989

Assembly's Leadership Medal of Honor Award

The Assembly's award for those individuals have made extraordinary contributions to ATAA and the Turkish-American community.

MURAT SUNGAR 1989

Distinguished Service Award

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

ATA ISTAR 1991
ILNUR CEVIK & Turkish Daily News 1990
HON. DAN BURTON 1990
HON. JIM MOODY 1990
ALP KARAHASAN, M.D., PH.D. 1988

BONNIE JOY KASLAN 1987
BEKİR ONURSAL 1987
LEON PICON 1986
TARHAN DANISMAN 1985
RALPH ROPP 1984

Board of Directors' Medal of Honor Award

This Award given by the Assembly to the scholars, artist, writers, journalist and others who have contributed substantially to Turkish and Turkish-American history, art, culture, literature and social life through work in their field.

DR. ESİN ATIL 1989
PROF. AVIGDOR LEVY 1989
PROF. BERNARD LEWIS 1989
DR. HEATH LOWRY 1989

PROF. JUSTIN McCARTHY 1989
PROF. PIERRE OBERLING 1989
PROF. STANFORD SHAW 1989

Meritorious Service Award

This award is presented in various years to people who have made a significant contribution to work of the Assembly.

REMZI AGAN
DR. HASAN AKDEMİR
DR. UĞUR AKINCI
DİNÇER AKYALI
HASAN ALI
ADIL ARABOĞLU
TASKİN ATIL
AYSİN BAŞARAN
SUAT BAŞARAN
DR. BÜLENT BAŞOL
TURHAN BEYGO
EKREM BULGUR
BİRTAN AKA COLLIER
GÜNDOĞAN ÇAGAL
YURDAKUL GÖKER

KAMURAN GÜRÜN
DR. ENGIN İNEL HOLMSTROM
LAUREL HOUSE
DR. ALP KARAHASAN
ATTILA KASLAN
BONNIE JOY KASLAN
HARUN KAZAZ
LEYLA KAZAZ
DR. ALTAN KODANAZ
DR. AYTEKİN KODANAZ
SEBAT KÜÇÜKÇETİN
DR. TUNCER KUZAY
BARBARA LARSON
DR. HEATH LOWRY
DR. ALBERT NAHUM

SENGÜN NURİ
DR. MUSTAFA ÖNAL
VERA ORAL
YALCIN ORAL
DR. GÜLTEKİN OVACIK
ANSELİN ÖZBERKMEN
DİAN PEKİN
DR. LEON PICON
ARMAGAN SANVER
ALİ FERDA SEVİN
YAVUZ SOMEN
ÖZCAN TUNCEL
DR. EROL ÜÇER
JOAN WEEKS
HİFSİYE ZİNCİR

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 to the fund. For a contribution of between \$2,500 and \$4,999, an individual or company becomes a member of the President's Club.

Ambassador's Club

Remzi Agan	'86	Jak Kamhi	'88
Yildirim Aktürk	'88	Alp Karahasan, M.D., Ph.D.	'86
Sedat Aloglu	'88	Victor Kent, M.D.	'86
Cem Boyner	'88	Asim Kocabiyik	'88
Ali Coskun	'88	Ali Koçman	'88
Tarhan Danisman	'86	Fuat Miras	'88
Lenny Epperson	'86	Albert Nahum, M.D.	'86
Selim Edez	'88	Gültekin Ovacik, M.D.	'86
Nejat Erem, M.D.	'89	Mustafa Önal, M.D.	'86
Ender Erenoglu	'86	Yusuf Özer	'88
Ahmet Erteğün	'86	Nuri Sabuncu	'86
Tunca Iskir	'86	Osman Soyer	'86
Ibrahim Günyüzü	'86	Halis Toprak	'88
Robert Gray	'86	Nevzat Türkmen, M.D.	'86
Naside Gwin	'88	Erol Üçer, M.D.	'86
Ahmed Kafadar	'86	Aytekin Ülgen, M.D.	'86
		Ülkü Ülgür, M.D.	'86

President's Club

Süleyman Sarpel, M.D.	'88	Türkiye Ziraat Bankasi	'90
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**It All
Started
in
1979...**

History of ATAA

On August 19, 1977, the President of the Maryland American Turkish Association (MATA), Dr. Ülkü Ülgür, in his letter to the membership, stated "it is no news that Turkey and Turkish-Americans in this country are beset by many problems and recently have been subjected to unfair treatment and discrimination by some other ethnic groups and their political representatives. Your new Board of Directors believe that we clearly need to intensify our efforts for better and more effective representation of our views, especially in the light of growing criticism and hostility from many quarters." Another part of the same letter stated that, "we have reached a tentative agreement with the new president of ATA D.C., Mr Yavuz Somen, to collaborate and work together in these crucial and vital areas."

Similar letters and notes in the American Turkish Association of Washington, D.C. (ATA D.C.) reflected the concern of this community to the problems faced by Turkish-Americans in this country.

On June 29, 1978, MATA President, Dr. Ülgür, in his letter to ATA D.C. President Yavuz Somen stated, "In our recent Board of Directors' meeting we have discussed the possibility of bringing our associations together by affiliating them in some official form. We, as members of the Board of Directors of the Maryland American Turkish Association, believe that such an affiliation will be a giant step forward for better representation of the Turkish community in the Mid-Eastern United States. Therefore, we have unanimously elected three of our distinguished members to form an ad-hoc committee and have instructed them to work jointly with a similar committee so that a solution can be found to realize the goal of uniting these two respected organizations."

The ad hoc committees of ATA D.C. and MATA met on November 5, 1978. ATA D.C. was represented by President Yavuz Somen, Suat Basaran, and Loren Myers while MATA was represented by President Ülkü Ülgür, Cenap Kiratli, and the late Alp Karahasan.

By 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.

Upon his arrival in Washington to take up the post of Ambassador from Turkey, Dr. Sükrü Elekdag was met by members of both ATA D.C. and MATA at a special reception held at the Navy Officers Club in Bethesda, Md. on September 23, 1979. He inspired both communities with his dynamic approach to U.S.-Turkish relations. Now the two communities were no longer talking merely about regional cooperation. Visions of a national umbrella organization were forming.

In the aftermath of threats of yet another arms embargo passing through Congress with virtually no Turkish-American voice raised in opposition, a series of meetings were held in the Washington, D.C. area. A steering committee was formed in November 1979, headed by ATA D.C. President Yavuz Somen with the late Yurdakul Göker and Taskin Atil and by MATA President, the late Dr. Alp Karahasan, with Dr. Ülkü Ülgür, Cenap Kiratli and Sengun Nuri. The advisor associates were Erol Gürün, Aydin Caginalp, Hasan Akdemir, Tuncer Kuzay, and Özcan Tuncel. Out of their meetings came an agreement 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 publication and generally be the central source of information on Turks and Turkey. For this purpose office space was provided by Adil Araboglu, 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 fundraising activity sponsored by ATA D.C. and MATA, and held on December 29, 1979 at the Turkish Embassy. One hundred and forty-six people managed to raise \$17,470 for the Assembly.

ATAA's first publication, 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, Ülkü Ülgür, and Cenap Kiratli from MATA, planned 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 24 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. Their task was to draw up 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 18 Turkish American Associations ratified the bylaws and became official members of the Assembly. Dr. Ülkü 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 view 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 Elekdag

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-American 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 Arikan.

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 17-18, 1983, at the world famous Westin Peachtree Plaza. Congressman Larry Mc-Donald 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 Armagan Sanver. 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, Taskin Atil, 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. To raise

additional funds, Mrs. Ayla Elekdag kindly 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 1,100 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 meeting President Reagan held with Greek and Armenian community members. A fashion show by Zuhar Yorgancioglu 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 its first chairman Taskin Atil 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. Today, PAC-ATAA is a separate organization headed by its President, Asil Gezen.

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, the 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 Ozal 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 dis-appointed 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's gun-point assimilation campaign.

At the Eight 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 Danisman 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 1987 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 numbered 44 component associations.

In June 1987 President Danisman 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 Iskir, 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 ATAA's first book, *Armenian Allegations: Myth and Reality* has been released, which will continue serving as a valuable tool as we still confront this unceasing attack on our very essence.

At the 10th Convention in California, Tunca Iskir was elected President with Bonnie Joy Kaslan as First Vice President. On October 8, 1988, at the very historic ATAA Southern Regional Conference leaders of the Sephardic Jewish community as well as other Jewish-American representatives assembled with Turkish-Americans to set the groundwork for 1992, *500th Anniversary Commemorations* of the welcoming of Jews in Turkey. The formation of the Shared Jewish Turkish History Committee was announced during that conference.

In 1988, ATAA moved ahead to appoint an *Executive Director* to handle the daily operation of the Central Office and Harun Kazaz filled this position. With this professional staff in place and with professional volunteers, ATAA began publication of the first Turkish-American newspaper in the United States -- *The Turkish Times*.

Times was published monthly during the first year and quickly gained a large reading audience. A national *Media Watch and Response Committee*, under Dr. Tamer Açikalın began keeping tabs on the way Turks and Turkey are handled by the media. When defaming or positive coverage appears, ATAA responds with letters or personal contacts to set the record straight, or praise the work of individuals.

This committee since then has been reorganized into teams by Bekir Onursal and continues to monitor over 65 newspapers nationwide.

A *Business Network Committee*, headed by Ömer Esener and Oguz Babüroglu, began to develop programs to assist businessmen both in Turkey and the United States by acting as a liaison and providing service and information.

The Immigration Review Committee, under Sadi Dinlenç and Yalçın Oral, has begun a study of immigration policy toward Turks. In 1989, it moved to the forefront to assist in the placement of immigrants from Turkey under the OP-1 immigration program.

Generous offers came in from the community and prospective immigrants were matched immediately.

The Council on Education and Public Affairs chaired by Bonnie Kaslan took the teachers' workshop, begun by ATA-DC, to all parts of the U.S. Under the auspices of this committee, Dr. Justin McCarthy wrote a manual on *Turks and Armenians* to be used in high schools.

ATAA celebrated its 10th Anniversary with a gala convention in Crystal City, Virginia which honored 137 individuals who made ATAA possible in formative years.

During the Farewell Luncheon, the community said goodbye to His Excellency Dr. Sükrü Elekdag, the ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to the United States, who was retiring from the foreign service after his ten-year stay in Washington, D.C. He had encouraged the Turkish-American community all across the U.S. to unite under the ATAA umbrella.

The Assembly welcomed His Excellency Nüzhet Kandemir, the new ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to the United States in August, 1989 and he immediately took off for Washington State for a bilateral trade session in Seattle where he later met with the Turkish-American community there.

By October 1989, the Armenian resolution resurfaced in the U.S. Senate. The ATAA grassroots opposition campaign and a toll-free hotline-and-telegram project created and implemented by Harun Kazaz, Executive Director, and supported by Tunca Iskir, President, and ATAA Board of Directors, generated a flood of support for the Turkish cause and played a major role in having the resolution shelved until February.

The very effective hot-line continued to rally the support of Turkish Americans and friends of Turks through February 1990. At the end of the campaign, a total of 75,000 telegrams supporting the Turkish view were generated and delivered to the U.S. Senate and the White House by ATAA. Due to this toll-free hotline and the total involvement of the professional staff of ATAA, the Turkish American community and friends of Turks, this resolution was soundly defeated at the Congress.

Another major ATAA activity of 1989 was the funding of the *Judah L. Magnes Museum*, Berkeley, California, for the "Embellished Lives," a 4-month exhibit of the customs and costumes of the Jewish communities of Turkey in conjunction with the 500th year commemoration of the arrival of Sephardic Jews in Ottoman Empire from Spain.

Since then, ATAA has been very active in supporting activities related to the 500th year commemora-

tion undertaken by various Jewish organizations within the U.S. and in Turkey.

In March 1990, Dr. Ugur Akinci was hired as the managing editor for *The Turkish Times* on a full-time basis to enable ATAA to publish the newspaper twice a month. With this new arrangement, in April, 1990, ATAA started to prepare this unique publication in its entirety by making use of desk-top publishing system at its central office, thus saving substantially on the costs of typesetting and design.

This highly specialized computerization project was envisioned and realized after a year-long intense effort carried out by Harun Kazaz, Executive Director.

1990 was also the year when *The Turkish Times* started reaching a wider readership in the United States, including every member of the U.S. Congress, officials in the U.S. State and Defense departments and other agencies, college libraries, embassies, as well as the top opinion makers and business leaders in Turkey, Europe, Australia, the Middle East and Asia.

ATAA witnessed the beginning of a series of financial difficulties in 1990. Changing times and the general economic recession in the USA effected ATAA adversely like any other organization.

As an independent, private, non-profit national grassroots organization which solely relies on voluntary donations, membership dues, and fundraising income generated from its members and the community, ATAA found itself unable to generate the income level of the previous years to meet its commitments.

The president's gavel changed hands in May 12, 1990 with the election of Ali Ferda Sevin as President at the ATAA's 11th Convention in Washington DC.

Sevin has replaced Tunca Iskir, who has been, first, the Treasurer and then, the President of ATAA during its most turbulent years and nurtured it back to normal operation.

During the same meeting, Dr. Bülent Basol was elected ATAA's President-elect to become President in 1992.

In 1990, ATAA undertook the organization of *First Annual Turkish American Heritage Week*, in Washington DC, arranged by ATAA *Turkish American Heritage Week Committee*, under the chairmanship of Leyla Kazaz, Secretary General, ATAA, between December 2 and 8, as a part of its fundraising program.

The week long exposition of cultural festivities and Turkish Bazaar were held at the Washington DC Convention Center with participation of over 200 community volunteers, displaying the best of Turkish cuisine, handicrafts, cultural/art exhibits.

Mrs. Semra Özal, wife of Turkish President His

Excellency Turgut Özal, kindly accepted to serve as the Honorary Chairperson of the Heritage Week. Over five thousand Washingtonians streamed to the Convention Center for a taste of the sights and sounds of genuine Turkish hospitality.

The financial crunch came to a head in 1991 and forced ATAA to cancel its annual convention, which was planned to take place in New York City. Instead, annual delegates' meeting has convened during the Annual Heritage Week celebrations, at the Washington DC Convention Center, November 1991.

The Second Annual Turkish American Heritage Week took place in November 4-10, 1991, in Washington DC, and Los Angeles, CA. Again over 5,000 visitors attended the various cultural exhibits and the Turkish Bazaar. As a part of the Heritage Week,

ATAA *Turkish American Heritage Week Committee*, Neyla Arnas, and Harun Kazaz, also arranged a *Turkish Film Month* at the prestigious *American Film Institute* (AFI) supported by the Turkish Embassy in Washington D.C., and Turkish Culture of Ministry.

During the three week period, six recent Turkish films were shown in AFI Theater, Kennedy Center, to the delight of Capital's moviegoers.

An ATAA activity, *National Teachers' Workshop Program*, is another forum through which ATAA reached the social science teachers in the U.S. in 1991. These regional seminars were organized with the generous input of the local communities and member associations concerned, like the very successful ones organized in Philadelphia, PA; Chicago, IL; Washington, DC; Los Angeles, CA; and New York, NY, among many others.

Under the able leadership of its chairman Dr. Ülkü Ülgür, ATAA *Board of Trustees* took a giant step in 1991 towards doubling ATAA's Endowment Fund.

Another person who made a difference in ATAA's fundraising efforts was His Excellency Dr. Ekrem Pakdemirli, former Minister of Finance of Turkish Republic. ATAA acknowledged Pakdemirli's ceaseless efforts on behalf of the organization

ATAA *Bookstore* was a major new program started by the ATAA in 1992 to disseminate reliable information about Turks and those works presenting the Turkish side of the controversial issues which have been used and abused by the anti-Turkish lobbies to defame Turkey.

ATAA *Bookstore* catalog is published six times a year as a special supplement of *The Turkish Times* and has been received by the readers with warm enthusiasm as witnessed by the daily flood of book orders. □

Once Upon a Time... in 1979

From ATAA's First Convention





1981... New York City



1982... Chicago



1983... Atlanta



1988... Oakland, CA



1989... Crystal City, VA



1990... Washington, DC



**... and
13th Convention
Activities
in 1992,
New York City**

ATAA
ASSEMBLY OF TURKISH AMERICAN ASSOCIATIONS
13th ANNUAL CONVENTION

New York Vista Hotel, Three World Trade Center , New York, NY

June 4 - 7, 1992



THURSDAY, June 4, 1992

- 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. **Registration and Hospitality Suite Open** (Lobby)
- 2:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. **INTER TURKISH-REPUBLICS AND TURKISH COMMUNITIES ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION** (Battery/City Hall, 3rd Floor)

FRIDAY, June 5, 1992

- 9:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. **Registration and Hospitality Suite Open** (Lobby)
- 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. **TURKISH FILMS PROGRAM:** Screening of documentary and feature films from Turkish world. Please refer to separate schedule for films and show times, available at the Convention Information desk. (Merchants Exchange Room, 3rd Floor)
- 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. **SYMPOSIUM** (Liberty Room)
- Topic:** Turkey in the center of rapidly changing region.
- U.S. - Turkish Relations in a Changing World. Hon. Mary A. Ryan, U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of European and Canadian Affairs.
 - A Turkish View of the Changing World.
 - Turkey and the Western World. Jenonne Walker, Senior Associate, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.
 - Central Asia's Response to Turkey. Paul Goble, Senior Associate, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.
 - Turkey: A partner in the Middle East. Prof. George E. Gruen, Dept. of Political Science, Columbia University.
- 12:00 noon - 2:00 p.m. **LUNCHEON** (tickets required) (The Nieuw Amsterdam Ballroom, West)
Keynote Speaker: H.E. Amb. Nüzhet Kandemir, Ambassador of Republic of Turkey
- 2:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. **PANEL DISCUSSION** (The Nieuw Amsterdam Ballroom, Center)

Sponsored by ATAA Business Network Council

Topic: Business Opportunities in Central Eurasia via Turkey.

(Continues from FRIDAY, June 5, 1992)

- Financial Framework, Financing Sources and Opportunities for Turkish and U.S. Businesses, Gazi Erçel, Vice President, Yasar Holding, Turkey.

- Financing, Investment Guarantees and Support by the World Bank Group, Alev Bilgen, Counsel, World Bank/MIGA.

- U.S. Policy on Aid to New Republics in Eurasia

- A U.S. Business View. Michael Gadbow, Vice President and Senior Counsel, International Policy, General Electric Corporation.

- A Case Study: Aegean Free Zone, Izmir, Turkey. Kaya Tuncer, CEO, ESBAS.

2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

A SPECIAL PROGRAM (Liberty Room)

SHARED HISTORY OF TURKS AND JEWS: 500 YEARS.

A special presentation of history, music, images and cuisine of Turkish Jews.

This program dedicated to the Turkish-Jews.

Co-sponsored by American Association of Jewish Friends of Turkey.

- American Association of Jewish Friends of Turkey presents:

A Multi Media Program: OTTOMAN SALONIKA, by Robert Bedford and Dr. Joe Halio.

- Prof. David Altabel, Professor of Spanish Languages, Queensborough College, and President of American Society of Sephardic Studies presents: 500 Years of shared history of Jews and Turks.

- "Safe Haven -- Travel Delights." A picturesque tour of Turkey through slides, introducing Jewish points of interest. Presented by Elaine Mancini, representing The Quincentennial Foundation of Istanbul

- Sephardic Music.

- Oriental Knishes, Queens, New York presents a glimpse of Sephardic Turkish-Jewish "mezes": Börekas, Tarama, Kaskaval, and Keso Blanco (White) cheeses.

- ATAA presents selected photographs from the book ANYOS MUNCHOS ¡ BUENOS, by Laurence Salzmann.

5:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

THE TURKISH TIMES OPEN HOUSE (Liberty Room)

Meet the editors, staff and regular contributors.

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

TURKISH AMBASSADOR'S RECEPTION (Nieuw Amsterdam Ballroom, Center)

By invitation Only. For guests registered to two paid events (e.g., Luncheon and Ball).

9:00 p.m. - 9:45 p.m.

PIANO CONCERT by Aysegül Durakoglu. A showcase of Turkish composers. Free and open to general public. (The Nieuw Amsterdam Ballroom, West)

SATURDAY, June 6, 1992

7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Registration and Hospitality Suite Open (Lobby)

(Continues from SATURDAY, June 6, 1992)

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon **ATAA ANNUAL DELEGATES' MEETING**
(The Nieuw Amsterdam Ballroom West)

9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. **TURKISH FILMS PROGRAM:** Screening of documentary and feature films from Turkish world. Please refer to separate schedule for films and show times, available at the Convention Information desk. (Merchants Exchange Room, 3rd Floor)

2:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. **ATAA'S SECOND ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON TURKS AROUND THE WORLD (SESSION I)**
(The Nieuw Amsterdam Ballroom, West)

Open to general public, registration required.

Co-sponsored by ATAA, Turks Around The World Committee, and Türk Dünyası Araştırmalar Vakfı, İstanbul, Turkey.

2:30 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.
OPENING CEREMONY
of the ATAA's Second Annual International Conference on Turks Around the World

STATUS REPORTS

2:45 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.
EURASIA REGIONS (Part I)
● Kazakhstan ● Azerbaijan ● South Azerbaijan
● Baskirdistan Autonomous Region ● Karacay-Malkar ● Çeçen-İngush ● Dagistan

3:45 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Intermission

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
EURASIA REGIONS (Part II)
● Turkmenistan ● Uzbekistan ● Kirgizistan ● Yakutistan ● Uigurs (East Turkistan), China

5:00 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. Intermission

5:15 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
EURASIA REGIONS (Part III)
● Tatar Autonomous Region (Kazan) ● Crimea ● Karaim and Hazars
● Gagavuz Turks, Moldava

2:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. **SPECIAL WORKING SESSIONS AND PAPER PRESENTATIONS OF THE SECOND ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON TURKS AROUND THE WORLD** (The Nieuw Amsterdam Ballroom, Center)

6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. **ANKARA KOLEJI ALUMNI ASSOCIATION REUNION**, All Alumni invited.
Cash bar. (Liberty Room)

7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. **ATAA COCKTAIL RECEPTION** Cash Bar. (Ballroom Foyer, and Liberty Room)

8:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m. **ATAA ANNUAL BANQUET** (tickets required) Dark Suit
(The Nieuw Amsterdam Ballroom)

This event is dedicated to the Turks around the world

GUESTS OF HONOR: H.E. Köksal Toptan, Minister of Education, Republic of Turkey
H.E. Nüzhet Kandemir, Ambassador, Republic of Turkey

(Continues from SATURDAY, June 6, 1992)

8:00 - 8:30 p.m. Opening Ceremony *
8:30 - 10:00 p.m. Dinner
10:00 - 10:30 p.m. Remarks by Guests of Honors
10:30 - 11:00 p.m. Award Presentations
11:00 - 1:00 a.m. Musical Entertainment

SUNDAY, June 7, 1992

8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. **Registration and Hospitality Suite Open** (Lobby)

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon **SPECIAL WORKING SESSIONS AND PAPER PRESENTATIONS OF THE SECOND ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON TURKS AROUND THE WORLD** (Liberty Room)

9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. **ATAA'S SECOND ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON TURKS AROUND THE WORLD (SESSION II)** (The Nieuw Amsterdam Ballroom, West)

Open to general public, registration required.

Co-sponsored by ATAA, Turks Around The World Committee, and Türk Dünyası Arastirmalar Vakfi, Istanbul, Turkey.

STATUS REPORTS

9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
TURKEY AND PERIPHERAL REGIONS (Part I) ● Bulgaria ● Greece ● Cyprus
● Turcomans, Iraq

10:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. Intermission

10:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
TURKEY AND PERIPHERAL REGIONS (Part II) ● Turkey ● Israel ● Yugoslavia

EUROPEAN REGION ● Germany

NORTH AMERICAN REGION ● Canada ● United States of America

PACIFIC REGION ● Australia

12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.
CLOSING CEREMONY
of the ATAA's Second Annual International Conference on Turks Around the World

(*) **The Opening Ceremony** will feature, for the first time in the United States, an ancient Turkish "Earth and Water" ceremony, with roots in 2,500 year old Turkish Shaman practices.

The ritual in question consists of the representatives of different Turkish republics and communities depositing water and soil samples from their native lands into a stoneware **Earth and Water Vessel**.

The ritualistic mixing of the water and soil of different communities signifies the essential unity and brotherhood of all Turks around the world to which this special evening is dedicated.

This special 100 pound stoneware vessel to be used in the exciting and unprecedented ceremony is decorated with ancient Turkish motifs. It was custom designed, made and donated to ATAA by a master Turkish American ceramic artist, Prof. Türker Özdoğan of George Washington University, Washington, D.C. who is also the Chairman of Cultural Committee, ATAA.

(Continues from SUNDAY, June 7, 1992)

1:30 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.

WORKSHOPS FOR MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS (Battery Park Room, 3rd Floor)

1:30 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.

WORKSHOP FOR ASSOCIATIONS #1 -- TEACHERS WORKSHOPS

Organizing and implementing teachers workshop programs. Sources and resources available in and around your community. Developing a basic, easy to manage program based on your ability and resources. Case study of a successfully run "Teachers Workshop Program."

2:15 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Intermission

2:30 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.

WORKSHOP FOR ASSOCIATIONS #2 -- COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS

Managing a small community association more effectively. Tools of trade and effective address management for better results. Newsletter publication for communication and membership development.

4:14 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Intermission

4:30 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.

WORKSHOP FOR ASSOCIATIONS #3 -- POSITIVE IMAGE

Becoming an effective partner in projecting a positive image of Turks. Facts and myths of lobbying by nonprofit organizations. DO's and DONT's of dealing with the media. A case study in effective grassroots action; Media Watch and Response Committee of ATAA.

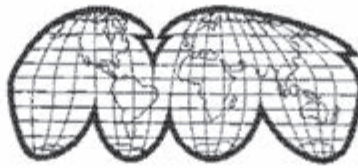
IMPORTANT NOTES:

- Programs are open to public. Registration and display of name tags are required.
- Please refer to daily schedules available at the Convention Information Desk for daily updated programs.
- All speakers are invited. Speakers, topics and room locations may change due to unforeseen circumstances. The program is subject to change without notice.

ATAA

ASSEMBLY OF TURKISH AMERICAN ASSOCIATIONS
13th Annual Convention
New York Vista Hotel, Three World Trade Center, New York, NY

Second Annual International Conference on Turks Around the World



SATURDAY, June 6, 1992

2:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

ATAA'S SECOND ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
TURKS AROUND THE WORLD (SESSION I)
(The Nieuw Amsterdam Ballroom, West)

Open to general public, registration required.

Co-sponsored by ATAA, Turks Around The World Committee, and
Türk Dünyası Arastirmalar Vakfi, Istanbul, Turkey.

2:30 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.

●PENING CEREMONY

of the ATAA's Second Annual International Conference on Turks Around the World

STATUS REPORTS

2:45 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.

EURASIA REGIONS (Part I)

- Kazakhstan ● Azerbaijan ● South Azerbaijan
- Baskirdistan Autonomous Region ● Karacay ● Çeçen-Ingush

3:45 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Intermission

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

EURASIA REGIONS (Part II)

- Turkmenistan ● Uzbekistan ● Kirgizistan ● Yakutistan ● Uigurs (East Turkistan), China

5:00 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. Intermission

5:15 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

EURASIA REGIONS (Part III)

- Tatar Autonomous Region (Kazan) ● Crimea ● Karaim and Hazars
- Gagavuz Turks, Moldova

2:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**SPECIAL WORKING SESSIONS AND PAPER PRESENTATIONS OF THE
SECOND ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON TURKS AROUND
THE WORLD** (The Nieuw Amsterdam Ballroom, Center)

SUNDAY, June 7, 1992

8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Registration and Hospitality Suite Open (Lobby)

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

**SPECIAL WORKING SESSIONS AND PAPER PRESENTATIONS OF THE
SECOND ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON TURKS AROUND
THE WORLD** (Liberty Room)

9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

**ATAA'S SECOND ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON TURKS
AROUND THE WORLD (SESSION II)** (The Nieuw Amsterdam Ballroom, West)

Open to general public, registration required.

Co-sponsored by ATAA, Turks Around The World Committee, and
Türk Dünyası Arastirmalar Vakfi, Istanbul, Turkey.

STATUS REPORTS

9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

TURKEY AND PERIPHERAL REGIONS (Part I) ● Bulgaria ● Greece ● Cyprus
● Turcomans, Iraq

10:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. Intermission

10:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

TURKEY AND PERIPHERAL REGIONS (Part II) ● Turkey ● Israel ● Yugoslavia

EUROPEAN REGION ● Germany

NORTH AMERICAN REGION ● Canada ● United States of America

PACIFIC REGION ● Australia

12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

CLOSING CEREMONY

of the ATAA's Second Annual International Conference on Turks Around the World

... Some Turks
from
Around the World

Photos by Dr. Ahmet Ali Arslan,
Chairman
Turks Around the World Committee
ATAA



(Above) A Kazakh grandfather with his grandson in front of Aslan Baba's mausoleum. Aslan Baba was a messenger that Ahmet Yesevi -- the great Turkish mystic -- has sent to Prophet Hz. Muhammet.



(Above) A Kazakh girl by the Mausoleum of Ahmet Yesevi, in the Turkistan region of Kazakhstan.

(Right) A group of Kazakh Folk Dancers, in their traditional costumes, in front of Ahmet Yesevi's mausoleum.





(Left) A group of Turkish ladies with their children in Kazan, capital of Tataristan.

(Below) A young Tatar couple. They promised to name their first child "Atatürk" if it's a boy, "Zübeyde" -- Atatürk's mother's name -- if it's a girl.





Farabi, the ancient Kazakh scientist (870 - 950 AD)



Olcas Süleymanof -- Kazakh Parliamentarian, author of "Azia," the unknown history of Kazakhs.



Çimkent, Kazakhstan -- Ahiska Turks welcoming a delegation of Anatolian Turks.

Prof. Dr. Bahtiyar Vahapzade who fired the imagination of two generations of Azerbaijani youth with his nationalistic poems.





Dr. Asker Akayev -- A typical Kirgiz Turk, President of Kirgizistan.



Corporal Tahire Mesimzade at Elibayramli Village, Susha, Karabakh. Corp. Mesimzade serves in Peoples Volunteers Regiment, Women's and Girls' Army, Azerbaijan Peoples' Front.

*Karaim and
Hazar Jewish
Turks in Baku,
Azerbaijan*

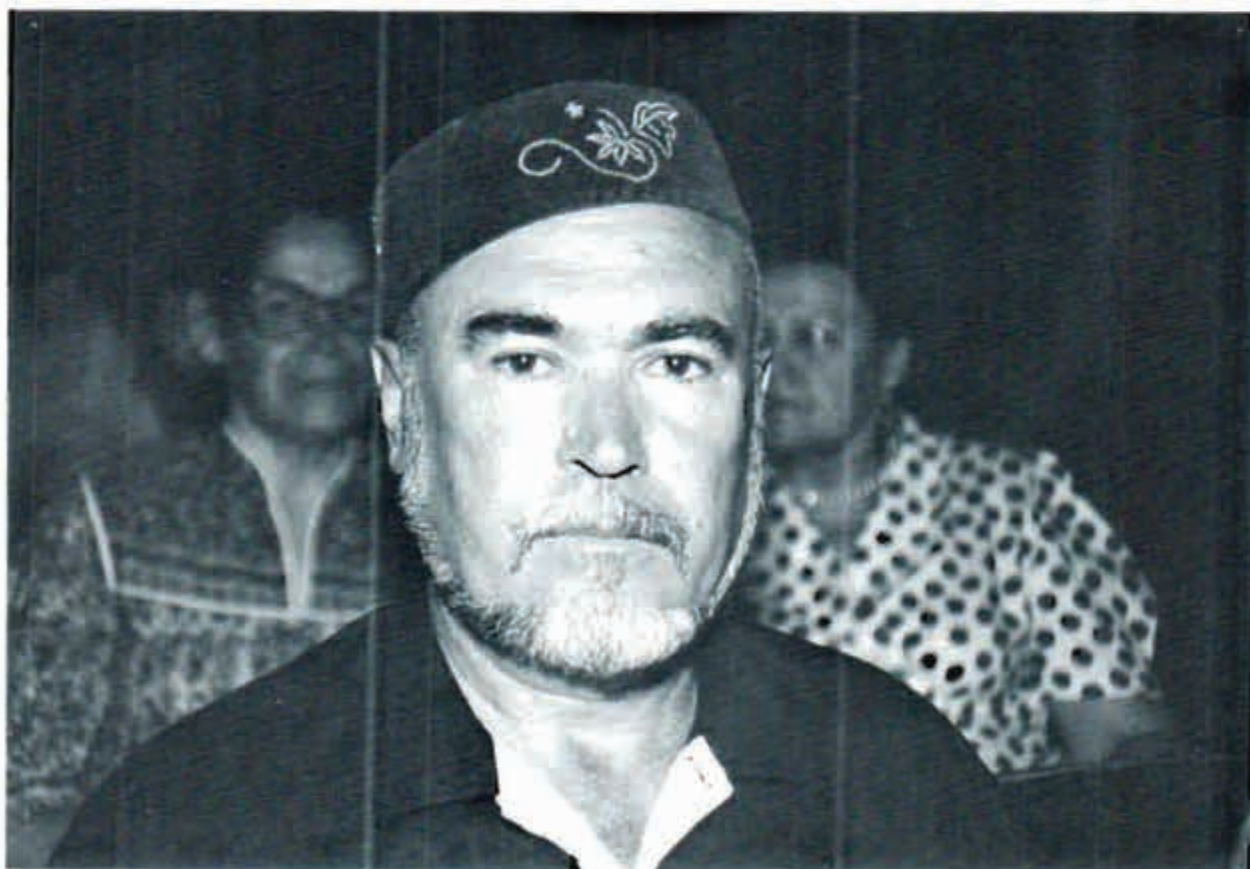




Irek Arif -- Chairman, All Tatar Youth World Organization. Kazan, Tataristan.



Ravel Muhameddinov -- President of Association of Turks in the former Soviet Union.



Poet, novelist, wrestler, musician... Simply a real Tatar intellectual.



Dr. Ebülfez Ali Elçibey -- the leader of Azerbaijan People's Front (APF) during APF annual convention, Baku, Azerbaijan, May 28, 1991.



Turks in the United States of America.

A proud mother, her two sons, and a neighbor during a pro-Turkish demonstration in New York City, with the flags of the Motherland and their new adopted land.



Turks in the United States of America.

*Three beautiful Turkish girls in traditional Turkish folk costumes.
New York City.*



National award winner opera singer sings "Awake, Oh Tatar!" in support of Tataristan freedom movement.



Tataristan National Folk Ensemble performing "Turnalar" dance, during the regional Turks Around the World convention.



A moment from the regional Turks Around the World convention in The State Theater, Kazan, Tataristan.

Native Alaskan Indians
the "Wolf Clan"
Say
Their
Ancestors
Came
from
Central Asia

Photos by Dr. Ahmet Ali Arslan



A Wolf Clan elderman.



*A Wolf Clan lady
in her tribal headgear and costume.*

Two young
Wolf Clan
girls. They
could be
easily be
from
Alma-Ata
or Ankara.





An Alaskan Indian from Wolf Clan.



*A Kazakh Turk. Dr. Sabitkazi Aktaev.
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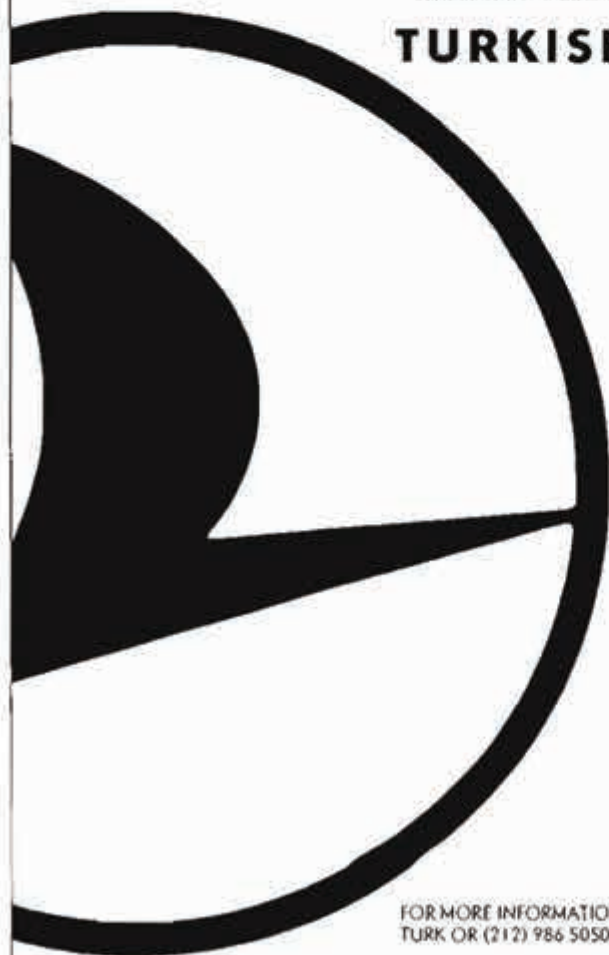
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NY-ISTANBUL	THU***	18:30	12:55**	BRUSSELS STOP-OVER

*APR 3RD DEPARTURE AT 17:30

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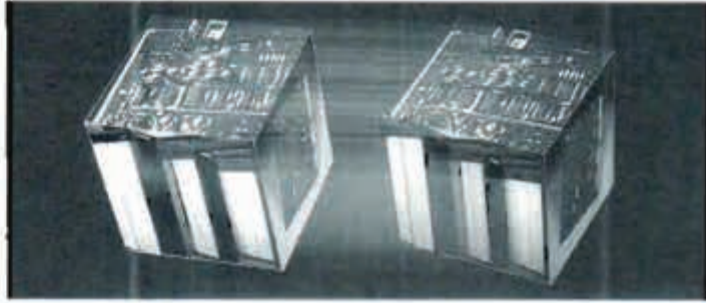
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