



ATAA 28TH ANNUAL
CONFERENCE
PEACE IN THE WORLD

MAY 15-17, 2008
SHERATON NATIONAL HOTEL
WASHINGTON, DC





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ATAA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



A warm welcome to all of you who travelled from near and far to be with us in Washington DC to participate at our 28th Annual Assembly of Turkish American Association's Convention. Peace in the World is our theme this year, which was inspired by the wise words of the founder of the Republic of Turkey and the first President, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, who said "Peace at Home, Peace in the World".

Within the past year ATAA has been working continuously to ensure that the voice of Turkish Americans are heard and that their interests are addressed fairly and accurately. ATAA has played an active role in shaping Turkish-American relations, while also assisting our community here in the United States. We have begun to see a true transformation amongst us, in that we are learning to become pro-active citizens. We are building relationships and educating people on issues that

concern the Turkish American communities. We are educating ourselves. In general we are becoming better advocates for the Turkish American cause.

This has been a result of the implementation of our Public Outreach Strategic Plan that we had released at the start of my presidency which was at the end of 2006. We have been consistently following the path ever since. In addition, we received a much needed and generous grant last year from the Turkish Coalition of America (TCA) allowing us to continue with our strategic plan.

As one of the Public Outreach Strategic Plans most important goals, ATAA continues to focus on empowering you the Turkish American Associations and individual members across the United States by equipping you with necessary tools and resources to achieve your goals and mission as well as provide communication platforms to facilitate this process.

As part of this goal, ATAA has organized this Annual Convention. This year's convention provides an exciting range of panels and special events. Our panels will provide for an effective platform to highlight Turkey, Turkish- American relations in the one hand, while presenting an educational and motivational experience for all its participants.

This year we also included events for our young generation. TACA Youth Dance Group, ranging from ages between 12 to 18 who will perform for us at our Saturday luncheon and Gala Dinner. By the way, they are all American born, Turkish-Americans. We have also invited other children to join together with this group in activities that we have specifically arranged for them, such as a tour of Capitol Hill and visits to the Smithsonian museums as well as panels to interact and talk about being Turkish American children in the United States. This way we hope to bring them into our community. We hope through our interactive sessions, they are able to see many Turkish-American from around the country and feel a sense of belonging in meeting with their peers and we hope that they develop lasting friendships. After all, they are our future leaders. We are investing in our future generations.

Thank you for coming to our Convention. Thank you for your confidence and your support in our efforts to carry out our mission, values and principles. We know that many people within our community share these aspirations, and in doing so, in the spirit of dialogue and transparency, we hope to work together and laugh and even at times cry together while achieving our common endeavors. With your support we have brought out the full potential and together we are starting to build a stronger Community.

Sincerely,

Nurten Ural
President
Assembly of Turkish American Associations

TURKISH PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



On the occasion of the 28th Annual Convention, I would like to congratulate both the leadership and all members of the Assembly of Turkish American Associations.

Sharing common values, Turkey and the United States have been in a comprehensive and multi dimensional cooperation and solidarity with each other regarding a wide variety of issues ranging from the fight against terrorism and global energy security to Iraq, Balkans, Middle East and Afghanistan. This strategic cooperation is of vital importance not only for the interests of our two countries and nations, but also for the establishment and preservation of the regional and global peace and security.

This strategic partnership has also a special meaning for the advancement of our common values in our region and beyond in the 21st century as global risks and threats change their directions and features.

Within the previously held high level contacts, the strategic partnership between Turkey and the United States has been increasing on a strong footing and progressing on the basis of mutual understanding and interests. The continuation and increase of the valuable contributions of the Turkish American society is important to this end.

The Assembly has a leading role and a very important responsibility for enabling the Turkish American society to demonstrate an organized stance and gain a team spirit in unity and integrity.

I hope that the Assembly will increase its activities aiming at further promotion and understanding of Turkey in the US, protection of the unity and integrity of the Turkish American society, counter balancing the activities of the circles who are against our country and furtherance of the bonds of friendship between Turkish and American nations.

With these thoughts, I wish success to the 28 Annual Convention which, I believe, will give a momentum to the activities of the Assembly.

Abdullah Gül
President of the Republic of Turkey



TURKISH PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE



On the occasion of the 28th Annual Convention, I would like to congratulate all members of the Assembly of Turkish American Associations and its component organizations. Since its foundation, ATAA has been making important contributions to the development of relations between Turkey and the United States based on cooperation and friendship.

We closely follow the activities of the Assembly aiming at the promotion of Turkey and the Turkish culture in the USA, continuation of the young Turkish American generation to live with its own culture and values, furtherance of the solidarity and cooperation between our peoples living in the US and counterbalancing the activities of the lobbies against our country.

Having been one of the closest allies of the United States for over a period of 50 years in the Euro-Atlantic landscape, Turkey has been in strategic partnership with the United States regarding many critical issues and in various geographies. As it can also be seen from the political will and determination demonstrated during the previously realized high level visits, we have no doubt that this existing cooperation will continue by further deepening.

This strategic cooperation and solidarity are of great importance not only for the Turkish and American peoples but also for the prosperity and well being of our region.

The activities of the Assembly of Turkish American Associations and the support of the Americans with Turkish roots are more important now than ever. I believe that the Assembly will continue to act with diligence and devotion, as it has done in the past, for enabling the Turkish society living in the United States to act together in a spirit of unity and integrity as well as for further increasing Turkish-American cooperation.

With this opportunity, I would like to thank the leadership of the Assembly of Turkish American Associations, all the leaders and members of the component organizations of this umbrella organization, citizens and kinsmen that support their activities, as well as our American friends for their contributions and wish success to the ATAA 28th Annual Convention.

Recep Tayyip Erdoğan
Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey

TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER'S MESSAGE



On the occasion of the 28th Annual Convention, I would like to congratulate both the leadership and all members of the Assembly of Turkish American Associations, which is one of the most important umbrella organizations founded by the Turkish society living in the United States.

Turkey and the United States have multi dimensional relations based on historical depth and mutual respect. Turkey and the United States share common values such as democracy, the rule of law and human rights as well as common concerns regarding many regional problems.

The strategic partnership between our countries is an important factor in the establishment of global and regional peace and stability in the 21st century where risks and threats have become asymmetrical.

A well educated, talented and professional Turkish-American society is residing in the United States. These qualities provide important advantages to the Turkish-American community. I believe that, as such, Turkish Americans will build on their cooperation and solidarity.

There is no doubt that the Assembly will continue its activities to this end with more responsibility and efficiency in the coming term. We expect that the Assembly will further increase its role in the development of Turkish-American relations; contributions to the promotion of Turkey in the United States in all respects; efforts against the activities of some circles in the United States against Turkey; and activities to further strengthen the bonds of friendship between Turkish and American peoples.

I commend the leadership and members of the Assembly of Turkish American Associations and its component organizations for their endeavors and wish success to the 28th Annual Convention.

Ali Babacan
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey



TURKISH AMBASSADOR'S MESSAGE



Dear Members of the Assembly of Turkish American Associations,

Congratulations on the occasion of the ATAA 28th Annual Convention.

Turkey and the United States are two strategic partners sharing the same values, ideals and vision. Further enhancement of this strategic partnership is a duty for us all.

Turkish Americans have been serving as a valuable bridge between Turkey and the United States. They have been contributing to the furtherance of the well being of the American society through their professional, social and cultural activities for many decades.

Turkish Americans and their organizations play an important role in promoting Turkish culture and heritage in the US. Having previously served in Washington at an earlier phase of my career, I witnessed the first years of the ATAA. Today, I am delighted to see that the ATAA has both grown in size and matured in its organization, and has also become one of the prominent organizations of the Turkish American society.

Last year's course of events have clearly demonstrated the importance and the potential of the Turkish Americans when they act together. This undoubtedly calls for setting aside differences for the good of all.

I applaud the convening of the ATAA 28th Annual Convention, commend its organizers and wish its members a successful meeting.

H.E. Nabi Şensoy

Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to the United States

ABOUT ATAA

Assembly of Turkish American Associations



The Assembly has grown into an organization that represents Turkish American organizations in the United States, Canada and Turkey.

The Assembly of Turkish American Associations is the preeminent umbrella organization of Turkish American associations throughout the United States, Canada and Turkey, dedicated to pursuing the interests of Turkish Americans and Friends of Turkey in Washington and beyond. Founded in 1979 in Washington, DC, ATAA has established itself as an influential player in strengthening the relationship between the United States and Turkey.

To fulfill its mission, objectives and strategic plans, ATAA follows an outline that includes a wide array of activities. These activities include educational seminars on grassroots advocacy and civic leadership; conferences on contemporary political, social and economic issues related to Turkey and Turkish American relations; cultural events to share Turkey's rich traditions, art and heritage; leadership seminars aimed at guiding component associations in compliant operation; as well as numerous charitable activities for Turkish and American causes.

As the principal umbrella organization for Turkish Americans, ATAA regularly publishes reference material on issues that affect the Turkish American community, including position papers, power point presentations, booklets and electronic communications. ATAA also has an extensive reference center, in which educators, the media and the general public may purchase materials by prominent authors on Turkey-related issues.

Established in 1979, the Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA), is an Internal Revenue Code 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to public education and advocacy on issues that effect Turkish Americana and U.S.-Turkish relations. The ATAA is a District of Columbia corporation, and governed by the corporate laws and practices of the District of Columbia. Though a non-profit organization, the ATAA is in the process of harmonizing its internal laws and practices with the Public Company Accounting Reform and Investor Protection Act of 2002.



ATAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

NURTEN URAL

President

Nurten Ural is the President of the Assembly of Turkish American Associations. Ms. Ural is also the Honorary Consul General of the Republic of Turkey, Detroit, Michigan. She has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Human Environment and Design and a Master of Fine Arts Degree in Interior Design and Human Shelter for the Special Needy-both from Michigan State University. Ural is the owner of Ural Interiors, Inc., a commercial interior design firm in Farmington Hills, MI. She is also the owner of Ural Properties, LLC. A leasing and managing company for commercial and residential properties. She has received many awards for her business accomplishments and community service work including the Athena Award, Business Accomplishment Award, Daughter of Ataturk-Women of Distinction Award, "Gobustan" International Award, and the Republican of the Year Award. Ural now serves on the Board of Directors for the Detroit Institute of Arts, and served on the Board of Directors of two Chambers of Commerce, serving as Secretary, Vice Chair and Chair on one of them. She has also served on the Board of Directors of the National Association of Women Business Owners, Professional Women's Round Table, Historic Homes, the Republican Club, and on the Board of the Farmington Area Homeowners Association. Ural served as the Treasurer, President, and Trustee of the Turkish American Cultural Association of Michigan, as well as ATAA President-Elect and as Vice-President of the Midcentral Region.



OYA BAIN

Secretary

Oya Bain is a graduate of American College for Girls -currently Robert College- of Istanbul. She came to the United States as a Fulbright scholar to do post graduate work in Biochemistry. In her professional career she has worked as a clinical chemist and laboratory director in the Clinical Pathology laboratories of several medical centers in Canada and U.S. In 1999 she retired from her position as the Director of Department of Laboratory Medicine at Georgetown University Hospital. Oya Bain has been involved in the Turkish American community since 1970. As the board member of American Turkish Association of Washington DC (ATA-DC), she held positions, at various times, as the chair of ATA-DC Membership, Lecture and Turkish Radio committees and ATA News editor. She was the Capitol Region Vice President and Secretary of the Assembly of Turkish American Associations in the 1990s and chaired the 1992 ATAA Turkish Heritage Month activities. She served on the boards of Ataturk Society of America and Maryland American Turkish Association. Currently she is on the boards of ATA-DC and Washington Turkish Women's Association. She is also a member of The Hospitality and Information Service (THIS) in Washington DC, a service organization for the diplomatic community. She received numerous awards from ATA-DC, American Turkish Council and ATAA. In November 2005, she received the ATAA Turkish American of the Year award. Oya Bain lives in Bethesda, MD with her husband Ralph Bain, a chemist and educator, retired from the National Institutes of Health. They have one daughter, Tuvana, a physician in New York. Oya Bain strongly believes that the Turkish Americans need to be better informed and be active in the American political and civic organizations. She promotes programs and projects to educate and empower the Turkish American community in the political areas and grassroots activities.



GÜNAY EVİNCİ

President-Elect

Born in Chicago, raised in San Francisco, and living and working in Washington, DC where ATAA is headquartered. ATAA: Capital Region VP (2004-2006); Secretary General (1998-2000); Author, Turkish Times "Sports News" (1993-98). Education: U.S. Fulbright Scholar and Japan Sasakawa Scholar, International Law and the Armenian Case, Ankara University (1991-93); Juris Doctor, Washington & Lee University, VA (1991); Washington & Lee Grant (1989-91); B.A. Development Economics and B.A. Political Science-Public Service, University of California, Davis (1986); UC Regents Outstanding Senior Award (1986); EU Legal Studies, University of Madrid (1989).



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KORKUT ÖNAL

Treasurer

Korkut Onal is a graduate of Loyola College-Baltimore, Maryland where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology in 1977. Since then he attended numerous professional education seminars and classes. Mr. Onal has been in the fields of finance and business for the last 27 years. After graduation he worked for Sun Life of America and rose to the rank of manager. In 1980 he left the company to start a series of businesses of his own. Since 1980 he has been the President and CEO of Onal & Associates, Inc., an insurance agency specializing in life, health, property and casualty insurance. In 1987 he founded Associated Premium Finance, a company specializing in financing insurance premiums for agency clients. He sold this company in 1994. Mr. Onal is also the founder and President of ZBest Limousine Services, Inc., a company with 53 vehicles operating in the field of limousine and corporate transportation. He is a licensed Insurance Broker and a member of Independent Insurance Agents of America. He served as the President of Independent Insurance Agents of Anne Arundel County between 2000 and 2004. Korkut Onal has been very active in Turkish American community as well as his local community, serving on the Boards of Chamber of Commerce, local schools, and Baltimore Washington Medical Center. He served as the President of Maryland Turkish American Association (MATA) for three years, as the Regional Vice President of ATAA for 2 years and as the Treasurer of ATAA in early 1990's.

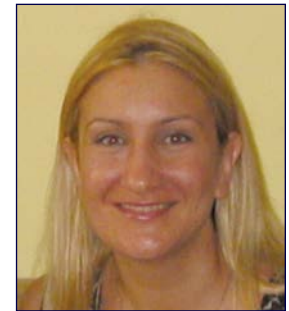


awards from IRC and Save the Children. Cengiz was the president of Georgia Turkish American Cultural Association between 1994 and 1996. He received High Service Award of TACA in 1998. In national level, Cengiz has been serving as a volunteer in ATAA since 1996. He was a VP for Southeastern region, Treasurer, President-Elect and President. He received Meritorius Service Award of ATAA in 1996, and Distinguished Service Award of ATAA in 1998. Cengiz is currently residing in Florida and has a business for Real Estate and Securities Investments.

ECE ALTAY-ORHUN

Capital Region VP

Ece Altay-Orhun was born in Istanbul, Turkey. She earned her B.A. degree in Political Science and International Relations from Bogazici University in Istanbul and M.B.A. degree from Georgetown University in Washington, DC. Ece has a background in Management Consulting giving strategic advice to Fortune 500 clients across multiple functions and industries. She worked as a Consultant for Kaiser Associates and Siemens, and currently holds the Director, Marketing and Business Development position at Gate Gourmet International. She is fluent in Turkish, English and German, and has a basic knowledge of French and Italian. Ece has been an active member of ATAA and involved with its programs and initiatives since 1998.



VURAL CENGİZ

Past President

Vural Cengiz has a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics and Finance from Ankara University's School of Political Sciences (SBF), a Master of Arts degree in Economics and a MBA from State University of West Georgia. He was a member of the teaching staff of Ankara University and Cukurova University from 1980 to 1986. He has been in the US since 1986 and served Turkish-American community in several organizations. He helped 130 Bosnian families to settle in Atlanta area working together with World Relief and International Rescue Committee. He received volunteer of year



TOMRİS AZERİ

New York Region VP

Tomris Azeri is current president of the Azerbaijan Society of America (ASA). Driving force in many of the organizations' initiatives, programs and special events which have fostered a greater understanding and appreciation of the people and country of Azerbaijan by the people and legislators of the United States. Initiated successful ASA programs such as coordinating legislative informational luncheons for Congressional members and staff in Washington, DC; the raising of the Azerbaijani flag on Wall Street in New York in celebration of Azerbaijan's Independence Day; representing the Azerbaijani community to Mayor Bloomberg's Office of Immigrant Affairs in planning for the future of NYC; coordinating the sister city





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arrangements connecting Ganja, Azerbaijan with Newark, New Jersey; instituting and overseeing scholarship programs for Azerbaijani students studying in US; coordinating and presenting a variety of cultural activities for the Azerbaijani and American communities; involving ASA in support of the Turkish Day parade; and overseeing annual Azerbaijani celebrations in the U.S. Works closely with the Turkish-American community in all of these and other activities. Regular participant in a variety of Turkish - Azerbaijani initiatives, including most recently the Turkish- Azerbaijani Forum which took place in Baku, Azerbaijan in March, 2007. Recipient of the Order of Glory medal, Azerbaijan's highest award, which was presented by Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev in March 2006.

ATILLA SORAN

Northcentral Region VP

Dr. Atilla Soran is a Professor of Surgery. A recipient of more than 12 scientific awards, Dr. Soran had his work published in over a hundred scientific publications. After working as a faculty in the Medicine University of Ankara, Turkey in 1989, he continued his works at the Numune Teaching and Research Hospital between the years 1990 and 1994. Prior to receiving The Best Physician and Academician of Turkey Award in 2004, he was a fellow in the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center between the years 1997 and 1999. He has been serving for the Pittsburgh Turkish American Association as the president since 2002 and vice president for the ATAA since 2005. Atilla Soran strongly believes that the Turkish Americans need better networking and be active in the non-governmental organizations. He initiated a project entitled "who is who in Turkish Americans" He actively works in the projects related to Turkey to educate teachers in PA and he also started a project to educate public in the subject of what happened in 1915.



FERHAN GÖMÜLÜ

Northeastern Region VP

Ferhan Gömülü was born in Istanbul. She holds a B.S. degree in Public Administration and Political Science from the Middle East Technical University, Ankara; and an M.A. in Economics from Northeastern University, Boston. She started her professional career as a Career Diplomat at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Turkey. She worked in IBM Turkey for seven years as the Special Bids Representative. Currently, she works at Harvard University in the field of Information Technology and Communications and also continues her studies on Ph.D. dissertation on the Internet Law and Public Policy. She came to the U.S. in 1991 and has been actively involved in the issues of the Turkish American community ever since. She has served as the Executive Board member and Secretary General of the Turkish American Cultural Society of New England since 1996. She is a public advocate of the Turkish community in the area and has led and took part in organizing numerous projects and events to promote Turkey and Turkish culture, including the Boston Turkish Arts and Culture Festival and the Boston Turkish Film Festival. She is among the recipients of the "Women of Distinction Award" by the Daughters of Atatürk (2001). Currently the ATAA Vice President for Northeastern Region, she has been actively involved in ATAA and its projects in the region since 1999.



HATİCE DİNÇ

Midwest Region VP

Hatice Dinç studied Computer Science and Math at Southwest Missouri State University where she also pursued a minor degree in French Language and Literature. While she was attending school in Springfield, Missouri, she was also working for a non-profit consultant firm as a Director of Research of Grants and Foundations. Hatice has been living in Chicago since 1994 where she has been involved in promoting the Turkish heritage and culture through organizing and participating on various events whether they are through TACA and/or other organizations in the Chicagoland. She completed a Philosophy of Communications degree from Northwestern University in 1999. She is currently a Human Resources Manager in the wireless division of Sprint. While at Sprint,



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she has been heavily involved with the Community Relations Team, a corporate-wide community service effort. She has also worked as a volunteer for several not-for-profit organizations such as Business Volunteers for the Arts (Chicago), Wilson's Creek Battlefield Foundation (Springfield), Good Samaritan Boys Town (Springfield), Dickerson Park Zoo (Springfield), Juanita K. Hammons Performing Arts Center (Springfield). Hatice brings a wealth of knowledge on organizing fundraising campaigns and special events for not-for-profit organizations.

ALP BERKER

Midcentral Region VP

Alp Berker was born in Hull, Canada in 1966. After living in Canada, the U.S.A and Turkey his family settled in Indiana in 1983. He attended Purdue University and received a degree in Computer Technology in 1991 and a Masters in Sociology in 1998 from the University of Indianapolis. He currently works as an IT contractor for the US Federal Government in Indianapolis. He has served in ATA-IN (American Turkish Association of Indiana) in various capacities, Treasurer in 2003 and has been the Vice-President since 2004. He is married with three children.



CAN M. GÜRALP

Southeast Region VP

Born in Palo Alto, California. Lived in Ankara and attended T.E.D Ankara Koleji elementary through high school. College degrees in Electrical Engineering from University of California in Berkley (1969) and San Jose (1971). After living and working in England and Belgium for 6 years, returned to the U.S. in 1980. Retired since 2006; currently working on a book project on "Justice and Fidelity". Has previous engineering experience working for ITT Telecom, Alcatel and Tekelec. Founding group member and first president of ATA-NC in 1987, co-founder of TAFIP, and co-founder of Bridge to Turkey Fund. Has organized the Book Club and TurkFilmReview groups for the ATA-NC community. Volunteers for ATAA Peace in the World initiative. Active supporter of Ilkyar organization (www.ilkyar.org.tr) for the education of Yatılı İlköğretim Bölge Okulları (YİBO) students in Türkiye. Advocate of self-



sufficiency, self-reliance and self-knowledge. Believes in service to humanity as the way for individuals to gain self respect and dignity.

DR. ÇOŞKUN BAYRAK

Southwest Region VP

Dr. Coşkun Bayrak graduated from Trabzon Lisesi. After completing his higher education in Germany, he moved to Pennsylvania in 1981 to continue his education. After receiving a BS degree from Slippery Rock University, a MS from Texas Tech University, and a Ph.D. from Southern Methodist University in Computer Science, he began his teaching career at the University of Texas at Dallas, Benedict College in South Carolina, Troy State University in Alabama, and finally at the University of Arkansas. Currently, he is a tenured professor in the department of Computer Science. His primary research is in the intersection of software engineering component based development, data mining, and Biomedical Engineering. Dr. Bayrak has published over sixty research articles in scientific conferences and journals, one book chapter, given tutorials at major conferences, and served on program committees for numerous international conferences and symposiums. Dr. Bayrak has a long lasting involvement in civic and cultural activities. He formed the Turkish Student Association and became its first president at Texas Tech. While working on his Ph.D. at Southern Methodist University, he established the Turkish Student Association and served as the first president. He promoted the Turkish culture and Turkey in South Carolina and Alabama. He moved to Little Rock, Arkansas(2000), where he formed the "Friends of Turkey in Arkansas (FoTiA)" organization and served as its first president. He also served as the Vice President of ATAA for the Southwestern Region.





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ERTUĞRUL TURHAL

Western Region VP

Ertuğrul Turhal was born in Eskisehir, Turkey in 1958. He graduated from Air Force Academy as an Aeronautical Engineer. He completed his MS degree in Aeronautical Engineering at AF Institute of Technology in Dayton, OH. He also has Business Administration Degree from the Anatolian University. For more than twenty years, he worked as an engineer in various aviation maintenance and aircraft production facilities in the U.S. and Turkey. He retired from TUAF as a Colonel. Since 2001, he has been working as the vice president in an international aviation spare and repair services company. Ertuğrul Turhal served as VP in Turkish Scouting association while in Turkey, and worked as a volunteer in Ohio and California Turkish American communities. He is married with Birsen and has a son named "Cem", who is attending University of California, Davis, and a daughter, Ece, who is in Amador Valley High Scholl, CA.



in related activities such as fundraising activities for various Congressmen supporting Turkish American causes. She is currently working on a project to gather books and educational materials to mail to all members of Congress and educate them about the Armenian accusations. She also wants to raise funds and establish a Mustafa Kemal Ataturk museum in the U.S.

NİLGÜN SEZGİN

Soutwest Region VP

Ms. Sezgin taught English at several high schools in Izmir before she got married and came to first Oakland, CA and then to Dallas TX in 1987. She completed her BS degree in Computer Science at Dallas Baptist University in 1991 and worked in the IT department as Computer Programmer, Systems Analyst and Project Manager on numerous projects. She is currently Senior Lead Systems Analyst and has been with the same company for 23 years. Ms. Sezgin served the Turkish/American community as TURANT (Turkish American Association of North Texas) president in 1992-93. She is a board member of Global Education and Outreach Foundation, founded in 1999 in Plano, TX, a non-profit organization providing computer labs and other educational materials to high schools in Eastern Turkey. As a volunteer of this organization, she has been participating in fund raising activities in Festivals as well as cultural activities and presentations of Turkey around North Texas. Between 2002 and 2005 she performed Turkish Folk dances at various locales and International Festivals in various cities as a member of Dallas Turkish Folk Dancers.



ELECTED NEW BOD MEMBERS

BELGİN ÇUHACI

Treasuer

Belgin Çuhacı received her B.S degree in Chemical Engineering from Istanbul Technical University (ITU) in 1988. She came to USA in 1992 to study English. She received her M.S. degree from St. Joseph's University, Philadelphia, PA in 2002 in the field of Computer Science. Ms. Cuhaci served the Turkish American community in different capacities since 1996. She was the Vice President of Turkish American Friendship Association of Philadelphia (TAFSUS) when she was residing there. She is the founder and General Secretary of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk Turkish American Association (MKATAA). She is serving North Florida Turkish American Association as an Advisory Board member. Belgin Cuhaci has been active in raising funds to help immigrant Turks in need of help. She arranged to commemorate Ataturk on 10th of November and invited Ataturk's adopted daughter Ulku Adatepe to New York for this special day in 2004. She helped raise funds to fight against anti-Turkish Armenian propaganda and participated



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İLKÇAN ÇOKGÖR

Western Region VP

Dr. İlkcan Çokgör received her MD Degree from Hacettepe University in 1989. She did her residency in Dept. of Neurosurgery, Uludag University, Bursa in 1990 and carried out work towards her PhD. in Neurosciences at the Department of Ophthalmology at University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada, between 1991-1993. She did her residency in Dept. of Neurology, Duke University, Durham, NC between the years 1994 and 1997 and Fellowship in Neuro-Oncology at Duke University during 1997-1998. She was an Assistant Professor of Neuro-Oncology at Duke Medical Center in North Carolina from 1998 to 2000 and a Clinical Associate of Neuro-Oncology in Neurosurgery Department at UC Davis between 2000 and 2005. Dr. Cokgor came to U.S in 1993 and got involved in the issues of the Turkish American Community. She has been a member of TAAC (Turkish-American Association of California) from year 2000 to the present. She served as the newsletter health coordinator and writer of the TAAC from 2003 to 2005. She is currently the president of TAAC. She is a public advocate of the Turkish American community in the area and has led and taken part in organizing numerous visits to Senators and Congressmen to educate them about important issues related to Turkey. She participated and organized fundraising events for law makers for the purpose of educating them on the importance of Turkish American friendship and relations.



organizer and a participant (Anadolu Folk Dancers member and classical Turkish music singer). In 2004, she was elected as the president of TACAFA. She was re-elected in 2005, 2006 and 2007. She is also a founding member of the increasingly successful TurkFest's executive board since 2001. Gokce received a Daughters of Ataturk award in 2004 and an ATAA Meritorious Service Award in 2005. During her presidency at TACAFA, working with very talented and committed board members, she was able to increase the membership base by more than 100%, establish a sustainable flow of income through events and loyalty activities, and achieve 501 (c)(3) non-profit status for the association. Gokce Sezgin is a former athlete, winner of 19 medals and numerous awards, including a bronze medal in Turkish National Track & Field Championship.

GÖKÇE SEZGİN

Northwest Region VP

Gökçe Sezgin is a graduate of Orta Dogu Technical University (ODTU). After graduation she worked as a Brand and Product Manager in Turkey for the global conglomerate Unilever Company and DigiTurk. She came to Seattle in 2000 and received her MBA degree from the University of Washington in 2003. Currently, she works for the Dutch multi-national company Philips as a Marketing Manager on the development and the global introduction of new products. Ms. Sezgin has been spending long volunteer hours working for the development of the Turkish community in Seattle since the first time she set foot in the US, both as an





**Salutes
Turkish Americans and Friends of Turkey
on the occasion of
the 28th Annual Convention of ATAA
For their efforts
to promote
Turkish Culture and Heritage
Across the United States**

**For more information
www.turkishculturalfoundation.org**

**www.turkishculture.org
www.turkishmusicportal.org
www.turkish-cuisine.org**

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PROGRAM

THURSDAY - MAY 15, 2008

- 8:30am-9:25am **Registration**
- 9:30am-9:40am **Opening Remarks**
- 9:40am-11:45am **Advocacy Presentation**
Turkish Americans Gaining Power Through Grassroots
Speakers: Nurten Ural, President of ATAA and Allison Block, Advocacy Director
- 11:55am Leaving to Capitol Hill
- 12:40pm-1:45pm **Congressional Luncheon**
Keynote speaker: Mr. George Hochbrueckner, Former Member of Congress (NY)
Honored guests: Congresswoman Virginia Foxx (R-NC); Congresswoman Jean Schmidt (R-OH); Congressman Edward Whitfield (R-KY); Congressman Howard Coble (R-NC)
Location: Senate Mansfield Room (S-207) | Senate side of U.S. Capitol
- 2:00pm-5:00pm **Congressional Visits**
- 5:15pm Returning to Hotel
- 7:00pm-10:00pm **ATA-DC Bar Night**
Location: Vantage Point Rooftop, 1900 N. Fort Myer Drive, Arlington, VA 22216

FRIDAY - MAY 16, 2008

- 8:00am-8:45am **Registration**
- 8:50am-9:05am **Opening Remarks**
- 9:00am-9:30am **May 19th Turkish Youth Day Celebration**
Documentary Screening
The Meaning of May 19; Günay Evinch, President-elect, ATAA
- 9:35am-11:45am **Turkey, a Key Country | Turkish Americans, a Key Heritage Community**
Survey of Pertinent Issues; Matthew Bryza, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs
Mapping the Global Future; Matthew Burrows, Counselor, National Intelligence Council
Ankara Perspective: Turkish-American Relations: Navigating Through Choppy Waters;
Hon. Suat Kiniklioğlu, Member of Parliament, AK Party/Spokesman of the Foreign Affairs Committee
- 12:00pm-1:30pm **Turkish Ambassador's Luncheon**
H.E. Nabi Şensoy, Turkish Ambassador to the United States
Location: Galaxy Ballroom, Sheraton National Hotel



Program

FRIDAY - MAY 16, 2008

- 1:45pm-3:05pm **PKK Terrorism and Iraq**
PKK Modus Operandi and Counter Operations; Ali Koknar, Consultant, AMK Risk Management
PKK Financial Support; Samih Teymur, Director of Turkish Institute for Police Studies (TIPS) and General Coordinator of Turkish National Police in U.S.A.
PKK Challenges Ahead; Daveed Gartenstein-Ross, VP of Research Foundation for Defense of Democracies
- 3:10pm-4:30pm **Armenian Allegations**
Legal Developments; David Saltzman, Esq. Turkish American Legal Defense Fund
Executive and Legislative Policy; Lydia Borland, Caspian Consulting
Diplomacy; Suleyman Gokce, First Counselor, Embassy of the Republic of Turkey
- 5:15pm Leaving to Embassy
- 6:00pm-8:00pm **Ambassador's Reception**
- 8:15pm Returning to Hotel

SATURDAY - MAY 17, 2008

- 9:00am-9:45am **Registration**
- 9:50am-10:00am **Opening Remarks**
- 10:00am-11:00am **US-Turkey Relations: Opportunities and Challenges Ahead**
 Gunay Evinch, President-elect, ATAA
- 11:05am-12:00pm **US-Turkey Relations: A Dual Perspective**
Turkish Perspective; Akin Unver, Dr. Marcia Robins - Wilf Young Scholar, Washington Institute for Near East Policy
US Perspective; Jason Epstein, Founder, Southfive Strategies
- 12:15pm-2:15pm **Luncheon**
- 2:30pm-4:00pm **The Community Briefings**
 Meto Koloski, United Macedonian Diaspora
 Admir Serifovic, Esq., Bosniak American Advisory Council for Bosnia and Herzegovina
 Tomris Azeri, Azerbaijan Association of America
 Bedir Memmedli, United States Azerbaijani Network
 Javid Huseyinov, Azerbaijan American Council, Turkic Youth Network
 Dolkun Kamberi, Uyghur Association
- 4:05pm-5:00pm **Turkish American Community Interactive**
 Bonnie Joy Kaslan, ATAA Trustee
- 7:30pm-2:00am **ATAA Annual Convention Gala**
 7:30pm-8:30pm Reception
 8:30pm-2:00am Dinner Gala Night

SPEAKERS

TOMRIS AZERI

Ms. Tomris Azeri serves as the President of the Azerbaijan Society of America (ASA). She has been the driving force in many of the organizations' initiatives, programs and special events which have fostered a greater understanding and appreciation of the people and country of Azerbaijan by the people and legislators of the United States. Ms. Azeri initiated successful ASA programs such as coordinating legislative informational luncheons for Congressional members and staff in Washington, DC; the raising of the Azerbaijani flag on Wall Street in New York in celebration of Azerbaijan's Independence Day; representing the Azerbaijani community to Mayor Bloomberg's Office of Immigrant Affairs in planning for the future of NYC; coordinating the sister city arrangements connecting Ganja, Azerbaijan with Newark, New Jersey; instituting and overseeing scholarship programs for Azerbaijani students studying in US; coordinating and presenting a variety of cultural activities for the Azerbaijani and American communities; involving ASA in support of the Turkish Day parade; and overseeing annual Azerbaijani celebrations in the U.S. She works closely with the Turkish-American community in all of these and other activities. She is a regular participant in a variety of Turkish - Azerbaijani initiatives, including most recently the Turkish- Azerbaijani Forum which took place in Baku, Azerbaijan in March, 2007. Ms. Azeri is a recipient of the Order of Glory medal, Azerbaijan's highest award, which was presented by Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev in March 2006.

ALLISON BLOCK

Allison Block is currently the Advocacy Director for the Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA), responsible for educating Turkish Americans and friends of Turkey on advocacy best practices in the legislative, educational and media arenas. Prior to ATAA, she served as Program Officer for the Turkish Industrialists' and Businessmen's Association, where her primary responsibility was the organization's "Discover Corporate America" program, linking R&D executives in Turkey with their counterparts in the United States. She has also worked as a researcher and writer for the Embassy of the Republic of Turkey in Washington, DC. Allison has an extensive political background, both legislative and electoral, the former including gubernatorial, congressional, and presidential campaigns. Her prior media experience includes writing for the Prague Post in Prague, Czech Republic, serving as Managing Editor for the Turkish American magazine, and Public Relations Director for the Walnut Creek Watershed Project. Allison holds a BA in Journalism and Public Relations from Drake University (Cum Laude), a MA in Political Management from the George Washington University, a certificate in European Union Policies and Lobbying from the College of Europe in Brugge, Belgium, and has taken coursework in European Union studies at Bilgi University in Istanbul, Turkey.

LYDIA BORLAND

Ms. Borland has more than 20 years of public and private sector experience in international business and government relations. Her regional expertise is in the Middle East, Central Asia, and the Caucasus, while her functional expertise is international trade development and lobbying. She is currently Executive Director of the Caspian Group, an international consulting firm. Caspian Group provides consulting services to DLA Piper and The Livingston Group. Previously, as the Director of the Caspian Business Group, Ms. Borland worked with U.S. companies investing in Azerbaijan and the Caspian region, including Motorola and Texaco. Ms. Borland was also Senior Principal at Capitoline/MS&L, a public affairs and public relations firm in Washington D.C. for five years. She also served for five years as Deputy Director, Legislative Affairs, for International Advisers Inc., a boutique public affairs firm, which specialized in U.S.-Turkish relations. She served as Washington Representative for the Turkish-U.S. Business Council (TAIK/DEIK) through the end of 2007. TAIK is the most prominent business organization in Turkey comprised of 100 Turkish companies striving to improve bilateral trade and industrial cooperation between Turkey and the United States. Ms. Borland speaks Turkish, Italian, Spanish, Azerbaijani, and French. Her foreign country expertise includes Turkey, Azerbaijan, Europe and NATO issues. She has earned a B.A. in International Affairs from George Washington University and a M.B.A. in Finance from Virginia Polytechnic Institute.

MATT BRYZA

Matthew J. Bryza is the Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs. In this capacity, his primary responsibility is policy oversight and management of relations with countries in the Caucasus, Central Asia, and Southern Europe regions. In the past, Bryza also served as special advisor to Amb. Richard Morningstar (1997-98); deputy to the special advisor to the President and Secretary of State on Caspian Basin Energy Diplomacy (1998-2001); and Director for Europe and Eurasia at the National Security Council (2001-2005). Bryza graduated from Stanford University with a bachelor's degree in international relations. He received his Master's degree in the same field from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. He is fluent in Russian and Polish, and also speaks German and Spanish.

MATHEW J. BURROWS

Dr. Mathew J. Burrows has served as Director of the Analysis and Production Staff in the National Intelligence Council since May 2003. In this capacity, he is responsible for managing a staff of senior analysts and production technicians who guide and shepherd all NIC products-not just Estimates-from inception to dissemination. He was the principal drafter for the NIC publication - Mapping the Global Future in 2020. This publication received widespread notice and praise in



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the international media and among academics and think tanks. In addition, in September 2005, he was asked to set up and direct the NIC's new Long Range Analysis Unit. In July, 2007, he was appointed Counselor to the NIC. Dr. Burrows joined the CIA in 1986, where he served as analyst for the Directorate of Intelligence (DI), covering Western Europe, including the development of European institutions such as the European Union. In 1998-99 he was the first holder of the Intelligence Community Fellowship, and served at the Council of Foreign Relations in New York. Other previous positions included assignments as special assistant to the US UN Ambassador Richard Holbrooke, 1999-2001, and Deputy National Security Advisor to US Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill in 2001-2002. He is a member of the DI's Senior Analyst Service. Dr. Burrows graduated from Wesleyan University in 1976 and in 1983, received a PhD in European History from Cambridge University, England.

JASON EPSTEIN

In November 2002, Jason Epstein founded Southfive Strategies, a Washington, DC-based limited liability company focusing on public relations, lobbying, and business-to-business activities. The consulting boutique has access to the White House, congressional leadership, and influential media organizations. Among the company's previous clients was the Turkish Embassy, which it represented in public relations matters for nearly five years. For six years, Mr. Epstein served as the director of legislative affairs at B'nai B'rith International. He was responsible for formulating and promoting B'nai B'rith's agenda in Congress, and for reporting on Capitol Hill events of importance to the American Jewish community. Prior to joining B'nai B'rith, Mr. Epstein worked for New York Republican Congressman, and then-Chairman of the House International Relations Committee, Ben Gilman for five years. Mr. Epstein obtained a law degree from American University's Washington College of Law and earned a Master's Degree in Business Administration from AU's Kogod School of Business. He is a 1991 graduate from the State University of NY at Albany.

GÜNAY EVINCH

Second generation Turkish American, born in Chicago, raised in San Francisco, and living and working in Washington, DC where ATAA is headquartered. ATAA: Capital Region VP (2004-2006); Secretary General (1998-2000); Author, Turkish Times "Sports News" (1993-98). Education: U.S. Fulbright Scholar and Japan Sasakawa Scholar, International Law and the Armenian Case, Ankara University (1991-93); Juris Doctor, Washington & Lee University, VA (1991); Washington & Lee Grant (1989-91); B.A. Development Economics and B.A. Political Science-Public Service, University of California, Davis (1986); UC Regents Outstanding Senior Award (1986); EU Legal Studies, University of Madrid (1989).

VIRGINIA FOXX

Dr. Virginia Foxx was reelected to her second term to represent North Carolina's Fifth District in the United States House of Representatives in November 2006. She is the third woman in North Carolina history to serve in the U.S. House. Dr. Foxx serves on the House Committees on Agriculture, Government Reform, and Education and the Workforce. Prior to serving on Capitol Hill, Foxx spent ten years in the North Carolina Senate. Dr. Foxx is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where she received her A.B. degree in English and M.A.C.T. in Sociology. She earned her Ed.D. in Curriculum and Teaching/Higher Education from UNC-Greensboro. Dr. Foxx began her career as a secretary and research assistant at UNC-Chapel Hill. She taught at Caldwell Community College, was a sociology instructor at Appalachian State University and held several administrative positions at ASU, including Assistant Dean of the General College. Dr. Foxx also served as Deputy Secretary for Management in the N.C. Department of Administration for Governor Jim Martin. Prior to her election to the Senate in 1994, she served as President and later a consultant at Mayland Community College from 1987-1994. She served on the Executive Committee of North Carolina Citizens for Business and Industry and was elected to three four-year terms on the Watauga County Board of Education. She was confirmed by the United States Senate for a Presidential appointment to the National Advisory Council for Women's Educational Programs. She also served on the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation Advisory Panel. Other current or former service on boards includes the Board of Directors of the John William Pope Center for Higher Education Policy, Board of Directors of the N.C. Center for Public Research, the UNC-Chapel Hill Board of Visitors, National Conference of State Legislatures' Blue Ribbon Advisory Panel on Child Care, Charter Member of the Mount Airy Museum of Regional History and the Foscoe-Grandfather Community Center Board. Dr. Foxx is married to Tom Foxx. Prior to her entering Congress, the couple owned a nursery business in Watauga County.

DAVEED GARTENSTEIN-ROSS

Daveed Gartenstein-Ross is the vice president of research at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies. He consults for a number of clients, both governmental and private, who need to be at the forefront of understanding terrorism and Islamic extremism. Gartenstein-Ross has conducted law enforcement training for the Department of Homeland Security and local agencies, and has served as a Subject Matter Expert for the U.S. Department of State's office of antiterrorism assistance. A highly regarded public speaker, he has made public addresses at venues that include Harvard Law School, the University of Georgia, Wake Forest University, Kenyon College, and Tyndale University College & Seminary (Toronto, Canada). Gartenstein-Ross has also appeared on panels at law enforcement and policy

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conferences at such venues as the LAPD's Joint Regional Intelligence Conference, the Cato Institute, John Jay College on Criminal Justice, and elsewhere. He has held positions such as senior terrorism analyst at the Investigative Project on Terrorism, commercial litigator at Boies, Schiller & Flexner, and law clerk on the United States Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. He earned a J.D. from the New York University School of Law, where he was a member of the Law Review, and a B.A. from Wake Forest University, where he won the 1997 National Debate Tournament. He is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in politics from Catholic University. In addition, he was awarded the Claremont Institute's prestigious Lincoln Fellowship in 2007. Gartenstein-Ross has traveled widely in the Middle East and Europe. He has been to Iraq as an embedded journalist and visited the detention facilities at Gitmo. He can conduct research in several languages, including Arabic, Italian, and Spanish.

SÜLEYMAN GÖKCE

Mr. Suleyman Gokce serves as First Counselor for Congressional Affairs at the Turkish Embassy in Washington, DC, since September 2007. He worked in different capacities at numerous departments at the Turkish Foreign Service since 1990. Among his previous posts abroad are Turkish Embassies in Rome, London, Kabul and Islamabad. He also served as political advisor to Nato Senior Civilian Representative in Afghanistan, Mr. Hikmet Cetin, and as chief political advisor to Commander of International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in 2004-2005. Counselor Gokce served as Head of Department for the South Caucasus at the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs before he was assigned to work at the Turkish Embassy in Washington, DC.

JAVID HUSEYNOV

Javid Huseynov, Ph.D is a graduate of Rochester Institute of Technology (Rochester, NY) with B.S. in Civil Engineering (1996), M. Eng. in Industrial Management (1998) and M.S. in Computer Science (1999). He currently works as a senior R&D software engineer and is completing his PhD in Computer Science at the University of California Irvine. In past experience, he worked as a systems engineer for various companies including Eastman Kodak, Rockwell Semiconductor, and Conexant Systems. Mr. Huseynov is an author of two international patents, has a number of journal and conference publications in the fields of artificial intelligence, signal processing, distributed computing as well as in social sciences, international relations, and history. Active in online Turkic communities from their inception, Javid Huseynov became a co-founder and moderator of the first Azeri online forum, Yeni Dostlar (YDnet) in 1995, and a co-owner of Habarlar-L News Listserv based at the University of Southern California since 1996. After working closely for several years with Azerbaijan Society of America (sister organization of FTAA and ATAA), in 2006, Javid Huseynov became a co-founder and

board member of Azerbaijani-American Council (AAC), a California-based non-profit organization operating in California, Texas, and Minnesota. As an executive officer of AAC, he is working closely with local chapters of ATAA. He is also a West-Coast regional director of U.S. Azeris Network (USAN), online voter initiative, and created over a dozen websites dedicated to Turkic causes. Mr. Huseynov is currently involved in establishing a Turkic youth networking initiative to facilitate the involvement of students and youth from Turkic nations in grassroots building. He is also conducting research on Azeri and Turkic identities and the impact of online communities and social networking on their definition.

DOLKUN KAMBERI

Dr. Dolkun Kamberi, the founding Director of Radio Free Asia Uyghur Service since 1998, earned his M. Phil. in 1993 and Ph. D. degrees from Columbia University in 1995, and completed his post-doctoral research at the University of Pennsylvania in 1998. He is an internationally recognized scholar and authority on the ancient Silk Road civilization and Sino-Turkic languages. Dr. Kamberi's career has included work as field-archeologist, a university professor, linguist, and Uyghur media. Furthermore, Dr. Dolkun Kamberi was invited to give special lectures and presentations at many universities throughout United State of America, and international conferences around the world; subjects related to Central Asian political, cultural, historical, linguistic, archeological, and educational issues. He has been published extensively in various languages on the Silk-Road civilization and languages.

BONNIE JOY KASLAN

The Honorable Bonnie Joy Kaslan, the first non-Turkish woman worldwide to represent the Republic of Turkey as Honorary Consul General, is Executive Vice President of Kaslan Associates, Inc., a Sonoma based Structural and Geotechnical Engineering firm. A former graduate student at the Sorbonne, Paris, educator and department chairperson, She has served the Turkish American Community since 1978 and was president of the Turkish American Association from 1983-1985. She served as the first woman on the Board of Directors of the Assembly of Turkish American Associations as Western region Vice President from 1982-1986. She was a national chairman of the Assembly's Curriculum Committee History and Social Science. She has represented Turkish American interests at high-level State Department meetings, addressed human relation commissions nationwide, worked on a one-to-one basis with innumerable congressional representatives and their staffs as well as delivered expert testimony before the Committee on Foreign Relation Relations. She was developing and implementing educational and public relations programs as deemed necessary. She has appeared on radio and television nationwide as an educator, advocate and facilitator for a better understanding of Turkey and her people.



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SUAT KINIKLIOGLU

Suat Kiniklioglu entered Justice and Development Party (AK Party) from the German Marshall Fund of the United States. He is a member of the Turkish Parliament as well as the Spokesperson on the Foreign Affairs Committee, AK Party Deputy Chairman of External Affairs as well as Member of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, Chairman of the Turkish-British Inter-Parliamentary Friendship Group, Member of the Executive Board of the Turkish-American Inter-Parliamentary Friendship Group; Secretary General of the Turkish-Dutch Inter-Parliamentary Friendship Group; and a Member of the Auditing Board of the Turkish-German Inter-Parliamentary Friendship Group. He has an impressive educational background with a PhD in Political Science from Bilkent University and Masters in International Relations as well as a Bachelors of Arts degree in Political Science from Carleton University in Canada and a Bachelor of Science in Electronics from the Turkish Air Force Academy in Istanbul. Mr Kiniklioglu speaks Turkish, English, German and Russian.

ALI KOKNAR

Washington, DC-based Ali M. Koknar is a private security consultant, specializing in counterterrorism and international organized crime. He studied law and business management in Turkey and in South Africa. Ali served in the artillery and ordnance corps of the Turkish Army and with the South African Police Force. As a counterterrorism researcher and analyst, Ali's writings are published in the US, UK, Turkey and Europe, and he lectured for NATO, Turkish National Police and the US Department of Defense. While his work takes him to locations such as Central America, Middle East and the Caucasus, he remains an associate of the Terrorism Research Center in Virginia, and an associate fellow of the Institute for the Analysis of Global Security in Maryland.

METODIJA KOLOSKI

Metodija A. Koloski co-founded and serves as the President of the United Macedonian Diaspora (UMD), the largest global NGO addressing the interests and needs of Macedonians and Macedonian communities throughout the world. Metodija is first generation Macedonian-American, born and raised in NJ. Metodija has an extensive background in Russian and Eastern European affairs, government relations, and fundraising. In his professional capacity, he is the Government Affairs Specialist at DLA Piper US LLP. Prior to DLA Piper, he worked in the Development Office of the Woodrow Wilson International Center of Scholars. Metodija has held internships with the Office of Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr. (D-NJ), the Foreign Policy Association, and the Agency of Emigration in Macedonia. Metodija has been quoted by numerous international publications on Macedonian and Eastern European affairs, including Congressional Quarterly, the Globe and Mail, among others. He has been published in several Macedonian

publications, the Center on International Affairs, the Australian Age, and the Washington Times. Metodija holds a BA in Political Science and Legal Studies from Manhattanville College, where he conducted his thesis on the Rights of Macedonian Minorities in Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, and Serbia.

BEDIR MEMMEDLI

Bedir Memmedli was born in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan. Right after graduation from high school, at age 16, he began to work for a local plant that specialized in manufacturing oil drilling equipment. At age 18, he was called for military duty with the Soviet Army where he served two years, and was discharged as a senior sergeant. Upon returning to Baku he began to work as a police officer and simultaneously continued his education at Baku State University. After two years, he came to the US for further education. He graduated from North Carolina State University with a bachelor's in business management and master's in accounting. Upon graduation, he worked for the State of North Carolina as a state auditor until he was relocated to Washington, DC. Currently, he works for the federal government as a senior accountant. He is also a Certified Public Accountant. He serves as vice-president of the Azerbaijan Society of America and represents this organization in the DC area. He is treasurer/financial officer and also co-founder of the US Azeris Network (USAN). He is married with a 3.5 year old son Memmed.

JEAN SCHMIDT

A lifelong resident of Clermont County, Jean Schmidt is the first woman ever elected to represent Southern Ohio in Congress. Congresswoman Schmidt was elected to office to fill the remaining term of former Congressman Rob Portman. Ambassador Portman resigned from the Second Congressional District seat in 2005 after being confirmed as the United State Trade Representative. Congresswoman Schmidt was re-elected in November 2006 to serve a full term in Congress. Jean serves the Committee on Agriculture and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. Throughout her career, Congresswoman Schmidt has held various public offices and continues to be actively involved in civic and community groups. She served for two terms in the Ohio House of Representatives where the Cincinnati Enquirer described her tenure by saying she "...proved effective in passing legislation to address her district's concerns." While serving in the Ohio General Assembly, Schmidt enacted legislation to create jobs, protect Ohio's children and ensure access to quality healthcare. Prior to Jean's election to Ohio's House of Representatives, she served 10 years as a Miami Township Trustee. She helped Miami Township to become a world-class community by initiating a variety of projects and improvements, including creating a 300 acre first class park system, securing funds for critical transportation improvements, and attracting more than 2,000 high paying jobs in the

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Township. Congresswoman Schmidt holds a degree in Political Science from the University of Cincinnati and her interests include auto racing and long distance running. She has competed in more than 60 marathons and continues to compete across the country. She resides in Miami Township with her husband Peter.

H.E. NABI SENSOY

H.E. Nabi Sensoy became Ambassador of Turkey to the United States on Jan. 10, 2006. Ambassador Sensoy previously served as Deputy Undersecretary of General Political Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2002-05), Ambassador to Russia (1998-2002), Deputy Undersecretary of Political Affairs for the European Union (1997-98), Director-General of the Department of Policy Planning at the Foreign Affairs Ministry (1995-97), and Ambassador to Spain (1990-95). He was also Chief of Staff to the president (1988-90), Consul General in London (1985-88), advisor to the prime minister (1983-85), as well as Counselor at the Turkish embassy in Washington, D.C. (1980-83) and in Cuba (1979-80). Before that, he served as Head of Section at the Department of Bilateral Political Affairs for Western Europe (1977-79), First Secretary at the Turkish Embassy in Venezuela (1975-77), Vice Consul at the Turkish Consulate General in New York (1972-75), and Third Secretary and Second Secretary at the Department of Research in the Foreign Affairs Ministry (1970-72). Ambassador Sensoy is a graduate of the Faculty of Political Sciences at the University of Ankara.

DAVID SALTZMAN

David Saltzman is a principal member of Saltzman & Evinch, PC. He is now in his 15th year of representing clients involved in Turkish-American affairs. Mr. Saltzman has represented the Turkish Foreign Ministry and Ministry of National Defense in litigation before the U.S. courts and has advised the Turkish Embassy on a variety of issues important to its relations with the U.S. government and its services to Turks living in the U.S. Mr. Saltzman also has represented or presently represents a number of Turkish American non-profit organizations, including the Turkish Coalition of America, the Union of Chambers and Commodities Exchanges of Turkey, U.S. Office (TOBB-USA), the Institute of Turkish Studies, the Bylaws Committee of the Assembly of Turkish American Associations, the American Turkish Veterans Association, the Atatürk Society of America, and the ARI Foundation USA. He also advises the TC-USA PAC bipartisan political organization. In the private sector, Mr. Saltzman is lead counsel for franchising and leasing in Turkey for Subway Sandwiches, lead counsel for the Onacor USA, LLC trading company, which is the U.S. agent of the MKEK defense manufacturing company; U.S. counsel to Red Star Aviation (Istanbul), and has served in varying capacities Innovative Emergency Management (Baton Rouge), EYK Mining (Mugla), Turkey. Mr. Saltzman maintains at least one pro bono matter at all times. Prior to forming Saltzman & Evinch, P.C., Mr.

Saltzman was an associate in the New York office of Chadbourne & Parke LLP. Mr. Saltzman received his J.D. from Washington & Lee University School of Law. He conducted his Bachelor's studies at the College of William & Mary in Virginia and the Université Paul Valéry in Montpellier, France.

ADMIR SERIFOVIC

Admir Serifovic is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Bosniak American Advisory Council for Bosnia and Herzegovina (BAACBH), based in Washington, D.C. BAACBH is a non-profit, non-government and non-partisan organization dedicated to advocating for Bosnian-Americans in USA and promoting peace and economic development in the Balkans by fostering democratic policy, promoting respect for human rights, and initiating educational and developmental programs. Mr. Serifovic is the Founder and Managing Attorney of The Serifovic Law Firm, P.C., a Washington, D.C., based law firm that serves clients throughout the U.S. and around the world in all aspects of U.S. immigration and nationality law. He received his Juris Doctorate degree from The Catholic University of America School of Law in Washington, D.C. and his B.A. degree, summa cum laude, in Political Science from the University of Massachusetts at Boston. Mr. Serifovic is a member of the District of Columbia Bar and its International Law Section. He is also an active member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, and the World Affairs Council of Washington, D.C. He is fluent in Bosnian, Croatian, and Serbian languages.

GEORGE HOCHBRUECKNER

Former Congressman George J. Hochbrueckner, currently heads a Consulting Firm, George J. Hochbrueckner & Associates (GJHA), Inc. He presently serves as "of Counsel" to O'Connor & Hannan, a respected Washington DC law firm. In his four terms [1987-1995] as the Congressman for the First District of New York, he distinguished himself as a leader on issues critical to Long Island and our nation. While in Congress, he served on both the House Armed Services and Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committees for eight years. Before being elected to Congress, Hochbrueckner served for ten years as a Member of the New York State Assembly. After graduation from high school, Hochbrueckner served in the United States Navy for three years where he was trained as an Aviation Electronics Technician, which became the basis for his 20+ year engineering career. After being honorably discharged in 1959, he attended the State University of New York at Stony Brook and Hofstra University and California State University at Northridge. After 2-1/2 years of college, Hochbrueckner pursued full time on-the-job engineering training. He worked his way from technician to senior engineer within 5 years. As a senior engineer and later as a research scientist, Hochbrueckner worked for Grumman in New York and Litton and Teledyne in California.



Speakers

SAMİH TEYMUR

Samih Teymur, Ph.D, is the President of The Turkish Institute for Security and Democracy, Washington, DC. Dr. Teymur has had twenty years experience in policing, and is an expert on anti-terrorism issues. He has commanded the Ankara (the Capital city of Turkey), Counter-Terrorism Department for ten years. He is the recipient of many awards from the Turkish National Police as well as international institutions such as The University of North Texas and NATO, in recognition of his contributions and leadership in policing. He has expertise and experience in terrorist recruitment, the role of law enforcement in counter-terrorism, and international cooperation against crime. Dr. Teymur is a graduate of the FBI National Academy (2001) He has published numerous articles in journals and magazines, and has been interviewed by popular Turkish newspapers such as Hurriyet and Milliyet, The Dallas Morning News, Denton Chronicle, and NT Daily. Dr. Teymur holds a Ph.D in Interdisciplinary Information Sciences and an MA in Criminal Justice from The University of North Texas, where his dissertation focused on establishing a conceptual model for understanding the terrorist recruitment process, observation and analysis of DHKP/C, PKK, and Turkish Hezbollah terrorist organizations.

H. AKIN ÜNVER

Akin Unver joined the Washington Institute as a research assistant and Dr. Marcia Robins – Wilf Young scholar in June 2007. In that capacity he worked and published with Dr. Soner Cagaptay on U.S. – Turkish relations and its components such as the PKK problem, strategic partnership and the broader Middle East. Unver is currently a PhD candidate at the University of Essex, UK and his research focuses on the role of US Congress and House of Representatives in the U.S. – Turkish relations. He holds a B.A. in International Relations and a master's degree in European Studies. Prior to joining the Washington Institute, Unver was the senate member in charge of Turkish affairs at 'Europe United'; a progressive and pro-Union political party based in Brussels. His previous work experience includes the European Union Secretariat General in Ankara, Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Eurasian Center for Strategic Studies (ASAM), also in Ankara.

NURTEN URAL

Nurten Ural is the President of the Assembly of Turkish American Associations. Ms. Ural is also the Honorary Consul General of the Republic of Turkey, Detroit, Michigan. She has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Human Environment and Design and a Master of Fine Arts Degree in Interior Design and Human Shelter for the Special Needy-both from Michigan State University. Ural is the owner of Ural Interiors, Inc., a commercial interior design firm in Farmington Hills, MI. She is also

the owner of Ural Properties, LLC. A leasing and managing company for commercial and residential properties. She has received many awards for her business accomplishments and community service work including the Athena Award, Business Accomplishment Award, Daughter of Ataturk-Women of Distinction Award, "Gobustan" International Award, and the Republican of the Year Award. Ural now serves on the Board of Directors for the Detroit Institute of Arts, and served on the Board of Directors of two Chambers of Commerce, serving as Secretary, Vice Chair and Chair on one of them. She has also served on the Board of Directors of the National Association of Women Business Owners, Professional Women's Round Table, Historic Homes, the Republican Club, and on the Board of the Farmington Area Homeowners Association. Ural served as the Treasurer, President, and Trustee of the Turkish American Cultural Association of Michigan, as well as ATAA President-Elect and as Vice-President of the Midcentral Region.

ED WHITFIELD

Ed Whitfield was elected to Congress in 1994 as the first Republican to represent Kentucky's First Congressional District since the Civil War. Whitfield is a native of Hopkinsville, Kentucky and attended Madisonville High School. He earned a Bachelor's Degree and Juris Doctorate from the University of Kentucky. He also studied at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C., where he now serves on the Board of Governors. Whitfield served as a 1st Lieutenant in the 100th Division of the U.S. Army Reserves. Congressman Whitfield served in the Kentucky House of Representatives from 1974-75 while practicing law in Hopkinsville, where he operated a successful oil distributorship in the west Kentucky coal fields. In 1979, he became Counsel to the President of Seaboard System Railroad in Washington, D.C. Later, he was named Vice President of State Relations and then Vice President for Federal Railroad Affairs for CSX Corporation. Whitfield served as Legal Counsel to the Chairman of the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC) from 1991 to 1993 where he worked to reduce regulation of the nation's barge, railroad and trucking industries. Congressman Whitfield serves on the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. Whitfield is the ranking member on the Commerce, Trade, and Consumer Protection (CTCP) Subcommittee. In addition to CTCP, Whitfield serves on the Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality, which oversees national energy policy as well as utility issues and regulation of nuclear facilities, and the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations which has jurisdiction over a wide range of Departments, Agencies and issues. The Congressman is married to Connie Harriman, who served as Assistant Secretary of the Interior and Director of the U.S. Export-Import Bank and, currently, as Senior Vice-President of the Humane Society.

2008 ATAA AWARDS

The strength of ATAA comes from individuals and organizations that embody the values, mission and goals of the Assembly. Each year during its annual conference, the Assembly honors such individuals and organizations that have been nominated by the Turkish American community and stand out in community service and serve as role models for all of us. We are honored to announce the recipients of the ATAA 28th Annual Awards.

President's Special Award

NAIMI & NAILA AMIRALİYEV
FERİHA İŞTAR

Distinguished Service Award

DAVID SALTZMAN
BRUCE FEIN

Meritorious Service Award

ALİ & FEVZİYE MANİZEDE

Component Association Award

DEMET CABBAR (President) & ATA-DC

Young Leaders Award

ESRA ALEMDAR
YURTER ÖZCAN
DENİZ ÖZKAN
SONAY KANBER



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The Turkish Coalition of America (TCA) is an educational, public charitable organization incorporated in February 2007. Based in the nation's capital, TCA's objective is to

- Educate the general public charitable about Turkey and Turkish Americans and voice their opinion on critical issues to interested parties.
- Engage and cultivate a new generation of young Turkish American leaders.
- Promote and advance the interests of the Turkish American community and Turks.
- Foster friendship, understanding and cooperation between the United States and Turkey.
- Protect the character and ensure a realistic portrayal of Turkey and Turkish Americans in the media and the arts.
- Serve as a think tank of expertise and a clearinghouse of information on Turkey and Americans of Turkish descent.
- Identify and recognize the achievements of Turkish Americans in academia, arts, business, education, government, public service and science.

In carrying out its mission, TCA is committed to building coalitions and working with all like-minded organizations, based on shared values and goals.

For more information on issues related to US-Turkey relations and Turkish Americans, please visit our website at www.turkishcoalitionofamerica.org.

Turkish Coalition of America
1025 Connecticut Avenue, Suite 1000, NW | Washington, DC 20036
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- engaging in meaningful discussion with Turkish Americans on major issues
- maintaining a strong US-Turkish relationship
- a balanced dialogue on global issues that impact US-Turkish relations.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:
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TURKISH COALITION USA POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

www.tc-usa-pac.org

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As we celebrate
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