



ASSEMBLY OF
TURKISH AMERICAN
ASSOCIATIONS

37th ANNUAL TURKISH AMERICAN NATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

“U.S. - TURKEY RELATIONS:
The Political, Economic & Cultural Dimensions”



MARCH 24-25, 2017 | HOUSTON, TX

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Dear Turkish-Americans, Turkic-Americans, and Friends of Turkey,

It is with great pleasure that I extend a warm welcome from Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA) to all participants and attendees of the ATAA's 37th Annual Turkish American National Leadership Conference.

This year's conference theme, "U.S. - Turkey Relations: The Political, Economic & Cultural Dimensions" highlights the increasing importance on multidimensional aspects of the nations' relations with one another. The geopolitical landscape around Turkey has undergone fast and major changes during the last couple of years. These changes further increased demand that Turkey play an important role in many regional conflicts and changes simultaneously. Turkey is the United States' eastern-most ally in Europe; it borders the Mediterranean, the Middle East and Iran, and serves as a gateway to the Black Sea. Turkey has provided home to about three million Syrian refugees. Turkey, by virtue of its location, political systems, and democratic values continues to be an important and vital ally for the United States.

ATAA has a rich history of bringing experts on many different issues together, and with the leadership of this organization, we have been able to address many topics that interest Turkish American Community. With our National Leadership Conference we provide our members and Turkish American Community with opportunities to engage with one another, learn about current issues, and learn from each other.

I extend my deepest appreciation to the directors of the ATAA, our members, Component Associations, our sponsors, staff and volunteers. Their support and dedication to this organization has brought us forward.



Kenan Caglar
President
Assembly of Turkish American Associations



ASSEMBLY OF TURKISH AMERICAN ASSOCIATIONS

Established in 1979, the ATAA represents over 500,000 Turkish and 300,000 Turkic Americans nationwide at the nation's capital. ATAA, based on the universal principles of secular democracy, plural society, and human rights, works to empower Turkish Americans through civic engagement education and training.

ATAA works to support strong US-Turkish relations. ATAA serves as a trusted interlocutor between the United States and Turkey, holding periodic meetings with Members of Congress, the Department of State, and representing the Turkish American community at the U.S. Office of the Director of National Intelligence Heritage Council and Department of Commerce Census Bureau.

ATAA activities include providing educational seminars on grassroots advocacy, civic engagement and integration into American society; hosting events on contemporary political, social and economic issues relating to US- Turkish relations, serving as a clearinghouse of information and expert opinions relating to US-Turkish relations; and supporting cultural events that enrich American diversity with Turkish culture. ATAA e-bulletins -- Community Information Services (CIS), Grassroots Information Services (GIS) and Monthly Newsletter, reach tens of thousands of readers from the United States to Turkey, from the Balkans to the Caucuses, Central Asia and the Middle East.

ATAA is governed by a Board of Directors and financed by a Board of Trustees comprising Turkish Americans from diverse backgrounds from across the nation. ATAA is a tax-exempt, non-profit organization that relies on private donations, as well as private and public grants. ATAA also has an Endowment Fund which was established to secure the long-term growth and efficacy of the organization.

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Friday, March 24, 2017

U.S. - TURKEY RELATIONS DAY

7:30am-9:00am **Breakfast**

8:45am-9:15am **Opening Ceremony & Welcoming Remarks**

Kenan Caglar, ATAA President
Zafar Tahir, Member, The City of Houston Planning Commission
Honorable Sylvester Turner, Mayor of Houston

9:30am-10:30am **Session 1.1: U.S.-Turkey Relations: Strategic Issues of Mutual Concern**

Moderator: **Gokhan Ozalp**, ATAA First Vice President and Mid Central Region VP
Speakers: **Ambassador (ret.) Ross Wilson**, Non-Resident Senior Fellow, The Atlantic Council
Howard G. Beasey, President, American-Turkish Council (ATC)
Reva Goujon, Vice President of Global Analysis, Stratfor

10:30am-10:45am *Coffee Break*

10:45am-11:45am **Session 1.2: U.S.-Turkey Relations: Opportunities with Trump Administration**

Moderator: **Howard Beasey**, President, American-Turkish Council (ATC)
Speakers: **Cenk Sidar**, Founder and Managing Director, Sidar Global Advisors
Ambassador (ret.) Ross Wilson, Non-Resident Senior Fellow, The Atlantic Council
Patrick L. Anderson, Principal and CEO, Anderson Economic Group*

12:00pm-1:30pm **Luncheon**

Video message by **Ambassador John R. Bass**, Ambassador of the United States to Turkey

1:30pm-1:45pm *Conference Break*

1:45pm-3:00pm **Session 2: Proposed Turkish Constitutional Change and its Impact on the Future of Turkey**

Moderator: **Kenan Caglar**, ATAA President
Speakers: **Cenk Sidar**, Founder and Managing Director, Sidar Global Advisors
Reva Goujon, Vice President of Global Analysis, Stratfor
Kilic Bugra Kanat, Research Director, SETA Foundation*

3:00pm-3:15pm *Coffee Break*

3:15pm-4:15pm **Session 3: Armenian Allegations and Historical Facts**

Moderator: **Sevgin Oktay**, ATAA NY Region VP
Speakers: **Prof. Justin A. McCarthy**, Department of History, University of Louisville
Ergün Kırlikovali, Former ATAA President
Tal Buenos, Ph.D. Candidate in Political Science, University of Utah

4:15pm-4:30pm *Coffee Break*

4:30pm-5:30pm **Roundtable Discussions**



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Saturday, March 25, 2017

TURKISH AMERICAN DAY

8:00am-9:30am **Breakfast**

9:45am-10:45am **Session 4: Legacy of Kemal Atatürk**

Moderator: **Mazlum Kosma**, Treasurer, ATAA

Speakers: **Professor Justin A. McCarthy**, Department of History, University of Louisville
Professor Bulent Atalay, President, Atatürk Society of America

10:45am-11:00am *Coffee Break*

11:00am-12:00pm **Session 5: Turkish American Women in Leadership**

Moderator: **Lydia Borland**, President, LB International Solutions

Speakers: **Pembe Hande Ozdinler**, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Neurology, Northwestern Medicine
Ceylan Rowe, Commissioner for the Metrowest Commission on the Status of Women
Professor Banu Arun, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

12:00pm-1:30pm **Luncheon**

1:30pm-1:45pm *Conference Break*

1:45pm-3:00pm **Session 6: Advocacy and Community Outreach**

Moderator: **Ayca Altintig**, ATAA Western Region VP

Speakers: **Ergün Kırlikovalı**, ATAA Former President
Lydia Borland, President, LB International Solutions
Turgut Cakiraga, President-Elect, Placentia Rotary Club, ATA-SC Former President

3:00pm-3:15pm *Coffee Break*

3:15pm-4:15pm **Session 7: ATAA Bright Future Online Education**

Moderator: **Kayhan Yilmaz**, ATAA Education Committee Chair and Capital Region VP

Speakers: **Hulya Koc**, Bright Future Committee Member
Halil Ersoy, Ass. Professor Baskent University

4:15pm-4:30pm *Coffee Break*

4:30pm-5:30pm **Session 8: Turkish American Associations: Bringing Together the Community**

Moderator: **Murat Tas**, President of Turkish American Association of San Antonio - TAASA

Speakers: **Ozlem Adra**, President of American Turkish Associations of Houston - ATA-Houston
Naci Kavrar, President of Turkish American Associations of Northern Texas - TURANT

5:30pm-6:30pm *Conference Break*

6:30pm-7:30pm **Reception**

7:30pm-11:00pm **Annual Gala & Awards Banquet**

Live performance by **Çatkapı** Band



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OZLEM ADRA

Ms. Ozlem Adra arrived in the US at age 18 as a student after being selected by the Turkish government to represent Turkey during the International Air Cadet Exchange program. She trained as a co-pilot in NYC, and was recognized for her contributions to the alliance between the US and Turkey at a ceremony at West Point Military Academy. She earned her BA in Translation and Interpretation Studies at Bogazici University and her MA in European Studies at Bilgi University, awarded “Center of Excellence in EU Studies” by the European Commission. While at Bogazici University, she cut her teeth as an organizer with the European Weekend School Projects which brought to Istanbul top diplomats of the EU and the UN, and students from across the EU for a series of conferences. As a student, she attended international seminars across Europe and earned diplomas from the Luxembourg Institute for European and International Studies and Les Jeunes Européens Fédéralistes as part of her study of the European integration. She worked as an interpreter for the European Commission, and is a four-time published translator. She has been working as a linguist for Google for the last decade. Ozlem has been serving ATA-Houston as President since 2015. ATA’s lifetime assets have doubled during this time, and the Turkish Festival became one of the largest cultural festivals in the state, bringing in companies like Coca-Cola and Uber as sponsors. ATA is currently giving back to Houston by sponsoring the Museum of Fine Arts and NPR, as well as supporting the Houston Food Bank and Make a Wish Foundation.

PATRICK L. ANDERSON

Mr. Patrick L. Anderson founded Anderson Economic Group in 1996, and serves as a Principal and Chief Executive Officer in the company. Mr. Anderson has written over 100 published works, including the Economics of Business Valuation from Stanford University Press. Three of his articles, “Pocketbook Issues and the Presidency”, “The Value of Private Businesses in the United States”, and “Policy Uncertainty and Persistent Unemployment” have each been awarded for outstanding writing from the National Association of Business Economics. Mr. Anderson has taken a leading role

in several major public policy initiatives in his home state. He was the author of the 1992 Term Limit Amendment to the Michigan Constitution, and the 2006 initiated law that repealed the state’s 4-decade-old Single Business Tax. His firm’s work resulted in a wage increase for Home Help workers in 2006, the creation of a Michigan EITC in 2008, and the repeal of the item pricing law in 2011. Before founding Anderson Economic Group, Mr. Anderson was the deputy budget director for the State of Michigan under Governor John Engler, and Chief of Staff for the Michigan Department of State. Anderson is a graduate of the University of Michigan, where he earned a Master of Public Policy degree and a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science. He is a member of the National Association for Business Economics and the National Association of Forensic Economists. The Michigan Chamber of Commerce awarded Mr. Anderson its 2006 Leadership Michigan Distinguished Alumni award for his civic and professional accomplishments. The University of Michigan, Ford School of Public Policy awarded him its Neil Staebler Award for civic participation in 2014.

PROFESSOR BULENT ATALAY

Professor Bulent Atalay is a scientist, artist and author, with roots in Turkey, England and the United States. Atalay received an early classical education in England and the United States, attending Eton (UK) and St. Andrew’s School (Delaware). His professional training – BS, MS, MA, Ph.D. and post-doctoral work in theoretical physics—took place at Georgetown, UC-Berkeley, Princeton and Oxford. Now, he is a professor emeritus of physics at the University of Mary Washington, an adjunct professor at the University of Virginia, and a member of the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton. An accomplished artist, Atalay has presented his work in one-man exhibitions in London and Washington, and his two books of lithographs – Land of Washington and Oxford and the English Countryside – can be found in the permanent collections of Buckingham Palace, the Smithsonian, and The White House. He is also the author of Math and Mona Lisa (Smithsonian Books, 2004) and Leonardo’s Universe (National Geographic Books, 2009), and is currently working on a new book, The Miracle Year, about Isaac



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Newton. He gives lectures around the world. His website, created at the behest of his publisher can be seen at www.bulentatalay.com

AMBASSADOR JOHN R. BASS

Ambassador Bass was confirmed by the U.S. Senate on September 17, 2014 as the U.S. Ambassador to Turkey. A career Senior Foreign Service officer, he served as Executive Secretary from 2012 to 2014, and U.S. Ambassador to Georgia from 2009 to 2012. He began his diplomatic career in 1988 and has also served in positions in U.S. missions in Iraq, Italy, Belgium and Chad. In Washington, Ambassador Bass's assignments have included service on Vice President's Cheney's staff, as Chief of Staff and advisor to Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott, as Director of the State Department's Operations Center and in several assignments focused on European security issues. He has received numerous State Department performance awards. The son of a public servant and a U.S. Air Force officer, Bass was born and raised in upstate New York. Prior to joining the Foreign Service, Bass worked as a newspaper editor and as a political campaign consultant. A graduate of Syracuse University, he speaks Italian and French. He is married to U.S. diplomat Holly Holzer Bass, and they share their home with "Tako," a Georgian Shepherd they adopted in Tbilisi.

HOWARD G. BEASEY

Mr. Howard Garrett Beasey is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the American-Turkish Council, a bilateral, non-profit organization dedicated to the strengthening of U.S.-Turkish trade, investment, defense and cultural relations, and to the promotion of awareness and understanding of U.S.-Turkish issues. Howard G. Beasey is an Iraq and Afghanistan war veteran and retired United States Marine. Enlisting in the Marine Corps in 1993 and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in August 2000, having completed his undergraduate education at North Carolina State University. For more than two decades Mr. Beasey served as an infantry man, combat engineer platoon and company commander. In 2006, he attended the Naval Post Graduate School in Monterey, CA completing his Master of Arts in National Security Affairs and Foreign Policy

and attended the Defense Language Institute and completed Turkish language instruction. Designated as a Turkish Foreign Area Officer and assigned to the region, he developed a deep respect for Turkish culture, diversity, and international engagement. Upon returning from Afghanistan in 2010, Mr. Beasey was assigned to the Pentagon as the European Affairs Officer for the International Affairs Branch of Headquarters Marine Corps. Retiring in 2014 he joined Goldman Sachs as a Corporate Security Associate. Mr. Beasey joined American-Turkish Council in February 2015 as the President and CEO.

LYDIA BORLAND

Ms. Lydia Borland has more than 30 years of public and private sector experience in international business and government relations. She has a keen understanding of how US policy can reflect the views of the business and non-profit community. She is currently President of LB International Solutions, LLC, an international consulting firm which provides consulting services to the The Gephardt Group, The Livingston Group, and other companies. She has also been a Washington Representative for a military aircraft parts supply company, and a lobbyist with the Embassy of Turkey since 1989. She successfully matched international companies with Native American businesses. Ms. Borland served as Washington Representative for the Turkish-U.S. Business Council (TAIK/DEIK) from 2000-2007, and Deputy Executive Director of the U.S. Azerbaijan Chamber of Commerce for several years. She also is an avid fundraiser for Members of Congress on key committees. Ms. Borland speaks fluent Turkish as well as Spanish, Turkish, Italian, Azerbaijani, and French. She has earned a B.A. in International Affairs from George Washington University and a M.B.A. in Finance from Virginia Polytechnic Institute. Lydia Borland was chosen as one of the most influential Turkish American women by Turk of America Magazine in 2015.

TAL BUENOS

Mr. Tal Buenos is a scholar of international politics. He is a PhD candidate in Political Science at the University of Utah. Tal has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Tel Aviv University, where he studied



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Jewish thought, history, and mysticism. He then earned a Master's degree in Theological Studies at Harvard Divinity School, where he developed his interests in biblical studies, the modern history of religion in North America, and interreligious discourse. Tal's current area of focus is the fall of the Ottoman Empire and its narration. His analysis of this historical period in the context of international relations involves the evaluation of concepts such as power, genocide, historiography, national identity and memory, cultural imperialism, political realism, and multiculturalism. Tal has written articles for several newspapers, including The Jerusalem Post in Israel, and Daily Sabah in Turkey.

KENAN CAGLAR

Mr. Kenan Caglar serves on the ATAA Executive Committee and Board of Directors as President. Since 2011 Mr. Caglar has contributed significantly to ATAA by volunteering for many positions. In addition to serving on the Executive Committee, Board of Directors and Board of Trustees, he served as the Treasurer before becoming president-elect, successfully reducing operating costs and producing thousands of dollars in savings annually. Since 2013 he has been serving as the Chairman of the Investment Committee which oversees ATAA's Endowments Fund. Employing principles of prudent investment and disciplined spending, Mr. Caglar has helped marshal considerable growth in ATAA's Endowments Fund. He currently serves on the Education, Anti-Discrimination, and Fundraising Committees as well. Mr. Caglar received his B.A. degree in International Marketing at the Marmara University in Istanbul. After immigrating to the United States in 1988, he enrolled in Virginia Commonwealth University and received a certificate in Information Systems. He is currently employed by Wells Fargo as Vice President in Enterprise Technology. Mr. Caglar has three daughters and reside in Charlotte, North Carolina.

TURGUT CAKIRAGA

Mr. Turgut Cakiraga has been involved with Turkish American Organizations since 1977. As graduate student he was involved in New England Turkish Student Organization based at MIT. Since moved to

Southern California in 1982 been one of the leaders, was treasurer, board member and chairman/president SCATA (Later reorganized 501C/3 organization as ATASC), participated City of Orange International Festival selling Turkish Food Became Rotarian in 2002, held International Activities Chair since 2002, and helped raise funds for clean water wells in Southern Sudan, built homes in Mexico, helped to support a mission in Honduras for natural healing and empowering woman, helped in building New Homes with Habitat for Humanity, participated all fundraising activities of the Placentia Rotary Club. Pancake Breakfast Chair since 2007. Elected to be the President of Placentia Rotary Club for 2017-2018. Mr. Cakiraga received BSME from Istanbul (Yildiz) Engineering Academy, MSME from Tufts University in Boston. Worked as lecturer at Tufts University, and as consultant Arthur D. Little Co. in Boston. In California worked for Bechtel Power Corporation on Nuclear Power Plants in US and throughout the world. Last 30 years worked for Boeing Corp. in Aerospace Field as Senior Principal Engineer/ Scientist on Space Shuttle, Space Station and Last 13 years on Ground Based Missile Defense. Mr. Cakiraga was born in Mugla and raised in Izmir Turkey. His three family members are aerospace engineers, Married to Maria Cakiraga (BSME) of Medford MASS, has one son William Mustafa Cakiraga (BSME) who is following his fathers' footsteps.

ASSIST. PROFESSOR DR. HALIL ERSOY

Assist. Prof. Dr. Halil Ersoy is an academician at the department of Computer Education & Instructional Technologies at Başkent University. He is studying in distance education technologies, video conference systems and digital learning materials. He got his graduate and doctorate degrees in the same field at Middle East Technical University in 2003 and 2009 respectively. At this time, he is an assistant chair of the department and assistant director of Distance Education Center of the university.

REVA GOUJON

Ms. Reva Goujon is a leading global strategic analyst who keeps her pulse on emerging trends around the world. Ms. Goujon leads Stratfor's team of analysts



and plays an integral role in applying a forward-looking, strategic lens to Stratfor's coverage of global events. She is also a sought-after speaker who regularly addresses executives and investors from industries that include energy, finance, commercial real estate and agriculture. Ms. Goujon has been featured in numerous publications and broadcasts, including Bloomberg, National Public Radio, CNN, The Associated Press, National Public Radio, Time Magazine, Al Jazeera English, Fox News, Haaretz, The New York Times, The Hindustan Times, Agencia Estado, Xinhua, Veja and Business Week. Ms. Goujon holds a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Texas and a master's degree from the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service's security studies program in Washington, D.C.

ERGÜN KIRLIKOVALI

Mr. Ergün Kırlikovalı was born in Izmir, Turkey. He attended Robert College, Istanbul, Turkey. He received his BS degree in Chemistry from Bogazici University and MS degree in Polymer Science from the University of Manchester, England. He also conducted research on polymers in Holland and Austria. He was employed as a product development and research chemist in San Francisco, Los Angeles, and New York. Currently, he is the founding president of his company which conducts research and development on new materials based on interpenetrating network polymers. He found himself in need of promoting and defending Turkish culture and heritage due to a relentless barrage of unsolicited and unjustified anti-Turkish attacks by Armenian and Greek lobbies and others in America. He had written more than 5,000 letters to the editors, news programmers, panelists, politicians, academicians, and other opinion-makers. He also appeared on TV and radio shows and participated in conferences and panels in universities and colleges in an effort to present the other side of the story and fight against discrimination and censorship fostered by a surprisingly racist and dishonest version of history persistently promoted by anti-Turkish lobbies. He served as President of Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA) from 2011 to 2013. He has served as President of American-Turkish Association of Southern California (ATA-SC), Public Relations

Committee Chairman and later Western U.S. Regional Director for the Federation of Turkish American Associations (FTAA) in New York and ATAA in Washington DC. He is married, has one son, and lives in Southern California.

HULYA KOC

Ms. Hulya Koc is a global serial entrepreneur, accredited investor and mentor to international entrepreneurs with 40 years of experience. She began her career as a banker and worked for international banks such as Wells Fargo Bank and continued on to become an entrepreneur in Silicon Valley and in Turkey. In addition to founding and successfully exiting three award winning companies, Hulya also co-founded two nonprofit organizations- Bay Area Turkish Community School in 1990 and Turkish American Business Connection (TABC) in 2004. Both of these non-profits have been successfully serving the Bay Area Community in California for decades. Dedicated to educating and improving the lives of children as well as entrepreneurs in especially underprivileged neighborhoods, Hulya volunteers extensively for many organizations. Hulya holds a graduate degree in business administration and education.

PROFESSOR JUSTIN A. MCCARTHY

Professor Justin A. McCarthy is a professor of history at the University of Louisville (UofL) in Louisville, Kentucky. He got his Ph.D. in 1978 from U.C.L.A. He is a nationally and internationally recognized scholar of the Ottoman Empire, modern Turkey and the Middle East. He has published eleven books, most recently *The Armenian Rebellion at Van* (2006). In 1996 UofL recognized him with the Award for Outstanding Scholarship, Research, and Creative Activity. Professor McCarthy's books include: *Death and Exile: The Ethnic Cleansing of Ottoman Muslims, 1821-1922* (Princeton, N.J. : Darwin Press, ©1995); *The Ottoman Peoples and the End of Empire (Historical Endings)* (London : Arnold ; New York : Oxford, 2001); *The Ottoman Turks : An Introductory History to 1923* (London ; New York : Longman, 1997); *Muslims and Minorities: The Population of Ottoman Anatolia and the End of the Empire* (New York : New York



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University Press, 1983); *Turks and Armenians: A manual on the Armenian question* (Washington, D.C. : Committee on Education, Assembly of Turkish American Associations, 1989); *Arab World, Turkey, and the Balkans, 1878-1914: A Handbook of Historical Statistics* (Reference Publication in International Historical Statistics) (Boston, MA : G.K. Hall, ©1982); and *Who Are the Turks? (A Manual for Teachers)* by Justin McCarthy and Carolyn McCarthy with contributions by Talat Halman, Ülku Bates, and Özlem Sensöy (New York, N.Y. : American Forum for Global Education, ©2003).

DR. HANDE OZDINLER

Dr. Hande Ozdinler received training in the fields of molecular biology, genetics, cell biology, biotechnology, anatomy, neuroscience, neurology and neurosurgery. She is currently the founding director of the second Les Turner ALS Laboratories at the Department of Neurology, Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine and she is also a faculty member to Cognitive Neurology and Alzheimer's Disease Center as well as the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Research Center. Her research focuses on the upper motor neurons that die in motor neuron diseases and they modulate disease pathology by their degeneration. She received numerous awards for her discoveries, including Harvard NeuroDiscovery Center award, NUCATS Translational Innovation and N.NXT Drug Discovery awards.

CEYLAN ROWE

Ms. Ceylan Rowe, is one of the Commissioners for the MetroWest Commission on the Status of Women (MWCSW) and the founder of Trendy Napkin. She is all about empowering women locally and globally. The MWCSW reviews the status of women in Massachusetts and offers recommendations regarding policy that would improve access to opportunities and equality. Trendy Napkin began on International Women's Day 2016. Trendy Napkin sells shirts with an inspiring message and donates a percent of profits to help refugee women overseas become self-sufficient. This year Trendy Napkin is focused on Syrian refugees and also has a Global BFF Collection

where they sell products made from women in rural areas of the world. Ceylan studied Political Science and International Affairs at Northeastern University. During college she interned in Washington D.C. for Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky. After college she worked for the Massachusetts Office for Refugees and Immigrants. Following in her father's footsteps she became an entrepreneur. She started Mommy's Business BFF where she helped moms go back into the workforce or start their own business. Then after three years, she launched Trendy Napkin. Most recently she was a speaker at the Massachusetts Conference for Women's Small Business Roundtable to teach women "How to go from a business idea to a business in 10 easy steps." She has also attended the United Nation's Commission on the Status of Women's 60th session and participated in the "How to Protect Women's Human Rights Against Violent Extremism." On International Women's Day 2017, she spoke at the Turkish Consulate General in Boston on "Empowering Women through Local Engagement."

CENK SIDAR

Mr. Cenk Sidar is the founder and managing director of Sidar Global Advisors (SGA), a Washington, DC-based global macro research and strategic advisory firm that has been assisting top financial institutions and multinational corporations investing in emerging markets since 2009. Sidar successfully developed the firm's client base, building a broad range of experience assisting Fortune 100 companies, hedge funds, and private equities in their overseas operations and investments. He is a member of Republican People's Party (CHP) and advises the party's leadership on foreign policy and economic issues. As a young social democrat, he has been a prolific contributor to the global and national discussions on revitalizing the left. He is a frequent contributor to various outlets including Hurriyet Daily News, Radikal and Reflections Turkey and has made television appearances on Turkish Radio Television, Voice of America, and BloombergHT. Sidar holds a Master's degree in International Economics and International Relations from Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) in Washington, a postgraduate degree in European Studies from SAIS's



Bologna Center in Italy, and a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration and International Relations from the Istanbul Bilgi University. He is a member of Atlantik-Brücke e. V., the European Young Leaders Program, Atlantic Council Young Atlanticist Network, the Jean Monnet Program, Turkish Social Democracy Foundation (SODEV), and the American Academy of Achievement. Cenk Sidar has been selected for the "Top 99 Under 33 Foreign Policy Leaders" list by the Diplomatic Courier and the Young Professionals in Foreign Policy (YFPF). The list brings together 99 most influential foreign policy leaders under the age of 33, recognized by their extraordinary impact on international affairs and the promise of their potential as a world leader.

ZAFAR TAHIR

Mr. Zafar Tahir, P.E., M.B.A. J.D., attorney-at-law and commissioner for Houston Planning & commissioner for Houston airports, was the first ever elected National Delegate for the Democratic Party from Texas in 2000. He was elected again in 2004. Tahir has served for the last 19 years under 4 mayors of Houston on boards advising city on international trade. Tahir has worked in Automation & Control systems engineering for various companies ranging from Automaker to Ciba-Geigy to Phillips Petroleum to SABIC. He has been in gasoline business with Exxon, Phillips 66, Mobil, and Conoco-Phillips. Mr. Tahir served as President of an international development & consultancy on various projects in South Asia and the Middle East. Currently he has a consulting and legal practice in Houston, Texas, where he is also serving as Commissioner with city of Houston.

DR. MURAT TAS

Dr. Murat Tas received his AAS degree in both Computer Science and Records management from the San Antonio College, BS degree in Occupational Education from the Wayland Baptist University, MBA degree from the Wayland Baptist University and Ph.D. degree from the University of the Incarnate Word. Dr. Tas has been teaching at San Antonio College – Business department since 2001 and has been working as a consultant at the University of the Incarnate Word since 1997. He is one of the

founders of ATA (American Turkish Association) of San Antonio. He also actively serves in World Affairs Council of San Antonio and City of San Antonio International Visitors group. He is married to Sevda Tas with two daughters, Melodi Damla, and Melissa Su. He has been the VP of Southwest region for ATAA since 2012.

HONORABLE SYLVESTER TURNER

Mayor Sylvester Turner was elected Mayor of Houston on December 12, 2015, to serve a four year term beginning January 4, 2016. Sylvester Turner was born and raised in the Acres Homes community in northwest Houston. His parents moved to Acres Homes in 1954, the year Sylvester was born. Sylvester's mother worked as a maid in the old Rice Hotel in Houston. His father worked as a painter for Continental EnSCO and cut yards with his sons on the weekends to make extra money. The Turners raised nine children in their modest two-bedroom home in Acres Homes. Sylvester lost his father to cancer when he was 13 years old. Afterward, his mother took over the Turner household. Although she never finished high school or learned to drive, she ensured her children got an education and inspired them to achieve. Sylvester attended neighborhood public schools until forced integration came to Houston and he was bused to Klein High School. After a predictably rocky start, the student body adapted to its new enrollees – and Sylvester was later elected president of the student body and graduated as valedictorian. Sylvester graduated from the University of Houston and Harvard Law School before joining the law firm of Fulbright & Jaworski. He later founded the Houston law firm of Barnes & Turner in 1983. In 1988, Sylvester was elected to the Texas House of Representatives to serve the people of House District 139 in Northwest Houston. He served until his election as mayor, working on the House Appropriations Committee for 21 years and serving as Speaker Pro Tem for three terms. He was appointed to several Budget Conference Committees to help balance the state's budget and served on the Legislative Budget Board. He is very proud of his daughter Ashley, who is continuing the Turner family tradition of public service in the healthcare field.



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AMBASSADOR (RET.) ROSS WILSON

Ambassador (Ret.) Ross Wilson is the former director of the Dinu Patriciu Eurasia Center at the Atlantic Council and serves now as a Distinguished Senior Fellow. As director of the Dinu Patriciu Eurasia Center, Ambassador Wilson lead the Atlantic Council's work on the region that extends from East-Central Europe across the Black and Caspian Seas and beyond to Central Asia. Key areas of emphasis include regional political issues and prospects, energy, and overall economic development, trade, and integration within and across the region. The Atlantic Council hosts conferences, workshops, and symposia in Washington and in the region on these and other issues, and its flagship activity is its annual Black Sea Energy and Economic Forum. In December 2008, he completed nearly three decades in the US Foreign Service, including six years as American ambassador to Turkey from 2005 to 2008 and to Azerbaijan from 2000 to 2003. Elsewhere overseas, he served at the US embassies in Moscow and Prague and was American consul general in Melbourne, Australia. In Washington, Ambassador Wilson served as chief of staff for Deputy Secretary of State Robert Zoellick in 2005. He was chief US negotiator for the free trade area of the Americas while on detail to the Office of the US Trade Representative in 2003 through 2005. In 1997 through 2000, Ambassador Wilson served as principal deputy to the Ambassador-at-Large and Special Adviser to the Secretary of State for the New Independent States (of the former Soviet Union). He was deputy executive secretary of the State Department from 1992 to 1994, managing the policy process for Secretaries of State Lawrence Eagleburger and Warren Christopher, and before that was an aide to State Department Counselor and Undersecretary Zoellick. Early in his career, Ambassador Wilson served in the State Department's offices dealing with the Soviet Union and Egypt. A native of Minneapolis, Minnesota, Ambassador Wilson received a bachelor's degree from the University of Minnesota and master's degrees from Columbia University and the US National War College. While in the diplomatic service, he won the President's Meritorious Service Award, as well as numerous Department of State awards and honors. He serves as chairman of the board of the Institute of Turkish Studies and is a

member of the Academy of American Diplomacy, the American Foreign Service Association, the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Diplomatic and Consular Officers, Retired (DACOR), and the Washington Institute of Foreign Affairs.

KAYHAN YILMAZ

Mr. Kayhan Yilmaz has been serving as ATAA Capital Region Vice President since 2014. He is currently a Senior Manager with Cyient, a technology solutions firm where he's responsible for business strategy and pre-sales activities in communications division globally. He was previously with Accenture where he was working as Business & Systems Integration Manager for large global accounts. He has over 17 years of telecommunications experience and has worked with industry leaders such as Century Link, Verizon Communications, T-Mobile, AT&T, Sprint, Comcast, HP and many others. Kayhan has been an active member of the Turkish American community in Washington DC. He's currently the Chairman for ATAA's eLearning project (Bright Future) and has recently taken on responsibility for organizing a young professionals group of Turkish Americans. Kayhan graduated from Portland State University with a degree in BA/BBA Technology Marketing, and holds a MS/MSC Information and Telecom Systems degree from Johns Hopkins University of Carey Business School.



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Eray

ÇAT KAPI BAND

CAGATAY ATMACA graduated from Missouri S&T with a MS degree in Geoscience and is currently working as a consultant geophysicist in oil & gas industry. He has been playing the guitar for over 13 years and has performed at many international organization events in the US. He won first place for best individual performance at the 2013 Celebration of Nations event in Rolla, MO. He was a guest musician at local KMNR radio in Rolla, MO in 2014 and performed Turkish songs during the entire show. He is a former member of Limited Addition Band in Rolla, MO and Garaj 95 Band in Houston, TX and a current member of ÇAT KAPI Band in Houston, TX. Since 2011, he has been performing at local events in Texas such as Houston International Festival in 2011, Houston Turkish Festival 2015-16, ATA Annual Republic Gala 2016, TURANT Republic Ball 2016.

TURKER OTCU graduated from the musicology department of the Ankara Hacettepe University Conservatory in 1996. He has worked with many major Turkish rock/pop bands during his career in Turkey as a singer, guitar player, sound engineer and producer. He worked with Sony Music, Erol Kose Production, Ayna Band, Harun Kolcak, Eser Taskiran, Haldun Dormen Theaters, Erkan Ogur and many others. He moved to the United States in 2001 and has continued his career in Texas in various places. Turker has won the Best Producer/Guitar Player award from a Texas Magazine in 2007. He owned Studio Gazelle in San Antonio-TX producing music albums. Turker recently moved to Houston and has been working with talented local musicians.

MURAT KALELI has been living in Houston TX for 16 years. He has played electric guitar and bass guitar for Group Pasha and Group Rockı throughout the years at Turkish festivals and balls. Currently, he is playing with Garaj 95 and SlimFrogZ

ERAY OZUGUR moved to San Antonio from Ankara in 2000 to pursue education in the US. After receiving his MBA from UIW, he began his career in IT security. He has been surrounded by music since childhood. Listening to his sister playing the piano always inspired him and formed the building blocks of his passion for music. Since then, many years have passed and music has always been around with him. He is the proud dad of a five-year-old and has a lovely supportive wife who also enjoys singing. Working in a fast-paced environment, music is a method of relaxation for Eray. A self-taught and self-motivated drummer, he started drumming with just drum sticks and a practice pad to consolidate his stroke techniques many years before sitting behind a real drum set. He has been performing with many musicians on different occasions nationwide. The energy arising from music enhances his desire to play and he enjoys every stroke of the drum.

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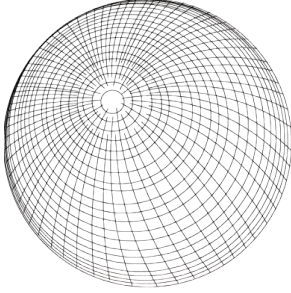
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