



ASSEMBLY OF
TURKISH AMERICAN
ASSOCIATIONS



ATAA ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE

Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Turkish Independence Movement

OCTOBER 5, 2019 | The Westin Crystal City | Arlington, VA



H. W. Statist

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ATAA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members of the Assembly of Turkish American Associations and Friends:

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to this very special event organized to celebrate two very important anniversaries; 40th Anniversary of Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA) and the 100th Anniversary of the Turkish Independence Movement.

Since 1979, ATAA has been an indispensable part of Turkish American cultural and political experience in the United States. Established to fight defamation and attacks on Turkish Americans in the 1970s, besides having many successes to stop baseless attacks on our communities, within the last four decades, ATAA has evolved to be the most influential grassroots umbrella organization for the Turkish American community in the U.S. The strength of ATAA not only comes from its ability to unite several local Turkish-American organizations but also its ability to empower communities.

The ATAA Board of Directors, a group of distinguished individuals, representing various geographical regions within the U.S., brings the voice of many Turkish Americans to this organization. This representation, creating a network of communities, enables transference of ideas, brings about new solutions to the existing problems and in turn empowers the communities during the process. Since 1979, to this date, the Assembly has managed to serve this purpose only through the “volunteerism” of its Board of Directors. On behalf of the current Board of Directors, I would like to commend and thank all those who volunteered to serve in the ATAA Board of Directors for the last 40 years.

The ATAA will continue to serve the Turkish American community in the light of our founding principles, that are respect for rule of law, secularism, democracy and human rights. These are also the founding principles of Republic of Turkey, as defined by its founder Mustafa Kemal Atatürk.

Having these principles in mind, during this year's conference, we will commemorate the 100th Anniversary of Turkish War of Independence and its impact on today's politics. We see this as an excellent opportunity to remind ourselves one more time, the importance and relevancy of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk in today's world. His founding principles of separation of powers, rule of law, representation, secularism and world peace and how they are personified in the Kemalist ideology and the Republic he established will be discussed by our distinguished panelists.

Today, it is with great honor that I preside over the ATAA Board of Directors during the 40th Anniversary Conference. I am sending my deepest appreciation to all our Past Presidents and Board members, the ATAA Board of Trustees, component associations, the members, conference participants, the sponsors and the ATAA staff who helped bring this conference together and supported ATAA to this day since 1979 with hard work and volunteerism.

Gökhan Özalp
President
Assembly of Turkish American Associations



AMB. (RET.) DR. ŞÜKRÜ M. ELEKDAĞ'S MESSAGE

Some Nostalgic Memories Concerning ATAA

At the very beginning I would like to pay tribute to the pioneers of the Assembly who are no longer with us. We remember them with gratitude and love. Without the tireless efforts of Ali Sevin, Alp Karahasanoğlu, Leon Picon, Hasan Akdemir, Adil Arapoğlu, Dr. Kemal Gökmar and many others, the Assembly would not have been born. Their countless hours of work, driving for miles, writing countless letters to Congressmen and Senators (before the electronic age) was a feat to be honored. The mailing of thousands of Assembly publications, sorting them by zip codes (!) was a task now fit for fairy tales. May the hard workers rest in peace, they will never be forgotten by us.



During our time from the inception of “The Assembly” under the leadership of Dr. Ülkü Ülgür, until its tenth anniversary (1979-1989) we have experienced many great, unforgettable events. As Ambassador, I as well as my entire family, have felt enormous pride with every forward step the Assembly has taken. Indeed, the air not only in Washington but also in the entire country was filled with enthusiasm and exuberance. Things have happened and evolved with such speed that everyone started to ask: “where were those Turks until now?” Just to mention a few events: the Centennial celebration of our great leader Atatürk combined with not only the “Suleyman the Magnificent” exhibit in Washington, New York, and Chicago, but also festivals at Wolf Trap, concerts by world famous virtuosos like İdil Biret and Suna Kan at the Kennedy Center, festivities from coast to coast including Hawaii... Other activities in collaboration with the “Norfolk Azalea Festival” where Turkey was the honored NATO country and provided the beautiful “Azalea Princess” Oya Türkman, as well as with the steadily growing “American Friends of Turkey” gave the Assembly a chance to widen its sphere of influence and spread its wings further.

The declaration signed by 69 Academicians refuting the so-called Armenian Genocide and published in two major papers in the United States added strength to the Turkish community to work for its cause to counter hostile lobbies. To top all this the bi-citizenship law was passed. Thereupon the Turks came out of the “woodworks”, every Turk proudly called himself a Turkish-American and visited their respective Representative and Senator...

In fact, after the Centennial Ball at the Washington Hilton on October 24, 1981, one of the honored guests summed up: “I think this is a demonstration that the Turkish-American community in the US has come of age”, thanks to the devoted nationwide collaboration of all Assembly member organizations.

On April 17, 1982, one of the most unforgettable events occurred: the Chicago Convention and the “Turkish Express” earthquake! Members of the Washington, Maryland, Virginia and neighboring states decided to go to the Convention by train! For fear that something might happen to the train and its passengers, I with my wife were not given the permission by the FBI to join in this joyful event; we had to fly to Chicago to greet the train at its destination. On April 16 the “Turkish Express” left Union Station in D.C. in the afternoon, a happy, overly excited group, waving Turkish flags, shouting “Yaşasın Türkiye” “Ne mutlu Türküm diyene” and singing “Dağ Başını Duman Almış” which was more like a festival than a train ride...

Amb. (Ret.) Dr. Şükrü M. Elekdağ's Message

About 9:00 pm some of the Turkish passengers tired from singing and shouting got ready to settle for the night. Dr. Özberkmen looked at them startled and asked: "What are you doing, we will be leaving the train soon!" He then was informed that the train would arrive at its destination at 9:00 am the next day, a fact that his dear wife Ansilene had concealed from him for fear he would not join the group. Grudgingly he replied: "I could have gone to China within this time!"...

A huge crowd of Chicago Turks were able to welcome the Turkish Express, a reunion where many emotional tears were shed.

The Convention was a huge success, Senator Charles Mathias as well as Paul Findley addressed the Convention. By now it became a tradition to have such high officials as guest speakers.... Congressman Findley was one who voted for the embargo repeal. He said: "...if I could singlehandedly get that many votes in favor of embargo repeal, the concerted effort by the White House for terminating the embargo would surely succeed. And succeed it did!" He further stated: "... there are steps which the US should and must take to enhance our ties. Some of these steps relate to terrorism." That was the time when we lost many diplomats to assassinations by the ASALA; Consul General Kemal Arıkan, followed by Honorary Consul General Orhan Gündüz...

Many successful Conventions followed, Atlanta, San Francisco, Houston, New York..., the Assembly got stronger, more powerful, and known on Capitol Hill as well as highly respected in Ankara. The many able, faithful and devoted leaders of the Assembly will never be forgotten: Ülkü Ülgür, Tunca Iskır, Kemal Gökmar, Nuri Sabuncu, Remzi Ağan, Engin Holmstrom, Bonnie J Kaslan...

Whenever we went to meetings we felt like uniting with members of our wider family. We still feel like that.

The Assembly had become a powerful and influential network by the time we left Washington in 1989, filled with a little sadness; however, looking with great pride at the growing fruit bearing tree we left behind...

Dr. Şükrü M. Elekdağ
Ambassador (Ret.)

HISTORY OF ATAA

All Started in 1979



ATAA Founders: Former President of ATA D.C., Yavuz Somen and ATAA Former President, Dr. Ülkü Ülgür (1979)

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

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

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

History of ATAA

jointly with a similar committee so that a solution can be found to realize the goal of uniting these two respected organizations.”

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

By 1979, there was a crying need to address the attacks, the distortions of history, and the discrimination the Turkish-American community was facing every day in their jobs, at schools their children attended, and in their daily lives. Isolated local, Turkish American organizations were unable to cope with the massive work that needed to be done nationwide. Upon his arrival in Washington to take up the post of Ambassador from Turkey, Dr. Sükrü Elekdağ was met by members of both ATA D.C. and MATA at a special reception held at the Navy Officers Club in Bethesda, MD. on September 23, 1979. He inspired both communities with his dynamic approach to U.S.-Türkiye relations. Now the two communities were no longer talking merely about regional cooperation. Visions of a national umbrella organization were forming.

In the aftermath of threats of yet another arms embargo passing through Congress with virtually no Turkish-American voice raised in opposition, a series of meetings were held in the Washington, D.C. area. A steering committee was formed in November 1979, headed by ATA D.C. President Yavuz Somen with the late Yurdakul Göker and Taşkın Atıl and by MATA President, the late Dr. Alp Karahasan, with Dr. Ülkü Ülgür, Cenap Kıratlı and Dr. Sengun Nuri. The advisor associates were Erol Gürün, Aydın Çağmalp, Hasan Akdemir, Tuncer Kuzay, and Ozcan Tuncel. Out of their meetings came an agreement to establish the nationwide Assembly of Turkish American Associations.

Washington, D.C. was chosen to be the headquarters of the new organization to utilize the vast opportunities for promoting U.S. Turkish relations among policy makers. A Secretariat for the Assembly was established to coordinate the activities, publish a nationwide publication and generally be the central source of

information on Turks and Turkey. For this purpose office space was provided by Adil Araboğlu, a Washington business leader, and the Assembly was in business. Clearly the tasks that lay ahead were enormous and the resources limited.

The first ball was a fundraising activity sponsored by ATA D.C. and MATA, and held on December 29, 1979 at the Turkish Embassy. One hundred and forty-six people managed to raise \$17,470 for the Assembly.

ATAA's first publication, ATA-USA was published in February 1980 and news about Turks and Turkey premiered nationwide. With coordinating committee members Yavuz Somen, Ekrem Bulgur, and Yurdakul Göker from ATA, and the late Alp Karahasan, Ülkü Ülgür, and Cenap Kıratlı from MATA, planned for convening the general assembly on May 17-18, 1980 in the nation's capital pressed forward with great speed.

More than 120 people representing 24 organizations and 5 student associations gathered at the Embassy Row Hotel during this two-day conference and brought plans on the drawing board into reality. The delegates elected the Coordinating Committee members to a special Steering Committee. Their task was to draw up a constitution and bylaws for the Assembly to be presented to the delegates at the next annual convention. Founded to deal with issues confronting the community, the Assembly was not to be given time to grow and mature slowly, but rather would have to come on as an adult and face Armenians crying “genocide,” and trying to include their grievances in a national museum dedicated to the memory of six million Jews murdered by the Nazis during World War II. The “Midnight Express” image of Turks and Turkey was constantly being shown with even President Carter giving it free advertising.

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

History of ATAA



Turkish Express, ATAA Annual Convention 1982



(Left to right) Former Presidents of ATA D.C., Engin Holmstrom, Taşkın Atıl, Yurdakul Göker and Former President of MATA, Cenap Kıratlı

ABOUT ATAA



ASSEMBLY OF TURKISH AMERICAN ASSOCIATIONS

Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA), representing over 50 local chapters is the largest, democratically elected Turkish American membership organization in the United States. Established in 1979 to fight defamation and attacks on Turkish Americans, ATAA has evolved to be the most influential grassroots umbrella organization for the Turkish American community in the U.S.

ATAA's mission is to create cohesion and cooperation between the social/cultural Turkish American organizations around the U.S. to establish an informed national Turkish American community that can help foster U.S. – Turkey relations and take an active part in promoting a balanced and truthful picture of Turkey in the US.

As a non-faith-based organization, ATAA is open to people of diverse backgrounds. ATAA is governed by the Board of Directors with executive responsibility and a Board of Trustees that provides financial guidance and oversight.

ATAA is a tax-exempt, non-profit organization that relies on membership dues, private donations, as well as private and public grants.

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PROGRAM

6:00pm	<i>Friday, October 4, 2019 - Sheridan Circle, NW, Washington, DC</i> Wreath Laying Ceremony at Atatürk Monument
8:00am-8:50am	<i>Saturday, October 5, 2019 - The Westin Crystal City, Arlington, VA</i> Registration & Breakfast
8:50am-9:00am	Opening Ceremony & Welcoming Remarks
9:00am-10:00am <i>Moderator:</i> <i>Speakers:</i>	Atatürk: The War of Independence and the Creation of the Modern Turkey Sevgin Oktay , ATAA NY Region Vice President Prof. Justin A. McCarthy , Department of History, University of Louisville Prof. George Gawrych , Department of History, Baylor University
10:00am-10:10am	Break
10:10am-10:40am <i>Speaker:</i>	Early Turkish Immigrants in the U.S. and Their Role in the Turkish Independence War Dr. Işıl Acehan , Visiting Professor of History, George Mason University
10:40am-10:50am	Break
10:50am-11:50am	The Impact of Turkish National Movement on 20th Century Politics Nilüfer Esen Bilgin , ATAA First & Mid-Central Region Vice President Prof. Paul Kubicek , Department of Political Science, Oakland University Assoc. Prof. Emine Evered , Department of History, Michigan State University
11:50am-12:15pm	Break
12:15pm-1:30pm <i>Keynote Speakers:</i>	Luncheon Amb. (Ret.) Dr. Şükrü M. Elekdâğ (<i>Video Message</i>) Dr. Yalçın Ayaslı , Founder and Chairman, Turkish Coalition of America The Hon. Ed Whitfield , U.S. House of Representatives (1995-2016)
1:30pm-1:40pm	Break
1:40pm-2:40pm <i>Speaker:</i>	Independence War, Turks in the US, Politics Effecting Turks Prof. Dr. Emre Kongar , Professor of Sociology, Former Turkish Undersecretary of Culture
2:40pm-2:50pm	Break
2:50pm-3:50pm <i>Moderator:</i> <i>Speakers:</i>	40 Years of ATAA's Accomplishment and Plans for Future Mazlum Koşma , ATAA Treasurer Dr. Ülkü Ülgür , ATAA Past President, Member of the ATAA Board of Trustees Dr. Bülent Başol , ATAA Past President, Chairman of the ATAA Board of Trustees Nurten Ural , ATAA Past President, Member of the ATAA Board of Trustees Ergün Kırlikovalı , ATAA Past President, Member of the ATAA Board of Trustees Kenan Çağlar , ATAA Past President Gökhan Özalp , ATAA President

Program

3:50pm-4:00pm Break

4:00pm-5:00pm **Bright Future Turkish Language and Culture Project**

Moderator: **Kayhan Yılmaz**, ATAA Education Committee Chair, Capital Region Vice President

Speakers: **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Halil Ersoy**, Department of Computer Education and Instructional Technology, Başkent University
Hülya Koç, Bright Future Committee Member
Lale Iskarpatyoti, Bright Future Committee Member

5:00pm-5:10pm Break

5:10pm-6:10pm **Turkish American Associations: Bringing Together the Community**

Moderator: **Burcu Tansu**, ATAA Western Region Vice President

Speakers: **Dr. Ayça Altıntuğ**, Past President, American Turkish Association of Southern California
Engin Ateş, President, Turkish American Society of Northeast Ohio
Hande Ayan, Past President, American Turkish Association of Washington, DC
Müge Türkman, Past President, Maryland American Turkish Association
Mehmet Yaya, President, Turkish American Cultural Association of Michigan

6:10pm-6:20pm **Closing Remarks**

7:00pm-11:30pm **40th Anniversary Gala**

7:00pm-8:00pm **Reception**

8:00pm-11:30pm **Welcoming Remarks**

Keynote Speech by Prof. Dr. Emre Kongar

Dinner & Annual Awards Ceremony

Live Music by Zeynep Moore & AlaTurka Band

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KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

AMBASSADOR ŞÜKRÜ M. ELEKDAĞ



Ambassador Şükrü M. Elekdağ, an Istanbul native, is a diplomat, academician and politician. After receiving his doctorate degree on Economics from “Faculté de Droit et des Sciences Economiques - Sorbonne” in Paris, he joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey

in 1951. As a junior diplomat, he served at the United Nations Permanent Mission of Turkey in New York and at the NATO Permanent Mission of Turkey in Paris. He became Director General for NATO Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1965. In 1970, he was appointed to Ambassador of Turkey in Japan. He served as Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 1974-79. Thereafter, he became the Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to the United States, 1979-1989. Following his retirement from diplomatic service in 1989, he became a Senior Lecturer at Bilkent University where he taught master and doctoral courses in “International Relations” and “Contemporary Strategic Theory” until 2001. He was also the Chairman of the University’s “International Security Seminars.” As a columnist, he wrote regularly for the Turkish newspaper, Milliyet. In 2002, his columns were published by Sabah newspaper. He holds the prestigious “Yellow Press Card,” (Sarı Basın Kartı). In 2000-2002 he acted as a host and commentator of the “Strategic Outlook” program at TV Channel, Haber Türk. In the general elections held on 3 November, 2002 he was elected Member of Parliament for the Republican People’s Party (CHP) from the province of Istanbul. He was reelected in 2007 and served in Parliament until 2011. In Parliament, he was a member of the Foreign Relations Committee and the Turkey-EU Joint Parliamentary Committee. He was also the President of Turkey-France Parliamentary Friendship Group. Ambassador Elekdağ is known as being the initiator of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation project. In 1994, he wrote the “Two and a Half War Strategy” about Turkey’s security policy. He is the author of several publications on Black Sea economic cooperation as well as on strategic issues relating to Turkey. He is married and has four children.

DR. YALCIN AYASLI



Yalcin Ayasli is a graduate of the Ankara Atatürk High School. He received his B.S. in Electrical Engineering from the Middle East Technical University Electrical Engineering Department (METU) in 1968 and his M.S.E.E. and Sc.D. degrees from M.I.T. in 1973. He worked as a faculty

member and Deputy Department Chair at the METU Electrical Engineering Department for six years. He began his corporate career at the Massachusetts-based Raytheon’s research division, and is the author of numerous scientific papers. Dr. Ayasli has conducted theoretical and experimental studies on Microwave Monolithic Integrated Circuit techniques involving GaAs Field-Effect Transistors and related devices. He also holds 15 patents. In 1985, he founded Hittite Microwave Corporation, in Chelmsford, MA. The company is a supplier of mixed signal RFIC and Microwave and Millimeter-Wave Integrated Circuit components and subsystems for wireless and telecommunication markets. After serving as the company’s CEO and Chairman of the Board for 20 years, Dr. Ayasli served as Chairman Emeritus until the company was purchased by Analog Devices Inc. in 2014. Yalcin Ayasli is founder and chairman of two US public charitable organizations; Turkish Cultural Foundation (TCF) and Turkish Coalition of America (TCA). He also established the TCF Culinary Arts Center and the Cultural Heritage Preservation and Natural Dyes Project in Istanbul. In 2012, he and his wife Serpil Ayasli, through the Turkish Cultural Foundation, established the Ayasli Research Center at their alma mater, METU. In 2016, Dr. Ayasli donated to the Harvard T.H.Chan School of Public Health a library of small molecule compounds for use in the Genomics and Complex Diseases Department chaired by Dr. Gokhan Hotamisligil. Dr. Ayasli is also a member of the High Advisory Board of the World Turkish Business Council.

Keynote Speakers

PROF. DR. EMRE KONGAR



Prof. Dr. Emre Kongar graduated from the Faculty of Political Sciences, Ankara University in 1963. He went to the US to study Social Sciences and graduated from the School of Social Work, University of Michigan with a master's degree in 1966. He started to work as a professor

at Hacettepe University and established the School of Social Work within that university in 1967. He resigned from his position at the university in 1983 in protest of the then military regime's activities with regards to the university. He was appointed undersecretary of the Ministry of Culture in 1992 and resigned from this duty in 1995. Professor Kongar has been a columnist of the Daily Cumhuriyet since 1996. He is also TV commentator on TELE 1. Recipient of several prestigious awards such as the "Top Social Scientist of the Year" by the weekly news magazine Nokta (1998), Professor Kongar has written more than forty books, many of them are best-sellers. In addition to his successful academic career, Professor Kongar held several high-level Professional positions; Advisor and administrator at Daily newspaper Hurriyet (1983 – 1987), Founder and the Chairman of the Board, KAMAR, and Public Opinion and Research Firm (1987 – 1991). He won the Turkish Language Society's Science Award in 1977 for his book "The Social Structure of Turkey" and the Sedat Simavi Foundation's Social Sciences Award in 1979 for his book "The Theories of Social Change and Turkish Reality" and The Aydın Doğan Social Science Award in 1998 for his book "Turkey in the Twentieth Century". On January 15, 1996, Kongar was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal, Grand Cross of Merit by the Federal State of Germany; on February 1, 1996 with the Commandatore Medal by the Italian government; and on February 15, 1996 with the title of "Commander" by the Polish government. Kongar was appointed to the Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences at Yıldız Technical University in February, 1997, from where he has retired in 2011. He is married with three children, one son and twin girls.

THE HON. ED WHITFIELD



Ed Whitfield has owned and operated an oil distributorship, served as Legal Counsel to the Chairman of the Interstate Commerce Committee during deregulation of the railroad and airline industries, served as Vice president in two different capacities with CSX Corporation (Railroad

Holding Company), practiced law with a Kentucky Law Firm and served in the United States Congress for nearly twenty two years. Whitfield served on the Energy and Commerce Committee throughout his Congressional career and was Chairman of the Energy and Power Subcommittee for six years, and the Oversight and Investigation Subcommittee for four years. He also served on the Health Subcommittee and was involved in the legislative process eventually leading to the adoption of the Affordable Care Act (Obama Care), Medicare Part D (Prescription Drug Benefit) and was the original sponsor of NASPER which was the first national prescription drug monitoring system adopted in the U. S. Congress. Former Chairman Whitfield was a Co-Founder of the United States Turkish Caucus and formed the Turkish Study Group under the auspices of the former Members of Congress Association. The Turkish Caucus was started because Ed throughout his 22 years in Congress represented Ft. Campbell, home of the 5th Special Forces Group and the famed 101st Airborne division. Since Turkey is the only Muslim Nation in NATO he felt it was imperative that a caucus be formed to focus on this important relationship. Whitfield's broad range of governmental policy experience in transportation, health, military, and energy at the International, Federal and State levels provides valuable insights and assistance for clients of Farragut Partners, where he is a Partner. In addition to his full-time responsibilities at Farragut Partners, he also serves on the Board of Directors of the Former Members of Congress Association, the Advisory Board of the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Society at the University of Montana, and is a member of The Order of St. John, Christ Episcopal Church in Georgetown and the Chevy Chase Club. Congressman Whitfield has a B.S. in Business Finance and a JD Degree from the University of Kentucky. He also studied International Transactions at Exeter University, Exeter, England and Theology at Wesley Theological Seminary, where he served on the Board of Director's for 12 years.

SPEAKERS & MODERATORS

DR. İŞİL ACEHAN



Dr. İşil Acehan is a visiting professor of history at George Mason University, Ali Vural Ak Center for Global Islamic Studies (AVACGIS). Dr. Acehan completed her Ph.D. in history at Bilkent University, Turkey. Her major research interests are early Turkish immigrants in the U.S., Ottoman

migration to the U.S. (1890s-1930s), transnationalism, and U.S.-Ottoman relations. She has served as a researcher and resident fellow at various universities and institutions including John XXIII Foundation of Religious Sciences in Bologna, Italy, Harvard University, the Smithsonian Institution-National Museum of American History, and the Free University of Berlin.

DR. AYÇA ALTINTIĞ



Dr. Ayça Altıntığ, is an Assistant Professor of Finance at the Drucker School of Management at Claremont Graduate University. Born and raised in Istanbul, Dr. Altıntığ graduated from Bosphorus University with a degree in Business Administration and moved to the US in 1999 to continue her graduate studies. She holds a MS and a PhD Degree in Finance from Louisiana State University. After completing her PhD she moved to Southern California, and has been working in finance academia since 2003. Dr. Altıntığ's research and teaching focus on financial decision making and entrepreneurial finance.

In addition to many academic publications on venture capital she also runs an annual concept plan competition for the Claremont region with funding awarded to early stage start-up projects. She recently organized a social entrepreneurship speaker series in Yeditepe University in Istanbul Turkey. She is also part of an entrepreneurial ecosystem project for the city of Claremont. Dr. Altıntığ has been very active in the Turkish American community since 2005. After teaching at and then subsequently volunteering as the director of the Orange County Turkish School, she has also served on the board of OCTAA (Orange County Turkish American Assoc.) and the board of ATASC during the last 14

years. She served between 2016-2018 as the president of ATASC, the umbrella Turkish American Association in Southern California with 7 very active chapters including 4 regional chapters for Ventura County, Los Angeles, Orange County and San Diego (VATAN, LATAA, OCTAA and ATASC-SD) and three special purpose chapters for charity (TALL), Atatürk based projects (ATAMLA) and leadership training for young women (TWI). She has also served as the Western Region VP for ATAA between 2016-2018. She is passionate about social entrepreneurship, female leadership/entrepreneurship and promoting grassroots efforts in the Turkish American community.

ENGİN ATEŞ



Engin Ateş is working at Cleveland Clinic as a Programmer also he is the president of Turkish American Society of Northeastern Ohio. He has been in the non-profit world since 2009 when he started off as a Vice President of TASNO. He also runs a 5 acre farm with his daughter, son and wife.

In the farm they have bees, chickens, roosters, sheep, alpacas, vineyard and orchard. Most of the farm products are donated to food banks. He loves to get things done and move to next task that was biggest reason that members gave their vote to him. Also he is known as "Clevelandin Muhtari", since he knows almost everyone in his area. He is known for his modern thought leadership, and innovative, "big hat" thinking around engaging, supporting, and acknowledging the work of volunteers.

HANDE AYAN



Hande Ayan is the former President of American Turkish Association of Washington DC (2017-2019). She has been serving Turkish American community in the Washington DC area and promoting Turkey and Turkish culture in the United States since 2010 with the ATA-DC family.

She joined the ATA-DC Board of Directors in 2012, became the Secretary in 2013 and the President in 2017.

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She is also the Vice Chair of Turkish Festival Committee as well as the Turkish Heritage Month in Washington DC. She also served on the Executive Board of the World Bank Group – IMF Turkish Staff Association as Communications Chair from 2016 to 2018. In 2015, Hande received ATA-DC Special Award in recognition of her efforts to advance Turkish American causes in the United States and her community service and volunteer work with ATA-DC. Born and raised in the capital city of Turkey, Ankara, Hande has an extensive experience in international public affairs, knowledge management and non-profit management and has worked in private, public and non-profit sectors. She is currently working as Knowledge Management and Communications Specialist at The World Bank's Macroeconomics, Trade & Investment Global Practice. In this role, she facilitates technical and operational collaboration, knowledge generation and online communication between more than 500 staff members around the world. She holds a Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree from Daniel J. Evans School of Public Policy and Governance at the University of Washington in Seattle and a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science and Public Administration from the Middle East Technical University (METU) in Ankara, Turkey.

DR. BÜLENT BAŞOL



Dr. Bülent Başol is a technologist residing in California for over 45 years. He is a Bogazici University graduate with a PhD from UCLA in electrical engineering. Bulent has been founder/CTO of several high-tech startup companies in Southern California and Silicon Valley and developed new technologies in the fields of solar energy, semiconductor manufacturing and metrology. His research and development activities have been published in over 110 publications and 167 US patents. Bulent has been active in Turkish American organizations since 1980's. Presently he is on the Board of TASSA (Turkish American Scientists and Scholars Association) and is the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of ATAA. In the past he served as the Vice President and President of ATAA and President of ATA-SC (American Turkish Association of Southern California).

NİLÜFER ESEN BİLGİN



Mrs. Nilufer Esen-Bilgin, was born in Giresun, and raised in Istanbul, Turkey. She was graduated from Marmara University Medical School in Istanbul and got specialty degree in physiology at Istanbul University Cerrahpasa Medical Faculty. Until moving to USA (2002), she worked as a

faculty at Kocaeli University Medical School Department of Physiology. Currently she works as a Research Associate at Wayne State Medical School Department of Neurology. Since last year, she has been serving as the First V.P & Mid-Central Region Vice President of ATAA. She actively participates in the Michigan based Turkish folk dance group Mozaik Dance Group. She is a member of the Turkish American Cultural Association of Michigan (TACAM) since 2009. She has led the Atatürk Park Project which was started in 2018, and completed successfully in May 2019. She has served the Turkish community in Michigan as the president of TACAM during the years of 2015 and 2019. Currently she is serving as an executive board member of TACAM.

KENAN ÇAĞLAR



Kenan Çağlar serves on the ATAA Executive Committee and Board of Directors as Past-President. Since 2011 Mr. Çağlar 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. He has served as the Chairman of the Investment Committee which oversees ATAA's Endowments Fund. Employing principles of prudent investment and disciplined spending, Mr. Çağlar has helped marshal considerable growth in ATAA's Endowments Fund. He currently serves on the Education, Anti-Discrimination, and Fundraising Committees as well. Mr. Çağlar received his B.A. degree in International Marketing at the Marmara

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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. Çağlar have three daughters and reside in Miami, Florida.

ASSOC. PROF. DR. HALİL ERSOY



He is a academic staff in Computer Education and Instructional Technology Department at Faculty of Education, Baskent University; and a vise chair of Distance Education Application and Research Center. He has studied learning management systems and online communication in

master and doctorate researches. Web based programming, computer literacy and computer programming are the major course that he has been giving in undergraduate and graduate degree programs. He works on content and web site development in the Bright Future Project.

ASSOC. PROF. EMİNE EVERED



Emine Evered is an Associate Professor of History at Michigan State University. She received her graduate education both in Turkey and the US (UW-Madison and University of Arizona). Her research and writing focus on late Ottoman Empire and early Turkish Republic. Thematically

she is interested in histories of education, secularization, gender, public health, and (recently) intoxicants in Turkey. Her publications include *Empire & Education under the Ottomans: Politics, Reform, & Resistance from the Tanzimat to the Young Turks* (2012) and a series of solo-authored and co-authored (with Kyle Evered) articles/chapters: 2018. *Ankara's forest farm and the Turkish nation: Modern narratives of agriculture, identity, and contestation*, in A.C. Diener and J. Hagen (co-editors), *The city as power: Urban space, place, and national identity* (Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2019); 2017. "Framing "Our Social Disaster": Narratives of disease and sexuality in Turkey's early

Republic," *Acta Medico-Historica Adriatica* 15 (1): 51-66; 2017. "Accounting for ideology in the therapeutic landscape: Assessing the curative waters of Kemalism," *Landscape History* 38 (2): 77-96; 2016. An atlas of maladies, microbes, & morals: tropes of scientism in early Turkey's public health education. *Historical Geography* 44:102-126; 2016. "Not just eliminating the mosquito but draining the swamp": a critical geopolitics of TUBİM and Turkey's approach to illicit drugs. *The International Journal of Drug Policy* 33:6-14; A conquest of rice: agricultural expansion, malaria, & the state in Turkey. *Historia Agraria: Revista de Agricultura e Historia Rural* 68:143-178; 2016. A geopolitics of drinking: debating the place of alcohol in early republican Turkey. *Political Geography* 50:1:48-60; 2016. From rakı to ayran: regulating the place & practice of drinking in Turkey. *Space & Polity* 20:1:39-58; 2013. Regulating the practice & the place of prostitution in early republican Turkey. *Gender, Place, & Culture: A Journal of Feminist Geography* 20:7:839-857; 2011. Sex & the capital city: the political framing of syphilis & prostitution in early republican Ankara. *Journal of the History of Medicine & Allied Sciences* 68:2:266-299; 2012. Syphilis & prostitution in the socio-medical geographies of Turkey's early republican provinces. *Health & Place* 18:3:528-535; 2012. State, peasant, & killer mosquito: public health education & malaria in Turkey. *Political Geography* 31:5:311-323; 2012. An Ottoman representation of Wahhabism: Ahmed Cevdet Paşa's imperial history as alternative narrative. *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa, & the Middle East* 31:3:622-632; 2011. Governing population, public health, & malaria in the early Turkish republic. *Journal of Historical Geography* 37:4:470-482; 2010. Decolonization through secularization: a geopolitical reframing of Turkey's 1924 abolition of the Caliphate. *The Arab World Geographer* 13:1:1-19. She is currently completing a book manuscript, tentatively entitled, *Social History of Alcohol in Turkey*. Her research has been supported by the National Academy of Education/Spencer Foundation, National Endowment for Humanities/ARIT, Mellon Foundation's Humanities without Walls, and a range of fellowships and grants from Michigan State University.

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PROFESSOR GEORGE GAWRYCH



Prof. Gawrych is a professor of Modern Middle East and Military History at Baylor University, (2003-present). He taught for 19 years at the US Army Command and General Staff, Fort Leavenworth (1984-2003). He was a Visiting Professor in the US Military Academy, West Point, 2002-2003.

He was Charles Boal Ewing Chair of Military History at US Military Academy, West Point in the 2016-2017 academic year. Gawrych's selected publications are as follows: *The Young Atatürk: From Ottoman Soldier to Statesman of Turkey*. London: I. B. Tauris, 2013. Won the Distinguished Book Award for Military Biography for 2014 from the Society for Military History. Finalist in *History Today* (UK-based magazine) for best history book award. Turkish translation: *Genç Atatürk*. Doğan Kitap, 2014; *The Crescent and the Eagle: Ottoman Rule, Islam and the Albanians, 1874-1913*. London: I. B. Tauris, 2006; Co-author with Robert F. Baumann and Walter E. Kretchik, *Armed Peacekeepers in Bosnia, Fort Leavenworth: Combat Studies Institute Press, 2004*. Project supported by a grant from the United States Institute for Peace and includes a sixty-minute educational film and a CD, both produced in 2003; *The Albatross of Decisive Victory: War and Policy between Egypt and Israel in the 1967 and 1973 Arab-Israeli Wars*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2000; "Şemseddin Sami, Women, and Social Conscience in the Late Ottoman Empire," *Middle Eastern Studies*, 46 (January 2010), 97-115.

LALE ISKARPATYOTI



Lale Iskarpatyoti was born and raised in Istanbul, Turkey. After completing her secondary education at Robert College in 1974, she came to the US on a full scholarship for college. She has a BA degree from Hamilton College in Math and Fine Arts and an MBA degree from New York

University in Finance. As a management consultant for over 30 years, she has advised dozens of Fortune 500 companies, as well as a wide variety of public and

private sector clients in the areas of health care and human resources. Most recently, Lale served as Senior Consultant and Healthcare Consulting Practice Leader with Watson Wyatt Worldwide in Philadelphia. She was previously with two other firms, PricewaterhouseCoopers and Mercer, in client relationship management and consulting practice leadership roles. Lale has always been very active and interested in Turkish American organizations. Since 1996, she has been on the Board of TAFSUS in Philadelphia, serving as President twice and in a wide variety of other roles. She has also served ATAA as Vice President for 5 years and as Executive Director for a year in 2015. In the last 4 years, she has been working with a small group of dedicated individuals to help develop an on-line Turkish language education program, primarily for the benefit of Turkish American youth. This program, called "Bright Future", is being developed jointly by ATAA and Baskent University in Ankara. Lale is currently enjoying her retirement, keeping busy with family, travel and a variety of volunteer activities. She is married and has three adult children.

ERGÜN KIRLIKOVALI



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 president of the company he founded in 1985 which conducts research and development on new aerospace materials based on inter-penetrating polymer networks. On the social front, he has always felt compelled to defend and promote Turkish culture and heritage to counter the relentless barrage of unsolicited, dishonest, and defamatory attacks orchestrated by Armenian and Greek lobbies and others with incurable anti-Turkish bias. He has written more than 5,000 letters to the editors, news programmers, panelists, politicians, academicians, and other opinion-makers. He has also appeared on TV and radio shows and participated in conferences and panels

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in universities and colleges in an effort to present the other side of the story and fight against discrimination and censorship fostered by a racist version of history spread by anti-Turkish lobbies. He has served as President of Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA, Washington DC, 2011-2013) and American-Turkish Association of Southern California (ATA-SC, Los Angeles, 1982); Public Relations Committee Chairman and later Western U.S. Regional Director for the Federation of Turkish American Associations (FTAA, New York, 1985-2004). He currently serves in the boards of trustees of ATAA and TPF (Turkish Philanthropy Fund.) He also conducts invitational presentations on innovation and entrepreneurship in American and Turkish universities. He is married, has one son, and the Kırlikovalis live in Southern California.

HÜLYA KOÇ



Hülya Koç is a global serial entrepreneur with 40 years of experience, an accredited investor and a mentor to entrepreneurs all over the world. She began her career as a banker and continued on to become an entrepreneur in Silicon Valley & in Turkey. In addition to founding and successfully exiting

three award winning companies, Hülya co-founded three nonprofit organizations in the Bay Area (Northern California), the most recent being ETAC (Empowering The Turkish-American Community USA). As ETAC, Hülya and her team have created a Turkish American Professionals Directory, besides founding Türk Evi. Hülya also PROUDLY serves on ATAA's Bright Future Program (a unique Turkish language program) Committee since its inception. Dedicated to educating and improving the lives of children as well as entrepreneurs in especially underprivileged neighborhoods, she volunteers extensively for many organizations. Hülya holds a graduate degree in business administration and education.

MAZLUM KOŞMA



Mazlum Koşma has been actively involved in Turkish-American communities and organizations, served as president of Turkish-American Cultural Association of Georgia (TACAGA), ATAA Vice President - Southeastern Region and currently he is serving as ATAA Treasurer. He is a graduate of Corum İlköğretmen Okulu, Ankara 19 Mayıs Gençlik ve Spor Akademisi, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill (UNC) and Florida State University (FSU); also attended a master's degree program at Orta Doğu Teknik Üniversitesi (ODTÜ) before moving to the USA. He is a long-time educator and administrator, currently works at Georgia Tech and lives in Atlanta, Georgia with his wife Winnie and their daughter Eda. He is also a member of the World Affairs Council of Atlanta, Georgia Council for International Visitors as a Citizen Diplomat and involved in Turkish-American Political Action Committees to visit local and state level elected officials, to inform them of the view of Turkish-Americans at their districts.

PROFESSOR PAUL KUBICEK



Paul Kubicek is Professor of Political Science and Director of International Studies at Oakland University in Rochester Michigan. He received his PhD in political science from the University of Michigan in 1995. From 1995-1998 he taught at Koç University, and he has also taught at Boğaziçi University (1997-1998) and Antalya Bilim University (2013-2014). He has also taught in Ukraine and Austria and served as Fulbright Scholar in Slovenia (2007-2008). His research interests include post-communist politics, the European Union, democratization, religion and politics, and Turkish politics and foreign policy. His most recent scholarly book is *Political Islam and Democratization in the Muslim World* (Lynne Rienner, 2015), and his articles have appeared in journals such as *Comparative Politics*, *Democratization*, *Political Science Quarterly*, *Europe-Asia Studies*, and *Problems of Post-Communism*. He regularly lectures on Turkey

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at the US Special Forces Operations School and served as an analyst for Freedom House's Freedom in the World project. Since 2013 he has served as editor of Turkish Studies.

PROFESSOR JUSTIN MCCARTHY



Justin McCarthy received a Ph.D. in Near Eastern history from U.C.L.A. in 1978 and a Certificate in Demography from Princeton University in 1980. He is presently Distinguished Professor of Arts and Sciences and Distinguished University Scholar at the University of Louisville. Professor Mc-

Carthy specializes in the social and demographic history of the Modern Middle East, particularly Turkey and the Ottoman Empire. His books include *Muslims and Minorities*, *Death and Exile*, *The Population of Palestine*, *The Ottoman Turks*, *The Ottoman Peoples and the End of Empire*, *Population History of the Middle East and the Balkans*, *Who Are the Turks?* (with Carolyn McCarthy), *Turkey and the Turks?* (with Carolyn McCarthy), *Focus on Turkey* (with Talat Halman and Ülkü Bates), *Turkey and the Turks* (with Carolyn McCarthy), *The Armenian Rebellion at Van* (with Esat Arslan, Cemalettin Taşkıran, and Ömer Turan), *The Turk in America*, *Sasun* (with Cemalettin Taşkıran, and Ömer Turan), and, most recently, *Turks and Armenians*. He has also written articles on Middle Eastern, Balkan, Turkish, and Ottoman topics. As a historical cartographer, he produced the Middle Eastern map series for the Middle East Studies Association and the U.S. Department of Education, as well as maps for publications. He has lectured in Turkey, Azerbaijan, Britain, Germany, Austria, the Netherlands, Belgium, Switzerland, Israel, Bosnia, and Saudi Arabia, as well as in the United States and Canada. Professor McCarthy was awarded the Order of Merit of the Turkish Republic in 1998. He has been voted a Member of the Turkish Historical Association. He has received the Chairman's Education Award from the Turkish American Friendship Council and awards from Turkish-American organizations, including the first Şükrü Elekdağ Award, presented by the Assembly of Turkish American Associations. In 1985 he received an honorary doctorate from Boğaziçi University, in 2000 an honorary doctorate from Demirel University, and in 2007 an honorary

doctorate from Atatürk University. In 2005 he was invited to address a special session of the Turkish Grand National Assembly. Rotary International gave him its Paul Harris Award. He has held a Senior Research Fellowship from the U.S. National Endowment for the Humanities, a National Needs Postdoctoral Fellowship from the National Science Foundation, a Fulbright-Hays fellowship, an International Research and Studies Program grant from the U.S. Department of Education, and other grants and awards. Professor McCarthy has served on the Boards of the Institute of Turkish Studies, the Turkish Studies Association, and the International Congress for Asian and North African Studies, as well as the advisory boards of various organizations.

SEVGİN OKTAY



Sevgin Oktay has been serving as ATAA New York Region Vice President since 2015. Among other projects, he has created a "StarBook" club at ATAA website where members can donate books in order to populate libraries across the United States with books that disseminate unbiased

information related to issues that affect Turkish relations in world affairs. He also has served as Vice President of the World Affairs Council of the Mid-Hudson Valley. In that position, he was involved with both the World Affairs Councils of America and Turkish Cultural Foundation in sending High School teachers to Turkey and in return their introducing Turkey into their classrooms (www.hvworldaffairscouncil.org/teacher-programs/2012-spotlight-on-turkey). He also co-founded a group called "Concerned People To Set The Record Straight," and an associated website, www.CPTSTRS.org where he has published thirteen monographs about the Armenian allegations which may be found in the same website along with other resources. He also is a principal founder of Turkish Anti-Defamation Alliance (TADA) group. In addition, Mr. Oktay has been active in local politics and was successful in having an US congressman join the Congressional Turkey Caucus. Sevgin Oktay was born in Saray, Tekirdağ in Turkey and spent most of his childhood in Safranbolu. He came to the United States in 1955 after graduating from Tarsus American College with high honors. He received his Bachelors of Science degree

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from Antioch College, Yellow springs, Ohio and his Masters and Professional Mechanical Engineering Degrees from Columbia University, New York, NY. After graduation, he joined IBM T.J. Watson Research Laboratories of the International Business Machines Corporation in Yorktown Heights, NY as a research scientist. He has published extensively in scientific and professional journals and books in the areas of heat transfer and computer systems technology. He has more than 40 published inventions and holds 13 U.S. Patents. During his tenure at IBM, he held various technical and managerial positions ranging from research, development and manufacturing to Senior Product Program Manager at IBM Headquarters in Somers, NY. He retired from IBM in 1993. After retirement, Mr. Oktay started a second career in the area of Intellectual Property Protection. He became a registered U.S. patent agent and held various patent consultant and advisory positions at Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP, in Stamford, Connecticut and at White & Case LLP in New York prior to expanding his own business at Oktay Enterprises International, LLC. Sevgin Oktay is a founding and honorary member of the Society of Turkish American Architects, Engineers and Scientists (MIM), and served as its president in 1994 and made it a 503 (c)(3) non-profit organization. He is an elected Life/ Fellow of ASME (American Society of Mechanical Engineers) and Life Member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. Mr. Oktay is an avid flyer and hence currently a Flying Patent Agent (www.FlyingPatentAgent.com). He is a member of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) and Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA).

GÖKHAN ÖZALP



Mr. Gökhan Özalp was born and raised in Ankara. He attended TED Ankara Koleji and later received a B.S. degree in Chemistry from Hacettepe University, Ankara. Mr. Özalp moved to the U.S. in 1995 to pursue a master's degree in business administration. He received an MBA with a Specialization in International Business Management from Eastern Michigan University in 1999 and a M.S. in Information Systems in 2001. Professionally, Mr. Özalp worked as a developer and a project manager

in the medical device software industry. Currently, Mr. Özalp helps medical device startups with their software development processes as an independent consultant. Mr. Özalp has been an involved member of Turkish-American community in Michigan and in the US. He served as a Board member for Turkish American Cultural Association of Michigan (TACAM) from 2009 to 2010, was on the Board of Trustees from 2010 to 2012 and has served as the Vice President from 2017 until today. During his term as a TACAM Board member, Mr. Özalp chaired the organization's Grassroots and Outreach committee which was established to work on a special project with ATAA to create a Grassroots movement within the Turkish American Community in Michigan. Mr. Özalp was involved in inspiring and training community members to participate in advocacy and outreach on issues relevant to Turkish Americans. Mr. Özalp has been involved with the Assembly of Turkish American Associations since 2013. He first served on the ATAA Board of Directors as a Board Member from 2013-2016 and as the Assembly's President Elect from 2016-2018. Currently Mr. Özalp is the President of ATAA Board of Directors. Mr. Özalp is married, has a son and lives in Michigan.

BURCU TANSU



Born and raised in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey, Burcu Tansu is a graduate of University of Istanbul, California State University (CSULA), and the UBC, Bournemouth, holding B.S. in Chemistry, B.S in Economy, and M.S in Business Management. She also holds a professional certificate in Concentration in Human Resources Management from UCLA. She is currently residing in California and working in private sector. Ms. Tansu is the Past President of Association of Turkish Americans of Southern California (ATA-SC), and currently holding Vice President position at ATAMLA, chapter of ATASC. She is also the founding member of ATASC- Los Angeles Chapter LATAA and special interest chapter ATAMLA. Apart from local Turkish American associations in California; she also founded; Turkish Social Connections, and Fenerbahce California West Coast sports fan club. She is currently serving as the ATAA Western Region V.P. Ms. Tansu volunteered in vast number of

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organizations in Turkey & in the US and gained her experience through diverse non-profit associations, and international charitable foundations like: The International Lions Club (Past President of Harbiye Leo Club, Istanbul, and BOD at 118-T), The International Autistic Children's Olympics, The Orphanage Foundation - Cocuk Esirgeme Kurumu in Turkey, The Hospice Home for Needy – Darulaceze in Turkey, The Six Dots Foundation of Blinds – Alti Nokta Korler Vakfi, The LA Mission – Homeless Shelter in Los Angeles, Bridge to Turkey, CYDD, and few more. Ms. Tansu has received various awards and recognitions, among which stand out “Woman of Distinction Award 2011” by Daughters of Ataturk, “Best Leader of the Year”, by ATASC, “Best Leadership” award –twice- by ATAA on behalf of ATASC. She recently represented the Turkish Americans as the first ATAA rep. in the UN -United Nations, Civil Society Conference 2019. Her motto is “Peace at Home, Peace in the World” and her new project concentrated on Meal Train for Elderly in local communities.

MÜGE TÜRKMAN



Müge Türkman is originally from Izmir, Turkey and currently resides in Baltimore. She holds a Civil Engineering degree and works for Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration as a Project Manager. Müge has been volunteering for many non-profit organizations

both in USA and Turkey. She is currently serving as the Vice President of MATA and the Chair of its Membership Committee.

NURTEN URAL



Ms. Nurten Ural is the CEO for the Turkish Resource Center of North America. Ms. Ural currently owns Ural LLC, a consulting firm and previously owned Ural Interiors, Inc., a commercial interior design company for 32 years. She also serves as an advisor to Michigan State University. In 2004 Ms.

Ural was appointed as Honorary Consul General for the Republic of Turkey and now serves on the Executive Board as Past President of the Consular Corps of Michigan. She also serves on the board of the Detroit Institute of Arts, and on the Board of the Metropolitan Museum of Design Detroit. In the past she has served as President for ATAA, President of TACAM, and President for Farmington Chamber of Commerce and served on the boards of other Chambers of Commerce and on the board of the National Association of Women Business Owners. Her great accomplishments include receiving the 1998 Athena Award, 1992 and 1995 Business Accomplishment Award, the 2002 Daughter's of Ataturk-Women of Distinction Award, 2001 Republican of the Year Award, 2002, 2004 & 2005 Service awards from ATAA, the 2008 “Gobustan” International award by Azerbaijan Prime Minister in Berlin and an award from Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan for being an accomplished Turkish American business women. In 2012 she received the Charles A. Gliozzo International Award for Public Diplomacy.

DR. ÜLKÜ ÜLGÜR



Dr. Ülkü Ülgür co-founded the Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA) in 1979 and served as its First president from 1980 to 1984. Later, during his tenure as Chairman of Board of Trustees he initiated and developed ATAA Endowment Fund. Dr. Ülgür is currently a member

of the ATAA Board of Trustees. Dr. Ülgür is one of the founders and Past President of the Maryland American Turkish Association (MATA). He also served as President of Turkish American Neuropsychiatric Association (TANPA). Dr. Ülgür completed his Primary Education in Darussafaka Lisesi and his undergraduate and medical education at the University of Istanbul Turkey .He came to USA in 1959 for his specialty training in Psychiatry. After finishing, he had an additional two-year Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Fellowship at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. In 1965, following his child training he joined the University's full-time faculty serving for ten years as Director of its inpatient, outpatient, and hospital consultation services. While he continued his teaching activities as

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a member of clinical faculty he developed and maintained an active office and consulting practice in Maryland. Dr. Ülgür is an active teacher and lecturer who has given many regional and international talks and wrote many scientific papers and book chapters. He is a Distinguished Life Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association (APA) and American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP). He also served as President of Maryland Regional Council of the AACAP. He has received awards for his services to children and families from the University of Maryland and the City of Baltimore. In recognition of his distinguished services and contributions to child and adolescent psychiatry, the AACAP established the “Ülkü Ülgür, MD, International Scholar Award” in order to honor international child and adolescent psychiatrists who have significantly enhanced mental health services for children and adolescents around the world.

MEHMET E. YAYA



Mehmet E. Yaya was born and raised in Turkey. He completed his bachelor's degree in Bogazici University before he moved to United States in 2003. He obtained his MBA from Auburn University, then received his master's and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Alabama. He moved to Michigan in 2009. He is currently the Professor of Economics and Graduate Program Coordinator in the Department of Economics at Eastern Michigan University. His research focuses on immigrants, income inequality, and poverty and he has published number of articles in well-respected academic journals on these topics. Mr. Yaya has actively been involved with Turkish American organizations. He was the founder of Turkish Student Association at the University of Alabama before he moved to Michigan. In Michigan, he has been a diligent volunteer for the Turkish American Cultural Association (TACAM); served as a board member for 2 years and treasurer for the last 4 years. Currently, he is serving as the president of TACAM. His involvement with TACAM specifically encompasses the education, political outreach, Ataturk Park and fundraising activities of TACAM. Mr. Yaya is married with two children ages 3 and 6. In his free time, he enjoys camping, playing soccer, riding his motorcycle, and spending time with his kids.

KAYHAN YILMAZ



Kayhan Yilmaz has been serving as ATAA Capital Region Vice President since 2014. He is currently an OSS Technical Account Manager with NEC – NetCracker Technology, a technology firm specializing in OSS/BSS software solutions where he's responsible for Mobile, Cable and Telecommunications major CSP accounts in business strategy and sales activities within North America. He was previously with Accenture where he was working as Business & Systems Integration Manager for large global accounts. He has over 20 years of telecommunications experience and has worked with industry leaders such as Century Link, Verizon Communications, T-Mobile, AT&T, Sprint, Comcast, HP, Rogers, Telus 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) one of ATAA's significant project which does consist of launching the first eLearning platform in Turkish language for North American region and beyond. 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 and planning to complete an executive program on Internet of Things (IoT) Massachusetts Institute of Technology – Sloan School of Management.

ATAA ANNUAL AWARDS RECIPIENTS

ŞÜKRÜ ELEKDAĞ AWARD

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