



ASSEMBLY OF  
TURKISH AMERICAN  
ASSOCIATIONS



## 34<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL TURKISH AMERICAN CONFERENCE

*Empowering Turkish American Community: Strength in Diversity*



APRIL 10-12, 2014 | WASHINGTON PLAZA HOTEL | WASHINGTON, DC





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## *ATAA President's Message*

Leaders of the Turkish-American Community, Members and Friends of ATAA, Valuable Guests and Dear Colleagues,

This year our theme is strength in diversity-what a word; what a notion! Imagine how many countries in the world can showcase a diversity of cultures, religions; history altogether weaved into one country & one society like Türkiye?

And how many countries or cities can you come across where a church, a synagogue and a mosque co-exist right next to one another, on the back of one another or facing one another? I can show you tens of such locations throughout Türkiye.

In how many countries different ethnic groups and people with different faiths can live together side-by-side for centuries-in fact over a millennia--yes that's the Türkiye that we all know and love! Our homeland and people have for centuries managed what seems to be the unmanageable for many countries and people, during war and peace times.

Today there are internal and external challenges to our country, and the very qualities that make our people and homeland unique.

Türkiye is a rapidly growing vibrant democracy which has achieved so much in a short time, but it still has a long road ahead, and despite our differences-our people have shown that they can overcome the harder of challenges by empowering our people and community, especially because of our diversity.

Today our country is going through some growing pains, but nothing that is insurmountable, and certainly nothing our people cannot resolve amongst themselves!

We have many challenges ahead, and I hope we remember that our forefathers overcame so much more with much less, and ultimately at the end despite our various differences, they did not hesitate to place our country and people ahead and above all else to face the challenges.

I thank you all for being with us, I am grateful for your support, in the past and in the future, because without you we wouldn't exist!

Finally, I would like to thank the tireless efforts of our volunteer leadership, staff and interns who drink, eat and breathe Türkiye and ATAA day in and day out. Our community and people are forever indebted to your dedications and sacrifices.

Tebrikler ve teşekkürler.

Best Regards,



***Mehmet Çelebi***  
***President***  
***Assembly of Turkish American Associations***



## *Turkish President's Message*

On the occasion of ATAA's 34th Annual Conference, I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to all members and executives of our distinguished umbrella organization. On this occasion, I would like to thank all of you for your invaluable work by serving as a bridge between Turkey and the United States in order to enhance friendly relations between our two countries on the basis of partnership and cooperation.



Today, as in the past, Turkey-United States relations is one of the fundamental pillars of our foreign policy. We now define our relationship with the United States, our ally, as a model partnership. In many areas and in a wide geography, we work in close cooperation. We aim to contribute to international peace and security through our joint efforts.

In view of such intensive and multi-dimensional collaboration with the United States, grassroots contacts and the efforts of the Turkish American community play an important role in our relationship. The Assembly, which brings together Turkish American associations under its umbrella, has a very important mission in this regard.

This mission is vital to counter-balance the activities of certain groups against Turkey, as well as to cement the unity and solidarity within the Turkish American community, and to establish a better understanding of Turkey amongst the American public and decision makers. I am convinced that your efforts in this regard will continue unabated in the future.

On this occasion, once again, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the executives and members of the Assembly of Turkish American Associations and its chapters for their invaluable work and I wish you a success on your 34th Annual Conference.

***Abdullah Gül***  
***President of the Republic of Turkey***



## *Turkish Prime Minister's Message*

On the occasion of ATAA's 34th Annual Conference, I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to all members and executives of the Assembly of Turkish American Associations, which is a prominent umbrella organization, founded by the Turkish community living in the United States.

I would like to commend your efforts for promoting Turkey and the Turkish culture and heritage in the US; for encouraging young Turkish-Americans' to embrace their culture and values that would guide their lives; for reinforcing solidarity and collaboration amongst Turkish-Americans; and, for counter-balancing anti-Turkish lobbies' activities against our country. Moreover, I would like to applaud the Turkish-Americans for their contributions to the American society in every field.

Today, the work of the Assembly of Turkish American Association and support of Turkish-Americans is even more critical than ever, since we are facing important challenges for ensuring peace and stability within the global and regional scale in the 21st century.

Once again, on the occasion of ATAA's 34th Annual Conference, I would like to extend my thanks to the executives and members of the Assembly of Turkish American Associations, the executives and members of its chapters, as well as to our citizens and American friends for their valuable support to Conference and I wish you success.

***Recep Tayyip Erdoğan***  
***Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey***





## *Turkish Foreign Minister's Message*

On the occasion of its 34th annual conference, I would like to congratulate the Assembly of Turkish American Associations which has achieved remarkable successes by uniting a significant part of the Turkish community in the United States under its umbrella.

The long-standing friendship, partnership and alliance relations between Turkey and the United States are based on common principles and ideals such as democracy, human rights, fundamental freedoms, respect for the rule of law, and our relations continue to advance rapidly on the basis of "model partnership." We commend ATAA not only for its ongoing efforts to cement a better understanding of the strategic dimension of Turkish-American relations, which reflects common concerns and methods in many global and regional issues, but also for its role in reinforcing solidarity and unity among the Turkish community in the United States, as well as its efforts to counter-balance the activities of certain anti-Turkish groups in the United States that are expected to intensify their campaign in the upcoming period. These efforts are now even more important than before in the face of the current realities.

I take this opportunity to express that I follow closely and appreciate the activities of the well-educated, experienced and talented members of the Turkish American community in the United States to develop mutual understanding between the two governments and the peoples as well as their ever growing active role in the American political sphere.

I would like to congratulate the executives and the members of the ATAA and its component chapters for their valuable work, and I wish the Assembly a successful and fruitful 34th Annual Conference.

***Abmet Davutoğlu***  
***Foreign Minister of the Republic of Turkey***





## *Turkish Finance Minister's Message*

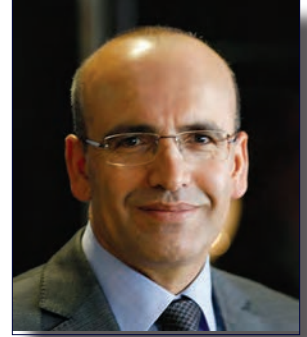
I applaud ATAA President Mehmet Celebi, leaders and members of ATAA, the Turkish American community and friends of Turkey for organizing the 34th Annual ATAA Conference and for coming together to forge an ever greater unity and solidarity across the US. This year's theme "Strength in Diversity" says it all -- the diverse members of the Turkish diaspora in the US as well as the world have strong ties that bind them to their Turkish Heritage and to each other. The global economy further ties us all together.

The Turkish American community serves an important role as a bridge between the US and Turkey and helps to strengthen relations between the two countries. It is commendable to see that the Turkish Americans are raising their voice and visibility in the US, by working collaboratively with one another across the country.

This is especially important as we try to expand trade relations between Turkey and the United States, and as discussions on an important Free Trade Agreement between the two countries are underway. ATAA can play a vital role in supporting our efforts in many ways.

I sincerely hope that you will continue this important work, commend you for organizing a great Conference and wish you a very successful event.

***Mehmet Şimşek***  
***Minister of Finance of the Republic of Turkey***







## *Turkish Charge D'affaires ad Interim's Message*

Welcome to the 34th Turkish-American National Leadership Conference in Washington, DC.

I congratulate the Assembly of Turkish-American Associations (ATAA) for organizing the Conference, which is an unprecedented event embracing the broadest spectrum of Turkish Americans, with its focus on strengthening Turkish-American grassroots through civic engagement as well as on the development of an informed and enabled Turkish American community that can effectively support U.S.-Turkish relations.

With around 400,000 Turkish-Americans and numerous Turkish-American organizations all around the U.S., we are proud to see that Turkish-American community strengthens its presence each and every day while building close ties with sister communities.

Today, we have a robust “Model Partnership” between Turkey and the US. This strong and long-standing partnership requires multiple connections and intense interactions between the two countries at all levels. Official co-operation and coordination is essential, however people to people contacts and exchanges through civil society initiatives are instrumental to further this partnership. In this regard, I believe that the National Leadership Conference has been crucial for many years towards this goal.

This year, once more, the National Leadership Conference features an impressive lineup of speakers to support the advancement of the partnership between Turkey and the U.S., by providing an insightful platform.

Turkey's Ambassador-Designate to the United States, H.E. Serdar Kılıç has not arrived the U.S. yet, but he joins me in wishing you a very successful conference in his current capacity as Turkey's Ambassador to Japan.

I applaud the convening of the Turkish-American National Leadership Conference and commend its organizers. It is your dedication to the stronger Turkish-American community and your devotion to the Turkish-American friendship that make the Leadership Conference an unprecedented event.

***Tugay Tunçer***  
***Minister-Counselor***  
***Charge D'affaires ad Interim***  
***Embassy of the Republic of Turkey to the United States***





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### *TRNC Representative's Message*

As the Washington, DC Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, I congratulate you on the 34th Annual Turkish American Conference. Seeing so many Turkish American national membership organizations working together in solidarity makes me think how far the Turkish Americans and Turkish Cypriot Americans have come.

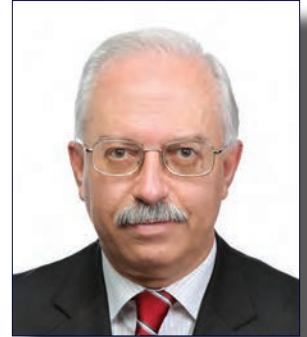
It is reassuring to know how much the Turkish American community continues to care about Turkish Cypriots and the future of Cyprus. Even during the 1960s, when Greek and Greek Cypriot extremists were massacring Turkish Cypriots and expelling others from the island, a fledgling Turkish American community managed to collect and send humanitarian aid to their Turkish Cypriot brethren and speak out on their behalf.

Today, negotiations between the island's two peoples are taking place under United Nations auspices. Despite prior Greek Cypriot obstinacies, Turkish Cypriots remain cautiously optimistic about these talks and are determined to work toward a compromise settlement. If this time our Greek Cypriot counterparts reciprocate our positive and constructive approach, I firmly believe that a fair and lasting settlement is within reach, ideally before the next ATAA Annual Convention convenes.

More than 50 years later, Turkish Americans have become a formidable power inside the Beltway, thanks to the leadership and abilities of people like you and the dedication of your communities. Well-organized, informed, and skilled in advocacy, Turkish Americans, working in tandem with Turkish Cypriot Americans, today extend their assistance to the TRNC on Capitol Hill, the White House, defense and diplomatic communities, universities, think tanks, and media. The ceaseless efforts, imagination, creativity, work ethic, and passion of ATAA leadership and partner organizations have made the American public and American policy makers increasingly aware of the need to engage, not to ignore or denigrate the voice of the Turkish and Turkish Cypriot People.

Thank you for all of your support. The people of the TRNC will never forget.

***Abmet Erdengiz,***  
***Washington Representative***  
***Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus***





## *U.S. Ambassador's Message*

To the Officers and Members of the Assembly of Turkish American Associations:

Please accept my warmest congratulations and appreciation as you celebrate the 34th anniversary of your founding. Through more than a third of a century, ATAA's people-to-people contributions to American-Turkish friendship have grown ever stronger and more important as a cornerstone of the very solid official relationship between our two Governments. The theme you have chosen for your conference this year, "Strength in Diversity," aptly captures one of the most powerful commonalities between our two very different countries: we each draw our national identity and strength from the rich diversity of our two peoples.

I am confident that the renewal of Turkish democracy through the process of elections this year will contribute directly to the renewal of "the alliance between our nations, and the friendship between our people," for which President Obama called when he spoke at the Turkish Grand National Assembly exactly five years ago this month. ATAA's role in that continuing process of the renewal of American-Turkish friendship surely will continue to grow ever more influential and vital.

With best wishes for a successful celebration and 35th year ahead.

Sincerely,

***Francis J. Ricciardone***  
***U.S. Ambassador to Turkey***





## *TCA President's Message*

On behalf of the Turkish Coalition of America (TCA), I am pleased and honored to extend a warm welcome to the 2014 Turkish American National Leadership Conference (NLC 2014).

This convention is a testament to the growing bond and cooperation among Turkish and Turkic Americans living throughout the United States. NLC 2014 will bring together leaders from various communities, including our friends in the Macedonian, Bosnian, Albanian, Kosovar and Somali American communities.

By strengthening the representation of the Turkish American community and building bridges with other communities in the U.S. since 2007, TCA has wholeheartedly supported the spirit behind this conference. As such, we continue to be a proud sponsor and look forward to this year's event.

Though the Turkish American community has come a long way, there remains the challenging but rewarding task of amplifying the Turkish American voice in the nation's capital.

Since our founding, we have remained committed to this goal and have spearheaded the campaign to increase the membership of the Congressional Caucus on U.S.-Turkish Relations and Turkish Americans, which currently consists of 144 members (four members of the Senate and 140 U.S. House of Representatives from 42 states and six territories). Of those, 88 are Republicans and 56 are Democrats.

In addition to engaging members of Congress on issues pertaining to Turkey, TCA also invests heavily in the next generation of the Turkish American community through scholarships and congressional internships. We are proud to see many former and current scholarship and internship recipients among the panelists at this year's NLC and wish you a successful conference and a pleasant stay in Washington, DC.

***G. Lincoln McCurdy***  
***President***  
***Turkish Coalition of America***







## ASSEMBLY OF TURKISH AMERICAN ASSOCIATIONS

Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA) is an independent, membership based and democratically elected umbrella organization that pursues the interests of Turkish Americans and friends of Turkey and supports strong relations between the United States and Turkey. Established in 1979 in Washington DC, it represents over 500,000 Turkish Americans and 300,000 Turkic Americans nationwide.

To fulfill its mission and objectives, ATAA undertakes a number of activities, such as annual conferences on contemporary political, social and economic issues related to Turkey and US Turkish relations; educational seminars for Turkish American communities on grassroots advocacy and civic leadership; and cultural events to promote Turkey's rich traditions, art and heritage.

Working as an information clearinghouse, ATAA regularly publishes reference material on issues that concern the Turkish American community. ATAA e-bulletins, including Community Information Services (CIS), Grassroots Information Services (GIS) and monthly newsletters, reach tens of thousands of readers from the United States to Turkey, as well as many other countries.

ATAA is governed by a 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. ATAA also has an Endowment Fund which was established to secure long-term growth and stability of the organization.



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## ASSEMBLY OF TURKISH AMERICAN ASSOCIATIONS

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Gülperi Salman  
*Program Coordinator*



ASSEMBLY OF TURKISH AMERICAN ASSOCIATIONS

*is grateful to*



T.C. BAŞBAKANLIK  
TANITMA FONU



T.C. BAŞBAKANLIK  
YURTDIŞI TÜRKLER  
VE AKRABA TOPLULUKLAR BAŞKANLIĞI

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AMERICA



A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER



MEHMET HALICI  
Associate Broker/Real Estate Consultant

*for their generous support of  
the 34th Annual Turkish American Conference*



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**THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 2014 | CIVIC ENGAGEMENT DAY**

- 12:00pm-1:30pm **Lunch at Turkish Coalition of America (TCA)**  
*Location: 1510 H St., NW, Washington, DC*
- 3:00pm - 5:00pm **Meetings with Members of Congress – United States Congress**
- 5:00pm-6:00pm **10,000 Turks Reception on Capitol Hill with Turkey Caucus Republican Co-Chairs\***
- 6:30pm-7:30pm **10,000 Turks Reception on Capitol Hill with Turkey Caucus Democratic Co-Chairs\***
- 7:30pm-10:00pm **Robert College Alumni Event**  
*Location: Cafe Divan Restaurant, Georgetown, Washington, DC*

**FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2014 | U.S. TURKISH RELATIONS DAY**

- 8:00am-5:00pm **Registration**
- 9:00am-10:00am **Opening Ceremony and Welcoming Remarks**  
*Keynote Speaker: Ahmet Bozer, Executive V.P. & President, Coca-Cola International, The Coca-Cola Company*
- 10:00am-10:15am **Coffee and Tea Break**
- 10:15am-11:00am **Session 1: U.S. - Turkish Business Relations: Opportunities for Growth**  
*Moderator: Kenan Çağlar, Member of the ATAA Board of Trustees*  
*Ekim Alptekin, President, The Turkish American Business Association (TABA/AmCham)*  
*Khush Choksy, Vice President for Turkey & Middle East Affairs, U.S. Chamber of Commerce*  
*Ambassador (Ret.) James H. Holmes, President and CEO, American-Turkish Council (ATC)*
- 11:00am-11:15am **Coffee and Tea Break**
- 11:15am-12:00pm **Session 2: Turkish Women's Empowerment: Closing the Gender Gap**  
*Moderator: Lale Iskarpotyoti, Executive Director, Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA)*  
*H.E. Aylin Nazlıaka, Member of Parliament, Republican People's Party (CHP), Turkish Grand National Assembly*  
*Emeritus Professor Dr. Emel Doğramacı, Author & Board Member, The Turkish Foreign Policy Institute (FPI)*  
*H.E. Donna F. Edwards, Congresswoman, U.S. House of Representatives, Turkey Caucus Member*
- 12:00pm-12:15pm **Conference Break**
- 12:15pm-1:45pm **Luncheon**  
*Keynote Speaker: Şule Perinçek, Executive Board Member, Turkish Workers Party*
- 1:45pm-2:00pm **Conference Break**
- 2:00pm-2:45pm **Session 3: The Turkish Ambassador; Saving the French Jews**  
*Moderator: Mehmet Çelebi, President, Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA)*  
*Emir Kıvrıkcık, Author of "The Ambassador" on Ambassador Behiç Erkin who saved thousands of Jews from certain death during World War II*





## FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2014 | U.S. TURKISH RELATIONS DAY

2:45pm-3:00pm *Coffee and Tea Break*

3:00pm-3:45pm **Session 4: Affinity Groups: Strategic Partnering with ATAA**

*Moderator:* Dr. İnci A. Bowman, *President, International Committee for Crimea, Inc. (ICC)*  
Metodija Koloski, *President, United Macedonian Diaspora (UMD)*  
Ramazan Korkmaz, *President, Ardahan University*

3:45pm-4:00pm *Coffee and Tea Break*

4:00pm-4:45pm **Session 5: Future of Political Islam: Experience of Turkey and Egypt**

*Moderator:* Çiğdem Öktem, *ATAA North Central Region Vice President*  
Ambassador (Ret.) Şükrü Elekdağ, *Former Turkish Ambassador to the U.S.*  
Joshua W. Walker, *Director of Global Programs, APCO Worldwide*

4:45pm-6:15pm *Conference Break*

6:15pm-6:30pm **Wreath Laying at Atatürk Monument at Sheridan Circle**

*Near Turkish Embassy Residence, 1606 23rd Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.*

6:30pm-8:30pm **Ambassador's Reception at Turkish Embassy**

*2525 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C.*  
*(For registrants only)*

## SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 2014 | U.S. TURKISH AMERICANS DAY

7:00am-5:00pm **Registration**

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

*Keynote Speaker:* Dr. Amanda Sloat, *Deputy Assistant Secretary for Southern Europe and Eastern Mediterranean Affairs, U.S. Department of State*

8:30am-9:30am **Session 6: Civic Engagement: Becoming Informed and Empowered Citizens**

*Moderator:* Bonnie Kaslan, *Member of the ATAA Board of Trustees*  
Lincoln McCurdy, *President, Turkish Coalition of America (TCA)*  
Lydia Borland, *President, LB International Solutions, LLC*  
Javid Huseynov, *Executive Director, Azerbaijani-American Council (AAC)*

9:30am-9:45am *Coffee and Tea Break*

9:45am-10:45am **Session 7: Turkish Language Education: Teaching Children About Their Heritage**

*Moderator:* Erol Yorulmazoğlu, *ATAA Midwest Region Vice President*  
Halil Ersoy, *Assistant Professor, Başkent University*

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



**SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 2014 | U.S. TURKISH AMERICANS DAY**

- 11:00am-11:45am **Session 8: Turkish Youth in The US: Engaging Future Leaders**  
*Moderator: Dr. Onur Toy, Resident at Yale New Haven Hospital*  
*Tuğba Haklıdır, Student, University of Washington*  
*Muzaffer Gür Eraslan, Student, Binghamton University*  
*Ömer Alaettinoğlu, President, Columbia University Turkish Students Association*  
*Selin Sakarcan, Co-President, Temple University Turkish Student Association*
- 11:45am-12:00pm *Conference Break*
- 12:00pm-1:30pm **Luncheon**  
*Baskent University Assistant Rector Prof. Dr. Kadir Varoğlu will present message from*  
*Professor Dr. Mehmet Haberal, President and Founder, Başkent University*
- 1:30pm-2:00pm *Conference Break*
- 2:00pm-2:45pm **Session 9: Turkish American Associations: Bringing Together The Community**  
*Moderator: Ali Çınar, Board Member, Turks Abroad Committee*  
*Zeynep Uluer Aytekin, President, Florida Turkish American Association (FTAA)*  
*Jeanene M. Cömertoğlu, Former President, Turkish American Cultural Association of Washington (TACAWA)*  
*Hakan Karalök, M.D., Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Yale University*
- 2:45pm-3:00pm *Coffee and Tea Break*
- 3:00pm-3:45pm **Session 10: The Armenian Cause Today: Challenges for Reconciliation**  
*Moderator: Erol Yorulmazoğlu, ATAA Midwest Region Vice President*  
*David Saltzman, Principal, Saltzman & Evinch, P.C.*  
*Harvey Silverglate, Criminal Defense & Civil Liberties Litigator*  
*Lael Rubin, Prosecutor in Sassounian Trial*
- 3:45pm-4:00pm *Coffee and Tea Break*
- 4:00pm-4:45pm **Session 11: Stars Among Us – Learning From Community Role Models**  
*Moderator: Gizem Salcıgil White, ATAA Capital Region Vice President*  
*Aydın Koç, Board Member, Turkish Philanthropy Funds (TPF)*  
*Susan Burchard, President, Fikret Yuksel Foundation*  
*Erden Eruç, President, Around-N-Over*
- 4:45pm-6:00pm *Conference Break*
- 6:00pm-7:30pm **General Reception/Cash Bar**
- 7:30pm-10:30pm **Gala & Awards Banquet**  
*Live Entertainment by İlhan Özulu and Zeliha Sunal*



#### ÖMER ALAETTİNOĞLU

Ömer Alaettinoglu is currently the President of the Columbia Turkish Students Association, an organization that promotes Turkish culture at Columbia University by hosting influential speakers such as, Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Vuslat Doğan Sabancı and Mehmet Y. Yılmaz. He is an executive board member of the Columbia Financial Investment Group, Columbia's largest undergraduate finance club, and an executive board member at Lion Fund LLC, Columbia's only undergraduate student-run hedge fund. He is a member of Global Relations Forum, and the Founding President of two community service projects in Turkey collaborating with Spinal Cord Paralytics Society of Turkey and Gaziantep Kolej Vakfi. He is a graduate of Robert College in Istanbul, and a B.S. candidate in Financial Engineering and Economics at Columbia University. He speaks fluent Turkish, English and French.

#### EKİM ALPTEKİN

Mr K. Ekim Alptekin is the President of the Turkish American Business Association (TABA/AmCham) whose mission is boosting Trans-Atlantic trade and bolstering the commercial angle of the decades long Turkish American partnership. Mr. Alptekin is a Vice Chairman for the Turkish American Business Council of the Foreign Economic Relations Board, (DEIK/TAIK). Mr. Alptekin is the Honorary Consul to Albania, a NATO member and longtime U.S. ally, and represents the Republic of Turkey in the Board of the US Nowruz Commission. He is a member of the European Council of Foreign Relations (ECFR). On the business front, he is the founder and President of EA Aerospace A.Ş., a major shareholder of Eclipse Aerospace; an Albuquerque, New Mexico based aircraft manufacturer. Mr. Alptekin is also commercially active in the real estate and entertainment industries through his companies, EA İnşaat and OneColony A.Ş., respectively. Though EA Group is best known for its work in the civil aviation sector, the company's \$50 million real estate development, "Kartal Kule" was recently presented with the prestigious European Property Award. In 2001, Mr. Alptekin graduated from the University of Utrecht with a degree in law and economics. After graduating, Mr. Alptekin worked for various international institutions, notably the U.S. House of Representatives International Relations Committee and Dutch Parliament during the Dutch Presidency of the European Union. Mr. Alptekin has taught MBA courses at Bahçeşehir University and speaks fluent Turkish, English, Dutch, French and German.

#### ZEYNEP ULUER AYTEKİN

A native of Buffalo, NY, Zeynep Uluer Aytekin is a Turkish-American who completed her education at Boğaziçi University '88 and SUNY at Buffalo '92. Upon graduation she moved to Istanbul, worked at PIAR Gallup and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC). She became a member of the startup team for the Citibank Global Consumer Banking business. She started her own business in Corporate Employee Volunteering, consulting for Citibank and McDonald's Turkey. As a social entrepreneur, she cofounded the Corporate Volunteer Association in Turkey, (Özel Sektör Gönüllüler Derneği-OSGD) which serves more than seventy corporations today. Returning to the US in 2009, she became involved in the Florida Turkish American Association (FTAA) as a volunteer Turkish Teacher of the Atatürk School and was elected as the FTAA President in 2013. Zeynep is currently starting up her own small business, she is married and has a son

#### LYDIA BORLAND

Lydia A. 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 the 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. Ms. Borland served as the 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. Ms. Borland speaks fluent Turkish as well as Spanish, 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.

#### İNCİ A. BOWMAN

İnci A. Bowman is currently serving as President of the International Committee for Crimea, Inc. in Washington, DC. A native of Istanbul, Ms. İnci Bowman moved to the United States to pursue her college and graduate studies. She received her B.S. degree at Alfred University, New York; M.A. and Ph.D. degrees at Alfred University, New York; M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in history of science and medicine at Indiana University, Bloomington. With more than 25 years in the academic world, she retired from the



University of Texas in 1997 and relocated to Washington, DC. She has been involved in various Turkish-American activities, including the International Committee for Crimea, serving as the editor of the organization's Web site, the best online resource in English on Crimean Tatars. She is also the US representative of the Turkic World Research Foundation (Türk Dünyası Araştırmaları Vakfı) in Istanbul. Ms. İnci Bowman published numerous articles both in English and Turkish, and edited a book, "Dikenli İlişkiler: Kırımlı Bir Öğretmenin Anıları ve Şiirleri" by Fevzi Altuğ (Istanbul, 2005) and translated the same work into English, "Thornbush: Memoirs of a Crimean Tatar Nationalist and Educator Relating to the Russian Civil War and the Famine of 1921-1922." (Istanbul, 2004)

#### AHMET BOZER

Ahmet C. Bozer is Executive Vice President and President of Coca-Cola International, which consists of the Company's Europe, Asia Pacific, Latin America, and Eurasia & Africa operations. Before assuming his current role, Mr. Bozer served as President, Eurasia & Africa Group, where he led the Company's business activities in more than 90 countries. Mr. Bozer began his career with The Coca-Cola Company in 1990 as a Financial Controller Manager in Atlanta. Mr. Bozer moved to Turkey in 1992 as Region Finance Manager. In 1994, he joined the Coca-Cola Bottlers of Turkey (now Coca-Cola İçecek A.Ş.) as Finance Director and was named managing Director in 1998. In 2000, Mr. Bozer rejoined the Company as President of the Eurasia Division, which became Eurasia and Middle East Division in 2003, covering 36 countries, including the Adriatic and Balkans Region. In 2006, Mr. Bozer assumed the additional leadership responsibility for the Russia, Ukraine and Belarus Division. In 2007, with the addition of the India and South West Asia Division under his responsibilities, Mr. Bozer was named President of the Eurasia Group. Prior to joining Coca-Cola, Mr. Bozer spent five years in various audit, consultancy and management roles with Coopers & Lybrand in Atlanta. He holds a Master of Science in Business Information Systems from Georgia State University in the U.S. and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Middle East Technical University in Ankara, Turkey. A founding member of The Coca-Cola Turkey Life Plus Foundation, Mr. Bozer also previously served as head of the US-Pakistan Business Council. He sits on the Company's Public Policy and Corporate Reputation Council and is a member of The Coca-Cola Foundation Board. In 2013, Mr. Bozer was named Chairman of the Business Council for International Understanding (BCIU), Chairman of the US-Turkish Business Council, and was appointed to the Robinson College Board of Advisors at Georgia State

University. In 2014, Mr. Bozer was named Co-Chair of the Brazil-U.S. Business Council.

#### SUSAN BURCHARD

Susan Burchard and her husband, Gary Burchard, have been running the Fikret Yüksel Foundation since 2001. The Foundation's mission is to fund education primarily for students at Darüssafaka, an orphanage/school founded in 1863 in Istanbul. In this capacity, they chose to focus on introducing STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) education in a fun and engaging way to schools throughout Turkey. They find that FIRST (For Inspiration & Recognition of Science and Technology) is a well established organization here in the U.S., and that their robotics program is a great venue to accomplish their goals. Since 2008 they have established nine Turkish robotics teams and hope to one day have a FIRST Istanbul Regional at which 50 - 60 teams from all over Turkey can compete.

#### KENAN ÇAĞLAR

Kenan Çağlar an Istanbul native, attended Beyoğlu Ticaret High School and the University of Marmara, with his Bachelor of Science degree in 1990. As a student, he worked as a financial consultant to several large corporations. After he finished his studies, he was involved several business ventures in Turkey before moving to the United States in 1992. He received a certificate in Information Systems from Virginia Commonwealth University in 1994, and obtained a position at the Wells Fargo Corporation. He has held various positions at Wells Fargo, and currently serves as Vice President in Technology. Mr. Çağlar is a member of the Board of Trustee at the Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA). He has three daughters and lives with his wife in Charlotte, NC.

#### MEHMET ÇELEBİ

Mehmet Çelebi is the Founding Partner of Arti Bir, a group of companies engaging in the construction, entertainment, manufacturing and finance industries. The Group's construction projects are currently underway in Iraq, Kuwait and in discussions for several projects in the Middle East; entertainment company, Turkey's largest, engages in the production and financing of domestic and Hollywood films in Turkey and the region. Mr. Çelebi is a Partner and Board Member of Istanbul Portfoy (IP), Turkey's largest Independent Asset Management Company with over \$600 million in assets under management. IP manages six funds, one of which was recognized by Forbes Magazine as the "Best Performing Growth Fund in 2013"





in Turkey. Mr. Çelebi has worked with several major funds including the 20-20 Investment Association, Mitsubishi UFJ International, Merrill Lynch and others on projects ranging from high level meetings with public and private sector officials in Turkey and abroad, to privatization and domestic M&A deals, among others and has worked with the Turkish government and the Privatization Agency on several small to large scale deals. Mr. Çelebi cofounded several Turkish-American organizations, and held leadership positions with a few local and national Turkish-American organizations. He is the current the president of ATAA (2013-2015). Throughout Mr. Çelebi's leadership positions, he worked closely with ethnic communities in the US including Greek, Armenian, Jewish and Arab groups and continues to work on many projects that builds bridges with these communities. Mr. Çelebi is a founding member of the Interfaith and Global Peace Initiative, a U.S.-Jordanian initiative led by religious, community, business, and media leaders; and a Fellow at the Institute for Social Policy and Understanding. He also served on the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations' Task Force on "Strengthening America: The Civic and Political Integration of Muslim Americans." Mr. Çelebi was born in Syria to a Turkish mother and a Syrian-Turk father, and lived in both countries in childhood. When he moved to the US in 1988, he received a Bachelor's degree in International Relations and International Economics from the University of Wisconsin, Madison and an MBA at the University of Illinois, Chicago (not yet completed). Mr. Çelebi married his college sweetheart, Stephanie, and has 3 children; Eren, Emre and Ali.

#### KHUSH CHOKSY

Khush Choksy is Vice President for Turkey and Middle East Affairs at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, where he leads the activities of the department in developing and implementing policies and programs to promote U.S. trade and investment with markets in the region. Mr. Choksy manages a team of program and policy experts who are focused on working closely with Chamber member companies, business and government leaders to advance and broaden commercial relationships between the United States and the region. In addition, he serves as executive director of the U.S.-Egypt Business Council and the U.S.-Bahrain Business Council. He is actively involved in the Chamber's efforts to lead a Middle East Commercial Dialogue to foster intraregional trade and investment. Before joining the Chamber, Mr. Choksy was a director at Chemonics International where he led teams in developing economic ties between the United States and the Middle East. He lived and worked in Jordan for seven years, establishing relations with private and public sector leaders at a critical time in the U.S.-Middle East relationship on behalf of several USAID programs. He also

worked in India, overseeing U.S. government and World Bank funded projects that helped liberalize the capital markets and financial sectors. His thought leadership includes presentations at international forums on business reform and U.S. trade and financial sector investment in emerging markets. Mr. Choksy received his M.B.A. in strategic management from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and his B.A. from Hamilton College. He lives with his wife and daughter in Chevy Chase, Maryland.

#### ALİ ÇINAR

Ali Çınar is a Business Development Director on Wall Street. Prior, he was a Marketing Manager at Western Union, a Fortune 500 company for four years managing the US-Europe Business and Middle East portfolios, earning six awards within four years from the company. A 1999 graduate of Istanbul University's Economics department, Mr. Çınar came to the US fifteen years, graduated University of New Haven in 2002 with master's degree; he completed various business certificate programs in 2004, 2005 and 2006 at Harvard, MIT and New York University. Mr. Çınar is a proud Turkish-American who contributes to US-Turkish relations and has built bridges with many other communities in the US. He has proven leadership qualities, and believes in the importance of being politically active. In 2004 and 2005, he was an Honorary Guest Speaker about the world economy and business at the American Coast Guard Military Academy. Mr. Çınar has organized successful fundraisers for Members of Congress where Turkish Americans reside such as Bill Pascrell, Yvette Clark, Gregory Meeks, Hakeem Jeffries, Jim Himes and others. He has met many leaders such as President Clinton, Secretary of State John Kerry, Hillary Clinton and Members of the House and Senate. Mr. Çınar has received over sixteen awards from Turkish American and American organizations since 2005, including "Leader of the Year" award by ATAA in 2007, One of the TOP 10 Most Successful Young People by JCI in 2010 and recently award from New York Turkish Consulate in January 2014. Mr. Çınar has press credentials in New York City, the United Nations and US State Department. He writes articles in various ethnic newspapers and online media. Mr. Çınar remains active in the following associations: Board Member of Turkish Living Abroad Committee, US Representative of Turkish Young Businessmen Association (TUGIAD), Representative of Turkish PAC NJ, Vice President of Azerbaijani American Council, and Founder President of Istanbul University Alumni Association of USA. He is a member of New York Press Club, United Nations, Correspondents Association, and American Public Notary Association. He was Northeast VP of ATAA, 2008-2010 and President of FTAA, 2012-2014.



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### JEANENE MITCHELL CÖMERTOĞLU

Jeanene Mitchell Cömertoğlu is an energy and climate policy expert. A native of Tacoma, Washington, she graduated from the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service and is an alumna of Georgetown's McGhee Center for Eastern Mediterranean Studies in Alanya, Turkey. She moved to Istanbul in 2002 as a Fulbright fellow researching the topic of safe marine transport of energy in the Turkish Straits, a topic on which she is a published author. Ms. Cömertoğlu completed her master's degree in International Energy Management and Policy at Columbia University Turkish Initiative. In 2009, she was an Exchange Fellow at the Center for Strategic Studies in Baku, Azerbaijan before beginning her Ph.D. in Near and Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Washington, Seattle. She speaks fluent Turkish, Azerbaijani and French. Ms. Cömertoğlu has served on the Board of the Turkish American Cultural Association of Washington for four years, most recently as President in 2013-2014 and was the coordinator of the 2013 Seattle TurkFest cultural festival. She is also a board member of the Seattle Tashkent Sister Cities Association. She currently lives in Redmond, Washington with her husband, Can.

### EMEL DOĞRAMACI

Emel Doğramacı, born in Erbil, Iraq, completed her education in Iraq and the UK. She received a PhD from Edinburgh University and joined Hacettepe University in 1965. She founded the Faculty of Letters, previously under the Faculty of Social and Administrative Sciences, and served as Dean of the two respective faculties for 19 years. She initiated many programs with her colleagues on Gender Studies, Business Administration, Economics, Public Administration, Humanities, and Social Sciences. Dr. Doğramacı is the founder of the first "School on Women's Studies" in Turkey at Hacettepe University. At Hacettepe University, she was an elected member of the Executive Board and Vice President of the Turkish National Commission for UNESCO, founding 'Women and Youth Unit', and served for many years. The Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs appointed her as the Head of the Turkish Delegation to the UN ECOSOC Commission on the Status of Women for four years. Dr. Doğramacı received Fulbright Visiting Professorships to University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia and Stanford University in California. Returning to Turkey, she retired from Hacettepe and joined the Eastern Mediterranean University in Northern Cyprus. In Ankara, she joined Çankaya University where she founded the Faculty of Arts and Sciences and became its Dean for 12 years. She also founded the Centre for Research on Gender. Dr. Doğramacı has participated in many international conferences, seminars, and symposia on Turkish Arab

Relations and Muslim Christian Dialogue, submitting papers and chairing sessions under the patronage and sponsorship of HRH Prince El-Hassan Bin Talal. She represented Turkey in the UN First International Women Year Conference in Mexico (1975), and the Second Conference in 1985 in Nairobi. She has received medals and shields from various heads of state and national and international NGOs. She has published over 100 articles and 9 books in Turkish, English, Arabic and French on Ottoman and Turkish social and economic history, cultural studies, women's issues and humanities. She has travelled widely in the Americas, Europe, Africa, Asia and the Middle East, giving conferences and chairing panels on various subjects regarding social sciences and humanities. Today, she is a member of the Board of Directors at the Foreign Policy Institute in Turkey and she has authored a book in the last two years titled, "Anılarım-Bilinmeyenlerim," or "Memoirs of my Life and Unknown Past."

### CONGRESSWOMAN DONNA EDWARDS

Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards represents Maryland's 4th Congressional District, comprising portions of Prince George's and Anne Arundel Counties. She was sworn in after a special election to become a member of the U.S. House of Representatives in the 110th Congress in June 2008, becoming the first African American woman to represent Maryland in Congress. She began her first full term in the 111th Congress in 2009. Congresswoman Edwards has enjoyed a diverse career as a nonprofit public interest advocate and in the private sector on NASA's Space lab project. In 1994, as co-founder and executive director of the National Network to End Domestic Violence, she led the effort to pass the Violence Against Women Act that was signed into law by President Clinton. Since being sworn in, Congresswoman Edwards has secured a number of legislative accomplishments to improve the lives of working families in her Congressional District and around the country. Her first act as a Member of Congress was to add Maryland to the After School Suppers Program, ensuring access to nutritional suppers to after school and youth development programs in schools located in low income areas. During the health care debate, Congresswoman Edwards secured a provision that holds insurance companies accountable for unjustifiable rate increases. Congresswoman Edwards has introduced legislation to expand research and development, domestic manufacturing, and infrastructure spending to create jobs and grow our economy. She was also the first Member of the House to introduce and champion a constitutional amendment to overturn the Supreme Court's Citizens United decision. In the 113th Congress, Congresswoman Edwards serves on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee where she sits on, the Subcommittee on



Highways and Transit, the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment and the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management. She also serves on the Science, Space, and Technology Committee where she is a ranking member and on the Subcommittee on Space, and serves on the Subcommittee on Environment and a member of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission. Rep. Edwards completed undergraduate studies at Wake Forest University and received her Juris Doctor from the University of New Hampshire School of Law (formerly the Franklin Pierce Law Center). She is the proud mother of one son.

#### AMBASSADOR ŞÜKRÜ ELEKDAĞ (RET.)

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 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.

#### MUZAFFER GÜR ERASLAN

Muzaffer Gür Eraslan is participating in a dual diploma program between Istanbul Technical University and Binghamton University. He is currently a senior at SUNY Binghamton University, majoring in Information Technology graduating May 2014. Prior to leaving Turkey, he worked with an association called New Leader of which he plans to introduce a chapter in the US. He remains a volunteer and member of the Children Cancer Charity in Adana, Turkey and constantly networking for this charity in the US. All costs incurred by the Bone Marrow Transfusion Center, which was launched in 2013 by the Çukurova University’s incorporation, is satisfied this charity. Their goal for this year was to modernize the stem cell center which is almost completed. Besides the social responsibility projects, he has completed two internships in General Electric and Turkish Telecom. Mr. Eraslan’s start-up company is generating innovative IT solutions and currently have some ongoing projects related to interactive front windows and web portals.

#### HALİL ERSOY

Assistant Professor Dr. Halil Ersoy, is an academician at the Department of Computer Education and Instructional Technology, Faculty of Education Başkent University. He graduated in 2000 and received his doctorate degree in 2009 from the department of Computer education and instructional technology at Middle East Technical University in Turkey. His research fields are distance education and use of learning management systems. He lectures about computer programming and web design in undergraduate level and multimedia production courses in graduate level. He has given several distance courses in undergraduate and graduate level. In addition, he is one of the administrators in LMS model at Başkent University.

#### ERDEN ERUÇ

Erden Eruç is the founder of the Seattle based nonprofit and charity, Around-n-Over. Around-n-Over was established to honor the legacy of fallen adventurers; realizing dreams and helping others achieve theirs. Their mission is to educate and to inspire through human powered journeys for both children and adults.. Mr Eruç is the recipient of the 2010 Vancouver Award from the prestigious Explorers Club. He recently completed the first solo circumnavigation by human power which took five years and eleven days. What started as a simple idea in 1997, tracing his finger across a world map hanging on the wall while working in a software development lab, became his quiet obsession. An unfortunate accident which claimed the life of Göran Kropp while rock climbing together in September 2002, finally put him in





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motion. “Life is short, get on with it” was the message. By the time he returned to Bodega Bay on 21 July 2012, he had covered a distance of 35,795 nm after passing through twelve pairs of antipodes en route averaging a great circle. He became the first to have rowed across three major oceans and the first to have rowed across the Indian Ocean, mainland to mainland from Australia to Africa. He had accumulated a total of 876 days and almost 29,000 nm on his row boat, becoming the most experienced ocean rower alive. The 153 days of this record was spent rowing a total of 5,465 nm from Namibia to Venezuela, the longest distance mainland to mainland on the Atlantic Ocean. As a result, The Explorers Club presented him with their 2013 Citation of Merit and the Outside Magazine selected him as one of the 2013 Adventurers of the Year – “nine individuals changing the face of global adventure.” A dozen Guinness World Record claims were recently submitted resulting from the effort during the circumnavigation. He is listed in the 2009, 2012 and 2014 Guinness World Records books.

### MEHMET HABERAL

Mehmet Haberal, MD, FACS (Hon), FICS (Hon), FASA (Hon) received his medical degree in 1967 from Ankara University Medical School in Ankara, Turkey. He has dedicated his life to helping and healing others. With ambition and determination he drove himself to be successful in fields where others had either failed, or had not even attempted. Serving his country and his people to the best of his abilities, he learned the skills and techniques outside of Turkey, and returned with them to disseminate to others. Despite his limited means and no financial backing, he applied to fellowships in the United States. In February 1973, he served as a Fellow at the Shriner’s Burns Institute and the John Seally Hospital in Galveston, Texas, USA. His next fellowship was with the legendary Thomas E. Starzl at the Colorado University Medical School Transplantation Center, from January 1974 until June 1975. Returning to Turkey, he established the first Transplantation and Burn Treatment units in Turkey at Hacettepe University. He has been heralded as a pioneer in the fields of transplantation and burn treatment in Turkey and the world since 1975 and is renowned internationally in the medical community. He performed the first living related kidney transplantation in Turkey (Nov 1975), the first cadaver-kidney transplantation in Turkey (Oct 1978), and the first domestic cadaver-kidney transplantation in Turkey (July 1979), immediately after enabling the laws on harvesting, storage, grafting, and transplantation of organs and tissues to be enacted on June 3, 1979. The first person to perform the first successful cadaver-liver transplantation in Turkey and the region in December 1988, Prof. Haberal followed this

in March 1990 with the first pediatric segmental living related liver transplantation in Turkey, the region, and in Europe immediately succeeded by the first adult segmental living-related liver transplantation in the world. In May of 1992, Prof. Haberal performed a combined liver-kidney transplantation from a living-related donor, the first anywhere in the world. In 1993, Prof. Haberal founded and was Founder President of Baskent University in Ankara, Turkey, which provides a full range of educational opportunities to the youth of Turkey, has established 10 hospitals, 8 polyclinics, 15 dialysis centers, 2 colleges (1 each in Ankara and Adana), 2 hotels, and 7 foundations throughout the country and is part of the national medical network. Prof. Haberal is the Founder and President of the Turkish Transplantation Society (TOND), The Turkish Burn and Fire Disaster Society (TYAD) and the Middle East Burn and Fire Disaster Society (MEBFDS) and the Founder, Founder President, and President-Elect of the Middle East Society for Organ Transplantation (MESOT). He served as President of ISBI for the term 2006-2008, and as Councilor representing the Middle East and Africa for The Transplantation Society from 2006-2010. In 2012, Prof. Haberal founded and is currently President of the Board of Directors of the World Academy of Medical, Biomedical and Ethical Sciences (WAMBES), the first meeting of which was held in Ankara on December 3, 2013. He has also founded the International Haberal Transplantation and Education Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting transplant activities and ethically proper practices of deceased and living organ donation around the world. Prof. Haberal is a member of 35 national and international medical societies and has organized 22 national and international scientific meetings in Turkey. He received 25 national and international awards in medicine. He is Author of 1428 Turkish and English scientific publications, 2 English and 4 Turkish books. Prof. Haberal is on the Editorial Board of 10 Medical Journals and is Founder and Editor-in-Chief of Experimental and Clinical Transplantation. As a natural extension of his desire to help others and ensure equalities in not only health, but also in society, Prof. Mehmet Haberal’s was elected as a Member of Parliament of the People’s Republican Party (CHP) from the province of Zonguldak in the Turkish General Elections in June 12, 2011.

### TUĞBA HAKLIDIR

Tuğba Hakkıdır, was born in Istanbul and moved to Seattle, Washington, with her mother and sister at the age of six. She is currently a senior at the University of Washington, Seattle, pursuing a major in Sociology, with a minor in Law, Societies, and Justice December, 2014. She believes that society’s dynamics affect every aspect of





our lives, from the trivial to the outmost importance. She hopes to understand people's behavior, beliefs, and identity in relation to complex issues such as latest trends in crime, poverty, education, and culture. Ms. Haklidiir. is also an administrative assistant at the non-profit organization Behavioral Tech, works at a Turkish rug gallery and volunteers as an adult computer and tech literacy tutor to women. Ms. Haklidiir's passion for helping disadvantaged people began as a child when she realized that she was the only support system for her mother and grandparents in a foreign culture. She has had to advocate and interpret for her non-English speaking family members most of her life in the US. She was a Running Start student in high school taking college courses. Her studies in sociology and law at the University of Washington were enhanced by her hands-on experience as a case aide in the Seattle Municipal Court. Having overcome drastic financial, social and cultural obstacles as a teenager, Ms. Haklidiir, today, is a strong-willed and self-motivated Turkish American.

#### AMBASSADOR JAMES HOLMES (RET.)

Ambassador James Holmes (Ret.) 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. Ambassador Holmes was elected to the Board of Directors of the American-Turkish Council, and subsequently as President of the ATC, in April 2005. The ATC, complemented by its companion cultural organization the American Friends of Turkey, has approximately two hundred corporate and individual Members in Turkey and the United States. It is the foremost organization for the promotion of commerce, cultural awareness and public private understanding between Turkey and the United States. Ambassador Holmes is a 37-year veteran of the United States Foreign Service with overseas experience in Latvia, Turkey, Norway, New Zealand and Pakistan. He was Deputy Chief of Mission at the American Embassy in Ankara, Turkey from 1992-1995. Subsequently, he was the President's Coordinator for Assistance to Central and Eastern Europe, Ambassador to Latvia, Special Envoy for the Balkans, founder of the Department of State's Office of eDiplomacy, and the Department's Chief Knowledge Officer and Deputy Chief Information Officer. Ambassador Holmes was born in Upstate New York. He was educated at Colgate University, Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies, and the National Defense University. He is married to Constance Cooper Holmes. They have two married daughters, and five grand children.

#### JAVID HUSEYNOV

Javid Huseynov, is a native of Baku, Azerbaijan. He received a Ph.D. in Computer Science from the University of California Irvine (2008); Master degrees in Computer Science (1999) and Engineering Management (1998) as well as Bachelors degree in Civil Engineering (1996) from Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, NY. Dr. Huseynov is a leading author of a number of scientific publications and patents in the U.S., Canada, China and Azerbaijan. Actively involved in community grassroots since 1995, he is the executive director of Azerbaijan Society of America (ASA), the oldest Azeri-American organization, and a co-founder of Azerbaijani-American Council (AAC), the first Azeri-American advocacy group. Dr. Huseynov is also a co-founder and executive director of the Pax Turcica Institute, a successful nationwide advocacy initiative endorsed by ATAA and other leading Turkish-American organizations. He serves as President of the Orange County chapter of the American Turkish Association of Southern California (ATASC) for the 2013-14 term and the newly elected Western Vice President of ATAA. Over the past decade, Dr. Huseynov has also authored a number of articles and editorials in various English, Russian, Turkish and Azeri language publications on the subjects of U.S. foreign policy, history and geopolitics of Turkey, Russia, Iran, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

#### LALE ISKARPATYOTI

Lale Iskarpatyoti is the Executive Director of ATAA. She is a long time ATAA member and community leader. Lale has served ATAA in a variety of roles in the past, including Vice President for the Mid central region during 1997- 2003 and the Chair of the Nominations Committee since 2009. Since moving to the Philadelphia area in 1996, she has been very active in the local Turkish American community, co-founding the ATA School in 2008 and serving as the President of the Turkish American Friendship Society of US (TAFSUS) for two terms. She will continue to serve as President of TAFSUS until her current term is completed at the end of 2014. Lale has had a successful business career of 30 plus years with major Human Resource Consulting Firms Mercer and Towers Watson, serving as a Senior Consultant, Health Care Practice Leader and Client Relationship Manager for Fortune 1000 clients. She has an MBA degree in Finance from New York University and a BA degree in Liberal Arts from Hamilton College. She is married to Tony Iskarpatyoti whom she met at Robert College in Istanbul and they have three adult children.



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### HAKAN KARALÖK

Dr. Hakan Karalok is currently a postdoctoral research fellow in Yale University School of Medicine Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences. He received his medical degree from Istanbul University School of Medicine in Istanbul, Turkey. Dr. Karalok is a member of significant national and international medical societies and has contributed to several scientific meetings were held on Turkey. He is a very active Community Leader focusing on educational and lobbying activities. He was Vice President of Federation of Turkish American Associations ( FTAA ) between 2012-2014. He is a member of Turkish American Medical Association (TAMA ), Istanbul University Alumni Association of USA and New York Representative of Ahiska Turkish American Community Center.

### BONNIE JOY KASLAN

The Honorable Bonnie Joy Kaslan, Hon. Consul General of the Turkish Republic, is the former Executive Vice-President of Kaslan Associates, Inc a structural and geotechnical engineering firm. She has served the Turkish American Community since 1978. Ms. Kaslan, former graduate student at the Sorbonne, Paris, educator and department chairperson, was president of the Turkish American Association of California from 1983-1985. She served on the Board of Directors of the ATAA as Western region Vice President from 1982-1986. In 1982, she was named woman of the year for the Turkish American Community in California. She is past national chairman of the Assembly's Curriculum Committee on History and Social Science as well as past chairman and current member of the Board of Trustees. She has represented Turkish American interests at high-level State Department meetings, addressed human relation commissions nationwide, worked on a one to one basis with innumerable congressional representatives and their staffs as well as delivered expert testimony before the Committee on Foreign Relations. She is the first non-Turkish woman worldwide to represent the Republic of Turkey as Honorary Consul General developing and implementing educational and public relations programs as deemed necessary. She has appeared on radio and television nationwide as an educator, advocate and facilitator for a better understanding of Turkey and her people. She was a consultant to the Turkish Cultural Foundation charged with overseeing the Teachers' Study Tours to Turkey. In addition to her advocacy for the betterment of Turkish American relations, Bonnie Joy is a former Board of Director of Soroptimist International of Oakland. She is a graduate of the Coro Foundation's Public Affairs Leadership program for women, as well as past member of the Board of Directors of American

Women for International Understanding. She was awarded Soroptimist's distinguished "Women Helping Women" award and honored as a role model for women on all levels' local, national, and international. The Assembly honored her with the Distinguished Service Award in 1987 and Meritorious Service Award in 1989. The International Institute of the East Bay honored her as the recipient of the Women of Tribute Award in September 1991. She was honored for her leadership and contributions towards peaceful and greater international understanding. The Daughters of Ataturk recognized her in 1999 for her efforts to advance Turkish American causes. She was honored in 2010 by the Turkish Foreign Ministry for her 25+ years of service and contributions to Turkish American relations and in March of 2011 was honored by the Birmingham International Center as a "Woman of Consequence." She also has served on the Ethnic Advisory Commission for the State of California's Department of Rehabilitation and served as the President of the Sonoma Valley Chamber of Commerce. She was one of the organizers of a "Spirit in Flight" retreat, dedicated to honoring flight attendants post September 11. She is also a member of the Citizens Advisory Council of the Sonoma Police Department. She is currently the president of her homeowners' association in Sonoma.

### EMİR KIVIRCIK

Emir Kivırcık was born in 1966 in İstanbul. He graduated from İstanbul University, Faculty of Economics. With great help from his mother, Neyran Erkin, and nine years of research, he wrote a novel about his grandfather, a past Ambassador of Turkey to France during World War II, Behiç Erkin, and the historically accurate events that took place during that time. His novel, called "The Ambassador," became Turkey's bestselling book in the same year it was released, in 2007. His book became one of the top ten books in forty weeks and number one nine weeks after. "The Ambassador" will also be published in France in 2015. He is married with two children.

### AYDIN KOÇ

Aydın Koc currently consults on business strategy matters to small companies and non-profits and is an angel investor with the Keiretsu Forum. He is the Chairman of Keiretsu forum Istanbul. He is also a Board member of Turkish Philanthropy Fund, the first philanthropic diaspora organization for the Turkish-American community employing the community foundation model to fund philanthropic activities and initiatives in Turkey. In 2001-2007, he was the CFO of Child-Care Careers, a very successful temporary staffing agency that was later bought by two private equity firms. In the 1987-2001



timeframe, Mr. Koc served in senior executive capacities in a number of semiconductor firms in Silicon Valley. He is past President and CEO of BitBlitz Communications of Fremont, CA., a venture-funded semiconductor start-up. Previously, he was Senior Vice President and General Manager of ZiLOG's Home Entertainment Group and the President of the Optical Storage Group at Oak Technology. Aydin also spent about a decade in increasingly responsible management positions at LSI Logic Corp. During the 1981-1987 period, he worked as an international management consultant with the Boston Consulting Group and Booz, Allen & Hamilton, advising Fortune 1000 companies worldwide on their corporate strategies. Mr. Koc is a valedictorian of Tarsus American College in Turkey, has received B.Sc. and M.Sc. degrees in Electronics Engineering with high honors from Middle East Technical University in 1972 and 1973 and an M.B.A. degree from Stanford Graduate School of Business in 1981. He splits his time between the San Francisco Bay Area and Turkey and is active in the Turkish-American community for the last 30 years.

#### METODIJA KOLOSKI

Metodija A. Koloski is Co-Founder and President of the United Macedonian Diaspora (UMD), headquartered in Washington, DC. Mr. Koloski is an expert on Macedonia's right to its name, minorities in Southeast Europe, and NATO and EU enlargement issues, and his opinion pieces on these topics have been published in the Washington Times, the Foreign Policy Association, The Hill's Congress Blog, the National Post, the Journal Gazette, and the International Relations Forum. He is frequently quoted in the Macedonian and international media on topics related to Macedonia and the diaspora. In his previous capacities, Mr. Koloski has worked for the Foreign Policy Association, National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, and DLA Piper LLP. He holds a Bachelors of Arts from Manhattanville College in Political Science and International Relations. Mr. Koloski's family migrated to the United States from Macedonia in the early 1950s due to communist Yugoslavia's anti-democratic policies. Mr. Koloski was born and raised in Garfield, New Jersey. His family has roots in the Republic of Macedonia, Aegean Macedonia, and Korca, Albania.

#### RAMAZAN KORKMAZ

Ramazan Korkmaz is the founder of Ardahan University. He has training in education and international comparative literatures. He is a scholar with experience concerning Turkish, North and South Azerbaijan, and folk lives and contemporary literatures and languages of the

newly established Republics in the former USSR. He has a varied background in education involving research and academic publications, lecturing and comparative broad-based literary analysis. He is internationally recognized and awarded educational contacts and extensive academic researches and writing skills in Turkish. He forces his full power to utilize his highly skilled educational expertise to assist programs in the Department of Turkish Language and Literature, and develop a greater understanding, and knowledge. Dr. Korkmaz contacts the Universities in Turkey, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan Republics and Tatarstan, Chuvashistan, Bashkortostan, Sakha Sire and Gagauz Autonomous Republics in the former USSR. He practices excellent teaching abilities from teaching Undergraduate level and offers teaching related academic seminars and supervising for Doctoral dissertations. He is bilingual.

#### G. LINCOLN MCCURDY

Mr. McCurdy is the president of the Turkish Coalition of America (TCA), a 501©3 not-for-profit organization, based in Washington, DC. TCA fosters understanding of Turkish American issues through public education. Mr. McCurdy has over 35 years of leadership and management experience in both U.S. government service and the private sector. He has extensive experience in dealing with binational boards; working with senior officials of the governments and military of the U.S. and Turkey; leading trade/investment missions and U.S. congressional delegations to Turkey; co-sponsoring activities with the State and Commerce Departments, Environmental Protection Agency, Smithsonian Institute and National Public Radio; and fundraising. He served as the senior advisor to the Turkish American Chamber of Commerce and Industry in New York in 2005 and 2006. Mr. McCurdy was the president and chief executive officer, 1998 - 2004, and executive director, 1989- 1998, of the American-Turkish Council (ATC) in Washington, the leading business association in the United States devoted to the promotion of U.S.-Turkish commercial, defense and cultural relations. He received ATC's Distinguished Career Award in 2005. During Mr. McCurdy's tenure, ATC's annual conference became the premier scheduled event in U.S.-Turkish relations and the largest binational business event in Washington, D.C. Mr. McCurdy was the co-organizer of the first U.S.-Turkish Trade/Investment Mission to the newly independent states in Central Asia and the Caucasus in Spring 1992. In May 2002, he was recognized by the American Ambassador W. Robert Pearson for "his outstanding work in enhancing commercial relations between the United States and Turkey. . . ." He initiated seminars focusing on topics related to Turkey, such as study abroad programs, civil





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society, reduction of lead and sulfur emissions from vehicles; oil/gas pipeline issues; and environmental and sustainable development projects. Before joining ATC, Mr. McCurdy served in the American Consulate General in Istanbul as the Consul for Commercial Affairs, 1980 – 1984. In this capacity, he received the Department of State's Meritorious Honor Award for "reestablishing American preeminence in the Istanbul International Business Community." After government service, he consulted in Istanbul for five years for the Bank of Boston and several Turkish companies. In the late 1970s, he worked at the U.S. Department of Commerce in Washington, DC, organizing trade shows in Brazil. G. Lincoln McCurdy received his B.A. at Hanover College in Indiana and holds a M.A. in International Management from The George Washington University. He is also a graduate of the Foreign Service Institute's Turkish Language and Culture Program. In May 2001, Mr. McCurdy received Hanover College's Alumni Achievement Award. Mr. McCurdy is an advocate for smart growth and played a key role in beautifying I-66 in Arlington, Virginia, in the 1970s. He is married with two daughters and one granddaughter.

### H.E. AYLIN NAZLIKA

H.E. Aylin Nazlıaka was born in 1968 in Ankara. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Economics from the Middle East Technical University. She started her career at Koç Holding which is one of the largest and most successful groups of companies in Turkey. At the age of 24, she decided to establish her own company, named as HRM Consulting ([www.hrm.com.tr](http://www.hrm.com.tr)). The firm has become one of the most reputable human resources consultancy companies in Turkey. She became one of the leading names of Turkey in the scope of management and human resources. In addition to HRM Consulting, she became the partner of an international human resources company in 2008, which has offices in 52 countries. (EMA Partners International). Aylin Nazlıaka is a frequent speaker at national and international conferences. She has many articles published in journals. She gave lectures about HRM at Bilkent University. She is the Advisory Board Member of Endeavor Turkey. ([www.endeavor.org](http://www.endeavor.org)). Awards won include "Business Women of the Year Award", 2001; "Middle East Technical University Honor Award", 2002; "Young Business Women of the Year Award", 2008; "Awards For People Touching Lives" (Yaşama Dokunan İnsan Ödülü), "Member of Parliament of the Year Award" and "Women's Platform," 2012; "Politician of the Year" and "Member of Parliament of the Year Award", 2013; "Politician of the Year," 2014. In the elections of 2011, she has been selected as the Deputy of Ankara. Besides, she is the member of

EU Harmonization Commission and Turkey-EU Joint Parliamentary Commission at Turkish Grand National Assembly. Aylin Nazlıaka is the architect of the CHP's "Plus for the Youth" project which aims to create equal opportunity for unemployed young people. ([www.gencearti.com](http://www.gencearti.com)). She is married with two children.

### ÇİĞDEM ÖKTEM

Öktem serves as the North Central Region VP for ATAA as well as the Chair of the Communications Committee. She is a Principal in the Corporate Governance division of Tapestry Networks, an organization dedicated to making progress on critical systemic challenges by bringing together leaders from the public and private realms. Prior to joining Tapestry, Ms. Öktem had her own consulting company providing finance, strategy and organizational development services. Ms. Öktem's prior experience includes nearly a decade at CEB, where she advised finance and strategy executives, facilitated multi-client workshops, and managed peer-based networking and research programs.

### ŞULE PERİNÇEK

Şule Perinçek serves as a member of the executive board in the Worker's Party of Turkey, actively participating in all operations of the organization together with her husband, Doğu Perinçek, who is the leader of the party. She has management responsibility for publishing all of Atatürk publications. She is a journalist, author and politician. This year she will celebrate the 40th year that she has had the yellow press card, the 25th year that she has been a columnist and 68th year that she has been active in the political arena. She is a graduate of Ankara University Faculty of Political Science, Finance and Economics.

### LAEL RUBIN

Lael R. Rubin was a 34 year prosecutor in the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. During her career, she was an accomplished trial prosecutor, trying the most complex and noteworthy cases. She also held a number of high level management positions and when she retired from the office in 2013, she was responsible for supervising 200 lawyers and support staff. She developed numerous major policies for the District Attorney and worked closely with the California legislature on criminal justice issues. One of her most noteworthy cases was the successful prosecution of People v. Harry (Hampig) Sassounian in 1983, the assassination of the Turkish Counsel General in Los Angeles, Kemal Arikan. She also was co-counsel in U.S. District Court where Sassounian's brother, Harout, was convicted of firebombing Mr.





Arikan's home. Ms. Rubin graduated from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor and received her J.D. degree from the University of West Los Angeles School of Law. She currently sits as one of five commissioners on the Santa Monica, California, Airport Commission, is an advisor both to Public Counsel on several pro bono projects on veterans', juvenile justice and immigration matters, and the Santa Monica Unified School District. Ms. Rubin also consults with other lawyers on their appellate matters

#### SELİN SAKARCAN

Selin Sakarcan was born in Dallas, Texas and has been living in the Philadelphia suburbs since high school. She is currently a junior at Temple University Honors Program majoring in Neuro-science and French, with the hopes of attending medical school in the future. This is her second year serving as the Co-President of the Turkish Student Association at Temple and along with planning events at school, she has slowly started actively participating in other Turkish events in the area including speaking at the 5th Annual Philadelphia Turkish Culture Festival and 32nd Annual New York Turkish Walk and Festival. She also serves as a Resident Assistant in Temple University Housing, the Vice President of the Honors Activities Board, and a member of the American Medical Student Association. She enjoys playing tennis, exploring Philly's vast array of restaurants with friends, and traveling.

#### DAVID SALTZMAN

David Saltzman is a principal member of Saltzman & Evinch, PC., which is based in Washington, DC. For nearly 20 years he has represented the Turkish state before U.S. courts and has provided legal advice on a variety of issues important to the Turkey's relations with the U.S. government and its services to Turks living in the US. Mr. Saltzman has represented many Turkish oriented non-profit organizations. He also accepts cases on behalf of the Turkish American Legal Defense fund, which promotes the civil liberties of Turkish Americans. In the private sector, Mr. Saltzman counts Ziraat Bank, Subway Sandwiches' Turkish franchises, and Red Star Aviation among his clients. David has authored numerous papers and articles, including, Ten Years of Litigation by Heirs of Ottoman Armenians for Unpaid Insurance Proceeds: An End in Sight? Published in Fall 2011 issue of Middle East Critique. He also enjoys public speaking and has lectured at the National Foreign Affairs Training Center regarding the Turkish judicial system. He is currently writing a paper on state succession and international responsibility. Prior to forming Saltzman & Evinch, Mr. Saltzman was an associate in the New York office of Chadbourne & Parke LLP. Mr. Saltzman received his Juris Doctor degree

from Washington & Lee University and conducted his Bachelor's studies at the College of William & Mary in Virginia and the Université Paul Valéry in Montpellier, France. He is married and has three children.

#### HARVEY SILVERGLATE

Harvey Silverglate is a criminal defense lawyer and writer based in Cambridge, Massachusetts, whose work focuses largely on civil liberties and academic freedom. Silverglate was the lead attorney in *Griswold v. Driscoll*, a case in which the ATAA sued the Massachusetts Department of Education on 1st Amendment grounds in order to stop the removal of materials skeptical of the Armenian "genocide" from a digital library. Silverglate is also the author of *The Shadow University: The Betrayal of Liberty on America's Campuses* (Harper Perennial, 1999; co-authored with Alan C. Kors), *Three Felonies a Day: How the Feds Target the Innocent* (Encounter Books, 2009), and is an occasional contributor to the *Wall Street Journal*, *The National Law Journal*, and *Forbes.com*. In 1999, he and Alan C. Kors co-founded the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE), a non-profit organization dedicated to the defense of individual liberties on campus.

#### H.E. MEHMET ŞİMŞEK

Mehmet Şimşek was appointed as the Minister of Finance in May 2009, after serving two years as Minister of Economy. He was elected to the Parliament in July 2007 and June 2011, representing the Justice and Development Party (AK Party). Minister Şimşek has formulated fiscal policy which has helped Turkey recover strongly from the global financial crisis. He has also undertaken far reaching reforms founding the Tax Audit Board, simplifying tax regulations, enhancing taxpayers' rights, and reducing the shadow economy. Before entering politics, he worked for Merrill Lynch in London for seven years as an Economist and Strategist and later as Head of Fixed Income Strategy and Macro Economic Research for the emerging EMEA region. From 1998 to 2000, he was a Senior Economist and Bank Analyst at Deutsche-Bender Securities in Istanbul. Earlier in his career, he worked on Wall Street for UBS Securities in New York (1997) and as a Senior Economist at the US Embassy in Ankara (1993-97). Minister Şimşek holds a B.S. in Economics from Ankara University and worked as a research assistant in the University's International Economics and Economic Development Department. He also studied in England after being awarded a Turkish State Scholarship. He holds an M. Phil in Finance and Investments from Exeter University. Minister Şimşek is also a member of the Global Economic Symposium (GES) advisory board.



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Minister Şimşek was born in 1967, in a small village in Batman, a province in Southeastern Turkey. Minister Şimşek is married and speaks fluent Turkish, English and Kurdish. Minister Şimşek, nominated as one of the 500 most powerful people on the planet by Foreign Policy in 2013 and also awarded as “Finance Minister of the Year for Emerging Europe 2013” by Emerging Markets magazine.

### AMANDA SLOAT

Dr. Amanda Sloat assumed her duties as Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs in September 2013. In this capacity, she is responsible for issues related to Greece, Turkey, and Cyprus, as well as for coordinating with Europeans on our engagement with the countries of the Middle East and North Africa. Most recently, she served as Senior Advisor to the White House Coordinator for the Middle East, North Africa and Gulf Region. Dr. Sloat worked previously at the State Department, serving as Senior Advisor to the Assistant Secretary for European and Eurasian Affairs. She served as senior professional staff on the U.S. House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee, with responsibility for European policy. She also worked as a senior program officer with the National Democratic Institute (NDI), including work in Iraq with the Council of Representatives. Prior to joining NDI, Dr. Sloat was a post-doctoral research fellow with the Institute of Governance at Queen's University Belfast in Northern Ireland. During this time, she held visiting fellowships at the Academy of Sciences in the Czech Republic, United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, and the Jean Monnet Center at New York University Law School. She also served as a special advisor to the Scottish Parliament, Northern Ireland Assembly, and European Commission. Dr. Sloat holds a PhD in Politics from the University of Edinburgh and a BA in Political Theory from James Madison College at Michigan State University. She has published a book (Scotland in Europe: A Study of Multi-Level Governance) and numerous academic articles on comparative European politics.

### ONUR TOY

Dr. Onur Toy is currently a 3rd year resident in Orthopaedic Surgery at Yale-New Haven Hospital. He received his undergraduate degree from Washington University in St. Louis and completed his medical degree at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine in Cleveland, Ohio. Dr. Toy has a particular interest in both minimally invasive and open spine surgery and has authored a number of papers in professional journals, in an effort to further our understanding of Orthopaedic pathology. Upon graduation from Yale's Orthopaedic

Residency Program, he plans to complete a spine fellowship, with a focus on Orthopaedic trauma.

### ABDÜLKADİR VAROĞLU

Prof. Dr. Abdülkadir Varoğlu, graduated from Management department of Turkish Military Academy. He received MBA and MSc degrees from Middle East Technical University and a PhD from Ankara University Political Science School. He worked for twenty six years in the Turkish Armed Forces as Artillery Officer and academician; he chaired the Systems Management Department and established the Institute of Defense Sciences at the Turkish Military Academy. He taught on part-time basis at Middle East Technical University, NATO School Germany, various Institutions between 1984 and 2004 and Başkent University since 1994. He worked and taught in Ottawa – Canada Ministry of Defense for three years and chaired NATO Training and Education working groups for seven years. He retired from Turkish Armed Forces as colonel and started to work for Başkent University in 2005 and chaired the Department of Management, Strategic Research Center, and was the dean of Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences, currently Vice President of the University. He has books and articles published on business administration, leadership, negotiation, cross-cultural studies in international management and strategic management.

### JOSHUA WALKER

Dr. Joshua W. Walker, director of global programs, is based in APCO Worldwide's Washington, D.C., office and specializes in business diplomacy, international affairs and public-private partnerships. Before joining APCO, Dr. Walker served as an international affairs fellow with the Council on Foreign Relations, where he was senior adviser to numerous officials in U.S. federal departments and agencies. He served at the U.S. Department of State in Secretary Kerry's office of the chief economist and previously served in Secretary Clinton's Global Partnership Initiative as the senior adviser on the Middle East and North Africa. He has also worked for the U.S. Embassy Ankara, Turkey Desk at the State Department and the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the Pentagon. Dr. Walker's accomplished career has helped him to create deeper connections between the worlds of academia and public policy. Prior to the State Department, Dr. Walker was a transatlantic fellow at the German Marshall Fund of the United States responsible for its Turkey program and Japan portfolio of the Asia team. He also co-founded the Yale Journal of International Affairs; Young Professionals in Foreign Policy in New York; and the Project on Religion, Diplomacy, and International Relations at Princeton, in



addition to being a Foreign Policy Initiative Future Leader and Truman National Security Project fellow. He has taught at Brandeis University, George Mason University, Harvard Kennedy School, Middle East Technical University, Istanbul Sehir Merkez, Tokyo University, Transatlantic Academy, Princeton University, University of Richmond and Yale University. Dr. Walker holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Richmond, a master's degree in international relations from Yale University and a Ph.D. in politics and public policy from Princeton University. Raised in Japan, Dr. Walker is a native English speaker and speaks both Japanese and Turkish fluently.

#### GIZEM SALCIGİL WHITE

Gizem Salcigil White is the president of American Turkish Association of Washington D.C. (ATA-DC) and the Vice President of Capital Region for Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA). She also served as the Washington DC representative of Federation of Turkish American Associations (FTAA) in 2012. Gizem Salcigil White is the founder of the 'Turkish Coffee Truck' project, which promotes Turkey through engagement and cultural diplomacy. This non-profit project, which is a volunteer initiative to promote world-renowned Turkish coffee culture and to engage people in "coffee conversations", has been honored in the United States House of Representatives Congressional Record in May 2012. Volunteers travelled to five major states in the U.S. in 2012 and European countries in 2013 including Netherlands, Belgium and France. She also won the Istanbul Tourist Guides Union's 2013 Cultural Sustainability Award in February 2014. From March 2011 to March 2012, she worked at the Press Counselor's office at the Embassy of Turkey and is currently working with at Turkish Airlines Washington DC office as the Sponsorship and Public Relations Coordinator. She holds a bachelor's degree in Banking & Finance from Bilkent University and a master's degree in Global Marketing Communication & Advertising from Emerson College, Boston. Her professional interests include nation branding, international affairs and digital media. She is married and lives in Crystal City, Virginia.

#### EROL YORULMAZOĞLU

Dr. Erol Yorulmazoğlu was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Dr. Yorulmazoğlu is a board certified medical oncologist/hematologist and a partner in a large oncology practice in the northwest suburbs of Chicago. While he was studying chemistry and biochemistry in Arizona, he was involved in Turkish American cultural activities. He served as president for a Turkish American organization as well

as instructor for Turkish folk dancers. After moving to the Midwest, he became involved in Turkish American grassroots activities. He is a member of Turkish American Cultural Alliance of Chicago (TACA). He has given lectures on the subject of the alleged Armenian genocide issue. Moreover, he has written numerous articles in response to anti-Turkish attacks by lobbies unfriendly to Turkey and the Turks. For one term he served in the executive committee of ATAA. At present time, he is engaged in making Turkish history presentations to Turkish American children under TACA educational program. He is currently working on a project to establish a web site with information on Turkish history and culture. He has written educational articles on cancer for major Turkish newspapers. He has provided voluntary/free medical services in cancer care in Turkey. He published a book on the topic of cancer in Turkey to educate the public. He is married and a father of three children, currently residing in the suburbs of Chicago. Erol is fluent in Turkish, English, Spanish and French.





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### *ATAA Special Award*

#### **HONORABLE ŞÜKRÜ ELEKDAĞ**

*In Recognition of His Vision, Leadership  
and Guidance in Founding  
the ASSEMBLY OF TURKISH AMERICAN ASSOCIATIONS  
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#### **PROF. DR. MEHMET HABERAL**

*In Recognition of His Outstanding Contributions to  
Programs Which Promote Turkish Culture, History and  
Language in United States of America*

### *Human Rights Award*

#### **DR. DOĞU PERİNÇEK**

*For Outstanding Achievement in Defending  
Freedom of Speech Globally*

#### **MEHMET PERİNÇEK**

*In Recognition of His Scholarly Work in Revealing  
the Historical Facts and Truths Against  
the Armenian Distortions of Turkish History*

### *Lifetime Distinguished Service Award*

#### **OYA BAIN**

*In Recognition of Her Untiring and Dedicated Efforts  
on Behalf of the ASSEMBLY OF TURKISH AMERICAN  
ASSOCIATIONS and Invaluable Contributions to  
the Empowerment of Turkish Americans*

#### **BONNIE JOY KASLAN**

*In recognition of Her Dedicated Service to ATAA  
and Lifelong Contributions to the Empowerment of  
the Turkish American Community*

### *Distinguished Service Award*

#### **NURTEN URAL**

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*In Recognition of Her Leadership, Courage and  
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the ASSEMBLY OF TURKISH AMERICAN ASSOCIATIONS*

### *Outstanding Achievement in the Arts & Sciences Award*

#### **LATİFE WARSHAWSKY**

*For Outstanding Achievement in Adult Education  
and Self Improvement through Art*

### *President's Special Award*

#### **THEODORE GRISWOLD**

*For Courage, Integrity, and Scholarship in Fighting  
Against Bias, Intimidation and Terrorism*

#### **MAXIME GAUIN**

*For Courage, Integrity, and Scholarship in Fighting  
Against Bias, Intimidation and Terrorism*

#### **SİNAN CİNGİLLİ**

*In Recognition of His Service to the Empowerment  
of Turkish American Youth and  
Courage in Defending Freedom of Speech*

#### **SIRMA ORAN**

*For Courage, Integrity, and Scholarship in Fighting  
Against Bias, Intimidation and Terrorism*

### *Component Association of the Year Award*

#### **TURKISH AMERICAN CULTURAL ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON**

*In Recognition of Its Outstanding Service to  
the Turkish American Community*





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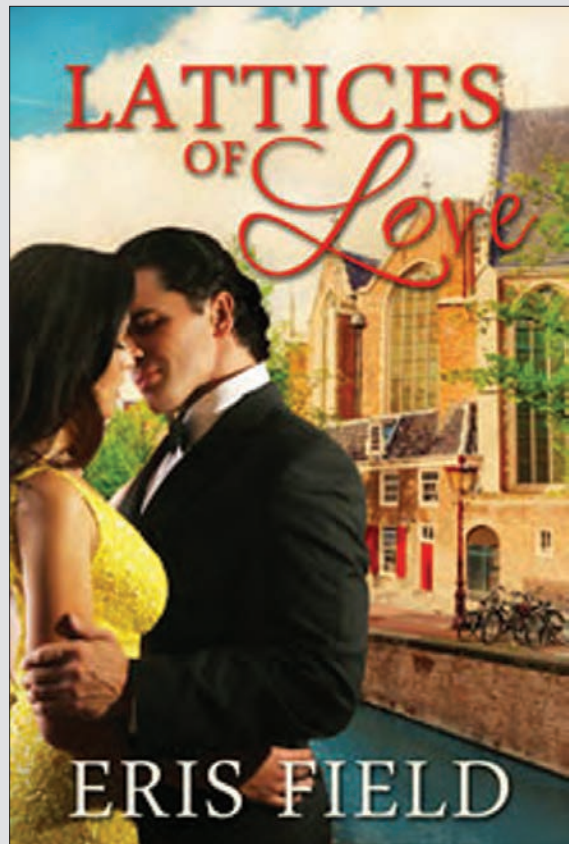




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