



ASSEMBLY OF
TURKISH AMERICAN
ASSOCIATIONS

2024 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

45 *Celebrating*
YEARS
1979-2024

1979

May 25-26, 2024 | Saint John's Resort | Plymouth, MI



H. M. Statist

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ATAA President's Message



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

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to this very special event organized to celebrate two very important anniversaries; 45th Anniversary of Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA) and the 105th Anniversary of the Turkish Independence Movement.

When ATAA established in 1979, 45 years ago, its main mission was first to fight defamation and attacks on Turkish Americans due to baseless Armenian genocide allegations, and secondly to unite Turkish diaspora and create a stronger, influential community. Since then ATAA has become an indispensable part of Turkish American cultural and political experience in the United States. ATAA has evolved to be the most influential grassroots umbrella organization for the Turkish American community in the U.S. The Assembly has managed to serve this purpose only through the “volunteerism” of its Board of Directors. The board of directors including ten regional vice presidents who are elected represent the Turkish American community living in the USA, bring their voices to this organization and become a bridge between the community and the assembly, transferring ideas, problems and solutions.

In 45 years ATAA organized annual conferences and the 40th one is the current one you are attending. These conferences were the venues where important issues related to the Turkish American community as well as the issues related to Türkiye and USA relations were discussed with the experts of the field, and where the community was enlightened about the controversial issues, and a strong community network was established. Through our diverse array of programs, events, and activities, we have strived to bridge divides, build bridges, and promote a more inclusive and interconnected world.

At this conference, we are honored to celebrate not only the enduring legacy of our organization but also the remarkable brilliance of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, whose visionary leadership that started the independence war 105 years ago and saved a nation from colonization continues to inspire us all. The theme of this year's conference, “Mustafa Kemal Atatürk: Brilliant Mind,” serves as a fitting tribute to a man whose intellect, courage, and foresight transformed a nation and reshaped the course of history. Atatürk's unwavering commitment to enlightenment, progress, and modernization laid the foundation for the Republic of Türkiye and set an example for generations to come.

Despite Atatürk's indelible imprint on history, we painfully observe the acceleration of smear efforts against Atatürk by some groups in America. By highlighting his unique leadership and visionary, we hope that this conference serves as a poignant reminder of the enduring contributions of a leader whose visionary intellect and unwavering commitment to enlightenment continue to inspire not only Turks but the other nations as well.

Since its establishment this is the second time that the ATAA conference is being held in Michigan, from where came several past leaders of the Assembly, namely former presidents late Dr. Kemal Gökner, the first women president Nurten Ural, and the former president Gökhan Özalp. With this opportunity I would like to acknowledge them and express my gratitude to them as well as all those who volunteered to serve in the ATAA Board of Directors and Trustees for the last 45 years. In addition, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to my friends in Michigan, members of Turkish Cultural Association of Michigan (TACAM) for their support and contribution for this conference to happen.

Lastly, it is my great honor that I preside over the ATAA Board of Directors during the 45th Anniversary Conference. We are all aware that it won't be possible without your attendance. Thank you for your unwavering support and dedication to the mission of ATAA. Together we have achieved so much, and I am confident that with our continued collaboration, we will overcome any challenge and seize every opportunity that lies ahead.

Dr. Nilüfer Esen-Bilgin

*President
Assembly of Turkish American Associations*

Turkish Ambassador's Message



Esteemed President,

Distinguished Members of the Assembly of Turkish American Associations,

On the occasion of the 45th anniversary of the Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA), I sincerely congratulate all of you and take this opportunity to express my gratitude for your contributions in uniting the Turkish-American community and advancing the relations between our two countries. I extend my warm regards to all participants of the Annual Conference, held this year in Michigan.

Turkish-American relations, which have a deep-rooted history, continue to develop despite various regional and global challenges. The partnership between the two NATO allies significantly contributes to fostering peace and stability in the Euro-Atlantic region and beyond. Our relations are further strengthened in political, military, economic, and cultural fields through mutual high-level visits.

Our civil society institutions also play an important role in developing the relations between the two countries.

We proudly follow success stories of dynamic and entrepreneur members of the Turkish-American community. We appreciate their contributions to every aspect of social life, from sports to arts, business to science. We will continue to encourage and support the efforts of the Turkish-American community, in this respect.

The devastating earthquake in Türkiye in 2023, has deeply affected us. During that period, the Turkish-American community and our American friends extended us unique support.

We also shared pride and joy of reaching the 100th anniversary of our Republic together. Thanks to the valuable contributions of the Turkish-American community, we hosted our events across the United States in a way that befit the centennial of our Republic.

Maintaining this unity and solidarity is of great importance. Communities that unite around fundamental values and act in solidarity can defend their rights and interests more effectively. While maintaining strong ties with Türkiye, and taking advantage of the opportunities offered by the United State, the Turkish-American community will achieve greater success in the future.

I hope this year's conference will provide an important occasion to address current issues concerning the Turkish-American community and opportunities for cooperation between Türkiye and the United States.

I wish for the conference to be fruitful and to bring valuable outcome for both countries and their peoples.

I sincerely thank participants and organizers of this conference, and extend my best wishes to you all.

H.E. Sedat Önal

Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye to the United States

U.S. Ambassador's Message



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

Congratulations to the Assembly of Turkish American Associations on your 40th Annual Conference.

For over four decades ATAA has been raising awareness of issues of concern to the Turkish American community while highlighting areas of mutual interest and cooperation between the United States and Türkiye.

Turkish Americans play a special role in the bilateral U.S. – Turkish relationship serving as bridge figures helping our two countries expand our political, commercial, and people-to-people ties.

The U.S. and Türkiye have been NATO Allies for over 70 years. This year, the binational Turkish Fulbright Commission celebrates its 75th anniversary. Bilateral U.S.-Turkish trade has been a strong point of the relationship growing to over \$30 billion last year.

Earlier this month, the U.S. Department of Commerce concluded its largest trade event, Trade Winds, in Istanbul which we hope will push two-way trade to even loftier heights.

Several stakeholders have contributed to the success of the highly consequential U.S. – Turkish bilateral relationship including Turkish Americans and ATAA members.

May this year's conference provide you with an opportunity to reflect upon the successes of the past year and ways to expand upon them in the future.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey L. Flake

Ambassador of the United States to the Republic of Türkiye

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May 24, 2024

Dear Assembly of Turkish American Associations,

As a co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on US-Türkiye Relations and Turkish Americans, I extend my best wishes to the Assembly of Turkish American Relations for a successful 40th Annual Conference in the great state of Michigan. I congratulate the Assembly for its vital role in people-to-people diplomacy between the United States and Türkiye.

Further, I recognize the significant contributions made by Turkish Americans to the American economy and society and applaud ATAA's commitment to strengthening our ties and empowering the Turkish American community.

As always, I remain,

Most sincerely,



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

History of ATAA



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

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

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

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

History of ATAA

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

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

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

Washington, DC was chosen to be the headquarters of the new organization to utilize the vast opportunities for promoting U.S. Turkish relations among policy makers. A Secretariat for the Assembly was established to coordinate the activities, publish a nationwide publication and generally be the central source of information on Turks and Türkiye. For this purpose office space was provided by Adil Araboğlu, a Washington business leader, and the Assembly was in business. Clearly the tasks that lay ahead were enormous and the resources limited.

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

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

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

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



(Top) Turkish Express, ATAA Annual Convention 1982. (Left to right) Former Presidents of ATA-DC, Engin Holmstrom, Taşkın Atıl, Yurdakul Göker and Former President of MATA, Cenap Kıratlı.

About ATAA



ASSEMBLY OF TURKISH AMERICAN ASSOCIATIONS

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

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

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

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

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Program

Saturday, May 25, 2024

2:30pm-5:30pm	City Tour by Bus
6:30pm-10:00pm	Detroit River Cruise

Sunday, May 26, 2024

7:30am-8:30am	Conference Registration & Breakfast
8:45am-9:00am	Opening Ceremony & Welcoming Remarks Dr. Nilüfer Esen-Bilgin , President, Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA)
9:00am-10:00am	Mustafa Kemal Atatürk: The Brilliant Mind Introduction by Gökhan Özalp , ATAA Former President Keynote Speaker: Dr. Edward J. Erickson , Historian, Professor (Ret.) of Military History
10:00am-10:15am	Break
10:15am-11:15am	Session 1 Atatürk's Vision for Education and Reforms, and the Current Situation Moderator: Dr. Mehmet E. Yaya , ATAA Treasurer, Professor of Economics, Eastern Michigan University Speakers: Dr. Gary M. Grossman , Emeritus Professor, School for the Future of Innovation in Society, Arizona State University Dr. Selçuk Şirin , Professor, Applied Psychology, New York University
11:15am-11:30am	Break
11:30am-12:30pm	Session 2 The Role of Political Activity Communities in the U.S. Moderator: Hülya Erol-Garvett , Vice President, The National Coalition of Turkish American Women PAC Speakers: Lydia Borland , President, LB International Solutions, LLC U.S. Representative Jack Bergman (R-MI) James R. Hiller , PLLC
12:30pm-1:45pm	Luncheon
1:45pm-2:00pm	Break
2:00pm-3:00pm	Session 3 Voluntarism and Philanthropy in the Turkish American Community Moderator: Erkan Demirağcı , ATAA Western Region Vice President Speakers: Ergün Kırlikovalı , ATAA Trustee Emin Pamucak , President, Bridge to Türkiye Fund (BTF) Pınar Özyürek , Director of Philanthropy, Turkish Philanthropy Funds (TPF)
3:00pm-3:10pm	Break

Program

3:10pm-4:35pm	Session 4 ATAA Committee Activities <i>Perspectives of Young Turkish American Leaders</i> Moderator: Mehmet Efe Taşcıoğlu , ATAA Youth Committee Co-Founder & Chair Speakers: Ela Elmas , ATAA Youth Committee Co-Founder & Vice Chair Bora Özalp , ATAA Youth Committee Member <i>ATAA's Global Voice in the United Nations</i> Moderator: Alev Wieland , ATAA UN Committee Chair, ATAA First VP & Southwest Region VP Speakers: Fatma Aldaş , Turkish Women's League of America (TWLA) Past VP & UN Representative Dr. Selim Erhan , ATAA Trustee and ATAA UN Relations Committee Member Nağme Erberk , Empowering the Turkish-American Community (ETAC-USA) Vice President Canan Özaktay , Florida Turkish American Association (FTAA) Past President Yasemin Amanda Knott , ATAA UN Youth Forum Member, TWLA Youth Representative
4:35pm-4:45pm	Break
4:45pm-5:45pm	Session 5 Impact of Turkish American Engineers in Aerospace Research in the U.S. Moderator: Engin Ateş , ATAA Mid-Central Region Vice President Speaker: Dr. Behçet Açıkmeşe , Professor, Aeronautics & Astronautics, University of Washington
5:45pm	Closing Remarks
6:30pm-7:30pm	Reception
7:30pm-11:00pm	45th Year Anniversary Gala Welcoming Remarks Dinner Annual Awards Ceremony Live Music Performance by Deniz Şafak Yaprak & DJ Erkin Göksel

2024 Annual Conference Sponsors



ASSEMBLY OF TURKISH AMERICAN ASSOCIATIONS

ATAA expresses its sincere appreciation to the sponsors of the 2024 Annual Conference.

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Mustafa Kemal Atatürk: The Brilliant Mind



Edward J. Erickson | Keynote Speaker

Dr. Edward J. Erickson retired as Professor of Military History at the Command and Staff College, Marine Corps University in Quantico, Virginia in 2017 and served in 2018 as a Scholar-in-Residence in the Clark Center for Global Engagement at the State University of New York at Cortland in Cortland, New York. From 2019-2021, he served as Professor of International Relations, Antalya Bilim University in Türkiye. Dr. Erickson is a retired regular US Army lieutenant colonel and was commissioned in the field artillery. He also qualified as a Foreign Area Officer specializing in Türkiye. During his career, he served in artillery and general staff assignments in the United States, Europe (three tours in Germany and one tour in Italy), and the Middle East (three tours in Türkiye). In the Persian Gulf War of 1991, he served in the Third Armored Division as an artillery battalion operations officer, in Sarajevo in 1995 as a special assistant to the NATO Implementation Force commander, and in the invasion of Iraq in 2003 with the Fourth Infantry Division as General Raymond Odierno's political advisor. He is the recipient of the Legion of Merit, two Bronze Star medals, and numerous other military awards. After retiring from active duty, Dr. Erickson worked as a high school social studies teacher and a school administrator in his hometown of Norwich, New York. He returned to Baghdad, Iraq in 2007 for a year to work as Professor of Political Science at the Ministry of Defense Training and Development College before going to the Marine Corps University in Quantico in 2009. He has master's degrees from Colgate University and Saint Lawrence University as well as a Doctorate in History from the University of Leeds in the UK. Dr. Erickson is widely recognized as one of the foremost specialists on the Ottoman Army during the First World War. Among the numerous books he has written are *Ordered To Die, A History of the Ottoman Army in the First World War; Defeat in Detail, The Ottoman Army in the Balkans, 1912-1913; Gallipoli, The Ottoman Campaign; Ottomans and Armenians, A Study in Counterinsurgency; Gallipoli, Command under Fire; and Palestine, The Ottoman Campaigns 1914-1918*. He is the co-author of the acclaimed definitive study *A Military History of the Ottomans, from Osman to Atatürk*. Dr. Erickson is also the author of *A Soldier's Kipling, Poetry and the Profession of Arms; A Global History of Relocation in Counterinsurgency Warfare; Phase Line Attila, The Amphibious Campaign for Cyprus; and The Turkish War of Independence, A Military History, 1919-1923*. His latest book is *Strategic Water; Iraq and Security Planning in the Euphrates-Tigris Basin, Expanded Edition*. His forthcoming book for 2025, with co-editor Mesut Uyar, is *The Routledge Handbook of Modern Turkish History*. Dr. Erickson is frequently interviewed by the media and he is a frequent contributor to scholarly journals and popular magazines. He is married to Jennifer Collins and they live in Macungie, Pennsylvania.

Session 1 | Atatürk's Vision for Education and Reforms, and the Current Situation



Mehmet E. Yaya | Moderator

Dr. Mehmet E. Yaya was born and raised in Türkiye. He completed his bachelor's degree in Boğaziçi University before he moved to the USA in 2003. He obtained his MBA from Auburn University, then received his master's and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Alabama. He moved to Michigan in 2009. He is currently the Professor of Economics in the Department of Economics at Eastern Michigan University. His research focuses on immigrants, income inequality, and poverty and he has published number of articles in well-respected academic journals on these topics. Mr. Yaya has actively been involved with Turkish American organizations. He was the founder of Turkish Student Association at the University of Alabama before he moved to Michigan. In Michigan, he has been a diligent volunteer for the Turkish American Cultural Association (TACAM); served as a board member for 2 years and treasurer for 4 years and president between 2019 and 2023. His involvement with TACAM specifically encompasses the education, political outreach, Atatürk Park and fundraising activities of TACAM. He has been serving at the Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA) board since 2018, first as a Mid-Central VP and then as a treasurer.



Gary M. Grossman

Gary M. Grossman, Emeritus Professor in the School for the Future of Innovation in Society at Arizona State University (ASU), offers four decades of experience in addressing institutional factors impacting social transformation in both theoretical and applied contexts, involving local, national, and global issues. Utilizing a deeply interdisciplinary perspective, his work seeks to identify the barriers to human progress and identify avenues for inclusive change. His areas of focus include higher education, sustainable development, and democratization in the emerging societies, with a special interest in the Southern European, Eastern Mediterranean, and Middle

East regions. Trained as a political sociologist and experienced in the administration of World Bank, U.S. Government, and privately funded projects, Professor Grossman also led the development of new curricula, academic units, and campuses at Arizona State University and elsewhere around the world. A special focus of his work was the co-founding of a unique transdisciplinary, transnational major in ASU's Master of Science in Technology program. This degree concentration, entitled 'Global Technology and Development' (GTD), features the combined perspectives of social science research and emerging technological models, aimed at providing students an opportunity to explore the critical questions of globalization, commerce, sustainable development, information technology, transportation, education, and biotechnology which impact all nations. The program is designed to empower students to guide and direct those impacts. Classes in the GTD program began in 2001, became a stand-alone Master of Science program in 2012, and transitioned to the School for the Future of Innovation in Society in 2015. Professor Grossman is internationally recognized for leadership in his areas of interest and has expressed his work in numerous peer-reviewed and public interest publications, policy briefs, and presentations in many forums around the world, as well as in large and small-scale project management. Professor Grossman was awarded two consecutive Fulbright Grants (2002-2004) and spent that period engaged in research and teaching at Middle East Technical University (METU) in Ankara, Türkiye. Between 2019 and 2022, he worked as an International Programme Consultant/Visiting Scientist with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (UN FAO) in Rome, Italy. His current research concerns the implementation efficacy of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) globally, with a particular focus in the nations of Central Asia, and the future of the Turkish Republic as it enters its second century.



Selçuk Şirin

Selçuk R. Şirin, Ph.D., is a Professor of Applied Psychology at New York University specializing in the study of marginalized children and youth, focusing on improving educational and mental health services. His research covers the social and economic impacts on various groups including African American students, Muslim American youth, immigrants' children, and refugees in the US, Europe, and Türkiye. Published in leading journals across psychology, education, and health, Şirin has earned multiple awards for teaching excellence and research innovation, notably from Boston College, NYU, the Foundation for Child Development, and the American Educational Research Association. He also received the 2018 Jacobs Foundation Prize for Social Engagement. Şirin co-authored "Muslim American Youth" in the US and authored five bestsellers in Türkiye, Freedom vs. Misery (Ya Özgürlük Ya Sefalet). A Dream for Türkiye (Bir Türkiye Hayali), Justice vs. Misery (Ya Adalet Ya Sefalet) focusing on societal problems. He also published two best-selling parenting books in Turkish: Raising Children (Yetişin Çocuklar) and Raising Adolescents (Yetişin Gençler). Dr. Şirin founded the 1 Million Book Project in 2019 and distributed over a million free children's books in Türkiye to families with no access to children's books. Şirin has a weekly column in Oksijen, the best selling weekend paper in Türkiye and previously wrote for Hurriyet (2014-2018). And he is from Ardahan, formerly Kars.

Session 2 | The Role of Political Activity Communities in the U.S.



Hülya Erol-Garvett | Moderator

Hülya Erol-Garvett is a distinguished real estate agent with a successful career serving three counties in Southeast Michigan. With over 20 years of leading sales and marketing achievements, Hülya founded “The Hulya Group,” her own real estate brand. As a mentor and role model, she has guided numerous new agents in honing their skills. Her contributions to the industry include serving on the North Oakland County Board of Realtors. Her entry into real estate was inspired by her late husband, Robert, to whom she credits her passion for real estate excellence. Before her real estate career, Hülya established a thriving import-export business, which she operated for over a decade, traveling to more than 100 countries. Since her husband's passing, she has dedicated substantial time to supporting Relay for Life and the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Born in Türkiye and having studied International Relations in Russia and earned an MBA in Kazakhstan, Hülya is a global citizen settled in Michigan. After becoming a U.S. citizen, she became actively engaged in politics, serving as a delegate for a national political party. Hülya is committed to enhancing the lives of professional women by establishing support networks and is an active member of Women in Defense. Additionally, she holds leadership roles as the vice president of the National Coalition of Turkish American Women PAC and president of the Turkish Coalition of USA PAC. Beyond her professional pursuits, Hülya has a passion for interior design, which is evident in her home, adorned with her cherished pets: dogs, Koi fish, and turtles. Proud of her Turkish American heritage, she is an activist dedicated to making a difference in her community and beyond.



Lydia Borland

Lydia Borland has more than 33 years of public and private sector experience in government relations in Washington, DC. She has a keen understanding of how Congress works, and how the institution and other agencies of the US government interact to affect foreign policy, and has developed a large network of contacts in the nation's capitol. She is a seasoned observer of US politics, and has devised and implemented several successful programs on behalf of clients which have either resulted in the elimination of negative measures, the advancement of positive ones, or the implementation of foreign aid packages. Although Borland is well known on Capitol Hill, she approaches all projects with the enthusiasm of a novice. Members of Congress and congressional staff regularly reach out to her for guidance on issues affecting international relations. Borland is currently President of LB International Solutions LLC, a boutique international consulting firm which either takes on projects by itself, or partners with larger firms. LBIS is now the main contractor for the Turkish Embassy in Washington DC, and works with subcontractors. For over 15 years, Lydia has helped establish Political Action Committees (PAC) which support candidates and political campaigns. In this capacity, she meets with promising candidates or incumbents and generates support for their races. Borland served as Washington Representative for the Turkish-U.S. Business Council (TAIK/DEIK) from 2000-2007, and Deputy Executive Director of the U.S. Azerbaijan Chamber of Commerce for several years. 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.



Jack Bergman

Growing up in the Midwest, Jack Bergman's parents instilled in him the values that drive the American Dream: If you work hard, never quit, and strive for excellence, you will find success. Those values are what guided him to the rank of Lt. General in the United States Marine Corps, empowered him to successfully own and operate a small business, and allowed him to enjoy a 22-year career as a commercial airline pilot. Jack proudly represents the First District of Michigan. The boundaries contain the entire Upper Peninsula and all of northern lower Peninsula. Altogether, the district makes up about 44% of the land mass of the state of Michigan.

The Bergman family roots in Michigan's Upper Peninsula stretch back to the late 1800's where his ancestors worked as iron miners. Serving his country in uniform for 40 years, Jack has spent time all around the United States – and world. Nearly three decades ago, Jack and his wife Cindy settled in Watersmeet, on the western edge of Michigan's beautiful Upper Peninsula. Jack is a grandfather to ten grandchildren. This has always been one of the largest factors in his service in Congress. When Jack sees what is happening in Washington, he knows that we are not doing our best at leaving our children and grandchildren a better place. From his business to his distinguished military career, and now in Congress - Jack Bergman does not accept the status-quo as an acceptable path forward. Jack is driven by his commitment to serving others. While in the military, he launched two successful startup businesses in the medical equipment field, maintaining an obligation to both his nation and his customers simultaneously. As an entrepreneurial leader focused on mission accomplishment and customer satisfaction, Jack knows how to get things done. Hard work and commitment made the United States the most exceptional nation in the world. Those are the principles that have guided Jack's life, and are the principles that he is bringing to Washington. He believes what most Michiganders believe: Americans know how to live their lives better than politicians or bureaucrats do. Jack's life has been dedicated to service and defending the Constitution. He is the highest ranking combat Veteran to have ever served in the U.S. House. He is shaking up the status quo in both Congress and will continue defending the United States from those who want to weaken it, both domestically and abroad.



James A. Hiller

Jim Hiller is a native of Detroit. He attended public schools in the city and is a distinguished honors graduate of the University of Detroit Law School, where he received the Outstanding Student Award, and was President of his law class. Jim is a licensed attorney and has been a member of the Michigan Bar Association and Federal Bar Associations for 50 years. He is currently the Managing Director of Hiller Consulting LLC a Michigan based legal consultancy which provides financial, legal, and strategic guidance to start-ups, private equity companies and businesses throughout the United States and overseas. Jim's other accomplishments

include serving as an Adjunct Professor of Law at University Of Detroit Mercy School of Law, Special Investigator for the Michigan Supreme Court, Commodore of the Great Lakes Yacht Club, President of Jewish National Fund Michigan, Member of the Prismatic Club, Member of the Scientific Review Board Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, Fellow of the Royal Institute of Navigation, Member of the Board of Trustees of Beaumont Hospital, University of Michigan Health System Advisory Board (HSAG), ALS of Michigan Board of Directors, Member of Board of Directors 826Michigan.org and Member of Board of Visitors Wayne State University School of Medicine. In addition to his business efforts Jim formed and endowed the Hiller ALS Center at Wayne State University which was directed by Drs. Jeffrey Loeb MD PhD, Richard Lewis MD and Robert Lisak MD. The PFUND (Program for Understanding Neurological Diseases) at the University of Michigan Medical School which seeks treatments and cures for neurological diseases and is directed by Eva L Feldman MD PhD. Jim is the recipient of the Jane L. Cobb Promise Award from the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, The Friend of Israel award from Yeshiva Akiva, The Tree of Life award from Jewish National Fund, and Michigan's Top Executive award from Corp Magazine. He is the recipient of awards from the World Federation of Holocaust Survivors, ALS of Michigan, American Cancer Society, the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law Dean John P Scallon Award, Focus Detroit Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Detroit Region; Wayne State University School of Medicine Ambassador award for outstanding service to the WSU School of Medicine; Wayne State University President's Award for contributions to Wayne State University and the Community of Detroit; Jewish War Veterans – 2012 Brotherhood Award, Michigan Animal Rescue League honoree and service award and the Lighthouse Food Bank Honoree and service award. Jim has authored numerous articles about real estate law and maritime law. He is a skilled navigator and ocean sailor and has been a Fellow of The Royal Institute of Navigation for more than 30 years.

Session 3 | Voluntarism and Philanthropy in the Turkish American Community



Erkan Demirağcı | Moderator

Erkan Demirağcı, born and raised in İzmir-Karşıyaka, graduated from Dokuz Eylül University with a degree in Business Administration and moved to the US in 1994 to continue his graduate studies. After working in various different companies in management positions currently he is Senior Mortgage Loan Consultant & Real estate professional since 2003. He resides in Orange County, CA. Erkan been very active in the Turkish American community since 2012. He has been serving the boards of Orange County Turkish American Association (OCTAA) and Association of Turkish Americans of Southern California (ATASC). He served as the president of OCTAA between 2018 and 2023. He has been serving as ATAA Western Region Vice President since 2023. He is passionate about social entrepreneurship, leadership and promoting grassroots efforts in the Turkish American community. He also served at World Affairs Council of Orange County as a Program Committee Council member in order to help create better relationships with other communities (2016-2020). Since he became president of the OCTAA, he has established close and sincere relationships with local, state and federal administrators in order to protect the interests of the Turkish American community.



Ergün Kırlikovalı

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



Emin Pamucak

Emin Pamucak holds BS and MS degrees in engineering from Boğaziçi University and the University of Maryland. He has worked at IBM and LENOVO in various corporate capacities at company locations in Minnesota, New York, Connecticut, and North Carolina. Retired after 35 years of service, Emin lives with his wife Ayşe in Cary, North Carolina. His personal mission is to make a positive difference in the world by giving back. A firm believer in grassroots civic representation, he has always been involved in community development and advocacy. As a servant leader, social responsibility is near and dear to his heart. Aside from citizen-based initiatives, Emin is also an avid gardener and often finds inspiration in nature that fuels his passion for BTF's mission. He likes to travel and enjoys the personal growth that comes through the adventure of new experiences. Emin feels privileged to be a product of multiple cultures and has been an active member of ATA North Carolina, serving as a three-term President of the Association. He has received the Association's Distinguished Member and Distinguished Leader Awards and has led ATA North Carolina to be recognized as ATAA's Component Association of the Year. He has further served the greater Turkish-American community as ATAA Vice President

for the Southeastern United States. Emin is a founding member and the President of Bridge to Türkiye Fund. Over the last two decades, he has steered BTF from a small local nonprofit startup with a volunteer working board to a sustainable professional organization with a governing board. His ongoing objective is to surround BTF's entire philanthropic community of givers and recipients with a world-class organization to support them. Emin is also a founding member of the Aziz and Gwen Sancar Foundation, where he continues to volunteer regularly.



Pinar Özyürek

Pinar Özyürek is a highly experienced fundraising and corporate relations professional, currently serving as the Director of Philanthropy at Turkish Philanthropy Funds (TPF) since 2021. With almost 15 years of experience in the field, she has worked in some of the most prestigious organizations in Türkiye, including Koç University, Health and Education Foundation (SEV), and Esas Holding/ Esas Social and held managing positions in fundraising, advancement, donor and corporate relations. Her expertise includes cultivating relationships with major donors, developing fundraising strategies, and organizing successful events to

promote philanthropy and social investments. She earned her BA degree from Koç University, and holds two MA degrees from Sabancı University and the University of Chicago. She has enriched her professional skill set throughout her career through certifications from esteemed institutions, notably obtaining a Leadership Certificate from Columbia Business School and a Fundraising Certificate from the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy by Indiana University among many.

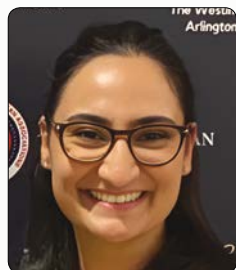
Session 4 | ATAA Committee Activities | Perspectives of Young Turkish American Leaders



Mehmet Efe Taşcıoğlu | Moderator

Mehmet Taşcıoğlu is a second-year student at Stanford University studying Management Science & Engineering and Biomedical Computation. In 2019, he co-founded the Turkish American Cultural Association of Michigan's High School Chapter (THSC), serving as President from 2020 to 2021 and Past President from 2021 to 2022. Under his tenure as President, THSC held dozens of events, including webinars, holiday celebrations, musical concerts, and team bonding nights. In 2020, he co-founded the Assembly of Turkish American Associations Youth Committee, and currently serves as the Chair. Additionally, Mehmet is the

Founder & Chair of the Board of Directors for Connect Me Tutoring, the largest student-run free tutoring service in the United States. On the entrepreneurial side, Mehmet is the CEO and Executive Producer of the College Treehouse, a college consulting and media company with over 20 million monthly views online, and is a Managing Partner of Mosaic Cakes LLC, a Turkish dessert company. Mehmet plans on attending medical school and opening his own practice as a dermatologist.



Ela Elmas

Ela Elmas is a first-generation Turkish American from Denver, Colorado. Ela's involvement with the Turkish community extends to serving on the Turkish American Cultural Society of Colorado's (TACSCO) board as secretary since 2018, participating as a delegate in the Turkish Coalition of America's (TCA) Youth Leadership Congress in 2018, co-founding TACSCO's youth chapter (Turkish American Youth of Colorado) in 2019, and co-founding and serving as vice-chair for ATAA's Youth Committee since 2020. She currently holds a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from the University of Colorado Denver, her Master of Arts in Special Educa-

tion with a concentration in Applied Behavioral Analysis from Arizona State University, and hopes to pursue a PhD in either Behavioral Analysis or Developmental Psychology. She is currently waiting to sit for the Board Certified Behavioral Analyst exam through the Behavioral Analyst Certification Board to practice as a clinician for children diagnosed with autism in Colorado.



Bora Özalp

Bora Özalp is a second-year student at Detroit Country Day High School, and currently serves on the ATAA Youth Committee Event Subcommittee where he organizes, coordinates, and leads nationwide webinars and panels. Bora has been actively involved with the Turkish American Association of Michigan from a very young age by participating in Turkish language school, clubs, events, activities, and the youth chapter. He participates in the Turkish American Cultural Association of Washington's Turks Without Borders project as a conversation partner to high school students in Türkiye. Bora also volunteers with Çağdaş Yaşamı Destekleme

Derneği in Türkiye to help university students in conversational English. Bora's goal is to continue his involvement in projects where he can use his skills helping students and by doing so establish friendships and connections between the Turkish-American youth in the US and in Türkiye. Bora plans to become an Electrical and Computer Engineer with a focus on medical applications.

Session 4 | ATAA Committee Activities | ATAA's Global Voice in the United Nations



Alev Wieland | Moderator

Alev Wieland has Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from University of Cincinnati, OH. Worked for Belcan Engineering at Proctor of Gamble as Project engineer for 7 years. Since she retired from PepsiCo, Inc-AMEA Capability Director in 2012, she formed Manufacturing Excellence Technical Services and Alev Cosmetics companies. Alev has extensive experience in Lean Manufacturing, Lean Product Life Cycle Management, and Processes Development, as well as Project Management, Construction Management in Food Manufacturing, Paper Converting and Laundry Soap Industry. She has solid understanding of

Engineering, Manufacturing and Operations Processes. She is an expert in ISO 9001 and GMP Certifications and Standards. She has been responsible for organizational communication, meetings management, documentation, web site management for Contemporary Education Foundation (COEDFO) since 2013. She served as President of Cincinnati Turkish American Association (CTAA) from 1994 to 1996. An active member of the Turkish American Association of Northern Texas (TURANT), she has been providing organizational operations support to its elected board members and helping with executions of projects since 2000. Alev serves as the First VP, Southwest Region Vice President, Chairs the Community Newsletter Committee and Co-Chair of UN Relations Committee of Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA). Alev is very active at her local city and Main Street Organizations, provides support in an advisory capacity.



Fatma Aldaş

Fatma Aldaş is a retired Financial Consultant, Stockbroker, and International Private Banker. She started her banking career at Manufacturers Hanover Trust Co./JP Morgan Chase Bank from 1973-1999. She served as a Vice President and Customer Relations Manager. She was responsible for developing a book of business and advising high-net-worth individuals from Europe and the Middle East. She continued her career at the Union Bank of Switzerland from 2001 to 2004, managing European and Middle Eastern clients, developing a book of business, and advising high-net-worth individuals. At Axa Advisors LLC, she started working

with domestic clients as a Stockbroker and Financial Advisor from 2006-2011. In 2011, she retired after 35 years of service in the financial sector. Fatma Aldaş is married and has two children. She also has two wonderful grand kids that she loves endlessly. Her youngest daughter is also a graduate of the New York Atatürk School. Fatma Aldaş has been volunteering with the Turkish Women's League of America (TWLA) since 2006. She served on the Board of Directors of the TWLA for 17 years and held the position of VP for 15 of those years. Since 2022 she has been serving as a UN representative for the Turkish Women's League of America (TWLA) and is currently on the Auditing Committee of the Turkish Women's League of America (TWLA).



Selim Erhan

Dr. Selim Erhan was born in Istanbul Türkiye. After graduating with a chemical engineering degree from the University of Istanbul, he continued his studies at Western Michigan University with a Ph.D. in Polymer-Organic Chemistry. After teaching at Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo College and Lake Michigan College, he started a research career first at the USDA's National Center for Agricultural Utilization Research in Peoria, IL. He continued his career in the private industry, working on application of bio-based products to industrial applications. Dr. Erhan started actively working on introducing Türkiye and the Turkish Culture in the USA while studying at Western Michigan University in 1980. He joined the Turkish American Cultural Alliance in 2000 and became active in educational activities and in 2009. He was the co-founder of the highly successful TACA – Public Outreach Program, aiming at educating middle school, high school and university students on important issues. The Public Outreach Organization brought speakers like Prof. Justin McCarthy, Prof. Turkkaya Ataov, Emre Kongar and Lincoln McCurdy. In 2013 he joined TACA's Board of Directors and became the Director of the Ataturk School and the Adult Turkish School. Continued as the TACA Public Outreach Chair preparing seminars and conferences to reach out and enlighten the public in the Midwest region. Dr. Erhan was elected as ATAA's Midwest Region VP 2015 to 2019. He has continued working at ATAA, helped to form the UN Committee and was instrumental to form the highly successful Turkish American Presidents Group under ATAA, improving communications with the Component Associations in the USA and pulling in similar Turkish organizations from Canada. In 2022, he was elected to ATAA's Board of Trustees.



Nağme Erberk

Nağme Erberk earned her BA in Business Administration and Economics from İstanbul Bilgi University. She brings a decade of finance & management, PR experience and expertise which she gained by working in banks and holdings in İstanbul prior to relocating to San Francisco. In addition, Nağme has briefly served another decade in PR, Advertising & Marketing coordinator/manager roles for various companies such as the Medical and Food industries in the San Francisco Bay Area. She holds certifications in Digital Marketing from UC Berkeley and Stanford University. She is interested in throwing grand theme parties, gastronomy & travel, healthy eating & longevity, and pilates. Erberk currently serves as vice president of Empowering the Turkish American Community (ETAC-USA). She fosters community connections and promotes sustainable development through the creation of a welcoming environment where individuals feel a sense of belonging and unity. She oversees all aspects of the organization, driving its mission, fundraising efforts, operations, and engagement with the board of directors, donors and volunteers. Nağme is particularly passionate about leveraging marketing and product development strategies to enhance community-building capabilities. She led fundraising efforts for Türkiye including natural disasters and girls' education; organized a couple of large-scale national celebrations, hosting 270 people; supported local small businesses and collaborated with the other nonprofit organizations and Universities such as Turkish Educational Foundation, Rotary Clubs, Libraries, Stanford University and UC Berkeley Students.



Canan Özaktay

Canan was born in Istanbul and moved to Michigan in 1969. She received her BS degree from Michigan State University in 1978 and spent most of her career through 2005 in the Automotive Industry and later moved to New Hampshire where she received her MS degree in Healthcare Management from Franklin Pierce University. In 2007 Canan moved to Florida where she received her Real Estate license in 2012 and Broker's License 2019. Currently she is the Broker/Owner of Epic Solutions Realty, Boca Raton FL. Canan is an enthusiastic member of the community and believes in service. While she lived in Michigan, she was a member of Turkish American Cultural Association of Michigan (TACAM) and served in various positions which included the President of the organization (2004-2005). She joined Florida Turkish American Association (FTAA) as a member in 2008 and volunteered in several committees and was the President for 2022-2024 term. Canan's memberships include Boca Raton Rotary Club where she serves in the Foundation Committee and also the Leadership Boca Class of 2023. She is a proud new member of the ATAA UN Relations Committee. Living in Boca Raton, FL, Canan is married to Dr. Cüneyt Özaktay. She is mother of Crystal Smith, Brandon Hampton and Levent Ozaktay.



Yasemin Amanda Knott

Yasemin Knott is a Junior Social Work major at Siena College in Loudonville, New York. She has been on the Dean's List and the President's List since attending Siena College. She is a Student Representative on the College Work Advisory Board and Community Assistant. Yasemin is a 2020 National Honor Society and a Spanish Honor Society Inductee. Yasemin has been a Turkish Women's League of America youth representative for the United Nations since January of 2023. In the past couple of years, Yasemin has been part of Assembly of Turkish American Associations' United Nations Youth Forum and has been active participant in the

ATAA UN programs and enjoys attending Annual ATAA Conferences. She was previously an officer of the Saratoga Springs High School Spanish Culture Club as well as the 2022 Siena College Muslim Student Association Events Coordinator. She performed as the Saratoga Springs High School Varsity Competitive Cheerleader for 15 years and served as the Team Captain for multiple years. She achieved American Red Cross Certification in Childcare. Yasemin is learning Turkish, Spanish, and American Sign Language. She attended the Turkish Women's League of America's New York Ataturk School and earned a New York Seal of biliteracy in Spanish and English. While in high school, she earned college credits from Rochester Institute of Technology, Adirondack Community College, and Schenectady City Community College. Yasemin enjoyed volunteering at Dorothy Nolan Elementary School for 6 years.

Session 5 | Impact of Turkish American Engineers in Aerospace Research in the U.S.



Engin Ateş | Moderator

Engin Ateş was born in Erzincan, raised in Tunceli and İstanbul. He completed his bachelor's degree at Bahçeşehir University as a Computer Engineer. After graduation, he moved to the US and got his Master in Science Degree at Kent State University. After graduation, he worked as a Forensic Software Programmer for 3 years, and he joined the Cleveland Clinic and has been working at Cleveland Clinic for 10 years. As a Software Analyst and Project Manager, he involved in the development of the Cleveland Clinic websites and various supporting applications. He is currently working at IT Cybersecurity Department as an Enterprise Cybersecurity Engineer to

secure all the applications and websites. He has been actively involved with Turkish American organizations since he moved to the US. Ateş has been serving as ATAA Mid-Central Region VP since 2020. He served as VP of the Turkish American Society of Northeast Ohio (TASNO) for two years. He is currently serving as the President of TASNO. He is playing an active role for the establishment of the Atatürk and Women Statues at the Turkish Cultural Garden in Cleveland. Ateş is married with two sons and a daughter.



Behçet Açıkmeşe

Dr. Açıkmeşe received his M.S. in mechanical engineering and his Ph.D. in aerospace engineering from Purdue University. He was a technologist and a senior member of the Guidance and Control (G&C) Analysis Group at NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) from 2003 to 2012 and was a visiting Assistant Professor of Aerospace Engineering at Purdue University before joining JPL. At JPL, he developed guidance, control, and estimation algorithms for formation-flying spacecraft and distributed networked systems, proximity operations around asteroids and comets, and planetary landing, as well as developing interior

point methods algorithms for the real-time solution of convex optimization problems. Dr. Açıkmeşe's research developed a fundamental result, known as "lossless convexification", that provides the solution of a general class of nonconvex optimal control problems via computationally tractable convex optimization methods. This theoretical insight led to a leap in the G&C technology that now made planetary pinpoint landing feasible. NASA has been investing on the demonstration of this technology to mature it for next generation missions to Mars and other planets. Dr. Açıkmeşe also worked on NASA missions. He was a member of NASA's Mars Science Laboratory (MSL) G&C team, where he developed and delivered G&C algorithms used in the "fly-away phase" of the successful Curiosity rover landing in August 2012. He also developed Reaction Control System (RCS) algorithms for NASA's SMAP (Soil Moisture Active Passive) mission, which will be launched in 2014.

ATAA 2024 Annual Awards Recipients



ASSEMBLY OF TURKISH AMERICAN ASSOCIATIONS

Şükrü Elekdağ Award

Bülent Başol

*In Recognition of His Outstanding Contributions
and Exemplary Service to the Empowerment
of the Turkish American Community*

* * *

Special Award

**Turkish American Society of Northeastern Ohio - TASNO
Turkish American Cultural Association of Michigan - TACAM
Indiana - American Turkish Association - IN-ATATURK
Utah Turkish American Association - UTAA
American Turkish Association of Washington, DC - ATA-DC
Turkish American Association of California - TAAC
Oregon Turkish American Association - ORTA
American Turkish Association of North Carolina - ATA-NC**

*In Recognition of Their Outstanding Support and
Contribution to the Child Amputees of
Türkiye Earthquake (Project CATE)*

* * *

Service Award

Empowering the Turkish American Community - ETAC-USA

*In Recognition of Its Outstanding Contributions to
the ATAA UN Relations Committee*

Excellence in Service Award

Vega Sankur

*In Recognition of Her Outstanding Dedication in Founding
the ATAMLA - Atatürk Cultural Center, Los Angeles*

* * *

Outstanding Achievement in Arts & Science Award

Refik Anadol

*In Recognition of His Remarkable Career Achievements and
Role as An Inspiring Model for Turkish Artists*

* * *

Young Leaders Award

Mehmet Efe Taşcıoğlu

*In Recognition of His Leadership in Founding
the ATAA Youth Committee and Service to
the Turkish American Youth*

* * *

UN Youth Award

**Ece Yenigün
Yasemin Amanda Knott**

*In Recognition of Their Significant Contributions to
the ATAA UN Relations Committee*

In Memoriam



ASSEMBLY OF TURKISH AMERICAN ASSOCIATIONS

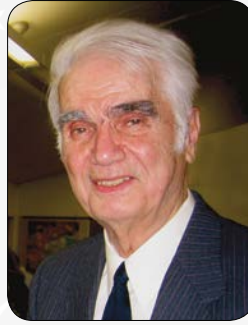
We are forever grateful to the former board members for their outstanding leadership, friendship, dedication, and service to the Assembly.



TARHAN DANIŞMAN
1937-2002
President
(1986-1987)



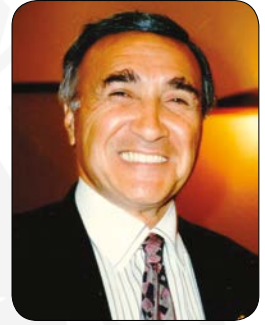
ALİ F. SEVİN
1927-2012
President
(1990-1992)



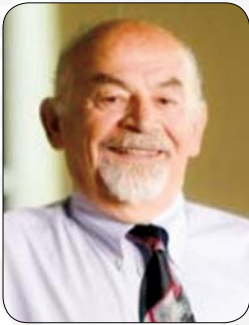
KEMAL GÖKNAR
1925-2015
President
(1984-1986)



TUNCA ISKIR
1942-2021
President
(1987-1990)



NURİ SABUNCU
1932-2023
President
(1994-1996)



ORHAN GÜRBÜZ
1939-2020
Western Region
Vice President
(1995-1997)



ALP BERKER
1966-2015
Mid-Central Region
Vice President
(2008-2010)



SEVGİN OKTAY
1935-2023
New York Region
Vice President
(2015-2019)



CEREN SAYAN
1976-2024
New York Region
Vice President
(2013-2015)
Secretary
(2015-2017)

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TURKISH AMERICAN RELATIONS

1923 - 2023



To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Turkish Republic, I researched the dynamic relationship between Türkiye and the United States over the last one hundred years and summarized my findings in "A Historical Chronicle of Turkish American Relations." This document can be a resource for Turkish Americans, Turkish nationals, and others to become acquainted with the history between Türkiye and the United States, and the rich interaction between the Turkish and American people.

In the Chronicle, I present a list of significant events, leaders and ambassadors of both countries, bilateral state and private visits, highlights of influential people, community-focused stories, the historical background of diplomatic buildings in Washington, Ankara, Istanbul, and New York, and the establishment of key organizations (both non-governmental and private) that impacted the bilateral relationship during these 100 years from October 29, 1923, to October 29, 2023.

G. Lincoln McCurdy

The Chronicle is available online at www.ataa.org.

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