



ASSEMBLY OF
TURKISH AMERICAN
ASSOCIATIONS

Issue 8
August 2025

30
AĞUSTOS
ZAFER
BAYRAMIMIZ
Kutlu Olsun

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değil, insanlığın kaderini değiştirir!

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“The press is the common voice of the nation.”
“Everything in the world is the work of women.”
“Oh, rising new generation, the future is yours. We founded the Republic; It is you who will take it forward and sustain it.”
“Teachers, you will shape the minds of the new generation.
The Republic demands from you generations that are free in thought, free in conscience, and free in wisdom.”



ASSEMBLY OF
TURKISH AMERICAN
ASSOCIATIONS

“Peace at Home, Peace on Earth”

K. Atatürk



ATAA
USA

Issue 08
September, 2025

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Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA) is 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 community in the United States and Canada.

We Stand Strong as a United Community

AUGUST 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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31						

SEPTEMBER 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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28	29	30				

OCTOBER 2025

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NOVEMBER 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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30						

AUGUST

TURANT - Victory Day & 50th Anniversary, Lorenzo Hotel, 7-11pm (8/30)
 TACAUA - Victory Day Picnic, Grasslawn Park, 5-9pm (8/30)

SEPTEMBER

COEDFO - Fundraising Picnic, Lake Texoma, 1-6pm (9/7)
 TAVPA - Dallas film Festival (9/27-28)

OCTOBER

COEDFO - Jazz in the Garden Fundraising(10/11)
 TACAUA - Turkfest, Seattle Center (10/11-12)
 CTAA - Republic Ball (10/18)
 TACAUA - Anatolia, Theater Shoreline Community College (10/19)

NOVEMBER

TURANT - Republic Ball (11/1)
 TACAUA - Republic Day Celebration Columbia Tower (11/1)
 COEDFO - Fundraising Lunch (11/9)
 TACAUA - Seattle Turkish Film Festival SIFF (11/21-23)

Please share your events with us via:

magazine@ataa.org, president@ataa.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Alev Wieland
ATAA President
president@ataa.org



There are some victories that change the fate of not only a nation, but also humanity!

Dear ATAA family,

We proudly stand united to honor one of the most defining moments in the history of Türkiye - the great victory of August 30, 1922, when the spirit of independence, courage, and resilience triumphed against all odds.

On this sacred day, we remember Gazi Mustafa Kemal Atatürk and the sacrifices of the brave heroes - men and women – who defended our homeland with unwavering determination and laid the foundations of a free and sovereign Republic.

This victory was not just a military triumph — it was a bold declaration of our people's will to live in dignity, unity, and freedom. These selfless sacrifices should remind us that when we come together as one for a cause, no force can stand in our way.

This victory is not just about what happened in the past. It's about ME, it's about YOU, it's about US. It's about standing up, speaking out, protecting our rights; building a future that is bold, just, and full of possibility.

How can we own August 30?

- **Join the celebrations:** Go to local events, wave your flag, be loud and proud. Post about it. Share stories. Tag your friends. Get that national pride trending!
- **Remember the heroes:** Understand what they fought for — and why it matters today.
- **Stand for something:** Justice, Freedom, Equality, Truth. Be the kind of citizen they shed their blood and gave their lives for.
- **Be creative:** Design, dance, write, paint, sing, speak — show your pride in your own unique way.

This Is More Than a Celebration — It's a Call to Action!

Let this day reignite the fire of patriotism in our hearts and the strength in our stride. As we celebrate this glorious legacy, may we continue to build a future worthy of their sacrifices — a future rooted in democracy, peace, and progress.

**Get inspired by it. Be moved by it. Be fired up by it. Be engaged.
Because this story isn't over — We are writing the next chapter together!**

Ne mutlu Türküm diyene!

🇹🇷 30 Ağustos Zafer Bayramı Kutlu Olsun! 🇹🇷

Alev Wieland
ATAA President





Dr. Selim Erhan
ATAA USA, Editor

Dear Proud Members of the Turkish American Community,

The Turkic peoples represent a rich and diverse cultural family with shared linguistic roots that trace back thousands of years to the steppes of Central Asia. Our origins lie in the lands around the Altai Mountains and the Orkhon Valley in what is now Mongolia, where the Göktürk Khaganate emerged as the first known Turkic state in the 6th century CE. Over time, due to factors like climate change, tribal movements, and the search for new opportunities, Turkic tribes began migrating westward.

These movements led to the establishment of many influential empires and civilizations across Eurasia, such as the Seljuks, Khazars, and the Ottoman Empire, which shaped the histories of Asia, the Middle East, and Europe. Today, the descendants of these ancient migrations live in a vast region stretching from Siberia to the Balkans, and from Anatolia to Western China.

People with Turkish roots are now found all over the world. While the largest populations are still in Türkiye and across Central Asia—including Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, and Kyrgyzstan—significant communities also live in the Balkans, including Bulgaria, North Macedonia, and Kosovo. In recent decades, large Turkish diasporas have formed in Germany, France, the Netherlands, and throughout North America and Australia, brought together by migration, education, work, and cultural ties.

These global movements are not only part of historical record but also confirmed by modern science. Geneticist Dr. Spencer Wells, through his DNA-based migration mapping, has shown that Turkic ancestry stems from Central Asia, with evidence of both male- and female-led migrations shaping the diverse Turkic genetic heritage across Eurasia. His findings support what our history and language already tell us: Turkic peoples have long been travelers, builders, and connectors of civilizations.

Our shared history and cultural values serve as essential tools for teaching the next generation. By understanding the past—both its triumphs and its mistakes—we empower young people to make wiser choices and build a better future. History teaches caution; culture teaches identity; shared experience builds unity. These elements together shape resilient, thoughtful individuals who can contribute positively to the world.

Let's work together, grow together, and continue building a vibrant, connected, and resilient Turkish American community.

Turkic Race - Common Linguistic and Cultural Roots

Over the past year and a half, we have seen the continued growth and success of the ATAA USA Magazine—an evolution from earlier newsletters into a vibrant publication made possible by the hard work of many dedicated community members. The magazine reflects who we are: a community that celebrates its heritage, connects across borders, and invests in future generations.

Within our 69 active Turkish American organizations in the U.S. and Canada, we see this spirit in action. Through cultural festivals, film screenings, Turkish Coffee Day events, language schools, youth programs, and educational seminars, our community comes together to share knowledge and preserve our identity. We host webinars, mentorship programs, and thought-provoking panel discussions—many organized by our youth in alignment with the United Nations Sustainability Goals.

These efforts are not just celebrations—they are investments in our future. They offer spaces for learning, connection, and leadership development. We see young Turkish Americans proudly embracing their roots while preparing to lead in a globalized world.

As ambassadors of our heritage, it is our responsibility to pass on our stories—stories of migration, resilience, achievement, and growth. Each of us carries family histories, memories of struggle, and moments of pride. These are not just personal—they are part of a collective identity that should be shared with the next generation.

As we continue this journey, let us be inspired by the words of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk:

**"Öğretmenler! Yeni nesil sizin eseriniz olacaktır."
("Teachers! The new generation will be your masterpiece.")**

Atatürk believed in the power of education, science, and cultural pride to shape a modern, just, and enlightened society. He saw teachers not just as educators, but as builders of the nation's future. In the same spirit, we too must take on the role of guides and mentors—helping our youth think critically, act ethically, and lead with compassion.

As secular, forward-thinking members of the Turkish American community, we all have a role to play. Let us know our history, celebrate our culture, engage in community life, and most importantly, support our youth. Let us share our experiences, tell our stories, and invite others to take part in our cultural journey.

Each event, every festival, every conversation is a chance to strengthen our bonds and carry our proud heritage into the future. Let's make the most of these opportunities.



Our youth are energetic, hopeful, and looking into the future. But most of the time the future is a bit of an unknown to young people. It seems like it is impossible to see what will happen in 10, 20, 30, 40 years. Even more important, a question that is not asked, "Who will I be in 20, 30, 40 years?" Because we are not the same person decades later.

Luckily, these are not unknown. Younger generations can get a lot of information by speaking with the people from the future! We have the technology to do that! All you need is a telephone or a car or even to walk to contact these people that have come from the future! They not only know a about the future but know who you are, from inside out! They know your genes, because they have your genes!

You may start guessing, yes, these people from the future are your parents, your grandparents, your relatives. These people know your abilities. They have lived with your genes for decades so they know who you will be in 10, 20, 30, 40 years. They know what your energy levels will be like, your psychology, the decisions you have to make.

Talking with elders was practiced in every culture for many millennia. People gathered around fires in the evenings and listened to stories. These stories were about events that people had lived through and which the younger generations will live through also. Unfortunately, now most of us live far away from parents and grandparents. To make separations worse, there are very powerful distractions that take away from these very valuable interactions.



We can compensate by reading books and articles and participating in cultural events that help us remember what has happened to the generations before us. Knowing what has been done in the past helps build a strategy towards when we are confronted with the same problems. We need to build our network. Learn from the past, prepare for the future and build our strength!





Let us honor the heroes of our independence war by carrying forward their legacy of courage, sacrifice, and unwavering love for freedom—lest we forget the price they paid for the liberty we cherish today.



During the Turkish War of Independence, many women played crucial roles, both in combat and behind the scenes, often overlooked in traditional historical accounts. Prominent figures include **Halide Edip Adivar**, known for her political activism and writing, and **Fatma Seher Erden**, nicknamed "**Kara Fatma**," who led a military unit. Other notable women include **Şerife Bacı**, **Nezahat Onbaşı**, and **Halime Çavuş**, who all actively participated in the war effort.



Reşat Çiğiltepe, commander of the 57th Division, committed suicide on the second day of the Great Offensive after failing to fulfill his order to retake Çiğiltepe within the timeframe promised to Commander-in-Chief Marshal Gazi Mustafa Kemal Pasha. He was posthumously honored with the Medal of Independence with a red ribbon. President of Türkiye Mustafa Kemal Atatürk bestowed the surname "**Çiğiltepe**" upon his family.

Last week, we celebrated the victory that the young Turkish Republic achieved against the heavily supported Greek army, marking the end of the Greek military presence in Anatolia. The date was August 30, 1922. It led to the establishment of Türkiye's current borders and was followed by many reforms that catapulted Türkiye into a modern and prosperous country.

But this was not the only battle that is worth mentioning. There were many battles where the Turkish people fought heroically against overwhelming odds and held the enemy. Such one battle was fought in Antep!

Antep is a very ancient settlement area dating back to the Paleolithic period. Its location is at the crossroads of well-travelled trade routes and was a prized target again during WWI. At the end of WWI, British armies moved into the City in December 17, 1918, but after almost a year they left the city to the French army according to the agreement between France and England on November 5, 1919. The French army also had Armenian troops fighting under their command. The Armenian atrocities and massacres that followed the takeover led to a strong uprising in the city. The city's people, without significant army support, fought a 10-month urban resistance against the occupation from April 1, 1920, to February 7, 1921. Antep had about 1500-armed people whereas French troops were 20,000 and Armenian troops were 1500. In recognition of this sacrifice Atatürk and the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye awarded the city the title "Gazi" and the city is known as Gaziantep (Veteran Antep) since.

Atatürk personally praised the city as "a monument of patriotism" and often cited its defense as an example of Turkish resolve. Atatürk's strategy in battle was not to defend a battle line, as was the tradition of war during WWI, but to defend the whole country. This strategy empowered every person, man, woman, child, to participate in any way they could. A great example to remind all of us that we should all be involved against any threat and do everything we can to achieve sustainable peace.



Dr. Nilufer Esen Bilgin
ATAA Past President

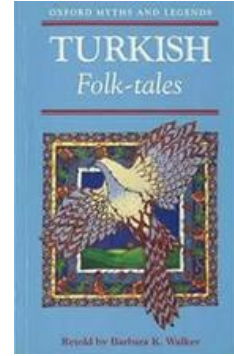
Türk Öyküleri Sandığı **The largest Turkish Oral Narrative** **Outside of Türkiye is in Texas**

The Uysal-Walker Archive of Turkish Oral Narrative (U-W ATON) is one of the most important collections of Turkish oral literature outside of Türkiye. Housed at Texas Tech University, this archive preserves a vast range of oral traditions—including folktales, epics, legends, and anecdotes—that were collected primarily in the 1960s and 1970s from Turkish storytellers.

The archive was founded by Dr. Warren S. Walker (1920–2002), a folklorist, in collaboration with Dr. Ahmet Edip Uysal (1938–1997), a Turkish scholar from Ankara University. In the early 1960s, Dr. Walker who held a Ph.D. in English from Cornell University visited Türkiye on a U.S. Fulbright Grant to conduct research. During this period, he and his wife, Barbara K. Walker (M.A. in English), met Prof. Uysal. Together, they embarked on a project to document and preserve the rich oral storytelling heritage of Anatolia to protect them from the realm of the unknown. During subsequent summer visits by Walkers to the Turkish Republic, Barbara Walker also began audio-taping narratives. Their collaboration produced thousands of recordings, transcriptions, and translations of oral narratives, capturing the voices of local storytellers and reflecting the remarkable diversity of Turkish culture. The collection that is particularly valuable because it represents not only the tales themselves but also the **cultural and social contexts** in which they were told was donated by three of them to the Texas Tech University in 1980 to provide a permanent home for the collection. Many of the stories carry traces of pre-Islamic Turkic traditions, Islamic influences, and local folklore, offering researchers unique insights into the intersections of religion, history, and identity in Turkey.

You can find more at their website: <https://swco-ir.tdl.org/communities/73d85258-5c2f-4bb7-901a-fb5da9628605>

As ATAA is working on initiatives to support acceptance of Turkish Language as the UNESCO cultural hermitage, here is some very important facts about extensive studies completed, resorted and published to preserve Turkish Oral Narratives.



Today, the U-W ATON remains a vital resource for scholars of folklore, anthropology, linguistics, and Middle Eastern studies. By digitizing and making these narratives accessible, Texas Tech has ensured that this archive continues to serve as a bridge between generations—preserving Turkey’s oral heritage while providing a foundation for future research. Scholarly significance of the archive lies not only in the breadth of its materials but also in the cultural insights it offers. Turkish oral narratives are layered with influences from pre-Islamic Turkic mythologies, Islamic storytelling traditions, and regional folklore, making them a fertile ground for the study of cultural hybridity, identity formation, and narrative structures. The U-W ATON has therefore become a valuable resource for researchers across multiple disciplines, including folklore studies, anthropology, linguistics, Middle Eastern studies, and comparative literature.

In recent years, digitization efforts have expanded access to the archive, enabling broader scholarly engagement and ensuring the preservation of these materials for future generations. The U-W ATON continues to stand as both a scholarly resource and a cultural bridge, safeguarding the oral traditions of Türkiye while facilitating cross-cultural and interdisciplinary research.



ATAA and TAVPA Leaders attended “The Kilim Speaks” Art Exhibit by Vasfiye Àbderafi, Crimean Tatar heritage of Crimea, Ukraine on August 29, 2025.

Attendees, left to right: Aylin Gomez, TAVPA Treasurer; Vasfiye Àbderafi, Artist; Pelin Hoskan, TAVPA Co-President; Alev Wieland, ATAA President & TAVPA Trustee; Hatice Nur Gurel, TAVPA visual Arts Director; Prof. Dr. Başak Gemi, sociologist.



HOLD THE DATE!

ATAA's 2026 Annual Conference will be in Dallas, TX

May 1-2, 2026

We are planning educational, cultural and fun activities

Hope to see you all!!



Dr. Nilufer Esen Bilgin
ATAA Advocacy Committee Chair
ATAA Past President

The Future of Turkish Language Programs in the U.S.

On July 20, 2025, the Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA) hosted a timely and important webinar: “Challenges Confronting Turkish Studies Programs: Impacts and Proactive Solutions.” The program brought together distinguished experts to examine the state of Turkish language education in the United States and explore strategies for sustaining and strengthening these programs. The webinar was moderated by the ATAA past president Dr. Nilüfer Esen-Bilgin who provided guiding insights and ensured a robust and solution-focused discussion.

The distinguished panelists Prof. Sylvia Wing Önder (Head of the Turkish Program, Georgetown University), Saadet Ebru Ergül (President, American Association of Teachers of Turkic Languages (AATT); Special Language Program Coordinator, Stanford University), and Feride Hatiboğlu (Coordinator, Turkish Language Program, University of Pennsylvania) brought a unique perspective—from Georgetown’s program development to Stanford’s LCTL infrastructure and Penn’s curricular coordination—offering a multifaceted understanding of the landscape.

Key Issues Discussed

The state of Turkish language programs in U.S. universities and their vital role in promoting cultural understanding.

Challenges ahead, including shrinking federal and institutional support, enrollment pressures, and staffing concerns.

Proactive solutions, such as developing stronger academic networks, leveraging grants, building community partnerships, and advocating with policymakers.

Takeaways

Collaboration is key: Stronger ties among universities, professional associations, and community organizations are essential.



Advocacy matters: Community voices must be active in ensuring Turkish and other less-commonly-taught languages receive fair support.

Sustainability requires action: Funding, outreach, and program innovation will determine the future of Turkish Studies in the U.S.

The full recording of the event can be found at the ATAA YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RksypabTbdo>

The ATAA remains committed to supporting Turkish language education and advocating for policies that protect and expand these essential programs. Together, we can ensure that Turkish language and culture continue to thrive for generations to come.



Dr. Nilufer Esen Bilgin
ATAA Advocacy Committee Chair
ATAA Past President

Why Advocacy is Important?

The Advocacy and Outreach Committee of the Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA) is dedicated to ensuring that the voice of the Turkish American community is heard in the United States. Its mission is to educate, engage, and empower Turkish Americans to participate effectively in civic life, public policy discussions, and democratic institutions. The committee works to promote accurate information, defend the community against misinformation or bias, and strengthen dialogue with elected officials, policymakers, and the broader American public.

Advocacy is essential because public policies, media narratives, and education systems directly affect how communities are represented and treated. For Turkish Americans, advocacy ensures:

- **Fair Representation:** Without active civic participation, the concerns of the Turkish American community may be overlooked in policy decisions.
- **Accurate Information:** Advocacy counters misinformation and stereotypes, helping to promote a more balanced understanding of Türkiye, Turkish Americans, and related issues.
- **Community Empowerment:** By engaging in advocacy, Turkish Americans learn to influence the democratic process, build coalitions, and amplify their impact.
- **Preservation of Heritage:** Advocacy also promotes cultural and language programs, ensuring that future generations of Turkish Americans stay connected to their heritage while contributing fully to American society.

Why Turkish Advocacy Matters in the U.S.A.?

The United States is a diverse democracy where organized voices shape policy outcomes. For the Turkish American community, effective advocacy:

- Builds visibility and influence at local, state, and national levels.
- Protects the community from biased narratives in politics, media, and academia.
- Strengthens U.S.–Türkiye relations by providing first-hand perspectives from Turkish Americans.
- Ensures the community contributes to America's multicultural fabric while preserving its unique heritage.

In short, **Turkish American advocacy is not just about defending the interests of one community—it is about engaging responsibly in American democracy, contributing to a more accurate and inclusive public discourse, and ensuring that Turkish Americans have a seat at the table where decisions are made.**

Therefore, ATAA as an umbrella organization serves as the united voice of its component associations, which may be limited in taking action due to their organizational status. This makes it all the more important to support ATAA and its advocacy efforts.

Let's make sure we are voting at local and national elections, stay informed about important issues relates to Turkish community and take action!



Turkish Coffee: Türkiye's Gastrodiplomacy Power

A culture doesn't exist solely within a nation's inner world; it's a shared and exportable force internationally. Cultural exports build bridges of understanding, tolerance, and interaction between countries. Turkish coffee, with its historical and cultural context, is one of the most effective tools for building these bridges. Combined with our hospitality, our coffee best represents Türkiye in international markets. While a cup of coffee may seem very simple, it's a powerful tool that has brought people together, deepened conversations, and brought cultures closer together for centuries. Drinking coffee is more than just a habit; it stands out as a ritual, fostering cultural interactions and intimate relationships. With its 500-year tradition, Turkish coffee is a powerful cultural tool for both preserving our cultural heritage and representing Turkey as it deserves in major markets like the United States.

Our Cultural Beverage: Value-Added Economic Power

Today, the path to the heart of the world lies not only through the cuisine but also through coffee. America is one of the world's largest coffee consumers, consuming approximately 400 million cups daily. The market is estimated to be approximately \$150 billion. With approximately 35,000 coffee shops, 3 out of 4 Americans consume coffee. \$4 billion worth of coffee is imported annually, while industry trends are shifting towards creative and boutique concepts.

Post-pandemic, Americans now prefer coffees that are more exotic, have a story, and offer a cultural experience. Personalized, authentic presentations are replacing coffee served in paper cups; Turkish coffee, by capturing this trend, can both increase its market share and contribute to cultural tourism. Post-pandemic, Americans now prefer coffees that are more exotic, have a story, and offer a cultural experience.

Personalized, authentic presentations are replacing coffee served in paper cups; Turkish coffee, by capturing this trend, can both increase its market share and contribute to cultural tourism. Experiences offered through crafted coffee drinks and gourmet menus support consumers' emotional purchasing decisions. According to the 69th National Coffee Drinking Trends 2025 report, there are many emerging market opportunities in the areas of personalized coffees, e-commerce, memberships and brand storytelling.

Bringing a 500-Year-Old Tradition to the Modern World

Turkish coffee is more than just a beverage; it is a unique ambassador of hospitality, sharing, and our history. Its recognition as an Intangible Cultural Heritage by UNESCO demonstrates its profound cultural significance to the entire world. The importance of promoting Turkish coffee and gastronomy, a powerful language of communication within the Turkish diaspora, is growing daily.

Starting in Mardin, offering experiences with local coffees, organizing tours of the first coffeehouses in history in Gaziantep, and presenting the history of coffee in palace kitchens in Istanbul could attract the attention of American tourists with strong financial means. As Turkish Coffee Lady, we have been promoting this national cultural heritage in the United States, Canada, and Europe for the past 16 years with our "Mobile Turkish Coffee Truck." In collaboration with the Turkish Coffee Lady Foundation and ATAA, we have also successfully secured the official recognition of December 5th World Turkish Coffee Day by local municipalities in Washington, DC, New York, Michigan, Florida, North Carolina, and Virginia. Now, with artificial intelligence studies, we are transforming this ancient tradition into a bridge that offers health, mental clarity, and cultural experience in the modern world.



Coffee Wellness: From Tradition to Modern Health

In today's world, coffee is no longer just a beverage; it stands out as an experience that supports mental and spiritual well-being. As Turkish Coffee Lady, we conduct "coffee wellness" initiatives that combine our cultural heritage with a modern approach. Every cup of Turkish coffee offers a moment of meditation with its ritual, an opportunity to connect with conversation, and an experience that awakens the senses with its aroma.

Our AI-powered coffee wellness platform, "Coffee Sayer AI," transforms coffee drinking into a mindfulness practice by offering personalized suggestions and rituals. American consumers are beginning to experience not only the taste of coffee but also a cultural and emotional experience. This approach elevates Turkish coffee to the forefront of the modern world, combining tradition with innovation.

Coffee Sayer: The "Kahvedaş" Approach

Especially after the pandemic, people have become more aware of healthy eating and emotional empowerment. Every cup of coffee nourishes not only the palate but also the heart and mind. The slow brewing, the consistency of its foam, and its ritualistic presentation create a stage where conversations and bonds are born. Every sip carries the subtleties of our culture and the warmth of our hospitality. The **Kahvewellness™** approach we developed with Coffee Sayer transforms traditional coffee rituals into a modern healing experience. Designed for women, this experience offers inner balance, mindfulness, and emotional resilience. Enriched with a fortune-telling ritual, meaningful conversation, and cultural presentations, each cup allows the individual to reconnect with themselves.

Coffee Sayer means "kahvedaş." It represents a concept that sees a cup of coffee not merely as a beverage but as an expression of emotions, intentions, and ancient wisdom. Inspired by the tradition of Turkish coffee fortune-telling, this approach transforms each cup into a journey of inner discovery.

For more information you can contact us:

[@turkishcoffeelady](#) | [@coffeesayer](#)



About the author:

Gizem White, who served as ATAA VP Capital Region from 2013 to 2015, is the founder of Turkish Coffee Lady, an award-winning cultural ambassador, and an exemplary female entrepreneur. For 16 years, she has promoted Turkish coffee culture in the United States, Canada, and Europe, offering Turkish coffee for the first time to over 60,000 people abroad. She became known as the "Turkish Coffee Lady" after her cultural work was extensively featured in the September 18, 2012, issue of the leading newspaper, the Washington Post. In 2026, White was selected as Turkey's Most Successful Young Person in the field of "culture" by JCI and was listed among Turk of America magazine's "Most Influential Turkish Americans." In 2022, she won Virginia's Success Story Award. In 2020, she founded the 501(c)(3) Turkish Coffee Lady Foundation and is known for its international projects supporting women's empowerment and its initiatives building intercultural bridges.



Turkish American Association of North Texas (TURANT) (Formerly known as Dallas Turkish American Association) – 50th year Anniversary

In greater Dallas, TX area there were fairly large group of Turks who came to the region for higher education, living and socializing among themselves. Some of the active group consisted of Dr. Ayten McClellan, Hakan and Fatoş Gül, Hacer Seyfi Dogan, Tony- Bayram Songür, Pierre Şükrü, Zafer Durten, Aydın ve Barbara Gözberk, Kazım Aydar, Kerim Sayan, Oya İmren, Bayram and Ahmet Sungur, Betil Bayraktaroglu, Inci Reynolds.

In 1975, first election was held and Kerim Sayan, Professor in Bishop College was chosen the President, Kazım Aydar was treasurer, Dallas Turkish American Association, now TURANT was formally formed. Second President was Inci Reynolds. Founding members, Fatoş Gül, Kutsi Onur, Inci Yavuz Tepecik, Ali Doğru, Levent Bayraktaroglu, Muzaffer Tema, Inci Schneider also took leadership roles and served on the board.

First year, with the help of Hakan Gül and Carol Cleef formed the Folk Group, mostly danced Spit Anadolu dances. TURANT proclaimed for the first time in Dallas the 24th of April as International Children's Day by Annette Straus the Dallas Mayor. Fatoş Gül started the school for the Turkish children where they learned Turkish, Turkish history and Turkish heritage. After establishment of ATAA, TURANT became an active member and participated in Annual Conventions.



In 1983, during presidency of Levent Bayraktaroglu Dallas Turkish American Association started to publish a monthly magazine called 'Sohbet'. Levent Bayraktaroglu and Hasan Osmanoglu were editors. Betil Bayraktaroglu and Inci Reynolds were contributing editors.

TURANT's current leaders are:

- President - Dr. Hatice Gonca Usta
- Vice President - Huricihan Taskonak
- Secretary - Secretary – Nimet Kara
- Treasurer – Ipek Imren Rudd
- Membership – Aylin Mubarek Gomez
- Trustees – Alev Wieland, Naci Kavrar, Erdal Sipahi

Since 1975, Dallas Turkish American Association - now Turkish American Association of North Texas (TURANT) came a long way in 50 year! Thanks to all the hard working, dedicated Turkish Community members and leaders from the first day of establishment to now!

Congratulations to TURANT Community, we wish you better and brighter future!





Retirement Congratulations!



We warmly congratulate our dear friend **Yücel Burdurlu** on her well-deserved retirement! Her journey has been inspiring—beginning with her studies in chemistry at Hacettepe University in Ankara and graduate work at California State University, Long Beach. She went on to build an accomplished career in research chemistry, contributing greatly to applied and theoretical research on coatings and raw materials. Yücel spent most of her career at ICI Paints North America’s Strongsville Research Center, where she collaborated with international teams in the UK, France, and Brazil, before finishing her professional path at True Value Manufacturing in Cary, Illinois.

In addition to her professional accomplishments, Yücel has been a dedicated leader and volunteer in our community. She has served ATAA in many important roles—including Secretary of the BOD, Membership Committee Chair, UN Committee Co-Chair, Midwest Region VP, and active member of the Newsletter, Music, and Visual Arts Committees. Her contributions have left a lasting impact, and her passion and energy continue to inspire all of us.

As she steps into this exciting new chapter of life, we celebrate her years of hard work, dedication, and service. May her retirement be filled with relaxation, travel, new adventures, and plenty of time for the things she loves. We wish Yücel good health, happiness, and endless joy in the years ahead!



Date: Sunday, September 7, 2025
Time: 1:00pm- 6:00 pm
Host: Dr. Fatma Gül
Location: Lake Texoma Pottsboro, TX
Please Donate for education of girls - \$25.00

Please join us for a day of fun, food, and fellowship at COEDFO’s Annual Fundraising Picnic! This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with family and friends, support a great cause, and enjoy the beautiful lake setting.



Dallas Welcomes First-Ever Turkish Film Festival

The Turkish American Visual and Performing Arts (TAVPA) proudly presents the inaugural Dallas Turkish Film Festival (DTFF), introducing Dallas audiences to the vibrancy of Turkish culture.

This year’s program features two outstanding films: one from Turkey’s acclaimed filmmakers and a documentary that explores themes closely connected to Turkey. Together, they offer a unique window into the cultural richness and diverse stories shaping the Turkish experience. DTFF seeks to build cultural bridges, foster dialogue, and celebrate the power of film as a universal language..





CUMHURİYET BALOSU



Türkiye Cumhuriyeti Balo (Republic Ball)

 Sun, Oct 26th, 2025
6:00 PM - 10:00 PM EDT

 Hunter's Green Country Club
Tampa, FL

5 Years

NEGATIVE SAYKOLAR

SAVE THE DATE



TURANT CUMHURİYET BALOSU
1 KASIM 2025
The Clubs of Prestonwood-Dallas

American Turkish Association of NC



Help us Grow and Thrive!

The American Turkish Association of North Carolina (ATA-NC) is an all-volunteer non-profit organization dedicated to celebrating Turkish culture and fostering community support in the Triangle. To continue our mission, we need your help!



Ways You Can Help ATA-NC

- Volunteer Your Time:** Assist with events, programs, or outreach. Every hour helps!
- Become a Member:** Your membership funds our activities and expands our reach.
- Spread the Word:** Share ATA-NC with your network to strengthen our community.
- Volunteer Your Expertise:** Whether organizing events, leading workshops, or aiding outreach, your expertise can make a real difference.
- Donate:** Financial contributions allow us to grow and enhance our services.

Your support is crucial for our success.

Interested in helping? Reach out to us today!

Website: www.ata-nc.org
Email: atancary@gmail.com
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/5792057525/>
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/atanc.org/>



Become a member





JOIN US CELEBRATING

30 AUGUST VICTORY DAY

AND

FAREWELL TO SUMMER PICNIC

Farewell to Summer with a Delightful Potluck Picnic and celebrate 30 August GREAT VICTORY DAY!



SUNDAY, AUGUST 24TH
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM
TACAM CULTURAL CENTER
28847 BECK RD, WIXOM
48393

Bring your enthusiasm, and let's celebrate together!





Annual Turkish Festival in Washington DC

Organized by: ATA-DC

Sunday, October 19th 2025

11:00 AM ET - 6:30 PM ET

Location: Pennsylvania Avenue between 3rd and 6th Streets NW

Preparations are underway for the annual Washington DC Turkish Festival, returning this fall to the heart of the nation's capital. Organized by ATA-DC, the festival will once again transform the city into a lively celebration of Turkish culture, cuisine, music, and art.

This year's festival promises a rich program filled with authentic experiences. Applications for food vendors and bazaar exhibitors are now open, offering a unique opportunity for local businesses, artisans, and culinary experts to showcase their talents to thousands of attendees. From sizzling kebabs to handmade jewelry and traditional crafts, the marketplace is expected to be a feast for all senses.

On stage, the audience will be treated to a colorful lineup of folk dances, musical performances, and cultural showcases. The highlight of the program will be a special performance by Necati and Saykolar, the renowned band from Türkiye, known for their electrifying fusion of rock and Anatolian sounds.



Join us for the 2nd Annual Turkish Festival in San Francisco!

September 27-28, 2025

After the incredible success of last year's celebration —with over 3,000 attendees, 35 vibrant vendors, unforgettable music and dance, and mouthwatering Turkish cuisine— we're excited to return with an even bigger event!

This year's two-day festival will take place in the heart of San Francisco, showcasing the rich culture and hospitality of Türkiye.

Vendor applications open on NOW — space is limited, so don't miss your chance to be part of this fantastic experience!

Follow us on Instagram @calturks for the latest updates.



September 27-28, 2025 **EMBARCADERO PLAZA**
 Saturday-Sunday 11:00 am-6:00 pm Market St & Steuart St, San Francisco
www.turkfestsf.org





TACA WA

VICTORY DAY PICNIC
GRASS LAWN PARK
PICNIC SHELTER

30 AUG | **05 - 08**
SATURDAY | **PM** | **PM**

Highlights

- ✔ Live Music
- ✔ Soccer Clinic for kids 7-12
- ✔ Arts Activities for kids 4-7
- ✔ Pizza from Numero Uno
- ✔ Basketball Clinic for teens

October 29th Republic Day

We're coming together to celebrate the 102nd Anniversary of the Turkish Republic — with delicious food, community, and live music.

Westin Edina Galleria
 Saturday, October 25
 7:00 PM - 12:00 PM

After dinner, enjoy a special live concert by Necati ve Saykolar!

TACA WA, Turkish American Cultural Association of Washington invites you to the August 30th Picnic at Grasslawn Park (5-8 pm)



WELCOME POTLUCK AT THE LAKE!

Hey friends! 🌸

We're kicking off the new season with a cozy potluck picnic — a chance to meet new people, share food, and just hang out together by the water.

Minnetonka Lake
 Saturday, September 14
 1:00 - 3:00 PM



The Turkish American Association of Minnesota (TAAM) Folk Dance Group brought Turkish culture to life, performing at various events throughout the summer and captivating audiences.



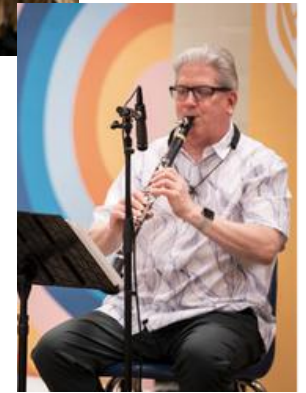


TAAM's own Publicity Chair, Lara Akal, was a big star in a local production of Disney's *The Little Mermaid the Musical* in the role of Ariel !!!

July 11-13, 17, 19-20, 2025 at Masquers Theater, Forest Lake MN



TAAM members are bursting with pride and congratulations for our 2016 First Prize Winner, Evren Ozel, upon achieving both 3rd Prize AND the Mozart Concerto Award at the 2025 Van Cliburn International Piano Competition! June 8, 2025.



Güvenç and Burk Orchestra had a fun and educational program with the kids at Washington Elementary SACC for another Passport Music Session. Presented by Rochester Public Music, Rochester MN on July 31st.



It is Annual Enrollment Time at Turkish Schools

We are excited to inform everyone about many Turkish schools in the United State.

Some of these schools offer classes on line.

If you do not have a school in your area, check these schools out.

ATASC-SAN DIEGO TURKISH SCHOOL		
ATASC-SD TURKISH SCHOOL 2025-2026 CALENDAR		
SEPTEMBER 2025	OCTOBER 2025	NOVEMBER 2025
Sunday, 7 th (First Day of School) Sunday, 21 st	Sunday, 5 th Sunday, 19 th (Republic Day)	Sunday, 9 th (Commemoration of Atatürk) Sunday, 16 th Sunday, 30 th
DECEMBER 2025	JANUARY 2026	FEBRUARY 2026
Sunday, 7 th (Teacher's Day)	Sunday, 11 th Sunday, 25 th	Sunday, 8 th Sunday, 22 nd
MARCH 2026	APRIL 2026	MAY 2026
Sunday, 1 st Sunday, 15 th Sunday, 22 nd	Sunday, 5 th Saturday, 18 th (National Sovereignty and Children's Day)	Sunday, 3 rd Sunday, 17 th (Youth and Sports Day) Sunday, 31 st (Last Day of School)

LATAA TURKISH SCHOOL 2025-2026 ACADEMIC CALENDAR		
Sep	Oct	Nov
September 7 September 14 September 21 September 28	October 5 October 12 October 26 (Republic Day Celebration)	November 9 (Commemoration Day Of Atatürk) November 16 November 23
Dec	Jan	Feb
December 7	January 11 Jan 18 January 25	February 1 February 8 February 15 February 22
Mar	Apr	May
March 1 March 8 March 15 March 29	April 12 April 19 (National Sovereignty and Children's Day)	May 3 May 17 (Youth and Sports Day) May 31
June		
June 7		

IMPORTANT DATES

Welcome Back Party and First Day of School: September 7
 October 26: Republic Day Celebration
 November 9: Commemoration Day of Atatürk
 December 10: World Turkish Coffee Day
 February 20: Valentine's Day
 March 10: Spring Semester Begins
 April 19: National Sovereignty and Children's Day
 May 15: Commemoration of Atatürk, Youth and Sports Day
 May 21: Turkish Culture Week
 November 27: Thanksgiving (No School)
 December 14, 21, 28 and Jan 4: Winter Break (No School)
 April 2: Spring Break (No School)
 June 7: Last Day of School and Farewell Party

THE ATA-DC ATATÜRK SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN

2025 - 2026
School Enrollment OPEN
CLASSES START SEPT 7, 2025

ATA-DC Atatürk School For Children
Teaching Turkish language & culture since 1980.
2025-2026 School Year (28 weeks)
Register by **Sept 1, 2025**
First Day: Sept 7, 2025
Last Day: May 3, 2026

REGISTER NOW

www.atadc.org/school
Questions? school@atadc.org



“Turks Without Borders” project, operating under TACAWA, working with teachers in schools in Türkiye which makes it possible face-to-face meetings among students by using today’s technologies. Through this project, Turkish students who live in the United States get together with students who live in Türkiye on the Internet to chat in English. The talking points, which are determined beforehand, are pretty fun: video games, idioms, aliens, TV shows and movies...

To get more information on this project:

<http://www.turkswithoutborders.net/>





TACA Atatürk School

Please see the program details for kids and Adult Turkish classes below:
 1st Semester – September 8, 2019 – December 22, 2019 (total of 16 weeks)
 2nd Semester – February 16, 2020 – May 31, 2020 (total of 16 weeks)

Classes are held between 9:30 am – 1:30 pm every Sunday

1st & 2nd Grade: \$125 (members) – \$200 (non-members) per semester.

Preschool: \$125 (members) – \$200 (non-members) per semester.

2nd sibling tuition: \$75 (members) – \$200 (non-members) per semester

ORANGE COUNTY TURKISH SCHOOL

2025-2026 CLASS SCHEDULE

Sep 14	Nov 9
Sep 28	Nov 23
Oct 12	Dec 7
Oct 26	Dec 14

The Turkish School of Connecticut																					
2025-2026 School Calendar																					
August 2025						September 2025						October 2025									
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4	5	6	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	26	27	28	29	30	31		
31							28	29	30												
November 2025						December 2025						January 2026									
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	1	2	3	4	5	6	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
30							28	29	30	31											
February 2026						March 2026						April 2026									
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
							22	23	24	25	26	27	28	26	27	28	29	30			
							29	30	31												
May 2026						June 2026						July 2026									
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
							28	29	30				26	27	28	29	30	31			

■ No Class Event
■ Class
○ First and Last Day of School

Oct 26	Republic Turkey Event	Apr 12	Spring Break - No Class
Dec 21	Winter Break - No Class	May 10	Mother's Day - No Class
Dec 28	Winter Break - No Class	May 17	Last Day of Class
Feb 15	Winter Break - No Class	May 24	Kurban Bayram - End of School Picnic
Mar 22	Seker Bayram Event		

NY ATATÜRK SCHOOL

2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR

ADMISSION

Enrollment is now open

Early Bird Advantage ends August 30

- 55 Years Strong
- The First Turkish School in the US.
- Online or In-Person Learning

ATATÜRK OKULU

1971

NEW YORK

Eleanor Roosevelt High School
411 E 7th Street, 10023, New York

Phone Number (516) 234 5015
 For More Information www.ataturkschool.org

Turkish School of Connecticut will be open on September 14th at 99 East River Dr in East Hartford, Connecticut, from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM.

2025-2026 School Calendar:





OKULUMUZ 27 EYLÜL'DE AÇILIYOR!

**New York
Cumhuriyet Okulu**

Atamızın ilkeleri Işığında Türkçe Eğitimi

- Türkçe Eğitiminde New York'un En Deneyimli Okulu
- Seçmeli Halk Dansları, Bando Takımı ve Okul Korosu Dersleri
- Türkçe Müzik ve Görsel Sanatlar Dersleri
- HyFlex Eğitim Sistemi

"Türk dili, milletin kalbidir, zihnidir."

K. Atatürk

DAHA FAZLA BİLGİ:

www.cumhuriyetokulu.com +1 917 353 8954

**ATATÜRK'ÜN
MİRASI**



2025-26 ACADEMIC YEAR

Both in-person and also online Turkish classes are available

Tuition per Academic Year

Toddler Class is \$700 and

All other classes are \$880.

Registration fees are refundable within the first two weeks of school.

After the first two weeks of school, fees are non-refundable.

Location:

MIT Building 34, 50 Vassar St, Cambridge, MA 02139
on 3rd Floor

**MKA TURKISH SCHOOL
NEW JERSEY**

ERKEN KAYIT BAŞLIYOR!

MKA Turkish School
2025-2026 Eğitim Öğretim yılı erken kayıt dönemi
7 Haziran 2025 Cumartesi başlayarak
31 Temmuz 2025 Perşembe günü sona erecektir.
Türkçe, Tarih, Türk Sanatları, Türk Marşları,
Sosyal Sorumluluk Projeleri ve Milli Bayram kutlamaları ile dopdolu yeni
eğitim öğretim yılımızda
buluşmak dileğiyle.

1. Dönem: \$800
4 EKİM 2025-31 OCAK 2026

2. Dönem: \$800
14 ŞUBAT 2026- 6 HAZİRAN 2026
Kardeş indirim: 5%

10 AM-2 PM

Okul ücretine
öğle yemeği ve atıştırmalıklar dahildir.

www.mkaturkishschool.com
Zelle ve info: (908)565-4058
: info@mkaturkishschool.com



Turkish Program

Turkish Group and private classes, offered both online and in-person, taught by expert Turkish language teachers, following a rigorous, structured, and well-honed curriculum, guaranteeing to improve your Turkish language skills quickly.

[Book Free Trial](#)

[Turkish Learning Resources >](#)

[Kids' Program](#)



Saadet Ebru Ergul
 President, American
 Association of Teachers of
 Turkic Languages (AATT)

The study of Turkish in the United States is more than an academic pursuit—it is a strategic necessity. As a critical language, Turkish provides access to a nation that is a NATO ally, a key player in regional diplomacy, and a cultural bridge between East and West.

Turkish language programs empower American students, scholars, and profession

- Engage directly with primary sources
- Communicate with Turkish speakers anywhere.
- Use Turkish to approach the other Turkic languages including Uzbek, Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Tatar, Azerbaijani, Uyghur, and Turkmen
- Address pressing global issues with cultural insight and linguistic precision

At the helm of these efforts, AATT serves as the field's *admiralship*—advocating for high-quality instruction, supporting educators, curating resources, and connecting institutions to ensure the vitality and visibility of Turkish in U.S. education.

The opportunities below demonstrate how national programs, fellowships, and scholarships—guided and amplified by AATT's leadership—serve as lifelines for the future of Turkish studies in the U.S., a future that depends on sustained investment.

Programs That Teach or Support Turkish Outside of University Classrooms

- Title VI FLAS Fellowships: Supports undergraduate and graduate students for summer or academic-year language study in the U.S. or abroad
- ARIT-BU Summer Fellowships for Advanced Turkish
- Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad (GPA): Supports the ARIT-Boğaziçi University Summer Fellowships for Advanced Turkish. Open to undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty for 8-week summer study at Boğaziçi University in Istanbul.

Hosted by the American Research Institute in Turkey – Boğaziçi University (<https://aritweb.org/>)

The Value of Learning and Teaching Turkish in the United States

- About 18 fellowships per year since 1984
- More information: [U.S. Department of Education – Title VI and Fulbright-Hays Programs](#)

Impact:

The ARIT Summer Fellowship Program for Advanced Turkish has had a major impact on the field of Turkish Studies in the United States of America. Graduates of the program form a significant part of the American faculty around the country teaching in the wide range of disciplines that make up the field. It is often the case that a non-native Turkish professor in a field related to Turkish Studies is a graduate of the ARIT-BU Advanced Turkish program, and further that he or she is the only representative of the field at his or her institution.

This means that the program has had an enormous impact on the training and careers of specialists in Turkish Studies and related topics such as Ottoman and Turkish History, Religious Studies, Art and Art History, Political Science, Turkic Languages, and Comparative Literature.

At least 12 individuals who have served on the Board of the Ottoman and Turkish Studies Association, including a former president, have been ARIT-BU Fellows. The tradition of former ARIT Fellows encouraging their students to apply to be ARIT Fellows is a definite “multiplier effect” that could be measured formally.

Institutions with stable programs in Turkish produce the most ARIT-BU Fellows, but motivated individuals from places where Turkish is not offered can and do benefit greatly from the program – often ending up pursuing further study in the institutions that provide continuing Turkish instruction. Recently, Americans who are heritage speakers of Turkish and Americans who are planning to work in the Middle East have been awarded ARIT-BU Fellowships from fields such as health care, engineering, environmental studies, business, journalism, global education, and international relations.



Testimonial:

“Educational exchanges and academic programs efficiently and positively shape the mutual understanding of citizens from both countries. The ARIT-BU Summer Fellowship for Advanced Turkish is a perfect match with the Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad Program.” — Michelle Dromgold-Sermen (ARIT-BU Fellow, 2017)

Program Facts (2013–2023):

- 171 Fellows trained
- Participants from 63 institutions (29 public, 27 private, 7 foreign)
- Online double cohort in 2021 across 11 time zones due to COVID-19

U.S. Department of State

- **Critical Language Scholarship (CLS):** Intensive summer study in Ankara through TÖMER

U.S. Department of Defense

- **Boren Awards:** Funding for less commonly taught languages, including Turkish, with a one-year federal service commitment (<https://www.borenawards.org/>)

Other Federal & Private Scholarships

- Gilman Scholarship: ([link](#))
- NSLI for Youth: (<https://www.nsliforyouth.org/>)
- Additional AATT Resources: AATT Student Funding and AATT Student Awards (<https://www.aatturkic.org/awards>)

Other Programs Not Connected to U.S. Government Funding

- **Yunus Emre Institute:** Free Turkish courses in person and online (<https://www.yee.org.tr/en/node/67>)
- Middle East Institute, Washington D.C.: Former Turkish courses, currently paused (<https://www.mei.edu/programs/turkey>)
- **Current State of Turkish & Turkic Language Enrollment in North America** (*AATT 2023–2024 Enrollment Survey*)

Survey Highlights:

- 21 institutions participated (e.g., Harvard U, Stanford U, U of Michigan, UT Austin, Boston U, Indiana U, U of Florida, U Penn, Georgetown U)
- 95% of respondents are AATT members
- 63.5% offer a certificate or minor in Turkish/Turkic

Programs:

- Turkish Studies (Turkish Minor, Language Certificates)
- Middle Eastern Studies (BA/MA/Ph.D.)
- Interdisciplinary Programs (Cultural Studies, IR – Middle East Track)

Courses Offered (2023–2024):

- Turkish I – 433 students (21 universities)
- Turkish II – 187 students (20 universities)
- Turkish III – 112 students (16 universities)
- Ottoman Turkish – 18 students (5 universities)
- Kazakh – 23 students (2 universities)
- Kyrgyz – 4 students (1 university)
- Uzbek – 10 students (1 university)
- Uyghur – 12 students (1 university)

Trends:

- Strong beginner-level enrollment
- Retention drops after intermediate level
- Growing diversity in cultural and interdisciplinary courses

Sustaining and Expanding Turkish Language Education:

Looking Ahead:

Cutting or neglecting funding for Turkish language study risks diminishing America’s ability to understand and engage with one of the most strategically important regions in the world. The study of Turkish in the United States is more than an academic pursuit—it is a strategic necessity. Turkish language programs empower American students, scholars, and professionals to engage directly with primary sources, collaborate across borders, and address pressing global issues with cultural insight and linguistic precision.

Collective Responsibility:

For a long-lasting and meaningful impact, all sectors of the Turkish language ecosystem—including community organizations, academia, professional associations, private sector partners, and members of the diaspora—must act in concert. By working collectively, these groups can pool resources, share expertise, and ensure that Turkish language education thrives for future generations.



Dr. Selim Erhan
ATAA UN Committee Co-Chair

Help us to continue our critical work by donating today!

DİL KÜLTÜRÜN TAŞIYICISIDIR
Language Carries Cultural Identity

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2025
12:00pm ET, 11:00am CT, 9:00am PT, 19:00 TR

ONLINE REGISTRATION www.ataa.org



ATAA STEAM Program help us to continue our enable our young capable Turkish American students to reach their potential.



Trees are essential for both people and the environment. They enhance air quality, carbon sequestering, energy conservation, water sustainability, reduction of storm water runoff and erosion, increase water quality, provide noise reduction, serve as wildlife habitat.

In Support of language as the Cultural Heritage“<https://ich.unesco.org/en/convention>”

Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA),
Turkish Women League of America (TWLA), and
Empowering the Turkish American Community (ETAC-USA)

Jointly Present a Webinar on

“Dil Kültürün Taşıyıcısıdır
(Language Carries Cultural Identity)”

Sunday, September 7, 2025
12:00pm ET, 11:00am CT, 9:00am PT, 19:00 TR

Online Registration:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_mksGGtdLQ1OkQJ3VVA4VFQ

When you are registering, please select choice of your language you would like to participate with Turkish or English. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Language: Turkish & English (Interpreters will be available)



This Turkish/English e-Book is designed and published to educate our children about peace, friendship, respect, diversity, honesty, love, and environment.





Yeşim Yüksel
Founding President,
Çeşme Agricultural Development Cooperative

Help us to continue our critical work by donating today!

On the Trail of the Olives: Olive Cultivation and Cultural Heritage in Türkiye

The salty Mediterranean winds, the scent of purple thymes, and lush green hills that meet the sea... Türkiye is home not only to history, tourism, amazing rich kitchen but also to a culture spanning thousands of years: olive culture.

The olives are the lingua franca of Mediterranean, culturally, it symbolizes peace, abundance, wisdom, and endurance, with roots tracing back thousands of years in Mediterranean civilizations. Environmentally, olive trees are resilient and drought-tolerant, helping to combat soil erosion and desertification in arid regions. Economically, they are a cornerstone of livelihoods in many countries, providing olives and olive oil—high-value products central to global agriculture and trade.



The olive tree holds profound significance for people, the environment, and the economy.

These ancient trees are still at the center of life in many parts of Türkiye especially by the Mediterranean sea such as Germiyan, Ildır, Alaçatı, or Ovacık of Cesme peninsula, Milas, Menteşe, Yatağan, Bodrum, and Fethiye are the primary areas in Muğla. Milas is particularly notable, with its olives even earning a Protected Designation of Origin from the European Union. Türkiye has a deep-rooted history with olive trees, with some to be thousands of years old.

Olives and Olive Oil: The Heart of Türkiye's Aegean Cuisine especially around the Mediterranean costliness of the country. In Türkiye, olive cultivation is not only a form of agricultural production; it is also a way of life that sustains the village economy and brings abundance from farm to the table in delicious Aegean cuisine.

Olive cultivation has become one of the most important agricultural activities in our country since the founding of the Republic Mustafa Kemal Atatürk's directives, during a visit to the Yalova region in 1929, to prioritize olive cultivation, initiated a national olive cultivation campaign. The Bornova Olive Research Institute was established in 1937 to conduct research on olive cultivation.

Following Atatürk's instructions, Grafting of Wild Olives begin, the farmers began pruning, fertilizing, maintenance, and irrigation. Again, on Atatürk's orders, a technical specialist named Petrini was brought from Italy. Courses were opened in the olive-growing villages of the Bursa districts to raise awareness among olive farmers. Atatürk personally oversaw these efforts. Farmers who successfully completed the courses were awarded master certificates.

Measures were taken for the rehabilitation, protection and expansion of olive groves with the "Law on the Improvement of Olive Cultivation and Grafting of Wild Olives" numbered 3573, dated 26 January 1939.

We inherited protecting and sustaining Olive Tress from Mustafa Kemal Atatürk.

From supporting rural communities to promoting sustainable farming practices, the olive tree remains a vital natural and economic resource across the world.



ATAA STEAM Program help us to continue our enable our young capable Turkish American students to reach their potential.



Trees are essential for both people and the environment. They enhance air quality, carbon sequestering, energy conservation, water sustainability, reduction of storm water runoff and erosion, increase water quality, provide noise reduction, serve as wildlife habitat.



This Turkish/English e-Book is designed and published to educate our children about peace, friendship, respect, diversity, honesty, love, and environment.



Nilgün Özsoy
ATAA UN Committee



Purslane (semiz otu) is a simple green vegetable from the Mediterranean that many people do not notice. But it is very healthy and easy to use when cooking. Purslane (*Portulaca oleracea*) has a juicy feel and a little lemon taste that is fresh. People in different countries like it a lot. It grows easily in gardens and is cheap to buy at farmers' markets. This makes it a good and healthy choice for many families.

Health Benefits

Omega-3 Power: One of the richest plant sources, supporting heart and brain health.

Vitamins & Minerals: High in vitamin C, vitamin E, magnesium, calcium, potassium, and iron.

Antioxidants: Contains beta-carotene and glutathione, helping to fight oxidative stress.

Cooking with Purslane

Raw: Mix fresh purslane leaves into salads for crunch and zest.

Cooked: Sauté with garlic, add to omelets, or stir into soups and stews.



Featured Recipe: Purslane & Chickpea Salad

2 cups purslane leaves

1 can chickpeas

1 cucumber, 1 tomato, 1/4 cup red onion, parsley, olive oil, lemon juice, salt and pepper

Combine, toss, and serve fresh!

Grow Your Own Purslane

Purslane grows easily in pots or garden beds, needing little care beyond sunshine and occasional water. Community gardens and schools increasingly choose purslane for its resilience and nutritional punch.

Purslane Around the World

From Greek salads and Turkish “Semizotu Salatası” to Mexican stews, purslane features in global cuisines, proving its versatility and appeal.





Alev Wieland

Share your favorite
healthy choice recipes:

president@ataa.org



Ingredients: (Use non-gmo, organic)

- 3 ½ cups water
- ⅔ cup dried elderberries (85g)
- 2 tbs ginger
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 1 tsp whole cloves
- ¼ cup Chaob Molasses
- ¼ cup raw honey
- ¼ cup Apple Cider Vinegar

Tools Needed

- Instant pot pressure cooker
- Cheese cloth
- Quart size Ball jar with lid
- Parchment paper

Preparation:

1. Add all ingredients into instant pot bowl except molasses and honey
2. Place lid on pot and close pressure vent
3. Cook on Pressure Cook 9 minutes at Normal High Pressure
4. Let pressure to cool and drop pressure normally
5. Release pressure
6. Smash berries to release all the goodness
7. Strain mixture using cheese cloth
8. Add molasses and honey
9. Stirring well
10. Pour mixture into a quart ball jar. Place parchment paper over the jar before closing the lid.
11. Store jars in the refrigerator.

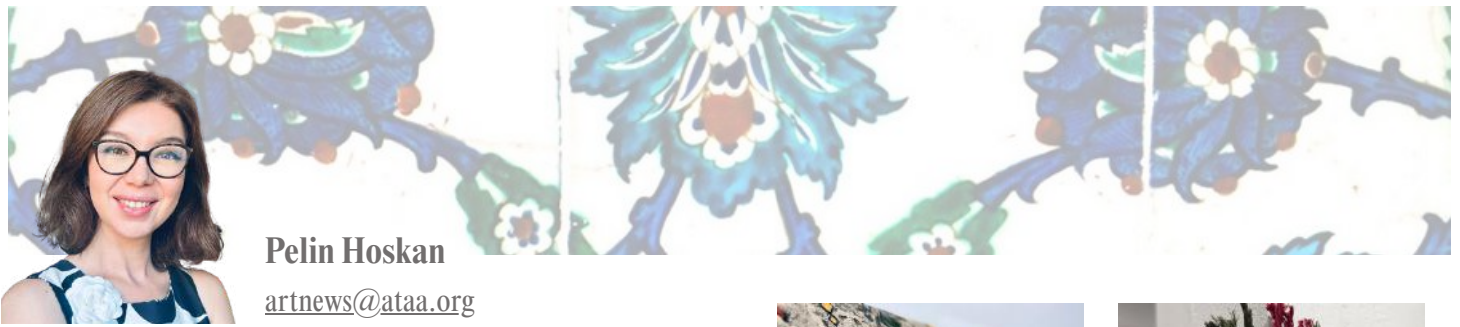
Usage:

Take 1 tbs of syrup 4 times a day for cold, cough, chest congestion.

- Elderberry syrup is known for its powerful immune-boosting properties, helping to reduce the severity and duration of colds and flu.
- Rich in antioxidants and vitamins, especially vitamin C, it supports overall health and fights inflammation.
- Many people also use it as a natural remedy to soothe sore throats and improve respiratory health.
- Regular use during cold seasons may help strengthen the body's natural defenses.

Before you use any natural remedies, make sure you are not allergic to any ingredients, always consult with your Dr.





Pelin Hoskan
artnews@ataa.org

Ceramic Illusions: Vasfie's Contemporary Homage to Anatolian Heritage

Returning from a summer in Istanbul, I found myself unexpectedly drawn into a powerful artistic homecoming—this time, in Dallas. At a recent exhibition, I encountered the remarkable works of ceramic artist Vasfie, whose intricate craftsmanship and cultural storytelling left a lasting impression. Her work forms a compelling bridge between Turkish tradition and its far-reaching artistic influences across Asia and the Balkans.

Before attending the exhibition, I had only glimpsed a few images online and assumed she was working with traditional kilims. But the moment I stepped into the gallery, it became clear that what I was seeing wasn't textile—it was clay. One piece in particular captured my attention: it mimicked the soft folds and drape of a woven kilim, yet it was entirely sculpted from earth. The illusion was so masterfully rendered that I found myself asking: *How is this even possible?*

That moment of wonder wasn't mine alone. Each work in the exhibition quietly challenged its viewers—inviting questions, encouraging close inspection, and sparking reflection. If the aim of contemporary art is to stir curiosity and conversation, then Vasfie's ceramics not only succeed—they resonate. Her pieces are not merely objects; they are tactile stories, contemporary echoes of a cultural lineage deeply rooted in Anatolia.

You can learn more about Vasfie and her artwork—a Crimean Tatar artist born in Kabardino-Balkaria, raised in Ukraine, and now based in Dallas. She warmly welcomes her guests with Turkish coffee and titles her pieces in Turkish, the language she finds most expressive for conveying her emotions.

About the Exhibition

This exhibition is a visual story woven in silence — a space where tradition, memory, and identity are threaded into ceramic form. Like a Kilim, the ancestral woven carpet, each piece holds meaning beyond what is seen.



Sözsüz Hikaye (Wordless Story) invites the viewer to listen with the eyes and feel with the heart, as clay becomes a vessel for what cannot be spoken aloud.

Throughout the work, symbolic motifs emerge — not as decoration, but as carriers of ancestral knowledge, spiritual guardians, and memory keepers. Each line, texture, and symbol speaks of masculinity and femininity, fertility and resilience, and a sacred connection to land, lineage, and spirit. Together, they form a visual language passed down through generations — a silent prayer for survival, healing, and continuity.

About the Artist

This work emerges from a deep well of ancestral memory — rooted in the Crimean Tatar heritage of Crimea, Ukraine.

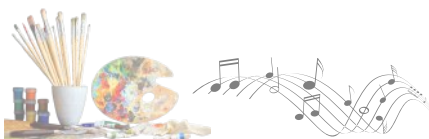
My practice is an act of cultural revival and resistance: a way to honor my lineage and give voice to a tradition nearly silenced by exile and erasure.

Using sgraffito, traditional patterns (Örnek), and hand-built clay forms, I create to remember and to preserve.

Each piece is a quiet act of devotion — a meditative ritual, a dialogue with the past, and an offering to the future.

The clay holds everything: the pain of displacement, the beauty of survival, and the unbreakable threads of identity.

Let the Kilim speak — where words fall away, form remains.



A Chance Encounter with Ballet Royalty: Remembering Tanju Tuzer

Sometimes, the most meaningful stories find us when we least expect them. At Vasfie’s art reception in Dallas—while nursing sore feet and looking for a seat—I stumbled into a moment that brought the past rushing back in the most beautiful way.

More than a decade ago, I had the privilege of visiting the dance school of renowned Turkish ballet dancer Tanju Tuzer. There, I met his graceful wife, Patricia, and was captivated by the black-and-white photographs of the two of them in motion—two icons, frozen in time. Their presence filled the space like music after the curtain call.

Fast forward to this month: during the reception for ceramic artist Vasfie, my high heels finally gave out. I sat down on a nearby bench and accidentally bumped knees with a woman seated beside me. A quick smile, a polite greeting... and then it hit me. As we shook hands, I suddenly remembered her face. With sheer joy, I exclaimed, “You’re Tanju Tuzer’s wife!”

Without hesitation, I gave her a warm, almost instinctive hug—the kind reserved for family you haven’t seen in years. That unexpected moment opened a floodgate of memories and a renewed admiration for Tanju Tuzer’s incredible legacy.



Photo is taken from the Instagram account of Tuzer Ballet School

Who Was Tanju Tuzer?

A legendary figure in Turkish ballet, Tanju Tuzer was more than a performer—he was a storyteller in motion. With a career spanning stages in Ankara, Europe, and the United States, he captivated audiences with his expressive form and commitment to the art of classical ballet.

Alongside Patricia, he founded the Tuzer Ballet School, a nurturing ground for aspiring dancers where discipline met passion, and tradition met creativity. Together, they inspired generations of artists, not just through choreography but through their shared love of movement, music, and mentorship.

Though Tanju Tuzer passed away in 2017, his spirit lives on in every pirouette and plié performed by those he trained and touched.



Patricia and Tanju Tuzer

Photo is taken from Tuzer Ballet Social Media Account

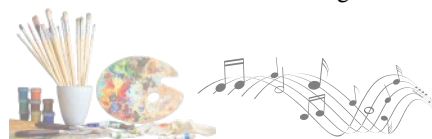
Legacy in Motion

“Ballet is not just movement—it is memory, emotion, and truth expressed without a single word.”

— Tanju Tuzer

Seeing Patricia again—by complete chance—reminded me that art never truly leaves us. It lingers in photographs, in muscle memory, and in quiet encounters. Sometimes, it even sits next to you at an art event, waiting to be recognized.

Until next time, may you find beauty in the unexpected, and let memory dance its way back into your life.





Tuzer Ballet Story.

“Tuzer Ballet is a non-profit, publicly supported organization created to advance the study, performance and appreciation of classical ballet and other forms of modern dance in Richardson and the surrounding North Dallas area. Founded in 1984 by Tanju and Patricia Tuzer, the Tuzer Ballet Company and School have evolved into a highly respected, regional dance academy that is praised for its broad repertoire, dancers of uncommon skill and overall artistic vision.

Tanju and Pat Tuzer served together as Directors of the Tuzer Dance School, artistic directors of the Tuzer Ballet Company and principal ballet instructors at the school for over 30 years. Tanju was born in Istanbul, Turkey and began his dance training at the age of nine. His professional career spanned from Germany to London and New York before returning to Europe. Pat was born in Dallas and began her dance training at the age of three. During her professional career, she danced as a soloist and principal dancer in various notable ballets in New York as well as Europe. Pat and Tanju eventually moved to her hometown of Dallas in 1977 to start a family and to open the ballet school.

Ttanju lost his battle with cancer in November of 2017 after decades of influencing and inspiring so many. Yet, his spirit lives on and echoes throughout the school and its dancers.

Pat is the current artistic director and choreographer and is a visionary in her own right. She has established a strong classical base for the dancers to dance a multitude of styles and vocabularies by a range of choreographers. Among those invited to create works for the company have been Paul Mejia, Bruce Wood, Mary Ann Wall and Benjamin Johnson.

The Tuzer Ballet also has the longest running Nutcracker ballet in Dallas and Fort Worth and will be back for its 38th holiday season in December 2023. Their Nutcracker has been described as offering “a blend of global inspiration and local brilliance,” with technically difficult choreography and more than 400 original costumes and professional sets that transport audiences to a magical wonderland.

For more than forty years, Tuzer Ballet has been deeply committed to bringing the art of dance to the area, providing extraordinary opportunities for dance students to perform amazing work and transcending the tradition of ballet. As a non-profit, these achievements have always only been possible with the support of like-minded patrons. We are sustained entirely through grants, corporate and individual donations, fundraising events and the dedication of hundreds of volunteers. Since 1998, the company has distributed Nutcracker tickets at no charge to worthy organizations serving the needy. As a result, thousands who would not have otherwise had the opportunity to enjoy the classic holiday ballet performance have had their lives brightened by the magic of dance.”





Burak Beşir - Internationally acclaimed and award-winning flutist, multi-instrumentalist and composer

Burak Besir stands as a shining example of how classical training, cultural diversity, and a deep-rooted passion for music can come together to create an extraordinary artistic journey.

Internationally acclaimed, classically trained, and award-winning, Besir is not only a virtuoso flutist but also a versatile and prolific composer whose work transcends borders and genres.

A Composer of Unmatched Versatility

At the heart of Besir's artistry lies a rare ability to blend the worlds of orchestral, contemporary, and ethnic music. His compositions are rich tapestries that fuse traditional elements with modern textures, making use of a vast palette of sounds. Drawing from a life lived across three continents, he has absorbed and internalized diverse musical languages that enrich every note he writes or plays. His exceptional technique, combined with profound musical expression and masterful improvisational skill, gives his compositions a voice that is at once deeply personal and universally resonant.

Besir's music is known for its emotional depth and stylistic diversity. From lush orchestral arrangements to minimalist soundscapes and intricate ethnic melodies, his work reflects both a scholarly understanding of classical music and an instinctive feel for folk traditions from around the world.

A Global Performer on Iconic Stages

As a flutist and performer, Burak Besir has graced some of the most prestigious music venues across the globe. His notable performances include sharing the stage with top-tier artists at the Oscar Concert with the Academy Orchestra, as well as unforgettable concerts at the Boston Symphony Hall, Kennedy Center in Washington DC, Venetian Theatre, and Wigmore Hall in London. His solo and ensemble performances have captivated audiences in Europe, North America, and beyond.

Besir's classic and ethnic compositions and arrangements have found their place on these distinguished stages, performed by leading musicians and ensembles who admire the depth and uniqueness of his musical language.

Burak Besir is more than a musician—he is a cultural ambassador and sonic explorer, continuously redefining what it means to be a modern composer and performer. Through his work, he connects audiences across continents, using music as a universal language that celebrates both tradition and innovation. Whether on stage, in the studio, or behind the scenes of a film score, Besir's artistry continues to inspire and resonate around the world.

Honors and Recognition

Throughout his career, Burak Besir has received numerous accolades for his musical excellence. Among his many honors are the UK Young Concert Artist Award, and the Arif Mardin Recognition Award from the prestigious Berklee College of Music, where he received his degree in Contemporary Writing and Production.

Most recently, his 2017 album *Passion*, released in the United States, earned a Global Music Award, further solidifying his reputation as a world-class composer and performer.

A Master of Ethnic Instruments

One of the most distinctive aspects of Besir's artistry is his rare and expansive collection of over 65 ethnic woodwind instruments. These include the Turkish Ney, Duduk, Ottoman Zurna, Piccolo, Penny Whistles, Chinese flutes, Indian Bansuri, Kena flutes, Ocarinas, and Low Irish flutes. This treasure trove of sound not only sets his compositions apart but also allows him to explore a broad range of emotional and tonal colors in his performances and recordings.

In addition to his woodwind expertise, he is a multi-instrumentalist who incorporates Guitar, Oud, Baglama, and Turkish Banjo into his soundtracks and original compositions—demonstrating an uncanny ability to weave together musical traditions from East and West with authenticity and innovation.

A Scholarly and Professional Background

Besir's musical journey is underpinned by rigorous academic training. He holds a Master's Degree as a Performing Soloist from the Royal Scottish Academy, and a Conservatory education from Ankara National Conservatory, where his foundation in classical music was solidified. His studies at Berklee College of Music expanded his vision, equipping him with the tools to create music for a range of modern media.

A Composer for Screen and Stage

With a diverse portfolio of work, Besir has composed, arranged, and performed music for numerous films, TV shows, commercials, and documentaries across American and international markets. His music for screen is known for its emotive power and cinematic scope, often incorporating his signature fusion of classical and ethnic instrumentation to create unforgettable sonic experiences.



Seattle Turkish Film Festival (STFF)

November 21-23, 2025

The Seattle Turkish Film Festival (STFF) is a non-profit, volunteer-run film festival, committed to bringing the best of cinema from Türkiye to the film loving audience in Seattle. Since 2012, STFF has provided an international platform for talented short and feature narrative as well as documentary filmmakers. We showcase first time filmmakers as well as accomplished Cannes Palme d'Or winning talents. In addition to feature films, our STFFShorts program is especially unique in that it consists of awards for shorts filmmakers such as the Grand Jury Award, STFFShorts Audience Award, Unique Lens Award, First-Time Filmmaker Award, and the STFFDocs Audience Award for documentary shorts.

Although Seattle has a good-sized Turkish community, STFF strives to bridge the Seattle community through the love for cinema. For this, we partner with Seattle-based non-profit film centers including SIFF (one of the largest film societies in the country), Scarecrow Video (largest rentable film archive in the world) and KEXP radio (one of the most influential listener-supported radios in the world). Our volunteer screeners spend hours handpicking contemporary films that are award-winning arthouse films as well as genre films that have shaken the global film festival circuit. Every year we highlight at least one archival film from classic Yeşilçam cinema. For example, in 2024 we showed a beautifully restored copy of Metin Erksan's film Dry Summer (1963).

In addition to the film screenings, over the years STFF has become one of the best film events in town. The STFF opening night ceremony and gala party is where the audience gets to meet and mingle with filmmaker guests visiting Seattle, while accompanied by live music entertainment and some of the best catering. For example, our 2023 gala took place at the famous MoPop museum and featured world-renowned DJ Darek Mazzone from KEXP radio. Our 2024 gala took place at the KEXP radio event space and featured the 80s themed rock band Nite Wave. Every year STFF showcases two artists, one local from Seattle, and one from Türkiye, as part of the film festival poster design and artwork. We also have STFF T-shirts designed from an artist from Türkiye and inspired by classic Yeşilçam films. Finally, we also present an exhibition of Turkish film posters during the festival weekend.



We are grateful to our generous sponsors, donors and the local cultural grants that keep us going every year. We are grateful to TACAWA (Turkish American Cultural Association of Washington State) our parent organization that allows us to be fiercely independent. We welcome new partnership opportunities so please contact us at info@stff.org if you are interested in joining as a sponsor. We look forward to welcoming you at STFF 2025 which will take place November 21-23, 2025 at the gorgeous SIFF Uptown Cinema.





Mehmet Taşcıoğlu
Youth Committee Chair
ataayouthcom@gmail.com

Dear friends,

On behalf of our Vice Chair Bora Özalp, Secretary İlayda Yeni, and all committee members, we are proud to report that the ATAA Youth Committee has been actively and effectively engaged in planning programs, conducting research, and organizing panels to advance Turkish American youth advocacy throughout the year. For those who are new, the ATAA Youth Committee's mission is for members to act as model Turkish Americans and preserve the Turkish heritage and culture through various activities while giving back to our community. One of our key objective is to unite Turkish American youth under the ATAA umbrella, work together, support one another and be influences within our communities.

How can you join ATAA Youth Committee?

If you are a Turkish American student in high school or college, we welcome you to join the ATAA Youth Committee! Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis.

When you join the ATAA Youth Committee as a student, you receive opportunities to:

- Plan nationwide webinars and celebrations
- Coordinate large-scale research projects
- Volunteer on meaningful initiatives
- Build a network of prominent Turkish American professionals
- Join a supportive group of friends and future colleagues!

Please apply here: <https://forms.gle/42cLc36GgRTQTEbB9>



ATAA Youth Committee hosted very insightful program titled: **Civic Engagement, Challenges, and Responsibilities of Turkish Americans**” on Saturday, August 23, 2025; guest speaker was **Ajlan Kurdoglu**

2025 College Admissions Program

The ATAA Youth Committee has completed our 2025 College Admissions Program with 25 registered students! For the third year, our team has been supporting Turkish American high school seniors in the college applications process, including drafting a college list, preparing their Common Application, extracurricular and awards, essays, recommendation letters, interviews, and more. We encourage you to spread the word to friends & family for next summer!

Stay Connected with the ATAA Youth Committee



[Website](#)



What are you waiting for?

JOIN OUR
Team!



Yücel Burdurlu

ATAA Secretary & Membership Chair

membership@ataa.org



WHAT CAN WE DO WITH GAPS?

When different generations bring their skills together, everyone benefits

Wouldn't it be great if we said, 'Let's tackle this issue together,' and everyone chooses a role where they could use their strengths that could make a real difference.

This reflects exactly what we aim to achieve under the ATAA umbrella with a collaborative effort where everyone contributes by leveraging their unique strengths and talents to address familiar challenges.

We talk about generation gaps in families, at work and in societies. Do we have a natural gap or are we creating one in our organizations? Because when there are gaps, lots of energy and information is lost and we get disconnected.

A few months ago, I had two meetings back-to-back. The first one was a group of older Turkish Americans ranging from 75 to 83 years old. Three were scientists, two were retired surgeons and three were retired engineers. The way they approached issues, their brilliant minds and the energy in their thoughts were so inspiring. Then, I had my second meeting where 10 Turkish American students from various high schools from around the country talked about four main topics related to United Nations Sustainability Goals in one of ATAA's United Nations Program. The quality of the presentations and the maturity with which they approached the subjects were amazing, I was so proud of everyone.

So, why should these two Turkish American groups work apart? Firstly, let's look at the older generations. As we move on in life, our responsibilities increase, which is normal because we learn more and experience more. We are more comfortable handling more tasks. We are not afraid to venture into areas that less experienced people would shy away from. More experience and collaboration leads to better decision making and better support. We also must remember that more experienced people have more tolerance, which leads to much healthier communications, much better understanding and a much higher desire for win-win situations. But are these more experienced people fast and energetic like younger colleagues? Perhaps not.

Younger generations are full of energy and fresh ideas. They are sharp, quick and are amazing with the newer technologies.

At ATAA, we are trying to create strong unity and harmony among all Turkish Americans, experienced and young so we can stand strong against all odds, and be successful.

Diverse experiences and ideas create more robust decisions and better results; our communities flourish and grow!



My fellow Turkish Americans – are you ready to fill the gaps – join the ATAA family – become an individual member today?

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(Alev Wieland, ATAA President, UN Committee Chair)



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