

32ND ANNUAL NATIONAL **TURKISH** AMERICAN CONVENTION

THINK GLOBALLY, ACT LOCALLY

LEADERSHIP FOR HERITAGE COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

APRIL 12-14, 2012 | WASHINGTON PLAZA HOTEL | WASHINGTON, DC

Organized by



Friday, April 13, 2012

- 9:45am-10:40am **Session 1: Turkish American Advocacy in 3D**
Introductions
Moderator: Bülent Aliriza, *Director, Center for Strategic and International Studies*
The Administration - Kathleen Allegrone, *Director, Office of Southern European Affairs, U.S. Dept. of State*
Congress - Michael McMahon, *Former Member of Congress*
Questions & Answers
- 10:40am-11:00am Coffee Break
- 11:00am-12:00pm **Session 2: The US-Turkish Partnership in the 21st Century**
Introductions by Sebahat Güven, *Officer, FTAA*
Moderator: Dr. Sinan Ciddi, *Executive Director, Institute of Turkish Studies, Georgetown University*
H.E. Namık Tan, *Ambassador of Turkey to the United States*
H.E. Ross Wilson, *Atlantic Council of the United States*
Questions and Answers
- 12:00pm-1:30pm **Lunch**
Introduction by Demet Cabbar, *ATAA Vice President for Capital Region*
Keynote Speaker: Ahmet Erdengiz, *Washington Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus*
Remembering Rauf Denktaş for an Empowered Turkish Cypriot Future
Keynote Speaker: Thomas Goltz, *Author, Journalist - "Talking Türkiye-A Montana Perspective"*
- 1:30pm-3:30pm **Session 3: Diversity and Solidarity in a Global Community**
Introduction
H.E. Vincent Gray, *Mayor of the District of Columbia*
Emre Oruç, *Expert, Directorate for Turks Abroad and Related Communities*
Firat Yıldız, *Expert, Directorate for Turks Abroad and Related Communities*
Celal Seçilmiş, *Chairperson, World Turkish Business Council, America Committee*
- 3:30pm-3:50pm Coffee Break
- 3:50pm-5:30pm **Session 4: Grassroots: Homegrown, Artificial Turf, Best Practices**
Introductions
Moderator: Brian Forni, *Consultant for the Turkish Embassy in Washington, D.C*
- Advocacy:**
Yenal Küçükler, *Civic Engagement Director-TABAN, ATAA*
Beril Ünver, *Project Manager for Congressional Outreach, TCA*
Sevin Elekdag, *Research Fellow, Turkish Coalition of America*
Javid Huseynov, *President and Co-Founder, Pax Turcica*
Paul Moorehead, *Drinkler Biddle & Reath, LLP*
- Political Fundraising:**
Lincoln McCurdy, *Turkish PAC*
Todd Meredith, *Morgan, Meredith and Associates*
Erim Canligil, *National Republican Congressional Committee (NRCC)*
- 7:00pm-9:00pm **Ambassador's Reception at Embassy Residence**
1606 23rd Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036 *(For registrants only)*

Saturday, April 14, 2012

YOUNG TURKS DAY

- 9:00am-9:05am **Commencement**
Seçil Göksu, *Programs Director, ATAA*
Sebahat Güven, *Vice President of Youth Relations, FTAA*
Işıl Davaz, *Turkish American Community Center (TACC)*
- 9:05am-9:45am **Welcoming Remarks**
Günay Evinch, *Convention Chairperson (Remarks and Introductions), ATAA*
Ergün Kırlikovalı, *President, ATAA*
Ali Çınar, *President, FTAA*
Adem Büyükcakar, *Secretary General, TACC*
Semrin Aleckson, *Vice-President, George Mason University TSA*
Lela Ross, *Project Manager, UTSA*
Elchin Abdullayev, *Founder and President of Azerbaijani Youth of America (AYA)*
- 9:45am-10:30am **Plenary Session, "Sakin Bulaşma!"**
Introductions by Esra Uğurlu, *Treasurer, ATAA*
H.E. Namık Tan, *Ambassador of Turkey to the United States*
Cenk Uygur, *Young Turks, Talk Show Host - "Politically Direct" (via pre-recorded video)*
Hürriyet Aydın Ok, *Producer, Turkish American TV - "How to Start Your Public Access Television"*
Hikmet Aslan, *Former Turkish National Team Soccer Player - Presentation: "Yurtta, Cibanda, Biz Milli Takımız"*
- 10:30am-10:40am Coffee Break
- 10:40am-12:00pm **Session 1: Turkish in America Heritage Panel**
Introductions
Moderator: Feridun Bek, *ATAA Regional VP Mid Central Region & President TACAM*
Haris Tarin, *Director, Muslim Public Affairs Council (PAC) - "Muslim in America"*
Jason Epstein, *American Jewish Committee (AJC) - "Diversity in America"*
Islom Shakhbandarov, *President, Abiska Turkish American Community Center of Dayton*
Tomris Azeri, *President, Azerbaijan Society of America (ASA)*
Metodija A. Koloski, *President, United Macedonian Diaspora (UMD)*
Ajla Delkic, *The Advisory Council for Bosnia and Herzegovina (ACBH)*
Questions and Answers
- 12:00pm-1:30pm **Lunch**
Commencement Remarks:
Ergün Kırlikovalı, *President, ATAA*
Ali Çınar, *President, FTAA*
Adem Büyükcakar, *Secretary General, TACC*
Keynote Speaker: Hande Bozatlı, *President, Istanbul 2nd District Council EU & Int. Relations Commission*
Empowering Youth and Women for a Progressive Türkiye
- 1:45pm - 3:00pm **Session 2: Turkish Students Survival Guide**
Introduction
Student Visa Rights and Duties - Efe Poturoğlu, *Butzel Long Tighe Patton PLLC*
Civil Rights and Civil Liberties - Kareem Shora, *US Department of Homeland Security*
Forming and Running a Turkish Student Association - Aylin Sagay, *V.P., TAFSUS*
Transitioning to American Schools - Vince Stumpo, *Headmaster, Linden Hall Prep School for Girls*
A Turkish Physician's Journey - Ulaş Çamsarı, *Director, Usml Strategy Center (USMER)*
A Turkish Lawyer's Trials of Life - Ayhan Ögmen, *Attorney at Law*
A Turkish Engineer Builds High - Gökhan Gelişen, *Vice President, FTAA*

Director of International and Community Relations at the University of Hartford where he holds his degrees from. He also holds NSCAA National Soccer Coach Diploma and coached University of Hartford's NCAA 1st Division team for 6 years. He is married and has one son. They live in West Hartford Connecticut.

TOMRIS AZERI

Tomris Azeri is the President of the Azerbaijan Society of America (ASA), which was established in 1957, the oldest grassroots organization of Azerbaijani-Americans. She is a driving force in many of the organization's initiatives, programs and special events which have fostered a greater understanding and appreciation of the people and country of Azerbaijan by the people and legislators of the United States. She initiated successful ASA programs such as coordinating legislative informational luncheons for Congressional members and staff in Washington, DC, raising the Azerbaijani flag on Wall Street in New York in celebration of Azerbaijan's Independence Day. She represented the Azerbaijani community at Mayor Bloomberg's Office of Immigrant Affairs in planning for the future of New York City ethnic affairs. She coordinated the sister city arrangements connecting Ganja, Azerbaijan with Newark, New Jersey. She institutes and oversees scholarship programs for Azerbaijani students studying in US. She coordinates and presents a variety of cultural activities for the Azerbaijani and American communities, involving ASA in support of the Turkish Day parade, and overseeing annual Azerbaijani celebrations in the U.S. She works closely with the Turkish-American community in all of these and other activities. She served as regional vice-president of the Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA) and currently serving as the vice-president for Turkic World, in the Federation of Turkish American Associations (FTAA). In 2006, she received the Order of Glory medal (Shohret Orden), Azerbaijan's highest award, which was presented to her by the President of Azerbaijan, H.E. Ilham Aliyev.

LYDIA BORLAND

Lydia Borland has more than 25 years of public and private sector experience in international business and government relations. She has a keen understanding of how US policy can reflect the views of the business and non-profit community. She is currently Executive Director of the Caspian Group, an international consulting firm which provides consulting services to the Gephardt Group, The Livingston Group, and other companies. She also served as Washington Representative for a military aircraft parts supply company. Ms. Borland was Washington Representative for the Turkish-U.S. Business Council (TAIK/DEIK) from 2000-2007, and Deputy Executive Director of the U.S. Azerbaijan Chamber of Commerce for several years. Ms. Borland speaks fluent Turkish as well as Spanish, Turkish, Italian, Azerbaijani, and

French. She has earned a B.A. in International Affairs from George Washington University and a M.B.A. in Finance from Virginia Polytechnic Institute.

HANDE BOZATLI

Hande Bozatlı is president of the AER Committee 3 on Culture, Education & Youth and President of EU and International Relations, Istanbul Provincial Council. She worked for two years as a family planning trainer at the Ministry of Health in Ankara. Her dermatology residency training took place from 1988 to 1991 at the Dermatology Department of Ondokuz Mayıs University Medical School Hospital in Samsun. From 1991 to 1994, she dealt with training and regulatory issues for Turkish and French pharmaceutical companies. She and her husband started their own private clinic in Istanbul in 1994. They specialize in cosmetic dermatology and work with both domestic and international patients. She is a member of the Turkish Governing AK Party, and was elected as a Provincial Council member in Istanbul in 2009. She, then, became its second Vice President. She initiated the Equal Europe for People with Disabilities Working Group (AER Committee 2) and held numerous meetings and trainings in Istanbul. She has been chairing the regular meetings and coordinating the affairs of the Committees in Istanbul Provincial Council. Also, she is currently a member of the Local and Regional Congress of the Council of Europe as well as an active member of AER Committee 3.

DEMET CABBAR

Demet Cabbar is an Investment Analyst at the World Bank Treasury. Previously, she was a Program Coordinator with the Financial and Private Sector Development Vice Presidency of the World Bank, where she organized workshops for senior level government officials and private sector executives around the globe for seven years. Born in Istanbul and raised in Tekirdag, Ms. Cabbar moved to the US in 1996 to continue her education. Ms. Cabbar has been a Board Member of the American Turkish Association of Washington, DC since 2003 and has been serving as the President since 2007. As President of ATA-DC, Ms. Cabbar had an opportunity to meet and work closely with the representatives of various Turkish and non-Turkish civil society organizations and institutions. In 2008, ATAA recognized Ms. Cabbar as the President of the Component Association of the Year for her role in mobilizing and engaging the Turkish American Community in the Washington DC Metropolitan Area. Ms. Cabbar is also the co-founder of the Washington, DC Turkish Folk Dance Troupe and the Kardelen Turkish Dance Ensemble which are both active dance groups in the DC area. Ms. Cabbar holds a BS degree in Management Engineering from Istanbul Technical University. Ms. Cabbar earned a Joint MBA/MA Degree in International Affairs and International Business in 1999 and a Master of Science in Finance Degree in 2007 from the George Washington University. As the

ATAA Vice President for the Capital Region, Ms. Cabbar's goal is to develop new partnerships and strengthen existing ones between ATAA and other Turkish and Non-Turkish communities, reach out to and engage younger members of the community and businesses in ATAA's activities and continue delivering large scale, large impact events and educational programs promoting and raising awareness of Turkish heritage in the U.S.

ERİM CANLIGİL

Erim Canligil was born in New York in 1985. He holds a B.A. from Purdue University in Political Science with a concentration in political finance. Upon graduation in 2008, he was a TCA sponsored intern at the National Republican Congressional Committee (NRCC) in Washington D.C. At the conclusion of his internship, Erim accepted a full time position at the NRCC as a Campaign Finance Compliance Analyst where he currently serves. In addition to his responsibilities on Capitol Hill, he is pursuing a degree in law from the Catholic University of America. Upon completion, he plans to enter the practice of Election Law. Erim currently resides in Arlington, VA.

DR. ULAŞ MEHMET ÇAMSARI

Dr. Ulaş Mehmet Çamsarı graduated from Ege University School of Medicine, İzmir, Turkey in 2002, completed his psychiatry residency training at The Cleveland Clinic and The Johns Hopkins Hospital between 2006-2011. He is currently completing his fellowship training at University of Maryland Medical Center in Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry and he is an appointed fellow in Addiction Psychiatry at The Mayo Clinic Rochester for 2012-2013 academic year. Dr. Ulaş Çamsarı is the founder and director of USMLE Strategy Center (USMER) which currently hosts the largest medical community of Turkey interested in advanced medical training in the United States. For the past 10 years, Ulaş Çamsarı has been the foremost activist towards the development of a Turkish USMLE (United States Medical Licensing Exam) community based on a culture of sharing the "US experience".

SINAN CİDDİ

Sinan Ciddi was appointed as the fourth Executive Director of the Institute of Turkish Studies and recently succeeded David C. Cuthell at the end of August 2011. Ciddi was born in Turkey and educated in the United Kingdom, where he gained his Ph.D. in Political Science from the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London in June 2007. He was previously an instructor at Sabanci University between 2004-2008 and completed his Post-Doctoral Fellowship at the same institution between 2007-2008. He recently published a book titled *Kemalism in Turkish Politics: The Republican People's Party: Secularism and Nationalism* (Routledge, January 2009) focusing on the electoral weakness of the Republican People's Party. Between 2008-2011, he

established the Turkish Studies program at the University of Florida's Center for European Studies.

ALİ ÇINAR

Ali Çınar is currently serving as President of the Federation of Turkish American Associations (FTAA). He has received a BS in Economics from Istanbul University and an MBA from University of New Haven as well as an "Outstanding International Student" award. While completing his MBA, Ali served as the President of the International Students Association that encompassed over 500 students. During 2004-2006, he attended Harvard Business School, MIT and New York University and received various executive business and leadership certificates. He worked at Concord Company as a marketing manager between 2002-2008. Ali is currently working for a Fortune 500 company and is responsible for managing half a billion dollars business. In his 3 year tenure at the current company, he received six "Accelerator Awards" and two "Team Awards". In 2004 and 2005, Ali was a guest speaker at the United States Coast Guard Military Academy. He actively works with the US representatives and recruits new members to the Congressional Turkish Caucus in his region. He has strong ties to the Jewish, Korean, Native Indian, and Turkic Communities. Ali Çınar has received over 10 "Turkish American Community Service" awards from various organizations. In 2007, he was honored as the "Leader of the Year" by ATAA. He has been awarded the "TOP 10 Most Successful Young People by the Junior Chamber International (United Nations)". He is the Founder/President of Istanbul University Alumni Association of USA, Chairman of Disciplinary Committee/Member of Turkish American Chamber of Commerce & Industry, NY Regional VP of Southern New England Turkish American Association, Northeast Vice President of Azerbaijani-American Council. He is a member of the United Nations of USA and American Marketing Associations. He is a Notary Public in Connecticut. He writes articles at various Turkish-American newspaper and online news sites. He also holds United Nations and the State Department Press credentials.

İŞILAY DAVAZ

İşilay Davaz is a seventeen year old senior at the HB Woodlawn High School in Arlington, Virginia. Early in her childhood İşilay displayed a great interest and natural talent in flying. She has been flying and piloting since the age of three. In the U.S. There were many media reports about her and she was covered on NBC. At the age of five, İşilay broke the record in Turkey by being the first child to fly a plane under the age of 18. That same year, she met with Sabiha Gökçen, who gave her the honor of naming her as the "granddaughter" of Atatürk. Ms. Gökçen passed away a year later. İşilay is also an accomplished painter, whose drawings and paintings received much praise.