

MATA MATTERS

Official Newsletter of the Maryland American Turkish Association, Inc.

April 1, 2012

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING SUNDAY APRIL 29th at RUDY'S RESTAURANT 3-5:00 PM



Rauf Raif Denktas

(27 January 1924 – 13 January 2012)

Vice President of Republic of Cyprus (1960 - 64)

President – Turkish Federated State of
Cyprus (1976 - 85)

President- Turkish Republic of
Northern Cyprus (1985 – 2005)

Rauf Denktas, Turkish Cypriot leader, died this past January 13th. Denktas will always be associated with the struggles of the Turkish community on Cyprus against the Greeks, to ethnically cleanse the island of its Turkish residents. Cyprus, annexed from the Ottoman Turks in 1878, a British Colony since World War I, became an independent Republic in 1960. After three years, portions of the constitution protecting Turkish rights were declared void, while terrorist attacks on Turkish Cypriots commenced. United Nations peace keeping forces were deployed to the island, and have been there ever since. Denktas was a critical player during this half century, as vice-president of Cyprus, then as president of the Turkish Federated State of Cyprus, and finally as the president of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. He was the international voice of the Turkish Cypriots. He was so popular that Turkish politicians felt that if he ran for office in Turkey, he would have won. MATA actually hosted a dinner for him on one of his visits to Washington DC. We will all miss him.

MATA will be having it's annual meeting Sunday, April 29th, from 3-5 PM at Rudy's Mediterranean Grill located at 7185 Gateway Drive, Columbia, MD, 21046 (410 290-2004). We welcome past, present, and future members to attend. For those of you who would like to stay for dinner, please call 301 534-4056 and let us know.

Since this is an election year, and in order to vote at the annual meeting, your membership dues must be paid. To encourage participation, and since there is no slate of proposed candidates, membership dues will be accepted up until the annual meeting.

FAMILY	\$40
INDIVIDUAL	\$25
STUDENT	\$10



Pictured are Rauf Denktash, grandson of the late President Rauf Denktash of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, Mustafa Tunc, and Dilek Yavuz Yanik, the recent TRNC U.S. Representative.

President's Message

Whether it is a national hero, such as Denktas, or members of your family, death never comes easily. This past year we lost some members of our collective family. It started with my father, **Hussein Suleiman**, who passed away at the age of 102. It was not a surprise, yet, despite his age, death is simply never easy. Not when it occurs suddenly, as it did for my mother, who simply failed to wake up, not when it is a two year battle, as it was with my late wife, Perihan, in her fight with cancer, and not gradually and inevitably, as with my father. His death brings to an end an era of an early group of Turkish Cypriot immigrants who came to the United States during the Great Depression. My father landed at Ellis Island in 1931. The lesson I learned from him and my mother, like many immigrants, was to be active in our communities. He owned a restaurant, was a founding member of the Turkish Cypriot Aid Society in New York City, and when we moved to Florida in the 60's, he was also involved with the original incorporation of the Florida American Turkish Association. From my parents I learned to be proud of my Turkish heritage.

As the year moved along, we also lost another one of our long time members, **Gokhan Mutlu**. Gokhan will long be remembered to many of us as a passionate supporter of orphan children, long time Annapolis resident, and her long association with the Turkish Childrens' Foster Care Organization as president and member. She was probably most known for the many TCFC sponsored Doctor's Balls (Tip Balolar), where she would bring in famous contemporary artists to perform at these successful fund raising activities. She survived her late husband Ilhan, and is survived by her two daughters Asli and Elvan, and cousin Selma.

And in March, long time MATA member, **Canset (Janset) Nahum**, also passed away. I last talked with her about a month before she passed away, when she called me, and we had a very nice talk. I am glad she called! I had heard she was ill, so I was very happy to hear her voice. As always, she was optimistic and encouraging. I, and I know many others, will miss her! I remember her for her spontaneity and cheerful personality. She is survived by her husband, Albert, and children Aslan (Jodie) Nahum, Altan Nahum, and Dr Elmer (Donna) Nahum, and 4 grandchildren Alec, Aidan, Amelia, and Ben Nahum.

BOARD MEMBERS

President: Orhan Suleiman
Vice-president: Vacant
Secretary: Timur Edib
Treasurer: Kent Drummond
Director: Ozcan Mustafa
(see back for contact information)

The Year in review

It has been a challenging year. Today MATA faces a very different environment than the 1960's when we were founded, and eventually incorporated in 1967 as a non-profit organization. At that time MATA, along with the American Turkish Association of Washing DC (ATA-DC), were the only two local Turkish American community organizations. We eventually cofounded the Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA) in the late seventies, but before that locally, there was the American Friends of Turkey (AFOT), Turkish Childrens' Foster Care, Atatürk Society, and the Washington Turkish Womens Association. MATA was never a single cause organization, but a broad cultural and communal organization. Except for the Mosque on Massachusetts Avenue in DC, there were very few, if any mosques in this area at that time. Today we are blessed with numerous such organizations, all of them serving Turkish Americans. Although our proximity to Washington and the influence of the Turkish Embassy has been a blessing, MATA's leaders have often gravitated in that direction, sometimes short changing our broader constituency.

Today, there are so many competing activities and organizations, that our role has changed. Rather than compete, we must change our operational model, and work with these many organizations. I look forward to hearing your ideas at our annual meeting.



**Turkish students at Howard Community College's
"Arts Around the World"**

Turkish Festival - DC

MATA participated in this year's ATA-DC sponsored Turkish Festival, sharing a booth with Timur Edib's Law Firm, to whom we are thankful. The event has been held in Freedom Plaza near the White House.



Imam Cahid Kara showing the proposed Turkish American Cultural Center building plans in Greenbelt, MD during the DC Turkish festival.

National flags on display at
Alliance of Turkic Associations



Recently **Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu** visited Washington D.C. and met with officials such as Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.



Ahmet Davutoglu (Turkish Foreign Minister) at reception of Alliance of Turkic Associations in Washington DC

Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (KKTC)

It seems like only yesterday Dilek Yavuz arrived in Washington D.C., as the TRNC representative. Unfortunately, she and her family had to return to the TRNC March 15th having served just over 15 months. We will miss her. Ahmet Erdengiz will replace her, his third such posting in Washington D.C.



TRNC Independence Day Reception
(Left to right)- Cathy and Orhan Suleiman, Nese Mustafa, Timur Edib, Erdal Sarper, North Carolina Congresswoman Virginia Foxx, and TRNC representative Dilek Yavuz

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA) will host 32nd Annual Conference in DC, April 12-15th.

This conference will bring leaders from many Turkish organizations together. On April 13, 2012, Leadership Day, intricacies of US-Turkish relations and public advocacy will be discussed. On April 14 Young Turks Day, Current TV's "Young Turks" talk show host, **Cenk Uygur**, will address how to take advantage of your Turkish culture in your advocacy efforts. European Union Turkish politician Hande Bozatlı will discuss youth and women's empowerment movements.

ATAA President's Ergün Kırıkvalı's Message

Dear Members of the Turkish American Community coast-to-coast:

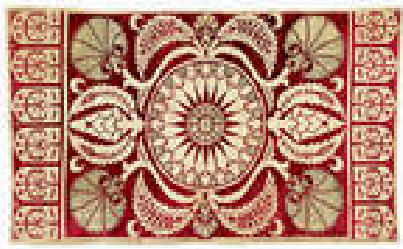
I am delighted to report to you



that the month of February has been busy, inspiring, and fruitful for the Turkish American community and the countdown to ATAA's 32nd Annual National Convention has begun. I am looking forward to seeing you and your family at our 32nd ANC during April 13-15, 2012 in Washington DC. (To finish this article and for additional information on the Conference and other ATAA activities please go to www.ataa.org)

Turkish Ambassador Namik Tan and his wife Fugen Tan host reception in honor of upcoming Ottoman Art exhibit

On March 24th, Ambassador Namik Tan hosted a reception at his residence, where the highlight of the program was the upcoming Fall exhibit on Ottoman Flowers. Sumru Belger Krody, Senior Curator, Eastern Hemisphere Collections, of the National Textile Museum in Washington gave an enlightening presentation. The exhibit, titled: **The Sultan's Garden: The Blossoming of Ottoman Art** runs from September 21, 2012 through March 10, 2013. The exhibit will focus on Flowers in the Sultan's Garden.



Cushion cover (*yastık*), Bursa, Turkey, 17th century. TM 1.54. Acquired by George Hewitt Myers in 1951. Photo by Renée Comet. Courtesy The Textile Museum

Ottoman art reflects the wealth, abundance, and influence of an Empire which spanned seven centuries and, at its height, three continents. The Sultan's Garden chronicles how stylized tulips, carnations, hyacinths, honeysuckles, roses, and rosebuds came to embellish nearly all media produced by the Ottoman court beginning in the mid-16th century. These instantly recognizable elements became the brand of the Empire, and synonymous with its power. The Sultan's Garden unveils the story of this artist's influence and traces the continuing impact of Ottoman floral style through the textile arts--some of the most luxurious and technically complex productions of the Empire. Plan on attending.



**“Weddings Around the World” at HCC.
Turkish Classes at**



**TURK- 101- 150 (3435) Elementary Turkish I
TTH, 5:30-7:20 pm**

**TURK- 201-150 (3436) Intermediate Turkish II
MW, 5:30-7:20 pm**

Registration has already started for the fall semester of 2012. Classes will start the last week of August.

For additional information please contact:

**Cennet Köse
ckose@howardcc.edu
(410) 599 3310
Turkish Instructor
English/World Languages Division
Howard Community College
10901 Little Patuxent Parkway
Columbia, Maryland 21044**



Cathy Suleiman, Mine and Arif Yetiskul attending Howard Community College's International Wedding Festival



Students with Cennet Köse in Turkish costumes at Howard Community College's International Wedding Festival

Turkish Nights at Rudy's

This year Rudy's Mediterranean Grill opened in Columbia, MD (see address below). There have already been two Turkish events- one was organized by Cennet Kose, HCC instructor, for 12 of her Turkish students, their friends and family. The other was on a Saturday evening, March 3rd, when Rudy's closed to the public and held it's first Turkish Night, featuring Ilhan Sami Ozlu and some real live Turkish Belly dancing. The food was good as well. Rudy features Doner, Adana Kebap, and the usual Turkish Meze, along with genuine Turkish hospitality. Columbia has never had a Turkish restaurant, so this is a treat for those of us who often must travel into the District of Columbia or northern Virginia for Turkish food.

Turkish Cemetery Plots

We have Turkish cemetery plots available at Maryland National Memorial Cemetery in Laurel. For specific pricing information, please contact Orhan Suleiman at 410 813-2702.



Imam Cahid Kara at Hussein Suleiman's Funeral

Community Events

If you have any news you would like to share with us, (births, deaths, marriages, new business, graduations, promotions) drop us a line, or visit us on FACEBOOK.

PLEASE submit comments, articles, news, events, or anything else (Turkish or English) you think will be a benefit to the our readers and community.

Membership Application (4-2012)

PLEASE COPY AND SHARE WITH A FRIEND. WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT FOR OUR WORK FOR A BETTER TURKISH COMMUNITY!!

Name: Mr/Mrs/Ms/Dr _____

Address: _____

Street-city-state-zip

Email: _____@_____

Telephone: Home _____ Work _____ Cell _____

DUES ARE \$40 (Family); \$25 (Individual); \$10 (Student).

Please make check payable to : MATA Mail to: MATA, PO Box 762, Columbia, MD 21045

PLEASE CUT AND MAIL BACK WITH YOUR CHECK

DUES \$ _____ DONATION \$ _____ TOTAL \$ _____

Calendar of Activities for 2012

April 12- 15 ATAA Annual Conference

April 23 (Turkish Childrens Day)

April 29 (MATA ANNUAL MEETING) SUNDAY

May 13 (Mother's Day)

May 19 (Ataturk, Youth and Sports Day)

May 28 (Memorial Day)

July 4 (Independence Day)

August 18 (Ramazan Bayrami Arifesi)

August 19 – 21 (Ramazan Bayrami)

August 19th- Bayram Dinner SUNDAY

August 30 (Victory Day/Zafer Bayrami)

September 3 (Labor Day) – MONDAY

October 7 (?) Washington DC Turkish Festival

October 8 (Columbus Day)

October 24 (Kurban Bayrami Arifesi)

October 25 – 28 (Kurban Bayrami)

October 28 Bayram and Republic Day Dinner - SUNDAY

October 29 (Republic Day)

November 22 (Thanksgiving)

December 25 (Christmas)

December 31 (New Year's Eve) Monday

December 31st New Year's Eve Party MONDAY

PLEASE VISIT OUR SPONSOR BUSINESSES

(Tell them you saw their ad in MATA!)

Aladdin Market
308 Main St, Laurel MD 20707
301 362-5060

AY Construction (Ahmet)
Kitchen & Bathroom Remodeling
571 723-2412

Cagal & Associates, LLC (CPA Services)
Offices in Bethesda and Rockville, MD
301.493.6738 or 240.314.0714

Cazbar Turkish Restaurant
316 N Charles St
Baltimore, MD 21202
410 528-1222

Donmez, Petek MD, P.C. (General Practice)
6224 Montrose Road, Rockville, MD 20852
301 230-1895

Kensington Pharmacy
3737 University Blvd W., Kensington, MD 20895
301 933-6165 (Huseyin, Pinar, Zeynep, and Melike Tunc)

Cennet Köse
Private Turkish Language Instruction
ckose@howardcc.edu
Cennet_kose@hotmail.com
(410) 599 3310

Law Office of Timur Edib (Business/Immigration)
200A Monroe St, Ste 115, Rockville, MD 20850
301 251-8830

Nationwide Insurance (All Types in MD, DC, VA)
43480 Yukon Dr., Ste 215, Ashburn, VA 20147
800 338-4406 (Berker Hazar, MBA)

Nazar Produce Market
955 Oakland Mills Road Columbia, MD 21045
410 290-3464

Pizza Boli (Bulent)
1450 Ritchie Hwy, Arnold, MD 21012
410 757-7700

Pizza Tempo
8021 Wisconsin Ave
Bethesda, MD 20814
240.497.0003
(Ugur Altintas)

Rudy's in Columbia (Rustem)
7185 Gateway Drive, Columbia, 21046
(410 290-2004). (<http://www.rmgrill.com/>)

Slice of Rockville (Dide Summerlin)
1111 Nelson Street
Rockville, MD 20850
301 424-0707

Saydam Electronics Service (Akin Saydam)
5284 Corncockle Ct, Columbia, MD 21045
410 730-7088

Turkish American Community Center and Mosque
9704 Good Luck Road
Lanham, Maryland
Imam Cahid Kara
301 221-4557

Zella Pizzeria
1143 HOLLINS ST
BALTIMORE, MD 21223
410 685-6999

2010 Board Members:

Orhan Suleiman - President
orhansuleiman@yahoo.com
410 813-2702

Timur Edib - Secretary and Past-president
avukat@aol.com
301.251.8830

Kent Drummond - Treasurer
akdrummond@msn.com
410 381-6410

Ozcan Mustafa - Director at large.
301 490-4288

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