

# MATA MATTERS

An official newsletter of the Maryland American Turkish Association, Inc.

February 2, 2008

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## MATA MATTERS

Welcome to 2008. Sorry we missed you last year. Due to the many issues involved with the Turkish-American community last year, from ATAA problems, to the Armenian Resolution and other crises, we as a Board were overwhelmed. While we gave it our best, we simply couldn't keep up with our all of our MATA responsibilities in addition to our personal lives. We apologize. As we get active again in organizing events for you, our membership, we would appreciate any volunteers interested in helping out.

To get things started, we have scheduled this year's General Meeting for March 16<sup>th</sup> at the Howard County Library near Savage, MD. The library is located at 9525 Durness Lane, Laurel, MD 20723. It is just west of US 1, very near Gorman Road and Savage Mill. The meeting will be from 3-5:00 PM. Please come. If you would like to join the Board or be a volunteer please mail your letter of intent to the Board at our Post Office address by February 13, 2008.

## COMMUNITY MATTERS

Several years ago, a number of our members approached the Board about their experiences of losing loved ones. The concerns ranged from the stress of making funeral arrangements, to the high expenses for burial, to questions about estates and wills, to finding a Muslim cemetery. Following the experiences of Turkish communities in NY, MATA decided to purchase a total of 75 cemetery plots at discount pricing for the community. The plots are located in the

Muslim section of the Maryland National Memorial Park (Laurel, Maryland), not far from the Turkish American Community Center and mosque. If you are interested in purchasing plots for yourself or family, or learning more about what is involved, please contact Orhan Suleiman at 301.796.1471 for additional information. The cemetery recently asked us to purchase additional lots since they were raising prices, but we decided not to at this time until we can complete our current purchase.

## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

MATA has a database of over 300 members, but it is very outdated, and only has few email addresses. We really need all of you to please send in the back bottom section of this newsletter along with your annual dues for 2008. In addition to your formal support, we also need your current membership information (see application form on the back of this newsletter). We would also like to offer members a chance to promote their business and support our newsletter. For a donation of \$30, we will print your contact information or business card in our next newsletter.

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_ Day Phone (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to help on \_\_\_\_\_, please contact me.

I would like MATA to do the following programs or activities: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**2008 dues: \$40 Family, \$25 Individual, \$10 Student. Mail to MATA, PO Box 762, Columbia, MD 21045.**

**Maryland American Turkish Association, Inc.  
P.O. Box 762  
Columbia, MD 21045**