

September 2005
Maryland American Turkish Association, Inc.

Incorporated in 1967
P.O. Box 762
Columbia, Maryland 21045
www.atamd.org

New Board Of Directors (2005 – 2007)



New president Ozcan Mustafa.



Timur Edib, newest director.



Our reliable treasurer Kent Drummond.



Past president and current vice-president Orhan Suleiman

In April MATA elected a new slate of officers. Timur Edib, our newest director is also our membership chairman. Ozcan Mustafa, previously the vice-president, and long time member is the new president. Ertugrul Guler, not shown above, is featured inside as our highlight member this issue. Orhan Suleiman, past president is the new vice-president.



Bagh E Mustafa section of Maryland National Cemetery, located near US 1 in southern Laurel, has a dedicated muslim section. Several members of MATA are buried there. MATA recently purchased 25 plots for its members. If the 25 plots sell out, MATA has been given rights to purchase additional cemetery plots.

Muslim Cemetery Plots

**Purchased by Maryland American Turkish Association
MATA (PO Box 762, Columbia, MD 21045)**

	<u>Retail</u>	<u>Non-Member</u>	<u>Member</u>
Total Cost:	\$3185	\$2900	\$2400

Includes (1) cemetery plot, (2) liner (vault), and (3) burial service.
Does not include cost of casket or Imam's services.

Plot only:	\$1495	\$1300	\$1000
-------------------	---------------	---------------	---------------

Located at Maryland National Cemetery in Laurel, Maryland.
Prices subject to change anytime (August 27, 2005).

Upcoming Events

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2005 Port Discovery - Children's Museum in Baltimore

Near Fishmarket at 35 Market Place
at the corner of Lombard Street and Market Place

Come meet Gul Sezen-Oktem, one of our newest members, at Port Discovery. Hopefully new families in the area will use this opportunity to meet with other Turkish American families. This event is planned for Saturday morning at 10:00 AM. Those planning on attending please meet at the McDonalds next to the museum.

Port Discovery, the Children's Museum in Baltimore, offers three floors of interactive, educational exhibits and programs for children ages 2-12 years old. Port Discovery's home is in Baltimore's historic Fishmarket at 35 Market Place at the corner of Lombard Street and Market Place.

You can get there by car from I-83 or I-95; by bus from MTA 7,10,19 and 20, with connections to Light Rail; or by Metro subway with a stop at Market Place/Shot Tower station that drops you off right at the museum's doorstep!

**Cost: Adult - \$11.00, Senior - \$10.00, Children (2-12) - \$8.50,
Children (under 2) – Free**

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18th, 2005 ATLANTIC CITY BUS TRIP – Showboat Casino

RESERVATIONS ON A FIRST PAID, SEAT SAVED BASIS

**Cost: \$40 non-member \$30 member (We will get back ~ \$20 in
casino money).**

**DEPARTS COLUMBIA MALL, near JC Penney SUNDAY (9:00 AM)
Returns 9:30 PM**

November Activity

**We are planning a more formal activity sometime in early November
More information will be provided when the details have been arranged
Members will receive early notification by mail
Or check on line at www.atamd.org**

The Turkish American Islamic Foundation, the only Turkish Mosque in the region had a picnic on August 21st. The current imam, Kerim Birinci, and immediate past imam Hasan Yavalar were both present to meet and greet members of the community.



Imam Kerim Birinci, Kent and Ayla Drummond, Cathy Ward.



Previous Imam Hasan Yavalar and friends.



Member Highlight: Ertugrul Guler

Ertugrul Guler joined MATA in 2004 and is an enthusiastic member. He was born in Erzurum, Turkey and moved to Istanbul in 1962. Ertugrul moved to the United States in 1985 to attend college. He has received a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Maryland. Ertugrul also has earned his AA degree from Essex Community College in Hotel Administration. He is presently a manager at Martins Inc. He lives in Harford County, Maryland with his wife and son.

August, 2005

Dear Colleagues-

I want to take this opportunity to bring you up to date on what the Maryland American Turkish Association (MATA) has been up to.

First, I want to thank the past members of the Board of Directors. **Fulya Pak**, our energetic director who had to return to Turkey this winter for an opportunity she couldn't refuse, was a fireball of energy and enthusiasm. She is missed, especially by me. **Hatice Cetiner**, another loyal director who, with her husband **Ercument**, spearheaded our last very successful döner dinner at **Riza Belen's** Savage Mill, will also be missed. I hope, however, that MATA may be able to benefit from their spirit of volunteerism in the future. Thank you Hatice and Ercument! **Riza Belen**, proud owner of the Savage Mill Café, also got an offer he couldn't refuse, and our local Turkish watering hole evaporated. Riza also contributed in many ways, the least of which was the use of his restaurant for several successful Turkish dinners. I also hope Riza will be able to contribute in the future, as his new career stabilizes. We also miss **Metin Omer**, our very past member and president; last we heard he was becoming a proud owner of a gasoline service station. We wish him success in his new career.

We had general elections back in April, and I am pleased to announce the following officers and board directors. **Ozcan Mustafa**, long time supporter and Board member was elected as president. I am confident Ozcan will have a very successful tenure as president. My congratulations. As outgoing president, I am very encouraged by his selection. I fully expect that under his leadership MATA will rise again to fulfill a role of a solid, active, local Turkish American organization! Our treasurer, **Kent Drummond**, once again is filling a very critical role. Kent has ensured that our finances continue to be handled responsibly. Ertugrul Guler, our representative from north of Baltimore joined the Board last year has been an enthusiastic and supportive Board member. And finally **Timur Edib**, our newest board member, has shown fresh energy and assumed a very critical responsibility, recruiting new members. All of these individuals have given me strength when I absolutely needed it, and I owe a deep debt of gratitude for their support and enthusiastic energy. We also have some new members whom I hope to get to join the Board!

On another note, MATA purchased 25 cemetery plots this summer in the Maryland National Memorial Cemetery in Laurel. Several of our members are buried there. We are still working on the paperwork for each of the individual plots, and will provide you with more information shortly. But these \$3185 plots are available to MATA members for only \$2400, which includes plot, concrete liner, and burial service (opening and closing of grave site). The section is dedicated for muslims. If you need more information please contact any of the Board members.

Orhan H. Suleiman
Vice-president, MATA

Membership/Cemetery plot application (8-2005)

I am interested in cemetery plot. Please call me. check box if interested.

Name: Mr/Mrs/Ms/Dr _____

Address: _____

Street-city-state-zip

Email _____@_____

Telephone: Home _____ Work _____

DUES ARE \$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