



TAA Newsletter Volume 2 Issue 10

October 2012

Dear Friend,

Kurban Bayraminiz mubarek olsun / Eid Mubarek,

Having significant member organizations in the East Coast, we all celebrated Eid al Adha / Kurban Bayrami with mixed feelings of joy and anxiety due to Hurricane Sandy. As usual, Bayram has been celebrated with big fests including Kavurma (braised meat) throughout the US in TAA affiliated centers. We are proud to continue serving Turkic Americans using every single opportunity.

The first ever Silk Road Festival organized in US soil has been a huge success in Houston Texas. As it is referred in Media, silk road reached now to Houston. You got to visit the Festival next time around to see yourself to believe that enormous event. Please go to their website below for amazing pictures about Turkic performances, delicious food from Central Asia, exhibitions from masters, VIP reception and much more.

Rethink Institute's panel on Tajikistan was critical to address some issue in the region. Quality speakers draw a group of quality participants. Another highlight this month was SATA's Annual Meeting where academicians from MidAtlantic Universities gathered to exchange ideas.

Our component organization in DC, Rumi Forum held annual Peace and Dialog Award event and acknowledged individuals who had extraordinary accomplishments in various categories.

Finally, remember Election day is coming up, please vote next week. It is your civic duty. We are glad to hear that Turkic Americans start engaging more in this aspect also in various capacities.

Hope you will enjoy our monthly newsletter!

Faruk Taban, Ph.D.

For more info about Silk Road Festival: <http://silkroadfest.org/>

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Opening of Ahiska Cultural Center in Dayton, Ohio

October 22nd, 2012

The Ahiska Turkish American Community Center (ATACC Dayton) works to create, promote, and preserve the Ahiskan culture while helping the Ahiskan people to well-integrate with the greater American society. Therefore, there were many people who came from different states and Turkey to celebrate the opening of the ATACC and 2012 annual Ahiskan community meeting. Among the many notable guests were Fatih Yildiz,



Consulate General of Turkey in Chicago; Mayor Gary Leitzell; Habibullah Mursel, president of all Ahiska

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SATA Annual Meeting and Workshop 2012



October 13th, 2012

October 13, 2012, Society of American Turkish Academicians (SATA) held its annual meeting and workshop with Turkish American academicians. Academicians from various places of the Mid-Atlantic region came to the whole day event. Event began with a delicious breakfast. Then, Dr. Mehmet Kurum welcomed all attendees and introduced the program of the day. From University of Maryland, College Park, Dr. Ahmet Aydilek talked on a topic "Pursuit of Happiness in Academia". Then, TAA President, Dr. Faruk Taban spoke about "TAA's

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Politics of Identity in Tajikistan



October 11th, 2012

On October 11, 2012, Rethink Institute organized a panel discussion entitled "Politics of Identity in Tajikistan" with Ambassador Nuriddin T. Shamsov of the Republic of Tajikistan, Research Professor of International Affairs Dr. Marlene Laruelle from the George [Washington University](#) and Research Fellow Vladimir Fedorenko of the Rethink Institute. The discussion was moderated by Bayram Balci, Visiting Scholar at Middle East Program of Carnegie Endowment. In the aftermath of the collapse of the Soviet Union, Tajikistan faced enormous

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Rumi Forum awards extraordinary public services



October 10th, 2012

On Wednesday, October 10, 2012, Rumi Forum organized a reception at the National Press Club in Washington DC in order to give Peace and Dialogue Awards to distinguished persons who have served to the public for lasting peace and dialogue. Recipients of the Rumi Forum 2012 Peace and Dialogue Awards were Special Representative to Muslim Communities for the United States

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The First Ever Silk Road Festival was a success



October 7th, 2012

The first ever Silk Road Festival has been took place at the Stafford Center in Houston on October 4-7, 2012. The festival was held on a 60-hectare area which was provided to the organizers for the festival by the city of Stafford. Organized by the Turquoise Council of Americans and Eurasians, the Silk Road Festival featured many stands that promote local and traditional handicrafts, music and foods unique to Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, countries located along the ancient trade route known as the Silk Road.

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Historical Silk Road reached Houston TX



October 5th, 2012

Friday, the second day of the Silk Road Festival in Houston has attracted many local people as well as from abroad. There were sections dedicated for respectively Turkmenistan, Turkey, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Azerbaijan. That was very easy to pass to another country in order to watch performances. At the Turkmenistan section, there was a Dutar performance by Batyr Odeyev with his musician Agamyrat Charyyev. Ambassador Meret Orazov of Turkmenistan visited also the section and listened Turkmen songs by greeting Turkmen at the festival.

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First Day of the Silk Road Festival



October 4th, 2012

First day of Silk Road Festival was amazing. More than 7000 people visited the unofficial opening. The first day past like a trip of a life time. Also the weather was perfect to have an outdoor festival. Organized by the Turquoise Council of Americans and Eurasians, the festival gave Houstonites a unique opportunity to enjoy the food, arts, crafts, dances, and music of Central Asia. The "Silk Road" refers to the world's oldest trade route: the network of cities and trails that once spanned the Afro-Eurasian landmass, linking Asia with Mediterranean Europe and Africa. For

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