



TAA Newsletter Volume 2 Issue 12

December 2012

Dear Friends,

The Turkic American Alliance is extremely saddened and deeply sorrowed by the mass shooting which took the lives of 20 children and 6 adults at an elementary school in Newtown, Connecticut. We extend our deepest sympathies to the families of victims. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

This past year the Turkic American Alliance expanded the range of its activities in the nation's capital, and as always hosted an ever increasing number of visitors and guests. In December the Alliance hosted the Governor of Trabzon, representatives from the Trabzon Chamber of Commerce, and the Louisiana State Senator and Senate President Pro Tempore Sharon Weston Broome.

On December 7, the Turkic American Alliance held an opening reception for its new exhibit "The Song of Stones: The Heritage of Anatolian Seljuk Architecture". The goal of the exhibit was to introduce the American public to the cultural legacy of the Seljuk civilization. The exhibit was curated by Ms. Katharine Branning and was co-sponsored by the Blue Dome Press and the Turkic American Alliance, with the support of the Selcuklu Township, Konya, Turkey. It was followed by a lecture by Dr. Ori Z Soltes, from Georgetown University, who discussed the representation of God and the human in Seljuk architecture.

This holiday season we were honored and glad to take part in the capital's holiday celebrations. I attended a Holiday Season celebration at Vice-President Joe Biden's residence on December 6. About twenty Turkic Americans, including the five presidents of TAA member federations attended several Holiday celebrations at the White House, there they met and shook hands with the President and the First Lady. They also participated in a number of White House briefing sessions presented by senior officials. Moreover, we celebrated the New Year and Holiday Season with our neighbors and friends by delivering delicious gift baskets of Turkish goods.

Finally, I am glad to announce that the Directorate for Turks Abroad and Related Communities of the Republic of Turkey made a selection for an Advisory Board, among the 69 members selected from all around the world, myself and seven others were chosen from the United States. We are proud of the significant progress the Turkic American Alliance has made over the past three years. We hope to continue to implement our long-term vision and advance the goals of Turkic American Community in 2013. On behalf of the Turkic American Alliance staff and volunteers, I wish you a very happy and prosperous New Year!

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Deputy Prime Minister Ali Babacan welcomed TAA and TUSKON



December 28, 2012

Deputy Prime Minister Ali Babacan had a meeting with the Turkic American Alliance President Faruk Taban, TUSKON Vice Presidents Ahmet Ciger and Ismail Kisacik in Ankara on December 28th. Dr. Taban talked about TAA's 2011 and 2012 activities and projects and introduced the newly established Rethink Institute in Washington DC. He also presented the hard and enthusiastic work done by Turkish Americans during the 2012 presidential election campaign in the United States, an indication of the diaspora's willingness to involve in all aspects of social and political life. TUSKON representatives discussed a number of bilateral

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Dr. Aurele M. Hounbedji welcomed at TAA



December 20, 2012

On December 20, 2012, Dr. Aurele M. Hounbedji, Director of the Investment Presidential Council of Republic of Benin visited the Turkic American Alliance. TAA's President Dr. Faruk Taban talked about TAA's 2011 and 2012 activities and projects and introduced the newly established Rethink Institute in Washington DC. Dr. Hounbedji mentioned that he had already met with the President of Turkey, Abdullah Gul, during their trip to Turkey with Benin's President Yayi Boni and they have discussed business relations between Turkey

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The President of TOBB Rifat Hisarciklioglu visited the TAA



December 17, 2012

On December 17, 2012 the President of the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) Rifat Hisarciklioglu visited the Turkic American Alliance. He was accompanied by the presidents of the Chamber of Commerce from various provinces in Turkey. During the visit, TAA staff made a presentation about the Alliance activities and accomplishments in the US. Mr. Hisarciklioglu commented, "Having such a dynamic and an active association in the United States is very gratifying, and makes us all very proud."

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Press Statement by Fethullah Gulen on the tragic shooting incident

December 15, 2012

The Turkish-Muslim scholar Fethullah Gulen expressed deep sorrow over the tragic shooting incident which took the lives of 26 people, mostly children, at an elementary school in Newtown, Connecticut.

"I am deeply saddened by the tragic shooting incident at an elementary school in Newtown, Connecticut. It took the lives of 26 innocent individuals; mostly children who were only at the beginning of their precious lives, and also the teachers who had dedicated themselves to nurturing and educating their students. I wish to express my deepest and heart-felt condolences to all the aggrieved families and loved ones, as well as to the American people. [Read More](#)

Seljuk History and Architecture Lecture

**December 14, 2012**

On December 14, 2012 Dr. Ori Z. Soltes, professor of theology, philosophy and art history at Georgetown University spoke about Seljuk history and architecture at the offices of the Turkic American Alliance. Dr. Soltes emphasized the importance of the Seljuks for the development of human civilization and pointed out that Seljuks were a great balancing power in midst of three continents.

Dr. Soltes also emphasized the importance of writers and scholars from the Seljuk period, in particularly Rumi and Omer Hayyam.

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The Presidents of two TAA federations at the White House

**December 12, 2012**

President Barack Obama and the First Lady hosted a holiday reception at the White House on Wednesday, December 12, 2012. Among those invited were Mr. Ozgur Yildiz, President of the West America Turkic Council and Mr. Kemal Oksuz, President of the Turquoise Council. During the reception Mr. Yildiz had the opportunity to chat with the President and the First Lady and conveyed to them warm and sincere greetings from the Turkish American community. The President said that he is aware of all the hard and enthusiastic work done by Turkish Americans during the election campaign, and talked about their engagement and contribution.

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TAA hosted Trabzon Governor and Chamber of Commerce Representatives

December 11, 2012

A delegation of over sixty members from the Turkish city of Trabzon attended a TAA welcoming dinner on Tuesday, December 11, 2012. Among the distinguished guests were Dr. Recep Kizilcik, Governor of Trabzon, Mr. Suat Haciosalioğlu, Executive Committee President of the Trabzon Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Abdullah Koten, Senior Commercial Counselor of the Turkish Embassy, Mr. Emirhan Yorulmazlar Counselor of the Turkish Embassy, and other officials and media representatives.

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Louisiana Senate President Pro Tempore Sharon Broome visited TAA



December 7, 2012

Louisiana Senator and Senate President Pro Tempore Sharon Weston Broome visited the Turkic American Alliance on December 7, 2012. Senator Broome took a short tour of the office, took a picture with the hosts, and then had dinner with TAA's President Dr. Faruk Taban, and Rethink Institute research fellow, Bilal Hacıogullari.

Senator Broome is the first African-American female elected to represent District 15 in the Louisiana State Senate. Her role as a public servant has spanned over two decades. On September 8, 2011

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"The Song of the Stones: The Heritage of Anatolian Architecture"



December 7, 2012

On December 7, 2012 the Turkic American Alliance hosted an opening reception for its new exhibit "The Song of Stones: The Heritage of Anatolian Seljuk Architecture." The exhibit features a series of photographs of Seljuk-era monuments by the renowned Konya architectural photographers Ibrahim Divarci, Ahmet Kus and Feyzi Simsek. The importance of the photographed cites is highlighted by the inclusion of detailed informative panels providing historical insights into the culture of the Anatolian Seljuk Civilization.

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TAA at Vice President Joe Biden's Holiday Reception

December 6, 2012

On December 6, the Turkish American Alliance President, Dr. Faruk Taban attended the US Vice President Season Celebration at his residence at Number One Observatory Circle in Northwestern Washington, DC. Vice President, Joe Biden and his life Dr. Jill Biden hosted more than 100 distinguished guests, but Mr. Taban and Mr. Yeneroğlu were the only ethnic minority guests in attendance.

Vice President Biden and Dr. Jill Biden were exceptionally gracious hosts, engaging in conversation with



each of their guests and discussing a variety of issues and concerns. Dr. Taban invited Vice President Biden to be an honored

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Azeri Parliament Day organized by TCAE and CTAA



December 5, 2012

On December 5, 2012 TAA's President Dr. Faruk Taban and TAA's Program Director Murat Akkus attended an Azeri Parliament Day Celebration at Capitol Hyatt in Washington DC. Close to 50 people attended the event.

Among the distinguished guests were Louisiana Congressman Bill Cassidy, Montana Congressman Denny Rehberg, Ohio Congresswoman Jean Schmidt, Minnesota Senator Al Franken, Indiana Congressman Joe Donnelly, Indiana

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