

















TAA Newsletter Volume 2 Issue 5

May 2012

Dear Friend,

We have hosted two Ambassadors Talk Series respectively with Ambassador Mitar Kujundzic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Ambassador Roman Kirn of Slovenia.

Congressman Hank Johnson (GA-D) spoke also at TAA's headquarters on a topic "Turkey: Bridge for the world, heart of a region".

There was a really interesting discussion with Charles J Sullivan on "After Abbottabad: Assessing America's Afghanistan Policy"

You can find more about other events and TAA Member organizations' events.

Hope you will enjoy our monthly newsletter!

Faruk Taban, Ph.D.

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# Bosnia and Herzegovina and Its Current Development



#### May 29th, 2012

Turkic American Alliance organized Ambassadors Talk Series with H.E. Mitar Kujundzic, Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United States. His topic entitled "Bosnia and Herzegovina and Its Current Development". H.E. Mitar Kujundzic has served as ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United States since February 2009. Born on May 15, 1967, in Sarajevo, Kujundzic studied mechanical engineering in college. His additional schooling consisted of diplomatic coursework in Bijeljina and Sarajevo, Oslo, Norway, and Vienna,

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## Resolving Turkey's Kurdish Issue

#### May 22nd, 2012

Rethink Institute hosted today a conference named "Resolving Turkey's Kurdish Issue" in TAA's conference hall. There were three panels that discussed the issue from the various perspectives. Turkey is in the midst of redrafting its constitution and the Kurdish issue appears to be the most challenging aspect of the process. The Rethink Institute, in line with its mission of understanding contemporary political and cultural challenges in realizing peace and justice around the world, brings together known experts to discuss every angle of the issue and thus contribute to its peaceful

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# Slovenia's 20 Years of Independence: Before and After



### May 17th, 2012

TAA organized Ambassadors Talk Series with Ambassador Roman Kirn of Slovenia today at its headquarters. H.E. Roman Kirn spoke to the audience on a topic entitled "Slovenia's 20 Years of Independence: Before and After". TAA's President Faruk Taban warmly welcomed Ambassador Kirn and introduced him to guests. H.E. Roman Kirn:Thank you very much for kindly introduction. Let me first thank to the Turkic American Alliance for this kind invitation. It is my pleasure to share with you some thoughts.

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## After Abbottabad: Assessing America's Afghanistan Policy



### May 14th, 2012

Today, TAA hosted Charles J Sullivan, author of the newly published policy paper entitled "After Abbottabad: Assessing America's Afghanistan Policy" by the Rethink Institute. He is a PhD candidate in political science at the George Washington University. Mr. Sullivan spoke to the TAA's audience about his policy paper. He said all the efforts by Afghanistan government and the international community should be to move forward Afghanistan from a failed state to at least a weak state position. In order to achieve a success in

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# Turkey: Bridge for the world, heart of a region



### May 13th, 2012

Today, TAA hosted Congressman Hank Johnson (GA-D) at its headquarters. He talked on a topic entitled "Turkey: Bridge for the world, heart of a region". TAA President Dr. Faruk Taban warmly welcomed Congressman Hank Johnson and guests. He told a moment which he lived in Turkey with Congressman Johnson himself. Then Dr. Taban invited Congressman Johnson to the podium.Congressman Hank Johnson:"Building on that tradition of diversity and freedom, Turkey is playing a unique role in today's geopolitical order as

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## 5th Annual New York Turkish Olympiads



### May 5th, 2012

Turkish Olympiad award ceremony was held in New York on Saturday, May 5, 2012. First Turkish Olympiads in New York had started in year 2007. This year's ceremony had hundreds of new attendees who were very anxious to see the event. But unfortunately many could not get in due to high interest for the program. The event brought people

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# Sierra Foundation: 5th Reno Turkish Festival



### May 20th, 2012

5th Annual Reno Turkish Festival was sponsored and organized by the Sierra Foundation on Sunday, May 20th 2012 at Wingfield Park. The Turkish Festival was a huge success! More than 2000 people experienced Turkish Arts & Crafts, Calligraphy, Henna, Ebru (Water marbling), Anatolian corner, Folk dancing, Face painting & Cotton candy for kids, Turkish Adana kebab, Shish kebab, Baklava, Salads, Turkish coffee & tea and a musical performance by

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