



TAA Newsletter Vol 2 Issue 7

July 2012

Dear Friend,

Great events happened in the month of July, 2012 at Turkic American Alliance. We would like to keep you updated about those news. One of them was Independence Day Celebration as myself and Representatives from our component organizations attended to the Celebration in Ankara hosted by the US Ambassador Francis J. Ricciardone at his residence. TAA also hosted a 4th of July event as usual at our headquarters' rooftop in Washington DC.

"Holy Month of the Ramadan" has begun in July which is the month of friendship, generosity, and sharing with each other. Thus, we organized our first Ramadan Dinner (Iftar) in this year. Rep. Mike Honda (D-CA) attended to the Dinner. As he said, people learn how to share with each others in this month.

In addition, there were many events held at our component organizations that you will find only a few selected ones below. Hope you will enjoy our monthly newsletter!

Faruk Taban, PhD

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## TAA and Rumi Forum organized Ramadan Dinner



**July 31, 2012**

Today, Turkic American Alliance and its component organization, Rumi Forum organized a Ramadan dinner for the Government officials, Members of the Diplomatic Corps and staff from agencies. Among the guests were the Ambassador of Mozambique Amelia Matos Sumbana and the Ambassador of Macedonia Zoran Jolevski. A total of approximately 75 guests attended the dinner including many diplomats, people from the State Department. There were three main speakers who emphasized the importance of coexistence and creating bridges between different faiths and

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## TAA Representatives attended to the Secretary Hillary

## Clinton's Global Diaspora Forum

**July 25-26, 2012**

TAA President Faruk Taban, MAFTAA's Executive Director Mahmut Yeter, and Rumi Forum's President Emre Celik attended to the Secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton's Global Diaspora Forum. They had a special meeting with Kris M. Balderston, Special Representative for Global Partnerships at the U.S. Department of State during the forum. President Faruk Taban introduced the TAA and its activities to him as well as Mahmut Yeter and Emre Celik told about their respective organizations.

### Rep. Mike Honda (D-CA) attended to Ramadan Dinner at TAA



**July 24, 2012**

TAA organized a Ramadan dinner for the Members of the Congress, Government official and their staff. Congressman Mike Honda (D-CA) and around 70 participants along with approximately 40 Congressional and Government staffers attended the dinner including Representatives from various TAA component organizations nationwide. Rep. Mike Honda said "Happy Ramadan" to the guests. He has been learning about Ramadan Dinners (iftars) since 2-3 years and indicated that he was happy being at such an organization. He concluded his remarks by saying "I would like to

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### The US Independence Day and Turkish American Friendship



**July 4, 2012**

TAA President Faruk Taban and Representatives from TAA Member Federations attended to the Celebration of the US Independence Day and Turkish American Friendship that was hosted by Ambassador Francis J. Ricciardone at the US Embassy's Residence in Ankara. They greeted Ambassador Ricciardone with the US Independence Day. Dr. Faruk Taban has also mentioned about the 4th of July celebration which is hosted at the TAA's rooftop each year in Washington DC. As he emphasized it is very exciting to watch the fireworks both over the Washington Monument

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### US Independence Day Celebration at TAA's Rooftop



**July 4, 2012**

TAA staffs celebrated the US Independence day at TAA's rooftop with family members as well as close friends from the US Congress. There was a small reception in the Conference Hall of TAA. Guests enjoyed the Turkish cuisine for dinner. Executive Director of the Rethink Institute Dr. Fevzi Bilgin celebrated all guests and thus citizens of the US at the reception. He had a meaningful talk about what the Independence Day meaning and struggles around the globe for independence. Then, guests watched the fireworks at the rooftop. Flags were flying high and fireworks were lightening up the sky! The

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## Ambassador of the Republic of Macedonia Zoran Jolevski talked at Rumi Forum



**July 16, 2012**

Ambassador of the Republic of Macedonia to the United States, His Excellency Zoran Jolevski talked at TAA's component organization, Rumi Forum on a topic entitled "Integration of Southeast Europe into NATO and EU and Macedonia's role". Metodija A. Koloski, President of the United Macedonian Diaspora (UMD) was moderator of the talk. H.E. Zoran Jolevski was born on July 16th, 1959 in Skopje, Republic of Macedonia and therefore, Metodija celebrated Ambassador Jolevski with his birthday that is on the same day. Ambassador Zoran Jolevski began to his talk after the introduction.

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## Ramadan Tent Dinner brings a flavor of the East to Bethlehem



**July 28, 2012**

About 100 Americans and Turks broke bread and baklava last week in Bethlehem. The 10th annual Intercultural Dialogue and Friendship Ramadan Dinner celebrated the ninth month of the lunar Islamic calendar on Wednesday and Thursday nights in Bethlehem. Hosted by Lehigh Dialogue Center, a program of prominent speakers and chanted prayer began at 7:30 p.m. Istanbul Grill on Broad Street served dinner at 8:15 p.m. alongside traditional Turkish coffee and Turkish delights from the LDC. The event was free and open to the public. Other organizers and sponsors of the event were Peace Islands

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## Sisters in Spirit Interfaith Iftar Dinner



**July 26, 2012**

Co-organized by Peace Islands Institute and Boston Dialogue Foundation, Sisters in Spirit Interfaith Iftar Dinner took place on Thursday, July 26 at Turkish Cultural Center Boston. With the participation of more than 50 women the event was phenomenal. The program launched with a few words from the vice president of Boston Dialogue Foundation, Dr. Ayse K Coskun, and continued with a recitation of the Qur'an. At the time of breaking the fast, guests prayed together. Followed by dinner and engaging conversation amongst the guests, the event was a great opportunity for everyone to

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## Welcoming Ramadan Iftar Dinner at Travis County Sheriff's Office

**July 17, 2012**





Representatives of The Institute of Interfaith Dialog (IID) organized a Welcoming Ramadan Dinner at Travis County Sheriff Greg Hamilton's office on July 17th, 2012. Sheriff's officers and other guests came together with the members of The Institute of Interfaith Dialog to share a Welcoming Ramadan Iftar Dinner. Opening speech of Sheriff Greg Hamilton is followed by a delicious dinner including "Baklava".

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