



TAA Newsletter Volume 3, Issue 7

July 2013

Dear Friends,

The Turkic American Alliance has kept very busy during this exciting July month of 2013. The TAA Board celebrated the United States' 237th Independence Day during a 3-day retreat to the Rocky Mountains just outside Denver, Colorado. Hosted by our member organization the Mosaic Multicultural Foundation, twenty of us attended the retreat, including the TAA Board of Directors and a handful of leaders from our member organizations nationwide. Tucked away in a beautiful enclave of the United States Midwest, the retreat served as both a rejuvenating getaway and an important opportunity for strategic planning, evaluating past events, future activities planning, and conducting specialized workshops and presentations.

Less than a week following this retreat, TAA welcomed the Holy Month of Ramadan, an exceptional time of the year imbued with the virtues of friendship, community, generosity, and thanksgiving. In the spirit of such virtues, we have been busy as ever hosting Iftar dinners (up to two or three times a week) here at TAA, welcoming honorable guests from various eminent governmental bodies and embassies. Among those, TAA also organized a "Turkic Community Leaders Iftar," in which attendees comprised distinguished guests from the Turkic community. And on nights when TAA didn't host, myself and our other members were graciously received at Iftars organized by the Pentagon, the State Department, USDA, City of DC and the White House.

Our member organizations have kept busy, too, during this Ramadan season. Be sure to check out highlights from the annual Ramadan Iftar Tent held in several cities across the country including one in Northern Virginia Virginia, organized by the American Turkish Friendship Association (ATFA).

Lastly, I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to TAA's and other member organizations' countless and tireless volunteers, without whom these Iftars would not have been such a success.

Sincerely,

Faruk Taban, Ph.D.
President

IN THIS ISSUE

[VIP Signature Ramadan Dinner at Turkic American Alliance](#)

[Ramadan Dinner at the White House](#)

[Ramadan Dinner at the State Department](#)

[Iftar for the Turkic Community Leaders](#)

[United States Commission on International Religious Freedom \(USCIRF\) Iftar](#)

[Traditional Ramadan Tent in Virginia](#)

[Assembly of Friends of Azerbaijan Hosts a "Southern Gas Corridor" Reception](#)

[Ramadan Dinner at U.S. Congress](#)

[Pentagon Hosts Iftar Dinner](#)

[TAA Holds a Board Retreat](#)

[Congressional Delegation Travels to Baku, Istanbul and Budapest](#)

VIP Signature Ramadan Dinner at Turkic American Alliance



July 30, 2013

The holy month of Ramadan has kept the Muslim community very active. On Tuesday, July 30th, the Turkic American Alliance and its component organization Rumi Forum came together to host a Ramadan Iftar for many dignitaries in the Washington, D.C. Region.

The night quickly took momentum as the guests arrived and checked in. Once the head count was

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Ramadan Dinner at the White House



July 25, 2013

On Thursday, July 25, 2013, President Barack Obama hosted his fifth annual Iftar at the White House. Turkish Ambassador Namik Tan was in attendance, in addition to Burak Yeneroğlu, President of Bayrock Natural Stone, LLC, based in New Jersey. Other invited guests included elected officials, religious officials, religious and grassroots leaders in the Muslim American community, and

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Ramadan Dinner at the State Department



July 24, 2013

On Wednesday, July 24, 2013, Secretary of State John Kerry hosted an Iftar to in the Benjamin Franklin Room at the Department of State. TAA President Faruk Taban, Ph.D., attended the event, in addition to many Ambassadors and State Department representatives, a few members from U.S. Congress, and Muslim organization leaders nationwide.

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Iftar for the Turkic Community Leaders



July 23, 2013

On Tuesday, July 23, 2013, the Turkic American Alliance (TAA) welcomed over sixty prominent guests from various Turkic American organizations and businesses in the Washington, D.C., area for a Ramadan Iftar meal. The Turkic community was well represented at this event, among them leaders from the Tajik, Azeri, Kazakh, Turkmen, Kyrgyz, Uzbek, Turkish, Meshketian, Uyghur, and Tatar communities.

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United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) Iftar

July 22, 2013



On Monday, July 22, 2013, the Turkic American Alliance (TAA) hosted an intimate Ramadan dinner for distinguished guests from the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, including Vice Chair Katrina Lantos Swett, Ph.D., Vice Chair M. Zuhdi Jasser, Ph.D., Commissioner Sam Gejdenson, Executive Director Amb. Jackie Wolcott, and Policy Analyst Sahar Chaudhry. Also in [Read More](#)

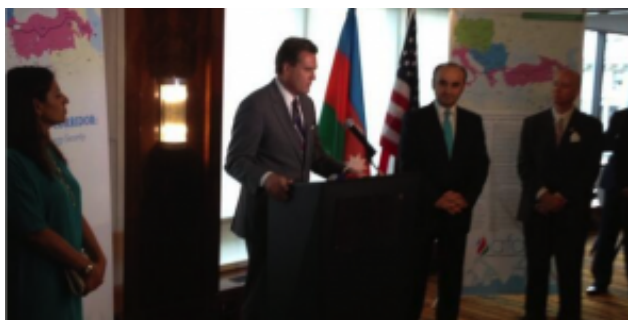
Traditional Ramadan Tent in Virginia



July 19, 2013

July 17th, 18th, and 19th marked the highly anticipated festivities surrounding the annual Ramadan Tent Iftar, a special tradition in the Turkish-American community that takes place every year in Oakton, Virginia. Organized by the American Turkish Friendship Association (ATFA), the Iftar Tent is a practice that dates back to the times of the Ottoman Empire. Referred to as çadır ("cha-der," the second [Read More](#)

Assembly of Friends of Azerbaijan Hosts a "Southern Gas Corridor" Reception



July 18, 2013

On Thursday, July 18, 2013, the Assembly of Friends of Azerbaijan (AFAZ) hosted an evening reception, entitled "Southern Gas Corridor and its Role in European Energy Security." Held at the Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill, the event brought together over twenty Members of Congress, including one Senator and twenty-two Representatives, U.S. State Department officials, [Read More](#)

Ramadan Dinner at U.S. Congress



July 18, 2013

On Thursday, July 18, 2013, the Turkic American Alliance hosted a Ramadan dinner for U.S. Congress in the Gold Room of the Rayburn House Office Building. Distinguished attendees included U.S. Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX), U.S. Congressman Danny Davis (D-IL), former U.S. Senator Richard Lugar (R-IN), congressional advisors, Members of Parliament from Azerbaijan, [Read More](#)

Pentagon Hosts Iftar Dinner

July 11, 2013



On July 11, 2013, Islamic holy month of Ramadan was celebrated by hosting an Iftar dinner in Pentagon. The president of Turkic American Alliance, Dr. Faruk Taban, also attended to this traditional Pentagon Ramadan Iftar. There were about 150 guests. The distinguished attendees of this event were religious and grassroots leaders in the Muslim American community, and leaders of [Read More](#)

TAA Holds a Board Retreat



July 3, 2013

Turkic American Alliance with the help of Multicultural Mosaic Foundation held its first Board Retreat for the leaders of its member Federations at the Snow Mountain Ranch located in Granby, CO. This program, which coincided with the National Celebrations of the Independence Day, gathered more than 20 people, particularly, Federation Presidents, Cultural and Dialog Center Directors, [Read More](#)

Congressional Delegation Travels to Baku, Istanbul and Budapest



July 1, 2013

Earlier this month a delegation of United States Members of Congress, including U.S. Senator Roger Wicker (R-MS), U.S. Senator Mike Crapo (R-ID), U.S. Representative Chris Smith (R-NJ), U.S. Representative Doc Hastings (R-WA), and U.S. Representative Robert Aderholt (R-AL), organized a congressional delegation (CODEL) trip to Azerbaijan, Turkey, and Hungary. The Turkic [Read More](#)

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