

TURKIC
AMERICAN
ALLIANCE



PROGRAMS
&
ACTIVITIES



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Dr. Faruk Taban
meets President Barack Obama

TURKIC AMERICAN ALLIANCE

The Turkic American Alliance is the largest national Turkic organization in the United States, representing six regional federations and over 200 community associations, cultural centers, business associations, education institutions and private schools. It is an independent, non-profit umbrella organization established in 2010. The Turkic American Alliance functions as a powerful advocate for dialogue not only between the Turkic American community and the American public in general, but also the Turkic states and the United States. It connects and coordinates the activities of its member organizations and articulates, represents and promotes the interest of the Turkic American community on the national level.

OUR WORK

The Turkic American Alliance leads the Turkic American community in its efforts to enhance cross-cultural and bilateral understanding by organizing cultural, educational, academic and business interactions and events. We implement a wide array of programs and events that strive to build more vibrant communities and ultimately a stronger America. We work on many fronts, including

- Cultural Interaction Programs
- Community Development and Outreach Activities
- Peace and Dialogue Promotion
- Educational Initiatives
- Research and Policy Development
- Business Network Building



TURKIC AMERICAN ALLIANCE WASHINGTON PROGRAMS

Annual Turkic American Convention

Every year the Turkic American Alliance holds a Turkic American Convention, its largest annual gathering, focused on strengthening the political, social, and economic ties between the Turkic World and the United States. The convention takes place in Washington, DC, and brings together a diverse range of stakeholders, including governmental officials and parliamentary delegations from the Turkic countries, US government officials, US Senators and Representatives, emissaries, leaders of the Turkic diaspora, private sector stakeholders, representative of multinational corporations, members of policy circles, representatives of international organizations, academic experts, and members of nonprofit organizations.

Congressional Talk Series

The Congressional Talk Series hosts distinguished policy experts and acclaimed academics to present essential, first-hand information and insights on a variety of timely and critical topics. These talks, held on the Hill, cover a wide range of issues and regions, such as the developments in Turkey, the Turkic World, Eurasia and the Middle East. They provide a distinctive opportunity for a high level, direct communication and information exchange between renowned experts, senior administrators and members of Congress.

Political and Congressional Affairs

The Turkic American Alliance is continuously building and expanding its relationship with the US President, Members of Congress, and other top elected officials. Through private and public meetings, special events and receptions, we build bridges and friendships. As part of this friendship, the Turkic American Alliance President Dr. Faruk Taban was invited to the White House Ramadan Dinner hosted by President Obama both in 2011 and 2012.

The Alliance also builds partnerships abroad, and every year members of the TAA Board of Directors visit a number of different Turkic countries for the purpose of informing their leaders about TAA activities and role in the United States and establishing a working relationship with them.

Ambassador Talk Series

Hosted at our Washington, DC office, the Ambassador Talk Series offers a convenient forum for the Ambassadors of the Turkic countries and other countries to present first hand, insider information on the most critical and/or recent developments about their countries. The initiative promotes information exchange, open dialogue, and networking activities between the foreign top diplomats and a wide and diverse audience. In the past year, the Turkic American Alliance hosted the Ambassadors of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Azerbaijan, Kosovo, Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Washington Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

Conferences, Seminars, Workshops

The research, analysis and problem-solving side of our community engagement is continuously expanding. The Turkic American Alliance and its members organize an ever growing array of high-profile conferences, panels, workshops, guest lectures and talks. The Alliance fulfills the goal of linking the policy, academic and social communities by organizing leadership workshops, seminars and guest lecture series. Our Distinguished Guest Speaker series regularly invites DC influentials and academics. The Rethink Institute, our research and policy development partner, frequently publishes policy reports and holds panels on critical issues such as Turkey's Kurdish question, the crisis in Syria, politics of identity in Tajikistan, and the regional repercussion of the Trans-Anatolian Pipeline Agreement (TANAP).



TAA hosts Dr. Katrina Swett,
USCIRF Chair



US Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-WI)
with local Turkish Americans

NATIONAL PROGRAMS

Annual Dialogue and Friendship Dinners

Every year the Turkic American Alliance member federations and associations host Dialogue and Friendship dinners in over 100 cities nationwide. The dinners, which have become a cherished tradition, bring together community and religious leaders, media and NGO representatives, elected officials and academics for an open dialogue and discussion on topics centering on cross-cultural understanding and peace building. On each occasion the keynote speeches highlight ideas instrumental to the process of promoting respect, tolerance and mutual appreciation.

Annual Peace and Dialogue Awards

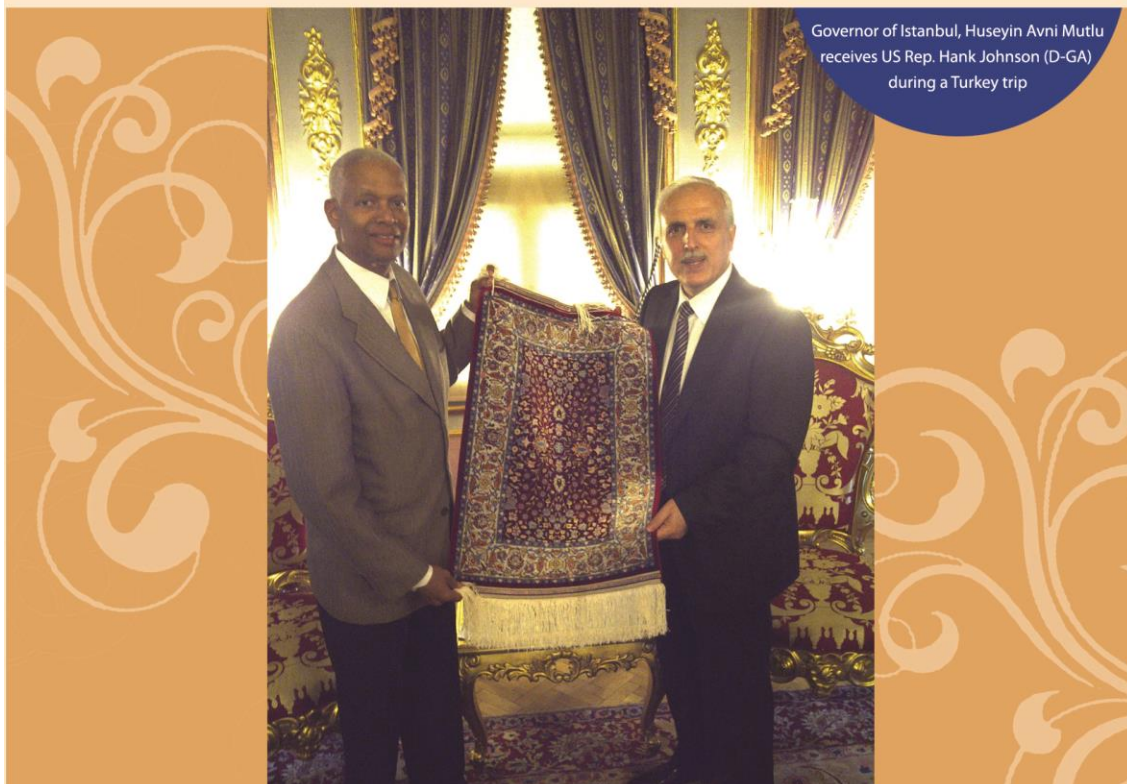
The Turkic American Alliance member associations annually honor highly distinguished individuals for their exceptional contributions and work for the cause of dialogue, peace and community service. These awards are based on a variety of key criteria and are divided into different areas including community service, education, leadership, and philanthropy. Most acclaimed among them are the Peace and Dialogue Awards given by the Niagara Foundation of Chicago, and the Rumi Forum of Washington DC.

Legislative Receptions

The Turkic American Alliance member federations and associations engage with their local representatives throughout the year. They also host annual receptions in 45 state capitols. These events enable the Turkic American community to meet with state legislators, establish lasting relations and discuss issues of mutual importance. It is also an opportunity to introduce Turkic nations, and key facets of their history, traditions, arts and cuisine to this distinguished audience.

Exploration Trips

All Turkic American Alliance regional federations and some of their local chapters organize exploration trips to a number of Turkic countries. They take a diverse group of political, civic and religious leaders, journalists and academics for a tailor-made, week-long, educational and cultural immersion. Participants explore the culture, history and economy of these modern-day countries and have an opportunity to interact with different sections of society: individuals, businesses, cultural and religious organizations, educational institutions and government officials. They visit some of the most ancient and captivating sites and experience first-hand the delights of the cuisine and the richness of the historic and artistic heritage.



Governor of Istanbul, Huseyin Avni Mutlu
receives US Rep. Hank Johnson (D-GA)
during a Turkey trip



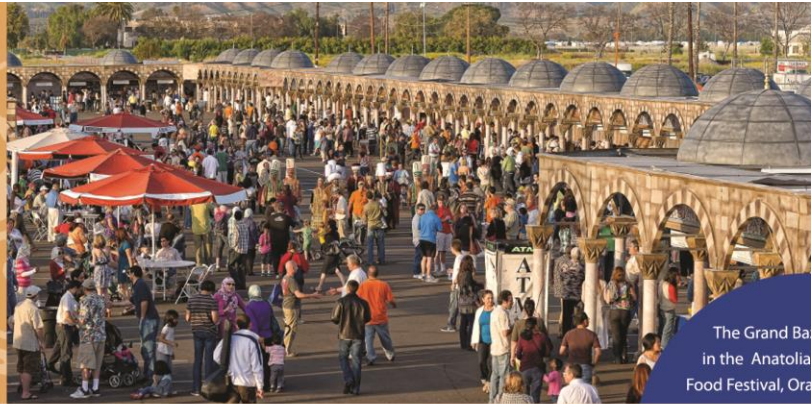
Trade and Business Network Building

The Turkic American Alliance and its affiliated business chambers actively promote the expansion of trade and commerce between the Turkic states and businesses, and their American partners. We offer collective advocacy and networking activities for business groups that are seeking to venture into new markets and expand their transnational presence. Our Trade Mission Project facilitates overseas business trips that are supported by the government of the host country. In these endeavors, the Turkic American Alliance actively collaborates with other international business umbrella organizations, such as TUSKON (The Confederation of Businessmen and Industrialists of Turkey).

Social Responsibility Programs

Our community is especially sensitive and responsive to those in need of assistance and support. The Turkic American Alliance member organizations raised funds and participated in humanitarian relief to help those affected by the Katrina and Sandy hurricanes, and the Haiti earthquake. Several times a year we visit homeless shelters in a number of cities and provide supplies. On Mothers' Day, members of our community visit and engage women in assisted living homes, and on Thanksgiving we distribute food and other essentials to the local communities in need.





The Grand Bazaar Booths
in the Anatolian Culture and
Food Festival, Orange County, CA

Turkic Festivals

Now held in more than 10 cities throughout the United States, these festivals highlight the artistic, culinary and folklore achievements of the Turkish, Balkan and Eurasian cultures. They engage visitors with demonstrations of art, calligraphy, henna applications, folk dances and authentic food. Thousands participate in dance programs, food bazaars and youth-centered activities every year. Most notable examples are the Anatolian Cultures and Food Festival in Los Angeles and the Silk Road Festival in Houston.

Turkish Language Olympiad

Launched in 2003, this now widely popular event brings together students from all over the United States to compete in a demonstration of their Turkish language and culture skills. Every year, each of the Turkic federations selects a finalist to participate in the various categories at the Worldwide Competition. This exclusive program encourages youth cultural education and personal development, provides a lot of excitement for the participants and the millions of TV viewers, and celebrates Turkish culture and language.

Joy and celebration during
Turkish Olympiad





Katharine Branning, book author of
"Yes, I would love another glass of tea"

Community Development and Cultural Outreach

The Turkic community in the United States is exceptionally active in its efforts to reach out to other religious and ethnic groups, as well as to the wider community, and share with them the rich Turkic cultural legacy and the best of its artistic, educational, and culinary traditions. Local community development and expansive cultural outreach are central to the Turkic American Alliance and its members' overall mission in the United States. Our cultural centers continuously enhance the cultural and social life of our community and serve our localities through a wide gamut of local and national programs and events. They provide spaces for cultural dialogue and exchange, education and training, and are at the heart of our commitment to the wider neighborhood and its specific needs. They host Turkish language classes, cooking classes, weekend and summer school for kids, seminars, dialogue and networking dinners, disaster relief campaigns, sister city initiatives and special holiday celebrations. Local elected officials are often invited to converse, celebrate or address important local issues at the centers.

Cooking classes at American Turkish
Friendship Association Fairfax, VA





43 BRANCHES



31 BRANCHES



17 BRANCHES



40 BRANCHES



51 BRANCHES



40 BRANCHES

