



TAA Newsletter Volume 2 Issue 8

August 2012

Dear Friend,

We celebrate you with your passing Ramadan Bayram (Eid). There were many events at TAA and its member organizations. The most prominent of those were Ramadan Dinners.

As we hosted Congressman Mike Doyle of Pennsylvania (D) and other distinguished guests at our headquarters during the month of Ramadan; we were honored to be invited to the White House for President Barack Obama's Annual Iftaar.

In addition, Silk Road Festival will be held at the Stafford Center from October 4th - 7th, 2012 that organized by the Turquoise Council of Americans and Eurasians. Hope you will enjoy our monthly newsletter!

Faruk Taban, Ph.D.

PS: <http://silkroadfest.org/>  
Watch Silk Road Festival Movie



Silk Road Festival Animation

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## Community Cultural Center



### August 19th, 2012

Millions of Muslims are celebrating the Ramadan Eid that ends the fasting month of Ramadan, by participating in feasts, family reunions and other festivities. American Turkish Friendship Association, ATFA organized Ramadan Eid (Bayram) Programs on Sunday, August 19th. On the first morning of Ramadan Eid, mostly Turkic 700 Muslims around Northern Virginia attended Bayram prayer at Annandale High School around 07:45 am. Breakfast was served after the prayer then followed by the exchange of family and friends greetings.

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## TAA's Iftaar for participants of USCIRF



### August 16th, 2012

Turkic American Alliance organized its last Ramadan dinner for participants of The Office of International Religious Freedom on Thursday, August 16th. There were more than thirty guests in attendance. Among the guests were the Former Ambassador to the Republic of Moldova, H.E. Asif Chaudhry; deputy foreign policy advisor to the Chief of Naval Operations Sarah Dachos; President of the Mitchell Firm Greg Mitchell; members from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Ahmediyya

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## Iftar for the Turkish Community



### August 15th, 2012

Over sixty guests from various Turkish organizations as well as Turkish professionals attended to TAA's Ramadan dinner that was organized for the Turkish community in DC metro area on Wednesday, August 15th. There were distinguished guests from the Embassy of Republic of Turkey including Deputy Chief of Mission, Timur Soylemez, Attache for Cultural Affairs, Mesut Ozbek, Commercial Counselor Abdullah Koten, Social and Religious Affairs Counselor, Dr. Yasar Colak. President of

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## Dr. Faruk Taban attended DHS Iftaar



### August 14th, 2012

Another notable Ramadan dinner this year hosted by Department of Homeland Security on Tuesday evening. It was held at the Afghan Restaurant called Bamian and welcomed around 80 guests. Secretary Janet Napolitano attended the event and personally greeted everybody. Among the participants there were Deputy Assistant Director of the Homeland Security at the White House Heidi Avery, State Department's Muslim Representative Farah Pandith, ISNA

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## Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-VA) attended ATFA's Ramadan Tent Iftar Dinner



**August 12th, 2012**

Today is the last day of ATFA's Ramadan Tent Iftar series. Around 600 people came to enjoy a dinner including Turkic American community as well as some other communities in Fairfax. There was a distinguished guest, Congressman Gerry Connolly (D-VA) who attended the event and gave a talk.

"Mubarek Ramadan! It is honor to be here with you. When I heard the music, I thought it was Irish music, but it was actually a beautiful Turkish music. I have been in Turkey once, but I want to

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## President Obama showed his appreciation of the Muslim faith by hosting the Annual Ramadan Dinner at the White House



**August 10th, 2012**

President of Turkic American Alliance, Dr. Faruk Taban attended to the traditional Ramadan dinner again this year at the White House on Friday evening. President of Council of Turkic American Associations (CTAA), Furkan Kosar and New Jersey Businessman Burak Yeneroglu attended the event with Dr. Taban. President Barack Obama hosted around 120 guests. The Iftar dinner celebrating Ramadan in the State Dining Room is the fourth Iftar that President Obama has hosted, continuing the tradition of hosting Iftars that began annually under President Clinton and was continued by President George W. Bush.

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## ATFA's 3 days Ramadan Tent Iftar Series



**August 9th, 2012**

It has already been a tradition in Fairfax, Virginia that local people enjoy Ramadan Tent every year during the month of Ramadan. American Turkish Friendship Association (ATFA) has launched its 3 days Ramadan Tent Iftar Series on August 9, 2012. Around 500 hundred people came to the Iftar including not only Turkic Americans but also from other communities in Fairfax. A big tent has been settled up in a field which is across the street of City of Fairfax Regional Library that is dedicated for Ramadan Dinner. Local people see the Iftar in tent as an

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## Congresswoman Yvette Clark visited Brooklyn Amity School

**August 8th, 2012**





Congresswoman Yvette Clark, Assemblywoman Helene Weinstein, Assemblyman Steven Cymbrowitz and Assemblyman Alain Maisel visited Brooklyn Amity School in order to congratulate the students of Amity School for representing New York in the biggest USA National Karate Championship. Amity's students earned 13 medals, including 5 gold, 5 silver and 3 bronze medals. They all expressed their amazement at these astonishing results. It is all thanks to the students' and their teacher's, Meral Olmez's World Champion 2 times hard work.

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## USCIRF's Chair, Dr. Katrina Lantos Swett at the TAA Iftaar



**August 6th, 2012**

Turkic American Alliance with its component organizations, Rumi Forum, Institute of Islamic and Turkish Studies (IITS), and Rethink Institute offered an iftaar to the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) officials in order to introduce their activities and to improve ongoing dialogue. Dr. Katrina Lantos Swett, Chair of USCIRF, Ambassador Jackie Wolcott, USCIRF Executive Director and Sahar Chaudhry, Policy Analyst attended to the dinner.

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## First Lady Michelle Obama Visited Boston



**August 3rd, 2012**

Representatives of Turkish-American community, including Vice President of Turkish Cultural Center Boston Murat Mutlu, were among a small group of high profile guests attended a dinner with the First Lady Michelle Obama at a fund-raiser event in Boston. Joseph P. Kennedy III; Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino; US Representative Niki Tsongas; Newton Mayor Setti D. Warren; were among other attendees.

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## Faculty Members of Celal Bayar University visited TAA

**August 3rd, 2012**

As one of the TAA Iftaar Series, TAA hosted an academician delegation from Manisa, Turkey on Friday, August 3rd. Those faculty members came from Celal Bayar University. Among the guests were distinguished academic members from the Faculties of Arts and Sciences, Education, Engineering, and Medicine. Among those was Vice President, Prof. Dr. Suheyra Surucuoglu. The president of TAA, Faruk Taban, introduced of TAA activities and projects and the importance of coming from Turkey in order to exchange experiences with faculty members of the Universities in the US.

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## Ramadan Dinner for Turkic American Community



### August 2nd, 2012

TAA held another Ramadan iftar on Thursday, August 2nd to celebrate Ramadan with the Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Turkish, Azeri, Turkmen Tatar, Uzbek as well as Tajik communities who lives in the greater Washington DC metropolitan area. In general, those communities are referred as Turkic American community, but Tajiks. The Turkic Americans came to the US from northern, central, and western Asia who share similar culture, history and background. At the iftar, there were over 70 people. Turkic American Alliance had also organized this kind of iftar last year for

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## Congressman Mike Doyle (D-PA) and Turkish Parliamentarian Dr. Ismail Safi attended Ramadan Dinner



### August 1, 2012

TAA held another Ramadan Dinner (Iftar) on Wednesday, August 1st; in attendance were Member of Congress, Government officials, and their staff. Among the many notable guests were Honorable Congressman Mike Doyle of Pennsylvania and Turkish Parliamentarian Dr. Ismail Safi. Congressman Mike Doyle spoke about his great experiences with the Turkish community in his district. This was not his first Ramadan Iftar but one of many he has attended.

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