



TAA Newsletter, Volume 4, Issue 10 October 2014

Dear Friends,

This month, Muslims across the globe celebrated Eid al-Adha, or *Kurban Bayramı*, marking the end of Hajj--the annual pilgrimage--and the latter of the two high Islamic holidays. On behalf of the Turkic American Alliance, I would like to wish you and yours a most blessed and joyous Eid, as well as Islamic New Year.

In this air of celebration, I would also like to congratulate Malala Yousafzai and Kailash Satyarthi for being awarded the prestigious Nobel Peace Prize. The Turkic American Alliance praises the winners on their courage and continuous commitment to improving the well-being of children and advancing the issues of education worldwide.

In more sobering news, the situation along Turkey's border with Syria continues to grow stark as ISIS militants battle Kurdish forces in the besieged town of Kobane. While we commend Turkey's humanitarianism and hospitality in opening its doors to Syrian refugees fleeing the violence, there are concerns about Turkey's reluctance to open the borders for Syrian Kurdish fighters to cross into Syria and assist in the struggle. We are pleased to hear that Iraqi Peshmerga forces have been given the green-light to cross into Turkey and onwards to Kobane. We also hope for an end to the unrest in southeastern Turkey, the most violence the region has seen in years since rounds of peace talks were initiated between the government and PKK leadership.

Back in Washington, D.C., TAA hosted a panel discussion titled "Silk Road Communities in the United States" during Global Diaspora Week. The event brought together speakers from Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan to highlight the successes, accomplishments and future goals of their respective communities. Additionally, the Rumi Forum celebrated its 15th Anniversary during its 8th Annual Peace and Dialogue Awards at the National Press Club. It also organized the first ever Eid al-Adha Interfaith Luncheon at the White House in collaboration with the Office of Public Engagement.

And across the country, TAA's member organizations have been busy organizing annual friendship dinners. The Pacifica Institute hosted the first of its kind in Alaska, and the Turkish Cultural Centers organized a series of dinners in Syracuse, Westchester and Buffalo. Additionally, the Turkish Cultural Center in Staten Island moved to a new location in the Dongan Hills area and a new branch was opened in northeast Philadelphia.

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In This Issue

[Pacifica Hosts 1st Annual Dialogue and Friendship Dinner](#)

[Global Diaspora Week Panel](#)

[Rumi Forum Hosts 1st Eid al-Adha Celebration at White House](#)

[TCCSI Opens New Office in Staten Island](#)

[Voice of America Covers Global Diaspora Week Panel](#)

[Turkish Cultural Center Opens New Branch in Philadelphia](#)

[Annual Friendship Dinners held in the East Coast](#)

As promised, be sure to check out additional news from last month's 2nd Annual Kyrgyz Convention, including three panels, a reception at the U.S. Embassy and a cultural excursion to the world's second largest salt-water lake.

Sincerely,

Faruk Taban, Ph.D.
President

[Rumi Forum Holds Peace and Dialogue Awards](#)

[Kyrgyz American Convention: Welcoming Speeches and Panel I](#)

[Kyrgyz American Convention: Panel II](#)

[Kyrgyz American Convention: Panel III and Bishkek Mayor Meeting](#)

[U.S. Embassy Reception](#)

[Cultural Excursion to Issyk-Kul](#)

Pacifica Hosts 1st Annual Dialogue and Friendship Dinner



October 2nd, 2014

On October 2nd, 2014, Pacifica Institute hosted its 1st Annual Dialogue and Friendship Dinner at the Hilton Anchorage in Alaska. Over 65 people attended the event, including a U.S. Senator, Alaska state legislators, academics, religious leaders, businesspersons, activists and community leaders. The evening began with an opening reception follo...[Read More](#)

Global Diaspora Week Panel



October 14th, 2014

On Tuesday, October 14th, the Turkic American Alliance organized a panel discussion entitled 'Silk Road Communities in the United States' as an official event during Global Diaspora Week. The event brought together seven panelists from Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, respectively...[Read More](#)

Rumi Forum Hosts 1st Eid al-Adha Celebration at White House



October 14th, 2014

On October 14, 2014, Rumi Forum organized the first-ever Eid al-Adha celebration at The White House. Rumi Forum is a member of the Mid-Atlantic Federation of Turkic American Associations (MAFTAA), which is one of six federations under the Turkic American Alliance,

located in Washington, D.C. Below is the...[Read More](#)

TCCSI Opens New Office in Staten Island



October 15th, 2014

On October 15th, 2014, the Turkish Cultural Center in Staten Island (TCCSI) celebrated the grand opening of its new offices in Staten Island, New York. The ribbon-cutting ceremony was led by NY Assemblyman John Borelli; Sadri Altintok, TCCSI President; and Ismail Alaca, a TCCSI representative. The event was...[Read More](#)

Voice of America Covers Global Diaspora Week Panel



October 16th, 2014

On October 16th, the Voice of America's Uzbek Service published an article about the Turkic American Alliance's 'Silk Road Communities in the United States' event during Global Diaspora Week. A copy of the article, the original of which can be found here, is written in Uzbek: Global diaspora...[Read More](#)

Turkish Cultural Center Opens New Branch in Philadelphia



October 18th, 2014

On October 18, 2014, the Turkish Cultural Center of Pennsylvania held a grand opening ribbon-cutting ceremony in their newest center located in Northeast Philadelphia. The Turkish community hosted a number of dignitaries, including several political and Turkish community leaders. Distinguished guests included Senator Michael Stack, Congressman Michael Fitzpatrick, and...[Read More](#)

Annual Friendship Dinners Held on the East Coast

October 30th, 2014

In the month of October, the New York chapter of the Turkish Cultural Center organized a series of Annual Friendship Dinners in the cities of Syracuse, Westchester and Buffalo. The purpose of the dinners was to celebrate and promote diversity in the community and to honor local leaders for...[Read More](#)



Rumi Forum Holds Peace and Dialogue Awards



October 30th, 2014

On October 30th, 2014, the Rumi Forum commemorated 15 years since its inception during its 8th Annual Peace and Dialogue Awards at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. The evening began with welcoming remarks by Myron Belkind, President of the National Press Club, and Emre Celik, President of...[Read More](#)

Kyrgyz American Convention: Welcoming Speeches and Panel I



The 2nd Annual Kyrgyz Convention opened with welcoming remarks by H.E. Tairbek Sarpashev, Vice Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic, H.E. Temir Sariev, Minister of Economic Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Hon. Dr. Kanybek Imanaliev, Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Jogorku Kenesh, and...[Read More](#)

Kyrgyz American Convention: Panel II

Before the beginning of the second panel, Mary Kane, President and CEO of Sister Cities International (SCI), emphasized the importance of relationships and building strategic alliances to advance trade and business partnerships at the local and international level. Kane also described the mission of SCI and its activities and

...[Read More](#)



Kyrgyz American Convention: Panel III and Bishkek Mayor Meeting



The third panel was titled "Advancing Education: Challenges and Opportunities" and was moderated by Dr. Beishenaly Nasik Erkinova, Executive Director of the Institute for Analysis and Development Initiatives (JAIR). Dr. Andrew B. Wachtel, President of American University in Central Asia (AUCA) in Bishkek, briefed the participants on the challenges... [Read More](#)

U.S. Embassy Reception



The 2nd Annual U.S.-Kyrgyz Convention concluded with a reception at the private residence of H.E. Laura Griesmer, Chargé d'affaires of the United States Embassy in Bishkek. During the visit, Chargé Griesmer welcomed the delegations and was impressed by their contributions to building relationships and creating opportunities between the U.S.

...[Read More](#)

Cultural Excursion to Issyk-Kul

The 2nd Annual Kyrgyz Convention concluded with distinguished guests and participants enjoying a day-long cultural excursion to Kyrgyzstan's famous Issyk Kul, the second largest salt-water lake in the world after the Caspian Sea and the tenth largest lake in the world by volume. The delegation also visited a girls ...[Read More](#)



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