



TAA Newsletter, Volume 4, Issue 5 May 2014

Dear Friends,

A true leader and timeless advocate for justice has sadly left us. Though Maya Angelou has passed on, her spirit endures through the legacy of courage, resilience and passion immortalized in her poems and prose. Such vestiges resonate with a diverse and broad spectrum of individuals and communities-their specific social or historical contexts only a secondary feature-who are and have been anguished by throes of oppression, persecution or injustice.

So, in honor of Maya Angelou, we include her here, in a stanza befitting of even our dear Rumi.

*Across the wall of the world,
A River sings a beautiful song,
Come rest here by my side.*

Over the past few weeks, the Turkic American Alliance has experienced tremendous grief and sorrow over the largest mining disaster in Turkey's history that took place in Southwestern Turkey and left at least 300 dead, the devastating floods inundating regions of Bosnia, Serbia and Croatia, and parts of the United States that were devastated by tornados. As a result of these two calamities, the Turkic American Alliance has publicly supported and has provided links on its webpage to humanitarian campaigns in both regions, as well as to. We pray for the families and loved ones of those who have lost their lives, and for all those who have lost their homes, their livelihoods and even their hope. We pray for an end to their suffering and a speedy recovery of basic needs and infrastructure.

Global Vision Productions organized the premier screening of *Love is a Verb* in Washington, D.C. *Love is a Verb* is the first feature-length documentary about Turkish Muslim leader Fethullah Gülen, and the global movement he has inspired. Terry Spencer Hesser is the Writer, Director & Producer of *Love is a Verb*. The film has already won numerous awards, including Best Documentary Maryland IFF 2014, Official Selection of the Maryland International Film Festival in Hagerstown, MD, and Official Selection of the USA Film Festival in Dallas, TX.

In closing, the Turkic American Alliance would like to honor the

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millions of veterans who have served their country around the world, and the memory of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice. Thank you, and Happy Memorial Day.

Finally, TAA would also like to recognize the Republic of Azerbaijan, which celebrated its Republic Day on May 28th.

Sincerely,

Faruk Taban, Ph.D.
President

Spectacular Turkish Festival in Las Vegas



May 4th, 2014

The West Coast Finals of the Annual Cultural Performing Arts Contest were held at the Cashman Center Complex in Las Vegas on May 4th, 2014. The event was organized by the Turkish Language Institute (TLI) with the participation of over 200 students from across the western United States, including...[Read More](#)

Secretaries of State and State Legislators Travel to Turkey



May 5th, 2014

During late April to early May, two Secretaries of State, one state Senator and one state Delegate attended an intercultural study trip to Turkey. The trip included visits to Istanbul, Izmir and Ankara and meetings with businesspersons, journalists, charity and humanitarian aid organizations, a U.S. Embassy representative, a Member...[Read More](#)

Rumi Forum Ambassador Talk Series

May 14th, 2014

On May 14th, 2014, the Rumi Forum hosted a discussion on Hizmet in Africa. The guest speaker was the former U.S. Ambassador to Ethiopia (1996-1999) and to Burkina Faso (1987-1990), Ambassador Dr. David Shinn, who is currently an Adjunct Professor of International Affairs at the George Washington



University. Ambassador...[Read More](#)

Mining Tragedy in Turkey



May 14th, 2014

The Turkic American Alliance is deeply distraught by the tragic mine collapse in western Turkey, which took place in the town of Soma, in the Manisa Province, on May 13, 2014. Our hearts and prayers go out to the families of all of the miners who are still missing,...[Read More](#)

Embrace Relief Humanitarian Campaigns



May 19th, 2014

Soma Mining Disaster On Tuesday, May 13th, a mining disaster claimed the lives of nearly 300 miners in Soma in Manisa, Turkey. According to news reports, the death toll is still rising. The disaster was caused by a fire in the mine. Efforts were made to save the victims...[Read More](#)

D.C. Premier of Love is a Verb

May 19th, 2014

On Monday, May 19th, Global Vision Productions organized the premier screening of Love is a Verb in Washington, D.C. Love is a Verb is the first feature-length documentary about Turkish Muslim leader, Fethullah Gülen, and the global movement he has inspired. The screening took place at E Street Cinema...[Read More](#)



Turkish Cultural Center Grand Opening



May 21st, 2014

On May 21, 2014, the Turkish Cultural Center in Vermont celebrated the grand opening of its new offices in Burlington. Participating in the ribbon cutting ceremony were Governor Peter Shumlin, Attorney General William Sorrell, Burlington Mayor Miro Weinberger and FBI Special Agent...[Read More](#)

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