



TAA Newsletter, Volume 5, Issue 4

April, 2015

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

This month, along with Rumi Forum, TAA organized the International Festival of Language and Culture. Although regional festivals had been held in the U.S. before, on their 13th year, we managed to bring the IFLC to Washington D.C., to the national audience in the United States. More than 100 students, who truly are volunteer ambassadors for their countries, came here from 17 countries and 4 American States, and were greeted with appropriate enthusiasm and excitement by a crowd of 2,000 spectators at the Warner Theater, as well as 1,500 of guests in the 'backyard' of the White House, at the Ellipse, and hundreds on the Capitol Hill, at the Cannon House Office Building. Of course, TAA couldn't do any of this without the help from the community, including Rumi Forum and ATFA staff, our volunteers, sponsors, guests, and most important students and their teachers, who prepared them and accompanied them in this journey. We extend our gratitude for all they have done. Our member federations and councils remained active throughout the month of April.

Raindrop Foundation, with the Turquoise Council of Eurasians and Americans held Turkish festivals in San Antonino, Austin (Texas), as well as Albuquerque, New Mexico, which entertained thousands of people, exposing them to Turkish culture. Meanwhile, Turkish Cultural Centers (TCC) remained active throughout the month, holding the Annual Turkish Day in Rochester, a Friendship Dinner in Queens, New York; The Council of Turkic American Associations (CTAA) collaborated with Turkish Cultural Center of Pennsylvania to host a Friendship and Dialogue Dinner and Award Ceremony in Harrisburg. The West American Turkic Council (WATC) organized a Friendship Luncheon at the State Capitol of Montana and Pacifica Institute held a Turkish American Cultural Reception at the State Capitol of Alaska.

Also this month, the Turkish government drew criticism from domestic and international actors due to it's defiance of the court order to release Hidayet Karaca and Mehmet Baransu, along with 75 police officers who are currently being detained as suspects.

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Turkic American Alliance

In This Issue

[5th Annual Turkish Festival in San Antonio](#)

[Annual Rochester City Turkish Day Celebration](#)

[Legislative Turkish American Friendship Luncheon in Montana](#)

[Turkish-American Cultural Reception Held in Alaska](#)

[3rd Annual Turkish Festival in Albuquerque](#)

[Friendship & Dialogue Dinner in Harrisburg, PA](#)

[12th Annual Friendship Dinner and Award Ceremony in Queens](#)

[Anatolian Festival in Austin](#)

[Colors of the World at the White House, The Ellipse](#)

[Colors of the World in Washington, D.C](#)

Sincerely,

Faruk Taban, Ph.D.
President

Participants of the 13th Annual IFLC visited TAA

Colors of the World on Capitol Hill

5th Annual Turkish Festival in San Antonio



April 4, 2015

Raindrop Turkish House held its 5th Annual Turkish Festival in San Antonio. Historic Alamo Plaza in San Antonio was alive with music, food and festivities as this year's festival, themed "San Antonio Goes Turkish" was taking place on a pleasant Saturday. Among the many the attended the festival were the Mayor of San Antonio, Ivy R. Taylor as well as Council Members Alan Warrick II and Ron Nirenberg. Mayor Taylor presented an order signed by herself, declaring April 4 the 'Turkish Festival Day' in San Antonio.... [Read More](#)

Annual Rochester City Turkish Day Celebration



April 15, 2015

Mayor Lovely Warren of Rochester proclaimed the day, as "Turkish Day in Rochester," in recognition of the growing presence and contributions of the local Turkish community to Rochester's economic, cultural and civic life. The Turkish Cultural Center of Rochester hosted a ceremony in the Atrium of Rochester City Hall to celebrate the occasion-presenting cultural music and dancing, exhibits, Turkish foods and a series of videos highlighting local activities and Turkish culture. Sandra Frankel, one of the [Read More](#)

Legislative Turkish American Friendship Luncheon in Montana



April 16, 2015

The Legislative Turkish American Friendship Luncheon by West America Turkic Council drew attention from most of the state's influential stakeholders. The event, which was held at the State Capitol, was attended by nearly all of the State's legislators, from both chambers, as well as the Secretary of State, Linda McCulloch and the Attorney General, Tim Cox. Secretary of State McCullough, told the guests about the first time she visited Turkey last year. In her o... [Read More](#)

Turkish-American Cultural Reception Held in Alaska

April 16, 2015

The Pacifica Institute, along with West America Turkic Federation organized a Turkish-American Cultural



Reception at the State Capitol in Juneau, Alaska. The event was hosted by the Chairman of the Special Committee on World Trade, State Senator Charlie Huggins. The host, State Senator Higgins, thanked WATC for putting together the event, which was intended to famili... [Read More](#)

3rd Annual Turkish Festival in Albuquerque



April 18, 2015

More than three thousand people attended the 3rd Annual Turkish Festival in Albuquerque, organized by the New Mexico chapter of the Raindrop Foundation. Among those who attended were Albuquerque Mayor Richard Berry, Chairman of the City Council Reymundo Garduno, Councilmembers Isaac Benton, Diana Gibson, State Representative Georgene Louis, State Senator Jerry Ortiz y Pin... [Read More](#)

Friendship & Dialogue Dinner in Harrisburg, PA



April 20, 2015

Turkish Cultural Center Pennsylvania organized the 9th Annual Dialogue & Friendship Dinner. Mayor Eric Papenfuse of Harrisburg received the 2015 Friendship & Dialogue Award at the dinner. In his acceptance speech, Mayor Papenfuse noted that this was the most meaningful award for him. He also underscored the value that Turkish Americans add to Harrisburg, saying that TCC has aided many families in need in ... [Read More](#)

12th Annual Friendship Dinner and Award Ceremony in Queens



April 23, 2015

With hundreds of guests in the audience, Turkish Cultural Center of Queens held another Annual Friendship Dinner and Award Ceremony at Flushing Town Hall. The recipient of this year's Peace Award, Representative Grace Meng noted that she was very honored to have TCC in Queens, underlining the center's role as a cultural bridge. Congresswoman Meng also remarked how happy she was to be at the award ceremony, and made a commitment... [Read More](#)

Anatolian Festival in Austin

April 25, 2015

Raindrop Foundation organized the 11th Annual Anatolian Festival in Austin, Texas. The event drew a diverse crowd of some 3,500 residents of Austin and took place at the Raindrop Turkish House. Former Representative Pete Gallego, who served in the Texas legislature for many years, noted that the Turkish



community members in Austin were very dedicated to, and loved their nation. Mr. Gallego also ... [Read More](#)

Colors of the World at the White House, The Ellipse



April 26, 2015

As part of the International Festival Language and Culture, 'Colors of the World' took place at the White House Presidents' Park, the Ellipse between 2:00 PM and 4:00 PM. More than 1000 guests came to see over 100 young performers from over 15 countries. The weather turned out to be much better than forecasted, which allowed the attendees to enjoy this outdoors event even more. President of Rumi Forum, which is the co-organizer of the IFLC in Washington D.C., along with Turkic American Alliance, Emre Çelik, gave a welcoming speech before the performances started. While celebrating the 14th ... [Read More](#)

Colors of the World in Washington, D.C.



April 28, 2015

International Festival of Language and Culture was held in the nations capital at the Warner Theater. About one hundred students from 17 countries and 4 States from the U.S.A sang and danced, representing their own cultures, while their talented performances drew approximately 2,000 spectators to the theater. Among those who attended the festival were U.S. Representatives Bill Pascrell (NJ), Mark Takai (HW ... [Read More](#)

Participants of the 13th Annual IFLC visited TAA



April 29, 2015

Well over 100 students who took part at the 13th Annual International Festival of Language and Culture visited TAA along with their teachers, coaches and some event organizers. Additionally, IUCN Ambassador to the U.N. Nariner Kakar, Diplomat from Chad at the U.N., Mr. Ali Mahamat Zene, Diplomat from Ghana at the U.N. Mr. Aliu Fawaz, Diplomat ... [Read More](#)

Colors of the World on Capitol Hill

April 30, 2015

Students who performed at the 13th International Festival Language and Culture took the stage at the



Cannon House Office Building, Caucus Room to entertain congressional staffers as well as Members of Congress with their vibrant, talented performances. The event drew approximately 150 congressional staffers and 17 U.S. Representatives. In addition [Read More](#)

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