



February 2007

Dear TAAM Members,

Hope you all have started a brand new year in happiness and health. In this issue, we have tried to summarize our activities since last Sohbet, which was prepared in June 2006. Since then, we had very active months in 2006 including many events and the elections.

We have new members on board; they have been adding more energy and fun to our efforts. Our volunteer participation was the biggest source of our success along with the leadership of many TAAM members with the event organization.

As you know, Turkish American Student Association (TASA) is our sister association here in MN. TASA board members have been actively working with TAAM Board members. We would like to thank TASA board members for their participation to our association. Along with TAAM events, you will find a summary of TASA events while you are browsing through this Sohbet.

While we're very happy and satisfied about all the events to-date, there're yet many events that we've already started working on in order to serve to the Turkish-American community in Minnesota to the best we can. And as always, we are counting on the volunteerism and participation of our members to make this organization even more successful. With that, we want you to browse these pages and read the summaries from a number of activities that took place this year.

We hope to see you in our events planned for this year. The momentum and energy we've been carrying from last year has fueled us to organized many events in this year, too

TAAM Board

2007 Calendar of Events for TAAM and TASA

<i>January</i> No event	<i>February</i> TAAM Social Hour TASA Coffee Hour	<i>March</i> TAAM – No event TASA Coffee Hour	<i>April</i> TAAM Children's Day TASA Coffee Hour
<i>May</i> TAAM Festival of Nations	<i>June</i> TAAM Volunteer Appreciation	<i>July</i> TAAM Summer Picnic	<i>August</i> No Event
<i>September</i> TAAM and TASA- Student's Welcome Picnic	<i>October</i> TAAM Apple Picking	<i>November</i> TAAM Republic Day	<i>December</i> TAAM Kurban Bayrami/ Christmas

Let's browse through TAAM and TASA activities since June, 2006

Summer Picnic: The summer picnic was held at Hyland Park, Bloomington on July 9, 2006. Both the location and the weather were very suitable to have the picnic, so we were happy to see more than 80 people joined us. Everyone brought a dish to share and TAAM supplied burgers, hot dogs and beverages.

It is little bit early to talk about summer right now, but with your attendance, we look forward to have another summer picnic this year at the same location.



Welcome Potluck Picnic for New Students: TASA organized a welcome potluck picnic on September 23, 2006 for new students at Boom Island, which was sponsored by TAAM. More than 60 members and friends joined us that day to meet new students and have fun with the delicious barbeque and other Turkish food everyone brought. Although the weather was cold, we took it in our advantage by gathering under a shelter in the rainy day and having chat with each other for hours. We threw a raffle, where the prizes were a dinner at Caspian Bistro and coffee coupons from Mapps Café. It was wonderful.

Apple Picking: We had a new location this year, Afton Apple Orchard. Few members joined this event. As an addition to apples there were raspberries and pumpkins to pick, and an old-fashioned hayride, a petting farm and cider press.

This outing was planned at the time that the Orchard celebrated their annual Apple Festival, so we went there on Saturday, October 7th, 2006. The attendees also enjoyed the most beautiful months of Minnesota by watching the leaves change.

Republic Day Celebration: This year, the celebration of the 83rd year of Independence of the Turkish Republic was held at Windows on Minnesota located on the 50th floor of IDS Center in downtown Minneapolis on November 4th, 2006. There were over 150 guests that evening many of them students and small children of various ages. It was especially encouraging to see the participation of students from the University of Minnesota. The evening's keynote speaker was Dr. Sefik Alkan, one of TAAM members, who shared his thoughts on the importance of this special day with guests of all ages.



A general view from the night



Dr. Alkan giving his keynote speech of the night



Music Mundial and kids dancing to their music

We've heard over and over again about the high quality of the menu and the timeliness of our host, IDS Center with the service. The night was highlighted with the Mediterranean music by Music Mundial that also featured one of our members, Zekeriya Yargici. The night was especially entertaining with the raffle prize drawings that featured many prizes including hotel stays in New York and Minneapolis, gift certificates to several Sunday brunches in Marquette Hotel as well as to Istanbul and Caspian Bistros. There were many other smaller items donated by our members. The host for the raffles was Ian Stephenson, another TAAM member, and he was able to entertain our guests with his jokes.

We are very grateful that many of our members and their guests were able to attend this event. We hope to see you in this and other upcoming events in 2007.

Small World Coffee Hour, Dec. 1, 2006: TASA hosted "Small World Coffee Hour," a regular event of ISSS (International Student and Scholar Services) that is hosted by different student organizations in every two weeks at the University of Minnesota. It was amazing...More than 120 people from various backgrounds stopped by Heller Hall (where the event took place) to taste Turkish food, tea and coffee and to get to know Turkish culture. We made Turkish coffee with copper pots and told why coffee was important in our culture, which attracted a huge attention. Also, we did a slide show of Turkey, while a friend (Murat Seker) was playing a sample of classical Turkish music with 'ud.' We received great

comments about the event and heard a rumor that ours was one of the SWCHs with the largest attendance.

Community Teaching Program: TAAM has been in collaboration with the Curriculum Resources and Programs as a source to teach Turkey to the public school districts of Bloomington, Eden Prairie, Edina and Richfield as well as member private and parochial schools. Curriculum Resources and Programs has been enriching classroom curriculum with community resources for over 30 years.

Last December, two schools were visited by Ahmet Tutuncu and Serpil Metin, Prairie View Elementary in Eden Prairie and Minnehaha Academy in Bloomington. The children get acquainted with Turkish geography, language, culture and games.

This is a very important and as well as fun program to join. We would like to increase the circle of the schools and reach out more with your help. If you would like to be included in the list of TAAM volunteers for Education, please contact Serpil Metin at serpil9metin@yahoo.com.

TAAM Annual Review Meeting and Elections for 2007-2008

Meeting was held on December 10th, 2006 at Hennepin County – Eden Prairie Library. A total of 9 members and 67 proxies were present. Roll call was taken and proof of meeting notice was met. Presentations were given by Serpil Metin (President) on the overall level of activities and successes for last year, Engin Kalayci (secretary) presented the current level of membership and finally Can Okandan (treasurer) presented the financial review of year 2006.

A motion was made to move to the elections of the Board of Directors for TAAM. The association received no other nominations, and as such current TAAM board came forward with their own nominations. The following members were unanimously elected as the new TAAM Board of Directors for the duration of two years per the TAAM bylaws:

- Serpil Metin (President)
- Engin Kalayci (Vice-President)
- Can Okandan (Treasurer)
- Cem Yurttas (Secretary)
- Pinar Tutuncu (Social Chair)
- Teslime Davies (Fundraising Chair)
- Lisa Vervena (Publicity Chair)
- Nergis Petersen (Advisor)
- Ayca Ozyilmaz (Student Representative)
- Evren Eryurek (Past President)

Please consider renewal of your paid membership to TAAM. We are a nonprofit, cultural organization and supported by our members. Please continue to support us. Your promptness and continued commitment to TAAM is duly noted and helps Board Members better serve you and the organization as a whole. At the beginning of this year, we have mailed the membership forms to you. If you misplaced it or need one, please let us know at comments@taam.org so we can send you one. Thanks for your support.

TAAM is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. Your TAAM membership fees, donations, your mileage during the volunteer events, parking fees are all tax deductible.

Special Thanks to –

Asli and Orhan Ucer for donating a food processor and mixer.

Ahmet Tutuncu for making monetary donation to TAAM through United Way.

Esra Riggs for making monetary donation to TAAM through expatriate consulting services.

Caspian Bistro, Istanbul Bistro, Mualla and Sefik Alkan, Esin Audette, Teresa Gerhards, and Zehra Tanberk for their help and monetary donations to Republic Day Celebration.

Members for supporting us and renewing their 2007 membership.

Volunteers for all of your hard work and energy. This organization would not be able to hold as many successful events as it does, without your help!

Many thanks to our leaders and volunteers for...

Summer Picnic: *Teslime Davies and Meral Atay*

Apple Picking: *Nergis Peterson*

Republic Day: *Meral Atay, Esin Audette, Teslime Davies, Ceyhun Elgin, Engin and Deniz Kalayci, Nergis Petersen, Esra Riggs, Can Okandan and Ayca Ozyilmaz.*

Upcoming Events

- **CHILDREN'S DAY CELEBRATION**
 - When and Where: Sunday, April 22, 2007 at Saint Paul Academy, St. Paul, MN
 - We have a fun and educated program for the children of all ages. Stay tune for the details.
- **2007 FESTIVAL OF NATIONS: Focusing on the theme "Ethnic Toys, Games & Sports"**
 - Come and celebrate our delicious cuisine, rich ethnic traditions, talented adult dance group and musicians at the Festival of Nations in **May 3-6, 2007** at River Center, Downtown Saint Paul. *All volunteers will receive free tickets to the event, and will be invited to the volunteer appreciation event in June.* There are a lot of special jobs to choose from. We encourage our members, non-members, students and other interested people to lend a hand. We are going to have a great time together while representing our rich culture.
 - **We are looking for volunteers to:**
 - Prepare/cook foods at Caspian Restaurant on Monday, April 30, 2007
 - Sell and prepare foods during the Festival days/hours given below
 - Set-up/present our exhibition on Ethnic Toys, Games & Sports at the Exhibition booth and for Café preparations
 - Baby sitters for children of families who volunteer at the Festival of Nations.
 - Remove Exhibition and Café materials

If you would like to help, please contact **Serpil Metin** at: Cell: 952 465 6198, Work: 952-742-3856 Email: volunteer@taam.org or serpil9metin@yahoo.com Or **Teslime Davies** at 952 949-6111 or teslimeb@yahoo.com

Check your emails for more and detailed info about the event.

- **Folk Dancers Needed**
 - Would you like to become a member of TAAM Folk Dance Team to introduce a piece of our culture while doing a light exercise and having good time? We will be learning two dances from Ankara Region to perform at the Festival of Nations on May 4,5, 6 2007; Fidayda and Ankara Zaybegi. We are in urgent need for male volunteers with or without any prior folk dance experience. Practice time and place will be determined based on the availability of the volunteers. Those who are interested may contact Cem Yurttas by sending an e-mail cem.yurttas@pdx-inc.com or by calling (651) 226-0381.

2006 Financial Report: TAAM Treasurer, Can Okandan, prepared the summary of financial activities and presented at the December elections. 2006 Financial Summary was placed at the end of this Sohbet. As you can see from the tables, \$200 income was a direct result of the consulting services provided by Esra Riggs to a company that specializes in preparing people going overseas, culturally and socially. The same company has contacted us this year as well for similar consulting sessions and we're helping TAAM's financial bottom line by executing these requests.

2006 Financial Summary

Category	Subcategory	Expense	Revenue	Profit (Loss)
Administration	PO Box Fee	\$ 72.00		\$ (72.00)
Administration	2005 Sales Tax	\$ 436.00		\$ (436.00)
Administration	2006 Non-profit Status Fee to State	\$ 35.00	\$ -	\$ (35.00)
Administration	Storage unit	\$ 353.00	\$ -	\$ (353.00)
Administration	Web hosting (2 yr)	\$ 190.80	\$ -	\$ (190.80)
Administration	Bank Fees	\$ 53.45	\$ -	\$ (53.45)
Administration	2005 Sales Tax Refund	\$ -	\$ 35.00	\$ 35.00
Administration Total		\$ 1,140.25	\$ 35.00	\$ (1,105.25)
Membership Total		\$ 252.83	\$ 1,465.00	\$ 1,212.17
Donations	Donations Received	\$ -	\$ 307.00	\$ 307.00
Donations	Donations Given	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Donations Total		\$ -	\$ 307.00	\$ 307.00
Consulting Total		\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
Kurban Bayrami Total		\$ 392.50	\$ -	\$ (392.50)
Spring Brunch Total		\$ 38.21	\$ -	\$ (38.21)
Children's Day Total		\$ 645.34	\$ 124.00	\$ (521.34)
FON	Café	\$ 2,457.98	\$ 6,917.16	\$ 4,459.18
FON	Exhibit	\$ 700.74	\$ 250.00	\$ (450.74)
FON	Bazaar	\$ -	\$ 450.00	\$ 450.00
FON	Dance	\$ 155.52	\$ -	\$ (155.52)
FON Total		\$ 3,314.24	\$ 7,617.16	\$ 4,302.92
July 4 Picnic Total		\$ 308.23	\$ 30.57	\$ (277.66)
Appreciation Dinner Total		\$ 1,171.89	\$ 17.50	\$ (1,154.39)
TASA Picnic Total		\$ 394.35	\$ -	\$ (394.35)
29 Ekim	Dinner (Food, Music)	\$ 5,142.68	\$ 4,581.00	\$ (561.68)
29 Ekim	Non-Dinner (Raffle, Souvenir, Decorations, Inv.)	\$ 475.32	\$ 844.00	\$ 368.68
29 Ekim Total		\$ 5,618.00	\$ 5,425.00	\$ (193.00)
Grand Total		\$ 13,275.84	\$ 15,221.23	\$ 1,945.39

* FON expenses exclude payment to Caspian. Estimated \$1,000

2006 Checking Account and Certificate of Deposit Summary

CHECKING ACCOUNT SUMMARY

Unadjusted for outstanding transactions

Year	Begin Bal	< Change >	End Bal *
2006	\$ 4,677.86	\$ 4,676.91	\$ 9,354.77

Adjusted for outstanding transactions

Year	Begin Bal	< Change > **	End Bal ***
2006	\$ 4,677.86	\$ 2,405.28	\$ 7,083.14

* Ending balance as of 9-Dec-06

** Additional cash due to revenue in 2005 (\$126.62) and revenue to be booked in 2007 (\$187.50).

*** Adjusted ending balance as of 9-Dec-06. \$2,195 outstanding deposits, \$4,442.68 outstanding withdrawals

CD SUMMARY

Begin Bal	Date Opened	APY	Term	Interest Rate	Maturity Date	Ending Bal
\$ 10,859.37	22-Sep-06	5%	9 mos	4.88%	22-Jun-07	\$ 11,273.18