

SOHBET

The semi-annual newsletter of the Turkish American Association of Minnesota
January 2008 Edition



Welcome to a New Addition of Sohbet

It is our sincere wish that you and your loved ones did start 2008 on a high note. You will notice that 2007 was a busy year for TAAM. It was full of activities and each year it appears that we extend our reach within the community with more and better events. 2008 will surely keep that tradition going as you will notice several social hours organized for 2008 in addition to the traditional events that we host each year.

And for the first time, TAAM and TASA will undertake a mentoring program, with the objective of fostering learning in a mentor-mentee setting. If you are interested in participating in this program, please express your interest by sending an e-mail to Cem Yurttas at cyurttas@mmm.com by February 15, 2008. If there is enough interest in the program, we will introduce the matching process, recommend activities, help scheduling of the first meetings, and collect feedback for the next year.

Warm Wishes,

TAAM Board of Directors

Tea Social Hour

TAAM organized and sponsored a tea party at Eagan Community Center on February 18. Many families attended the party. Kids got to play at the BLAST play area while adults enjoyed pastries, tea and coffee by the fire place. It was a nice get together for a cold winter day. Everyone had a chance to chat with friends and catch up with them while kids got to spend their energy and have fun.

Yeni bir Sohbet'e Hosgeldiniz

Umariz 2008 yili size ve sevdiklerinize gulen bir yuzle baslamistir. Bu sayimizda da goreceginiz uzere 2007 yili TAAM olarak cok yogun ve bir o kadar da guzel bir seneydi. Tum aktivitelemizi basari ile gerceklestirdik. 2008 yilinda cok daha zengin bir etkinlik takvimimiz var. Ozellikle, TAAM dostlarinin bir araya daha sik gelmesini saglamak amaciyla TAAM Caylari duzenliyoruz. Elbette, TAAM'in her sene gerceklestirdigi diger etkinlikler tam hiz devam edicek.

Burada size ilk kez baslatmak istedigimiz mentor'luk programindan bahsetmek istiyoruz. Amacimiz mentor-ogrenci cercevisinde bilgi alisverisi ve ogrenimi gerceklestirmek ve bilhassa eyaletimizde okuyan ogrencilerimize destek olabilmek. Eger konu ile ilgileniyorsanız lütfen Cem Yurttas'a cyurttas@mmm.com adresinden 15 Subat'a kadar ulasiniz. Program gelen cevaplar neticesinde olusturulacaktır.

En icten dileklerimizle,

TAAM Yonetim Kurulu

Cay Partisi

18 Subat 2007'de TAAM bir cay partisi organize etti ve sponsor oldu. Pekcok aile cay partimize katildilar. Buyukler kuru pasta, cay ve kahvenin keyfini cikartirken kucuklerde BLAST'de oynama firsati buldular. Soguk bir gun olmasına karsin herkes guzel bir gun gecirdi. Cocuklar oyun oynarlarken buyukler birbirleriyle hasret giderip sohbet etme firsati buldular.



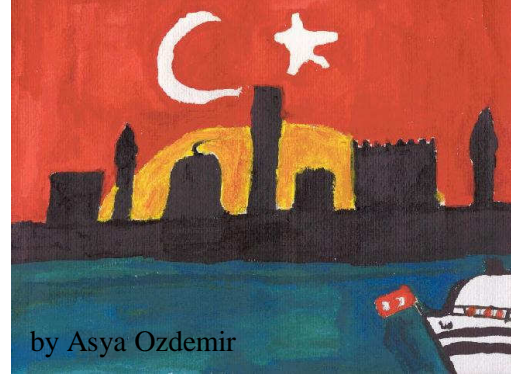
National Sovereignty & Children's Day

Children's day event was celebrated on April 22 at Saint Paul Academy party room again. About 70 people of all ages attended the celebration. Kids Dance music band was the hit of the day again. Kids and adults danced and enjoyed the day. Some of the kids preferred the playground and art work. TAAM served pizza, cookies and drinks. We got to see our kid's talent, love and appreciation as they presented their essays and pictures about Turkiye, Ataturk and April 23rd. They got presents for their lovely work. We had another sunny, warm and fun Children's Day with friends and family.



Ulusal Egemenlik ve Cocuk Bayrami

Cocuk bayrami oncesi sene de oldugu uzere Saint Paul Academy parti odasinda 22 Nisan tarihinde gerceklestirildi. Her yastan toplam 70 kisi etkinlige katildi. Kids Dance muzik band gunumuze nese kattı. Cocuklar ve buyukler hep birlikte dans ettiler. Kimi cocuklar oyun parkinda vakit gecirdiler veya resim yaptılar. TAAM pizza, kurabiye ve icecekler sundu. Cocuklarimizin Turkiye, Ataturk ve 23 Nisan bayrami ile ilgili yaptıkları resim ve yazıları gorerek onların duyduğu saygi ve sevgiye bir kere daha tanik olduk. Yaptıkları calismalar icin oduller aldı yavrularımız. Sicak ve eglenceli bir Cocuk Bayramini ailelerimiz ve dostlarımızla gecirdik.



Festival of Nations

In 2007, TAAM had another successful year at the Festival of Nations. We participated in many events from adult folk dances to Turkish café and Exhibit Booth. Many thanks to our volunteers and leaders, in short, everyone participated and made Festival of Nations a proud event for TAAM as well as successful and fun. We could not have done without you!

We successfully represented our rich Turkish cuisine in the Café. Our menu included Lahmacun, Borek, Tantuni, Meze platter with hummus and carrot yogurt dip, Stuffed grape leaves, Bean Salad, Rice Pilaf with Garbanzo Beans, Baklava, Turkish Café, Tea and Lemonade. Caspian Bistro opened their kitchen to us to prepare all these foods, and they helped us from beginning to the end of the Festival. Caspian Bistro, your thoughtfulness and consideration given to TAAM is greatly appreciated.

The exhibit featured the theme of "Ethnic Toys, Games and Sports". TAAM participated in the exhibit by showcasing Cirit and Oil Wrestling as Turkish sports and purchased an array of handmade wooden toys from Eyup Oyuncaklari, where the toys had been traced to roots in the Ottoman era, several centuries ago. Again, TAAM thanks its many 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!

This year Festival of Nations will be held between May 1st and 4th,2008. We are looking for volunteers:

- To prepare/cook foods at Caspian Restaurant on Monday, April 28, 2008
- To help at both Exhibition booth and Café during the Festival days.

If you would like to volunteer for Festival of Nations, please reach Serpil Metin or Engin Kalayci.

Serpil Metin at 952 465 6198 or serpil9metin@yahoo.com

Engin Kalayci at 952 463 1148 or ekalayci@yahoo.com

All volunteers will get free entrance ticket(s) and will be invited to our volunteer appreciation event in June. Thanks for your help in advance.



Festival of Nations (Uluslar Festivali)

2007 yılında da TAAM başarılı bir Festival of Nations organizasyonu gerçekleştirdi. Halk danslarından, café ve sergiye kadar pek çok alanda katılımımızı sağladık. Gönüllülerimize katkılarından dolayı çok teşekkür ediyoruz. Sizler olmasanız kesinlikle ulaştığımız başarıya ulaşamazdık.

Café bölümünde zengin Türk mutfagını ziyaretçilere tanıttık. Menüümüz de Lahmacun, Borek, Tantuni, Humus ve Yoğurtlu havuç soslu Meze tabağı, Yaprak dolması, Piyaz, Nohutlu Pilav, Baklava, Kahve, Çay ve Limonata vardı. Caspian Bistro tüm bu yemeklerin hazırlanmasında mutfaklarını acımayıp Festival süresi içerisinde de yardımlarını esirgemeyerek bize destek oldular. Caspian Bistro'ya tüm destekleri için sonsuz teşekkürler. 2007 yılındaki serginin teması "Etnik Oyuncaklar, Oyunlar ve Sporlar" dı. TAAM Cirit ve Yağlı Güresi konu aldı ve tanıttı, bunun ötesinde kokleri Osmanlı döneminde birkaç yüzyıl öncesine dayanan ahşap oyuncaklar Eyup Oyuncaklarından satın alındı ve sergilendi. TAAM bir kere daha tüm gönüllülerine teşekkür eder. Sizlerin katkısı olmasa bu organizasyon bunca başarılı etkinliği gerçekleştiremezdi.

Bu sene Festival of Nations, 1-4 Mayıs tarihleri arasında gerçekleştirilecek. Aşağıdaki alanlarda yardım etmek isteyen gönüllülerimizi bizle irtibata geçmeye davet ediyoruz:

- 28 Nisan 2008 de Caspian Bistro'da yemek hazırlama çalışmalarında
- Festival günleri sırasında Café ve Sergi alanlarında yardım etmeniz için

Bu veya benzeri calismalarda gonullu olmak istiyorsanız lütfen Serpil Metin veya Engin Kalayci ile irtibata geciniz.

Serpil Metin, 952 465 6198, serpil9metin@yahoo.com
Engin Kalayci, 952 463 1148, ekalayci@yahoo.com

Tum gonullulerimiz icin ücretsiz giriş bileti sağlanacak ve Haziran ayında gerçekleştirilecek Gonululerimizi Tesekkür yemegine davet edileceklerdir.



TAAM Folk Dance Performance

TAAM Folk Dance group has accomplished another successful year at the Festival of Nations with two dances from Ankara region. This year TAAM folk dance team is getting prepared for new folk dances from the region. Those who would like to have fun, get some exercise, and help introduce a part of our culture, please contact TAAM for more information.



TAAM Halk Danslari Gosterisi

TAAM Halk Danslari grubu, 2007 yili Festival of Nations'da Ankara yoresinden iki dans performansi gerceklestirdi. TAAM Halk Danslari grubu 2008 yili gosterisi icin hazirlanmaya simdiden basladi. Dans grubunun bir parcasi olarak kulturumuzu tanitmada yardimci olmak ve ayni zamanda da eglenmek istiyorsanız, lütfen TAAM ile irtibata geciniz.



TAAM secretary Cem Yurttas has trained and led a team of seven men some with no prior folk dance training in only a small period of time of 3 months.

TAAM sekreteri Cem Yurttas, 7 kisilik bir erkek halk oyunlari takimini calistirdi. Grup 3 ay gibi kisa bir sure icerisinde guzel bir gosteri sunabilecek konuma geldi. Gruptakilerden birkaci icin bu halk oyunlarinda bir ilkti.

Summer Picnic

We held our traditional TAAM Summer picnic at Hyland Park in the week of 4th of July as historically we have been doing. It was another successful event. There were more than 80 people in attendance. The chutes and ladders part of the park was quite memorable for our kids. What memorable for the rest of us was the great food, wonderful conversations, and friendly welcoming atmosphere. We are looking forward to seeing you all again in our traditional Summer Picnic in 2008.

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

As has been the case for several years now, volunteer appreciation dinner was held at Istanbul Bistro in June to honor and appreciate the contributions of all of the Festival of Nations volunteers and their immediate families. Around 70 volunteers (out of 100+) and their families had the time to attend this event. Again, with your help, we made it possible to represent the Turkish culture, food and folk dances to all those who attend the Festival of Nations. Thanks!

Yaz Piknigi

TAAM Geleneksel Yaz piknigi, her zaman oldugu uzere 2007 yilinda da 4 Temmuz haftasinda Hyland Park'da gerceklesti. Gecmiste oldugu gibi piknige katilim oldukca yuksekti ve dostlarımız keyifli vakit gecirdiler. Ozellikle cocuklar oyun parkinda neseli saatler yasadilar. Yeni insanlar, dostlarla tanismak, tanidiklarımızla hasret gidermekle birlikte katilimcilarin getirdikleri yemekler, harika sohbetler piknigimizi cok daha zevk verdi. Sizleri 2008 piknigimizde aramızda gormekten memnunluk duyacağız.

Gonullulerimize Tesekkur Yemegi

Gonullulerimizin Festival of Nations'a yaptiklari sonsuz katkilarini takdir etmek ve basarimizi hep beraber kutlamak amaciyla gecen senelerde oldugu gibi Istanbul Bistro'da bir araya geldik. Yaklasik 70 gonullumuz (100+ uzerindeki gonullu icinden) yakin aileleri ile etkinlige katildirlar. Size tekrar sonsuz tesekkurler, sizlerin sayenizde Turk kulturunu, yemeklerini ve danslarini tum katilimcilara sunmak olanagi bulduk. Tesekkurler!

2008 Events Calendar

- Social Hour – February 24th
- Social Hour – March 22nd
- Children's Day – April 19th
- Festival of Nations – May 1st-4th
- Social Hour by TASA – May 17th
- Volunteer Appreciation Dinner – June 8th
- 4th of July Picnic – July 6th
- Duluth Trip – August 9th
- Student Welcome Picnic organized by TASA – September 6th
- Ramazan Bayrami Social – October 4th
- Republic Day Dinner – November 1st
- Kurban Bayrami Social – December 7

Please keep in mind that most up-to-date information including hours and locations can be found on www.TAAM.org Tarih, yer

2008 Etkinlik Takvimi

- TAAM Cayi – 24 Subat
- TAAM Cayi – 22 Mart
- 23 Nisan Cocuk Bayrami – 19 Nisan
- Uluslar Festivali – 1-4 Mayıs
- TAAM Cayi (TASA) – 17 Mayıs
- Gonullulerimizi Takdir Yemegi – Haziran 8
- 4th of July Piknigi – 6 Temmuz
- Duluth Seyahati – 9 Agustos
- Ogrencilere Hosgeldin Piknigi (TASA) – 6 Eylul
- Ramazan Bayrami Etkinligi – 4 Ekim
- Cuhmuriyet Bayrami Yemegi – 1 Kasim
- Kurban Bayrami Etkinligi – 7 Aralik

ve saatlere iliskin en son bilgileri dernek internet adresimizden edinebilirsiniz, www.TAAM.org

Republic Day Celebration

The Republic Day Celebration was held at IDS Tower in downtown Minneapolis, in a breathtaking atmosphere 50 floors above the ground. We've had over 130 members, non-members and guests that joined us to celebrate the 84th year of the independence of the Republic of Turkey. The program for the night was very rich.

Guest of Honor, author and TAAM member, Mr. John Solenstein talked about his experiences as an army liaison to the Turkish Northstar Brigade serving during the Korean War. He has received a lengthy applause from our guests after his talk.

Live Turkish music performed by Guvenc & Burk Orchestra made sure that our guests did not find the time to sit besides eating their food from the carefully selected and delicious IDS menu.

Sinan Cingilli gave a talk about the importance of the Republic Day from the perspective of a Turkish American youth.

Yet another highlight of the night was the raffle prize drawing. This year, all of the proceedings from the raffle were donated to Mehmetcik Foundation of Turkey tasked with helping the members and the families of the Turkish Armed Forces. Thanks to all of you for your contributions; with your help and generosity TAAM was able to donate \$1500 to the Mehmetcik Foundation on your behalf.



Cumhuriyet Bayrami Kutlamasi

Cumhuriyetimizin 84. kurulus yildonumu, downtown Minneapolis'te IDS Tower'in 50. katinda nefes kesici bir atmosferde, 130'un uzerinde konugumuzun katilimi ile gerceklesti. Gecenin programi oldukca zengindi.

Onur konugu, yazar Mr. John Solenstein'di. Kendisi Kore Savasi sirasinda Turk Kuzey Yildizi birliginde, Amerikan ordusu adina irtibat gorevi yapmis ve Turk askerleriyle bir yildan daha fazla sure gecirmis bir TAAM dostu. Konusmasini takiben konuklarimiz kendisini uzun sure alkislayarak tesekkurlerini dile getirdiler.

Canli Turk muzigi Guvenc & Burk Orchestra ile konuklarimiz sandalyelerinde yemek disinda oturma firsati bulamadilar. Gecenin menu su TAAM tarafından secildi ve konuklarimizinda takdirini topladi.

Sinan Cingilli Cumhuriyetimizin kurulusunu ve onemini bir Turk Amerikan gencinin gozunden dile getirdigini konusmasini yapti.

Gecenin diger bir onemli etkinligi her sene oldugu uzere hediye cekilisleriydi. Dagitilan pek cok guzel hediyelerin yani sira, gecede toplanan yaklasik \$1500 gibi bir meblag, sizlerin adina TAAM olarak Mehmetcik Vakfina bagislandi. Mehmetcik Vakfi asker ve yakinlarina yardim amaci ile kurulmus, Turkiyenin saygin bir vakfidir. Sizlere bu comertliginizden dolayi sonsuz tesekkurler.



Ramazan Bayrami Celebration

The event was held at the Pearl Recreation Center in Minneapolis on October 13th. A group of about 40 people consisting of TAAM families and TASA students joined together for a nice day of celebration. The potluck style event was a great success with the help of all the guests. We shared good stories, listened to Turkish music and best of all tasted delicious food including borek, potato salad, crackers and cheese, chocolates and baklava, along with Turkish tea and coffee. With your attendance, we look forward to another great get together to celebrate Ramazan Bayrami next year in 2008.


Ramazan Bayrami Kutlamasi

Ramazan bayramlasmasi bu sene Minneapolis'deki Pear Recreation Center'da 13 Ekim'de gerceklesti. 40 kadar TAAM ve TASA dostlari guzel bir gun gecirmek icin bir araya geldiler. Tum katilanlarimizin evlerinden getirdikleri cesit cesit Turk yemekleri gunun en guzel yanlarindan biriydi. Borekler, salatalar, baklava, Turk cayi, kahve akla ilk gelenler. Bunun yanisira, paylastigimiz hikayeler, Turk muzigi de gunumuzu iyice guzellestirdi. Sizlerinden daha da yogun katilimi ile her sene oldugu gibi 2008 yilinda da cok guzel bir Ramazan bayrami kutlamasini daha gerceklestirmek istiyoruz.

Get to Know Your 2007-2008 TAAM Board of Directors (TAAM Yonetim Kurulu)

- Serpil Metin (President / Baskan)
- Engin Kalayci (Vice-President / Baskan Yardimcisi)
- Can Okandan (Treasurer / Haznedar)
- Cem Yurttas (Secretary / Sekreter)
- Pinar Tutuncu (Social Chair)
- Teslime Davies (Fundraising Chair)
- Lisa Vervena (Publicity Chair)
- Nergis Petersen (Advisor)
- Isil Yavuz (Student Representative – TASA President)
- Evren Eryurek (Past President)

The receipt of the donation made to Mehmetcik Foundation is presented. The donation was in part collected with the contributions of our guests at the Republic Day event. In other years, the money collected from the lottery would have been added as revenue to TAAM but this year the entire sum collected and even some more is donated to Mehmetcik Foundation.

|  TSK MEHMETÇİK VAKFI BAĞIŞ DÖKÜMÜ | |
|--|--|
| Bağış Tarihi: | 17/11/2007 - 21:38:01 |
| BAĞISCI BİLGİLERİ | |
| Adı | CAN |
| Soyadı | OKANDAN |
| Açıklama | Bagis Minnesota Turk Amerikan Dernegi (Turkish American Association of Minnesota) adina yapilmaktadir. Bagis 29 Ekim yemeginde yapilan cekilisin gelirleri ve ek bagislardan olusmaktadir. |
| Ülke | AMERİKA |
| BAĞIS BİLGİLERİ | |

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| Bağış Türü | Nakit Bağış |
| Bağış Tutar | 1500 |
| Para Birimi | USD,AMERİKAN DOLARI |
| NAKDİ BAĞIŞINIZ BAŞARIYLA GERÇEKLEŞMİŞTİR. Ulusal bütünlüğümüz için canlarını hiçe sayarak şehit olan Mehmetçiklerimizin yakınları ile gazi ve engelli Mehmetçiklerimize ve çocuklarına desteğiniz için teşekkür ederiz. | |

| TAAM 2007 Finances / TAAM 2007 Finansal Durumu (presented in English) | |
|--|-----------------------|
| Year beginning balance | \$ 6,733.60 |
| Year ending balance | \$ 6,015.65 |
| Revenue | |
| Event Sales | \$ 11,202.26 |
| Appreciation Dinner Guest Tickets | \$ 112.50 |
| Children's Day Ticket Sales | \$ 140.00 |
| FON | \$ 6,475.76 |
| Café Sales | \$ 6,475.76 |
| Republic Day | \$ 4,474.00 |
| Misc Sales | \$ 37.00 |
| Ticket Sales | \$ 4,437.00 |
| Donations Received (incl. Mehmetcik Vakfi donations) | \$ 1,900.00 |
| Membership Dues | \$ 2,150.00 |
| Total Revenue | \$ 15,252.26 |
| Expenses | |
| Event Expenses | \$ (11,735.05) |
| Children's Day | \$ (928.17) |
| FON | \$ (4,381.15) |
| Café | \$ (3,862.07) |
| Exhibit | \$ (329.08) |
| FON General Expenses | \$ (190.00) |
| July Picnic | \$ (350.46) |
| Ramazan Picnic | \$ (297.93) |
| Republic Day | \$ (5,148.26) |
| Volunteer Appreciation Dinner | \$ (629.08) |
| Donations (Mehmetcik Vakfi donation) | \$ (1,500.00) |
| Bank Charges | \$ (111.05) |
| Administration | \$ (574.11) |
| PO Box | \$ (72.00) |
| General Printing / Mailing | \$ (77.08) |
| Storage Rental | \$ (397.00) |
| General Supplies | \$ (28.03) |
| 2006 Sales Tax | \$ (450.00) |
| Total Expenses | \$ (14,370.21) |
| GRAND TOTAL | \$ 882.05 |
| 2006 Caspian charges (for FON) paid in 2007 | \$ (1,600.00) |