



12/23/2005



Dear TAAM members:

It has been over two years since I started serving on the TAAM Board of Directors, first as the VP and president-elect, then as president beginning January 1, 2005. Our number one goal as the board of directors was to establish an atmosphere of togetherness and a sense of community in Minnesota. I feel extremely lucky to have acted with the Board of Directors and worked with volunteers over the past year. We have had a number of events small and big which were all intended to support the goal mentioned above.

It warmed my heart to see so many of you volunteer for the Festival of Nations which resulted with an Excellence award, and members wowed me once more in preparation for our big event on October 29th celebrating the 82nd anniversary of the Turkish Republic. Kudos to you!



We had a fantastic night, with a diverse crowd of friends, family and newcomers from Minnesota and our neighboring states. Our guest of honor Vice Consul Mr. Bahri Batu joined us from Chicago, and we held a well received raffle that help raise money for new traditional outfits for our Festival dancers and volunteers. We had folk dancers and music, belly dancers and outstanding musicians from New York City: Yakup Karamese and Ilhan Ustunluk who played to an enthusiastic dance crowd all night long.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our sponsors: Mr. Salim Gorur from New York City, who's generosity allowed us to bring Mr. Karamese and Mr. Ustunluk and their music to the



Twin Cities, and special thanks to the Marmara Manhattan for donating gifts for our raffle. Organizing this event took many volunteers and I am thankful for all your time and energy - without your help and contributions, we could not have achieved this night.

This past summer, we proposed several changes to the TAAM Bylaws that were approved unanimously with your votes. Thank you for your support; you may find the new bylaws on our website.



One of our goals for the year and for future years was to bring TAAM closer with the Turkish Student Organization of the University of Minnesota. We have adopted TASA as our Sister Association. TASA board members have been actively participating in our board meetings, sharing ideas, discussing the challenges and opportunities they are facing as an organization. In this spirit of cooperation TAAM sponsored two TASA events this year. The canoe trip in the summer and a Dinner event TASA hosted in the fall. Both events were very

successfully organized and carried out by TASA. Our partnership with TASA brought an infusion of youth to our meetings and events this year. TASA board members and U of M students did not only participate in great numbers to the Republic Day dinner but also brought with them a number of faculty members that went a long way in sharing our culture and values with our fellow Minnesotans. Our TASA board members were working the room all night selling raffle tickets and jewelry items in an effort to raise money for the TAAM Folkloric Costume Fund. Going forward we are committed to further strengthening our partnership with TASA. We are looking forward to working with our student friends through out the year participating and helping with all our events. We hope to see a great turn out from them at the Festival of Nations this year helping us be the envy of all the other participating nations with our youth and energy!

I strongly believe that we have a strong leadership team established in the TAAM Board of Directors with all of its members and volunteers and it is with great sadness that I will be stepping down from my role as the President of TAAM by the end of December 2005, due to the fact that I have accepted a new job that will take my family and me to Melbourne, FL. It has been our privilege to serve you, my wife, Melissa, as the Social Chair of our organization and myself as the President. I want to thank all of you for everything that you have done and I am sure the momentum within this organization will continue to bring many accomplishments. We will stay in touch and remain involved with TAAM because Minnesota will always be considered as home. Please help me to congratulate Serpil Metin who will be the new President, Esra Riggs who will be the VP and president-elect, and Teslime Davies who will be the new social chair for TAAM.

Happy New Year everyone!

Best Regards,
Evren Eryurek
President, TAAM

A note from Social Chair – Melissa Stephens: Thank you to everyone for a wonderful Republic Day event at the Fort Snelling Club at the end of October. Everyone's hard work and attention to detail really paid off in the end. I had a fantastic time celebrating with everyone! For this and other events to come I am sad to be leaving TAAM as Evren and I make our way to Florida,

however I will be keeping tabs on you and future TAAM events through Board members and friends. I expect nothing but the best to come from all of you – with your continued interests, ideas, support and commitment TAAM will continue to grow and become a more enriched and exciting organization with which to be involved.

Congratulations to everyone for a wonderful year of hosting events, and I wish you luck in your 2006 endeavors!

Best Regards,
Melissa Stephens
Social Chair, TAAM

A note from President-elect Serpil Metin:

Dear TAAM Members,

First, I would like to thank you all for your contributions, enthusiasm and support to TAAM's activities throughout 2005. This year has been a very successful year for TAAM. While we are leaving 2005 behind us soon, TAAM Board of Directors, are excited to plan and start working on our 2006 activities. We want to have a very fruitful 2006 for social, cultural and educational activities. As always, we need your help by joining the committees and/or volunteering your time and/or sharing your ideas with us. As you now know, our President and Social Chair are moving to Florida next month, January 2006. Both Evren and Melissa worked very hard from planning to implementation of every TAAM's event we had in 2005. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their invaluable service, hard work, and countless hours and efforts they volunteered for TAAM, and wish them good luck in their new endeavors. They will be missed!

Because of their move, we made some immediate changes in our Board of Directors. As a President Elect, I will serve as new TAAM President during the next term. While this change came a year earlier than planned, I am excited to assist and work on TAAM's events with our great Board of Directors and volunteers. I would like to welcome new board members. Esra Riggs will resume the Vice President role and Teslime Davies will be our Social Chair. There will be no change in the rest of the Board of Directors. You will find the complete list of 2006 Board of Directors at our website, www.taam.org. I also would like to thank every one in our Board of Directors, committee members and our volunteers for their contributions and hard work. Let's work together to achieve more successful events and to reach out to more people to educate them about our rich culture.

Please use the enclosed membership renewal form and self addressed envelop to renew your memberships for 2006.

Thank you, and have a happy and healthy New Year!

Serpil Metin
VP and President-Elect, TAAM

UPCOMING EVENTS

KURBAN BAYRAMI

This year's celebration of Kurban Bayrami will be **January 15, 2006 between 2-5 p.m.** at: **Daria's Mediterranean Deli & Cafe West 147th Street, Apple Valley, MN 55127 (952-953-0213)**. Coffee, tea and snacks will be served. Please come help us celebrate, visit with new and old friends and be introduced to the newest Turkish restaurant in the Twin Cities. For help, please call **Serpil** at **(952) 465-6198**.

Directions:

- **From 35 Headed North:** Take Hwy 35 going North to County Road 42 exit. Go East on 42. Turn North on Cedar Avenue. Go straight on Cedar Avenue to 147th Street and turn West. Daria's is located in a strip mall on the right.
- **From 35W Headed South:** Take Hwy 35W South to County Road 42. Go East on 42. Turn North on Cedar Avenue. Go straight on Cedar Avenue to 147th Street and turn West. Daria's is located in a strip mall on the right.
- **From Hwy 77/Cedar Avenue Headed South:** Take Hwy 77 South, it will turn into Cedar Avenue. Continue going South until you reach 147th Street. Turn West on 147th Street. Daria's is located in a strip mall on the right.
- **From Cedar Avenue Headed North:** Take Cedar Avenue North until 147th Street. Turn West on 147th Street. Daria's is located in a strip mall on the right.

2006 FESTIVAL OF NATIONS: Celebrating Ethnic Markets

Come and celebrate our delicious cuisine, rich ethnic traditions, talented adult and children's dance groups and musicians at the Festival of Nations in May 4-7, 2006 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 a State - registered kitchen before the Festival
- Sell and prepare foods during the Festival days/hours given below
- Set-up/represent an ethnic market at the Exhibition booth and for Café preparations
- Remove Exhibition and Café materials

If you would like to help, please contact **Serpil Metin** at: Home: **952 294 8259**, 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

Looking for both adult and children dancers, if you are interested please have call **Nergis Peterson** for more information and details at **952-892-3941**. Dance practices will be in Bloomington, on Sunday afternoons no experience necessary.