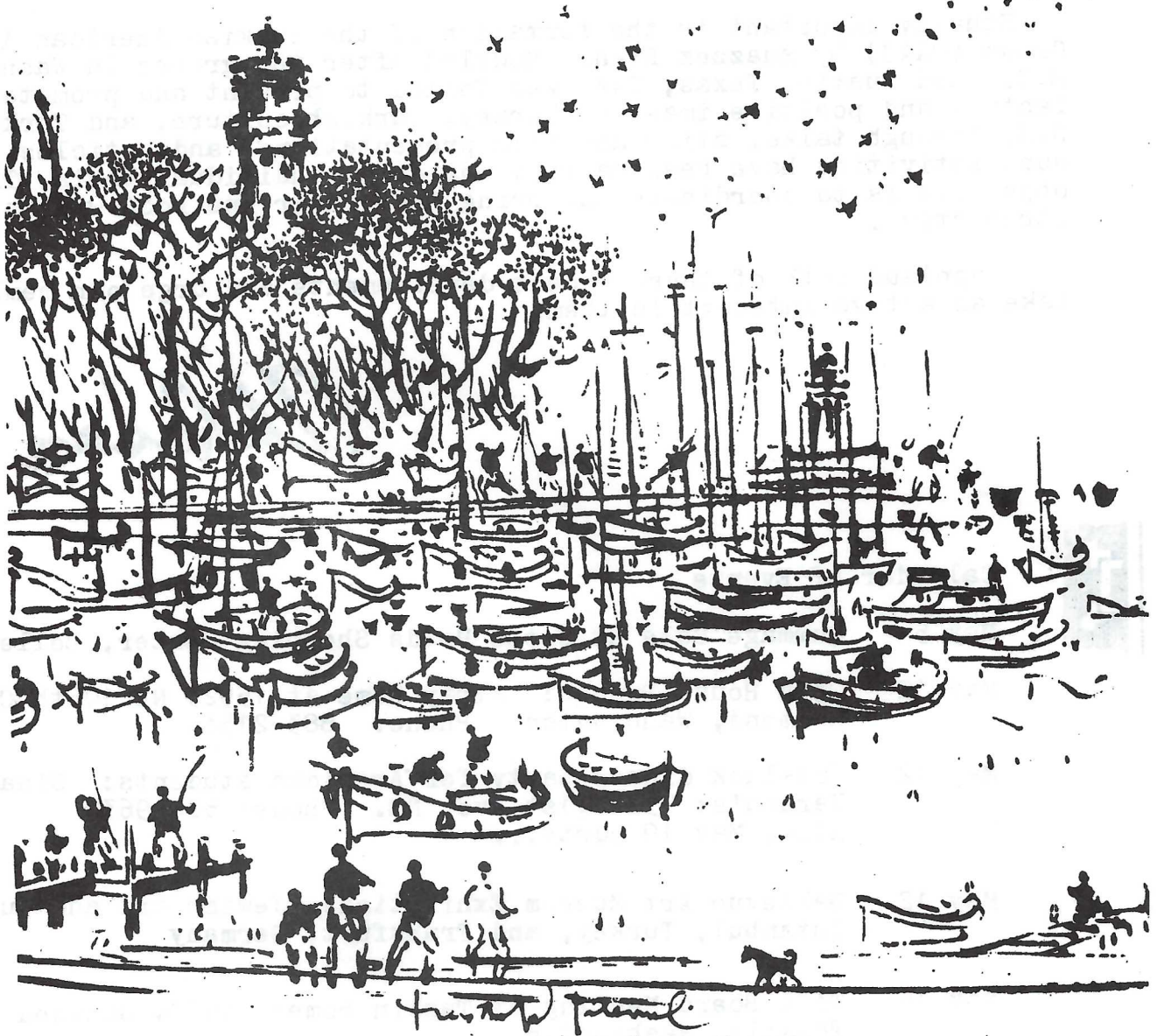


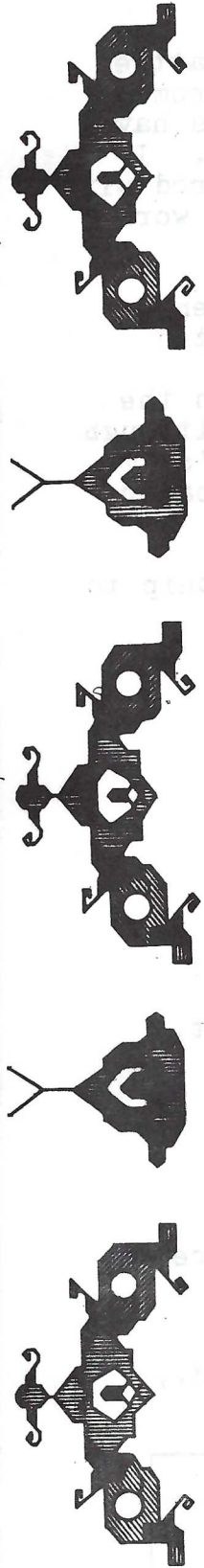
# SESIMIZ

Vol. 84/4  
May-June 1984

Newsletter of the Turkish-American Cultural Association of Seattle



Mustafa Pilevneli





**From the President**

**Dear Friends:**

Two recent events in our community are worth noting!

Thanks to the endeavors of a group of lady members of TACA, the traditional "kabul gunu" has found a new meaning and purpose in Seattle. It has been revived not only to fulfill social needs but also to promote fund raising activities for TACA. The first three monthly meetings have been well attended with keen interest to make them a regular event. I am delighted to see that this old world tradition is now being shared with our American friends. My sincere congratulations to all those who work very hard to make these open house luncheons a tremendous success.

Equally important is the formation of the Turkish American Awareness Group (TAAG) by Muazzez Eren. Modeled after the groups in Washington D.C., and Austin, Texas, TAAG was formed to present and promote a factual and positive image of Turkey, Turkish culture, and Turks in the U.S. through talks, slide and film presentations, and articles. Although such activities have been carried out on an individual basis, TAAG's objective is to coordinate and bring them under one roof with a broader perspective.

I applaud both of these recent developments and urge our membership to take an active interest in them.



**Calendar of Events**

- May 5 Rummage Sale at Cross Roads Shopping Center, Bellevue
- May 10 Open House Brunch: Giray Home at 15923 NE 106th Court, Redmond, Washington. Phone: 883-2154
- May 12 Pot-luck dinner party for American students: Sinan Karasu's: 7526-41st Ave. NE. Phone: 524-9630  
Also, May 19 party...
- May 12 Bellevue Art Museum Exhibition: Jewish art and culture in Istanbul, Turkey, and Frankfurt, Germany
- May 15 TACA Board Meeting at Taşkin home: 15104 Sunwood Blvd., Tukwila, Washington



Sesimis is published by the T.A.C.A., Seattle a non-profit organization, and mailed free of charge to T.A.C.A. members and other interested individuals. Editorial submissions, contributions, responses to articles, and suggestions for Sesimis are most welcome and should be sent to Sesimis, P.O. Box 31258, Seattle, Wa. 98103.

Sesimis Editorial Committee

Aysu Moss, James Andrews,  
Cetin Toy, Jale Sonuparlak  
Inci Ataç, Tulin Baydar

YURTTAN HABERLER \* NEWS FROM TURKEY

- \* ITT Corporation announced that it has won a \$300 million international bidding contest to supply Turkey with digital telephone switching equipment, related products and technology.
- \* Onüç ilden örfi idare kaldırıldı.
- \* Talks are being held to establish a Turco-German Joint Chamber of Commerce.
- \* The Gülriz Sururi-Engin Cezzar Drama Group will take part in the World Theatre Festival in Nancy, France.
- \* The Bursa Folk Dance group of the Anatolia Folklore Foundation won two first prizes for "Best Performance" and "Best Costume" at the International Folk Dance Contest in Agrigento, Sicily, Italy. Thirty-three groups from 17 countries took part in the event.
- \* Türkiyede ilk defa yollar paralı oluyor. İlk uygulama Mart sonunda İzmit-Kirazlıyalı arasında olacak.
- \* Hazine ve Dış Ticaret Müsteşarı Ekrem Pakdemirli "en geç Mayıs ayında Boğaz Köprüsünün satılması için çalışmalar yapıldığını" söyledi.
- \* Yaşar Kemal 'in baş yapıtlarından sayılan "Binboğalar Efsanesi" adlı romanı Gerard Gelas tarafından sahneye konuldu. Eserin müziğini Zülfü Livaneli, dekorunu da Metin Deniz hazırladı. Geçtiğimiz günlerde Fransa Devlet Bakanı Francois Mitterand tarafından Yaşar Kemal'e Legion D'Honneur nişanı verilmişti.
- \* Büyük Türk romancısı Kerime Nadir 67 yaşında hayata gözlerini yumdu. 1937 yılından bu yana 40 eser veren Kerime Nadir'in unutulmayan romanları arasında "Hiçkirik", "Samanyolu", "Funda" var.
- \* The Turkish Trade Ministry announced that foreign trade deficit narrowed 64% to \$217 million in the first two months of this year.
- \* Ingersoll-Rand Co., a manufacturer of industrial machinery and equipment, said it received an order for \$8.4 million from Türkiye Kömür İşletmeleri (Turkish Coal Mining Operations) for drills and air compressors.
- \* As expected, Turkey signed a \$300 million, six year syndicated loan with representatives from 36 commercial banks from the U.S., West Germany, and Persian Gulf countries. Among the leading banks are Chase Manhattan, Morgan Guaranty, and Citibank.
- \* The head of OECD Consortium for aid to Turkey said that entrepreneurs investing in Turkey will not lose.

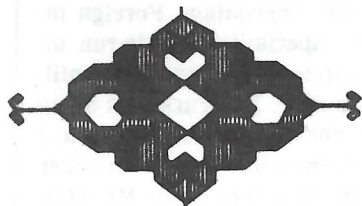


## LOCAL NEWS/UYELERIMIZDEN HABERLER

- \* Ender and Debbie Karaca became the proud parents of a baby daughter last week. Tebrik eder uzun omurler dileriz.
- \* The election of officers was held at the annual TACA general assembly meeting on April 8. Ali San, Çetin Toy, Aydoğan Guruşçu, Ron Johnson, and Mehmet Sakin (tied with Sue Taskin) were elected. However at the first board meeting, Guruşçu and Johnson expressed their regrets and withdrew from the Board due to their own workloads. We welcome Sue Taşkin and Irene Markoff who were next in line in the balloting. At their first meeting, the board members elected the following officers:

Ali San, President	Çetin Toy, Vice-President
Sue Taşkin, Treasurer	Mehmet Sakin, Social Events
Irene Markoff, Secretary	Chairperson
- \* A very enjoyable party to celebrate the 23 Nisan Children's Day was held at the UW HUB on April 22. There was live music, courtesy of Koss Rommelse, a student from Netherlands, who did a fantastic job of making us feel nostalgic for old time songs such as Sari Zeybek, Manastir, Dag Basini Duman Almis... Thanks are due to all those involved with refreshments, decorations, games and activities, and the fabulous gifts! The competition winners were announced and their prizes were envied and admired. Look for the winning submissions in the following pages. Thank you all again, for your cooperation and contributions.
- \* The gracious hostess of this month's meeting of the fund raising committee was Hanriette Basoglu. During the meeting an invitational luncheon for American women, and participation at the Cross Roads Rummage Sale activities were discussed and planned.
- \* The ladies' committee luncheon, organized to promote good will in the Seattle community regarding Turkey, was also used as a forum to demonstrate Turkish hospitality and cooking, and was held at Munevver Guruscu's home. The group expects to enlarge this preliminary meeting when activities will resume in the Fall. Thank you Munevver, and all the participants who helped to make this a very pleasant and informative event.
- \* A 3-member panel from the European branch of NATO, including Erdil Akay, Ambassador-at-large from Turkey, visited Seattle on April 8, as part of a four city US tour. The role of Turkey as a member of the defensive NATO alliance and the potential threat to NATO of the Greek-Turkish conflict and Cyprus issues were discussed. Ambassador Akay affirmed that "the common Turk and Greek share a common heritage and cultural history." He emphasized this as the point of strength and hope for a possible resolution when the Papandreu government participates in negotiations.
- \* World Cavalcade filmleri serisinden olan Robin Williams'in "Turkey" film-konusmasini birçok Seattle'li Turk ve Amerikali beyenerek izledi. Tahmine gore 5000'den fazla Amerikaliya erisen bu gosteri hepimizde vatan hasretini deprestirdi. Bravo, Robin Williams!

- \* Thanks to the many TACA members and other Turks and friends of Turks who assisted the production of the videotape, "Merhaba: An Orientation to Living in Turkey." The videotape will be shown on May 12 at the party at Sinan's house. --Karen Murphy.
- \* Please come and join the Pot-Luck Hospitality Party for the American students going to Turkey this summer on the International Cooperative Education Program. It is on May 12th, at 5 pm on, at Sinan Karasu's house: 7526-41st Ave. NE, Seattle. Phone: 524-9630.
- \* "Minorities in the Middle East" is the topic of the annual one-day seminar offered by the Middle East Resource Center at the UW on Saturday, May 12. Prof. Walter Andrews and Irene Markoff will present a seminar on understanding how people interact with each other, based on Turkish art, literature, and music. For information about the all-day seminar, contact the Middle East Resource Center at the UW.
- \* While TACA community members and friends and FIUTS in Seattle were celebrating Children's Day, hundreds of children in bright satin costumes, and Turkish Americans marched down 5th Avenue in New York in the First Annual Celebration of Turkish-American Day. (New York Times article, April 22, 1984)
- \* May 10th is this month's open house brunch at Ziyet Giray's home. Please come and participate in fund raising (\$2/person, plus potluck) and also view the photographs taken at the 23 Nisan party at the UW HUB. You can give your orders to Cetin Toy (364-4464) for printing. Deadline for reprint orders is May 15.



#### Request for Slides and Other Materials about Turkey

A newly formed committee, The Turkish American Awareness Group Education Committee, is planning to prepare slide sets about Turkey. These slide sets will be used to give talks in schools and for other community organizations. We will cover topics such as history of Turkey, life style of the Turkish people, traditions, art, trades, etc. We could use art objects, slides, books, handicrafts, family antiques which may be available in our community. Therefore, we request your help in this project. If you have any of these materials which might be useful for our project, please call Jack Brown (842-3772; 326-7050) or Çetin Toy (364-4464). Your material will be returned. We would like to hear from you.

Jack Brown  
Çetin Toy

## Turkey Does It Again

Chalk up another one for democracy. In local elections Sunday, Turkish voters gave Prime Minister Turgut Ozal a renewed mandate by backing his Motherland Party against all comers with as much support as he got last November. This gives him a multiyear license to open Turkey's cosseted market to much-needed competition.

There's nothing earth-shattering about people choosing the well-trod, free-market path to prosperity, but this election does create a serious problem. To wit, what are the critics of Turkish democracy going to do now? The national election in November was fought among three parties under the rules of Gen. Kenan Evren, who had brought Turkey back from the terrorist-inspired brink by taking control in 1980. Of the three candidates, the military supported the big loser and the people chose Mr. Ozal, the enemy of Turkey's traditional corporate state. But the critics said this wasn't fair because other parties were banned. Well, all the old political groups were invited to duel by ballot in Sunday's election, and according to the so-far unofficial results, Mr. Ozal's party won big again and shouldn't need to call a national election until 1988.

Pity the Council of Europe, 21 European countries that have been sniping at Turkey's political practices. They refuse to acknowledge that the generals took over Turkey only because Soviet-inspired terrorism was spilling so much blood that Istanbul made Belfast look like Disneyland. Gen. Evren is still considered a na-

tional hero, but the voters have now twice chosen the minimal state approach of Mr. Ozal.

Mr. Ozal's pledge to cut inflation from 40% to 25% this year, allow more imports of consumer goods and sell off government property to the private sector won his party wide support, even in the usually left-leaning, poorer urban areas. He is trying to tear down the bureaucracy that 50 years of statist rule built. He captured the voters' imagination with a plan approved earlier this month called the "Bosporus Bridge Sale Bill," named for the span connecting the European and Asian halves of Istanbul, which will be among the state-owned items up for bid. He's planning to privatize the country's oil, air and rail industries.

He has already partly decontrolled interest rates. Savings accounts now actually earn more than the inflation rate, and local investment is looking up. He plans, during his five-year term, to make the Turkish lira freely convertible, reduce import restrictions and free Turks to travel and spend money abroad to their hearts' content.

The only flies in the democracy ointment could be the generals, who still can veto legislation. Foreign investment, especially in state-run industries, already has some mercantilist blood boiling. But Turkey is doing just fine, and the voters have sent a message to the generals—and to other Europeans—that they want Mr. Ozal at liberty to do his free-market thing.

## Ex-Im Bank Supports A Loan to Turkey For Coal Equipment

By a WALL STREET JOURNAL Staff Reporter  
WASHINGTON—The U.S. Export-Import Bank authorized a guarantee for a \$184.3 million private loan to Turkey for the purchase of coal-mining equipment from U.S. suppliers.

The Ex-Im Bank said American Express International Banking Corp., a subsidiary of American Express Co., will provide the loan to cover 85% of the estimated cost of draglines, excavators, bulldozers, dump trucks and other equipment for Turkiye Komur Isetmeleri, a government-owned coal-mining enterprise.

The equipment will be used at four lignite-mining sites. The lignite will be used to fuel nearby Turkish electric-power plants, some of which are under construction.

Ex-Im Bank President William Draper said Westinghouse Electric Corp. may become a supplier of equipment for the power plants, but bank officials said later that no specific requests are pending for loans or guarantees.

According to the Ex-Im Bank, U.S. suppliers of equipment and services for the mining projects will include Bucyrus-Erie Co., Harnischfeger Corp., Page Engineering Co., Ingersoll Rand Co., American Hoist & Derrick Co., Caterpillar Tractor Co. and Mining Progress of Chicago.

U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT, April 2, 1984

### SOVIETS SIGNAL TURKEY

New Kremlin focus on Turkey, a key member of NATO, highlights Moscow's anxiety over possible American actions south of the Soviet border.

Soviet Union fears Washington is eyeing Turkish sites for cruise-missile bases if peace groups block further deployments in Europe.

It also worries that U.S. will ask to use Turkish bases to rush combat troops to the Persian Gulf area if the Iran-Iraq war gets out of hand.

Evidence of Moscow's concern is the surprise visit to Ankara in mid-March by a top Soviet diplomat. He told Turks to say "No" to the U.S.

Ankara's response: Washington has made neither request, but . . .

Turkey will accept no cruise missiles, does not intend to grant U.S. new base privileges short of an Iranian assault on other Arab states.

Turks aren't averse to flirting with Russia. It reinforces the idea that Ankara can't be taken for granted—particularly now when Congress is trying to trim back American aid over the Cyprus dispute.

But when chips are down, Turkey knows its future lies with the West.

## TURKISH - JEWISH ROOTS IN CANAKKALE AND

### HAYIM SIDI IN THE OLD

Christian Science Monitor

April 11, 1984

**H**ORSE-DRAWN carts are as common as cars in this Turkish town, Cannakale, on the Dardanelles, and they lurch over the cobblestone streets selling milk, firewood, apples, and quinces. Rabbi Hayim Sidi lives in one of the badly plastered apartments here, across from the synagogue he has led for 30 years.

Life for the small-town Turkish rabbi has not been easy. Even before the Jewish population dwindled to 35 (from 750 when he arrived), the congregation could not afford to pay its leader much. A trip to Istanbul, 10 hours away by bus, was saved for and savored by the Sidis only once.

Still, every Saturday morning the rabbi, now in his early seventies, exits in his suit and hat and unlocks the gate of his century-old temple. Four aged men, the remnants of his congregation, shuffle in. Allowing sunlight to suffice, they read their Sabbath prayers.

Searching for my Turkish-Jewish roots brought me to Cannakale this fall, and to the ghetto my grandparents left when they sailed for America in 1914. I arrived in town with no particular agenda and no relations left there to look up, just a longing to somehow connect the past with the present. While taking pictures of the old synagogue, I met a curious bystander who was to help me do this: the rabbi.

The rabbi's family, like my own and most Turkish Jews', had lived in Turkey for over four centuries. In 1492, when Columbus left Spain going west, our ancestors had headed east, fleeing the Spanish Inquisition. Turkish Sultan Bayezit II not only accepted the Jewish refugees, he sent a fleet to rescue them, hoping their business acumen would enrich his empire. Of 250,000 Spanish, or "Sephardic," Jews leaving Spain, 150,000 settled in Turkey.

It was a wise move. The Jews did, in fact, aid the Ottoman Empire's efforts at commerce. Turkey, for its part, never persecuted its Jews. Throughout the centuries the Turkish Jews simply kept a low profile. They lived apart from the Muslim mainstream and never even learned Turkish. They spoke, instead, a mixture of medieval Spanish and Hebrew known as Ladino, which the oldest Turkish Jews still speak today. My grandparents spoke Ladino at home in Chicago. Rabbi Sidi, one of 22,000 Jews left in Turkey, speaks it at home today, in Cannakale.

"See," said the rabbi, pouncing on a random page of his 1816 prayer book. "This side is Hebrew; this side is Ladino." We were sitting on his rock-hard parlor couch after the morning services he had led. He smiled to touch the prayer book he loved, its pages worn soft as cloth.

"And this," he said, producing a 1949 primer, "is how I learned English." The little volume, "English Without Tears" was his only link to the language of the new world. For the past three years he has studied this book for an hour or two each night, patiently poring over the book's corny jokes. Although the lessons were originally accompanied by a record, the rabbi could never afford a record player.

"'Barber to client,' " the rabbi read aloud to me, pointing out each word. "'Haven't I shaved you before, sir?' 'No, old chap, I got those scars during the war.'" The rabbi grinned, obviously well-pleased by the client's retort, even though he must have read it hundreds of times. "It's a nice book, isn't it?" asked the rabbi.

"This too." Rabbi Sidi extracted a third volume from his book pile while his wife set the table for brunch. This book was a yellowing song anthology, stuffed with hand-copied ballads from other times and sources.

"This one is Israeli," he said, suddenly bursting into song. "And this is an old French one," he sang out again, sight-reading the notes. "This — " He pointed to some seismographic script. "This one is Arabic."

"You sing it?"

"Yes, of course! Why not?" And he did.

As evening fell, we retired to the synagogue again, where I admired several elaborately calligraphed benedictions that Rabbi Sidi had donated to his dwindling congregation. The four elderly men took their usual seats.

Oblivious to their oblivion, the rabbi assumed his position at the head of his congregation and thanked God for creating the universe and all that is good.

In a month or two, Rabbi Sidi and his wife plan to move to Israel. The synagogue will close and with it, 500 years of Jewish history in Cannakale.

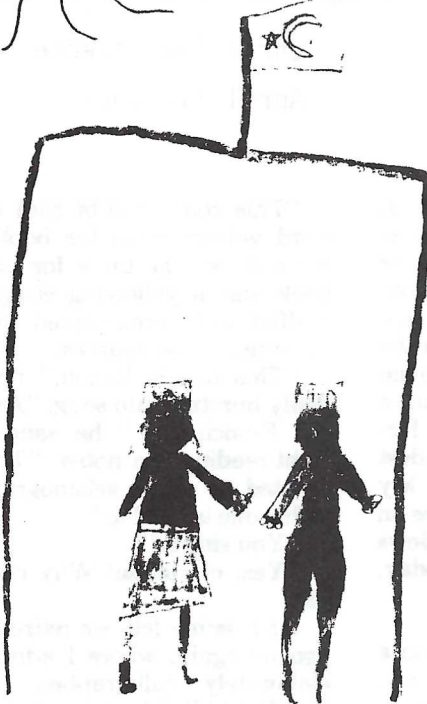
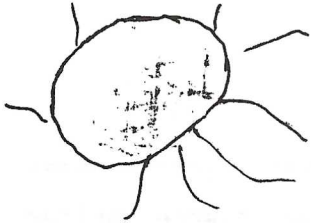
Although the rabbi had not known my grandparents, he had lived a life as hard as theirs and had gone on to learn and consider ideas as progressive as any my generation has produced. His ideas of beauty, humor, and God are as timeless as his songs, books, and prayers.

At the end of his Sabbath service, the rabbi said a prayer for my grandfather, long dead. I silently added a prayer for the rabbi who, like history, is very much alive.

Lenore Skenazy

23 Nisan Competition Participants  
 \*\*\*\*\*

AYLin Crosbie ©  
 Age: 5



Why Are Children Important for a Country?

By: Reha I. Baydar

Children are important because they grow up to be adults. They have to learn to do art and make stuff. And they have to learn how to serve and cook food. They have to learn how not to be tramps and not to run away from their mother. They have to be loved and they have to be cared a lot by their father and mother, aunt and uncle, grandfather and grandmother, step mother and step father, step grandmother and grandfather, step aunts and uncles, and brother and sister.

Then they grow up and get to be real healthy. They be really good. If they weren't healthy, so people may catch a cold and give it to a part of the whole country. So, if they weren't healthy they'd start to smoke and drink beer and make themselves drunk.

They make foods, and practically everyday they learn something new. They get wives, they get jobs, they get smarter, they get better at doing stuff. They get to know each other and have children.

The adults are healthy so that when they get married they have healthy children, then the children get married after they grow up and they have healthy children.

POEM

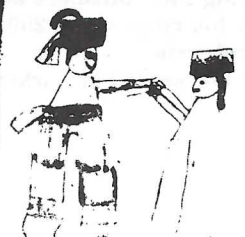
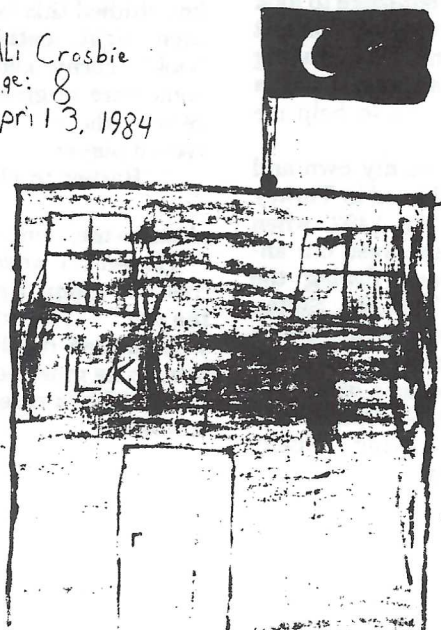
Turkey is very neat  
 The kids are really sweet  
 So are the other people...

Kids love Atatürk  
 They are proud to be a TURK  
 Kids are the future of Turkey.

Baha Baydar



Ali Crosbie  
 Age: 8  
 April 13, 1984





## American-Turks give Congress their views

WASHINGTON — Members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee have received letters from Dr. Bulent Basol, president of the American-Turkish Association of Southern California, outlining the position of the association with regard to the declaration of independence by the Turkish-Cypriots and charging that misinformation in the matter is being fed to members of Congress.

Dr Basol indicates that the association would like to elaborate on the Turkish view and asks for a chance to do so. He states further that the Congress not support initiatives which are in nature punitive toward one side but rather to support "the solution of the Cyprus problem through intercommunal talks where both sides are represented on an equal basis."

Dr. Basol cites as reasons for establishment of the new northern Cyprus state by the Turks as:

Destruction of the partnership state by the Greek side; the negative attitude by the Greeks during the dialogue, implying strong support by the Greek Socialist Government; the situation for 11 years prior to the invasion, alleging armed aggression, economic embargo, racial and religious discrimination; destruction of the negotiating process by the Greek-Cypriots leaving the Turkish community no choice but to exercise "their inalienable right to self determination."

"In declaring their independence," the American-Turkish leader notes, "the Turkish-Cypriots have not closed the door to an eventual settlement, but have dramatized the reluctance shown by the recent Greek-Cypriot rejection of the goodwill measures proposed by the Turkish-Cypriots. These measures proposed the return of the Greek-Cypriot town of Varosha, the opening of Nicosia Airport, and the resumption of talks. Also, it should be noted that despite this hasty rejection, Turkey is continuing with the partial withdrawal of its troops from Cyprus."

In conclusion, Dr. Basol notes that the Turkish-Americans feel that the Congress can help find a solution to the Cyprus problem by providing incentives for both sides to continue the negotiating process. He said that by labeling one of the states illegal while recognizing the other does not confirm to the concept. He said that "this is true especially when one considers that the so-called 'government of Cyprus' is not based on the stipulation of the 1960 constitution of the island."

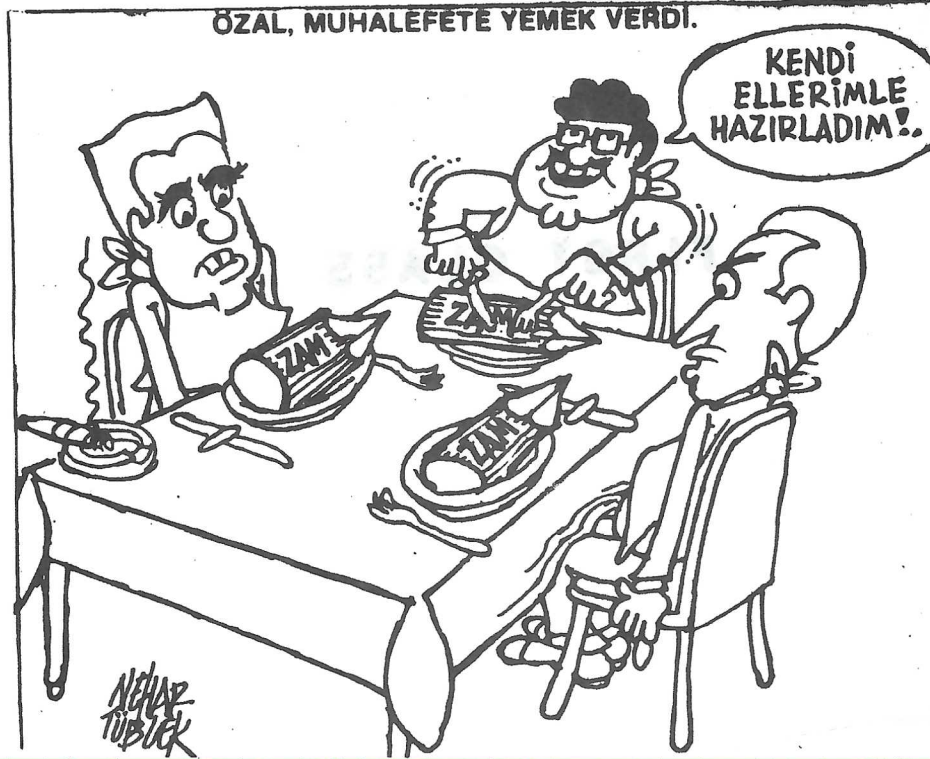
## DAĞ BAŞINI DUMAN ALMIŞ

Sözler: Ali Ulvi

Dağ ba şı nı du man al mış gü  
müş de . re dur maz a kar gü  
neş u fuk tan şim di do ğar yü  
rü ye lim ar ka daş lar  
se si mi zi yer gök su din le sin sert  
a dım lar la her yer in le sin  
se si mi zi yer gök su din le sin  
a dımlar la her yer in le sin in le sin



ÖZAL, MUHALEFETE YEMEK VERDİ.



## KARNIYARIK (STUFFED EGGPLANT)

This dish is just plain delicious! It is very popular and common in Turkey. You will make it again and again, both for its taste and ease. It can be prepared in advance, for it reheats beautifully.

6 medium Japanese eggplants (you may substitute two large globe style eggplants, cut in quarters, lengthwise.)	2 medium onions, chopped fine
1 cup salad oil	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb. ground lamb or beef
4 tablespoon chopped parsley	2 medium tomatoes, 1 sliced, 1 chopped in sixths
	$\frac{1}{2}$ cup water
	salt and pepper to taste
	1 green pepper, seeded & chopped fine

1. Cut the stems off the eggplants. Peel off  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch wide strips of the skin lengthwise, giving a striped effect which aids in absorption of the juices as the eggplant is cooked. Slash them lengthwise on one side only, starting and ending about 1 inch from both ends.
2. Sautee eggplants in the oil very lightly on all sides. Place them in a single layer in a baking dish, slashed sides up.
3. Sautee onions and meat in the same pan that eggplants were sauteed in stirring constantly.
4. Add the chopped tomato and green pepper and cook for five mins. more.
5. Add parsley, salt and pepper. Stir and remove from heat.
6. Part the slit in the slashed eggplant and stuff with mixture. Place a slice of tomato on top of each eggplant. Add water to prevent them from sticking. Cover and cook in over for 30 mins.

SESIMIZ/T.A.C.A.  
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**FIRST CLASS**