This issue is sponsored in large part by the generosity of Istanbul and Sterling McCullough Acura.

ATA Houston was represented in Washington DC at the annual convention of nationwide American Turkish organizations. Oziem, our president, had the opportunity along with representatives from Turkish American communities nationwide, to lay a wreath in front of the Ataturk statue outside the Turkish Embassy.

From the president...

A look ahead at an exciting year

It is my great pleasure to let you know that the long-awaited and much cherished Turkish Festival is happening. We have just signed the contract, and the date is November 14th. You can all be excited, because we are. We need everyone's help for a successful and memorable festival. We will soon let you know the ways you can help us bring the festival back, better than ever.

The 2015 Republic Ball will be held on October 30th at the Junior League of Houston, one of the most gorgeous venues of our city and we project an increase in seat capacity by 40%. We have no doubt the tickets will sell out, fast, so make sure to renew your membership if you haven't done so. Members will get the early sales!

Turkish Classes are also coming back. Soon, we will announce the details but until then, please reach out if you would like to join our volunteer corps. All we require is a passion for teaching and a good command of, of course, Turkish!

Official ATA-Houston membership cards are now ready. These cards come with a variety of perks, such as admission to member-only events, discounts at ticketed events and local businesses. But the biggest perk of all is that it is a small token that you can keep in your wallet that will remind you that you are not alone.

We will continue to have our regular social events such as the Happy Hours and Ladies Time with some improvements. We will have some happy hours with babysitting so Turkish-American moms and dads can join in the conversations. Ladies Time will be hosted by a different volunteer each month at a different venue, sometimes it will be a brunch, sometimes a dinner, but every time it will be a grand time.

We are working on Turkish movie nights throughout the summer in various venues across Houston. We will also start building the ATA Library, and the first donation request has been made! So, if you have some Turkish books or books on Turkey laying on some shelves, collecting dust, please consider donating them. We are looking for a space in a public library where we can collect them until we have our own roof over our heads.

Last but not least, you are reading the first issue of BERABER. We look forward to many more projects that will bring us closer together. Because alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.

Ozlem Dikek
President, ATA-Houston
Membership Corner...

A small recognition as a token of our appreciation...

Honorary Members: (Awarded by the Board of Directors)
Sevim Balkanli
Jay Karahan

Lifetime Members: (Member contribution to ATA exceeds $10,000)
Demir & Gulgun Karsan
Erhan & Serma Uskup

Founding Members: (Member contribution to ATA of at least $1,000 in one year)
Hifzi & Samiye Ardic
Damla Karsan Dryden
Ovunc Mutlu
Cenk Ozdogan
Emre Unal
Mehmet & Deniz Demirors
Gurcan & Rachel Gulen
Oguz Orhon
Scott & Derya Poerschke
Ayse Uvwo

Sustaining Members:
Suur & Efe Bicidler
Gurur & Ali Denktes

Contributing Members:
Gulten & Randy Burdett

Talent Among Us...

Omer Izcio was born in Ankara - Turkey, 1980. He received his engineering degree from Middle East Technical University before completing his PhD at Texas A&M University. He published two novels, both in Turkish. He also appeared in Turkey’s most prestigious literary periodicals. His book critics and articles appear in several newspapers, such as Radikal and BirGün.

His latest novel Bozadam, was published in 2014.

A complete list of his work can be found on his website: omerizcio.com.

Prof. Dr. Yildiz Bayazitoglu

A long time member of our Turkish community was elected to be one of the three Honor Academic Members of Turkish Academy of Sciences in December 2014. She was the only one chosen in the engineering category. Her latest award is very special since she was honored by a scientific Turkish organization. We congratulate her and wish her many more awards in her successful career.

We are proud of you.
ATA Calendar of Events...

MAY 2015

JUNE 2015

JULY 2015

ATA New Membership Cards

You should be receiving your new ATA membership card that will offer you discounts at many of the local businesses and services. It will also be used during future member-only events and for special ATA member discounts at various ATA sponsored events.

Important Future Events:

- October 30, 2015 – Republic Ball
- November 14, 2015 – Turkish Festival

Happy Hour
Turkish Meet-up
Ladies Time – to be announced
Turkish Night

Mother’s day
Father’s day
Independence Day
Bayram – Iftar Dinner

Ataturk Marathon
Turkish Classes
Movie Night
Welcome To Istanbul Grill & Deli

We are the first and most authentic Turkish restaurant in Houston. Our charming little restaurant at the heart of Rice Village has been part of the community for over 15 years. All these years we have stayed true to our belief that a good food must be made from the heart with passion.

Every day starting at dawn our kitchen starts to prepare every single item on the menu from scratch with authentic spices and ingredients, whether it's our famous brick oven bread or our award-winning rice puddings. The key to our success has always been our commitment to quality of our recipes to maintain our constant high quality standards.

Hospitality is our nature!

5613 Morningside, Houston Tx 77005

(713) 526.2800

info@istanbulgrill.com

Your kitchen is not complete without the ATA Cookbook...

Donated by ATA members, the recipes are for traditional dishes gathered from all across Turkey.

A great way to support ATA and a great gift for friends and family.

Send us a note at secretary@atahouston.org and we will ship the order to your house.

Thank you in advance...

Become a sponsor... place an AD in the next issue, send us a note at beraber@atahouston.org
TIDBITS...

Thunder or Hail Storm Safety Tips...

Property Protection...
- Remove dead or overhanging tree branches that could fall on your house if the tree is struck by lightning.
- Unplug appliances and electronic equipment.
- If a severe thunderstorm is predicted, park your car where it will be protected, such as in a parking garage.

Personal Protection...
- Avoid using corded phones and electrical equipment, such as computers or televisions. Electrical wires can be a conduit for lightning.
- Don’t use your cell phone during a thunderstorm.
- Don’t wash your hands, take a shower, wash dishes or do laundry. Metal pipes for plumbing can conduct lightning.
- High winds and hail can shatter glass, so stay away from windows, skylights and doors.
- Keep drapes and blinds closed to prevent hail-shattered glass from blowing inside.

Yummy...

Zebra Cake Recipe

By our own Sinem Caner Tepe

Ingredients:
3 eggs/1 cup of sugar/ 1 cup of yogurt/ 1 cup of oil/vegetable oil/ 1 tbsp baking powder/ 1 tbsp vanilla/ 3 tbsp cocoa/ 2 cups of flour

Directions:
1. In a large bowl, beat eggs on high speed for 2-3 minutes. Gradually add sugar, beating until mixture is light and fluffy. Beat in vanilla. Combine flour and baking powder, gradually add yogurt, oil; beat at low speed until smooth.

2. Divide mixture into 2 bowls. Add cacao in one of the bowls and mix well again. You will have a white and brown mixture in two separate bowls.

3. Pour each of the white mixture into a greased circle shaped baking pan. Then, pour a cup of brown mixture on top. Bake 350 for 30-40 minutes or until a toothpick inserted near the center comes out clean. Cool on a wire rack and then slice it.

ENJOY!!!

ATA-HOUSTON member Ata Sagnak and his kids Mavi and Tay have been participating in the Houston Art Car Parade since 2012 by helping their friend Todd Bowers with the “Lucha Mobile”. The vehicle is a minivan towing a wrestling rink.

Did you know...

Istanbul’s Grand Bazaar has 64 streets, 4000 shops and 25,000 workers.
"Peace at Home, Peace in the World."

Mustafa Kemal Atatürk

Our Mission Statement...

A.T.A., founded in 1979, is a non-profit organization created to promote better understanding and friendship between the people of the United States and Turkey through social, educational, cultural and charitable activities. It also aims to provide assistance to Turkish citizens living in Houston.

A.T.A is an IRS Section 501(c) 3 tax-exempt, charitable, educational and cultural organization.

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