



World Affairs Council of the Mid-Hudson Valley

Portrait of Turkey

**20 September 2011
6:00 p.m.- 9:00 p.m.**

TURKISH ARTS THROUGH THE AGES



Turkish Cultural Foundation





PROGRAM

Rockefeller Hall, Room 200
Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY

- **Welcoming Remarks**
 - **06:00 p.m.-06:05 p.m.**
- **Keynote Address**
 - **06:05-07:25 "TURKISH ARTS THROUGH THE AGES,"** by Hon. Prof. Talat Halman, Bilkent University, Ankara, Turkey.
 - **07:25-07:40** Discussion and Question & Answer
- **Presentations by high school teachers returning from Study Tour to Turkey**
 - **07:45-08:05** Overview of Turkey, Rose Ann Lapp
 - **08:05-08:25** Turkey: its People, its places, its Flavor, Anna Tihin
 - **08:25-08:45** Turkey: Tracing the Past, Tara Colen
 - **08:45-09:00** Coffee/Tea break –Turkish Meze and desserts
Adjournment

World Affairs Council of Mid-Hudson Valley would like to take this opportunity to thank Professor Andrew Davison and the Political Science Department of Vassar College for co-sponsoring this event.



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Fall 2011 Program Events

October 4, 2011, Wed., 7:00 p.m. - Steven Cook, Council of Foreign Relations, and author of The Struggle for Egypt: From Nasser to Tahrir Square, "Egypt and the Future of the 'Arab Spring.'" 7 p.m. at the Villard Room, Vassar College co-sponsors, Dept. of Political Science, and the International Studies Program, Vassar College and The Gillespie Forum.

October 17, 2011, Mon., 7:00 p.m. - Prof. Peter Schoenbach, The Curtis Institute of Music, "World Music" lecture and live performance by gamelan group 7 p.m. at Olin Hall, Bard College co-sponsor, Dept. of Music, Bard College.

November 9, 2011, Wed., 5:30 p.m. - Robert Pringle, retired U.S. Foreign Service Officer, Historian, and author of Understanding Islam in Indonesia: Politics and Diversity. "Understanding Islam in Indonesia." 5:30 p.m. at the Villard Room, Vassar College co-sponsors, Dept. of Political Science, and the Asian Studies Program, Vassar College.

November 16, 2011, Wed., 7:30 a.m. - Celal Seçilmiş, Pres., Turkish American Chamber of Commerce & Industry 7:30 a.m. at Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel with co-sponsors, Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce and Turkish Cultural Foundation.

November 22, 2011, Tues., 7:00 p.m. - Alex Mundt, United Nations High Commission on Refugees, "Sudan and South Sudan: Can the Divorce Work?" 7 p.m. at the James and Betty Hall Theatre, DCC co-sponsor: Dept. of History, Government and Economics, DCC.

December 15, 2011, Thurs., 6:00 p.m. - Annual Meeting: Bill Ryerson, President, The Population Media Center, "A Proven Strategy: Using Entertainment Media to Achieve a Sustainable Population." 6 p.m. at the Escoffier Restaurant, Culinary Institute of America.



World Affairs Councils of America is a national association with a half million members and participants from coast to coast. It seeks to create citizens well-informed in world affairs, to build international interests among young people, and to enhance international understanding. From religion to medicine, government to education, and science to culture, **WACA** presents your world to you with engaging speakers. Our members are as diverse as the citizens of the world. We encourage you to join us! – through your local **World Affairs Council of the Mid-Hudson Valley, WACMVH**.

The Turkish Cultural Foundation's Mission Statement:

1. Promoting and preserving Turkish culture and heritage world-wide, through original programs and cooperation with like minded organizations.
2. Supporting education, particularly in the areas of humanities, for disadvantaged students in Turkey.
3. Supporting research, documentation and publication in the humanities related to Turkey.
4. Supporting the preservation of Turkish cultural heritage abroad.
5. Helping to build cultural bridges between Turkey and other countries to support a better understanding and appreciation of Turkish culture and heritage.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER



The Honorable Professor Talat Halman

Hon. Prof. Talat Halman served as the first Minister of Culture of the Turkish Republic. Currently he is Professor and Chairman, Department of Turkish Literature and Dean of Humanities and Letters, Bilkent University, Ankara. Formerly he was on the faculties of Columbia, Pennsylvania, and Princeton Universities for many years, and from 1986 to 1996, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Literatures at New York University. He served as Ambassador for Cultural Affairs and Turkey's Deputy Permanent Representative at the United Nations. He has published seventy books (including 12 collections of his own poetry in Turkish and English) and 3000 articles in Turkish and English. From 1991 to 1995, he served as an elected member of the UNESCO Executive Board in Paris. Currently he is President of the UNICEF Turkish National Committee, and chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Istanbul Foundation for Culture and Arts. He holds honorary doctorates from Boğaziçi and Ankara Universities.

Honors and awards include Distinguished Service Awards of the Turkish Academy of Sciences and the Turkish Foreign Ministry, and "Knight Grand Cross, G.B.E., The Most Excellent Order of the British Empire", (counterpart of "Sir") conferred on him by Queen Elizabeth II.



Mid-Hudson Teachers Return from Study Tour to Turkey

Sevgin Oktay, WACMHV
Brian Wagner, TCF

On **July 19, 2011**, three teachers from the Mid-Hudson Valley returned from Turkey after spending two weeks studying the country through the Turkish Cultural Foundation's Teacher Study Tour program, organized in collaboration with the World Affairs Council of America and its nationwide chapters.

The local teachers, selected by the **World Affairs Council of the Mid-Hudson Valley**, New York were part of a group of 27 teachers to take part in the second of two Study Tour trips this summer. They come from **high schools in Bedford, High Falls and Lagrangeville, NY**. We welcome them here today to tell us about their Study Tour trip, and they are, respectively,



Tara Colen



Rose Ann Lapp



Anna Tihin

The teachers will now start to work with the **World Affairs Council of the Mid-Hudson Valley** to develop cultural and educational programs that introduce Turkey to the local community and in their classrooms. The World Affairs Council is a non-partisan, non-profit, volunteer organization whose aim is to enhance global understanding of global concerns among the residents of the region through lectures and other programs. One of the Council's major efforts is to enhance global education among the young people of the region. The Turkish Travel/Educational program is a part of that effort.

During their time in Turkey, the teachers met with fellow teachers and students, learning about the Turkish educational system at various schools including:

Darussafaka, a school for orphaned children, and the Atakoy İlkogretim Okulu in the Turkish village of Karacasu. The latter school has been adopted and is being supported by American teachers from previous Study Tours.

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The teachers visited numerous cities and villages across the country, beginning in Istanbul, where they toured famous historical sites such as the Hagia Sophia, the Spice Bazaar, Topkapi Palace and the Istanbul Archaeological Museum, which holds over a million artifacts representing the span of world history.

Other highlights of the trip included a visit to Bursa, the first capital of the former Ottoman Empire, where the teachers learned shadow puppet techniques to share with their students, and a trip to Ephesus, where they toured the site of the Celsus Library, one of the richest libraries in the ancient world when built in 117 A.D. The teachers also visited the archeological excavation of Catalhoyuk, a 7,000-year-old Neolithic settlement that has been nominated for UNESCO's World Heritage List, and toured the Cappadocia region, known for its famed landscapes and ancient cave churches.

With the return of this group, TCF has introduced 348 American educators to the history, culture and landmarks of Turkey since 2007. As part of the same collaborative program, nearly 2,500 teachers across the United States have attended educational workshops on Turkey held by local World Affairs Councils.

For more information about the Turkish Cultural Foundation, with offices in Boston, Detroit, Istanbul, Sonoma, and Washington, DC, visit www.turkishculturalfoundation.org.



2011 Trip participants visiting the Celsus Library ruins at Ephesus.