



VANCOUVER ISLAND TURKISH CANADIAN FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY

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**Winter
2008**

HARMONY

Annual General Meeting NEWS

The Vancouver Island Turkish Canadian Friendship Society (VITCFS) held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on December 2, 2007. Members of the VITCFS elected a new Executive as follows:

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President - Engin Turan
Vice-President – Gursel Toparlak
Treasurer – Anil Apa
Secretary – Cenk Matalon
Membership Director – Bridget Minishka
Social Activities Director – Cynthia Lane
Cultural Director – Aysegul Fidan
Member at Large – Tayfun Ince
Member at Large – Salih Cinar
Member at Large – Tolga Habali

FROM THE EDITOR

HAPPY HOLIDAYS and HAPPY NEW YEAR. On behalf of VITCFS, best wishes to everyone for the coming year. Have a great holiday season and we hope to see you at our events in 2008.

At the AGM, VITCFS members also voted in favour of changing the Society's name to the Turkish Canadian Friendship Society of Vancouver Island. This name change will be official once it is registered with the Provincial Government.

Executive Report

The new Executive met on December 16, 2007 to discuss the scheduling of events for the coming year. As a result, the executive has set at least one event per month for the Society. The 2008 Calendar of Events is on page 2.

The Executive has also identified as a priority ensuring that the Society has a website that is professional and able to be easily updated. The Executive would like a website that it can use to communicate up-to-date information about events.

Executive meetings are scheduled each month. Tentatively, these meetings are set for January 20, February 10, March 9, April 13, May 10, June 8, July 13, August 10, September 14, October 19, and November 16. Members are welcome to attend these meetings. Please contact an executive member in advance of the scheduled date to confirm the meeting time and location.

Completed Events

December marked 2 events. Kurban Bayrami was held on December 22, 2007 at the Cedar Hill Recreation Centre. More than 40 people attended this afternoon potluck and enjoyed the opportunity to celebrate and socialize. In addition, the VITCFS hosted a New Years Eve dinner on December 31st at Among Friends - Nar Bistro. The event was a sold out success.

2008 Calendar of Events

Please make a note of the following dates planned for events of the Vancouver Island Turkish Canadian Friendship Society (VITCFS). The VITCFS will provide information on the times and locations of these events closer to the scheduled dates. Please check your email for updates. Note that friends of members and potential members are invited to all Society events. The general public is invited to all movie nights.

2008	Scheduled Events
January 25	Friday movie night, 7:00 – 9:30 pm “Mavi Gozlu Dev” University of Victoria, Harry Hickman Building Auditorium 105
February 22	Friday movie night. Movie to be determined.
March 28	Friday movie night. Movie to be determined.
April 26	Potluck for National Sovereignty and Children's Festivities
May 19	Victoria Day Parade
May 24	Potluck for Commemoration of Atatürk, Youth and Sports Day
June 15	Summer Picnic
July 20	Summer Picnic
August 24	Summer Picnic
September 20	Potluck, Welcome to UVIC students
October 4	Ramadan Celebration Potluck
October 24	Republic Day Movie night
November 9	Atatürk's Anniversary Event and Remembrance Day
December 7	Annual General Meeting and Kurban Bayramı Celebration

**Mark these
dates on your
calendar for
2008!**

The Executive is always seeking volunteers to assist at these events. If you are interested in helping out at an event, please email islandturks@gmail.com

Turkish Language Lessons

The 2007-2008 term started in October 2007. As before, the lessons are free for Society members and are held at Seniha Birch's home on Michigan Street every Wednesday from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm. Additional sessions are being provided to new students to help them catch up to the present level of the class.

News From Ay Yildiz

Spring 2007 welcomed Victoria's 80th annual Performing Arts Festival. Ay Yildiz the Turkish folk dance troupe co-founded by the VITCFS, entered the Open Folk Dance category.

The troupe performed a spoon dance in costumes from the Adiyaman region. The choreography was based on a traditional dance, and adapted for the stage by Sharon Villiers. The adjudicated performance was held Wednesday May 2, 2007. The adjudicator was Lee Otterholt, professional dance teacher and choreographer, perhaps best known for his contribution to the Opening Ceremony of the 1994 Winter Olympic Games in Lillehammer, Norway. The group certainly appreciated getting pointers from a professional of his caliber.

This was the dancers' first entry into a festival. So, when the group received an invitation to the Honours Performance on the following evening, there was an unexpected flurry of costume reorganization and yet another rehearsal.

The award presentations occurred following the Honours Performance. It was a pleasant surprise to tie for first place! Congratulations to the dancers for all their hard work! The dancers are: Sharon Villiers, Alysia Kenning, Sara Caiger, Susan Moore and Cynthia Lane. Special thanks also to Jane Stansfield for her help with costuming and the music.



It was also lovely to have Salih and Audrey Cinar come back stage to congratulate the group. If anyone from the VITCFS attends performances, please come back stage afterwards so the group knows you were there. It truly is a pleasure.

A public venue such as this is a great way to share Turkish culture. Sheila Blake, one of the primary organizers, was overheard to remark "Welcome! Where have you been? We've been waiting for you..."

History of The Vancouver Island Turkish Canadian Friendship Society

On May 18 1995 a group of Turkish Canadians from the Victoria area arranged a picnic at the Elk Lake (Eagle Beach) covered picnic area. Turkish people from Vancouver and Nanaimo joined the Victoria group to enjoy a picnic on a hot summer day. It was the largest outdoor gathering before the Society was officially formed. At that picnic they talked about forming a society. Salih Cinar agreed to work on this idea as a project. He set about researching how to form a society to include the entire Vancouver Island.

On September 18, 1995, the Turkish Ambassador to Canada, the Honorable Omer Ersun visited Victoria and met for the first time with members of the Turkish Community. The Ambassador suggested that we form the planned Society as soon as possible and become a member of the Federation of the Canadian Turkish Associations (Toronto). Salih prepared a constitution and applied for a society. To avoid confusion with the Vancouver Society, it was agreed that the Society's name would be registered as The Vancouver Island Turkish Canadian Friendship Society. The Society became officially registered on September 28, 1995.

The Society continued to hold social functions and worked diligently to arrange events including public art exhibitions featuring Turkish artists. Salih Cinar held the position of president for the first five years. Mr. Kemal Cancar was elected the next president. Following Mr. Cancar, Erdem Yazganoglu was president for two successive years. Salih Cinar was elected president again at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in late 2004. Due to health reasons, he resigned in the Summer of 2005. In October of 2005, Ozan Peksoy was elected president with a new board of directors during an extra ordinary meeting of the members. Mr. Peksoy resigned as president in February 2006, and the president's role was assumed by the elected vice-president, Caner Budakoglu. Tolga Habali was elected president at the AGM December 2006. The AGM in December 2007 saw the election of Engin Turan.

**Thanks to
Salih Cinar
for providing
the History of
the VITCFS!**

Constitution and Bylaws of the VITCFS

In addition to the Society's constitution by laws as shown under the Society Act as of September 27, 1995

1. The name of the society is Vancouver Island Turkish-Canadian Friendship Society
2. The purpose(s) of society is (are):
 - To encourage and increase opportunities for promotion of friendship between the people of Canada and the people of Turkey;
 - To provide Canadians with a better understanding of Turkish people relative to their country's history, culture, and modern life;
 - To encourage cultural exchange and travel between the two friendly countries;
 - To represent the Turkish Canadian Community of Vancouver Island.

Bylaws include the following adopted at the AGM on December 3, 2006.

1. All expenses will be reported through an Expense Statement form. Expenses that are not reported through the form will not be paid. Expenses will identify which account the expense needs to be paid from in order to keep the Society Chequing and Gaming accounts separate. A separate expense sheet will be completed for each account.
2. As a rule, unless otherwise justified and authorized by a Board decision, there will be no advances drawn towards future expenditures.
3. No transfers are allowed from Gaming Account to Society Chequing account except once a year and one week before the annual general meeting, in order to keep an accurate track of the expenditures.
4. Expenditures from Gaming accounts will require two signatures on cheques.
5. All monies received from the Gaming Commission for the period of September 1, 2007 to August 31, 2008 will be totally spent by August 31, 2008.
6. The accounts will be submitted to Gaming Commission no later than 90 days following the Annual General Meeting.

The Executive will be reviewing the Constitution and Bylaws of the VITCFS in 2008

Turkish recipes Online

Interested in an excellent source of Turkish recipes? Check out Binnur's Turkish Cookbook at www.turkishcookbook.com. This website is brought to us by Binnur Tomay, a Turkish housewife and mother who has been living in Canada since 1995. With the encouragement of her daughter, Binnur thought that it might be a good idea to post her recipes online so that other people could be introduced to Turkish cuisine which is one of the most varied and often overlooked style of cooking.

Usually the recipes posted on this website emphasize vegetables and grains, and the most commonly used meat which is lamb. Seafood dishes are also well represented, reflecting that as a country Turkey is surrounded by sea on three sides.

Munch & mingle at Kurban Bayrami (Eid) celebration



Turkish Library

The Turkish Library opened in March 2005. In 2007, there were some additions of books and DVD's to the Turkish Library. Below is a list of new items:

Sellale (DVD)
 Bab-i Ali'den Mudafaa-i Hukuk'a
 Hayat Tatli Zehir
 Isgal ve Direnis
 Latife, Fikriye, Iki Ask Arasinda Ataturk
 Rengahenk
 Turkiye Gunlugu
 Vatanin Bagrina Dusman Dayamis Hancerini
 21.Yuzyilda Turkiye
 Ve Canakkale 1 Geldiler
 Korkunc Turk/Batinin gozuyle Osmanli
 Islam and the West
 Mevlana'dan Altin Ogutler
 Agitlar- Yasar Kemal
 Aramizdaki sey-Tomris Uyar
 Aska Seytan Karisir—Hande Altayli
 Bir Maniniz Yoksa Annemler Size Gelecek
 Gelibolu—Buket Uzuner

For 2008, please send any requests or suggestions for additions to the Turkish Library to the Executive at islandturks@gmail.com. Please make your suggestions by March 31, 2008 to be included for this year's purchases.

As the Library is funded by government grants, both Society members and the general public can borrow items from the Library. The Executive is seeking a volunteer to update the list of items in the Library, so it can be posted on the new website. Please contact Cynthia Lane if you have some time to volunteer to the Library or if you want to borrow one of the items in the Library. Seniha Birch generously provides storage for the Library.

Send your suggestions for Library purchases to our email address by March 31, 2008

Turkish Movie Night—Anlat Istanbul



New Year's eve dinner



MEMBERSHIP DUES

Membership dues are an important part of our budget. Activities can only be continued through the efforts and contribution of our members. Your membership dues are used to fund VITCFS events, such as room rentals. They also fund the publication of Harmony and mail outs to members.

If you haven't yet paid your membership dues for 2007 or 2008, please send your cheque to the address below. You may also pay your membership dues at any of the Society's Events. Membership fees are as below:

Family	\$30
Single	\$20
Student	\$5

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

As space permits, Harmony will include personal announcements of interest to VITCFS members (maximum 30 words). Please send your announcement to islandturks@gmail.com and identify it as an announcement for the next Harmony.

New Comers

Ugur and Mustafa Ozdemir
 Okyay Bulman
 Aysegul and Engin Fidan, Nuray Fidan, Mihrizat Fidan, and Meltem, Kadir, Defne
 Rebecca and Ergin Ozbadem
 Elif and Kutalmis Saylam
 Melek and Selim Akkoc, Mehmet Burak
 Nazli and Bashir Qureishi, Natasha, Nadine
 Zeki Erdogan

Congratulations to **Ozlem and Cemil Karahasan** on the opening of their restaurants **Among Friends—Nar Bistro** in Oak Bay

Tulin and Metin Tabanlı are opening their kiosk in Hillside Mall on February 1st, to provide all Victorians best quality genuine Turkish Hamam apparels, towels and soaps.

New Borns

Congratulations to parents Yasemin and Engin Turan on the birth of their son, Arda Turan on January 07, 2008.

For your eye glasses visit **World Vision** shop at 843 Yates Street, Victoria . good service and reasonable prices.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

This issue of Harmony is being sent by mail to all members of the VITCFS who paid yearly dues.

We will also continue to distribute Harmony by email to other interested parties.

-The VITCFS Executive