

Turkish American Association of California (TAAC)

2018-2020 Board of Directors

Yavuz Vural Atila

served in the Turkish Navy as an officer for 8 years and graduated from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey with an MS degree in December 1990. After working as the IT director at Monterey Institute for 12 years, he founded his IT consulting company – Monterey Bay Technologies company in 2003.



Yavuz founded the Horon Turkish Folk Ensemble in July 1993 in Monterey, and then TAAC Monterey Bay Chapter in January 1996 and became TAAC board member in 1997 and elected as TAAC president in 1998 and served until April 2001, and helped establishing TAAC chapters in Sacramento, Silicon Valley, East Bay and San Francisco. He founded the Monterey Turkish Festival in August 1998. He was elected to TAAC Board for 2010-12 term and served as president. He joined Monterey Sunrise Rotary club in 2005, helped chartering the first Turkish American STAR Rotary club in 2009 in Sunnyvale. He chartered Monterey Cannery Row Rotary club in 2012 and served as the District 5230 governor for 2016-17 term. He is married to Nurten Atila, have two daughters.

Orgül Eroğlu was born in Ankara and grew up in Kastamonu. She graduated from Istanbul Technical University, with a degree in Electronics and Communication Engineering. She moved to California from Istanbul with her husband and their first child in 1997. She lives in San Jose with her husband and their three children. She has been



working in IT field at various high tech companies in Bay Area. She is currently working at Samsung R&D center. She is organizing and helping Turkish community events. She is actively involved establishing TAAC Silicon Valley Chapter.



Demet Candaş Green

was born in Trabzon in 1982, graduated from Istanbul Bosphorous University, and received her PhD in Molecular biology and BioChemistry from UC Davis. Currently works for the UC Davis Research Center.

She is married and has 6-months old daughter, Leyla and lives in Woodland. She's been TAAC member since 2010 and serves as TAAC Sacramento Chapter president and TAAC Board member since 2016.



Özden Matsu

received her bachelor degree on history in 1998 in Turkey, Necatibey Education Faculty. She worked at the Rifat Dagdelen Anatolian High School as a history teacher for 2 years. In 2000, she moved

to the United States and started to work at the Defense Language School as an Associate Professor in 2004, and later as a Diagnostic Assessment Specialist. In 2008, she received her master degree in curriculum and instruction. She has been an active member of the TAAC Monterey Chapter and Monterey Turkish Festival committee for over 15 years; took part in opening and teaching at the Monterey Bay Turkish Community School. She is the soloist of Monterey-based "Hadi Hadi" Turkish music group, and participated in many events such as Turkish Festival, Fund Raising Events and Turkish Republic Day Dinner Dances.



Saime Matsu

has a broad experience in teaching. Currently, she is a Student Learning Specialist at the Faculty Development Division (SLS) of the Defence Language

Institute (DLI) in Monterey. She is certified to teach Art History and multiple subjects in Turkish public schools, and worked as an Art History, Democracy, ESL, K12 and Religious Studies teacher in Turkey. She also worked at Pebble Beach Company as a Retail Sale and

Service Operations Specialist and served customers from diverse ethnic backgrounds. Saime has effectively taught Turkish to over 200 students during the 10 years at DLI. She served on the TAAC Board for 2010-12 term and very actively involved in the TAAC Monterey Chapter board and Monterey Turkish Festival committee over 15 years.



Nurdane Molla was born in Bulgaria and has been living in the U.S. for 27 years, and works as an accountant and currently lives in Folsom. She is married and has two grown children, Aynur and Nuray. She is a TAAC member

since 2000, and member of the TAAC Sacramento chapter board since 2004 and TAAC board since 2012. She has been serving as the board treasurer.

Koray Öner has been involved with TAAC affiliate Bay Area Turkish Community School since 2010. In 2016, he was elected to the TAAC board of directors. Koray's primary mission moving forward to revitalize TAAC's Silicon Valley chapter and improve its relationship with the greater



Turkish community throughout the Bay Area by organizing activities for the community like picnics, dinners, etc.. Koray has been very involved with various community groups in the Bay Area. In the early 2000s, Koray and fellow Turkish colleagues founded the Turkish HighTech Professionals group, which held monthly gatherings of Turkish professionals in the South Bay. He was on the board of directors and president of FEEF, the Faria Educational Enrichment Fund, at his daughters' elementary school. He received his BS from METU '89 and MS from USC '90. He pursued his PhD at USC, but during the Internet boom in 1996 he decided to move to Silicon Valley as a chip designer with Sun Microsystems. He then worked at Broadcom between 2000-2016. After Broadcom, he joined Cavium, and is still working there. Koray lives in Cupertino and is happily married with three daughters. He enjoys outdoor activities, such as hiking, camping, beach volleyball, scuba diving, and overall spending time with family.



Nalan Güngör Özışık

has been residing in the Bay Area for over 25 years. She received her MBA in international business, worked for Intermax, GE, and taught Turkish at Stanford University for 5 years. Nalan has been quite active within the Turkish Community in the Bay Area, she had established

TAAC Silicon Valley chapter, founded ABD-ANA Mothers Club in 2008*2010, and represented Turkey at a number of international events, and served on the TAAC Board in 1998-99. She also led April 23rd, Children's Day celebrations in the Bay Area for several years. She is married to Metin Ozisik, and they have 2 children, Ata and Selin.



Nihat Yetkinler has been living in the bay area since 1994, and has been involved in several voluntary Turkish community functions in the Bay Area including: CFO of Bay Area Turkish School, TAAC Board member, and Turkish Silicon Valley Chapter member. Professionally, he has worked and established several orthopedic

device companies throughout his career. Currently, he is cofounder and CEO of 3D Biomaterials, Corp, a research and development company for 3D bioceramic implants in Orthopedic applications. Previously he was the President of Skeletal Kinetics, LLC, a Colson Associate Company and a leading provider of Calcium phosphate-based cement used in orthopedic fracture repair and reconstruction. Outside of his industrial experience, Dr. Nihat Yetkinler serves as a faculty member for the San Jose State University Biomedical Engineering Graduate Program, an advisory board member for the Ohio State University Biomedical Engineering Program, and a reviewer in C-DOCTOR (Center for Dental, Oral & Craniofacial Tissue & Organ Regeneration) which is a collaboration among UCSF, UCLA, UC Davis, UC Berkeley, USC, City of Hope, and Stanford University. He is an author of over 50 Abstracts and peer-review publications, and more than 20 patents. Dr. Nihat Yetkinler received his MS (Bioinstrumentations and Biosignals) and Ph.D. (Biomaterials and Biomechanics) in Biomedical Engineering from Ohio State University, and his M.D. from Hacettepe Medical School in Ankara, Turkey. He is married and has two children: Eren 21 and Jenni 20).