**Message from Co-Chair Dr. Halil Mutlu**

TASC is excited to begin several new projects in 2019: TASCRoots, TASCTalks, TASC Sunday Schools, and TASC Youth Bridges.

I believe in what my Co-Chair Gunay Evinch has coined “The Samsun Principle”. When Ataturk landed in the Black Sea town of Samsun on May 19, 1919, to start the Turkish Independence Movement, he embraced the full diversity of Anatolia under a unifying democratic Turkish Republic, nationality and common language, with liberty and justice for all. This principle has always worked for the Turks. Gunay and I believe it is the way forward for Turkish Americans.

**TASCRoots** will empower Turkish American families and communities with the knowledge and training to become active and engaged citizens in the United States, their new homeland. TASCRoots Massachusetts and TASCRoots New York kicked off on December 1, 2018, with seminars on Turkish Republic Consular Services, Immigration Compliance, and the American Health Care System. Future TASCRoots seminars will include the American Public Advocacy System, Voter Registration, Census2020 (SayTurk2020), as well as Equal Opportunity Employment, Fair Housing, Buying a Home, Planning for College, Planning for Retirement, and Knowing Your Law Enforcement.

**TASCTalks** kicked off at the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA), with a talk by Suzanne Meridan of the Syrian American Alliance (SAC), which represents the Syrian American community.

**TASC Sunday Schools** will provide free Turkish language education to children. Schools will secular, and provide education in Turkish history, geography, arts, cuisine, and culture, and include diversity programs that increase awareness and openness to diverse beliefs and lifestyles.

**TASC Youth Bridges,** modeled on the Jewish American Birthright program, will bring Turkish American college students to Turkey for Winter and Summer Breaks. In 2019, TASC will bring 100 students, aiming to achieve 500 per year by 2020.

**“Freedom is not Free”.** TASC is supported by private donations and public grants. As you can imagine, high quality programs require good funding. Inspired by the approaching Centennial of the Turkish Republic on October 29, 2023, TASC is proud to introduce **Giving Tuesday 2023** [LINK], which invites Turkish Americans to give $20.23 per month to support TASC. *No Pamuk Eller Cebe.* We need true patriots.

Since 2014 TASC has grown to become a leading representative of the Turkish American community, supporting and channeling grassroots energy to build a unified Turkish American presence in American civic, political, economic and cultural life. If you have not already, please see our October Newsletter [See Newsletter] which includes news of the Inauguration of Ataturk’s Portrait at the Washington Turkish House, the Maryland Sister State Committee - TASC Higher Education Delegation visit to Turkey [See Report], Welcoming the Ambassador of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, and TASC’s Advocacy Presentation at the Turkish Coalition of America.

As you will read in this Newsletter, TASC participated in events from Los Angeles to New York City, such as the Muslim American Society Convention in Los Angeles, and a panel discussion on Accessible Cities for the Disabled in New York City.