

Friends of Anatolia brings together representatives of the Los Angeles area Turkish-American community



Last Sunday, over twenty representatives of Los Angeles area Turkish-American nonprofits, media and businesses got together to learn about *Friends of Anatolia*, a new California based nonprofit organization and the upcoming *Women's Art in Anatolia* exhibit at Cal State Northridge. The Sunday Brunch was hosted by *Friends of Anatolia* Vice President Sema Basol and her husband Bulent Basol at their Manhattan Beach home.

Friends of Anatolia promotes the growth of Turkish civil society by supporting education, encouraging philanthropy and promoting cultural exchange. The purpose of the meeting was to facilitate dialogue and collaboration among different organizations to help build a stronger Turkish-American community and also to help support the exhibit. *Friends of Anatolia* Founding President Demet Yezgi spoke about the huge economic impact of U.S. volunteerism and giving, the organization's goals and shared news of the opening of their new Volunteer Center in Mountain View. Demet was recently awarded the "Young Nonprofit Professional of the Year" by the San Francisco Bay Area chapter of the Young Nonprofit Professionals Network.



Women's Art in Anatolia will be bringing the rich artistic legacy of Anatolian women to the Los Angeles area for the first time. It is organized by Cal State Northridge Art History Professor Owen Doonan; his wife Nursel Uckan-Doona who was formerly with Etnografya and Cumhuriyet Museums in Ankara; and Prof. Louise Lewis, Director of the university Gallery. According to Prof. Doonan who made a beautiful visual presentation, the exhibit will open

February 2006 and will include original works of art, photographs, video footage, music and interactive computer displays.

The Brunch was attended by Ambassador Engin Ansay and Vice-Council Anil Inan, representatives of ATA-SC (Association of Turkish-American of Southern California), TALL (Turkish-American Ladies League), LATAA (Los Angeles Turkish-American Association), OCTAA (Orange County Turkish-American Association), Burcin (Bogazici University and Robert College International alumni association), Backpack Angels (a new nonprofit that provides free backpacks to children), Turkish Airlines, Turkuaz magazine, Space Camp Turkey, Global Friendship Through Space Education and U.S.A. Turkish Times.



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