



MINUTES

Board of Directors Meeting of the Light Millennium

Date: Wednesday, May 20, 2009 Time: 12:40 – 1:30PM

Meeting Address:

Citicorp Courtyard
53rd St. and Lexington Ave.
New York, NY 10022

Board Members Present:

Bircan Unver Culkın
Sam Paley
Figen Bingul

Absent:

Hümeýra Koçak (Please see attachment#1)

Minutes taken by Figen Bingul, reviewed by Bircan Unver

The Light Millennium Board of Directors convened at Citicorp Courtyard in NYC on Wednesday, **May 20, 2009**. The meeting was called to order at **12:40 p.m.**

Minutes:

- 1) Bircan Unver is elected as the Meeting Chair.
- 2) Agenda is adopted.
- 3) The minutes of the Oct. 3, 2008 meeting will be finalized through email.
- 4) Review of Financials:
 - * *Financials of 2008 (Form 990):*
 - Contributions and grants: 3,894.-
 - Total Expenses: 3,894.-
 - Revenue less expenses: \$0.-
 - Net Assets or fund balances at the beginning of the year: \$116,499.-
 - Net Assets or fund balances at the end of the year: \$120,377.-
 - * *Financials of 2009:*
 - Bank statement:
 - Ending balance as of May 20: \$ 643.74
- 5) Humeyra Kocak's resignation (attachment #1: email from Humeyra Kocak, dd. Dec. 17, 2008) is approved.
- 6) President's Report
 - From Oct. 3, 2008 to Dec. 31, 2008:
 - (See attachment #2)
 - There was no board meeting held since Oct. 3, 2008 due to Sam Paley's health condition.
 - From Jan. 1, 2009 to May 20, 2009:
 - (See attachment #3)
- 7) Sustainability of the Organization will be discussed later.

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- 8) Miscellaneous Matters:
- Bircan Unver gave a copy of the Exempt Organization Certificate to Figen Bingul.
 - The offer of \$250 donation from Philip McFly will be investigated.
 - Bircan Unver informed the Board about the collaboration of Charities.Org and LM for the “\$1 On-Line open membership campaign.”
 - Reactivate the Support Group: Posted to the website for 2008
 - Bircan Unver showed the Board the Economic Recovery Letter from the State of NY by Timothy J. Gilchrist, dd. 5/7/2009/ Ref: Recovery Fund <recovery.ny.gov.> Cabinet #
 - About the expenses for the Adalet Agaoglu programs, Bircan Unver stated that she did not receive the check promised by NYU (\$750.-). She did not receive the reimbursement check from Princeton University either.
 - Bircan Unver’s proposal to dedicate the new issue to World March is approved.
 - Bircan Unver informed the Board that she couldn’t finish the current Web issue because of a virus in her computer.
 - Bircan Unver said that she is planning to send a letter to the Executive Comm. Chair of the UNDPI.
 - Bircan Unver informed the Board that she is working on renewing the Application for UNDPI. The deadline is June 30, 2009.
 - LMTV-A Young Cellist: Achilles Ecos (9 yrs. Old). Solo recital. Achilles Ecos’s First Solo Cello Recital at age 9. Program included several interviews made with the attendees of the concert.
 - Bircan Unver said that she shot the Francis Bacon Centennial Retrospective from the Met on May 18, 2009. She said she will try to finish it before her trip.
 - Bircan Unver and Kurt Heyl, alternate representative of the LM for the UN, attended the planning committee meeting on March 12, 2009. Kurt joined to the Outreach Subcommittee and part of the World March.
- 9) The Board decided to have online communication when Bircan is in Turkey.
- 10) A new computer –along with a scanner, a large capacity external drive, and a video-editing program—is needed.
- 11) The next board meeting will be tentatively in September.
- 12) The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 PM.

Attachment #1: Resignation Letter emailed by Humeyra Kocak on Dec. 17, 2008

December 17, 2008

Dear Bircan and Board of Directors ;

Recently, I am having some doubts about my ability to continue as an active board member. I understand that working for “ non-profit-organization” is all about commitment, networking, planning but mostly dedicating. As I told Bircan before I joined the organization that my personality and life style would not let me to commit to anything else but my work. But I’ve tried and no can’t do it....

Bircan, I have enormous respect and admiration for your ability to get things done. This organization is your baby, and obviously you devoted your life in to it. Your struggle to keep organization it’s just very tiresome. It is rough.

Since I have a time consuming job position, it requires serious focusing without any distraction. Having additional responsibility became burden to my soul and work. Even though I am not involved with the activities of the organization, I can feel the pressure and finally decided to stop this. At this point I could never be support or help to the organization. I know your hopes were high for me and timing is not good but you can make further plan sooner.

Therefore, please accept my resignation from the Light Millennium Organization as a Treasurer and Support Group Coordinator.

I hope that \$ 895 donations from my friends will help you to get a new computer for the organization. My aim was bringing more donations but so far this will be it.

Thank you for your kind approach and the opportunities given to me. I’ll be click away to hear your successful events and news. I am very proud to meet such talented people, and wish you good luck on your upcoming projects. I wish you and the organization all the best. Have a wonderful holiday season and happy new year.

Sincerely,

ps : I’ll return tax filing documents as soon as possible.

Humeyra Kocak

Attachment #2: Bircan Unver's report from Oct 3, 2008 to Dec. 31, 2008:

- Talat Halman program: 155 attendees. Received the widest media coverage in 2008 among the three events we organized.
 - Published and e-distributed the summary written by Emily Alp.
 - Received very positive feedbacks. Intern Merve Arabaci prepared and distributed the "Volunteer" announcements in NYU.
 - Bircan received the Global Peace Volunteer Award from *Forum*, a local Turkish-American newspaper, in NYC on October 24, 2008.
 - Went to W.DC on November 5, 2008, and had a meeting with Ambassador Nabi Sensoy and the President of the Turkish American Council, Ambassador James Holmes about the "Parade of Turkey" documentary project.
 - Attended the Inaugural Meeting as a panelist and keynote speaker during the 3rd Plenary Session of the 7th International Conference on Peace and Non-Violence in Jaipur, India, which was organized by the Anuvrat Global Organization, between November 10 and 14, 2008. Received the Peace Worker Award from the Anuvrat Organization, and the Honorary Guest Award from the former president of India, Dr.A.P.J. Kamal.
 - Attended the opening reception of the "BEYOND BABYLONE" Exhibition at the MET on November 18, 2008, and a related lecture at the MET.
- I Dream, Therefore I am: All participants for the announced program attended and performed except Ali Kahya who had a health related reason.
 - \$190 of donations was collected, and \$200 was used for piano rental.
 - LM had to pay \$400 for piano rental.
 - Around 40 attendees.
 - A 10 min. program was shown and a full version of the 28 minutes DVD was distributed as a gift to the attendees of the program.
 - LM provided a certificate of appreciation to all content contributors of the program.
 - There was not a written summary or distribution for this program.
 - Program was video recorded and pictures were taken from each performance.
- Dec. 17: Hümeysra Kocak sent her resignation from the board.
- Dec 20-22: A "Save the Date" announcement was sent out for "Turkey Decoded" program for Feb. 25, 2009 with Ambassador Ann Dismorr at Columbia University.
 - Figen and Bircan worked on the flyer together with the Consulate General of Sweden in New York, Martina Hogberg.
 - Consulate General of Sweden shared their e-contact list with the LM, in particular to be used for the "Save the Date" reach out.
- Dec. 24: LM's long awaited software programs arrived through Techsoup (\$242.-)
- Met with Selen Ucak on Nov. 20 and Dec. 29 for collaboration for "Parade of Faces", documentary project along "Crescent & Star" Turkey Between Two Worlds" (2008 Edition) book signing, a program with Prof. Talat Halman, a book presentation with Emily Bunker for her book "Nuri's Donkey" and other potential projects.
- Checks in a total amount of \$1430.00 were received from the Support Group under the coordination of Hümeysra Koçak along with contributions by the Board members.
- Bank Account: Ending Balance as of Dec. 31, 2008: \$377.01

Attachment #3: Bircan Unver's report from Dec. 31, 2008 to May 20, 2009:

- Despite the arrival of the new software program, Bircan's laptop had some technical programs that caused delay for working on the new issue until the end of March.
- *Turkey Decoded* book presentation programs:
 - Confirmed a program with Ambassador Ann Dismorr for *Turkey Decoded* at the Columbia University. Sent out the first announcement as "Save the Date for February 25, 2009" on December 20, 2008.
 - Contacted with Yale University for a similar program with Amb. Dismorr.
 - Posted media release to the organization's Web site and e-distributed it extensively during the last week of January 2009.
 - Designed Columbia and Yale flyers/invitations; collaborated for the related hand-outs for the program with the related departments both at Columbia and Yale; posted documents to the organization's Web site, and distributed them in other public events.
 - Consulate General of Sweden also prepared their own media release, posted it on their website, and distributed it to their contacts as well as to the targeted media outlets.
 - Columbia University posted the flyer to their Web site.
 - Columbia University included the program in their *February 2009 programs* under the Middle Eastern Studies.
 - Invitation for February 25 was e-distributed by Columbia to the Middle Eastern Studies and MEAMAC.
 - Reception was provided by the American Turkish Society, honoring Ambassador Dismorr, as part of their "Meet the Ambassadors" program.
 - Bircan worked closely and intensively with the Consulate General of Sweden for this program along with Columbia and Yale.
 - The program had 150 attendees.
 - Ambassador Sallama Shaker moderated the Yale program with Ambassador Dismorr. About 40 students attended.
 - "Turkey Decoded" program received wide and diverse media coverage. Please see the related coverage and report:
http://www.lightmillennium.org/21st_22nd/dismorr_summary_march20.pdf
 - Report/Summary of the program was written by Bircan, edited by Figen. It was widely e-distributed during the third week of March and posted to the organization's Web site in April: http://www.lightmillennium.org/21st_22nd/dismorr_world_is_watching.html
- During the third week of February, the American Turkish Society confirmed to collaborate for a book presentation with Emily Bunker for her book *Nuri's Donkey*, on April 21. Later, this program was cancelled by the author for a personal reason.
- In April 2009, Emily Bunker joined to the Editors/Proof Readers Committee of the organization.
- Programs with Adalet Agaoglu:
 - Bircan re-proposed to the Consulate General of Turkey to organize "A Panel and Book Presentation" program with Adalet Agaoglu for her novel *Summer's End*. She met with Consul Ayse Uzer for this purpose on Feb. 27, 2009. Ms. Uzer was positive and she suggested proposing two dates to author Adalet Agaoglu, translator Figen Bingul, and publisher Edward Foster for a panel. Based on Agaoglu's preference and confirmation, the date was decided as April 30, 2009.
 - Bircan proposed a program with Adalet Agaoglu to Princeton University.
 - Bircan proposed a program with Adalet Agaoglu to NYU.
 - Media release was e-distributed on April 6 and 8.
 - Related flyers, web postings, internet distributions were made throughout the month.
 - The events took place on April 28 (Princeton), April 30 (Turkish House), and May 1 (NYU).
 - Summary of the three events was drafted and finalized by Figen and Bircan. It was posted to the web site on May 8, 2009; and widely e-distributed during the 2nd and 3rd weeks of May.

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- The programs received great media attention; the references were included in the related report < http://www.lightmillennium.org/21st_22nd/aagaoglu_report.html>.
- Anadolu Club sponsored Agaoglu programs with a \$1250 check.
- Turkish Culture and Tourist Office provided business class round ticket in the value of \$4500 for Ms. Agaoglu, as donation.
- NYU promised a \$750 check to support the programs in conjunction with the May 1st, NYU program. The check is not received yet.
- An award was designed and ordered for Adalet Agaoglu's great contributions to contemporary Turkish literature.
- Flyers and handouts for each of the three programs were prepared and e-distributed by Bircan and Figen. Also each related collaborator institution designed their own flyer with a reference of collaboration with the Light Millennium, and distributed them to their own e-list servers and campuses.
- Paid \$250 by check to Yolanda Billings for IRS 990 forms for 2008.
- \$147.31 was reimbursed to Figen Bingul for the photocopy and award expenses for Agaoglu programs.
- A \$172.00 check (dd 5/5/2009) was sent to Talisman for the books supplied for the Agaoglu, April 30 program. A total proceeds from the book sale was \$460.00. LM received \$290.00 as revenue from the April 30 program.

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