



**MINUTES of the
Board of Directors & Annual Meetings of
The Light Millennium
Wednesday, September 30, 2009 - FINAL**

Meeting Address:

Baruch College
17 Lexington Ave.
Room: 908A
New York, NY 10010
(At the corner of the 23rd Street and Lexington Avenue)

Host of the meeting: Prof. Sultan CATTO

**Minutes taken by Figen Bingöl, Azime Aydogmus and Korcan Yurdacan; reviewed by Bircan Ünver*

Board Members Present:

Bircan Ünver
Sam Paley
Figen Bingöl
Sultan Catto, AB member

Guests:

Azime Aydogmus
Korcan Yurdacan
Janet Ekstract
Kalman Angus Clark
Hamod Meshkat
Noema Chaplin

**Persons who confirmed to join the BOD
via e-mail:**

Diana Khachaturyan (Yerevan, Armenia)
Marianna Khachaturyan (Lincoln, Nebraska)
Irmak Karayal, As HS Student Representative

The Light Millennium Board of Directors convened at Baruch College on Wednesday, **September 30, 2009**. The meeting was called to order at 4:10 p.m.

Minutes:

- 1) Bircan Ünver is elected as the Meeting Chair.
- 2) Agenda is adopted.
- 3) The minutes of the May 20, 2009 meeting are accepted without revision.
- 4) **Review of Financials:**

Account Balance: \$729.-

-Reissued Check #125 of \$172.50 on Sep. 25, 2009 to TALISMAN for the books sold during the Summer's End Book Event.

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-Issued Check #126 of \$140 on Sep. 25, 2009 to Charities.Org for the \$1 Campaign.
-Princeton University deposited \$59.40 (deposit no: 915977) on 06/22/2009 for the reimbursement of transportation expenses for Adalet Agaoglu. Figen Bingül, who had covered this expense, left the amount the LM.
-NYU Check for Adalet Agaoglu Program, in the amount of \$750.00, is credited on June 30, 2009.
-\$132.80 Web hosting fee for Isikbinyili.org for 2 years is paid to Startlogic on Aug.13, 2009.
-\$35.70 Web hosting fee (quarterly) for OLM: Turkishgreek synergy is paid on Sept.30, 2009 (Check #141)

5) Bircan Ünver informed the board that IRS990 and CHAR500 forms for 2008 were not completed because Humeyra Kocak's signature was missing. Bircan informed Yolanda Billings from YMB Associates who had obtained an extension from the Charities Office. Ms. Billings suggested that the original signed forms should be sent to her so that she could send it out with a cover letter. Bircan sent it to Ms. Billings; and Ms. Billings later on informed LM that she sent the letter along with the Char500 forms to the Charities Office. Bircan requested a copy of that cover letter, but has not receive anything from Y. Billings as of September 30, 2009.

6) \$1 CAMPAIGN:

Bircan Ünver said that "The \$1 Campaign aims to reach one million people around the world in the next 5 years. 100,000 could be targeted for the first or second year."

*A description of the campaign needs to be sent to Charities.org in pdf format.

*It is necessary to promote the concept and ideas with flyers, brochures, etc.

*Sam Paley noted that there should be different categories for people donating money in the following amounts: \$25, \$50, \$75, \$100, \$200, \$300, \$400, \$500. A person donating \$1000 could be named as "Patron."

*Bircan Ünver explained how the campaign will progress: At the end of each month, Charities.Org will provide a list of the \$1 open-members including their full names, locations, and e-mail addresses. Bircan proposed to post those names to the LM's website under a category to be defined both on the Charities.Org and the LM website. Once the organization reaches 10,000 on-line open members, the organization will initiate a large promotional program to publicly recognize that the organization has reached 10,000 members according to the "recognition criteria" defined. And the organization might start giving out some promotional materials during that particular event such as pens, t-shirts, mugs, calendars, books, DVDs, etc. with the logo of the organization's website in order to create more interest to be an on-line member.

7) The Support Group needs to be reactivated and the board will look for a coordinator.

8) President's Report was partially presented to the Board, (attachment #1) and will be completed and sent by email by Bircan Ünver later on.

*Bircan Ünver stated that she worked and completed the UN/DPI-NGO Quadrennial Report with Figen Bingul's help, and sent in the QUADRENNIAL REPORT to the UN/DPI-NGO on June 30, 2009, on the deadline. Following this, UN/DPI-NGO sent a receipt of confirmation.

*Bircan Ünver also noted that LM is eligible to apply to the National Endowment for the Arts and NYSCA. NYSCA has 6 different grant categories for which LM could apply; there is the possibility to collaborate with a grant writer.

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9) Bircan Ünver informed that Isikbinyili.org is about to be formed in Turkey as an independent association ("dernek") based in Istanbul. She also referred to her previous attempts in the previous years, which were also shared with the BoD. However, she explained that, according to Turkish law, there should be a minimum 7 co-founders in order to form a non-profit organization, and currently there is one signature missing for the procedure to be completed. Bircan indicated that she sent to the BoD an earlier version of its Isikbinyili.Org's ByLaws in August, which was written by Bircan with the guideline of the "Dernekler Kanunu." She had also received advice on it from Prof. Hamit Serbest (one of the co-founders) and she had reflected those inputs into the ByLaws accordingly. She will resend its final version when the official filing process starts when the last signature is collected. An attempt of forming Isikbinyili.Org according to the Turkish Law with an independent governing body from the LM, yet as a sister organization, is approved in favor by all the BoD members of the organization.

10) Bircan Ünver proposed to form TURKISH ARMENIAN SYNERGY Initiative ("TAS") under the LM with an overall goal of launching it at the UN with the support of both of the Turkish and Armenian Permanent Missions to the United Nations:

TAS committee will be established under the LM. There is a potential demand depending on recent developments between Turkey and Armenia. TAS will be developed by the efforts of both Turkish and Armenian sides. Diana Khachaturian contacted Bircan on June 18, 2008 via e-mail for the first time, congratulating the efforts of the LM towards the TAS; and she reflected on her intention to collaborate. (Diana is the Conflict Resolution Coordinator of the Civil Society Institute in Yerevan, and in charge of its relations with Turkey. Bircan responded positively; and their correspondence continued on and off throughout the summer to find grounds for collaboration. Bircan proposed to use her Turkish Armenian Synergy ("TAS") Manifesto as a basis in order to develop it further jointly. This was well received by Diana; she said that she would be happy to take part and would join the LM as an online board member. In addition, her sister Marianna Khachaturian is interested to take part on the Turkish-Armenian Synergy project, also as an online member. Diana is based in Yerevan, and Marianna is based in Nebraska. They are welcome to attend any LMBoD meeting in person anytime they can. They have equal rights for the formation of the TAS with those who are based in NY in terms of voting, etc. (BoD could meet on-line regardless of where the members are located, and also when a member cannot physically attend a scheduled meeting, he/she can join the meeting through Skype or video-conference. Regardless of whether participation is on-line or in person, decision-making and voting capacity is equal.) Within the context of the Turkish- Armenian Synergy, Diana and Marianna will form half of the committee; and the other half will be formed by Bircan, and she will in collaboration with Azime and Korcan. The voting/decision making capacity will always be equal for both sides. For instance: if one side says "no" to anything, then nothing will be done. This proposal was voted; there was no objection, and was approved anonymously.

*Figen Bingul suggested that she can contact Omer Taspinar in D.C., who is an expert on the issue, for a possible panel to be organized by the LM.

*Bircan Ünver wants to launch this project in the United Nations but said will need the help from both the Turkish and the Armenian missions. She mentioned she previously contacted the Turkish Mission, and recently sent an e-mail to the Armenian mission.

*Janet Ekstract proposed that bringing a Turkish-Armenian speaker would be important. Bircan said currently she is working on several ideas with Diana, and this is the

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heart of the issue, in particular, bringing in moderate and positive Armenians to a potential program.

11) IDEAS ON THE DEDICATION THEME FOR 23rd E-ISSUE of the LM:

-A World without Nuclear and All Weapons

*Bircan Ünver talked about a GA meeting she attended at the UN. The outcome is a demand for a global collaboration by all states members towards a "Nuclear Weapons Free World" along with "Climate Change" and tackling the Economic Financial Crisis. She is thinking about writing a congratulations letter to the president of GA conference.

*Other dedication theme or public event related ideas:

-Global Peace and Security for All (proposed by Bircan)

-Women trafficking (proposed by Janet)

*Bircan Ünver attended a panel about human—in particular women—trafficking based on a book launching program at the UN, and obtained a copy of Nicholas D. Kristof & Cherrly Wundun's book called *HALF the SKY*. In the book, it states that "women are killed and tortured more than any war and genocides that occurred in 20th century"

*Hamod Meshkat's mother runs an organization that helps battered women (mostly from Islamic background) to get out of their marriage. He said he can talk to his mother for information if there are any project possibilities about this matter.

*Janet Ekstract said that she has ideas to talk about this topic and referred several names as potential speakers to a related program. Bircan suggested that if she could submit her idea/proposal, the LMBoD will evaluate it better to see if it could be accomplished or not within the organization's existing capacity.

12) IDEAS FOR the 10th ANNIVERSARY of the LM:

-Will be sent in later on.

13) INTRODUCING NEW TERM MEMBERS

Attendees briefly introduced themselves and how they can be involved in the organization and talked about their potential ideas on collaborations.

KORCAN YURDACAN

Graduate of Baruch College

Graphic designer and Journalist

LM's Youth Rep. to the UN, and was member of the Web, Research and Communication subcommittee of the Planning Committee - 61st Annual UN DPI-NGO (Feb. – April 2008), of which Bircan Ünver was the co-chair.

Was past president of ITSS

Has good connections with Turkish Students and Turkish-American Associations based in NY.

* Korcan proposed to reach out to university students in order to have their participation to the LM as well as the UN. He also mentioned that her father was used to be the president of Lions Club in Istanbul and he would like to collaborate with the LM.

AZIME AYDOGMUS

Studied her M.A degree in SUNY-Stony Brook University

Writes for LM

Worked as a drama and theater teacher, theater club director in Bahcesehir College In Turkey

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Worked in International Istanbul Theater Festival
Wrote for Milliyet Art and Milliyet Magazine

14) **FIGEN BİNGÜL'S ROLE FOR THE NEW TERM**

Bircan Ünver stated that Figen Bingül has been the general secretary of the LM for the last 6 years, noting that they have collaborated on many projects during this time. She thanked Figen for her contributions to the organization.

Figen Bingül said that she will continue to support the LM by taking part in the Advisory Board as translator. She is willing to continue her role in the Translating and Editing committee.

15) **SAM PALEY'S IDEAS AND ROLE FOR THE NEW TERM**

Sam Paley said that he would like to remain as the Vice President of the LM for the new term.

16) **ON-LINE BOARD MEMBER STATUS**

Bircan Ünver proposed the idea, and said this system will enable people to become members even from Yerevan, but also added that online members should not exceed more than 1/3 of the total members so that there will be a balance between online and physical members.

Online member status is approved.

17) **ELECTION OF BOARD of DIRECTORS**

17a) **Board of Directors**

*Bircan Ünver, President (Founder). Independent TV Producer, On-Line Publisher & Freelance Writer (continues)

*Samuel Paley, Vice President. Professor in Classics, Buffalo University (continues)

*Azime Aydogmus, General Secretary. Dramaturge and Freelance Writer in Theater.

*Korcan Yurdacan, Treasurer. Graphic Designer, Journalist.

*Sultan Catto, Professor and Executive Officer - PhD Program in Physics, The Graduate Center, The City University of New York (moved from Advisory Board to the BoD).

*Irmak Karayal, Member, Youth representative. High School senior.

*Diana Khachaturyan (<http://www.csi.am/>), Online Member, and equal partner for the *Turkish-Armenian Synergy Initiative

*Marianna Khachaturyan, Online Member, and equal partner for the Turkish-Armenian Synergy Initiative

17b) **Advisory Board:**

- Figen Bingül, Translator, Editor, New York.

- Kalman Angus-Clark, Investor / Business Entrepreneur

- Etem Erol, Professor in Middle Eastern Studies, Columbia University, New York.

- Prof. Edward Foster, Stevens Institute of Technology, Hoboken, New Jersey.

- Talat S. Halman, Professor in Literature Department of the Bilkent University, Ankara, Turkey.

- Hayrettin Kiliç, Founder, Green Thank for Trunch Foundation, New Jersey.

- Stephen Kinzer, Former New York Times Foreign Correspondent, Author and Professor, Boston University, MA.

- Associate Prof. Akif Kireççi, Bilkent University, Ankara, Turkey.

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COMMITTEES:

*Bircan had proposed 11 Committees to the LMBOD via email, requesting members to indicate which committee(s) they would like to join. Some members sent their preferences, some asked related questions. Bircan indicated that once she receives response from everyone, she will compile and reflect all responses under the related committees, and will inform the LMBOD via email. She will also reflect the committees on the website accordingly. This was approved by all.

-Below are the committees defined until now:

***Turkish & Armenian Synergy Initiative Committee:**

Bircan Ünver (Co-Chair), Diana Khachatryan (Co-Chair), Marianna Khachatryan, Azime Aydogmus & Korcan Yurdacan (Still, there will be 2 persons with voting and decision making capacity from the Turkish representative side unless there is a new member—an Armenian citizen or Armenian dissent in the U.S.—joins this committee, accordingly will equalized.).

***Editing, Copy Editing & Proofreading Committee:**

Figen Bingöl, Emily Bunker, Janet Ekstract, Irmak Karayal, Stephanie Wein

***Translation Committee** (*From Turkish to English; English to Turkish; or from any other language to English or Turkish*):

Figen Bingöl, Irmak Karayal, Fatos Simsek, Janet Ekstract

***Transcription Committee** (transcribing audio or video interviews as verbatim for the LM or Isikbinyili e-publications):

Azime Aydogmus

***Grant-Proposal Writing & Grant Research Committee**

Emily Bunker, Janet Ekstract, Marianna Khachatryan, Bircan Ünver, Stephanie Wein

***Events & Fundraising Committee (combined with "fundraising")**

Sultan Catto, Bircan Ünver, Stephanie Wein

***Support Group & \$1 Open On-Line Membership Campaign Committee through NYCharities.Org:**

Bircan Ünver

***Media & Outreach Committee (combined with outreach)**

Naomi Chaplin, Irmak Karayal, Fatos Simsek, Bircan Ünver,

***International Relations Development Committee for NGOs, CSOs, Educational Institutions and Small Business** (new)

Noema Chaplin, Janet Ekstract, Diana Khachatryan, Korcan Yurdacan

***Web Development, Design & Internet Promotion Committee** (new)

LM: Bircan Ünver, Korcan Yurdacan - **IsikBinyili:** Pelin Bali, Tülün Ulusoy

*It is noted that if a person is in the Board of Directors (based on the definition of the ByLaws and except it is indicated otherwise), he/she may not be compensated. However, if a Committee member works toward a grant with an overall aim of

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becoming the director or coordinator for that particular project in collaboration with the Executive Producer & Director and the LMBoD, and based on that particular proposal's success, and depending on the previously defined budget item in the overall Budget for that particular professional position, accordingly and depending on received percentage (quarter, half or full amount of the proposed budget), then this member will be compensated by the organization according to full duration-life of the project as well as previously defined job description within the proposal. Approved by all in favor.

18) **APPROVAL of THE NEW TERM LMBoD**

The new members for the BoD (please see #17a) and AB (please see #17b) are approved.

- INTRODUCING ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

FIGEN BINGÜL

Textile Engineer and Freelance Translator (English-Turkish; Turkish-English)

Translated a novel of Adalet Agaoglu's to English and four novels from English to Turkish

Experienced in writing, and editing

Worked as General Secretary and Assistant to the Executive Director for the LM from 2003 to 2009

KALMAN ANGUS-CLARK

Has affinity with Turks and Islamic Studies, Rumi and the Sufi Tradition

Music Promoter, Poet in the Sufi Style, Real Estate Investment and Business Funding, Produced Two World Premier Operas at Lincoln Center, Board Member of the Giulio Gari Foundation.

Interested in promoting Turkish-Armenian relations, and Near & Middle Eastern issues. Eager to create and assist in creating a meaningful dialogue between Turkey, Greece and Cyprus. Became affiliated, with Light Millennium UN NGO in 2007.

Willing to join the Advisory Board

- INTRODUCING THE GUESTS:

JANETTE EKSTRACT

Lived in Turkey for 12 years

Fluent in Turkish

Has experience in writing, proof reading, editing, and grant writing

Wants to work in the International Relations Development Committee,

Grant Writing Committee and Editing, Copy Editing, Proofreading Committee.

HAMOD MESHKAT

Has Russian-Turkish blood

Interested in Turkish-Armenian relationships

His mother has a foundation called "Zeynep Foundation," working with battered Muslim women

NOEMI CHAPLIN

As NGO colleagues through the UN/DPI-NGO Section, Bircan and Noemi both served under the same subcommittees (Media) during the Planning Committees of the UN-

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NGO Annual Conferences in 2006 and 2007, and Noemi reflected interest to collaborate with the LM, and already contributed her article to be published in the next issue of the LM.

19) **SCHEDULING THE NEXT BOARD MEETING**

The next board meeting will tentatively take place at the end of November or at the beginning of December.

20) The new term BoD and AB members and volunteers are invited to the annual meeting.

21) Following the BoD meeting, the Annual Meeting took place. The annual meeting included further discussions regarding the issues explained above. The agendas of both of the meetings were covered. The meetings adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Attachment#1 President Report – Uncompleted September 30, 2009 - To be Completed

I received Governor David A. Paterson's Recovery Act letter on May 27, 2009, and discovered I had until June 1 to apply for a grant through the NYSCA (New York State Council on the Arts). Meanwhile, I was trying to finish editing a television program on Francis Bacon for the Metropolitan Museum prior to my trip to Turkey on May 29. I immediately got in touch with Matthew Jackson, the contact person for the NYSCA.

Mr. Jackson helped me greatly every step of the way, including how to register with the NYSCA. I completed the LM profile first, then completed the full application with an extended deadline (this was granted because of technical difficulties with the online submissions). I worked on the application day and night along with Emily Bunker; we submitted it on June 14, 2009, and it was confirmed shortly thereafter. Figen Bingul helped me in the final stage of this process. I am very grateful to Emily Bunker and Figen Bingul for their assistance. The finished application was sent to the LMBOD group.

On July 16, I checked the NYSCA website and learned that we did not receive the grant. The LMBOD was informed of the result.

I called Mr. Jackson from Istanbul, and he informed me that out of 400+ applications, only 27 were granted. The grant range was from \$10,000 to \$25,000. He encouraged us to apply for other grants through the NYSCA.

The LM's Quadrennial Report for the Department of Information of the United Nations was completed on June 30, 2009. I worked with Figen Bingul on it as I worked with Emily Bunker on the Recovery Act grant. This very tedious and detailed report covers our four years of activities, programs, involvement, and dissemination of the United Nations' vision.

Light Millennium's 21 & 23 rd combined issue e-published, and announced as the first time on June 20, and with the updates on August 22, 2009 in Istanbul.

<http://lightmillennium.org>

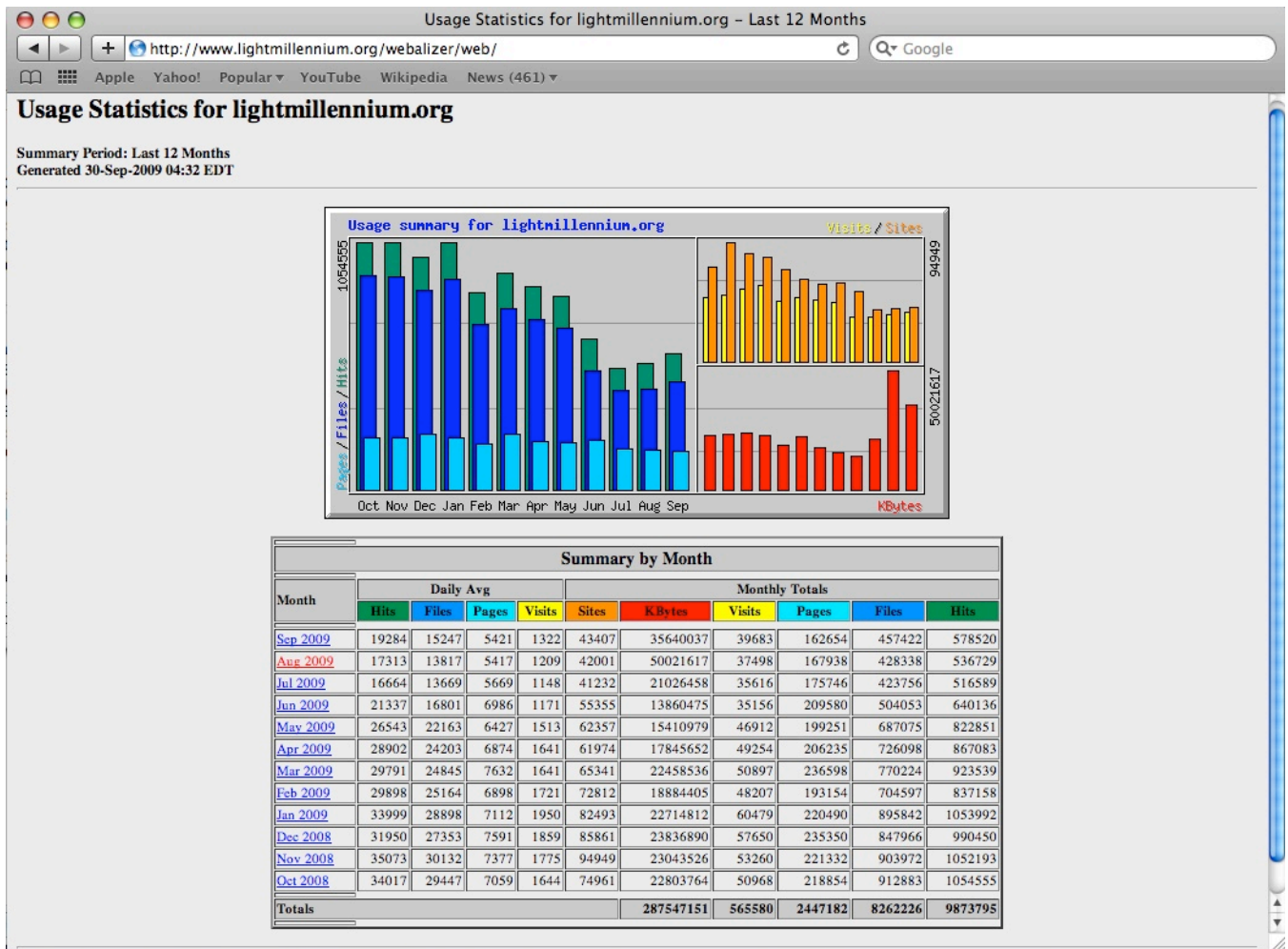
Open called sent in relation to Isikbinyili.Org dedication theme, "Turkish Theater and 10 Thousand Years Memory of Nigde", Fatos Simsek contributed greatly for its contents as the Content Coordinator of the dedication theme.

Attachment#2 the LM-Website – Webalizer/graphics as of Sept. 30, 2009

(monthly visitors are: **39683**, and monthly hits are: **578520** for the month of September 2009):

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