



# TALKING TÜRKİYE

JUNE 12, 2015

## NEWSLETTER

Vol. 9, No. 11

Serving Izmir Air Station, Türkiye



Photo by Tanju Varlıklı

NATO and 425th Air Base Squadron members plant flowers at a local girls' care and rehabilitation center garden as part of a landscaping project June 6, 2015.

## NATO and 425th Air Base Squadron reach out to a local girls' care and rehabilitation center

### Story by Tanju Varlıklı

425th Air Base Squadron Host Nation Adviser

NATO and 425th Air Base Squadron reached out to a local girls' care and rehabilitation center June 6 in an effort to plant seedlings, flowers, fruits and vegetables as part of a landscaping project. Upon the squadron's request, the girls' care and rehabilitation center administration provided a wish list of items for the landscaping project of the garden.

"A lot of people volunteered their time to accomplish this important outreach program," said Lt. Col. John Thomas, 425th Air Base Squadron commander. "This outreach was quite an occasion for the girls as well as our community members. The support received from Team Izmir members for this project was heartfelt and overwhelming."

Generous members of the Izmir military community from both the NATO Land Command and 425th ABS checked off every item on the list and more.

During the landscaping outreach, the girls, the staff, and volunteers shared in a rare and rewarding opportunity to make a difference within community.

"It was a very rewarding experience to be able to give back to the local community. The rehabilitation center opened their doors to us, and we were able to make a small difference that hopefully impacts their lives in a positive way," said Tech. Sgt. Nancy Rouse, 425th ABS commander's support staff. "I'll never forget this experience, and how we all came together as a team and as good ambassadors."

The efforts, headed up by the chaplain's office, resulted in a truck full of flowers, seedlings, fruits and vegetables being delivered to the center by a dozen Airmen and Soldiers, as well as local and U.S. civilians. After helping carry the flowers with their visitors, all started the landscaping project with the planting of seedlings and flowers after the welcome remarks of the girls' care and rehabilitation center director.

"We came together to sow seeds of friendship, plated with love and care, knowing the harvest of deeply cherished relationships will continue for many, many years to come," said Chaplain Capt. Jeremy Bastian, 425th Air Base Squadron chaplain. "We give special thanks to all those who contributed to the care and rehabilitation center outreach."

Many in attendance were moved by the importance of the outreach program and grateful to be part of such a rewarding experience.

## Action Line



The Action Line is your direct link to me. I use the Action Line to help identify and address your concerns when normal command and agency channels haven't been able to resolve them. To submit an action line, e-mail: [action.line@izmir.af.mil](mailto:action.line@izmir.af.mil), or complete a form at NATO Building # 1 or the Izmir Consolidated Center entry control point.

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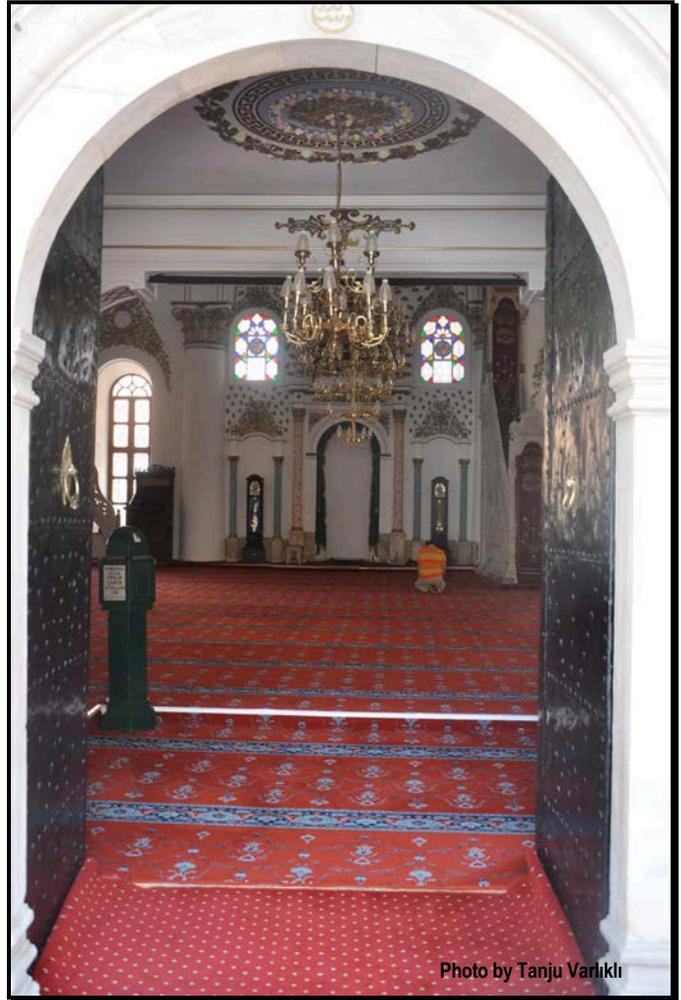


Photo by Tanju Varlıklı

An interior view of the historic Hisar Mosque at the Hisarönü Area in Kemeraltı. During the Ramadan fast, the faithful spend as much time as possible in a mosque. Lanterns are hung from minaret tops in many communities and lamps are lit inside mosques for evening prayer.

*(This is the first in a two-part series on Ramadan and the Ramadan Holiday)*

## Muslims observe Holy Month of Ramadan

Commentary by Tanju Varlıklı

425th Air Base Squadron Host Nation Adviser

Izmir newcomers may wonder why their Turkish co-workers and neighbors are not eating, smoking or drinking during lunchtime or during breaks. Asking a Turkish co-worker to join for lunch might earn a polite "No, thanks," because they are fasting from sunrise to sunset every day during Ramadan. This year's month-long observance starts June 18 and ends July 16 prior to the three-day religious holiday "Ramazan Bayramı" or "Şeker Bayramı" that marks the end of Ramadan.

(Commentary continued on Page 3)



Photo by Tanju Varıklı

One of the most popular Ramadan entertainments is the shadow plays of Karagöz and Hacivat, two Ottoman Turks, which developed from the 17th century. The shadow plays used to be important vehicles of social and political satire, while at the same time being notorious for the impropriety of the jokes. Karagöz and Hacivat plays are largely the product of improvisation and are conducted as traditional entertainment on the nights of Ramadan.

Muslims observe the Holy Month of Ramadan as a period of prayer, fasting and cleansing of their souls from sin. Ramadan, known in Türkiye as Ramazan, is based on the Fourth Pillar of Faith laid down by the Prophet Mohammed. This pillar says, "It is the duty of every true believer to keep the Fast of Ramadan."

During the Ramadan fast, the faithful spend as much time as possible in a mosque. Lanterns are hung from minaret tops in many communities. Lamps are also lit inside mosques for evening prayer. The brilliant glow of the mosques commemorates the revelation of the Qur'an to the Prophet Mohammed and Mohammed's illumination on the Night of Power. This year, the Night of Power is July 13.

Ramadan is a month of self-discipline and self-control for those who fast. This year, fasting is observed daily two hours before sunrise from 3:48 a.m. until sunset around 8:46 p.m. in Izmir, for about 17 hours. Every morning and evening, a cannon or gun shot is heard to announce the rising and setting sun.

In some communities, drums are beaten in the streets. In Izmir, the cannon is fired from Kadifekale, Alexander the Great's castle overlooking the city. Lighted windows appear before daybreak each morning as meals are prepared and while many people still sleep.

One shot is fired around two hours before sunrise to give warning that it is time to prepare for the early morning meal. This first meal of the day, eaten before sunrise, is called "Sahur."

For Sahur, the whole family gathers around a table, which is presided over by the master of the house.

After Sahur, ablutions, or washings, are performed and the first of five daily prayers is said.

Following the prayer, a vow is made to keep the fast of the day. This vow is essential as it constitutes obligations. The family then returns to bed, only to rise again at the normal hour. The day then proceeds as usual except neither food nor drink pass Muslims' lips until sundown. Because smoking is associated with drinking, it is likewise forbidden.

At sunset, a shot is fired marking the official end to that day's fast. It is the time for the "Iftar Meal," the breaking of the fast. Then the voice of the Müezzın calls everyone to prayer.

Since Ramadan is also a month for drawing closer to relatives and friends, it is customary to invite relatives and friends to "iftar." Some squadron members invite their Turkish friends to restaurants or their homes for the "Iftar Meal" as well. Every day, those who fast will break their fast a minute or two earlier than the day prior.

Some families visit the cemeteries to pay respect to relatives or friends who have died. This is usually done on Arife, (pronounced ah-ree-feih), which is July 16 this year.

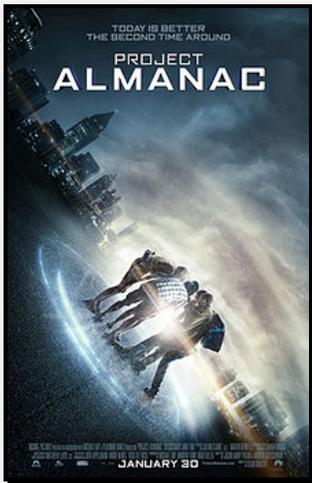
Another Ramadan obligation, and one of the five conditions of being a good Muslim, is the collection of money and giving to the needy. Each family member contributes. The Müftülük, or the senior Muslim Hoca's office in each community, sets the amount according to income and cost of living.

Traditionally, this is given to the needy during the third week of Ramadan, but no later than the first prayer on the first day of Ramazan or Şeker Bayramı which starts July 17 this year.

# MOVIE NIGHT AT THE IZMIR CLUB THIS COMING SATURDAY

June 13, 2015

June 13, 2015



5.30 p.m.  
Project Almanac  
(PG-13)

8 p.m.  
Jupiter Ascending  
(PG-13)

“Project Almanac” Plot Summary: A brilliant high school student and his friends uncover blueprints for a mysterious device with limitless potential, inadvertently putting lives in danger.

“Jupiter Ascending” Plot Summary: A group of teens discover secret plans of a time machine, and construct one. However, things start to get out of control.

## THE ALAINA BLAIR BAND



WILL PERFORM AT THE CLUB ON THURSDAY, JULY 2<sup>ND</sup> AT 1900 HOURS.  
A FREE STEAK DINNER FOR CLUB MEMBERS SERVED BETWEEN 1630-1900 HRS.



### TRIP TO MARMARIS



03-05 JULY 2015



PER PERSON \$ 229.- (in double room) **VERY LIMITED ROOMS !!!**

**SINGLE OCCUPANCY \$ 299.-** The above prices will be reduced by \$100 for US active duty military and DOD civilians. .

**The above prices include: Transportation, Half Board accommodation (Breakfast and Dinner) in Poseidon Hotel 4 \* and an IT&T representative.**

Deadline to sign up is 12 June 2015. Minimum 15 persons are required.

FOR RESERVATIONS PLEASE CALL: COM. 426-6461 OR DSN 81-2201



### UPCOMING TRIPS

- ❖ JUNE 13 TRIP TO CHIOS
- ❖ JUNE 20 DIVING TRIP AT ÇEŞME
- ❖ JUNE 27 BOAT CRUISE AT ÖZDERE
- ❖ JULY 3-5 TRIP TO MARMARIS
- ❖ JULY 11 BOAT CRUISE AT ÇEŞME
- ❖ JULY 17-19 TRIP TO SAMOS
- ❖ AUGUST 1 BOAT CRUISE AT FOÇA



### TRIP TO RHODES FROM MARMARIS



04 JUL 2015



PER PERSON \$ 89 The above prices will be reduced by \$ 40 for US active duty military and DOD civilians.

\*Bus Transfers from/ to Marmaris, Marmaris – Rhodes – Marmaris ferry tickets, English Speaking tour leader, port taxes

Deadline to sign up is 12 June 2015. Minimum 15 persons are required.

Please call com. 426 64 61 or DSN 81-2201