

TWLA UN Related Announcement #25

"In support of World Day for Cultural Diversity on May 21st, the Turkish Women's League of America, a member of the United Nations Department of Global Communications, has organized an event."



**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS**

In Support of May 21st
**World Day for Cultural
Diversity**
for Dialogue and
Development

Associated with the United Nations Department of Global Communications

A DAY WHERE ART AND WORDS COME TOGETHER

*A Day of Books and Art:
Book Signing & Tile Art-Patchwork Exhibition*

Çağla Ural
*"Mira'nın Kırmızı
Defteri"*
Book Signing



Almula İdil Kılıç's
Tile Art Exhibition



Olcaý Seçilmiş's
Patchwork
Exhibition



**May 9th
Friday
4 pm-7 pm
Turkish House**

To register, please contact us at
twlanewyork@gmail.com or
(516) 234-5015

RSVP: <https://forms.gle/9p93xBm4hHdchcq37>

"Everything we see in the world is creative work of women"

MUSTAFA KEMAL ATATURK Founding father of the Republic Türkiye.

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A Day Where Art Meets the Word: Celebrating Cultural Diversity through Art and Literature

In Honor of the United Nations World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development – May 9, 2025

On the **United Nations World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development**, the **American Turkish Women's Association (ATKB)** and the **Turkish House (Turkevi Center)**, is organizing a special cultural program entitled:

"A Day Where Art Meets the Word."

This year's celebration highlights the power of cultural diversity as a cornerstone for dialogue, social cohesion, and inclusive development. By showcasing artistic and literary expressions of Turkish culture, the event aims to foster mutual understanding, peaceful coexistence, and cultural appreciation.

Held from **May 9–12, 2025**, at the **Turkish House in New York**, the event will feature:

- An exhibition by **Almula İdil Kılıç**, a Turkish State Artist, presenting her works that blend traditional Turkish tile art with a contemporary vision,
- Handcrafted patchwork designs by **Olcaý Seçilmiş**, telling stories through fabric and celebrating cultural heritage,
- A **book signing** on **May 9** with author **Çağla Ural**, whose novel *"Mira's Red Notebook"* reflects the voice and vision of the contemporary Turkish woman.

This program illustrates how diverse forms of cultural expression—visual arts, traditional crafts, and literature—can serve as tools for dialogue and community empowerment. Artists and writers will come together to share their stories, highlight the importance of cultural identity, and contribute to building a more inclusive and harmonious world.

Supporting cultural diversity means not only preserving heritage, but also laying the foundations for creativity, innovation, and sustainable development. This event is a vibrant reminder that **diversity is strength**, and cultural exchange is essential to achieving a peaceful and just global society.

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PROGRAM

9 MAY 2025 WORLD DAY FOR CULTURAL DIVERSITY Turkish House Opening day Friday 4:00-7:00 pm Exhibition duration:9-12 May 10:00 am-17:00 pm	
Time	Activity
4:00pm	Opening exhibition
4:30-5:30pm	Welcome President of TWLA Berna Gurdal -Olçay Seçilmiş - Patchwork designer -Almula İdil Kılıç- Turkish State Artist
5:30-6:00	Interview with Çağla Ural Moderator: Mine Yenigün (TWLA General Secretary)
6:00-6:30	Book signing
	Closing

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ÇAĞLA URAL

Çağla Ural is a Turkish American author with internationally published works, widely recognized for her distinctive storytelling and compelling contributions to the historical fiction genre. Born and raised in Germany, she completed her primary education there before relocating to Istanbul. She earned both her bachelor's degree in business administration and her master's degree in Banking from Marmara University. After a successful career in the financial sector, she moved to New York with her husband. While in New York, Ural worked at the United Nations and pursued further studies, focusing on financial markets at New York University (NYU) and American literature at Baruch College. Her lifelong passion for storytelling led to the start of her literary career in 2013, when she translated Katherine Howe's best-selling novel *The Physick Book of Deliverance Dane* into Turkish, published as *Galeyan*. Encouraged by the book's positive reception, she released her debut novel the following year: *Ve Müziğin Sustuğu An* (Pupa Publishing), which delves into the emotional and societal impact of gun violence on families from diverse cultural backgrounds. In 2018, she started working with Destek Publishing and published her first historical fiction novel, *Esir Şehirde Bir Kadın*, which became a bestseller. In 2021 her third novel, *Sultanla Son Dans*, further solidified her reputation in the genre and was translated into multiple languages. Most recently, in 2024, she released *Mira'nın Kırmızı Defteri*, continuing her exploration of rich historical narratives through a more contemporary lens. She is a member of Turkish Women's League of America, Women's Fiction Writer Association and Historical Novel Society. Ural currently resides in New Jersey, USA, where she continues to write and develop new literary projects.

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Olcay Soymen Seçilmiş

Interior Architect, Industrial Designer, Long Island, New York

Born in Izmir, Türkiye. Graduated from Istanbul Girls High School and entered The State Academy of Fine Arts, Findikli, Istanbul. Graduated with an MA in Interior Architecture and Industrial Design in 1974. Continued her studies at Istanbul University School of Business, Institute of Business Economics and received her MBA degree in 1975.

Started working in furniture design collaborating with Italian and Turkish manufacturers.

Specialized with glass products design after starting to work at Pasabahce Glass Works Company. Worked at the Industrial Design Society of Türkiye and served as General Secretary.

Later specialized in designing commercial interiors, trade fairs and retail interiors.

After moving to the USA, continued to work freelance in the fields of product designs and commercial interiors as well as landscape design.

Her hobbies include stained glass, jewelry making, drawing and painting and of course QUILTING. Specialized in replicating Ottoman era silk quilts and patchwork as well as creating her own designs. Also specializes on Japanese stitching art "Sachiko".

Member of several NGOs and civic organizations. Served as Board Member of Architects and Engineers and Scientists Association (MIM). Active member of Turkish Women's League of America and supporter of Atatürk School in NYC. Olcay is married and has three children.

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Almula İdil Kılıç

Almula İdil Kılıç was born in 1970 in Osmaniye, Turkey. She studied Astronomy and Space Sciences at Ankara University, where she also began her involvement with Turkish folk dance. Over time, she expanded her cultural repertoire to include Azerbaijani and Crimean dances.

Her artistic journey into Turkish tile art began in 2008. She trained under renowned artists including Feriha Esmer, Çiğdem Değirmenci, Kerim Keçecigil, and Nazlı Pınar Yerin. Blending classical techniques with cultural themes, she brings traditional costumes, motifs, and regional stories from the Turkic world into her tile works.

Kılıç has held and participated in numerous national and international exhibitions, including her first solo show at TURKSOY in 2012, and cultural events in Tatarstan, Eskişehir, Istanbul, and New York. Her collections, such as *"From Altai to the Danube"* and *"Turkish Knot and Ottoman Galleons"*, explore deep historical and cultural narratives through ceramic art.

She served as a Tile Instructor at Ankara Metropolitan Municipality's BELMEK program from 2012 to 2021 and currently works under the Ministry of Culture and Tourism in Turkey. In 2021, she received the Honorable Mention Award in the "Living Heritage" Ceramic Competition by Selçuklu Municipality.

Almula İdil Kılıç continues to promote Turkish tile art on global platforms. She lives in Ankara with her husband and two children, Türkay Tuna and Ural Kağan.

Instagram: [@almulaidil](https://www.instagram.com/almulaidil)

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TURKISH WOMEN'S LEAUGE OF AMERICA Established on September 17, 1958, as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in New York, Turkish Women's League of America (TWLA) aims to preserve and teach Turkish language and culture to the future generations. The organization is one of the oldest active Turkish American organizations in the USA and is the sole supporter of the NY Atatürk School which has been a pride since 1971. The Turkish Women's League of America (TWLA) aims to: * Preserve and promote Turkish language and culture: This includes educating Turkish American kids about Turkish language, history, traditions, and folk arts. Through organizing cultural and artistic events, we share Turkish traditions, customs, and values, while also forging meaningful connections with diverse cultures to promote mutual understanding. Promote gender equality: The TWLA seeks to advocate for women's rights and combat gender-based discrimination within the Turkish American community and beyond. Create a supportive network for women, that involves providing a platform for women to connect, share experiences, and offer support to one another. * Support the Turkish American community by providing assistance to members and engaging in community outreach programs. Since joining UNDGC in 2021, we have embraced key UN SDGs, focusing on quality education, climate action, and gender equality. Our activities reflect these goals as we actively educate our community, celebrate global milestones, and encourage informed discussions on how we can contribute to a more sustainable and equal world. We aim to raise awareness of these issues and engage with our local and global communities to foster positive change.

www.atkb.org